

Aaron Finch predicts
scoreline for IND-AUS
ODI series

UK says it will restrict
repeated protests after 500
arrests at pro-Palestinian vigil

Selena Gomez shares
glimpse of writing vows
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BSNL 4G towers
to be upgraded
to 5G in 6-8
months: Scindia



WEATHER	
Sunrise	6:17 AM
Sunset	6:02 PM
Moonrise	5:28 PM
Moonset	6:14 AM
Today's Prediction	
Maximum	28°C
Minimum	22°C
Tomorrow's Prediction	
Maximum	29°C
Minimum	21°C

Atleast 20 dead as heavy rains trigger landslides in Darjeeling

■ Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee described the flood situation in North Bengal as "grave" and said she would visit the region on Monday to assess the damage.

Darjeeling (WB)
At least 20 people, including several children, died and several others injured as incessant heavy rainfall triggered multiple landslides across the Mirik and Darjeeling hills in the northern part of West Bengal on Sunday, sweeping away homes, damaging roads and cutting off several remote hamlets, officials said.

According to reports compiled by the NDRF and the district administration, fatalities were reported from several locations - Sarsaly, Jasbirgaon, Mirik Basti, Dhar Gaon (Mechi), Nagrakata and Mirik Lake area.

According to the NDRF statement at least 11 people have died in Mirik, the worst affected area in the landslide, and seven injured have been rescued from the area.

In Darjeeling, seven people died and the rescue operations were underway with the help of police, local administration and disaster response teams.



"Seven deaths have been reported due to a major landslide in Darjeeling subdivision triggered by heavy rainfall since last night. The rescue and relief work is on," Darjeeling Sub-Divisional Officer (SDO) Richard Lepcha said.

Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee announced compensation for the victims without specifying the amount and the number of deaths and said she would visit north Bengal on October 6 to assess the situation in the region where a large number of

tourists have also been affected.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi also expressed condolences over the deaths and said the situation in Darjeeling and surrounding areas is being closely monitored in the wake of heavy rains

and landslides.

At least 40 people were rescued from the debris in Dhar Gaon, Nagrakata, where heavy mudslides flattened several houses.

Stating that the loss of lives is tragic, North Bengal Development Minister Udayan Guha told that the situation is "alarming".

Leader of the Opposition Suvendu Adhikari claimed he has information that the disaster claimed 21 lives.

The CM said she will visit North Bengal on Monday to assess the situation and is currently monitoring developments from the control room at the state secretariat Nabanna.

Speaking to TV9 Bangla news channel over the phone, Banerjee described the situation as "grave".

CONTO ON PAGE-2

Bihar Assembly polls to be held before November 22: EC



Patna
Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Gyanesh Kumar on Sunday said that elections in Bihar will be held before November 22, when the term of the State Assembly ends.

Kumar said Bihar has 243 assembly constituencies, including two reserved for STs and 38 for SCs.

Addressing a press conference in Patna, the CEC Gyanesh Kumar said, "Bihar has 243 assembly constituencies - 2 for STs and 38 for SCs. The term of the Bihar Legislative Assembly ends on November 22, 2025, and elections will be held before that time..."

The Election Commission trained booth-level officers for the first time... SIR was launched on June 24, 2025, and completed by

the deadline..."

Kumar congratulated voters on the successful completion of the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) and urged the people of Bihar to participate actively in the upcoming assembly elections.

He appealed to all voters to treat voting as a festival of democracy, just like the enthusiasm shown during Chhath, and ensure full participation at the polls.

"We congratulate the voters of India. Thank you to everyone for the successful SIR process. I appeal to all the voters of Bihar to celebrate this festival of democracy with the same enthusiasm as you celebrate Chhath. Everyone should vote and ensure their participation," Kumar said.

CONTO ON PAGE-2

US has to respect India's 'red lines': Jaishankar

New Delhi:
Any trade deal between India and the United States has to respect New Delhi's 'red lines' and efforts are underway to find a 'landing ground', External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said on Sunday amid strain in ties between the two countries over Washington, DC's policy on tariff.

In an interactive session at an event, Jaishankar acknowledged having issues between India and the US and that many of them are linked to the inability to firm up the proposed trade deal.

The external affairs minister said an understanding on trade between the two sides was necessary as the US is the world's largest market but at the same time noted that India's red lines should be respected.

"We have today issues with the United States. A big part of it is the fact that we have not arrived



External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar

at a landing ground for our trade discussions, and the inability so far to reach there has led to a certain tariff being levied on India," he said.

Jaishankar was speaking at the discussion on the theme 'Shaping Foreign Policy in Turbulent Times' at the Kautilya Economic Enclave.

"In addition, there is a second tariff which we have publicly said we

regard as very unfair, which has picked on us for sourcing energy from Russia when there are other countries that have done so, including countries that right now have a far more antagonistic relationship with Russia than we do," he said.

The relations between New Delhi and Washington have been reeling under severe stress after

HIGHLIGHT

■ Jaishankar said India is pretty clear about its approach

Trump doubled tariffs on Indian goods to a whopping 50 per cent including a 25 per cent additional duties for India's purchase of Russian crude oil.

India described the US action as 'unfair, unjustified and unreasonable'. "Whatever happens at the end of the day, there has got to be a trade understanding with the US, because it is the world's largest market but also because much of the world has reached those understandings," Jaishankar said.

"But it has to be an understanding where our bottom lines, our red lines are respected. In any agreement, there are things you can negotiate and there are things you can't," he said.

Jaishankar said India is pretty clear about its approach. Agency

No handshake again! India, Pakistan skip pleasantries

Colombo:
The tension between India and Pakistan's cricket teams resurfaced once again - this time at the Women's World Cup 2025 in Colombo - as captains Harmanpreet Kaur and Fatima Sana pointedly skipped the customary handshake at the toss on Sunday.

What seemed like a small gesture - or its absence - was in fact a continuation of India's quiet but firm no-handshake stance against Pakistan, mirroring the deepening off-field strain between the two boards that has now spilled into both men's and women's cricket.

While the ICC does not mandate handshakes in its official guidelines, teams are expected to uphold the spirit of the game. The omission, however, underscores the growing frost in In-



do-Pak cricket ties amid rising diplomatic and sporting tensions.

This latest instance follows a similar episode during the men's Asia Cup 2023, when Suryakumar Yadav's Indian side chose not to shake hands with their Pakistani counterparts after the group-stage match. The incident snowballed, with Pakistan captain Salman Ali Agha skipping his post-match

interview and the PCB later releasing footage of their private discussion with match referee Andy Pycroft.

The leaked meeting - where Pakistan reportedly demanded Pycroft's removal from the tournament - led to an official reprimand for the PCB, further straining ties between the two nations' cricketing bodies. Agency

40 killed in landslides floods triggered by downpour in Nepal

Kathmandu:
At least 40 people have been killed in different places of eastern Nepal till Sunday morning and five have gone missing due to landslides and floods triggered by downpour since last night.

As many as 37 people were killed in different places of Ilam district in Koshi province due to landslides following heavy rainfall on Saturday night, the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Authority (NDRRMA) said in a press release.



Of the 37, eight people each were killed in Deumai and Majjogmai municipalities, six each in Ilam municipality and Sandakpur rural

municipality, five in Suryodaya municipality, three in Mangesung and one in Pakhokhum village, according to the NDRRMA.

One person died in Panchthar due to landslide and one each were killed in Khotang and Udayapur districts as they were swept away by floods, said the official.

Four people have gone missing from Rasuwa district as they were swept away by floods. A person buried in landslide in Panchthar district has also gone missing.

Nepal Army, Nepal Police and Armed Police Force personnel were involved in carrying out rescue operations. Agency

Cough syrup kills 14 children in MP, doctor arrested

Bhopal:

Police have arrested a doctor for alleged negligence and registered a case against the manufacturer of a toxic cough syrup after the death of 14 children in Chhindwara due to suspected renal failure, officials said on Sunday.

The Madhya Pradesh government has banned the sale of Coldrif cough syrup, officials said. The drug samples have been found to contain a highly toxic substance.

Of the children who died, 11 were from Parasia sub-division, two from Chhindwara city and one from Chaurai tehsil.

The Coldrif cough syrup, manufactured by



Sresan Pharmaceutical, Kancheepuram (Tamil Nadu), has been blamed for the death of 11 children in Parasia area of Chhindwara district, Superintendent of Police Ajay Pandey told reporters.

A case has been registered at Parasia police station against the company and Dr Praveen Soni, who, despite being a government doctor in Chhindwara, was practising at a private clinic and prescribed the syr-

up, he said.

A special team from Kotwadi police arrested Dr Soni from Rajpal Chowk in Chhindwara late Saturday night after the FIR was registered against him, the SP said.

The doctor has been booked for negligence and prescribing the medicine even after its adverse effects on children for nearly a month.

The manufacturer had been charged as it was supplying contaminated syrup, as per the test report, Pandey said.

The government on Sunday also suspended Dr Soni from service. He has been attached to the health department regional officer in Jabalpur, as per an order. Agency

NEWS IN BRIEF

Noida Authority to cancel allotment of plots vacant for over 12 yrs

Noida
There is panic among residential plot owners in Noida as the Noida Authority has decided that the allotments of those allottees who have not constructed on their plots even after more than 12 years would be cancelled.

