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To Publish Articles & Advertisement Contact 96194 27411 • Mussadif S. Modak - Chief Editor

NAVI MUMBAI TOPS INDIA IN SWACHH SURVEKSHAN 2025-26, NAMED CLEANEST CITY

KTR / Navi Mumbai :

Navi Mumbai Municipal Corporation (NMMC), which has consistently ranked among India's cleanest cities, has achieved the highest honour in the field of urban sanitation. The city secured first place among 4, 751 cities in the 'Swachh Survekshan 2025-26', earning the title of India's cleanest city. Mayor Sujata Patil received the prestigious award from President Droupadi Murmu at a ceremony held at Vigyan Bhawan in New Delhi on Wednesday. Deputy Mayor Dashrath Bhagat, Municipal Commissioner Dr Kailas Shinde, City Engineer Shirish Aradwad and other senior officials were present.

Over the past three to four years, NMMC has focused on improving sanitation under the motto 'Nishchay Kela,



Number Pahila'. Consistent efforts in daily cleaning, waste collection and transportation, waste segregation, scientific processing, use of modern technology and active public participation contributed to this achievement. The top ranking reflects the combined efforts of the administration, elected representatives, sanitation workers and citizens.

After receiving the award, Mayor Sujata Patil described it as a proud moment for every resident of Navi Mumbai. She dedicated the honour to the citizens, sanitation workers and sanitation volunteers, stating that their contribution had been crucial in achieving this milestone. Deputy Mayor Dashrath Bhagat also appreciated the tireless efforts of sanitation workers who work on the streets to keep the city clean.

He expressed confidence that the 'Sugandhit Shahar Abhiyan' would further strengthen the city's cleanliness initiatives. Municipal Commissioner Dr Kailas Shinde credited the achievement to the collective efforts of citizens and sanitation workers. He said the corporation had focused on integrating advanced technology into sanitation management while encouraging greater public participation.

Retains Position in Super Swachh League

Navi Mumbai has previously achieved several milestones under the Swachh Bharat Mission-Urban. The city has retained its place in the Super Swachh League, along with the Seven-Star Garbage-Free City (GFC) rating and Water Plus certification. The latest national recognition is therefore considered a result of sustained efforts rather than a one-year achievement.

Technology Strengthens Waste Management

The use of advanced technology to monitor daily cleaning, waste collection and transportation played an important role in the city's success. The Integrated Control and Monitoring Centre helps track waste collection and transportation operations. Systems have also been developed to segregate collected waste and ensure its appropriate processing.

NMMC has also successfully operated the country's first textile waste recycling centre. Other initiatives include water reuse, controlling plastic consumption, large-scale cleanliness drives and digital platforms for timely resolution of citizens' complaints.

Chhath Puja Songs Played Suddenly at Navi Mumbai Railway Stations; Passengers Surprised

KTR / Navi Mumbai :

Passengers at Nerul, Sanpada and other railway stations in Navi Mumbai were taken by surprise on Wednesday when Bhojpuri songs related to Chhath Puja suddenly began playing over the public announcement system instead of the usual train schedules and passenger information.

The unexpected songs left commuters wondering about the purpose of the initiative. Some passengers approached station officials to seek clarification. They were informed that the songs were being played on the instructions of the Central Railway



administration and not by the local station management.

On Wednesday afternoon, Chhath Puja-related songs were heard over the loudspeakers at Nerul railway station. Railway announcements generally provide information about train arrivals and departures, platform changes and other important passenger updates.

Shrivardhan Beach Receives International 'Blue Flag' Award: Minister Aditi Tatkare

KTR / Raigad :

Shrivardhan Beach in Raigad district has received the prestigious international 'Blue Flag' certification. Women and Child Development Minister Aditi Tatkare announced in a press statement that Shrivardhan Beach has become the first beach in Raigad district to receive this recognition. Minister Aditi Tatkare said, "The efforts we have consistently pursued over the past two years have finally borne fruit. I am particularly happy and proud that Shrivardhan Beach has become the first Blue Flag-certified beach in Raigad district. Several meetings were held during this period, and various measures were implemented to improve the beach's environmental standards and cleanliness."This award is not merely a flag; it represents international recognition of our beautiful and clean coastline." Minister Tatkare also thanked all the officials, local residents and colleagues who contributed to this achievement.



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Fake 'Tourism Tehsil Office' Set Up to Mislead Administration; Youth Arrested

KTR / Navi Mumbai :

A case has come to light in which a fictitious 'Tourism Tehsil Office' was created using the name of a government office, its official logo and a forged seal to mislead the administration. Suyash Sanjay Shirke (30), who allegedly posed as a revenue officer of the fake office and sent provocative letters to the Thane District Collector and Navi Mumbai Police Commissioner, has been arrested by Vashi Police. The letters contained references to Kalyan's Durgadi Fort and demands



linked to Ramzan Eid that could potentially create religious tension. The administration took serious note of the matter.

The Thane Collector and District Magistrate's office received a suspicious letter in the name of 'Kiran Kumar'. The letter described the sender as an 'Additional Revenue Officer, Tourism Tehsil Office'. However, a preliminary verification revealed that no such office existed in government records. The Collector's office subsequently directed Vashi Police to identify the person behind the letter and ascertain its purpose.

The contents of the letter were also controversial. It demanded a permanent ban on members of the Muslim community offering namaz at Kalyan's Durgadi Fort and its surrounding area during the upcoming Ramzan Eid and between March and May. It also sought permission to hold a press conference at a private building in Sector 17, Vashi, in the name of the verdict and victory celebrations concerning Kalyan Port and the Durgadi Fort area. The letter, which created the impression of being issued by a government official, raised concerns about administrative deception and the possibility of disturbing communal harmony.

Police Investigation

Considering the seriousness of the matter, a team led by Vashi Police Station Senior Inspector Shashikant Chandekar, including personnel from the intelligence unit and police constable Sandeep Dhawale, began an investigation. Police examined details and records of the courier company used to send the letters, along with CCTV footage from the surrounding area. The investigation revealed that the letters had been printed using a pen drive at a photocopy centre in Sector 17, Vashi, and subsequently sent by courier.

Based on technical investigation and information gathered, police traced and apprehended Suyash Shirke.

31 Fire Incidents Reported in 24 Hours; Fires Continue to Plague Navi Mumbai

KTR / Navi Mumbai :

Fire incidents continued across Navi Mumbai even after Lakshmi Pujan, with several parts of the city witnessing repeated outbreaks. Fires have been reported in residential areas, vacant plots, warehouses and locations where inflammable materials were stored, raising serious concerns about public safety. Some incidents were so severe that a single fire station could not bring them under control, forcing authorities to call in additional teams. A total of 31 fire incidents were recorded within the jurisdictions of five fire stations between November 9 and 10.

According to Rohan Kokate, station officer at the Vashi Fire Station, the highest number of incidents—nine—were reported within its jurisdiction during the 24-hour period. Koparkhairane recorded 12 incidents, Nerul six, Airoli three and CBD Belapur one. Koparkhairane reported the highest number of fires. In some cases, the intensity of the flames required additional personnel and fire engines. The fire brigade suspects that most of the incidents were caused by firecrackers.



