



DELHI, UP

www.topstoryonline

www.epaper.topstoryonline

www.facebook.com/topstoryenglish

DELHI, FRIDAY 10, OCTOBER 2025

Vol-12, Issue - 182, Pages - 12, Price ₹ 3.50 | POSTAL REG. No. UP/GBD-254/2022-2024



Smriti Mandhana shatters 28-year-old record, carves her name in history

China says resumption of direct flights with India positive move to improve ties

With children, you have to show them actions: Kareena Kapoor

CRICKET

PAGE-10 WORLD

PAGE-9 FILM

PAGE-12

4 DELHI

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

5 CHANDIGARH

Punjab govt unveils plan to build over 3,100 ultra-modern stadiums to boost sports & fight drugs

7 NATIONAL

Ashwini Vaishnav visited construction sites for Bullet Train project in Ahmedabad

8 STATE

BSP will fight 2027 UP election solo: Mayawati at Lucknow rally

9 BUSINESS

PM Modi invites global businesses to participate in India's growth story

11 SPORTS

Vani Kapoor Takes Lead at Hero Women's Indian Open 2025 on Day 1

MARKET

SENSEX	NIFTY
82172.10	25181.80
398.44	135.65
GOLD	SILVER
122,865.00	150,779.00
-344.00	924.00

WEATHER

Sunrise	6:19 AM
Sunset	5:58 PM
Moonrise	8:13 PM
Moonset	10:59 AM
Today's Prediction	
Maximum	29°C
Minimum	21°C
Tomorrow's Prediction	
Maximum	30°C
Minimum	19°C

PM Modi confident trade with UK will double before 2030 deadline

The Indian side flagged its concerns over activities of pro-Khalistani elements in the UK, and stressed that radicalism and violent extremism should not be allowed to abuse freedom of expression.

Describing the recently signed comprehensive economic and trade agreement as a 'breakthrough moment', Starmer said, "We are creating a new modern partnership focused on the future."

Mumbai

The India-UK partnership stands as an important pillar of global stability and economic progress at a time the world is witnessing uncertainties. Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Thursday after holding wide-ranging talks with his British counterpart Keir Starmer that broadly focused on boosting ties in areas of trade, defence and technology.

Following the Modi-Starmer talks, the two sides announced plans to supply lightweight multirole missile systems to the Indian military to strengthen its air defence capabilities, and agreed to finalise an inter-governmental pact to jointly develop maritime electric propulsion systems for India's naval platforms.

The Indian side flagged its concerns over activities of pro-Khalistani elements in the UK, and stressed that radicalism and violent extremism should not be allowed to abuse free-



PM and UK PM Keir Starmer attends the reconstituted India-UK CEOs Forum, in Mumbai

dom of expression.

In their restricted as well as delegation-level talks, the two leaders held that the sealing of the historic free trade agreement between the two sides in July will inject in new energy in ties as it will slash tariffs, increase access to each other's markets, en-

hance trade, create jobs, and benefit industries and consumers in both countries.

The British prime minister, accompanied by over 100 CEOs, entrepreneurs, university vice-chancellors, landed in India's financial capital on Wednesday to a rousing welcome. It is

his first visit to India.

"India and the UK are natural partners. Our relationship is built on the shared values of democracy, freedom, and the rule of law," Modi said in his media statement in presence of Starmer.

"In today's time of global uncertainty, our growing partnership

stands as an important pillar of global stability and economic progress," he said.

Modi said India's dynamism and the UK's expertise together will create a "unique synergy" to further enhance the bilateral relations in diverse areas.

"Our partnership is trustworthy, and driven by talent and technology. And today, as Prime Minister Starmer and I stand together on this stage, it is a clear reaffirmation of our shared commitment to work hand-in-hand towards building a brighter future for the people of both our nations," he said.

The two sides unveiled a series of new initiatives to boost cooperation in areas of critical minerals, Artificial Intelligence, telecom, health and education besides rolling out steps to boost cooperation in the defence sector.

An agreement on government-to-government supply of lightweight multirole missile (LMM)

CONTD ON PAGE-2

Govt launches all India drive to test cough syrups

New Delhi
Central drug regulator Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO) has started a pan India drive to test, inspect and audit cough syrup manufacturers, official sources said on Thursday.

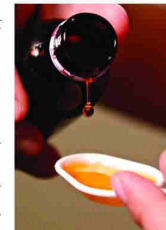
It has asked all states and Union territories to provide a list of cough syrup manufacturing companies for auditing.

This comes in the wake of children deaths allegedly due to the consumption of contaminated cough syrups.

The sources further said that no state so far has fully complied with Corrective and Preventive Action (CAPA) guidelines which have been introduced for ensuring safety and maintaining standards in pharmaceutical products.

So far, 18 state drug control authorities have onboarded the Online National Drugs Licensing System (ONDLIS) which is aimed at streamlining drug licensing and regulatory compliance.

ONDLIS is a digital,



single-window platform for processing various drug-related licenses in India and has been developed by the Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC) in collaboration with CDSCO.

The Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI) on Wednesday had urged drug controllers in all states and Union territories to ensure testing of raw materials and finished formulations of pharmaceutical products before releasing them in the market in the wake of children deaths allegedly due to consumption of contaminated cough syrup in Madhya Pradesh.

Agency

Israel, Hamas agree to 'first phase' of Trump's peace plan

Jerusalem
Israel and Hamas have agreed to the "first phase" of US President Donald Trump's peace plan to pause fighting and release at least some hostages and prisoners, in a major breakthrough in the two-year-old war.

Under the plan, Hamas will release all 20 living hostages in the coming days in exchange for Palestinian prisoners, while the Israeli military will begin a withdrawal from the majority of Gaza.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said on social media, "With God's help we will bring them all home." Hamas said separately that the deal would ensure the withdrawal of Israeli troops as well as allow for the entry of aid and exchange of hostages and prisoners.

Uncertainty remains



about some of the thornier aspects of the plan, such as whether and how Hamas will disarm, and who will govern Gaza.

A senior Hamas official has said five border crossings will be opened for aid to flow into the Gaza Strip, some 2,000 prisoners will be released and Israeli troops will withdraw from heavily populated areas as part of the US-mediated deal to end the two-year war.

Osama Hamdan told the pan-Arab Al-Araby TV that 250 prisoners serving long sentences will be released in addition to 1,700 who were taken prisoner during the war in Gaza.

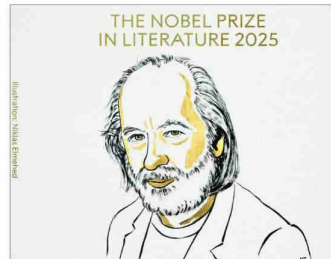
"We have put the names of all the commanders that we want released," Hamdan said. "The Israelis should withdraw from all heavily populated areas especially Gaza City, Khan Younis, Rafah and north Gaza," he added. Agency

Hungarian writer László Krasznahorkai wins Nobel Prize in literature

Stockholm
Hungarian writer László Krasznahorkai, whose philosophical, bleakly funny novels often unfold in single sentences, won the Nobel Prize in literature Thursday for his "compelling and visionary oeuvre that, in the midst of apocalyptic terror, reaffirms the power of art."

Several works including his debut, "Satantango" and "The Melancholy of Resistance," were turned into films by Hungarian director Béla Tarr.

The Nobel judges praised his "artistic gaze which is entirely free of illusion, and which sees through the fragility of the social order combined with his unwavering belief in the power of art," Steve Sem-Sandberg of the Nobel committee said at the announcement.



"László Krasznahorkai is a great epic writer in the Central European tradition that extends through (Franz) Kafka to Thomas Bernhard, and is characterised by absurdism and grotesque excess," the Nobel judges said.

Other books include "The Melancholy of Resistance," a surreal, disturbing tale set in a

small Hungarian town, and "Baron Wenckheim's Homecoming," the sprawling saga of a gambling-addicted aristocrat.

He has also written several books inspired by his travels to China and Japan, including "A Mountain to the North, A Lake to the South, Paths to the West, a River to the East," pub-

HIGHLIGHT

The Nobel judges praised his "artistic gaze which is entirely free of illusion, and which sees through the fragility of the social order combined with his unwavering belief in the power of art," Steve Sem-Sandberg of the Nobel committee said at the announcement.

lished in Hungarian in 2003.

Sem-Sandberg said that Krasznahorkai had been on the Nobel radar for some time, "and he has been writing and creating one outstanding work after another." He called his literary output "almost half a century of pure excellence."

Agency

SC directs Bihar legal service to assist excluded voters

New Delhi
The Supreme Court on Thursday asked the Bihar State Legal Service Authority (BSLSA) to issue directions to its district-level bodies for assisting 3.66 lakh voters excluded from the final electoral rolls in filing appeals with the Election Commission.

The top court said that it expected the political parties to come out with their grievances with regard to the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) exercise after they were implemented in the matter, but they appear to be satisfied.

It said the question of deciding appeals by voters who have been excluded after the SIR



exercise of electoral rolls in Bihar within the stipulated time and with a reasoned order will be considered on the next date of hearing on October 16 in response to pleas challenging the

EC's exercise.

A bench of Justices Surya Kant and Joydip Bagchi said the district legal service authority will release a list of para-legal volunteers for assisting the excluded

voters by filing appeals and ensuring that they have detailed orders of their name's rejection.

"We want everyone to be given a fair chance to appeal and they should have detailed orders

with them on why their names have been excluded. It should not be a one-line cryptic order," the bench said.

At the outset, a drama unfolded in the top court when senior advocate Rakesh Dwivedi pointed out that the petitioner NGO, 'Association for Democratic Reforms', which challenged the Bihar SIR exercise, had given fake details of a person, who claimed that his name had been excluded from the final list.

Dwivedi pointed out that the name of the person referred to in the NGO's affidavit did not feature in the draft roll and the details he had given were of some woman. Agency

Bihar Poll battle heats up ahead of nominations

Patna
The battle for poll-bound Bihar intensified on Thursday when the Congress came out with a "charge-sheet" against the ruling NDA, RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav made a fresh, alluring promise of government jobs, and the Jan Suraj Party released its first list of candidates.

With just one day left for filing of nominations to commence, the fledgling party floated by former political strategist Prashant Kishor claimed to have stolen a march over NDA and INDIA bloc, the two main competitors, both of which



were still busy thrashing out a seat-sharing deal.

Releasing a list of 51 candidates, one of them a transgender from a reserved constituency, the party's national president Uday Singh said "the next list will be out in a day or two" but did not reveal whether the party's feted found-

er will himself enter the fray.

Kishor had said that if he contested, his seat would be either his birthplace of Kargahar, from where the party has given ticket to Bhopuri singer Ritesh Pandey, or Raghopur, the pocketborough of Tejashwi Yadav, for which candidate was yet to be announced.

Nonetheless, Singh added, cryptically, "Kishor will hit the campaign trail from Raghopur on October 11. It will be known in the course of time whether he will himself be the candidate or not." Agency

PM Modi
confident trade
with UK will
double before
2030 deadline

CONTD FROM PAGE-1

systems to bolster India's air defence capabilities, an arrangement for Indian Air Force (IAF) instructors to be integrated with the Royal Air Force (RAF) and supporting each other for a long-term collaboration on "complex" weapons systems were among the highlights to step up defence cooperation.

A joint statement said both the prime ministers were pleased with the intent to finalise an India-UK Inter-Governmental Agreement (IGA) on cooperation in developing maritime electric propulsion systems for Indian Naval platforms.

In his remarks, Starmer described inking of the UK-India Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement as a "breakthrough moment" as it will slash tariffs, increase access to their markets and create jobs.

"It is significant that we're meeting here in Mumbai, India's economic and financial capital, because India's growth story is remarkable. I want to congratulate the prime minister on his leadership, aiming to be the world's third largest economy by 2028," he said.

"We are creating a new modern partnership focused on the future and on winning the opportunities that it offers, and we're doing it together because India's growth story is remarkable," he added.

Modi and Starmer also condemned in the "strongest terms" the Palaham terror attack and committed to strengthen co-operation to take "decisive and concerted" actions against globally proscribed terrorism, terror entities and their "sponsors".

The two prime ministers "unequivocally and strongly condemned" terrorism and violent extremism in all its forms and manifestations and called for "zero tolerance" for terrorism and concerted international efforts to combat it in a comprehensive and sustained manner, the joint statement said.

"They agreed to counter radicalisation and violent extremism; combat financing of terrorism and the cross-border movement of terrorists; prevent exploitation of new and emerging technologies for terrorist purposes and tackle terrorist recruitment," it said.

The two leaders also welcomed the resetting of the Joint Economic and Trade Committee (JETCO) which will support the governance and utilisation of the trade pact and drive forward wider trade and investment partnership.

Modi and Starmer also discussed the situation in West Asia and the war in Ukraine.

"The prime minister and I also discussed the need for a just and lasting peace in Ukraine, the need for stability and security in the Indo-Pacific, and the need to co-operate in critical areas like climate and energy, including breaking away from dependence on fossil fuels," Starmer said.

FOR ADVERTISING IN
**TOP
STORY**
PLEASE CONTACT:
9818799941

Task of cleaning Yamuna to be completed before next LS polls: Home Minister Shah

New Delhi
Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Thursday said the Centre's resolve to rejuvenate the Yamuna river is not a political move but an effort to honour the sacred place the river holds in the hearts of the people.

Shah was speaking after inaugurating and laying the foundation stone for development projects worth around Rs 1,816 crore of the Delhi government in the national capital. Chief Minister Rekha Gupta and several other dignitaries were present at the event.

Extending advance greetings to the people of Delhi for Diwali and Chhath Puja, Shah said that about 80 per cent of the projects inaugurated on Thursday are linked to efforts to clean the Yamuna.

"When the people of Delhi chose change, Prime Minister Narendra Modi declared that purifying Mother Yamuna would be the top priority of his government. He promised to complete this task by 2029," Shah said. "By merely reducing corruption and cutting down on advertisement expenses, the dream of a clean Yamuna can be realised," he added.

He said that under PM Modi's leadership, a



plan has been prepared to clean the Yamuna up to Prayagraj within the next seven months. "The AAP-da government had promised to clean the Yamuna and take a dip in it, but they didn't take the dip — instead, the people of Delhi made them sink," Shah quipped, while hitting out at the Arvind Kejriwal-led AAP government.

In 2020, Kejriwal had promised that before the next elections, they would ensure that the Yamuna became so clean that people would be able to take a dip in it. He had said he would join people in taking a dip.

The home minister said that during the previous governments, which ruled Delhi for 15 and 11 years respectively, people were deprived of development, while the current government is working with the resolve to make the national capital globally renowned for its progress. Shah announced that the garbage mountains in Delhi, which once rose to 65 metres, will be cleared by January 1, 2028, and beautiful gardens will be developed in their place.

Highlighting the broader vision of the PM Modi-led central government, Shah said

PM Modi has resolved to secure the nation, advance the economy, and make India a leader in every field by 2047. He pointed out that recent PM Modi completed 24 years of continuous service as chief minister and prime minister, describing him as the first leader in the country to have served that long in both roles.

"During these 24 years, Prime Minister Modi initiated several new endeavours that laid the foundation for fulfilling the dreams of our freedom fighters and brought good governance to the ground level," he said.

Shah was speaking after inaugurating and laying the foundation stone for development projects worth around Rs 1,816 crore of the Delhi government in the national capital. Chief Minister Rekha Gupta and several other dignitaries were present at the event.

Marking the conclusion of Seva Pakhwada, Shah said that while the initiative began with 17 projects worth more than Rs 1,700 crore being inaugurated in Delhi, the Thursday's event saw 11 projects inaugurated and the foundation stones laid for eight others, costing around Rs 1,800 crore.

On economic measures, Shah said that on the first day of Navratri, Prime Minister Modi reduced GST rates on more than 395 items—bringing them down to zero or five per cent—and made income up to Rs 12 lakh tax-free in the Union Budget. "To get there, these steps have saved the public around Rs 2.5 lakh crore," he said.

"This transformation has been possible only because the people of the country have elected Shri Narendra Modi as

Prime Minister for the third consecutive time," Shah said.

The home minister said that as soon as the new government took charge in Delhi, the Ayushman Bharat scheme—providing free treatment up to Rs 5 lakh—was implemented within the first week. He accused the previous Delhi government of depriving citizens of the scheme's benefits and running Mohalla Clinics without basic facilities.

"In the 57 Mohalla Clinics opened by the previous government, there were no glucometers; 45 had no X-ray machines, 21 lacked pulse-checking devices, and 38 did not even have thermometers. Treatment cannot be provided in such clinics," he said, and alleged that the previous government was involved in several scams related to CNG, liquor, advertisements, medicines, classrooms, the Delhi Jal Board, Sheesh Mahal, CCTV, and panic buttons.

Shah also claimed that the previous central government was involved in scams worth Rs 12 lakh crore, whereas in Prime Minister Modi's 11 years of governance, not a single corruption allegation has been made.

"This shows that our governments are truly dedicated to serving the people," he said.

WHO and EssilorLuxottica Join Hands to Bring Vision Care to Aspirational Blocks

New Delhi

The OneSight EssilorLuxottica Foundation, one of the largest global foundations dedicated to expanding inclusive access to vision care, has partnered with the World Health Organization (WHO) to accelerate the delivery of vision services in NITI Aayog's aspirational blocks, supporting WHO's global SPECS 2030 target to increase effective refractive error coverage by 40% by 2030.

The partnership will document, adapt, and scale Karnataka's successful ASHA Kirana program, an integrated approach that embeds eye health services within primary healthcare systems. Developed by the Government of Karnataka with the OneSight EssilorLuxottica Foundation as its technical partner, this model has proven effective in providing universal coverage, even in rural and hard-to-reach areas. As a technical partner, the OneSight EssilorLuxottica Foundation designed the door-to-door screening process, trained ASHA (community health) workers, ensured the quality and affordability of spectacles provided, and piloted two vision centers in government hospitals.

Talking about this partnership, Anurag Hans, Head of Mission at EssilorLuxottica and President of the OneSight EssilorLuxottica Foundation, said, "Karnataka's ASHA Kirana program is proof that comprehensive eye care can be delivered at scale when you have the right partnerships in place. We've learned that long-term impact requires deep technical collaboration with government systems. Now we're ready to take these learnings nationwide, working state by state to build permanent capacity that will serve these communities for decades to come."

Dr Roderico Ofriin, WHO Representative to India, commented: "This partnership demonstrates how locally-led innovations can advance global health priorities. By strengthening primary



Earlier this year, Karnataka committed to expanding the program statewide by setting up 393 new vision centers in government health facilities and training 40,000 ASHA workers to serve all 63 million people in the state. Recognized by both the WHO and the National Programme for Control of Blindness and Visual Impairment (NPCBVI) as a national reference model, ASHA Kirana is now guiding integrated vision care in other states across India.

Talking about this partnership, Anurag Hans, Head of Mission at EssilorLuxottica and President of the OneSight EssilorLuxottica Foundation, said, "Kar-

nataka's ASHA Kirana program is proof that comprehensive eye care can be delivered at scale when you have the right partnerships in place. We've learned that long-term impact requires deep technical collaboration with government systems. Now we're ready to take these learnings nationwide, working state by state to build permanent capacity that will serve these communities for decades to come."

Dr Roderico Ofriin, WHO Representative to India, commented: "This partnership demonstrates how locally-led innovations can advance global health priorities. By strengthening primary

India's democracy best in world don't get dejected by parliamentary disruptions: Rijju

New Delhi

Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijju on Thursday said India's parliamentary democracy was the best in the world and people should not be dejected by disruptions in House proceedings.

Addressing the annual session of the PHDCCI, Rijju said he welcomed the ruckus created by the opposition parties in Parliament on "worthy issues" as it was a sign of thriving democracy.

"I welcome the 'hungama' (ruckus) created by

the opposition parties in Parliament if the issue is worthy of being raised in Parliament," he said, adding that adjournment of House proceedings was also a sign of giving space to the Opposition.

Rijju said Parliament is a platform where people from different ideologies gather to represent the voice of the people. "They present their views in Parliament and the ideologies they represent. So many diverse people from different backgrounds come on



Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijju

the parliamentary platform, there is bound to be some kind of ruckus," the minister said.

Rijju said despite the

disruptions, Parliament passed crucial legislation, such as the one to regulate online gaming, during the Monsoon session.

"But when opposition parties protest, we respect that and give them space. Parliament gets adjourned in such cases," he said.

Rijju urged people not to get dejected by disruptions in Parliament or reports suggesting that Parliament does not function. "Never get dejected by the systems we have. You may be disappointed by the outcome, but this is the best system available anywhere in the world," he said.

Taking a dig at the Opposition, he said the people who claimed that the government was suppressing freedom of expression were the most vocal on a range of issues.

"A person who speaks throughout the day complains that there is no freedom of expression. It is a democratic country and there is freedom of expression. I can't stop any person from speaking his mind. That is the beauty of democracy. There will be protests, hun-

ma," Rijju said. In an apparent swipe at Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi, the senior BJP leader said some people have the habit of carrying small copies of the Constitution with them and appealed to them to read the book.

"You may have heard about this — 'save the Constitution'. Some people also carry small books of the Constitution with them. My appeal to them is to read the Constitution," he said.

