



Arshdeep reveals his approach for his final 2 overs of SL clash



Airstrikes shooting kill at least 38 people in Gaza

Taylor Swift arrives to attend bestie Selena Gomez, Benny Blanco's wedding, deets inside



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WEATHER

Sunrise 6:13 AM
Sunset 6:12 PM
Moonrise 11:58 AM
Moonset 10:02 PM

Today's Prediction
Maximum 37°C
Minimum 28°C

Tomorrow's Prediction
Maximum 37°C
Minimum 28°C

More than 30 dead in stampede at TVK leader Vijay's rally in Karur

An unexpected surge in crowd numbers and a complete violation of the safety instructions issued by the city police are said to be the reasons behind the tragedy.

Chennai/Karur
More than thirty people died in a stampede at the actor-politician Vijay's rally here on Saturday, state Health Minister Ma Subramanian said. According to him, 29 persons were brought dead and over 45 are under treatment. Meanwhile, the chief minister convened a meeting of top state officials at the Secretariat to review the situation.



PM Modi, condoling the deaths, said: "The unfortunate incident during a political rally in Karur, Tamil Nadu, is deeply saddening. My thoughts are with the families who have lost their loved ones. Wishing strength to them in this difficult time. Praying for a swift recovery to all those injured."

Even as Vijay was addressing the massive gathering from atop his campaign vehicle, he halted his speech midway when many workers raised alarm after noticing that people were fainting and falling down. Many who fainted were waiting for hours together to see Vijay, and it included children. Vijay himself requested a way for the ambulance and he threw water bottles from atop his campaign vehicle and also announced that a child had gone missing. He also urged police to come forward to help. While those who fainted were rushed to hospitals, Vijay continued

Medical Education, said, "Doctors have been mobilised from Tiruchy, Dindugal, Namakkal and even from Madurai Medical College. As of now, around 30 doctors have been mobilised. If there is need, more doctors and manpower will be diverted to Karur Medical College."

Suganthy further said, "So far 33 dead bodies have been brought to the Karur Medical College. Since it is a medical college hospital, there is no dearth of beds. Facilities will be made depending on the need."

Actor-turned-politician Vijay had launched the next stage of his 2026 Assembly election campaign in the Kongu region on Saturday afternoon. He arrived at Tiruchy International Airport in the morning from Chennai by a chartered flight and proceeded to Namakkal for campaigning. Although he was scheduled to address his cadres around 12 p.m., he reached the venue only around 2.30 p.m.

EC to visit Bihar on Oct 4-5 to review poll prep



New Delhi
The Election Commission, led by CEC Gyanesh Kumar, will visit Patna on October 4 and 5 to take stock of poll preparedness in Bihar, officials said on Saturday.

The term of the 243-member legislative assembly ends on November 22, and assembly polls in the key state are likely to be held in November. It is usual for the poll authority to visit states before announcing the poll schedule. Officials said the Chief Election Commissioner-led team will be in the state on October 4 and 5. A briefing of general, police and expenditure observers appointed by the EC for the Bihar polls is also expected to take place here on October 3.

The Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of the voter list in Bihar is in the final stages and a final electoral roll will be published on September 30. The Commission meets representatives of political parties, top police and administrative officials, and its state poll officials will be reviewing election readiness. The special intensive revision, taking place after a gap of over two decades, has come under sharp criticism from opposition parties, which have claimed that it will disenfranchise crores of genuine citizens of their voting rights. The Commission has asserted that it will not allow any eligible citizen to be left out of the voter list and, at the same time, not let any ineligible person be on the list. Agency

India vs Pakistan

September 28, 8:00 pm IST | Dubai International Stadium

Captain: Suryakumar Yadav | Rank 1 | Coach: Gautam Gambhir

Captain: Salman Ali Agha | Rank 7 | Coach: Mike Hesson

Head-to-Head in T20s | Matches played: 15

India won: 12 | Highest total: 192/5

Pakistan won: 3 | Highest total: 182/5

Winner of T20s against each other

2007-2025: Ind Ind Ind Pak Ind Ind Ind Ind Ind Pak Ind Pak Ind Ind Ind Ind

Route to Final

INDIA	Group Stage	PAKISTAN	
Sep 10 vs UAE	Won by 9 wickets	Sep 12 vs Oman	Won by 93 runs
Sep 14 vs Pakistan	Won by 7 wickets	Sep 14 vs India	Lost by 7 wickets
Sep 19 vs Oman	Won by 21 runs	Sep 17 vs UAE	Won by 41 runs
Super Four			
Sep 21 vs Pakistan	Won by 6 wickets	Sep 21 vs India	Lost by 6 wickets
Sep 24 vs Bangladesh	Won by 41 runs	Sep 23 vs Sri Lanka	Won by 5 wickets
Sep 26 vs Sri Lanka	Won by Super Over	Sep 25 vs Bangladesh	Won by 11 runs

India-Pakistan set for tense final amid off-field drama

Jaishankar urges BRICS to defend free trade amid tariff war

New Delhi
External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar has called on Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa (BRICS) to defend the multilateral trading system amid increasing protectionism and tariff volatility during a meeting of the bloc's foreign ministers in New York on the sidelines of the United Nations General Assembly session.



"When multilateralism is under stress, BRICS has stood firm as a strong voice of reason and constructive change," Jaishankar said in a social media post. "In a turbulent world, BRICS must reinforce the message of peace-building, dialogue, diplomacy and adherence to international law," he said. "As rising protectionism, tariff volatility and

non-tariff barriers impact trade flows, BRICS must defend the multilateral trading system," he said. Jaishankar's remarks come weeks after the US slapped 50 per cent tariffs on India, including an additional 25 per cent on its purchase of Russian oil, among the highest in the world. The external affairs minister also called on the bloc to amplify its collective call for a comprehensive reform of the principal organs of the United Nations, especially the UN Security Council. "Technology and innovation will define the next phase of BRICS co-operation," he added. Agency

Talking about India's upcoming chairship of the grouping in 2026, Jaishankar said it will focus on food and energy security, climate change and sustainable development through digital transformation, startups, innovation and strengthened development partnerships. Jaishankar also met his counterparts from Sierra Leone, Romania, Cuba, Austria, Brazil, South Africa, Indonesia, Russia, Uruguay, Colombia, Antigua and Barbuda, among others, on the margins of the UN General Assembly session. He also met with the UAE's Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan, and the two leaders exchanged perspectives on bilateral cooperation. Agency

Wangchuk being probed for Pak links: Ladakh police chief

Srinagar
Ladakh Director General of Police S D Singh Jamwal on Saturday said Sonam Wangchuk is being probed for allegedly having links with Pakistan on the back of last month's arrest of a Pakistani Intelligence Operative who sent videos of his protests across the border. Jamwal described Wangchuk as the key person behind Wednesday's violence that claimed the lives of four people and injured scores of others. On Friday, Wangchuk was detained under National Security Act and sent to a jail in Jodhpur in Rajasthan. "What has been found



in the investigation (against Wangchuk) cannot be disclosed at this moment. The process is going on and if you look at his profile and history, it is all available on YouTube. His speech worked as instigation as he talked about the Arab spring and the recent unrest in Nepal, Bangladesh, and Sri Lanka. "He had his own agenda. There is a probe of

foreign funding, violation of FCRA against him -- We have a PIO with us who was reporting across the border, sending videos of the protests led by Wangchuk. The police chief also cited some of Wangchuk's foreign visits, and termed them as suspicious. "He attended an event by The Dawn in Pakistan and also visited Bangladesh," Jamwal told reporters in Leh. Wangchuk has been the main face of the agitation spearheaded by the Leh Apex Body and Kargil Democratic Alliance for statehood and extension of sixth schedule to the Union Territory. Jamwal said Wangchuk tried to hijack the

platform and tried to scupper the dialogue between the Centre and Ladakh representatives. The Centre has invited the leaders for a fresh round of talks on October 6. Jamwal said Wangchuk continued his hunger strike, despite knowing that an informal meeting between the two sides was going to take place on September 25. "Just a day before the informal meeting, a deliberate attempt was made to vitiate the peaceful atmosphere through provocative videos and statements which culminated with violence on Wednesday and unfortunate deaths," he said. Agency

PM Modi flags off Amrit Bharat Express, connecting Brahmapur to Udhna in Gujarat

Staff Reporter
New Delhi
In a significant development for Indian Railways, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday inaugurated the Amrit Bharat Express, connecting Brahmapur in Odisha to Udhna in Gujarat. The launch took place through a programme held in Odisha and marks the 12th train in the Amrit Bharat series, which has already gained popularity among passengers, especially the middle class. Out of the 12 trains, 10 are currently being operated from Bihar. The Amrit Bharat Express is positioned as a new-generation train, designed to offer afford-



HIGHLIGHT
Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw reviews the work of bullet train station at Surat. Andhra Pradesh, and Odisha—the train aims to boost business opportunities, particularly in the textile and diamond sectors, and also benefit pilgrims visiting the Maa Tara Tarini Shaktipeeth. Covering over 1,700 kilometers through 22 districts across five states—Gujarat, Maharashtra, Chhattisgarh,

One solution to a thousand problems is water! but these things also matter

Dr. Dinesh Kapoor, Health & Fitness Expert
Water doesn't just quench thirst — it plays a vital role in keeping our bodies healthy. Inadequate water intake can lead to various health problems. Health and fitness expert Dr. Dinesh Kapoor explains just how essential water is for us and how it can help eliminate many ailments.



Water helps prevent dehydration, migraine, indigestion, high blood pressure, kidney stones, breast cancer, uterine cancer, sinusitis, pulmonary tuberculosis, and obesity.

Why You Should Drink More Water
 Keeping your body hydrated is essential for maintaining good health. The human body is made up of 70% water. Water helps regulate body temperature and maintains moisture in the eyes and mouth. It flushes out toxins and carries nutrients to the cells. Water plays a crucial role in every cellular function.

breast cancer, uterine cancer, sinusitis, pulmonary tuberculosis, and obesity.

