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NEWS BRIEF

Assam Demolishes Settlements in Major Alamganj Eviction Drive



Authorities in Assam's Dhubri district launched a major anti-encroachment operation in Alamganj on November 1, demolishing hundreds of houses and clearing approximately 650 bighas of government land allegedly occupied by families for several years. The large-scale exercise took place in Alamganj Part-IX village under the Gauripur revenue circle, involving a substantial deployment of police personnel, excavators and other machinery. Reports on the number of affected households differed, with officials initially estimating that around 550 families would be displaced, while other reports put the number removed at approximately 750.

The operation began early Sunday morning under extensive security arrangements, with dozens of excavators and tractor-trolleys deployed to remove residential structures and other constructions. Senior district officials and police officers supervised the exercise to maintain law and order.

Centre Extends Nandan Nilekani-Led Examination Reform Panel Deadline to January 2027



The Central Government has extended the deadline for the Nandan Nilekani-led High-Powered Task Force on examination reforms until January 2027, providing the six-member committee additional time to complete consultations and submit its final recommendations. The panel has been tasked with developing a comprehensive blueprint to strengthen India's public examination system, improve testing security and prevent question paper leaks. The extension comes amid continuing concerns over examination irregularities, student protests and the need to restore confidence in major national competitive examinations.

The task force was constituted in July 2026 following widespread controversy surrounding the National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test (NEET) and concerns about the security and administration of competitive examinations.

INDIA Bloc Rally Draws Thousands to Delhi as Opposition Demands Election Chief's Resignation



NEW DELHI: Thousands of supporters of the opposition INDIA bloc gathered at Ramlila Maidan in New Delhi on November 1, 2026, for a major rally against alleged irregularities in the revision of electoral rolls. Organised under the slogan "Vote Bachao, Desh Bachao", the demonstration brought together leaders and workers from several opposition parties, turning the capital into a centre of political mobilisation. The rally focused on protecting voting rights, questioning the transparency of the electoral process and demanding accountability from the Election Commission of India.

The gathering was organised amid growing political tensions over the Election Commission's Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of voter lists. Opposition parties have alleged that the exercise has resulted in the removal of large numbers of names from electoral rolls, potentially preventing eligible citizens from exercising their democratic rights. They have called for greater transparency, effective safeguards and a review of cases in which voters claim their names have been wrongly deleted. The Election Commission, however, maintains that the revision is intended to improve the accuracy of electoral rolls by removing duplicate and ineligible entries.

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi joined other prominent opposition figures in the mobilisation, which included a march from the Minto Road–Connaught Place junction towards Ramlila Maidan. Leaders and supporters travelled in open vehicles and proceeded alongside crowds carrying party flags, banners and placards. The procession highlighted the INDIA bloc's effort to demonstrate unity on an issue that it considers central to the credibility of elections and the protection of constitutional rights.

DGCA Enforces Two-Pilot Rule for Char Dham Flights as Threaten Shutdown



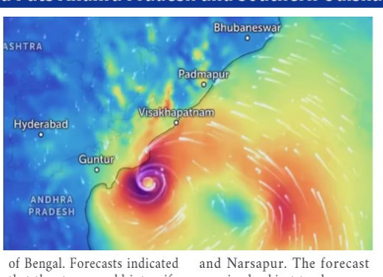
New Delhi: India's aviation regulator, the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA), has introduced stricter safety requirements for helicopter operations along Uttarakhand's Char Dham pilgrimage routes, making two pilots mandatory on every charter flight from November 2, 2026. The decision follows a fatal helicopter crash near Badrinath on October 30 that claimed six lives, including the pilot and five passengers. However, the new directive has triggered a confrontation with helicopter operators, with 11 of the 13 charter companies threatening to suspend their services from November 2 unless the regulator reviews the decision and agrees to a workable arrangement.

The October 30 accident occurred near Chhai village in the Joshimath area of Chamoli district when a helicopter operated by Trans Bharat Aviation crashed while returning from Badrinath towards Dehradun. All six people aboard the aircraft died in the incident. The tragedy once again raised serious concerns about helicopter safety in the Himalayan region, where flights operate amid rapidly changing weather, mountainous terrain, restricted visibility and challenging landing conditions. The accident prompted aviation authorities to review existing operational procedures and introduce additional safeguards for flights serving the major pilgrimage destinations.

Under the revised directive, every Char Dham charter helicopter must operate with two pilots instead of the earlier single-pilot arrangement. The regulator has specified that the co-pilot must also possess the necessary qualifications for flying in hilly terrain. The requirement is intended to provide additional cockpit support during demanding operations, allowing pilots to monitor weather, terrain, flight conditions and potential hazards more effectively. The new arrangement is scheduled to apply from the first take-off on November 2, making compliance compulsory for operators conducting charter services along the pilgrimage circuit. he DGCA has introduced additional monitoring requirements alongside the two-pilot mandate.

