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MARKET	
SENSEX	NIFTY
81926.75	25108.30
136.63	30.65
GOLD	SILVER
121,055.00	145,410.00
806.00	-382.00

WEATHER	
Sunrise	6:19 AM
Sunset	5:59 PM
Moonrise	7:24 PM
Moonset	9:48 AM

Today's Prediction	
Maximum	29°C
Minimum	19°C
Tomorrow's Prediction	
Maximum	30°C
Minimum	20°C

SC asks EC to furnish details of deleted voters in Bihar

■ Top court expresses concern over confusion regarding whether voters added to the final electoral list were previously deleted from the draft or entirely new entries.

New Delhi

The Supreme Court on Tuesday asked the Election Commission to provide details of 3,66 lakh voters excluded from the final electoral roll prepared after Bihar's special intensive revision (SIR) exercise.

The poll panel informed the apex court that most of the names added in the final list after the publication of the draft list on August 30 were of new voters and that no complaint or appeal has been filed till now by any excluded voter.

A bench of Justices Surya Kant and Jaymalya Bagchi passed the directions after some petitioners, including political leaders from opposition parties like Rashtriya Janata Dal, Congress and Communist Party of India-Marxist, said that the Election Commission (EC) has not given any notice or reasons to the deleted voters for their exclusion from the final electoral list.

The bench, which was



hearing a batch of pleas challenging the June 24 decision of the Election Commission to conduct the SIR in poll-bound Bihar, said the EC will submit whatever information it gets on excluded voters by Thursday (October 9), when it will hold the next hearing on these pleas.

The top court said everyone has the draft electoral roll and the final list has also been published on September 30, so the required data can be furnished

through a comparative analysis.

Justice Bagchi told senior advocate Rakesh Dwivedi, appearing for the poll panel, that court orders have resulted in more transparency and access to the electoral process.

The bench said that since it appears from the number of electors in the final list that there is an appreciation of numbers from the draft rolls, therefore, to avoid any confusion, the identity of add-ons should be

disclosed.

"You'd agree with us that the degree of transparency and access has improved in the electoral process. It appears from the data that there was a 65 lakh deletion in the draft list which you published, and we said whoever is dead or moved is alright, but if you are deleting someone, please follow Rule 21 and the SOP."

"We also said that whoever is deleted, please put up their data in your electoral office-

es. Now the final list appears to be an appreciation of numbers, and there is confusion in the general democratic process -- what is the identity of the add-ons, are they of deleted names or new names. You have the draft and the final list. Just cull out these details and give us the information," Justice Bagchi said.

Dwivedi replied that most of the names added are of new voters and there were a few old voters whose names were added after the draft roll was published.

"No complaint or appeal filed till now by any excluded voters," Dwivedi said.

At the outset, advocate Prashant Bhushan, appearing for Rashtriya Janta Dal, and senior advocate Abhishek M Singhvi, appearing for opposition leaders challenging the poll panel decision to conduct the SIR, alleged that excluded voters were not given any notice or reasons for their deletion.

CONTD ON PAGE-2

18 killed as landslide hits bus in Himachal Bilaspur



Shimla

At least 15 people were killed and others remain trapped under the debris after a massive landslide hit a private bus in Himachal Pradesh's Bilaspur district on Tuesday evening.

The bus, carrying 30-35 passengers, was on its way from Marotan to Ghumarwin when the accident happened in the Bhalughat area in the Jhandut assembly segment.

Officials said 15 bodies have been recovered from the debris so far, while three people, including two children have been rescued and shifted to the hospital.

The toll is feared to rise as the passengers reportedly sustained serious injuries after the bus got entirely buried under huge rocks.

A police official engaged in the rescue op-

eration said the "chances of survival of the passengers are bleak" as a whole mountain came crashing down on the bus.

The injured have been shifted to the Ghumarwin Community Health Centre and Jhanduta Hospital for treatment.

"Police and district administration officials are at the spot and rescue operations are going on in full swing, the officials said. NDRF teams have also reached the site and are engaged in rescue operations."

Sources said heavy machinery has been deployed to clear the debris and rescue those trapped inside the mangled bus, which got stuck under massive rocks. Locals rushed to help, and an excavator was later pressed into service to tear open the roof and pull people out.

CONTD ON PAGE-2

No dirty business or manipulation in AI171 crash probe: Minister



HIGHLIGHT

■ Naidu said everyone has to wait for the final AAI's final probe report to know what exactly happened.

fatal crash.

Naidu said everyone has to wait for the final AAI's final probe report to know what exactly happened.

"There is no manipulation, or there is no dirty business, happening in the investigation. It is a very clean and very thorough process that we are doing according to the rules..." he said.

The minister also said it will take some time for the final AAI probe into the crash and added, "We don't want to pressure them into coming up with some history report". Agency

New Delhi

Civil Aviation Minister Naidu on Tuesday said there is "no manipulation or dirty business" happening in the investigation into the Air India plane crash that killed 260 people on June 12.

His assertion comes against the backdrop of concerns expressed in certain quarters about the Aircraft Accident Investigation Bureau (AAIB) probe into the

India, Russia, China oppose foreign military in Afghanistan

New Delhi

India on Tuesday joined Russia, China and several other nations to oppose efforts to deploy foreign military infrastructure in Afghanistan, against the backdrop of US President Donald Trump's calls to the Taliban regime to hand over the strategic Bagram airbase.

At a fresh edition of "Moscow Format" talks, the group of the countries held extensive deliberations on bringing prosperity and development to Afghanistan.

The countries described as "unacceptable" the attempts by countries to deploy their military infrastructure in Afghanistan and neighbouring states, since this does not serve the interests of regional peace and stability.



Taliban foreign minister Amir Khan Muttapi participated in the Moscow Format talks for the first time.

Few weeks ago, Trump said the Taliban should hand over Bagram airbase to the US as it was set up by Washington.

At the talks in Moscow, the participating nations also called for strengthening counter-terror cooperation at both bilateral and multilateral

levels.

"They emphasised that Afghanistan should be supported to undertake comprehensive measures aimed at the elimination of terrorism and its eradication within a short timeframe so that Afghan soil is not used as a threat to the security of the neighbouring countries and beyond," the statement said.

It said the countries underscored that terror-

ism constitutes a serious threat to the security of Afghanistan, the region and the wider world."

Besides India, Russia and China, the meeting was attended by Iran, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan.

The countries noted the need for Afghanistan's economic ties with countries of the region and beyond.

"They supported the active integration of Afghanistan into the system of regional connectivity," the statement said.

The Indian delegation led by ambassador Vinay Kumar backed an independent, peaceful and stable Afghanistan and socioeconomic development and prosperity of Afghan people, the Indian embassy in Moscow said. Agency

India-US in continuous dialogue for trade pact: Goyal



Doha

India and the US are in continuous dialogue on the proposed bilateral trade agreement, and all possibilities are there to meet the November deadline for concluding the talks, Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal said on Tuesday.

On the possibility of the next round of trade negotiations in a physical mode, he said that every possibility exists, but with the US government currently in shutdown mode, it remains to be seen how, where, and when the next round of talks can take place.

"Aap sub jante hain ki USA me naj-kal government shut down mode me hai, toh uske mad-denazar dekha padega ki kaise baat-cheet ho sakti hai, kahan ho sakti hai, aur kab ho sakti hai (As you all know, the US government is currently in shutdown mode. So, keeping that in mind, we'll have to see how, where, and when the discussions can take place)," he told reporters here.

The US government has stopped working since midnight on October 1 as Congress failed to pass a funding bill. Theoretically, this means many government workers will not be paid for now, and service centres are closed. However, important operations, such as in the field of defence and social work, will continue to function.

CONTD ON PAGE-2

VP Radhakrishnan seeks support of parties for smooth functioning of RS

New Delhi

Vice President C P Radhakrishnan on Tuesday met leaders of various political parties and sought their support and cooperation in the smooth functioning of the Rajya Sabha and in strengthening parliamentary democracy.

During his first formal interaction with the leaders in Parliament complex, Radhakrishnan, who is also the Chairman of Rajya Sabha, discussed with them ways for ensuring the effective functioning of the Upper House.

He stressed that dia-



logue and discussion are the basic tenets of parliamentary democracy and urged members to make full use of available instruments to raise issues of public impor-

importance. Sources said the Rajya Sabha chairman hoped that the upcoming session of Parliament would be smooth and not a washout unlike the

last Monsoon session. Welcoming the 26 floor leaders, Radhakrishnan emphasized the importance of ensuring that the Rajya Sabha functions with the dignity, discipline, and decorum it deserves.

He said the Constitution of India along with the rules book of Rajya Sabha determined the 'Laxman Rekha' for parliamentary discourse.

He also reaffirmed his commitment to upholding the rights of all members within this framework, while stressing the shared responsibility of all to maintain the sanctity of the House. Agency

Modi wishes Putin on birthday; December summit in focus

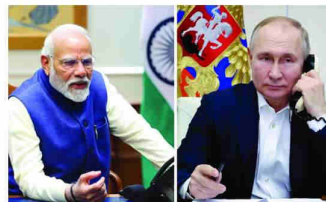
New Delhi

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday greeted Russian President Vladimir Putin on his birthday even as the two leaders vowed to further deepen India-Russia special and privileged strategic partnership.

Modi dialled Putin and warmly congratulated him on his 73rd birthday and conveyed best wishes for good health and success, according to an Indian readout.

It was the fourth phone call between the two leaders since early August.

Putin had also called up Modi on September



17 to greet him on his birthday.

"The two leaders reviewed the progress in the bilateral agenda, and reaffirmed their commitment to further deepen the Special and Privileged Strategic

Partnership between India and Russia," the readout said.

It said Modi conveyed that he looks forward to welcoming Putin to India for the 23rd India-Russia annual summit. Agency

SC asks EC to furnish details of deleted voters in Bihar

CONTD FROM PAGE-1

"Nobody knows whether the addition of names was from the 65 lakh excluded voters from the draft roll or whether new voters were added which reduced the number of excluded voters in the final list," Singhvi said.

Bhushan alleged that the poll panel has not been following the required rules and, instead of cleaning the electoral roll, the SIR has compounded the problem.

"Total lack of transparency. When your lordships forced them to give a list of 65 lakh names, only then they gave the details and made it public. Now, they have not given a list of 3.66 lakh voters deleted due to objections filed after the publication of the draft roll," he submitted.

Dwivedi countered the arguments, saying every individual voter whose name has been deleted has been given the order.

Justice Kant said if any of the petitioners or the aggrieved persons are before the court, the bench can direct the Election Commission to give the list of voters out of these 3.66 lakh who have not received orders.

Advocate Vrinda Grover, appearing for some Bihar-based activists, said the chief electoral officer's website of Bihar gives only disaggregated data and does not disclose details of gender-wise and age-wise claims and exclusions.

The bench issued notice on the plea filed through Grover and asked the EC to respond.

It also issued a notice on the plea of advocate Ashwini Kumar Upadhyay seeking clarification of Form-6, which is used by citizens for adding of their names to the electoral rolls.

The bench told senior advocate Vijay Hansaria, appearing for Upadhyay, that the court has already said Aadhaar is not the proof of citizenship and domicile.

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9818799941

18 killed as landslide hits bus in Himachal Bilaspur

CONTD FROM PAGE-1

According to officials, continuous rainfall in the region had weakened the hillside slope, leading to the collapse that caused the fatal accident. Intermittent rains have been lashing the area since Monday.

Chief Minister Sukhinder Singh Sukhu and Deputy CM Mukesh Agnihotri have expressed grief over the accident.

"The news of the devastating landslide near Balughat (Bhalla Bridge) in the Jhanduta Assembly constituency of Bilaspur district has shaken me to the core," the CM said in a post on X.

He added that rescue operations are ongoing "at a war footing".

"Instructions have been given to the authorities to deploy their full machinery. I am

Advd Contact: 9818-799941

BJP hails PM Modi's 24-Year Legacy

New Delhi

BJP leaders on Tuesday hailed Prime Minister Narendra Modi's 24 years in public life as that of "service, dedication, public welfare and nation building" with Home Minister Amit Shah calling him a "karma", saying he has proved how leadership can transform people's life when 'nation first' is the vision and 'developed India' is the mission.

Prime Minister Modi on Tuesday began his 25th year as the head of government, asserting that improving the lives of people and contributing to the progress of this great nation have been his constant endeavour.

He noted in a series of posts on X that he had taken oath on this day in 2001 as Gujarat's chief minister for the first time and emphasised on the changes first his home state and then the country witnessed on his watch.

Shah hailed Modi's 24 years as the head of the government and said he dedicated his 24 years to the nation and public service.

"This day is very significant for the entire country, when a 'karma yogi' devoted to public service with selfless spirit took



the constitutional oath, considered people's problems as his own and began resolving them, and these problems kept turning into history," the home minister said in a post on X in Hindi.

He said that in these 24 years, Modi has proved how one leadership can bring transformation in the lives of crores of people when the vision is 'nation first' and the mission is 'developed India', he is transforming the farmers, women, industry and education of Gujarat or ensuring the country's security, welfare of the poor and up-

liftment of all sections, he added.

BJP president J P Nadda said that from an ordinary worker of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) to the country's 'pradhan sevak', Modi's 24-year public service is an exemplary journey of "service, dedication, public welfare and national resurgence".

With 'Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikaas, Sabka Vishwas' and 'Sabka Prayaas', Prime Minister Modi has uplifted the lives of crores of deprived people and given India a new identity on the global stage with the

country's strategic security.

"On the completion of 100 years of India's Independence, Modi's vision of building a developed India by the year 2047 inspires millions of workers to remain dedicated to their continuous duty," the BJP chief said in a post on X.

"It is our collective fortune that under his leadership, we have received the excellent opportunity to serve the nation," he added.

BJP leader Ravi Shankar Prasad said that first as the Gujarat chief minister and now as the

Prime Minister Modi on Tuesday began his 25th year as the head of government, asserting that improving the lives of people and contributing to the progress of this great nation have been his constant endeavour.

prime minister, Modi is working "tirelessly day and night" and setting new dimensions of service, good governance and welfare of the poor to build a new India.

All sections of the country, including the poor, farmers, youth and women, are experiencing holistic development today. Under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, more than 25 crore people have risen above the poverty line, the former Union minister said.

Prasad said the country under Modi's leadership is witnessing "holistic, equitable and inclusive development".

"The entire world today acknowledges India's strength, respects Prime Minister Narendra Modi as a peace-loving leader and praises him as a hardworking, dedicated and authentic leader in public service," the BJP leader added.

Political Patronage fuels crime wave in Odisha, warns former CS

Manoranjan Samal

Bhubaneswar

Former Odisha Chief Secretary Bijay Patnaik has raised serious concerns over the state's deteriorating law and order situation, attributing the recent surge in violent crimes to the sheltering of criminals by political figures.

Patnaik's remarks came in the wake of two violent incidents that have shaken the state. Late last night, at around 10 pm, senior lawyer and BJP leader



and undermining public safety.

All political figures should not give shelter to any criminal," Patnaik said. "Various illicit incidents are happening under the umbrella of reputable people. Murders are being committed openly, and after returning from jail, offenders are threatening people again."

Patnaik also addressed the ongoing job scam in the state, describing it as a long-standing, well-planned crime that could not have succeeded without the support of those in power. He called for a thorough investigation by the crime branch, warning that the confidence to carry out such scams comes from being protected by influential individuals.

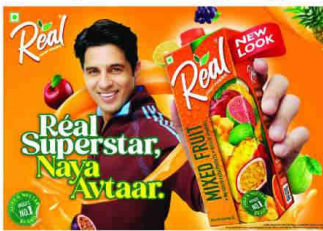
Real Nectar Launches Contemporary Packaging

New Delhi

Real juice, India's leading packaged fruit juice & smoothie company, from the house of Dabur, today announced the launch of its new re-freshed packaging across its flagship Real nectar brand. Simultaneously, the brand has rolled out a new, marketing campaign featuring its popular brand ambassador, actor Sidharth Malhotra to share this new look with the consumer.

The updated packaging boasts a modern and appealing design that highlights the natural goodness and rich fruit content of the nectar range. The move is part of the brand's strategy to connect with a wider consumer base and reinforce its premium positioning in the market.

"This is an exciting time for Real Nectar as we revitalize our entire product line with a fresh, contemporary look," said Ms. Monisha Prasher, GM Market-



ing. Foods, Dabur India Ltd "The new packaging is more vibrant and better communicates the superior quality and deliciousness that consumers have come to expect from us. Coupled with our new campaign featuring Sidharth Malhotra, we are confident this will drive significant consumer engagement and growth. Sidharth's widespread appeal and energetic personality perfectly align with the core values of Real Nectar."

The refreshed Real Nectar range, with its new packaging, is now available at all major retail outlets and e-commerce platforms nationwide.

The new marketing campaign aims to highlight the taste, nutrition, and everyday refreshment offered by the Real Nectar range. Sidharth Malhotra features prominently in the campaign, showcasing the product as a perfect choice for a healthy and active lifestyle.

The refreshed Real Nectar range, with its new packaging, is now available at all major retail outlets and e-commerce platforms nationwide.

Kabootar flies to France: Only Indian Film in Prestigious Production & Storytelling lab

New Delhi

Kabootar, an in-development film by Ishan Sharma, has been chosen as the only Indian project for the prestigious PAS workshop at the Festival des 3 Continents in Nantes.

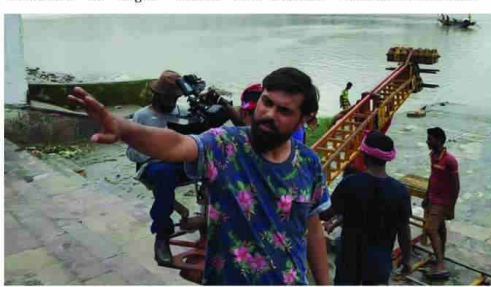
This workshop selects only five films each year to support emerging filmmakers. Scheduled to begin

shooting in 2026, Kabootar follows an unconventional detective seeking to solve a case in the ruins of Delhi, focusing on themes of memory and history.

The film has received backing from various international film festivals, including the Dhaka International Film Festival and the Tasveer Film Festival.

Produced by Nikhil Chaudhary, known for his work on Mantra and Yours Truly, this film marks Sharma's feature directorial debut.

Its selection highlights a growing global interest in independent Indian cinema, with past workshop alumni achieving success at major festivals like Cannes and Berlinale.



NCB Cracks Down on Drug Syndicates

New Delhi

In a landmark judgment that underscores India's unwavering fight against narcotics, the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) Ahmedabad Zonal Unit has secured a major conviction in a 2022 drug trafficking case. The Special NDPS Court in Ahmedabad sentenced Samir Jamilbhai Sheikh, a key player in an interstate drug racket, to 15 years of rigorous imprisonment and imposed a fine of ₹2 lakh.

The conviction stems from a 2022 operation when, acting on precise intelligence, NCB officers intercepted a Maruti Zen car near Shah Alam Dargah in Ahmedabad. The search led to the recovery of 143 grams of Methedrone (MD) and Methamphetamine, both potent synthetic drugs ravaging youth across the country. Sheikh was arrested from the spot, and after a meticulous investigation and trial, justice has now been delivered.