Benefits of Drinking Water on an Empty Stomach
 Drinking water on an empty stomach activates bowel movements and aids in detoxification. It helps cleanse the intestines and clears out waste and toxins from the digestive tract, improving gut health.

Helpful for Headaches and Migraines
 Not drinking enough water or not consuming

at regular intervals can lead to headaches and even severe migraines. Headaches often occur when brain tissues shrink due to detoxification. Drinking water on an empty stomach helps rehydrate brain tissues effectively.

Eliminates Bad Breath
 Rinsing your mouth with fresh water and drinking water on an empty stomach in the morning helps eliminate up to 60% of the bacteria responsible for bad breath and oral odor.
 Boosts Immunity

Drinking water on an empty stomach helps fight infections and prevents their spread. It flushes out harmful toxins, strengthens the immune system, and helps maintain healthy mucous membranes.

Helpful in Low Blood Pressure
 Drinking more water helps naturally thin the blood, ensuring smoother flow through the blood vessels. This reduces pressure on the heart and helps control blood pressure levels.
 How Much Water Should You Drink—and How?
 According to Dr. Dinesh Kapoor, it's es-

essential to understand how much and how to drink water. Take a glass of water and sip it slowly. With each sip, the water mixes with alkaline saliva and reaches the stomach, helping neutralize stomach acids.

One must also know not to overconsume water. Drinking too much water can dilute digestive enzymes, affecting the digestion process. Water should be at room temperature or lukewarm. Drinking extremely hot or cold water can stress your senses and may even shock your system.

Ways to Drink Water in the Morning
 Here are some healthier variations for your morning hydration routine:
Fruit-Infused Water: Add slices of fruits like lemon, oranges, watermelon, or strawberries to your water bottle for natural flavor and added nutrients.
Lemon Water: A glass

Vedic chants resonate at Keshav Dham on Ashok Singhal birth anniversary



Vridhavan:
 Keshav Dham came alive with Vedic chants as it celebrated the birth anniversary of Ashok Singhal, the renowned leader of the Shri Ram Jannabhoomi movement and a champion of Hindu values. The event, held at Keshav Ved Vidyalaya, was organized as a Vedic Poojan Festival in honor of Singhal's contributions to society and Hindu culture.

Students of Keshav Ved Vidyalaya, under the guidance of Acharya Sudhakar Dwivedi, collectively recited all four Vedas, filling the premises with the sound of sacred chants. The program commenced with the garlanding of portraits and lamp-lighting ceremonies for Adi Shankaracharya, Ved Vyasa, and Ashok Singhal, performed by Swami Gaurvanand Ji, Program President Kanhaiyalal Agarwal, Chief Guest Padmanabh Goswami, and other dignitaries.

ITBP women scale mount Nun, flag-in ceremony held in Delhi



TSN/New Delhi:
 The Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) today held a grand flag-in ceremony at its headquarters to honour the all-women mountaineering expedition that successfully scaled Mount Nun in Ladakh. Shri Govind Mohan, Home Secretary, Government of India, attended the ceremony as the chief guest.

The expedition team, comprising 14 women mountaineers led by Assistant Commandant Ms. Bhanita, achieved the re-

markable feat of summiting the 7,135-meter peak on August 14 this year. Addressing the gathering, ITBP Director General Shri Rahul Rasgotra praised the achievement as a proud moment in the Force's mountaineering history and a milestone in women's empowerment.

Senior Journalist Binish Thomas Endures False Allegations and Threats for Bold Geopolitical Reporting

TSN/New Delhi:
 In the world of investigative journalism, where uncovering uncomfortable truths often comes at a steep personal cost, Binish Thomas stands as a resilient figure. A senior journalist based in Bangalore, Thomas has been repeatedly targeted by various senior police officials with a series of baseless allegations. What makes these incidents particularly alarming is that they appear to stem from his fearless reporting on sensitive geopolitical issues, rather than any wrongdoing on his part.

The latest episode unfolded recently when a complaint was filed against Thomas. Shockingly, the complainant has never met him in person and has had no conversation with him—not even over the phone. This pattern of fabricated claims is not new for Thomas; it all began in 2015, shortly after he published

a hard-hitting article exposing the debt diplomacy tactics of one of India's adversarial nations in Africa. The piece detailed how African countries have been ensnared in economic traps through predator loans and investments, highlighting broader implications for global stability.

Thomas's revelations went further, uncovering a disturbing network of influence. He alleged that agents of this country operate extensively across India, offering substantial monetary incentives to corrupt police officers. These officers, in turn, are used to intimidate and ensnare journalists, activists, and others who dare to speak or write critically about the nation's actions. Since 2015, Thomas has faced a barrage of troubles from multiple angles, including legal harassment. Undeterred, he has fought back in the courts, securing acquittals in

numerous cases. Yet, in Bangalore, several high-ranking police officers continue to allegedly serve these foreign interests, targeting innocent individuals under the guise of official duties. A recent shocking statement from an official of the Tibetan Pravas government (the exile administration of Tibet) has added fuel to these concerns. The official claimed that in Europe, numerous former ministers have joined companies linked to this adversarial nation as directors,



Atal Foundation expands national team, sets new vision for growth & social impact

TSN/New Delhi:
 Atal Foundation, under the leadership of National President Aparna Singh, has announced the expansion of its national team, giving the organization a renewed sense of direction. The new team has been formed by carefully considering the organization's culture, the experience of senior members, and the priorities of national interest.



Mr. Subhash Bhati (Greater Noida, Gautam Buddh Nagar) and Mr. Deepak Chaudhary (Govindpur, Modinagar, Ghazabad) have been appointed as National Vice Presidents. Ms. Chandrika Tomar has been named National Representative. Ms. Shalini Kangra has been appointed as Delhi State President, and Mr. Shobhit Chaudhary has taken charge as Uttar Pradesh State President.

Expressing her delight at the announcement, National President Aparna Singh said, "I am extremely pleased to welcome the new team. I am confident that their

experience, dedication, and hard work will take Atal Foundation to greater heights. This expansion will strengthen the organization's mission and make its efforts even more impactful. I am proud to have such a talented and committed team working with us."

we will fulfill the organization's goals and take concrete steps in the national interest." Delhi State President Ms. Shalini Kangra remarked, "It is a matter of pride for me to contribute to Atal Foundation's mission. We will work collectively to bring about positive social change and make the organization's activities even more impactful." Uttar Pradesh State President Mr. Shobhit Chaudhary added, "With the new team, I am committed to realizing the organization's objectives in Uttar Pradesh. Our focus will always remain on national interest and social collaboration. Together, we will take Atal Foundation to new heights."

Historic 'World Kayastha Conclave 2025' to be Held in New Delhi on October 23-24

TSN/New Delhi:
 The All India Kayastha Mahasabha (Regd. 1950, New Delhi) and the Chitranth Chamber of Commerce & Industries (CCCI) today announced that the World Kayastha Conclave 2025 will be held on October 23-24, 2025 at Talkatora Stadium, New Delhi.



Announcing the conclave, National Chairman Dr. Abhishek Verma said it will coincide with the auspicious occasion of Yam Dvitya (Bhai Dooj), traditionally celebrated with the worship of Lord Chitragupta. He added that the conclave will mark a historic opportunity for the Kayastha community to unite and demonstrate its strength.

The Kayastha community traces its origin to Lord Chitragupta, revered as the celestial accountant of Yamraj, responsible for maintaining the record of human deeds. Over the centuries, Kayasthas have played a central role in administration, diplomacy, education, literature, and govern-

ance—from the royal courts of ancient India to the modern bureaucracy and judiciary. Although classified among the upper castes, many scholars believe that the unique identity and role of the community distinguish it as a Varna in its own right, with a tradition rooted in knowledge and governance.

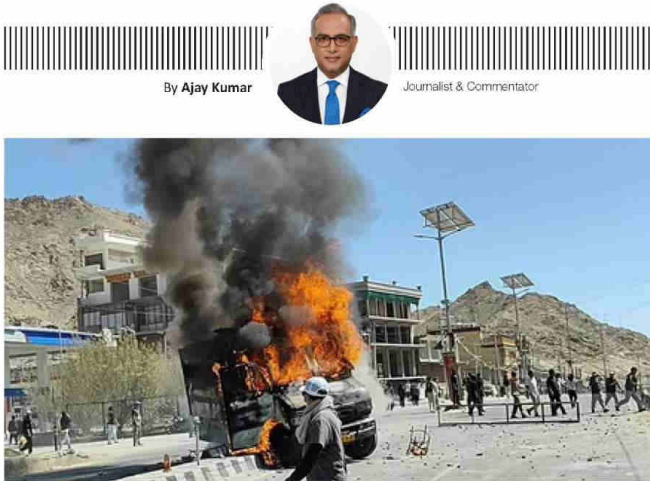
Dr. Verma called upon the estimated 12 crore Kayasthas in India to come together, showcase solidarity, and emerge as a significant political and social force to help position India as a 'Vishwa Guru' (World Leader) by 2047, the centenary year of independence.

The conclave will also pay tribute to eminent figures of the Kayastha community, including Swami Vivekananda, Khudiram Bose, Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose, Dr. Rajendra Prasad, Lal Bahadur Shastri, Jayaprakash Narayan, Shrikant Verma, Premchand, Harivansh Rai Bachchan, Gopaldas Swaraj, Biju Patnaik, and Jyoti Basu. A special tribute will be offered to Balasahab Thackeray, acknowledging his transformative contribution to Indian politics through the founding of Shiv Sena in 1966.

Burning Ladakh & Silent Tears over Reneged Promises

It was a stuffy mid-June morning, around 7:30 am, when the Indian Airlines flight to Leh, approached the airstrip. I had known that it's one of the trickiest airstrips to land or take off for a commercial pilot and usually a whiff of patched cloud was reason enough for the pilot to abandon the landing and fly back to New Delhi. Located in the midst of mountains with only one pass to enter or exit, the green ground below with snowcapped mountain tops and shimmering light blue sky, the valley presented a perfect picture for a lovers paradise – except, I was eager to land and spend a day in Leh before heading to the Muskoh valley to cover the ongoing Kargil war. The year was 1990 and that was my first visit to India's lone dry, cold desert, Ladakh. Having veered around Majnu-ka-Tilla near North Campus, Delhi University during my early days at college, I had since been enamored by the love of flowing Buddhist flags, sharp winds onto one's face, strings of guitar and percussionist poise of the Ustad Zakir Hussain's compositions – reflecting the melodies of Ladakh and the longing of a waiting lover in the midst of layered mountains. This short-lived piqued romance, however evaporated fast enough, when harsh reality of living and surviving the cold desert came face to face, during the multiple trips to Ladakh, thereafter.