The Noida Authority has made it clear that the allottees whose construction work is ongoing will have to get the completion certificate within the next six months. If the deadline is not met, such plots in Noida will also be cancelled.

Earlier, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath had ordered the cancellation of allotments of vacant industrial plots in the state. He stated that if the construction had not been done even after allotments of plots three years ago, such allotment should be cancelled.

Following this, Noida, Greater Noida, and Yamuna Authorities are now preparing their respective regional lists in this regard. Hundreds of residential plots in the city's older sectors have been lying vacant for years. Many were allotted more than 12 years ago, but construction hasn't begun. The authority has now ordered a list of all such plots. No extensions will be granted; instead, the allotments will be cancelled.

'Ranathon' held in Noida

Noida
A 'Ranathon' was held here on Sunday with an objective to encourage people to move forward together so that every child could progress.

The programme was organised by the Apeejay Vidyalaya and it began with Zumba exercises. Guinness record-holding marathon runner Madan Godara attended this event as the chief guest. He ran in a dhoti, kurta, and slippers, conveying the message of presenting Indian culture on the global stage.

Principal Dr. Neha Sharma described it as a social movement that integrates education, health, inclusiveness, and cooperation. A total of 1,400 participants took part in the race. Races were held in 3, 5, 10, and 16 km categories. Cultural programmes, street plays, and band performances enlivened the event.

The winners were honoured with medals. In the 5 km men's category, Arnavrat stood first, Atul second and Harsh third, in the 10 km women's category, Geeta stood first, Shalini second and Shalet third. In the 16 km men's category, Dhyanaj, Ayush, Aamir stood first, second and third and in the 16 km women's category, Sona Yadav, Hemlata, Meenakshi stood first, second and third. All of them were from the Pariksha Padodd Education Society, Budhshahr. Health services were also provided by the Indo Gulf organization.

Delhi Cong launches nationwide signature drive against 'Vote Theft'

**Staff Reporter
New Delhi**

The Delhi Congress, under the leadership of President Devender Yadav, has launched a signature campaign protesting what it describes as "vote theft" by the BJP, allegedly in collusion with the Election Commission. The campaign, which began in Babarpur District, has drawn significant participation from a wide spectrum of the public, including youth, shopkeepers, street vendors, and laborers.

Addressing the initiative,

Ahead of Diwali 1 700 kg firecrackers seized in multiple raids in Delhi

New Delhi
Delhi Police seized over 1,700 kg of banned firecrackers and arrested seven men in multiple operations across the national capital ahead of Diwali this month, an official said on Sunday.

The crackdown conducted by the crime branch of the Delhi police in Dwarka, Rohini, Uttam Nagar, Shastri Nagar, Mukundpur and Shahdara, Deputy Commissioner of Police Pankaj Kumar said.

The operations were carried out in line with the recent Supreme Court's directions to curb the storage and sale of firecrackers to tackle air pollution and ensure public safety, he said. Delhi's air quality worsens from October onwards and last all through the winter.

The DCP said six men were arrested in the raids and 1,645 kg of fireworks and a pickup truck were impounded.

Another raid was carried



out in northeast Delhi's Mandoli, where 106 kg of banned firecrackers were recovered from a grocery shop owner.

In the first operation, a team unearthed a stockpile of over 916 kg of banned fireworks during coordinated raids in Dwarka, Rohini and Uttam Nagar, he said.

"Acting on a tip-off, a team arrested Akash Gupta

(24), a grocery shop owner, after 13 cartons and a sack of assorted banned fireworks were recovered from his house," the DCP said.

During interrogation, Gupta allegedly revealed that he had procured the fireworks from a pickup driver, Chander Kant (36), who was later caught in Rohini with another 400 kg of illegal firecrackers in his vehicle.

Based on Chander Kant's disclosure, police raided the house of another man, Rishi Raj (37), in Uttam Nagar, recovering an additional 182 kg of banned fireworks, the officer said.

In another operation, a team arrested Rahul Sagar (34), a resident of Shastri Nagar, and seized 412 kg of illegal firecrackers from his residence.

Police said Sagar has four

previous criminal cases, including those related to attempt to culpable homicide, hurt and violation of the Delhi Excise Act, he said.

Another raid was carried out in Mukundpur, Bhaswa Dairy area where Sonu (30) was arrested and 311 kg of banned firecrackers concealed in a residential building disguised as an LED bulb manufacturing unit was recovered, the officer said.

A team also caught Vishal Sharma (34) selling banned fireworks in the Ashok Nagar Market of Shahdara and recovered 106 kg of illegal stock from his possession.

Delhi Police also seized 10 kg of illegal firecrackers from a grocery shop and arrested a man in northeast Delhi's Mandoli. Acting on a tip-off, a team conducted a raid at B-Block, Main Mandoli Road.

Police said the accused admitted his involvement during interrogation and a case has been registered at Jyoti Nagar police station.

Special cell arrests key logistic provider of Nandu Gang



**Rakesh Rawat
New Delhi**

The Special Cell of the Delhi Police has arrested a key associate of the Kapil Sangwan, alias Nandu, gang, in a major breakthrough against organized crime. The accused, identified as Harish Saini, also known by his aliases Hitesh and Lucky, was apprehended from Nihal Vihar following a police raid led by ACP Neeraj Kumar.

According to the police, the arrest has shed light on a murder case in Badli, Hajarj (Haryana), where a man named Sandeep was shot dead on July 17, 2025. Investigators revealed that Saini, 35, was a key logistic provider who arranged vehicles, safe houses, and other support for the shooters on the instructions of gang leader Kapil Sangwan.

During the arrest, the police recovered a single-shot pistol and two live cartridges from Saini's possession. The operation was carried out after the Special Cell received a tip-off about his whereabouts. When the police team reached the spot, Saini allegedly tried to flee and even pulled out a firearm. However, officers overpowered him and made the arrest without any injury.

Deputy Commissioner of Police (Special Cell) Aalap

Patel confirmed that an additional FIR has been registered against Saini in connection with his attempt to escape and the illegal possession of arms. The DCP further stated that Saini had been instructed directly by Kapil Sangwan, who is currently operating his gang from abroad.

"Saini has a criminal background and has previously been involved in three serious cases, including robbery and violations of the Arms Act in Delhi," said DCP Patel. "He played a crucial role in facilitating gang operations by providing logistical and ground support."

Police sources said that Saini's personal history paints a picture of hardship and decline. After his father's death, his mother worked as a maid to support the family. His elder brother is serving a jail term for murder, and Saini reportedly drifted into the world of crime under the influence of the Nandu gang during that period.

The Special Cell continues to investigate the larger network of associates linked to the Nandu gang. Officials said that Saini's arrest could lead to further breakthroughs in identifying safe houses, financiers, and other members involved in the gang's interstate operations.

Delhi Police arrests man from Haryana's Nuh for sextortion

New Delhi

The Delhi Police has arrested a 26-year-old man from Haryana for allegedly running a sextortion racket, an officer said on Sunday.

The accused allegedly forced a person to transfer to him Rs 39,000 by threatening to upload a video of him online.

According to police, on June 5, the complainant received a video call from an unknown woman. The call was immediately disconnected.

Shortly after, the victim received a call from a mobile number where the caller, posing as a cyber police officer, said that an explicit video of him would be uploaded to social media. Deputy Commissioner of Police (Outreach) Hareeshwar Swami said.

The officer said the caller then connected him to another person, who claimed to be an employee of a social media platform, and demanded money for removing the video.

"Out of fear, the victim transferred Rs 39,000 in three transactions to a UPI ID, realising only later that he had been cheated. He then filed a complaint on the National Cyber Reporting Platform (NCRP)," Swami said. Police investigated the call and bank account details and raided a premise in the Mubarkpur village in Haryana's Nuh, arresting one Mohammad Naseem, the officer said.

Lord Parashuram's Life Is a Perfect Blend of Wisdom, Courage & Righteousness: Delhi CM

**Staff Reporter
New Delhi**

Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta spoke at the Inter-State Brahmin Conference, highlighting the life of Lord Parashuram as a perfect blend of wisdom, courage, and righteousness.

She emphasized that dharma involves not just actions but also our responsibilities to society. Gupta praised the Brahmin community for their role in guiding society through knowledge, culture, and faith, underlining the Delhi Government's commitment to providing equal opportunities for everyone.

The event included various dignitaries and members of the Brahmin community from across the nation. The Chief Minister en-



couraged the community to take inspiration from Lord Parashuram's ideals, stating that unity is essential for true progress. She noted that the Brahmin community has upheld important values such as righteousness, education, and harmony throughout generations. Gupta urged for a collective effort in advancing Delhi's development, aiming

to make it a modern and debt-free capital. She reaffirmed her government's dedication to recognizing the contributions of all communities to the city's growth. Expressing gratitude to the attendees, Gupta stated that their support motivates her government to focus on comprehensive development and strengthen cultural unity and community spirit.