Fire Engulfs Wood and Fibre Materials in Talavali

A major fire broke out at Plot No. 157, Ambedkar Chowk, near Talavali Naka in Ghansoli. Stored wood and fibre materials caught fire, causing the flames to spread rapidly. The highly inflammable materials intensified the blaze. As firefighters faced difficulties in controlling it with water, teams from Koparkhairane Fire Station, Rabale MIDC and the Mahape emergency fire station were called in for assistance.

Repeated Fire Incidents in Ghansoli

Meanwhile, a second consecutive fire incident was reported in the open space beneath a high-voltage power line near Vandan Society in Sector 29, Ghansoli. Repeated fires at the same location have raised safety concerns among residents. Locals claim that unauthorised garages and illegal hutments have been operating in the area.

Prioritise Modern Agricultural Research to Tackle Climate Change Challenges: Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis

KTR / Nagpur :

Climate change is having its most significant impact on the agricultural sector. Irregular rainfall and water scarcity have created new challenges for farming. To overcome these challenges, research, skilled manpower development, innovation and new technologies are essential. Priority must be given to technologies that deliver higher yields with less water, crops that can withstand climate stress and modern agricultural research. Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis said that establishing quality agricultural colleges is equally important.

He was speaking at a function held at Kawad in Ramtek taluka, where the Late Datta Meghe Memorial Gallery, Nandkishor Jaiswal Agricultural College and Shalinitai Datta Meghe Veterinary Hospital, established by the Shri Datta Meghe Foundation, Nagpur, were inaugurated by Dr. Mohan Bhagwat, Sarsanghchalak of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh.

Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari, Revenue Minister and Guardian Minister



Chandrashekhar Bawankule, Minister of State for Agriculture Adv. Ashish Jaiswal, Minister of State for School Education Dr. Pankaj Bhoyar, Shalinitai Meghe, MLA Sameer Meghe, Sagar Meghe, members of the Meghe family and dignitaries from the fields of education, healthcare and other sectors were present.

The Chief Minister further said that this year, crops had suffered significant damage due to the impact of El Niño and adverse weather conditions caused by rainfall. It is therefore necessary to develop crops that can withstand climate stress and provide good yields even with limited water. Modern technologies must be developed through agricultural universities and put to practical use in farming. Scientific research and its application are particularly important for the agricultural sector, he added.

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Navi Mumbai Ranks First in National Cleanliness Survey; Eknath Shinde Congratulates Residents

KTR / Navi Mumbai :

Navi Mumbai has once again established its reputation as a leading city in cleanliness by securing the top position in the country. The Navi Mumbai Municipal Corporation (NMMC) has ranked first in the Swachh Survekshan 2025-26, surpassing 4, 751 cities across India. Deputy Chief Minister Eknath Shinde congratulated the residents and praised the contributions of municipal representatives, elected



leaders, officials, employees and sanitation workers.

At an award ceremony held in New Delhi, President Droupadi Murmu presented the award for the country's cleanest city to the Navi Mumbai Municipal Corporation. Municipal Commissioner Dr Kailas Shinde, Mayor Sujata Patil and Deputy Mayor Dashrath Bhagat were present on the occasion. The national award recognises the city's consistent efforts in maintaining cleanliness.

Deputy Chief Minister Eknath Shinde said that this achievement was not limited to the performance of the municipal administration but was also the result of active participation by citizens. He noted that continuous efforts, systematic planning, effective implementation and public participation had helped Navi Mumbai secure the top position among thousands of cities across the country.

Shinde congratulated the residents of Navi Mumbai, along with the Municipal Commissioner, Mayor, Deputy Mayor, elected representatives, officials and employees. He particularly appreciated the sanitation workers who work tirelessly to keep the city clean. He said the achievement reflects the importance of coordination between public participation and administrative efficiency.

This success in the Swachh Survekshan has added another achievement to Maharashtra's record. While securing the first position is a matter of pride, maintaining the top ranking will now be a major challenge for Navi Mumbai. Shinde expressed hope that the city would continue to set an example for other cities and further strengthen its identity as a clean and environmentally friendly urban centre.

Air Pollution Eases Slightly on Diwali Padwa; Navi Mumbai's AQI Drops to 130

KTR / Navi Mumbai :

After air quality deteriorated in Navi Mumbai due to firecracker bursting during Diwali, pollution levels showed a slight improvement on the day of Diwali Padwa. The city's Air Quality Index (AQI), which had risen following the fireworks on Lakshmi Pujan, dropped to 130 on Padwa. The AQI had reached 160 on Monday (November 9) and declined by 30 points the following day, Tuesday.

At the beginning of November, air quality in the city was relatively better. The AQI stood at 99 and 79 on the first two days of the month, respectively. However, pollution levels began rising as Diwali approached. Smoke and fine particulate matter increased in the air due to firecracker bursting. The AQI rose to 141 on November 7, 154 on November 8 and 160 on November 9. The impact of fireworks during Lakshmi Pujan was clearly reflected in the air quality. However, as firecracker activity reduced on Padwa, pollution levels also declined, bringing the AQI down to 130 on November 10.

Despite the improvement in the city's average AQI, pollution levels did



not decline uniformly across all areas. According to readings recorded at 10: 05 pm on Padwa night, Mahape recorded an AQI of 166, followed by Koparipada-Vashi at 158, Sanpada at 138 and Nerul at 137. In comparison, Tondre-Taloja recorded an AQI of 93, while Kalamboli Sector 2E recorded 108.

These readings indicate that air quality in Mahape and Vashi remained poorer than the city's overall average. Industrial activity, vehicular movement and dust from construction work are also contributing to pollution in these areas.

The NMMC's Environment Department has instructed that fogging operations be carried out three times a day instead of once to help control pollution. The administration has also decided to write to the Maharashtra Pollution Control Board regarding necessary measures.

Direct Local Train Service from Panvel to Vasai; ₹12, 710-Crore Proposal Sent to Centre for Rail Corridor

KTR / Navi Mumbai :

A major step has been taken towards developing the Panvel–Vasai suburban railway corridor, an important project for the Mumbai Metropolitan Region. A proposal worth ₹12, 710.82 crore has been submitted to the Central Government for the 69.23-km-long corridor.

Mumbai, November 6: The process of developing the Panvel–Vasai suburban railway corridor, considered important for the Mumbai Metropolitan Region, has gained momentum with a proposal worth ₹12, 710 crore and 82 lakh being sent to the Central Government for the 69.23-km-long route. Once completed, the project will provide passengers with direct local train connectivity between Panvel and Vasai.

Proposed under the Mumbai Urban Transport Project (MUTP-3B), the corridor will have 17 stations. To overcome obstacles posed by highways and creeks, approximately 28 km of the route will be constructed as an elevated corridor. The project will move towards actual implementation after receiving financial



and administrative approvals from the Centre.

At present, there is no direct local train service from Panvel to the Vasai-Virar region. Passengers have to change trains at Kurla, Dadar or other stations to reach their destinations. Once the proposed corridor becomes operational, direct suburban railway services between Panvel and Vasai will be available. This is expected to reduce travel time between the eastern and western suburbs and eliminate the inconvenience of changing trains.Urban settlements and industrial zones are expanding rapidly in Navi Mumbai, Bhiwandi and the Vasai-Virar region. Rising population and the development of new employment centres have increased the demand for public transport in these areas.

