



Will use this opportunity to express myself": Sharda Thakur on Duleep Trophy 2025



European leaders to join Ukraine's Zelensky for meeting with Trump

War 2: Kiara Advani expresses gratitude for receiving incredible response



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Steel Safeguard Duty Recommended by Commerce Ministry

WEATHER

Sunrise	5:52 AM
Sunset	6:59 PM
Moonrise	12:25 AM
Moonset	3:17 PM
Today's Prediction	
Maximum	27°C
Minimum	33°C
Tomorrow's Prediction	
Maximum	34°C
Minimum	27°C

Maha Guv CP Radhakrishnan named NDA's VP candidate

Announcing Radhakrishnan's candidature, BJP chief Nadda said they will reach out to opposition leaders so the next vice president could be elected "unanimously".

New Delhi The National Democratic Alliance (NDA) on Sunday named Maharashtra Governor C P Radhakrishnan as its candidate for the vice-presidential election scheduled for September 9. The announcement was made by BJP president J P Nadda after a meeting of the party's parliamentary board, which was attended by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, and following consultations with alliance partners.

Radhakrishnan, 67, is a veteran BJP leader from Tamil Nadu with a long association with the RSS. A two-time former Lok Sabha MP from Coimbatore, he was appointed governor of Jharkhand in 2023 before being shifted to Maharashtra in July 2024. He belongs to the influential Gounder community, an OBC group in Tamil Nadu, where assembly elections are due next year.

Nadda described Radhakrishnan as a re-



CP Radhakrishnan and PM Modi

spected statesman with nearly four decades of public life, noting that he commands respect across party lines and among different sections of society. He appealed to opposition parties to support his candidature, pointing out that BJP leaders had already

reached out to them and would continue to do so. With the NDA's comfortable majority in the electoral college comprising members of both Houses of Parliament, Radhakrishnan's election is considered certain.

Prime Minister Modi

prime minister said in a post on X.

The announcement was also greeted warmly by NDA allies. Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu, LJP (Ram Vilas) chief Chirag Paswan, and HAM (Secular) leader Jitan Ram Manjhi pledged their parties' support. Naidu called Radhakrishnan a "senior statesman and respected leader" while Paswan described his nomination as a reflection of the NDA's commitment to social justice and inclusion.

Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnis congratulated the governor, saying his nomination as vice-presidential candidate filled the state with pride. Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar also extended his best wishes, noting that Radhakrishnan's long-standing experience would enrich the high constitutional office.

Agency

Some parties spreading 'misinformation': CEC slams Opposition



New Delhi The electoral roll revision is aimed at removing all shortcomings in voter lists and it is a matter of grave concern that some parties are spreading misinformation about it and "firing from the Election Commission's shoulder", Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar said on Sunday as the INDIA bloc parties launched 'Voter Adhikar Yatra' in poll-bound Bihar against alleged "vote-chori".

Addressing a press conference, the CEC rejected as baseless the allegations of double voting and "vote theft" and asserted that all stakeholders are working to make Special Intensive Revision a success in a transparent manner.

With the Opposition questioning the timing

of the electoral roll revision in Bihar, Kumar said that it is a myth that SIR has been carried out in haste and emphasised that it is the EC's legal duty to correct the voter list before every election.

It is a matter of grave concern that some parties and their leaders are spreading misinformation on SIR in Bihar, some political parties are firing from the Election Commission's shoulder. The EC exhorts all political parties to file claims and objections on draft electoral rolls in Bihar, 15 days are still remaining," the CEC said.

"Doors of the Election Commission are open to everyone, and booth-level officers and agents are working together in a transparent manner," he said.

CONTD ON PAGE-2

7 dead in cloudburst, landslide in J-K's Kathua



Chisoti The death toll due to a cloudburst in Jammu and Kashmir's Kishtwar district rose to 61, as rescuers continued operations for the fourth day on Sunday, affecting three more blasts to blow up boulders around a major impact spot, officials said.

With the recovery of

another body from the debris, the officials on Sunday said the death toll has risen to 61.

The cloudburst struck Chisoti, the last motorable village en route the Machail Mata temple, on August 14, leaving over 100 injured, other than the fatalities.

CONTD ON PAGE-2

Rahul Gandhi calls SIR 'conspiracy' to steal votes in Bihar elections

Aurangabad (Bihar) In a scathing attack on the Election Commission after its press conference, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Sunday said the poll body is colluding with the BJP to carry out "vote chori openly" in the name of Special Intensive Revision in Bihar and asserted that he is not scared of EC officials.

Addressing a gathering here at the end of the first day of his Voter Adhikar Yatra which began from Bihar's Saranam this afternoon, Gandhi also said while he was asked to submit an affidavit after his press conference exposing "vote chori", no such demand was made from BJP leader Anurag Thakur who made similar claims in his presser.

CONTD ON PAGE-2



Congress leader Rahul Gandhi

Bihar was a way to steal votes of the people of the state.

He alleged that the Modi government brought in a law in 2023 to ensure that no one can take action against an election commissioner as the EC is "helping" the BJP and "indulging

in vote chori" along with them.

"Today they (EC) held a press conference. I want to ask them why did the government change the law on CCTV footage of election process.

CONTD ON PAGE-2

HIGHLIGHT

The Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha also alleged that the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in Bihar was a way to steal votes of the people of the state.

commissioner. In no court in India can there be a case against the election commissioner. This law was made in 2023. Why was this law made? It was made because Narendra Modi and Amit Shah want to ensure that no one can take any action against the EC as it is helping them and is indulging in voter chori along with them," Gandhi said.

CONTD ON PAGE-2

Three killed, 8 hurt in shooting at New York restaurant

New York Three people were killed and eight others injured after multiple gunmen opened fire inside a restaurant in Brooklyn, New York, in the early hours of Sunday (local time), according to the New York Post.

The deceased has been identified as three men, who were 27, 35 and of unknown age. Soon after the incident, the injured were admitted to the hospital.

According to NYPD (New York City Police Department) Commissioner Jessica Tisch, police officers responded to the calls of a shooting at a restaurant located in Brooklyn's Crown Heights neighbourhood, shortly before 3:30 a.m., the New York Post reported.

At least 36 shell casings were recovered from the incident spot.

The police department has launched an investigation into the matter. Till now, no arrests have been made in the case and the suspects are yet to be identified, reported the New York Post.

Earlier on August 9, three people, including a woman, were injured after a teenage gunman opened fire near a crowded intersection in the popular hotspot of New York's Times Square, quoting police, the New York Post reported.

The gunman opened fire allegedly after a dispute broke out between two people near the intersection of 44th Street and 7th Avenue at around 1:20 am (local time), according to the New York City Police Department Agency.

Chinese FM Wang Yi to meet Modi during two-day India visit

New Delhi Foreign Minister Wang Yi will meet Prime Minister Narendra Modi during his two-day visit to India, beginning Monday, according to the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA).



Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi

The meeting, to be held on Tuesday, assumes significance as it is taking place days before Modi's planned trip to China to attend the annual summit of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO).

Before calling on the PM, Wang will hold separate talks with External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and National Security Advisor Ajit Doval that could see both sides deliberate on a range of key issues, including border situation, trade and resumption of flight services.

HIGHLIGHT

Before calling on the PM, Wang will hold talks with EAM Jaishankar and NSA Ajit Doval that could see both sides deliberate on a range of key issues, including border situation, trade and resumption of flight services

relationship after it came under severe strain following the deadly Galwan Valley clashes in 2020.

PM Modi inaugurates 2 highways worth Rs 11,000 crore in Delhi

New Delhi Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday inaugurated the Delhi section of the Dwarka Expressway and the Urban Extension Road-II (UER-II), worth Rs 11,000 crore, which are aimed at reducing traffic jams in Delhi and its surrounding areas.



PM took a walkthrough of Dwarka Expressway on the sidelines of the inauguration ceremony of two major National Highway projects - the Delhi section of Dwarka Expressway and Urban Extension Road-II (UER-II) at Rohtak, in New Delhi

These new projects are expected to significantly reduce travel time from Sonipat, Rohtak, Bahadurgarh and Gurugram to IGI Airport when completely operational.

"Dwarka Expressway

Some parties spreading 'misinformation': CEC slams Oppn

CONT'D FROM PAGE-1

Kumar said the EC cannot discriminate among political parties, and both ruling and opposition parties are equal before the poll authority.

"It is an insult to the Indian Constitution if election petitions are not filed within 45 days but allegations of vote chori are raised," he said.

Neither the EC nor the voters are scared of "baseless allegations" of double voting and "vote chori", Kumar stressed, adding that the Election Commission will remain steadfast with voters of all classes without bothering about politics being played by some.

"More than one crore employees are engaged in the election exercise. Can 'vote chori' happen in such a transparent process?" he questioned. The comments come as the Opposition stepped up its attack against the poll roll revision in Bihar and on the allegations of 'vote chori' raised by Congress.

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Sunday alleged that the whole country now knows that the Election Commission is "stealing" elections in collusion with the BJP and asserted that the INDIA bloc will not let them succeed in their "conspiracy" to steal the Bihar Assembly polls by voter additions and deletions through SIR.

He was addressing a gathering in Sasaram at the launch event of his 1,300 km Voter Adhikar Yatra covering over 20 districts in Bihar.

The CEC said that the latest SIR became necessary in the wake of complaints by many parties and migration of voters within the country.

7 dead in landslide in J-K's Kathua

CONT'D FROM PAGE-1

(community kitchen) site for the Machail Mata Yatra, damaging 16 houses and government buildings, three temples, four water mills, a 30-metre-long bridge, and more than a dozen vehicles.

The rescuers conducted three more controlled explosions within a span of 45 minutes to blow up giant boulders hampering the search operation, especially near the worst-hit larger site, the officials said.

Despite overcast conditions, the joint teams of police, Army, National Disaster Response Force (NDRF), State Disaster Response Force (SDRF), Border Roads Organisation (BRO), civil administration, and local volunteers are continuing the rescue efforts.

The rescuers are utilising more than a dozen earth-movers and other heavy equipment, while the NDRF has mobilised its resources, including dog squads, to speed up the rescue operation.

The work on the Bailey bridge is going on at full speed and was only halted when the rescuers went for controlled explosions to detonate the huge boulders, the officials said.

General Officer Commanding of the Army's counter-insurgency Delta Force, Major General A P S Bai, said Army engineers conducted a survey of the area after the need for a bridge was felt.

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School and Mass education Minister Nityanand Gand faces uproar over controversial Statement

Manoranjan Sasmal Bhubaneswar:

A remark by School and Mass Education Minister Nityanand Gand has triggered widespread outrage among teachers and parents, sparking a fresh debate on the condition of schools in Odisha. Speaking at a workshop for block and district-level officers during the state-wide Nav Bharat interview program, the minister advised teachers to "change their mentality" in order to make schools more conducive to education.

While the minister stressed that schools were no longer functioning in a healthy environment and that teachers should take responsibility for improving the atmosphere, he also avoided addressing the long-standing grievances of the teaching community. His comments have been sharply criticized by teachers' associations, who argue that the government is attempting to shift



blame rather than resolving critical issues.

