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Kohli gears up for Adelaide ODI with crisp strokeplay

Senate Republicans head to White House amid stalemate on US shutdown

Rani Mukerji salutes the spirit of Indian Police through Mardaani 3

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MARKET	
SENSEX	NIFTY
83952.19	25709.85
484.53	124.55
GOLD	SILVER
128,264.00	150,640.00
-1,588.00	-7,023.00

Day after Diwali, Delhi records worst air quality in 5 years

The city recorded its worst air quality on Tuesday since 2021, with PM2.5 levels reaching 488 micrograms per cubic metre in the 24 hours after Diwali

TSN/New Delhi
The air quality in Delhi plummeted on Tuesday post Diwali as residents flouted the Supreme Court-mandated time slots for bursting of firecrackers, even as the city government blamed the AAP dispensation in Punjab for the toxic haze over the national capital alleging forced stubble-burning on Monday night.

The city recorded its worst air quality on Tuesday since 2021, with PM2.5 levels reaching 488 micrograms per cubic metre in the 24 hours after Diwali, more than three times the pre-festival level of 156.6 micrograms per cubic metre.

Advertisement
In neighbouring Haryana too, the air quality deteriorated with the AQI falling in the 'very poor' category in many areas, including in Gurugram, while it was in the 'poor' category in most parts of Punjab.

According to an analysis of Central Pollution



Control Board (CPCB) data covering the period from 2021 to 2025, PM2.5 values in Delhi consistently spiked during Diwali night and early the next morning, with the 2025 post-Diwali reading of 488 micrograms per cubic metre being the most polluted period since 2021.

The data shows that in previous years, average

PM2.5 levels rose from 163.1 to 454.5 in 2021, from 129.3 to 168 in 2022, from 92.9 to 319.7 in 2023 and from 204 to 220 in 2024.

The study by research and advisory group Climate Trends attributed the surge mainly to local emissions from firecrackers, stagnant winds of less than one metre per second and tempera-

ture inversion that traps pollutants close to the surface.

The high concentration of PM2.5 is due to local firecracker emissions across different parts of Delhi. Wind speed was extremely low, leaving no scope for dispersion, said S K Dhaka, professor at Rajdhani College, University of Delhi.

He added that even "so-called" green firecrackers contributed significantly to particulate buildup and there was a need to check their quality and composition. Experts said the continuing rise in pollution levels despite restrictions shows both enforcement gaps and public disregard for health warnings.

Delhi found itself enveloped in a thick grey haze, reduced visibility, and its air quality into the 'red zone' on Tuesday.

Addressing a press conference, Environment Minister Manjinder Singh Aam Aadmi Party of 'playing politics'.

The minister claimed that the real reason behind the worsening air quality was large-scale stubble-burning in Punjab.

Sirsa said that every religion has the right to celebrate its festival, indicating that bursting of crackers is an indispensable way of celebrating Diwali. **CONTD ON PAGE-2**

Haryana cops book Punjab ex-DGP, wife in son's death case



Retired Punjab DGP Mohammad Mustafa and his wife and former state minister Razia Sultana; their son Aqil Akhtar Mustafa in centre

Mitali Chandola New Delhi

The lines between power and tragedy blurred in Panchkula this week when the son of a former Punjab Director General of Police and a former state minister was found dead under circumstances that refuse to stay silent. The story of 35-year-old Aqil Akhtar — son of ex-DGP Mohammad Mustafa and former minister Razia Sultana — is no longer a private family matter. It has spiralled into a public reckoning with the moral collapse within families of influence.

Initially dismissed as a possible case of drug overdose, Aqil's death on October 16 was almost consigned to quiet closure. But a video re-

corded by him in August changed everything. In that recording, Aqil's words cut through the silence. He spoke of fear, betrayal, and danger from within his own family. He accused his father of an illicit relationship with his wife, and claimed that his mother and sister were conspiring to falsely implicate or kill him. He said he had been forcibly sent to a rehabilitation centre despite being sober and threatened with false criminal charges.

On the basis of this explosive evidence, an FIR has been lodged against the former DGP, his wife, their daughter, and daughter-in-law, invoking charges of murder and criminal conspiracy. Agency

BJP forced 3 candidates to withdraw from Bihar polls: Prashant Kishor

Patna (Bihar)
Jan Suraj founder-Prashant Kishor has said that three declared candidates of Jan Suraj "were forced to withdraw their nominations" in the last three to four days and alleged that the BJP is trying to "create an atmosphere that we're scared".

Kishor, who addressed a press conference here, said they won't relent until BJP is defeated in Bihar and NDA is uprooted. He said if anyone is feeling the most threatened in Bihar polls, "it's BJP".

"Over the past few years, the BJP has developed a reputation for forming the government regardless of who wins the election. Now, they've launched a new campaign in Bihar. The election process has begun, and if anyone is feeling the most threat-



Prashant Kishor

ened, it's the NDA's BJP... They're using the mahagathbandhan to scare the public, saying, 'Vote for us, or Lalu's jungle raj will return'... In the past four to five days, three declared Jan Suraj candidates who filed their nominations were forced to withdraw their nominations," Kishor said.

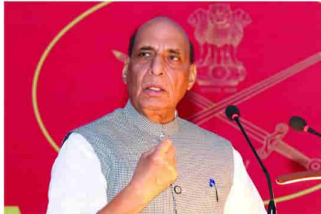
He emphasised that Jan Suraj won't back down and is prepared to fight the elections fiercely. Agency

Maoist issue on verge of becoming history: Rajnath Singh

New Delhi
Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Tuesday said that while there is instability on the borders, new types of crime, terrorism and ideological wars are emerging within society. Laying a wreath at the National Police Memorial here on the occasion of Police Commemoration Day, Singh also said that the military and police function on different platforms, but their mission is the same — to protect the nation.

"To have Viksit Bharat by 2047, the minister said, balancing the external and internal security of the nation is more important than ever. A joint parade of Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs) and the Delhi police was held as part of the event.

On the present-day challenges, the defence



Defence Minister Rajnath Singh

minister said that while there is instability on the borders, new types of crime, terrorism and ideological wars are emerging within society.

"If people are sleeping more organised, invisible and complex, and its purpose is to create chaos in society, undermine trust and challenge the stability of the nation, he said.

Singh commended the

police for carrying out their official responsibility of preventing crime while fulfilling the moral duty of maintaining trust in society.

"If people are sleeping peacefully today, it is due to their confidence in our vigilant armed forces and alert police. This confidence is the foundation of our country's stability," he said, addressing the police

HIGHLIGHT

Defence minister said that while there is instability on the borders, new types of crime, terrorism and ideological wars are emerging within society.

personnel who attended the event.

Drawing attention to the Maoist problem, which had been a major internal security challenge for a long time, Singh asserted that the concerted and organised efforts of police, Central Reserve Police Force, Border Security Force and local administration ensured that the problem did not escalate and the people in the left-wing extremism affected areas breathed a sigh of relief. Agency

India and Russia in talks over Rs 10,000 crore S-400 missile deal

New Delhi

Having successfully used it to bring down 6-7 Pakistani fighter and spy planes in Operation Sindoor, India is looking to buy a large number of missiles worth around Rs 10,000 crore from Russia for its S-400 air defence system.

The S-400 air defence system of the Indian Air Force brought down five to six Pakistani fighter aircraft and one spy plane at a distance of over 300 km deep inside Pakistan during the four-day conflict and has been termed as a game-changer by the Indian Air Force.

"The Indian Air Force is looking to buy the missiles in significant numbers to further bolster its air defence capabilities. The discussions with the Russian side are already on in this regard," defence sources said.

The Defence Ministry is likely to take up the proposal by the Indian Air Force for approval at a defence acquisition council meeting planned to be held on October 23, sources said.

India and Russia had signed a deal in 2018 for buying five squadrons of the S-400 air defence missile systems.

The Indian side is also looking to add more S-400 squadrons to its inventory and is asking Russia to supply the remaining two squadrons of the missile systems, of which three have already been inducted and operationalised. Agency

H-1B fee of USD 100,000 won't apply to status change or extension cases

New York
The USD 100,000 fee imposed by the Trump administration on new H-1B visa petitions will not apply to applicants seeking a "change of status" or "extension of stay", according to fresh guidelines. Issued by the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) on Monday, the guidelines clarified the exemptions to President Donald Trump's September 19 proclamation, "Restriction on entry of certain nonimmigrant workers".



USD 100,000 (approx INR 88 lakh).

"The Proclamation does not apply to any previously issued and currently valid H-1B vi-

sas, or any petitions submitted prior to 12:01 am eastern daylight time on September 21, 2025," the USCIS said. It added that the pro-

HIGHLIGHT

Issued by the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) on Monday, the guidelines clarified the exemptions to President Donald Trump's September 19 proclamation, "Restriction on entry of certain nonimmigrant workers".

clamation also does not prevent any current H-1B holder from travelling in and out of the US. Agency

Jolt to Ukraine peace as Putin-Trump meet may be stalled

Washington
A meeting between Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov and US Secretary of State Marco Rubio, ahead of a summit between the two countries presidents Vladimir Putin and Donald Trump has been postponed indefinitely, CNN reported, citing its sources in the White House.

This comes despite Russia on Monday stating that Lavrov and Rubio held a "constructive" conversation as part of preparations for the meeting between their two presidents in Budapest, Hungary, Russian media has reported.



Donald Trump and Vladimir Putin (File Photo)

"On October 20, a phone conversation was held between Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov and US Secretary of State Marco Rubio. A constructive discussion of potential specific steps in the interests of implementing the un-

derstandings reached during the October 16 phone conversation between Russian President Vladimir Putin and US President Donald Trump was held," the Russian foreign ministry stated according to TASS. Agency

Day after Diwali, Delhi records worst air quality in 5 years

He stressed that despite the lifting of the ban on green firecrackers this year, Delhi's air quality index (AQI) rose only marginally, from 345 before Diwali to 356 the next morning, an increase of "just 11 points". Last year, it increased by 32 units and in 2023 by 83 units, he pointed out.

"This little increase of just 11 points was observed this year even though it was reported that the highest number of stubble-burning incidents occurred last night," he said, showing videos purportedly of burning of crop residue in Punjab.

Unfavourable meteorological conditions, combined with vehicular emissions, party-stew burning, firecrackers, and other local pollution sources, contribute to hazardous air quality levels in Delhi-NCR during winters.

The capital's air quality has consistently fallen into the 'severe' category (AQI above 400) after Diwali for most of the past decade, despite court bans on firecrackers and repeated advisories from authorities.

Major hotspots such as Wazirpur (423), Dwarka (417), Anand Vihar (404), and Connaught Place (407) registered 'severe' pollution levels, while even residential zones like Lodhi Road and ITO hovered around 340-350.

Despite Supreme Court restrictions allowing only green firecrackers for limited hours, emissions rose sharply, prompting the continuation of Stage II of the Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP) across Delhi-NCR.

Delhi Chief Minister Reeha Gupta criticized her appeal for public cooperation, stating, "This is not just a policy matter anymore - it's a public health emergency in slow motion." Health experts warned that prolonged exposure could aggravate respiratory diseases, especially among children and the elderly.

In the days leading up to the festival, authorities had enforced preventive action under GRAP Stage II, banning most construction and dust-inducing activities. The Supreme Court, while allowing green crackers between October 18 and 20, aimed to strike a balanced approach between tradition and sustainability. However, enforcement faltered as non-compliance remained widespread.

According to data from SAFAR and CPCB, particulate matter (PM2.5) concentration stood at more than 15-18 times the safe limit of 60 µg/m³ across north and central Delhi on Tuesday morning. Officials attributed the spike to meteorological factors, including stagnant wind speeds below 5 kmph and reduced atmospheric dispersion. Experts also flagged the onset of stubble burning in Punjab and Haryana as contributing to the pollution surge.

The CAQM has warned that without rain or stable winds, Delhi's air could remain in the 'severe' category throughout the week. Last year, the city had reported an average post-Diwali AQI of 359, nearly similar to this year's levels, indicating minimal progress despite intensified awareness campaigns.

Agency

Telangana CM calls on Maoists to surrender and join development

Hyderabad
Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy on Tuesday appealed to active Maoist leaders and cadres to surrender and join mainstream life, urging them to become partners in the nation's development.

"Telangana suffered from Maoist and terrorist activities in the past. The indomitable spirit displayed by the state police is the result of the fast declining terror and naxal activities in the state in recent times," said the Telangana Chief Minister's Office (CMO).

The Chief Minister said that many key Maoists have already surrendered. "I am appealing to all Maoist leaders and activists who are active to surrender before the police and join mainstream life. The CM asserted that Maoists should join as partners in the nation-building and the country's development by shedding the naxal ideology. The Chief Minister commended the Telangana police for their exemplary service in rooting out the naxal menace in the state.

To support the family of CCS Constable Pramod Kumar, who recently died in Nizamabad, the government will provide Rs 1 crore ex-gratia, the constable's last drawn salary



Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy

until retirement, a government job, a 300-yard housing plot, and additional welfare funds amounting to Rs 24 lakh. CM Revanth Reddy recalled earlier allotments of housing plots to the families of 33 policemen who sacrificed their lives combating Maoists in Odisha in 2008.

"Telangana Police built trust and gave assurance to society. Police never compromised and took risks to protect people", the CM said.

The CM praised the Telangana Police for leading the country in adopting advanced technology and innovative policies to enhance law

enforcement. Citing the India Justice Report 2025, he noted that the Telangana Police Department has been ranked first nationally. The Ministry of External Affairs also commended the force for its transparent passport verification system.

"These achievements are a testament to the continuous efforts and dedication of the Telangana Police," the CM said.

CM Revanth Reddy highlighted emerging challenges such as cybercrime, digital fraud, morphing content, drug-related offenses, and human trafficking,

"Telangana suffered from Maoist and terrorist activities in the past. The indomitable spirit displayed by the state police is the result of the fast declining terror and naxal activities in the state in recent times," said the Telangana Chief Minister's Office (CMO).

creating an environment where crime cannot go unpunished. Highlighting initiatives to promote Telangana as a "Drug-Free" State, CM Revanth Reddy noted that the 'Eagle' (Elite Action Group for Drug Law Enforcement) force has been established with the aim of completely eradicating the drug menace. He appealed to the police to work diligently to achieve the government's goal of making Telangana drug-free. Orders have already been issued delegating full powers to the police to take strict action against those involved in drug trafficking.

The Chief Minister also emphasized the government's commitment to appointing women officers to key police departments. Telangana has set an example for the country by posting qualified women IPS officers in several critical wings of the police department. Today, women IPS officers head the Telangana Police Academy, Prisons Department, SIB, ACB, CID, Vigilance, Armed Reserve, CCS, and Cyber Security Bureau. Additionally, seven women officers serve as DCPs in Hyderabad, Cyberabad, and Rachakonda police commissionerates.

ECI appoints three observers for Jubilee Hills by-election

Hyderabad

The Election Commission of India (ECI) has appointed three observers for the Jubilee Hills by-election, scheduled to be held on November 11. This is done to ensure a fair and transparent voting process.

According to the officials, the observers will oversee the procedure and ensure it goes on smoothly with no discrepancies.