No valid
voter will
be dropped
during SIR in
Bengal: EC

Kolkata

The Election Commission on Thursday asserted that no valid voter's name will be deleted from the electoral rolls during the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) in West Bengal, dismissing apprehensions expressed by the state's ruling Trinamool Congress.

The assurance was given by the CEO Manoj Kumar Agarwal after a high-level meeting on voter list revision held at Kolaghat in Purba Medinipur district, where a four-member central delegation, including Deputy Election Commissioner Gyanesh Bharti, reviewed the preparations for the SIR. "No valid voter's name will be excluded. Whatever is stated in the law will be followed," Agarwal said.

Union minister and BJP MP Shantanu Thakur has claimed that around 1.2 crore "illegal voters" could be removed from West Bengal's electoral rolls through the SIR. In response, TMC supremo and West Bengal Chief Minister Manabendra Banerjee has warned that any attempt to tamper with the voters' list in the name of the SIR would amount to "betrayal of democracy".

"Those whose names were included in the 2002 SIR and who are government officials will not be required to submit any documents," Agarwal said.

Thursday's meeting was attended by the District Magistrates, SPs, Electoral Registration Officers (EROs), Assistant EROs (AEROs), Additional District Magistrates, Additional Superintendents of Police, and Officers-in-Charge (Elections) of Bankura, Jhargram, and Purba Medinipur districts.

The EC on Thursday asked the poll officials to remain alert and follow the rules without any fear or political threats, a senior official of the West Bengal CEO's office said.

Bharti gave a clear message that all guidelines issued by the Commission must be strictly followed, failing which legal action will be taken.

"Today at the meeting, the EROs were clarified about their enquiries, and given suggestions. They were also asked to carry out their duties following the laws without any fear and not buckling under any political pressure or threat. All have been directed to work as a team," the official said.

On the implementation of the SIR in West Bengal, the official said that the dates for the commencement of the process would be decided by the EC and not by the state CEO.

NCB-RRU Pact to Redefine India's Fight Against Narco-Cyber Crimes through Research and Innovation

Mitali New Delhi

In a significant stride toward combating the growing intersection of narcotics and technology, the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) and the Rashtriya Raksha University (RRU) have entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) aimed at advancing research, training, and technology-oriented enforcement.

The MoU, signed in New Delhi by NCB Director General Shri Anurag Garg, IPS, and RRU Vice Chancellor Prof. (Dr.) Bimal N. Patel, seeks to integrate academic scholarship with field-level operational expertise to strengthen India's institutional capacity against the emerging threat of cyber-enabled drug crimes.

Under the partnership, both organisations will undertake joint initiatives in darknet monitoring, cryptocurrency tracing, and cyber intelligence. They will also design specialised training modules in cyber forensics, blockchain analysis, open-source intelligence (OSINT), and behavioural profiling to prepare officers for the next phase of digital-era drug enforcement.

One of the major outcomes of the collaboration will be the establishment of a Centre of Excellence in Cybercrime Investigation and Drug Intelligence (CoE-CIDI) — a hub designed to serve as a think-tank and innovation centre for tackling modern narcotics challenges.

Addressing the gathering, NCB DG Anurag Garg described the alliance as a "paradigm shift" towards a knowledge-driven enforcement model, blending technology and operational acumen. He called upon RRU to develop environmentally sustainable methods for destroying illicit opium and cannabis crops. Prof. Patel reaffirmed RRU's dedication to national security through applied research and innovation.

One of the major outcomes of the collaboration will be the establishment of a Centre of Excellence in Cybercrime Investigation and Drug Intelligence (CoE-CIDI) — a hub designed to serve as a think-tank and innovation centre for tackling modern narcotics challenges.

Addressing the gathering, NCB DG Anurag Garg described the alliance as a "paradigm shift" towards a knowledge-driven enforcement model, blending technology and operational acumen. He called upon RRU to develop environmentally sustainable methods for destroying illicit opium and cannabis crops. Prof. Patel reaffirmed RRU's dedication to national security through applied research and innovation.

One of the major outcomes of the collaboration will be the establishment of a Centre of Excellence in Cybercrime Investigation and Drug Intelligence (CoE-CIDI) — a hub designed to serve as a think-tank and innovation centre for tackling modern narcotics challenges.

One of the major outcomes of the collaboration will be the establishment of a Centre of Excellence in Cybercrime Investigation and Drug Intelligence (CoE-CIDI) — a hub designed to serve as a think-tank and innovation centre for tackling modern narcotics challenges.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Swadeshi Mela begins at Noida Haat

Noida

Swadeshi Mela began here at sector 33A, Noida Haat in the Gautam Buddha Nagar district on Thursday. The Swadeshi Melas are being organised in all districts of Uttar Pradesh which will continue till October 19.

To ensure the success of the UP International Trade Show Swadeshi Mela-2025, a review meeting was held at the collectorate. The meeting was chaired by Gautam Buddha Nagar district magistrate Medha Rupam. Reviewing all the arrangements for the fair, she directed that all departments should perform their duties with complete dedication and coordination.

The district magistrate directed that robust arrangements be made for cleanliness, electricity supply, parking, traffic control, drinking water, clean toilets, fire fighting, and health services at the venue, Noida Haat, sector 33A.

She informed that the fair will be held between 11 am and 8 pm daily at Noida Haat, sector 33A, Noida City Centre from Thursday to October 18. People will have the opportunity to purchase indigenous products, and this time, during the festive season, they will be able to shop for such products.

Among other district development officer Shiv Pratap Parmesh, deputy commissioner of industries Anil Kumar, assistant commissioner of food II Sarvesh Mishra and officials concerned from the Noida Authority, police, electricity, health, and fire services departments participated in the meeting.

Noida Authority to develop automobile showroom cluster in sector 105

Noida

The Noida Authority is going to develop an automobile showroom cluster in sector 105 to bring all major car showrooms under one roof. This cluster will be built on 12,596 square meter of land, located directly opposite the expressway.

To create the cluster, it has been divided into eight plots. Four are for automobile showrooms, two for restaurants and one for commercial use. Instead of providing all parking spaces, a multi-level car parking or puzzle parking is proposed on an additional plot. Visitors will be able to park their vehicles in this parking space.

The authority stated that the four plots proposed for auto showrooms range from 2,231 square meter to 2,300 square meter. Plots for restaurants and commercial spaces have been allocated 500 square meter each, and 271 square meter for commercial use. The multi-level car parking will be built on 2,261 square meter.

Currently, most automobile and retail outlets are located on Udyog Marg, one of the city's busiest thoroughfares. Visitors to the showrooms often park their vehicles on the roadside, causing traffic jams, especially during rush hour. Despite ₹49 crore approved last year for road renovation and beautification, work has stalled due to a lack of negotiations with the company.

To address this issue, the authority has now decided to relocate these outlets to sector 105, where there are wide roads on three sides, thus reducing traffic congestion. Noida Authority CEO Lokesh M said that this project would house all automobile brands in one location with uniform and beautifully designed outlets. It

Rs 13 crore approved for stray dog sterilisation vaccination

New Delhi

The Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) has approved a proposal to allocate Rs 13 crore for the sterilisation and immunisation of stray dogs, officials said on Thursday.

The decision was taken at the Standing Committee meeting held on Thursday, which also discussed issues related to dog shelters and monkeys.

The agenda included a proposal for the expenditure of Rs 13 crore for the sterilisation and immunisation of stray dogs for the period 2025-26, which was subsequently approved.

Meanwhile, BJP councillor Rajpal Singh called for the development of a monitoring system by the civic body to track the operations of the agencies involved in the sterilisation and vaccination efforts. He suggested that NGOs willing to cooperate should be contacted to ensure



effective collaboration. Singh said, "A monitoring system should be established to track how agencies are utilising the funds and executing the work. All activities, including payments to agencies and their progress, should be closely monitored to ensure accountability."

Noting that civic agencies should collaborate with interested NGOs in specific

zones, he added, for instance, NGOs focusing on the welfare of stray dogs in West Delhi should coordinate and work together for better output.

Another councillor proposed that each MCD zone should have one dedicated centre for sterilisation and vaccination. Additionally, the councillor raised concerns about cow shelters and

emphasised the need for better implementation of related measures.

Last week, stray dogs bit coaches from Kenya and Japan in two separate incidents during the World Para Athletics Championships here.

The Supreme Court, on August 11, had directed the authorities to move all stray dogs into shelters across Del-

hi-NCR, which was later modified on August 22.

The apex court modified its August 11 direction prohibiting the release of stray dogs from dog shelters and said the picked-up canines can be sterilised, vaccinated, and released back in the same area.

A three-judge special bench headed by Justice Vikram Nath made it clear that this relocation shall not apply to dogs infected or suspected to be infected with rabies, and those displaying aggressive behaviour.

The bench directed the municipal authorities to create a dedicated feeding space where people can feed stray dogs.

It said the feeding areas shall be created by civic bodies, in view of the population and concentration of stray dogs in particular municipal wards. The bench made it clear that feeding of stray dogs shall not be permitted on the streets.

Delhi CM urges people to buy Swadeshi products

New Delhi

Calling on people to purchase local products, Chief Minister Rekha Gupta on Thursday announced that the Delhi government will promote local industries, crafts, and products in every district on the lines of 'One District One Product'.

The Delhi government's Department of Industries and DSIDC have organised Swadeshi Utsav 2025. The three-day festival celebrates the theme 'Swadeshi - Substitution of Foreign Made Goods with Swadeshi Goods'.

"Every Indian must recognise the 'industrial spirit' within — one who protects the nation's economic frontiers through hard work and dedication. Inspired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi's 'Vocal for Local' and 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' vision, we are witnessing a resurgence of confidence and innovation among our citizens," she said.

Gupta said that the Swadeshi movement is far more than a symbolic appeal. "These campaigns are not limited to diyas or handicrafts — their purpose is to give Indian brands global recognition across every sector. The time has come for us to take pride not in foreign labels but in our own creations. Let us wear, use, and celebrate Indian products, and say with pride — 'This is my Indian brand.'"

The chief minister emphasised that true self-reliance lies in the quality and credibility of Indian products. "When 'Made in India' becomes a mark of excellence and trust, India will truly be worthy of being called Vishwaguru — the leader of nations," she added.

Gupta also announced that the Delhi government will promote local industries, crafts, and products, aiming to give Delhi a distinct industrial identity and ensure national and international recognition for its homegrown brands.

"Buying Swadeshi products this Diwali is not just an act of economic support — it is an expression of patriotism."

Gupta asserted that India's democratic systems, while modernized through technology, remain anchored in constitutional morality and citizen involvement. He referred to a Supreme Court ruling that deemed the Electoral Bond Scheme unconstitutional, reinforcing the judiciary's role in upholding transparency and the people's right to know.

He pointed out the various electoral and institutional reforms in India over the last decade that have improved transparency and public trust, including voting rights for Non-Resident Indians, online voter registration, and new voting technologies like the Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trail (VVPAT).

He acknowledged landmark Supreme Court rulings that disqualify convicted legislators and allow under-trial prisoners to contest elections, both of which enhance accountability in politics.

CM Gupta will celebrate Karwa Chauth with women at Jan Seva Sadan

Staff Reporter

New Delhi

Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta will celebrate Karwa Chauth with women from the city at the Chief Minister Jan Seva Sadan tomorrow.

This event marks her first celebration of the festival in her capacity as Chief Minister, which she describes as emotionally important.

She looks forward to coming together with women to observe this festival that represents devotion, love, and togetherness, stating that it holds a special place in every Indian woman's heart.

This year's celebration will include women from various backgrounds, such as women legislators, the wives of Members of Parliament, senior women officials, social workers, and family members of the Chief Minister.

She has been hosting similar gatherings for nearly

fifteen years and emphasizes that these events foster warmth, joy, and sisterhood. Gupta believes Karwa Chauth is more than rituals; it is a time for women to celebrate love, support each other, and strengthen family and community bonds.

At the Jan Seva Sadan, the celebrations will include traditional prayers, rituals, cultural performances, storytelling sessions, and folk songs, reflecting Indian heritage.

The Chief Minister hopes the event will be filled with grace and respect, reinforcing the idea that tradition and modern life can coexist.

She wishes for the gathering to provide a spiritual and cultural experience, allowing women to connect, share stories, and celebrate affection within Indian society. Her initiative aims to honor the women of Delhi and elevate the significance of the Karwa Chauth festival in the city.

Speaker Gupta participates in workshop on the topic "Strengthening Our Institutions to Support Democracy"

Staff Reporter

New Delhi

Speaker Vijender Gupta participated in a workshop on "Strengthening Our Institutions to Support Democracy" at the 68th Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference in Barbados, emphasizing that democracy goes beyond governance; it is rooted in dialogue, accountability, and respect for diversity.

Headvoted for strengthening democratic institutions and promoting inclusive governance, stressing that the true strength of democracy lies in fairness, representation, and ethical leadership.

Gupta reflected on India's democratic journey, highlighting key developments such as the 73rd and 74th Constitutional Amendments of 1993, which enhanced local governance and reserved one-third of seats for women, enabling over 1.4 million women to engage in public life.

He also mentioned the recently passed Constitution



He advocated for strengthening democratic institutions and promoting inclusive governance, stressing that the true strength of democracy lies in fairness, representation, and ethical leadership.

(128th Amendment) Bill, 2023, reserving additional seats for women in higher legislatures, a significant step towards gender justice and

participatory democracy. He pointed out the various electoral and institutional reforms in India over the last decade that have improved transparency and public trust, including voting rights for Non-Resident Indians, online voter registration, and new voting technologies like the Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trail (VVPAT).

He acknowledged landmark Supreme Court rulings that disqualify convicted legislators and allow under-trial prisoners to contest elections, both of which enhance accountability in politics.

He pointed out the various electoral and institutional reforms in India over the last decade that have improved transparency and public trust, including voting rights for Non-Resident Indians, online voter registration, and new voting technologies like the Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trail (VVPAT).

International delegation visits MCD to study urban governance solid waste management

New Delhi

An international delegation comprising around 30 members representing various countries, including the Maldives and Nepal, met Delhi Mayor Sardar Raja Iqbal Singh on Thursday to understand the functioning of urban governance and solid waste management in the city.

The visit, organised in collaboration with the Indian Institute of Public Administration as part of a study tour, was aimed at learning about the administrative practices and sustainability initiatives of the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD), an official statement said.

Welcoming the delegation, Mayor Singh said it was a matter of pride for the civic body to host representatives from different countries.

"The MCD is one of the largest urban local bodies in Asia, serving nearly two crore residents. We are committed to making urban governance more transparent and efficient through sustainable development, public participation and innovation," he said.

Maintaining that solid waste management remains



Welcoming the delegation, Mayor Singh said it was a matter of pride for the civic body to host representatives from different countries.

"The MCD is one of the largest urban local bodies in Asia, serving nearly two crore residents. We are committed to making urban governance more transparent and efficient through sustainable development, public participation and innovation," he said.

Maintaining that solid waste management remains

delegation a detailed overview of town planning, the Delhi Master Plan, and the online building plan approval system.

The delegation was also briefed on the city's solid waste management process, including waste generation, primary and secondary segregation, transportation and final disposal.

Officials highlighted the unique challenges faced by Delhi as a landlocked megacity in managing urban waste, it said.

Municipal Commissioner Ashwini Kumar, other senior officials, Deputy Mayor Jai Bhagwan Yadav, Standing Committee Chairperson Satya Sharma, Leader of the House Praveen Wahi and Standing Committee Vice-Chairman Sunder Singh were also present during the interaction.