This verdict is not just about one conviction—it's a powerful statement against the growing nexus of drug cartels that prey on vulnerable minds. The NCB's success reflects a broader national commitment to dismantle the multi-layered networks driving India's narcotics trade.

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is hereby informed to the general public at large that my clients Sh. Ram Kumar S/o Sh. Gopi Chand and Sh. Anita W/o Sh. Ram Kumar both R/o D-104, Bhauri Vihar, Kakrola, New Delhi-78, have debarred and disowned their son namely Mr. Nitin Kumar S/o Sh. Ram Kumar, daughter-in-law Mrs. Neelam W/o Mr. Nitin Kumar, grand-daughter Mrs. Ananya D/o Mr. Nitin Kumar and grand-son Rishabh Anand S/o Mr. Nitin Kumar from all their movable and immovable properties and have severed their relations from them with effect from today, because of their bad behaviour and disowned attitude towards my clients and they are not under the control of my clients. If any person dealing with above persons, shall be doing so solely at his/her own cost and risk and my clients shall not be liable in any manner. Further, it is declared that my clients shall not be held responsible for any acts and omissions done by above-named persons in present and future.

B. P. VASINIAN (Advocate)
Regn. No. D/1776/2008
Seat No. 7, Hall No. 4, District Court, Sector-19, Connaught Place, Delhi-110075, Mob: 9911419032

India-US in continuous dialogue for trade pact: Goyal

CONTD FROM PAGE-1

Goyal is here for a one-day official visit. He is leading a business delegation and discussing ways to boost trade and investment ties between the two countries.

"We are in constant dialogue with the USA (on the trade pact), and talks are on at various levels. We will give more information on this soon on how we are thinking to take it forward," he said.

When asked if the two sides are sticking to the November deadline to conclude the negotiations, he said: "There is every possibility".

Later, talking to reporters, he said the stated position of India is to protect the interests of farmers and the dairy sector.

In trade pacts with the UK, the EFTA bloc and Australia, India has protected the interests of the farmers and the dairy industry, besides religious sensitivities, he said.

"Any trade deal will be only possible keeping in mind these sensitivities," Goyal said, adding, "I am quite confident that we will be able to resolve the issues (with the US) that are on the table and find the landing zone in the near future".

Last month, the minister led an official delegation to New York for trade talks. After that meeting, India and the US decided to continue negotiations for an early conclusion of a mutually beneficial bilateral trade agreement.

Both sides held constructive meetings on various aspects of the trade deal.

During the visit, the minister held meetings with United States Trade Representative (USTR) Jamieson Greer and US Ambassador-designate to India Sergio Gora.

Those deliberations were important as they took place after the US imposed a 25 per cent

reciprocal tariff and an additional 25 per cent penalty on Indian goods entering the American market for purchasing Russian crude oil.

At present, a total of 50 per cent additional import duty is imposed on Indian goods.

In February this year, leaders of the two countries directed officials to negotiate a proposed Bilateral Trade Agreement (BTA).

It was planned to conclude the first tranche of the pact by the fall (October-November) of 2025. So far, five rounds of negotiations have been held. The pact aims to more than double the bilateral trade to USD 500 billion by 2030 from the current USD 191 billion.

The US remained India's largest trading partner for the fourth consecutive year in 2024-25, with bilateral trade valued at USD 131.84 billion (USD 86.5 billion exports).

Mumbai CBI Court Sentences Two Police Officers to Seven Years in Custodial Death Case

Mumbai

In a landmark judgment, the CBI Court, Mumbai, today sentenced Sanjay Sudam Khedekar, the then PSI, and Raghunath Vithoba Kolekar, the then Head Constable of Ghatkopar Police Station, to seven years of rigorous imprisonment each, along with a fine of Rs. One Lakh, in connection with the 2009 custodial death of Altaf Kadir Shaikh.

The case traces back to October 2009 when the Hon'ble Bombay High Court and subsequently the Supreme Court of India took cognizance of the incident following petitions filed by the deceased's family and the accused, Altaf Kadir Shaikh had allegedly died due to custodial torture at the Ghatkopar Police Station. Acting on the directives of the courts, the CBI, SCB Mumbai, registered the

case on November 27, 2009.

Following a meticulous investigation, the agency filed a charge-sheet on December 30, 2010, against Sanjay Sudam Khedekar (A-1), Raghunath Vithoba Kolekar (A-2), and Sayaji Bapurao Thombare (A-3). The case against Thombare, who passed away during the trial, was abated.

After a lengthy judicial process, the CBI Court convicted and sentenced the two officials today, sending a strong message against custodial torture and abuse of power.

Legal experts say the judgment underscores the accountability of law enforcement personnel and reinforces citizens' faith in the justice system. The family of the deceased expressed relief, terming the verdict as "a long-awaited justice for Altaf Shaikh."

NEWS IN BRIEF

Noida Authority offers housing plots

Noida

The Noida Authority has offered plots for home construction here in different sectors. The application process has already begun. These plots can be acquired through e-auction.

The Noida Authority has made these plots available for purchase in selected sectors of Noida. Land for home construction is available in sectors 41, 44, 48, 57, 53, 56, 61, 72, 99, 105, 122, and 151. One can apply online for home construction in these areas. Reports indicate that land and plot information will soon be publicly uploaded on the Noida Authority's official website.

Any one interested in building a home under this scheme, will need to deposit only ₹2,300 as a processing fee. The reserve amount is ₹50,000. The applicant will not be able to reserve a plot for less than this amount. These plots will be sold through auction. Those wishing to purchase them will have to bid more than the initial bid. Only then will they be eligible for purchase.

Once those interested have done so, the registration process will begin soon. For booking information and to apply, one can visit the Noida Authority's official website. According to sources, the process for purchasing plots began on October 3rd and will continue until October 30th. The relevant documents must be submitted by November 4th.

Noida depot to get 20 AC buses after eight yrs

Noida

The Noida depot is likely to get 20 AC buses before Diwali as the state government has approved this proposal. After eight years, AC buses will be operated from the Noida depot.

Manoj Kumar Singh, regional manager of UP Roadways, Gautam Buddha Nagar, stated that on Tuesday, the state government confirmed the receipt of 20 AC buses which will arrive in the city by next week.

The officials concerned have inspected the buses and begun registration. Once registered, drivers will be dispatched to the Noida depot to secure the AC buses. According to the officials concerned, their routes will be determined only after the buses arrive.

Drivers will depart to collect these buses. It is worth noting that AC buses stopped operating at the Noida depot after 2017. However, after eight years, efforts are once again underway to introduce buses to the city. These buses will operate on longer routes, but will pass through major city thoroughfares such as sectors 12-22, City Centre, Botanical Garden, and sector 62.

The UP Roadways is constantly updating itself and enhancing its facilities to provide better services to city residents while also benefiting the government.

Delhi L-G orders ACB probe into Barapullah project delays & cost overruns

TSN/New Delhi

Delhi Lieutenant Governor V K Saxena has ordered a probe by the Anti-Corruption Branch (ACB) into "delay, cost overruns and arbitration payment" allegedly made to a private contractor in the Barapullah extension project. Raj Nivas officials said on Tuesday.

The role of previous ministers as well as officers of the Public Works Department (PWD) and Revenue and Delhi Transco Limited (DTL) is under the scanner, they said.

The L-G's order comes on the recommendations of Chief Minister Rekha Gupta, who said the "fundamental policy issues" that must be addressed, the official said. "The L-G has ordered an ACB probe into the more-than-a-decade delay in construction of the Barapullah flyover. This delay caused a loss of hundreds of crores of rupees to the Delhi government exchequer by way of cost overruns and payment of arbitration penalty to the private contractor Larsen & Toubro (L&T)," said an official of the L-G Office.

The L&T, when approached for its reaction over the issue, refused to comment.

A proposal for the probe



was made by the Directorate of Vigilance, following a decision of the Expenditure Finance Committee headed by the Delhi chief minister.

The L-G, while approving the proposal, noted on file that the "extraordinary delay" in the project has raised some "fundamental policy issues" that must be addressed, the official said. "The cascading impact of lapses of various agencies resulted in arbitration proceedings, forcing the government's hand to pay an additional Rs 255 crore on account of arbitration award, which was accepted by the department. The High Court, in fact, attached the account of PWD to enforce execution of the payment," the L-G noted.

The project, which was started in 2015 during the previous Aam Aadmi Party

(AAP) government's tenure, is expected to be completed by June next year.

The issues related to the project were discussed at a meeting of the Expenditure Finance Committee on July 28 this year.

In the meeting, it was decided that a "thorough inquiry" by the ACB should be conducted regarding approval and acceptance of arbitration awards by authorities not competent to accept, delay in execution of the project, and fixing responsibility of the erring officers and individuals, the official said.

In August, the BJP-led Delhi government directed the PWD to prepare a fresh and comprehensive proposal for cabinet approval to accommodate cost overruns in the Barapullah Phase-3 project.

Delhi Govt. committed to delivering quality healthcare to every citizen: CM Gupta

Staff Reporter

New Delhi

Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta on Tuesday announced that the government is greatly expanding healthcare services in the capital, focusing on providing quality healthcare to all citizens.

She spoke at the inauguration of the Free Dialysis and Thalassemia Testing Centre by Sewa Bharti in Ashok Vihar, praising the volunteers for their dedication to improving healthcare in Delhi.

The event took place during Bhagwan Valmiki Prakatotsav and was attended by various officials, including the Delhi Health Minister.

The Chief Minister interacted with patients and examined the facility's advanced equipment. She urged social organizations and citizens to unite in

this service effort, emphasizing the importance of collaboration between the government and society. Gupta described Sewa Bharti's center as a vital service that will help thousands of people yearly and serve as a role model for the community.

Additionally, she informed attendees about a new platform for organ and eye donation launched by the Delhi Government to promote life-saving contributions even after death. Gupta highlighted that this platform embodies the spirit of humanity and the belief that "service is the greatest religion."

The health Minister Dr. Pankaj Kumar Singh mentioned that Delhi Government has installed 300 new Hemodialysis machines in major hospitals, allowing over 3,000 patients to receive dialysis daily.

BJP Govt. fails to catch culprits as adulterated milk products flood Delhi markets: Devender Yadav

Staff Reporter

New Delhi

Devender Yadav, the President of the Delhi Pradesh Congress Committee, expressed serious concerns about the sale of adulterated food products in Delhi markets, particularly during the festive season.

He criticized the government for not taking immediate action to stop this issue, which poses a risk to public health.

Yadav highlighted that items like ghee, spices, paneer, khoya, and milk were being sold openly, while government agencies tasked with preventing



food adulteration seemed to ignore the situation.

He mentioned that a harmful racket is behind the distribution of fake food items, pointing out that the authorities' negligence and possible collusion have allowed this to happen.

Yadav specifically noted

that fake ghee from Jind in Haryana is processed in Rohini and packaged under famous brand names but remains undetected by the government. He emphasized that both Haryana and Delhi are governed by the BJP, questioning their lack of concern for the public's health.

Several countries around the world.

The Minister highlighted examples from the Ramayana, such as Lord Rama's acceptance of Shabara's offerings and his friendship with Kevat, which symbolize inclusiveness and the spirit of Ayatodaya—bringing everyone together in the journey of progress.

Teachings of Lord Valmiki's Ramayana Inspire Social Harmony and Antyodaya: Ravinder Indraj

Staff Reporter

New Delhi

During the celebration of Maharishi Valmiki Jayanti, Delhi's Minister for Social Welfare, Ravinder Indraj Singh, participated in prayer rituals at Lord Valmiki Temples and joined Shobha Yatra throughout the city.

He expressed that these celebrations highlight the

government's dedication to cultural nationalism and respect for faith, and he mentioned that Diwali will be celebrated with similar grandeur.

Ravinder Indraj extended greetings to citizens, encouraging them to embrace the teachings of Lord Valmiki to help create a harmonious and educated society that fosters national

unity. He visited the National Valmiki Temple at Mandir Marg, performing rituals with other leaders and paying tributes to Lord Valmiki. He noted that the Ramayana, written by Lord Valmiki, is a significant work that emphasizes family values, social harmony, and moral conduct, valued not only in India but also in

Delhi Govt Launches "Sardar @150" Campaign to Celebrate Sardar Patel's 150th Birth Anniversary

Diksha

New Delhi

Delhi's Education Minister Ashish Sood announced that the Delhi Government will celebrate the 150th birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel with a series of grand programmes under the "Sardar @150" campaign. The celebrations, held under the guidance of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the leadership of Chief Minister Rekha Gupta, will focus on promoting unity, self-reliance, and patriotism among the youth.

The two-month-long initiative, inspired by the call of the Central Government and the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, will spread the message of "Ek Bharat, Atmanirbhar Bharat, Ekjut Bharat, Viksit Bharat." As part of the campaign, 150 students from 15 educational districts will collect water from the Yamuna River



and carry it to 25 major rivers across India, including the Jhelum and Musi. The water brought back will be offered at the Sardar Patel statue at Patel Chowk during a "National Unity Water Pledge" on October 31, followed by a Jalbhishkek ceremony led by the Chief Minister.

On the same day, unity marches will be organized across Delhi's 11 districts, starting from Patel Chowk and ending at the National War Memorial, with the participation of around

5,000 people, including students, teachers, and volunteers. From November 1 to 25, 15-kilometer unity walks will be held in different districts, collectively forming a 150-kilometer-long campaign.

A special cultural event and projection mapping show will also be organized at the Red Fort on November 1 to mark Delhi's Foundation Day, showcasing the culture and achievements of various Indian states.

The government will also

Kejriwal gets Lutyens' Delhi bungalow likely to shift around Diwali

New Delhi

Aam Aadmi Party national convener Arvind Kejriwal is expected to move to his new accommodation, 95, Lodhi Estate bungalow, around Diwali, provided the renovation is completed by then, party sources said on Tuesday.

Earlier in the day, the party said that he has accepted the central allotment and will soon shift with his family, more than a year after he resigned as the Delhi chief minister.

Kejriwal is entitled to a central government bungalow since he is the chief of a national party.

"After nearly a year, Kejriwal has been allotted an official bungalow by the Centre. The Delhi High Court rapped the central government over the matter. He was entitled to a bungalow since he is the convener of a national party," AAP national media in-charge Anurag Dhanda said.

According to an official in the Central Public Works Department (CPWD), the bungalow will be handed

Delhi's first artificial rain trial postponed due to weather conditions

New Delhi

Delhi's first artificial rain trial has been postponed, even as the aircraft fitted with cloud-seeding equipment for the experiment stands ready in Meerut, officials said on Tuesday.

The trial will be conducted as soon as weather conditions improve.

Environment Minister Manoj Singh Sisra along with officials of the environment department and a technical team from IIT Kanpur inspected the aircraft on Monday to ensure all systems required for the trial were in place, an official familiar with the matter said.

Sisra said the trial could be conducted "any day" once the India Meteorological Department (IMD) confirms a clear-weather window. "As soon as we get the signal that there will be rain, the trial will be carried out," he said. The first cloud-seeding trial, earlier scheduled for this week, was postponed after the national capital received intermittent rainfall due to a western disturbance. Sisra said the existing moisture and natural precipitation would have affected the outcome.

"We want to carry out the experiment under dry and stable weather conditions to obtain accurate results," he said. He added, "Although rain was forecast earlier, we want to ensure that the ex-

periment is conducted in a scientifically sound manner."

PUBLIC NOTICE

My client Lakshinder Singh and his wife Manpreet Kaur House No. -A-11 Kharsa No. 287 Himri Enclave Chander Vihar Niloti Extension Niloti West Delhi -110041 has given up all his movable and immovable properties and other personal property to his son Baljinder Singh and his daughter-in-law Rapinder Kaur due to their misbehavior, bad conduct, bad character, social indecency and total unfitness. He has been expelled from the relationship. Baljinder Singh and his daughter-in-law, Rapinder Kaur, will no longer have any rights to any movable or immovable property, and my client and his son will not be responsible for the actions, transactions, or disputes of Baljinder Singh and his daughter-in-law, Rapinder Kaur. HARMET SINGH ADVOCATE CHAMBER NO. 735F WESTERN WING TIS HAZARI COURT DELHI-110054.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Be it known to the General Public at large that my client, Abid Hussain S/o Abdul Hamid R/o S-146/57, Adarsh Basti, Mohammadabad, South Delhi, New Delhi-110066, has severed all relations with his son, Mohammad Ali S/o Abid Hussain. My client has disowned and disowned his son from his life and from all his properties, both movable and immovable, due to their quarrelsome nature, misbehavior, disobedience, defamation, and hostile conduct, as he is not under the control of my client.

The General Public is hereby cautioned that any persons dealing with Mohammad Ali in any manner shall do so at their own risk and consequences. My client shall not be responsible for any acts, deeds, omissions, whether legal or illegal, of the aforesaid person, now or in the future.

SANDEEP KUMAR GUPTA (Advocate) DELHI HIGH COURT Chamber No. 572, Patiala House Court New Delhi-110001

PUBLIC NOTICE

Be it known to all that my client Sh. Satte, S/o. Late Shri. Bodo and Smt. Baba W/o. Sh. Satte Both R/O 251, Block W-54, T-Huts, Vishal Enclave, Tagore Garden, West Delhi-110027 have disinherited and disowned all their relations and responsibilities in all manner with their son Sh. Amit S/o. Sh. Satte and his wife Smt. Mona. Both R/O 251, 1st Floor, Block W-54, T-Huts, Vishal Enclave, Tagore Garden, West Delhi-110027 and has no control over them and they have cruel attitude, misbehavior, disobedient and disreputable etc. with my clients and my clients have served all their relations with them and disowned them from all their movable and immovable properties and my clients will not be responsible, accountable or answerable to any act or omission done by both of them either individually or in hand of each other or against each other.

SACHIN AGGARWAL ADVOCATE Ch. No. 489-499, 1st Floor, W. Wing Tis Hazari Courts, Delhi-110054

PUBLIC NOTICE

My client Bhupender Kumar S/o. Budh Ram R/o H.No. AG-613, Third Floor, Shalimar Bagh, North West Delhi, Delhi-110088, has severed with his son Sahil Suryavanshi and his wife Khushi Pujara by evicting them from his movable and immovable property due to their misbehavior. My client along with his family will not be responsible for any of their act and deed in future. Savita (Advocate) Chamber No 432, 4th Floor, Lawyer Chamber Building, Rohini Court Delhi -110085, Mob: 9990451553

PUBLIC NOTICE

My client Rakhi W/o Ramesh R/o H.No. 6304, Gali Sabji Wali, Ravi Das Navi Karim, Pahar Ganj, Swami Ram Tirath Nagar, Central Delhi, Delhi-110055, has severed with her son Rohit Chauhan by evicting him from her movable and immovable property due to his misbehavior. My client along with her family will not be responsible for any of his act and deed in future.