The three observers are IAS Ranjit Kumar Singh (General Observer), Om Prakash Tripathy (Police Observer), and IRS Sanjay Kumar Lal (Expenditure Observer).

These officers will monitor various aspects of the electoral process, including general arrangements, law and order, and election expenditure. They will also be responsible for the fair conduct of the Jubilee Hills by-elections.

The observers will oversee critical components of the election process, from ensuring a model code of conduct compliance, monitoring law and order, to scrutinising election expenditure.

Meanwhile, the Congress has fielded backward Class (BC) leader V Naveen Yadav, while the BRS has fielded Gopinath's widow Sunitha by-poll. The BJP has nominated Lanka Deepak Reddy.

Earlier today, AIMM chief and Hyderabad MP Asaduddin Owaisi said that his party will not field any candidate for the bypoll as it will extend support to the Congress candidate.

He appealed to the people of Jubilee Hills to support Congress nominee Naveen Yadav.

"AIMM is not fielding a candidate from Jubilee Hills. We appeal to the people of Jubilee Hills to vote for a young leader, Naveen Yadav (Congress candidate), so that he can bring development to Jubilee Hills. This is the decision of the party," he informed.

Earlier, on October 6, the Election Commission of India (ECI) announced that by-elections for eight assembly constituencies across seven states and Union Territories will take place on November 11. These by-elections are being held to fill vacancies caused by various reasons such as resignations, deaths, or disqualifications. The by-elections will take place in Jammu and Kashmir's Budgam and Nagrota districts, Rajasthan's Anta district, Jharkhand's Ghatshila district, Telangana's Jubilee Hills district, Punjab's Tarn Taran district, Mizoram's Dampa district, and Odisha's Nuapada district.

SC issues notice to Fortis Hospital, others in a plea for compensation over brain injury

New Delhi

The Supreme Court has recently issued a notice to Fortis Hospital in a plea by a child, Devarsh Jain, seeking compensation for an alleged brain injury at the time of his birth in 2017. The child approached the apex court through his mother against the National Consumer Dispute Redressal Commission (NCDRC), which refused orders for compensation.

The bench of justices Sanjay Kumar and Alok Aradhi issued notice to Fortis Hospital and other respondents. The matter has been listed for further hearing on December 8, 2025.

The appeal has been filed against the order dated March 17, 2025, passed by the NCDRC dismissing the original complaint of the appellants in limine.

Senior advocate Menaka Guruswamy, along with Advocate Rajiv Ranjan Dwivedi, appeared for the appellant Devarsh Jain, an 8-year-old child who is in a vegetative state.

The appeal stated that the appellant, Devarsh Jain, suffered severe brain damage at the hands of two paediatricians employed by the super-specialty NABH-certified Fortis Hospital at Shalimar Bagh, New Delhi.

It is alleged that despite being unqualified professionals, both these doctors have been appointed to senior-most positions in the hospital, especially to admit and treat newborn babies in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU).

It is further stated that both doctors brutally mishandled the appellant's child, causing irreversible brain damage. As a result, the child has been reduced to a permanent vegetative state. The damage culminated in Cerebral Palsy and epilepsy, condemning him to a life of endless seizures, complete muteness, and severe visual impairment.



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However, internal

Battle for Nuapada: BJP, BJD and Congress Face Off in a High-Stakes By-Election

Manoranjan Sasmal Bhubaneswar

The political battleground of Nuapada is heating up as the BJP, BJD and Congress prepare for a crucial by-election that is shaping into a test of leadership and strategy for all three parties. The fight will see Congress's Ghanshiram Majhi, BJD's Snehagini Chhuria and BJP's Jay Dholakia contest for the seat, each carrying the weight of their party's political ambitions and internal challenges.

For the Congress, the by-election is a make-or-break moment for PCC President Bhakta Das. The party has fielded Ghanshiram Majhi, a familiar face with a solid local base. In the 2019 polls, Majhi contested as an independent after being denied a Congress ticket and managed to secure 51,000 votes - a number that now makes him a strong contender. The Nuapada Assembly seat also falls under the Kalahandi parliamentary constituency, once represented by Bhakta Das himself. His influence in the region gives Congress a strategic edge.

However, internal



riffs threaten to undercut that advantage. Senior leaders such as Ramesh Jena, Mohammed Mokim, and Sophia Firdos have been kept at a distance from the campaign, raising questions about the party's unity. Jena, who once defeated the BJD in its Ganjam stronghold, and Mokim, who won in Cuttack, remain influential figures; whose absence from the campaign trail could hurt the Congress. Insiders suggest that if the party wins, the credit will go to Bhakta Das, but if it loses, pressure will mount within the PCC to unseat him.

Adding another layer to the equation, former Janata Dal leader Nandu Dhal has joined the Congress along with twenty

thousand supporters, sparking both excitement and controversy. His past statements against the Congress and pending legal cases have become a point of debate among workers. Despite the internal tension, the party is focusing on small, door-to-door meetings rather than large rallies to connect directly with voters.

The BJP, meanwhile, has fielded Jay Dholakia, son of late BJD MLA Rajendra Dholakia. Once part of the BJD, Jay's entry into the BJP symbolizes a shifting political tide. The party is contesting under the leadership of Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi and State BJP President Manmohan Samal. However, fac-

tionalism within the BJP is evident, with tensions among Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan Samal, and the Chief Minister. Pradhan's absence from a recent rally in his own region - attended by Prime Minister Narendra Modi - has been read as a sign of his diminished influence. The decision to field Jay Dholakia instead of Basant Panda's son, despite Panda being a senior BJP leader and former state president, has added to the internal discontent. Panda is seen campaigning reluctantly, aware that Dholakia's victory could overshadow his own family's political future.

Still, for the BJP, this by-election is about prestige. It is the first major electoral test since the party came to power in Odisha. A victory would prove that the BJP can win independently, without leaning on Dharmendra Pradhan's influence. Jay Dholakia has been working to unite local party workers and is highlighting the achievements of the Majhi government over the past 15 months.

VP CP Radhakrishnan pays tribute to police personnel on Police Commemoration Day

New Delhi

Vice-President CP Radhakrishnan has paid tribute to the courage and sacrifice of police personnel on the occasion of Police Commemoration Day, a release said on Tuesday.

In his message, the Vice-President said that Police Commemoration Day is an occasion to honour the exemplary courage and supreme sacrifice of the members of our police forces. He said their unwavering commitment to safeguard the nation and

ensure the security and well-being of the people commands the deepest respect of all citizens.

The Vice-President noted that police personnel exemplify bravery, compassion, and an unyielding sense of duty through their steadfast dedication and readiness to serve even in times of crisis and humanitarian need.

"On Police Commemoration Day, I solemnly pay tribute to the exemplary courage and supreme sacrifice of our police personnel. Their



unwavering commitment to safeguard the nation and ensure the

security and well-being of our people commands our deepest respect," the

Vice-President said in a post on X.

"Through steadfast dedication and readiness to serve even in times of crisis and humanitarian need, they exemplify bravery, compassion, and an unyielding sense of duty. I salute their noble service to the nation," he added. Meanwhile, Prime Minister Narendra Modi also paid heartfelt tributes to India's police personnel during Police Commemoration Day, lauding their courage, dedication, and sacrific-

es in maintaining the nation's safety and security.

In a post shared on X, PM Modi said, "On Police Commemoration Day, we salute the courage of our police personnel and recall the supreme sacrifice by them in the line of duty. Their steadfast dedication keeps our nation and people safe. Their bravery and commitment in times of crisis and in moments of need are appreciable."

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh partic-

ipated in the Police Commemoration Day programme at the National Police Memorial in Delhi on Tuesday.

Paying heartfelt tributes to the bravehearts, Singh honored the supreme sacrifices made by police personnel in service of the nation.

Police Commemoration Day, i.e., October 21, is observed across the country to pay homage to police bravehearts. The main function is organised at National Police Memorial, New Delhi.

City's pollution level remained well under control before festival: Delhi CM Gupta

■ The Chief Minister stated that in the days leading up to Diwali and on the festival itself, the entire atmosphere of Delhi appeared transformed, as per the release.

New Delhi
Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta on Tuesday emphasised that the BJP government's "effective measure" kept the pollution level in the national capital "under control" before the Diwali festival.

According to a release from Delhi CMO, Rekha Gupta also thanked Delhiites for their "responsible behaviour" to keep pollution levels low and respecting Supreme Court's directive by choosing green firecrackers.

The Chief Minister stated that in the days leading up to Diwali and on the festival itself, the entire atmosphere of Delhi appeared transformed, as per the release.

According to her, the people of Delhi had sensed



that this time they had a government that respected Sanatan (eternal) traditions while also understanding the present-day needs and sentiments of its citizens. "The people placed their faith in the Delhi Government and celebrated Diwali with full enthusiasm," she said.

Delhi CM criticised the previous government for "failing to implement" any effective anti-pollution measures and imposing a

blanket ban on firecrackers due to rising pollution levels. However, during this period, the former government in Delhi failed to implement any effective anti-pollution measures and instead imposed a blanket ban on firecrackers," she said.

According to the release, the Chief Minister said that seeing the people of Delhi celebrate such a beautiful and conscientious Diwali after many years filled her heart with joy and contentment.

CM Rekha Gupta also shared that her government has been serious about tackling pollution from the very beginning.

To reduce dust pollution, the Delhi government has deployed 1,000 water sprinklers and 140 anti-smog guns across the city. Mechanical road cleaning

Delhi Police arrests a woman driver in a hit-and-run case with a student



New Delhi
Delhi Police arrested a 42 year old woman in connection with a hit-and-run case that led to the tragic death of a 13-year student in Delhi on Tuesday. The accused, identified as Pooja, wife of Harish Scharawat, and a resident of New Nangal Dewart, Vasant Kunj, Delhi was driving a Mahindra Thar at the time of the incident, a police official said.

According to Police sources, on 15th October, a PCR call was received at Police Station Vasant Kunj, regarding an accident near Indian Oil Petrol Pump, C-8, Vasant Kunj, wherein a

black Thar car had allegedly hit a child who was found unconscious. According to Police sources, on 15th October, a PCR call was received at Police Station Vasant Kunj, regarding an accident near Indian Oil Petrol Pump, C-8, Vasant Kunj, wherein a black Thar car had allegedly hit a child who was found unconscious. On receipt of the information, IO, along with staff reached the spot and found traces of blood and a damaged bicycle. The injured child was shifted to Hospital by PCR van, where he was declared brought dead.

Crime team was called at the spot for inspection. The deceased was identified as Master M age 13 years R/o Sector-6, R.K. Puram. The alleged driver is absconding with the offending vehicle. A case u/s 279/304A IPC was registered at PS Vasant Kunj North & further investigation is under progress, a police official said.

According to police sources, she was enroute to C-9 Pocket Mother Dairy to purchase household items when the accident occurred. During interro-

gation, the accused confessed to her involvement in the incident. She has been booked under relevant sections of the law, and her driving license (DL) has been seized. Finally, she has been granted bail too.

Earlier, a 72-year-old man was allegedly shot by his grandsons in Turkman Gate area on Tuesday morning over a long-standing property dispute, police said. The firing incident was reported at Chandni Mahal police station. The victim, identified as Shah-buddin, sustained a gunshot injury and was rushed to LNJP Hospital, where he is stated to be stable, officials confirmed.

According to preliminary enquiry, the victim, along with his son and grandsons, had been embroiled in a prolonged property dispute. Police have registered a case of attempt to murder, and efforts are underway to trace the accused.

Delhi Cong urges govt to run special trains to clear Chhath Puja rush



Staff Reporter
New Delhi

Delhi Pradesh Congress Committee president Devedar Yadav has written to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnav to run special trains and add additional coaches to regular trains to clear the rush of Poorvanchal people heading homes to celebrate the Chhath Puja festival.

Yadav said that the poor people from Poorvanchal who go home to celebrate the Chhath Puja festival every year, find it extremely difficult to get reservations in existing trains and the only way to provide relief to such category of passengers is to run special trains and add additional coaches, but so far, the railways have not shown any concern to the plight of the Chhath Puja devotees.

He said that the Delhi Congress, as a responsible opposition party, who regards the people from the Poorvanchal region as vital cog in the progress and development of the capital, has brought the plight of Poorvanchal devotees to the notice of the PM and the Railway Minister as it was the responsibility of those in power to ensure that the Chhath Puja rush of passengers are cleared with the introduction of special trains and addition of extra coaches so that they could travel in comfort. Yadav also requested the BJP government in time to make all the necessary arrangements in time for devotees who celebrate the Chhath Puja here in the Yamuna river banks, particularly by ensuring that fresh water is released into the river by the Haryana government well ahead of the festival, to ensure that the devotees hold the puja in a safe and clean environment.

Sirsa blames Punjab farm fires for Delhi smog, says AAP politicising

Staff Reporter
New Delhi

Delhi Environment Minister Manjinder Singh Sirsa on Tuesday announced that air quality improved after Diwali celebrations, with the Air Quality Index (AQI) rising only 6 points to 351, compared to 360 last year.

This year, Delhi recorded over 200 clean air days, marking one of its best performances in a decade. Sirsa accused the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) government in Punjab of intentionally causing air pollution by pressuring farmers to burn stubble, aiming to portray the Delhi government negatively.

Sirsa emphasized that the air quality post-Diwali is better than in past years, with AQI figures of 462 in 2020 (under AAP), 360 in 2024, and 351 in 2025.

He criticized AAP leaders



for politicizing Diwali, stating that it is a sacred festival and should not be used for political gain.

He noted that under the current government, 27 lakh metric tonnes of waste have been removed, real-time

monitoring of construction sites initiated, and a significant increase in electric and CNG buses introduced, all contributing to stabilizing pollution levels despite growth in construction and vehicle registrations.

by the current administration.

He also highlighted that improvements in air quality show that development and environmental considerations can coexist when approached with the right intent and policy.

He dismissed misconceptions about cloud seeding, clarifying that it can only occur when clouds are present, emphasizing the importance of understanding scientific principles before making political statements.

Delhi Minister Sirsa hints at artificial rain to fight pollution

Staff Reporter
New Delhi

As the national capital grapples with 'very poor' air quality, Delhi Environment Minister Manjinder Singh Sirsa on Tuesday reaffirmed the BJP government's plan for artificial rain through cloud seeding.

However, the minister did not immediately announce a plan for cloud seeding, saying that it is only possible "when there are clouds."

"For those who are asking us, why are we not getting cloud seeding done. I want to tell them that in cloud seeding, the cloud comes first and then comes seeding. Seeding can only be done when there are clouds. The day there will be clouds, we will get seeding done and there will be rain as well," Sirsa said during a press conference.

Delhi woke up to a thick smog on Tuesday morning, as the air quality deteriorated to the 'Very Poor' category. According to the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), Delhi's overall Air Quality Index (AQI) stood at 351 as of 4 pm today.

However, Sirsa pointed out that the AQI rose to only 11 points post Diwali celebrations. He also compared the rise in air pollution to that of previous years when there was a complete ban on firecrackers.