It was during the Sindhu Darshan festival in 2002, when I first met a man in his early 30s, a darling among the local folks, cheered as an innovator, environmentalist, educationist and a man of the soil – Sonam Wangchuk. A Lasky, polite, human, and down to earth activist, who would go out of his way to make journalists from Delhi feel at home. A Ladakhi, who would speak to you in Hindi or English – but you the best places, wherefrom one could capture the cultural capital and heritage of Ladakh – spend evenings with you at local street shops sipping tea – and yes, a gentleman who would impress you with his out of the box concepts on how to be 'one with nature'. Our meetings thereafter, continued with numerous interviews or sound bites. When Sonam Wangchuk was nominated for Magsaysay award or when he conceptualized the idea of frozen water fountains to provide water during lean season or when he ideated about the solar tents to be used in terrains like Ladakh. A man, who cherished the dream of decentralized administrative independence of Ladakh from J&K. Ladakh being a region marked by the layered cultural intermingling of Buddhism and Shia Islam – far-far away from the dominant Hindu majority, and a Santhi dominated Jammu & Kashmir state. A passionate Ladakhi that he was, desiring a Union Territory status for Ladakh – it felt almost emphatic to read his tweet, thanking PM Modi for the decisive revocation of Art 370 and creation of Ladakh as a UT. Sonam Wangchuk was stepping into the domain of regional politics, though occasionally, from being a full-time non-partisan activist. Being generically out of touch with Sonam Wangchuk post COVID, it was not a real surprise for me to see him agitate for inclusion of Ladakh within the 6th schedule and concretizing the demand for grant of statehood for the UT of Ladakh. News reports of Sonam Wangchuk's Padayatra and hunger strikes for inclusion within the 6th schedule – the growing disenchantment of young Ladakhis with respect to promised government jobs kept filtering in. But to comprehend the sudden arrest under NSA and deportation to Jodhpur jail within 48 hours of a violent protest in Leh, is yet to sink in. What could have really gone wrong to convert a nationalist, a patriot and a proud Indian activist, such as Sonam Wangchuk, into rechristened, now branded anti-nationalist, is a puzzling? Were many a journalist like me, befooled by his innovative, questioning yet impressive



By Ajay Kumar

Journalist & Commentator

overt persona – it's going to be a telling commentary upon our assessment capabilities of individuals.

Social media is today awash with innuendoes – Sonam Wangchuk's pointed reference to 'Gen Z' revolution in Nepal, talking about Arab Spring which took place a decade ago in Arabian countries against authoritarian regimes, students protests and government changing uprising in Bangladesh and Sri Lanka. That Sonam Wangchuk declared in one of his jaan sabha – "we shall show the way forward to the Chinese army, if there were to invade Ladakh". His trip to Pakistan in February and diversion of meager sum of some Rs. 8 lakhs over past 6 years as foreign donation to the NGO, he is affiliated to. The amateurish yet prudish, home ministry questionnaire, alleging violation of FARC norms. The question is – how come all these innuendoes are now coming to light after the violent mob attacked the BJP office in Leh on 24th Sept – merely two months prior to the hill council elections. An interesting anecdote – the violent protesting mob, which pelted stones and set police jeeps and Hill Council building to fire, ripped off BJP party flags from BJP party office, but didn't touch the numerous 'Indian Tricolour' flying high, in and around the attacked BJP party office building. The senior police officer who pointed this out, made his perspective amply clear – the protesting Ladakhi youth wanted to vent their anger against the unfulfilled promise of BJP made during 2020 Hill Council election, "inclusion of Ladakh in the 6th schedule", once BJP won the Hill Council polls. A senior administrative official pointed out to me, a month-old video released by Sonam Wangchuk. Sonam Wangchuk said, "I am being pressurized into not raising the issue of 6th schedule, statehood and unemployment. Notices have been issued for repossession of land on which stands a non-profit educational institute. I am being warned of an impending Enforcement Directorate, Income Tax cum CBI inquiry. The intent is clear, let elections to hill council continue without

raising issues of unfulfilled promises". All these off the record conversations with old contacts has left me quite baffled – Is there a method to this madness that started after the provocative speeches of a select few, on 24th Sept?

Inclusion in 6th schedule promises more autonomy to the hill council, lessening control of the Lt Governor and power in the hands of the hill council to deploy resources as per the needs of the local populace. North eastern states like Assam, Meghalaya, Mizoram and Tripura are included in the 6th schedule, so an average Ladakhi has long questioned the central government – why can't an ethnically tribal Ladakh with more than 90% tribal population, be not included in the 6th schedule? While home ministry officials are carrying on the dialogue with Apex body (Sonam Wangchuk, is a part of this group) and Kargil Democratic Alliance (KDA), it is a unofficially a known fact, that the Home Minister doesn't buy into the argument of inclusion of Ladakh within the 6th schedule. The reasons for Home Minister's perspective are strictly in national interest, too. Ladakh is an area of vital strategic interest vis-a-vis LAC with China and LOC with Pakistan. Ladakh is the strategic base for maintenance of the highest battlefield in the world – Siachen. Since June 2020, we have a deployment of over 60,000 armed forces – face to face with China on the LAC. Tibet – Karakoram highway – upper reaches of Afghanistan – Gilgit & Baltistan: all these regions find a pivot in Ladakh. Given the recent expansionist push by China, it's virtually dashed towards the Chicken neck region in Silliguri (West Bengal) through Bhutan, Ladakh is the frontier for the next Chinese move, against India. Hence the catch – 'greater autonomy comes with greater responsibility'. Given the urge for political dominance and petty party politics, will political outfits be really responsible and always act in defence of national interest, at all times?

With this question in mind, what I must put forth – why did the BJP queer the pitch for inclusion of Ladakh in 6th schedule in its manifesto in 2020, when as a "nationalist" party, it knew that, this promise is suicidal as it can't be fulfilled?

The other sore point, lack of government jobs and empty rhetoric of jobs for all. It is a known fact that Ladakh can't be industrialized – setting up large scale industries in this ecologically and environmentally fragile region, is impossible. The recent push for setting up mining units and industrial complexes in vast unpopulated regions of the Union Territory is playing havoc, in the minds of the local populace. Sonam Wangchuk and others in the Apex body have been aggressively protesting against any such central government push. Almost 80% of the 3 lakh inhabitants of Ladakh, spread over 60,000 sq km of the UT area, are vehemently against mining in the region. As per Ladakhi journalists and political experts, certain industrial houses find environmentalist Sonam Wangchuk as the most vocal opponent. Ladakhis would rather prefer to let go off the jobs hence created from mining complexes – if at all a choice has to be made between jobs and their fragile cultural & environmental preservation.

But yes, they do look forward to government jobs. There is a sense of stability in government jobs, as tourism is seasonal in Ladakh. And this is where the Lt Governor has failed Ladakh, the most. On 16 July the Leh Autonomous Hill Development Subordinate Services Recruitment board advertised 534 vacancies. Since the creation of UT in 2019, this is the second job recruitment advertisement in Ladakh. The first advertisement in 2022 was for 797 non-gazette post, which is still mired in controversies. In 2022, there were 30,000 applicants for 797 posts, meaning there by, every 10th Ladakhi had applied for the one of the advertised posts. The level of unemployment in the UT since 2022 to now has increased by 21%. Now 50,000 Ladakhi youth have applied for 534 jobs, meaning thereby, every 6th Ladakhi resident has applied for one post. With this steep rise in unemployment in a sensitive region like Ladakh – what does the government expect from the disillusioned youth! All promises of jobs, government or otherwise, remain unfulfilled. More than 28% of 3 lakh residents of Ladakh, face extreme unemployment and meager means of livelihood. It is this anger which saw its manifestation in the streets of peaceful Buddhist dominated Leh.

The predominant question in front of government of India is not, whether Sonam Wangchuk is an anti-national or not. While thousands who would have never known him, are gunning for his head on social media. There are many more thousands, who shall vouch for his credibility, integrity and Indianism. The infection point facing the state of India is – whether the Indian state is willing to listen to the cries & wailing shrillness of urgency from a region of immense strategic importance. 'Bacha – Bacha Hindustan ka' -- 'Jai Hind', this clarion call which rang through the streets of Leh in June 1999, during the Kargil conflict – even today makes me believe that Ladakh and Ladakhis as community – is and shall always remain every bit "Nationalized Indian". It's about time, that the dominant north Indian politicians and political parties, accepted this fact and listen to the ground swell youth angst.

"The Sangh and Women: A Journey from the Sevika Samiti to the Centenary"

The Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) is a significant organization in India's socio-political landscape. Founded by Dr. Keshav Baliram Hedgewar in 1925, the organization was primarily for male volunteers. Its branches, discipline, and ideology gradually exerted a profound influence on Indian politics and society. However, when we look at the role of women, the picture is somewhat different. The Rashtriya Sevika Samiti, born in 1936, parallel to the RSS, paved the way for women's participation. Today, as the Sangh celebrates its centenary, it is important to reflect on this journey: where women's participation began and where it has reached by 2025.

Early period: 1925 to 1936

The RSS was founded in Nagpur in 1925. The organization was based on discipline, parades, branches, and nationalism. However, its structure remained male-dominated. Hedgewar himself believed that women needed a separate platform, as the social climate of the time did not allow women to directly join male-dominated branches. Against this backdrop, in 1936, Laxmibai Kelkar founded the "Rashtriya Sevika Samiti" in Wardha on Vijaydashami. Hedgewar welcomed this initiative and suggested that women run their own organization so they could independently develop their power, culture, and leadership. Thus, women's participation formally began.