Neha Kapila (Advocate) Chamber No 432, 4th Floor, Lawyer Chamber Building, Rohini Court Delhi -110085, Mob: 7701988200

NORTHERN RAILWAY

OPEN-TENDER NOTICE

The Sd/- Division Engineer-I, Northern Railway, Delhi Division invites e-Tender for the following work:

Sl. No.	Name of work	Approx. cost	Earnest Money to be deposited	Cost of tender document	Date & Time of submission of tender and opening of tender	Website particulars where complete details of tender documents can be seen	Allocation
1	Leading of Pwys materials other allied works for misc. work of track maintenance for two years in the section of ADENNDLS & ADENDLI under Sr.DEN-I/NDLI.	Rs. 2,49,90,512.83 (Rupees Two Crore Forty Nine Lacs Ninety Thousand Five Hundred Twelve and Eighty Three Only)	Rs. 2,75,000/- (Rupees Two Lakh Seventy Five Thousand Only)	Rs. 0.00/-	29.10.2025 @ 15:00 Hrs.	www.inrps.gov.in	04-210-32
2							
3							
4							
5							
6							
7							

* The tenderers must be registered on the Indian Railway E-Procurement system (IREPS) also i.e. www.inrps.gov.in for participating in the e-tender system. * For all terms and conditions please refer tender document. * No manual offers are acceptable. * Cost of tender document and Earnest money will be acceptable through net banking or payment gateway only. No 12B/202506 Tender Notice/NIT/36/2025-26W-3 Dated:- 07.10.2025 3095/2025

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

Delhi takes a chill pill October rain brings down temp causes waterlogging traffic snarls

New Delhi

Dense dark cloud blanketed the national capital on Tuesday as early October rain brought down the mercury by several notches after a hot week-end. However, the downpour also sharply reduced visibility and caused traffic jams and waterlogging in several areas.

At Palam Airport, visibility fell from 6,000 metres at 1:30 pm to 1,200 metres by 5 pm, according to the India Meteorological Department (IMD).

Many parts of the city appeared gloomy during the day as rain continued to lash the city, brought on by the impact of a western disturbance.

Till 5:30 pm, the Palam weather station recorded 41.6 mm of rainfall, while Ridge recorded 37 mm. The city's primary weather sta-



tion at Safdarjung recorded 5.8 mm of rainfall, according to IMD data.

The change in weather also caused a sharp dip in temperatures.

The city's maximum temperature settled at 29.8 degree Celsius, 4.4 notches below normal. A sharp drop

from Sunday's high of 36 degrees Celsius.

The minimum temperature today was 21 degree Celsius, 1.3 notches below normal.

Tuesday's heavy rains brought traffic movement to a crawl across several parts of Delhi, leading to

long snarls and severe inconvenience for commuters.

Key arterial stretches were choked as waterlogging worsened congestion at multiple points.

Delhiites took to social media platform X to flag the situation and appeal for

immediate intervention from traffic authorities.

"There is a huge traffic jam on the Dwarka Expressway from Bannoli and Chhawla. Kindly take immediate action," a netizen wrote while tagging the Delhi Traffic Police.

Another commuter complained of "heavy and unprecedented traffic jam at the traffic light near Sadar Metro station on Dwarka Road," urging officials from Delhi Cantt to "do the needful."

In East Delhi, residents reported severe waterlogging and slow movement of vehicles in Patparganj.

"Massive traffic jam in Patparganj due to severe waterlogging near Retnare Apartment," a person wrote on X.

According to traffic police officials, movement was hit in several stretches due to persistent rain and accu-

mulation of water in low-lying areas.

Long queues of vehicles were reported from Arya Samaj Road in Patparganj, Bara Tooti Chowk in Sadar Bazar, Old Rohit Road, Shadipur Metro Station, and many more stretches. Congestion also affected commuters heading towards the airport, with heavy traffic reported from Connaught Place to Dhauia Kuan. Similar conditions prevailed on Roshanara Road and up to Azad Market Chowk red light, where vehicles moved bumper to bumper for long durations.

With intermittent showers continuing through the day, traffic police deployed additional personnel at key choke points to regulate movement.

Commuters, meanwhile, continued to share visuals and updates of the city's rain-induced gridlock on-

line, urging authorities to improve drainage and manage traffic more effectively.

The IMD has forecasted cloudy skies on Wednesday and placed the city under the green zone, with maximum and minimum temperatures expected around 31 degree Celsius and 20 degree Celsius, respectively.

On Tuesday, the city was under yellow and orange weather alerts, it said.

The air quality was recorded in the "satisfactory" category at 4 pm, with an Air Quality Index (AQI) reading of 73. Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) data showed. According to the CPCB, an AQI between zero and 50 is considered "good", 51 to 100 "satisfactory", 101 to 200 "moderate", 201 to 300 "poor", 301 to 400 "very poor", and 401 to 500 "severe".

Noida Authority to resume pending golf course works soon

TSN/Noida

The Noida Authority is to resume the pending Noida International Golf Course works soon as the process of appointing a new agency for the remaining work is now in the final stage. Construction will resume once the new agency is appointed.

Work on the said golf course in sector 151A, is currently stalled after the previously appointed construction agency was blacklisted by the authority for breach of contract and negligence. The tender process for selecting a new agency is almost complete and will be issued soon after administrative approval from the authority's CEO. It is estimated that approximately ₹41 crore worth of work remains on the project.

An authority official stated that a contract for the construction of the golf course was signed with Kashiya Infrastructure Private Limited on July 1, 2021. According to the plan, the project was scheduled to be completed by June 30, 2022. However, various issues at the construction site led to repeated extensions for the agency. A new deadline was set for June 30, 2025.

Despite this, the agency did not show any progress and there was no improvement even after sending notices several times, due to which the authority took strict action and blacklisted the company and its security money was confiscated.

About 68 percent of the work has been completed so far.

JNU's two-day Aravalli Summit concludes to be an annual event

New Delhi

Jawaharlal Nehru University's (JNU) two-day Aravalli Summit, which saw discussions on India's role in shaping the global order and climate diplomacy, concluded on Tuesday.

Organised by JNU's School of International Studies (SIS) as part of its 70th anniversary celebrations, the summit was addressed by External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on the inaugural day on Monday.

The event, with the theme

'India and the World Order: Preparing for 2047', was organised in collaboration with the Ministry of External Affairs and the Chintan Research Foundation.

The sessions focused on India's role in shaping the global order, economic growth, technological innovation, diaspora influence, civilisational identity and climate diplomacy, JNU said in a statement.

The university announced that the summit will now be an annual event.

The second day of the summit opened with a session on 'Reimagining the Global Order: The Indian Imperative' featuring former Chilean ambassador Jorge Heine, Dean, GSIS, Seoul National University, Seong-ho Sheen; and former Indian ambassador to Japan and Sudan Sanjay Kumar Verma.

Prof. Umnu Salma Bava moderated the discussion on 'India as a Potential Rule-Maker amid Global Disorder', the statement said.

New Delhi

Dr. Ved Tandon, the head of the Delhi BJP Teachers' Cell, significantly helped needy students by distributing free books, clothes, and toys at Kumar Sanu Vidya Niketan.

He also celebrated the event by giving sweets to children, creating a joyful atmosphere. Additionally, Dr. Tandon organized an outdoor picnic for the students, allowing them to enjoy nature.

He believes that educa-



tion is crucial for dignity and security, just like food, clothing, and shelter. He

achieve great things. Dedicated teachers play a vital role in supporting children's aspirations.

Dr. Tandon mentioned that the most rewarding aspect for teachers is when their students remember them and positively contribute to their families and society.

He believes building character is a teacher's main responsibility and that ethical behavior and emotional intelligence are essential qualities for effective teaching.

Former CJI Balakrishnan and MP Manoj Tiwari Lead Massive Tribute to Saint-Poet

TSN/New Delhi

The Maharashtra Valmiki Jannotsav Committee (Regd.) Delhi Pradesh successfully organized the 2nd Maharashtra Valmiki Shobha Yatra on Tuesday at Madhoda Park, Red Fort, Delhi. The grand celebration, held annually to mark the Prakatotsav (birth anniversary) of Aadi Kavi Maharshi Valmiki Bhagwan — the revered author of the Ramayana — once again drew massive public participation, underpinned by the day-long rain in the national capital.

Thousands of devotees, scholars, and community members joined the colourful procession, which began with a devotional gathering at Madhoda Park and culminated at the historic Bhagwan Valmiki Temple, Mandir Marg, Panchsukh Road, New Delhi. The Yatra featured traditional band performances, devotional tableaux, spiritual discourses, and cultural presentations depicting the life, values, and literary legacy of Bhagwan Valmiki Ji.

The event was graced by Former Chief Justice of India K.G. Balakrishnan and Shri Manoj Tiwari, MP, Lok Sabha participated alongside



Chaudhary Manish Parcha, President of the Maharashtra Valmiki Jannotsav Committee (Regd.) Delhi Pradesh. The distinguished guests, along with thousands of devotees, walked in the procession carrying saffron flags and chanting hymns in reverence to Bhagwan Valmiki Ji.

In his address to the gathering, Former CJI K.G. Balakrishnan said that Bhagwan Valmiki's life continues to inspire generations across the world. He said, "Bhagwan Valmiki's teachings on righteousness, compassion, and equality are timeless. It is heartening to witness the unwavering faith of devotees who gathered here in such large numbers despite the rain. Their devotion reflects the moral and spiritu-

al strength that our society draws from the life of Maharshi Valmiki Ji".

Manoj Tiwari, MP, Lok Sabha, highlighted the Yatra's deeper message of social unity and collective consciousness. "This Yatra is not just a religious event but a living symbol of equality, devotion, and service. The values that Maharshi Valmiki embodied — compassion, wisdom, and courage — continue to serve as guiding principles for building a more inclusive and humane society," he said. Expressing his gratitude, Chaudhary Manish Parcha, President of the Maharashtra Valmiki Jannotsav Committee (Regd.) Delhi Pradesh, said, "The success of this Yatra, even in adverse weather conditions, shows the deep faith and re-

silience of our community.

For more than seven decades, this Shobha Yatra has stood as a testament to unity, devotion, and the teachings of Bhagwan Valmiki Ji.

We are grateful to every devotee, volunteer, and well-wisher who contributed to this grand celebration." Senior patrons Ch. Pt. Durgadas Sandeep, and his wife were doing some chores outside their rented room. When his wife returned, she saw their daughter was not in the room, the police said.

Gurgaon police rescues toddler kidnapped from Sohna

Gurgaon

A two-and-a-half-year-old girl allegedly kidnapped from Sohna has been rescued from Faridabad, police said on Tuesday, adding that the accused is still on the run.

The incident occurred in the Bhim Bagh area of Sohna on Sunday night, where a gardener, Shiv Murthy alias Sandeep, and his wife were doing some chores outside their rented room. When his wife returned, she saw their daughter was not in the room, the police said.

The couple immediately began searching for the girl, but did not find her anywhere, after which they informed the police, they added.

CCTV footage from nearby locations showed an unidentified young man carrying the child. Shortly after, the police received information from the Alampur village in Faridabad that a young man had been seen with a child in suspicious circumstances.

A police team conducted a raid at the village on Monday night and recovered the child, but the accused managed to flee, said Sohna ACP Jitender Kumar.

Noida gears up for grand Diwali Expo with Art, Culture, and Cuisine

Staff Reporter

Noida

Noida is set to witness a spectacular celebration of art and culture as the ten-day Grand Diwali Expo 2025 lights up Noida Stadium from October 10 to October 20. Organized by the Art and Craft Development Institute, the event promises a unique blend of traditional handicrafts, folk performances, and culinary delights. A press conference detailing the event was held on Tuesday at the Noida Media Club.

The inauguration of the expo will take place on October 11, 2025, with Narendra Kumar Kashyap, Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Backward Classes Welfare and Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities, Government of Uttar Pradesh, presiding over the ceremony. Rajkumar Kashyap, Secretary of the institute, emphasized that the event aims to offer residents a complete cultural experience, bringing together artisans, performers, and food enthusiasts under one roof.

Over 250 skilled artisans, weavers, and entrepreneurs from across India will participate in the exhibition, showcasing a wide range of exquisite products. Visitors can browse sarees from Kolkata and Banaras, carpets from Bhadohi, Chikan kari dresses from Lucknow, furniture from Saharanpur, mud pottery from Khurja, marble from Agra, Rajasthan footwear, real pearls from Hyderabad and Odisha, and decorative items for homes and gardens. Many of these items will be available at prices well below market rates, offering an accessible shopping experience for families.

The expo will also be a platform for folk artists to showcase their talent. Ranjana Chitkar, retired officer of the Delhi Tourism Department and one of the event organizers, highlighted that performances will include the North Eastern Lion Dance and folk dances from Rajasthan,



Punjab, Haryana, Gujarat, Jammu & Kashmir, Uttarakhand, Maharashtra, Odisha, and other states. Culinary enthusiasts will have plenty to explore at the event's grand food court. Avishesh Verma noted that visitors can savor a variety of traditional dishes from across India, providing an opportunity to indulge in regional flavors and unique culinary experiences.

The Art and Craft Development Institute has been hosting such cultural and craft exhibitions for over 30 years in cities like Mumbai, Delhi, Kolkata, Bhubaneswar, Hyderabad, and Nashik. These events not only celebrate India's rich artistic heritage but also provide underprivileged artisans with a platform to sell their products directly to consumers, boosting their income and supporting their families.

"Verification of employees and support staff through local police, proper upkeep of fire extinguishers, and ensuring free movement at entry and exit points were discussed," the statement added. Participants were advised to immediately report any unattended or suspicious items and to remain vigilant.

ED searches in Delhi-NCR 'fake' call centre case

New Delhi

The Enforcement Directorate on Tuesday conducted searches at multiple locations in Delhi-NCR as part of a money laundering probe against operatives of some "fake" call centres which allegedly duped numerous foreigners to the tune of millions of US dollars, officials said.

At least 16 premises in Delhi, Noida and Gurgaon apart from those in Mumbai were raided in the action carried out under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA).

The ED probe stems from multiple FIRs registered by Delhi Police against a person named Karan Verma and some others.

Investigation found that the fraudsters were running multiple "fake" call centres in Rohini, Paschim Vihar and Rajouri Garden areas of Delhi to dupe foreign nationals by impersonating as customer support of companies like Charles Schwab Financial Services, Microsoft, Apple, etc.

The accused also imper-

sonated as police and other investigating agency officers and "extorted" money from the victims, threatening them with "digital arrest", the officials said.

A modus operandi used by the accused was the deployment of BSOD (Blue Screen of Death or commonly known as Blue Screen errors).

These fraudsters used deceptive pop-ups that look like a real Windows Blue Screen. The pop-up instructs the victim to call a phone number to "fix" the fake problem.

New Delhi

Police on Tuesday held a meeting with managers and owners of malls, bars, clubs and restaurants under the jurisdiction of the Metro Unit in Delhi to review security and regulatory compliance ahead of the festive season, an official said.

The meeting, chaired by Deputy Commissioner of Police (Metro) Kushal Pal Singh, focused on strength-



ening coordination between law enforcement and commercial establishments to

ensure public safety and adherence to regulations, police said in a statement.

"Around 65 participants attended the meeting, which discussed key aspects such as proper functioning of door-frame metal detectors, hand-held metal detectors, and monitoring of entry and exit gates," the statement said.

The police stressed the need for regular briefing and training of security guards and their participation in the Delhi Police's

'Prahr' scheme.

"Verification of employees and support staff through local police, proper upkeep of fire extinguishers, and ensuring free movement at entry and exit points were discussed," the statement added.

Participants were advised to immediately report any unattended or suspicious items and to remain vigilant.

Punjab Murder accused's brother to contest Tarn Taran bypoll

Chandigarh:

The Akali Dal (Waris Punjab De), along with various "Panthic" bodies, on Tuesday said Mandeep Singh, the brother of an accused in the killing of a Shiv Sena (Taksali) leader, will contest the upcoming Tarn Taran Assembly bypoll.

Mandeep Singh is the elder brother of Sandeep Singh alias Sunny, the accused in the 2022 murder case of Shiv Sena (Taksali) leader Sudhir Suri.

Sandeep Singh, who is currently in jail, has also been charged with attacking three former police officers, including two convicted in a fake-encounter case in Tarn Taran, inside the Patiala jail last month. One of the former police officers, Suba Singh, who was convicted in the fake-encounter case, succumbed to his injuries on September 17.

The Election Commission (EC) announced on Monday that the Tarn Taran bypoll will be held on November 11 and the counting of votes will be taken up on November 14.

The seat fell vacant following the death of Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) MLA Kashmir Singh Sohal in June.

The Akali Dal (Waris Punjab De) is led by jailed Khadoor Sahib MP Amritpal Singh.

Addressing reporters in Amritsar, Amritpal Singh's father, Tarsem Singh, said it has been decided that Mandeep Singh will contest the bypoll.

"Respecting the sentiments of the 'qum', we declare Mandeep Singh as the candidate of the entire Khalsa panth. We will support him (in the bypoll)," he said.

Mandeep Singh said several "Panthic" bodies wanted a member of his family to enter the bypoll fray. When he spoke about it with his brother, he too asked him to contest the bypoll.

Earlier, the name of Sandeep Singh was doing the rounds for the bypoll.

Radical preacher Amritpal Singh won the 2024 Lok Sabha poll contest from the Khadoor Sahib constituency.

'Sardar 150 unity march' launched to mark Sardar Patel's 150th birth anniversary: Punjab Guv

Chandigarh:

Punjab Governor and UT Chandigarh Administrator Gulab Chand Kataria on Tuesday said a nationwide campaign, "Sardar@150 Unity March", has been launched to mark the 150th birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, the Iron Man of India, and celebrate his monumental role in unifying the nation.

Kataria recalled that Patel's greatest contribution was the unification of over 560 princely states into a single nation, a task that required unmatched courage, foresight, and diplomacy.

"Integrating the princely states into one India was no easy task. His leadership inspired the vision of 'Ek Bharat, Shreshtha Bharat', and Sashakt Bharat," he stated.

He added that Sardar Patel's wisdom and firm resolve ensured India's unity during a time of great uncertainty.

"Today, we have an India that stands united because of his far-sightedness and statesmanship... that is why he is called the Iron Man of India," the governor said.

Punjab sets new benchmark in education with teachers' dignity & youth empowerment drive

TSN/

Sri Anandpur Sahib: In a landmark move aimed at transforming the education landscape of Punjab, Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann unveiled a series of initiatives that have been hailed as revolutionary for teachers' recognition and student empowerment. Speaking at the state-level World Teachers' Day celebration in Sri Anandpur Sahib, the Chief Minister described teachers as "nation builders" and urged the youth to reconnect with Punjab's rich cultural and historical heritage.

Addressing a gathering of educators, officials, and students, Chief Minister Mann emphasized that teaching is not merely a profession but "a sacred mission to illuminate students' futures." Drawing from his personal experience as the son of a teacher, he expressed profound respect for the dedication and sacrifices made by educators in shaping young minds.