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is to notify the general public that our client Shri Raj Kumar Gupta, S/o. Late Shri K. L. Gupta R/o. C-11, New Krishna Park, Vikasuri, New Delhi-110018 has filed a missing complaint with respect to the Allotment-Cum-Allocation Letter No. BHS-161510 Form Serial No. 13306, Flat Area 29.76 Sqm. Flat Type Second Floor in the name of his wife Mrs. Pushpa Gupta, and the Allotment-Cum-Allocation Letter No. BHS-161509 Form Serial No. 13305, Flat Area 29.76 Sqm. Flat Type First Floor in the name of his wife Mrs. Pushpa Gupta, and the Allotment-Cum-Allocation Letter No. BHS-161508 Form Serial No. 13304, Flat Area 29.76 Sqm. Flat Type First Floor in the name of his wife Mrs. Pushpa Gupta, and the Allotment-Cum-Allocation Letter No. BHS-161507 Form Serial No. 13303, Flat Area 29.76 Sqm. Flat Type First Floor in the name of his wife Mrs. Pushpa Gupta, and the Allotment-Cum-Allocation Letter No. BHS-161506 Form Serial No. 13302, Flat Area 29.76 Sqm. Flat Type First Floor in the name of his wife Mrs. Pushpa Gupta, and the Allotment-Cum-Allocation Letter No. BHS-161505 Form Serial No. 13301, Flat Area 29.76 Sqm. Flat Type First Floor in the name of his wife Mrs. Pushpa Gupta, and the Allotment-Cum-Allocation Letter No. BHS-161504 Form Serial No. 13300, Flat Area 29.76 Sqm. Flat Type First Floor in the name of his wife Mrs. Pushpa Gupta, and the Allotment-Cum-Allocation Letter No. BHS-161503 Form Serial No. 13299, Flat Area 29.76 Sqm. Flat Type First Floor in the name of his wife Mrs. Pushpa Gupta, and the Allotment-Cum-Allocation Letter No. BHS-161502 Form Serial No. 13298, Flat Area 29.76 Sqm. Flat Type First Floor in the name of his wife Mrs. Pushpa Gupta, and the Allotment-Cum-Allocation Letter No. BHS-161501 Form Serial No. 13297, Flat Area 29.76 Sqm. Flat Type First Floor in the name of his wife Mrs. Pushpa Gupta, and the Allotment-Cum-Allocation Letter No. BHS-161500 Form Serial No. 13296, Flat Area 29.76 Sqm. Flat Type First Floor in the name of his wife Mrs. Pushpa Gupta, and the Allotment-Cum-Allocation Letter No. BHS-161499 Form Serial No. 13295, Flat Area 29.76 Sqm. Flat Type First Floor in the name of his wife Mrs. Pushpa Gupta, and the Allotment-Cum-Allocation Letter No. BHS-161498 Form Serial No. 13294, Flat Area 29.76 Sqm. Flat Type First Floor in the name of his wife Mrs. Pushpa Gupta, and the Allotment-Cum-Allocation Letter No. BHS-161497 Form Serial No. 13293, Flat Area 29.76 Sqm. Flat Type First Floor in the name of his wife Mrs. Pushpa Gupta, and the Allotment-Cum-Allocation Letter No. BHS-161496 Form Serial No. 13292, Flat Area 29.76 Sqm. Flat Type First Floor in the name of his wife Mrs. Pushpa Gupta, and the Allotment-Cum-Allocation Letter No. BHS-161495 Form Serial No. 13291, Flat Area 29.76 Sqm. Flat Type First Floor in the name of his wife Mrs. Pushpa Gupta, and the Allotment-Cum-Allocation Letter No. BHS-161494 Form Serial No. 13290, Flat Area 29.76 Sqm. Flat Type First Floor in the name of his wife Mrs. Pushpa Gupta, and the Allotment-Cum-Allocation Letter No. BHS-161493 Form Serial No. 13289, Flat Area 29.76 Sqm. Flat Type First Floor in the name of his wife Mrs. Pushpa Gupta, and the Allotment-Cum-Allocation Letter No. BHS-161492 Form Serial No. 13288, Flat Area 29.76 Sqm. Flat Type First Floor in the name of his wife Mrs. Pushpa Gupta, and the Allotment-Cum-Allocation Letter No. BHS-161491 Form Serial No. 13287, Flat Area 29.76 Sqm. Flat Type First Floor in the name of his wife Mrs. Pushpa Gupta, and the Allotment-Cum-Allocation Letter No. BHS-161490 Form Serial No. 13286, Flat Area 29.76 Sqm. Flat Type First Floor in the name of his wife Mrs. Pushpa Gupta, and the Allotment-Cum-Allocation Letter No. BHS-161489 Form Serial No. 13285, Flat Area 29.76 Sqm. Flat Type First Floor in the name of his wife Mrs. Pushpa Gupta, and the Allotment-Cum-Allocation Letter No. BHS-161488 Form Serial No. 13284, Flat Area 29.76 Sqm. Flat Type First Floor in the name of his wife Mrs. Pushpa Gupta, and the Allotment-Cum-Allocation Letter No. BHS-161487 Form Serial No. 13283, Flat Area 29.76 Sqm. Flat Type First Floor in the name of his wife Mrs. Pushpa Gupta, and the Allotment-Cum-Allocation Letter No. BHS-161486 Form Serial No. 13282, Flat Area 29.76 Sqm. Flat Type First Floor in the name of his wife Mrs. Pushpa Gupta, and the Allotment-Cum-Allocation Letter No. BHS-161485 Form Serial No. 13281, Flat Area 29.76 Sqm. Flat Type First Floor in the name of his wife Mrs. Pushpa Gupta, and the Allotment-Cum-Allocation Letter No. BHS-161484 Form Serial No. 13280, Flat Area 29.76 Sqm. Flat Type First Floor in the name of his wife Mrs. Pushpa Gupta, and the Allotment-Cum-Allocation Letter No. BHS-161483 Form Serial No. 13279, Flat Area 29.76 Sqm. Flat Type First Floor in the name of his wife Mrs. Pushpa Gupta, and the Allotment-Cum-Allocation Letter No. BHS-161482 Form Serial No. 13278, Flat Area 29.76 Sqm. Flat Type First Floor in the name of his wife Mrs. Pushpa Gupta, and the Allotment-Cum-Allocation Letter No. BHS-161481 Form Serial No. 13277, Flat Area 29.76 Sqm. Flat Type First Floor in the name of his wife Mrs. Pushpa Gupta, and the Allotment-Cum-Allocation Letter No. BHS-161480 Form Serial No. 13276, Flat Area 29.76 Sqm. Flat Type First Floor in the name of his wife Mrs. Pushpa Gupta, and the Allotment-Cum-Allocation Letter No. BHS-161479 Form Serial No. 13275, Flat Area 29.76 Sqm. Flat Type First Floor in the name of his wife Mrs. Pushpa Gupta, and the Allotment-Cum-Allocation Letter No. BHS-161478 Form Serial No. 13274, Flat Area 29.76 Sqm. Flat Type First Floor in the name of his wife Mrs. Pushpa Gupta, and the Allotment-Cum-Allocation Letter No. BHS-161477 Form Serial No. 13273, Flat Area 29.76 Sqm. Flat Type First Floor in the name of his wife Mrs. Pushpa Gupta, and the Allotment-Cum-Allocation Letter No. BHS-161476 Form Serial No. 13272, Flat Area 29.76 Sqm. Flat Type First Floor in the name of his wife Mrs. Pushpa Gupta, and the Allotment-Cum-Allocation Letter No. BHS-161475 Form Serial No. 13271, Flat Area 29.76 Sqm. Flat Type First Floor in the name of his wife Mrs. Pushpa Gupta, and the Allotment-Cum-Allocation Letter No. BHS-161474 Form Serial No. 13270, Flat Area 29.76 Sqm. Flat Type First Floor in the name of his wife Mrs. Pushpa Gupta, and the Allotment-Cum-Allocation Letter No. BHS-161473 Form Serial No. 13269, Flat Area 29.76 Sqm. Flat Type First Floor in the name of his wife Mrs. Pushpa Gupta, and the Allotment-Cum-Allocation Letter No. BHS-161472 Form Serial No. 13268, Flat Area 29.76 Sqm. Flat Type First Floor in the name of his wife Mrs. Pushpa Gupta, and the Allotment-Cum-Allocation Letter No. BHS-161471 Form Serial No. 13267, Flat Area 29.76 Sqm. Flat Type First Floor in the name of his wife Mrs. Pushpa Gupta, and the Allotment-Cum-Allocation Letter No. BHS-161470 Form Serial No. 13266, Flat Area 29.76 Sqm. Flat Type First Floor in the name of his wife Mrs. Pushpa Gupta, and the Allotment-Cum-Allocation Letter No. BHS-161469 Form Serial No. 13265, Flat Area 29.76 Sqm. Flat Type First Floor in the name of his wife Mrs. Pushpa Gupta, and the Allotment-Cum-Allocation Letter No. BHS-161468 Form Serial No. 13264, Flat Area 29.76 Sqm. Flat Type First Floor in the name of his wife Mrs. Pushpa Gupta, and the Allotment-Cum-Allocation Letter No. BHS-161467 Form Serial No. 13263, Flat Area 29.76 Sqm. Flat Type First Floor in the name of his wife Mrs. Pushpa Gupta, and the Allotment-Cum-Allocation Letter No. BHS-161466 Form Serial No. 13262, Flat Area 29.76 Sqm. Flat Type First Floor in the name of his wife Mrs. Pushpa Gupta, and the Allotment-Cum-Allocation Letter No. BHS-161465 Form Serial No. 13261, Flat Area 29.76 Sqm. Flat Type First Floor in the name of his wife Mrs. Pushpa Gupta, and the Allotment-Cum-Allocation Letter No. BHS-161464 Form Serial No. 13260, Flat Area 29.76 Sqm. Flat Type First Floor in the name of his wife Mrs. Pushpa Gupta, and the Allotment-Cum-Allocation Letter No. BHS-161463 Form Serial No. 13259, Flat Area 29.76 Sqm. Flat Type First Floor in the name of his wife Mrs. Pushpa Gupta, and the Allotment-Cum-Allocation Letter No. BHS-161462 Form Serial No. 13258, Flat Area 29.76 Sqm. Flat Type First Floor in the name of his wife Mrs. Pushpa Gupta, and the Allotment-Cum-Allocation Letter No. BHS-161461 Form Serial No. 13257, Flat Area 29.76 Sqm. Flat Type First Floor in the name of his wife Mrs. Pushpa Gupta, and the Allotment-Cum-Allocation Letter No. BHS-161460 Form Serial No. 13256, Flat Area 29.76 Sqm. Flat Type First Floor in the name of his wife Mrs. Pushpa Gupta, and the Allotment-Cum-Allocation Letter No. BHS-161459 Form Serial No. 13255, Flat Area 29.76 Sqm. Flat Type First Floor in the name of his wife Mrs. Pushpa Gupta, and the Allotment-Cum-Allocation Letter No. BHS-161458 Form Serial No. 13254, Flat Area 29.76 Sqm. Flat Type First Floor in the name of his wife Mrs. Pushpa Gupta, and the Allotment-Cum-Allocation Letter No. BHS-161457 Form Serial No. 13253, Flat Area 29.76 Sqm. Flat Type First Floor in the name of his wife Mrs. Pushpa Gupta, and the Allotment-Cum-Allocation Letter No. BHS-161456 Form Serial No. 13252, Flat Area 29.76 Sqm. Flat Type First Floor in the name of his wife Mrs. Pushpa Gupta, and the Allotment-Cum-Allocation Letter No. BHS-161455 Form Serial No. 13251, Flat Area 29.76 Sqm. Flat Type First Floor in the name of his wife Mrs. Pushpa Gupta, and the Allotment-Cum-Allocation Letter No. BHS-161454 Form Serial No. 13250, Flat Area 29.76 Sqm. Flat Type First Floor in the name of his wife Mrs. Pushpa Gupta, and the Allotment-Cum-Allocation Letter No. BHS-161453 Form Serial No. 13249, Flat Area 29.76 Sqm. Flat Type First Floor in the name of his wife Mrs. Pushpa Gupta, and the Allotment-Cum-Allocation Letter No. BHS-161452 Form Serial No. 13248, Flat Area 29.76 Sqm. Flat Type First Floor in the name of his wife Mrs. Pushpa Gupta, and the Allotment-Cum-Allocation Letter No. BHS-161451 Form Serial No. 13247, Flat Area 29.76 Sqm. Flat Type First Floor in the name of his wife Mrs. Pushpa Gupta, and the Allotment-Cum-Allocation Letter No. BHS-161450 Form Serial No. 13246, Flat Area 29.76 Sqm. Flat Type First Floor in the name of his wife Mrs. Pushpa Gupta, and the Allotment-Cum-Allocation Letter No. BHS-161449 Form Serial No. 13245, Flat Area 29.76 Sqm. Flat Type First Floor in the name of his wife Mrs. Pushpa Gupta, and the Allotment-Cum-Allocation Letter No. BHS-161448 Form Serial No. 13244, Flat Area 29.76 Sqm. Flat Type First Floor in the name of his wife Mrs. Pushpa Gupta, and the Allotment-Cum-Allocation Letter No. BHS-161447 Form Serial No. 13243, Flat Area 29.76 Sqm. Flat Type First Floor in the name of his wife Mrs. Pushpa Gupta, and the Allotment-Cum-Allocation Letter No. BHS-161446 Form Serial No. 13242, Flat Area 29.76 Sqm. Flat Type First Floor in the name of his wife Mrs. Pushpa Gupta, and the Allotment-Cum-Allocation Letter No. BHS-161445 Form Serial No. 13241, Flat Area 29.76 Sqm. Flat Type First Floor in the name of his wife Mrs. Pushpa Gupta, and the Allotment-Cum-Allocation Letter No. BHS-161444 Form Serial No. 13240, Flat Area 29.76 Sqm. Flat Type First Floor in the name of his wife Mrs. Pushpa Gupta, and the Allotment-Cum-Allocation Letter No. BHS-161443 Form Serial No. 13239, Flat Area 29.76 Sqm. Flat Type First Floor in the name of his wife Mrs. Pushpa Gupta, and the Allotment-Cum-Allocation Letter No. BHS-161442 Form Serial No. 13238, Flat Area 29.76 Sqm. Flat Type First Floor in the name of his wife Mrs. Pushpa Gupta, and the Allotment-Cum-Allocation Letter No. BHS-161441 Form Serial No. 13237, Flat Area 29.76 Sqm. Flat Type First Floor in the name of his wife Mrs. Pushpa Gupta, and the Allotment-Cum-Allocation Letter No. BHS-161440 Form Serial No. 13236, Flat Area 29.76 Sqm. Flat Type First Floor in the name of his wife Mrs. Pushpa Gupta, and the Allotment-Cum-Allocation Letter No. BHS-161439 Form Serial No. 13235, Flat Area 29.76 Sqm. Flat Type First Floor in the name of his wife Mrs. Pushpa Gupta, and the Allotment-Cum-Allocation Letter No. BHS-161438 Form Serial No. 13234, Flat Area 29.76 Sqm. Flat Type First Floor in the name of his wife Mrs. Pushpa Gupta, and the Allotment-Cum-Allocation Letter No. BHS-161437 Form Serial No. 13233, Flat Area 29.76 Sqm. Flat Type First Floor in the name of his wife Mrs. Pushpa Gupta, and the Allotment-Cum-Allocation Letter No. BHS-161436 Form Serial No. 13232, Flat Area 29.76 Sqm. Flat Type First Floor in the name of his wife Mrs. Pushpa Gupta, and the Allotment-Cum-Allocation Letter No. BHS-161435 Form Serial No. 13231, Flat Area 29.76 Sqm. Flat Type First Floor in the name of his wife Mrs. Pushpa Gupta, and the Allotment-Cum-Allocation Letter No. BHS-161434 Form Serial No. 13230, Flat Area 29.76 Sqm. Flat Type First Floor in the name of his wife Mrs. Pushpa Gupta, and the Allotment-Cum-Allocation Letter No. BHS-161433 Form Serial No. 13229, Flat Area 29.76 Sqm. Flat Type First Floor in the name of his wife Mrs. Pushpa Gupta, and the Allotment-Cum-Allocation Letter No. BHS-161432 Form Serial No. 13228, Flat Area 29.76 Sqm. Flat Type First Floor in the name of his wife Mrs. Pushpa Gupta, and the Allotment-Cum-Allocation Letter No. BHS-161431 Form Serial No. 13227, Flat Area 29.76 Sqm. Flat Type First Floor in the name of his wife Mrs. Pushpa Gupta, and the Allotment-Cum-Allocation Letter No. BHS-161430 Form Serial No. 13226, Flat Area 29.76 Sqm. Flat Type First Floor in the name of his wife Mrs. Pushpa Gupta, and the Allotment-Cum-Allocation Letter No. BHS-161429 Form Serial No. 13225, Flat Area 29.76 Sqm. Flat Type First Floor in the name of his wife Mrs. Pushpa Gupta, and the Allotment-Cum-Allocation Letter No. BHS-161428 Form Serial No. 13224, Flat Area 29.76 Sqm. Flat Type First Floor in the name of his wife Mrs. Pushpa Gupta, and the Allotment-Cum-Allocation Letter No. BHS-161427 Form Serial No. 13223, Flat Area 29.76 Sqm. Flat Type First Floor in the name of his wife Mrs. Pushpa Gupta, and the Allotment-Cum-Allocation Letter No. BHS-161426 Form Serial No. 13222, Flat Area 29.76 Sqm. Flat Type First Floor in the name of his wife Mrs. Pushpa Gupta, and the Allotment-Cum-Allocation Letter No. BHS-161425 Form Serial No. 13221, Flat Area 29.76 Sqm. Flat Type First Floor in the name of his wife Mrs. Pushpa Gupta, and the Allotment-Cum-Allocation Letter No. BHS-161424 Form Serial No. 13220, Flat Area 29.76 Sqm. Flat Type First Floor in the name of his wife Mrs. Pushpa Gupta, and the Allotment-Cum-Allocation Letter No. BHS-161423 Form Serial No. 13219, Flat Area 29.76 Sqm. Flat Type First Floor in the name of his wife Mrs. Pushpa Gupta, and the Allotment-Cum-Allocation Letter No. BHS-161422 Form Serial No. 13218, Flat Area 29.76 Sqm. Flat Type First Floor in the name of his wife Mrs. Pushpa Gupta, and the Allotment-Cum-Allocation Letter No. BHS-161421 Form Serial No. 13217, Flat Area 29.76 Sqm. Flat Type First Floor in the name of his wife Mrs. Pushpa Gupta, and the Allotment-Cum-Allocation Letter No. BHS-161420 Form Serial No. 13216, Flat Area 29.76 Sqm. Flat Type First Floor in the name of his wife Mrs. Pushpa Gupta, and the Allotment-Cum-Allocation Letter No. BHS-161419 Form Serial No. 13215, Flat Area 29.76 Sqm. Flat Type First Floor in the name of his wife Mrs. Pushpa Gupta, and the Allotment-Cum-Allocation Letter No. BHS-161418 Form Serial No. 13214, Flat Area 29.76 Sqm. Flat Type First Floor in the name of his wife Mrs. Pushpa Gupta, and the Allotment-Cum-Allocation Letter No. BHS-161417 Form Serial No. 13213, Flat Area 29.76 Sqm. Flat Type First Floor in the name of his wife Mrs. Pushpa Gupta, and the Allotment-Cum-Allocation Letter No. BHS-161416 Form Serial No. 13212, Flat Area 29.76 Sqm. Flat Type First Floor in the name of his wife Mrs. Pushpa Gupta, and the Allotment-Cum-Allocation Letter No. BHS-161415 Form Serial No. 13211, Flat Area 29.76 Sqm. Flat Type First Floor in the name of his wife Mrs. Pushpa Gupta, and the Allotment-Cum-Allocation Letter No. BHS-161414 Form Serial No. 13210, Flat Area 29.76 Sqm. Flat Type First Floor in the name of his wife Mrs. Pushpa Gupta, and the Allotment-Cum-Allocation Letter No. BHS-161413 Form Serial No. 13209, Flat Area 29.76 Sqm. Flat Type First Floor in the name of his wife Mrs. Pushpa Gupta, and the Allotment-Cum-Allocation Letter No. BHS-161412 Form Serial No. 13208, Flat Area 29.76 Sqm. Flat Type First Floor in the name of his wife Mrs. Pushpa Gupta, and the Allotment-Cum-Allocation Letter No. BHS-161411 Form Serial No. 13207, Flat Area 29.76 Sqm. Flat Type First Floor in the name of his wife Mrs. Pushpa Gupta, and the Allotment-Cum-Allocation Letter No. BHS-161410 Form Serial No. 13206, Flat Area 29.76 Sqm. Flat Type First Floor in the name of his wife Mrs. Pushpa Gupta, and the Allotment-Cum-Allocation Letter No. BHS-161409 Form Serial No. 13205, Flat Area 29.76 Sqm. Flat Type First Floor in the name of his wife Mrs. Pushpa Gupta, and the Allotment-Cum-Allocation Letter No. BHS-161408 Form Serial No. 13204, Flat Area 29.76 Sqm. Flat Type First Floor in the name of his wife Mrs. Pushpa Gupta, and the Allotment-Cum-Allocation Letter No. BHS-161407 Form Serial No. 13203, Flat Area 29.76 Sqm. Flat Type First Floor in the name of his wife Mrs. Pushpa Gupta, and the Allotment-Cum-Allocation Letter No. BHS-161406 Form Serial No. 13202, Flat Area 29.76 Sqm. Flat Type First Floor in the name of his wife Mrs. Pushpa Gupta, and the Allotment-Cum-Allocation Letter No. BHS-161405 Form Serial No. 13201, Flat Area 29.76 Sqm. Flat Type First Floor in the name of his wife Mrs. Pushpa Gupta, and the Allotment-Cum-Allocation Letter No. BHS-161404 Form Serial No. 13200, Flat Area 29.76 Sqm. Flat Type First Floor in the name of his wife Mrs. Pushpa Gupta, and the Allotment-Cum-Allocation Letter No. BHS-161403 Form Serial No. 13199, Flat Area 29.76 Sqm. Flat Type First Floor

Experts warn PM2.5 may trigger Rheumatoid Arthritis surge in NCR

TSS/New Delhi

A new health crisis is emerging as air pollution may be silently triggering rheumatoid arthritis, one of the most debilitating autoimmune diseases worldwide, experts said on Thursday.

At the 40th annual conference of the Indian Rheumatology Association (IRACON 2025) being held from October 9-12 at the Yashbhoori here, leading rheumatologists cited alarming evidence that toxic air and PM2.5 pollution could be fuelling a surge in rheumatoid arthritis cases across Delhi-NCR.

Rheumatoid arthritis (RA) is a chronic autoimmune disorder in which the immune system attacks the body's own tissues, especially the joints, causing persistent pain, swelling, stiffness, and disability.

Traditionally linked to genetics and immune system dysfunction, RA is now increasingly being associated with environmental triggers such as air pollution.

Delhi, one of the top 10 most polluted cities in the world, has emerged as a hotbed of concern, the ex-



perts said. Recent studies in Europe, China, and now in India, suggest that exposure to PM2.5, the dangerous fine particulate matter that penetrates deep into the lungs, may be linked not only to heart and lung diseases, but also to autoimmune disorders like RA.

Expressing deep concern, Dr Uma Kumar, Head of Rheumatology at AIIMS Delhi, said, "We are observing a rise in RA cases in persons living in polluted areas with no family history or genetic predisposi-

tion to autoimmune disease. Pollutants induce inflammatory reactions, exacerbating joint damage and promoting disease progression."

These toxins trigger systemic inflammation and oxidative stress, causing an overactive immune response.

"It is a public health emergency we can no longer ignore," Kumar said. Adding to the urgency, Dr Birmesh Dhar Pandey from Fortis Hospital, Noida, said pollution is linked to arthritis, particularly rheumatoid

arthritis, as air pollutants can cause inflammation, oxidative stress, and autoantibody production.

"Studies show strong associations between exposure to PM2.5, nitrogen oxides, and ozone with increased risk of RA and worsening symptoms, especially in genetically susceptible individuals. Living near busy roads, which means constant traffic-related pollution, has also been linked to higher RA risk," Pandey said.

The findings are not just theoretical. A landmark study published in the European Medical Journal (2025) provided strong genetic evidence connecting air pollution to autoimmune diseases, including RA.

Using a "two-sample Mendelian randomisation approach", the study identified significant causal links between common pollutants and immune system dysfunction, highlighting environmental damage as a crucial driver in the rise of these diseases.

Dr Neeraj Jain from Sir Ganga Ram Hospital warned, "We used to think of RA as mainly genetic, but pollution is rewriting that narrative. The environmental burden is tipping the scales, turning healthy individuals into patients. The fact that young people with no family history are developing RA should set the alarm bells ringing."

Doctors are not just witnessing more RA cases but also more severe ones. Reduced green spaces in the urban areas are worsening the problem, depriving residents of protective environmental buffers. Dr Pulvin Gupta from Dr Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital,

New Delhi, said.

"This is not merely a medical issue, it is a societal crisis," Dr Rohini Handa from Indraprastha Apollo Hospitals, New Delhi, said.

The experts also pointed out that autoimmune diseases such as RA are life-long conditions with no permanent cure available; they can only be managed.

With pollution adding fuel to the fire, the prevalence of RA is expected to rise in Delhi-NCR and similar polluted regions.

Current estimates suggest that RA already affects around 1 per cent of India's adult population, but with pollution as a trigger, these numbers may spike dramatically, the experts said.

They also stressed the urgent need for multidisciplinary actions such as stricter pollution control, increased public awareness, early screening of at-risk populations, and lifestyle changes to reduce exposure.

They also called for expansion of urban green cover, cleaner transport solutions, and stronger national policies linking air quality to health.

Delhi Congress gears up for upcoming MCD bypolls

Staff Reporter
New Delhi

Delhi Congress president Devender Yadav here on Thursday convened a party meeting in connection with the preparations for the upcoming by-elections to the 12 municipal wards.

He said that the Congress party was fully prepared to face the by-elections even if the Delhi state election commission holds them early. Yadav clearly stated that if BJP's vote theft is curbed in the MCD by-elections, then he was confident that the Congress party would emerge victorious in all the 12 wards.

"We are unitedly fighting against the BJP's vote theft which the Congress workers have been powerfully raising before the people of Delhi through a massive signature campaign and awareness sessions", he added. He said that over the last eight months, BJP's Rekha Gupta government has not fulfilled a single promise made to the people of Delhi and the Aam Aadmi Party is getting extinct in Delhi after its corrupt and incompetent model was rejected by the people of the capital.