Teachers' bodies have pointed out that despite mounting challenges, they have never neglected their duty to students. They cite

pressing problems such as the lack of pension or retirement benefits in 2,551 newly granted schools, and the absence of financial support for 39 Sanskrit tolls, 194 high schools,

and 15 madrasas. In addition, more than 2,400 headmaster posts and over 5,000 teacher posts remain vacant. Even in fully grant-in-aid schools, more than 1,700 teachers continue to face

Teachers' bodies have pointed out that despite mounting challenges, they have never neglected their duty to students.

hardships due to inadequate resources.

According to teachers, many schools lack even the most basic infrastructure, including computers, laboratories, and proper classrooms. Despite these constraints, they argue that they continue to ensure uninterrupted teaching. A year into the government's new term, little has been done to resolve these systemic shortcomings, they claim.

The Primary Teachers' Association has accused the government of evading responsibility by blaming teachers. Their long-pending demands—such as salaries at par with central scales and the scrapping of outdated schemes—have not been addressed.

AESL Marks 16 Glorious Years with ANTHE 2025 Launch

Hisar:

Marking 16 successful years of transforming student aspirations into achievements, Aakash Educational Services Limited (AESL), the national leader in test preparatory services, proudly announces the launch of its flagship initiative – ANTHE 2025 (Aakash National Talent Hunt Exam). One of the most awaited annual events in the Indian academic calendar, ANTHE 2025 aims to empower Class V-XII studying students to rise above challenges and emerge as true problem solvers.

Adding to this commitment, Aakash is also launching the Invictus Ace test, a scholarship exam for admission to the Aakash Invictus JEE Advanced preparation program for students from Classes 8 to 12 studying. The national-level eligibility-cum-scholarship test will be conducted on August 24, August 31, and September 7, 2025. The three-hour test (10:00 AM to 1:00 PM),



students to avail the best coaching for competitive exams like NEET, JEE, State CETs, NITSE, and Olympiads, offered by Aakash's expert faculty.

available in both online and offline modes, carries a ₹300 application fee. Those who perform exceptionally well will be rewarded with scholarships of up to 100% and exciting cash prizes. Aakash Invictus is available to students at exclusive Invictus Centers in Delhi-NCR, Chennai, Bengaluru, Lucknow, Meerut, Prayagraj, Dehradun, Bhopal, Indore, Ahmedabad, Chandigarh, Chandigarh, Hyderabad, Namakkal, Coimbatore, Bhubaneswar, Ranchi, Trichy, Vizag, Mumbai, Kolkata, Durgapur & Patna.

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Centre brought law in 2023 to ensure no one can take action against EC: Rahul

Aurangabad (Bihar):

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Sunday hit out at the Election Commission after its press conference, alleging that the Modi government brought in a law in 2023 to ensure that no one can take action against the poll body as it is "helping" the BJP and "indulging in vote chori" along with them.

Addressing a gathering here at the end of first day of his Voter Adhikar Yatra which began from Sasaram this afternoon, Gandhi also said while he was asked to submit an affidavit after his press conference exposing "vote chori", no such demand was made from BJP leaders who made similar claims in their presser.

The Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha also alleged that the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in Bihar was a way to steal votes of the people of the state.

"Today they (EC) held a press conference. I want to ask them why did the government change the law on OCTV footage in



election process.

"Do you know that no case can be initiated against the election commissioners. In no court in India can there be a case against them. This law was made in 2023. Why was this law made? It was made because Narendra Modi and Amit Shah want to ensure that no one can take any action against the EC as it is helping

all shortcomings in voter lists and it is a matter of grave concern that some parties are spreading misinformation about it and "firing from the EC's shoulder".

The CEC rejected as "baseless" the allegations of double voting and "vote theft" and asserted that all stakeholders are working to make SIR a success in a transparent

Kolhapur:

Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnis on Sunday said his government was positive about introducing a law to ensure the safety of advocates and would take an appropriate decision in that regard.

The CM was speaking at an event in Kolhapur after Chief Justice of India B R Gavai inaugurated the Bombay High Court's new circuit bench there.

Fadnis said there has been a demand for a law to ensure the safety of advocates and that his government was positive about the need for such legislation.

He said the government was committed to modernising and upgrading court infrastructure in the state so that justice is delivered to the common man expeditiously.

History has been created in Kolhapur with the culmination of a 50-year-old struggle to



get a circuit bench of the HC, he said.

The chief minister recalled that the state cabinet had resolved on May 12, 2015, to set up a circuit bench in Kolhapur.

"When Prime Minister Narendra Modi visited Kolhapur (then) for a programme organised by Pudhari newspaper, a request for the circuit bench was placed before him," he said.

"In 2018, minister

Amit Shah to release stamp commemorating Vithalbhai Patel's centenary



New Delhi:

Union Home Minister Amit Shah will release a special commemorative postal stamp marking the centenary of Vithalbhai Patel at the upcoming All India Speakers' Conference, officials said on Sunday.

Patel was the first elected Indian President (Speaker) of the Central Legislative Assembly in 1925.

Delhi Assembly Speaker Vijender Gupta said, "Honouring our parliamentary pioneers is not just about remembering history, but also about drawing inspiration for the future. In this spirit, this stamp is being released as a centenary tribute to Vithalbhai Pa-

tel."

Union Minister of Communications and Development of North Eastern Region Jyotiraditya M Scindia will also attend the event.

Issued by the Ministry of Communications in collaboration with India Post, the stamp will honour the "distinguished parliamentary legacy and monumental contributions" of Vithalbhai Patel, said the statement.

The commemorative issue recognises Vithalbhai Jhaverbhai Patel's pioneering role in India's freedom movement and his leadership as the first Indian to preside over the Central Legislative Assembly on August 24, 1925.

EC stands thoroughly exposed for incompetence partisanship: Cong

New Delhi:

The Congress on Sunday alleged that the Election Commission stood "thoroughly exposed" not only for its "incompetence" but also for its "blatant partisanship", soon after the chief election commissioner defended the SIR in Bihar and rejected as "baseless" the opposition party's allegations of "vote theft".

The Congress also termed as "laughable" the claims made by the EC that it makes no distinction between the ruling party and the Opposition.

Addressing a press conference here, CEC Gyanesh Kumar said the electoral roll revision is aimed at removing all shortcomings in voter lists and it is a matter of grave concern that some parties are spreading misinformation about it and "firing from the EC's shoulder".

Responding to the CEC's remarks, Congress general secretary (communications) Jairam Ramesh asked whether the poll body will implement the Supreme Court's August 14 orders in letter and spirit.

Rahul Gandhi calls SIR 'conspiracy' to steal votes in Bihar elections

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Gandhi said that it is a fight to protect Ambedkar's Constitution and the principle of 'one person, one vote'.

"The EC declared living people dead, those who have voted in previous polls, their names have been deleted. I asked a person why your name was removed, he said there is an order from above, whose order, Narendra Modi and EC." He has deleted the votes of 65 lakh people, why? Because they want to help Adani and Ambani, they want to steal your money," Gandhi said.

The former Congress president alleged that after taking away land and resources of the people, "now they want to take away the last thing that is left with you, the right to vote", he said.

"The EC is doing this openly. They say we will delete voters and not show you the voter list." But we will show you the power of the people of Bihar," Gandhi said while addressing the gathering.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Karawal Nagar Dist. Congress organises 'Voter Adhikar Yatra'

Staff Reporter
New Delhi

Congress workers, under the leadership of Delhi Pradesh Congress Committee president Devender Yadav, held a protest in the Karawal Nagar district on Sunday against "Vote Chori" by the BJP in collusion with the Election Commission of India (ECI).

According to the Delhi Congress, the said protest was to endorse Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi's 16-day "Voter Adhikar Yatra for the 'One Man One Vote' campaign, which was launched in Bihar today.

The "Voter Adhikar Yatra" led started from the District Congress Committee office, Ag, Dayaved Bhawan via Indian Gas Agency, 100-Foot Road, Burari in which a large number of Congress workers took the pledge to raise their voice against the autocratic BJP government which indulged in vote theft with the help of the ECI to steal assembly and Parliamentary elections from the Congress and other major Opposition parties.

Delhi Congress president Yadav said that when Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi exposed the "Vote Chori" by the BJP through a powerful presentation based on the records of the Election Commission, the ECI, instead of replying to the points raised by Rahul Gandhi, issued notice to Rahul Ji to cover up its own illegal action. He said that the ECI was adopting a similar "Vote Chori" method through SIR in Bihar against which Rahul Gandhi launched a powerful campaign today.

Yadav said that the Congress was fighting to save the Constitution and the BJP, RSS bid to subvert elections through "Vote Chori" to steal the people's mandate to help BJP stay in power in which the ECI was guilty of dancing to the tune of the BJP's subversive agenda.

DMRC succeeds in reducing overhead tripping due to kite flying

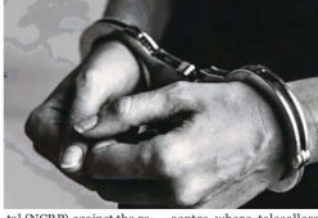
Staff Reporter
New Delhi

The Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) claims to have succeeded in reducing overhead equipment tripping (OHE) tripping caused primarily by kite flying during the Independence Day when kite flying remains at its peak as well as on Janmashtami which fell on the very next day.

With all the necessary measures put in place, incidents of service disruptions caused by kite strings getting entangled in the metro's overhead wires during the festive season of August have reduced significantly over the years, particularly around the Independence Day — from 102 in 2021 to 90 in 2022, 33 in 2023, 23 in 2024 and just 11 in 2025, according to the DMRC sources.

Traditionally, the kite strings—especially metallic-coated manjha—which get entangled with the metro's overhead wires, have been the leading cause of the OHE tripping during this period often resulting in delays and disruptions in metro services. The DMRC has established a dedicated response system to manage such incidents. Maintenance teams comprising 5-7 members are deployed across all lines during these occasions which immediately rush to the affected location to remove entangled strings, ensuring restoration and maintaining punctuality of the metro services.

Fake bank support call centre busted six arrested across states



New Delhi
Delhi Police has busted an illegal call centre in Vikaspuri area, arresting six cyber fraudsters who were duping people by posing as technical support from a private bank. They allegedly targeted new card holders in name of extending credit card limits and PIN generation assistance, officials said on Sunday.

Arrests were made across Delhi, Haryana and Telangana, police said, adding that a total of 41 mobile phones, a laptop, a router and diaries containing bank customer data were seized from the accused.

According to police the accused have been identified as Vijay Kumar Sharma (46), Moolchand Mishra (51), Amit (27), Pradeep Sahi (28), Gaurav (38) and Hemant (25).

The syndicate duped nearly Rs 85 lakh from multiple victims, with 95 complaints already found registered on the National Cybercrime Reporting Por-

tal (NCRP) against the recovered mobile numbers. "The case came to light when a resident from Dwarka, Virender Kumar (42), lodged a complaint on June 21, saying that after applying for a new private bank credit card, he received a call regarding PIN generation. Soon, an unauthorised transaction of Rs 2.81 lakh was detected in his account," Deputy Commissioner of Police (Dwarka) Ankit Singh said.

