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INDIAN STOCKS SLUMP FOR FIFTH CONSECUTIVE DAY, HIT MULTI-MONTH LOWS

Indian stock markets faced significant declines for the fifth consecutive day, driven by disappointing earnings, foreign fund outflows, and rising inflation concerns.

TBG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

Benchmark stock indices in India witnessed a significant decline for the fifth consecutive day, reaching multi-month lows. This downturn was driven by a combination of factors, including disappointing Q2 earnings, ongoing foreign fund outflows, and mounting concerns over rising domestic inflation. The Sensex closed at 77,691 points, down 984 points or 1.25%, while the Nifty ended at 23,559 points, down 324 points or 1.36%. The day's trading saw all sectoral indices in the red, reflecting broad-based losses across the market.

ICRA Analytics highlighted that the Indian equity markets opened on a positive note but quickly suc-



cumbed to a sell-off, which swept through all sectors. The primary catalysts for this were a rise in the US dollar index and persistent foreign fund outflows. Despite a brief period of optimism following the US elections, the Indian market's attention has largely shifted to domestic factors. The key concerns include the final phase of Q2 earnings season, the flow of fore-

ign portfolio investments (FPIs), and the inflationary pressures building within the economy.

India's retail inflation reached 6.21% in October, surpassing the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) upper tolerance limit of 6%. This marks a significant challenge for the central bank, which has been trying to keep inflation under control. The rising inflation is

exacerbated by global supply chain disruptions and domestic price pressures, particularly in food and fuel sectors.

On the foreign investment front, the outflow of funds has been a persistent concern. In November alone, FPIs have sold stocks worth Rs 23,911 crore, continuing the trend from October when they offloaded a staggering Rs 94,017 crore, the highest-ever monthly sell-off recorded. According to data from the National Securities Depository Limited, this outflow has been one of the biggest factors contributing to the market's recent weakness. Adding to the volatility, the outcome of the US elections has created an environment of heightened uncertainty in global markets, which has had a ripple

effect on Indian stocks. VK Vijayakumar, Chief Investment Strategist at Geojit Financial Services, pointed out that the market's current instability is partially due to the Trump victory, which has intensified market volatility. He advised investors to be cautious, especially in sectors such as cement, metals, and petroleum refining, which are facing a slowdown in growth. Instead, he recommended safer investment avenues, including banking, new-age digital companies, hotels, pharmaceuticals, and IT, where growth prospects remain strong. The correction in the stock market reflects growing investor caution amidst rich valuations and macroeconomic uncertainties. Both the Nifty and Sensex fell to their respective five-month lows,

PM Modi lays AIIMS Foundation, launches Rs 12,000 cr projects in Bihar

TBG NETWORK
DARBHANGA

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday laid the foundation stone of AIIMS Darbhanga and inaugurated development projects worth Rs 12,000 in Bihar.

Addressing the crowd in Darbhanga, the Prime Minister said that Bihar has been witnessing a lot of development and the NDA government is committed to the welfare of the people. "Our government has always stood for the development of the people of the country. We have laid the foundation and inaugurated development works worth Rs 12,000 crore in a single program," he said.

Further he said that the construction of Darbhanga AIIMS will bring a huge change in the health sector of Bihar.

AIIMS Darbhanga will have a super-specialty hospital/AYUSH block, Medical College, Nursing College, night shelter and



residential facilities among others and it will provide tertiary health care facilities to the people of Bihar and nearby regions.

The development work of multiple National Highway projects worth around Rs 5,070 crore in the state. Additionally, the four-lane Galgalia-Araria section of NH-327E was also inaugurated.

This corridor will provide an alternate route from Araria in the East-West Corridor (NH-27) to the neighbouring state of West Bengal at Galgalia.

The PM also laid the foundation stone of eight National Highway proj-

ects which include the construction of a two-lane road with paved shoulders from Ramnagar to Rosera, Bihar-West Bengal border to Manihari section of NH-131A, Hajipur to Bachhwara via Mahnar and Mohiuddin Nagar, Sarwan-Chakai section, among others. He will also lay the foundation stone of Raniganj Bypass on NH-327E; Katoria, Lakhpura, Banka and Panjwara bypasses on NH-333A; and a four-lane link road from NH-82 to NH-33.

Foundation stone of railway projects worth over Rs. 1740 crore was also laid. P2

TOP OF THE DAY

HEZBOLLAH COMMANDERS, ARMS SITES DESTROYED

Jerusalem: Three Hezbollah field commanders have been killed in Israeli airstrikes in southern Lebanon, the Israeli Defense Forces confirmed on Wednesday. The announcement came on the heels of the army's disclosure on Tuesday night that a majority of the terror group's weapons storage and production facilities in Beirut's Dahieh district have been destroyed. The targeted strikes "further degrade Hezbollah's capability to carry out terror attacks from southern Lebanon against Israeli civilians on the northern border," the army said.

DUBAI LAUNCHES 7TH CONTENT MARKET

Dubai: The 7th edition of the Dubai International Content Market (DICM) started today at the Madinat Jumeirah Conference & Events Centre, bringing together the biggest names in global content creation, distribution, and broadcasting. This high-end event is set to be the premier gathering for industry leaders, offering two days of exclusive screenings, strategic networking, and high-level discussions aimed at shaping the future of content in the MENA region and beyond. DICM 2024 wbrings together over 800 professionals from more than 50 countries, including some of the world's leading media companies and content distributors.

YOUTUBE TESTS AI REMIXES

Washington: YouTube is exploring the future of music remixing with a new AI-driven feature, allowing creators to "restyle" licensed songs for their Shorts. The company has launched a limited trial of this feature, named "Dream Track", which enables creators to use artificial intelligence to customize various elements of a song, including its mood, genre, and tempo, as per The Verge. Once the user enters a prompt to guide the restyling, the AI generates a unique 30-second remix that can be used in YouTube Shorts.

PM Modi: Govt taking holistic approach to healthcare

TBG NETWORK
DARBHANGA

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday laid the foundation stone of All India Institute of Medical Science (AIIMS) in Bihar's Darbhanga and said that his government is working with a holistic approach to healthcare in the country from prevention of disease to its cure. Addressing a public gathering in Darbhanga after laying the foundation stone and inaugurating various development works of around Rs 12,100 crores, PM Modi listed the government's focus on healthcare in the country.

"Our government is working with a holistic approach to healthcare in the country. Our first focus is on disease prevention. The second focus is on accurate diagnosis. The

third focus is to ensure affordable and free treatment. Our fourth focus is to provide better healthcare facilities even in smaller towns. The fifth focus is to expand the use of technology in healthcare services," he said.

PM Modi also asserted that his government has always been committed to the service of the nation and the welfare of the people.

"Today, a significant step has been taken to realize the dream of establishing an AIIMS in Darbhanga. The construction of AIIMS here will bring a significant transformation in the healthcare sector of Bihar. This facility will serve the people not only from Mithila, Kosi, and Tirhut regions but also from West Bengal and nearby areas. Even patients from Nepal will be able to receive

treatment at this AIIMS hospital. The construction of AIIMS here will also create numerous new employment opportunities," he said.

The Prime Minister, further targeted previous governments that, he said, remained entangled in promises and claims without any serious concern for the needs of the poor.

"In the past, the situation was very challenging. There were very few hospitals and doctors, and medicines were very expensive. Previous governments remained entangled in promises and claims without any serious concern for the needs of the poor. Until Nitish took charge in Bihar, there was no serious concern for addressing these issues," the Prime Minister said.

P2

Jharkhand polls: 29.31% voter turnout by 11 AM, Khunti leads with 34.12%

TBG NETWORK
RANCHI

Jharkhand recorded a voter turnout of 29.31 per cent as of 11 am in the first phase of Assembly elections, according to the data of the Election Commission of India.

Till 11 am, the Khunti district recorded the highest voter turnout of 34.12 per cent while the Ramgarh district recorded the lowest turnout of 24.17 per cent, as per the data of the ECI.

Khunti is followed by Gumla with 33.86 per cent turnout, Lohardaga with 33.44 per cent, Simdega 33.18 with per cent, Seraikella-Kharsawan with 32.65 per cent, Koderma with 31.10 per cent, Late-



har with 30.59 per cent and Garhwa with 30.38 per cent turnout. The turnout recorded for Chatra is 29.52 per cent, Hazaribagh is 29.60 per cent, West Singhbhum is 29.42 per cent, Palamu is 28.36 per cent, East Singhbhum is 28.34 per cent and Ranchi is 24.75

per cent. Voting for the first phase of the Jharkhand assembly elections began on Wednesday at 7 am, with voting taking place in 43 out of the state's 81 seats.

Former Chief Minister and BJP candidate from Saraikela assembly constituency Champai Soren

said that all voters should exercise their vote.

Congress leader Rajesh Thakur expressed confidence that the ruling JMM-led 'Mahagathbandhan' alliance will win the Assembly elections based on the work they had done in the past five years.

UAE: Delmon Industrial complex to establish AED 50 mn plant in KEZAD

TBG NETWORK
ABU DHABI

Khalifa Economic Zones Abu Dhabi - KEZAD Group, the largest operator of integrated and purpose-built economic zones and Saudi Arabia-based Delmon Industrial Complex have announced the signing of a 50-year land lease agreement for the establishment of their state-of-the-art plant in ICAD III (KEZAD Musaffah) area to serve the requirements of the oil and gas industry.

To be developed with AED50 million in investment by Delmon Industrial Complex, the plant will manufacture and supply products to service the needs of oil and gas companies in the region and beyond.



Delmon Industrial Complex is part of Delmon Group, established in 1981, in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. Headquartered in the port city of Eastern Province, Dammam, Delmon Group is an established name in mining, oil

and gas, chemicals, construction and logistics services. It also offers efficient solar solutions as part of its product portfolio.

The setting up of the new Delmon Industrial Complex plant in KEZAD is part of Delmon

Group's strategy to expand into the UAE, and be an integral part of KEZAD's industrial zone for the oil and gas sector to support their UAE projects.

Spanning around 59,000 square metres, the proposed

plant will undertake exploration, extraction and refining activities to process minerals into specialised products suited to the oil and gas industry. The entry of Delmon Industrial Complex in ICAD III is a testament to KEZAD's growing client base of manufacturers servicing the oil and gas industry, and adds impetus to local manufacturing initiatives in KEZAD. Abdullah Al Hameli, CEO, Economic Cities & Free Zones, AD Ports Group, said, "The agreement with Delmon Industrial Complex opens another new chapter in our history of partnerships with well-established manufacturers expanding into the UAE. We look forward to the beginning of a long and successful journey with them, and hope that this undertaking will sup-

port industry requirements adequately. The collaboration is part of our strategy to meet sustainable manufacturing goals in alignment with the wise leadership's vision and enable further diversification of our economy towards resilient development and growth."

Ahmed Sulaiman Alghunaim, Founder of Delmon Industrial Complex, said, "The establishment of the Delmon Industrial Complex is an important step towards developing and expanding our business in the oil and gas sector in the UAE. Our choice of the Emirates was based on several factors, the most important of which is the importance of this sector in the Emirates, and the good reputation of KEZAD Group in providing the best services to investors."

CAIT'S WHITE PAPER ACCUSES QUICK COMMERCE COMPANIES OF UNFAIR PRACTICES

The Confederation of All India Traders (CAIT) has raised concerns in a White Paper about unfair practices by quick commerce platforms.

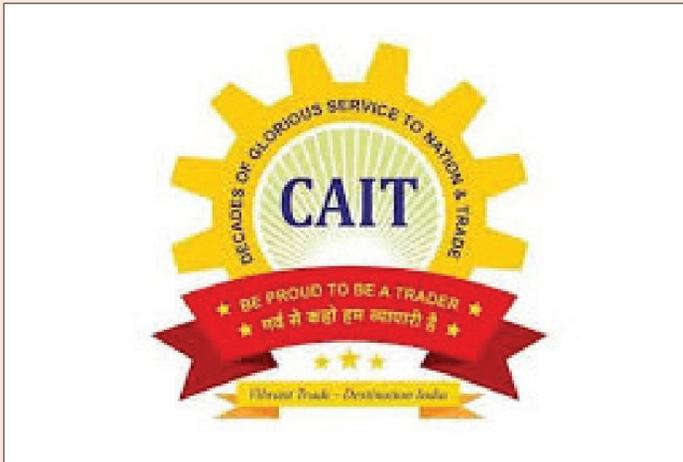
TBG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

Traders industry body, the Confederation of All India Traders (CAIT) on Wednesday released a White Paper, raising serious concerns over the alleged practices of quick commerce platforms like Blinkit, Instamart, Zepto, Swiggy etc.

The traders body has been alleging that quick commerce platforms are undermining the foundation of India's retail economy. CAIT urged regulatory bodies to intervene and ensure that quick commerce platforms adhere to fair trade practices and protect the interests of small traders.

Speaking at the press conference, CAIT Secretary General, Praveen Khandelwal, condemned quick commerce platforms for misusing Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) rules to dominate suppliers, control inventory, and fund predatory pricing.

According to CAIT Secretary General strategies



adopted by these platforms create an unfair playing field, making it nearly impossible for the 30 million Kirana stores to compete with them.

"These platforms are aggressively pushing small retailers out of the market," Khandelwal said

The White Paper alleges through examples of how quick commerce companies are violating FDI policies and the Competition Act of India. These violations, coupled with lack of

transparency, harm small businesses and distort the retail ecosystem, said the industry body.

Addressing media in New Delhi, Khandelwal acknowledged Union Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal's recent statements, which reflect similar concerns, underscoring that such unfair practices by Quick Commerce platforms will not be tolerated.