Sood lays foundation stone for many development projects worth ₹5.5 crore in Janakpuri

**Staff Reporter
New Delhi**

Delhi's Education Minister, Ashish Sood, on Sunday launched development projects in the Pankha Road area of Janakpuri, worth ₹5.5 crore. His goal is to make Janakpuri a modern, developed, clean, and livable community. The projects will address the needs of local residents and include several improvements, such as building new RCC drains, constructing pavement, installing streetlights along the roads, and enhancing green spaces.

The foundation stone-laying event included West Delhi MP Smt. Kamaljeet Shrivastava and representatives from local associations and residents. Shri Sood highlighted that previous leaders ignored the concerns of Janakpuri residents but assured that positive changes are now underway. Under Chief Minister Smt. Rekha Gupta's leadership,



the government is actively responding to community problems and implementing real solutions.

He noted that for years, areas like Janakpuri, Vikasuri, Uttam Nagar, Najafgarh, and Nangloi have struggled with poor infrastructure and unsafe conditions, including accidents caused by open drains and stray animals. The Chief Minister has responded to these issues by starting redevelopment efforts to im-

prove the entire area, promising residents will soon see notable changes.

Sood emphasized that with the involvement of local residents and associations, the aim is to completely transform Janakpuri into a clean and attractive neighborhood, enhancing its appeal. He reiterated the Delhi Government's commitment to inclusive and sustainable development, ensuring quality improvements throughout the city

under the guidance of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chief Minister Rekha Gupta.

He also criticized the previous MLA for failing to make any significant improvements in the last decade, which has left Janakpuri behind other parts of Delhi. He urged residents to be conscious of misinformation and to unite for the development of their community, working towards a better, cleaner, and more prosperous Janakpuri.

Pankaj Singh flags off Aakash Healthcare's 10 free ambulances across Delhi-NCR

**Staff Reporter
New Delhi**

Delhi's Health Minister, Dr. Pankaj Kumar Singh, on Sunday launched 10 free ambulances through Aakash Healthcare to improve emergency medical services in the Delhi-NCR region.

This initiative, named Aakash Community Life Savers (ACLS), aims to provide timely medical assistance and reduce ambulance response times from around



30 minutes to approximately 25 minutes. The launch event was held at Aakash Healthcare in Dwarka and featured notable guests, including IPS officer Shri Robin Hibu and Dr. Aashish Chaudhry, Managing Director of Aakash

Healthcare.

During the event, Dr. Singh praised public-private partnerships in health care, stating that collaboration between government and private hospitals transforms healthcare delivery. He encouraged further improvements in the emergency response system, emphasizing that the ambulance service is completely free for the public, ensuring accessibility for everyone.



Yadav asserted that the BJP regained power by undermining the people's vote, calling the alleged practice a direct attack on democracy.

est in the campaign with many citizens signing petitions organized by local Congress Committees.

Yadav highlighted the active involvement of Congress leaders in mobilizing communities, emphasizing their effort to reach a diverse audience to raise awareness about what he termed electoral injustices. He stressed that the party views the alleged actions of the BJP as an assault on constitutional rights, calling for a united response to safeguard democratic principles.

Haryana Teacher Transfer: Policy, Procedure and Confusion

Finance Department approval, delay in transfer, couple cases, mid-term transfer, online system, new appointments, delegation and fairness excuses.

The teacher transfer and posting process in Haryana has been a source of controversy and discontent for years. Teachers and employees feel that the policies, while clear in their pronouncements, are actually complex and complicated. This issue is not just about the interests of employees, but also about the transparency, fairness, and quality of the entire education system.

Even when a position is approved by the Finance Department, the transfer process is often unnecessarily delayed. This is due to budgetary constraints, documentation, or the unnecessary need for repeated approvals at the administrative level. This delay not only slows down the process but also hinders the proper and timely implementation of the policy. Employees remain in uncertainty for months, lowering their morale and impacting the efficiency of the education system.

In married cases, where teachers seek postings with their spouses, the process of re-examination and approval is initiated despite the already pending cases. This causes unnecessary inconvenience to employees and highlights the complexity of the policy. It also indicates that the administration sometimes deliberately prolongs the process.

There are many factors involved in preventing transfers. Long-term employees are reluctant to leave their positions. Unions and organizations intervene to protect the interests of their members. Furthermore, the administration prefers to retain experienced employees in sensitive positions for longer periods. Due to all these factors, the transfer process is often not balanced and fair.

The Education Minister stated in the press that mid-term transfers would be implemented, but in reality, there appears to be no real impact. This contradiction creates confusion and dissatisfaction among employees. This gap between announcements and actual implementation sends the message that mere statements do not translate into policy implementation.

While the online transfer system is being implemented smoothly in other departments, the process remains slow and complex in the Education Department. This isn't just due to technical difficulties. Administrative resistance, traditional work cultures, and the priorities of local officials all contribute to this. Unless all parties ensure transparency and timely action, the online system cannot be effective.

Despite adequate positions being available at the time of new appointments, transfers are delayed. This raises the question of whether employees are being deliberately sent away or whether some are being given a privilege. The possibility of no transfers due

By Dr. Satyawan Saurabh

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



Despite approval of additional allowances from the Finance Department, the repeated backlog of files creates confusion among employees. The resumption of the process despite already ongoing cases in marital affairs indicates that the policy is deliberately complicated to hinder decisions. The Education Minister stated that mid-term transfers would have no impact, but the impact is not visible on the ground. For all these reasons, teachers are dissatisfied and want the transfer process to be clear, timely, and fair to maintain the quality and balance of education. The Education Minister clarified that mid-term transfers would have no impact, but in reality, the administration often uses it as a pretext. Only a transparent, timely, and fair process can ensure stability and quality in the interests of teachers and students.

to the census in the coming year further complicates this issue.

The practice of delegation also remains a prob-

lem. This involves assigning employees to specific positions or locations. This not only raises questions about transparency and fairness, but also fosters favoritism and administrative discrimination. If this

is stopped and corrective action is taken in a timely manner, both teachers and the department will benefit.

Despite all these complexities, the teaching community wants the policy to be clear, timely, and fair. Mere announcements and press releases will not solve the problem. The administration needs to make the online system effective and prevent decisions based on favoritism and personal gain. Teachers and students should trust that the transfer process is meant to maintain the quality and balance of the education system, not for personal gain.

Haryana's teacher transfer policy is not only complex and complicated, but its implementation is also inconsistent and fair. Administrative delays, unnecessary approvals, favoritism, and technical hurdles have led to teacher dissatisfaction. This, in turn, has adversely affected the education system.

The government must implement clear rules and policies, ensure a timely and transparent process, make the online system effective, and prevent decisions based on bias and personal gain. Only then will teachers be satisfied with their work and students receive a quality education. Otherwise, this process will only continue to be a source of controversy, dissatisfaction, and confusion.

The Haryana government faces the challenge of ensuring consistency, fairness, and transparency in the teacher transfer process. Only then will the true objectives of the education system—quality, balance, and student well-being—be achieved.

Haryana's teacher transfer policy is not only complex and complicated, but its implementation is also inconsistent and fair. Administrative delays, unnecessary approvals, favoritism, and technical hurdles have led to teacher dissatisfaction. This, in turn, has adversely affected the education system.

The Importance and Fears of Artificial intelligence

India is also taking steps in technological development globally. Our country has become a digital nation. In the power of Internet, we have left many Western countries behind. Not only that, in recent years we have also claimed the development of artificial intelligence on a world-leading basis. Artificial Fields in the Machine Age Today And innovation is the result, so we can also call it a machine field. It is clear that it will require knowledge of the Internet to change the framework for working in the country. And the younger generation has digital. We have to keep the expansion in our control, from artificial media. Knowledge However, scientists are also concerned that the infinite power of artificial intelligence will not go beyond the human mind and divert the progress of the entire world in some other direction by creating negative values. In view of this fear, artificial intelligence cannot be denied completely India in terms of population it is the largest country in labor or generation and it has an abundance of working youth. So robotic artificial intelligence can have an impact on human labor. But the extent to which artificial fields can be used goes beyond ordinary deposits. So artificial clouds and robotic powers are a new reality that cannot be denied. In India, the use of artificial media is also being pushed forward with digital and internet power development. commission The NITI Aayog of India has recently released a new report on the prospects for artificial intelligence and internet power. It clearly states that the country's GDP could increase by \$500 to \$600 billion if we make proper use of artificial media in production, investment and agricultural development over the next decade. The policy is that if artificial media are widely used within the industrial sector, it could make a significant contribution to the global economy of up to 1.726 trillion dollars. If artificial intelligence is made an ally of the workforce in technology, science, engineering and mathematics there can be a strong and significant development change in India. We will be able to achieve ten and fifteen percent of the global artificial intelligence value. The use of artificial media will increase the chances of creating new jobs at skill level, but NITI Aayog's report also acknowledges that low-level unskilled workers may be disconnected from existing employment framework. At the same time, using artificial media in financial services and manufacturing can prove particularly useful. Gross domestic product in these areas can increase by twenty to twenty percent. India is buying crude oil from Russia and selling it processed to European and third world countries This is benefiting our petroleum companies. Thus, it

By Vijay Garg

is Retired Principal Educational columnist Eminent Educationist street kour Chand MHR (Malout Punjab)