An FIR was registered and further investigation was taken up following the complaint, he said. The officer said the accused ran an illegal call

centre where telecallers posed as bank officials. They would contact unsuspecting credit card holders, offering them enhanced credit limits or PIN generation assistance.

During the conversation, they tricked victims into downloading an APK file, which allowed the fraudsters to remotely access their mobile phones, including SMS. This gave them control over OTPs and banking details.

"The gang would then use the stolen credentials to exhaust the victim's credit card limits by transferring money into mobile bank accounts or purchasing high-

value mobile phones through e-commerce platforms. These phones were later sold to local retailers at discounted rates, with the fraudsters posing as company dealers," Singh said.

Police said technical surveillance revealed that the fraudulent call to the complainant originated from Vikaspuri area. Further probes traced mule accounts and fake SIM cards used in the crime to Panipat in Haryana, Bathinda in Punjab and Telangana's Hyderabad.

Simultaneous raids were conducted in Vikaspuri and Hyderabad, leading to the arrest of kingpin Vijay Sharma and his aides. Sharma had roped in four women telecallers to lure victims, after which he personally handled calls, including SMS. This gave them control over OTPs and banking details.

"The gang would then use the stolen credentials to exhaust the victim's credit card limits by transferring money into mobile bank accounts or purchasing high-

value mobile phones through e-commerce platforms. These phones were later sold to local retailers at discounted rates, with the fraudsters posing as company dealers," Singh said.

Sharing profile of all the accused, police said Vijay, a resident of Uttam Nagar, holds degrees in B.Com, LLB, and holds technical degrees of software and hardware. He is the alleged mastermind of the racket.

Amit, from Panipat in Haryana, has only primary school education and handled mule accounts and SIM cards. Moolchand, from Aligarh in Uttar Pradesh, studied till Class 10 and worked as manager of the call centre. Police said that Pradeep, also from Panipat, is a primary school pass-out who supplied SIM cards, while Gaurav from Kirari, Delhi, studied till class 7. Hemant also from Uttam Nagar studied till class 12 and assisted in operations.

Further investigation is underway to identify more victims and financial trails linked to the gang, police said.

Delhi gets rain in afternoon many places waterlogged

New Delhi

Rain lashed parts of the national capital on Sunday afternoon, sending the city traffic into a disarray with many places witnessing waterlogging and traffic jams. Dhaulia Kuan, Naraina, Patel Nagar, Vijay Chowk, Jangpura, Rohini, Firozshah Road and Parliament Street received rainfall, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said.

The city had earlier recorded 1 mm of rain in the 24 hours ending 8.30 am.

According to the data from the Automatic Weather Stations (AWS) till 5.30 pm on Sunday, Pusa recorded 13 mm of rainfall, Janakpuri and Najafgarh 9 mm each, Naraina 7 mm, Pragati Maidan 2.7 mm, Narela 2.5 mm, Pharma Science 2 mm, and SPS 1.5 mm. Earlier in the day, the weather department had forecast a generally cloudy sky with one or two spells of rain or thundershowers.

Along jam was witnessed on the Lala Jagat Narayan Marg towards Netaji Sub-

hash Place, with about half of the road towards the foot-path submerged.

A glut of vehicles, caused by the lifting of traffic restrictions imposed by the police for Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to the Rohini area, contributed to it.

Waterlogging was also witnessed at the Rani Bagh red light on the road leading to Punjabi Bagh.

The city recorded a maximum temperature of 34.2 degrees Celsius and a minimum of 25.6 degrees Celsius.

The relative humidity was 80 per cent at 5.30 pm.

The IMD has forecast a generally cloudy sky with one or two spells of rain or thundershowers on Monday, with the maximum and minimum temperatures likely to hover around 34 and 24 degrees Celsius, respectively.

Noida Authority gets only three applications under commercial plot scheme

Noida

Only three applications were received for 10 plots under the Noida Authority's commercial plot scheme within the stipulated time.

The authority has started examining the documents of the applicants. The officials concerned said that plots of area smaller and larger than 20,000 square meters were included in this scheme. Three applications were received under this scheme after the stipulated time for applying ended.

After this, the period of the scheme was extended twice for one week each, but no application was received.

After this, the application process in the scheme was stopped. Now the documents of the applying agencies are being checked. If the documents are found correct, then the process of e-auction will be carried out.

The officials concerned further said that all the three applications have come in the category of plots of different areas.

Convenience of devotees is govt's priority, all festivals will be celebrated with grandeur: Ravinder Indraj

Staff Reporter
New Delhi

The Delhi Government's Minister for Social Welfare, Ravinder Indraj Singh, emphasized that making things easy for devotees is a top priority for the government.

Following the successful celebration of Kanwar Yatra and Janmashtami, the government plans to organize Ramleela performances and Dussehra festivities on a grand scale. He acknowledged the efforts of local residents and youth who volunteered to help manage these events.

During the Shri Krishna



Janmotsav in the Bawana Assembly constituency, Minister Indraj participated in various celebrations, offering prayers and sharing joy with the devotees.

The Minister confirmed that, under the guidance of Chief Minister Rekha Gupta, the government will ensure special measures for security and traffic management during festivals. This includes cooperation with local authorities and police, focusing on cleanliness, drinking water, lighting, and traffic control.

There will be a sufficient number of police for crowd management and medical teams on standby for emergencies. Shri Ravinder Indraj reiterated the government's commitment to facilitating smooth religious celebrations for all.

Woman gives birth at Anand Vihar Railway Station, RPF extends timely help

Ravi Dalmia
New Delhi

A woman delivered a baby girl on Saturday evening at Delhi's Anand Vihar Railway Station, with timely intervention by the Railway Protection Force (RPF) under its "Operation Matrushakti." Both mother and child are reported to be healthy.

According to officials, a passenger alerted Sub-Inspector Rohit Singh that a woman was experiencing severe labor pain between pillar numbers 20 and 21 on platform number 3. Singh, along with woman constable Poonam, rushed to the spot and called for an ambulance. The woman, who



was accompanied by her husband, gave birth to a baby girl on the platform before medical help could arrive.

Other women passengers stepped forward to assist, providing first aid to the

said the couple are residents of JJ Camp in Nivas Pur, Badli village, North West Delhi, and were on their way to their native village in Mirgi Mahwadd Hami Khas, Jharkhand.

The ambulance reached shortly after the delivery, and the RPF team safely transferred the mother and child to a nearby hospital. Doctors later confirmed that both were in good health.

Expressing gratitude, the woman's husband thanked the RPF team for their support. Officials noted that "Operation Matrushakti" is aimed at providing assistance and security to women passengers across the railway network.

Delhi minimum temperature at 25.6 degrees

New Delhi

Rains lashed different parts of the national capital on Sunday afternoon.

Areas such as Dhaulia Kuan, Naraina, Patel Nagar, Vijay Chowk, Jangpura, Rohini, Firozshah Road and Parliament Street received rainfall, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said.

According to the IMD, the city recorded 1 mm rain in the 24 hours ending 8.30 am on Sunday. Earlier in the day, the weather department had forecast generally cloudy sky with one or two spells of rain or thundershowers, with the maximum temperature expected to settle around 33 degrees Celsius.

Meanwhile, the city recorded a minimum temperature of 25.6 degrees Celsius, 0.9 notch below the season's average.

Relative humidity was recorded at 90 per cent at 8.30 am.

The air quality remained in the 'satisfactory' category at 4 pm, with an Air Quality Index (AQI) reading of 91, the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) data showed.

According to the CPCB, an AQI between zero and 50 is considered 'good', 51 to 100 'satisfactory', 101 to 200 'moderate', 201 to 300 'poor', 301 to 400 'very poor', and 401 to 500 'severe'.

Delhi election officer begins process to delist 41 parties

New Delhi

The office of the Chief Electoral Officer of Delhi has begun the process of delisting 41 political outfits, who did not field candidates in elections and has issued show-cause notices to them.

The parties have to give a reply to the notice by August 27. Some of these Registered Unrecognised Political Parties (RUPPs) that have been issued notices are the Aam Aadmi Mukti Morcha, Adarsh Political Party, Bahujan Samajwadi Party (Baba Saheb), Jan Kalyan Party, Indian Business Party.

The public notice, dated August 12, said the CEO office was acting under Section 29A of the Representation of the People Act,

1951, and Article 324 of the Constitution after observing that these parties neither contested any election to the Lok Sabha, the Delhi Assembly nor any byelection.

Other parties include Agar Jan Party, Akhand Bharat Samaj Party, Labour Party of India, Lok Nirman Dal, Praja Congress Party, Rashtriya Vikas Morcha, Samata Samaharsh Party, and Swaraj Janata Party among others.

The Delhi CEO has called upon the parties to submit a written representation, duly supported by an affidavit from the president or general secretary, by August 27. A personal hearing has been scheduled on August 22.

Problems worsened due to 10 years of negligence - Minister Sood's attack on previous Govt

■ Inspection of waterlogging problem in Janakpuri C-Block by Education Minister Ashish Sood.

Staff Reporter
New Delhi

Delhi's Education Minister, Ashish Sood, on Sunday visited C-Block, Janakpuri, on August 17, 2025, to assess ongoing waterlogging issues caused by heavy rains.

During this visit, he criticized the previous government's neglect over the past ten years, which has worsened the situation.

He noted that C-Block experienced nearly 2 feet of water accumulation due to inadequate drainage and took immediate action by ordering the clearing of sewer lids and drain openings. Local residents also expressed concerns about a nearby liquor shop where people drink in public and play loud music, raising safety issues, especially



for women, children, and the elderly.

In response, Minister Sood instructed the Station House Officer (SHO)

to address these concerns immediately and increase police presence to ensure safety. He also called for urgent repairs to the dilapidated police outpost in the area.

Sood highlighted the efforts of the Delhi Government, led by Chief Minister Smt. Rekha Gupta, in addressing waterlogging, pollution, and cleanliness. He mentioned regular cleaning of drains and the deployment of mobile pumping stations in affected areas to improve drainage. Areas frequented by facing waterlogging have been designated as "Hotspot Zones" for special monitoring.