The White Paper alleged that quick commerce platforms, backed by over Rs

54,000 crores in FDI, have not invested in creating infrastructure or long-term assets. Instead, they use FDI to subsidize operational losses, control supply chains, and offer predatory discounts through a small group of preferred sellers.

These practices have facilitated quick commerce platforms to capture 25-30 per cent of the market which was once dominated by Kirana stores, putting many traditional retailers on the brink of closure.

The White Paper alleges multiple regulatory violations by Quick Commerce platforms, including, restricted market access, predatory pricing, lack of transparency, and FEMA violations.

The White Paper also charges that these platforms are also violating the Competition Act, 2002. Their agreements with preferred sellers have restricted market competition and limited consumer choice.

CAIT urged immediate regulatory intervention by regulators and the government to hold these platforms accountable. If allowed unchecked growth driven by foreign capital poses a significant threat to India's small retail ecosystem.

CAIT called on the government to enforce stricter oversight through the proposed consumer protection (E-commerce) Rules, E-commerce Policy and ensure that Quick Commerce platforms operate with greater accountability while preserving the integrity of India's retail sector.

Nana Patole: Yogi Adityanath should focus on UP politics

TBG NETWORK
NAGPUR

Maharashtra Congress president, Nana Patole hit out at Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath and said that he should keep his politics in UP only. He said that the people of Maharashtra will never accept 'Batenge to katenge' politics.

Nana Patole said, "UPCM Yogi Adityanath should keep his politics in UP only. Maharashtra is the land of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj. Such dirty politics is not done in Maharashtra. However, under the current government in Maharashtra, attacks are being made on the Urs, Ganesh Chaturthi procession. The issues of farmers, unemployed youth and inflation are important. They should talk about this. The people of Maharashtra will never accept 'Batenge to katenge' politics."

He further slammed Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde and Deputy CM Devendra Fadnis and said that that Prime Minister Narendra Modi should talk about the corruption under the Shiv Sena. "They have brought



Maharashtra under debt. They have taken commission to build statue of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj. The industries of Maharashtra have been shifted to Gujarat. PM Modi and Yogi should talk about this and not communal politics. They should clear their stand on Nawab Malik. The person who was in jail for 17 months is a candidate of Mahayuti govt. and they are talking about 'Batenge to katenge'," he added.

Earlier UP CM Yogi Ad-

ityanath delivered a blistering speech against the MVA alliance, urging voters to remain united.

CM Yogi highlighted how the authorities were dealing strictly in the state of Uttar Pradesh with those who were allegedly grabbing government land.

Addressing a public meeting in Achalpur city of Amravati, CM Yogi said, "If we are divided, then Ganapati pooja would be attacked, lands would be grabbed under Land Jihad, safety of daughters would be in danger... There is no Love Jihad or Land Jihad in UP today. It was already announced that if anyone hampers the security of our daughters, grabbed the land of government and the poor, then 'Yamraj' would be ready to cut their ticket..."

Gujarat Titans appoint Parthiv Patel as assistant coach for IPL 2025x

TBG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

Indian Premier League (IPL) franchise, Gujarat Titans announced former Indian cricketer Parthiv Patel as the team's assistant coach ahead of the IPL 2025 mega auction which is scheduled to take place on November 24 and 25 in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia.

"The Gujarat Titans are pleased to announce the appointment of Parthiv Patel as their new Assistant and Batting Coach. With a distinguished 17-year career as a former Indian wicketkeeper-batter, Parthiv brings a wealth of experience and knowledge to the team," the franchise said in an official statement.

"As the Titans prepare for the upcoming Indian Premier League (IPL) season, Parthiv's insights into batting techniques and strategies will play a crucial role in enhancing the players' skills. Parthiv, who is known for his sharp cricketing ac-



men and ability to mentor young talent, will strengthen the coaching staff and contribute to player development and performance," the statement added.

Parthiv made his debut for India at the age of 17 in 2002. Parthiv played 15 Test matches and 10 ODIs under Ganguly's captaincy between 2002 and 2004. Ganguly was known for backing his players.

Parthiv won the IPL with CSK in 2010 before moving on to the Mumbai Indians in 2015 and 2017, where he won two more titles. Patel's

quick glove work and ability as an opener made him a valuable member of both teams, contributing greatly to their successful campaigns.

Ahead of the mega auction, the Gujarat-based franchise side announced last month that they have retained Shubman Gill, Rashid Khan, Sai Sudharsan, Rahul Tewatia, and Shahrukh Khan ahead of the Indian Premier League (IPL) 2025 mega auction.

Gill and Rashid were initially picked by GT ahead of the 2022 season, which

was the franchise's debut. Rashid was bought for Rs 15 crores, while Gill went for Rs 8 crores. Gill took over the GT captaincy for the 2024 season after their title-winning captain, Hardik Pandya, was traded to the Mumbai Indians (MI).

Both players have been key to GT's success. Gill has scored 1,799 runs in 45 matches at an average of 44.98, with four centuries and 10 fifties. He was named 'Player of the Tournament' in 2023, scoring 890 runs in 17 matches, including three centuries and four fifties.

General Upendra Dwivedi to visit Nepal from November 20-24

TBG NETWORK
KATHMANDU

General Upendra Dwivedi, Chief of the Army Staff, Indian Army is scheduled to visit Nepal from November 20 to November 24, upon the invitation of General Ashok Raj Sigdel, Chief of the Army Staff, Nepali Army.

During his visit, General Dwivedi will pay homage at the martyrs' memorial in the Army Pavilion and receive a ceremonial Guard of Honour at the Nepali Army Headquarters.

He will engage in an official meeting with General Sigdel from the Nepali Army.

General Dwivedi will also interact with the student officers at the Army Command and Staff College in Shivapuri and visit to Western Divisional Headquarter in Pokhara, Nepal.

A key highlight of the visit will be the conferral of an



honorary rank of General of the Nepali Army upon General Dwivedi by the President of Nepal.

Additionally, he will also meet the Prime Minister and the Defense Minister of Nepal.

Nepal shares border with 5 Indian states of Sikkim, West Bengal, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand.

The age old civilizational and cultural ties that exist between India and Nepal are exemplified by the strong people to people link between both the countries.

cooperation in the field of defence and security. Both armies share excellent and harmonious relationship based on mutual trust and respect. India and Nepal also have the long-standing tradition of awarding Honorary rank of General to each other's Army Chief.

The strong relations between both the armies have been further cemented via the Gurkha Regiment. Currently, over 30,000 Gurkha soldiers from Nepal are serving in the Indian Army. In addition to the Military Pension Branch in Kathmandu, Pension Paying offices also functioning in Dharan and Pokhara, along with the District Soldier Boards, which helps in effective disbursement of pensions and in organizing various welfare program including re-training, rehabilitating and assisting ex-Gurkha soldiers and their families.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

PM Modi: Govt taking

He highlighted that most diseases if treated in time, can be prevented from becoming severe, but due to the high cost of diagnosis, people often remain unaware of their conditions.

"Therefore, we have established over 1.5 lakh Ayushman Arogya Mandirs across the country, which help in the early detection of diseases like cancer and diabetes. Through the Ayushman Bharat Yojana, over four crore poor patients have already received treatment. Without this scheme, many of them would not have been able to get admitted to hospitals," he said. "In the 60 years after independence, there was only one AIIMS in the country, located in Delhi. Everyone had to go to Delhi for treatment. During the Congress government's tenure, the plan to establish 4-5 AIIMS was discussed, but proper treatment never really started in them. Our government has established new AIIMS in every corner of the country. Today, there are nearly two dozen AIIMS across the nation. In the past 10 years, the number of medical colleges has also doubled," the Prime Minister added.

PM Modi also pointed out that in the last 10 years, they added one lakh new seats in medical education, and in the next five years, aim to add 75,000 more medical seats.

"Our government is now offering the option to study medicine in Hindi and other Indian languages, which

will benefit the youth. The goal is to ensure that even children from poor, marginalized, and backward families can become doctors," he said.

The Prime Minister also paid tribute to renowned folk singer Sharda Sinha, popularly known as "kokila" who recently passed away. "The way she has spread the significance of the grand festival of Chhath through her songs across the world is truly remarkable," PM Modi said.

Jharkhand polls: 29.31%

"The work we have done in 5 years; the fight we have fought for 'Jharkhandi Ashmita'... we are confident that we will win because we have worked for the people. We have campaigned well and we are confident that we will win most of the seats in the first phase of elections today," he said.

BJP candidate from Potka Assembly constituency, Meera Munda appealed to the public to exercise their franchise by casting votes.

She said, "Voting for the first phase is taking place today. I appeal to everyone to exercise their franchise... people are excited to vote and long queues can be seen outside the polling stations."

After casting her vote from the Jamshedpur East Assembly seat, BJP candidate Purnima Das Sahu also appealed the public to exercise their franchise and vote in large numbers in order to strengthen Jharkhand.

"I want today this to the people of the state to come out and cast their votes to strengthen Jharkhand. People should raise awareness in the society and encourage people to cast votes. We have prepared a lot but today is the day of the election. People have seen our work..." Sahu said.

Elaborate security arrangements have been made for polling, which will continue until 5.00 pm. It will end at 4.00 pm at 950 sensitive booths spread across 31 constituencies. Over 200 companies of security forces have been deployed at strategic locations to maintain order and safeguard the electoral process. The BJP-led NDA is aiming to unseat the JMM-led coalition, with key candidates such as former Chief Minister Champai Soren and Congress leader Ajoy Kumar in the fray.

Elections on the remaining 38 seats will be conducted on November 20. The counting of the votes will take place on November 23.

PM Modi lays AIIMS

Foundation stone of the Sonenagar Bypass Railway line from Chiralapothu to Bagha Bishunpur in the Aurangabad district of Bihar worth over Rs 220 crore was also laid.

The PM also dedicated railway projects worth over Rs 1520 crore. These include the Gauge conversion of the Jhanjharpur-Laukaha Bazar Rail section, the Darbhanga Bypass Railway Line, aimed at easing out the railway traffic congestion at Darbhanga Junction.

The doubling of Railway Line projects will facilitate better regional connectivity in the area.

Prime Minister also laid the foundation stone of multiple initiatives in the petroleum and natural gas sector worth over Rs 4,020 crore.

In a significant step aimed towards bringing Piped Natural Gas (PNG) to households and providing clean energy options to commercial and industrial sectors, PM Modi laid the foundation stone for the development of a City Gas Distribution (CGD) network in five major districts of Bihar at Darbhanga, Madhubani, Supaul, Sitamarhi and Sheohar by Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited. He will also lay the foundation stone for a Bitumen manufacturing unit of Barauni Refinery of Indian Oil Corporation Limited that will produce bitumen domestically helping reduce reliance on imported bitumen.

Indian stocks slump

signaling increasing concerns over the sustainability of the current market rally. Vikram Kasat, Head of Advisory at PL Capital - Prabhudas Lilladher, noted that the ongoing correction is a reflection of investors becoming more cautious due to these concerns. Overall, the Indian stock market faces multiple challenges, with weak earnings reports, rising inflation, and foreign fund outflows adding pressure. Investors remain wary, and the outlook for the near term suggests continued volatility as these factors play out. As the year progresses, market participants will need to navigate these headwinds carefully while keeping a close watch on developments in both domestic and global economic conditions.

DE-CIX AND GCX FORGE STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP TO ENHANCE CONNECTIVITY

The world's leading Internet Exchange (IX) operator, DE-CIX, and submarine cable operator, GCX have signed a strategic partnership agreement to enhance global connectivity.

TBG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

The world's leading Internet Exchange (IX) operator, DE-CIX, and submarine cable operator, GCX have signed a strategic partnership agreement to enhance global connectivity. This agreement allows GCX to resell DE-CIX India's services to their end customers across the Middle East, Europe, USA and Asia while creating opportunities to connect with a rapidly growing Indian audience. Through this partnership, DE-CIX India will leverage GCX's extensive global subsea infrastructure to meet international demand more efficiently. GCX's robust network spans four submarine cable systems - FA-1, FALCON, HAWK & FNAL - providing high-capacity connectivity across key regions, including the Middle East, Asia, USA, UK and Europe. This partnership strengthens DE-CIX's global reach, enabling international cus-



tomers to seamlessly access IX services through GCX's expansive network. FLAG Atlantic 1 (FA1): London, Paris, New York, Washington D.C. and Frankfurt FALCON: 20 PoPs and landing stations in 14 countries of the Middle East including Egypt, UAE, Iran, Sudan, Qatar, India, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Maldives, Yemen, Kuwait, Sri Lanka, Oman, and Iraq. HAWK: Western Europe, Middle East, USA and Asia

FLAG North Asian Loop (FNAL): Hong Kong, Taiwan, South Korea and Japan "We are excited to welcome GCX as our new partner," said Sudhir Kunder, CBO, DE-CIX India "This partnership reflects our commitment towards expanding our global reach while providing top-notch services to our wide array of customers. We look forward to working closely with GCX and creating a mutually fast-paced digital environment for everyone."