Highlighting the government's commitment to preserving Punjab's



legacy, the Chief Minister announced the construction of a heritage corridor to Takht Sri Kesgarh Sahib in Sri Anandpur Sahib, the first such initiative in 55 years. Mann described this as a symbolic effort to link the younger generation with the state's historical and religious heritage, urging teachers to actively familiarize students with Punjab's culture and traditions while encouraging

them to embrace modernity. In his address, Mann also lauded teachers who demonstrated exceptional service during the recent floods that caused widespread damage across the state. According to the Chief Minister, the calamity affected 3,200 government schools, 19 colleges, 8,500 kilometers of roads, and 2,500 bridges. Despite these challenges,

teachers stood as pillars of resilience and responsibility. "Punjab's teachers are not just educators but true guides of society," he stated.

The event also witnessed the felicitation of 71 teachers with State Teacher Awards in recognition of their exemplary contributions to students' growth. Mann elaborated on the profound significance of the word "Guru," derived from Sanskrit

meaning "one who dispels darkness," acknowledging teachers as vital agents of knowledge and enlightenment.

The Chief Minister outlined a series of unprecedented steps taken by the Mann government to elevate education standards in Punjab. A total of 234 principals and education officers have undergone training in Singapore, 152 headmasters have received advanced coaching at IIM Ahmedabad, and 144 primary teachers completed specialized training at Turku University in Finland, with another batch scheduled to travel in November. To allow teachers to focus on teaching rather than administrative work, 1,920 campus managers have been appointed across government schools.

Under the "Education Revolution" launched in 2022, the Punjab government has invested ₹231.74 crore in establishing 118 Schools of Excellence, offering world-class education to children from economically weaker and middle-class families.

Congress pushes organizational expansion, targets BJP governance failures in Haryana

Komal Ramola

Chandigarh:

The Haryana Congress on Tuesday reaffirmed its focus on strengthening party organization and addressing public grievances, as leaders held a high-level meeting to chart the party's strategy for the state. State in-charge BK Hariprasad announced the imminent formation of a disciplinary committee to ensure accountability within the party and the establishment of a Political Affairs Committee to resolve internal issues on an official platform.

State President Rao Narendra, who also paid homage to Lord Valmiki on Valmiki Jayanti, expressed gratitude to the Congress high command for entrusting him with new responsibilities. He shared details of a recent meeting with district presidents and assembly candidates, emphasizing the appointment of booth agents to monitor voter lists and accelerate the party's "Vote Chor-Gaddi Chhod" campaign. He accused the BJP alliance in Bihar of manipulating voter lists but expressed confidence that a Congress-led coalition would

form the government there.

Speaking on Haryana's governance, Rao Narendra criticized the BJP for the state's rising crime and unemployment. Citing NCRB data, he highlighted that Haryana currently ranks third in crime and first in organized crime, with numerous criminal gangs active across the state. He pointed to alleged irregularities in government recruitment, claiming that over 30 papers were leaked and candidates from other states were given priority. He also criticized the BJP's monthly assistance scheme for women, calling it a "fraud," noting that only 1,71,000 women were registered despite existing government records.

Rao Narendra contrasted the present situation with the Bhupinder Singh Hooda-led Congress regime, which he said prioritized development and public safety. He recalled policies like "Padak Lao, Pad Pao," which facilitated athletes' appointments to high-ranking posts, and highlighted that crime had been significantly curbed during the Congress government.

Haryana Eyes Japanese Expertise to Modernize Cities

Shiv Kumar

New Delhi:

Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini led a high-level delegation to Japan on Tuesday, holding a pivotal meeting with mayors from several Japanese cities in Osaka to explore deeper cooperation in urban planning and industrial development. The discussions focused on leveraging Japan's advanced urban models to guide the expansion and modernization of Haryana's cities.

Chief Minister Saini emphasized the growing importance of local administrative bodies in fostering global partnerships and highlighted the need for forward-looking urban planning amid rapid urbanization. "By learning from Japan's modern urban infrastructure, Haryana will formulate strategies to upgrade its metropolitan and major cities," he said.

The Japanese mayors highlighted ongoing efforts to strengthen



Japan-India ties, particularly in the automotive sector, noting that Haryana is emerging as a reliable and fast-growing industrial destination. The Haryana delegation, including Industries and Commerce Minister Sh. Rao Narbir Singh and senior officials, presented the state's economic growth, industrial potential, and investor-friendly policies under the leadership of Prime Minister Sh. Narendra Modi.

Chief Minister Saini also outlined plans to adopt Japanese expertise in smart mobility, green buildings, water

conservation, public transportation, and sustainable infrastructure. He said these initiatives would not only modernize Haryana's cities but also improve citizens' quality of life.

Mayors and deputy mayors from Buzen, Izumisan, Higashiosaka, Kashihara, Sakai, Matsubara, Tondabayashi, Misaki Town, Izumi, Taishi Town, and Takaishi participated in the meeting, marking a significant step toward long-term, result-oriented collaboration between Haryana and Japan under the vision of "Viksit Bharat - Viksit Haryana."

Punjab Aims for Sporting Supremacy with Mega Infrastructure Push

Jalandhar:

Punjab is poised to become India's premier hub for sports, with Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann unveiling ambitious plans to elevate the state onto the global sporting stage. Speaking at the grand finale of the Punjab Hockey League 2025 at Surjit Hockey Stadium in Jalandhar, CM Mann highlighted the state's historic connection to sports and emphasized that Punjab is on track to emerge as the nation's number one sporting state.

The Chief Minister announced the upcoming construction of international-standard cricket and hockey stadiums in Jalandhar and Amritsar, underscoring the government's commitment to transforming Punjab into the "Sports Capital" of India. Mann described the Punjab Hockey League as a landmark initiative, noting that it is the country's first junior hockey league with the highest prize money, bringing together three generations of players and reaffirming Punjab's en-



during passion for sports.

Highlighting the state's contribution to national success, CM Mann pointed out that nine of the 18 players in India's Asia Cup-winning hockey team hailed from Punjab. Similar trends were observed in the last two Olympic Games, reinforcing the state's position as a breeding ground for world-class talent. Jalandhar, he added, has earned global recognition as the "Sports Capital" of India.

Looking ahead, the Chief Minister revealed plans to develop over 3,000 sports stadiums across Punjab over the next few years. He stressed that sports have

topped with a state-of-the-art multipurpose sports hall. This facility is designed to promote sports such as kabaddi, judo, wrestling, and karate, marking a unique integration of transport and sports for holistic community development.

CM Mann also reiterated the government's commitment to honoring athletes. Several players, including nine former stars, have been appointed as DSPs and PCS officers, while Olympians representing India in international tournaments have received state recognition for their achievements.

Concluding his address, Mann affirmed that Punjab's leadership in governance, health, and education would now extend to sports. With world-class infrastructure planned in Amritsar and Jalandhar and every village envisioned as a cradle of sporting excellence, the Chief Minister declared that Punjab is set to become India's biggest sports hub in the coming years.

Haryana, Japan's Mitsui Kinzoku Forge Green Hydrogen Alliance

Komal Ramola

Chandigarh:

Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini led a high-level delegation to Osaka on Tuesday, where the state government signed a landmark Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Mitsui Kinzoku Components India Pvt. Ltd. to boost research and development in the green hydrogen sector.

The agreement aims to promote innovation in green energy, focusing on the production, storage, and application of green hydrogen. Officials said the partnership is expected to accelerate technological development, attract investments, and generate new employment opportunities in Haryana.

During the visit, the delegation also held discussions with top executives of Mitsubishi and Nitto Seiko, with the Japanese companies expressing interest in ex-



panding investments in precision manufacturing and electronics projects in the state.

Chief Minister Saini emphasized that Haryana is fostering a conducive environment for foreign investment through improved infrastructure and transpar-

ent policies. He added that such collaborations would not only drive industrial growth but also strengthen economic and technological ties between Japan and Haryana.

The delegation included Industries and Commerce Minister Sh.

Rao Narbir Singh, Chief Principal Secretary Sh. Rajesh Khullar, Principal Secretary Sh. Arun Kumar Gupta, Commissioner and Secretary of Industries Dr. Amit Kumar Agrawal, USIHC Managing Director Dr. Yash Garg, and other senior officials.

Punjab Set for ₹1.25 Lakh Crore Investment and 4.5 Lakh Jobs

TSN/Chandigarh:

The Punjab government has unveiled a landmark initiative aimed at transforming the state into one of India's most business-friendly destinations. In a bold move to accelerate industrial growth, the government has revamped the Right to Business Act, promising that mandatory approvals to set up industries will now be granted within five to a maximum of eighteen days—a process that previously dragged on for months.

Under the new framework, industries established within pre-approved industrial parks, estates, or project zones will receive all necessary permissions within just five days through a streamlined single-window system. Projects located outside these zones will get approvals within eighteen days. In a first for the state, any Mr. Agrawal, USIHC Managing Director Dr. Yash Garg, and other senior officials.



bureaucratic hurdles and curbing corruption.

Industry and Commerce Minister Sanjeev Arora emphasized that the government's primary goal is to attract investment and create jobs for Punjab's youth. "Since the AAP government assumed office, Punjab has witnessed investments exceeding ₹1.25 lakh crore, generating direct employment for approximately 4.5 lakh young professionals," he said, noting that

these figures are set to rise further in the coming months.

The influx of investment spans multiple sectors, including steel, automobiles, food processing, IT and technology, healthcare, hospitality, textiles, logistics, and agri-business. Punjab's strategic proximity to Delhi, robust road connectivity, and skilled workforce make it a highly attractive destination for domestic and international investors.

Bihar at the Crossroads: Votes, Welfare, and the Vanishing Voice of the Election Commission

Bihar is again at the center of national attention. The Election Commission's announcement of the 2025 Assembly poll schedule—two phases on November 6 and 11, counting on November 14—has set in motion one of the most consequential electoral battles in the state's history. Yet the timing of this declaration, coming after weeks of relentless government welfare announcements, has triggered deep concern about the health of India's democratic process. The Commission's perceived silence as the ruling coalition continued to unveil major financial schemes has drawn sharp criticism from opposition parties and constitutional observers alike.

For nearly a month before the Model Code of Conduct came into effect, Bihar witnessed an avalanche of state and central government welfare announcements—direct cash transfers to women, expansion of self-help groups, farmer incentives, and employment-linked schemes. The ruling alliance claimed these were long-planned developmental measures; yet, the proximity to the election date made the exercise appear distinctly political. What alarms many is not simply the content of these schemes but the Election Commission's silence. The body entrusted to guard electoral fairness appeared hesitant to draw lines between policy continuity and electoral inducement. In a democracy as vibrant as India's, neutrality is not only expected but essential. The quietness of the Commission has raised fears that institutional independence—the moral bulwark of free elections—is being eroded through inaction rather than interference.

Chief Minister Nitish Kumar's government, now an ally of the BJP again, has sought to revive his image as a champion of women and governance stability. The Mukhyamantri Mahila Rozgar Yojana, new women's SHG loans, and cash transfers have created a welfare cushion for the NDA in rural Bihar. These moves are meant to offset fatigue after Nitish's repeated political flip-flops and to ensure that women, who outvote men in many districts, remain firmly behind him. Yet the optics are striking: within weeks of the poll announcement, thousands of crores were sanctioned for women's and farmer-centric programs. It is difficult to separate developmental intent from electoral timing. The state's bureaucracy has been working overtime on welfare disbursements, while ministers crisscross Bihar under the banner of "governance review" tours that resemble full-blown campaigns.

Ironically, even as the government seeks to milk Nitish Kumar's welfare image, the Chief Minister himself seems to have faded from the center stage. Once hailed as "Sushasan Babu," Nitish appears weary and politically diminished. His shifting alliances—from RJD to BJP to RJD and back to BJP—have left his credibility bruised. The BJP, while projecting Nitish as face of continuity, is quietly working to position its own leadership—especially Nityanand Rai, Samrat Chaudhary, and Giriraj Singh—as heirs to the next phase of Bihar politics. The Prime Minister's rallies will dominate the narrative, but within the NDA, the talk is about the "post-Nitish order."

On the other side, Tejashwi Yadav and the Mahagathabandhan are attempting to turn the election into a referendum on unemployment and governance fatigue. The slogan "Naukri Nahi Toh Vote



By Dr. Anil Singh

Editor — STAR Views, Editorial Advisor
— Top Story, and Author of Bihar:
Chaos to Chaos (2013)



Nahi" has begun resonating among youth. Tejashwi's rallies evoke enthusiasm, yet the alliance struggles with coordination—Congress's indecision, Left's limited reach, and internal resource asymmetry persist. The opposition's biggest challenge remains narrative control. Every economic announcement by the government blurs their core argument of neglect. Unless they mount a strong counter-narrative that combines jobs, justice, and credibility, the welfare blitz may overwhelm their appeal.

No Bihar election is ever a bipolar affair. Smaller parties—LJP (Ram Vilas) under Chirag Paswan, Upendra Kushwaha's RSP remnants, HAM (S) of Jitan Ram Manjhi, and Asaduddin Owaisi's AIMIM—will once again play pivotal roles, both as vote multipliers and spoilers. Chirag Paswan continues to oscillate between an NDA ally and an independent challenger. His Dalit-youth connect in western Bihar could slice away a portion of the BJP's traditional base. Owaisi, focusing on Seemanchal, will test whether Muslim voters, dissatisfied with RJD's dominance, seek an alternate voice. Each of these fragments might appear small in percentage terms, but in Bihar's razor-thin contests, a 2–3 percent vote shift can change 40–50 seats.

Perhaps the most intriguing development is the reemergence of Prashant Kishor (PK)—the master

strategist turned grassroots politician. His movement Jan Suraj has built a quiet but persistent presence across districts through padyatras and local volunteers. PK's decision to contest all 243 seats and his criticism of both NDA and RJD-Congress alliances signal a long game. His rhetoric of "Bihar ko Badlo" resonates with sections of urban and migrant voters who feel trapped between entrenched elites. PK's anti-liquor ban stance, advocacy of governance reforms, and appeal to the "politically homeless middle class" could cut into BJP's aspirational vote in urban centers and educated youth pockets. Even if Jan Suraj does not win many seats, it may erode NDA margins, especially in constituencies where BJP candidates depend on clean-governance voters rather than caste arithmetic.

The real question that looms over the 2025 polls is not only who wins but how the contest is conducted. A democracy's vitality depends on perception of fairness. When the Election Commission delays scrutiny of announcements or allows ruling regimes to flood the public sphere with last-minute schemes, it breeds cynicism. Bihar's electoral history—from booth capturing in the 1990s to the digital transparency of the 2020s—has been a long march toward credibility. The present drift threatens that progress. Civil-society voices are already demanding that the Commission enforce stricter oversight over welfare announce-

ments in the 90-day pre-election window. The institutional neutrality of the EC will define whether the 2025 polls reinforce faith or feed disillusionment.

The NDA enters with organizational advantage, funding power, and control of the state machinery. The Mahagathabandhan banks on caste solidarity, job distress, and anti-incumbency. Smaller parties and independents hold the balance of uncertainty. If PK's Jan Suraj slices even 4–5 percent votes statewide—predominantly from BJP's upper-caste and urban base—the NDA's majority path narrows sharply. Conversely, if women turnout heavily and welfare narratives dominate, the NDA could still secure a comfortable victory.

Beyond numbers lies a moral question: why does Bihar remain electorally hyperactive but developmentally stagnant? Since 1989, every Chief Minister—from Lalu Prasad to Nitish Kumar—has emerged from backward or marginalized communities. Yet the structural deprivation of those very communities persists. My 2013 book Bihar: Chaos to Chaos explored how caste-based empowerment without institutional modernization created symbolic inclusion but real stagnation. That paradox remains unresolved. Even today, Bihar ranks near the bottom on NITI Aayog's SDG index in health, education, and infrastructure. Announcements multiply, but implementation withers. Political energy substitutes for administrative efficiency. The coming election risks becoming yet another festival of promises rather than a mandate for transformation.

Bihar's battle is not merely between political parties; it is a contest between electoral populism and democratic ethics. The way forward demands institutional integrity—the Election Commission must reclaim moral authority swiftly and consistently. Any welfare announcement post-notification must be audited for violation. Political maturity must replace caste arithmetic and welfare tokenism, with debates centered on jobs, industrialization, and education reforms. Civil society must monitor electoral fairness, universities and journalists must expose deviations, and the youth—nearly 60 percent of the state's population—must demand accountability over symbolism. Post-election, whichever alliance wins must form a credible roadmap that links welfare with productivity, ensuring that schemes translate into employment and empowerment.

As Bihar braces for another high-stakes electoral battle, it stands at a crossroads between continuity and change. The Election Commission's silence, the government's welfare deluge, and the emergence of new political actors together define the fragile equilibrium of its democracy. The ultimate battlement of Bihar is moral, not mathematical. It lies in restoring trust—in institutions, in intent, and in integrity. If the polls of 2025 reinforce that trust, Bihar could finally begin to rise above its legacy of cynicism. But if electoral convenience once again triumphs over democratic conscience, the state may find itself trapped in the very cycle that my earlier work described—from chaos to renewed chaos. Either way, November 2025 will not just decide who rules Bihar; it will decide what kind of democracy India's most politically conscious state wishes to be.

Bihar Elections: Political Battle or Test of Democracy?

The political temperature is soaring — slogans fill the air, enthusiasm has gripped the streets, and hearts are aflame. From Patna to Purnea, one question echoes everywhere — "Who this time?" Amid November's cool breeze, Bihar has turned once again into a battlefield. It's Nitish Kumar's tired stability versus Tejashwi Yadav's raw energy — a contest not just for power, but for pride and existence. This election is not merely a wager for office, but a storm of public opinion — where every vote could prove explosive.

The Bihar Assembly elections scheduled for November 6 and 11, 2025, with results on November 14, are being seen as more than a political competition — they are a major test of democracy. Voting will take place on 243 seats, and over 74.2 million voters — including 1.4 million new ones — will decide who sits on Bihar's throne: Nitish Kumar's NDA or Tejashwi Yadav's INDIA alliance.

At present, the current seems to favor the NDA. The JDU-BJP coalition, as in the previous Lok Sabha polls, appears organized and confident. According to NewsX and ABP surveys, the NDA is likely to win between 150–160 seats, comfortably above the majority mark of 122. The BJP hopes to emerge as the single largest party, buoyed by its strong showing in the 2024 Lok Sabha elections, where it won 30 of Bihar's 40 seats.

Nitish Kumar still enjoys the title of Sushasan Babu (Mr. Good Governance). Despite being in power for more than two decades, his image as a pragmatic and steady leader remains intact. His work on law and order, road networks, and women's empowerment has given him credibility. BJP's central leaders — especially Amit Shah — highlight Modi government's welfare schemes as "game changers," such as the ₹10,000 annual support for women and skill development programs for youth.