PUBLIC NOTICE
MY CLIENT SH. SURESH KUMAR S/O LATE BHAGWATI R/O 24/249, TRILOKPUR, DELHI, HEREBY SEVERE ALL RELATIONS AND DEBAR HER DAUGHTER ANJALI FROM HIS ENTIRE IMMOVABLE/IMMOVABLE PROPERTY DUE TO THEIR HOSTILE BEHAVIOUR, DISOBEDIENCE AND OUT OF CONTROL. MY CLIENT OR HIS FAMILY MEMBERS SHALL NOT BE RESPONSIBLE FOR THEIR ANY ACTS OR DEEDS DUE TO THEM WHATSOEVER.
SAURAV DOGRA
ADVOCATE
CHAMBER-871, BJS BLOCK, TIS HAZARI COURT, DELHI-110054

PUBLIC NOTICE
It is informed to public in general that a Residential Flat/Unit No. L-401 (4th floor) in "Aditya Megha City" build up on plot No. GH-C/GH-03, Vaishali, Gurgaon, Haryana, Ghaziabad Allotment/Builder Buyer Agreement dated 28.08.2004 issued by Agarwal Associates (Promoters) Ltd. in favour of Purnima Juneja & Anand Kumar and Transfer Letter in favour of Shri Indrajit Singh has been lost somewhere and it could not be found despite great efforts. The Police Complaint has also been lodged about the lost of the said Allotment letter/Builder Buyer Agreement and Transfer Letter. If the said Original documents i.e. Original Allotment/Builder Buyer Agreement for Residential Flat of the said property executed by Agarwal Associates (Promoters) Ltd. in favour of Purnima Juneja & Anand Kumar and Transfer Letter in favour of Shri Indrajit Singh are found by any person or there is any objection regarding the above said ownership of Sh. Manpreet Singh, kindly inform the same to the Notice Issuer within 15 days from the date of publication of this Notice, after which no objection will be considered.
Nishakant Thwari,
Panel Advocate, State Bank of India Chamber No. 359, Civil Court Compound,
Raj Nagar, Ghaziabad 201002

PUBLIC NOTICE
Be it known to all concerned that my client, Yash Paul and Smt. Usha Devi R/O Plot No.78A, G-Block, Outub Vihar, Phase-I, Goyla Dairy, DC Goyla, P.O. Chhawla, District- South West, Delhi-110071, have severed up all their relations with effect from 16.08.2025 with their son named Sagar Hansa S/o Yash Paul in all respects. My client do hereby disown and disinherit their aforesaid son from all their moveable and immovable properties, Bank Locker and Pension. My client shall not be responsible for any act whatsoever done by them.
SACHIN BHARGAVA
ADVOCATE
CHAMBER NO.640, LAWYER'S CHAMBER DWARKA COURTS, DWARKA NEW DELHI-110075

“C.P. Radhakrishnan: From Tamil Nadu’s Streets to India’s Vice Presidency”

The election of India’s next Vice President, scheduled for September 9, 2025, comes at a defining moment for Indian democracy. What might otherwise have been a routine constitutional exercise has assumed political and ideological significance with the Bharatiya Janata Party and its allies in the National Democratic Alliance announcing their candidate: Chandraprakash Ponnusamy Radhakrishnan, the present Governor of Maharashtra. His candidature represents more than a party decision; it reflects the BJP’s strategic confidence, its growing ambition in southern India, and its conviction that the highest constitutional offices should be entrusted to leaders with grassroots experience, ideological clarity, and personal simplicity.

C.P. Radhakrishnan’s journey embodies precisely those attributes. Born on 20 October 1957 in Tirupur, Tamil Nadu, he entered public life as a swayamsevak of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh, imbibing early the discipline and ideological foundation that would shape his entire career. He went on to become one of the BJP’s most respected faces in Tamil Nadu, a state where the party historically struggled to establish its roots. Twice elected to the Lok Sabha from Coimbatore, first in 1998 and again in 1999, he quickly became known as a hardworking parliamentarian and a leader who never shied away from raising local concerns alongside national issues. Though he lost subsequent elections in 2004, 2014, and 2019, his stature within the party did not diminish. Instead, it reinforced his image as a loyal karyakarta who continued his organizational work without bitterness or withdrawal.

Between 2003 and 2006, he served as President of the Tamil Nadu BJP, a role that tested his ability to manage the party’s affairs in a complex Dravidian political landscape. At a time when the BJP’s presence in Tamil Nadu was minimal, Radhakrishnan ensured that the party maintained its ideological clarity while steadily building its cadre base. In Coimbatore, his popularity soared, particularly because of his steadfastness in the aftermath of the 1998 bomb blasts in the city that killed and injured dozens. As the sitting MP, he stood firm against divisive forces, working tirelessly to maintain communal harmony and rebuild confidence in the city. That moment, more than any election, cemented his identity as a nationalist leader rooted in both principle and compassion.

Over the years, his service to the party extended into gubernatorial responsibilities. In February 2023, he was appointed Governor of Jharkhand, where he held office until July 2024. During this period, he also shouldered additional responsibilities, serving as Governor of Telangana and as Lieutenant Governor of Puducherry in 2024. In July 2024, he was appointed Governor of Maharashtra, one of India’s most politically sensitive states. There, he has earned respect across party lines for the balance and dignity with which he discharged his constitutional duties. His tenure as Governor was marked by impartiality, stability, and quiet efficiency—traits that now make him a fitting choice to preside over the Rajya Sabha as India’s Vice President.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi himself acknowledged these qualities when the announcement was made. In a social media post, the Prime Minister praised Radhakrishnan’s “dedication, humility, intellect, and grassroots engagement,” noting how his life of service has been an inspiration to countless karyakartas. BJP President J.P. Nadda, in announcing his nomination on August 17, 2025, called him a “hardcore nationalist” who has served the party with discipline and selflessness for decades. These endorsements are not mere formalities; they highlight the kind of leader the BJP wants to project—one rooted in ideology, respected for personal integrity, and



By Dr. Anil Singh

By Dr. Anil Singh, Editor, STAR Views & Editorial Advisor Top Story; Formerly Executive Editor, Aaj Tak, ABP News & STAR News; Author of the book “Military and Media” (2007), a significant work on warfare released by then Defence Minister Mr. Pranab Mukherjee.



capable of fulfilling constitutional responsibilities with dignity.

The electoral arithmetic behind this election leaves little doubt about the outcome. The Vice President is elected under Article 66 of the Constitution by an electoral college consisting of members of both Houses of Parliament—the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha. Unlike the Presidential election, where elected state representatives also participate, the Vice Presidential election is confined entirely to MPs. Voting is conducted through proportional representation by means of a single transferable vote, and it is a secret ballot, with no party whip permitted. While this theoretically allows MPs to exercise individual choice, in practice the outcome is shaped decisively by parliamentary numbers. The NDA today commands roughly 422 seats out of the 786 in both Houses combined, giving it an unquestionable majority. The INDIA bloc, in contrast, is fragmented and still searching for a candidate, its energies consumed by the political controversies surrounding the recent “vote chori” episode in Bihar. Even if they were to field a nominee, the opposition lacks the numbers to mount a serious challenge.

This Vice Presidential election is also unusual because it has come earlier than scheduled. Jagdeep Dhankhar resigned from the office due to health reasons, necessitating a fresh election. This marks the first early Vice Presidential election since 1987, adding an element of historical significance. But the real significance lies not in the timing but in what

this election reveals about the state of Indian politics today. The BJP and the NDA move with strategic clarity, discipline, and foresight, while the opposition alliance appears disorganized and reactive. The contrast could not be starker, and it is this contrast that virtually guarantees Radhakrishnan’s ascension to the office of Vice President.

For Indian democracy, the office of the Vice President carries weight beyond ceremonial symbolism. As Chairperson of the Rajya Sabha, the Vice President plays a critical role in ensuring that parliamentary debate remains meaningful, legislation moves forward without undue obstruction, and the dignity of the Upper House is preserved. In recent years, the Rajya Sabha has become the site of intense political contestation, with frequent disruptions, adjournments, and confrontations between government and opposition. The responsibility of the Chairperson in such an environment is immense. He or she must not only enforce discipline and rules but also balance competing voices, ensuring that democratic debate thrives without descending into chaos.

C.P. Radhakrishnan’s personal traits—simplicity, patience, humility, and balance—equip him well for this role. His career trajectory suggests that he is not easily swayed by political theatrics or personal ambition. Having navigated both electoral defeats and gubernatorial responsibilities, he brings with him a temperament suited to mediation and discipline. His nationalist convictions are clear, but so too is his commitment to fairness. In many ways, his election

signals an effort to restore dignity and seriousness to the proceedings of the Rajya Sabha.

Politically, the BJP’s choice of a Tamil Nadu leader has larger implications. By elevating Radhakrishnan, the party is signaling its determination to expand in the South, particularly in Tamil Nadu, where Dravidian politics has long dominated. The message is twofold: one, that the BJP is serious about creating space for Tamil leaders in the national mainstream; and two, that its idea of nationalism is inclusive, capable of embracing regional aspirations while maintaining ideological clarity. For the BJP’s long-term ambitions, particularly its vision of remaining the dominant national party for decades, making inroads into southern India is essential. Radhakrishnan’s elevation is thus both recognition of his individual service and a strategic investment in the party’s southern outreach.

As the INDIA bloc struggles with internal contradictions, this election underscores once again the importance of unity, discipline, and long-term vision in politics. The opposition may yet announce a candidate, but such an announcement will likely be symbolic rather than competitive. The real contest has already been decided by the strength of numbers and the weakness of opposition unity. What remains is the broader question of what kind of Vice President India will have, and in Radhakrishnan the answer appears reassuring.

Looking forward, the Vice President’s role in India’s democracy will only grow more critical. With the Rajya Sabha emerging as a battleground for legislative debates, the Chairperson must be both firm and fair. At a time when politics is polarized, the Vice President must embody restraint and dignity, standing above partisan skirmishes to safeguard the institution’s credibility. If Radhakrishnan can fulfill this role with the same simplicity and steadiness that have marked his career, he could well redefine the importance of the office in contemporary Indian democracy.

In conclusion, the Vice Presidential election of 2025 will be remembered as more than a constitutional procedure. It is a moment that reaffirms the BJP’s dominance in parliamentary politics, demonstrates its strategic intent in southern India, and celebrates the journey of a leader who rose from grassroots activism to one of the Republic’s highest offices. For C.P. Radhakrishnan, it is the culmination of decades of disciplined service. For Indian democracy, it is the promise of a Vice President who can restore dignity to the Rajya Sabha and strengthen the foundations of parliamentary governance. And for the BJP, it is a declaration of both confidence and continuity—a signal that the party’s nationalist project is not merely about electoral victory but about institutional leadership.

The Vice President may often be viewed as a ceremonial figure, but in reality, the office is central to the functioning of democracy. With Radhakrishnan poised to assume this mantle, the country can expect an officeholder who combines ideological clarity with constitutional responsibility, grassroots humility with institutional authority. His victory is a near certainty, but his legacy will be shaped by how he transforms the Rajya Sabha into a chamber of dignity, debate, and disciplined democracy. In that lies the true significance of this election, and in that lies the hope of a more balanced and accountable future for India’s parliamentary life.

Manisha murder case: Question on law and order in Haryana

The murder of 19-year-old Manisha, a teacher from Bhiwani district, has shaken the whole of Haryana. This case is not just about the untimely death of a daughter, but also a big question mark on the police system, society and governance of Haryana. The question is why the safety of daughters becomes a topic of discussion every time when a tragic incident occurs? Why is the primary response of the police full of neglect and prejudice instead of being sensitive and proactive?

Manisha went missing on August 11 while returning from nursing college. The family filed a police complaint the same day. But the police’s attitude was extremely negligent. The father was put off by saying that “the girl must have run away and will return on her own.” This statement not only shows the insensitivity of the police but also shows that our security agencies have still not been able to come out of their old rigid mindset.

The first information report was filed the next day and the closed circuit diagram of the college was also collected on 13th August. That means three days of time was wasted. During this time Manisha was murdered by slitting her throat and an attempt was made to burn the body. If the police had shown seriousness immediately, perhaps her life could have been saved. This case proves the fear of every family who has a stone on their heart while sending their daughters out of the house.