Vineet Verma, President at Global Cloud Xchange for Middle East & India says: "GCX is renowned for its extensive telecom infrastructure and innovative solutions, will now offer even greater connectivity and service quality to its customers. This collaboration enables GCX to further expand its market presence in India, leveraging its strong foundation to deliver superior performance and reliability. With a focus on customer satisfaction and technological advancement, GCX is poised to set new standards in the industry, ensuring seamless and efficient interconnection services for its global clientele." **ABOUT DE-CIX** DE-CIX is the world's leading operator of Internet Exchanges (IXs). DE-CIX offers its interconnection services in close to 60 locations in Europe, Africa, North and South America, the Middle East, and Asia. Accessible from data centers in over 600 cities world-wide, DE-CIX interconnects thousands of

network operators (carriers), Internet service providers (ISPs), content providers and enterprise networks from more than 100 countries, and offers peering, cloud, and other interconnection services. DE-CIX in Frankfurt, Germany, is one of the largest Internet Exchanges in the world, with a data volume of almost 40 Exabytes per year (as of 2023) and close to 1100 connected networks. Close to 250 colleagues from over 35 different nations form the foundation of the DE-CIX success story in Germany and around the world. Since the beginning of the commercial Internet, DE-CIX has had a decisive influence - in a range of leading global bodies, such as the Internet Engineering Task Force (IETF) - on co-defining guiding principles for the Internet of the present and the future. As the operator of critical IT infrastructure, DE-CIX bears a great responsibility for the seamless, fast, and secure data exchange between people, enterprises, and organizations at its locations around the globe.

NTPC Green IPO opens for subscription on Nov 19, issue price is Rs 102-108

TBG NETWORK
MUMBAI

The much-awaited public issue of NTPC Green Energy will be open for subscription this November 19, with the three-day window closing on November 22.

The state-owned green energy company kept IPO issue price at the range of Rs 102-108 per share, with a lot size of 138 shares. The company is offering fresh equities to the public worth Rs 10,000 crore totalling approximately 92.59 crore shares. Of the total, 75 per cent is for Qualified Institutional Buyers, 15 per cent for High Net-Worth Individuals, and 10 per cent for retail buyers. The proceeds from the fresh issue worth Rs 7,500 crore will be used for investment in its wholly-owned subsidiary, NTPC Renewable Energy (NREL) for repayment or prepayment; capital expenditure; and other general corporate purposes.



Promoted by NTPC, NTPC Green Energy is a sizable renewable energy public sector enterprise (excluding hydro) in terms of operating capacity and awarded projects. As of June 30, 2024, NTPC Green's portfolio consisted of 14,696 MWs including 2,925 MWs of operating projects and 11,771 MWs of contracted and awarded projects. Additionally, it has 10,975 MWs of capacity under the pipeline, aggregating to 25,671 MWs together with its portfolio. Over the next 6-9 years, the company plans 14 GW of pumped hydro capacity to be commissioned versus the current installed 3.3GW. Under construction is 5.9GW

and in the pipeline is 10.8 GW. The company aims to reach 60 GW of renewable capacity by 2032. In late October, NTPC Green Energy, a wholly owned subsidiary of NTPC, has received capital markets regulator Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) nod to raise money through an initial public offering (IPO). Initial public offering (IPO) refers to the process where companies sell their shares to the public to raise equity capital from the investors. Taking opportunities in India's booming stock market, many companies intended to list their shares, and a sizable number of them have made handsome gains.

If we exclude vegetable prices, CPI inflation remains in RBI's range: UBI research

TBG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

India's retail inflation rose to a 14-month high of 6.21 per cent in October, up from 5.49 per cent in August. On the back of rising vegetable prices food inflation galloped and rose in double digits for the first time in fifteen months to 10.87 per cent from 9.2 per cent in the previous month, mainly due to a 42.18 per cent rise in vegetable prices. A research report by the Union Bank says the spike in inflation is sharper than the MPC's estimate of 4.8 per cent, it is currently tracking above 5.5 per cent. It estimates a sharp correction in the fourth quarter and says if we remove vegetables the inflation is subdued at 3.6 per cent. "In our view, with CPI ex veggies still relatively subdued at 3.6 per cent, the seasonal correction in veggie prices may be delayed with onion prices now on an upswing in November" said Union bank report. The Union bank report expects a 50 basis point rate cut starting February 2025 "We maintain our call of a shallow 50bps rate cut

cycle starting Feb'25 as highlighted in our MPC outcome report. Yet, in a volatile world, we need to embrace uncertainty and keep a close watch on Trump's policies which are likely to keep Dollar and rates elevated given upward pressure on both growth and inflation leading to repricing of Fed rate cut expectations" says the report.

Price of edible oil will also be a concern for the Reserve Bank of India (RBI). The recent hike in the import duty of refined palm oil, refined soy oil and refined sunflower oil to 35.75 per cent from 13.75 per cent from mid-September will add to inflationary pressure. "The incremental inflation contribution of oils to October CPI is almost 25bps and the impact may persist for the next 12 months." Said Union bank report. The prices of cereals will be another pain point for the apex bank to contain inflation. The YoY inflation of cereals was broadly flat at 6.9 per cent on base effects, the MoM rise of 0.9 per cent will be a concern as cereals constitute 10 per cent weightage.

YES SECURITIES Launches Wise Whispers Quiz

TBG NETWORK
MUMBAI

YES SECURITIES, a leading financial services firm, is thrilled to announce the launch of The Wise Whispers Quiz, an interactive online quiz designed to reinforce financial literacy among children. This quiz marks the celebration of the first anniversary of The Wise Whispers, a monthly comic book series that simplifies complex financial concepts for young minds. YES SECURITIES, through the adventures of Mr. Turt, the wise and knowledgeable turtle, The Wise Whispers has captivated young readers with its engaging stories and insightful explanations. Children have learned about a wide range of financial topics, including compounding, inflation, stocks, bonds, mutual funds, derivatives, banking, loans, and more. Financial literacy is a crucial skill for individuals of all ages. By understanding basic financial concepts, children can develop healthy financial habits early on. Studies have shown that financially literate individuals are more



likely to save, invest, and make sound financial decisions. For instance, a recent study by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) found that countries with higher levels of financial literacy tend to have stronger economic growth. Anshul Azrre, MD & CEO of YES SECURITIES, said, "We are thrilled to celebrate the first anniversary of The Wise Whispers and launch our interactive quiz. Our goal is to inspire young minds and empower them with the knowledge they need to make informed financial decisions. By combining education with entertainment, we hope to make a lasting impact on the future generation. In recent years, there has been

a growing trend of financial education initiatives targeting young people. As the financial landscape becomes increasingly complex, it is essential to equip the next generation with the knowledge and skills they need to succeed. Many schools and organizations are now incorporating financial education into their curricula, recognizing the importance of these skills for future success." The Wise Whispers Quiz features a variety of question formats, including multiple-choice, crossword puzzles, match the columns, and visual puzzles. Contest Details To add an extra layer of excitement, YES SECURITIES is hosting a contest from 14th to 28th Novem-

ber, 2024. Register Your Interest The Wise Whispers Quiz: registration link . Participants who score the highest will have the chance to win exciting prizes, including bicycles, stationery, games, puzzles, and certificates of achievement. YES SECURITIES is a subsidiary of YES BANK which commenced its operations in 2013 with a clear vision to be the most preferred partner in the wealth creation journey. The Company has transformed from a transactional broker to a financial services powerhouse in a decade. The Company offers a wide array of customized financial solutions facilitating Retails, HNI/UHNIs and Institutional clients.

MediSun Energy and HSL Constructor Collaborate to Drive Sustainable Water

TBG NETWORK
SINGAPORE

MediSun Energy, a leader in pioneering osmotic (blue) energy technology, is thrilled to announce the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with HSL, a prominent Singapore-based infrastructure and environmental engineering and construction firm. The collaboration aims to advance sustainable solutions for water management and environmental resilience across Southeast Asia. Under this MOU, HSL is granted exclusive rights to explore the distribution of MediSun Energy's products within key Southeast Asian markets, including Malaysia, Singapore, the Philippines, Indonesia, and Vietnam. HSL will leverage its established regional footprint and technical expertise to explore market opportunities for MediSun Energy's Reverse Electrodialysis (RED) technology, a break-

through solution that generates electricity from saltwater, alongside MediSun Energy's advanced carbon capture solutions. The MOU also provides for discussions on integrating MediSun Energy's RED technology with HSL's expertise in containerized reverse osmosis (RO) systems. Together, both companies will evaluate opportunities to develop integrated solutions that address water challenges, focusing on environmentally sustainable practices to enhance climate resilience and ecosystem health. Additional initiatives include exploring engineered and nature-based strategies for Carbon Capture, Utilization, and Storage (CCUS), as well as promoting marine biodiversity. Dusan Kim, CEO of MediSun Energy stated, "This collaboration with HSL is an exciting step forward in our mission to bring sustainable energy and water solutions to Southeast Asia.

Pritika Engineering Components Limited Delivers Robust Q2 FY25 Results

TBG NETWORK
MOHALI

Pritika Engineering Components Ltd (NSE: PRITIKA), one of the leading manufacturers of precision machined components for the tractor and automotive sectors in India has reported Net profit of Rs. 1.64 crore for the Q2FY25 ended September 2024 as compared to net profit of Rs. 0.92 crore in Q2FY24, growth of 78.20%. Total revenue for Q2FY25 increased 40.59% Y-o-Y to Rs. 32.03 crore as against total revenue of Rs. 22.78 crore in Q2FY24. EBITDA for Q2FY25 increased 74.52% to Rs. 5.28 crore as against EBITDA of Rs. 3.03 crore in Q2FY24. EPS for Q2FY25 stood at Rs. 1.24

per share. Net Profit Margin and EBITDA margin increased 108 bps and 320 bps respectively during Q2FY25 ended September 2024.

Q2 FY25 Key Highlights:
* The company has announced the issuance of right shares aggregating upto Rs. 49.90 crore to fund its expansion into railway and defence component manufacturing.
* The company has announced a stock split, reducing the face value of each equity share from Rs. 10 to Rs. 5.
Pritika Eng shares trading at Rs. 176.90 on November 12, 2024 (NSE) and has given around 200% returns over the last 6 months.
GREEN SHOOTS IN TRACTOR INDUSTRY:

Mahindra & Mahindra Ltd. which is one of the largest client of Pritika Engineering has in its Q2FY25 Presentation mentioned that H2FY25 tractor industry is expected to grow in double digits. Upon the Financial Performance, Harpreet Singh Nibber, Managing Director of Pritika Engineering Components Limited said, "We are pleased to report a robust performance in Q2 FY25, highlighted by a significant increase in revenue of 40.59% year-over-year, reaching Rs. 32.03 crore. Our EBITDA surged by an impressive 74.52%, with margins expanding by 320 basis points to 16.48%, reflecting our continued focus on operational efficiency. Net

profit also showed strong growth, rising by 78.20% to Rs. 1.64 crore, demonstrating the resilience of our business and the value we are creating for our stakeholders. In addition to our financial performance, we have recently embarked on several strategic initiatives aimed at strengthening our market position. Our commitment to enhancing product quality and expanding our footprint is already yielding positive results. As we continue to execute on our strategic priorities, we remain confident in our ability to deliver sustainable growth and long-term value for our shareholders." **Results Highlights:- H1FY25** During H1FY25 ended

September 2025, company reported Net profit of Rs. 2.58 crore as compared to net profit of Rs. 1.85 crore in H1FY24, growth of 39.87%. Total revenue for H1FY25 increased 23.97% Y-o-Y to Rs. 54.92 crore as against total revenue of Rs. 44.30 crore in H1FY24. EBITDA for H1FY25 increased 54.33% to Rs. 8.89 crore as against EBITDA of Rs. 5.76 crore in H1FY24. EPS for H1FY25 was reported at Rs. 1.96 per share. Pritika Engineering Components Limited: <https://www.pritikaengineering.com/> Pritika Engineering Components Limited, a subsidiary of Pritika Auto Industries Limited and a key unit of the Pritika Group of Industries, is a leader in

manufacturing precision machined components for the tractor and automotive sectors. The company has developed robust in-house design and engineering capabilities, demonstrating a strong track record of innovation across products, technologies, and materials. The company operates a state-of-the-art manufacturing facility in Hoshiarpur, Punjab, equipped with advanced technologies including a mechanized foundry featuring DISA ARPA 900 & 450, Induction Furnaces, Cold Core Box machines, and a comprehensive machine shop with CNC Horizontal, Vertical Machining Centers, and CNC Vertical Turning Lathes.

ISWAI are the registered owners of titles RUSTAM-E-HIND

TBG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

"BHARAT-KESARI" etc. and have been promoting and conducting Traditional Indian Style Wrestling Events/Competitions for more than 68 years. By virtue of Registrations (Trade Mark) and long prior usage, only Indian Style Wrestling Association of India (ISWAI) can hold wrestling events under the said titles. It has come to our notice that some individuals claiming under (So called) "RUSTAM-E-HIND WRESTLING ASSOCIATION" organized a wrestling event at Distt: Nawanshahr (S.B.S

Nagar) in Punjab on Dated 05th November 2024, wherein they have illegally used our trademark/title 'RUSTAM-E-HIND' and declared Mr. Sikander Rashid Shaikh (Maharashtra) as winner of the said title. The public is hereby informed that we have No relation with the said association and event. We have not granted any authority or license/Permission to anyone to use the said trademark/title and conduct any wrestling events under the said trademarks/titles. We reserve our right to take appropriate legal actions against any person(s) who are violating our trademarks and using our titles.

ADANI COMMITS \$10 BN IN US ENERGY, INFRA PROJECTS

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

Billionaire Gautam Adani on Wednesday committed to investing USD 10 billion in energy and infrastructure projects in the United States.

"Congratulations to @realDonaldTrump," he posted on X, congratulating the incoming US President.

"As the partnership between India and the United States deepens, the Adani Group is committed to leveraging its global expertise and invest \$10 billion in US energy security and resilient infrastructure projects, aiming to create up to 15,000 jobs."