Artificial Intelligence

will not be difficult to accelerate the country's growth rate if we link our manufacturing process with artificial fields. However, it requires extensive efforts. At this point, India's growth rate is close to 5.7 percent. Even if we call it the fastest rate of growth in the world, we have to boost GDP over the next ten years. It will be easier to achieve a growth rate of eight percent if the artificial medium is used properly. If this pace continues, it will not be difficult to achieve India's goal of becoming a developed country by the centenary festival in 2047. It could also be that the Indian economy will leave America and China behind. While NITI Aayog has presented a very bright picture of the possibilities of artificial intelligence, there are many obstacles in its path. The biggest obstacle is the lack of proper education in this area of knowledge for young people. It will have to create new easy books. New courses will have to be created and teachers must also master this knowledge so that they can easily prepare future generations for it. But the survey report we currently have of the country's education sector shows that most young students are still running behind art and science faculties. Even today, they are plagued by the mentality of getting a job and permanent middle class employment and do not look forward to being proficient in the infinite knowledge that can be gained from artificial intelligence. So there needs to be easy education and degrees, and a job that is routine office work and doesn't challenge media. However, the government is also wary of potential threats associated with artificial intelligence, but it says that its development cannot be restricted by fearing such fears. But measures to prevent its misuse are necessary. For this, the country has to be vigilant and strict wherever necessary. However, rejecting or eliminating technology is not the solution to the problem. The need is for modern technology to be integrated into development and concrete steps are taken to prevent its misuse There is no doubt that artificial intelligence has become a part of the development process today and its usefulness and importance cannot be denied.

It is also necessary to exercise caution in its use.

Play key role in perpetuating heritage of Punjab CM Mann to teachers

Anandpur Sahib
Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann on Sunday gave a clarification call to the teachers to play a key role in perpetuating the glorious heritage of the state by making younger generations abreast about it.

Addressing a gathering during a function to commemorate World Teacher's day, he said the teachers are the nation builders and they should apprise the younger generations about the rich cultural heritage of the state.

He said teaching is not a profession but it is a mission to enlighten students.

Being the son of a teacher, Mann said, he is well aware of the fact that teachers work hard for making the future of the students.

Mann also said that 3,200 government schools have been ravaged in the recent floods, 19 colleges were ruined, 8,500 kilometers and 2,500 bridges were also destroyed.



Crops on five lakh acres were destroyed in the recent floods but Punjabis displayed exemplary valour to overcome this natural calamity.

Mann also lauded teachers

for doing commendable work during the natural catastrophe and said such examples are very rare in global history.

Congratulating all the teachers for receiving awards, the CM said by honouring our teachers, we have acknowledged their role

as nation builders.

In earlier times, the word Guru was used for a teacher as it comes from two Sanskrit words 'Gu' (darkness) and 'Ru' (remover).

Thus, Mann said that Guru means the one who removes darkness.

In other words, the duty of

a teacher is to illuminate the minds of their students with the light of knowledge, he added.

A teacher molds the blank mind of a student to bring out doctors, engineers, and artists just as a sculptor shapes his masterpieces, Mann said.

Today, the Punjab government is honouring 71 teachers under different categories with the state teacher award for their outstanding contribution in shaping the destiny of future generations, he said.

Mann said he is glad that today, Punjab has world-class trained teachers in its government schools.

He added that 234 principals and education officers have received world-class training in Singapore, 152 head teachers have received advanced coaching at IIM Ahmedabad and 144 primary teachers have under-

gone special training at

Turku University in Finland. The next batch of teachers that will go to Finland for training will be in the month of November.

To enable teachers to focus on their primary duties, 1,920 campus managers have been appointed and to help the children of Punjab soar high and fulfil their dreams, an "education revolution" was launched in 2022, he said.

Mann said the state government has taken revolutionary steps in the field of education, which are now being discussed across the country.

He said that 118 Schools of Eminence have been established with an outlay of Rs 231.74 crore so far.

These schools are seen as a remarkable beginning towards a bright future for underprivileged children, the CM added.

AAP fields industrialist Rajinder Gupta for RS bypoll from Punjab



Chandigarh

The ruling Aam Aadmi Party on Sunday announced prominent industrialist Rajinder Gupta as its candidate for the Rajya Sabha bypoll in Punjab, scheduled to be held on October 24.

The bypoll is being held to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of AAP's Sanjeev Arora, who stepped down from the Upper House following his election to the state assembly.

Arora, whose term was to end on April 9, 2028, is presently serving as a minister in the Punjab Cabinet led by Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann.

"The political affairs committee announces to nominate Rajinder Gupta as a candidate for election to the Council of States (Rajya Sabha) by the elected members of the legislative assembly of Punjab," said the party in a statement.

Gupta, the chairman emeritus of the Trident Group, recently resigned as the vice-chairman of the State Economic Policy and Planning Board and as chairperson of the Kali Devi temple advisory committee, fuelling speculation that the AAP could field him for the bypoll.

In a post on X, Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann congratulated Gupta on being declared as the AAP nominee.

AAP enjoys an overwhelming majority with 93 members in the 117-member state assembly. With this majority, the AAP will face no hurdle in sending Gupta to the Rajya Sabha.

In June, AAP supremo Arvind Kejriwal put to rest speculation that he would enter the Rajya Sabha from Punjab.

Kejriwal's decision to not throw his hat into the ring came after Arora won the

Ludhiana West Assembly bypoll.

After Arora's name was announced for the Ludhiana West bypoll, the opposition had claimed that Kejriwal would enter the Rajya Sabha in his place.

AAP retained the Ludhiana West seat with Arora defeating his nearest rival, Bharat Bhushan Ashu of the Congress, by 10,637 votes.

The bypoll was necessitated by the passing of sitting AAP MLA Gurnpreet Bassi Gogi in January.

Ludhiana-based Trident Group is a diversified conglomerate involved in textiles, paper and chemicals with its manufacturing facilities in Punjab and Madhya Pradesh.

Founder of Trident Limited, which is the flagship company of Trident Group, Gupta is a first-generation entrepreneur. He was awarded Padma Shri by the then President A P J Abdul Kalam in 2007 in recognition of his distinguished services in the field of trade and industry.

Gupta had earlier held positions in the previous Congress and the SAD-BJP governments as well.

As per the notification for the bypoll, nominations will begin on October 6, and the last date for filing nominations will be October 13. The scrutiny of nominations will take place on October 14, while the last date for the withdrawal of candidatures is October 16.

Polling will take place on October 24, and counting will take place on the same day.

At present, the AAP has six Rajya Sabha members from Punjab. They are Balbir Singh Seehwal, Raghu Chadha, Sandeep Pathak, Harbhajan Singh, Ashok Mittal and Vikramjit Singh Sahney.

Meenakshi Thakur's success honored by Sohan Lal Thakur



Rajan Panchhi

Meenakshi Thakur has now become a judge. Meenakshi Thakur, a daughter of Sohar village in the Gram Panchayat Baroti of Dahar sub-division, has brought honor to the region by securing third place in the Himachal Pradesh Judicial Services Examination and becoming a civil judge. This significant achievement has brought joy to the entire region.

On Sunday, former CPS Sohan Lal Thakur visited Meenakshi Thakur's home and honored her with a shawl and cap, and offered her sweets. On this occasion,

he said that Meenakshi's achievement is a matter of pride not only for her family but for the entire Sundernagar sub-division. He said that achieving this position at the age of 26 is the result of Meenakshi's hard work, dedication, and strong willpower. Sohan Lal Thakur also advised young women in the area to take inspiration from Meenakshi. Representatives of the Baroti Panchayat and other dignitaries from the area were also present on the occasion and extended heartfelt congratulations to Meenakshi Thakur and her family.

Punjab Chief Minister Mann lays foundation of heritage walkway in Sri Anandpur Sahib

Komal Ramola
Sri Anandpur Sahib
Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann on Sunday laid the foundation stone for a heritage walkway in the sacred city of Sri Anandpur Sahib. The project, estimated to cost around Rs 25 crore, aims to enhance the spiritual and cultural grandeur of one of Sikhism's holiest sites and is expected to be completed by March 31, 2026.

Speaking on the occasion, the Chief Minister said he felt deeply blessed to be part of this "noble service" at such a revered site. "Waheguru ji has given me the good fortune to serve this sacred land, which has not only shaped the destiny of Punjab and the Sikh community but also turned the tide of India's history," he said.

Mann recalled that it was on this very soil, on Baisakhi in 1699, that the Tenth Guru, Sri Guru Gobind Singh Ji, established the Khalsa Panth. He said Sri Anandpur Sahib continues to inspire Punjabis with the spirit of



courage and righteousness, instilled by the Gurus to stand up against tyranny and injustice.

The Chief Minister noted that the state government is commemorating the 350th martyrdom year of the Ninth Guru, Sri Guru Tegh Bahadur Ji, who is revered as the "Hind Di Chadar". As part of these efforts, the route leading to Takht Sri Kesgarh Sahib will be developed as a marble-clad heritage walkway to honor the sacred legacy of the site.