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04

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Strict Water Usage Restrictions Likely in Navi Mumbai; Water Planning to Be Enforced

KTR / Navi Mumbai :

Although ruling BJP leaders have insisted that there should be no reduction in water supply within the Navi Mumbai Municipal Corporation (NMMC) limits, reliable sources indicate that water withdrawal from the Morbe Dam has been reduced over the past fortnight.

According to sources, areas recording water consumption above the prescribed limits have been identified between Belapur and Ghansoli, and water supply to these locations has been reduced. It is also learnt that daily water withdrawal from Morbe Dam has been cut by at least 50 million litres (MLD).

Meanwhile, after Diwali, the civic administration will closely monitor water distribution across the city. Municipal Commissioner



Dr Kailas Shinde is reportedly said to have issued strict instructions that water supply should not exceed 150 litres per person per day in any area.Earlier, the NMMC used to draw more than 475 MLD of water from Morbe Dam. However, the dam's storage this year is lower than in previous years. Senior administrative officials have therefore been advocating water cuts from now onwards. Ruling BJP leaders, however, are opposed to this proposal.

Morbe Dam supplies water to CIDCO-developed areas such as Kharghar and Taloja. Forest Minister Ganesh Naik has opposed this arrangement. He has also expressed dissatisfaction over the shortfall in the water supply that the city is entitled to receive from MIDC. Due to his objections, no formal water-cut announcement has been made despite the need for conservation.However, Municipal Commissioner Dr Kailas Shinde has directed officials to strictly follow the state government's prescribed water-consumption norms. As a result, discussions are underway that an unofficial water cut has effectively begun in the city.Reliable sources indicate that the NMMC's Water Supply Department has reduced daily water withdrawal from Morbe Dam by at least 50 MLD over the past fortnight. The administration is reportedly maintaining strict confidentiality about the decision, with senior officials instructed not to make public statements on the matter.

Water consumption in some large residential complexes had reportedly reached 250 litres per person per day. The civic administration has identified such housing complexes and planned measures to bring consumption down to 150 litres per person.Water supply has reportedly been reduced to some large residential complexes in CBD Belapur, Sanpada and Seawoods. Senior administrative sources said this was part of an effort to ensure that water distribution remains within the prescribed limits.

The timing of water supply has also been changed in some suburban areas. The administration is planning distribution schedules so that Morbe water can be supplied to all suburbs in a coordinated manner, thereby reducing overall consumption.

Stricter Rules After Diwali

After Diwali, the civic administration will review the water storage available in Morbe Dam and the city's daily water requirements. Planning is underway to ensure that the available water lasts at least until July 2027.For this purpose, the administration is emphasising the prescribed limit of 150 litres per person per day. Commissioner Shinde has reportedly issued strict instructions to ensure that no suburb receives water beyond the stipulated quantity.

Officials have also reportedly been instructed not to make any official public statement on the matter while the administrative planning is underway.

Old Mumbai-Pune Highway to Be Expanded into Six Lanes

KTR / Mumbai :

Following the decision to expand the Mumbai-Pune Expressway to ten lanes, preparations have now begun to widen the old Mumbai-Pune Highway into a six-lane road. The Maharashtra State Road Development Corporation (MSRDC) has issued a tender for appointing a consultant for the project. The proposal involves widening and upgrading the 110.8-km-long highway stretch between Nigdi and Shilphata. According to the MSRDC's estimate, the project is expected to cost approximately Rs 5, 000 crore to Rs 6, 000 crore. During British rule, a ghat road was developed through Bhor Ghat to connect Mumbai with the Deccan Plateau. Subsequently, this route was developed as a national highway. Known as National Highway No. 4, the road served as the principal route for travel between Mumbai and Pune before the Yashwantrao Chavan Mumbai-Pune Expressway became operational. In 2010, this highway was included in National Highway No. 48. The approximately 150–156 km-long road was initially a two-lane highway. It was later expanded into four lanes in response to increasing traffic. However, the number of vehicles using this route has increased significantly over the past few years. Currently, approximately 70, 000 vehicles travel on this highway every day. The existing four-lane highway has an estimated daily vehicle-handling capacity of around 40, 000 vehicles. As a result, the growing traffic volume has placed considerable pressure on the road, leading to slower traffic movement at several locations. Considering this situation, the MSRDC has decided to expand the highway into six lanes.

Traffic Management in JNPT Area in Complete Disarray!

KTR / JNPT :

Traffic management at the MT container yards in the JNPT port area has completely collapsed over the past few days. Long queues of container trailers and goods vehicles have formed outside the yards, forcing drivers to remain stuck in traffic jams for as long as 12 to 24 hours. The situation, which has worsened during the Diwali festive season, has caused severe inconvenience to container drivers, transport operators and ordinary commuters.

A large number of MT container yards operate in the JNPT port and Hatyal area. However, there appears to be a serious lack of proper planning and discipline for the movement of vehicles in and out of these yards. Due to the disorganised



management of the port and container yards, drivers are being forced to wait in queues for several hours.

Many drivers are left without access to food, water and basic facilities while being stranded in traffic. This has resulted in considerable mental and physical hardship.

The consequences of this deteriorating management are not limited to container transport operators alone.

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Ladghar, Guhagar and Shrivardhan Beaches Receive International 'Blue Flag' Award

KTR / Mumbai :







Maharashtra's efforts towards sustainable coastal management, environmental conservation and eco-friendly tourism have achieved significant international recognition. The International Blue Flag Jury has announced the prestigious International Blue Flag Award for the 2026–27 season for three beaches in Maharashtra — Ladghar and Guhagar in Ratnagiri district, and Shrivardhan in Raigad district.

With this achievement, Maharashtra has entered the list of internationally recognised Blue Flag beaches for the first time.

The beaches have received this honour for meeting international standards relating to environmental conservation, beach cleanliness, water quality, biodiversity protection, tourist safety, essential infrastructure and sustainable tourism management.

The coordinated efforts of the State Government's Environment and Climate Change Department, Tourism Department, concerned district collectors and administrations, local self-government bodies, gram panchayats, Beach Management Committees, local residents and various agencies played an important role in this achievement.

The Environment and Climate Change Department has expressed happiness over the achievement. The Blue Flag programme will also be used to develop other eligible beaches along Maharashtra's extensive coastline in accordance with international standards. This will help protect the coastal environment while creating local employment opportunities and boosting tourism-related businesses and the economy.

The Blue Flag season for the three newly recognised beaches will begin on November 15, 2026. The official Blue Flag emblems, which symbolise the award, are being received from the Netherlands and will be handed over to the State Environment and Climate Change Department. A flag-hoisting ceremony will subsequently be organised in coordination with the concerned departments and district administrations.

A total of 22 beaches across India have received Blue Flag recognition for the 2026–27 season.

Direct Navi Mumbai–Chipi Flight Service to Begin on November 16

KTR / Sindhudurg :

There is good news for people from the Konkan region. A direct flight service between Navi Mumbai International Airport and Chipi Airport in Sindhudurg will commence on November 16, 2026. Official ticket bookings for the service have also begun.

