

Western Times

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News Brief

R.G. Kar financial lapses: Illegal medicine purchase under CBI lens

Kolkata, Nov 13 (IANS) Unauthorised purchase of medicines and equipment from a private agency has come under the scanner of Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) which is probing the financial irregularities in R.G. Kar Medical College and Hospital in Kolkata, sources said on Wednesday.

Sources said Maa Tara Traders, the agency to whom the purchases were illegally outsourced, was operating from Rishra in Hooghly district of West Bengal.

Mainly essential medicines required for the chest-medicine department of the Hospital were procured from the agency which allegedly did not have the requisite licence for participating in government hospital tenders, said a source.

5.2 magnitude earthquake jolts Kashmir Valley

Srinagar, Nov 13 (IANS) An earthquake measuring 5.2 on the Richter scale jolted Kashmir Valley on Wednesday. No casualty or damage to any property has so far been reported from anywhere, said officials. According to MET department officials, the earthquake of 5.2 magnitude jolted Kashmir Valley this morning at around 10.43 am with its epicentre likely in Afghanistan region.

Tremors were felt at multiple places in the Valley. At some places, people rushed out of their homes and work places.

Earthquakes have wrought havoc in the Valley in the past as well as it falls in seismologically vulnerable region. On October 8, 2005 a devastating earthquake measuring 7.6 on the Richter scale killed thousands of people, on both sides of the line of control (LoC). Muzaffarabad town in Pakistan occupied Jammu and Kashmir (POJK) was completely destroyed in 2005 temblor, which was one of the worst earthquakes ever to occur in J&K.

Soren, other leaders cast votes in Jharkhand

Ranchi, Nov 13 (IANS) Jharkhand Chief Minister Hemant Soren, accompanied by his wife and MLA Kalpana Soren, cast their votes at Saint Francis School in Harmu, Ranchi, on Wednesday.

Speaking to the media after voting, Hemant Soren emphasised, "Today is the great festival of democracy. I urge every citizen to come forward and strengthen our democratic system by exercising their franchise. When questioned about the BJP's allegations of Bangladeshi infiltration, Soren deferred, stating that today's focus should be on the democratic process. "I will answer this question later," he said. Arriving with his family, he expressed confidence, saying, "The BJP-led NDA government will secure a strong majority in the state." Champai's son, Babul Soren, also voted in the Ghatila constituency.

Rajya Sabha Deputy Chairman Harivansh Narayan Singh, showing his inked finger, urged citizens to vote as he cast his ballot in Ranchi.

Poll Officials check choppers of Maha CM and DCM

Mumbai, Nov 13 (IANS) Amid Shiv Sena (UBT) chief Uddhav Thackeray's criticism over his helicopter checking twice by the Election Commission, the poll panel staff on Wednesday checked choppers of Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde and Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar.

Both took to the X to upload videos, saying that they cooperated with the poll panel staff in discharge their duties. When the EC staff found some eatables including chakli (a spiral shaped savoury snack), Ajit Pawar asked him to eat while the Chief Minister was seen telling the staff

that the suitcase contains shirts and trousers along with eatables and cold drinks. He also said that there was no urine pot, an apparent reference to Uddhav Thackeray's furious reaction, in which the latter had asked the staff to even check urine from his helicopter.

Shiv Sena spokesperson, who shared the video of CM Shinde's helicopter being checked by the EC staff at Palghar said, "The Chief Minister did not make any issue out of it and also extended cooperation."

Ajit Pawar in his post on X said, "Today while on my way to campaign, the Election Commission conducted a routine

check of my bags and helicopter. I fully cooperated and believe that such measures are essential to ensure free and fair elections. Let us all respect the law and support efforts to uphold the integrity of our democracy."

Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari's helicopter was also checked by election officials in Latur on Tuesday when he arrived for a campaign there.

Meanwhile, BJP has slammed Shiv Sena Uddhav Thackeray over making noise about the checking of his helicopter.

The party in its official handle on X uploaded a

video showing the frisking of bags of Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis after he landed at Kolhapur on November 5.

"Let it go, some leaders have a habit of showing off! On 7th November in Yavatmal district, our leader Devendraji Fadnavis' bags were checked. But, he did not make any noise. Earlier, on November 5 at Kolhapur airport, Devendraji Fadnavis' bags were checked," said the BJP.

Notably, the choppers and helicopters of top leaders of all parties are checked during election season, as part of the EC's standing operating procedure.

Jharkhand registers brisk polling till 3 PM

Ranchi, Nov 13 (UNI) Close to 60 percent of the 1.37 crore electors cast

their franchise amidst tight security eight hours into polling for 43 seats in phase one of the Jharkhand Assembly election on Wednesday. Chief Electoral Officer K Ravi Kumar

told mediapersons that 59.28 percent of the eligible voters have exercised their franchise by pressing the EVM buttons till 3 p.m. "The polling percent-

age is 59.28 percent till 3 p.m. The voting is proceeding peacefully," Ravi

in most of the booths. But in 950 of the booths the scheduled time for closing of voting is 4 p.m due to security reasons.