He, however, did not give the time period or details of the projects that his port-to-energy conglomerate will be pursuing in the US.

Gautam Adani is an In-



"As the partnership between India and the United States deepens, the Adani Group is committed to leveraging its global expertise and invest \$10 billion in US energy security and resilient infrastructure projects, aiming to create up to 15,000 jobs."

dian billionaire businessman who is the founder and chairman of the Adani Group, a multinational conglomerate involved in port

development and operations in India.

As per Forbes list of India's 100 richest tycoons, dated October 9, 2024,

Gautam Adani is ranked second, with a net worth of \$116 billion. In 2022, Times Magazine included him in the 100 most influential people in the world.

Adani Group is an Indian multinational conglomerate, headquartered in Ahmedabad. Founded by Gautam Adani in 1988 as a commodity trading business, the Group's businesses include sea and airport management, electricity generation and transmission, mining, natural gas, food, weapons, and infrastructure. It is particularly active in metal commodity exchange. More than 60% of its revenue is derived from coal-related businesses.

Adani was the largest Indian conglomerate as of 2022 with a US\$206 billion market capitalization, surpassing Tata Group.

Swiggy debuts on markets, notches up 17% gain, M-cap crosses Rs 1L cr

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

Shares of food delivery and quick commerce major Swiggy ended with a premium of nearly 17 per cent against the issue price of Rs 390 on Wednesday.

The stock listed at Rs 412, reflecting a jump of 5.64 per cent from the issue price on the BSE. During the day, it surged 19.30 per cent to Rs 465.30. Shares of the firm ended at Rs 455.95, up 16.91 per cent.

At the NSE, shares of the firm made the market debut at Rs 420, a jump of 7.69 per cent. The stock ended at Rs 456, higher by 16.92 per cent. Swiggy's market cap crossed Rs 1 lakh crore on the day of listing of shares on the stock exchanges.

The company's market valuation stood at Rs 1,02,062.01 crore. Rival Zomato has a market valuation of Rs 2,28,463.62 crore. In traded volume terms,



Swiggy's market cap crossed Rs 1 lakh crore on the day of listing of shares. Rival Zomato has a market valuation of Rs 2,28,463.62 crore.

80.74 lakh shares of Swiggy were traded at the BSE and 1,129.60 lakh shares on the NSE during the day.

Meanwhile, BSE benchmark Sensex tanked 984.23 points or 1.25 per cent to settle at 77,690.95, extending its previous day's fall. Registering its fifth day of decline, the NSE Nifty tumbled 324.40 points or 1.36 per cent to 23,559.05.

The Rs 11,327-crore initial public offer of Swiggy got fully subscribed on the final day of the share sale on Friday, ending with 3.59 times subscription.

The initial share sale had a price range of Rs 371-390 apiece. The company's IPO (Initial Public Offering) had a fresh issue of shares worth Rs 4,499 crore, along with an Offer-For-Sale

(OFS) of Rs 6,828 crore.

Going by the draft papers, the company plans to utilise proceeds from the fresh issue for investing in technology and cloud infrastructure; brand marketing and business promotion; and debt payment; and funds will also be allocated for inorganic growth and general corporate purposes. "We are expecting very solid growth for the next 3-5 years. We are expanding our geographical footprint, stores network for Instamart business," Swiggy CEO Sriharsha Majety said post the listing ceremony.

Sensex nosedives nearly 1,000 pts

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

Benchmark stock indices in India slumped for the fifth straight day, touching a multi-month low.

The fall was due to a host of factors, including relatively weak Q2 earnings, sustained foreign fund flows, and rising domestic inflation.

Sensex closed at 77,691 points, down 984 points or 1.25 per cent, while Nifty closed at 23,559 points, down 324 points or 1.36 per cent. All the sectoral indices were deep in the green.

"Indian equity markets slipped after opening in positive territory due to a sell-off across the sectors amid a rise in dollar index and relentless foreign outflows," said ICRA Analytics.

With the much-closely-



"Indian equity markets slipped after opening in positive territory due to a sell-off across the sectors amid a rise in dollar index and relentless foreign outflows-- ICRA Analytics."

watched US elections over, the Indian stock market's focus is largely focused on domestic factors -- foreign fund flows, the final phase of the Q2 earnings season,

and the inflation trends. India's retail inflation was at 6.21 per cent in October, breaching the Reserve Bank of India's 6 per cent upper tolerance level.

Gold prices may dip further, says WGC

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

The impressive year-to-date rally in gold has seen a temporary dip following the recent US election results, according to a World Gold Council report.

A mix of stronger bond yields, a rising US dollar, and growing investor confidence in stocks and cryptocurrencies have cooled off gold's momentum.

The election outcome has also eased some geopolitical tensions, which could further dampen gold's appeal as a safe haven. Before the election, there was speculation that US Treasury yields and the dollar had peaked and that a weaker dollar might follow, potentially lowering yields. However, the election brought about a quick reversal in both.

No rate cut seen in February: SBI

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

The interest rate cut by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) is unlikely in February due to the persistent inflation, SBI Research stated in its latest report, adding that a slight easing in inflation is expected starting in January.

The report adds that inflation is likely to average around 4.8 per cent to 4.9 per cent for financial year 2025, higher than the RBI target of 4.5 per cent. It adds that the ease in inflation from January will be supported by base effects rather than a significant cooling of underlying price pressures.

"Inflation is only likely to dip from January onwards, but this will be driven by base effects. We are now



less hopeful of a February rate cut. We believe the first rate cut is now effectively pushed back beyond Feb'25," the report adds.

According to data released by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation on Tuesday, food inflation was at 10.87 per cent. Notably, vegetable inflation was at 42.18 per cent.

Corresponding inflation rates for rural and urban

were at 6.68 per cent and 5.62 per cent, respectively.

The analysis points out that several large states are facing high inflation, above the national average.

India's retail inflation was at 6.21 per cent in October, breaching the Reserve Bank of India's 6 per cent upper tolerance level.

Chhattisgarh, for example, saw an inflation rate of 8.8 per cent in October,

followed by Bihar at 7.9 per cent and Odisha at 7.5 per cent.

"There are 7 states whose year-on-year inflation has crossed more than 2 per cent in a year.

These indicate that the momentum of food prices has continued to climb up," the report adds. SBI Research highlighted that the gap between urban and rural inflation remained stark, with inflation in rural households experiencing 1.07 per cent higher than those in urban areas.

This is mainly due to the higher food prices, and the rural basket of food items weight (54.2 per cent) is higher than the urban weights (36.3 per cent).

It further expects a moderation in vegetable prices in the month of November.

CAIT alleges unfair trade practices by quick commerce companies

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

Traders industry body, the Confederation of All India Traders (CAIT) on Wednesday released a White Paper, raising serious concerns over the alleged practices of quick commerce platforms like Blinkit, Instamart, Zepeto, Swiggy etc.

The traders body has been alleging that quick commerce platforms are undermining the foundation of India's retail economy.

CAIT urged regulatory bodies to intervene and ensure that quick commerce platforms adhere to fair trade practices and protect the interests of small traders.

CAIT urged regulatory bodies to intervene and ensure that quick commerce platforms adhere to fair trade practices and protect the interests of small traders.

Speaking at the press conference, CAIT Secretary

General, Praveen Khandelwal, condemned quick commerce platforms for misusing Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) rules to dominate suppliers, control inventory, and fund predatory pricing.

According to CAIT Sec-

retary General strategies adopted by these platforms create an unfair playing field, making it nearly impossible for the 30 million Kirana stores to compete with them.

"These platforms are aggressively pushing small retailers out of the market," Khandelwal said

The White Paper alleges through examples of how quick commerce companies are violating FDI policies and the Competition Act of India.

Onion prices remain sky high, govt to cap rate at Rs 35/kg

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

In response to a steep 42.18 per cent increase in vegetable prices as per CPI inflation data of October, driven largely by soaring onion prices, Consumer Affairs Secretary Nidhi Khare says the government is taking urgent steps to curb the impact on consumers.

India's overall retail inflation rose to 6.21 per cent in October, with food inflation reaching double digits at 10.87 per cent, the highest in over a year, as per the CPI data released on Tuesday. Nidhi Khare, outlined government's initiatives to



tackle rising onion prices, with a particular focus on stabilizing retail costs.

She said, "There is a situation of concern about the way onion prices have increased steadily in the retail market. Whether steps have been taken by the govern-

ment. I would like to tell you that below our national average, there are many major states whose prices are privileging whether it is Maharashtra or Gujarat."

She added, "In such states of Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Rajast-

han, Telangana and Karnataka, the price of Onion is already low."

To further address price volatility, the government introduced bulk onion transportation through special trains, known as the "Kanda Express."

According to Khare, "The Kanda Express has already delivered onions twice to Delhi and once each to Guwahati and Chennai, which has had a positive effect on stabilizing prices." She added that the third Kanda Express arrived in Delhi last night, and its effect on local onion prices should be evident within the next day.

Single malt brand Indri looks at going global

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

Indri, the single malt Indian whisky that came out of nowhere to sweep multiple 'world's best' awards at various fora, is now taking a shot at going global. Its makers have announced a Rs 1,000 crore expansion plan including new distillery and malt facilities, as well as perhaps a first for an Indian alco-bev company, an international distillery in Scotland.

Talk about taking the fight to the leader's doorsteps — Walker's better walk faster!

Piccadilly Agro Industries, the makers of Indri, on Wednesday, announced its moonshot venture at taking an Indian whisky to the global stage. The plans include expanding its existing distillery and malt facilities in Haryana, establishing a new distillery in Mahasa-



Piccadilly Agro Industries, the makers of Indri, on Wednesday, announced its moonshot venture at taking an Indian whisky to the global stage.

mund in Chhattisgarh, as well as a distillery in Portavadie on a 58-acre land in Scotland. "This expansion is not just about scaling up our operations; it is about reshaping the future of premium Indian alco-bev spirits on a global stage. Our expansion across India and Scotland demonstrates

our ambition to redefine the global spirits industry while solidifying India's position as a producer of high-quality, premium alcohol," said Siddhartha Sharma, promoter, Piccadilly Agro Industries.

Piccadilly, listed on the Bombay Stock Exchange, had raised Rs 262 crore

from investors last month, while an additional Rs 50 crore is being infused by the promoter family. The balance funding shall be tied up through a combination of internal accruals and debt, the company said in a statement on Wednesday afternoon.

The expansions are expected to be completed over the next two years, with phase 1 of the total expansion at Indri plant of malt and ethanol reaching completion in early 2025.

Launched in 2022, Indri single malt whisky won the 'Whisky of the Year' title at the USA Spirit Rating Awards this year, following up on its Diwali Collector's Edition winning the top prize at the 'Whiskies of the World' awards last year. The Indri Reserve 11-year-old wine cask also made it to the Top 15 at the International Whisky Competition this year.

IDFC FIRST Bank unveils startup lounge to empower entrepreneurs

TDG NETWORK
BENGALURU

IDFC FIRST Bank, today announced the launch of startup lounge an exclusive space designed to support entrepreneurs and empower early-stage startups in India. Located in Koramangala, Bengaluru, this unique space aims to provide essential resources, mentorship, and networking opportunities for entrepreneurs looking to scale their businesses.

On the occasion Bhavesh Jatania, Head Start-up Banking, IDFC FIRST Bank said, "We are excited to announce the IDFC FIRST Bank Start-up

STARTUP CORNER



Lounge, a first of its kind initiative by a bank in India. The Start-up Lounge



will serve as meeting and collaboration point, providing entrepreneurs a conducive environment to innovate and grow. IDFC FIRST Bank will also partner with leading incubators, accelerators, venture capitalists and angel investors, creating synergies that will help startups gain competitive edge in a fast-

evolving business environment."

The FIRST Wings Start-up Lounge is equipped with state-of-the-art facilities, including meeting rooms and advanced video conferencing solutions, creating an ideal environment for entrepreneurs, and investors to connect, collaborate and grow.

500 HIGH-TECH CM-PACS CENTERS TO BOOST HARYANA'S FARMERS AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

Haryana Governor Bandaru Dattatreya outlined initiatives to empower farmers and address water scarcity in the first session of the 15th Vidhan Sabha.

TDG NETWORK
CHANDIGARH

Haryana Governor, Bandaru Dattatreya while addressing the first session of the State's 15th Vidhan Sabha on Wednesday said that in a bid to further empower farmers and boost rural development, about 500 new CM-PACS centres would be set up in the state. He said that these CM-PACS will serve as one-stop centres for training, marketing, and providing financial services for farmers. He said that the present state government is establishing a vast network of cooperative organisations, such as Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs) and PACS, to empower our farmers and enhance rural prosperity.

The Governor said that, additionally the FPOs and PACS will be provided with interest-free loans up to Rs. 1 Crore for building warehouses for grain storage. He said that Haryana is an agrarian state, so the wel-



fare of farmers is at the core of the present state government's policies.

The Governor said that while working towards farmers welfare, the present state government has recently eradicated the colonial-era 'abiyaana' (a traditional tax). Besides this, Haryana has become the first state in the country where 24 crops are purchased at the Minimum Support Price (MSP). Due to the delayed monsoon this year, farmers had to arrange additional resources for the sowing of Kharif crops, which increased the cost of cultivation. To provide relief, the government has given a bonus of Rs. 2000

per acre to every farmer for all Kharif crops. This is the first time in the history of Haryana that such a step has been taken, said Sh. Bandaru Dattatreya.