Regional airline FLY91 will operate the service, with flights available all seven days of the week.

The earlier Mumbai–Chipi flight service had been discontinued due to technical reasons. The launch of the new service is expected to provide significant relief to people travelling between Mumbai and Konkan, including local residents, businesspeople, tourists and those working outside the region.

The approximately 500-kilometre journey will take just 1 hour and 10 minutes, making travel to Konkan faster and more convenient.



The flight will depart from Navi Mumbai Airport at 7.55 am and arrive at Chipi Airport at 9.05 am. The return flight will leave Chipi at 9.25 am and reach Navi Mumbai at 10.35 am.

Introductory fares on this route have been set at approximately ₹3, 500. Passengers can book tickets through FLY91's official website and various online travel booking platforms.

The direct flight service is expected to give a major boost to tourism in the Konkan region. Local traders, businesses, industries and tourism-related enterprises are also likely to benefit from improved air connectivity.

Thane Central Jail May Be Relocated to Bhiwandi; New Facility Planned for 5, 000 Inmates

KTR / Thane :

The proposal to relocate Thane Central Jail has once again gained momentum. Authorities are exploring locations in the Pise, Amane and Vashere areas of Bhiwandi taluka to construct a new prison with a capacity of 5, 000 inmates on approximately 50 acres of land.

According to sources, the Home Department has instructed the Maharashtra State Infrastructure Development Corporation (MSIDC) to inspect the proposed sites and prepare construction plans and cost estimates for the project.The relocation of Thane Central Jail has been under discussion for several years. In 2025, the state Cabinet gave in-principle approval for relocating the central prisons in Thane and Nagpur. However, the process of finalising land and constructing the new facilities is yet to be completed. Sources said the Home Department sent a letter to MSIDC in October, directing it to take further action. Following an inspection of the proposed locations, construction



maps, project plans and estimated costs will be prepared. The Prison Department will subsequently submit a proposal for administrative approval.

A similar proposal had been considered around one to one-and-a-half years ago. However, completing construction, obtaining government permissions and fulfilling other formalities could take considerable time. As a result, the actual relocation may take up to another 10 years. Authorities are also considering alternatives such as video conferencing for producing inmates before courts and using the Samruddhi Expressway to reduce travel time.

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India Slips In Climate Change Performance Index, Retains Overall Medium Rating In Emissions

KTR / New Delhi :

India slipped five places and was ranked 28th in the annual report of the Climate Change Performance Index (CCPI), an independent monitoring tool for tracking the climate mitigation performance of 64 countries and the EU.

However, as per the report, published on Thursday, India retains an overall medium rating, receiving a medium rating in GHG emissions, energy use, and climate policy. The country's high renewable energy trend rating recognizes the recent progress within the renewable energy category.

The rankings, released amid the 31st Conference of Parties to the United Nations Climate Change Conference



(COP31) underway in Antalya, Turkey, are based on each country's overall score. They are calculated from individual scores in four categories, consisting of 14 indicators. As no country performs well enough in all index categories, the first three overall positions, therefore, remain empty.

The results show even if all countries were as committed as the current frontrunners, efforts would still be insufficient to prevent hazardous climate change. As per the report, competitive procurement, rooftop solar support, and domestic manufacturing incentives have supported renewable energy deployments in India.

India slipped five places and was ranked 28th in the annual report of the Climate Change Performance Index (CCPI), an independent monitoring tool for tracking the climate mitigation performance of 64 countries and the EU.

Students wear face masks during an awareness programme on air pollution and its impact on health at Bal Bhavan Public School in Mayur Vihar, New Delhi (IANS)

As per the report, in June 2025, non-fossil sources reached 50 per cent of cumulative installed electricity capacity, five years ahead of the previous 2030 Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) target. This includes nuclear power as well as renewables and differs from the share of electricity actually generated.

India's NDC for 2031-2035 has set a target for 2035 and it comprises a 47 per cent reduction in the emissions intensity of gross domestic product (GDP) from 2005 levels, around 60 per cent of cumulative installed electricity capacity from non-fossil sources, and a forest and tree-cover carbon sink of 3.5-4 billion tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent vs 2005.

India slipped five places and was ranked 28th in the annual report of the Climate Change Performance Index (CCPI), an independent monitoring tool for tracking the climate mitigation performance of 64 countries and the EU.

Khelo India Youth Games 2026 Schedule Announced

KTR / New Delhi:

The official schedule for the Khelo India Youth Games 2026, which provide young athletes across the country with a major opportunity to showcase their talent at the national level, has been announced. Union Minister for Youth Affairs and Sports Dr Mansukh Mandaviya announced the prestigious sporting event on Monday.

For the first time, Telangana will host the competition, which will be held from December 11 to 22, 2026. Around 6, 000 athletes and 1, 800 coaches and support staff from across the country are expected to participate. The event will feature a total of 27 sports disciplines, providing emerging athletes with a major national-level platform.

Dr Mansukh Mandaviya said the Khelo India initiative plays an important role in promoting a sporting culture in the country and developing athletes capable of competing at the international level.

The Telangana Government and sports authorities have begun preparations to organise the event. Competitions will be held in Hyderabad and various districts across the state.

The main events will take place at the Lal Bahadur Shastri Stadium Complex and the Modern Gachibowli Sports Complex in Hyderabad. Athletics competitions will be held in Hanumakonda, kabaddi in Mahabubnagar, table tennis in Nizamabad, archery in Khammam and judo in Karimnagar.

NPPA Caps Prices of 34 Medicines to Prevent Unreasonable Price Hikes

KTR / Mumbai :

The National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) has fixed the retail prices of 34 medicines across various categories to regulate drug prices and protect consumers from excessive charges. The Department of Pharmaceuticals under the Union Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers has issued an official notification in the Gazette in this regard.

The list includes antibiotics, medicines for diabetes, heart diseases and blood pressure, painkillers, eye drops and several other essential drugs. The move restricts the sale of these medicines at prices exceeding the prescribed limits.

According to the new rates, the price of Amoxicillin and Potassium Clavulanate oral suspension has been fixed at ₹5.10 per ml. A vial of Ceftriaxone and Tazobactam injection will cost ₹125.07, while a vial of Gemcitabine injection has been priced at ₹5, 623.07.

For diabetes treatment, the price of one tablet containing Metformin and Sitagliptin has been fixed at ₹13.92. A tablet containing Myo-Inositol and Metformin Hydrochloride, used in diabetes-related treatment, will cost ₹24.45.The prices of tablets containing Bisoprolol Fumarate, Telmisartan and Cilnidipine have been fixed at ₹19.11 and ₹20.87, respectively. The combined capsule containing Rosuvastatin, Aspirin and Clopidogrel has been priced at ₹25.21 and ₹16.56, depending on the composition and strength.Among painkillers and fever medicines, Ibuprofen and Paracetamol suspension will cost ₹0.60 per ml, while Paracetamol and Mefenamic Acid suspension has been fixed at ₹0.95 per ml.