"In 2020, the firecrackers in Diwali were going on. At that time, PM 2.5 was 414 before Diwali and



435 after Diwali. There was an increase of 21 points in the firecrackers. In 2021, there was an increase of 80 points. In 2024, when the firecrackers were banned, the AQI was 328 before Diwali and 360 after Diwali. 32 points increased when the firecrackers were banned. On the order of the Supreme Court and on the request of the Delhi government, we got permission for green firecrackers... Before Diwali, the AQI was 345, and after Diwali, the AQI was 356, according to the CPCB's Sameer App... Only 11 points increased when the firecrackers were allowed," he said.

"Will you hold Diwali responsible for this? Will you hold the faith of all the Sanatanas and Hindus in Delhi accountable? What is the fault in this?" Sirsa said.

The Delhi Minister further criticised AAP for "blaming" Diwali for the increase in pollution, accusing them of disrespecting the festival and accusing the BJP.

After Diwali, AQI rose by mere 6 points; our measures ensured stability in air quality: Sirsa

Staff Reporter
New Delhi

Delhi Environment Minister Manjinder Singh Sirsa on Tuesday highlighted the efforts in controlling Delhi's pollution, stressing that despite a 21 per cent growth in construction and an 8 per cent increase in new vehicle registrations, pollution levels have remained stable.

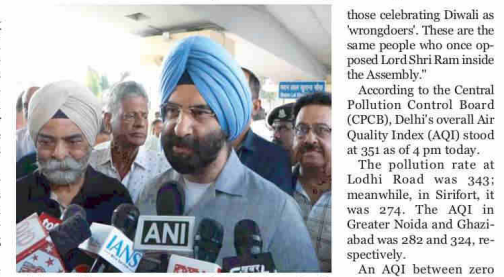
He also added that the arbitrary bans on older vehicles imposed earlier have been rationalised, ensuring fairness without compromising environmental goals.

"This shows that when intent and policy are both clear, development and environment can progress together," Sirsa said while addressing a press conference.

Sirsa also shared that Delhi's post-Diwali air quality is significantly better than in previous years: 2020 (under AAP rule): AQI 462, 2024: AQI 360, 2025: AQI 351. "This clearly proves that crackers are not the main cause of pollution. Delhiites celebrated responsibly, and our measures ensured stability in air quality," Sirsa said.

He added that Delhi's AQI rose only by six points - from 345 to 351 - compared to yesterday, which shows the stability and effectiveness of ongoing anti-pollution measures.

"Earlier, Pollution Under Control (PUC) certificates were issued within 18-30 seconds without proper checks. Now, every vehicle undergoes real-time testing before certification - setting a new benchmark in transparency," the Delhi



Minister said.

Sirsa also accused the Aam Aadmi Party-led Punjab government of pressuring farmers to burn stubble to worsen Delhi's air quality and politically target the Rekha Gupta administration.

He alleged that the surge in stubble-burning incidents over the past few days was "no coincidence" and claimed that farmers were being provoked to ignite fires for political gain.

"Over the past four days, stubble-burning incidents in Punjab have surged sharply and this is no coincidence. Farmers are being pressured and provoked to burn stubble so that pollution in Delhi can be used politically to target the Delhi Government," Sirsa told reporters.

The Minister strongly condemned AAP leaders' recent remarks on Diwali celebrations, saying, "Arvind Kejriwal and his team are trying to politicise a sacred festival. Diwali is not the property of any political party; it is the festival of India's soul. Call

those celebrating Diwali as 'wrongdoers'. These are the same people who once opposed Lord Shri Ram inside the Assembly."

According to the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), Delhi's overall Air Quality Index (AQI) stood at 351 as of 4 pm today.

The pollution rate at Lodhi Road was 343; meanwhile, in Sirifort, it was 274. The AQI in Greater Noida and Ghaziabad was 282 and 324, respectively.

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

NORTHERN RAILWAY
Expression of Interest (EOI)

File No. No. 1C-MG/Electronic Lock/NMG Wagon (Part-1)

1. Job No. 04/Manager System/AMC-Stabilizer/2025-26. AMC of 3 KVA Stabilizer Qty. 80 (For 1 Year). cost: Rs. 5,90,000/- Inclusive of GST

E-Tender are invited from firms/contractors registered with UPLC Locknow for the following jobs against which bids can be uploaded and same shall be opened/downloaded as per schedule mentioned. The details and conditions of all tenders are available on Noida Authority's official website: www.noidaauthorityonline.in & <http://e-tender.up.nic.in>. Please ensure to see these websites for any changes/ amendments & corrigendum etc.

Which can be uploaded by date 27.10.2025 upto 5.00 PM. Pre-qualification shall be opened/downloaded on date 28.10.2025 at 11.00 AM. Manager (System) Noida

CLEAN, GREEN, SAFE & SECURE NOIDA

Indian Army signs MoU with DTU to boost defence technology and AI skills

New Delhi
The Indian Army marked a key milestone by signing a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Delhi Technological University (DTU) in Delhi. The MoU aims to promote research and offer courses for military personnel in key domains, including defence technology, artificial intelligence and cyber security.

In a post on X on Tuesday, the Indian Army said, "In a landmark MoU signed between the #IndianArmy and Delhi Technological University, a significant stride has been taken towards advancing #AtmanirbharBharat through innovation and Military



Civil synergy." "The collaboration focuses on research and courses for military personnel in key domains, including Defence Technology, Artificial Intelligence, Robotics, Cyber Security, Geoinformatics, Data Analytics and Soldier Upskilling. By bridging operational experience with academic excellence, the partnership aims to build a technologically empowered, future-ready force and drive India's #DecadeofTransformation," the post added.

Earlier on Wednesday, the Ministry of Defence signed a contract worth Rs 659.47 crore for the procurement of Night Sights (image intensifiers) for the 7.62x51 mm SIG 716 assault rifle and associated accessories for the Indian Army, the ministry said in an official release. The Night Sights will enable soldiers to fully exploit the longer effective range of the SIG 716 Assault Rifle.

According to the release, the procured Night Sights will enable accurate engagement of targets up to an effective range of 500 metres, even under starlit conditions, and will provide a marked improvement over currently fielded Passive Night Sights (PNS).

The procurement has been classified as a Buy (Indian-IDDM) case, with over 51 per cent indigenous content, marking a significant step towards At-

manirbharata (self-reliance) in defence manufacturing. The ministry stated that the initiative is expected to enhance domestic defence industry capabilities and create opportunities for micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs) to be involved in component manufacturing and raw material supply chains.

The contract was signed with the consortium comprising M/s MKU Ltd (Lead Member) and M/s Medhit Technologies Pvt Ltd on October 15, 2025. The Night Sight will enable soldiers to fully exploit the longer effective range of the SIG 716 Assault Rifle, the defence ministry said.

Illegal construction halted in six villages near Noida Airport

Noida
The local administration has taken a tough stance against the rampant illegal construction on land acquired for the second phase of the Noida International Airport.

On Tuesday, the Jewar tehsil administration recommended filing FIRs against more than 100 people in two villages and immediately halted the supply of construction materials to all six affected villages. The halt in construction has caused unrest among the villagers.

SDM Jewar Abhay Kumar Singh stated that 1181.27 hectare of land in the villages of Ranhera, Kuraib, Karauli Bangar, Dayanapur, Birampur, and Mantrah has been acquired for the airport. However, despite receiving compensation, many people are illegally carrying out new constructions in pursuit of greater profits. The administration has now increased its enforcement to prevent these developments.

The local administration issued instructions stating that the supply of any construction materials, including bricks, sand, dust to name a few, has now been banned in these six villages. Letters have also been sent to the police, instructing them to seize such vehicles and take legal action against the firms involved.

The administration has warned that the sources of income of those involved in large-scale construction will be investigated. If anyone is found to be involved as a land mafia, they will be identified and strict action will be taken under the Gangster Act.

55-year-old man found unconscious at home in Palam

New Delhi
A 55-year-old man was found unconscious inside his residence in Palam Village on Sunday morning and was later declared dead at a hospital, police said.

The deceased, identified as Arvind Kumar Subah, resident of Mahavir Enclave, Palam, was working as an Under Secretary in the Government of India.

According to police, a PCR call was received on Sunday at 8:20 am at Palam Village Police Station regarding a person lying unconscious inside a room.

Acting promptly on the information, the IO along with staff reached the spot where the Fire Team and PCR staff were already present. The District Crime Team was also called for inspection of the scene. The fire team broke open the upper window of the main door and entered the premises, where one male person was found lying unconscious on the floor," police said.

He was immediately shifted to DDU Hospital, where the attending doctor declared him "brought dead".

During the enquiry, it was revealed that the deceased was residing alone at his Delhi residence, while his family members were in Bihar to celebrate the Diwali and Chhath festivals. The family was informed about the incident and arrived in Delhi by flight at around 2:00 PM. His wife, elder son (aged 23 years) and younger son (aged 19 years) reached the spot.

Septuagenarians shot by grandsons over property dispute in Delhi

New Delhi
A 72-year-old man was allegedly shot by his grandsons in Turkman Gate area on Tuesday morning over a long-standing property dispute, police said. The firing incident was reported at Chandni Mahal police station.

The victim, identified as Shahbuddin, sustained a gunshot injury and was rushed to LNJP Hospital, where he is stated to be stable, officials confirmed.

According to preliminary enquiry, the victim, along with his son and grandsons, had been embroiled in a prolonged property dispute.

Police have registered a case of attempt to murder, and efforts are underway to trace the accused.

Meanwhile, a man was stabbed to death outside his residence in Shahbad Dairy during a violent altercation over a dispute while bursting crackers, police said.

The incident occurred on the intervening night of October 20-21, at around 12:22 AM, when information regarding the attack was received at Shahbad Dairy police station.

The victim, identified as Sitamber Prasad alias Dileep, son of Sikander Singh, was found lying in the street with a stab injury over right side of chest. "He was allegedly attacked by three to four persons and one of them stabbed him outside his house. The alleged persons also beat his brothers Deepak and Sandeep," police said.

On the basis of manual efforts and technical surveillance, police team succeeded to apprehend the accused: Dheeraj, 24, resident of Shahbad Dairy; Akash alias Baba, 24, resident of Shahbad Dairy; and Tarun, 22, resident of Inderprasth Colony, Ashok Vihar.

Efforts are ongoing to apprehend the fourth accused, Ajay alias Ali, with raids being conducted at multiple locations. Further investigation of the case is in progress.

Delhi CM Rekha Gupta meets PM Modi, shares Diwali greetings

New Delhi
Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta met Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday and extended Diwali greetings during a courtesy visit.

In a post on X, Delhi CM expressed her gratitude after meeting the Prime Minister, describing him as "the world's most popular leader and India's illustrious Prime Minister."

"Paid a courtesy visit to the world's most popular leader and India's illustrious Prime Minister, the honourable @narendramodiji, and conveyed heartfelt Diwali greetings. The esteemed Prime Minister ji's company and his blessings inspire new energy and determination to serve Delhi with even greater dedication. Heartfelt thanks for your valuable time and guidance," CM Gupta said.

Earlier today, President Droupadi Murmu extended Diwali greetings to the nation.

Sharing an X post, President Murmu wrote, "On the auspicious occasion of Diwali, I extend my heartfelt greetings and best wishes to all Indians, both in India and across the world."

"This festival of joy is also an occasion for self-reflection and self-improvement. This festival is also an opportunity to help and support the deprived and the needy, and to bring joy into their lives. I urge everyone to celebrate Diwali safely, responsibly and in an environmentally friendly manner. May this Diwali bring happiness, peace, and prosperity to all," the President added.

Meanwhile, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday continued his tradition of celebrating the festival of Diwali with soldiers, as he visited the INS Vikrant off the coast of Goa and Karwar this year. PM Modi interacted with the soldiers and said he was fortunate to celebrate the festival of lights with the Naval personnel.

"Today, on one side I have infinite horizons, infinite sky, and on the other side I have this giant, INS Vikrant, embodying infinite powers. The glow of the sun's rays on the ocean's waters is like the Diwali lamps lit by brave soldiers," he said in his address to the soldiers.

Diwali is a five-day festival that starts on Dhanteras. On Dhanteras, people purchase jewellery or utensils and worship the Gods. The second day is called Narak Chaturdashi. It is also known as Chhoti Diwali, or Small Diwali. The third day of Diwali is the main day of the celebrations. People worship Lord Ganesha and Goddess Lakshmi on this day, offering prayers to bless them with wealth and prosperity.

The fourth day of Diwali is devoted to Govardhan Puja. The fifth day is called Bhai Dooj. On this day, sisters pray for their brothers sky and on the other side I have this giant, INS Vikrant, embodying infinite powers. The glow of the sun's rays



Man stabbed to death in Delhi on dispute over bursting crackers

New Delhi
A man was stabbed to death outside his residence in Shahbad Dairy during a violent altercation over a dispute while bursting crackers, police said.

The incident occurred on the intervening night of October 20-21, at around 12:22 AM, when information regarding the attack was received at Shahbad Dairy police station.

The victim, identified as Sitamber Prasad alias Dileep, son of Sikander Singh, was found lying in the street with a stab injury over right side of chest. "He was allegedly attacked by three to four persons and one of them stabbed him outside his house. The alleged persons also beat his brothers Deepak and Sandeep," police said.

On the enquiry, it was further revealed that a fight occurred between Sandeep, his younger brother and alleged persons about one hour before the incident on issue of abuses while bursting crackers.

Based on the statement of Deepak Prasad, a case was registered under FIR No 739/25 and under sections 103(1)/3(5) BNS (Punishment for murder), and an investigation was launched.

During the investigation, police recorded witness statements and examined CCTV footage from nearby areas. Technical surveillance has been initiated to trace the absconding accused persons. On the basis of manual efforts and technical surveillance, police team succeeded to apprehend the accused: Dheeraj, 24, resident of Shahbad Dairy; Akash alias Baba, 24, resident of Shahbad Dairy; and Tarun, 22, resident of Inderprasth Colony, Ashok Vihar.

Efforts are ongoing to apprehend the fourth accused, Ajay alias Ali, with raids being conducted at multiple locations. Further investigation of the case is in progress.

Meanwhile, a 55-year-old man was found unconscious inside his residence in Palam Village on Sunday morning and was later declared dead at a hospital, police said.

The deceased, identified as Arvind Kumar Subah, resident of Mahavir Enclave, Palam, was working as an Under Secretary in the Government of India.

According to police, a PCR call was received on Sunday at 8:20 am at Palam Village Police Station regarding a person lying unconscious on the floor," police said.

Acting promptly on the information, the IO along with staff reached the spot where the Fire Team and PCR staff were already present. The District Crime Team was also called for inspection of the scene. The fire team broke open the upper window of the main door and entered the premises, where one male person was found lying unconscious on the floor," police said.

He was immediately shifted to DDU Hospital, where the attending doctor declared him "brought dead".

During the enquiry, it was revealed that the deceased was residing alone at his Delhi residence, while his family members were in Bihar to celebrate the Diwali and Chhath festivals. The family was informed about the incident and arrived in Delhi by flight at around 2:00 PM. His wife, elder son (aged 23 years) and younger son (aged 19 years) reached the spot.

The post-mortem examination of the deceased was conducted at DDU Hospital Mortuary and after completion of all post-mortem formalities, the dead body was handed over to the family members.



Residents complain of breathing difficulties after dip in air quality

New Delhi
Residents of Delhi have complained about breathing difficulties and irritation in eyes following the rise in air pollution post Diwali celebrations.