On the other hand, the INDIA alliance (RJD + Congress + Left parties) faces a tough challenge. Tejashwi Yadav has campaigned on unemployment, education, and the slogan of "change for every Bihari." His influence is visible among the youth, particularly urban voters and first-time voters. However, lack of unity remains the biggest hurdle. His brother, Tej Pratap



By Brij Khandelwal



Yadav, has floated his own party, Jan Shakti Janata Dal, creating a rift within the Yadav vote bank.

Meanwhile, Prashant Kishor's Jan Suraj Party has entered the fray as a third front. Though its projected vote share is low (1–2%), it could still dent the opposition's base. Kishor is focusing on anti-corruption

and development-driven politics, drawing appeal among young voters.

Political commentator Professor Paras Nath Chaudhary observes that the opposition's attempt to corner the Election Commission has been largely unsuccessful. "The biggest controversy in this election

revolves around the Election Commission's Special Intensive Revision process — aimed at cleaning voter data and removing duplicate names. However, irregularities linked to Aadhaar linkage triggered disputes. The Commission, for transparency, has introduced measures such as 100% webcasting, newly designed EVMS, and special observers — but distrust among voters persists."

According to Bihar sociologist T.P. Srivastava, the most decisive force this time is the youth electorate — roughly 14 million voters. They are looking beyond caste equations, seeking jobs, education, and opportunity. The youth are voting on the basis of progress, not mere slogans. The role of Chirag Paswan and several "vote-divider" groups remains unclear.

Analysts point out that Bihar has entered a new era of digital campaigning — from Instagram reels to WhatsApp drives. Young leaders are visibly active on social media, while grassroots efforts like "Panna Pramukh" and "Yuva Samvaad" programs are reinforcing booth-level outreach.

If the NDA returns to power, it may mark not only Nitish Kumar's "swan song" (final term) but also an opportunity for the BJP to strengthen its grip over Bihar. On the other hand, a defeat for the INDIA bloc could trigger shifts in opposition politics and raise questions over Tejashwi Yadav's leadership.

Ultimately, this Bihar election is not merely a game of regime change — it is a test of how mature Indian democracy has become. Every vote counts here — every inclusion or deletion from the list, every booth tally, every promise made. This election will decide whether Bihar chooses stability or change.

Bihar actually needs a firm administrator like Yogi Adityanath in UP, is a chant heard frequently in meetings in Bihar. Some analysts are also wondering whether youth unrest in Nepal could impact coming elections. A lot is being said about Bihari migrants and the money order economy, but how far these will impact political equations is anybody's guess!!

Mere presence at spot doesn't mean someone is member of unlawful assembly, says SC

New Delhi

Mere presence at the scene does not render a person a member of an unlawful assembly unless it is established that he also shared its common object, the Supreme Court said on Tuesday as it laid down parameters for courts to safeguard innocent spectators or onlookers from being convicted merely on account of their presence.

A bench of Justices J B Pardiwalla and R Mahadevan made the remarks while acquitting 12 convicts serving a life term for committing the offences of murder and unlawful assembly in a Bihar village in 1988.

The bench said where allegations are levelled against a large number of people, courts must carefully scrutinise the evidence, more so if the evidence on record is hazy.

Analysing section 149 of the Indian Penal Code (IPC), which says every member of an unlawful assembly is guilty of an offence com-



mitted in prosecution of a common object, the bench said the provision stipulates that if an offence is committed by any member of an unlawful assembly (of five or more persons) in prosecution of the common object of that assembly, or if the members of the assembly know that the said offence is likely to be committed in prosecution of the common object, every person who, at the time of committing that offence, was a member of

that assembly, will be guilty of that offence.

"Mere presence at the scene does not ipso facto render a person a member of the unlawful assembly, unless it is established that such an accused also shared its common object. A mere bystander, to whom no specific role is attributed, would not fall within the ambit of section 149 of the IPC," the bench said.

It said the prosecution has to establish, through rea-

sonably direct or indirect circumstances, that the accused persons shared a common object of the unlawful assembly.

"The test to determine whether a person is a passive onlooker or an innocent bystander is the same as that applied to ascertain the existence of a common object," it said. The top court said the existence of a common object is to be inferred from the circumstances of each case, such as the time

and place at which the assembly was formed, the conduct and behaviour of its members at or near the scene of the offence, the collective conduct of the assembly as distinct from that of individual members, the motive underlying the crime, the manner in which the offence unfolded, the nature of the weapons carried and used and the nature of injuries inflicted.

Justice Pardiwalla, who penned the verdict on behalf of the bench said the court, as a matter of caution, has enunciated parameters to safeguard innocent spectators or passive onlookers from being convicted merely on account of their presence.

"This cautionary rule, however, does not dilute the doctrine of constructive liability, under which proof of an overt act by each individual is not indispensable. Where the presence of a large number of persons is established and many are implicated, prudence mandates strict adherence to this

rule of caution," the verdict said.

The top court said the law on the point can be summarised to the effect that where there are general allegations against a large number of people, the court must be very careful before convicting all of them on vague or general evidence.

"Therefore, the courts ought to look for some cogent and credible material that lends assurance. It is safe to convict only those whose presence is not only consistently established from the stage of FIR, but also to whom overt acts are attributed which are in furtherance of the common object of the unlawful assembly," it said.

The court said the expression "in prosecution of the common object" in section 149 of the IPC means that the offence committed must be directly connected with the common object of the assembly, or that the act, upon appraisal of the evidence, must appear to have been done with a view to ac-

complish that common object.

The bench said it is of utmost importance to consider whether the assembly consisted of some people who were merely passive onlookers and had joined the assembly as a matter of idle curiosity, without the knowledge of the common object of the assembly, since such people cannot be said to be members of the unlawful assembly.

"We say so because the nucleus of section 149 is 'common object,'" it said, adding that once the two broad essentials of section 149 are fulfilled -- an offence is committed by any member of an unlawful assembly in prosecution of the common object, or if the members of the assembly knew that the said offence was likely to be committed in prosecution of the said common object -- every person who at the time of the commission of the offence was a member of the assembly is to be held guilty of that offence.

NIA uncovers LeT's Narco-Terror Web

Mitali New Delhi

In a striking revelation of the dark nexus between narcotics and terrorism, the National Investigation Agency (NIA) has filed its 8th supplementary chargesheet in the 2020 Salaya drugs case, targeting eight accused, including four absconders, for their involvement in smuggling heroin to finance Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) terror operations.

The case revolves around the smuggling of 500 kilograms of heroin from Pakistan into Gujarat via sea routes, with the proceeds systematically routed to fund terrorist activities. Investigations reveal a highly coordinated international network, masterminded by Simranjit Singh Sandhu (Italy), Tanveer Bedi (Australia), and Anshu Kapoor (India), who managed logistics, storage, distribution, and international hawala transfers to sustain LeT's operations.

Other accused include Pakistani national Tariq @ Bhajjan, Gagandeep Singh Arora, and Indian operatives Tamanna Gupta, Sukhbir Singh @ Happy, and Anwar Masih. Tariq oversaw the heroin smuggling and its transport to Punjab, while Tanveer orchestrated international money transfers. Anshu Kapoor coordinated local operations, ensuring smooth distribution and terror funding.

The syndicate's footprint spans Gujarat, Punjab, Delhi, and Chandigarh, with international links to Italy, Australia, UAE, Pakistan, Iran, and Thailand, highlighting the global scale of the threat. So far, 26 arrests have been made, while NIA continues to track absconders to dismantle the network completely.

Officials said the case exposes how drug trafficking is weaponized to fund terrorism, underlining the urgent need for relentless vigilance, intelligence-sharing, and global collaboration to protect national security.

CBI Cracks Transnational Cybercrime Network in Interpol-Led Operation

Mitali New Delhi

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has successfully dismantled a major transnational cybercrime network during its active participation in Interpol's Operation HAZE-VI. Acting on intelligence received from the FBI (US Department of Justice) and German authorities, the agency arrested eight key operatives and identified 45 additional suspects involved in cyber-enabled financial fraud and online sexual exploitation of minors.

The investigation revealed that illegal call centers in New Delhi and Amritsar were operating under the guise of tech support services, defrauding US citizens. A separate network in Siliguri, Darjeeling targeted German nationals using similar tactics. The CBI recovered



USD 66,340 in cash and blocked 30 bank accounts linked to the criminal operations.

CBI officials said two offenders were targeting minor girls in the US through social media platforms, coercing them to share obscene images and videos. The agency emphasized that such transnational cybercrime networks pose serious threats to global citizens' safety and financial security.

The operation highlights the importance of inter-

national cooperation, intelligence sharing, and rapid action in tackling sophisticated cyber threats. CBI has reiterated its commitment to protect citizens from technology-enabled crimes and to work closely with global law enforcement agencies to ensure offenders are brought to justice.

This crackdown is expected to send a strong message to cybercriminals operating across borders that their networks will not go unchecked.

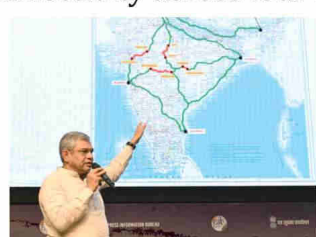
Cabinet clears four Rail Multitracking projects boosting connectivity across four states

TSN/New Delhi

In a major infrastructure push, the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has approved four multitracking projects of the Ministry of Railways worth Rs 24,634 crore. The ambitious plan will expand the existing railway network by nearly 894 kilometers across 18 districts in Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, and Chhattisgarh.

The projects, scheduled for completion by 2030-31, aim to ease congestion, improve operational efficiency, and strengthen connectivity across some of the busiest sections of the Indian Railways network.

The approved sections include the Wardha-Bhusawal 3rd and 4th lines spanning 314 kilometers in Maharashtra, the Gondia-Dongargarh 4th line covering 84 kilometers across Maha-



rashtra and Chhattisgarh, the Vadodra-Ratlam 3rd and 4th lines stretching 259 kilometers through Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh, and the Itarsi-Bhopal-Bina 4th line of 237 kilometers in Madhya Pradesh.

Once operational, the projects will connect around 3,633 villages with a combined population of nearly 86 lakh, including two Aspirational Districts—Vidisha in Madhya Pradesh and Ra-

jandgaon in Chhattisgarh. The expanded network is expected to boost regional economies by creating new employment and self-employment opportunities, aligning with the Prime Minister's vision of an Atmanirbhar Bharat.

Developed under the PM Gati Shakti National Master Plan, the multitracking projects emphasize multimodal integration and improved logistics efficiency through

coordinated planning and stakeholder engagement. The new lines will not only enhance passenger movement but also strengthen freight transport on key industrial and agricultural routes.

The upgraded sections will provide better access to several significant destinations, including Sanchi, the Satpura Tiger Reserve, the Bhimbetka rock shelters, Hazara Falls, and the Nawangan National Park, further promoting tourism across central India.

These corridors are vital for transporting coal, cement, steel, food grains, fly ash, and containers. With an expected increase in freight capacity of about 78 million tonnes per annum, the projects will help reduce logistics costs, support economic growth, and contribute to India's climate goals.

Greed in Uniform: When Public Servants Turn Gatekeepers of Corruption

Mitali New Delhi

In a country where integrity is the soul of governance, two recent arrests by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) have once again exposed the deep-rooted disease of corruption eating away at the system from within. Two government officers — men entrusted with responsibility and ethics — have been caught red-handed accepting bribes for simply doing their official duty.

The first, Ashok Kumar Jadav, an Auditor in the Integrated Financial Advisory office of the Controller General of Defence Accounts (CGDA), Gandhinagar, demanded a staggering ₹4 lakh to clear a CCTV project file worth ₹2.5 crore related to Pune Air Force Base. The CBI trap caught him accepting ₹3.5 lakh — a chilling reminder that even in matters of national security, greed finds a way.

The second, Lakshminhankar Mathuraparsad, Chief Officer Superintendent at the Divisional Railway Hospital, Nanded, demanded ₹25,000 from a contractor to clear pending bills and release a performance guarantee. He

The second, Lakshminhankar Mathuraparsad, Chief Office Superintendent at the Divisional Railway Hospital, Nanded, demanded ₹25,000 from a contractor to clear pending bills and release a performance guarantee.

too was caught red-handed with ₹20,000 at his home. Both men represent a disturbing truth — that corruption is no longer an exception but a pattern. When the gatekeepers of governance turn into brokers of bribery, trust in institutions begins to crumble. Every bribe paid is not just a financial transaction — it's a betrayal of the public's faith.

As the CBI continues its investigation, these arrests must not end as routine headlines. They must serve as a wake-up call for systemic reform, digital transparency, and an unrelenting zero-tolerance policy towards corruption. Because when greed wears the badge of authority, justice must wear the armour of courage.

'Assault on democracy' Leaders from across country condemn attack on CJI Gavai

New Delhi

Cutting across party lines, leaders on Tuesday strongly condemned the bid to attack Chief Justice of India B R Gavai during court proceedings, calling it an "assault" on democracy and the Constitution.

In a shocking breach of decorum on Monday, Rakesh Kishore, a 71-year-old lawyer, allegedly tried to hurl a shoe at the CJI during court proceedings, but was stopped by alert security personnel.

Police sources said a note, containing the slogan "Sanatan dharma ka apmaan nahi sahega Hindustan" (India will not tolerate insults to Sanatan Dharma), was found in the lawyer's possession. The Bar Council of India (BCI) has suspended his licence with immediate effect.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi spoke to Justice Gavai on Monday and said the attack on him has angered every Indian. "There is no place for such reprehensible acts in our society. It is utterly condemnable," Modi said, appreciating the calm displayed by the CJI.

Protests were held in CJI Gavai's home state of Maharashtra on Tuesday.

Deputy Chief Minister



Ajit Pawar called CJI Gavai the "pride of Maharashtra" and said the lawyer's attempt to attack him is condemnable.

In a statement, Pawar said, "Attacking the judiciary or judges is an assault on the fundamental principles of democracy. There is no place for such incidents in our democracy."

The opposition NCP (SP) protested in Mumbai and other parts of Maharashtra on Tuesday. A similar protest was held by the opposition party in Baramati, led by the party's national working president Supriya Sule.

In Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar, party MLA Rohit Pawar and activists held placards and shouted slogans, hailing Babasaheb Ambedkar and the Constitution. He said the bid to "attack" CJI Gavai was an

attempt to attack the Constitution and democracy.

Union Minister of State for Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution B L Verma termed the lawyer's act as "reprehensible" and said there are many other ways to express protest.

Jharkhand Chief Minister Hemant Soren condemned the attack and termed the incident as an "assault on the soul of democracy". He also said the attack was "like raising a hand against the nation's Constitution".

In neighbouring Bihar, which goes to polls next month, RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav accused the ruling BJP at the Centre of "maintaining silence" over the incident.

Yadav alleged that "the incident is a result of normalisation of hate and violence, which seems to have

been receiving state patronage since 2017".

Bihar Congress president Rajesh Kumar Ram, the party's Dalit face in the state, burst into tears while voicing anguish over the attack. Addressing a press conference, Ram alleged the incident reeks of the RSS's ideology.

"Even after reaching the most respectable constitutional posts with efforts of a lifetime, acceptability eludes Dalits," he said, breaking down. In the northeast, Manipur Congress president Keisham Meghachandra condemned the attack and demanded a thorough investigation and immediate action against those responsible.

In the south, Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu and YSRCP chief YS Jagan Mohan Reddy strongly condemned the attack on CJI Gavai in his courtroom during the proceedings.

Naidu described the incident as unacceptable and said such acts have no place in a civilised and democratic society. Similarly, Reddy termed the incident as deeply disturbing and an affront to the dignity of the highest judicial institution.

Jaishankar pitches for global AI governance



New Delhi

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on Tuesday pitched for a global governance structure to deal with issues relating to the use of artificial intelligence (AI).

Addressing an event, Jaishankar underlined the need for responsible use of AI and argued that for a country like India, it means the development of indigenous tools, self-assessment protocols for innovators and establishing relevant guidelines.

"Now, different societies have put different levels of emphasis on the benefits and on the risks of AI. Understandably, some of the narrative is influenced by those who have skin in the game," he said.

"But at the end of the day, it is imperative that we take a sober and we take a balanced view. After all, concerns about bias, ethics, privacy and vulnerability are well-founded, deriving

from pre-existing experiences," he said.

The external affairs minister called for taking pre-caution against what he called the "danger of losing trust in institutions and practices that underpin our daily life".

"Already, we see an inclination to question the umpire or even the playing field when results don't go in our favour. Maintaining — and I would argue in the era of AI — even strengthening trust therefore is of utmost importance," he said.

Jaishankar said India has consistently advocated for "global AI governance" and the shaping of an international agenda.

"We have demonstrated this during our G20 presidency and strongly urged its usage for advancing Sustainable Development Goals, while safeguarding trust, safety, fairness and accountability," he said.

UP court sentences man to death for rape murder of eight-year-old boy in 2024

Ghazipur (UP)

A special court in Ghazipur district on Tuesday sentenced a man to death for raping and murdering an eight-year-old boy, a case lawyer said.

Judge Ram Avtar Prasad of the district's Special POCOS Act Court sentenced Sanjay Prasad Nat to death, finding him guilty of raping, murdering and hiding the body in his own home. Prosecution lawyer Prabhu Narayan Singh said.

According to Singh, a complaint filed with the Ghazipur police station in the district alleged that on February 19, 2024, Sanjay Nat took his neighbour's son to his home at 3 pm. He raped the boy, strangled him to death with a rope, and hid the body in a box in his house.

According to the complaint, when the boy's father returned home from work, he began searching for his son. At that time, a girl told him that Uncle Sanjay had taken his son to his house.

Following this, people reached Sanjay's house and called the police, who found the boy's body locked in a box.

Ex-SP MLA Rameshwar Yadav released after 3 years in jail emotional return to Etah

Etah (UP)

Former Samajwadi Party MLA Rameshwar Singh Yadav, who represented the Aliganj Assembly constituency three times, was released from jail after over three years.

His return to his hometown on Tuesday turned emotional, as supporters welcomed him with garlands and cheers.

During a public address in Jaithra, Yadav broke down on stage while speaking about his imprisonment.

"These sufferings and false allegations have left me unfit to live," he said, with tears in his eyes, moving many of his supporters to silence before they erupted in slogans hailing him.

The former legislator said his release on September 26 on bail from the Allahabad High Court was kept confidential, claiming that if news of it had leaked, he and his brother, Jugendra Singh Yadav, "would not have been allowed to step out of jail."

Yadav alleged that several criminal cases had been filed against him by women he had never even met.

CM Yogi slams SP for having a dual face, indulging in votebank politics

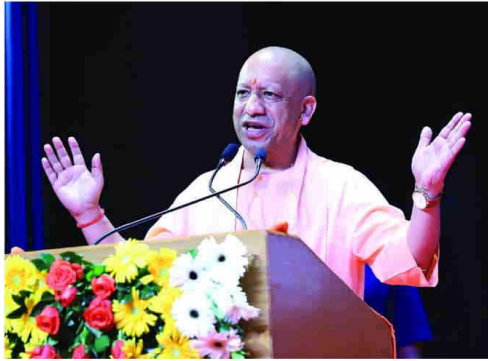
• SP goons were occupying the ashram in Lalapur, we ordered its reclamation: CM Yogi

Lucknow

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Tuesday reached out to the Valmiki community, emphasizing that their safety and dignity are integral to the safety of society. Addressing a gathering at the Maharshi Valmiki Manifestation Day ceremony held at Indira Gandhi Pratishthan under the aegis of the Baba Saheb Dr. Bhanurao Ambedkar Mahasabha Trust, the Chief Minister described Lord Valmiki as the "fate-maker of India's great spiritual tradition."