However, the CEO said all those who queue up before the booths by the scheduled deadline will be allowed to vote.

Earlier, People queued up before polling booths in strength even before the start of polling to exercise their democratic choice early. A large number of women and youth, including many first-time voters, were seen waiting patiently for their turn to vote in the cities, towns and villages.

Kumar said. The polling for 43 of 81 seats in the mineral-rich tribal-dominated Eastern Indian state began at 7 am amidst scenes of enthusiasm. Polling is scheduled to end at 5 pm



DARBHANGA, Prime Minister Narendra Modi with Bihar Governor Rajendra Arlekar, Chief Minister Nitish Kumar and others being garlanded at a function where Prime Minister lay the foundation stones of various development works in Darbhanga on Wednesday. UNI

'Historic': Bihar leaders praise PM Narendra Modi for Darbhanga AIIMS gift

Darbhanga, Nov 13 (IANS) Bihar leaders expressed their appreciation for Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday for the establishment of a new All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) in Darbhanga and the inauguration of numerous development projects across the state. The projects, valued at an estimated Rs 12,000 crore, cover sectors like road, rail, and energy.

The upcoming AIIMS in Darbhanga is anticipated to become a healthcare hub, providing advanced medical services

to residents of North Bihar and neighbouring regions, including Kosi, Seemanchal, West Bengal, and Nepal. The NDA leaders recognised the significance of this initiative for accessible healthcare in the region. Union Minister and LJP (Ram Vilas) leader Chirag Paswan described the event as "historic," noting that the Prime Minister has consistently prioritised Bihar's needs. "PM Modi's dedication to Bihar is evident in his actions."

Bihar now has two AIIMS hospitals, a long-standing demand for them, in Patna and now Darbhanga. Today's inaugurations demonstrate PM Modi's commitment to developing Bihar," he said. Dilip Kumar Jaiswal, BJP State President and Cabinet Minister, highlighted the public en-

thusiasm, saying, "People across Mithila gathered in large numbers to celebrate PM Modi's address. AIIMS Darbhanga, set to be the country's second-largest, will benefit about 17 districts, significantly reducing the need to travel to Delhi for advanced medical care."

"BJP MLA Neeraj Singh Bablu called the day a "historic" moment for North Bihar, as the long-standing demand for an AIIMS has finally been realised. "This is all due to PM Modi's dedication to Bihar," he said, emphasising how much residents appreciate the Prime Minister's efforts. BJP MP Sanjay Jaiswal praised the substantial investments the state has received. "Bihar has had a favourable year with allocations totalling Rs 1,000 crore, which shows PM Modi's

strong support for the state," he said.

LJP MP Shambhavi Choudhary stressed the importance of the project for Mithilanchal, saying, "This AIIMS will be transformative, especially for the underprivileged, who can now access quality healthcare locally. "PM Modi addressed a large gathering in Darbhanga, underlining his government's dedication to strengthening healthcare for the poor and middle class."

He said that AIIMS Darbhanga would bring accessible, high-quality healthcare to the Mithila region, reducing the need for long-distance travel for treatment. "AIIMS Darbhanga will serve not only Darbhanga but also surrounding areas, making it a major healthcare hub," he added.

Sensex crashes 984 points loses 1,795 points in 3 trading sessions

Mumbai, Nov 13 (IANS) The Indian stock market closed on a bearish note on Wednesday with significant declines across major indices.

The Sensex fell by 984 points or 1.25 per cent to settle at 77,690, while the Nifty dropped 324 points or 1.36 per cent to close at 23,559.

This week so far, Sensex was down 1,795 points or 2.26 per cent and Nifty was down 589 points or 2.44 per cent.

Sectors such as Metal, auto and banking faced substantial selling pressure, contributing to the overall market decline.

Due to the decline, the market cap of all the companies listed on the Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE) has declined by about Rs 6 lakh crore which now stands at Rs 430 lakh crore.

Along with large-cap, selling pressures were seen in the smallcap and midcap stocks. The Nifty Midcap 100 index was down 1,456 points or 2.64 per cent at 53,800 and the Nifty Smallcap 100 index was down 532 points or 2.96 per cent at 17,458.

Twenty-seven out of 30 Sensex stocks closed in the red. M&M, Tata Steel, JSW

Steel, IndusInd Bank, Kotak Mahindra, HDFC Bank, Reliance Industries, SBI, Bajaj Finserv, Axis Bank, ICICI Bank and L&D were the top losers. NTPC, Tata Motors and Infosys were the gainers.

Vikram Kasat from Prabhudas Lilladher said that the decline marked the indices' fifth straight session of losses amid persistent selling pressure from foreign institutional investors (FIIs), with broader market sentiment hampered by a confluence of factors shaking investor confidence.