In the Rabi season of 2023 and 2024, over Rs. 133.75 crore have been released as compensation to 49,000 farmers for the crop losses due to natural disasters. Besides this, the present state government has transferred Rs. 1 lakh 24 thousand crores into the bank accounts of 12 lakh farmers through the 'e-Kharid' portal, directly benefiting them from MSP-based crop purchases. Policies are being designed and several decisions are being taken

to make farmers more self-reliant and increasing their income, Governor

The Governor said that considering the current needs of the state, the present state government is making changes to the state's agricultural system. Policies are being designed and several decisions are being taken with the aim of making farmers more self-reliant and increasing their income.

He said that today, fake fertilisers, seeds, and pesticides have become a major challenge for the agricultural sector. The present state government will enact strict laws to impose a ban of such practices and will ensure that farmers receive a hundred percent compensation.

The Governor said that in view of the shortage of irrigation water, the present state government will promote the cultivation of crops that require less water. Farmers will be given an amount of Rs. 10,000 per

acre if they sow alternative crops or keep their fields fallow instead of growing paddy. Also, farmers will continue to receive crop purchase payments through DBT within 48 hours, he said.

The Governor said that water scarcity has emerged as a global challenge today, hence acknowledging the same the present state government is committed to optimising the use of every drop of water and preventing wastage in its distribution. He said that infrastructure improvements in canals will continue. Policies for micro-irrigation, rejuvenation of 19716 ponds, and treatment and management of wastewater will be continued. Government is committed to securing its legitimate share of water from the Ravi and Beas rivers and completing the Sutlej-Yamuna Link Canal. Continuous and firm advocacy is being done in these issues, said Bandaru Dattatreya.

Congress has always divided the country: Gajendra Singh Shekhawat

TDG NETWORK
JAIPUR

Union Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat and Haryana BJP in-charge Satish Punia accused Congress of consistently pursuing a divisive agenda.

"Congress has always engaged in politics of division, splitting the nation along religious, economic, caste, and linguistic lines. Now, they aim to divide people based on the color of their clothes," Shekhawat remarked on Tuesday.

Both leaders also visited Sriganganagar, where they paid their respects at a meeting held in memory of former minister Gurjant Singh Brar.

Further criticizing Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge, Shekhawat added, "Bhagwa' (Saffron) is a symbol of respect for us. It's not a political matter but one of faith."

On the 'Bategenge toh Katenge' remark, Shekhawat said, "It has been written in our tales that unity is the strength. Till now whenever Hindus have been divided, that part has been separated from the country. From Persia in Central Asia to Afghanistan and Nepal,



the way it has been disintegrated from India is due to the division. It is written in the history books."

BJP leader Satish Punia also expressed confidence in the party winning the assembly elections in Jharkhand and also the by-polls which will be held on November 13.

Punia said, "I am not an astrologer, but in the bye-elections, the BJP will get a huge majority on most of the seats."

The bye-elections for different assembly constituencies across the country and the Lok Sabha Wayanad seat are going to be held on November 13.

On Sunday, Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge, while speaking at an election rally in Maharashtra, took a jibe at Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi

Adityanath without taking his name and said that many of the leaders live in the guise of sadhus and have now become politicians and some have even become chief minister as well.

Speaking at the Samvidhan Bachao Sammelan', the Congress President also slammed Adityanath for his recent 'batoge toh katoge' (If we divide, we will be cut), a slogan calling for Hindu unity, and accused him (Yogi) of spreading hatred.

"Many leaders live in the guise of sadhus and have now become politicians. Some have even become chief ministers. They wear 'gerua' clothes and have no hair on their heads...I would say to the BJP, either wear white clothes or if you are a sanyasi wear 'gerua' clothes, then get out of politics.

CM Announces statewide implementation of SC reservation in Govt Jobsx

TDG NETWORK
CHANDIGARH

Haryana Chief Minister, Nayab Singh Saini said that the Haryana Cabinet had already approved the decision on categorization of reservation for Scheduled Castes in government jobs, as per the Supreme Court's directive. The Chief Minister said that this decision is effective across the state from today.

The Chief Minister was responding to questions



raised in this regard in the House by opposition members during the first session of the 15th Haryana Vidhan Sabha on Wednesday.

Govt. to establish a trauma centre every 60 kilometres on all national and state highways

TDG NETWORK
CHANDIGARH

Haryana Governor, Bandaru Dattatreya while addressing the first session of the State's 15th Vidhan Sabha on Wednesday said that the progress of any society depends on the health of its members. Therefore, the present state government is working to provide healthcare to every person. Continuing the same, the government has decided that a trauma centre will be established every 60 kilometres on all national and state highways. Besides this, 100

bedded civil hospitals will be upgraded to 200 bedded hospitals and 200 bedded civil hospitals will be upgraded to 300 bedded hospitals. He said that the government will also increase the number of seats in medical colleges to 3,500, while ICU will be set up in the civil hospital of every district.

The Governor further informed that Haryana is providing free treatment facility of up to Rs. 5 lakh annually to all citizens with annual family income up to Rs. 1.80 lakh under 'Chirayu Ayushman Bharat Yojana'.

Governor highlights clear difference in Haryana's progress at 15th Vidhan Sabha session

TDG NETWORK
CHANDIGARH

Haryana Governor, Bandaru Dattatreya while addressing the first session of the State Vidhan Sabha on Wednesday said that the difference between Haryana a decade ago and Haryana today is crystal clear. He called upon the members to affirm that no obstacle should stand in the way of fulfilling the resolution for 'Viksit Haryana - Viksit Bharat.' He showed confidence that each MLA will make the most of every moment in this House to prioritise public welfare. He said that he is confident that this Assembly will usher in a new chapter of decisions focused on public welfare. Let us all unite with full dedication to achieve the resolution of 'Viksit Haryana - Viksit Bharat'.

Addressing the House, the Governor highlighted that this is the first time in the history of Haryana that people have shown trust in a government for the third consecutive time. He said that at present the environment is highly conducive for the development of non-stop Haryana in every way. The entire state is keeping an eye on the decisions and policies formulated by this Assembly in the coming



time. Therefore it is the responsibility of every member to ensure that the state and its people get the maximum benefit of this favourable time.

The Governor advised the members to always remember the 'moolmantra' of the Father of the Nation, Mahatma Gandhi, who emphasised that every decision we make should be evaluated by its impact on the poorest and weakest person in society.

The Governor said that the people of the state have enthusiastically participated in the recently concluded election process and have sent you as advocates of their rights to this Assembly, the state's Supreme Panchayat and as legislators, you will fulfill your responsibilities with full dedication and commitment.

The Governor said that among the 90 members of this 15th Assembly, there are 40 members who have

been elected for the first time. He extended a special welcome to all these members. The Governor said that in the 14th Assembly, only 9 women members ('Navratnas'), were elected, while this time the number has increased by nearly one and half times, reaching 13.

The Governor said that this House is the flag bearer of the aspirations of 2.75 crore people of the state. Now, it is the utmost responsibility of every MLA to meet the expectations of the people, said Sh. Bandaru Dattatreya.

The Governor said that this is the first time in the history of Haryana that people have shown trust in a government for the third consecutive time. He said that the present state government has received a historic and decisive mandate in these elections. This mandate is a strong expression of the people's unwavering trust and faith

in the existing policies and programmes of the government. He said that this mandate indicates that people support a corruption-free, transparent administration and inclusive development. This mandate is a clear testament to the fact that the people of the state have embraced the government's policies, expressing their trust and support through their votes, said Bandaru Dattatreya.

The Governor said that for the fair and peaceful elections held in the state, the vigilant voters of the state, the Election Commission of India, and all officers and employees associated with the election process deserve appreciation.

The Governor said that the 2024 election has been an election based on trust in 'Neeti, Niyat, Nishtha aur Nirnay' (Policy, Intent, Integrity, and Decisions). The present state government has carried forward a mission of service, security, good governance, cooperation, and upliftment of the Antyodaya for the last 10 years, and this mandate is an endorsement of that mission. This is a mandate that the work of developing Haryana should continue non-stop and we should continue achieving our goals. The government will

continue to move forward with the spirit of 'Rajya ke vikas se desh ka Vikas' (Development of the State contributes to the development of the Nation), Bandaru Dattatreya.

The Governor said that the present state government, over the past 10 years, has worked beyond the narrow mindset of regionalism, constituency consideration and family-based politics. Also, the state government has focused on 'Shiksha, Swasthya, Suraksha, Swavalamban aur Swabhimaan' (Education, Health, Security, Self-reliance, and Self-respect), giving new energy and momentum to the state's development. The vision of Antyodaya by Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya has not only guided the present state government but also embodies the core principle of "Haryana Ek-Haryanvi Ek" in all our efforts, he said.

The Governor said that the present state Government has envisaged Haryana as a vibrant, dynamic and resurgent State of India. He said that dedicated efforts are being made to ensure that farms of the state have abundance of produce; the wheels of industry grind uninterrupted, ample employment opportunities are available for the youth, and

sisters and daughters feel safe, empowered, and self-reliant. A Haryana where farmers get remunerative prices for their crops, no one is left unemployed, businesses prosper, the needy receive all the benefits of development, and no one feels neglected, said Sh. Bandaru Dattatreya.

The Governor said that the present state government, following the guiding principle of "Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas" given by the Prime Minister, Sh. Narendra Modi, has provided equal opportunities for every section to progress in the state. The Prime Minister considers the poor, youth, women, and farmers as the four pillars of a 'Viksit Bharat' (Developed India).

He said that the present state government has oriented its policies toward strengthening these pillars. The government's effort is to ensure that every government scheme benefits them, as this is the path to their upliftment and welfare.

When the government works with the resolve that not a single eligible person should be left out from receiving the benefits of any government scheme, then every penny spent from the treasury is utilised in public interest, said the Governor.

Haryana to Establish 10 Ultra-Modern Industrial Townships in 5 Years

TDG NETWORK
CHANDIGARH

In the coming 5 years, Haryana will establish 10 ultra-modern industrial townships in the entire state on the lines of IMT Kharkhoda. In each such township, special incentives will be given to entrepreneurs for giving employment to 50,000 youth from nearby villages.

Haryana Governor, Bandaru Dattatreya shared this while addressing the first session of the State's 15th Vidhan Sabha on Wednesday. He said that an EV Park in Rohtak, IT park and data centre in Panchkula and Faridabad, world-class logistics hub in Sonapat, industrial model park in Palwal, footwear park in

Jhajjar, industrial cluster in Hisar, modern sunflower oil mill in Kurukshetra and the country's largest mustard oil cooperative mill will be established in Rewari.

The Governor further informed that apart from Mudra Yojana, the state government will bear the guarantee of a loan up to Rs. 25 lakh to all entrepreneurs of Other Backward Classes.

Bandaru Dattatreya said that as industry is the basic foundation of our economy, therefore the present state government has created an ecosystem of ease of doing business to accelerate the industrial development of Haryana. The government has abolished many rules and procedures that created obstacles in granting certifi-

cates, licences and permissions. As a result, Haryana has become the preferred destination for investors both nationally and internationally, said the Governor.

He said that along with the traditional sectors, sunrise sectors are also being promoted on mission mode. The NCR region of the state is being developed as a logistics hub. My government is also making continuous efforts to reduce the logistics cost. Now, the construction work of Integrated Multimodal Logistics Hub in Mahendragarh will be expedited, informed Bandaru Dattatreya.

The Governor said that to improve transport options and ensure greater accessibility across the state, an

affordable heli-taxi service will soon be launched. This service will offer convenient air travel to residents, businesses, and visitors, fostering connectivity between key locations. Besides this, to make the State self-reliant in the energy sector, new 800 MW thermal power stations will be established at Yamunanagar and Hisar, he said.

The Governor said that infrastructure is the key indicator of the physical and economic development of any State. Not only this, strong infrastructure is also the first condition for raising the living standard of the people residing there, attracting industry and investment and strengthening, state's economy, he said.

KU International Gita Conference to comprise 12 technical sessions

TDG NETWORK
CHANDIGARH

Kurukshetra University, Kurukshetra is going to organize 9th International Gita Conference on the theme 'Shrimad Bhagavad Gita and Sustainable Ecosystem' from 5th to 7th December, 2024 in collaboration with Kurukshetra Development Board (KDB) Kurukshetra. In this regard, a meeting of the organizing committees was organized in the Faculty Lounge under the chairmanship of worthy Vice Chancellor Kurukshetra University, Prof. Som Nath Sachdeva. During the meeting, Prof Sachdeva said that the objective of this conference is to explore solutions for climate change and environment issues through the insights of



Srimad Bhagavad Gita. Prof Sachdeva added that for the smooth functioning of this conference, various committees, with defined responsibilities, have been constituted which will look after the entire arrangements of the conference. Director, International Gita Conference, Prof. Tejinder Sharma informed that the plenary session of the conference will be organized by the Institute of Environmental Studies. First Technical Session 'Vision of Self-

reliant and Developed India in the Bhagavad Gita' by Institute of Management Studies and University School of Management, second technical session 'Importance of Gita in Ecological Justice' by Department of Law, Third Technical Session 'Relevance of Shrimad Bhagavad Gita in Environmental Governance' by Institute of Law, Fourth Technical Session 'Nature and Environment in Shrimad Bhagavad Gita' by Department of Sanskrit, Pali and

Prakrit and Institute of Sanskrit and Indological Studies, fifth technical session by the Department of Social Work on 'Ecology-conscious Social Work Practice: Adoption of Shrimad Bhagavad Gita Principles', sixth technical session by the Department of Home Science on 'Exploring the Knowledge of Shrimad Bhagavad Gita: Repository of Sustainable Nutrition, Health and Well-being', seventh technical session by the Department of Tourism and Hotel Management 'Shrimad Bhagavad Gita: An Inspiration for Sustainable Tourism', eighth technical session by the Hindi Department and Shri Gulzari Lal Nanda Centre on 'Environment in Hindi Literature and Shri Gulzari Lal Nanda's Policies.