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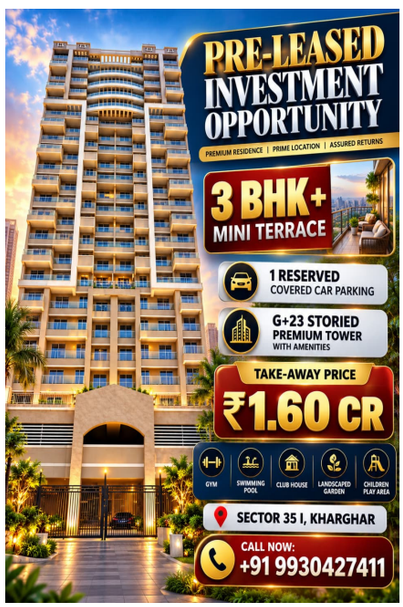
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Kindness: The True Ornament of Humanity

A person's greatness does not lie in wealth, position, authority or fame, but in the way they treat others—with love, respect and sensitivity. Understanding another person's pain, recognising their difficulties, extending a helping hand when needed and trying to bring happiness into someone's life without expecting anything in return are all expressions of kindness. It is not merely a personal virtue; it is a fundamental human value that strengthens relationships, promotes social harmony and enriches humanity. In today's fast-paced, competitive and technology-driven world, people must preserve their sensitivity alongside material progress. To remind society of this important value, World Kindness Day is celebrated every year on November 13.The concept of World Kindness Day emerged through the efforts of organisations working to promote kindness at the international level. In 1997, representatives of various kindness organisations came together in Tokyo, Japan. During this meeting, the idea of building a worldwide movement to promote kindness was discussed. This gave momentum to the global kindness movement, and the first World Kindness Day was celebrated on November 13, 1998. Over time, organisations, social groups, educational institutions and citizens from several countries joined the initiative. People may differ in language, religion, caste, race, culture and nationality, but the universal value of kindness can bring them together. The main objective of this day is to build a more peaceful society by encouraging mutual respect, compassion and cooperation. Kindness does not simply mean providing financial assistance to a needy person or showing pity towards them. Its broader meaning



includes understanding others' feelings, respecting their dignity, approaching their difficulties with sensitivity and offering support in whatever way possible. Comforting someone during a crisis, patiently listening to a person who is feeling discouraged, helping an elderly person, guiding a student or treating even a stranger with courtesy—all these are expressions of kindness. Sometimes, a few loving words or standing beside someone during difficult times can be more valuable than substantial financial assistance. Therefore, kindness should not be limited to special occasions; it must become an integral part of everyday life. Human society is built on mutual interdependence. From childhood to old age, every individual needs the support of family members, neighbours, friends, teachers, colleagues and other members of society. These relationships are founded on trust, affection and cooperation. However, when people think only about their own interests and ignore the difficulties of others, warmth and closeness in social relationships begin to fade. Economic competition, the race for status, selfishness and intolerance can create distance between people. Kindness teaches individuals to look beyond their own needs and consider the well-being of others. Sharing another person's happiness and supporting them in times of sorrow strengthens social unity.Science and technology have brought the world closer. Mobile phones, computers and social media have made it possible to communicate with anyone across the world within seconds. However, maintaining emotional closeness alongside this technological connectivity has become a challenge. Often, people living under the same roof remain occupied with their mobile phones. They may not know about the difficulties faced by their neighbours, or they may ignore someone who needs help in a public place. Technology should not be used merely for personal convenience; it should also connect people, create support networks and spread positive thoughts. Virtual communication is important, but it cannot replace personal meetings, genuine concern and practical cooperation. Preserving the warmth of humanity while embracing modernity is the need of the hour. The first lessons of kindness are learned at home. Children observe the behaviour of their parents, grandparents and other family members and learn from them. Speaking lovingly to one another, helping with household responsibilities, avoiding food wastage and respecting elders plant the seeds of sensitivity in a child's mind. Children should not be taught only to succeed in competitions or achieve prestigious positions; they must also receive the values that help them become good human beings. Guiding children patiently without insulting them when they make mistakes is also an example of kindness. A family based on love, equality and mutual respect can lay the foundation for a sensitive society. Schools and colleges are important centres for the development of students' personalities. The purpose of education is not limited to acquiring knowledge, passing examinations and securing employment. It must also create responsible and sensitive citizens. Values such as cooperation, tolerance, equality and social responsibility should be nurtured among students. If a student cannot afford educational materials due to financial difficulties, others should develop a sense of helping rather than making fun of them. Activities such as community service, cleanliness drives, tree plantation, library assistance and providing educational materials to needy students can give children practical experience of kindness. When teachers communicate with students sensitively, students also learn to respect the feelings of others. Education becomes more meaningful when lessons in humanity are imparted alongside academic knowledge.In Indian philosophical traditions, values such as compassion, friendship, love, non-violence and service to others have always held great importance. Gautama Buddha taught compassion and loving-kindness, encouraging people to develop goodwill towards all living beings. Understanding another person's suffering and making efforts to reduce it are important aspects of his teachings. Buddha's message of compassion inspires people to treat everyone equally, beyond the barriers of caste, religion, language and social status. The Indian saint tradition has also celebrated kindness, love, charity and service to humanity. The work of Mahatma Jyotirao Phule and Krantijyoti Savitribai Phule for the education of women and disadvantaged communities is an important example of social sensitivity. The decisions taken by Rajarshi Shahu Maharaj for social justice and Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar's struggle for equality, liberty, fraternity and human dignity highlight the importance of social responsibility towards weaker sections. The true meaning of these ideals is not merely expressing sympathy but taking meaningful action to eliminate injustice. Kindness is truly tested when dealing with elderly people, persons with disabilities, destitute women, orphaned children, poor families and socially disadvantaged communities. These individuals need not only sympathy but also dignity, security, equal opportunities and essential facilities. It is important to respect the experiences of elderly people, care for their health and include them in family decision-making. Persons with disabilities should not be viewed with pity; their abilities and rights must be respected. Efforts must be made to make public buildings, educational institutions and transport facilities accessible to everyone. Providing women in need with a safe environment, protecting children and ensuring equal educational and employment opportunities for disadvantaged groups are social expressions of kindness. Society must recognise that every individual has the right to live with dignity.

By Dr. Rajendra Bagate

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Two Missing SPOs Found Dead in Jammu and Kashmir

Two Special Police Officers (SPOs), who went missing during patrol duty, were found shot dead in Jammu and Kashmir's Kishtwar district on November 12. Their bullet-riddled bodies were recovered by officials, while their weapons were reportedly missing. The incident occurred near the Marwah-Dachhan border area. The development comes amid heightened security concerns following a recent attack on a CRPF checkpoint in Kulgam, in which three personnel were injured.

India's Retail Inflation Rises to 6.09% in October

India's retail inflation climbed to 6.09 per cent in October, crossing the Reserve Bank of India's upper tolerance limit of 6 per cent for the first time under the current CPI series. Food inflation increased to 8.94 per cent, driven by rising prices of onions, garlic and ginger. The latest figures may strengthen expectations of another interest rate hike, although policymakers face concerns over economic growth.