Establishment of Sevika Samiti and initial struggle

In 1939, the Samiti organized its first training camp. Gradually, its branches began to form in different provinces. The Samiti's aim was not only to spread nationalist ideas, but also to develop qualities such as "motherhood, action, and leadership" (matritva, katrikva, netritva) in women. This included physical training, yoga, song, sports, discipline, and social service. The Samiti's women also played an indirect role in the freedom movement. However, their activities were largely limited to cultural and social spheres.

1940s to 1970s: Towards expansion

The Samiti's network expanded in the decades following independence. By the time of Laxmibai Kelkar's death (1978), the organization had spread to several states. Saraswati Apte succeeded her as chief coordinator. By this time, the number of branches had reached thousands. The Samiti focused on women's education, culture, and service projects. During the Emergency (1975-77), women associated with the Samiti also participated in protests. This period made them more po-



By Dr. Priyanka Saurabh

Research Scholar in Political Science

During a series of lectures held in September 2025, Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) Sarsanghchalak Mohan Bhagwat stated that women's participation in society and nation-building is more essential today than ever before. He clarified that women's power is not limited to the family, but should also have an equal role in social, political, and economic spheres. Bhagwat stated that "a nation is incomplete without mother power." He emphasized that women have always been given a revered and decisive place in Indian culture, and therefore, the active participation of women in the branches and activities of the Sangh Parivar will determine the future direction.

litically conscious and active.

1980-2000: A Confluence of Modernity and Tradition

In the 1990s, as the BJP and the Sangh Parivar's influence in Indian politics grew, women's participation also came into focus. The Samiti attempted to reach out to urban and professional women during this time. Female teachers, doctors, and working women began joining the Samiti's programs. In 1994, Ushatai Chate and in 2006, Pramilita Medhe emerged as prominent leaders. These leaders connected the women's wing to contemporary issues – such as the challenges faced by working women, education, health, and family balance.

2012 onwards: Shanthakka's leadership

In 2012, Venkatrama Shanta Kumari, popularly known as "Shanthakka," became the chief coordinator of the Rashtriya Sevika Samiti. Born in 1952, she had long been active in the work of the Sangh Parivar. Under her leadership, the Samiti expanded rapidly. Today, the Samiti has four to five thousand branches, spread across more than 800 districts. Although the organization does not release exact figures, it is estimated that millions of women are directly or indirectly associated

with the Samiti. The Samiti runs education, health, service, hostel, and women's empowerment projects. Its branches are also becoming active in urban metropolitan areas.

The Confederacy and the woman question

Women are not granted formal membership or leadership positions within the Sangh. RSS branches are exclusively for men. Women become part of the Sangh's ideological work only through committees. Critics say this system excludes women from the mainstream, preventing them from reaching decision-making positions on par with men. However, supporters argue that having a separate organization allows women to develop independent leadership and activities. RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat has repeatedly stated that women's participation is increasing "naturally." However, inequality remains evident in the leadership structure.

Current status (2025)

The Sangh is celebrating its centenary. Approximately 83,000 branches are reportedly active across the country. The Rashtriya Sevika Samiti's branches are also steadily growing. The Samiti now operates in villages as well as metropolitan cities. Its training classes

are attended by everyone from schoolgirls to professional women. In 2025, the Samiti's vision is a blend of tradition and modernity – on the one hand, it emphasizes motherhood and family-based values, while on the other, it also offers opportunities for social service and women's leadership. The Samiti has organized millions of women, instilling self-confidence and collectivism. Education, service, and cultural programs have had a tangible impact on society, providing women with opportunities for leadership and management. Women remained excluded from decision-making roles in the mainstream RSS. The organization's ideological framework confines women to traditional roles. The Samiti's perspective conflicts with modern feminist discourse, emphasizing motherhood and culture rather than freedom and equality.

During a lecture series held in September 2025, Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) Sarsanghchalak Mohan Bhagwat stated that women's participation in society and nation-building is more essential today than ever before. The lecture series also stated that India in 2025 is at a point where women's leadership is playing a "decisive" role, not just a "complementary" one. Speakers also added that as women advance in modern education, technology, and economic self-reliance, the Sangh Parivar must also expand its structure and working methods. Other senior activists and thinkers at the lecture series also highlighted women's leadership. They described how the women of the Rashtriya Sevika Samiti have been working in the fields of education, culture, and social reforms for decades. It was argued that if the RSS was founded in 1925, the establishment of a parallel organization for women in the same decade proves that women's presence was considered important from the very beginning.

The journey from 1925 to 2025 shows how women, inspired by the RSS's ideology, established their own separate organizations and expanded them to the national level. This trend has continued from Laxmibai Kelkar to Shanthakka. Today, when women in Indian society are playing leading roles in politics, education, business, and even the military, the question becomes even more important: will women in the future directly participate in the RSS's branches and leadership, or will they forever remain confined to parallel organizations? The RSS's centenary also marks a milestone in this journey of women – a journey that combines tradition, discipline, service, and leadership, but the challenge of equality and participation remains.

Karnal leads clean city partnership in presence of CM Nayab Singh Saini

Komal Ramola
Chandigarh

Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini witnessed the signing of a Clean City Partnership Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in Karnal on Saturday, marking a fresh push to strengthen urban cleanliness initiatives in the state. The ceremony, held at the District Secretariat Auditorium, brought together the Karnal Municipal Corporation and five municipal bodies in a collaborative effort to drive the objectives of the Swachh Bharat Mission (Urban).

Union Minister for Power, Housing and Urban Affairs Manohar Lal Khattar joined the event virtually from Sonapat, stressing the significance of such partnerships in promoting sustainable urban development nationwide.

Addressing the gathering, the Chief Minister noted



that Karnal had secured third place in the country in the recent cleanliness survey. Building on this achievement, Karnal will now mentor five towns—Siwan and Rajoum in Khatwal, Ismailabad in Kurukshetra, Narnaud in His-

ar, and Kalanwali in Sirsa—on meeting cleanliness benchmarks. He added that a state-level cleanliness competition and ranking system had been introduced to encourage continuous improvement across municipal corporations, coun-

cils, and committees. "Maintaining cleanliness is everyone's responsibility. Cities that performed well in Swachhata rankings are now adopting other cities to guide them. This will help realize Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of

clean, green, and beautiful Haryana," said Saini. He pointed out that along with Karnal, Sonapat too earned a good rank in the survey and has now adopted Hodal, Narnaul, Pataudi Mandi, Farukhagar, and Kundli. The Chief Minister further said that unlike previous governments, his administration had ensured timely payment of crop loss compensation to farmers. "During the Congress regime, farmers waited endlessly and sometimes received cheques of just one or two rupees. Today, compensation is paid promptly after verification," he said.

The event was attended by MLA Jagmohan Amand, Assandh MLA Yoginder Rana, Director General of the Urban Local Bodies Department Dr. Pankaj, Deputy Commissioner Utam Singh, Mayor Renu Bala, and senior officials from various municipal bodies.

Preparations Begin with Land Inspection for Garh Ganga Fair

Avnish Tyagi
Hapur/Bulandshahr

Preparations for the historic Kartik Fair in Garhmukteshwar, Hapur, began on Saturday with a site inspection led by District Magistrate Abhishek Pandey. The fair, held annually on the banks of the Ganga during Kartik Purnima, is one of the largest religious gatherings in North India, drawing more than three million devotees from across the country.

DM Abhishek Pandey highlighted the cultural and spiritual importance of the fair, describing it as an event that not only attracts devotees from Uttar Pradesh but also from neighboring states. The fair runs for several days, with thousands of pilgrims camping in tents and temporary shelters on the fairgrounds.

During the inspection, the District Magistrate was accompanied by District Panchayat President Rekha Nagar, Garhmukteshwar



MLA Harendra Tewatia, Chief Development Officer Himanshu Gautam, and several other senior officials. A detailed overview of the fair site was presented using a geographical map by the Additional Chief Officer of the District Panchayat.

The DM stressed the need for timely completion of preparations and pointed out the challenge of the marshy and waterlogged condition of the land near the Ganga. He instructed officials to resolve this issue immediately to ensure the smooth organization of the fair. Pandey himself examined the condition of the moist land along with the inspection team. Additional District Magistrate Sandeep Kumar, Chief Medical Officer Dr. Sunil Kumar Tyagi, and the District Information Officer were also present during the visit. The inspection marked the first major step in gearing up for the upcoming Kartik Purnima fair, which carries both religious significance and a massive administrative responsibility.

Why is Punjab CM afraid of meeting Amit Shah asks Bittu

Ludhiana

Union Minister Ravnent Singh Bittu on Saturday targeted Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann over the issue of the Rs 12,000 crore disaster relief fund, alleging that he was avoiding accountability by blaming the Centre. He said instead of addressing the matter directly, Mann was "misleading" people by claiming that he was seeking an appointment with Prime Minister Narendra Modi but was not being given time. "When the floods hit Punjab, the Union Home Minister had immediately constituted special teams to assess the losses. These teams have already submitted their report.

"If Mann really wants a meeting, he should meet Home Minister Amit Shah. Why is he afraid of doing so? Is it because Shah might demand an account of the Rs 12,000 crore of the state disaster response fund?" Mann said while interacting with the media after inaugurating a railway health facility centre here. The Union minister also accused Mann of making "baseless" statements.

He said Mann had earlier requested time, and then the PMO had clarified that the two central teams that visited the flood-hit areas would submit their reports directly to the home minister. Bittu stressed that instead of politicising the flood issue, the chief minister should meet the home minister, present his case, and work in the interest of the people of Punjab. On the first day of the special session of the Punjab Vidhan Sabha on Friday, the AAP government had moved a resolution in the House to condemn the "lack of response and the failure" of the BJP-led Centre to sanction a special financial package for the flood-hit Punjab.

The resolution also condemned the Prime Minister's Office for "not responding" to the Punjab Chief Minister's repeated request for a meeting, thereby "insulting" the people of the state, and preventing the state from making a proper and comprehensive representation of the full scale of the disaster.