DELHI HC SEEKS CENTRE'S STAND ON PUNIA, PHOGAT'S PLEA OVER WFI ADMINISTRATION

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court on Wednesday sought the stand of the Centre and the WFI on a plea by celebrated wrestlers Bajrang Punia, Vinesh Phogat, Sakshi Malik and her husband Satyawart Kadian pressing that affairs of the federation be taken over by an IOA-ad hoc committee or a retired Supreme Court or High Court judge. Justice Prateek Jalan issued notice on the application by celebrated wrestlers Bajrang Punia, Vinesh Phogat, Sakshi Malik and her husband Satyawart Kadian which sought to restrain the present management of the WFI from taking any steps towards holding any selection trials.

The court asked the Centre and the WFI to file in two weeks their response to the application, which forms



part of the wrestlers' petition against the elections held in federation, and listed the matter for hearing on December 12. The senior counsel appearing for the petitioners said the WFI was being run by a "proxy" president and selection trials were being held at the cost of the wrestlers and in violation of the court's ruling on the issue of IOA-ad hoc committee taking over the federation.

The petitioners were at the forefront of last year's protest at the Jantar Mantar here demanding the arrest of outgoing WFI chief Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh for alleged sexual harassment of seven women grapplers. Sanjay Singh, a Brij Bhushan loyalist, was elected the new WFI chief in the polls held on December 21, 2023.

The Centre had suspended

the WFI on December 24, 2023, three days after it elected the new office bearers, for allegedly not following the provisions of its own constitution while taking decisions and requested the IOA to constitute an ad hoc committee to manage and control its affairs.

In February, UWW lifted the suspension, leading to the IOA also dissolving its ad hoc committee on March

18. The high court, however, ruled on August 16 that until the suspension order of the Centre is not recalled, it was necessary for the ad hoc committee to manage the federation's affairs.

In the instant application, the petitioners alleged that the authorities, in flagrant disobedience, failed to comply with the order by not setting up the ad hoc committee to govern the affairs of the WFI till date.

It also said the the selection trials called by the federation for the 2024 Senior World Wrestling Championship was not as per the law and prejudiced the rights of the athletes.

"The deliberate non-compliance by the Respondent No.3/Ad-Hoc Committee WFI through IOA has led to further illegal actions by the Respondent No.2/WFI, which continues to operate without oversight.

CJI nominates Justice Surya Kant as chairperson of SC Legal Services Committee

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

Chief Justice of India Sanjiv Khanna has nominated Justice Surya Kant as the new chairman of the Supreme Court Legal Services Committee.

The National Legal Services Authority (NALSA), in a notification dated November 12, announced the appointment of Justice Surya Kant as head of the Supreme Court Legal Services Committee (SCLSC).

The post was previously



held by Justice BR Gavai, who will now head NALSA, which is mandated to provide free legal services to the weaker sections of society. While the chief justice of

India is the patron-in-chief of NALSA, the senior-most judge after him is its executive chair.

The second senior-most judge heads the SCLSC, which provides legal services to litigants in the top court.

Justice Surya Kant took charge as chief justice of Himachal Pradesh High Court on October 5, 2018.

He was elevated as an apex court judge on May 24, 2019.

The Supreme Court judge is due to retire on February 9, 2027.

West Bengal: Local TMC leader shot dead in Jagaddal, 1 held

TDG NETWORK
KOLKATA

A local TMC leader was shot dead in Jagaddal near Kolkata on Wednesday, police said.

Ashok Shaw, a former TMC president of Bhatpara Ward No 12, was shot multiple times when he was standing in front of a tea stall, a few hundred metres away from the Jagaddal police station in North 24 Parganas district, they said.

Crude bombs were also hurled simultaneously, targeting him, they added.

Shaw was rushed to the nearby Bhatpara State General Hospital where he died, police said.

In the evening, a person



was arrested in connection with the murder, an officer said. A few others, who were also injured in the attack, were undergoing treatment in the hospital, he said.

Barrackpore's Police Commissioner Alok Rajoria said, "We have started an investigation. Interrogation of the suspects is underway. We haven't found any political connection to this killing."

The poll officials directed

the authorities to keep a watch in the area in the wake of shooting and hurling of crude bombs this morning. One container bomb was recovered from the scene of crime after it did not explode, sources said. The bomb squad arrived to defuse the bomb.

An eye witness said some youths arrived near to them and shot from the fire arms in which one of them fell on the spot.

UP dance teacher alleges rape, threats from Lawrence Bishnoi gang member

TDG NETWORK
BASTI

A dance teacher in this Uttar Pradesh district has lodged a police complaint, alleging that she had been receiving rape and death threats from a suspected member of the "Lawrence Bishnoi gang".

In her complaint, the teacher alleged that a man,



who claimed to be a member of the Lawrence Bishnoi gang, threatened her

over the phone, stating that he had already "raped and killed 25 women and that she would be his next victim".

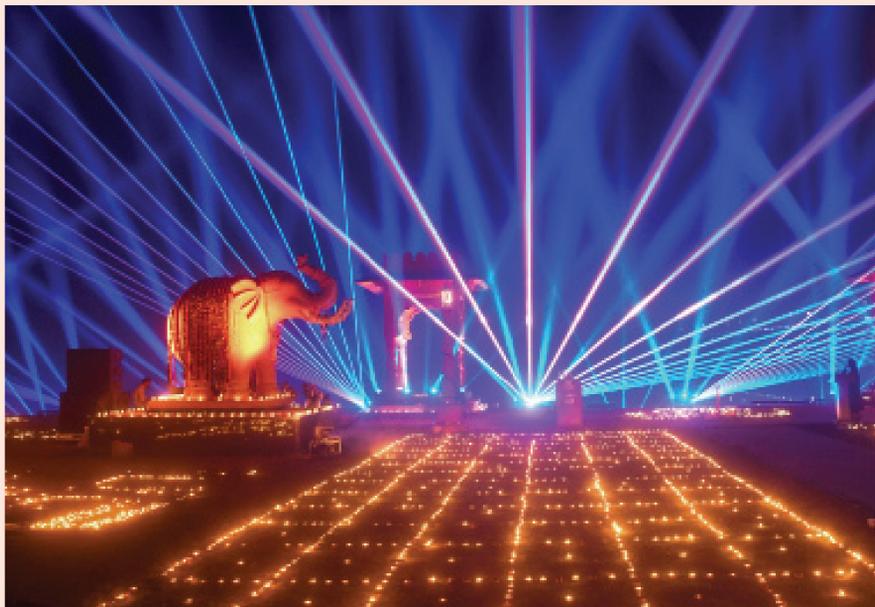
The woman, a popular dance teacher in the Basti Sadar Kotwali area, shares dance tutorials on YouTube.

She alleged that the man used multiple numbers to call her.

Circle Officer Satendra Bhushan Tiwari said, "We have received a complaint from the dance teacher regarding the threats. Preliminary investigation into the matter is underway." Bishnoi, whose name cropped up in the recent murder of a Maharashtra MLA, is currently lodged in a Gujarat jail.

Circle Officer Satendra Bhushan Tiwari said, "We have received a complaint from the dance teacher regarding the threats. Preliminary investigation into the matter is underway." Bishnoi, whose name cropped up in the recent murder of a Maharashtra MLA, is currently lodged in a Gujarat jail.

DEEPOSAV



Laser show and lit diyas illuminates the night at Vasudev Ghat to mark the Delhi Deepotsav celebrations, in New Delhi. ANI

Himachal HC declares appointment of 6 CPS as 'unconstitutional'

TDG NETWORK
SHIMLA

In a landmark ruling, the Himachal Pradesh High Court has declared the appointment of Chief Parliamentary Secretaries (CPS) under the Himachal Pradesh Parliamentary Secretaries (Appointment, Salaries, Allowances, Powers, Privileges, and Amenities) Act, 2006, as unconstitutional. This decision mandates the immediate withdrawal of all CPS positions and associated privileges, halting any further functioning of CPSs in their current capacity within the government.

The state government of Himachal Pradesh and CPS would challenge it in the apex court.



The order was pronounced by a division bench consisting of Justice Vivek Singh Thakur and Justice Bipin Singh Negi, who ruled that the Act lacked constitutional validity. According to the bench, "The Chief Parliamentary Secretary and Parliamentary Secretary's appointment, salaries, allowances, power, privilege, and amenities under the

2006 Act are void."

This decision comes after a legal challenge initiated by ten BJP MLAs, led by Satpal Sati, along with another individual, who argued that the appointments granted under the 2006 Act breached constitutional provisions and bypassed procedural norms. Advocate Veerbadur Verma, representing

the BJP petitioners, stated, "The 10 BJP MLAs under the leadership of Satpal Sati had challenged the recruitment of CPSS, which was done according to an Act of 2006, in the court. The court has admitted that the 2006 Act was unconstitutional. The HC has also ordered the withdrawal of the CPS facilities immediately... If the other side decides to go to the SC, they will not get any relief there also. The act has been repealed," Verma said. The decision is expected to have far-reaching implications, as the court emphasized that the state assembly did not have the authority to enact the 2006 legislation, which equated CPSs' roles and benefits nearly to those of ministers.

Opposition in UP hails SC order, calls it end to 'bulldozer terror'

TDG NETWORK
LUCKNOW

With the Supreme Court applying brakes on bulldozer action, BSP president Mayawati on Wednesday hoped the "terror" of bulldozer will definitely end now while Congress' Uttar Pradesh chief Ajay Rai said the verdict will end "jungle raj" in the state.

The Samajwadi Party also hailed the SC decision and said the "bulldozer action" was "totally unjust, unfair, unconstitutional and illegal". UP cabinet minister Om Prakash Rajbhar also welcomed the court's order.

On the SC's directive for action against officials involved in illegal bulldozer action, Rajbhar said, "The court's orders will be followed. If anyone is found guilty, action will be taken against them." Their reactions came as the Supreme Court laid



down pan-India guidelines on demolition of properties and said the executive cannot become a judge, declare an accused as guilty and demolish his house.

"After today's decision of the honourable Supreme Court regarding bulldozer demolitions and the related strict guidelines, it should be expected that UP and other state governments will manage public interest and welfare properly and smoothly and the terror of bulldozers will definitely end now," Mayawati posted

on X in Hindi.

UP Congress chief Rai told PTI: "We welcome the apex court's decision. Hopefully this decision will end the jungle raj in Uttar Pradesh". The Samajwadi Party's media cell took to social media, noting the apex court has made very strong comments on the bulldozer action and has warned the governments and reprimanded the officials "The bulldozer action is totally unjust, unfair, unconstitutional and illegal," the SP's media cell posted on X.

"BJP governments should stop doing injustice in the name of law and justice. Bulldozers put not just one person but the whole family on the streets and even innocent people become scapegoats," it said. "This decision is a tight slap on the face of incompetent, useless, highly corrupt people who run the government/power by considering themselves as God's incarnation. Hopefully, those responsible must have felt and heard the sound of the slap," it added. Rajbhar, whose party SBSP is an ally of the ruling BJP, said the top court's decision was welcome. "The government never demolishes anyone's personal property. Bulldozer is run on illegal occupation on public properties. It was the high court's decision, we do not do it on our own," Rajbhar told reporters.

SC's demolition guidelines will halt arbitrary house razing: U'khand Cong

TDG NETWORK
DEHRADUN

The Congress' Uttarakhand unit on Wednesday welcomed the Supreme Court's guidelines on the demolition of properties, saying it will stop governments from razing houses arbitrarily.

The opposition party's state unit vice president Mathura Dutt Joshi said the top court's decision will force governments to

become more fair in their approach.

Equating 'bulldozer justice' with a lawless state of affairs where might is right, the Supreme Court laid down pan-India guidelines and said no property should be demolished without a prior show cause notice and the affected must be given 15 days to respond.

The executive cannot assume judicial powers to punish citizens by de-

molishing their properties without following due process, the apex court said while terming such excesses "high-handed and arbitrary" and ruling that they need to be dealt with the "heavy hand of the law".

Reacting to the verdict, Joshi said, "We welcome the apex court's directives. It will put an end to the undemocratic practice of demolition of houses by governments with bulldo-

ers in an arbitrary manner." "Democratically elected governments are supposed to work for the welfare of people not ruin them. Such arbitrary actions shake the faith of the people in democracy," he said.

When asked about incidents of bulldozer action in Uttarakhand, Joshi said he cannot recall any incident in which a private house was demolished but there has been large-scale demo-

AIMIM chief Owaisi welcomes SC's directions on 'bulldozer justice'

TDG NETWORK
HYDERABAD

AIMIM chief Asaduddin Owaisi on Wednesday welcomed the Supreme Court's directions on 'bulldozer justice' and claimed that Prime Minister Narendra Modi earlier had celebrated "bulldozer raj", which the

SC called "a lawless state of affairs".

Coming down hard on 'bulldozer justice', the Supreme Court today laid down pan-India guidelines on demolition of properties and said the Executive cannot become a judge, declare an accused as guilty and demolish his house.

"The #Bulldozer judgement of the Supreme Court is a welcome relief. The most important part of it is not in its eloquence, but the enforceable guidelines. Hopefully they will prevent state governments from collectively punishing Muslims & other marginalised groups," the Hyderabad

Lok Sabha member said in a post on 'X'.