"This latest downturn

was intensified by sustained foreign investor outflows, disappointing corporate earnings, and rising inflation," Kasat added.

Mandar Bhojane, Research Analyst at Choice Broking said, "On the technical front, a Bearish Engulfing pattern formed on the daily chart, highlighting the increased influence of bearish sentiment. The immediate support level is situated at 23,650; if this level is breached, the index may slip further to 23,400. On the upside, resistance remains robust, with selling pressure expected around the 24,200 mark."

Maha Kumbh 2025 set to attract global dignitaries, military personnel

Prayagraj, Nov 13 (IANS) In a historic first, Maha Kumbh 2025, the grandest spiritual gathering of its kind, will see the participation of dignitaries from across the world, including Israel, the U. S, France, and several other nations.

These international figures, alongside senior military officers, are set to join the revered Ganga Aarti at Prayagraj, Uttar Pradesh lending their presence to the sacred ritual that symbolises spiritual unity and reverence.

Millions of pilgrims and devotees from around the globe are expected to converge at this sacred site where the Ganga, Yamuna, and Saraswati rivers meet. The state administration's commitment to an unparalleled experience for both Indian and international devotees promises to make Maha Kumbh 2025 a truly monumental event. Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath's leadership has not only positioned the Maha Kumbh as a global spiritual hub but has also drawn international attention.

Eminent leaders from powerful nations like Israel, the US, France, and Vietnam are eager to witness firsthand one of the

world's largest congregations of faith. "The growing global interest in CM Yogi and his leadership is palpable, with international figures visiting India to meet him," said Suresh Chandra, President of the Harihar Ganga Aarti Samiti. The Ganga Aarti, a key highlight of the Maha Kumbh, holds deep spiritual significance. Initiated in 1997 at Prayagraj, the ritual has become a symbol of India's rich spiritual heritage.

This year, the Aarti will feature dignitaries from across the globe, adding to the ceremony's gravity

and solemnity. In a further testament to the event's environmental commitment, prominent saints from Ayodhya will contribute by planting 111,000 saplings to promote ecological sustainability.

Swami Dilip Das Tyagi of the Ram Vaidehi Temple shared that this green initiative will be completed during the Maha Kumbh, ensuring that the spiritual experience also embraces environmental consciousness. Maha Kumbh Mela is one of the largest and most sacred gatherings in Hinduism.

Angry tribals in Vijaypur gherao police station

Bhopal, Nov 13 (IANS) Voting for bypolls in Madhya Pradesh's Budhni and Vijaypur was underway under heavy security by police personnel and allegations of booth capturing at several places. Around 500 villagers from the tribal community in Veerpur block in Vijaypur surrounded the local police station and staged a protest, alleging that they were prohibited from exercising their right to vote. Tribals alleged that BJP candidate Ramniwas Rawat's supporters forced them to return home without casting their votes.



President Droupadi Murmu meeting with students after the inauguration of Swami Vivekananda Vidya Mandir, Zanda Chowk, in Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu on Wednesday. UNI

Gunfight breaks out in J&K's Kulgam District

Srinagar, Nov 13 (IANS) An encounter started on Wednesday between the security forces and the terrorists in Jammu and Kashmir's Kulgam district. Officials said that a joint party of the security forces was laying a cordon around Badimarg village in Yaripora area of

Kulgam district when hiding terrorists fired at them triggering an encounter which is still going on. An encounter took place on Tuesday also between the security forces and the terrorists in Nadimarg area of Bandipora district.

Wednesday's gunfight is the 6th back to back encounter in the Kashmir Valley. This is in addition to the one in the Kishtwar district of Jammu region where one JCO of the army's 2 Para was martyred and 3 other soldiers injured. The massive search operation started in Kishtwar district has entered its 7th day on Wednesday. The search operation was started when two Village Defence Committee (VDC) members, Kuldeep Kumar and Nazir Ahmad were abducted from village Ohli and then brutally shot dead in the forest area of Keshwan in Kishtwar district. The VDCs are groups of local villagers who are provided

with weapons by the police in far-flung areas of Jammu division to protect themselves and their families from terrorists. In order to strengthen the VDCs, J&K police are equipping them with automatic weapons and better training for self defence.

The terrorists have been viewing the civilians of the VDCs as their potential enemies since the civilian population in far-flung areas of the Jammu division has cordial relations with the army and the security forces. In times of natural calamities or medical emergencies, the army and the security forces always lend a much-needed helping hand to the civilian population. The attacks on unarmed civilians in Kathua, Doda, Kishtwar, Poonch, Rajouri and Udhampur districts in the past six months are seen as the result of increasing frustrations among the terror handlers across the border.



JAMMU, Police arrested one constable with narcotics and cash in Jammu on Wednesday. UNI

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