Sagar, a resident of the national capital, held people accountable for the dip in air quality.

He said, "Pollution hasn't just been increasing today; it's been increasing for years. Everyone blames politicians, but the people themselves are like this. People aren't improving themselves. You'll get firecrackers, but it's up to you whether to burst them or not. Then they'll complain that the government isn't doing anything... There are problems in breathing, irritation in eyes."

Ashish Ranjan, a local who came to Kartavya Path for running, also complained about the breathing difficulties. He said, "There are difficulties in breathing during running time. I cannot breathe properly."

Another resident of the city, said, "It's the responsibility of everyone. If every individual takes responsibility, then the AQI level can be controlled. Nothing will happen just by the thinking of the government and agencies. As a society, we should take this responsibility and keep things under control. There were clear orders to use green crackers, and if we can adhere to these rules, then we would be doing a good service to the society."

Local Surennder Gupta, said, "Last year, the pollution was less. Yesterday, when I came for morning walk, there were difficulties in breathing, but today, it problem has increased."

As per the CPCB, Bavana recorded AQI of 423 as of 10 am, Jahangirpuri had an AQI of 405, Ashok Vihar had an AQI of 408 and Wazirpur with an AQI 408 remains the worst hit areas with air quality falling under 'Severe' category.

During the 'very poor' air quality, residents might face breathing difficulties and one can develop respiratory illness on prolonged exposure.

The 'severe' air quality affects healthy people and seriously impacts those with existing diseases, as per the CPCB.

An AQI between 0-50 is considered good, 51-100 is satisfactory, 101-200 is moderate, 201-300 is poor, 301-400 is very poor and 401-500 is severe.

Govt lies about artificial rain, colludes with private hospitals: Saurabh Bharadwaj

New Delhi
Delhi AAP President Saurabh Bharadwaj on Tuesday, launched a scathing attack on the government, accusing it of failing to control pollution following Diwali celebrations and questioned as to why the "promised artificial rain was not conducted".

Bharadwaj's remarks came as New Delhi woke up to a thick layer of smog after the Diwali festival, with air quality deteriorating to the 'Very Poor' category and most monitoring stations falling in the 'Red Zone'.

Bharadwaj said that the government has a collusion with private hospitals. "The government lies. The government said that after Diwali, we would fix all the pollution by conducting artificial rain. Did artificial rain happen? No, my question is that if you could have conducted artificial rain, then why didn't you do it? Do you (the government) want people to fall ill. The government has a collusion with private hospitals," he said.

Earlier today, residents of Delhi have complained about breathing difficulties and irritation in eyes following the rise in air pollution post Diwali celebrations.

Sagar, a resident of the national capital, held people accountable for the dip in air quality.

He said, "Pollution hasn't just been increasing today; it's been increasing for years. Everyone blames politicians, but the people themselves are like this. People aren't improving themselves. You'll get firecrackers, but it's up to you whether to burst them or not. Then they'll complain that the government isn't doing anything... There are problems in breathing, irritation in eyes."



Biharis will no longer fall for these deceptions: Tejaswini Yadav

Chandigarh Police honors fallen heroes on Commemoration Day

Chandigarh Police Commemoration Day was observed on Tuesday with solemn respect and gratitude at the Sector 17 ground near the police station, where a ceremonial parade was held in memory of police personnel who laid down their lives in the line of duty.

Four contingents, three from the UT Police and one from Punjab Police participated in the parade.

Director General of Police (DGP) Dr. Sagar Preet Hooda, SSP (Traffic and Security) Sumer Pratap Singh, SSP (UT) Kanwardeep Kaur, and other senior officers paid floral tributes at the Police Martyrs' Memorial.

During the ceremony, DGP Dr. Hooda read out the names of police personnel across the country who sacrificed their lives in the past year while safeguarding the nation. All officers and personnel observed a two-minute silence in their memory.

Recalling the origin of the commemoration, DGP Hooda said the day is observed every year in remembrance of the 10 CRPF personnel who were martyred on October 21, 1959, when Chinese troops ambushed an Indian police patrol in Ladakh. Since then, October 21 has been marked as Police Commemoration Day across all Central Police Organizations and State Police Forces to honor their supreme sacrifices.

This year, tributes were paid to Inspector Jagjit Singh, Inspector Sucha Singh, Sub-Inspector Amarjit Singh, ASI Lulu Ram, ASI Amarjit Singh, ASI Amin Chand, Head Constable Sukhinder Singh, Constable Sukhdarshan, and Home Guard Volunteer Rajesh Kumar.

Inspector Jagjit Singh, who joined Chandigarh Police as an ASI in 1972, was martyred in 1988



while leading a raid on a suspected hideout in Sector 45, where he gunned down three terrorists before succumbing to bullet injuries.

ASI Amin Chand, who joined as a constable in 1981, and ASI Lulu Ram, who was deputed from Punjab Police in 1978, were killed on August 29, 1991, when terrorists detonated a bomb fitted in SSP Sumerdeep Singh Saini's car near the bank head office in Sector 17. Both died on the spot while the SSP sustained injuries.

SI Amarjit Singh, who joined Punjab Police in 1973, was killed on February 25, 1992, when terrorists attacked a police convoy escorting prisoners for medical treatment at PGIMER. Despite being gravely injured, he fought bravely until his last breath.

ASI Amarjit Singh was martyred on December 8, 1989, when motorcycle-borne terrorists opened fire on him during patrol duty near Kajerhi village.

Inspector Sucha Singh, who joined Chandigarh Police in 1976, lost his life on June 8, 2013, while questioning a suspicious couple near the



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ASI Amarjit Singh was martyred on December 8, 1989, when motorcycle-borne terrorists opened fire on him during patrol duty near Kajerhi village.

Uttarakhand Governor visits Kedarnath Dham



Uttarakhand Governor, Lieutenant General Gurnit Singh (Retd.), visited the Kedarnath Dham on Tuesday and offered a special Rudrabhishek. He also inspected the ongoing construction and development work there.

"Today, I had the divine fortune of having darshan of Baba Kedarnath and a special Rudrabhishek at Shri Kedarnath Dham. Upon arriving at this sacred abode, the mind fills with faith, devotion, and spiritual peace. I prayed to Baba Kedarnath for world peace, human welfare, and the sustainable development of Uttarakhand. During this time, I inspected the ongoing reconstruction and development works in the Dham and obtained detailed information from the officials about the construction activities," Singh wrote on X.

The Governor appreciated the commitment and devotion of the Tirth Purohit Samaj, administration, temple committee, police, SDRF, NDRF, and all service organisations. The journey management, security, facilities for the Tirth Purohiths, and the progress in reconstruction are the result of collective efforts. I hope everyone will continue to work with the same devotion and spirit of service, so that every devotee receives a simple, safe, and divine experience," he added.

Meanwhile, the Kedarnath Yatra has set a new record this year. The number of pilgrims visiting Kedarnath has crossed 16.52 lakh, as of October 18.

In 2024, a total of 16.52,076 devotees visited Kedarnath throughout the entire pilgrimage season.

administration, temple committee, police officials, SDRF, and NDRF to the reconstruction's development.

"I bow from the heart to the dedication of the Tirth Purohit Samaj, administration, temple committee, police, SDRF, NDRF, and all service organisations. The journey management, security, facilities for the Tirth Purohiths, and the progress in reconstruction are the result of collective efforts. I hope everyone will continue to work with the same devotion and spirit of service, so that every devotee receives a simple, safe, and divine experience," he added.

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In 2024, a total of 16.52,076 devotees visited Kedarnath throughout the entire pilgrimage season.

Patna

RJD leader Tejaswini Yadav on Tuesday launched a sharp attack on Union Home Minister Amit Shah, accusing him of misleading the people of Bihar with hollow promises on industrial development. His remarks came after Shah spoke about the state's land shortage as a major hurdle in setting up large-scale industries.

Sharing a clip of Amit Shah's interview to a News network on X, Tejaswini wrote, "Even after running the government in Bihar for 20 years, the Home Minister is making excuses, saying that the factory will be set up in Gujarat only, but the labour there will be from Bihar. Biharis will no longer fall for these deceptions."

In the video, Amit Shah can be heard explaining that Bihar faces practical difficulties in bringing large industries due to a lack of available land. "We all know that there is a shortage of land in Bihar. Bringing any major industry to Bihar presents significant difficulties in finding land. Therefore, we should focus on industries that require minimal land. That's why we want to make Bihar the nation's AI hub. We want to make Bihar a hub for the software industry," Shah said.

Earlier, Union Home Minister Amit Shah sounded the bells for the high-stakes Bihar assembly elections and announced that if the NDA returns to power in Bihar, it will transform the state into an "industrial hub."

Addressing the Intellectuals Conference in Bihar's Patna, Shah affirmed that the youth of Bihar have the highest intelligence in the whole world, and now it's time for Bihar 3.0.

"Now it's time for Bihar 3.0... We will make Bihar an industrial hub... Youth of Bihar have the highest intelligence in the whole world. Bihar may have a shortage of land, but we can introduce projects that require more mental work and less land," Shah said in Patna.

Shah also launched a sharp attack on RJD supreme and former Bihar Chief Minister Lalu Yadav, saying that the 15-year 'jungle raj' of Lalu-Rabri pushed Bihar back by almost half a century, adding that the state lost its dignity, splendour, and excellence during the same time.

Shah, in a veiled attack on Tejaswini Yadav, said the same "jungle-raj" is before the people of Bihar today, with new faces and asking for votes. The Union Minister stated, "What era was that, in which Bihar became a sick state. In the 15 years of jungle rule alone, Bihar lost its pride, wealth, and knowledge. During the 15 years of jungle raj, Bihar had lost all its dignity, splendour, and excellence of every kind. Imagine how those 15 years must have been... The period in which Bihar's reputation declined..."

He further alleged that the industries that up in Bihar after independence left the state due to "Lalu Yadav's jungle-raj."

No one's morale was shattered, nothing happened: Haryana DGP on the suicide of two police officers

Panchkula

Reacting to the deaths of IPS officer Y Puran Kumar and Haryana DGP on Tuesday highlighted the gap between social media narratives and reality. "There are two worlds these days: social media and the real world. No one's morale was shattered, nothing happened," he said, reaffirming the police force's steadfast commitment.

The DGP's remarks came following the death of Rohtak ASI Sandeep Lathar, who reportedly took his own life after accusing the late IPS officer Y Puran Kumar and his family of corruption.

Speaking to reporters, DGP Singh said, "There are two worlds these days: social media and the real world. There is no problem in the real world. Whatever was happening was happening in social media. I'm deeply saddened that two of our colleagues who had been with us for 20-25 years and served the country, the people. We are the police force and our fight continues... Do we have the option to just sit back and be disheartened? No one's morale was shattered, nothing happened. There's the world of social media, and they keep scaring people... The more you watch, the more eyeballs they get, the more money Americans get..."

Earlier Singh, expressed grief over the loss of two Police Officers lives and said, the force was distressed by it. He added, "We are seriously thinking about what to do so that a situation doesn't arise again."

"We want to strengthen the Officers' Wives' Association. Our work is limited not just to the officers but extends to their families so that a situation like this, where one takes their own life," he stated.

Haryana DGP OP Singh



Haryana DGP OP Singh

Shiv Kumar New Delhi

On the auspicious occasion of Diwali, Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini visited the old age home in Sector 15, Panchkula, to celebrate Deepotsav with the elderly residents. He was accompanied by his wife, Smt. Suman Saini, on this heartfelt visit.

During the celebration, the Chief Minister extended warm Diwali greetings to the senior citizens, distributed sweets, and received their blessings. He also joined them in lighting fireworks, sharing moments of joy and festive cheer.

The Director General of Haryana Police also emphasized the importance of remembering police jawans and veterans. He notes with satisfaction that no police personnel lost their lives between 1967 and 1977, and aims to maintain this record. The police force is updating with technology to enhance efficiency.

He said, "The priority is to ensure capable and experienced officers manage their areas effectively, maintaining order during public gatherings and strengthening the supply chain to jails for criminals. With the Diwali festival approaching, precautionary measures are being taken."

He said that, "The recent suicides of two colleagues have prompted serious consideration of strengthening the Officer's Wife Association to improve the living environment and family atmosphere for police personnel, aiming to prevent such incidents and ensure mental stability to face challenges. Policing is a work of facing challenges."

IPS Om Parkash Singh was assigned the additional charge of Director General of Police (DGP) of Haryana after DGP Shatruiet Kapur was placed on leave following allegations surrounding the death of IPS Y Puran Kumar.

Earlier, Haryana IPS officer Y Puran Kumar, died allegedly by suicide at his official residence in Sector 24, Chandigarh.

She also highlighted the immense opportunity for tourism in Rajasthan post-Diwali and emphasised the government's efforts to enhance tourist destinations, create new attractions, and ensure visitor safety and better management.

"Rajasthan government is redeveloping tourist places like Maharanas Pratap circuit, Pushkar and Khatu Shyam. We are working on creating new tiger corridors; it will take time, and we don't take shortcuts. We will soon launch tourism app so that we can promote tourism," she said. Agency

NDA will form govt with thumping majority in Bihar: Raj Deputy CM Diya Kumari

Jaipur

Rajasthan Deputy Chief Minister Diya Kumari on Tuesday expressed confidence in the NDA's success in the upcoming Bihar election. After participating in election rallies for NDA candidates in Bihar, she noted that the NDA will form a government with a thumping majority in Bihar.

"In Bihar, the NDA will form the government with a full majority because of the infrastructure development in the last few years. The government has reduced GST rates on consumer goods and stated that the majority of Vande Bharat Trains run in Bihar."

She alleged that the previous government in Bihar had indulged in rampant corruption and that electricity was not available during their tenure, but now LED lights are available to the public in our government.

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CM Saini celebrates deepotsav with elderly at Old Age Home



Haryana Chief Minister, Sh. Nayab Singh Saini and his wife, Smt. Suman Saini with senior citizens, on the auspicious occasion of Diwali, at an old-age home, Sector 15, Panchkula. Former Vidhan Sabha Speaker, Sh. Gian Chand Gupta and other dignitaries are also seen in the picture.

deeply moving. He said that celebrating Deepotsav with the respected elderly was a truly special moment. "This festival embodies love, compassion, and human connection. True celebration is when every face lights up with a smile and every heart glows with the warmth of togetherness," he added.

On this occasion, former Haryana Vidhan Sabha Speaker, Gian Chand Gupta, District President Ajay Mittal, Secretary of the District Red Cross Society Panchkula Smt. Savita Agarwal and other dignitaries were also present.

Addressing a rally, CM Nitish emphasised that his government has already given jobs to 50 lakh youth.

"A total of 50 lakh youth have been given government jobs. We have decided that in the next 5 years we will provide jobs to 1 crore youth..." he said.

Further, the Bihar CM said that his government has been consistently working for the state's development over the past 20 years, recalling the poor state of law and order, education, and infrastructure before his tenure.

He asserted that under his leadership, Bihar has transformed with improved roads, electricity, and peace, replacing the earlier atmosphere of fear with one of love, brotherhood, and harmony.