He said that the people of Delhi are now looking at Congress as the only choice for good and development-driven governance before them. Yadav said that for

He said that the Congress party was fully prepared to face the by-elections even if the Delhi state election commission holds them early. Yadav clearly stated that if BJP's vote theft is curbed in the MCD by-elections, then he was confident that the Congress party would emerge victorious in all the 12 wards.

the last six months, the BJP-ruled MCD has proved to be a complete failure in fulfilling the responsibility of ensuring cleanliness in Delhi. He said that the BJP had promised to remove the garbage mountains, but did nothing to get rid of them.

Heaps of garbage have piled up on every corner along the roads, streets, colonies and everywhere because of which Delhi faced constant waterlogging during the monsoon, he said, adding that despite the BJP grabbing power in the Delhi government and the corporation, there has been no improvement. He said that the people of Delhi will give a befitting reply to the BJP's game of lies and falsehood in the by-elections to 12 seats.

NDMC declares New Moti Bagh as Anupam Colony

Staff Reporter
New Delhi

NDMC chairman Keshav Chandra here on Thursday declared New Moti Bagh as 5th Anupam Colony. New Moti Bagh has achieved 100% source segregation, ensuring every household actively participates in responsible waste management.

The colony represents a fully integrated circular waste management ecosystem where every form of waste is scientifically processed and reused within the premises.

Speaking on the occasion, the NDMC chairman commended the residents and RWA for their proactive approach towards achieving NDMC's vision of a cleaner, greener, and self-sustained New Delhi.

Chandra informed that to further strengthen citizen participation and encourage responsible disposal practices, the colony houses an RRR (Reduce, Reuse, Recycle) Centre, where residents can donate items such as clothes, books, and household goods for reuse. Additionally, a plastic waste vending machine has been installed to incentivise the return of plastic bottles, promoting a culture of conscious waste segregation and recycling at the source. Wet waste from households is treated at an Organic Waste Converter (OWC) to produce compost, which is used to maintain the colony's parks and green areas. Horticulture waste such as dry leaves and trimmings is transformed into eco-friendly briquettes, creating a waste-to-wealth model. Dry waste is sorted at an in-house Material Recovery Facility (MRF), enabling efficient segregation and recycling. The colony has adopted other sustainable initiatives such as rainwater harvesting systems and an on-site Sewage Treatment Plant (STP) for water recycling, making New Moti Bagh a true example of a "Sustainable Colony".

Food safety department cracks down on adulterated sweets in Noida ahead of Diwali

Ajeet Kumar
Noida

With Diwali around the corner, the Food Safety Department has stepped up its efforts to ensure festival sweets are safe for consumption by launching a surprise inspection campaign across the district. Teams of food safety officers conducted checks at multiple sweet shops, dairy outlets, and in-transit consignments, uncovering several instances of adulteration.

A team led by Food Safety Officers S.K. Pandey, O.P. Singh, and Vishal Gupta inspected Bikam Sweets in Sector 66, Mumura village, and collected a sample of milk cake. They also took a sample of chana sweets from Great Evergreen Sweets for further testing. Meanwhile, Food Safety Officer Mali visited Madhav Sweets on Sikandarabad Road, Lad-



pura, collecting a khoya sample and destroying around 16 kilograms of khoya that was found to be contaminated.

In Panwar and Ghodi Bachheda, Food Safety Officers Syed Badullah and Amar Bahadur Saroj's team collected samples from multiple outlets. A barfi sample was taken from Megham Sweets, a kalakand sample from Palam Sweet, and rasgullas being transported by Ram Preet on a motorcycle were also inspected. Ap-

proximately 75 kilograms of the rasgullas were destroyed after preliminary checks revealed adulteration.

At the Phase 2 Vegetable Market, another team led by Food Safety Officers Mukesh Kumar, Vijay Bahadur Patel, and Ravindra Nath Nerva collected paner samples from Chaudhary Dairy and J.K. Paner Bhandar. Around 92 kilograms of paner were destroyed after failing the initial quality checks.

Govt secretaries review progress at Yamuna Expressway Medical devices park

Ajit Kumar
Greater Noida

Senior officials from the Government of India visited the Yamuna Expressway Medical Devices Park in Sector 27 on Thursday to review the ongoing development of the facility. Amit Agarwal, Secretary of the Department of Pharmaceuticals, along with Anurag Sharma, Joint Secretary, were briefed on the park's progress and future plans by CEO Rakesh Kumar Singh.

Spanning 341 acres under the Yamuna Expressway Industrial Development Authority (YIDA), the Medical Devices Park has so far allocated 101 plots to various enterprises. During the visit, Special Officer Shailendra



Bhatia delivered a detailed presentation on the park's development and provided updates on the construction of the Common Scientific Facilities (CSFs), which are central to the park's objective of fostering innovation in medical technology.

Officials were informed that almost all CSFs are expected to be completed by December 2026, while the Gamma Radiation Center is

slated for completion by May 2027. Highlighting the importance of timely execution, Secretary Agarwal instructed the authority and consultants to accelerate construction work and ensure all facilities meet international standards.

Emphasizing the integration of education and industry, Mr. Agarwal recommended linking medical and technical education, testing

services, and skilled professionals with the Medical Devices Park. He also suggested involving experts from premier institutions such as IIT Kanpur to harness emerging technologies, artificial intelligence, and innovative practices for the park's development.

Following the review meeting, the Secretary and Joint Secretary conducted an on-site inspection of the CSF buildings to assess construction progress firsthand. The visit included key officials such as Praveen Mittal, Executive Director of MDP Promotion Council; Rajendra Bhati, GM of Projects; Smriti Singh, AGM; along with representatives from several participating companies.

The event saw active participation from the Authority's employees, who took the opportunity to have their eyes examined and receive immediate treatment where necessary. Spectacles were also provided to employees requiring corrective lenses. Beyond the medical examinations, the team of doctors conducted awareness sessions on eye care, prevention of eye-related diseases, and extended guidance for safeguarding the vision of employees' children and elderly family members.

Around 1,000 employees benefited from the free check-ups during the program, highlighting the scale and significance of the initiative. The camp was inaugurated by Lokesh M, Chief Executive Officer of Noida Authority, who emphasized the importance of regular eye care and maintaining overall health.

The program was also attended by senior officials including SP Singh and AK Arora, General Managers; Indu Prakash from Public Health; project engineers Gaurav Bansal and RK Sharma; along with representatives from the NGO Messrs Guided Fortune Committee. Speaking at the inauguration, Lokesh M urged employees to remain vigilant

about their health and adopt proactive measures for their eye and overall well-being. This initiative reflects Noida Authority's commitment to employee welfare and health awareness, ensuring that essential services staff receive not only recognition but also tangible support for their well-being.

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

New Delhi

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

The event was graced by celebrity fashion designer Asma Gulzar, a beacon of Indo-fusion fashion and an internationally acclaimed fashion powerhouse, who unveiled the Artistry Show on 4th October. Her presence added glamour and elegance to the occasion, perfectly highlighting the seamless fusion of jewellery and fashion, and inspiring con-



noisseurs and visitors alike. Each piece showcased at the Artistry Show is a unique expression of artisanal excellence. The curated collection includes signature creations from Malabar Gold & Diamonds' renowned exclusive brands, such as Mine diamond jewellery, Era uncut diamonds, Precia gemstone jewellery, Ethnix handcrafted jewellery, Viraz roy-

As a responsible jeweller, Malabar Gold & Diamonds adheres to the highest standards of ethical sourcing. All gold is procured through legal and verified channels, certified with HUID hallmarks. The brand exclusively offers gold sourced from LBMA and DGDDB-approved refiners, reinforcing its stance against unethical practices such as gold smuggling, tax evasion, and child labour.

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

Noida Police tops state in public complaint redressal

Amar Saini
Noida

In a remarkable achievement, the Gautam Buddha Nagar Police Commissionerate has secured the first position across Uttar Pradesh for efficiently addressing public complaints received on the IGRS portal. All 27 police stations in the district have earned top rankings, a performance report released by the Chief Minister's Office for September shows.

Police Commissioner Lakshmi Singh praised the dedicated efforts of the IGRS teams, along with the heads and operators of every police station, announcing that they would be formally recognized for their contribution.



She said the success underscores the administration's commitment to prompt and effective resolution of citizen grievances. To maintain high standards, Commissioner Singh conducts weekly reviews every Friday to monitor complaints registered on the IGRS portal. This consis-

tent oversight ensures that citizens' issues are addressed quickly and accurately. The IGRS, an online grievance redressal system established by the government, provides residents with a convenient and efficient platform to lodge complaints and track their resolution.

"Securing the first rank for Gautam Buddha Nagar in September is a testament to the prompt and effective work of our teams," Commissioner Singh said. "Timely redressal of complaints strengthens public trust and demonstrates our commitment to citizen satisfaction. We will continue to strive to assist every resident with urgency and professionalism."

Powerful explosion kills 5 people in Ayodhya

Ayodhya (UP): At least five people were killed and several others were injured after a house collapsed following a powerful explosion in Pagla Bhari village under the Pura Kalandar police station area of Ayodhya on Thursday, officials said.

Circle Officer (CO) Shalendra Singh said that several people were still feared trapped under the debris, and rescue operations were underway. "Five people have died in the explosion, a few have been injured, and efforts are on to rescue those trapped. The cause of the blast is not yet clear," Singh said.

Upon receiving information about the incident, the police, the fire department and the local administration teams rushed to the spot.

Rescue workers have been using excavators to clear the rubble, while nearby houses have been evacuated as a precautionary measure.

Officials have appealed to residents to stay away from the accident site to facilitate rescue efforts. Senior police and administrative officers are supervising the operation and have begun an investigation to determine the cause of the explosion.

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has taken cognisance of the incident and expressed deep condolences over the loss of lives.

According to an official statement, the Chief Minister has directed senior officials to rush to the spot, ensure proper medical treatment for the injured, and personally oversee the ongoing rescue and relief operations.

Lok Adalat has no authority to dismiss pending complaint: Allahabad HC

Prayagraj (UP): The Allahabad High Court has ruled that a Lok Adalat has no authority to dismiss a pending complaint for want of prosecution or for non-appearance of a party.

The high court further said that in a case before Lok Adalat where no compromise or settlement is arrived at, then it must return the case to the court concerned.

Allowing the petition filed by a person named Rajeev Jain, Justice Anish Kumar Gupta said a Lok Adalat can't take up the matter in its own motion without obtaining the consent of the parties and without any intimation to the complainant.

The court quashed the order passed by a Lok Adalat on December 9, 2017 dismissing a cheque-bounce complaint for non-appearance of the complainant.

It also remitted the matter to the Chief Judicial Magistrate of Etah to decide the case in accordance with law from the stage it was referred to and dismissed in Lok Adalat.

The high court in its order dated October 6 observed, "The instant case is the gravest example of such irresponsible and unauthorized action on the part of the judicial officer concerned while taking up the matter in Lok Adalat."

"Thus, let a warning be issued to the concerned Judicial Officer in this regard so that he may not repeat such occurrence in future," it said.

Punjab govt unveils plan to build over 3,100 ultra-modern stadiums to boost sports & fight drugs

Komal Ramola Chandigarh:

In a landmark step to promote sports and curb drug abuse, Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann and Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) National Convener Arvind Kejriwal on Thursday launched a massive state-wide project to construct more than 3,100 ultra-modern stadiums at a cost of Rs 1,194 crore.

Launching the initiative before a large gathering, Kejriwal said the project aims to channel the energy of Punjab's youth in a positive direction. "For the health of the body and fitness of the mind, the work to establish over 3,100 new playgrounds across Punjab begins today," he said. These stadiums, he added, will strengthen the ongoing campaigns 'Yudh Nasheyan Virudh' and 'Rangla Punjab', serving both as centers of athletic excellence and as symbols of community unity.

Kejriwal emphasized that the project is not just about infrastructure but about shaping a culture. "Just as a



good school is essential for education, a proper playground helps a child bring glory to their village, state, and nation," he said. The stadiums will cater to multiple sports, including volleyball, football, and cricket, along with Punjab's traditional games. Facilities for physical and recreational activities for senior citizens will also be provided, making the complexes inclusive for all age groups.

The AAP leader highlighted the government's efforts to transform Punjab into a powerhouse of sports. Before 2022, the state's annual sports budget was only Rs 100 crore; it now stands at Rs 1,000 crore. The state introduced a new sports policy in 2023 that grants cash rewards and government jobs to athletes. "Each Punjabi athlete participating in the Olympics received Rs 15 lakh in advance for preparation," he said, adding that several players have been appointed as DSPs and PCS officers.

He pointed out that

participation in the state's flagship sporting event 'Khedan Watan Punjab Diyan' has surged from about 25,000 athletes earlier to nearly five lakh participants today. "A war against drugs has been launched," he said. "The previous governments patronized drug networks, but now bulldozers are rolling over them." He added that several political leaders linked to the drug trade are behind bars, exposing the "unholy nexus" that once thrived under

political protection. Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann said the new sports infrastructure will help revive Punjab's sporting legacy. "Punjab has always contributed immensely to India's sporting pride. It's a matter of honour that four national teams are currently captained by Punjabis, including Harmanpreet Kaur, Shubman Gill, and Harmanpreet Singh," he said.

Mann noted that nine Punjabi players are part of the national hockey team, a reflection of the state's deep sporting roots. The government, he said, is now rewarding medal winners promptly—Rs 1 crore for gold, Rs 75 lakh for silver, and Rs 50 lakh for bronze—unlike earlier times when athletes had to wait months or years for recognition.

Taking aim at previous regimes, Mann said, "The Badal family ruled Punjab for years but wasted money on film stars instead of players. Sports ministers had no understanding of sports, and associations were run for political gains."

J K Body of missing soldier found in Kokernag search continues for another



Srinagar:

Security forces found the body of a soldier in Jammu and Kashmir's Anantnag district on Thursday, while a search operation to locate another missing soldier entered its third day, officials said here.

The body of one of the two soldiers who went missing on Tuesday was found from the Gadole forests in the Kokernag area of Anantnag, the officials said, adding that a preliminary examination suggests that he died of hypothermia.

They said searches to track the other missing soldier are ongoing but dense vegetation, rough terrain and inclement weather continue to hin-

der the efforts.

The soldiers, both commandos of an elite para unit, went missing during a combing operation at Kokernag on Tuesday. The operation was launched two days ago in the Ahlan Gadole area, following inputs that terrorists were hiding there, the officials said.

According to the officials, the two soldiers were missing after their communication line went out. Helicopters were pressed into aerial reconnaissance to locate the commandos.

The Srinagar-based Chinara Corps unit of the Army said the operational team was caught in a severe snowstorm.

Manohar Lal offers prayers at Dubai's Gurudwara, seeks prosperity for all



TSN/Chandigarh:

Union Minister for Housing & Urban Affairs and Energy, Manohar Lal, offered prayers at Gurudwara Guru Nanak Darbar in Jebel Ali, Dubai, during his ongoing foreign visit. The minister prayed for the happiness and prosperity of the people of India and lauded the values of peace, service, and compassion taught by the Sikh Gurus.

Speaking on the occasion, Manohar Lal said that the teachings of the Gurus continue to illuminate the path of humanity and remain a source of moral strength across generations. He emphasized the im-

portance of spreading these messages to every home so that future generations can draw wisdom and direction from them. He urged everyone to imbibe the spirit of humility, equality, and service in their everyday lives.

The minister also appreciated the contributions of the Sikh and Punjabi community in Dubai, noting their growing presence and the respect they have earned through hard work and unity. He expressed gratitude for the warm welcome extended to him by the community.

Upon his arrival, Manohar Lal was hon-

ored with a Siropa and a memento by Sardar Surinder Singh Kandhari, Chief Sevadar, and S.P. Singh Oberoi, Managing Sevakar of the Gurudwara. He was accompanied by Satish Kaushik, Consulate General of India in Dubai.

During the visit, Dr. Prableen Singh briefed the minister about various welfare schemes and initiatives being implemented for the Sikh community in Haryana. The occasion reflected a spirit of faith and harmony, underlining the universal message of service and compassion at the heart of Sikh philosophy.

TSN/Chandigarh:

In a major boost to Punjab's industrial growth, Jalandhar-based Oaykay Metcorp has announced a ₹309 crore investment to set up a state-of-the-art hand tools manufacturing plant in the state. The project marks a significant milestone in the Bhagwant Mann government's efforts to transform Punjab from being the nation's agricultural backbone to a thriving industrial hub.

Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann hailed the investment as a sign of growing confidence among domestic industrialists in Punjab's business-friendly environment. He said the government's clear policies and efficient systems such as the 'Invest Punjab' framework and the 'Fast Track Portal' have made setting up industries easier and faster, eliminating bureaucratic delays.

The new Oaykay Metcorp facility will manufacture high-quality hand tools including wrenches, pliers, and hammers for global markets. Once



operational, the factory is expected to generate thousands of direct and indirect employment opportunities and strengthen Punjab's position in the global manufacturing supply chain.

Describing the investment as "a key to prosperity," officials noted that this project will not only boost economic activity but also provide a platform for Punjab's skilled workers and engineers to showcase their expertise internationally.

ly. Tools made under the "Made in Punjab" label are expected to reach markets across America and Europe, symbolizing the craftsmanship and dedication of Punjab's workers.

The Mann government's emphasis on industrial diversification aims to reduce dependence on agriculture while opening new avenues for employment and exports. The Chief Minister said that Punjab is witnessing a new era of progress

where investors feel encouraged to contribute to the state's growth story.

Oaykay Metcorp's expansion in its home state is seen as a strong endorsement of Punjab's improving industrial climate. The ₹309 crore plant, once operational, is expected to play a vital role in building a modern, self-reliant, and prosperous Punjab—one where the rhythm of machinery blends with the pulse of opportunity and growth.

Tata Steel Invests ₹2,600 Crore in Punjab

TSN/Ludhiana:

In a landmark development for Punjab's industrial landscape, Tata Steel, in collaboration with the Punjab government, has launched a ₹2,600 crore investment project in Ludhiana. The groundbreaking ceremony, attended by Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann, marks the inception of Tata Steel's first low-carbon green steel plant in India, set to transform the state's economic and social prospects.

The new facility, located at Kadiana Khurd, will utilize Electric Arc Furnace (EAF) technology, an environmentally friendly steelmaking process that relies on recycled steel scrap and produces significantly lower carbon emissions compared to conventional methods. With an annual capacity of 0.75 million tons, the plant aims to strengthen Punjab's position as a clean and sustainable industrial hub while supporting the state's green development goals.

This ambitious project is expected to generate substantial employment

opportunities. Around 500 direct jobs and 2,000 indirect positions will be created, with a focus on giving local youth priority and providing skill development training. The initiative offers a pathway for young Punjabis to build careers and become self-reliant while contributing to the state's industrial growth.

The Punjab government has played a pivotal role in facilitating the project. In August 2022, Chief Minister Mann allocated 115 acres of land for the plant, ensured road connectivity, and streamlined all necessary government approvals.

Financial incentives under the state's industrial policy, including tax exemptions and investment-based assistance, further enhanced Punjab's appeal as a destination for major industrial investments.

The economic benefits of the project extend beyond employment. The ₹2,600 crore capital investment is set to boost local trade, construction, transportation, and other sectors, creating a ripple

effect that will strengthen the industrial sector and increase state revenue. This strategic move positions Punjab as an emerging industrial hub while balancing economic growth with environmental sustainability. In addition to the green steel plant, Tata Steel inaugurated a fully automated fabrication service center in Ludhiana on March 12, 2024. This facility, capable of producing 1,500 tons of customized Tisco TMT rebar and bare pile cages per month, aims to enhance production efficiency and quality in the construction sector.

Under Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann's leadership, Punjab is making significant strides toward sustainable industrial development. The Tata Steel project not only promises economic prosperity and employment opportunities but also underscores the state's commitment to environmentally responsible industrialization, heralding a bright future for its youth and the broader economy.



Haryana Chief Minister, Nayab Singh Saini presenting a memento to Vice President of India C. P. Radhakrishnan, at New Delhi on Thursday.

Laments a Bihari – please do something for my homeland...

The land of Chanakya, the world's first republic in 685 BC, the 'Lichavi Gantavira' - modern day Bihar - is set to decide which political party or formulation shall decide its fate for the next five years by mid-November 2025. And what a contest it's going to be. Promises of prosperity, assurances of unbridled development, dollops of welfare schemes and countless mechanisms of bribing the voters, just before the elections is confusing the Bihari voters, like never before. Such is the state of desperation to continue in power for another term that the BJP-JDU combine has lavished the voters with a flood of welfare schemes. Rs. 7,500 Cr distributed among 7.5 million women under Mahila Rozgar Yojana for starting self-employment enterprise. Subsequently each woman who has received Rs. 10,000 under this scheme, another Rs. 2,00,000/- has been promised in subsequent months after polls. After a span of 20 years in government the BJP-JDU combine is offering another 1 crore jobs to be created over the next 5 years. It's a different matter that in the past 20 years, this government has just been able to provide some 6 lakh jobs... but who is counting. Another promise to lure the unemployed, Rs. 1000/- assured to more than 5 lakh graduates as monthly allowance for the next 2 years - without doing anything! Interest free loan of up to 4 lakhs, promised to meritorious Students - how will this materialize is not a concern for the ruling government. 125 units of electricity has already been made free for all households, across the state - it might increase further. A pension of Rs. 700/- is to be given to 33 million people. The number of schemes on offer by the NDA is proposed to put an extra burden on the current deficit state exchequer by some Rs. 45,000 - 55,000 Cr per year. But is anyone concerned? Come on hypocrite, the welfare scheme are for the benefit of the poor, not for luring voters to vote.