Yogi Adityanath began his address by extending greetings to the people of Uttar Pradesh on the birth anniversary of Lord Valmiki. He also watched a short film presented during the ceremony. Drawing from India's ancient spiritual history, he said that Maharshi Valmiki's life and teachings continue to guide generations. "When the sage, purified by penance and austerity, decided to write thousands of years ago, he asked Sage Narad, 'Who is the person of true character? I can write about?' Valmiki understood that only a person of character can serve as an instrument of public and national welfare," he said.

The Chief Minister added that Valmiki chose Lord Ram as the central figure of the Ramayana because Ram embodies dharma and moral integrity. "Human society is grateful to Lord Valmiki. When-



Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath

ever an Indian's mind is in doubt, Maharshi Valmiki always sets an ideal through the model of Maryada Purushottam Shri Ram," Yogi said. He explained that Ram represents the perfect balance in all relationships—between brothers, father and son, mother and son, and ruler and subjects. "Ram never violated the line of propriety, the Lakshman Rekha," he remarked.

Drawing a parallel between ancient values and modern leadership, the Chief Minister cited Swami Vivekananda's address at the Parliament of Religions in Chicago, noting how Vivekananda was mocked for his attire but responded by saying that Indians derive their identity from character, not clothing. "Character," Yogi said, "is our

true greatness."

Announcing several welfare measures for the Valmiki community and sanitation workers, the Chief Minister said that the state government would now transfer salaries directly into the bank accounts of sanitation and contract workers, bypassing outsourcing companies. "Sanitation workers will also get a health insurance cover of five lakh rupees. Additionally, arrangements will be made so that if any sanitation worker meets with an accident or disaster, the bank will provide compensation of up to 35-40 lakh rupees," he said. He added that similar benefits have already been extended to 80,000 Home Guards in Uttar Pradesh.

The Chief Minister also emphasized that

sanitation workers, especially from the Valmiki community, were often exploited in previous regimes. "During the SP government, sanitation workers were paid barely four thousand rupees. Prime Minister Modi was the first to say that the practice of carrying filth on one's head must end. Today, every home has a toilet, and we have ensured better wages and regular payments for sanitation workers," he said.

Yogi urged members of the Valmiki community to prioritize education for their children, saying that education is the key to empowerment. "If your children are educated and capable, they will lead society. No work is small or big. Just as mothers clean their children out of care, you serve society selflessly. That is your greatness," he told the gathering.

Highlighting the role of saints and reformers across India's history, Yogi said that every era has seen sages who guided society—Maharshi Valmiki in the Ramayana era, Maharshi Ved Vyasa in the Mahabharata, Sant Ravidas in the medieval period, and Dr. B.R. Ambedkar during the freedom struggle. "Though they lived in different times, their vision of uplifting society was the same," he said.

The Chief Minister praised Prime Minister Narendra Modi for continuing this vision through the principles of Ek Bharat, Shreshtha Bharat and Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas. He said that Ram Rajya symbolizes a society free from discrimination based on caste, religion, or sect, and the "double-engine government" of the BJP is working to fulfill that vision.

He accused opposition parties, particularly the Samajwadi Party (SP), of politicizing religion and caste for electoral gain. "Those who abuse Shri Ram also insult Lord Valmiki. When the SP government came to power in 2012, threats were made to destroy monuments of social justice icons. We said that people of UP would not allow that. SP even changed the names of institutions named after Baba Saheb Ambedkar and Kanshiram Ji, which we later restored," Yogi alleged.

IIT Mandi Shines as University of the Year



Rajan Punchhi
Mandi

Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Mandi has been conferred with two top honors—"University of the Year (Established)" and "Excellence in Creating Employment and Entrepreneurship"—at an award ceremony organized by the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) in New Delhi. The awards were presented to Prof. Laxmidhar Behera, Director of IIT Mandi, by Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways, Nitin Gadkari.

The twin recognitions celebrate IIT Mandi's outstanding achievements in nurturing innovation, promoting entrepreneurship, and generating employment opportunities. The institute has steadily built a distinctive ecosystem that blends academic research, industry collaboration, and community development to bring about meaningful change, especially in the Himalayan region.

One of IIT Mandi's flagship initiatives, IIT Mandi Catalyst, stands as India's first technology business incubator established in a Himalayan region. Since its inception, it has supported over 400 start-

ups, many of which have gone on to create substantial employment and spearhead technology-led solutions across sectors. This success has positioned IIT Mandi as a national leader in fostering a culture of innovation-driven entrepreneurship.

Expressing pride in the institute's achievement, Prof. Laxmidhar Behera said, "This recognition is a proud moment for the entire IIT Mandi family. It reflects our institute's commitment to building a strong culture of innovation and entrepreneurship across sectors. I dedicate this achievement to our faculty, students, and staff whose dedication and creativity have made IIT Mandi a truly transformative institute."

Under Prof. Behera's leadership, IIT Mandi has focused on translating research into real-world applications through an innovation-oriented curriculum and strategic partnerships with industries. The institute's continued efforts aim to produce professionals and entrepreneurs who will contribute to realizing the vision of a self-reliant India.

UP CM calls Ramayan symbol of social values environmental protection

Lucknow

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Tuesday said the Ramayan is not just a religious scripture but also a symbol of social values and environmental protection.

Addressing an event on the 85th birth anniversary of former legislator late DP Bora under the 'Mission Shakti' campaign, the chief minister noted that the occasion coincides with Sharad Purnima, the birth anniversaries of Maharshi Valmiki and Meera Bai, as well as that of the late DP Bora.

He paid tributes to the saints and Bora, saying, "On this occasion, I bow to Maharshi Valmiki and Meera Bai and humbly pay homage to the late DP Bora on behalf of the state government and citizens of Uttar Pradesh."

The chief minister described Valmiki's Ramayan as unique from social, religious, and geographical perspectives, emphasising that it embodies not only religious teachings but also social values and environmental conservation.

"Lord Ram's character in the Ramayan represents dharma. Maharshi Valmiki provided society with an ideal character, which remains relevant even today," he said.

Referring to the Shri Ram Janmabhumi movement and the grand construction of the Ram temple in Ayodhya, Adityanath said, "This is not merely the construction of a temple but step towards establishing Ram Rajya."

Sukhu Govt targeting girls with FIRs, says Jairam Thakur

Rajan Punchhi
Mandi

Former Chief Minister and Leader of the Opposition, Jairam Thakur, launched a fierce attack on the Sukhinder Singh Sukhu-led Congress government, accusing it of misusing power to silence dissent and crush public voices through police action. Speaking at the BJP office in Mandi on Tuesday, Thakur alleged that the government has now stooped so low that even girls are not being spared.

He claimed that FIRs were registered against a group of girls simply because they complained about not being served food at a government event. "Children were called to the function, made to sit in the scorching sun for hours, and when they protested over not getting food, the government filed cases against them," Thakur said. He added that this was part of a larger pattern of vindictive gov-



ernance under Sukhu, where anyone who dares to speak against the administration faces harassment.

"If a journalist speaks, an FIR is filed. If an opposition leader raises a question, a case is lodged. The intention is clear—to ensure that no voice is raised against the government's failures," Thakur said. He accused the Chief Minister of acting at the behest of "small-hearted

politicians" and using officials as pawns to settle scores.

The BJP leader further alleged that the state's relief and rehabilitation efforts have been marred by corruption. He claimed that debris from disaster-affected areas still lies uncleared, yet payments are being made for complete or falsified work. "Congress leaders are getting bills passed without remov-

ing debris from roadsides. This is open loot in the name of disaster management," Thakur said, adding that those in power are focused on "filling their pockets instead of helping the affected people."

Thakur warned officials collaborating with what he called the government's "dictatorial practices" that their actions would be reviewed once accountability returns. "Dictators never end well," he said. "Every decision will be scrutinized, and when the time comes, these same officials will be busy saving themselves."

The BJP leader's sharp remarks reflect growing political tension in Himachal Pradesh, where opposition parties have repeatedly accused the Congress government of high-handedness, corruption, and administrative failure in managing both governance and disaster response.

Mission Shakti 5.0 UP Police seizes 3 654 vehicles arrests 450 in statewide drive

Lucknow

The Uttar Pradesh Police has removed 9,488 black films, 2,817 pressure horns, and 1,087 modified lights from various vehicles in the state between September 22 and October 1 under Mission Shakti 5.0 initiative aimed at strengthening women's safety, the UP government said in a statement on Tuesday.

Besides, 3,654 vehicles were seized and 1,93,829 were challaned for traffic rule violations during the period, the statement said.

A total of 251 cases were registered and 450 individuals arrested for violating traffic norms as the statewide special drive was launched on September 22, according to Additional Director General of Police (ADGP) Padmaja Chauhan, the nodal officer for Mission Shakti 5.0.

The campaign is currently underway across the state.

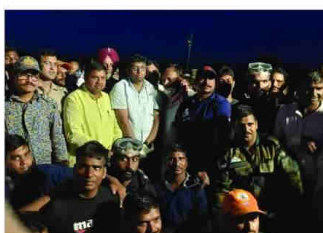
Between September 22 and October 1, po-

A total of 251 cases were registered and 450 individuals arrested for violating traffic norms as the statewide special drive was launched on September 22, according to Additional Director General of Police (ADGP) Padmaja Chauhan, the nodal officer for Mission Shakti 5.0.

lice teams checked over 8.5 lakh vehicles across 74,773 locations, the statement said.

Senior officers, including ADGPs, DIGs, commissioners of police, SSPs, SPs, circle officers, and SIOs actively participated in the drive and conducted extensive foot patrols to enhance public safety, it said.

According to ADGP Chauhan, the campaign has yielded significant results.



by strong currents in the Uttan River. Immediate efforts by local police and villagers led to the

rescue of one person, Vishnu, who was taken to the hospital for treatment. The bodies of Om-

Operation Utangan Draws to a Close with Final Recovery from Uttan River

TSN/Agra

The large-scale rescue operation "Operation Utangan" concluded on Monday evening with the recovery of the last missing person, Hareesh, from the Uttan River. The mission, which began after a tragic idol immersion accident near Kusiyapur and Doongarwala villages under Khergarh tehsil, officially ended at 6:10 PM.

District Magistrate Arvind Mallappa Bangari announced the completion of the operation and expressed

deep gratitude to all teams and individuals involved. "The relentless efforts of the NDRF, SDRF, Army's 41th Parafeld Company, PAC, local divers, police administration, media personnel, and residents made this operation possible," he said. He added that those who took part in "Operation Utangan" would be honored on Republic Day, January 26.

The tragedy occurred on October 22, 2025, during idol immersion ceremonies when 13 youths were swept away

pal, Gagan, and Manoj were recovered earlier that day.

Under the direction of DM Bangari, the administration launched "Operation Utangan" to recover the missing persons. The operation saw coordinated action from multiple agencies including the NDRF, SDRF, PAC, Army, and local authorities.

On October 3, the bodies of Bhagwati and Abhishek alias Bhela were found, prompting an intensified search for the remaining missing persons. The adminis-

tration sought the help of the irrigation department to divert the river's flow, allowing rescue teams better access to submerged areas.

The combined efforts bore results over the following days. On October 5, Karan, son of Ranveer Singh, was recovered, followed by the discovery of Vinesh and Oke on October 6.

The final phase of the operation took place on Monday with additional manpower and increased coordination. Within a short span, the bodies of Sachin (son of Ran-

veer), Deepak (son of Sukkhan), and Gajendra (son of Revati) were recovered. The mission concluded with the recovery of Hareesh's body, marking the end of the exhaustive five-day operation.

The District Magistrate commended the courage and perseverance displayed by all participants throughout the operation and assured that appropriate recognition would be given to the teams who worked day and night to bring closure to the grieving families.

Under Prof. Behera's leadership, IIT Mandi has focused on translating research into real-world applications through an innovation-oriented curriculum and strategic partnerships with industries.

The institute's continued efforts aim to produce professionals and entrepreneurs who will contribute to realizing the vision of a self-reliant India.

Putin turns 73 supporters laud his role in transforming Russia

Moscow:

Vladimir Putin, the longest-serving President of Russia, turned 73 on Tuesday and many of his supporters are lauding his role in transforming the country.

"Putin stopped further fragmentation of Russia and put it back on its historical path," Kremlin envoy on Ukraine Vladimir Medinsky wrote on his Telegram channel.

He said that Putin assumed office on the eve of 2000 at a time when the country was going through the trauma of the Soviet Union collapse and threat of fragmentation of the Russian Federation.

Similar sentiments were expressed by Speaker of State Duma Vyacheslav Volodin, Governor of Moscow region Andrei Vorobyov and Moscow Mayor Sergei Sobyanin as Putin is receiving birthday wishes from world leaders.

Benjamin Netanyahu was perhaps the first foreign leader to wish a happy birthday to Putin during a phone call last night to discuss Gaza settlement, Israeli nuclear issue and Syria.

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov during Tuesday's briefing for the reporters spoke about the importance of Putin's role in the lives of Russians.

Pro-Palestinian protests on 2-year anniversary of Hamas' attack on Israel

Ankara:

Protesters gathered in several countries on Tuesday to condemn the war in Gaza as Israelis marked the second anniversary of the Hamas attack that sparked the fighting, that has claimed tens of thousands of lives and split violence across the Middle East.

More than 1,000 pro-Palestinian protesters marched to the US Embassy in Indonesia's capital of Jakarta to denounce Israel's blockade of Gaza and the detention of activists from the Global Sumud Flotilla that tried to break through last week.

Chanting "Free free Palestine" and waving flags, demonstrators called for the activists' release and condemned two years of Israeli military action in Gaza.

Authorities in Indonesia — the world's most populous Muslim majority nation and one that has no formal ties with Israel — deployed over 1,000 police to secure the



Pro-Palestinian rallies mark two years since Hamas' attack on Israel

embassy. Hamas-led militants killed some 1,200 people and kidnapped 251 people in the Oct. 7, 2023, attack during a major Jewish holiday. Most hostages have been released in ceasefires or other deals.

Israel's retaliatory offensive in Gaza has killed

more than 67,000 people, destroyed vast areas of the strip, displaced around 90 per cent of the population of some 2 million and caused a humanitarian crisis, with experts saying Gaza City is experiencing famine.

The conflict has sent ripples across the region, bringing Israel into con-

tact with Lebanon's Hezbollah group, Yemen's Houthis rebels and militant groups in Iraq and Syria, along with their patron, Iran, which suffered major losses in a 12-day war with Israel in June.

In Japan, hundreds of protesters, including Palestinians, marched through downtown Tokyo

Authorities in Indonesia — the world's most populous Muslim majority nation and one that has no formal ties with Israel — deployed over 1,000 police to secure the embassy.

demanding a ceasefire in Gaza and the hostages' release. Similar protests were held in Osaka and other major cities.

Lena Grace Suda, a 30-year-old Tokyo resident who joined the rally, called for sanctions against Israel.

"Recognising the state of Palestine is not enough if you're still complicit in the genocide," she said. A growing number of experts, including those commissioned by a UN body, have said Israel's offensive in Gaza amounts to genocide — an accusation Israel vehemently denies.

A pro-Palestinian candlelight vigil was held in Taiwan.

British Prime Minister

Nepal Gen-Z protests FIR registered against deposed PM Oli his home minister

Kathmandu:

Nepal's youth-led Gen-Z group, which organised anti-government protests last month, on Tuesday registered an FIR against deposed prime minister K P Sharma Oli and then home minister Ramesh Lekhak, seeking their criminal accountability for the deaths during the demonstrations.

The Kathmandu District Police Circle Spokesperson, Superintendent of Police Pawan Bhattacharya, confirmed that the FIR was registered at the Kathmandu District Police Office, Bhadrakali, against UML chairman Oli and Nepali Congress leader Lekhak.

He said that since a probe commission to investigate the matter has already been constituted, the police have forwarded the FIR to the high-level Judicial Investigation Commission headed by Justice Gauri Bahadur Karki.

"The FIR registered by the Gen-Z youths with the police will establish their (Oli and Lekhak's)



criminal accountability and pave the way for investigation of the crime committed on 8 and 9 September," said senior advocate Dinesh Tripathi.

"The serious crime committed by the state agents should not go unpunished, and impunity must be ended," he added.

Nineteen protesters were killed during the police firing on September 8, the first day of the Gen-Z protests. In total, 76 people were killed during the two-day protests on September 8 and 9.

The security personnel indiscriminately opened fire on the youths who staged protests on September 8, demanding an end to corruption and lifting a government ban on social media.

Newly-elected mayor in Germany found with serious stab wounds

Berlin:

The newly-elected mayor of a town in western Germany was found with life-threatening wounds on Tuesday, and Chancellor Friedrich Merz said she was the victim of "an abhorrent act."

Iris Stalzer was elected as mayor of Herdecke on September 28. She is a member of the centre-left Social Demo-



crats, the junior party in Germany's conservative-led national govern-

ment.

Stalzer was found at her home with life-threatening wounds shortly before 1 pm Tuesday, police and prosecutors said in a statement. She was taken to a hospital by helicopter.

They didn't comment on the nature of the wounds, but the leader of the Social Democrats' parliamentary group

in Berlin, Matthias Mißbach, told reporters that "we heard a few minutes ago that newly elected Mayor Iris Stalzer was stabbed in Herdecke."

Merz wrote on social media that "we fear for the life of Mayor-elect Iris Stalzer and hope for her full recovery."

The statement from investigators said that they are "investigating in all directions" and

that "a family background also cannot be ruled out at present."

Stalzer, who beat a candidate from Merz's centre-right Christian Democrats in a runoff vote to win election, is due to take office on November 1. Herdecke is a town of about 23,000 people in western Germany's Ruhr region, between the cities of Hagen and Dortmund.

BUSINESS

Revolt Motors backs young racer Ethan Joy at F4 India championship



TSN/New Delhi:

Revolt Motors, India's leading electric motorcycle manufacturer, has announced its sponsorship of young motorsport prodigy Ethan Joy at the recently concluded F4 India Championship held at the Kari Motor Speedway in Coimbatore.

The association marks Revolt's entry into India's growing motorsport scene, reflecting its commitment to supporting emerging talent and promoting a culture of performance and innovation among the country's youth.

Formula 4, or F4, is an international single-seater racing series established by the FIA in 2014 as the first professional step for drivers transitioning from karting. For Ethan Joy, the championship represented a significant leap in his racing career. Beginning his journey in 2022, the young driver has already notched multiple national podiums and a Vice Champion title in the Merit Cup Championship. His debut in the FIA-certified F4 India Championship underscores his steady rise in the sport.