Cyclone Murasu Threatens Andhra Coast as Odisha Steps Up Emergency Preparations

Cyclone Murasu Puts Andhra Pradesh and Southern Odisha on High Alert



NEW DELHI: Coastal Andhra Pradesh and southern Odisha have been placed on heightened alert after a deep depression over the Bay of Bengal intensified into Cyclone Murasu on November 1, 2026. The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has warned that the system could strengthen further before approaching the Andhra Pradesh coastline. The fresh threat comes just days after Cyclone Arnab affected parts of the eastern coast, leaving residents and authorities concerned about additional rainfall, flooding and damage to vulnerable communities.

According to the IMD, Cyclone Murasu was moving west-northwestwards over the southwest and adjoining west-central Bay of Bengal. Forecasts indicated that the storm could intensify into a severe cyclonic storm by the morning of November 2. It was expected to move towards the south Andhra Pradesh coast, with the projected landfall zone lying between Nellore and Narsapur. The forecast remained subject to change as meteorologists monitored the storm's movement and intensity.

The weather department forecast sustained wind speeds of approximately 100–110 kilometres per hour, with gusts reaching 120 kilometres per hour near the coast during the expected landfall period. Such conditions can uproot trees, damage vulnerable structures, disrupt electricity supplies and make road travel dangerous. Coastal communities have been advised to follow official weather bulletins and avoid unnecessary movement as the system approaches.

Andhra Pradesh authorities have stepped up preparations to manage the potential impact of the cyclone. Emergency teams have been placed on standby, while district administrations have been instructed to coordinate with disaster-management agencies and essential service departments.

Mahadev Betting App Promoter Sourabh Chandrakar Extradited



NEW DELHI: India has secured a major breakthrough in its investigation into the alleged rupees 6,000-crore Mahadev online betting syndicate, with promoter Sourabh Chandrakar extradited from Oman on November 1, 2026. The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), working in coordination with the Enforcement Directorate (ED) and other central agencies, brought Chandrakar back to India through a specially deputed team. His return is expected to advance investigations into the alleged illegal betting network, suspected money laundering and financial transactions spread across multiple countries. The extradition marks an important development in India's efforts to bring individuals accused of operating alleged criminal networks from overseas back within the reach of Indian law. According to the CBI, Chandrakar was located and detained by the Royal Oman Police following an Interpol Red Corner Notice issued against him. After receiving information about his detention in Oman, the CBI and ED submitted formal extradition proposals to the Omani authorities, supported by evidence collected during their respective investigations. The process was pursued through coordination with the Indian government's agencies, the Interpol National Central Bureau and the competent authorities in Oman. Following approval of the extradition request, a specially assigned CBI team travelled to Muscat.

Nita Ambani Announces 100-Acre Anant Ashray Township for Over 5,000 People



New Delhi: Reliance Foundation Founder and Chairperson Nita Ambani has announced a major philanthropic initiative to establish a 100-acre lifelong care township in Karjat, Maharashtra, designed to provide permanent homes and comprehensive support to more than 5,000 vulnerable individuals. Named Nita Mukesh Ambani Anant Ashray, the proposed not-for-profit project will serve orphaned children, senior citizens and people with physical and developmental disabilities. Nita Ambani performed the Bhumi Pujan and laid the foundation stone for the project on November 1, 2026, marking the beginning of an initiative focused on dignity, security, healthcare and community living. The project is envisioned as more than a conventional residential care institution. Its central objective is to create a supportive environment where residents can live with a sense of belonging, receive personalised assistance and participate in everyday community activities.

Lakshya Sen Ends Year-Long Title Drought With Hylo Open Triumph



SAARBRÜCKEN: India's badminton star Lakshya Sen returned to the winner's circle in impressive fashion on November 1, 2026, defeating Indonesia's Jonatan Christie in straight games to capture the men's singles title at the Hylo Open in Germany. The Indian shuttler secured a commanding 21-17, 21-10 victory in the final, ending his year-long wait for a BWF World Tour championship. The triumph was particularly significant after a challenging season marked by inconsistent performances and fitness concerns, giving the 25-year-old a major boost as he looks to regain consistency on the international circuit.

The final, played at the Saarlandhalle in Saarbrücken, saw Sen demonstrate his attacking ability, defensive discipline and improved control of the rallies against the experienced Indonesian opponent. Christie entered the contest as the sixth-ranked player in the world, while Sen was ranked 14th. Despite the difference in rankings, the Indian produced a confident performance, using sharp movement, powerful smashes and precise net shots to put pressure on his opponent throughout the encounter.