When Manisha’s family saw the body, their grief turned into anger. They refused to accept the body and perform the last rites. They said that they will not perform the last rites until the murderers are caught. This resistance is not just the suffering of one family, but of the entire society.

A continuous sit-in was held at Bhiwani Civil Hospital. People from every village came to support. This struggle reminds us that the public has to come out



By Dr. Satyawan Saurabh

Post, freelance journalist and columnist, Radio and TV panelist,



on the streets again and again for justice. What kind of democracy is this where a citizen has to sit on a sit-in with a dead body to make his voice heard?

Markets were closed in many towns including Charkhi Dadr, Bhiwani, Badhra, Bhandwa and Loharu. Roads were blocked. Candle marches were taken out. This was a direct message from the public that this will not be tolerated anymore. Whenever the system fails in its duty, the public’s anger shows it the

mirror. People demanded that the culprits be hanged. Their anger was not only with the criminals, but also with the system that did not take action in time.

“Manisha’s murder has put Haryana’s police and governance system in the dock. Delay in filing an FIR, delay in taking the statement and ignoring the pleas of the family - all these are proof of police negligence. The family’s decision not to take the body is a symbol that now the public will not be satisfied with mere assurances. The government has to understand that mere transfers and suspensions will not improve the situation. Till the time the police is not accountable and the attitude towards women in society does not change, such painful incidents will keep happening.”

The growing public anger forced the Chief Minister to take action. He transferred the Bhiwani Superintendent of Police and suspended five policemen. The question is, will the safety of daughters be ensured by mere suspension and transfer? Does police reform mean only changing names and changing positions? These steps seem to be temporary measures taken under political pressure.

The opposition immediately made this issue an issue. Former Chief Minister Bhupendra Singh Hooda said that law and order has completely collapsed in

Haryana. His statement is not wrong. When people are not able to trust the police, then it is clear that the roots of the system have become hollow. But it is equally true that opposition parties are limited to mere rhetoric. While in power, they too did not take concrete steps for police reform and women’s safety. Therefore, the fault lies not only with the present government, but with the entire political system, which never gave priority to this issue.

After every murder, we light candles, block roads and demand strict punishment. But does our society’s attitude change after this? Looking at daughters with suspicion when they step out of the house, restricting their freedom and the police’s attitude of “she must have run away” - all these testify to our collective mentality. We have to understand that the courage of criminals will break only when society gives equal rights and a safe environment to daughters.

The path to reform is clear. It should be mandatory to register every complaint immediately. The mindset of “running away” in cases of missing persons must be eliminated. Suspension alone is not enough. Criminal cases should be registered against guilty officials and they should be given strict punishment. Surveillance system and police patrolling should be strengthened in colleges, schools and public places. Hearing of crimes against women should be done quickly and every case should be settled within six months. This message should go from home to family to panchayat and society that the safety of daughters is the responsibility of the entire society, not just the government.

The Manisha murder case has proved how weak the law and order system is in Haryana. This is not just a matter of one daughter, but a matter of concern for every household. If we do not wake up now, it is difficult to say how many more Manishas will fall prey to this system tomorrow.

No shortage of facilities or funds for treatment: CM Yogi

■ ₹1100 crore provided from CM's Relief Fund for treatment in a year: Yogi

Gorakhpur
Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath said that Gorakhpur today faces neither a shortage of advanced medical facilities nor financial resources for high-level treatment.

Addressing the inauguration ceremony of Regency Hospital on Sunday, CM Yogi also inspected the hospital, reviewed its facilities, and launched its patient app 'Regency My Care'.

He said, "The city now has super specialty healthcare services, along with the Prime Minister-Chief Minister Ayushman Yojana (Ayushman), ensuring quality treatment for citizens. If Ayushman coverage falls short, patients receive full support through 'pick and choose'," he remarked.

Emphasizing the government's commitment, CM Yogi said, "The true government is the one that stands with its people at all times. Every citizen must have access to facilities without discrimination." He also pointed out that financial assistance is available from the Prime Minister's Relief Fund, ensuring support at every level. With consistent developmental strides over the last decade, CM Yogi said, "The true government is the one that stands with its people at all times. Every citizen must have access to facilities without discrimination."

UP gets its first green hydrogen plant country's second

Gorakhpur (UP)
Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Sunday inaugurated the state's first and the country's second green hydrogen plant at Khanimpur village in Gorakhpur district, set up by Torrent Gas and Torrent Power, an official statement issued here said.

Calling it a milestone in clean energy transition, Adityanath said green hydrogen represents the "energy of the future" and would play a decisive role in protecting biodiversity, reducing carbon emissions and improving human health.

Addressing the gathering, he said, "If we wish to save humanity and civilisation, we must minimise carbon emissions. Green energy will be crucial not just for the environment but also for reducing diseases caused by pollution," he said.

Green hydrogen is hydrogen gas produced by splitting water into hydrogen and oxygen using electricity produced through renewable energy sources. The green here doesn't mean that the produced hydrogen gas is of green colour; it is a reference to zero usage of fossil fuels in the production of hydrogen gas.

The Gorakhpur facility will blend green hydrogen with CNG and PNG for domestic and industrial use, marking a major step in clean fuel innovation.

He said that with abundant water resources, UP is well-positioned to emerge as a hub for green hydrogen production.

He cited examples of successful green initiatives such as LED streetlights, which have drastically reduced power consumption and carbon emissions.



MLAs can also extend up to ₹25 lakh from their funds."

Highlighting government efforts, he added that ₹1,100 crore was disbursed through the Relief Fund for treatment in the past year alone. "Earlier, such facilities were either unavailable or granted selectively through 'pick and choose'," he remarked.

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Cloudburst triggers floods, widespread destruction in Mandi

Rajan Punchhi

Heavy rains have once again unleashed destruction in Mandi district, where cloudbursts triggered flash floods that swept away land, animals, and vehicles, while also disrupting traffic along National Highway 21.

Since Saturday night, torrential rains have caused severe damage in Uttarshah, Batheri Arang, Bagi Nala, and Sanor Ghadi. Debris entered several houses, while vehicles and livestock were washed away in the floods. Near the Hanogi Jagani temple on the Mandi-Manali highway, large amounts of rubble blocked the road, further adding to the disruption.

In Thalaut, a cloudburst over Shalanao caused a drain to swell dangerously, flooding the office of Afcop, the company engaged in four-lane highway construction, along with nearby buildings. The floodwater also entered the tunnel at Talan, while heavy debris covered stretches of the highway near Takoli. The Takoli vegetable market was hit particularly hard, with shops, warehouses, and stock damaged

by drain water, leaving traders to suffer significant financial losses.

The Beas river has also swollen following continuous rainfall, carrying large amounts of soil and silt from the catchment areas. Officials have urged residents to stay away from the riverbanks, warning of its dangerously strong currents.

Reports of destruction have also come from Uttarshah and Arang in the Amaraghar region, where farm-lands, animals, and vehicles were swept away. In Bagi Nala, heavy debris washed away the bridge connecting Katola to Mahaur, forcing the

river to carve a new course through people's fields.

On Sunday morning, the Kunnu Nala in Mandi began to overflow but was cleared with the help of JCB machines. Meanwhile, traffic on the Mandi-Manali highway has been blocked at multiple points, including Uttarshah, Batheri Arang, Bagi Nala, Thalaut, Shala Nala, Masrana, Takoli, Sagwai, and Aut. Restoration work is underway to reopen the highway.

The administration continues to monitor the situation as rescue and clearance operations move forward amid warnings of more rain.



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UP gov't's forensic lab expansion boosts crime control

Lucknow
Under its zero-tolerance policy against crime, the Yogi government has taken decisive steps to integrate technology with policing in Uttar Pradesh. Over the past eight years, the government has significantly expanded forensic science laboratories to prevent crime, identify criminals, and ensure strict punishment through strong evidence-based advocacy in courts.

Alongside this, the state established its first Forensic Institute, creating new career opportunities for the youth while also strengthening the justice system by enabling effective use of forensic evidence, especially in cyber-crime cases.

Today, this Forensic Institute has emerged as the premier center for forensic education and research in the state. Here, training is being imparted to students, trainee scientists, police officers, and investigative personnel, while advanced research is also being carried out on new technologies. As a result, Uttar Pradesh is gaining recognition not just nationally, but also internationally, in the field of forensic science.

Guided by Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath's vision, forensic science laboratories in Uttar Pradesh have been expanded and modernized with advanced technologies and skilled personnel. The upgrades have strengthened crime control, enabled



swifter punishment for criminals, and enhanced public confidence in justice and security—marking a key step towards making the state safer and more modern.

Before 2017, Uttar Pradesh had only four forensic laboratories in Lucknow, Varanasi, Agra, and Ghaziabad. Under Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath's leadership, eight more labs have been set up in Jhansi, Prayagrah, Gorakhpur, Kanpur, Bareilly, Gonda, Aligarh, and Moradabad, taking the total to 12. The expansion has strengthened crime investigations by ensuring timely forensic reports for police and courts, replacing earlier delays caused by limited facilities.

Recognizing the growing need for modern forensic centers, the state government is now setting up six more laboratories in Ayodhya, Basti, Banda, Azamgarh, Mirzapur, and Saharanpur. Once operational, these will further enhance evidence collection and crime control in the state.

In another significant achievement, Uttar Pradesh's forensic science infrastructure has been integrated with the National Automated Fingerprint Identification System (NAFIS). The state fingerprint bureau and its network have been upgraded with advanced technology, connecting 9 STF units, 1 ATS unit, and 12 GRP units.

Hardware and software installations have been completed at 98 locations, helping Uttar Pradesh secure the first rank in the NCRB dashboard released from New Delhi. So far, over 4.14 lakh fingerprints have been digitized, making the identification of criminals and matching of unidentified bodies faster and more efficient.

Through NAFIS, the Police department can now quickly access information about the identity of criminals and their records. This technology is also proving highly effective in identifying unidentified bodies. As a result, it has strengthened crime control and enabled swift action against offenders.

Haryana gets development projects worth Rs 2,000 Cr from PM Modi

Shiv Kumar

New Delhi
Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday inaugurated and dedicated to the people two major development projects worth Rs 2,000 crore that will directly benefit Haryana. These include the construction of two new four-lane connectivity roads to Sonapat and Bahadurgarh under the Urban Extension Road-2 (UER-2) project.

The projects are part of a larger package of six National Highway projects worth Rs 11,000 crore, including the Dwarka Expressway and UER-2, connecting Delhi and Haryana. Out of this, works worth Rs 2,000 crore will directly boost connectivity and development in the state.

Expressing gratitude on the occasion, Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini said the day would be remembered as a golden chapter in the state's development journey, especially for the NCR region. He said Haryana, being both an industrial and agricultural



hub, would be among the biggest beneficiaries of the new connectivity. The four-lane corridors, he said, would ease congestion and provide direct access from Kundli, Sonapat, Bahadurgarh, Gurugram and Manesar to Delhi Airport, giving a major push to exports, imports and investments.