Drunk Teacher Conducts Exam, Sparks Outrage in Mandi

Rajan Punchhi
Mandi

A shocking incident in Mandi district has once again raised serious questions about the education system. At Garhri Garh Primary School in Gohar block, the head teacher, Jaiaram, arrived severely drunk and attempted to conduct an exam for students.

According to witnesses, he staggered into the school premises in the morning and even fell near the gate, injuring his face. Despite his condition, he entered the classroom where children were writing their exams. Completely intoxicated, he appeared unaware of what was happening around him.

A video of the incident, now viral on social media, shows the teacher's drunken state inside the classroom. Parents who saw the video rushed to the school in anger, demanding strict action. Villagers gathered outside the premises, condemning the act and questioning how a teacher under



the influence of alcohol could possibly guide children.

"This is not just shameful, it is a threat to the future of our children," one parent said, adding that such teachers must be immediately suspended and dismissed to prevent a repeat of such behavior. The outrage has drawn the attention of the Education Department. Deputy Director of Education, Vijay Gupta, confirmed that Jaiaram was suspended late in the evening after an inquiry. Police and local ed-

ucation officers were also informed about the incident. This is not the first time such a case has surfaced in government schools. Parents and locals allege that due to weak departmental action in the past, some teachers continue to arrive at schools intoxicated, emboldened by a lack of accountability. The viral video has reignited debate on teacher discipline and the urgent need for stronger safeguards to protect students' education from negligence and misconduct.

Smile of dignity shines in Mathura as Divyangjan Honoured under Seva Pakhwada

TSN/Mathura

"There is no medicine greater than a smile, and no gift greater than support," said BJP District Minister Kunz Bihari Chaturvedi, as the Collectorate premises in Mathura witnessed a moving celebration of dignity and service on Saturday.

On the occasion of the birthday of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the Bharatiya Janata Party's "Seva Pakhwada Campaign" found heartfelt expression in Mathura Metropolitan, where a "Divyangjan Samman Program" was organized under the leadership of District President Harishankar Raju Yadav. The event was graced by Mayor of Mathura-Vrindavan Municipal Corporation Vinod Agrawal, MP Representative Janardan Sharma, and Chaturvedi himself as chief guests. Together, they distributed free artificial limbs and assistive devices to persons with disabilities and honored them with warmth and respect.

Speaking at the ceremo-



ny, District President Harishankar Raju Yadav underlined that service has always been the core mantra of the Bharatiya Janata Party. He said that the very purpose of the Seva Pakhwada campaign, launched on the call of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, is to ensure that the light of support and care reaches even the most marginalized sections of society. "Persons with disabilities are an integral part of our social fabric, and the BJP

government is committed to empowering them with dignity and opportunity," he added. Mayor Vinod Agrawal echoed this spirit, urging workers to embrace service not as a passing campaign but as a lifelong mission. "To serve persons with disabilities is, in the truest sense to serve the nation," he said, while calling upon party members to carry forward this resolve beyond the celebrations.

Adding to the significance

of the day, BJP District Minister Kunz Bihari Chaturvedi shared that 116 beneficiaries were honored by being provided with assistive devices that would bring them greater convenience and self-reliance in their daily lives. "The happiness and confidence on their faces today reflect the true purpose of Modi ji's Seva Pakhwada," he remarked.

The program, coordinated by Lalit Gautam, saw active participation from senior officials and party workers alike. Among those present were CDO Manish Meena, Disability Information Officer Vishal, Councillor Ankur Gurjar, Brajesh Aheria, Mandal President Lokesh Nishad, Media In-charge Shyam Sharma, along with Manoj Shaarma, Nitin Chaturvedi, Pranay Sharma, Teerthraj Verma, Govind Agrawal, and many dedicated workers.

The event not only distributed devices but also spread smiles, reminding everyone that true service lies in restoring dignity and self-reliance to those who need it most.

Deputy Chairman Rajya Sabha Inaugurates Research Centres at IIT Patna Funded Under MPLADS

Patna

Deputy Chairman of Rajya Sabha, Hariwansh, inaugurated two new research centres at the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Patna on Saturday. The newly established Centre for Earthquake Engineering Research (CEER) and the Centre for Endangered Language Studies (CELS) have been set up through funds sanctioned under his MPLADS allocation during his first term as a Member of Parliament between 2014 and 2020.

Speaking on the occasion, Hariwansh described the initiative as part of a larger institution-building effort for Bihar, which, he said, will benefit not only the eastern region but also the entire country. He also recalled Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar's contribution towards reviving the state's intellectual and cultural heritage.

"The CEER will play a crucial role in earthquake-prone Bihar, much of which falls in seismic zones IV and V. The centre will focus on testing building systems, promoting earthquake-resistant construction, and training architects, builders, local bodies, and disaster relief teams. It is



expected to significantly raise the standards of construction in the region while producing skilled professionals. The CELS will focus on research and preservation of Indian languages, including folk, tribal, and endangered dialects. Stressing the importance of language in human evolution, Hariwansh cited Yuval Noah Harari's book Sapiens to underline the centrality of linguistic development in shaping humanity.

The two projects have been completed at a combined cost of Rs 17 crore. Alongside these initiatives, MPLADS funds were also used to establish a River Research Centre at Aryabhata Knowledge University, Patna. Developed in consultation with river experts, the centre will serve as a hub for research on adaptation and mitigation strategies for floods, which regularly affect large parts of Bihar. Continuing his focus on educational and research institutions during his second term in the Rajya Sabha, Hariwansh has allocated MPLADS funds for a Business Incubation and Innovation Foundation

Punjab CM Slams Centre Over Flood Relief, Calls ₹1,600 Crore a 'Cruel Joke'

Chandigarh

Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann hit out at the Centre on Saturday, accusing it of showing insensitivity towards the state in its hour of crisis. He said the Union government's allocation of just ₹1,600 crore for flood relief was "a cruel joke," especially when Bihar received ₹7,500 crore.

Speaking during a special session of the Punjab Vidhan Sabha, Mann said the opposition had reduced a discussion on rehabilitation into a platform for political mudslinging. He accused rival leaders of seeking media attention while people were struggling for survival. "When Punjabis were fighting floods, these politicians were busy in photo sessions," he said, adding that the Union ministers also used the disaster as an opportunity for optics rather than real help.

The Chief Minister recalled Punjab's historic contributions to the nation, from food security to national defense, and lamented that the state is left to fend for itself during calamities. He warned that if necessary, he would stage a protest outside the Prime Minister's residence to demand justice for Punjab.

Mann detailed the scale of devastation: over 2,300 vil-



lages submerged, five lakh acres of crops destroyed, 56 lives lost, and nearly seven lakh people displaced. Infrastructure losses included damage to 3,200 schools, 19 colleges, 1,400 health facilities, 8,500 kilometers of roads, and 2,500 bridges. The Chief Minister said the initial estimated damage stands at ₹13,800 crore.

He also criticized the Indian Meteorological Department, saying its forecasts were "irrelevant and far from the truth," citing rainfall that exceeded predictions by nearly 2,000 per cent on a single day. He further pointed to the neglect of desilting in Bhakra and Pong dams, claiming this had worsened the floods.

On relief measures, Mann said the state had effectively cleaned 3,825 kilometers

of drains in the past three years and launched the Rangla Punjab Fund to expedite rehabilitation, overcoming limitations of the CM Relief Fund. He assured that every contribution would be used transparently for flood victims.

Sharpening his attack on Akali Dal chief Sukhbir Singh Badal, Mann accused him of misleading people with hollow promises and ignoring justice in incidents such as Kotkapura and Behal Kalan.

Calling for unity, Mann urged all Punjabis to come together and rebuild. "History will remember those who worked for the welfare of the state in this hour of crisis," he said, vowing to continue his fight against what he described as the Centre's apathy and opposition's opportunism.

Arshdeep Singh reveals his approach for his final 2 overs of SL clash

New Delhi

Following India's win over Sri Lanka in the final Super Four stage clash in the Asia Cup, left-arm pacer Arshdeep Singh said that his plan during the final two overs was to bowl wide yorkers and hailed his team for taking the game to the Super Over.

In what was supposed to be a dead-rubber clash, fans got their money's worth during a match which featured not only two teams scoring 200-plus runs, a century from Lankan Lions' all-format star Pathum Nissanka, but also a Super Over. However, after scores were level on 202, SL could score just two runs in the Super Over, with Arshdeep getting two wickets with assists from Rinku Singh and Jitesh Sharma. India wiped off the three-run target within the first ball itself to march into the final against Pakistan unbeaten.

Speaking in a video posted on BCCI's official website, featuring Arshdeep, Rinku and Jitesh, Arshdeep recalled his plan for the final two overs, "In the Super Over, both of you held on to the catches. The feeling was that we were hit too much, and we took the game deep. But we made a great comeback later and took the game to a Super Over. Plan was to bowl wide yorkers during my final two overs."

SL needed just 46 runs in the final five overs. However, India managed to take some wickets in the death



overs phase, including those of Charith Asalanka, Kamindu Mendis, and Nissanka. Arshdeep took Kamindu's wicket and gave away 20 runs in his final two overs, as compared to 26 in his first two overs. With SL needing three runs on the final ball, Dasun Shanaka and Janith Liyanage managed to run two and take things to a Super Over, where Arshdeep delivered his magic by conceding just two runs and getting two wickets.

Rinku said that he feels great taking catches on Arshdeep's deliveries, "Whenever you bowl and I get to take a catch, it feels really great. I have never missed any catch of your bowling."

To this, Jitesh hilariously remarked, "Because you are scared that something might happen in the room when you go back." Rinku admitted that indeed, like getting some wickets in the death

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(Pandya). They have put pressure on one end and given me my rewards. I want to thank them and also god. It is all about god's plan," he added.

SL won the toss and elected to field first. While vice-captain Shubman Gill (4) fell early, the skipper Suryakumar Yadav (12) continued his low string of scores as a captain. Abhishek Sharma's impeccable tournament continued as he contributed 61 in 31 balls, with eight fours and two sixes. This was his third successive fifty in the tournament and made him the first batter to overtake the 300-run mark in the T20 Asia Cup. From the middle-order, Tlak Varma (49) in 34 balls, with four boundaries and a six and Sanju Samson (39 in 23 balls) with a four and three sixes) did manage to get some valuable game time and runs, taking India to

202/5 in their 20 overs. Both of them stitched a 66-run stand for the fourth wicket.