A bench of Justices B R Gavai and K V Viswanathan said if the Executive, in an arbitrary manner, demolishes the house of a citizen only on the ground that they are accused of a crime, then it acts contrary to the principles of rule of law.

HIGH COURT ISSUED NOTICE ON PLEA SEEKING CBI PROBE INTO DEATH OF PROTESTORS ALLEGEDLY SHOT BY HARYANA POLICE DURING FARMER'S PROTEST

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

The Punjab and Haryana High Court in the case Charanjit Singh vs State Of Haryana And Others observed and has sought the stand of the Haryana and Punjab Governments wherein the petition is filed seeking Central Bureau Probe, CBI into the death of a protestor who was allegedly shot by Haryana Police during Farmers' Protest at the Khanauri border.

In the present case, the

deceased Shubhakaran Singh lost his life on February 21 while protesting, inter-alia, for the demand of a law guaranteeing Minimum Support Price, MSP for crops on the Punjab-Haryana border. Alleging that he lost his life after being hit by a bullet fired by the Haryana police, his father approached the High Court.

A single judge bench headed by Justice Karamjit Singh in the case observed and has issued notice to the Union Government, Punjab, Haryana and CBI.

The petition is filed by a deceased father Charanjit Singh stated that the High Court has entrusted the investigation of FIR lodged on the death to IPS Satish Balan who is Haryana Cadre IPS officer.

However, Balan being part of Haryana Police has a conflict of interest in ensuring free and fair investigation into the matter as officials of Haryana Police are themselves the perpetrators and assailants and is alleged to be itself the aggressor party and is thus unapt and unsuitable of

investigating the aforesaid FIR in an even handed, equitable and unbiased manner.

It has also been highlighted before the court that while the probe is pending Haryana Government sought gallantry medals for the Haryana IPS officers who stopped farmer's Delhi March.

Adding to it, Shubhakaran's father stated that he apprehends that IPS Balan will not be in a position to conduct a Fair and impartial investigation into the matter and there-

by seeks directions from the High Court to transfer the investigation to a Neutral Investigation Agency such like Central Bureau of Investigation or an such impartial investigation agency.

Accordingly, the court listed the matter for further consideration on December 17, 2024.

The counsel, Mr. R.S. Bains, Sr. Advocate with Advocates Mr. Gurmohanpreet Singh, Mr. Khushpal Singh, Ms. Aarushi Garg, I.P.S. Deol, appeared for the petitioner.

Calcutta High Court Granted Bail To man Imprisoned On Suspicion Of Being Associated With Banned Bangladeshi Terrorist Outfit

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

The Calcutta High Court in the case Abdul Kalim @ Azad 2 Abdul Kalam versus State Of West Bengal observed and has granted bail to a Bangladeshi national, who was arrested in 2016, on the suspicion of being associated with the banned terrorist organisation Jamaat-ul-Mujahideen Bangladesh, JMB.

The Division bench comprising of Justices Joyimalya Bagchi and Justice Gaurang Kant was hearing the present matter. The bench in the case allowed the bail application moved by Abdul Kalim alias Azad.

It was stated before the



court that the petitioner was in custody for more than eight years, and there was no possibility of the trial concluding soon.

The counsel appearing for the State submitted that the petitioner had been convicted in the 2014 Khagragarh blast case, investigated by the National Investigation Agency, NIA and was sentenced to eight years of imprisonment.

It was also alleged before

the court that that there were links found between the JMB and the blast in Khagragarh.

The counsel appearing for the Petitioner argued before the court that the eight-year sentence had ended and that there was no grounds for the state authorities to continue holding the petitioner in the present case.

The court in the case noted that the allegations of being associated with a banned terrorist organisation were serious in nature.

It has also been stated that no overt act had been attributed to the petitioner and he was sentenced based on an uncorroborated statement by a co-accused.

Punjab And Haryana High Court Referred Matter To CJ, Recommends Training: 'Pained And Shocked' Over Trial Judge Who Held Witness Guilty For Taking Contradictory Stand

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

The Punjab and Haryana High Court in the case Devender @ Sachin versus State Of Haryana observed and has expressed shock over the conduct of a judge who held the witness guilty for giving false statement because he took a contradictory stand before the police and the

Court.

The bench comprising of Justice Sanjeev Prakash Sharma and Justice Sanjay Vashishth was hearing the present matter.

The bench in the case stated that, 'This court is extremely pained and shocked by the manner by which the concerned Additional Sessions Judge, Hisar, has conducted himself. This court find that

the learned Judge has proceeded with an assumption that the statement made under Section 161 of Code of Criminal Procedure, CrPC before the police is the truthful statement and the statement made in the Court is a false evidence and also proceeds to impose punishment on the concerned witness.

The court in the case noted that even before the case was

decided finally on December 13, 2021, the witnesses who stated in favour of the accused, have been held guilty of giving false statements, which is a course totally against the true spirit of criminal jurisprudence.

The court stated that it appears that the Judge requires training on the subject.

The court referred the present matter to the Chief Justice

to take administrative action.

The court made the said observations wherein the court was hearing the application of suspension of sentence during pendency of an appeal filed by a juvenile tried as an adult in a murder case, and he was sentenced to life.

The Senior Counsel appearing for the appellant argued before the court that the order

passed by the Juvenile Justice

Board was defective as it did not comply with the requirements under Section 15 of the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015, as no psychological assessment of the child, who was only 17 years of age, was undertaken before reaching to the conclusion of trying him as an adult.

The court while considering the submissions made

by the parties stated that the proceedings initiated by the Children Court as against the appellant prima facie are vitiated.

Further, the court noted that the appellant has already undergone a total sentence of 4 years 3 months and 21 days.

The bench opined that prima facie the applicant or appellant, therefore, could not have been sentenced to

life imprisonment, as the eye-witnesses had turned hostile.

Accordingly, the court suspended the sentence.

The counsel, Mr. Atul Lakhanpal, Senior Advocate, with Ms. Caral, Advocate, and Mr. Siddhart Chawla, Advocate appeared for the appellant.

The counsel, Mr. Apoorv Garg, Senior DAG/Public Prosecutor, Haryana.

Calcutta High Court On Plea Against Use Of Loudspeakers Near School For Specially-Abled Children: 'Puja Committee Thinks They Are Bigger Than God'

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

The Calcutta High Court in the case Prajna Paromita Sen And Anr. Versus State Of West Bengal And Ors observed that the use of loudspeakers and blocking of roads outside a specially-abled children's school for celebrating Jadhahatri puja, showed that the 'puja committee thinks they are bigger than the deity itself.'

The Division bench com-

prising of CJ TS Sivagnanam and Justice Hiranmay Bhattacharya was hearing the present matter.

The bench in the case remarked that there is a school for specially-abled children. Your puja committee must show concern for the neighbourhood and particularly the children who are differently abled. Therefore, your committee thinks they are bigger than the god. Instead of having the gods idol, we'll have the pictures of your com-

mittee members. Thus, the president thinks he is bigger than the deity. This is all ego. You should have some regard for the people of the locality.

The petitioner in the plea submitted that throughout the year, the locality's roads would be blocked and loudspeakers would be used for some celebrations or the other.

On the other hand, the respondent stated that they had obtained permission from a single-bench

allowing them to hold the puja and that they would refrain from using loudspeakers during the celebrations.

The court while considering the facts and circumstances of the case observed that the single bench's directions on the conduct of the puja shall be strictly adhered to and that no prejudice should be caused to people in the area.

Accordingly, the court dismissed the plea.

Gujarat High Court Rejected Temporary Bail Of Convict For Father's Treatment: 2002 Sabarmati Express Burning Case

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

The Gujarat High Court in the case Faruk Mohammad Bhana Through Imran Faruk Bhana Versus State Of Gujarat And Anr observed and has rejected the temporary bail petition filed by a man—who is convicted in the year 2002 Sabarmati Express train burning case, seeking for carrying out the medical treatment of his 95-year-old father.

The court in the case passed the order wherein the court noted that the there were other family members present who could look after the man's father.

The single judge bench of Justice Sanjeev J Thaker in its order stated that, 'the jail remarks indicate that the applicant has been convicted for an offence under Section 302 of the Indian Penal Code, IPC and sentenced to undergo life imprisonment. Therefore,

having considered the fact that there are other family members who can look after the father of the applicant and since the applicant has recently been granted temporary bail, no case is made out and hence the present application stands rejected accordingly.'

The applicant father stated that temporary bail was being sought for carrying out medical treatment of father of the applicant, who is aged about 95 years, is diagnosed with

diastolic dysfunction and is suffering from kidney related illness.

The Additional Public Prosecutor appearing for the State opposed the bail petition wherein it is contended that there are other family members of the man who could look after his father. He further opposed the temporary bail on the ground that the applicant had recently been released on May 1 for eight days.

Allahabad High Court: Owner Of Electric Vehicle Purchased Prior To October 14, 2022 Cannot Seek Refund Of Tax Citing Subsequent Exemption Notification

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

The Allahabad High Court in the case Ankur Vikram Singh Respondent v. State of UP observed and has held that the owner of an electric vehicle which was purchased prior to October 14, 2022 cannot seek refund of tax citing a subsequent notification exempting the payment of One Time Tax.

The Petitioner in the plea has sought refund of One Time Tax paid in respect of his Hybrid Vehicle purchased on October 13, 2022.

However, the relief was sought before the court which being on the strength of a notification issued by the State providing tax exemption for electric vehicles purchased and registered from the date



of notification of the Uttar Pradesh Electric Vehicle Manufacturing and Mobility Policy, 2022 i.e. October 14, 2022.

The petitioner submitted before the court that the vehicle was registered on October 18, 2022, even if the vehicle was purchased a day prior to the Policy, the petitioner is entitled to refund.

The counsel appearing for the State argued before the

court that the very language of the exemption notification requires both 'purchase and registration' of the vehicle from the date of notification i.e. October 14, 2022.

It was also argued before the court that since the vehicle of the petitioner was purchased prior to the said date, petitioner is not entitled to refund.

The High Court in the case observed that the conditions

enumerated for the purpose of exemption are that the electric vehicle must have been purchased and registered in the State of UP from the date of notification of the Policy 2022.

Further, the court held that the vehicle in question has been purchased by the petitioner prior to the date of Policy, 2022, i.e. October 13, 2022 and tax itself has been paid as applicable on the said date and, thus, it cannot be said that under the said Policy or Notification, the petitioner was entitled to the exemption as provided.

Adding to it, the court stated that only on account of the fact that the vehicle was registered on October 18, 2022, i.e. after the date as indicated in the exemption notification, i.e. October 14, 2022, the petitioner cannot seek refund.

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court in the case MC Mehta v. Union of India and Ors. observed and has issued notice to the Tree Authority and the Tree Officers appointed under the Delhi Preservation of Trees Act, 1994, wherein the petition is filed seeking to prevent the Delhi government from permitting tree felling under the Act without prior permission from the court.

The bench comprising of Justice Abhay Oka and Justice Augustine George Masih was hearing the present matter.

The bench in the case was hearing the petition that also seeks the constitution of an expert committee to evalu-



ate the current tree protection measures in Delhi and submit recommendations for preserving existing trees and forests. The bench headed by Justice Abhay Oka stated that, 'What we propose to do is, we want to hear the tree officer and tree authority, what is the procedure they follow? What

kind of checks and balances are there in the procedure they follow in tree felling. And then we propose to pass some order.'

Adding to it, he stated that, 'some mechanism will have to be worked out; otherwise, indiscriminately powers are exercised.'

The counsel, Senior Advocate Gopal Sankarnarayanan, appearing for the applicant stated that, 'Five trees are felled every hour in Delhi.'

The bench of Justice Oka responded, 'What we feel is that if an application is for felling more than a particular number of trees, then some safeguard has to be there. The object of the Act is first, preserve the trees, and by way of exception, permissions can be granted to fell.'

The court while referring to the Delhi Preservation of Trees Act, Sankarnarayanan explained that the Act outlines multiple functions for the Tree Authority and Tree Officer, which included detailed oversight regarding trees.

Kerala High Court: No Prosecution For Possessing Waqf Property Without Sanction From Waqf If Possession Was Before Insertion Of Section 52 A Waqf Act

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

The Kerala High Court in the case K Sukumaran v Kerala State Waqf Board observed and has held that there cannot be a prosecution under Section 52A of the Waqf Act for taking possession of Waqf property without prior sanction of the Waqf Board if there was prior

possession of the property, that is before the insertion of Section 52A in 2013.

The Section 52A of the Waqf Act provides rigorous imprisonment up to 2 years for alienation, purchasing or possession of movable or immovable Waqf property without prior sanction from the Waqf Board.

The bench headed by Justice P. V. Kunhikrishnan in

the case observed and has quashed the proceedings initiated against the employees of the post office on finding that they were in possession of the property since 1999.

The court observed that a perusal of the same would not show that a person who is in occupation of waqf property even prior to the insertion of Section 52A of

the Act are liable to be prosecuted. Therefore, the Department of Posts were in possession of the property even prior to the insertion of Section 52A of the Act.

In the present case, the petitioners, post office employees were accused of committing an offence punishable under Section 52 A of the Waqf Act for illegally taking possession of Waqf

property without obtaining prior sanction from the Waqf Board.

Therefore, the complaint was filed before the Magistrate Court and summons were also issued.

It has been submitted by the petitioner before the court that the post office was in possession of the impugned property even before Section 52A was in-

serted in 2013.

Further, the court observed that the post office was using the property in question based on a lease agreement since 1999.