Describing the projects as a milestone in the vision of "Developed India - Developed Haryana," Saini credited the Prime Minister's decisive leadership and commitment to infrastructure growth. "Under Prime Minister Modi, India has emerged as the world's

fourth largest economy and is moving swiftly towards becoming the third largest," he said, adding that development across highways, metro systems, freight corridors, ports and bridges was taking place in mission mode.

He highlighted the PM Gati Shakti Yojana as a key initiative to make infrastructure projects more modern and effective, and said the government was working to expand connectivity across roads, railways and airways, from Defense Corridors to Bharatmala and Sagarmala projects.

The Chief Minister also recalled several other initiatives that have strengthened Haryana's growth story under Modi's leadership, including the Western Dedicated Freight Corridor, Rail Coach Repair Factory, Kundli-Manesar-Palwal and Kundli-Ghaziabad-Palwal expressways, metro projects in Gurugram and Faridabad, the elevated railway track in Rohtak, the Rohtak-Maham-Hansi railway line, the National Cancer Institute at AIMS Jhajjar and the AIMS in Rewari. He said Haryana had also recently received the approval for a new Metro corridor from Rithala to Kundli.

"These initiatives will create new opportunities for investment, employment and industrial growth in the state, further strengthening Haryana's contribution to the national economy," Saini said.

Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari, Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta and other dignitaries were present at the inauguration.

Congress used development for politics, BJP gives Narwana a new identity: CM Saini

Komal Ramola

Chandigarh
Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini on Sunday accused the previous Congress government of using development as a political tool while ignoring the real needs of the people. Addressing a public meeting in Narwana, organized by Social Justice and Empowerment Minister Krishan Kumar Bedi, Saini said that unlike the Congress, the BJP government has worked to ensure every region benefits from development.

He said Jind district has historically been a hub of political activity, yet Narwana was deliberately left behind by previous administrations. "Some people only tweet about Narwana and claim it as their home, but in reality they never cared about its progress," he

said. Comparing figures, the Chief Minister pointed out that since 2014 the BJP government has carried out development works worth Rs 2,105 crore in Narwana,



while the Congress government had spent only Rs 607 crore during its tenure. He added that of the 111 announcements made for Narwana in the last decade, 98 have already been completed and work on six others is underway. Across Jind district, 541 out of 628 announcements have been fulfilled.

Listing infrastructure projects, Saini highlighted

the four-laning of the national highway through Narwana at a cost of Rs 1,393 crore, the Ambala-Hisar via Kaithal highway (NH-10) expanded at Rs 1,200 crore, and the Ambala-Kotputli Greenfield Corridor (NH-152D) built for Rs. 10,640 crore. He also referred to the Jind-Gohana-Sonapat highway widened for Rs. 2,300 crore, the Jind-Haryana-Punjab border highway developed at Rs. 959 crore, and the ongoing construction of the Government Medical College at Bahadurgarh worth Rs. 945 crore.

On welfare schemes, the Chief Minister said that 7.54 lakh Ayushman Chirayu cards had been issued in Narwana, enabling free treatment claims worth Rs. 55 crore for about 50,000 beneficiaries. Under the Har Ghar Grahini Yojana, more than 82,700 families

are receiving subsidized LPG cylinders, while 5,368 houses have been built under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana with another 1,000 under construction.

Saini also underlined Haryana's contribution to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of making India a developed nation by 2047. Referring to recent military operations, he praised the armed forces for showcasing India's strength and technological capability through Operation Sindoor and Operation Mahadev.

The Chief Minister said his government has delivered on its commitments, fulfilling 41 of the 217 promises made in the Sankalp Patra within 10 months, with 90 more expected this year. He added that over 30,000 young people have been appointed to government jobs

in recent months, bringing the total number of recruitments to more than 1.8 lakh since 2014, all based on transparency and merit.

Cabinet Minister Krishan Kumar Bedi, who convened the rally, said the Chief Minister has become a symbol of service and commitment. He described the BJP's development roadmap as a turning point for Narwana, which for decades was deprived of basic facilities. He added that the people of Narwana had shown confidence in the BJP by electing the party for the first time in 75 years, marking what he called a new chapter of progress.

Delivering his address in the local Haryana dialect, Bedi drew loud applause from the crowd and expressed gratitude to the thousands of people who gathered for the rally.

Markram just a few games away from genius, says Proteas coach Shukri Conrad

Colours: South Africa coach Shukri Conrad expressed confidence in skipper Aiden Markram and felt he is on the verge of reaching a "state of genius," suggesting that Markram is close to achieving exceptional performance levels with just a few more games.

Markram, who has gone 31 innings without a T20 half-century, managed only 31 runs in three matches in the recently concluded T20 series against Australia. A final over thriller saw Australia seal a win in a closely-fought series-decider in Cairns, with Glenn Maxwell powering an unbeaten 62* runs off 36 deliveries to propel the hosts over the line off the penultimate delivery.

With this victory, the Men in Yellow registered a 2-1 series win over the Proteas. Maxwell (62* runs off 36 balls) was awarded the Player of the Match, whereas Tim David (150 runs in three matches) won the Player of the Series award.

"I know it's a different format, but in the World Test Championship final not so long ago, Aiden showed exactly what he is about. And I'm sure he is a couple of games away from unlocking that state of genius," Shukri Conrad said as quoted from BSPV-cricinfo.

Conrad conceded that South Africa were a "batter light" but explained that if the players they have were willing to play with a little more self-confidence, it could work in Proteas' favour. "If we want to be brave, we have got to select attacks to beat a team like Australia and if I can nudge a batting unit into playing a certain way where we are a better light and I concede we were a batter light, imagine what they can do when we have got a properly balanced side," he added.

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"We've got to try and win every trophy that we're in": MBSG striker Cummings

Kolkata: Bagan Super Giant (MBSG) forward Jason Cummings reflected on last season's win and vowed to keep adding silverware to the club's cabinet, as per the official website of Indian Super League (ISL). The Australian World Cupper joined the Mariners in 2023 and, since then, has won the League Shield twice and also clinched the ISL Cup and Durand Cup during his stint. Cummings has featured in 48 Indian Super League (ISL) games in the iconic Green and Maroon colours and racked up 19 goals and eight assists.

Goals bring glory, and Cummings has been the man of clutch moments for the Kolkata giants. From being the top goalscorer for MBSG with 12 goals in his debut campaign to playing an all-around role last season with seven goals and six assists to his name, the 30-year-old forward has established himself as a consistent goalscorer in the Mariners' setup.

Cummings reflected on his time at MBSG, describing it as nothing short of successful, with the Mariners becoming the first team to defend the ISL League Shield and breaking numerous records in the process.

"Since I've come, it's been successful. The first season was good,



MBSG striker Jason Cummings during a match

but we just missed out on the final, and then last season was amazing. We won the double. There was never a time I was worried or we weren't doing well. We seem to just keep getting better and better," he said on MBSG TV, as quoted from the official website of ISL.

MBSG boast a formidable squad, and Cummings believes that having several match-winners in the team is key to clinching silverware. The Mariners are currently preparing for their Durand Cup quarter-final clash against arch-rivals East Bengal FC and Cummings urged his teammates to maintain their

mid-table squad, and Cummings believes that having several match-winners in the team is key to clinching silverware. The Mariners are currently preparing for their Durand Cup quarter-final clash against arch-rivals East Bengal FC and Cummings urged his teammates to maintain their

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Breaking Time

What to do
Fill in the grid so that every row, every column, and every 3x3 box contains the digit 1 to 9. Every puzzle has only correct solution.

		9	2		6	8		4
3	4		5					
2				9				
8	9				2		1	
			6		9			
2		7					5	9
				2				5
					5		9	8
5	6	9			8	3		

Solution, Sudoku

6	8	2	4	3	5	9	7	1
7	3	5	9	1	8	6	4	2
1	9	4	6	2	7	3	8	5
4	5	6	8	7	9	1	2	3
8	7	1	3	6	2	5	9	4
3	2	9	1	5	4	8	6	7
5	6	8	7	4	1	2	3	9
2	4	3	5	9	6	7	1	8
9	1	7	2	8	3	4	5	6

TOP STORY

ICC expresses sadness at passing of Bob Simpson



Former Australian cricketer and coach Bob Simpson. (File Photo)

Dubai: The International Cricket Council (ICC) has expressed grief on the demise of former Australia captain Bob Simpson at the age of 89, according to a release from ICC.

The Australian legend passed away on Saturday. In a statement, ICC Chairman Jay Shah praised Simpson's contributions and said he would be long remembered.

"Bob Simpson was one of the true greats of our sport, and it is deeply saddening to learn of his passing. His legacy is immense, as a player, captain, and later as a coach,

he shaped Australian cricket and inspired the global game," the Chairman said, as quoted from ICC.

"He nurtured and guided a generation of players who went on to become legends in their own right, and his influence extended far beyond the field," Shah added.

"On behalf of the International Cricket Council, I extend our heartfelt condolences to his family, friends, and the entire cricket fraternity. His passing is a profound loss for the game, but his contributions will always be remembered and cherished," he noted.

Will use this opportunity to express myself": Shardul Thakur on Duleep Trophy 2025



Shardul Thakur ahead of the Duleep Trophy 2025. (File Photo)

New Delhi: Ahead of the Duleep Trophy 2025 season, India all-rounder Shardul Thakur shared his thoughts on the competition, saying that he would use this opportunity to express himself.

The competition, to be held from August 28 to September 15, will mark the start of the Indian domestic season 2025-26. Last year, the tournament shifted from its usual zonal format to having four different Indian squads, A, B, C and D, selected by the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI).

Expressing his views on the tournament, Shardul said while speaking to Borna Majumdar on Sports. "The Duleep Trophy is one tournament where a player gets rewarded for their performance in previous seasons, or rather, throughout the whole season. The top 15 players from each zone play in the tournament, and the competition again gets tougher and a level up from what you play at the state level, where there is a mix of

strong and not-so-strong teams. Duleep Trophy, on the other hand, is a competition among equals, so I would like to use this opportunity to express myself and show my talent."

Shardul Thakur will be leading the West Zone in the 2025 season of the Duleep Trophy. He has never led in the first-class format, but captained Mumbai in the Vijay Hazare Trophy in December 2024, a one-day tournament.

Sharing his thoughts on leading the side, the

33-year-old player said, "I've been given a role and I'm leading the West Zone. So, rather than a challenge, it's more like an experience for me on the personal front, to understand what qualities a leader should possess. I believe I have a few, but using this tournament, I would want to enhance my leadership qualities further. I understand that as a captain, I will have to be available for the players, sit and discuss bowling styles and fielding positions, strategies, etc.

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Alyssa Healy shines in Australia 'A' series against India ahead of T20 World Cup

New Delhi: Australia women's team skipper Alyssa Healy showed exceptional form in the 'A' series against India, ahead of her international return next month for the ICC Women's T20 World Cup in India.

Healy was the highest run-getter for her side in both T20s and ODIs of the 'A' series. The right-hand batter scored 124 runs in three T20s before upping the ante with 242 runs from three one-day games, as per the ICC.

Healy, who has struggled with injuries since late 2024, was last seen in Australia colours in February 2025 against England.