Maheesh Theekshana (1/36) and Wanindu Hasaranga (1/37) were the top wicket-takers for Sri Lanka.

As Lankans chased the first 200-plus target of the tournament, they lost Kusal Mendis for a golden duck to Hardik Pandya. But this did not deter Pathum Nissanka and Kusal Perera (58 in 32 balls, with eight fours and two sixes), who launched a counter-attack in almost an instant. Nissanka reached his century and scored a 58-ball 107, with seven fours and six sixes, while Dasun Shanaka scored 22 in 11 balls, with two fours and a six. However, SL and India could not be separated with match going to Super Over, despite a comeback of sorts towards the end by India. Kuldeep Yadav (1/31) was the top bowler for India.

In the Super Over, SL could manage just two runs, with Arshdeep Singh getting two wickets. India wiped off the target in just the first ball itself.

Nissanka received the 'Player of the Match' for his knock. With this nail-biting win, India remain unbeaten and advance to the final, while Sri Lanka bowed out of the Super Four stage without a win, despite entering it unbeaten. The match saw standout performances from both sides, with India holding their nerve in crunch moments.

From Faridabad to the Podium: Lakshita Singh Shines Again on National Stage

New Delhi

In a defining moment for both her sporting journey and her school community, 15-year-old Lakshita Singh from Eicher School, Faridabad, added another feather to her cap by securing a bronze medal in the 400m freestyle at the CBSE National Swimming Championship 2025, held from September 24 to 27 at KIIT International School, Bhubaneswar, Odisha.

The championship saw participation from over 500 athletes representing CBSE schools across nine Indian zones and international schools in Dubai, Qatar, and Oman, making it one of the most competitive events in the national circuit.

This achievement marks Lakshita's second consecutive national-level medal, reinforcing her reputation as one of the most promising young swimmers in the country. "I felt a lot of pressure going into this meet—not from anyone else, but from within myself," Lakshita shared after her race. "After standing on the podium last year, I wanted to prove that it wasn't a one-time thing. I wanted to earn my place again. I'm so happy, I can't stop smiling."

Her coach Dr. Jitender Tokas, who has been mentoring her at the SFA Swimming Academy, praised her dedication and mental strength.

"This medal isn't just a reflection of her talent—it represents the long hours, the sacrifices, and the inner grit it takes to perform under pressure," Coach Dr. Tokas



said. "To achieve this level of consistency at such a young age is rare. Athletes like Lakshita have the potential to evolve into future Olympians. It's not just about winning—it's about setting the standard, and she's done that again this year." He added, "Now that we've achieved this milestone, our focus shifts to the National School Games 2025 in Delhi. We're intensifying our preparation with a renewed emphasis on race strategy, mental conditioning, and peak performance training. The long-term vision is clear—international representation and Olympic readiness."

Lakshita's bronze in the

Under-17 Girls' 400m Freestyle is a landmark achievement not just for her, but also for her school. The management of Eicher School, Faridabad, including Principal Mr. G.K. Mishra, extended their congratulations to Lakshita and her family, praising her dedication and setting her up as an inspiration for other young athletes in the school community.

With her second national medal under her belt, Lakshita Singh continues to shine as a rising star in Indian swimming—proof that hard work, focus, and self-belief can take you to the podium, time and time again.

Breaking Time Sudoku

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.

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

Solution, Sudoku

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

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Sheetal Devi seals women's individual compound gold

Gwangju

The 18-year-old Indian armless archery wonder, Sheetal Devi, made history by bagging the gold medal in the women's individual compound archery category at the ongoing World Para Archery Championship on Saturday.

Sheetal defeated Turkey's world number one Ozgur Cure Girdi by 146-143 in the gold medal clash, as per ESPN.

This is her third medal at the Championships, having earlier won the mixed team bronze with Toman Kumar and beating Great Britain's pair of Jodie Grinham and Nathan MacQueen 152-149.

In the compound women's open team event, Sheetal and Sarita secured the silver medal after losing to Turkey in the gold medal clash.

Coming to her individual

final, it was a tense match. Sheetal's consistency and composure turned out to be the different. The first end was tied 29-all, but Sheetal fired three tens in the second end, to take an early lead of 30-27.

The third end was also tied at 29-all and Sheetal experienced a lapse towards the end, scoring 28 points and Girdi shot 29, but Sheetal still had the overall lead by 116-114.

With three perfect arrow hits to score 30, Sheetal secured her maiden gold medal. In the semifinal, this star archer from Jammu and Kashmir, who also won the Paralympics bronze medal last year in the mixed team category, produced a flawless display to secure a 145-140 win over Great Britain's Jodie Grinham to reach the final.

PM Modi extends best wishes to athletes competing in World Para Athletics Championships

New Delhi

Prime Minister Narendra Modi extended his "warm welcome" and extended best wishes to all the participants who are taking part in the World Para Athletics Championships 2025 here in the national capital, a tournament which celebrates "human determination and spirit".

The New Delhi 2025 World Para Athletics Championships kicked off on Saturday and will run till October 5, bringing together more than 2,200 para-athletes from 104 countries at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium. PM Modi hopes that the tournament will inspire a vibrant sporting culture worldwide.

"India is proud to be hosting the World Para Athletics Championships 2025 in



Delhi, which commences today. A warm welcome and best wishes to all participants. This tournament celebrates human determination and spirit. May this tournament inspire a more inclusive and vibrant sporting culture across the world," PM Modi wrote on X.

Featuring 186 medal

events, it is the largest Para Athletics meet in Indian history and serves as a key qualifier for the Los Angeles 2028 Paralympics, showcasing India's commitment to accessibility and sporting excellence.

On the opening day of the tournament, seven medal events were held in the morning session. Kenya

Karasawa of Japan clinched the first gold for his country in this event by defeating last year's Paralympics gold medal winner, Yeltsin Jacques of Brazil. He finished the men's 5000m T11 race with a time of 15:23.38s.

The highlight for the Indian contingent was the qualification of the runner Deepthi Jeevanji in the finals of the women's 400m T20 event. She qualified for the medal round in first place in the second heat. She is now in a position to clinch a medal for India in the high-octane event. She took 58.35 seconds, which is her season's best performance. In the women's 100m T11 event, Thekra Alkaabi of the UAE secured the World Record and Asian Record with a 19.89 mark.

Alcaraz marches to quarterfinals, hails "best physio in the world" after overcoming ankle issues

Tokyo

Spain's six-time Grand Slam-winning sensation Carlos Alcaraz made it to the quarterfinals of the ongoing Japan Open competition, defeating Belgium's Zizou Bergs in Tokyo on Saturday.

Alcaraz beat Zizou by 6-4, 6-3 in two straight games to move into the final eight stage of the competition. The Spaniard had twisted his ankle during the campaign opener against Sebastian Baez and needed medical attention, stopping the first-round clash for 20 minutes or so. However, against Bergs, he was back to his most free flowing version as all he needed was 79 minutes to move past the Belgian.

Alcaraz was fine with his forehand and was sharp around the net, improving his win-loss record to a stunning 64-7 for this season.

Speaking following his match as quoted by ATP's official website, Alcaraz



said, "It was tough and it was a really important day and a half I had to recover as good as I could. I have said it before, and I will say it again, I have the best physio in the world, who I trust 100 per cent. The work he has done for the ankle has been great. I could play normally, which is great. Sometimes I was worried about some movements,

when I could feel the ankle, but in general I played some great tennis, a great match."

Alcaraz secured his career-best 65 tour-level wins back in 2023 and would level that tally with a win over America's Brandon Nakashima in the quarterfinals. The world number one is chasing his tour-leading eighth title of the season and arrived at the tournament with a US Open trophy sitting firm in his cabinet, beating arch-rival Janik Sinner in the title clash.

Alcaraz also leads Sinner by 2,590 points in ATP Live Race to Turin, a ranking system which acts as a barometer to decide who will walk away with the year-end world number one player honour.

Earlier, Holger Rune reached her fifth quarterfinal of the season, defeating American Ethan Quinn 6-4, 6-2. The third-seeded player also reached semifinals in the Japan Open last year and would be aiming to replicate that when he faces Jenson Brooksby in the quarters. Rune is aiming for the second title of the season, having triumphed at the ATP 500 event on clay in Barcelona.

The 22-year-old is 14th in the ATP Live Race to Turin, more than 1,000 points behind eighth-placed Alex de Minaur, who has the final qualification spot for the ATP Finals.

Abhishek Sharma on verge of breaking records of Rohit, Virat, Rizwan

Dubai

India's red-hot opener Abhishek Sharma is on the verge of surpassing records of T20i titans Rohit Sharma, Virat Kohli and Mohammed Rizwan as Men in Blue prepares to take on arch-rivals Pakistan in the final of the Asia Cup in Dubai on Sunday.

Heading into the tournament, there was excitement about Abhishek Sharma as he had delivered several strong performances in two seasons in the Indian Premier League (IPL), pairing alongside Australian all-format star Travis Head. The two delivered sky-rocking starts for Sunrisers Hyderabad (SRH).

In six matches and innings in the Asia Cup match so far, Abhishek has emerged as the top run-getter, with 309 runs at an average of 51.50 and a strike rate of 204.63, with three fifties and a best score of 75, with all these half-centuries coming in succession during the Su-



per Four stage. He stands just 11 runs away from breaking Virat Kohli's record of most runs by an Indian during a multi-nation T20i Tournament. Back in 2014, Virat had delivered a 'Player of the Tournament' award-winning campaign in the T20 World Cup, scoring 319 runs in six innings with four fifties at an average of 106.33.

Also, Abhishek is just 23 runs away from torching England opener Phil Salt's record for most runs by a batter from a Test-playing nation in a T20i tournament or series. Back in 2023, during a tour to the West Indies, Salt had smashed 331 runs in five T20is at an average of 82.75 and a strike rate of 185.95, with two centuries and a best score of 119.