The walkway, stretching 580 meters, will be divided

into two sections—one running alongside the holy Sarovar and another comprising steps leading up to the Takht Sahib—to ensure a comfortable passage for devotees. Mann said the project will feature shaded trees mentioned in the Sri Guru Granth Sahib Ji, while the walls along the walkway will depict the rich history of Sri Anandpur Sahib and the birth of the Khalsa through detailed artworks and paintings.

To enhance the city's architectural harmony, a grand entrance gate and several additional gates will be constructed along the routes leading to the Sarovar and parking areas. "This project will not only beautify the town but also make it a global center for religious tourism," Mann said, adding that a large and attractive main gate will welcome pilgrims and visitors to the holy city.

Interacting with reporters later, the Chief Minister said his government would strongly urge the Union Government to connect all five Takhts through a dedicated rail network to promote easier access and strengthen religious tourism. He also announced that the state would soon expedite work on the Sri Anandpur Sahib-Mata Naina Devi ropeway project to further boost pilgrim connectivity.

Cabinet Ministers Harjot Singh Bains and Tarnpreet Singh Sodhi, Advisor for Tourism and Cultural Affairs Deshpak Bali, and several other dignitaries were present at the event.

Punjab's 'Sadde Buzurg Sadda Maan' restores dignity & care to 2.2 million elderly

TSN/Chandigarh

Punjab's heartwarming initiative, 'Sadde Buzurg Sadda Maan' (Our Elders, Our Pride), is turning into a lifeline for over 2.2 million senior citizens across the state. Launched by Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann's government on International Senior Citizens Day (October 3, 2023), the scheme goes beyond financial aid—it aims to restore respect, care, and emotional warmth to the elderly who often find themselves sidelined in modern family structures.

The initiative combines free healthcare with financial stability. Under it, district-level health camps are being organized across Punjab to provide comprehensive geriatric care. These camps include ENT and eye check-ups, free spectacles, distribution of medicines, and even free eye surgeries. Senior citizen cards have also been issued to make access to these services smoother and more dignified.

Alongside, a pension scheme ensures direct financial support, with ₹1,500 per month transferred directly to beneficiaries' bank accounts under the Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) system. According to the Social Security, Women and Child Development Department, 23.09 lakh elderly citizens have benefited so far, and by August 2025, ₹2,05,50,50,50 crore had been disbursed. For the ongoing financial

year, the state has earmarked ₹4,100 crore for old-age pensions.

Minister Dr. Baljit Kaur emphasized that the campaign's goal is to ensure both physical and emotional well-being for Punjab's elderly population. To further support them, a toll-free helpline—14567—has been launched to address grievances and provide assistance.

Health camps have already been held in districts including Faridkot, Moga, Ludhiana, Muktsar Sahib, Ferozepur, Fazilka, Bathinda, Mansa, Sangrur, Amritsar, Jalandhar, Patiala, and others. The initiative is being hailed as one of the state's most compassionate welfare efforts.

Beyond the numbers, 'Sadde Buzurg Sadda Maan' is restoring a lost sense of self-worth among the elderly. When an old man puts on free spectacles and sees his grandchild's smile clearly, or an elderly woman collects her medicine without help, the quiet pride on their faces reflects the true spirit of the program.

Punjab's message through this initiative is simple yet powerful: a society that honors its elders honors its own roots. As the government puts it, this is not just a welfare scheme—it is "the tilak on Punjab's forehead," symbolizing gratitude, respect, and pride in those who built its foundation.

TSN/Aggra

With skill on 'Effective Implementation of National Education Policy 2020 and Developed Uttar Pradesh @ 2047' was held at the conference hall of the Office of the Divisional Commissioner, Aggra Division, under the chairmanship of Prof. D. P. Singh, Education Advisor to the Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh and Former Chairman of the University Grants Commission. The session began with a detailed review of the Na-

two operatives Gurjant Singh & Gurvel Singh, both residents of Tarn Taran & recovers 2.5 kg Heroin & 5 sophisticated pistols along with magazines.

DGP Yadav stated that preliminary investigation reveals that the arrested accused were acting upon the "directions of a Pakistan-based smuggler to smuggle the contraband from across the border"



border arms and narcotics smuggling module with links to Pakistan & apprehends

Prof DP Singh Leads NEP 2020 Implementation Meeting

TSN/Aggra

With skill on 'Effective Implementation of National Education Policy 2020 and Developed Uttar Pradesh @ 2047' was held at the conference hall of the Office of the Divisional Commissioner, Aggra Division, under the chairmanship of Prof. D. P. Singh, Education Advisor to the Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh and Former Chairman of the University Grants Commission. The session began with a detailed review of the Na-



Prof. Singh emphasized the need to prepare future

Over 2 500 FIRs 3 900 arrests made under Mission Shakti 5.0 in UP State govt

Lucknow

More than 2,500 FIRs were registered and nearly 3,900 people arrested across Uttar Pradesh under the Mission Shakti 5.0 campaign, launched on the first day of Navratri by Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, officials said on Saturday.

The campaign aims to empower women by promoting self-reliance, social inclusion and security. Under the statewide drive, police intensified efforts to enhance women's safety and strengthen public trust, the Uttar Pradesh government said in a statement.

Additional Director General (ADG) (Women and Child Security Wing) Padma Chauhan, the nodal officer of Mission Shakti, said Anti-Romeo Squads increased surveillance across public spaces, including temples, markets, malls and parks.

During the campaign, police inspected 1,08,292 temples and other public locations, checked 9,77 lakh persons, and registered 2,542 FIRs. As many as 3,972 people were arrested for anti-social behaviour, while 3.13 lakh were issued warnings and counselled on public conduct.

A total of 37,337 police personnel were deployed across temples, religious sites and public places, including 41 gazetted officers, 7,999 inspectors and sub-inspectors, and 23,547 head constables and constables, the statement said.

Plans that link education with skill development, keeping in mind local circumstances and environmental conditions. He reviewed the ongoing activities in Aggra district under the Viksit Bharat 2047 initiative and sought updates from the officials present. Chief Development Officer Smt. Pratibha Singh outlined various educational and community programs being implemented across institutions and local bodies.

Chandigarh-based firm's owner among 16 booked for frauds in Jammu

Jammu

The Jammu and Kashmir Police Crime Branch has registered five cases against 16 people for their alleged involvement in multi-crore job, visa, and document frauds and siphoning off large amounts of government funds, an officer said on Sunday.

The accused include top executives of a Chandigarh-based company, some officials of the J-K government, and a lawyer, who swindled more than 50 people, the officer said.

The FIRs were filed at the Crime Branch (Economic Offences Wing) Police Station.

One of the cases involved top executives of Chandigarh-based Messrs Saphire, including its owner, Jass Bajwa. The police action came on a complaint by Samba resident Prem Nath, who claimed that he was duped of Rs 17.09 lakh in a visa fraud by the firm's employees. Senior Superintendent of Police, Crime Jammu, Benam Tosh said. The company's manager, Yuvraj Singh Sandhu, its counsellor, Gagan, refund-in-charge, Devinder Singh, and authorised signatory, Shalika, were also named in the FIR, he said.

Mumbai Meteors rock hosts Hyderabad Black Hawks with 3-0 win

New Delhi: Mumbai Meteors executed a clinical 15-9, 15-13, 15-7 win over the hosts Hyderabad Black Hawks in RR Kabel Prime Volleyball League (PVL) at the Gachibowli Indoor Stadium, Hyderabad on Saturday.

Shubham Chaudhary was named the Player of the Match, as per a release from PVL.

Mumbai dominated with the serve early on, catching Hyderabad out of position on multiple occasions. Abhinav Saini's super serve rocked Hyderabad's defence.

Hyderabad's risky call of a super point did not yield the desired result as Shubham Chaudhary's block helped Mumbai.

Paulo Lamounier distributed his passes between Niyas Abdul Salam and Sahil Kumar, who both provided quality attacking options.

But Mumbai appeared to have done their homework, always employing a two-man block against the two attackers to give themselves the best possible defence.

Mathias Loftenes joined in to complement Mumbai's attack, while Hyderabad brought on Guru to break through the opposition's defence. But Mumbai continued to capitalise on the momentum with Shubham's relentless attacks.

Lamounier began setting pipe attacks with John Joseph on the court as the Black Hawks tried to find a way back. But Hyderabad struggled against Abhinav's final set service run, as the Mumbai blocker made two quick super serves, and two more aces to tilt the game entirely in Mumbai's favour.

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Finch explains how Gill will benefit from Rohit, Virat's presence in maiden ODI captaincy assignment

Colombo:

Former T20 World Cup-winning Australia skipper Aaron Finch feels Shubman Gill will find a state of calmness in his maiden ODI captaincy assignment for India, considering he will enjoy the presence of experienced batters Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli, unlike the England tour.

Chief Selector Ajit Agarkar sent shockwaves through the cricket world after revealing that he had personally informed Rohit about the management's decision to move him away from captaincy. The captaincy baton was passed down to Gill two years before the 2027 World Cup, as the management wanted him to settle into the role before the showpiece event.

The 26-year-old has officially assumed the leadership role in two formats. Gill was handed the Test leadership role after Rohit bid adieu to the format in May. In his first project, he led



Gill set to shine under Rohit & Virat's guidance

India during the Anderson-Tendulkar Trophy in England. Under his watch, India returned with a 2-2 draw, even though he hardly lacked an experienced guiding figure around him.