Centre Simplifies Visa Rules, Cuts Categories to Nine

The Union Government has reduced India's main visa categories from 13 to nine and sub-categories from 49 to 23. The Ministry of Home Affairs has also shortened application forms by 65 to 70 per cent. The revised framework aims to make travel procedures easier for foreign tourists, students, medical visitors and business professionals. The government plans to begin issuing visas under the new system by the end of 2026.

Centre Approves ₹62,370 Crore Fertiliser Subsidy

The Union Cabinet has approved a fertiliser subsidy allocation of approximately ₹62,370 crore for the Rabi 2026-27 season. The amount is around ₹24,418 crore higher than the previous Rabi season's allocation, representing an increase of nearly 64 per cent.

Major Bus Accident at Shilphata in Khopoli; 12 Injured, One Critical

KTR / Alibaug :

A major accident occurred at Shilphata in Khopoli on Thursday afternoon after a private bus rammed into four to five vehicles. Twelve people were injured in the accident, one of them critically. The injured were admitted to hospitals in Khopoli and Navi Mumbai for treatment. According to available information, the private bus was travelling from Surat to Pandharpur. The accident took place when the bus brakes suddenly failed near Shilphata in Khopoli. The driver consequently lost control of the vehicle, which then crashed into four to five vehicles travelling along



the busy road. Twelve people sustained injuries, while several vehicles suffered extensive damage. As soon as the incident was reported, teams from the Highway Police, Khopoli Police and Help Foundation rushed to the spot. Rescue personnel evacuated the injured from the damaged vehicles and shifted them to the Khopoli Municipal Council Hospital. One of the injured persons was in critical condition and was subsequently shifted to MGM Hospital for further treatment. The accident occurred on a busy stretch of road, triggering panic and concern in the Khopoli area. A case has been registered at Khopoli Police Station, and further investigation is underway.

List of Injured Persons

1. Isha Pundalik Jadhav, 22, resident of Parli, Sudhagad taluka.
2. Prafull Nathuram Dhawalkar, 38, resident of Lauji, Khopoli, Khalapur taluka.
3. Sandeep Francis Mukane, 32, resident of Kune village, Lonavala.
4. Vipul Shrikrishna Pathrodkar, 29, resident of Bhisegaon, Karjat.
5. Suhas Sharad Bhalerao, 35, resident of Panvel.
6. Swapnil Sunil Pawar, 36, resident of Laxmi Nagar, Khopoli.
7. Somnath Chander Pawar, 36, resident of Savroli, Khalapur.
8. Varad Anant Deshmukh, 13, resident of Khopoli Phata, Khalapur.
9. Kunal Pravin Dalvi, 28, resident of Mogalwadi, Khopoli.
10. Suresh Virappa Biradar, 30, resident of Patankar Chowk, Krantinagar, Khopoli.
11. Pritam Waghmare, 30, resident of Vavoshi, Khalapur.
12. Anand Arun Gosavi, 36, resident of Ukrul, Karjat taluka.

Bhagwan Birsa Munda Pride Week to Be Observed Across Maharashtra from November 11 to 18 – Minister Adv. Ashish Shelar

KTR / Mumbai :

On the occasion of the birth anniversary of Bhagwan Birsa Munda, Janjatiya Gaurav Divas (Tribal Pride Day) is being celebrated. The Maharashtra Government has organised 'Bhagwan Birsa Munda Pride Week' from November 11 to 18 across the state. Various initiatives aimed at promoting the social, educational, economic and cultural development of Scheduled Tribes will be undertaken during the week, Cultural Affairs Minister and Mumbai Suburban District Guardian Minister Adv. Ashish Shelar said at a press conference held at



the Mumbai Suburban District Collector's Office.

During the week, cheques will be distributed on November 13 to beneficiaries selected under the Nucleus Budget Scheme. Benefits will also be extended to women's self-help groups, while new applications will be accepted and processed for approval.

On November 14, monuments across the state will be cleaned and illuminated as part of a special celebration. On November 15, floral tributes will be offered to portraits of Bhagwan Birsa Munda at district-level offices and in tribal areas. A state-level programme will also be held in Gadchiroli in the presence of the Governor, Chief Minister and Deputy Chief Ministers. Saints and spiritual leaders associated with tribal communities will be felicitated on the occasion.

Service camps to assist people with Aadhaar cards and other government documents will be organised on November 16. Health and nutrition awareness camps will be held on November 17, while November 18 will be observed as Tribal Economic, Educational and Social Empowerment Day. Guidance programmes for women's self-help groups will also be organised, Minister Shelar said.

Key Decisions Taken Over the Last Two Years for Tribal Development

To ensure quality education for tribal students, more than 3,000 teachers have been temporarily appointed on a contractual basis in Ashram schools, as restrictions on regular recruitment have affected staffing. Caretakers have also been appointed in Ashram schools in tribal areas to look after students' health.

A scholarship scheme for meritorious students has been launched in the name of Veer Raghोजी Bhangare. Competitive examination training centres have been established in all districts of the state to prepare tribal students for various examinations.

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Van Crashes On Mountain Road In Nepal, 10 Killed And 5 Injured

Kathmandu : A passenger van veered off a mountain road in Nepal on Thursday, and at least 10 people were killed and five were injured in the crash, police said. The van rolled about 700 meters (2, 300 feet) off the road before stopping on a slope near the village of Bhimphedi, about 60 kilometres (31 miles) southwest of the capital, Kathmandu. Police from a nearby station were able to take the survivors to hospitals for treatment. The cause of the wreck was not clear, but police were investigating. Nepal is celebrating the Tihar festival this week, and people are traveling to their homes to celebrate with families. Bus accidents in Nepal are mostly due to poorly maintained roads and vehicles, and much of the Himalayan country is covered by mountains with narrow roads.

Israeli Strike On Gaza Hospital Kills 6 People, Health Authorities Say

Cairo : An Israeli airstrike targeting the Nasser Hospital in southern Gaza killed six people and wounded at least a dozen more, Gaza's Health Ministry saidThe strike was carried out early Thursday, according to the Israeli military, which said it struck "a senior Hamas terrorist" and other militants, without providing evidence.

Norwegian Journalist Denied Entry to India; Congress Calls Move Anti-Democratic

Norwegian journalist Helle Lyng Svendsen's Indian visa was cancelled hours before her scheduled departure to Hyderabad for the Bharat Summit. She suspects the decision may be linked to her questioning Prime Minister Narendra Modi in Oslo in May 2026. The Congress party condemned the move as anti-democratic.

IIT Kharagpur Becomes First IIT In Country To Introduce PG Medical Courses; Gets NMC Nod

New Delhi : Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Kharagpur has become the first IIT in the country to introduce postgraduate medical degree programmes accredited by the National Medical Commission (NMC), officials said.Beginning with the academic session 2026–27, the institute will welcome its inaugural cohort of MD students at the Dr B C Roy Multi-Speciality Medical Research Centre, marking a transformative expansion of the



IIT system into postgraduate (PG) medical education. IIT Kharagpur is also the first IIT to be set up in the country.

"India's first IIT is now taking a historic step towards shaping the future of medical education. Our vision is not simply to train specialist doctors but to create an ecosystem where clinical excellence meets engineering ingenuity, artificial intelligence (AI) and translational research, " said Suman Chakraborty, Director, IIT Kharagpur.