"Our government has been engaged in development work for 20 years continuously, but remember the condition of the government before us. People did not go out of their homes after evening... There was so much conflict in the society... The condition of Bihar before us was also the same... There were very few roads and electricity was available in very few houses... But when we got the opportunity, we worked for everyone... Now there is no atmosphere of any kind of fear or intimidation. There is an atmosphere of love, brotherhood and peace in the state..." Nitish Kumar said.

The 2025 Bihar Elections will have the main contest between the National Democratic Alliance and the Mahagathbandhan. Agency

In the next 5 years, we will provide jobs to 1 crore youth: Nitish Kumar

Muzaffarpur (Bihar)

Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar on Tuesday announced that in the next five years, the state government will provide jobs to one crore youth. He also targeted the opposition over law and order and poor infrastructure.

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People in Bihar are standing with Mahagathbandhan: MP Pappu Yadav

Patna

Independent MP Pappu Yadav from Patna on Tuesday, exuded confidence in the victory of Mahagathbandhan in the Bihar Assembly polls, stating that the people of the state support the grand alliance.

Speaking to reporters in Patna, Yadav said, "The entire public is on one side. All people are standing with the 'Mahagathbandhan'. Only the grand alliance's government will be formed. When the public is united, it will unite everyone."

On Monday, the Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) released its list of 143 candidates, effectively concluding prolonged seat-sharing talks within the Mahagathbandhan alliance. However, the alliance suffered a blow as the Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM) formally withdrew from the elections.

With this announcement, the shape of the Mahagathbandhan alliance is also clear, with RJD contesting 143, Congress 61, CPI ML 20 and the remaining likely to go to Mukesh Sahani's YIP.

The Jharkhand Mukti Morcha, which earlier announced to contest alone on six seats in the Bihar assembly elections, on Monday withdrew from the polls. The announcement was formally made by senior JMM leader and Minister Sudiya Kumar.

"With great regret, JMM is compelled to state that the party will not be participating in this election. The political cunning of the leading party in the Bihar alliance has harmed the Jharkhand Mukti Morcha. It has shattered our aspiration to contest the elections in Bihar," Sudiya Kumar told reporters.

Agency

Advt Contact : 9818-799941

What Should Be Done with Such World Records?

The Deepotsav celebrations in Uttar Pradesh began in 2017, when only 171,000 lamps were lit. Since then, the event has grown more grandiose each year, reaching 2.617 million lamps in 2025. In Ayodhya this year, during Deepotsav 2025, around 2,617,215 lamps were lit simultaneously on the ghats and banks of the Sarayu River, establishing a world record. This event is in the process of being certified by Guinness World Records. On this occasion, 2,128 devotees performed a simultaneous ritual of aarti and lamp-lighting, which was recorded as a separate achievement. The program involved nearly 33,000 volunteers and thousands of devotees.

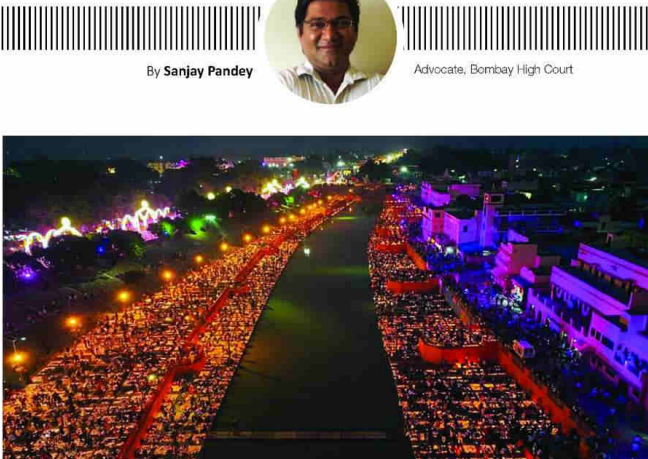
According to the BJP government, the objective of Deepotsav is to present Ayodhya as a global religious tourism destination. Through drone shows, laser lighting, cultural presentations, and technological displays, Ayodhya is being branded as a symbol of "New Ayodhya," "religious tourism," and "cultural development," with claims that this will benefit the local economy and service sector. This includes assertions that it will boost the tourism industry, hotel accommodations, local service industries, multiply real estate prices in Ayodhya several times over, and provide employment and income sources to potters families and handicraft artisans.

However, there is another side to this coin as well. To prevent criticism from gaining traction, detailed year-wise budget allocations or expenditure-related information on Ayodhya's Deepotsav events from the past several years have not been made fully public or transparent. So, is the UP-government's achievement in this area truly worthy of praise? Can promoting such events, funded by taxpayers' money and government expenditures, resolve Uttar Pradesh's problems? Such questions are being raised. What will UP do with these world records? How much is being spent on these events, and is the benefit to Ayodhya city also extending to UP as a whole? Many such questions remain unanswered.

On one hand, incurring extravagant expenditures on such events to create some kind of record while hiding from the true reality is a contradiction in itself. Uttar Pradesh is a state in India that, despite its vast potential, remains backward due to poverty, low literacy, poor health, and weak infrastructure. It lags not only behind other Indian states but also behind many developing countries globally. In such a scenario, allocating a significant portion of the budget and resources to these events may divert attention from basic sectors like education, health, and local development. It is essential to ensure that the tendency to "create records" does not push developmental priorities to the back burner.

Uttar Pradesh (UP), India's most populous state, has a vast population (approximately 240 million), making it comparable globally to Pakistan or Brazil. However, in social, economic, and environmental indicators, it ranks among the most backward regions in India and the world. According to NITI Aayog, the Raghuvaran Rajan Committee (2013), and United Nations data, UP is part of the BIMARU (Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh) group, which drags down India's overall development. In some indicators, UP's situation is worse than that of sub-Saharan African countries (such as Mali). The latest data up to 2025 (NTI Aayog MPI 2023, RBI 2024) shows some improvements, but UP still occupies the lowest rungs in many areas. It is high time for the government to analyze the major sectors in which Uttar Pradesh lags and investigate their causes, which it has long forgotten.

Examining poverty and the Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI), around 22-25% of UP's population (approximately 50 million people) lives in multidimensional poverty, encompassing basic areas such as nutrition, education, health, and sanitation. According to NITI Aayog's 2023 data, UP ranks third in India after Bihar (33%) and Jharkhand (28%). In the global MPI, UP falls in the bottom 20% of states, placing it close to countries like Mali (\$2,246 PPP). The situation in rural areas is even worse, with limited access to clean drinking water and electricity.



By Sanjay Pandey

Advocate, Bombay High Court

In 2024, UP's per capita income is ₹93,422 (NSDP), which is 45% lower than the national average (₹1.7 lakh). It is among India's bottom five states (Bihar, Odisha, Jharkhand, Manipur). In purchasing power parity (PPP), it stands at \$2,252, equivalent to low-income countries globally. Income has doubled since 2012, but the growth rate is slower compared to other states, causing UP to lag economically.

UP's literacy rate is 67.7% (2011 update 2024), with males at 77.3% and females at 57.2%. In rural areas, it is below 60%. It is among India's bottom 10 states, where the national average is 74%. Particularly in female literacy, UP ranks 28th, the lowest among BIMARU states. The quality of education is also low, and school dropout rates (especially among girls) exceed the national average.

In Uttar Pradesh, the infant mortality rate (IMR) is 64 per 1,000 births, and the maternal mortality rate (MMR) is 167 per lakh births. This is the worst IMR in India and the third-worst MMR (after Bihar and Assam). These figures are worse than those in many African countries (such as Mali and Chad). According to NFHS-5 (2019-21), vaccination and nutrition deficiencies are severe problems in rural areas. Additionally, during COVID-19, UP recorded 41,746 deaths from road accidents, highlighting weaknesses in health and safety systems.

UP's unemployment rate is 7-8% (NSSO 2023), higher than the national average (6%). Over 5 million workers migrate to other states (Maharashtra, Gujarat, Delhi) for employment. BIMARU states represent 45% of India's population but contribute only 8-9% to GDP. UP's economy is 70% dependent on agriculture, but low productivity and issues like floods and droughts further weaken it.

Infrastructure in UP, especially in rural areas, is extremely weak. Globally, 60% of open defecation cases occur in India, with UP accounting for a large share. Despite the Swachh Bharat Mission, progress in rural sanitation is slow. Road density is below the national average, and out of 101 aspirational districts, 6 (Shravasti, Balampur, Siddharthnagar, Chandauli, Fatehpur, Bahraich) are in UP. Eastern UP is particularly backward. Pollution in the Ganga River in UP is among the highest globally, and the Ganga cleaning project has failed. Agriculture, the base for 70% of the population, struggles with low productivity and climate change impacts. Crop yield per hectare is below the national average, and annual losses from floods and droughts occur. This makes UP environmentally and economically vulnerable.

UP has the highest crime rate in India, particularly custodial deaths (365 in 2014). Caste and communal violence is also common. NCRB and NIRC data show uneven governance and development across UP's 75 districts. Political instability and corruption have hindered long-term development.

A deep-seated hatred toward communists is observed among all BJP and RSS leaders. Kerala, governed by the Communist Party, cannot be compared to Uttar Pradesh in any respect. The Kerala government prioritizes public safety and amenities, which is a primary reason for Kerala's progress. According to the 2022 UNDP sub-national data, Kerala's HDI is 0.758 (second among India's states and union territories), placing it in the "high human development" category. In contrast, Uttar Pradesh's HDI is 0.609 (34th out of 36), falling into the "medium human development" category. The 0.149 difference in HDI between the two states indicates a significant gap.

Kerala does not have any world record like UP's Deepotsav. Yet, like many South Indian states, Kerala is clearly outperforming Uttar Pradesh, as its HDI score and all sub-components are substantially higher. Kerala's performance positions it on par with middle-income countries globally (such as Mexico or China), while Uttar Pradesh is closer to the low-medium development level in South Asia.

The gap between Kerala and Uttar Pradesh stems from long-term differences in policy priorities, resource allocation, and socio-economic structures. Kerala's life expectancy is 73.43 years, about 8 years higher than UP's. This is due to strong public health investments in Kerala since the 1970s, such as an extensive network of primary health centers, high vaccination rates, and maternal-child health programs. Uttar Pradesh, with its massive population (over 240 million) and agriculture-dependent economy, faces challenges like malnutrition, poor rural sanitation, and unequal health services, resulting in higher infant mortality and lower life expectancy.

Kerala's literacy rate exceeds 96%, and its public education system is effective. Free midday meal schemes and gender-inclusive policies have boosted enrollment, especially for girls, leading to higher average and expected years of schooling. In Uttar Pradesh, rural areas suffer from low enrollment (particularly for girls), teacher shortages, and infrastructure deficiencies, making educational attainment about two-thirds of Kerala's.

Both states have lower per capita incomes than industrial states like Maharashtra, but Kerala benefits from remittances from its global migrant workforce (especially in Gulf countries) and tourism. Additionally, wealth distribution in Kerala is more equitable. On the other hand, Uttar Pradesh's economy relies mainly on agriculture and unorganized labor, where poverty rates (about 30% vs. Kerala's 0.5%) and inequality are higher.

Kerala's "Kerala Model" is an exemplary strategy of development focused on social welfare, investing in human capital, reducing inequality, and building resilience without rapid industrialization. Uttar Pradesh has made progress in recent years, such as through health insurance schemes like Ayushman Bharat, but implementing these on a large scale is challenging due to its vast population and resource constraints. India's national HDI reached 0.685 in 2023, but inter-state disparities like those between Kerala and Uttar Pradesh highlight the need for targeted reforms in backward states.

Data shows that despite having "triple-engine" governments, both UP and Bihar are the two largest states in India from which people migrate for employment. There is a lack of permanent and quality employment opportunities in rural areas/less-developed districts, driving people to other states or metros. Many working people in UP are semi-skilled or unskilled laborers. Due to family burdens, limited local opportunities, and fears of not finding adequate employment, millions have been migrating to other states or labor-based jobs in Gulf countries over the past two decades. If sufficient opportunities existed, such large numbers would not leave. Among them are educated, talented youth seeking better skills or job prospects, who see no future for themselves in UP. The migration trend signals social maldistribution, opportunity inequality, and uneven development distribution—a warning for reform policies.

In such a situation, the state needs to promote "better employment, skill upgradation, industry, and public and private sector investment" so that people can stay in their places and migration decreases. However, the government's priorities remain focused on transforming UP into a spiritual tourism hub, which is why programs like Mahakumbh and Deepotsav are attempts to shape UP's identity. Can this lead to a bright future for UP? Think about it yourself. For now, console yourself by rejoicing over world records like Deepotsav and aspiring to become the "Vishwaguru."

Best Minds Spend their Youth Memorising Rather Than Innovating

India is one of the youngest countries in the world, with over 80 crore population (about 65 per cent) under the age of 35. The nation is currently in its demographic dividend phase, a 50-year window (2005-2055) of economic growth potential, when the proportion of working-age individuals (15-64 years) is large enough to support children and the elderly. However, realizing this dividend requires access to quality education, skills development, and job creation to ensure youth can fully contribute. The critical questions are: Will India capitalise on this opportunity? Are we sure our youth are not riding an altogether different bus? Each year, about 22 lakh students take NEET-UG for two lakh MBBS and related seats and 14 lakh attempt JEE Main for 42,000 IIT and other spots.

Assuming 2.5 years (912.5 days) of preparation per student, NEET's 20 lakh unsuccessful candidates spend 182 crore human-days. JEE's 13.5 lakh add another 123 crore, bringing the total to 305 crore wasted human-days annually. This translates into Rs 2.07 lakh crore in lost output, that could fund 115-390 new medical colleges with attached hospitals (Rs 528-1,760 crore each) and in the following year, 235-470 engineering colleges (Rs 440-880 crore each). For these 33 lakh unsuccessful students, their childhood is forever lost without any equivalent gain. If they had played a sport of their choice, some could have become successful professionals or at least enjoyed a healthier life. Additionally, the NSS 80th round Comprehensive Modular Survey: Education, 2025 shows 27 per cent of students opt for private coaching at Rs 2,409 average, scaling to Rs 16,116 crore just for higher secondary levels. As per Infinium Global Research, India's coaching business is now worth Rs 70,000 crore, projected to double by 2028.

The problem extends beyond these two exams. Over 10 lakh aspirants appear for the Civil Services exam (CSE) annually, targeting about 1,000 positions. This is dwarfed by the millions pursuing other government jobs (detailed below). Sanjay Sanyal of the PM's Economic Advisory Council calls CSE coaching a "massive misallocation of talent," akin to a "mafia selling opium." A lucky dip for selection would be



By Vijay Garg

Retired Principal Malout Punjab

more humane. It would at least save the time, money, and energy of lakhs, to be spent in other meaningful fields contributing to the nation's growth.

Children as young as 13 internalise a message of failure from a system designed to eliminate over 90 per cent of them, leading to lifelong trauma, depression, and sense of guilt over wasted time. According to the NCRB's Crime in India 2023, India lost 1,17,849 students to suicide between 2013 and 2023. The number climbed to a record high of 13,892 in 2023 alone, a 6.5 per cent increase from 2022. The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) guarantees every child the right to develop their personality and talents to the fullest potential (Article 29), as well as the right to rest, leisure, and play (Article 31).