Gill will begin his ODI captaincy odyssey in Australia, with the series opener scheduled for October 19 in Perth.

Finch is among those who remain interested in seeing how Gill fares in his debut ODI series as captain. He feels the fact that Rohit and Kohli will be beside him in the field could prove a boost for the inexperienced 26-year-old.

"Shubman has already shown what a good leader he is in T20 cricket

and Test cricket, so I'm sure this will be no different. He's a brilliant player, particularly in the white-ball formats, and the way that he captained against England in the Test series is just a huge tick in his box to take the next step and take over the Indian leadership right the way through (all three

formats)," Finch said on ICC Digital from Colombo during the ongoing Women's WC.

"I think when you look back to that England Test series, he (Gill) didn't have many other options that he could turn to for advice, probably when he was out on the ground, but he did a wonderful job himself. But I think just having those guys (Rohit and Kohli) there will be a real calmness for him as well, because it's the ability to bounce ideas, both on and off the field on how you want the team to function, going forward, because they've been such a huge part of the team for a long period of time," he added.

After being appointed as the ODI captain, Gill has set his sights on the World Cup. With India expected to play around 20 ODIs during the buildup to the marquee event, Gill intends to lift the coveted trophy in South Africa.

"It is the biggest honour to be able to lead

Aaron Finch predicts scoreline for IND-AUS ODI series



Colombo:

Former Australian cricketer Aaron Finch delivered a verdict in favour of his side as they prepare to take on a Rohit Sharma-Virat Kohli-powered India during a three-match ODI series at home from October 19 onwards.

Rohit and Virat, two of India's ODI-only stalwarts now, will return to Indian colours for the first time since the ICC Champions Trophy win this year in March, as they will take on Australia during the three-match ODI series they prepare for the 2027 ICC Cricket World Cup to be hosted by South Africa, Zimbabwe and Namibia. With Rohit no longer the ODI captain

and replaced by Shubman Gill, and Virat also playing just one format, this tour will be vital for these two legends on their road to South Africa.

Finch, who was well known for his exploits against India throughout his career and was part of the Australian side that won the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup on home soil in 2015, believes the series will be closely fought, with his former side likely to claim the honours narrowly.

In 32 ODIs and 31 innings against India, Finch made 1,450 runs at an average of 48.66, with four centuries and nine fifties and a best score of 124.

Anurag Thakur unanimously elected as President of HPOA

Shimla:

Former Union Sports Minister Anurag Thakur has been unanimously elected as the President of the Himachal Pradesh Olympic Association during the Annual General Meeting on Sunday. The Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Himachal Pradesh Olympic Association (HPOA) was held with overwhelming participation and enthusiasm from members across the state. The meeting was a significant occasion, as a new team of office bearers was elected for the next term of the Association.

During the AGM meeting, Anurag Thakur was unanimously elected as the President of the Himachal Pradesh Olympic Association. The newly elected Executive Committee consists of 17 members. Anurag has previously served as the President of the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) from 2015 to 2017. After his stint with the BCCI ended, he served as the Union Minister of Sports from 2021 to 2024.



Anurag Thakur chosen unanimously as HPOA President.

Outgoing President Vinendra Kanwar was unanimously nominated as the Chief Patron of the HPOA. MLA Balbir Verma was appointed as the Senior Vice President. Rajesh Bhandari and Amitabh Sharma have been appointed as the General Secretary and Treasurer, respectively.

While Balbir has been appointed as the Senior VP of the HPOA, Lehar Rohal, Usha Barowalia, and Narendra Atri will serve as Vice Presidents. Raj Kumar Mittu, Rahul Pathania and Ramesh Chauhan have been

named as the Joint Secretaries.

Addressing the gathering, President Anurag Thakur outlined the key priorities of the Association. He emphasised strengthening sports infrastructure across the state, increasing the number of qualified coaches to train athletes in all Olympic sports. He also underscored the importance of promoting grassroots participation to nurture young talent and building a self-reliant model for the development and management of Olympic sports in Himachal Pradesh.

Breaking Time

What to do

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

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

Solution, Sudoku

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

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Rahul Tewatia opens up about Influence of Yuvraj Singh, MS Dhoni on his batting

Mumbai: Indian cricketer Rahul Tewatia credits Yuvraj Singh and MS Dhoni as his batting inspirations. As a left-hander, he admires Yuvraj's stylish batting, while Dhoni's calculated approach in death overs and ability to target bowlers.

Tewatia has established himself in Indian domestic cricket with consistent contributions. In T20s, he has featured in 169 matches, scoring 2,007 runs at an impressive strike rate of 144.31.

Known for his ability to play impactful cameo in the middle and lower order, his highest score in T20s stands at 59, while he maintains a steady batting average of 26.01. With the ball, Tewatia has been equally handy in the format, picking up 69 wickets with best figures of 3/4.

Rahul Tewatia said, "I grew up watching a lot of Yuvraj Singh's batting. Being a left-hander, I grew up watching his batting. When I started



Rahul Tewatia credits Yuvraj & Dhoni for shaping his batting style

playing as a finisher in domestic cricket, and when I got a chance in IPL, I used to watch Mahi bat a lot. What he does in death overs, how he targets the bowlers when he chases, how he calculates, I started watching all those things. So, watching both of them, I got a lot of help in batting."

Tewatia has been part of the Gujarat Titans (GT) franchise in the

Indian Premier League (IPL) since 2022. Before playing for the Titans, Tewatia had been part of three IPL teams - Rajasthan Royals, Punjab Kings and Delhi Capitals.

Tewatia burst into the IPL's consciousness in 2020, when, promoted to No. 4 by Rajasthan Royals in a chase of 224 against Kings XI Punjab, he crawled to 8 off 19 balls before turning into

Mr Hyde and smacking five sixes off an over, taking his side to an unlikely win.

In IPL 2022, with Gujarat Titans needing 12 runs off the last two balls, Tewatia stepped up and smashed two consecutive sixes, securing a six-wicket win for his team. Titans ultimately went on to win the IPL title that season, with Tewatia playing a crucial role in their campaign.

paign. Tewatia also emphasised the importance of maintaining a consistent mindset in cricket, regardless of success or failure. He believes that focusing on the process and preparation is key, rather than getting bogged down by individual performances.

"If we talk about getting less batting, and cricket is such that if you get batting, and you get out early, then there are more chances of failure. In my opinion, both should be the same at all times, whether there is success or failure. Both should be the same at both times, and should react the same way. Obviously, it feels bad when you get out early, but I feel that we should focus more on our process, on what we do in practice; we should be more focused on that, rather than thinking that I got out. I can't take that thing in the next game, because I have to start fresh in the next game."

Shikhar Dhawan joins Bhasma Aarti Ritual at Shri Mahakaleshwar Temple

Ujjain:

Former India cricketer Shikhar Dhawan participated in the Bhasma Aarti ceremony at the Shri Mahakaleshwar Jyotirlinga Temple in Ujjain, Madhya Pradesh, on Sunday. His attendance drew attention among devotees.

In early morning hours, Dhawan arrived at the temple wearing Bhagva Vastra as he joined other devotees in offering prayers and observing the symbolic anti-based ritual (bhasma aarti) inside the temple premises. The serene ambience, heavy with devotion, was captured in video clips that circulated online.

Dhawan said, "I felt very good. I enjoyed it a lot. The power that comes from Mahakaleshwar Aarti engrosses us. This is my second visit to the Mahakaleshwar temple. Baba Mahakal's blessings are always necessary, and I hope they stay with the entire world."

Bhasma Aarti at Mahakaleshwar is renowned for being a spiritually potent ritual,



Shikhar Dhawan offers prayers at Shri Mahakaleshwar Temple

performed in the pre-dawn hours. It holds deep significance for Aarti engrosses us. This is my second visit to the Mahakaleshwar temple. Baba Mahakal's blessings are always necessary, and I hope they stay with the entire world."

Bhasma Aarti at Mahakaleshwar is renowned for being a spiritually potent ritual,

in a state of prayerful immersion.

Dhawan's visit highlights how sports personalities frequently intersect with religious traditions, blending public life with private faith. For many devotees, seeing a well-known figure participate in such a sacred ritual reinforces the universal appeal of spiritual practices.

Indonesian rescuers search for missing students after school collapse kills 37

Sidoarjo (Indonesia):

Indonesian rescuers are searching on Sunday for missing students after a prayer hall at an Islamic boarding school collapsed almost a week ago. They have recovered 23 bodies over the weekend search, bringing the death toll to 37.

Using jackhammers, circular saws and sometimes their bare hands, rescue teams diligently removed rubble in an attempt to find the 26 missing students.

The structure fell on top of hundreds of students, mostly boys between the ages of 12 and 19, on September 30 at the century-old Al Khazimiyah school in Sidoarjo on the eastern side of Indonesia's Java island. Only one student escaped unscathed, authorities said, while 95 were treated for various injuries and released. Eight others suffered serious wounds and remained hospitalized.

Police said two levels were added to the two-story building without a permit, leading to structural failure. This has triggered widespread anger over illegal construction in Indonesia.