While none of the games had international status, Healy would take heart from the fact that she thrived against a competitive India A team featuring Shafali Verma, Radha Yadav, and Yastika Bhatia.

The Australia 'A' coach, Dan Marsh, certainly felt that Healy had a good outing in



Alyssa Healy during the Australia 'A' series vs India

the middle, believing that her performances place her well ahead of the upcoming ICC Women's Cricket World Cup in India.

"Alyssa batted well today. All pre-season, she's been looking good, and it was just nice to see her get some match practice and put that into place heading into India. She'll be really happy with her two

weeks (with Australia A), will have a nice little rest at home now and be ready to go to India," Marsh was quoted as saying by cricket.com.au, in the aftermath of her match-winning 137* in the third one-day game.

While Australia A had won the T20S 3-0, they lost the one-day series 1-2. But it proved to be a

good practising ground for the likes of Healy, Tahira McGrath and Darcie Brown, with Healy also keeping the wickets in the one-day segment.

Australia will feature in a three-game ODI series in India ahead of the World Cup, ensuring that their skipper gets more games to be at her very best before the global tournament.

Mansukh Mandaviya gives clarion call to citizens to contribute towards fitter India



Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya urges citizens for a fitter India. (File Photo)

New Delhi: Union Minister of Youth Affairs & Sports Mansukh Mandaviya gave a clarion call to all citizens to adopt an active lifestyle by participating in the FIT India Sundays on Cycle initiative from his home village Handi in Palitana, Gujarat.

Started by the Hon'ble Sports Minister in December 2024, the cycling initiative has been organised across more than 46,000 locations till now with an overall participation of 8 lakh-plus individuals. Continuing its mission to build a healthier, pollution-free India, the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports organised a special edition of 'Fit India Sundays on Cycle' today in partnership with the National Cadet Corps across 5000 locations nationwide. Around 3000 Namo Fit India Clubs also participated in the event.

Mandaviya urged fellow villagers to download the FIT India mobile app and utilise the carbon credit features. "I would urge everyone to download the FIT

India mobile app and check how much carbon is being saved by cycling to work or going around the village. The app has been developed so that it gives you all information about your health from a distance, including the time taken to the heart rate, etc., which is beneficial for monitoring one's health. Cycling is a great tool for fighting obesity and a solution to pollution. I would ask everyone to become part of our Fit India Sundays on Cycle movement," Mandaviya said in Hindi as quoted by a SAI Media press release.

In Delhi, over 1200 enthusiastic cyclists rode around the Jawahar Lal Nehru Stadium, enjoying participation in Zumba, meditation, and yoga sessions, as well as a rope skipping activity organised by Dr Shikha Gupta. Further, seniors Naisya Shaik and Beni Qutobla pledged their support for the cycling movement, saying that it is spreading much-needed awareness in Tier 1 and Tier 2/3 cities about the harmful effects of obesity and air pollution.

"This is my first experience of cycling with such a huge crowd. I am very happy to be part of it. Fit India Sundays on Cycle is

a great initiative to make people aware of lifestyle diseases like obesity and air pollution. It was great to see people enjoying a variety of physical activities, including Zumba, yoga, rope skipping, badminton, and net cricket, all in one place. The morning began with high energy, and the message was clear to everyone that we have to adopt an active lifestyle to remain fit and healthy," said Beni Qutobla, a National Games medalist in fencing.

Meanwhile, more than 100 riders from the Railway Sports Promotion Board (RSPB) actively participated in the Fit India Sundays on Cycles at the Patiala Locomotive Works (PLW). This successful event not only promoted physical fitness but also reflected RSPB's unwavering commitment to encouraging a healthy and active lifestyle among its athletes and employees, the SAI Media press release added.

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Hong Kong pro-democracy activists granted asylum in Australia Britain

Taipei:
A Hong Kong pro-democracy activist and a former lawmaker who are wanted by the city's authorities have been granted asylum in Great Britain and Australia, respectively.
Tony Chung, an activist who was imprisoned under Hong Kong's sweeping national security law, and Ted Hui, a former lawmaker who was facing trial for his role in anti-government protests in 2019, both announced over the weekend that they have received asylum in the countries where they now live.

They are among dozens of activists on the run from Hong Kong authorities.

Civil liberties in the city have been greatly eroded since Beijing in 2020 imposed a national security law essentially criminalizing dissent in the former British colony. Both Beijing and Hong Kong have hailed the security law as bringing stability to the financial hub.

Hui, who fled Hong Kong in December 2020, is part of a group of overseas activists who are targeted by police bounties of up to 1 million Hong Kong dollars (USD 1,27,800). The former lawmaker is now working as a lawyer in Adelaide.

He announced on Facebook on Saturday that he and his family have been granted protection visas.

BUSINESS

FinMin Reviews PSB Q1 Performance

New Delhi:
The finance ministry has called a meeting of heads of public sector banks (PSBs) on Wednesday to review the first-quarter financial performance.

The meeting is scheduled to be chaired by Financial Services Secretary M Nagaraju.
The review meeting on August 20 with public sector banks to assess the performance of the first quarter of 2025-26, according to sources.

Led by State Bank of India (SBI), public sector banks, cumulatively, logged a record profit of Rs 44,218 crore in the first quarter of the current fiscal, with an 11 per cent year-on-year growth.

All 12 public sector banks together made a profit of Rs 39,974 crore in the June quarter of FY25. The increase in profit in absolute terms was Rs 4,244 crore.

Market leader SBI alone contributed 43 per cent of the total earnings of Rs 44,218 crore, as per the published numbers on

European leaders to join Ukraine's Zelensky for meeting with Trump

Kyiv:
European and NATO leaders announced Sunday they will join President Volodymyr Zelensky in Washington for talks with President Donald Trump on ending Russia's war in Ukraine, with the possibility of US security guarantees now on the negotiating table.

Leaders from France, Britain and Germany are rallying around the Ukrainian leader after his exclusion from Trump's summit on Friday with Russian President Vladimir Putin.

Their pledge to be at Zelensky's side at the White House on Monday is an apparent effort to ensure the meeting goes better than the last one in February, when Trump berated Zelensky in a heated Oval Office encounter.

"The Europeans are very afraid of the Oval Office scene being repeated and so they want to support Mr. Zelensky to the hilt," said retired



European leaders back Zelensky at White House talks

French Gen. Dominique Trinquand, a former head of France's military mission at the United Nations.

"It's a power struggle and a position of strength that might work with Trump," he said.

Special US envoy Steve Witkoff said Sunday that Putin agreed at the meeting in Alaska with Trump to allow the US and European allies to offer Ukraine a security guarantee resembling NATO's collective de-

fence mandate as part of an eventual deal to end the 3 1/2-year war.

European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen, speaking at a news conference in Brussels with Ukrainian President Volody-

Their pledge to be at Zelensky's side at the White House on Monday is an apparent effort to ensure the meeting goes better than the last one in February, when Trump berated Zelensky in a heated Oval Office encounter.

myr Zelensky, said that "we welcome President Trump's willingness to contribute to Article 5-like security guarantees for Ukraine. And the Coalition of the Willing -- including the European Union -- is ready to do its share."

Von der Leyen was joined Sunday by French President Emmanuel Macron, British Prime Minister Keir Starmer and German Chancellor Friedrich Merz in saying they will take part in Monday's talks at the White House, as will secretary-general of the NATO military alliance, Mark Rutte.

US seeks shipbuilding expertise from South Korea Japan to counter China

Washington:
American lawmakers are using a trip to South Korea and Japan to explore how the United States can tap those allies' shipbuilding expertise and capacity to help boost its own capabilities, which are dwarfed by those of China.

Sens Tommy Duckworth, D-Ill, and Andy Kim, D-NJ, who are scheduled to land in Seoul before travelling



to Japan, plan to meet top shipbuilders from the world's second- and third-largest shipbuilding countries.

The senators want to examine the possibilities of forming joint ventures

to construct and repair noncombatant vessels for the US Navy in the Indo-Pacific and bring investments to American shipyards.

"We already have fewer capacity now than we did during 'Operation Iraqi Freedom' in 2003," Duckworth told The Associated Press. "We have to rebuild the capacity. At the same time, what capacity we have is aging and breaking down and taking longer

and more expensive to fix."

Their trip comes as President Donald Trump demands a plan to revive US shipyards and engage foreign partners. The Pentagon is seeking USD 47 billion for shipbuilding in its annual budget.

The urgency stems from the fact that Washington severely lags behind China in building naval ships, a situation raising alarms among policymakers who worry the maritime bal-

Sri Lanka gov't slams opposition plan to stage protest on Monday



Sri Lanka gov't slams opposition's Monday protest plan (File Photo)

Colombo:
Sri Lanka government on Sunday slammed the opposition's plan to stage protests in north and east regions on Monday calling it "political exercise."

Tamil National Alliance (TNA) and Sri Lanka Muslim Congress (SLMC) had called for day-long action to protest against the killing of a civilian in a clash with the military at Oldussaidin in the northeastern Mullaitivu district.

"This is clearly an attempt to intimidate the people in the north and east by frustrated political parties", Nalin Jayathissa, the minister of information told reporters on Sunday.

"This incident had happened on August 7 and by August 9 three soldiers were arrested", Jayathissa said, adding that people are being misled for a political purpose.

TNA and SLMC had initially planned to stage a protest on August 15 but it was postponed for Monday.

The TNA said a group of Tamil youth who had visited the military camp in the area were assaulted by the military and later one of them was found dead drowned in a stream while trying to escape the military assault.

Waruna Gamage, military spokesman, rejected the allegations of assault against the military and claimed that the group of youth were intruders.

Steel Safeguard Duty Recommended by Commerce Ministry

New Delhi:
The domestic steel industry has welcomed the commerce ministry's move to recommend imposition of a safeguard duty on imports of certain flat steel products, saying that such measures help India become self-reliant in the sector.

In a statement, Naveen Jindal, President of Indian Steel Association (ISA), said recommendation of a safeguard duty on flat steel imports for three years is a welcome step.

"While the proposed 12 per cent duty may not fully reflect the geopolitical context where 25 per cent is often considered the norm, it demonstrates clear government support for using such measures to promote Aatmanirbhar in steel," he said.

Jindal, who is also the chairman of Jindal Steel, said introducing a safety net through minimum import prices, below which the recommended duty would be triggered, is also a positive move to protect and support the



ISA President Naveen Jindal on safeguard duty recommendation

downstream industry. The Directorate General of Trade Remedies (DGTR), under the Ministry of Commerce, has recommended final imposition of a safeguard duty on imports of cer-

tain flat steel products for three years to protect domestic manufacturers from sudden jump in the inbound shipments.

DGTR is the apex authority for administering all trade remedial

measures, including anti-dumping, countervailing duties and safeguard measures.

The duty was recommended by the DGTR in its final findings of a probe initiated on a

complaint by the Indian Steel Association. Based on the preliminary findings, the government in April has already imposed a provisional 12 per cent safeguard duty for 200 days.

Now in its final findings, the DGTR has concluded "that there is a recent, sudden, sharp and significant increase in imports of PGC (product under consideration) into India at the cumulative level as a result of unforeseen developments... and threaten to cause serious injury to the domestic industry/producers," the DGTR has said in a notification.