Pak HC
temporarily bars
deportation of
Afghan nationals
with Pakistani
spouses

Peshawar:

A Pakistani high court has barred the deportation of 40 Afghan nationals married to Pakistani women until the country's top database and registration body decides on their citizenship application.

The court's decision comes as the repatriation process for Afghan refugees, including those with Proof of Registration (PoR) cards, is ongoing. Pakistan launched the campaign for undocumented Afghans in 2023, which was intensified in April this year.

A division bench of the Peshawar High Court (PHC) comprising Justice Waqar Ahmad and Justice Kamran Hayat Miankhel on Friday passed the order while hearing 40 separate petitions filed by Pakistani women seeking Pakistan Origin Cards (POCs) for their Afghan spouses.

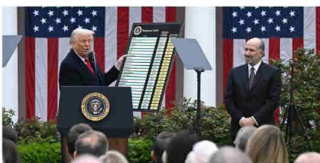
The POC grants permanent residency status in Pakistan.

The decisions in all cases remained the same, council for petitioner Numan Mohib Kakakhel told PTI.

The bench ruled that since one of the petitioners was a family member of Pakistani citizens, he could not be deported until either the National Database and Registration Authority (NADRA) decides on his application for a POC or a period of six months elapses, whichever comes first.

BUSINESS

US Tariffs Risk India Growth: Crisil Report



Kolkata:

High tariffs imposed by the United States on Indian goods pose a major risk to the country's growth, Crisil Intelligence said in its September report.

The tariffs will impact both Indian goods exports and investments, the report added.

However, domestic consumption, driven by benign inflation and rate cuts, is expected to support growth, it said.

The country's GDP rose to a five-quarter high of 7.8 per cent in the first quarter of fiscal 2025-26, up from 7.4 per cent in the similar quarter in the previous

Airstrikes shooting kill at least 38 people in Gaza

Deir Al-Balah:

Israeli strikes and gunfire killed at least 38 people across Gaza, health officials said, as international pressure grows for a ceasefire but Israel's leader remains defiant about continuing the war.

Strikes in central and northern Gaza killed people in their homes in the early hours of Saturday morning, including nine from the same family in a house in the Nusairat refugee camp, according to health staff at the Al-Awda hospital where the bodies were brought.

The attacks came hours after a defiant Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu told fellow world leaders at the UN General Assembly Friday that his nation "must finish the job" against Hamas in Gaza.

Netanyahu's words, aimed as much at his increasingly divided domestic audience as the



At least 38 killed in Gaza airstrikes, shootings

global one, began after dozens of delegates from multiple nations walked out of the UN General Assembly Friday morning as he began speaking.

International pressure on Israel to end the war is increasing, as is Israel's isolation, with a growing

list of countries deciding recently to recognize Palestinian statehood — something Israel rejects.

Countries have been lobbying US President Donald Trump to press Israel for a ceasefire. On Friday, Trump told reporters on the White House lawn that he be-

lieves the US is close to achieving a deal on easing fighting in Gaza that "will get the hostages back" and "end the war."

Trump and Netanyahu are scheduled to meet Monday, and Trump said on social media Friday that "very inspired and productive discussions"

The attacks came hours after a defiant Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu told fellow world leaders at the UN General Assembly Friday that his nation "must finish the job" against Hamas in Gaza.

and "intense negotiations" about Gaza are ongoing with countries in the region.

Yet, Israel is pressing ahead with another major ground operation in Gaza City, which experts say is experiencing famine. More than 300,000 people have fled, but up to 700,000 are still there, many because they can't afford to relocate.

The strikes Saturday morning demolished a house in Gaza City's Tufah neighborhood, killing at least 11 people, more than half of them women and children, according

Trump says he'll send troops to Portland Oregon to handle 'omestic terrorists'

Washington: President Donald Trump said Saturday he will send troops to Portland, Oregon, "authorizing Full Force, if necessary" to handle "domestic terrorists" as he expands his controversial deployments to more American cities.

He made the announcement on social media, writing that he was directing the Department of Defence to "provide all necessary Troops to protect War ravaged Portland."

Trump said the decision was necessary to protect US Immigration and Customs Enforcement facilities, which he described as "under siege from attack by Antifa, and other domestic terrorists."

Since the assassination of conservative activist Charlie Kirk, the Republican president has escalated his efforts to confront what he calls the "radical left," which he blames for the country's problems with political violence.

He deployed the National Guard and active-duty Marines to Los Angeles over the summer

and as part of his law enforcement takeover in the District of Columbia.

The ICE facility in Portland has been the target of frequent demonstrations, sometimes leading to violent clashes. Some federal agents have been injured and several protesters have been charged with assault. When protesters erected a guillotine earlier this month, the Department of Homeland Security described it as "unhinged behavior."

Trump, in comments Thursday in the Oval Office, suggested some kind of operation was in the works.

"We're going to get out there and we're going to do a pretty big number on those people in Portland," he said, describing them as "professional agitators and anarchists."

Earlier in September, Trump had described living in Portland as "like living in hell" and said he was considering sending in federal troops, as he has recently threatened to do to combat crime in other cities, including Chicago and Baltimore.

Russia addresses world leaders at UN three years into Ukraine invasion

United Nations:

Russia gets the microphone at the UN world leaders' meeting Saturday, three years into an invasion of Ukraine that the international community has broadly deplored and a that powerful member newly says Ukraine can rebel.

Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov is due to give his country's address at the General Assembly, four days af-



ter US President Donald Trump said he believed Ukraine can win back all the territory it has lost to Russia. It was a

notable tone shift from a US leader who had previously suggested Ukraine would need to make some concessions

and could never reclaim all the areas Russia has occupied since seizing the Crimean Peninsula in 2014 and launching a full-scale invasion in 2022.

Just three weeks earlier, Russian President Vladimir Putin said his country and the US had a "mutual understanding" and that Trump's administration "is listening to us."

Trump's new view

came after he met with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy on the sidelines of General Assembly Tuesday seven months after a televised blow-up between the two in the Oval Office. This time, the doors were closed, and the tenor was evidently different — "a good meeting," as Zelenskyy described it in his assembly speech the next day.

For the fourth year

in a row, Zelenskyy appealed to the gathering of presidents, prime ministers and other top officials to get Russia out of his country — and warned that inaction would put other countries at risk.

"Ukraine is only the first," he said.

Unauthorised flights into NATO's airspace — intrusions blamed on Russia — have raised alarm around Europe

in recent weeks, particularly after NATO jets downed drones over Poland and Estonia said Russian fighter jets flew into its territory and lingered for 12 minutes. Russia denied that its planes entered Estonian airspace and said the drones didn't target Poland, with Moscow's ally on Friday maintaining that Ukrainian signal-jamming sent the devices off-course.

Sitharaman to inaugurate 4th Kautilya Economic Conclave 2025 on Oct 3

New Delhi:

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman will inaugurate the 4th Kautilya Economic Conclave (KEC 2025) with the theme 'Seeking Prosperity in Turbulent Times' here on October 3.

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar will close the proceedings with reflections on India's foreign and economic policy on October 5, the Finance Ministry said in a statement on Saturday.

The three-day KEC 2025 promises to be a dynamic forum, combining India's domestic priorities with global perspectives and charting pathways to prosperity in a time of turbulence, it added.

Building on its rich experience, KEC has significantly improved its quality and international presence with



75 participants from abroad, representing over 30 countries, to focus on contemporary challenges, it noted.

Special luncheon sessions will include a forward-looking session on 'Communications: Emerging Technolo-

gies' led by Communications Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia with leading experts on AI and digital infrastructure.

The conclave will culminate in a high-level plenary on global macroeconomic prudence,

chaired by PK Mishra, Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister, bringing together senior policymakers and economists to evaluate the health of the world economy and the reforms needed in financial governance, the

ministry said.

"This year's theme, 'Seeking Prosperity in Turbulent Times', is relevant both in the context of India's growth aspirations and its success in navigating times of exceptional uncertainty, turbulence and changing geopolitics," it added.

The ministry further said the agenda blends immediate policy priorities with longer-term shifts.

Sessions will address Asia's emergence as a global growth hub, the evolving BRICS architecture, financial stability, and new directions in industrial policy.

Among the highlights, Jean-Claude Trichet, Honorary Governor of the Banque de France, will be in conversation with RBI Governor Sanjay Malhotra on the challenges of central banking in turbulent times.

Lords Mark Industries Honoured at House of Lords London

Mumbai:

Lords Mark Industries Ltd. (LMLI), one of India's fastest-growing diversified business groups, was honoured with the prestigious 'Innovation in Diagnostic Devices' Award at the Viksit Bharat Investment Summit 2025, hosted by the Indo-European Business Forum (IEBF) at the historic House of Lords in London. The landmark evening brought together global leaders, policymakers, investors, and entrepreneurs to celebrate partnerships and strengthen economic ties between India, the United Kingdom, Europe, and the wider world. LMLI has become

the first Indian medical diagnostic company to receive this recognition. The award, received by Mr. Subodh Gupta, CEO of Lord's Mark Microbiotech, a subsidiary of LMLI, acknowledges the company's breakthrough contributions to Med-Tech, diagnostics, and biochemistry innovation.

Welcoming the dignitaries, IEBF Founder Mr. Vijay Goel highlighted the significance of the summit, noting that the India-UK and India-EU Free Trade Agreements are poised to unlock opportunities worth over \$10 billion and \$200 billion respectively. The evening witnessed the presence of eminent lead-



ers and policymakers including Lords David Evans MP, UK, Minister Kanisha Narayan MP, UK, Minister Seema Malhotra MP, UK, Virendra Sharmaji a former Member of Parliament UK, Minister Seema Malhotra former MP, UK, Dr. Neer-

ja Birla is the Founder & Chairperson of the Aditya Birla Education Trust. Niharika Handa ji Squadron leader Bengaluru India. Tejesh Kumar Kodali, He was also Chairman at LGS Global Ltd. and Chairman & Managing Director at Spectacle Ventures

Ltd. Sandip Saji ji.