And if one thought the opposition alliance, the INDIA bloc is being prudent - that person must be day-dreaming. There are 2.3 Cr families, approximately, living in Bihar. Tejaswi Yadav, the poster face of RJD has promised, government jobs to at least one member of every household in Bihar - that's a staggering 2.3 Cr jobs. And mind you, he promises to deliver in only 20 months, after becoming the CM. Additionally 1 crore jobs will also be created over the next 5 years. Rs. 2,500/- would be given to every woman of the state, for doing nothing. 200 units of electricity would be free for every household. Senior citizen pension would be Rs. 1,000/- and Rs. 25 lakh medical insurance for every family. Free education up till 12th class and dolls for SC/ST have already made space in the lucrative offers. All these offers, in addition to a plethora of welfare schemes already in operation under central government. Bihari's have never had it so good. If all the promises of either of the alliance is effectively operationalized, frankly, not one needs to work in Bihar. One can just sit at home and get enough doll to lead a decent living, well above the earning of a class 4 employee serving in Bihar government. Also, do note - if all promises are actualized, 70% of Bihar's Rs. 3 lakh crore budget, would be spent on welfare schemes, alone. That's when Bihar is overly dependent on Central grant and deficit financing.

The question is why are such tall and exhaustive welfare promised being made? The answer lies in the abject state of Bihar's economy, society and debauched polity.



By Ajay Kumar

Journalist & Commentator

Characterized by 15 years of one family domination - the Lalu Prasad Yadav & Co, symbolizing 'Jungle Raj' - every investor, industrialist, entrepreneur, innovator - simply ran away from Bihar. None of the business house have invested in Bihar for over 40 years. Post Lalu & Co after 2005, for another 20 years, under the dismal & banal leadership of an acclaimed 'Samajwadi' leader, propped up with BJP support, Nitish Kumar, the state witnessed some hope, but then it final ruin. Cumulatively for over the past 35 years, the state of Bihar is a litany of misrule, misgovernance, degradation, deprivation, deindustrialization, degrowth and consequent abject decay and poverty. 'Vikas' is Bihar's biggest misnomer, specially when compared to its economic prowess in the decade of 60s. In the era of 60s, Bihar was mile ahead economically from states like Gujarat, Rajasthan, Haryana and Karnataka. The per capita income of average Bihari in the 60s was amongst the top 5 states of India. How Bihar has now become the biggest laggard of Indian economy is proven by the following data set. As per 2024 data, Bihar's per capita income is a meager sum Rs. 60,000/- per year (meaning Rs. 5,000/- per month). While India's average per capita is Rs. 1,89,000/- (meaning Rs. 16,000/- per month). The devil is in the detail. The per capita income of residents of Sheohar district in Bihar is meagre Rs. 33,399/- per year, which translates into Rs. 2,784/- per month - which is 30 dollar per month. Even sub-Saharan African countries have better income levels. Imagine the world's 4th largest economy, comprises of millions subsisting on less than a dollar a day! Bihar is the least 'urbanized' state in the country. Between 2002 and 2025, the level of urbanization has moved up by a meagre 1.9%. The total contribution to Bihar's financial revenue by scant remaining industries, is a mere 5.7% - the least

in India. Government service remains the most lucrative job opportunity for 1.7 crore 'Gen Z' population (between the age of 18 - 28 years) in Bihar. In the list of 'worst 10 states' in terms of unemployment, Bihar occupies the 9th rank from the top - Bihar has the maximum number of unemployed youth throughout the country. Bihar is the biggest provider of migrant labourers across the country as there are no opportunity of earning a livelihood in Bihar - mind you, CM Nitish Kumar proudly lays claim to this fact. In terms of education, well, Bihar tops the list in number of school drop outs, across states. Bihar, actually makes a national record - 25.9% of students, studying in class 6 - 8, drop out from formal educational set up and head out to earn for their families. The list of socio-economic parameters on which Bihar is the worst performing state, is so huge that, it might take reams of paper to simply put it together.

Let's get a social perspective of Bihar, before we hit on political contradictions, afflicting the state. Umpire number of middle-class, upper middle class and affluent families have shifted out of Bihar over the past 40 years. Most migrants from the said classes are domain leaders in their own might, nationally and internationally, but none ever desire to 'get back' to Bihar, and frankly none are even 'welcomed back' in Bihar. While the middle class fondly reminisces the days of yore, none of the families or their wards, shall ever settle back in Bihar, due to its debauch socio-political environment. Since 1975, Bihar has not seen, an iota of development, rule of law and cohesive within the society. Instead of 'Class' war, Bihar has been and continues to be plagued by 'Caste' wars. Women are not safe. Youth is criminalized. Politics, is an addition and biggest corruptor. Bribery is avowed passion. Workmanship is looked down upon. Enter-

prise, is the recourse of the weak. Bahubali dons are social icons. This mindset which was the hallmark of the corrupt and dehumanized Congress regimes of the 70s and 80s, gained new currency in Lalu's Bihar. And socio-political complex continues to be the foothold of the current government of JDU-BJP, as well. The 'Backward Caste' power keg, unleashed post Karpuri Thakur regime of 1977, further legitimized the criminal - feudal - corrupt complex of Bihar. Since the early 90s, Bihar has witnessed a roll coaster ride of corruption, Gunda Raj, extortion, criminalization, kidnapping, murder and brazen loot. The dons of yesteryears are now giving way to a surfeit of fragmented caste leaders, who behave and function as local dons and blackmailers in the political space. In terms of caste identity or voting based on caste lines, Bihar is not much different from any other state, say, Maharashtra, Karnataka or Gujarat - but the manner in which caste leaders plays a blatant & dominant role within political parties, that in itself, is astounding. It is this objectification and instrumentalization of caste as a weapon, which has played havoc with the polity of Bihar. And in this brazenness, all political parties are equally to blame. Caste identity mingled with appeasement of the minorities has long been enmeshed by the Congress since independence in Bihar. Approximately, 15.5% upper caste population, neatly tied with 17.7% Muslim and 10.7% Dalits - made for a winning combination for the Congress, up till the 90s. It was RJD supremo, Lalu Prasad Yadav, who jettisoned this apple cart in 1995. And thereafter, for the next 15 years, the winning combination became 14.3% Yadavs, 17.7% Muslims and a majority of 36% most Backward/Extremely Backward castes. Finding chinks in this, winning formulae, another OBC leader Nitish Kumar, realized that the 58% OBC vote bank and be further splintered. After all, he himself came from Kauri caste and the combined weakening of Kauri - Koiri castes is about 7.1%. Further breaking down the ECB castes into a Kushwaha and Mallah caste combination, Nitish could chip away a substantive portion of the 36% ECB vote bank. He was the first to weaponized the minority Muslim vote bank. Realizing that Muslims were not a consolidated mass - that the backward & lower caste Muslims (now popularly known as Pasmanda Muslim) can be cornered separately. With this schematics, Nitish Kumar, finally demolished the MY combination of Lalu Prasad. With the help of BJP, Nitish Kumar, accessed the upper caste and trading caste votes and stumbled upon a winning formula that has seen him as Chief Minister, 9 times, since 2005.

Not surprising that none of the major bloc - NDA or INDIA grouping - have been able to settle their seat distribution, with less than 35 days to first phase of polling. After all caste leaders won't settle before they get their pound of flesh. So, the bargaining is at its peak. And this why, it's a matter of immense curiosity as to how, 243 MLA of Bihar legislature over the past 35 years, have become millionaire, lead a life of opulence, send their wards to study abroad, splash their wealth outside Bihar while a common Bihari is still struggles to earn Rs. 100/- per day to keep himself alive. It is this struggle for subsistence that's the root cause of a flood of welfare scheme on offer - just prior to election. Once the government is elected - everything shall become, history.

Are Easier JEE mains, NEET UG Exams the Key to Ending India's Coaching Culture?

As India debates easing JEE and NEET, the real challenge goes beyond question papers. True fairness will depend on how the system tackles inequality, exam stress, and the coaching culture that shapes millions of futures.

As the government considers revising the difficulty levels of India's two most competitive entrance exams, JEE and NEET, a crucial debate has resurfaced: can tweaking exam toughness truly make the system fairer?

Every year, millions of students stake their futures on these high-stakes tests, which not only determine college admissions but also shape the multi-billion-rupee coaching industry that shadows India's education system. The Ministry of Education recently announced plans to review the difficulty of JEE Main and NEET-UG, citing concerns over fairness, inclusivity, and student well-being.

But as discussions grow louder, educators, students, and policymakers are divided over whether easing these exams would promote equity or simply shift the pressure elsewhere.

THE COACHING CULTURE CONUNDRUM

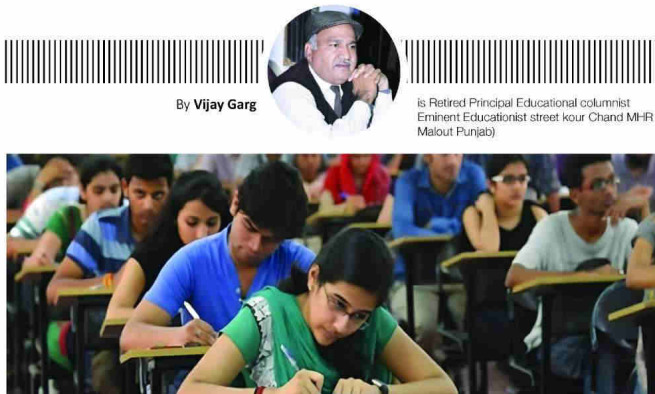
For years, the difficulty level of JEE and NEET has fueled India's booming coaching ecosystem. From Kota to Hyderabad, students spend years, and their parents' savings, in intense preparation regimes that often prioritise rote learning and test-taking over curiosity and understanding.

"If exam difficulty is lowered, we could expect to see significant changes in the coaching industry,"

easier exams may push coaching centres to shift their focus from formulaic drill sessions to developing students' conceptual clarity and career skills. "It could transform the industry from a narrow exam-focused process to a diverse learning ecosystem focused on both academic and personal success."

WHEN SCHOOLS AND EXAMS DON'T ALIGN

One of the biggest challenges lies in the disconnect between school curricula and competitive exams. Schools emphasise holistic development and conceptual grounding, while JEE and NEET demand speed, accuracy, and application-based problem-solving.



By Vijay Garg

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

"The school curriculum and competitive exams are designed with different goals,"

"Aligning the two may be more effective than reducing exam difficulty. This would reduce reliance on coaching, ensure consistent preparation, and keep exams challenging but fair."

"Coaching helps with speed and strategy, but schools build the foundation. Both complement each other, schools nurture knowledge, coaching sharpens it."

FAIRNESS VS MERIT: THE POLICY MAKER'S DILEMMA

The central challenge for policymakers is finding a balance between equity and excellence. "Reducing difficulty alone might not ensure inclusivity," says a senior educator. "It may simply move pressure elsewhere."

"True merit should reflect reasoning and understanding, not access to expensive coaching or rote memorisation," he explains. "Fairness means every student must have the same opportunity to demonstrate ability. Reforms should focus on multiple

measures, like adaptive assessments, project-based learning, and online support systems for underprivileged students."

Vijay Garg argues that pilot programs offering equitable resources, digital mentoring, and modular exams could help India move toward a "multi-pathway assessment model", one that values diverse talents instead of testing speed under pressure.

THE TECH LED PATH TO EDUCATIONAL EQUITY

the government's focus must move beyond exam toughness to building equity through data-informed, technology-led reforms.

"Nearly 95 percent of the top 100 NEET rankers receive formal coaching, making readiness a measure of privilege rather than merit," he notes. "Simply making exams easier, without reforming how we assess and prepare students, will only reinforce existing inequalities."

Garg advocates for AI-supported and evidence-based assessment platforms that ensure transparency and fairness in test design. His internal

analytics reveal that when schools adopt micro-assessments aligned with national syllabi, performance gaps between rural and urban students shrink by 10-15% proving that equitable assessment can narrow systemic divides.

Garg adds that the way forward lies in embedding diagnostic and formative assessments across schools, ensuring exams stay true to NCERT specifications without resorting to "trick" questions. "Equality is not created by lowering the bar," he emphasises, "but by allowing every student to build a stronger base through technology, teacher training, and curriculum redesign."

THE MENTAL HEALTH EQUATION

Beneath the academic debate lies a deeper concern: the psychological toll of these exams. From news of suicides in coaching hubs to chronic anxiety among aspirants, India's exam pressure crisis is undeniable.

"High-stakes exams like JEE and NEET have come to reflect all that is stressful and anxiety-inducing for students,"

While Garg acknowledges that easier exams might temporarily ease stress, Garg warns that the solution lies elsewhere: "Even if exams are simplified, competition will just reappear in new forms. Real reform means embedding mental wellness, skill-based assessment, and mentorship in the system."

Experts agree that tweaking exam difficulty may not be enough. True reform demands structural change, aligning curricula, ensuring equal access to preparation resources, integrating mental wellness, and valuing curiosity as much as competition.

"Equity-supportive policies must focus on building multiple pathways for students to demonstrate their potential, not merely lowering standards."

The government's proposed review presents a rare opportunity: to rethink what fairness in education truly means in 21st-century India. Whether easier exams can fix the coaching culture or not, the real test lies in how the system chooses to define merit, and whom it leaves behind.

Gujarat emerging as India's growth engine in Semiconductors, electronics & logistics: Vaishnav

TSN/Mehsana

Gujarat is rapidly becoming the foundation of India's growth story in semiconductors, electronics manufacturing and logistics, paving the way for the nation to become a developed country by 2047, Union Minister for Railways, Information and Broadcasting, and Information Technology Ashwini Vaishnav said on Thursday.

Speaking at the Vibrant Gujarat Regional Conference (VGRC) in Mehana, which was inaugurated jointly with Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel, the Minister said Gujarat's contribution to national development has been extraordinary. "Gujarat works in new ways, finds new solutions every day, and keeps moving forward. This spirit, coupled with the visionary leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has laid a powerful development path for both Gujarat and the country," he said.

Vaishnav highlighted that investments worth ₹1.25 lakh crore have been committed to the semiconductor and electronics sector in Gujarat. Major projects include Tata Electronics' plant



in Dholera, Micron's manufacturing facility in Sanand, and units being set up by CG Power and KEC. The state's growing ecosystem has also attracted around 30 Japanese companies that will supply ultra-pure chemicals, gases and substrates for semiconductor manufacturing.

"Such ultra-pure materials are measured in parts per billion, and their production here will elevate quality benchmarks for other industries like pharmaceuticals and chemicals," he said.

The Minister further revealed that proposals worth ₹1.15 lakh crore have been received under the Central Electronics Component Manufacturing Scheme. Training on advanced semiconductor tools and 5G technology has already begun at Ganpat University and 12 other colleges, creating a talent pipeline that links education, design and manufacturing.

Vaishnav also praised Gujarat's leadership in the clean energy sector, citing the world's largest green energy project at Khawada

in Kutch. "In today's world, when people ask whether manufacturing is powered by clean energy, Gujarat has a clear and powerful answer," he said.

Turning to the railways, the Minister said that Gujarat is witnessing an unprecedented transformation with investments of ₹1.46 lakh crore. Over the past 11 years, 2,764 km of new railway lines have been laid in the state—equivalent to the entire railway network of Denmark.

Providing an update on the Mumbai-Ahmedabad

High Speed Rail project, Vaishnav announced that India's first bullet train will begin operations in August 2027. He added that the completion of the freight corridor in Gujarat has slashed container train travel time from 30 hours to just 10–11 hours, with nearly 400 freight trains running daily on the eastern and western corridors.

"Eighty-seven stations in Gujarat are being modernized, and 332 flyovers and underpasses are under construction," he said, underscoring the state's infrastructure drive.

Reaffirming the government's commitment to "Developed India 2047," Vaishnav said India is poised to reclaim its position among the world's top economies. "For nearly 2,000 years, India was among the top two economies globally. Now it is time to reclaim that position," he said.

The Minister invited industry leaders, academic institutions and global investors to align with the roadmap prepared by the Gujarat government, assuring full cooperation from the Centre and the state.

Before the inaugural session, Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel and Ashwini

Vaishnav inaugurated the VGRC trade show and exhibition. The showcase features cutting-edge innovations, technologies and products across sectors, bringing together entrepreneurs, investors, MSMEs, startups, and global partners to strengthen the vision of a self-reliant India.

More than 400 exhibitors from agriculture, food processing, and renewable energy sectors are participating across an 18,000-square-metre exhibition area. Leading corporates such as Torrent, Welspun, NHPC, NTPC, Suzlon, Nirma, INOX, Adani, Power-Grid Corporation, ONGC and Maruti Suzuki are among the participants.

A Vendor Development Program (VDP) has also been organized in collaboration with Dudhsagar Dairy, ONGC, Western Railway and Maken Foods to enhance industry linkages and promote local enterprise growth.

The conference and exhibition together underscore Gujarat's evolving role as a national hub for innovation, investment and industrial transformation—anchoring India's march toward a developed future by 2047.

Ashwini Vaishnav visited construction sites for Bullet Train project in Ahmedabad



TSN/

New Delhi/Ahmedabad

Union Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnav on Thursday inspected key construction sites of the Mumbai-Ahmedabad High Speed Rail (MAHSR) project in Sabarmati, Ahmedabad, and expressed satisfaction with the pace of ongoing work. The Minister reviewed progress at the Sabarmati High Speed Rail (HSR) Station, the HSR Multimodal Transport Hub, and the Rolling Stock Depot—three critical components of India's first bullet train corridor.

At the Sabarmati HSR Station, the terminal point of the corridor, Vaishnav was briefed on the station's architectural design, inspired by Mahatma Gandhi's iconic Charkha at the nearby Sabarmati Ashram.

Built over 45,000 square metres, the station will offer world-class facilities including waiting lounges, rest rooms, nursery, and retail spaces. Structural work up to the track level has been completed, along with 400 kilometres of pier work. Seventeen river bridges, five prestressed concrete bridges, and ten steel bridges have also been designed for seamless integration with existing railway, metro, and BRTS networks, ensuring efficient passenger connectivity.

The Minister also reviewed the Sabarmati HSR Multimodal Transport Hub, which has been conceived as a state-of-the-art facility connecting the HSR station with Sabarmati railway station, Metro, and BRTS. The building's frontage facade will feature a stainless-steel mural depicting the Dandi March, paying tribute to Sabarmati's historic legacy. The hub includes modern office spaces, hotel facilities, and a range of passenger amenities such as restaurants and retail outlets. With parking space for

about 1,200 vehicles, the complex incorporates extensive green infrastructure including solar panels, landscaped terraces, and energy-efficient systems.

Vaishnav also visited the Sabarmati HSR Rolling Stock Depot, the largest of the three depots being developed under the project. Spread across 84 hectares, the depot will serve as the maintenance and operations hub for the bullet train, supporting light and heavy maintenance of trainsets. Construction of inspection sheds, the administration building, and associated infrastructure is advancing rapidly. The depot will adhere to environmental sustainability norms, featuring rainwater harvesting, solar installations, and a zero-liquid-discharge treatment system.

Reviewing the broader progress of the Mumbai-Ahmedabad corridor, Vaishnav was informed that 325 kilometres of the 508-kilometre viaduct have been completed, along with 400 kilometres of pier work. Seventeen river bridges, five prestressed concrete bridges, and ten steel bridges have also been designed for seamless integration with existing railway, metro, and BRTS networks, ensuring efficient passenger connectivity.

Commending the engineering teams and contractors, the Railway Minister said the project remains firmly on schedule for timely completion. He noted that the bullet train corridor embodies Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision for world-class infrastructure and a Viksit Bharat by 2047, positioning India among nations with cutting-edge high-speed rail systems.

Chanakya Summit celebrates Global Ideas and Culture



TSN/New Delhi

The Chanakya Policy & Research Foundation (CPRF), New Delhi, successfully concluded the Chanakya Diplomatic Summit 2025 themed "Samridhi Bharat: Youth, Diplomacy & Global Leadership." The two-day event brought together over 200 participants from schools, universities, and research institutions across India, serving as a confluence of youth, diplomacy, and culture.

The summit featured keynote addresses, expert panels, Model United Nations (MUN) simulations, Youth Parliament sessions, and cultural performances, blending intellectual discourse with India's civilizational ethos. Pre-event training sessions, held in collaboration with the Chakra Dialogue Foundation, equipped participants with essential skills in diplomacy, negotiation, and policy analysis.