India, as a signatory, is obligated to uphold CRC's core principle of prioritizing the "best interests of the child." Moved by the suicide of a girl in a coaching centre, the Supreme Court, in Sukdeh Saha v. State of Andhra Pradesh, in July, had to issue guidelines to prohibit batch segregation and public shaming based on performance. In March, in Amit Kumar v. Union of India, the Court had set up a National Task Force headed by Justice S. Ravindra Bhat to recommend reforms in higher education. The UNICEF YuWaah ~ iDreamCareer Bharat Career Aspirations Report 2025 finds that only 10.4 per cent of students have access to professional career counselling; 78 per cent lack any backup career plan.

Among 21,239 students surveyed, merely 6 per cent had used any tool to identify their strengths and weaknesses, and very few had access to psychometric

assessments. Students denied this guidance are vulnerable to uncertainty and unqualified advice. This career guidance gap has already had catastrophic consequences. Each year, 22 million aspirants apply for one lakh central government jobs, exams with a cruel 0.5 per cent success rate. These aspirants spend their youth chasing a mirage, neither working nor building any skills. If a candidate spends one year, the wastage explodes to 824 crore human-days annually, representing Rs 5.59 lakh crore in foregone economic output. This tragedy is preventable: If students knew from Class 10 onwards that government job exams have a 0.5 per cent success rate, comparable to a school cricketer making it to the Indian national team, most would develop back-up plans, pursue skill development, or explore private-sector careers.

Netherlands uses aptitude and personality assessments at age 15 to guide students. Students in many countries, including Cyprus, South Africa, Australia, Thailand, and Finland utilize psychometric tests for informed career and subject selection, with professional support. Exams need to be reimagined as coaching-resistant, scientific aptitude tests, not memory contests. The National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 proposes a high-quality common aptitude test "rather than having hundreds of universities each devising their own entrance exams." India already has world-class models.

The Services Selection Board (SSB) for the armed forces uses assessments of intelligence, personality, leadership, and judgment. Tests like Word Association, Situation Reaction, and Self-Description gauge psychological suitability for military service. The armed forces' success in producing principled lead-

ers is visible. Officers selected by the SSB consistently demonstrate integrity, resilience, and a willingness to sacrifice for the national interest. In contrast, a system that rewards cracking an exam often overlooks substance. This risks creating a generation of professionals who are skilled at test-taking but may lack the strength to withstand administrative and political pressures or innovation. For finding scientific innovators, India's National Olympiad programme could be leveraged.

If only students who achieve a qualifying score in such exams were made eligible to sit for JEE or NEET, the candidate pool would shrink from lakhs to a few thousand genuinely qualified aspirants. Olympiads have proven to be one of the most effective ways to identify exceptional scientific talent, one in every forty gold medalists at the International Mathematical Olympiad later earns a major science prize, a success rate fifty times higher than that of MIT undergraduates. Half of OpenAI's founders began their journeys through Olympiads. However, the proposal might appear elitist and could face opposition for seemingly excluding rural and economically disadvantaged students who are less familiar with Olympiads.

The NEP's emphasis on holistic progress, competency-based assessment, and integration of vocational education needs massive investment in developing vocational academies on the German model, where a "master craftsman" in mechatronics is valued and often earns more than a generic engineer. South Korea's economic miracle was not built by doctors alone, but also by technicians and designers. Nobel laureate Abhijit Banerjee cautions that "the lives of our young are dominated by a testocracy masquerading as meritocracy." A nation aspiring to be the Vishwa Guru cannot afford to let its best minds spend their youth memorising rather than innovating.

Bar Council warns law firms against illegal international partnerships

New Delhi
The Bar Council of India (BCI) has formally withdrawn its earlier press release dated August 5, 2025, and issued a fresh statement following its submission before the Delhi High Court in *Atul Sharma vs Bar Council of India and Another*.

The new release reiterates that any unauthorised or unregistered collaborations between Indian and foreign law firms are impermissible under the Bar Council of India Rules and the Advocates Act, 1961.



The Council expressed grave concern over the increasing instances of foreign law firms and advocates joining hands with Indian counterparts through models such as Swiss Veerins, strategic alliances, exclusive referral systems, and joint branding initiatives, portraying themselves as unified global legal platforms.

The BCI said these arrangements misled clients and the public into believing in an integrated cross-border legal practice, which is prohibited. Citing the Supreme Court judg-

ment in *Bar Council of India v. A.K. Balaji & Ors*, the Council reminded that foreign lawyers cannot indirectly practice Indian law by using alliances or joint branding with Indian firms. The Court had made it clear that the term "practice of law" goes beyond courtroom appearances and includes legal advice, contract drafting, negotiations, and other connected activities.

According to the Bar Council of India Rules of Registration and Regulation of Foreign Lawyers and Foreign Law Firms in India, 2023 (as amended in 2025), any such firm must register

before commencing operations in India. The Council emphasised that any entity operating under a combined or co-branded identity without registration will be deemed in violation of the Rules.

The BCI clarified that foreign lawyers may practice only foreign or international law in non-litigious matters and only after registration. They cannot appear in Indian courts, tribunals, or other quasi-judicial authorities.

Even in arbitrations seated in India, foreign lawyers can participate only on discrete foreign-law issues,

provided the arbitral tribunal does not record evidence on oath. If the arbitration involves Indian law or evidence is recorded under oath, such participation would amount to the practice of Indian law and is strictly barred.

The Council further stated that these prohibitions extend to situations where Indian firms operate under the brand or network of a foreign law firm. In such cases, it would be treated as an indirect practice of Indian law by the foreign entity, an act expressly prohibited. The BCI confirmed that it has identified several law

firms and individuals allegedly violating the 2023 Rules. It has already issued show-cause notices directing them to furnish detailed explanations, documents, and declarations about their structures and operations.

The release warned that failure to comply could lead to proceedings for professional misconduct under the Advocates Act, 1961, including suspension or other statutory consequences.

The Council added that more entities are under scrutiny and further show-cause notices will follow. It said that persistence with unregistered collaborations would be treated as an aggravating factor in disciplinary action.

Reiterating the professional code of conduct, the BCI reminded all advocates and firms of Rule 36 of Chapter II, Part VI of the Bar Council Rules, which prohibits solicitation and advertising. It warned that media campaigns, launch events, or social media promotions projecting a single integrated global brand could attract disciplinary action.

Only basic public infor-

mation, such as name, address, qualifications, and practice areas, may be shared. Any public communication suggesting a merger or unified platform between Indian and foreign firms would invite investigation under both the Foreign Lawyers Rules and Rule 36 on Professional Conduct and Etiquette.

The Council urged all law firms and advocates to review their websites, media content, and public statements to remove prohibited material. Clients and members of the public were advised to verify the registration status of any firm claiming cross-border ties before engaging legal services.

The BCI reaffirmed its commitment to a liberal and transparent framework allowing foreign lawyers to operate in India—but only within the boundaries of law. "While the Bar Council welcomes lawful international cooperation, it will not permit any arrangement that undermines the integrity or sovereignty of the Indian legal profession," the statement said.

Ashwini Vaishnaw reviews passenger movement at Railway Board War Room



New Delhi
Union Minister for Railways, Information & Broadcasting, and Electronics & Information Technology, Ashwini Vaishnaw, visited the War Room at the Railway Board and took stock of passenger movement during the festive season. He appreciated the staff for working round the clock and extended his best wishes to them during Diwali, a release said.

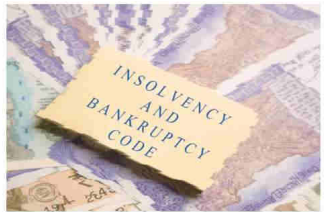
According to the release, Indian Railways (IR) has made extensive arrangements to cater to the passenger demand surge during the festive season. To ensure smooth travel during Puja, Diwali, and Chhath, IR is operating 12,011 special trains, a significant increase from 7,724 trains operated during the same period last year.

Indian Railways is operating at full strength to ensure passengers' smooth and comfortable travel during the festive rush. In addition to regular train services, IR successfully operated 3,960 special trains between 1 October and 19 October 2025 to meet the increased travel demand during the festive period.

To cater to the expected surge in passenger traffic for Diwali and Chhath, Indian Railways plans to operate around 8,000 more special trains in the coming days.

These special trains are being run across all zones of Indian Railways, with Northern Railway (1919 trains), Central Railway

Committee seeks public suggestions on IBC amendment bill



New Delhi
The Select Committee on Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (Amendment) Bill, 2025, headed by MP Baijant Pandya, has invited views and suggestions on the Bill from experts, industry associations, organisations, and stakeholders, according to an official statement.

People can send their memoranda and suggestions in English and Hindi within two weeks.

The IBC (Amendment) Bill proposes several structural and procedural changes to the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC), 2016, and was referred to a Select Committee for wider examination.

professionals, clarifying government dues priority, and placing tighter controls on the withdrawal of CIRP applications.

Apart from Pandya, 23 other MPs constitute the select committee on the bill.

The committee includes BJP MPs D Purandeswari, CN Manjunath, Mitesh Patel Bakabhai, Anil Firojia, Anand Kumar, Bipal Kumar Deb, Sanjay Jaiswal and Saumitra Khan, Congress MPs Karti P Chidambaram, Shreyas M Patel, Ravindra Vasant Rao Chavan, Bhajan Lal Jatav, Neeraj Maurya (Samajwadi Party), D M Kathir Anand (DMK), Supriya Sule (NCP-SCP), Lavu Sri Krishna Devarayalu (TDP), Mahua Moitra (TMC), Sunil Kumar (JD-U), Shrikant Eknath Shinde (Shiv Sena), Navaskani K (IUML), P V Midhun Reddy (YSRCP), Rajkumar Sangwan (RJD), and Chandra Prakash Choudhary (AJSU). On August 13, Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman introduced the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (Amendment) Bill, 2025, in the Lok Sabha, aiming to reduce delays and strengthen governance of the insolvency resolution process.

Honouring Courage: PM Modi, Shah, Rajnath pay tribute on Police Commemoration Day

Staff Reporter
New Delhi

On Police Commemoration Day, the nation paid homage to the bravery, dedication, and sacrifice of its police personnel, acknowledging their crucial role in maintaining law and order and safeguarding citizens. The tributes were led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Home Minister Amit Shah, and Raksha Mantri Rajnath Singh at the National Police Memorial in New Delhi.



In a message shared on social media platform X, Prime Minister Modi lauded the courage and commitment of police personnel, recalling the supreme sacrifices made by officers in the line of duty. "On Police Commemoration Day, we salute the courage of our police personnel and recall the supreme sacrifice by them in the line of duty. Their steadfast dedication keeps our nation and

people safe. Their bravery and commitment in times of crisis and in moments of need are appreciable," he said, extending warm greetings to all serving officers and paying solemn homage to martyrs.

Union Home Minister Amit Shah highlighted the strategic role of the police in addressing modern security challenges such as organized crime, terrorism, and ideological threats. He emphasized the importance of a vigilant and well-equipped police force and

appreciated their dedication as first responders, ensuring that citizens can live in peace and security.

Raksha Mantri Rajnath Singh laid a wreath at the National Police Memorial to honor ten policemen who lost their lives during an ambush by Chinese troops at Hot Springs, Ladakh, in 1959. Speaking on the occasion, he noted, "The military and police function on different platforms, but their mission is the same — to protect the nation.

As we look towards Viksit

Bharat by 2047, balancing external and internal security is more important than ever." He also highlighted the significant achievements in curbing Naxalism, pointing out that areas once known as the Red Corridor have now transformed into growth corridors thanks to the efforts of police and security forces.

Rajnath Singh further underscored the interdependence between society and the police, stating, "Policing can function effectively only when citizens work as partners and respect the law."

The commemorative event concluded with a joint parade featuring the Central Armed Police Forces and Delhi Police. The ceremony was attended by senior officials from CAPFs, retired police officers, and government dignitaries, serving as a solemn tribute to India's guardians of law and order.

IB Chief Tapan Deka honours 36,684 sacrifices on Police Commemoration Day

Mitali Chandola
New Delhi

Every uniform tells a story of courage — of men and women who walk into danger so others can live in peace. On Police Commemoration Day, Intelligence Bureau Director Tapan Deka brought the nation's attention to a solemn truth: Since Independence, 36,684 police personnel have made the supreme sacrifice in the line of duty.

It is not just a number — it is the echo of every silent promise made by India's fellow citizens, come what may. Deka said these sacrifices embody the unwavering spirit of duty that forms the backbone of India's internal security. "From the frontlines of counterterrorism to the streets of our cities, every police officer stands as a shield between chaos and order. Their bravery is the foundation of our nation's peace," he said.

Highlighting the evolving challenges of the 21st century, the IB Chief noted that crime today has taken new and complex forms — from



terrorism and organised crime to cyber warfare and ideological radicalisation. "To confront these emerging threats, our police must be equipped not just with weapons, but with technology, intelligence, and public trust," he emphasised.

Deka called for a renewed national commitment to honour and strengthen those who serve in uniform. "This day is not only for remembrance but for resolve — that every sacrifice inspires a stronger, more secure India," he said.

At the National Police Memorial in New Delhi, senior officials, police chiefs, and families of the martyrs gathered to pay homage. The ceremony stood as a reminder that while challenges evolve, the courage of India's police remains timeless — a silent yet steadfast promise to every citizen they protect.

Donald Trump has clearly brushed aside MEA's denial, says Jairam Ramesh

New Delhi

Congress leader Jairam Ramesh on Tuesday questioned the Centre over US President Donald Trump's repeated claims of speaking to Prime Minister Narendra Modi over the purchase of Russian oil.

Observing that Trump has reiterated his claims three times in the past five days, Ramesh said that the tally is expected to grow as Trump prepares to meet Russian President Vladimir Putin in Budapest later this week.



In a post on X, the senior Congress leader said, "The matter of India's imports of oil from Russia has been raised by President Trump now three times in the past five days. And no doubt he will keep increasing this tally as he prepares to meet President Putin in Budapest later in the week."

"President Trump says he has spoken to his good friend Mr. Modi and India has promised to stop these imports. The MEA says that it is unaware of such conversations (!) but President Trump has clearly brushed

aside the MEA's attempts at denial," he added.

Earlier on Monday, continuing his criticism over India's purchase of Russian oil, US President Donald Trump said that New Delhi would continue to keep paying tariffs until it halts its imports from Moscow.

Trump, during his gaggle with the Press on Air Force One, was asked about India's denial of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's call with him.

"Well then, they're going to just keep paying a lot of tariffs if they said that, but I don't believe they said that. No, I spoke with Prime Minister Modi of India and he said he's not going to be doing the Russian oil thing," he said.

Trump added, "But if they

want to say that, then they'll just continue to pay massive tariffs, and they don't want to do that." The Ministry of External Affairs on Thursday said that no phone call took place between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and US President Donald Trump the previous day.

When asked about Trump's claim that India would stop buying Russian Oil, the spokesperson of MEA, Ranjiv Jaiswal, said that the two leaders had no phone call on Wednesday.

"On the question of whether there was a conversation or a telephone call between Prime Minister Modi and Prime Minister Trump, I am not aware of any conversation yesterday during the two leaders," he said.

Jaiswal said that the two

leaders spoke on October 9, where Prime Minister Modi congratulated Trump on the success of the Gaza peace plan.