Creating awareness among farmers crucial to curb stubble burning: Chouhan

New Delhi:

Union Agriculture Minister Shri. Shri. Chouhan said on Tuesday that creating awareness among farmers is crucial to curb stubble burning as he suggested active involvement of panchayats, local representatives, and nodal officers at village level for management of crop residues.

Ahead of paddy harvesting season, Chouhan chaired a key meeting here on stubble management along with Union Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change Bhupendra Yadav.

According to an official statement, the meeting was attended virtually by Punjab Agriculture Minister Gurmeet Singh Khudian, Haryana Agriculture Minister Shyam Singh Rana, Uttar Pradesh Agriculture Minister Surya Pratap Shahi, and Delhi Envi-



ronment Minister Manjinder Singh Sirsa. The meeting focused on strategies to curb air pollution caused by stubble burning, promote better utilisation of paddy residue, and enhance awareness, financial support, monitoring,

crop management, and diversification among farmers, it added.

At the start of this meeting, agriculture ministers of Punjab, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh briefed about the status of stubble management in their re-

spective states.

They informed that implementation of stubble management schemes is being carried out with full commitment, with officers and field departments actively engaged in the task.

The Haryana agriculture minister highlighted that the state is encouraging farmers not to burn stubble by providing financial assistance.

Chouhan appreciated the efforts made by these states to check stubble pollution and reduce air pollution, but felt that continuous and sustained efforts are necessary to achieve larger goals.

He emphasised that "awareness among farmers is crucial and suggested that panchayats, local representatives, and nodal officers should be actively involved at the village level to achieve better outcomes."

Chouhan further discussed issues related to crop management, direct seeding, diversification, effective utilisation of allocated funds and monitoring mechanisms.

Tata Group Leaders Meet Shah, Sitharaman Amid Infigthing

New Delhi:

Top honchos of the Tata group, including Tata Trusts Chairman Noel Tata and Tata Sons Chairman N Chandrasekaran, on Tuesday met Union Home Minister Amit Shah and Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman amid infigthing among trustees over board appointments and governance issues.

Noel Tata and Chandrasekaran, along with Tata Trusts Vice Chairman Venu Srivastava and trustee Darius Khambata, arrived together in the evening at Shah's residence for the meeting. Sitharaman also joined in at the home minister's residence.

The meeting came against the backdrop of infigthing among the trustees of Tata Trusts over board appointments and governance issues, which threaten to impact the functioning of the over USD 180 billion conglomerate.

Tata Trusts exerts decisive influence over India's most valuable conglomerate through its about 66 per cent stake in Tata Sons, the promoter and holding company of the salt-to-semiconductor group.

Sources said Tata Trusts is said to be vertically split, with one section aligned with Noel Tata, who was appointed chairman of the Trusts following the death of Ratan Tata. The other grouping of four trustees is led by Mehli Mistry, who has ties with the extended Shapoorji Pallonji family, which owns about 18.37 per cent of Tata Sons.

IRF launches global registry training for Road Safety auditors at NHAI

TSN/New Delhi:

The International Road Federation (IRF), a Geneva-based global body dedicated to improving road safety worldwide, has launched its International Registry for Road Safety Auditors, a 10-day certified training programme, at the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) premises in New Delhi.

The programme, supported by IRF's India Chapter and global sustainable organisation Total Energies, aims to build a pool of certified road safety professionals in India. Participants include engineers and professionals from NHAI,



NHIDCL, CRRI, highway operators, consultants, and the infrastructure industry.

Designed to blend theory, practical case studies, and on-ground fieldwork, the training

focuses on equipping professionals in highway development, road construction, traffic en-

gineering, and urban transport planning with advanced auditing skills. The sessions are being conducted by Eur Ing, Miguel-Angel Serrano Santos, a UK-based expert with over 25 years of experience in international road safety audit practices.

The course covers a wide range of subjects including legal and institutional frameworks, Safe System and Vision Zero strategies, crash data analytics, blackspot identification, economic evaluations, road design audits, vulnerable road user (VRU) safety, IRAP tools, and work zone safety.

Speaking at the inauguration, Mr. Vivek Jaiswal, CGM, NHAI, praised IRF's initiative and reaffirmed NHAI's support in strengthening India's road safety framework. Mr. K. K. Kapila, President (Emeritus), IRF, acknowledged the contribution of Total Energies in promoting this global program and urged participants to leverage the learnings to enhance safety standards.

Mr. Akhilesh Srivastava, President, IRF-India Chapter (IRF-IC), emphasised that as part of IRF-IC's flagship SE programme, this initiative underscores the im-

portance of engineering safer roads and promoting the concept of "forgiving roads" across the country.

The training, which has previously been held in countries such as Tanzania, the UK, and Australia, marks a significant step toward advancing road safety capacity building in India. By launching the International Registry for Road Safety Auditors, IRF aims to strengthen professional standards and foster international collaboration in pursuit of Vision Zero — the goal of eliminating road crash fatalities and serious injuries worldwide.

'Captain Cool' MS Dhoni becomes certified drone pilot

New Delhi:

India's legendary captain, MS Dhoni, known for his affinity for machinery, announced on Tuesday that he has completed the DGCA Drone Pilot Certification program. Dhoni, who has openly expressed his fondness for bikes, has added another feather to his cap. He has officially obtained a drone pilot licence from Garuda Aerospace. After completing the rigorous training program, Dhoni is now certified to fly drones.

"Happy to announce that I have completed my DGCA Drone pilot certification program with Garuda Aerospace," Dhoni wrote on Facebook.

Garuda Aerospace is a DGCA-approved Remote Pilot Training Organisation (RPTO) and has trained over 2,500 aspiring pilots to date. Speaking about Dhoni's achievement, Agnishwar Jayaprakash, Founder and CEO of Garuda Aerospace, expressed his delight that their brand ambassador had completed the program.

"Having our brand ambassador and investor, MS Dhoni, personally undergo the training and get certified as a pilot is a monumental milestone for us. He picked it up very quickly and was extremely focused on learning," Jayaprakash said.

"His unwavering belief in our mission to revolutionise the drone industry is a massive source of encouragement for the entire team. Mahi Bhai is an inspiration, and his hands-on approach further validates our commitment to excellence and to fostering a culture of skill and innovation in this sector," he added.

Abhishek, Kuldeep named in ICC Men's Player of the Month nominees for September

Dubai:

The International Cricket Council (ICC) unveiled the nominees for the Player of the Month award for September on Tuesday, with two Indian T20I mainstays featured in the three-player list.

India's flamboyant opener Abhishek Sharma, premier wicket-taking spinner Kuldeep Yadav and Zimbabwe's Brian Bennett will fight for the personal accolade.

Abhishek continued to enjoy his prolific break-out season after his record-shattering run at the recently concluded Asia Cup. With 314 runs at 44.86 with a staggering strike rate of 200 in seven appearances, Abhishek was the top run getter in the tournament during India's unbeaten run to clinch the coveted title.

The 25-year-old also notched the highest batting rating ever recorded in men's T20I history with 931 points, continuing his meteoric rise in the international circuit.

While Abhishek did the bulk of the scoring for India, left-arm wrist spinner Kuldeep was the top choice with the ball. The 30-year-old had a dream run and finished as the highest wicket-taker with 17 scalps at the Asia Cup, while maintaining an economy rate of 6.27.

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Australia announce squads for ODIs, first 2 T20Is at home against India

Melbourne:

Cricket Australia (CA) announced the squads for the home white-ball series against India on Tuesday, with pacer Mitchell Starc and opener Matt Short among the inclusions in the 50-over side for the three matches starting from October 19. Starc, who announced his T20I retirement last month as the countdown to next year's ICC T20 World Cup continues, will be returning to the international fold to take on a power-packed Indian line-up, boosted by the returns of legends Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli, with a young Shubman Gill as their new ODI captain.

The return of Starc will add strength to an Australian bowling group missing the presence of their injured skipper, Pat Cummins, with T20I captain Mitch Marsh set to once again fill the role as captain against India during both the ODI and T20I contests, with the T20I leg starting from October 29.

Starc's return is one of four changes to Australia's ODI side that took on South Africa last month, with Short, Matt Renshaw and Mitchell even also earning recalls to the



Australia name squads for home ODIs and T20Is vs India

side that lost the series 2-1 against the Proteas.

Dropping out of the ODI squad are Aaron Hardie, Matthew Kuhnemann and Marnus Labuschagne, with Labuschagne to continue to play four-day cricket for Queensland in the domestic Sheffield Shield competition ahead of the

upcoming Test series against England at the end of the year.

The Aussies also named a 14-player group for the first two T20I matches against India, with Nathan Ellis and Josh Inglis earning recalls after they missed the recent T20I series with South Africa.

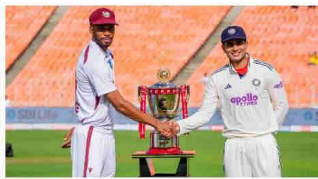
squad for the ODI series and first two games of the T20 series, as there will be some management through the back end of the series as individuals prepare for the summer through Sheffield Shield cricket," Bailey said as quoted by the ICC.

The majority of the T20 squad will remain together as it's an important period in the build towards the World Cup next year, however, we are trying to strike a balance to ensure we simultaneously prepare certain individuals for the Test series ahead," he added.

Australia ODI squad: Mitchell Marsh (c), Xavier Bartlett, Alex Carey, Cooper Connolly, Ben Dwarshuis, Nathan Ellis, Cameron Green, Josh Hazlewood, Travis Head, Josh Inglis, Mitchell Owen, Matthew Renshaw, Matthew Short, Mitchell Starc, Adam Zampa

Australia T20I squad (first two games): Mitchell Marsh (c), Sean Abbott, Xavier Bartlett, Tim David, Ben Dwarshuis, Nathan Ellis, Josh Hazlewood, Travis Head, Josh Inglis, Matthew Kuhnemann, Mitchell Owen, Matthew Short, Marcus Stoinis, Adam Zampa. (ANI)

Delhi pitch expected to be batting friendly for second Test between India and West Indies



New Delhi:

The pitch for the second Test in the national capital, between India and the West Indies, scheduled to commence on Friday, is expected to be a batting-friendly strip, featuring patches of grass interspersed with bald areas, a complete contrast to the one prepared in Ahmedabad, according to ESPN-cricinfo.

The Ahmedabad pitch had a uniform appearance, with even grass coverage. On the other hand, the Delhi pitch is expected to have a black-soil base. The surface of the Arun Jaitley Stadium will likely come in aid of batters. As the game progresses and the pitch gradually dries up, the spinners will play a vital role.

In the two-match series opener, the Caribbean side lasted barely three days on a surface that offered moment and spin to speedsters and ball twerkers. The strip on which both teams scuffled was arguably the

greenest in India since the World Test Championship began in 2019.

Vice-captain Ravindra Jadeja's all-around heroics made the headlines as the hosts notched a mammoth win by an innings and 140 runs. Jasprit Bumrah and Mohammed Siraj bowled in tandem and wreaked havoc to make the West Indies regret their decision to bat first.

With four millimetres of live grass spread over a red-soil surface, Bumrah and Siraj extracted threatening bounce and went about their business gleefully. On the first morning, the tourists were bowled out on a trivial 162 in 44.1 overs.

In reply, KL Rahul (100), Ravindra Jadeja (104*) and Dhruv Jurel (125) made the West Indies bowlers toil, while fuelling India's innings to a daunting 448/5. The Shubman Gill-led side declared overnight and invited the West Indies to chase down the deficit.

Rohit is Legend of game, great leadership example for India: Williamson

Mumbai:

New Zealand's talismanic batter Kane Williamson defined Rohit Sharma as a "legend of the game" and expects Shubman Gill, the new ODI captain, to benefit from the presence of India's veteran swashbuckler in the upcoming tour of Australia.

Last week, Chief Selector Ajit Agarkar sent shockwaves through the cricket world after announcing that he had personally conveyed the management's decision to Rohit about making Gill his successor. The 26-year-old's captaincy stint in the ODIs will begin in Australia with a three-match series, scheduled to kick off on October 19 at the Optus Stadium in Perth.

Agarkar explained the rationale behind the sudden shift, considering the 2027 ODI World Cup is still two years away from commencing in South Africa. The chief selector explained that the surprise shift in the leadership stems from the selection of Gill to have enough time to settle well before the 2027 ODI World Cup, which will be held in South Africa, Zimbabwe, and Namibia.

While Williamson refrained from commenting



Williamson hails Rohit as a true legend and leader - File Photo

on the reasons behind the decision, he remains confident that Rohit's presence has been immensely valuable to the team's players, serving as a great example during his captaincy tenure.

"While I'm not familiar with all the details of the decision, being more closely connected to the New Zealand setup, Rohit Sharma is a legend of the game who has achieved incredible things for India cricket. I'm confident he has been immensely valuable to the team's players, serving as a great leadership example for India. Shubman and other players have undoubtedly benefited greatly from his influence," Williamson said on the sidelines of the CEAT Cricket Rating Awards in Mumbai on Tuesday.

Rohit first wore the ODI captaincy armband in 2017 and led India in 56 ODIs, winning a stunning 42, losing just 12, with one ending in a no-result and another in a tie. His win percentage of 75 per cent makes him one of the world's best white-ball leaders statistically. Since Rohit has bid adieu to T20Is and Tests, just like his long-time compatriot Virat Kohli, ODI is the sole format where the duo can enchant the spectators. Williamson explained the challenges and repercussions a player faces while being available for a solitary format.

The T20I series will be used as important preparation for Australia ahead of next year's ICC Men's T20 World Cup, and selection chair George Bailey also indicated the potential for further changes to the squad for the backend of the series.

"We have named a

Pune:

Out-of-favour top-order India opener Prithvi Shaw has continued to walk on the path of resurgence after wallowing a sizzling ton for Maharashtra against his former side Mumbai in a warm-up match on Tuesday.

Shaw continued to ride high on his fiery form in the Buchi Babu Invitational Tournament during the three-day practice match at the MCA Stadium in Pune before the Ranji Trophy 2025-26 season. The 25-year-old delivered a statement against the Shardul Thakur-led Mumbai, with a sublime ton on the opening day of the fixture. While opening the innings for Maharashtra alongside Arshin Kulkarni, Shaw made his way to a hundred in 140 balls.

While Shaw took his time to settle into the nature of the surface, Kulkarni basked in success with a fearless approach to torment Mumbai. Shaw hammered fifty in 84 deliveries and appeared settled on 76.

At the other end, Kulkarni blazed his way to the three-digit figure in just 95 deliveries. Kulkarni continued to toy with Mumbai's bowling attack, which comprised Shardul, Tusshar Deshpande, Shivam Dube, spinners Tanush Kotian, and Shams Mulanand.

He came close to the elusive double hundred; however, against the run of play, Kulkarni's boundary-hitting spree came to a bitter end on 186(139), marking the end of a Herculean 305-run partnership for the first wicket.

Shaw switched his al-



Prithvi Shaw lights up the field with a blazing ton

legiance to Maharashtra after receiving a No-Objection Certificate (NOC) from Mumbai earlier this year. During the Buchi Babu Invitational Tournament, Shaw basked in a mixed bag of results, notching scores of 111, 1 and 66. During the tournament, he made a promising start with 111 off 141, a lone fighter on a turner where the rest of Maharashtra's batters combined to churn out a mere 92 runs against Chhattisgarh.

In the second innings,

Shaw's fortune changed, and he added just a solitary run to his name as Chhattisgarh roared in jubilation with a 35-run victory. During a Buchi Babu Invitational Tournament match against the TNCA Presidents XI, Shaw flaunted his purple patch at the Gojan Cricket Ground 'B'.

TNCA Presidents XI rode high on twin centuries from Andre Siddharth C (111) and Baba Indrajith (104). Captain Pradosh Ranjan Paul topped it up by chipping in with a composed 76 off 134, and powered his side to 384/9 in the first innings.

In reply, Shaw ensured Maharashtra got off to a robust start with a rollicking half-century. Resuming his overnight score of 47 off 57 deliveries, Shaw breezed past the milestone by sprinting for three with a backfoot punch on the first ball.

Shaw stitched up a 94-run partnership with Harshil Kate to propel Maharashtra to 155/2. From being in a commanding position, Maharashtra scrambled for control after Achyuth C V removed Shaw on 66(96).

Varun Chakravarthy explains Gambhir's "Spartan mentality"

Mumbai:

India's mystery spinner Varun Chakravarthy believes head coach Gautam Gambhir has fostered a "Spartan mentality" within the team, which leaves "no option of losing".

Once a forgotten star who lost his stardom, Varun discovered himself at the bottom of the pecking order for three years from 2021. Varun has grabbed the opportunity with both hands the previous year.

Over the last three years, he has put in the hard work to completely flip the narrative. After Gambhir took over from Rahul Dravid as the head coach of the Indian team, Varun found his way back to the Indian team. The 34-year-old credited Gambhir and



Varun decodes Gambhir's fierce 'Spartan' mentality

captain Suryakumar Yadav for his resurgence in international cricket.

"Definitely one thing which I can say about [Gambhir] is he brings a Spartan mentality to the

team where there is no option of losing. You just have to bring your best and give everything on the ground, and later on, whatever happens, happens. When he is around,

there is no mediocrity - you can't be mediocre in the field, that's what I feel," Varun said on the sidelines of the CEAT Cricket Rating Awards in Mumbai on Tuesday.

Varun has formed a formidable duo with left-arm wrist spinner Kuldeep Yadav in the T20Is. The duo has bowled in tandem to wreak havoc with their mastery in spin, while ensuring they complement each other. While praising his partner in crime, Varun hopes to continue his partnership with Kuldeep during India's title defence in next year's T20 World Cup on home turf.

"Kuldeep is definitely one of the most experienced bowlers right now in the pool of players that we have, and he has done amazingly well," Varun said. "I bowl at the speed of 85kph, and he bowls around 85kph, so we kind of complement each other. He

has more revs and more turn, I have more speed and bounce, so till now it's been working well for us. Hopefully, we can do the same thing in the World Cup also."

Varun's debut in July 2021 didn't get off to an ideal start, with just two wickets in six matches; it seemed as if he had played his last game in the international circuit. He honed his skills on the sidelines and returned to the T20I fold in October 2024.

He has become a regular face in the shortest format of cricket and has been instrumental to India's growing prominence in T20Is, as well as their unbeaten run to the Champions Trophy earlier this year. He initially sat out in

the opening games but stormed into the final XI to finish with nine wickets at an average of 15.11, with a best of 5/42, the joint-second highest in the tournament, behind New Zealand's Matt Henry (10).

"When I made my comeback again, Surya and GG [Gambhir], they spoke to me and they told me that we are looking at you as one of the wicket-takers. And they have backed me throughout. For that, I have to give them the credit," he said.

"I was out of the team for more than three years, but I did have a consecutive good IPL. For them to recognise that and bring me into the team was great for me," he added.

Swiatek dominates on Wuhan debut to register 60th win of the season

Bouskova:
Iga Swiatek dropped just two games on her Wuhan Open debut as she cruised through to the second round with a convincing victory over Marie Bouzkova.