The inaugural session was graced by Dr. Sreeram Chaulia, Dean, Jindal School of International Affairs, as Chief Guest; Prof. S.D. Muni, Professor Emeritus, Jawaharlal Nehru University, as Guest of Honour; and Dr. Rajiv Ranjan, Associate Professor, Delhi University, as Moderator. Both keynote speakers emphasized youth-led diplomacy, inclusive growth, and India's global leadership rooted in cultural confidence and strategic foresight. An expert panel on "NextGen Diplomats: Empowering Indian Youth for Global Leadership" featured Mr. Sandeep Unnikrishnan, Col. Ashok Kaul (Retd.), and Dr. Preeti, moderated by Dr. Rajiv Ranjan. The discussion focused on leadership, negotiation, and actionable strategies for youth participation in diplomacy and policymaking.

On the second day, Lt. Gen. Vinod G. Khandare (Retd.), former Principal

Adviser, Ministry of Defence, presided as Chief Guest. He underscored the enduring relevance of Chanakya's Saptanga Siddhanti in modern statecraft, emphasizing that Samridhi Bharat must be complemented by a Surakshit Bharat. He also highlighted the need to reclaim indigenous strategic thought often overshadowed by Eurocentric narratives.

Mr. Firoz Bakht Ahmed, former Chancellor, Maulana Azad National Urdu University, and Mr. Kazem Samandari, Chairman, L'Opéra, addressed the gathering, emphasizing education, ethics, and culture as the key pillars of nation-building. Mr. Ahmed spoke about inclusive prosperity and education-driven empowerment, while Mr. Samandari highlighted culture's transformative role in promoting peace and cooperation through shared heritage.

Adding a perspective on holistic development, Amit Deshmukh, Founder of MMJP Global Wellness, said, "Youth need to follow nature's rules and seek the depth of knowledge. Real leadership is born from balance—when intellect aligns with inner harmony and respect for natural order." His words resonated deeply with the summit's theme of sustainable and ethical leadership for a prosperous India.

The Cultural Evening celebrated India's diversity and civilizational continuity through a Nukkad Natak titled "Ancient to Modern Chanakya," regional folk and Ladakhi dances, and yoga demonstrations, symbolizing the essence of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam—"the world is one family."

Mr. Jatin Sehrawat, Co-Founder & COO, and Ms. Tamanna Sharma, Co-Founder of CPMF, expressed gratitude to all speakers, partners, and participants.

Indel Money announces Sixth Public Issue of Secured, Redeemable NCDs

Mumbai

Indel Money Limited, a non-deposit taking non-banking finance company ("NBFC") in the gold loan sector, announced its sixth public issue of Secured NCDs of face value of ₹1,000 each. The Issue opens on October 13, 2025, and closes on October 28, 2025 (with an option of early closure in the case of early over-subscription).

Mr. Umesh Mohanan, Executive Director and CEO, Indel Money said, "We are very optimistic about raising money from market as investors had shown keen interest in our earlier public issues. They have strong confidence in our business model, growth prospects, prof-

itability, and governance culture. We are committed to strengthening our leadership in the gold loan segment by leveraging our core strengths and expanding our presence across the country. As we continue to grow our loan portfolio through a wider network of branches, our focus on enhancing profitability will remain intact. We see immense opportunities in rural and semi-urban markets where we aim to serve individuals and small businesses with reliable, transparent, and hassle-free financial solutions."

The Secured NCDs come with the face value of ₹1,000 each. The issue includes a Base Issue Size for an amount of up to ₹150

crore with an option to reinvest oversubscription up to ₹150 crore, aggregating up to ₹300 crore. The Lead Managers to the Issue are InCred Capital Financial Services Limited and Trust Investment Advisors Private Limited along with Lead Brokers, Trust and Motilal Oswal.

The funds raised through this issue will be used for the purpose of onward lending, financing, and for repayment/prepayment of principal and interest on borrowings of the Company (at least 75%) and general corporate purposes* (a maximum up to 25%).

The Net Proceeds will be first utilized towards the Objects mentioned above. The balance is pro-

posed to be utilized for general corporate purposes, subject to such utilization not exceeding 25% of the gross proceeds, in compliance with the SEBI NCS Regulations.

Indel Money Limited has a total Assets Under Management (AUM) of ₹2,690 crore as on June 30, 2025. Gold Loans constitute up to 91.82% of the loan portfolio. As on September 30, 2025, the NBFC has a network of 366 branches spread across the states of Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Delhi, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Andaman and Nicobar, Gujarat, Rajasthan and the Union territory of Puducherry.

FATF highlights the risks and challenges with unregistered Foreign Crypto Players

New Delhi

The Financial Action Task Force (FATF) has just released its sixth targeted review on how the world is implementing global standards for virtual assets. It expressed concern over ongoing hurdles that jurisdictions are facing in tackling risks from offshore crypto players—particularly the difficulty many have in pinpointing the natural persons or legal entities behind those activities. FATF stands as the world's top intergovernmental body tasked with establishing standards to fight money laundering, terrorist financing, and proliferation financing (the funding of weapons of mass destruction). That's why its reports serve as vital guidance for countries everywhere.

Travel Rule Implementation Shows Mixed Progress

The Crypto Travel Rule requires virtual asset service providers (crypto players) like exchanges, custodial solutions, and financial service providers to identify and share the origins and destinations of crypto transactions above a specific threshold. The rule was established by the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) in 2019 and is intended to tackle money



laundering and other illicit activities.

According to the report, 73% of jurisdictions have now enacted laws to bring the Travel Rule into play for crypto players, but actual enforcement is still very limited. Out of the 85 jurisdictions that have this legislation on the books, just 35 have followed through with any formal enforcement steps, highlighting a clear divide between getting policies in place and making them work in practice. FATF stressed that the rule's real impact hinges on steady enforcement worldwide, and to help out, they've put out a guide called "Best Practices in Travel Rule Su-

pervision" for jurisdictions to assist jurisdictions in operationalizing their frameworks.

India's Actions to Counter the Influence of Offshore Players

In March 2023, the Government of India designated crypto players as reporting entities under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act and issued a set of detailed guidelines. However, no offshore player had opted to register under the same. This was in clear contrast to domestic companies which went ahead and registered under the PMLA guidelines with FIU-India.

As there was no interest from offshore players, Ministry of Finance took en-

forcement action in December 2023 wherein they sent notices to offshore exchanges and ultimately had to block 19 entities due to non-compliance. A few days back FIU-India took a similar action issuing non-compliance notices to 25 offshore crypto players. These include Singapore-based CoinW, UK-registered BTCC, Hong Kong's Changelly, and US-based Paxful. Other prominent exchanges facing notices include Cambodia's Huione Group, Curaçao-based BC Game, and Seychelles-registered BitMex. However, what has clearly been on display is that foreign players would not comply until enforcement action is taken.

The Crypto Travel Rule requires virtual asset service providers (crypto players) like exchanges, custodial solutions, and financial service providers to identify and share the origins and destinations of crypto transactions above a specific threshold.

Perils of Offshore Exchanges

The dangers of unregistered offshore or foreign players running their operations without following the laws of the land set a dangerous precedent. It not only threatens to affect the financial security of the citizens but more importantly is affecting national security also. Therefore, it is becoming increasingly necessary that a comprehensive plan should be devised by Government of India that either forces them to comply to the laws of the land or to shut shop and cease their operations in India.

Other countries across the globe are also taking actions against this menace. Some like India are blocking such exchanges while others have even taken criminal action against such players. Many countries now require foreign players to physically register in their jurisdiction. Another method being followed by countries is to reduce the taxation requirement for domestic exchanges while increasing tax on foreign crypto players.

Way Ahead

The FATF targeted reports are milestones for global ecosystem to both appreciate the progress made while reminding everyone of the shortcomings that still exist. India's enforcement actions have also been recognized by global bodies in the past. However, in the wake of such rapid technological changes, Government of India should work towards finding a solution that is more real time and speedier. Along with such necessary enforcement action, government should also study global approaches and implement them in India. Without a comprehensive plan to tackle the issue of unregistered foreign crypto players, we are risking the wealth of our citizens.

Sitharaman offers prayers at Ram temple in Ayodhya with family

Ayodhya (UP)
Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Thursday offered prayers at the Ram temple in Ayodhya along with her family, officials said.

Sitharaman, who arrived in Ayodhya on Wednesday for a two-day visit, performed 'aarti' of Ram Lalla and paid obeisance at the Ram Darbar and the shrine of Goddess Durga.

She also performed an 'abhishek' of Lord Shiva at the Kubera Tila within the temple premises, officials of the Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra Trust said.

Champani Lal, the trust's general secretary, accompanied the finance minister and briefed her about the various aspects of the temple complex.

The Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra Trust welcomed the finance minister with flowers.

Manipur
31 senior police officers transferred given additional charges

Imphal
Thirty senior police officers, including 16 IPS officers, in Manipur were transferred and given additional charges, an official notification said on Thursday.

The order issued by the Department of Personnel and Administrative Reforms said that IPS officer Ningshen Worgam, who is the Inspector General (Narcotics and Border Affairs), has been given additional charge as IGP (Zone 2).

Deputy Inspector General (Range 2) Jogeshwar Haobijam has been posted as DIG (Armed Police-1) in place of Heroji Meetei, who has been posted as DIG (Armed Police-2).

IPS officer M Pradip Singh, who was DIG (Range 1) and DIG (Armed Police 2), has been posted as DIG (Range 2) in addition to DIG (Intelligence).

IPS officer Goulungmuon Singit, who was DIG (Range 4), has been given new charge of DIG (CID/CB), NAB and cybercrime.

Agra DM orders strict adherence to guidelines for Potato seed distribution

Akash Jain
Agra

A meeting regarding the distribution of potato seeds was held under the chairmanship of District Magistrate Arvind Malappa Bangari in the Collectorate Auditorium. The meeting focused on the allocation and systematic distribution of 4,300 quintals of departmental potato seeds provided by the Directorate of Horticulture and Food Processing, Uttar Pradesh, Lucknow, for farmers across the district.

Presiding over the session, the District Magistrate directed that the distribution must strictly follow departmental guidelines and be carried out only on a cash payment basis. He emphasized transparency and fairness in the process to ensure that the maximum number of farmers benefit from the government initiative.

BSP will fight 2027 UP election solo: Mayawati at Lucknow rally

Lucknow

Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) chief Mayawati on Thursday said her party would contest the next Uttar Pradesh Assembly elections on its own and ruled out any alliances.

Addressing a rally in Lucknow, Mayawati said that alliances in the past had only helped partner parties, while the BSP's own vote base did not receive reciprocal support.

"Based on our experience so far, I want to make it clear that whenever our party has contested Assembly elections in alliance — especially here in Uttar Pradesh — we have not benefited in any significant way," she said.

"Our party's votes get transferred one-sidedly to the alliance partner, but because of their casteist mindset, upper castes do not transfer to BSP candidates. This is the reality. As a result, our candidates win fewer seats, and our overall vote share declines," the BSP chief said.

Mayawati also pointed



Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) chief Mayawati

out that coalition governments involving the BSP never lasted their full term. "Whenever we have formed a coalition government (in UP), it has collapsed before completing its tenure. When we contest elections through alliances, our vote percentage falls, and when we form the government through

alliances, it falls before its time," she said.

Citing historical examples, Mayawati reminded the gathering of past alliances and their outcomes.

"In 1993, when the BSP allied with the Samajwadi Party to contest the assembly elections, we won only 67 seats. Again, in 1996, when we

formed an alliance with the Congress, we won just 67 seats — the same number as before," she said.

"The party's fortunes improved when it decided to go solo in 2002.

"In 2002, when we fought the Assembly elections alone, the BSP won around 100 seats, including two in-

dependent candidates who could not get the party symbol in time. That performance greatly boosted the morale of our party workers," Mayawati said.

The BSP chief said that when the party again fought alone in 2007, it achieved historic success.

"In 2007, when we again contested the Uttar Pradesh Assembly election alone, we won over 200 seats and formed a full-majority government on our own for the first time. Our government completed its full five-year term and carried out several historic works for the welfare of all sections of society," Mayawati said.

She argued that alliances not only fail to strengthen the BSP but also hinder inclusive development. "It weakens our movement and our mission," she said.

The rally, organised to mark the death anniversary of BSP founder Kanshi Ram, drew lakhs of supporters from across UP.

CM Adityanath to inaugurate 'Swadeshi Melas' in Gorakhpur on October 10

Lucknow

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath is set to inaugurate the Swadeshi Melas being held across the state from Gorakhpur on October 10, officials said.

According to a statement, the fair aims to promote local products, strengthen small industries, and spread the message of "Vocal for Local" among the people.

Although the Swadeshi Melas began informally in several districts on Thursday, their official launch will take place with the chief minister's inauguration.

The ten-day fairs are being organised at strategically chosen, commercially important locations in various cities to ensure easy public access and maximum participation.

Notably, instructions were issued to organise Swadeshi Melas at the district level under the Uttar Pradesh International Trade Show 2025. The district's minister-in-charge and other public representatives



have been mandatorily invited to participate.

The deputy commissioner of each district will serve as the nodal officer, overseeing all arrangements under the supervision of the district magistrate to ensure smooth, dignified, and quality organisation of the events.

Free stalls have been allocated to the Industries Department, Khadi and Village Industries Board, Mati Kala Board, Handloom and Textiles Department, Silk Department, Rural Livelihood Mission, CM Yuva One District One Product (ODOP), Vishwakarma Shramik Samman Yojana, Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP), Chief Minister's Self-Employment Scheme — beneficiaries, funded units, self-help groups, and other local producers.

Akhilesh hits back at Mayawati over BJP praise vows statue of Kanshi Ram

Lucknow

Samajwadi Party president Akhilesh Yadav on Thursday took a dig at Bahujan Samaj Party chief Mayawati after she praised the BJP government for maintaining memorials of Dalit icons, saying those who are "grateful to their oppressors" must have some "internal understanding" with them.

Earlier in the day, Mayawati held a rally in Lucknow where she said the SP remembers the PDA — the alliance of backward classes (Pichhda), Dalits and minorities (Alpsankhyak) — only when it is out of power. Thursday marked the 19th death anniversary of BSP founder Kanshi Ram.

She also thanked the Yogi Adityanath government for ensuring the upkeep of memorials built under her regime, saying, "I wrote a letter to the chief minister requesting that the ticket money collected from visitors be used for maintenance. The BJP government assured us that this money would not be diverted else-



Akhilesh Yadav

where but would be used only for upkeep, and for this, our party is thankful to them."

Yadav said, "Because their (BJP-BSP) internal collision continues, that is why they are grateful to their oppressors." "If she is grateful to those who oppress people, what can I say about it? The government that commits atrocities is the one she is now thankful to. If this is not collusion, then what is it?" he added.

The BSP supremo also accused the SP of being "two-faced" and co-opting Dalit icons for political gain.

Himachal Govt plotting to eliminate HPBOSE and SPU: Rakesh Jamwal

Rajan Panchhi
Mandi

BJP chief spokesperson and Mandi MLA Rakesh Jamwal has accused the Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu-led Congress government of attempting to systematically dismantle two key educational institutions in the state — the Himachal Pradesh Board of School Education (HPBOSE) and Sardar Patel University (SPU).

Addressing a press conference at the Raj Mahal Hotel in Mandi on Thursday, Jamwal said the state government "with a hidden agenda" to weaken and ultimately eliminate the 55-year-old HPBOSE and SPU since it came to power.

He pointed out that since assuming office, the Sukhu government has identified nearly 1,000 schools, colleges, and other institutions that were established during the previous BJP regime. "Now, under the pretext of aligning with the CBSE, the government seems to be pushing the Himachal Pradesh Board of School



Mandi MLA Rakesh Jamwal

Education towards closure," Jamwal alleged.

Referring to the state government's recent announcement, Jamwal said that 100 senior secondary schools in Himachal Pradesh will be integrated with the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE). "The government plans to create clusters of boys' and girls' schools, taking this figure beyond 100," he said, warning that the move could spell the beginning of the end for the state's independent education board.

Jamwal emphasized

among students. "This selective implementation will create an inferiority complex among students from HPBOSE schools," he added.

Jamwal further stated that schools opting for CBSE affiliation will have to pay additional fees, creating a financial burden on institutions and parents. "Separate staff will be required for CBSE-affiliated schools, and this will also affect the services and benefits of retired HPBOSE employees," he warned.

Accusing the government of undermining state institutions for political motives, Jamwal said the BJP would not remain silent. "If the Himachal Pradesh School Education Board and Sardar Patel University are closed, we will take to the streets. Ministers and the Chief Minister himself will face public protests," he declared.

He concluded by urging the government to withdraw any move aimed at sidelining HPBOSE and SPU, both of which, he said, "represent the state's educational identity and legacy."

100 schools in Himachal to switch to CBSE curriculum from next academic session: CM Sukhu

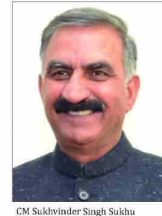
Shimla

About 100 schools across the state will have the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) curriculum from the next academic session, Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu said on Thursday.

Chairing a review meeting of the education department here, he directed the departmental officers to complete all preparations within the prescribed time frame and said that the CBSE-pattern schools would have a distinct colour scheme and students attending these schools would wear uniforms of a different colour.

According to the government, the step to introduce the CBSE curriculum is being taken to elevate education standards in the state, with the plan envisaged to be rolled out in a phased manner.

In the first phase, about 100 schools will be



CM Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu

covered. These schools will also be equipped with smart classrooms, and arrangements will be made to provide nutritious meals to students in the school mess, he said in a statement.

The officials of the Education department informed the chief minister that 86 schools which meet the CBSE standards have already been identified, following which he instructed the officials to ensure the remaining schools meet the required criteria soon.

Mayawati denies buzz over Azam Khan joining BSP



Lucknow

Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) chief Mayawati on Thursday said she does not know anyone on the sly and prefers meeting people openly, a remark that was ostensibly aimed at negating the buzz about the possibility of arch rival Samajwadi Party's most prominent Muslim face Azam Khan joining her party.

Though the suspense over Khan's next political move was over on Wednesday itself, with Khan, out on bail after 23 months in jail, warmly welcoming his party chief Akhilesh Yadav at his Rampur home, this was the first time Mayawati touched on the subject, though in a veiled manner.

"Since last month, the rumour about a senior leader from another party joining the BSP has been spread. It was also said that the said leader had already met the BSP chief at Delhi and Lucknow. But as of now, I have no knowledge about any such meeting," Mayawati said during her impressive Lucknow rally on Thursday. "I never meet anyone on the sly; whenever I have to meet anyone, I do so openly," she said as her supporters cheered her on.

Azam's rumoured BSP switch had gained traction on social media as it had overlapped with developments that suggested Khan was unhappy with the SP leadership for not doing enough for him and his beleaguered family during his incarceration.

In June, when Khan was in jail, Akhilesh Yadav had cited "courts and divine intervention" among the options left before the veteran leader to get justice after Azam's wife and former MP Tazeen Fatima had said no one else except "God" was her family's only hope, fuelling fresh rumours.

UK unveils biggest university campus footprint during Starmer's India visit

London: The UK is set to become the country with the biggest higher education footprint in India with the confirmation of nine new British university campuses during Prime Minister Keir Starmer's visit to Mumbai on Thursday.

Starmer announced the University of Lancaster and University of Surrey as the latest to get approval to open new campuses after the University of Southampton campus opened in Gurugram recently.

The University of York, University of Aberdeen, University of Bristol, University of Liverpool, Queen's University Belfast and the University of Coventry are next in line to set up Indian campuses starting next year.

"Thanks to the new campuses announced today, the UK is set to become the country with the biggest higher education footprint in India – in a major boost for the UK's reputation abroad," a Downing Street statement said.

According to the UK government, the higher education sector is set to bring in a 50 million pounds boost to the British economy as part of this India expansion.

"I'm delighted that more Indian students will be able to benefit from a world-class British education in the near future – strengthening the ties between our two countries while pumping millions back into our economy and sup-

BUSINESS

Apollo Tyres launches app to provide medical support to truck drivers



Staff Writer
New Delhi:

Apollo Tyres proudly celebrated 25 years of its landmark Healthcare Programme, launched in 2000 to improve the health and well-being of the trucking community. The event was graced by Rajeev Kumar Sinha, Chief Manufacturing Officer and Rajesh Dahiya, Vice President, Commercial (India, SAARC, Southeast Asia) of Apollo Tyres Ltd, and Kulran Singh Atwal, Former President, All India Motor Transport Congress.

The event marked the release of the white paper "Truckers – The Backbone of Our Supply Chain," which highlights key aspects of truckers' lives – their challenges,

China says resumption of direct flights with India positive move to improve ties

Beijing: China on Thursday described the resumption of direct flights with India after a five-year hiatus as a positive step, saying it demonstrated that both countries are "faithfully acting" on the understandings reached between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and President Xi Jinping to strengthen bilateral ties.

Speaking at a media briefing, the first since the Chinese Foreign Ministry resumed its regular schedule following the eight-day national holidays, spokesperson Guo Jiakun said the flights would resume by the end of October.

India had announced on October 2 that direct flights to China would resume from October 26.

"This is the latest move that demonstrates how the two sides faithfully act on the important common understandings reached between President Xi Jinping and



China calls resumption of direct flights with India a positive step

Prime Minister Narendra Modi in Tianjin on August 31," Guo said in response to a question.

It's also an active move that facilitates the friendly exchanges of over 2.8 billion Chinese and Indian people, he said.