"Well, the telephone call happened between the Prime Minister and President Trump. It was a call where he also congratulated President Trump on the success of the Gaza peace plan, and they also reviewed the progress in trade negotiations, and they also agreed to stay in touch. So this was the readout that was given post the telephone call. So, that is where it is," he said.

Talking about the energy sourcing, Jaiswal said that India's stance is as per the statement issued earlier in the day.

"I would again request all of you to look at the statement carefully. What we have had to say we have already said, and I would urge that you know you have a look at the statement, from as far as we are concerned, it is there for you to see how we approached the issue," he said.

BSF Tripura Frontier pays tribute to martyrs on Police Commemoration Day

Agartala: The Tripura Frontier of the Border Security Force, on Tuesday observed Police Commemoration Day with solemnity and reverence at Frontier Headquarters, Salbagan, Agartala, an official release said.

Aloke Kumar Chakraborty, Inspector General, BSF Tripura Frontier, and all ranks, paid heartfelt tributes to the brave souls who made the supreme sacrifice in the line of duty. During the ceremony, the Inspector General laid a wreath at the Smriti Sthal in honour of the police personnel who served the nation. Addressing the gathering, he read out the names of 191 martyrs, including 23 BSF personnel, and highlighted their extraordinary courage and dedication to duty.

Every year, this day serves as a poignant reminder of the sacrifice made by 10 Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) personnel who lost their lives while valiantly defending the nation against Chinese aggression on 21st October 1959 at Hot Springs, Ladakh (Jammu & Kashmir).

The observance of this day not only honours their supreme sacrifice but also reinforces the Force's collective resolve to uphold the values and ideals they stood for.

Rajasthan CM Bhajanlal Sharma pays tribute on Police Commemoration Day

Jaipur: Rajasthan Chief Minister Bhajanlal Sharma on Tuesday paid heartfelt tribute to police personnel who made the supreme sacrifice while performing their duty towards national service. The saga of your courage, dedication to duty, and patriotism will forever remain a source of inspiration for the coming generations of the country.

To honour the everlasting memory of gallant Policemen, who have made the supreme sacrifice in the line of duty, October 21 every year is observed as 'Commemoration Day' by the Police forces all over India.

The significance of October 21 lies in the fact that ten brave Policemen were ambushed and killed by the Chinese Army at Hot Springs in Ladakh on October 21, 1959, in an unusual confrontation inside Indian territory. To honour the memory of these ten valiant Policemen, the DGSP/IGSP Conference held in 1962 decided to observe October 21 every year as Police Commemoration Day.

Meanwhile, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday paid heartfelt tributes to India's police personnel on the occasion of Police Commemoration Day, lauding their courage, dedication, and sacrifices in maintaining the nation's safety and security.

CM Dhama announces major welfare, modernisation initiatives for Police force

Dehradun (Uttarakhand): Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhama attended the programme organised on the occasion of Police Commemoration Day at the Police Lines in Dehradun on Tuesday.

During the event, the Chief Minister paid floral tributes to the jawans of the police and paramilitary forces and honoured the family members of the brave police personnel who laid down their lives in the line of duty.

According to the release, the Chief Minister announced several important initiatives for the police force, including a special Silver Jubilee Medal for all personnel of the Uttarakhand Police on the 25th anniversary of the state's formation; an annual allocation of Rs 100 crore for the construction of residential buildings for police personnel over the next three years; an increase in the Police Welfare Fund from the current Rs 2.5 crore to Rs 4.5 crore for the upcoming year; and



Boost for the protectors — CM Dhama unveils major welfare and modernisation plans for Uttarakhand Police

the construction of five new barracks for SDRF personnel in Bhawali (Nainital), Dhalmalla, Kanda (Bageshwar), Nainidanda, Dhuma-kot, Pauri, Ghansali, Tehri, and Satpuli.

The Chief Minister said that maintaining internal security and law and order across the nation is the responsibility of the police and paramilitary

forces. In the past year alone, 186 personnel from these forces have made the supreme sacrifice across India, including four brave sons of Uttarakhand Police. Their courage and sacrifice, he said, form the foundation of national security and will forever inspire us. He reiterated the state government's unwavering commitment

to strengthening and modernising the police system and ensuring the welfare and empowerment of all police personnel.

The Chief Minister highlighted that women help desks with Quick Response Teams (QRTs) have been established in every police station of the state. Over the past three years, the government

The Chief Minister paid floral tributes to the jawans of the police and paramilitary forces and honoured the family members of the brave police personnel who laid down their lives in the line of duty.

has provided 500 crore for the construction of police infrastructure a significant increase compared to previous years. Currently, 688 residential quarters and administrative buildings are under construction, and work on 120 new quarters will begin soon. To realise the vision of smart policing, the government has funded the upgradation of barracks, messes, and workplaces. A sum of 5 crore has been released for implementing the new criminal laws, and all police personnel are being provided with cashless medical facilities under the state health scheme.

CM Dhama further mentioned that the

Sanjay Nishad predicts NDA victory in Bihar elections



Lucknow: Uttar Pradesh Minister and NISHAD Party Chief Sanjay Nishad on Tuesday took a jibe at the opposition's Mahagathbandhan, saying that whatever formula they adopt, the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) will form the government in Bihar.

Nishad stressed that every party and alliance has its own ideology and system, but the Mahagathbandhan leaders have turned politics into a profession.

Meanwhile, BJP MP Dinesh Sharma said on Tuesday that the Ma-

hagathbandhan is on the verge of collapse even before it is formed.

He also claimed that the charisma of RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav had faded.

"They (RJD) lack a political agenda. The 'Mahagathbandhan' is on the verge of collapse even before it's formed... Everyone knows that Tejashwi's charisma has faded. Now, the only person who will be successful is Nitish Kumar," Sharma said.

Earlier, on Monday, the Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) released its list of 143 candidates, effectively concluding prolonged seat-sharing talks within the Mahagathbandhan alliance. However, the alliance suffered a blow as the Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM) formally withdrew from the elections.

UP extends helping hand to Punjab's flood-affected farmers

Lucknow: Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Tuesday said that 1,000 quintals of wheat seed have been sent to Punjab for the farmers affected by recent floods in the state, highlighting his government's support for farmers during natural disasters.

The Chief Minister to-day attended the seed assistance vehicle flag-off program for flood-affected farmers in Punjab.

Addressing the gathering, CM Yogi said, "The flood in Punjab has impacted public life, including seed storage, which could affect agricultural growth. In this time of crisis, we stand with the farmers of Punjab. Today, 1,000 quintals of wheat seed are being sent, and I thank the Agriculture Department and the Seed Department for this initiative."

He added that the wheat variety being sent matures in 155 days and yields up to 80 quintals per hectare, emphasizing the quality of the seeds provided.

The Chief Minister also paid tribute to Harvinder Sahib Govind on his birth anniversary, noting his



contributions to public welfare.

"Today is also the birth anniversary of Harvinder Sahib Govind, who worked extensively for the upliftment of the people, and when he visited Punjab, lamps were lit for him," CM said.

Highlighting past relief efforts, CM Yogi said that during floods in Punjab, Uttarakhand, and Himachal Pradesh, the UP government had also sent relief materials and provided assistance through the Chief Minister's Relief Fund.

"And today, we are receiving praise for sending 1,000 quintals of seed to the farmers of Punjab. This is a very good variety of wheat," Yogi added.

The Chief Minister further praised the per-

formance of the Seed Development Corporation, asserting that when the current government came to power, the department was in poor condition.

Earlier, Punjab Finance Minister Harpal Singh Cheema said the ongoing State Assembly will continue its discussion on the Rehabilitation Bill, which was introduced by Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann after the devastating effects of the flood in Punjab and the damages incurred by the state.

He also pointed out that while Punjab demanded Rs 20,000 crore in aid, Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced only Rs 1,600 crore, which has not yet been released.

Sacrifice of brave policemen a matter of pride for the entire force: CM Yogi

Lucknow: The Uttar Pradesh Police continues to take decisive action against crime and criminals to ensure a safe and harmonious environment across the state. Many brave officers have laid down their lives in this mission, displaying exceptional courage and unwavering commitment to duty.

Over the past eight years, 18 police personnel have been martyred in encounters with criminals, including three between September 1, 2024, and August 31, 2025. On Police Commemoration Day, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath paid homage to these heroes by offering a wreath and meeting their families.

Among the martyrs were STF Inspector Sunil Kumar, Chief Constable Durgesh Kumar Singh (Jaunpur), and Constable Saurabh Kumar (Gautam Buddha Nagar) — three valiant officers whose courage and devotion to duty brought pride to the entire force.

On January 20, 2025, Inspector Sunil Kumar led an STF operation to arrest Ashad, a wanted criminal carrying a Rs 1 lakh



bounty, in Shamli district. During the encounter near Bidoli Chasana intersection, criminals opened fire. Despite sustaining multiple bullet injuries, the officer continued leading his team. The STF retaliated in self-defence, killing four criminals. Inspector Sunil was critically injured and succumbed at Medanta Hospital, Gurugram, on January 22, 2025.

On May 12, 2025, Head Constable Durgesh Kumar Singh was assigned duty with the Inspector-in-Charge of Chandwakh Police Station, Jaunpur. During an anti-cow smuggling operation on May 17, he was checking vehicles at Khujji turn in the Jalalpur police station area along with Inspector Satyaprakash Singh.

At around 11:50 p.m.,

the driver of a pickup truck (UP 65 PT 9227) intentionally rammed the vehicle into him while trying to escape. Head Constable Durgesh suffered severe injuries and was immediately taken to the Trauma Center, BHU Varanasi, where he was declared dead.

In a swift follow-up operation, police surrounded the area, leading to an encounter in which three accused were injured, while one, Salman, died during treatment.

Head Constable Durgesh's supreme sacrifice continues to inspire not only the Jaunpur Police but also the entire Uttar Pradesh Police force, exemplifying courage and duty in the face of danger. On May 25, 2025, a police team led by Sub-In-

spector Sachin Rathie set out to apprehend Qadir, a wanted accused in a case registered at Police Station Phase-3, Gautam Buddha Nagar. The team comprised Sub-Inspectors Udit Singh and Nikhil, along with Constables Sachin, Saurabh, Sandeep Kumar, and Sonit. Acting on a tip-off, the team reached village Nahal, under Police Station Mussoorie, in Ghazialbad district, where the informant identified Qadir sitting among a group of men.

As the police moved in and arrested him, Qadir began shouting for help, drawing a hostile crowd that attacked the officers. While Qadir was being placed in the police vehicle, his brother and accomplices opened fire on the team. Constable Saurabh Kumar was shot in the head, and Constable Sonit was also injured. As the police tried to move the wounded officers to safety, the mob resumed firing and pelting stones. The injured Saurabh Kumar was immediately rushed to Yashoda Hospital, Nehru Nagar, Ghazialbad, where doctors declared him dead.

Mahagathbandhan' is on the verge of collapse even before it's formed: BJP's Dinesh Sharma

Lucknow: Launching a scathing attack on the opposition, BJP MP Dinesh Sharma said on Tuesday that the Mahagathbandhan is on the verge of collapse even before it is formed.

Sharma accused the main Opposition party in the State, Rashtriya Janata Dal, of being casteist and communal. "RJD is both casteist and communal. Its entire political agenda is spent vilifying other castes and inciting conflict between Hindus and Muslims," he said.

He also claimed that the RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav's charisma had faded. "They (RJD) lack a political agenda. The 'Mahagathbandhan' is on the verge of collapse even before it's formed. Everyone knows that



Tejashwi's charisma has faded. Now, the only person who will be successful is Nitish Kumar," Sharma said. Meanwhile, independent MP Pappu Yadav from Purnea on Tuesday exuded confidence in the victory of Mahagathbandhan in the Bihar Assembly polls, stating that the people of the state support the grand

alliance.

Speaking to reporters in Patna, Yadav said, "The entire public is on one side. All people are standing with the 'Mahagathbandhan'. Only the grand alliance's government will be formed. When the public is united, it will unite everyone."

released its list of 143 candidates, effectively concluding prolonged seat-sharing talks within the Mahagathbandhan alliance. However, the alliance suffered a blow as the Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM) formally withdrew from the elections.

With this announcement, the shape of the Mahagathbandhan alliance is also clear, with RJD contesting 143, Congress 61, CPI ML 20 and the remaining likely to go to Mukesh Sahani's VIP.

The 2025 Bihar Elections will have the main contest between the National Democratic Alliance and the Mahagathbandhan.

NDA includes the Bharatiya Janata Party, Janata Dal (United), Lok Janshakti Party

(Ram Vilas), Hindustani Awam Morcha (Secular) and Rashtriya Lok Morcha. The Mahagathbandhan led by Rashtriya Janata Dal includes the Congress party, the Communist Party of India (Marxist-Leninist) (CPI-ML) led by Deepankar Bhattacharya, the Communist Party of India (CPI), the Communist Party of India (Marxist) (CPM), and Mukesh Sahani's Vikashlee Insaan Party (VIP).

Additionally, Prashant Kishor's Jan Suraj has also staked claims on all 243 seats of the state.

Polling in the Bihar 2025 elections is scheduled to take place on November 6 and 11, respectively, while the results will be declared on November 14.

Azam Khan calls 'I Love Muhammad' row a plot to disturb harmony

Rampur: Samajwadi Party leader Azam Khan on Tuesday said that the controversy over the 'I Love Muhammad' campaign, which triggered violence in Bareilly on September 26, was an attempt to disrupt communal harmony.

Khan said, "Even if I were to call it a spark, how did this small matter become such a raging fire? Had the district administration wanted, the issue could have been resolved through dialogue. No matter how much the situation escalates, a solution is found only by sitting at the table. Just look at the results of the wars... This was a conspiracy to destroy harmony. Obviously, if someone loves someone, it is their birthright to love them..."

The protesters pelted stones at the police during the protest after the Friday prayers. A group of people had gathered outside Ala

Hazrat Dargah and Ittehad-e-Millat Council (IMC) chief Maulana Tauqeer Raza Khan's house, holding 'I Love Muhammad' placards.

Following the chaos, the Uttar Pradesh police arrested Maulana Mohsin Raza in connection with the September 26 protests in Bareilly.

All India Majlis-e-Ittehad ul Muslimeen (AIMM) President Asaduddin Owaisi criticised the Uttar Pradesh government over the 'I Love Muhammad' poster controversy, stating that expressing love for Prophet Muhammad is a matter of 'faith' and questioned why the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) was objecting to it.

In an interview with ANI, the AIMM President said that the UP government should release those who have been arrested in connection with the 'I Love Muhammad' poster row.

"Iron Lady"
Sanae Takaichi
becomes Japan's
first woman
prime minister

Tokyo: Japan's Liberal Democratic Party President Sanae Takaichi was elected Prime Minister by parliament on Tuesday, to become the country's first woman leader.

Takaichi avoided a runoff with a victory in a first round of voting in the Lower House, garnering 237 votes against Constitutional Democratic Party of Japan leader Yoshihiro Noda's 149, Kyodo reported.

The official Japanese news agency said that 64-year-old Takaichi won 237 of 465 votes cast in the lower house of Parliament to become the Japan PM.

Among the challenges that the new PM faces is a sluggish economy and uniting the ruling party which has been rocked by scandals and internal conflicts.