"The construction couldn't support the load while the concrete was pouring (to build) the third floor because it didn't meet standards and the whole 800 square metres construction collapsed," said Muddy Irmawan, a con-

BUSINESS

UK says it will restrict repeated protests after 500 arrests at pro-Palestinian vigil

London:

British police will get stronger powers to restrict repeated protests, the government said Sunday, after almost 500 people were arrested at a demonstration in support of a banned pro-Palestinian group.

The Home Office said police forces will be able to consider the "cumulative impact of frequent protests" on local areas when they impose conditions on marches and demonstrations.

"The right to protest is a fundamental freedom in our country," Home Secretary Shabana Mahmood said. "However, this freedom must be balanced with the freedom of their neighbours to live their lives without fear. Large, repeated protests can leave sections of our country, particularly religious communities, feeling unsafe, intimidated and scared to leave their homes."

Pro-Palestinian demonstrations have



UK tightens protest laws after mass arrests at pro-Palestinian vigil, citing public safety concerns

been held regularly since the start of Israel's military offensive in Gaza, which has so far killed more than 67,000 Palestinians, according to the Gaza Health Ministry that is part of the Hamas-run government. The UN and many independent experts con-

sider its figures to be the most reliable estimate of wartime casualties.

The protests have been overwhelmingly peaceful, but some people say they have allowed antisemitism to spread. Some Jews say they feel threatened by chants such as "From the river

to the sea, Palestine will be free." A handful of pro-Palestinian protesters have been arrested for supporting Hamas, which is banned in the UK.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and his supporters have frequently accused crit-

The Home Office said police forces will be able to consider the "cumulative impact of frequent protests" on local areas when they impose conditions on marches and demonstrations.

ics of Israel or its conduct of the war in Gaza of antisemitism. Israel's detractors see it as an attempt to stifle even legitimate criticism.

British police and politicians had urged protesters to stay home this weekend after Thursday's attack on a synagogue in Manchester that left two Jewish men dead. Prime Minister Keir Starmer said that organisers should "reconsider and respect the grief of British Jews this week" and postpone.

But on Saturday, about 1,000 people gathered in Trafalgar Square to protest against the banning of Palestinian Action, a direct-action group that

Pakistan PM Shehbaz Sharif to visit Malaysia



Islamabad: Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif is scheduled to visit Malaysia on Sunday to promote bilateral ties, according to the Foreign Office.

He will be accompanied by a high-level delegation comprising Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar and other ministers and senior government officials, the Foreign Office (FO) said in a statement released on Saturday.

Sharif was invited by Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim of Malaysia for an official visit from October 5 to 7.

"The visit reflects the strong and enduring strategic partnership between Pakistan and Malaysia, rooted in mutual respect, shared interests,

and close cooperation across a wide range of sectors," the FO said.

During the visit, the Prime Minister is scheduled to hold bilateral talks with his Malaysian counterpart as well as discuss key regional and global developments.

The two leaders will also deliberate on enhancing bilateral cooperation in trade, IT and telecommunications, industry, investment, education, energy, infrastructure, digital economy, and people-to-people ties, the FO said.

The leaders are expected to witness the signing of Agreements and MoUs for cooperation in several existing and new sectors, it added.

At least 5 dead in large-scale nighttime Russian strike on Ukraine

Kyiv:

At least five civilians died after Russia launched drones, missiles and guided aerial bombs at Ukraine overnight into Sunday, in a major nighttime attack that officials there said targeted civilian infrastructure.

Moscow sent over 500 ballistic missiles and around 500 drones into nine regions across



Ukraine, President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said on Sunday morning. Four people, including

a 15-year-old, died in a combined drone and missile strike on Lviv, according to regional

officials and Ukraine's emergency service.

The historic western city is often seen as a haven from the fighting and destruction further east. At least six more people sustained injuries, according to a statement by Ukraine's police force.

The strike left two districts without power and public transport suspended for a few hours

early Sunday, mayor Andriy Sadovyi reported. He added that a business complex on the outskirts of Lviv was on fire following the strike, describing it as a civilian facility not linked to Ukraine's war effort.

One person was also injured in the Ivano-Frankivsk region south of Lviv, according to local Gov. Svitlana Onyschchuk.

In the southern city of Zaporizhzhia, a nighttime aerial assault killed a civilian woman and wounded nine other people including a 16-year-old girl, regional Gov. Ivan Fedorov reported. He said Russia attacked with drones and guided aerial bombs. Fedorov said the strike destroyed residential buildings and left some 73,000 households in

Zaporizhzhia and surrounding areas without power.

Separately, six people including a child were injured in Sloviansk, a key city in the eastern Donetsk region that remains under Ukrainian control, after a Russian guided aerial bomb slammed into an apartment block, regional prosecutors reported on Sunday.

Commercial coal mining begins in Arunachal

New Delhi/Itanagar:

The government will launch commercial coal mining in Arunachal Pradesh on Monday, putting an end to exploitation and wastage of resources. "Arunachal Pradesh is set to witness a historic day on October 6, 2025 with the launch of its first commercial coal mine at the Namchik-Namphuk coal block, marking a new chapter of growth, energy security, and local prosperity," the coal ministry said in a statement.

Union Minister of Coal and Mines G Kishan Reddy will perform the Bhoomi Poojan, to be followed by the handing over of the mining lease to the operator.

The coal block, with estimated reserves of 1.5 crore tonnes, was first allocated in 2003. However, it faced delays due to various challenges. It was revived through an auction process in 2022, which also opened the sector for private players.

The mining block is expected to generate a revenue of over Rs 100 crore annually for the state.

The ministry further said that sources of critical minerals are also being unlocked in Arunachal Pradesh, with two blocks in the state and five in Assam under auction.

The ministry has also asked for operationalising these blocks early as it would lead to employment generation.

In an official communication, Reddy said the commercial launch of the coal mine in Changlang district marks not merely an industrial milestone, but a symbol of trust, transparency, and transformation for the state and the entire North East.

The minister will jointly launch commercial operations of the mine with Arunachal Pradesh Chief Minister Pema Khandu.

Reddy underlined that the initiative fulfills Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of an 'Atma Nirbhar Bharat', integrating the North East into India's larger energy and infrastructure grid through sustainable, scientific, and legal mining practices.

BSNL 4G towers to be upgraded to 5G in 6-8 months: Scindia

New Delhi:

The indigenously developed 4G network of BSNL will be upgraded to 5G in the next six-eight months, telecom minister Jyoti Radhika Scindia said on Sunday.

While speaking at the Kautilya Economic Enclave 2025, the minister said that India has entered into the club of 4G technology, which was dominated by just five companies in the world -- Huawei, ZTE, Samsung, Nokia and Ericsson -- based out of four countries -- Sweden, Finland, South Korea and China.

He said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi unveiled 92,564 towers that connect Kashmir to Kanyakumari and Bharuch to Arunachal Pradesh in India with our own domestic 4G standard.

"Today, India has entered the club with its own 4G standard. This is India's innovation



capability and innovation enterprise. But we are not going to rest. Within the next six to eight months, we will be switching these 4G towers to 5G networks and providing end-to-end 5G network capability across the length and breadth of India," Scindia said.

The minister said turbulence in geopolitical space has become a rhythm and reached its all-time high with conflicts and wars in every corner in the last five years, leading to protectionism that creates trade barriers.

Scindia said "climate shocks" are exposing economies to economic vulnerability and threat of inflation is affecting every household including those in developed nations.

"Therefore, it begs the question of us as human beings today,

to ask ourselves, where does prosperity lie? That turbulence is not a disruptor. Turbulence is also a catalyst. In this context, India has acted as a catalyst, growing at close to 7.8 per cent GDP growth in the first quarter of FY25-26," the minister said.

He said India has become a fulcrum for the Global South.

"I submit to you that in this age of uncertainty, which has become the norm, India is not just another destination. India is the direction. India is not only the voice, India is the mission. And for those who seek prosperity in turbulent times, I urge all of them to look, move and invest in India," Scindia said.

Speaking to reporters on the sidelines of the event, the minister said innovation is thriving in India where all the global majors are present in India in very large numbers.

Malabar Gold & Diamonds Presents the Artistry Show at South Ex Showroom, Delhi

New Delhi:

Malabar Gold & Diamonds, the Responsible Jeweller and one of India's leading jewellery retail chains, is all set to host its exclusive Artistry Show from 4th to 20th October at the South Ex part 2 showroom, Delhi. The exhibition will celebrate the unparalleled craftsmanship of handcrafted

jewellery, showcasing an exquisite collection of both traditional and contemporary designs. The event was graced by celebrity fashion designer Asma Gulzar, a beacon of Indo-fusion fashion and an internationally acclaimed fashion powerhouse, who unveiled the Artistry Show on 4th October. Her presence added glamour

and elegance to the occasion, perfectly highlighting the seamless fusion of jewellery and fashion, and inspiring connoisseurs and visitors alike.

Each piece showcased at the Artistry Show is a unique expression of artisanal excellence. The curated collection includes signature creations from Malabar Gold &

Diamonds' renowned exclusive brands, such as Mine diamond jewellery, Era uncut diamonds, Precia gemstone jewellery, Ethnix handcrafted jewellery, Viraz royal Polki jewellery, and more.