Swiatek needed just one hour and 18 minutes to seal a 6-1 6-1 triumph over her Czech opponent, in what was her 100th straight-set win at WTA-1000 level.

The Wimbledon champion wasted little time in getting herself up and running, storming into a 4-0 lead before Bouzkova finally got herself on the scoreboard. It proved too little too late for Bouzkova, though, as Swiatek took the first set at the second time of asking, and she carried her momentum on from there. Swiatek opened with a break of serve before reeling off the final four games, sealing her progression with a backhand that Bouzkova could only return into the net.

Swiatek has been in sensational form in 2025, with this her 60th win of the year. Since the start of 1990, she is now just the fourth player to achieve four consecutive 60-win seasons at WTA level before the age of 25, along with Steffi Graf, Amelie Sanchez Vicario and Martina Hingis.

The second seed also hit a century of straight-set wins at Tier 1/WTA 1000 events, doing so in 153 matches. Only Graf (122), Hingis (145) and Serena Williams (147) have done so in fewer such encounters.

Swiatek also claimed a 58th consecutive opening match win at WTA level (including the United Cup and WTA Finals) – the most consecutive opening wins of any player since the Tier format's introduction in 1990.

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Yuvraj Singh, IGPL Board meet Mansukh Mandaviya to discuss golf's future in India

New Delhi:
The Union Minister for Youth Affairs and Sports, Dr Mansukh Mandaviya, met with the Indian Golf Premier League (IGPL) co-founder and ambassador, Yuvraj Singh and CEO Uttam Mundy at his office and praised the efforts being made to promote the sport across India.

IGPL, the country's first-ever franchise-based golf league, is set to debut in January 2026 and will feature six franchises. The tournament is being organised in partnership with the Indian Golf Union (IGU), WGAI (Women's Golf Association of India) and the PGA of India, and will follow a city-based franchise format, welcoming both professional and amateur men and women golfers in team-based competitions, as per a press release.

The discussion centred on the growth of



Yuvraj Singh, Mandaviya discuss golf's growth in India

golf in India and how IGPL aligns with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of 'Khelo Bharat Nati', a comprehensive framework designed to strengthen the sports ecosystem at every level.

The Sports Minister, during the conversation, also emphasised the importance of

grassroots sports development and how franchise-based tournaments can help nurture the growth of future talent.

The IGPL stakeholders also showcased their desire to contribute to the government's grassroots initiatives, while also supporting PM Modi's vision of 'Viksit Bharat'.

Yuvraj Singh added, "We are incredibly grateful for the recognition and support from the Hon'ble Sports Minister. His encouragement is a tremendous motivation for us to continue our mission of making golf more accessible and popular across India. This is a huge step forward for the sport,

and we are committed to working together to nurture the next generation of golfers."

Uttam Mundy expressed his gratitude to the Minister for his support and said, "We are thrilled with the Minister's kind words and his strong support for our efforts. It's a huge boost for everyone involved with IGPL and a testament to the growing interest in golf in our country. This association with the government will be key to helping us find and nurture future champions, bringing more glory to India."

With veteran stars such as Jeev Milkha Singh, Jyoti Randhawa, Gaganjeet Singh Bhullar, Gaurav Ojha, Shiv Kapur, and SSP Chawrasia already confirmed as Icon stars, there is tremendous buzz for the inaugural edition of the new, revamped style of fast-paced professional golf format.

PVL 2025: Kolkata Thunderbolts Pick Solid Win Over Kochi Blue Spikers to Get Three Points



Kolkata:
Kolkata Thunderbolts came from behind to beat Kochi Blue Spikers 12-15, 15-12, 15-6, 19-17 in the RR Kabel Prime Volleyball League powered by Sapia at the Gachibowli Indoor Stadium, Hyderabad, on Tuesday. Pankaj Sharma was named the Player of the Match. Coming on the back of a win over Goa Guardians, Kochi came off hard with Hemant making powerful serves. Kolkata captain Ashwini R continued his role as the outside hitter and started making an impact again. Pankaj Sharma showed early on why he remains Kochi's biggest threat on the court as he tested Kochi's defence.

Kochi setter Byron Katsikaris passed all around his court to keep the Thunderbolts guess-

ing. The defence from both teams was on top form, making it harder for attackers to find the gaps. Abhishek's super serve delighted Kochi fans, but Erin dragged his shot wide off court, costing his side a super point. Kochi did not help themselves with rising unforced errors. Kolkata's Pankaj and Ashwini continued to make dents on the opposition's court with consistent attacks. Martin Takavar's presence added more depth to Kolkata's middle zone, and the match swung completely in the Thunderbolts' favour. Muhammed Iqbal eked out another point, building more pressure on the Spikers. Kochi fought hard till the final whistle to make a way back, but a timely block from Martin sealed Kolkata's first win in the season.

Kaustubh, Taanish Make Winning Starts in Fenesta Open National Tennis Championship

New Delhi:

Top seed Kaustubh Singh of Uttar Pradesh and fourth seed Taanish Nanda of Chandigarh began their campaigns with commanding wins in the Boys' U-14 Singles category of the Fenesta Open National Tennis Championship at the DLTA Complex in New Delhi on Tuesday (October 7).

Kaustubh showcased his dominance with a strong 9-2 victory over Hariharan Mahamuni, wrapping up the match in under an hour.



curacy on his own service games. His blend of aggression and control ensured that his opponent failed to get on the scoreboard.

Elsewhere, sixth seed Monodip Dey of West Bengal also impressed with a dominant 9-1 win over Ansh Jalota. Dey used deep returns and strong cross-court shots to control rallies and conceded just one game in the one-sided encounter.

Supported by DCM Shiram Ltd. and held under the aegis of the All India Tennis Association (AITA) and the Delhi Lawn Tennis Association (DLTA), the Fenesta Open contin-

ues to be a vital platform for nurturing India's next generation of tennis stars.

In addition to the prestige of winning the national title, the junior players have extra motivation this year - the winners and runners-up in the U-16 and U-14 singles categories will receive a ₹25,000 tennis scholarship each, along with kit allowances.

The early rounds of the Fenesta Open National Tennis Championship have already provided glimpses of emerging talent and promise a week of exciting matches as India's brightest young players battle for national glory.

Breaking Time

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

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

Solution, Sudoku

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

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Defence wins matches: Patna Pirates coach Randeep Dalal on his philosophy

Chennai:
Patna Pirates coach Randeep Dalal expressed his delight with the team's performance and credited the defence for playing a key role in the victory against UP Yoddhas in PVL Season 12.

Patna Pirates registered a convincing 36-25 win over UP Yoddhas at the SDAT Multi-Purpose Indoor Stadium in Chennai. Randeep was impressed with the way his side showed excellent coordination and discipline, especially in defence, which helped them control the match.

Randeep also praised the players for sticking to the plan and bouncing back strongly after a few close games, adding that the win will boost their confidence for the upcoming matches.

"It was a convincing game, and I'm happy that the team is back on track. I think our team is strong, and I was confident about our defence. The defence really stepped up and did a great job. Overall, it was



Strong defence is the real game-changer: Randeep Dalal

a good performance. Yes, we did over-tackle a few times, but that happens. What's important is that we're finding our rhythm again. Our captain led well, and the entire defensive unit worked together," he said as quoted from a press release from PVL.

Randeep also praised Ayan for his outstanding performance, as he scored 15 points in the match and reached a

remarkable career milestone of 300 points. The coach said Ayan has been consistent throughout the season and continues to impress with his calm and composed approach on the mat. He added that Ayan's maturity and skill make him one of the key players for the team and a bright prospect for the future.

"Ayan is our super star today, and he scored over 300 points as a young career. He enjoys his game, stays calm under pressure, and plays with maturity beyond his years. I've recently started working with him, and I can say he's a special talent - sharp, composed, and full of skill," the coach said.

"He has everything it takes to become a star in the future. His defence was strong today, and he

played a big role in our win," he further added.

The coach credited the team's defence for the victory, saying that strong and consistent defending is what helps teams win matches. He added that while raiders often get the spotlight, it's the defenders who form the backbone of the team and make the crucial difference in tight games.

"As for my coaching philosophy, I believe defence wins matches. Raiders can earn points, but if your defenders don't hold strong, it's hard to win. A good team needs defenders who support the raiders and stay consistent throughout. That's what makes a complete unit."

Captain Ankit also expressed his happiness after his team's convincing win. He said the players showed great teamwork and discipline, especially in defence, which helped them control the game and secure an important victory.

Viraj Madappa and Subash Tamang share lead after round one

Bengaluru:
Kolkata's Viraj Madappa and Nepal golfer Subash Tamang posted scores of six-under 65 to hold the joint lead after round one of the INR 1 crore Bengaluru Open 2025 being played at the Karnataka Golf Association (KGA) course in Bengaluru.

The five players bunched in tied third place at five-under 66 included Sri Lankan N. Thangaraja, Bangladesh's Md Mujib, Lakshmi's Sanjeev Kumar, Chandigarh's Akshay Sharma, and Greater Noida's Saptak Talwar.

The highest-placed among the Bengaluru-based players were Mani Muthu K., Chikkarangappa S., and Manoj S., all of whom added 65 to be placed tied 10th. Defending champion Abhinav Lohan, too, was placed tied 10th.

Viraj Madappa, who became the youngest Indian to win an international event at the age of 20 at KGA in 2019, has been a steady hand with three birdies and a bogey on the back nine.



Madappa, Tamang share the top spot after Round 1

start today despite missing out on my practice round," Viraj said.

"I've played some good golf after winning on the PGIT earlier this year, but I've somehow not put together four good rounds. That's what I'll look to do this week," he added.

Subash Tamang's outstanding tee shots resulted in an early back-nine for him, where he collected five birdies. Subash added two more birdies on the front nine before dropping his only bogey of the day on the closing ninth hole.



Shweta Tripathi excited about 'Mirzapur: The Movie' in Varanasi

New Delhi
Actor Shweta Tripathi has started shooting for 'Mirzapur: The Movie' in Varanasi.

Excited to reprise her role of Golu, Shweta in a press note said, "Golu is not just a character for me; she has been a companion, a part of my life for so many years. To see her journey unfold on the big screen is overwhelming and surreal. Benaras is like my second home; it is so special because so many of my milestones are connected to this

city."

She added, "From Massan to Mirzapur seasons 1 and 2, from Escape

Excited to reprise her role of Golu, Shweta in a press note said, "Golu is not just a character for me; she has been a companion, a part of my life for so many years."

Live to Kalkoo,

every project here has given me something unforgettable. My trainer, Tridev Pandey, who is like a brother to me, is also from Benaras, which makes it even more personal. This beautiful city of worship keeps calling me back, and I keep returning for its people, its food, and the

love it has always given me." The film adaptation of the Prime Video crime thriller series, which explores power dynamics and the criminal underworld in the heartland of northern India, is set to debut in 2026, with series creator Puneet Krishna at the helm and Gurmeet Singh, who has previously directed 17 episodes of the series, as a director, as per Variety. Following the theatrical window, the film will stream on Prime Video across 240 territories after an eight-week exclusivity period.

Grammy Award-winning guitarist Tom Morello announces his India Tour

New Delhi
Grammy Award-winning guitarist Tom Morello is all set to perform in India.

The legendary musician will headline a three-city tour with performances in Gurugram on December 17 at HUDA Gymkhana, Mumbai on December 19 at MM-RDA G-Txt Grounds and Bengaluru on December 21 at Phoenix Marketcity, Whitefield, read a press note.

Co-produced by Tom Morello and BookMyShow Live, the live entertainment experiential division of BookMyShow, this marks Morello's long-awaited India debut.

Excited about India tour, Tom Morello said, "India has always been on my map



- a country with a passionate audience that has followed my music and message for years. To finally bring these songs to life on stage in India is incredibly special. Music is about connection, revolution and soul and I cannot wait to share that energy with fans in India this December."

Morello's virtuosity has long transcended genre boundaries, fusing ferocious riffs with experimental sonic landscapes that redefined what the electric guitar could be.

Folk singer Maithili Thakur awaits official nod to contest Bihar polls

Patna (Bihar)
Folk singer Maithili Thakur responded to growing speculation that she may contest in the upcoming Bihar assembly elections.

Maithili Thakur neither confirmed nor denied the possibility of her contesting the Bihar elections. The folk singer expressed her interest in gaining power through politics to bring about change in her village in terms of development.

On reports of her contesting in the Bihar elections, the folk and devotional singer said, "I am very excited with the manner in which I have been seeing the photos and articles. I am curious, but I am waiting for an official announcement. I want to go back to my village, but if I get the authority to serve my region, there will be nothing bigger than that for me. My goal is to have the power to bring about a change."

Maithili Thakur's brother, Deepak Chahar, shares a special bond with the former Indian captain on and off the field.

MS Dhoni has led India in 200 ODI matches, winning 110 and losing 74. Five games were tied, while 11 failed to produce a result. He has a winning percentage of 55.

As for Malti Chahar, the actress is currently creating a buzz in the Bigg Boss house due to her interaction with her fellow contestant Tanya Mittal.

In the recent episode of Bigg Boss 19, the 'Genius' film star, in a conversation with Tanya Mittal, notified the latter about the public reactions to her unusual statements, like not knowing what things to carry before a shower, her bodyguards saving lives at Mahakumbh, her family calling her "boss", and that her house looks like a 5-star or 7-star hotel, with an entire floor dedicated only to her clothes.

Today, Ayushmann serves as a role model for countless youngsters, especially aspiring actors. And guess what? The 'Andhadhun' star has shared golden advice for them while speaking with ANI on the sidelines of PICT Frames 2025 in Mumbai on Tuesday.

"Always respect your parents. I believe self-awareness is essential for success and moving forward. Work hard on yourself. Be disciplined," he emphasised.

Ayushmann also urged the youth to stay away from distractions if possible. "Stay away from bad habits. True success lies in mastering control over your senses. If you stay away

Shahana Goswami's film 'Santosh' to be out on OTT on October 17

Mumbai
Shahana Goswami-starrer 'Santosh' is all set to kickstart its digital journey.

The film, which was earlier screened at Cannes Film Festival, will be out on Lionsgate Play on October 17.

Shahana described 'Santosh' as a film that is very close to her heart.

"A beautifully written story, depicted truthfully, holding up a mirror to us of the world we live in, that we have all helped create. Sandhya Suri, the writer and director, has crafted something so meaningful and touching. The film has been shown all over the world, starting its journey at the Cannes Film Festival in 2024, and has been greatly appreciated by critics and the public alike. All the actors in Santosh are brilliant, but I will especially speak of Sumita Rajwar, who has done an excellent job playing a very complex character. It

was a joy working with her and watching her become Geeta Sharma. You will see her in a completely new avatar. I cannot wait for everyone in India to finally be able to watch the film," she shared.

As per a press note, the film follows Santosh, a young widow who inherits her late husband's police position

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through compassion. What begins as a symbolic placement quickly turns into a reckoning when she is assigned to the investigation of a Dalit

teenager's rape and murder. Partnered with Inspector Sharma, Santosh is forced to navigate a landscape where evidence is buried under prejudice, power shields perpetrators, and the law bends in the direction of those who write it.

Directed by Sandhya Suri and produced by Good Chaos, Cinefrance Studios, and MetFilm Production, 'Santosh' also features Sumita Rajwar.



Malti Chahar recalls her first meeting with cricketer MS Dhoni

New Delhi
Actor Malti Chahar, sister of cricketer Deepak Chahar, opened up about her 'wow' moment when she met the former Indian cricket World Cup-winning captain Mahendra Singh Dhoni in 2018.

Malti Chahar is the latest wildcard entry in Bigg Boss 19. The actress who is known for her performance in the movie 'Genius' is currently creating a buzz in the entertainment industry.

The actress recalled her first meeting with MS Dhoni, saying that the former Indian captain was the first cricketer she ever met in her life.

Fondly addressing the cricketer as Mahi Bhaiya, Malti said, "I met Mahi Bhaiya for the first time when my brother was playing for CSK. He asked me if I wanted to meet Mahi. I said yes, why not? This was my first time meeting a cricketer."

Malti described MS Dhoni as a "sweet" person while praising the cricketer's "aura" and nature.

While sharing the details of the meeting, the actress continued, "I had gone to Chennai for a shoot. So, the

team had stopped in Chennai. That was in 2018. It was the first time that I was meeting a cricketer, and it was Mahi Bhaiya. I really loved his aura. He is a very sweet person. He is a darling."

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Ayushmann Khurrana shares a piece of advice for youth

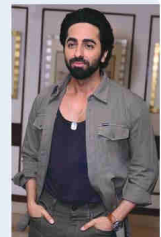
Mumbai
Actor Ayushmann Khurrana has come a long way in his career. From his early days as a radio jockey to becoming one of the industry's most bankable stars, his journey stands as a shining example of what dedication and talent can help an outsider achieve in Indian cinema.

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"Stay away from bad habits. True success lies in mastering control over your senses. If you stay away



from distractions, whether it is social media or drugs, alcohol...I believe a healthy body nurtures a healthy mind and that, to me, is the true measure of success," he added.

Meanwhile, on the acting front, Ayushmann is all set to come up with 'Thamma' this Diwali.

'Thamma' is produced by Dinesh Vijan and Amar Kaushik under the banner of Maddock Films. It has been written by Niren Bhatt, Suresh Mathew, and Arun Fulara.

Ayushmann described 'Thamma' as one of his biggest films in terms of scale.

Dwayne Johnson breaks silence on poor performance of 'The Smashing Machine' in theatres

Washington
Actor Dwayne Johnson experienced the worst box office opening of his career with 'The Smashing Machine', the film that debuted to a rough 5.9 million USD domestically, reported Variety. The actor has now reacted to the box office collection of the movie.

Taking to his Instagram handle on Monday, Johnson praised director Benny Safdie for changing his life with the film and pointed out the volatile nature of the "box office" collections in the world of cinema.

"From deep in my grateful bones, thank you to everyone who has watched 'The Smashing Machine'. In our storytelling world, you can't control box office results -- but what I realised you can control is your performance, and your commitment to completely disappear and go elsewhere. And I will always run to that opportunity," wrote Dwayne Johnson.



While expressing his gratitude to director Benny Safdie for casting him in the role of MMA fighter Mark

Kerr, the actor wrote, "It was my honour to transform in this role for my director, Benny Safdie. Thank you brother for believing in me. Truth is this film has changed my life. With deep gratitude, respect and radical empathy, DJ."

'The Smashing Machine' cratered in third place at the box office with 5.9 million USD from 3,345 venues, reported Variety.

The ticket sales were below projections of 8 million to 15 million USD and marked a career low for Johnson, below his 2010 thriller 'Faster', according to the outlet.

It's also a blow to A24, which spent 50 million USD to produce the movie and many millions more on promotional efforts, including stops at Venice and Toronto Film Festival, reported Variety.

'The Smashing Machine' was largely acclaimed when it premiered at Venice, with Safdie winning the fest's best director prize.