Speaking on the recognition, Mr. Subodh Gupta, CEO Lord's Mark Microbiotech said: "This honour at IEBF London is not just a milestone, but a reaffirmation of our purpose. Our commitment is to fuse science, scale, and social impact. Through Sickle cell, Renalxyl and One DNA, backed by Asia's largest upcoming medical device and biochemistry facilities, we are shaping the future of healthcare. Our goal is to make India proud and deliver on the Prime Minister's vision of Make in India and Atmanirbhar Bharat—making Indian innovation to the world." Dignitaries present at

the forum lauded LMLI's vision and global impact: Lord David Evans (UK): "With LMLI's medtech factory in India acting as a 'mother plant', global medical device companies will find a launchpad here — positioning India as a hub for innovation and production." Minister Kanisha Narayan, MP (UK): "The LMLI R&D team is truly world-class.

Their deep research and solutions are enabling early detection and treatment of diseases — a major contribution to public health and society." Minister Seema Malhotra, MP (UK): "LMLI's global expansion ambitions and large-scale projects are

drawing worldwide attention and investment proving that India's medtech sector is emerging as a trustworthy, growth-driven destination."

Virendra Sharma (Former MP, UK): "LMLI's plan to establish Asia's largest facility for medtech devices and biochemistry reagents is a milestone for India's production capacity, innovation, and self-reliance." Rt. Hon. Baroness Verma (Appointed member of the House of Lords): "LMLI's vision to expand globally and pursue a listing on NASDAQ or other international exchanges in the next 2-3 years signals both ambition and confidence in India's medtech future."

Seed Industry Seeks Regulatory Relief

New Delhi:

India's seed industry is seeking urgent government intervention to address regulatory bottlenecks that cost the sector over Rs 800 crore annually, with the Federation of Seed Industry of India (FSII) pushing for a unified national licensing system and removal of price controls to unlock growth.

The industry body unveiled its 'Ease of Doing Business' report at the 'Lab to Land' conference here on Friday, outlining short-term reforms that could save the sector Rs 382-708 crore by eliminating duplicative state-level procedures and delays.

The 106-page study, based on a survey of 55 companies representing about a third of the Rs 30,000-crore domestic market, highlights fragmented licensing, prolonged delays and redundant variety testing as key bottlenecks affecting the world's fifth-largest seed sector.

Regulatory friction alone accounts for over Rs 300 crore in annual costs from licensing and registration delays that cause companies to miss testing and launch windows, according to the report.

"Our survey shows that regulatory bottlenecks cost over Rs 800 crore every year. More than 54 per cent of Indian seed companies are MSMEs, for whom compliance costs average nearly Rs 64 lakh annually," FSII Chairmen and Sivanthi Seed CEO and MD Ajai Rana said.

'Indian Idol' returns with new season on October 18

Mumbai
Indian Idol, one of the popular singing reality TV shows, is all set to come up with a new season.

The 16th season will kickstart from October 18 on Sony Entertainment Television. A promo of the show was unveiled by the makers on social media.

"Dekhiye Indian Idol, 18 October se, raat 8 baje #SonyEntertainmentTelevision aur SonyLIV par," the makers captioned the post.

This season comes with a heartfelt theme - Yaadon Ki Playlist: Jahaan Awazein Aaj Wali Aur Gaane Ap Wale. Shreya Ghoshal, Badshah and Vishal Dadlani have come on board as judges.



The previous season was judged by them only.

Indian Idol first premiered on October 21, 2004. The inaugural season captivated audiences across the country

with its talent-filled competition, culminating in Abhishek Sawant being crowned the first-ever winner of the show.

Over the years, Anu Malik, Alisha Chinai, Sonu Nigam, Farah Khan, Neha Kakkar, Salim Merchant, and Javed Akhtar have served as judges on Indian Idol.

Arshad Warsi, Jitendra Kumar to be seen in 'Bhagwat' film

Chennai
Legendary actor and politician Kamal Haasan has showered praise on the young talent, Treasha Thosar, who recently won the prestigious National Award under Best Child Artist.

Taking to his X handle, Haasan hailed the little Treasha for beating his own record and wrote, "Dear Ms. Treasha Thosar, my loudest applause goes to you. You've beaten my record, as I was already six when I got my first award! Way to go madam. Keep working on your incredible talent. My appreciation to your elders in the house."

In one of the rarest accomplishments, Kamal Haasan won the President's Gold medal at the age of six for his performance in the Tamil film, 'Kalathur Kannamma'.

production house, Raaj Kamal Films International, also shared a video, showing Haasan personally congratulating Treasha over a video call.

"I saw you getting an award. Congratulations," Kamal Haasan told Treasha, further enquiring about her future projects. The two got into a sweet conversation, as Haasan called himself a "child" and also blessed the little girl.

"From One Child Prodigy to another @ikamalhaasan Sir himself has congratulated #TreashaThosar for winning her first National award. What a moment for Indian cinema. #KamalHaasan Sir won his first #NationalAward at 6, now Treasha Thosar at 4! Congratulations, Treasha - you are already inspiring the nation!" the video's caption read.

Awards, Treasha Thosar was presented the Best Child

Artist Award for her performance in the Marathi film 'Naal 2'. For the event, Treasha looked adorable in a gold-saree as she arrived on the stage to receive her award.



Rani Mukerji recalls 'Rahul-Tina' memories after winning National Award with SRK

Mumbai
Bollywood actor Rani Mukerji says that her National Award honour feels more special as she won it at the same time as her longtime friend and former co-star Shah Rukh Khan.

Rukh Khan's portrayal of Rahul in the 1998 romantic comedy directed by Karan Johar.

Rani Mukerji also spoke about her 2005 film 'Black', recalling how she expected an award back in the day.

"I gave all of mine to 'Black'. I was just 25 at the time. There was a chatter that I would win the National Award, and when I didn't win, that's when my blinkers came on. I was like 'Okay, even when you do your best work, it might not be in your favour. Keep working hard'. My father was very heartbroken that I didn't win that year, and so was Sanjay Leela Bhansali," Rani shared.

Having said that, Rani Mukerji did not forget to dedicate her National Award win to her late father and filmmaker Ram Mukherjee.

"I'm truly overwhelmed to receive my first National Award in my 30-year journey as an actor. This honour means the world to me, and I want to dedicate it to my late father, who always dreamt of this moment for me. I miss him deeply today, and I know it's his blessing and my mother's constant strength and inspiration that guided me through the role of Mrs. Chatterjee," said Rani Mukerji as quoted in a press note by YRF.



Lady Gaga showers fiance Michael Polansky with love in birthday post

Angeles
Lady Gaga has poured her heart out to celebrate her fiance, Michael Polansky's birthday on Saturday.

Showering Polansky with love and affection in a heartfelt tribute, the singer wrote, "Happy Birthday to my honey. I hope 42 is your best year yet, you have done so much in your 42 years I am so proud of you every day---and so grateful for this day you came into the world, it was the most special day."

Calling her fiance's birthday her "favourite day of the year", Gaga offered a glimpse into their birthday celebrations.

"A crisp and almost rainy day, a long walk, with the backdrop of a sweet birthday smile and lots of laughter and angel food cake with chocolate sauce. Even this goat knows what a happy day



your birthday is to me. I love you," she added.

Gaga also shared pictures from their birthday getaway, showing the couple spending time away from the city. She also included the special birthday cake in the album.

The Grammy-winning singer's heartfelt post came weeks after she honoured him while accept-

ing the Artist of the Year Award at the 2025 MTV Video Music Awards. Shortly after, she also announced their creative collaboration on her sixth album, 'Mayhem'.

"Dreaming up this album, making the plan, building every vision with you---talking endlessly about what we would create and do for monsters

has been an experience I could not have ever imagined. I love how much you love my fans and want them to be happy. It fills my heart with happiness how much you love them because we get to love them every day together---you care as much as I do about people feeling seen in the world," a part of Gaga's post read.

Behala Nutan Dal recreates Shibani Dham theme

Kolkata
Durga Puja, celebrated during the autumn, is one of the most important socio-cultural and religious events in the Bengali festival calendar.

On this occasion, several thematic pandals across West Bengal have caught the attention of followers of the Goddess Durga, as the organisers aim to convey strong messages through their creations.

Behala Nutan Dal, one of the cultural associations in Kolkata, celebrates the Durga Puja by recreating Shibani Dham as its Durga theme for the pandal this year.

The pandal shelters a huge Lord Shiva idol, and facing it is the shrine of Goddess Durga. Behala Nutan Dal celebrates this year's Durga Puja with cultural dance and music performances.



The Shibani Dham pandal, for its unique architectural styles, featuring terracotta sculptures of mythological figures and daily life, is famous for its large Shivaling.

Ruma Mukherjee, a member of Behala Nutan Dal's

Taylor Swift arrives to attend Selena Gomez, Benny Blanco's wedding, deets inside

Los Angeles
The wedding preparations for Selena Gomez and Benny Blanco appear to be taking shape, and things are just getting bigger.

The celebrity couple is reportedly set to get married over the weekend in California, months after Blanco popped the question. As fans eagerly await seeing their beloved singer in a pretty bridal gown, Selena's best friend, pop icon Taylor Swift, has already arrived in California.

hotel due to security reasons.

"She will be renting a house near the wedding venue, which is a secret to the public. Her security team feels it's better than a hotel," a source told Page Six.

When Selena announced her engagement, Taylor Swift was among the most excited ones. "Yes, I will be the flower girl," she commented on the post.

It is yet to be known if Swift's NFL star fiance, Travis Kelce, will arrive for the wedding.

Selena Gomez and Benny Blanco are believed to be getting married in an intimate two-celebration in Montecito, California. The wedding is expected to draw a star-studded guest list, including the singer-actor's co-stars Steve Martin and Martin Short. Some of Blanco's

has been an experience I could not have ever imagined. I love how much you love my fans and want them to be happy. It fills my heart with happiness how much you love them because we get to love them every day together---you care as much as I do about people feeling seen in the world," a part of Gaga's post read.