The court in the case noted that the post office was issued with a notice declaring that their lease agreement was terminated and directed them to hand over the vacant possession of the

property.

Further, the court noted that Waqf Tribunal had issued an order directing the postal department to vacate the property within 45 days.

Further, the court observed that a complaint before the Magistrate Court was filed alleging the commission of an offence punishable under Section 52A of the Act.

The court also observed that Section 52A was inserted in the year 2013 only.

The court while considering the legislative intent behind Section 52A was to initiate prosecution for illegal alienation, purchase and alienation of property without prior sanction from the Waqf Board after the provision was inserted by amendment in the year 2013.

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THE BUSINESS GUARDIAN

THURSDAY | 14 NOVEMBER 2024 | NEW DELHI

DELHI'S AQI HITS 'SEVERE': WORST IN COUNTRY THIS SEASON

Bihar's Hajipur, with an AQI of 417, had the second-worst reading in the country

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

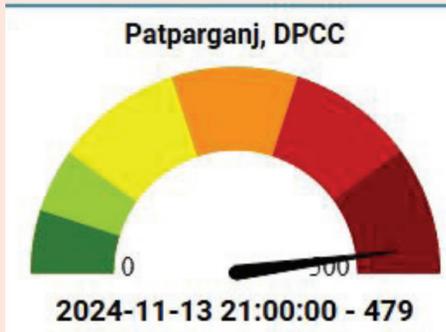
Delhi recorded the country's worst air quality on Wednesday as it turned 'severe' for the first time this season, with the AQI soaring to 418.

Bihar's Hajipur, with an Air Quality Index (AQI) of 417, had the second-worst reading in the country, Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) data showed.

Of Delhi's 36 monitoring stations, 30 reported air quality in the 'severe' category, the CPCB said.

In comparison, the national capital's 24-hour average AQI -- recorded at 4 pm every day -- stood at 334 on Tuesday.

An AQI between zero and 50 is considered 'good', 51 and 100 'satisfactory', 101 and 200 'moderate', 201 and 300 'poor', 301 and 400 'very poor', 401 and 450 'severe' and above 450



Real time AQI at 10.15pm on Wednesday

Forecast AQI for today	
Mathura Road	251
Noida	208
Delhi University	200
Lodhi Road	196
IIT Delhi	144

was recorded at 447, followed by 409 each on January 24 and 26.

The CPCB said 'severe' AQI affected healthy people and seriously impacted those with existing medical conditions.

The air quality in the national capital had been in the 'very poor' category since it plunged to the level on October 30.

According to the Centre's Decision Support System

'severe plus'.

According to the CPCB data, the city's AQI was in the 'severe' category for three days in January.

On January 14, the AQI

AQI 'VERY ALARMING' AS TEMPS DROP: ENVIRONMENTALISTS WARN

NEW DELHI: Amid deteriorating air quality in Delhi, Environmentalist Vimlendhu Jha said on Wednesday that it is a "very, very" alarming situation and the citizens need to be extremely cautious as the quality of air might reach severe category for several weeks due to dip in temperature.

Vimlendhu Jha said that November 13 is the 15th day when the Air Quality Index of Delhi NCR is hovering around 390 very poor category.

"In some hot spots, the air quality index has already touched 400. It's a very, very alarming situation. This morning there was a blanket of smog in various parts of Delhi... There's a prediction that there might be rain by the meteorological department, and that might bring in some temporary relief. But the wind coming from north of Punjab and Haryana bringing in the smoke from the farm fires is going to have an impact with the winter setting in,"

for Air Quality Management, vehicular emission was the top contributor to Delhi's pollution, with an estimated share of approximately 13.3 per cent.

The other prominent pollutants were PM2.5 and PM10.

PM2.5 and PM10 refer to fine particulate matter in the air, with the numbers indicating their size in micrometres.

PM2.5 are fine particles with a diameter of 2.5 micrometres or less, about the width of a human hair.

Airport sees 10 flight diversions due to low visibility

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

As many as ten flights were diverted and many were delayed at the Delhi airport on Wednesday morning as low visibility conditions impacted operations, according to officials one of the officials said nine flights were diverted to Jaipur and 1 to Lucknow since 7 am due to bad weather on Wednesday.

Many flights were delayed due to low visibility conditions and the situation improved later, the second official said.

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) reported that very dense fog began forming around 5.30 am, resulting in a thick haze over different parts of the national capital

According to the sources, seven flights to Jaipur and one to Lucknow were diverted since 7 am on Wednesday. Residents have complained of low visibility on the roads and have also been experiencing irritation in their eyes and breathlessness.

Winter action plan: Govt to set up 250 pagoda tents for homeless

The Delhi government has
TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

rolled out a winter action plan for the homeless as part of which 200-250 pagoda tents with a capacity to accommodate around 2,000 people will be set up and 16 rescue teams will be formed.

The Delhi Urban Shelter Improvement Board (DUSIB) currently operates 197 shelters for the homeless across the city with a total capacity of 7,092 people, according to officials. As part of the winter action plan, the government will set up an additional 200 to 250 water-proof and fire-retardant

pagoda tents which will accommodate around 2,000 more homeless individuals. These tents will be set up in areas with high concentrations of homeless people. An official said the government has allocated Rs 3 crore for the implementation of the plan from November 15 this year to March 15, 2025 to provide shelter to the homeless and ensure their comfort.

Sixteen rescue teams will be formed in collaboration with Social Mobilisation Agencies and NGOs. These teams will operate between 10 pm and 4 am every day, rescuing homeless individuals found sleeping in open spaces or on roadsides, the plan stated.



A thick layer of smog engulfs the area as the air quality in the city remains in the 'Very Poor' category, in New Delhi. ANI

'Air pollution hits hazardous levels; AAP, BJP trade blame', says Cong

TIKAM SHARMA
NEW DELHI

The Delhi Congress has strongly criticized the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP)-led Delhi government over the severe air pollution levels in the city, which have reached hazardous levels. Delhi Congress President Devender Yadav stated that air pollution in the capital has become so dangerous that people are afraid to leave their homes due to the risk of illness from breathing the toxic air. He remarked that in any other country, such conditions would likely lead to a medical emergency, yet in Delhi, the AAP government and BJP are engaged in blame games instead of addressing the spread of polluted air that is causing serious respiratory and heart issues, as well as skin and eye ailments. Yadav added that



parents fear sending their children to school in such conditions, while those in power make excuses instead of finding solutions. Yadav also criticized former Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal and current Chief Minister Atishi for their lack of concern, noting that Environment Minister Gopal Rai expressed "satisfaction" over "improved" air quality and "thanked" the public, despite a dense layer of smog covering Delhi on Wednesday, severely reducing visibility.

According to the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), the Air Quality Index (AQI) remained in the "very poor" category for the 15th consecutive day.

He added that the Delhi Congress has been raising concerns about local pollution sources for years, which was further validated by a report in the New York Times. Yadav cited local factors such as dust, vehicle emissions, construction, and fumes from poorly planned waste-to-energy plants as primary sources of Delhi's air pollution, but alleged that Kejriwal has tried to shift blame by pointing to stubble burning in neighboring states. He argued that the Kejriwal government has not learned from past mistakes, as it only implements a "Winter Action Plan" at the last minute, when the

LG nods to deployment of CDVs

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

In a move to tackle the ongoing air pollution crisis in the national capital, Delhi Lieutenant Governor VK Saxena on Wednesday approved the redeployment of Civil Defence Volunteers (CDVs) for a four-month period from November 1, 2024 to February 28, 2025. The decision marks a reversal of the previous termination of CDV services, effective November 1, 2023.

Saxena also urged the Delhi government to formulate a dedicated scheme for bus marshals, as he outlined in a letter to the chief minister on October 24, 2024, and reiterated on November 2, 2024, an official statement from the Raj Niwas said.

The lieutenant governor emphasised the need for a well-defined scheme that clarifies the roles, rationale



Commuters amid low-visibility due to fog, in New Delhi. PTI

and service conditions for bus marshals, the statement said.

According to the statement, the lieutenant governor has also directed the government to take immediate steps towards creating official posts and ensuring budgetary provisions, aiming to resolve the issue with a long-term structured plan.

The removal of over 10,000 civil defence volunteers, who had previously been deployed as bus marshals, was initiated following objections from the Directorate of Civil Defence.

Delhi has become gas chamber, AAP responsible for all this: BJP

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

Bharatiya Janata Party leader Shehzad Poonawalla on Wednesday wore a gas mask as the pollution level rises in the Delhi-NCR region and said that the national capital has become a gas chamber.

Speaking to ANI, Poonawalla blamed the Aam Aadmi Party for the rise in pollution in Delhi.

He said, "Delhi has become a gas chamber. AAP used to blame stubble burning in Punjab for that. Now, more than 6000 cases of stubble burning have happened in Punjab but they chose to stay silent on that. They blame Diwali, UP and Haryana for the rise in air pollution. But they stay silent on the internal reasons of Delhi for this situation... Whether it is pollution in Yamuna River or air pollution in Delhi, AAP is re-



sponsible for all this."

Similar to other days, a dense layer of smog engulfed the national capital Delhi with the Air quality dropping down to 361 categorized as 'Very Poor' on Wednesday. Residents have complained of low visibility on the roads and have also been experiencing irritation in their eyes, running nose, breathlessness and cough.

Upendra Singh, a local said "The pollution has increased and with the temperatures also dropping down, we have started ex-

periencing a lot of issues. There is barely any visibility on the road, and we have also been experiencing irritation in the eyes, running nose, breathlessness and cough." AQI in Anand Vihar was recorded at 399, 382 in Punjabi Bagh, 376 in Ashok Vihar at 8 a.m. as per the Central Pollution Control Board.

Notably, on Monday, the Supreme Court said that the right to live in a pollution-free atmosphere is a fundamental right of every citizen under Article 21 of the Indian Constitution and no religion encourages any activity that creates pollution.

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LG appeals to CM to hike EWS limit to 5 lakh

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NEW DELHI

Lieutenant Governor VK Saxena has strongly recommended to the AAP government in Delhi to raise the income limit for EWS category admissions in the private schools from Rs one lakh to Rs 5 lakh in view of vacant seats and higher minimum wages, officials said on Wednesday. Ideally the income limit should be Rs 8 lakh since the students benefitting at the primary and secondary levels are the ones who go ahead to avail higher education, he noted in a file related to a Delhi High Court matter



concerning income limit. The lieutenant governor said his view was that the threshold limit for admissions to EWS seats in the private schools should be in line with the threshold limit of Rs 8 lakh applicable in case of EWS admissions in higher education institutions or at least Rs 5 lakh as indicated by the

High Court. Under the Right To Education (RTE) Act, 2009, 25 per cent seats in private unaided schools are reserved for the students belonging to the economically weaker section (EWS).

The lieutenant governor noted that as per the minimum wages notified by

The lieutenant governor noted that as per the minimum wages notified by the Delhi government, the annual income of skilled workers (Rs 21,917X12= Rs 2.63 lakh) is more than the proposed threshold limit of Rs 2.5 lakh.

the Delhi government, the annual income of skilled workers (Rs 21,917X12= Rs 2.63 lakh) is more than the proposed threshold limit of Rs 2.5 lakh.

He cited that as per available data, on an average around 11 per cent of the reserved seats for EWS category in the private

schools have remained vacant in Delhi in the last three academic session.

"These unfilled seats clearly indicate policy failure on part of the Delhi government by keeping the threshold limit of annual income unrealistic and with restricted coverage," he said.

Police nab wanted shooter Mogli, Gogi Gang member

SAURABH SHARMA
NEW DELHI

The Special Cell of Delhi Police on Wednesday arrested the third Gogi gang member in connection with the November 4 firing incidents in Nangloi and Alipur areas.

Ramnivas alias Mowgli was held near the Shahbad Dairy area following a brief exchange of fire in which he sustained a gunshot injury on his leg.

According to the Delhi Police, one semi-automatic pistol with 4 live cartridges, one country made pistol with 2 live cartridges and a stolen motorcycle was recovered from his possession.

The accused is among the three people who opened fire outside a showroom and an office in Nangloi and Alipur as part of an extortion bid.

According to the Special Cell's statement, "On 4-11-24, two separate incidents of gunfire occurred at Shree



Lakshmi Plywood in Nangloi and the office of Goel Properties in Alipur. These incidents were reported under FIR No. 760/24 in PS Nangloi and FIR No. 699/24 in PS Alipur."

Both FIRs include charges under sections related to attempt to murder and the Arms Act.

The Special Cell conducted the investigation by analysing CCTV footage and gathering intelligence from informants.

Delhi court grants bail to Vivo India official in PMLA case

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

Delhi's Patiala House Court on November 11 granted regular bail to Chinese national Guangwen, alias Andrew, in the Vivo Mobile money laundering case. Andrew,

who worked as an admin manager, was arrested in October 2023 in connection with the alleged proceeds of crime amounting to Rs 20,000 crores.

Additional Sessions Judge (ASJ) Kiran Gupta after considering the facts, circum-

stances and period of custody granted bail to Guangwen alias Andrew. His earlier bail application was dismissed.

"Considering the totality of the facts and circumstances; the fact that the applicant is one of the employees and nothing has been received

in his account except salary; the period of custody undergone; that the trial is yet to commence, keeping in mind the import of the catena of decisions of Honorable Supreme Court and High Court of Delhi as discussed, the present application is al-

lowed," the court ordered on November 11.

ASJ Kiran Gupta observed, "In the present case, the present applicant is in Judicial custody since October 10, 2023. He had already suffered incarceration for around 13 months.