"We are proud to bring the Artistry Show to our South Ex showroom offering customers in Delhi a chance to experience

the finest in jewellery craftsmanship. Our collections stand for quality, purity, and honest pricing - values that define the Malabar promise," said M.P. Ahmadd, Chairman, Malabar Jeweller.

As a responsible jeweller, Malabar Gold & Diamonds adheres to the highest standards of ethical

sourcing. All gold is procured through legal and verified channels, certified with HUID hallmarks. The brand exclusively offers gold sourced from LBMA and DGDB-approved refiners, reinforcing its stance against unethical practices such as gold smuggling, tax evasion, and child labour. Malabar's core values

are reflected in its 'Malabar Promises', a commitment to 100% value on gold and diamond exchange, transparent pricing, certified diamonds and gemstones, lifetime maintenance, and ethical sourcing. These principles form the foundation of the brand's mission to be the most preferred and trusted jeweller worldwide.

India, Australia to ink 3 pacts during Rajnath's visit to Canberra this week

New Delhi:

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh will undertake a two-day visit to Australia beginning Thursday to explore "new and meaningful" initiatives to further expand bilateral defence and strategic ties.

The two sides are set to ink three agreements during Singh's visit that will provide for further boosting cooperation in the areas of information sharing, expanding maritime security ties and joint activities. India and Australia are also expected to carry out a detailed review of the current situation in the Indo-Pacific amid growing global concerns over China's increasing military muscle-flexing in the region.

Singh's trip to Australia will mark the first-ever visit of a defence minister to Australia under the Modi government since 2014.

"The visit comes at a historic moment when India and Australia commemorate five years of establishment of India-Australia Comprehensive Strategic Partnership (CSP)," the defence ministry said.

Singh is travelling to the country at the invitation of Australia's Deputy Prime Minister and Defence Minister Richard Marles.

"The visit will provide an important opportunity for both sides to explore new and meaningful initiatives to further strengthen the bilateral relationship and the defence partnership," the ministry said in a statement.



Selena Gomez shares glimpse of writing vows for Benny Blanco

Washington
 Singer-actor Selena Gomez has shared a glimpse of her vow-writing process for her wedding to Benny Blanco, reported Page Six.

Taking to her Instagram handle, she shared a series of pictures of herself getting ready for her nuptials in a pink satin robe. Gomez sat on a bed with a pen and paper, writing

down her commitments to her beau. Her hair and makeup were already done for her grandiose wedding. The blushing bride also shared a selfie with her followers, showing herself in a

white veil and a blue robe, smiling playfully as she sat close to her pal.

Gomez also shared a photo of her and Blanco passionately walking along a beach, as well as a photo of her hurriedly leaving her wedding reception, according to Page Six.

"From writing my vows to leaving my wedding a little earlier than most..." she captioned the candid post, reported Page Six.

Anita Hassanandani wins Rannvijay Singha-hosted 'Chhoriyan Chali Gaon'



Mumbai
 Television actor Anita Hassanandani has been announced as the winner of Zee TV's reality show 'Chhoriyan Chali Gaon'.

The popular actor took home the trophy after defeating Krishna Shroff and Surabhi Mehra in the final task of the show, which was hosted by Rannvijay Singha.

The show, which began on August 3, brought together 11 well-known faces from television, films, and social me-

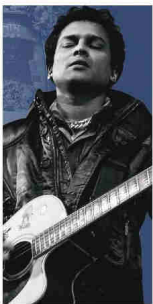
dia. It aimed to show how these urban women adapted to life in a rural village, far from their usual comfort zones. The contestants included Anita Hassanandani, Krishna Shroff, Aishwarya Khare, Sumukhi Suresh, Anjum Fakih, Reha Sukheja, Rameet Sandhu, Erika Packard, Surabhi Mehra, Samridhi Mehra (Chhink-Minki), and Dolly Javed.

Throughout the show, the participants were given challenges such as milking cows, fetching water, cooking on traditional chulhas, and

teaching local children. Each week, one contestant was named 'Chhori Number 1' for her performance.

The final round saw Krishna Shroff, Erika Packard, Surabhi Mehra, Dolly Javed, and Anita Hassanandani battle it out for the title, with Anita emerging as the winner.

Anita is best known for her hit television shows like 'Kavyanjali' and 'Kyunki Saas Bhi Kabhi Bahu Thi'. The actress rose to fame for her impressive role as a villain in the television serial 'Yeh Hai Mohabbatein'.



Zubeen Garg's final film 'Roi Roi Binala' to release on Oct 31

Sabrina Carpenter rejoices over Taylor Swift collaboration in 'The Life of a Showgirl'

Washington
 Pop sensation Sabrina Carpenter has teamed up with global superstar Taylor Swift for the title track of her twelfth studio album, 'The Life of a Showgirl', according to People.

The collaboration marks a much-anticipated moment for fans, as the two artists blend their signature styles in what promises to be one of the year's biggest pop releases.

Carpenter posted about their collaboration on her Instagram Stories, sharing Swift's Instagram post announcing the album's release. She also shared a picture of herself and Swift, 35, embracing at the 2025 Grammy Awards with their new duet playing in the background, according to People.

Their collaboration is the final track on the album, which delves into the reality of show business and what it means to be a



showgirl.

"I wanted Sabrina to be the person who did the duet with me on it because I just think she's so smart and cut out for this job, if you want to call it a job," said Swift earlier.

"It's really an all-encompassing life path, and I think she's just so brilliant and what it means to be a

showgirl. She's very sensitive in terms of being an artist, but she can handle herself. So I just thought that she would be a great person to collaborate with on that song in particular. And it's the last song on the record, so it really ends out the story of the album," she added as quoted by People.

Soha Ali Khan's homely birthday celebration with husband Kunal Kemmu and family



Mumbai
 The Pataudi family came together to celebrate Soha Ali Khan's birthday in a cosy, fun way.

The 'Rang De Basanti' actor, who turned a year older on October 4, gave fans a glimpse into her intimate celebration.

Taking to her Instagram account on Sunday, Soha shared a series of pictures from the special day, which included her husband Kunal Kemmu, her mother and veteran actress Sharmila Tagore, and a few close friends. From delicious cakes to gluten-free treats, the pictures showed a calm and happy family evening.

"Cake, calm, and a lot of love -- couldn't ask for more. #happybirthday #gratitude," Soha wrote in the caption.

Earlier, actor Kareena Kapoor Khan penned an adorable birthday wish for her sister-in-law. Kareena took to her In-

stagram handle and shared a series of pictures. The first one featured the 'Jab We Met' actor alongside Soha Ali Khan. The ace star called her "funny" and "supportive."

"May the books, sugar-free cake, and the love you have for your brother and me never run out... You funny, supportive, lovely one... Happy birthday, sister-in-law. Love you always... @sakupatudi," Kareena Kapoor wrote in the caption.

After Kareena's post, Soha responded, "No danger of that!! I am supremely loyal to my family, my literature, and my desserts!! Sometimes, the order of priority changes... Love you!!"

Born on October 4, Soha has acted in the romantic comedy film 'Dil Maange More' and is also known for her roles in 'Rang De Basanti', 'Akhista', and 'Chhori 2', among others.

Martin Scorsese recalls why he was asked to leave Catholic seminary

Washington
 Filmmaker Martin Scorsese opened up on his early exit from a Catholic seminary school that would have set his life on a very different path, according to People.

Scorsese, 82, discussed his lifelong fascination with religion in Rebecca Miller's new documentary, 'Mr Scorsese', which premiered at the New York Film Festival.

He recalled in the series' first episode that he was deeply moved when he first attended Mass at St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York City, around the age of seven, and continued his religious education into his teenage years,



as reported by People.

"There was a preparatory seminary, and that was on 85th Street somewhere. I did okay for the first few months, but something happened," Scorsese shared in the new series. "I began to realise the world is changing. It was early rock and roll, around the age of seven, and I became aware of life around me. Falling in love or



Kirsten Dunst credits her Hollywood career to "good friends and good family"

Washington
 Actor Kirsten Dunst, who began her Hollywood journey as a child star, has credited her enduring 30-year career to two key factors — "good friends and good family," according to People.

While speaking at the Los Angeles premiere of her upcoming film 'Roofman', Dunst said her close relationships have been essential in sustaining her through the highs and lows of the entertainment industry.

"Good friends and good family," said the 43-year-old actress, when asked what she

believes has kept her grounded in Hollywood. She added that

While speaking at the Los Angeles premiere of her upcoming film 'Roofman', Dunst said her close relationships have been essential in sustaining her through the highs and lows of the entertainment industry.

she feels "very proud" to still be making films she is passionate about, according to People.

"I think that I just feel very

proud that I can keep doing films that I want to do, and that the industry has embraced me still and keeps doing so. I really appreciate growing up, finding my path, and being part of making movies that mean a lot to me," she shared, according to People.

Dunst, an industry veteran, landed her first significant role at the age of 11, starring opposite Brad Pitt and Tom Cruise in 1994's 'Interview with the Vampire'. She was nominated for a Golden Globe for her performance in the gothic thriller.