Modi and Xi had met on the sidelines of the Shanghai Cooperation

Organisation (SCO) summit in Tianjin and welcomed the positive momentum and steady progress in bilateral relations since their last meeting at Kazan, Russia, in October 2024.

"China stands ready to work with India to view and handle bilateral relations from a strategic

and long-term perspective, be friends enjoying good-neighbourliness and partners helping each other succeed, and realise a cooperative pas de deux of the dragon and the elephant so as to deliver more tangibly for the two peoples and make due contributions to upholding peace and

"faithfully acting" on the understandings reached between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and President Xi Jinping to strengthen bilateral ties.

prosperity in Asia and beyond," he said.

Chinese airlines such as Air China, which previously operated flights between the two countries, have not yet announced formal plans for resumption.

Indian carrier IndiGo and China Eastern will be the first two airlines to resume direct flights between the two countries, people familiar with the development had said. IndiGo said in a recent statement that it plans to operate daily flights from Kolkata to Guangzhou from October 26.

"Subject to regulatory approvals, IndiGo will also introduce direct flights between Delhi and Guangzhou shortly," it said.

7 TTP terrorists killed in northwest Pakistan



Peshawar:

At least seven terrorists affiliated with the banned terror group TTP were killed in an intelligence-based operation in Pakistan's restive Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, the military said on Thursday.

An army Major was also killed during the operation on Wednesday, the military's media wing said in a statement.

The security forces conducted the operation in the general area of Daraban, Dera Ismail Khan district, on the reported presence of terrorists belonging to "Fitna al-Khawarij", the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) said.

The Pakistan government last year notified the banned Tehreek-e-Taliban Pa-

kistan (TTP) as "Fitna al-Khawarij", a reference to a group in earlier Islamic history which was involved in violence.

Seven terrorists affiliated with the outlawed group "were sent to hell", the statement said.

During the intense exchange of fire, an army Major was also killed, it added.

Weapons and ammunition were recovered from the killed militants, who remained actively involved in numerous terrorist activities against the security forces and law enforcement agencies, as well as the killing of innocent civilians.

A sanitisation operation is being conducted to eliminate any other terrorists found in the area.

'Gen Z' protesters arrested in Nepal for demanding ousted PM Oli's arrest

Kathmandu: Nepal Police on Thursday arrested 18 activists belonging to the 'Gen Z' group, including Dr Nicholas Bhusal, who were protesting at Maitighar here demanding the arrest of ousted prime minister K P Sharma Oli and then home minister Ramesh Lekhak.

The protest by a faction of the Gen Z group



marked the first month of the protests against

corruption and a government ban on social media sites.

Thousands of youths under the banner of Gen Z group staged anti-government protests in Kathmandu on September 8 and 9 in which 76 people were killed.

Bhusal and fellow demonstrator Surendra Gharti were taken into custody as they staged protests amidst tight se-

curity by riot policemen. Authorities had tightened security in and around Maitighar ahead of the protests.

The protesters said they staged the demonstration because the government had failed to meet the Gen Z's demands despite the formation of the caretaker government led by Shishila Karki.

Their major demands

were the arrests of Oli and Lekhak, whom they held responsible for the mass killing.

The government has formed a three-member probe commission headed by former justice Gauri Bahadur Karki to investigate into the excessive use of force to crush the Gen Z movement.

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.

PM Modi invites global businesses to participate in India's growth story

Mumbai: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday invited global businesses to participate in India's growth story, which is the fastest-growing large economy in the world.

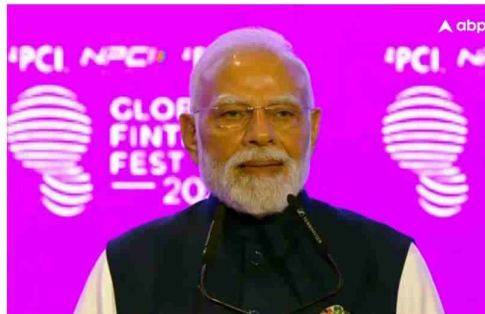
Addressing Global Fintech Fest 2025 here, Modi emphasised that technology is not just a matter of convenience, but a means of equality.

"This inclusive approach has transformed our banking system. Earlier, it was a privilege, but digital technology has turned it into a tool of empowerment.

Today, digital payment is a part of everyday life. The credit for this goes to the JAM Trinity (Jan Dhan, Aadhaar and Mobile)," he said.

India's fintech prowess is getting global recognition, he said, adding India is not only sharing technology with other countries but also helping them develop it.

"I invite all coun-



tries, including the UK, to forge partnerships with India. All global investors are welcome to participate in India's growth story.

"We have to create such a fintech world where technology, people and planet can all prosper. The goal of innovation should not be just growth but also goodness, and finance

not just means numbers but human progress," he said.

Appreciating the efforts of India's fintech community, he said, "Our indigenous solutions are gaining global relevance. Be it QR networks, open commerce, or open finance frameworks, our startup growth is being recognised across the world."

In the first six months of this year, India has ranked among the top three most funded fintech ecosystems globally, he said.

"I am happy that India's digital stack is giving birth to a new open ecosystem. The Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC) is proving to be a boon for small shopkeepers and

MSMEs, helping them reach new markets," he said.

Similarly, he said, the Open Credit Enablement Network (OCEN) has made access to credit easier for small entrepreneurs.

What India is doing is a ray of hope, especially for the countries of the Global South, he said, adding that India wants to increase digital cooperation and digital partnership in the world through its digital innovation.

"Therefore, we are sharing both our experience and open source platform for a global public good," he said.

Speaking about Artificial Intelligence (AI), he said, there is a debate going on in the world regarding trust and safety rules for AI today.

However, he said, India has already built a trust layer for this, and India's AI Mission has the capability to handle both data and privacy issues.

Roy Kurian takes charge as president at Revolt Motors



Staff Writer
New Delhi:

Revolt Motors, India's No.1 electric motorcycle brand has announced the appointment of Mr. Roy Kurian as President. With over three decades of proven leadership across automotive and electric mobility sectors, Mr. Kurian brings transformational expertise to drive Revolt's next phase of scale and innovation.

A seasoned business leader with 31 years of experience, Mr. Kurian has been instrumental in building iconic brands, steering corporate transformations, and delivering sustainable growth. He has held senior leadership roles at Montra Electric, Greaves Electric Mobility (Ampere), Baxi Mobility, and Torq Motors, contributing significantly to EV product development, network expansion, and brand building.

A major highlight of his career was his eight-year tenure at Yamaha Motor India as Senior Vice President – Sales & Marketing. During this period, he spearheaded a remarkable turnaround, growing sales from 2 lakh units in 2010 to over 1 million units by 2016. This milestone not only revitalized Yamaha's brand presence but also positioned it as a formidable player in the highly competitive Indian motorcycle market.

VIBWEA pushes for equal opportunities & accessibility in Banks

TSN/New Delhi: The Visually Impaired Bank Employees Welfare Association (VIBWEA), the first registered body representing blind and low-vision employees in India's banking sector, has wrapped up a series of crucial meetings with senior officials from the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (MSJE), the Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT), and the Ministry of Finance. The discussions, held on October 6 and 7, focused on addressing systemic gaps in the im-



plementation of government guidelines for employees with disabilities in Public Sector Banks (PSBs) and Regional Rural Banks (RRBs). During these meet-

ings, VIBWEA formally submitted its comprehensive national survey report titled "The Working Conditions of the Visually Impaired in Indian Public Sec-

tor Banks and Regional Rural Banks: Review of Implementation of Government Guidelines and Way Ahead (VIBWEA 2025)." The report, based on an extensive

online survey, outlines the challenges faced by visually impaired employees, including widespread non-compliance with accessibility norms and limited career advancement opportunities.

The association urged the ministries to act swiftly on the report's recommendations. Among the key areas highlighted were the establishment of a periodic review mechanism to track implementation of disability-related circulars, enforcement of the 1% reservation in

promotions for Persons with Disabilities (PwD), and removal of restrictive clauses such as mandatory "operation postings" that hinder promotion prospects for visually impaired staff.

VIBWEA also sought exemption of blind employees from routine transfers, mandatory accessibility in both digital platforms and physical infrastructure of banks, and the regular supply and maintenance of assistive technologies such as screen readers and magnifiers. The association empha-

sized the importance of institutionalizing human assistance support for official travel and duties. Another major demand was the revision of the Special Conveyance Allowance to reflect the actual commuting costs incurred by visually impaired employees.

Test schedule should not be touched": Starc supports BBL windows with one condition

Melbourne:

Australia pacer Mitchell Starc, who signed with Sydney Sixers for the upcoming Big Bash League (BBL) for the first time in 11 years, said that the Test cricket schedule "should not be touched", terming the format as the "pinnacle".

On Thursday, the Sixers confirmed Starc's signing for the 15th edition of the BBL, with the bowler having announced his T20 retirement recently just months ahead of the ICC T20 World Cup in India and Sri Lanka next year. For over a decade, Cricket Australia (CA) has struggled to ensure the availability of its international stars for the competition, as they are mostly busy with international commitments. CA is considering selling the BBL teams and making the competition private, which would lead to skyrocketing salaries and attract the best Aussie internationals, overseas and domestic talent.

Earlier this year, CA chair Mike Baird emphasised how "critical" it was to ensure that a January window was created to have Australia's top cricketers available for the BBL. Under the proposed revamped window, the Aussie men's team would not be playing any international matches after the Sydney Cricket Ground (SCG) New Year's match, making sure that premium Aussie talent like Steve Smith, Pat Cummins, Josh Hazlewood, among others, stay available for the remainder of the tournament.

I'd love to be in selection meeting to know the reason: Ashwin on Harshit Rana's

Chennai:

Former Indian cricketer Ravichandran Ashwin questioned pacer Harshit Rana's selection across all formats, saying that he is not sure about his batting ability at number eight. While questioning the pacer's all-format inclusion for Team India, Ashwin did acknowledge that he has got some "X-Factor" in him.

Ashwin was speaking on his YouTube channel. Rana has been selected for the white-ball series tour to Australia starting from October 19 onwards in both the ODI and T20I squads. Across all formats so far, Rana has featured in 10 matches since last year, taking 19 wickets at an average of 27.47 and no four/five-wicket hauls to his name. While Rana is a tall pacer who hits the deck really hard and can pick crucial wickets, he also has a tendency to concede too many runs.

In his video, Ashwin said that he would love to attend a selection meeting to understand why he was being selected and raised questions about his batting at number eight, despite having a first-class century to his name and being capable of hitting sixes. He also pointed out the reason why he has been picked up for a while, which could be traced back to the 2024 Indian Premier League (IPL) final.

Smriti Mandhana shatters 28-year-old record, carves her name in history

Visakhapatnam:

India's vice-captain Smriti Mandhana eclipsed former Australia skipper Belinda Clark and shattered the 28-year-old record for most runs in a calendar year in Women's ODIs. During India's third match of the ongoing Women's World Cup against South Africa in Visakhapatnam on Friday, the stylish opener conjured 23(32) to go past Clark's record. She broke the shackles on the first ball of the eighth over by stepping out of the crease to dispatch Ayabonga Khaka's full-length delivery past the boundary rope for a towering maximum and carved her name in history.

Mandhana now sits at the summit with 982 runs in 17 matches at 57.76 while striking at 112.22, laced with four centuries and three fifties. Clark remained at the pinnacle for a staggering 28 years after garnering 970 runs in 16 matches at 80.83 in 1997.

Moments after the



Smriti Mandhana breaks 28-year-old record, creates history

powerplay ended, Mandhana's exploits came to a bitter end, and she perished on Nonkululeko Mlaba's second delivery of the match in the 11th over. She tried to loft the ball with the spin, but failed to generate enough power and holed it out to Sune Luus.

Despite making his

debut, the 29-year-old's form at the ongoing showpiece event on home turf is turning out to be a cause of concern for India. In three appearances, Mandhana has managed just 54 runs at an underwhelming average of 18.00. During the buildup of the marquee event, the

flamboyant southpaw was in a league of her own.

In the third ODI against Australia at the Arun Jaitley Stadium, Mandhana cantered to a century in 50 deliveries to set a new record for the fastest hundred by an Indian in the 50-over format during the

final fixture of the three-match series.

During India's pursuit of the 413-run target, Mandhana engineered a batting masterclass and bettered Mooney's feat after storming to the landmark moment in 50 deliveries. The rollicking display is the fastest by an Indian and, overall, the second-fastest after Australia opener Meg Lanning, who holds the top spot with a 45-ball top against New Zealand in 2012.

The sizzling performance was Mandhana's fourth ton in the ongoing calendar year, and this is the second time she has orchestrated it after her exploits last year. Mandhana has 13 ODI centuries, the joint second-highest alongside New Zealand's Suzie Bates and two shy of Lanning's tally of 15.

In the second ODI, she clobbered 117 in 91 deliveries, which laid the platform for India's imposing 402-run win. It is the second time she has thwacked back-to-back centuries, with the first instance occurring in

Rashid Khan becomes first Afghanistan bowler to complete 200 ODI wickets



Abu Dhabi:

Afghanistan star spinner Rashid Khan made history, becoming the first-ever bowler from his team to complete 200 ODI wickets.

The Afghan spin wizard made this milestone during his side's first ODI against Bangladesh in Abu Dhabi, taking three wickets for 38 runs in his 10 overs. He got the wickets of skipper Mehidy Hasan Miraz, the skipper, Jaker Ali and Nurul Hasan.

In 115 ODIs, Rashid has now taken 200 wickets in 107 innings at an average of 20.28 and an economy rate of 4.23. His best bowling figures are 7/18. His career figures also include six four-wicket hauls and five five-wicket hauls. Second is veteran all-rounder Mohammad Nabi (176 wickets in 174 matches) and Dawlat Zadran at third (115 wickets in 82 matches).

Coming to the match, Bangladesh won the toss and opted to bat first. Bangladesh were tottering at 53/3 but a 101-run fourth-wicket stand between Towhid Hridoy (56 in 85 balls, with a four and three sixes) and Mehidy (60 in balls, with a four and six) stabilised the innings.

However, Hridoy's run out and Rashid's three quick wickets put Bangladesh on the back foot yet again and finished at 221 runs with seven balls to spare.

Besides Rashid, Azmatullah Omarzai (3/40), Allah Ghaznafar (2/55) and Nangayala Khartoe (1/32) were also amongst wicket-takers.

During the run-chase of 222 runs, Afghanistan had a steady start with Rahmattullah Gurbaz and Ibrahim Zadran (23 in 25 balls, with four boundaries) putting a 52-run stand for the first wicket.

Want to give Nitish Reddy as much game time, especially in India to help him: Gill

New Delhi:

Ahead of the second Test against West Indies, Indian Test skipper Shubman Gill said that young all-rounder Nitish Kumar Reddy has a "lot of potential and ability" in him and the team management wants to give him as much game time as possible, especially at home for his development following a break-out tour to Australia for the Border-Gavaskar Trophy.

The second Test between India and the West Indies will take place at the Arun Jaitley Stadium from Friday onwards. One of the key issues heading into the contest is the game time 22-year-old Nitish will get. In the first Test, Nitish did not get to bat and got only four overs with the ball, conceding 16 runs.

During his debut series in Australia in Tests, NKR impressed one and all with his ability to take down the very best bowlers from ball one and play his attacking cricket unflinchingly, scoring 298 runs in nine innings at an average of 37.25, with a 114 during the Boxing Day Test being his crown jewel. He emerged as India's second-highest run-getter in the series and also chipped in with five wickets throughout the series in 44 overs he got to bowl.

On tour to England,



Gill aims to give Nitish Reddy more game time on home soil

Nitish scored 45 runs in four innings, with a best score of 30 and secured three wickets in two matches.

Speaking about giving Nitish some game time, Gill said during the pre-match presser, "There have been conversations about that. We suffer a shortage of third-fourth seamers on tracks assisting pacers away from home. It would be unfair if we only play him overseas. Especially, we are not going to play in overseas conditions much over the next one and a half years, and it would mean not giving him many chances (if he only plays overseas). To be able to back a guy who can bowl 10-15 overs for us in a day and can bat as well. We saw how he batted in Australia, so there is definitely a lot of ability and a lot of potential in him."

"So, we want to give

him as much game time, especially in India and want to help him. And according to the match and according to the situation where we feel he can bat up the order or down the order, we will keep that in mind," he added.

Gill said that while giving game time to Nitish is important, so is the need to play the "best playing XI" for the valuable points that would help India land an ICC World Test Championship final qualification after missing out last time and ending runners-up twice.

The skipper was also all praises for veteran Ravindra Jadeja, terming the all-rounder's presence a "huge advantage". During the last Test, Jadeja secured the 'Player of the Match' honours with a century and a four-wicket haul to his name.

I want to help West Indies get back to number one: Jayden Seales

New Delhi:

West Indies tearaway Jayden Seales, who relishes the opportunity of being a leader and comes from a cricketing family, wants to restore the pride and glory of the Caribbean side by putting them at the top of the chart.

The West Indies were once considered a cricketing juggernaut, with legends such as Vivian Richards, Andy Roberts, Michael Holding, Joel Garner, and Colin Croft, among many others, dominating the world of cricket. However, towards the end of the last decade, the Men in Maroon have lost their pride, chasing lost golden days, and the current skipper, Roston Chase, has become the inheritor of the lost glory.

Their woes reflect in the current results, which saw the 2015 T20 World Cup championship played by Nepal in a 2-1 T20I series defeat. The West Indies endured a home series whitewash against Australia earlier this year and last week lost the opening Test in India in an innings and 140 runs.

With the onus on the current players to carry the West Indies out of the peculiar situation, Seales said that the



Jayden Seales vows to bring West Indies back to the top

entire team views the challenge and derives motivation from it. On a personal note, Seales strives to become the number one player and carry his team to the pinnacle of world cricket.

"Well, yeah, we are the current players. So it's up to us to try to get the West Indies back to where we were. And there is pressure, obviously. There's always pressure when they put on the West Indies clothes. However, it's good pressure because this is what we want to do, and this is why we come out on the field to play and perform well for the country and the region. So we take that as motivation," Seales said.

"I come from a crick-

rhythm.

"Yeah, I think every time a leadership role is placed on me, whether it be in the test team or the white ball team, I tend to bowl a lot better. I tend to bring out my best attributes as a leader. So it helped me a lot to be consistent and to be more focused in the game, and help the other bowlers to get into their work and hit their straps," Seales said.

On Wednesday, West Indies icons Vivian Richards, Brian Lara, and Richie Richardson met with the current crop of players ahead of the second Test against India in the national capital. Seales split the beans about the words of motivation that they received from the current lot of players before locking horns with the hosts on Friday at the Arun Jaitley Stadium.

"They just said to keep the fight. We have a long history of West Indies cricket being on top for such a long time. So they basically just want us to keep fighting and keep believing in ourselves. I mean, if we don't believe, no one would. So it's for us as a group to believe in ourselves and keep performing hard, and just keep trying our best to

Leading Team India a "Big responsibility, says Shubman Gill

New Delhi:

Ahead of his side's second Test match against the West Indies, Indian Test skipper Shubman Gill termed the task of leading Team India as a "big responsibility" and "looking forward" to winning as many games as possible for his team.

He also weighed in on the challenges of the new role and pointed out the "mental fatigue" from playing around the year.

The second Test between India and the West Indies will take place from Friday onwards at Delhi's Arun Jaitley Stadium. India is 1-0 up in the series. After India's first Test win in Ahmedabad, shockwaves were sent to the cricketing world by chief



selector Ajit Agarkar, who confirmed that Gill has been appointed as ODI captain for India's tour of Australia onwards, replacing Rohit, who had won India back-to-back ICC titles, the T20 World Cup and ICC Champions Trophy within less than a year while championing a fearless brand of cricket.

Speaking during the

pre-match presser, Gill said, "Yes, it was announced in the middle of a test match, but I got to know a little before that (of ODI captaincy). It obviously is a big responsibility and an even bigger honour. I am extremely excited to lead my country in that format. Anyway, the last few months have been very exciting for me."

Marnus Labuschagne scores his third ton for Queensland

Brisbane:

Australia's batter Marnus Labuschagne continued his scorching run of form in domestic cricket following the ODI snub, smashing his second century of the One Day Cup against Tasmania on Thursday.

During the match against Tasmania, Labuschagne, captaining the Queensland side, smashed a 91-ball 105, with eight fours and two sixes, with a strike rate of over 115.

It was his century, and quality knock from Jack Clayton (64 in 51 balls, with seven fours and a six) and Matt Renshaw



Labuschagne slams third century for Queensland

(58 in 35 balls, with three fours and two sixes) took his side to 311 runs, which Tasmania

chased down to fiery knocks of Caleb Jewell (79 in 76 balls, with 13 fours), Tim Ward (105

in 96 balls, with five fours and three sixes) and Jordan Silk (85* in 61 balls, with nine fours and a six).

During the ongoing One Day Cup, Labuschagne is the second-highest run-getter with 237 runs in three innings at an average of 79.00, with two centuries, with 120 coming against Victoria.

Having not registered even a half-century in his last 10 ODI innings and scoring just 138 runs with best score of 47, Labuschagne was dropped from ODI squad for three matches at home against India from October 19 onwards.