"We want our medical graduates to be not only outstanding clinicians, but also innovators capable of addressing some of humanity's most pressing healthcare challenges. The inaugural batch of 2026–27 will be pioneers of this new journey, " Chakraborty added.Admissions for the academic session 2026–27 will take place through the NEET-PG online counselling process, with the programmes available for consideration in Round 2, in accordance with the official counselling schedule, eligibility requirements and seat matrix.

The inaugural cohort will have the distinction of becoming the first generation of postgraduate medical students in the history of India's IIT system. For the first cohort, the institute is introducing MD programmes in six disciplines, with two seats each in General Medicine, Radiology, Physiology, Pathology, Community Medicine and Biochemistry.

Sheikh Hasina's Extradition Continues To Pose A Test For India-Bangladesh Ties

New Delhi : India's decision to treat Bangladesh's demand for the extradition of former Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina as a legal matter, rather than make any political commitment on her possible handover, reflects New Delhi's attempt to balance its treaty obligations, domestic legal considerations and wider strategic interests in its neighbourhood.

Her efforts to obtain a new Bangladeshi passport and national identity card have brought the question of her return, and the accompanying extradition demand, back into the centre of bilateral diplomacy.New Delhi has maintained its position that Hasina's extradition would be dealt with in accordance with the applicable legal framework, and has avoided either accepting Bangladesh's demand or rejecting it outright."On extradition of Sheikh Hasina, I have told you that this is a legal matter and the issue will be dealt (with) accordingly, " Ministry of External Affairs spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said in response to



a question during a regular briefing here Tuesday.

Sheikh Hasina's Extradition Continues To Pose A Test For India-Bangladesh Ties

File photo of former Bangladesh PM Sheikh Hasina (IANS)

Asked whether extradition could proceed without a valid passport, Jaiswal described the issue as technical and legal, observing that travel documents are required for people to travel.The immediate issue is therefore no longer confined to the legal status of a former head of government. It has become a test of whether India and Bangladesh can prevent a politically charged individual case from determining the direction of their broader relationship.

Rajnath Singh Calls for Military Readiness



New Delhi : Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Thursday called upon the nation's armed forces to strengthen and sustain both offensive and defensive dimensions of the 'element of surprise' to maintain operational readiness against conventional and emerging threats arising from rapid technological advancements and the evolving nature of modern warfare.Addressing the Air Force Commanders' Conference in the national capital, he emphasized the need to continue bolstering intelligence and surveillance capabilities, enhance integration among systems and identify potential threats before they unfold."Our defence forces must develop capabilities and methods that leave the adversary with no time to react or recover, while simultaneously ensuring that we are never caught off guard by an unexpected move from the enemy. Surprise can manifest in various forms, both conventional and electronic.

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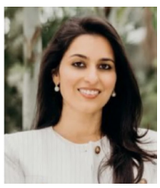
Amish Shah, Pia Dandiya Join Centrist New Democratic Coalition

Washington : Newly elected Indian-American US lawmakers Amish Shah and Pia Dandiya have joined the New Democrat Coalition, which now has 142 members, making the centrist group the largest ideological bloc within the party.

The New Democrat Coalition, led by Brad Schneider, inducted 40 new members-elect into the group on Tuesday, the single largest addition in its 30-year history.

"When I first came to Congress in 2012, the New Dems had 43 Members. Fourteen years later, New Dems are proud to welcome 40 new members, our largest freshman class ever, and now number 142





Members," Schneider said in a statement.

The other prominent caucus within the Democratic Party – the progressives – has over 100 members and is led by Texas Congressman Greg Casar, with lawmakers Ilhan Omar, Pramila Jayapal and Ro Khanna as members.

Besides Shah and Dandiya, the New Democrat Coalition has Ami Bera, Suhas Subramanyam, Shri Thanedar and Raja Krishnamoorthi as members.

Thanedar and Krishnamoorthi are not part of the new House of Representatives that will take office on January 3, as they lost the Democratic primary for the House and Senate, respectively.

Shah, an emergency medicine doctor and three-term member of the Arizona House, traces his familial roots to Gujarat.Born in Chicago, Shah's parents immigrated to the US in the 1960s. He earned his undergraduate degree at Northwestern University and his medical degree at Northwestern University Medical School as part of the Honours Program in Medical Education.

Shah's father is Jain, and his mother is Hindu. He received a full merit scholarship to obtain a Master's in Public Health at the University of California, Berkeley, followed by residency training in Emergency Medicine at New York City's busiest Level-1 trauma centre.

Dandiya is a first-generation American who has dedicated her career to strengthening communities as a high school principal, policy leader and technology innovator, according to her campaign website.

Born and raised in Palm Beach County in Florida, Dandiya started her career as a teacher and was a high school principal in Harlem.

She later served as a White House Fellow at the Domestic Policy Council and Department of Education under Democratic and Republican presidents before working on public-sector initiatives at Apple.

Founded in 1997, the New Democrat Coalition works across the aisle and across the Capitol to advance innovative, inclusive, and forward-looking policies.The Coalition's primary goal is to find workable solutions to the most pressing issues facing the nation – from ensuring every American has access to quality health care to increasing affordable housing in every community.

Scott Colom Makes History as Mississippi's First Black Senator Since Reconstruction

Jackson : Democratic nominee Scott Colom defeated Republican Sen. Cindy Hyde-Smith on Wednesday in Mississippi's closely contested U.S. Senate race after a prolonged ballot counting process, giving the state its first Black U.S. senator since post-Civil War Reconstruction.

Colom's narrow victory is a seismic shift in Mississippi, which has been controlled mostly by white conservatives for generations despite having the largest share of Black residents of any U.S. state. The outcome adds to a decisive midterm rebuke of President Donald Trump, whose party suffered defeats in several Republican-controlled states, and it will bolster some Democrats' argument that their future runs through the American South."All I did was have the courage to imagine a night like this," Colom told a crowd of hundreds who gathered at Tougaloo College for his victory party. "I had the courage to believe in Mississippi. I had the courage to understand that we can show the country that Mississippi



matters."The Associated Press called the race in Colom's favor after local officials spent several days processing absentee and provisional ballots, called affidavit ballots in Mississippi.The last time Mississippi chose a new Democratic senator was 1947; the winner was a staunch segregationist. Colom, a 43-year-old local prosecutor, capitalized on the state's large Black population, discontent with the economy and Hyde-Smith's missteps as she sought a second full term."They actually deserve a senator that will listen to them, that actually cares about what they think, actually cares about what they're going through," Colom said in the campaign's closing stretch.

UK Appoints Climate Security Envoy As Thunberg Criticizes COP31 Leaders

Antalya : The United Kingdom on Thursday announced the appointment of a special envoy to tackle security threats from climate change while small island leaders called for urgent action, describing planet heating as a life-or-death issue for their people at the climate talks in the Turkish resort town of Antalya.Alix Sebastien Pillay, the vice president of Seychelles, a 115-island archipelago in the Indian Ocean, said his country's very survival is at stake. "It is time to move past the talking," Pillay said. "For Seychelles, climate action is not simply an environmental priority."