It has recommended a 12 per cent duty in the first year, 11.5 per cent in the second, and 11 per cent in the third year.

The Indian Steel Association on behalf of its members including ArcelorMittal, Nippon Steel India, JSW Steel, Jindal Steel and Power and Steel Authority of India filed an application seeking imposition of safeguard duty on imports of non-alloy and alloy steel flat products.

CIL Evacuation Plans Amid Coal Demand Slowdown

Kolkata:
Coal India Ltd (CIL) is pressing ahead with its production and evacuation infrastructure plans under its capital expenditure programme for the current fiscal, even as coal demand remained sluggish in the first quarter of FY 2025-26.

The company has earmarked the largest share of Rs 5,522 crore about 35 per cent of the total proposed Rs 15,000 crore capex in FY26 - for coal transportation and evacuation infrastructure, including rail sidings, corridors, coal handling plants, silos and roads.

The investments are critical to ramp up mechanised coal evacuation capacity from the present 151 million tonnes per annum (MTPA) to 994 MTPA by FY 2028-29 under first mile connectivity, an official said.

The state-run miner, which accounts for over 75 per cent of domestic coal output, reported a decline in performance in the June quarter, with production falling 3 per cent to 183.32 million tonnes and offtake slipping 4 per cent to 191 million tonnes.

Already, there are signs of demand improvement after Coal India carried out various reforms for coal consumers, the official said.

GST Reforms, Putin-Trump Summit: Market Drivers

New Delhi:
Plans for big bang reforms in the GST regime by Diwali, the Putin-Trump summit and S&P upgrading India's sovereign credit rating are likely to instil optimism in the domestic equity market in the week ahead, analysts said.

Besides, trends in global markets and the trading activity of foreign investors would also impact domestic investors' sentiment.



Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday announced plans for big bang reforms in the GST regime by Diwali, which will bring down prices of everyday items, as his government looks to overhurd the eight-

"The Prime Minister's vision for GST 2.0 is a timely and strategic move to build a resilient Indian economy."

year-old tax structure plagued by compliance issues, evasions and litigation.

"The week ahead is likely to start on a cheerful note, as markets draw optimism from Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Independence Day address. His state-

ment on a potential GST rate reduction ahead of Diwali has the potential to significantly boost sentiment and lift equities out of the bear grip," Santosh Meena, Head of Research at Swastika Investmart, said.

Meanwhile, India on Saturday welcomed the summit talks between US President Donald Trump and his Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin in Alaska that ended without a ceasefire deal.

After an almost-three-hour meeting with the Russian president, Trump said, "Some great progress" has been made, but did not provide any details.

S&P on Thursday upgraded India's sovereign credit rating to 'BBB' with a stable outlook after over 18 years, citing robust economic growth, political commitment to fiscal consolidation and 'conducive' monetary policy to check inflation.

Despite this, CIL said it remains committed to its long-term roadmap of achieving 1 billion tonnes of production by FY 2028-29.



War 2: Kiara Advani expresses gratitude for receiving incredible response

Mumbai actress Kiara Advani used social media to thank the movie buffs for showing love on her recently released

"This day, last year, the lights dimmed, the screen lit up... and history was created. 1 year to the most loved Hindi film #Stree2," the actor wrote, further thanking his fans for their endless love and support.

War 2 alongside Hrithik Roshan and NTR. Thanking them for an "incredible" response to the

action entertainer, Kiara wrote on her X timeline: "Your love speaks the loudest... Incredible seeing how people are enjoying #War2 in theatres and coming out and expressing it with so much support and passion."

"Films like #War2 are meant to entertain and seeing your smiles, your cheers, your excitement fills my heart with joy," the Kabir Singh actress added. Kiara also posted a photo of herself from the movie

where she was in the middle of a high-octane action sequence.

Additionally, Hrithik opened up about his War 2 character Kabir, which he claims will always be one of his most cherished on-screen roles.

He revealed that the character was brought to life back in 2019 with War and ended up fueling him both as an actor and entertainer.

Treating the netizens with a few images from the Ayan Mukerji' directorial, Hrithik penned: "In Kabir's world, battles may be won... but the war goes on. A character that came to life in 2019, has only fueled my fire as an Actor and Entertainer. Witnessing all your cheers and celebra-

tions in cinema halls, only makes Kabir taller and my heart fuller."

"Kabir was and always will be one of my most cherished on-screen characters. Thank you for all your love & well-wishes for War2 and Kabir," he added.

The sixth instalment in the YRF Spy Universe, the film features Hrithik, NTR, and Kiara in the lead, along with Ashutosh Rana and Anil Kapoor in crucial roles.

Released on August 14, "War 2" takes forward the tale of Kabir Dhaliwal (Played by Hrithik), a former intelligence agent, who, after going rogue, becomes a major threat to national security, and a special units officer Vikram Chelapathi (Played by NTR) is assigned to neutralize him.



Shah Rukh Khan rebukes netizen suggesting him retirement: 'Tere sawaalon ka...'

Mumbai Shah Rukh Khan wins hearts with his wit and sass and this time was no different. The actor took fans by surprise when he posted an Ask SRK session on X (formerly Twitter). From talking about King, Aryan Khan's debut to its future plans, the actor revealed it all. However, King Khan slammed a user who asked him to retire from films and make way for younger actors.

A user asked, "Bhai ab Umar hogyi retirement lelo dusre bache logo ko aage aane do (You have become old now, consider retiring so that the other kids can come)." The fan's question seemed to irk SRK, who hit back with a tongue-in-cheek response. He wrote, "Bhai Tere sawaalon ka bachpana jab chala jaaye... Phir kuch achha saa puchna! Tab tak temporary retirement mein reh please (Brother, when the childishness in your questions goes away... then ask something good! Till then, please stay in temporary retirement)." The tweet quickly went viral, with fans praising the 58-year-old actor for his sharp comeback.

Interestingly, this reply comes after a fan asks him about dealing with trolls. The Pathaan actor responded, "Dumbells and Action can break my bones...but words can never hurt me!! I am too busy listening to the music in my heart man."

The actor recently won a National Award for his power-packed performance in Jawan. A fan asked, "how do you feel after winning the national award?" Shah Rukh replied, "YAY!!!! I feel like the King of the Nation!!! Too much honour and too much responsibility to try and excel and work harder!!"

On the work front, King Khan is all set to star in Sujoy Ghosh's King. The film also features Suhana Khan, Raghav Juyal, Deepika Padukone, Abhishek Bachchan and Rani Mukerji. The film which was supposed to release in 2026, will now hit the theatres in 2027 after the actor sustained severe injury and has been advised rest.

He also confirmed his debut in Aryan Khan's directorial venture Baatds of Bollywood. It is said to be a satirical take on the eccentricities of the Hindi film industry.

Sholay turns 50! Shriya Pilgaonkar shares unseen pic of dad Sachin Pilgaonkar with Amitabh Bachchan and Dharmendra



Mumbai actor Shriya Pilgaonkar dropped an iconic image of the team Sholay as the film clocked 50 years. The throwback image had Sachin Pilgaonkar, posing with Amitabh Bachchan, Dharmendra, Amjad Khan, and A. K. Hangal. For those who do not remember, Sachin played the role of Ahmed, son of Rahim Chacha (A. K. Hangal), the imam of the village. Speaking exclusively to IANS, Sachin expressed his excitement about "Sholay" completing 50 years of release.

He shared: "I consider myself fortunate to be a part of Sholay. It is a matter of pride that the iconic film has completed 50 years of release this year. The film remains

fresh in the memory of the cinema lovers, and I am sure that it will continue to be inked in the memory of movie goers even after the next 50 years. My heartiest congratulations to Ramesh Sippy sir for making such an iconic film." Previously, Ramesh Sippy shared an interesting anecdote from the film, when he was invited to see the audience's reaction to "Sholay" in the theatres.

He told IANS: "A cinema person called me. He said, 'Come to my cinema.' It was City Light cinema. He said,



'Can you see there? No one is coming here to have a cold drink. There was an interval. No one came. He said, 'Do you know why? Because those who were inside the hall were super-attentive. They were behaving as if they have never seen anything like this'. I said, 'Are you sure?'. He said, 'Absolutely. I see it every day. They do not come in the interval.'"

"Later, when the songs came, they used to come out of the hall, and eat something. They go to the bathroom. Apart from that, at that time, they can neither go to the bathroom, nor drink water, nor cold drink. He told me not to worry," the maker added.

Little Krishna Steals the Show on Janmashtami

Agra The spirit of Janmashtami came alive across the city as children participated in celebrations dressed as little Krishna and Radha. At a local community gathering, a young child, Parnika Jain, beautifully adorned as Lord Krishna, became the center of attraction and won everyone's hearts.

Dressed in a bright yellow attire with "Makhan Chor" embroidered on it, the child carried a flute tucked to the side and wore a bejeweled crown decorated with a peacock feather, symbolizing Lord Krishna. Adorned with pearl garlands and traditional anklets, Parnika looked every bit like the playful Kanha of Vrindavan.

Residents and family members showered blessings on the little Krishna as the festivities unfolded with devotion, music, and cheer. The sight reminded everyone of the divine innocence and joy associated with the birth of Lord Krishna. The vibrant atmosphere captured the cultural richness of Janmashtami, a festival celebrated with great fervor across the nation.



Govinda sets the stage ablaze with his dance performance at an event

Mumbai celebrating Janmashtami, actor Govinda was seen attending the Dahi Handi celebration in Mumbai with Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Eknath Shinde and actor Sharad Kelkar. Despite heavy rain, Govinda enjoyed a gala time with Shinde and Kelkar during the celebration. In the video doing rounds on social media, the 'Hero No. 1' actor was seen flaunting his iconic moves to the tunes of some of his popular tracks, while the crowd cheered for him with full enthusiasm.

Govinda attended the event in a comfy black T-shirt paired with matching jeans and a shawl. Before this, Govinda celebrated Janmashtami by offering prayers at the ISKCON temple. The clip featured him posing in a red kurta-pyjama, along with a beige shawl around his neck.

Govinda celebrated Janmashtami by offering prayers at the ISKCON temple. The clip featured him posing in a

red kurta-pyjama, along with a beige shawl around his neck. The Hasena Maan Jaayegi actor was captured by the shutterbugs stepping out of his car before entering the temple in Juhu.

Apart from taking darshan of Lord Krishna on his birthday, Govinda was also seen interacting with the pandits and other members at the temple before leaving the premises. In the meantime, Govinda made headlines for his claim that renowned Hollywood director James Cameron approached him for the lead role in his super-hit drama Avatar.

He stated that the filmmaker had offered him a massive fee for the role; however, he rejected the part. Govinda's better half, Sunita Aluja, reacted to these claims during her appearance on Uorfi Javed's YouTube channel. "Arey yaar, mujhe toh nahi pata yeh kab offer hui. 40 saal toh mujhe ho gaye hain Govinda ke saath. Woh Avatar ka director-producer kab aaya, mujhe nahi malum." (Oh man, I have no idea when the film was offered. I have been with Govinda for the last 40 years, and even I don't know when that Avatar director-producer came to offer the movie.), Sunita shared.