Snigdha, Agarwal qualify for semifinals in Fenesta Open tennis

New Delhi:

Fourth seed Snigdha Kanta and seventh seed Mannan Agarwal advanced to the semifinals of the Fenesta Open National Tennis Championship. Their impressive performances took place at the DLTA Complex in New Delhi on Thursday (October 9). Both players showcased their skills in their respective categories, securing spots in the next round of this prestigious tournament.

In the Girls U-16 Singles quarterfinal, Snigdha Kanta faced Diya Chaudhary. Despite trailing 2-4 after losing her serve, Snigdha made a strong comeback. She won four consecutive games to take the first set 6-2. The second set was closely contested, but Snigdha's speed and aggression helped her win 6-4, sealing her victory.

Snigdha and Mannan reached Semis at Fenesta Open.

Boys Fenesta Open: Manish, Koerthivasan, Vaishnavi & Akanksha enter finals after grueling wins.

The Fenesta Open, supported by DGM Shrinani Ltd., is held under the All India Tennis Association (AITA) and Delhi Lawn Tennis Association (DLTA). It continues to highlight India's emerging junior tennis talent. The event serves as a platform for young players to showcase their abilities on a national stage.

Mannan Agarwal had an easier path in his Boys U-16 quarterfinal match against Yashwin Dahiya. After losing the first game, Mannan found his rhythm and broke Yashwin's serve three times to win the first set 6-1. He maintained his dominance in the second set, breaking Yashwin's serve three times again to secure a 6-3 victory.

Eighth seed Tavish Pahlia also reached the Boys U-16 Singles semifinals after a hard-fought win over Shaurya Bhardwaj. Tavish lost the first set 3-6 but bounced back to win the next two sets 7-6 and 6-3. His resilience ensured his place in the next round of competition.

Vani Kapoor Takes Lead at Hero Women's Indian Open 2025 on Day 1



Vani Kapoor shines, takes early lead at Hero Women's Indian Open

Gurgaon: Home favourite Vani Kapoor made a strong start to her campaign at the Hero Women's Indian Open 2025, carding a flawless 5-under 67 to take the outright lead after Round 1 at the DLF Golf and Country Club on Thursday (October 9).

The experienced Indian golfer, who has consistently performed well at her home course over the years, struck the perfect balance between aggression and control. Despite an early bogey on the second hole, she regrouped quickly and produced a series of well-crafted birdies to close with an impressive back nine.

"After today's round, I definitely feel more confident," said Vani. "It's good to get some good numbers and ensure that I'm on the right track and working on the right things. I just want

to repeat what I did today, one shot at a time, and enjoy this week, and not get overwhelmed." On what it takes to master the challenging DLF layout, she added, "The key here is to keep the ball in play - easier said than done. But the person who does that and holes putts will be the winner at the end. DLF

was my friend today, so I hope it continues to be my friend."

Trailblazing by just one shot was 17-year-old amateur Zara Anand, who impressed with a composed 4-under 68, sharing second place with Singapore's Shannon Tan and Germany's Verena Gimmy. Diksha Dagar Bys Glory At Hero Women's Indian Open 2025 - Exclusive

Hero Women's Indian Open 2025 - Exclusive Diksha Dagar Bys Glory At Hero Women's Indian Open 2025 - Exclusive Anand, currently in Class 12, showed remarkable poise beyond her years, combining discipline and precision on a course that has challenged many seasoned professionals.

"I was just sticking to my process and game plan," said Zara, who had her long-time coach Amit Dubey on the bag. "We had marked out the slots in the practice round, and I feel this course is a lot about playing shot by shot - just staying patient." Zara, whose home course is Jaypee Greens in Greater Noida, credited the rain for slightly softening conditions but admitted DLF remained as testing as ever. "The rain has made it better, but this is DLF - every hole is different, every day is different."

The key is staying in the present," she explained. Despite juggling golf and academics, she finds balance through an online school setup. "It's actually easy because I don't have board exams," she laughed. "My parents keep me on track, and my mom, Gurika, travels with me. My favorite subject is

PM Starmer proud to see football bringing different communities together



Mumbai:

UK Prime Minister Keir Starmer met with football fans in Mumbai today and expressed his delight at the way football brings communities together, outlining the impact of the Premier League's training programme on the development of the sport in India.

On Wednesday, the Premier League organised a Community Coach Development Showcase at Cooperage Football Ground in Mumbai, marking an important step in its long-term commitment to developing the country's community football workforce at the grassroots level. It's part of the league's long-standing initiative, Premier Skills, in partnership with the British Coun-

cil. Delegates from the UK government and the British High Commission graced the event. Starmer also attended the event and shared a picture of himself interacting with young fans. The UK PM, who arrived in India on Wednesday morning for the first time in his tenure, was proud of how football is bringing different communities closer to each other.

"I met some football fans in Mumbai today. I'm hugely proud of our national sport; it brings communities together. That's why the Premier League's training programme in India is so impressive: coaching future professionals, and showing the world what British sport can do," Starmer wrote on X.

Indian Senior Women's Rugby sevens team gears up for leg 2 of Asia Rugby

Mumbai:

Following an impressive debut in Hangzhou, where India finished 6th overall, the Indian Rugby Football Union (IRFU) on Thursday announced the Senior Women's Rugby Sevens squad set to compete in Leg 2 of the Asia Rugby Emirates Sevens Series (ARSS) 2025, scheduled for October 18-19 in Colombo, Sri Lanka, as per a release from IRFU.

After entering Leg 1 as the 10th seeds and finishing among the top six teams, the Indian side heads into the Colombo leg with renewed belief and valuable experience gained from facing Asia's best. The team's performances, including wins over the Philippines (24-5) and the UAE (19-12), demonstrated India's growing strength, skill, and composure at the top level.

The Asia Rugby Emirates Sevens Series features Asia's 12 top national teams competing across multiple legs, with cumulative points determining final rankings.

Speaking on the team's progress, Rahul Bose, President of the



Indian Rugby Football Union, said, "The performance in Hangzhou was both encouraging and inspiring. To debut in Asia's premier competition and finish sixth reflects the dedication and progress of our women's rugby programme. As the team prepares for Colombo, we look forward to building on this momentum and continuing our journey towards establishing India among Asia's elite."

Paul Delpoit, Head Coach of the Indian Women's Sevens Team, added, "We took valuable lessons from Leg 1 - both in execution

and in consistency. The focus now is on converting those learnings into results in Colombo. The players have shown great commitment, and we're eager to see them perform with confidence and clarity once again."

Captain Shikha Yadav shared her thoughts ahead of the second leg. "We're proud of what we achieved in Hangzhou, but we know there's more we can do. Every game has made us stronger and more connected as a team. We're heading to Colombo focused, determined, and excited to give our best for India."

Breaking Time

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

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

Solution, Sudoku

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

TOP STORY

Dear Reader, If you have any news or you have any suggestion regarding our newspaper or you have any problem with any government department, you may contact us on 24 hour helpline no- 0120-4225517, 4241284for Delhi & Ghaziabad (9582310372), for Noida (9818999989), Advertisement (9818799941), Circulation (0856925450)

Readers are recommended to make all necessary enquiries and seek appropriate advice before action on any advertisement and content published in this publication. The printer, publisher, editor and seller of the Top Story do not vouch for any claims. The publication is being sold on the condition and understanding that information given in this publication is merely for reference and must not be taken as having final authority of or binding in any way. We do not owe any responsibility for damage or loss to any person, a purchase of this production is not for the result of any action taken on the basis of this work. All disputes are subject to the exclusive jurisdiction of court and forums in Delhi/New Delhi only.

FOR ADVERTISING IN
TOP STORY
PLEASE CONTACT
9818799941

SMVDSB honours participants of Para Archery World Championship

Katra:

The Chief Executive Officer, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board (SMVDSB), Sachin Kumar Vaisiyya on Thursday felicitated Rakesh Kumar for his outstanding achievement in securing the Silver Medal in the Men's Compound Open category at the 2025 Para Archery World Championship held in Gwangju, South Korea from September 19 to 30.

On the occasion, Pawan Kumar, the first differently-abled archer from the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, who participated in this prestigious international event, was also honoured for his commendable representation.

Additionally, Abhilasha Chaudhary, Archery Coach of the Shrine Board, who accompanied the Indian Para Archery contingent during the championship, was felicitated in recognition of her



SMVDSB felicitates Para Archery World Championship heroes

dedicated contribution to the sport.

The Chief Executive Officer honoured the archers with mementoes and Churni of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi ji as a token of divine blessings and appreciation. He lauded the participants for their indomitable spirit and extended heartfelt wishes for their continued success in forthcoming international competitions.

The CEO stated that the Shrine Board, under the visionary directions and guidance of the Chairman, SMVDSB (Lieutenant Governor, JK-UT), Manoj Sinha, remains steadfast in its commitment to encouraging youth and providing them with a robust platform to showcase their talents.

He further emphasised that the Shrine Board's Sports Complex

is being developed as a Centre of Excellence and urged sportspeople to take full advantage of the state-of-the-art equipment and other facilities made available at the Sports Complex.

A recipient of the prestigious Arjuna Award 2024, Rakesh Kumar has consistently showcased remarkable talent and dedication at both national and

international levels, bringing laurels to the nation and the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir.

Pawan Kumar, trained at the Shrine Board's Sports Complex, hailing from Village Damsal in Katra, was extended financial assistance of 7 lakh by the Shrine Board to facilitate his participation in the prestigious Para World Archery Championship-2025.

He has consistently demonstrated exceptional skill, discipline and determination in the field of archery. His representation at the international level marks a significant milestone for both the Shrine Board and the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir, placing the region prominently on the global map of para sports.

Also present on the occasion were Additional CEO Alok Kumar, Manoj Sinha, CEO Dhruv Gupta, and officers of the Shrine Board.

Premier League deepens commitment to grassroots football development in India

Mumbai:

The Premier League has reaffirmed its long-term commitment to supporting grassroots football in India through a Community Coach Development Programme in Mumbai. The three-day programme was central to the League's week-long fan and community engagement initiatives in India - its first major milestone since the opening of its Mumbai office earlier this year.

An official statement said, "Delivered in partnership with the British Council, the three-day programme was led by coaches from the Premier League, Brentford and Newcastle United, who provided expert training to 30 community coaches, helping expand access to football across India."

"The activity culminated in a showcase event at the Cooperage Football Ground in Mumbai. The community coaches put the skills they have learned into practice with 80 children from the local area. Foundation, highlighting how the programme empowers local leaders to inspire the



Premier League has steps grassroots football growth in India

next generation through football," it said.

According to the statement, among the special guests in attendance were UK Prime Minister Sir Keir Starmer and Premier League legend Michael Owen, who interacted with the coaches and the young players.

Starmer said: "I'm hugely proud of our national sport - it brings communities together and changes lives. That's why the Premier League's training programme in India is so impressive - not only is it one of our most successful ex-

ports, but it's training the game's future coaches, inspiring young people, and showing the world what British sport can do."

Former Liverpool, Manchester United, and Newcastle United striker Owen said, "Witnessing the passion for football in India this week has been incredible and I'm sure it can only grow in the future."

"I had a wonderful time speaking to the coaches and young players, and I am excited to see their journey in the game," added Owen.



With children, you have to show them actions: Kareena Kapoor

New Delhi
Bollywood actress Kareena Kapoor Khan is known for her dedication to a fitness routine, incorporating yoga and exercise into her regular lifestyle.

On Wednesday, at an HSBC event in Delhi, the ace star shared how she and her husband Saif Ali Khan incorporate fitness into their family routine, setting healthy examples for their kids Taimur and Jeh.

She said that the star couple not only enjoy watching

movies or working together, but also make sure to follow a fitness regimen together. "I myself am quite a fitness freak because Saif and I kind of

On Wednesday, at an HSBC event in Delhi, the ace star shared how she and her husband Saif Ali Khan incorporate fitness into their family routine, setting healthy examples for their kids Taimur and Jeh.

love to work out together. We love to do yoga together...

er..." she said.

The 'Chameli' actor added that as a parent, they both want to set an example for their kids and ensure the kids are part of their workout routine.

"The idea is to do something, a health benefit that the boys get to see us do together. So we kind of have this where even if we're going to the gym, they kind of tag along with us. So it's also time spent through that, and in a way, it's kind of telling them because I feel with children, you have to show them actions more than words. So when they see us kind of trotting off to the gym, and they enjoy that a lot as well. So we kind of in-

corporate it."

Kapoor also opened up about how her idea of wealth has evolved over the years. "I think the idea of wealth has changed in my own life... obviously, because of working for the last 26 years has changed the entire way of the way I look at wealth. When I started (professional career) to now, things have changed," she said, adding, "I think actors have started putting their way across where they would also want to be paid equally, firstly, as their male counterparts. So I think that has also added to a lot of character to our women as well as what wealth stands for to-day. I think it's a lot more than just having money in the bank."

Michael C Hall starrer 'Dexter: Resurrection' gets renewed for Season 2

Washington

'Dexter: Resurrection', a crime drama mystery TV series, has been renewed for a second season at Paramount+, according to The Hollywood Reporter.

'Dexter: Resurrection' is developed by Clyde Phillips, and it is a sequel series to 'Dexter: New Blood' and 'Dexter'. The series features Michael C. Hall, Uma Thurman, Jack Alcott, David Zayas, Ntare Mwine, Kadia Saraf, Dominic Fumusa, Emilia Suarez, James Remar, and Peter Dinklage.

Michael C. Hall recently shared the news with his fans by posting a video on Dexter's official YouTube channel.

"First of all, I just want to thank all the fans for tuning in and taking the Dexter: Resurrection ride with us," he said, adding, "We've been greenlit for another season. The writers room is assembling now, and details will be forthcoming. But I wanted to be the first to let you know that the story continues," as quoted by The Hollywood Reporter.



Reporter.

The debut season was a continuation of the 2021 limited series 'Dexter: New Blood', which followed the reunion of Dexter Morgan (Hall) and his son Harrison (Jack Alcott).

'Dexter: Resurrection' takes place weeks after Dexter Morgan (Michael C. Hall) takes a bullet to the chest from his own son, as he awakens from a coma to find Harrison (Jack Alcott) gone without a trace, according to Deadline.

Realising the weight of what he put his son through, Dexter sets out for New York City, determined to find him and make things right.

Kareena Kapoor on how she, Saif lead kids in fitness

New Delhi

Bollywood actress Kareena Kapoor Khan is known for her dedication to a fitness routine, incorporating yoga and exercise into her regular lifestyle.

On Wednesday, at an HSBC event in Delhi, the ace star shared how she and her husband Saif Ali Khan incorporate fitness into their family routine, setting healthy examples for their kids Taimur and Jeh.

She said that the star couple not only enjoy watching movies or working together, but also make sure to follow a fitness regimen together.

"I myself am quite a fitness freak because Saif and I kind of love to work out together. We love to do yoga together..." she said. The 'Chameli' actor added that as a parent, they both want to set an example for their kids and ensure the kids are part of their workout routine.

"The idea is to do something, a health benefit that the boys get to see us do together. So we kind of have this where even if we're going to the gym, they kind of tag along with us. So it's also time spent through that, and in a way, it's kind of telling them because I feel with children, you have to show them actions more than words."

Palak Tiwari makes heads turn as showstopper on Day 2 of Lakme Fashion Week

Mumbai

Actor Palak Tiwari turned heads at the Lakme Fashion Week as she walked the ramp for NIP Global Presents 'THE RUNWAY' on the second day of the ongoing event.

Palak walked the ramp in a stylish, modern ensemble that looked every bit stunning. The actress wore a navy-blue sleeveless top paired with a matching mini skirt that featured colourful hand-embroidered patterns. Her look was completed with a white shirt and printed tie, along with a colorful handbag.

bag.

Lakme Fashion Week, which began on October 8, will conclude on Sunday, October 12. The event celebrates creativity and innovation in fashion, bringing together top designers and emerging talents from across the country.

The 25th edition of Lakme Fashion Week FDCI opened on October 8 at The Grand, Vasant Kunj, New Delhi, marking a landmark year for India's most celebrated fashion showcase.

On the film front, Palak was last seen playing a journalist in Guddu Dhanoa's

film 'Romeo S3', co-starring Thakur Anoop Singh.

Romeo S3 is an action-thriller that follows DCP Santham Singh Shekhawat (Thakur Anoop Singh) as he battles a drug cartel in Goa. His investigation soon uncovers a much bigger conspiracy involving a deadly virus and its antidote, which is controlled by a ruthless mafioso. To take down the cartel, he joins forces with investigative journalist Tanu (Palak Tiwari), whose pursuit of the truth thrusts her into the heart of the danger. As the stakes rise, she is kidnapped by the villain's son.



Stockholm Film Festival to honour Alexander Skarsgard, Benny Safdie



Washington

The Stockholm International Film Festival has announced its 2025 lineup, unveiling a selection of award-season favourites and a tribute to acclaimed artists Alexander Skarsgard and Benny Safdie, according to The Hollywood Reporter.

The festival, scheduled to run from November 5 to 16, will feature over a hundred films from around the world, celebrating cinematic excellence and innovation.

Swedish actor Alexander Skarsgard, best known for his performances in 'Big Little Lies' and 'The Northman', will receive the Stockholm Achievement Award. Meanwhile, American filmmaker Benny Safdie, known for his work on 'Uncut Gems' and 'Good Time', will be honoured with the Visionary Award for his creative contributions to contemporary cinema, according to The Hollywood Reporter.

Skarsgard's latest film, 'Pillion', in which he plays a domineering biker opposite Harry Melling, will be screened during the festival. Safdie's 'The Smashing Machine', which premiered at the Venice Film Festival and earned him the Best Direc-

tor honour, will also be featured. The film stars Dwayne Johnson as MMA fighter Mark Kerr, alongside Emily Blunt. The festival opens with Tark Saleh's 'Eagles of the Republic', the final instalment in his Cairo trilogy starring Fares Fares. It closes with Lynne Ramsay's 'Die, My Love', another hot awards contender, starring Jennifer Lawrence and Robert Pattinson. Other highlights include Roman Day-Lewis's directorial debut 'Anemone', featuring dad Daniel Day-Lewis in his first screen role in years, and Richard Linklater's 'Blue Moon', about Broadway lyricist Lorenz Hart, starring Ethan Hawke, which premiered in Berlin.

Other highlights include Roman Day-Lewis's directorial debut 'Anemone', featuring dad Daniel Day-Lewis in his first screen role in years, and Richard Linklater's 'Blue Moon', about Broadway lyricist Lorenz Hart, starring Ethan Hawke, which premiered in Berlin. This year's Spotlight section, 'Be Kind Rewind', explores nostalgia and the persistence of memory through films such as 'Videoheaven', Ross McElwee's 'Remake', and Ira Sachs's 'Peter Hujars Day', set in 1970s New York.

Taylor Swift recalls Travis Kelce's hilarious confusion over Hugh Grant's wife

Washington

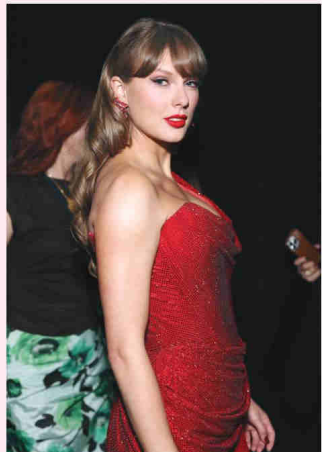
Taylor Swift has an interesting revelation for her fiancé, Travis Kelce. She shared that he thought Hollywood star Hugh Grant's wife was 'Barbie' director Greta Gerwig, according to People.

Grant is married to Swedish producer Anna Eberstein. The two wed during a private ceremony at the Chelsea Register Office in London in 2018, after dating for several years.

In June 2024, Grant attended the second Eras Tour date in London, where he met Kelce in the VIP tent.

Swift revealed that the Kansas City Chiefs player met Grant's wife, Anna Eberstein; however, he thought her to be the director of the 2017 coming-of-age comedy drama film 'Lady Bird', although it was actually directed by Greta. He then congratulated Eberstein on his favourite Gerwig film, 'Barbie'.

During an interview on



Late Night with Seth Meyers. Kelce shared why he got confused and told Swift that Gerwig and Grant were dancing really closely all night and "had all these inside jokes," which led him to

believe they might be making a movie together, as per the outlet.

"They kind of seem like they're like soulmates," Swift recalled Kelce telling her, as reported by People.

Jennifer Lopez recalls competing in triathlon after giving birth to twins

Washington

In September 2008, six months after Jennifer Lopez gave birth to her twins, she successfully ran a triathlon. She recalled what motivated her to participate in the endurance challenge, according to People.

She recently appeared on the Las Culturistas podcast and shared when she decided to participate in a triathlon six months after giving birth to her twins, Emmie and Max, 17.

"When I was still pregnant, I was like I'm going to

do a triathlon when the kids are born and after I give birth to get back into shape," she said. "I was like, I'm giving myself a goal," as quoted by People. She said a TV show inspired her, and when she looked into nearby triathlons, she discovered one would be held in Malibu in September 2008.

Lopez remembered how, when she was pregnant, she saw her American Music Award from 2007 in her room, and she thought that her kids would be proud of her achievements.