Pillay was speaking on the second day of the leaders' summit at the U.N. climate talks, where government leaders addressed the state of a warming world and what they plan to do about it. While the entire globe is threatened by souped-up storms, hotter heat waves, worsening droughts and floods, island nations are among the hardest hit by climate change as they also have to deal with rising seas swallowing up their land.



Pillay said Seychelles is experiencing millions of dollars of damage as a result of storms and floods, despite contributing little to increased global warming.He said a U.N. fund created for compensating for climate-related loss and damage needs to be urgently strengthened. "Climate recovery must not come at the expense of our development or push vulnerable nations further into unsustainable debt."Speaking at the talks, Dalton Tagelagi, prime minister of the small Pacific Island of Niue, said the El Niño conditions which have driven up global temperatures are a warning of what might happen if planet heating is not controlled.

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Hardik Pandya Traded to Punjab Kings, Arshdeep Joins Mumbai Indians

In a major IPL development, all-rounder Hardik Pandya has reportedly been traded from Mumbai Indians to Punjab Kings, while Indian fast bowler Arshdeep Singh is set to move to Mumbai Indians. The reported ₹18-crore deal has created a major buzz among cricket fans ahead of the IPL 2027 season. The player exchange could significantly change the team combinations and leadership plans of both franchises.

India Beat Maldives 1-0 to Reach SAFF Championship Semi-Finals

India secured a 1-0 victory over the Maldives in their SAFF Championship Group B match in Dhaka. Suhail Ahmad Bhat scored the decisive goal from the penalty spot in the 38th minute. The win helped India strengthen their position in the tournament and advance to the semi-finals. The Indian side will now look to maintain its momentum and continue its push for the championship title.

Niraj Kumar Wins World Shooting Championship Bronze, Secures Olympic Quota

Indian shooter Niraj Kumar won the bronze medal in the men's 50m rifle three-positions event at the World Shooting Championships in Doha. His performance also secured India a quota place for the 2028 Los Angeles Olympics. This is India's second Olympic quota from the championships, adding another achievement to the country's campaign. Niraj's success has strengthened India's prospects in international shooting competitions.

Lakshya Sen Advances to Japan Masters Round of 16

Indian badminton star Lakshya Sen progressed to the Round of 16 at the Japan Masters 2026 after defeating Yu Jen in the opening round. His victory keeps India's hopes alive in the prestigious Super 500 tournament. Indian women's doubles pair Treesa Jolly and Gayatri Gopichand have also won their opening match.

Chennai to Host 2029 Asian Athletics Championships for Fourth Time

Chennai : Chennai has been awarded the hosting rights for the 2029 Asian Athletics Championships, making it the fourth time India will stage the continental event after previously hosting it in New Delhi, Pune and Bhubaneswar.

The Asian Athletics Association announced the decision following its council meeting in Tokyo on Tuesday, subject to the Tamil Nadu government's submission of formal letters of guarantee.

"Subject to presentation of letters of guarantee from the Government, Asian Athletics Association is pleased to



award the 2029 Asian Athletics Championships to Chennai, Tamil Nadu, " the continental body said in a statement.

C Latha, chairman of the Tamil Nadu Athletics Association (TNAA), said the championships are likely to be held in August 2029. Speaking from Tokyo, she said Chennai's sporting infrastructure, connectivity and accommodation facilities were highlighted in the state's presentation.

The presentation, made online by Meghanatha Reddy, Member Secretary of the Sports Development Authority of Tamil Nadu (SDAT), highlighted the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium's legacy of hosting international athletics meets and the availability of the Nehru 'B' ground as a practice facility.

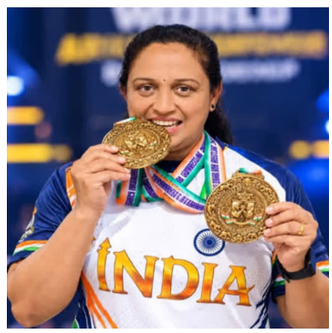
"We also stressed that Chennai has an international airport and good hotels close to the venue. The State Government will, in any case, relay the main athletics track soon, " Latha said.

India Finishes Fifth Globally at World Armwrestling Championships 2026

New Delhi : India has concluded the 47th World Armwrestling & 28th World Para Armwrestling Championship 2026 in fifth position overall among 65 participating nations. It was a landmark result achieved before a home crowd in New Delhi.

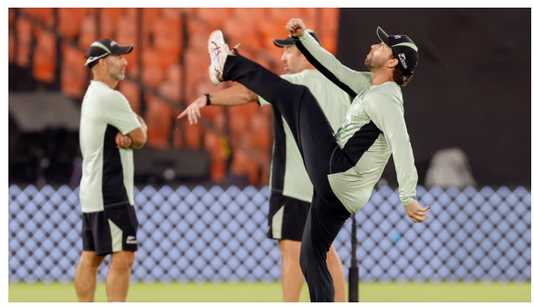
The People's Armwrestling Federation of India (PAFI) and Pro Panja League had set two goals: a top-ten finish for 2026 and a top-five finish within three years. India has reached the top five three years ahead of schedule.The Indian contingent won 59 medals (9 Gold, 19 Silver and 31 Bronze), with contributions across every age group and division. Para athletes led the tally with 26 medals (2 Gold, 10 Silver, 14 Bronze), which placed India fifth in the para standings. Sub-junior, junior and youth athletes added 20 medals (3 Gold, 8 Silver, 9 Bronze), masters and grand masters won 12 (4 Gold, 1 Silver, 7 Bronze), and the senior category contributed 1 Bronze.

Jincymol Sebastian won gold on both arms in Grand Master Women 80 kg, while Yogesh Choudhary and



Shoukath VT each won right-arm gold and left-arm bronze. Madhura K N won bronze in Senior Women 70 kg (Right).Preeti Jhangiani and Parvinn Dabass founded Pro Panja League to professionalise armwrestling in India and build a structured pathway from grassroots competition to the international stage.Under the leadership of Jhangiani, President of the People's Armwrestling Federation of India (PAFI) and Vice President of the Asian Armwrestling Federation (AAF), India hosted the 47th World Armwrestling & 28th World Para Armwrestling Championship for the first time in the nation's history.

NZ Name Conway, Rachin Subject To Fitness For India Tests



Wellington : New Zealand have retained the core of the squad that defeated England in their own backyard earlier this year for the upcoming two-Test series against India, with Devon Conway, Rachin Ravindra and wicketkeeper Tom Blundell's participation subject to fitness assessments ahead of the opening match.

Captain Tom Latham will lead the 14-member squad for the series, which begins in Wellington. Conway (concussion), Ravindra (shoulder) and Blundell (quadriceps) are recovering from their respective injuries and are targeting a return for the first Test.

The squad has a similar look to the one that toured England earlier this year, where the Black Caps registered a historic 2-1 series victory, handing the hosts their first home Test series defeat in a contest involving three or more matches in 14 years.

The only notable changes are the absence of injured pacers Ben Sears and Zak Foulkes, along with Will O'Rourke, who is on a return-to-play programme. Pacer Jacob Duffy is the new addition.