On Monday Takaichi, who has been looking for a new political partner, reached a formal agreement with Osaka Governor Hirofumi Yoshimura, who leads the JIP, also known as Nippon Ishin no Kai.

Takaichi, a protégé of the late former PM Shinzo Abe, was on Tuesday morning already moving ahead with forming a Cabinet ahead of her formal election as prime minister. No lawmakers from the JIP — which is also known as Nippon Ishin no Kai — are expected to join the Cabinet.

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BUSINESS

India Coal Import Drops Marginally in August



New Delhi: India's coal import dropped by marginal 0.6 per cent to 20.58 million tonne in the month of August, over the year-ago period.

The country's coal import was 20.70 MT in the corresponding period of the previous fiscal. In the April-August period of FY26, the coal import dropped to 118.07 MT from 121.18 MT a year ago, according to data compiled by B2B e-commerce solution provider junction services.

Of the total imports in August, non-cooking coal volume stood at 11.55 MT, against 13.04 MT a year ago. Coking coal import was at 4.82 MT against 4.53 MT imported in August last fiscal.

During April-August FY26, non-cooking coal

Senate Republicans head to White House amid stalemate on US shutdown

Washington: A shutdown enters its fourth week, Senate Republicans are headed to the White House on Tuesday — not for urgent talks on how to end it, but for a display of unity with President Donald Trump as they refuse to negotiate on any Democratic demands.

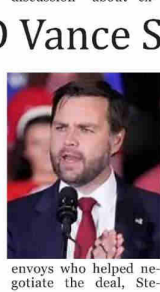
Senate Democrats, too, are confident in their strategy to keep voting against a House-passed Bill that would reopen the government until Republicans, including Trump, engage them on extending health care subsidies that expire at the end of the year.

With both sides showing no signs of movement, it's unclear how long the stalemate will last — even as hundreds of thousands of federal workers will miss another paycheck in the coming days and states are sounding warnings that key federal programmes will soon lapse completely.



Tense talks ahead — Senate Republicans rush to White House as US shutdown looms

And the meeting at the White House appears unlikely, for now, to lead to a bipartisan resolution as Senate Republicans are dug in and Trump has followed their lead.



envoys who helped negotiate the deal, Steve Witkoff and Jared Kushner, also held talks with Netanyahu on Monday.

Their visits come after a flare-up of violence on Sunday that threatened to derail the 12-day-old truce. Israel said a Hamas attack killed 20 soldiers, triggering Israeli air strikes which killed dozens of Palestinians.

US President Donald Trump insisted on Monday that the ceasefire was still on track but also warned Hamas that it would be "eradicated" if it violated the deal.

Trump is said to have dispatched his deputy and envoys to Israel to keep up the momentum and push for the start of talks on the second critical phase of his 20-point Gaza peace plan.

Federal workers are set to miss additional paychecks amid total uncertainty about when they might eventually get paid.

Government services like the Special Supplemental Nutrition Programme for Women, Infants and Children, known as WIC, and Head Start preschool programmes that serve needy families are facing potential cutoffs in funding.

On Monday, Energy Secretary Chris Wright said the National Nuclear Security Administration is furloughing 1,400 federal workers.

The Federal Aviation Administration has reported air controller shortages and flight delays in cities across the United States.

Still, there has been little urgency in Washington as each side believes the other will eventually cave.

Senate Democrats, too, are confident in their strategy to keep voting against a House-passed Bill that would reopen the government until Republicans, including Trump, engage them on extending health care subsidies that expire at the end of the year.

European leaders back Trump's Ukraine ceasefire position

Brussels: European Union countries on Tuesday released a statement in support of the US President Donald Trump's position that fighting should end immediately in Ukraine, adding that "the current line of contact should be the starting point of negotiations."

"We strongly support President Trump's position that the fighting should stop immediately, and that the current line of contact should be the starting point of negotiations," the statement read.

"We must ramp up the pressure on Russia's economy and its defence industry, until [Vladimir] Putin is ready to make peace. We are developing measures to use the full value of Russia's immobilised sovereign assets so that Ukraine has the resources it needs," it read.

The statement was issued by Ukrainian President Zelenskyy, UK Prime Minister Keir Starmer, Chancellor Friedrich Merz, France President Emmanuel Macron, Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni, Poland Prime Minister Donald Tusk, EU President von der Leyen, European Council Presi-

dent Antonio Costa, Norway Prime Minister Jonas Gahr Støre, Finland President Sauli Niinistö, German Chancellor Olaf Scholz and Denmark Prime Minister Mette Frederiksen on Peace for Ukraine.

The EU President Ursula von der Leyen took to X to share the joint statement and said, "We're united, more than ever, for a just and lasting peace for Ukraine."

"We support President of the US efforts to this end. Ukraine must be in the strongest position before, during and after any ceasefire," she said adding, "This will be front and center in our EUO and Coalition of the Willing meetings."

EU's top diplomat Kaja Kallas said on Monday that Ukraine shouldn't have to give up territory as part of a peace deal with Russia.

According to a Politico report, Kallas was cited as telling journalists in Luxembourg after a meeting of foreign ministers, "If we just give away the territories, then this gives a message to everybody that you can just use force against your neighbors and get what you want." She said, "I think this is very dangerous."

US VP JD Vance Strives for Peace Amid Fragile Gaza Ceasefire

Washington: US Vice-President JD Vance has arrived in Israel as part of the Trump administration's efforts to strengthen the Gaza ceasefire agreement.

He is expected to push the Israeli Prime Minister, Benjamin Netanyahu, to start negotiations on long-term issues for a permanent end to the war with Hamas.

The two special US



envoys who helped negotiate the deal, Steve Witkoff and Jared Kushner, also held talks with Netanyahu on Monday.

Their visits come after a flare-up of violence on Sunday that threatened to derail the 12-day-old truce. Israel said a Hamas attack killed 20 soldiers, triggering Israeli air strikes which killed dozens of Palestinians.

US President Donald Trump insisted on Monday that the ceasefire was still on track but also warned Hamas that it would be "eradicated" if it violated the deal.

Trump is said to have dispatched his deputy and envoys to Israel to keep up the momentum and push for the start of talks on the second critical phase of his 20-point Gaza peace plan.

It would involve setting up an interim government in the Palestinian territory, deploying an international stabilisation force, the withdrawal of Israeli troops, and disarmament of Hamas.

Israel has previously said it would not join such talks until Hamas has returned all the deceased hostages it has been holding.

Vance, Witkoff and Kushner are also attempting to ensure the ceasefire deal, which is based on the first phase of the peace plan, does not collapse first.

The New York Times cited US officials as saying they were concerned that Israel's prime minister might "vacate" the deal and resume an all-out assault against Hamas.

Netanyahu told the Israeli parliament on Monday that he would discuss "security challenges" and "political opportunities" with Vance during his visit.

He also said Israeli forces had dropped 153 tonnes of bombs on Gaza in response to what he called a "blatant" breach of the ceasefire by Hamas on Sunday.

Netanyahu told the Israeli parliament on Monday that he would discuss "security challenges" and "political opportunities" with Vance during his visit.

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Sensex, Nifty Gain in Muhurat Trading Session

Mumbai: Benchmark stock indices Sensex and Nifty ended marginally higher in the special one-hour Muhurat trading session on Tuesday, marking the beginning of the new Samvat Year 2082 on a positive note amid firm global cues.

The 30-share BSE Sensex rose 62.97 points or 0.07 per cent to close at 84,426.34. During the symbolic session, the benchmark hit a high of 84,665.44 and a low of 84,286.40.

The broader NSE Nifty went up by 25.45 points, or 0.10 per cent, to close at 25,868.60. As many as 25 Nifty stocks ended lower while 24 shares closed with gains and one remain unchanged.

Stock exchanges BSE and NSE conducted a special Muhurat trading session from 13:45 hrs to 14:45 hrs on Tuesday to mark the beginning of the new Samvat Year 2082, and the opening of new accounting books for traders and investors.

In the last Samvat 2081 which ended on



Monday the BSE Sensex jumped 4,974.31 points or 6.26 per cent and the Nifty climbed 1,637.8 points or 6.76 per cent.

Muhurat trading is a one-hour symbolic trading session conducted by stock exchanges on the occasion of Diwali, marking the start of the new Samvat year and new books of accounts by traders.

Among major Sensex gainers Bajaj Finserv rose the most by 1.42 per cent, Axis Bank gained 0.80 per cent, Infosys by 0.72 per cent, Mahindra & Mahindra by 0.60 per cent, Tata Motors by 0.55 per cent, Bajaj Finance by 0.53 per cent and Tata Steel by 0.52 per cent.

Kotak Mahindra Bank, ICICI Bank, HCL Technologies, Bharti Airtel, Maruti Suzuki India, Trent Ltd and Tata Consultancy Services were the losers.

Broader markets also advanced with BSE Midcap rising 0.23 per cent, or 106.95 points, to close at 46,787.20. The BSE SmallCap gained 0.91 per cent, or 486.81 points, to settle at 53,842.85.

Among the sectoral indices, Industrials rose the most by 0.53 per cent, Telecommunication by 0.51 per cent, Commodities by 0.47 per cent, Capital Goods by 0.40 per cent, Services by 0.38 per cent and Metal by 0.37 per cent.

On the other hand, Bank and Realty ended marginally lower.

Meanwhile, global markets were trading in firm European shares rose in early trade while Asian peers ended with gains.

Shanghai's Composite benchmark increased by 1.36 per cent, Hong Kong's Hang Seng index climbed 0.77 per cent, South Korea's KOSPI went up 0.24 per cent, and Japan's benchmark Nikkei 225 rose 0.15 per cent.

which encouraged sustained festive spending. The report noted that this festive surge will continue through the winter, wedding, and upcoming festive season from mid-January.

According to CAIT, Diwali 2025 trade created 50 lakh temporary jobs in logistics, packaging, transport, and retail services. Rural and semi-urban India accounted for 28 per cent of the total trade, reflecting deeper economic participation beyond metros.

RBI sells USD 7.7 Billion to curb rupee volatility



Mumbai: The Reserve Bank sold USD 7.7 billion in August to check exchange rate volatility as well as to arrest the decline in value of the rupee against the American currency.

The central bank's net sale of US dollars was at USD 7.69 billion in August, nearly three times higher than in the preceding month, according to the data on sale/purchase of US dollars published in the RBI's latest bulletin.

The data also showed that the Reserve Bank did not purchase US dollars in July and August. Reserve Bank's stated position is that it does not target any level or band for the rupee-dollar exchange rate, but intervenes in the forex market only when there is excessive volatility.

In August, the rupee depreciated by 1.6 against the US dollar. The Indian rupee depreciated against the US dollar in September too, amidst elevated trade tensions, heightened global uncertainties, and persistent foreign portfolio investment outflows.

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Diwali sales hit record Rs 6 lakh Crore: CAIT

New Delhi: India's Diwali sales touched a record Rs 6.05 lakh crore — comprising Rs 5.40 lakh crore in goods and Rs 65,000 crore in services — buoyed by the recent GST reform and strong consumer sentiment, traders' lobby CAIT said on Tuesday.

The Confederation of All India Traders (CAIT) based its findings on a nation-wide survey across 60 major distribution centres including state capitals and Tier 2 & 3 cities



conducted by its research wing. Last year, the Diwali sales stood at Rs 4.25 lakh crore, according to CAIT.

Mainline retail — particularly non-corporate and traditional markets — contributed 85 per cent to the total trade, underscoring a power-

ful comeback of India's physical markets and small traders, CAIT stated. Sector wise percentage of sales of prominent

grocery items included Grocery & FMCG 12 per cent, Gold & Jewellery 10 per cent, Electronics & Electricals items 8 per cent, Consumer Durables 7 per cent, Ready-made Garments 7 per cent, Gift Items 7 per cent, Home Décor 5 per cent, Furnishing & Furniture 5 per cent, Sweets & Namkeen 5 per cent, Textiles & Fabrics 4 per cent, Pooja Articles 3 per cent, Fruits & Dry Fruits 3 per cent, among others.

CAIT National President B C Bhartia said

services sector added Rs 65,000 crore to the sales from sectors such as packaging, hospitality, cab services, travel, event management, tent & decoration, manpower, and delivery.

The report found that 72 per cent of surveyed traders attributed higher sales volumes directly to reduced GST rates on daily-use items, footwear, garments, confectionery, home décor, and consumer durables. Consumers also expressed greater satisfaction with stable pricing,

which encouraged sustained festive spending. The report noted that this festive surge will continue through the winter, wedding, and upcoming festive season from mid-January.

According to CAIT, Diwali 2025 trade created 50 lakh temporary jobs in logistics, packaging, transport, and retail services. Rural and semi-urban India accounted for 28 per cent of the total trade, reflecting deeper economic participation beyond metros.

West Indies pull off rare feat in chase for redemption

Dhaka: The second ODI between Bangladesh and West Indies at Dhaka's Shere Bangla National Stadium witnessed an unusual feat as the visitors delivered all their 50 overs by spinners, marking the first-ever instance of a team bowling all-spin in a completed ODI inning.

As WI trail by 1-0 in the three-match series, the two-time champions, searching for automatic qualification to the 2027 ICC Cricket World Cup, had spinners Akmal Hossain, Roston Chase, Gudakesh Motie, Khary Pierre, and Alick Athanaze each delivering 10 overs.

The surface was very familiar to what was on offer during the first ODI, the one with plenty of cracks and dryness, and Windies made the best use of it.

A fluent knock from Soumya Sarkar (45 in 89 balls, with three fours and a six) and a half-century partnership for the seventh wicket between skipper Mehidy Hasan Miraz (52* in 58 balls, with a fours) and Rishad Hossain, who played a sensational cameo of 39* in 14 balls, with three fours and four sixes each was the highlight as Bangladesh posted 213/7 in 50 overs.

Miraz and Rishad's partnership came when Bangladesh were 163/7 in 46 overs, with Rishad's fireworks making a massive difference.

Motie (3/65) emerged as the pick of the bowlers for WI, while Athanaze (2/14) delivered a sensational 10-over spell. Hossain also took 2/41 in 10 overs.

Aussie captain Alyssa Healy out with calf strain, Tahlia McGrath to lead

New Delhi: Australia have been dealt a blow ahead of their upcoming ICC Women's Cricket World Cup 2025 fixture against England on Wednesday, with captain Alyssa Healy sidelined after sustaining a minor calf strain during a training session last Saturday.

She will continue to be evaluated ahead of Australia's final group-stage fixture versus South Africa, scheduled for Saturday, 23rd October. In her absence, Tahlia McGrath will step in to lead the side. Australia have already sealed their semi-final spot at the tournament.

Healy has been in sparkling touch throughout the tournament, anchoring the batting for her team. She leads Australia's run-scoring so far, amassing 294 runs in the competition from four games, as per the ICC website.

She smashed a brilliant 142 off 107 balls against India in her sixth ODI century and first as captain - which powered Australia to the highest successful chase in women's ODI history.

Healy followed that up with an unbeaten 113* in a dominant 10-wicket victory over Bangladesh, marking her second consecutive hundred in the tournament.

Kohli gears up for Adelaide ODI with crisp strokeplay

Adelaide: Following a disappointing return to international cricket in the first ODI at Perth, which witnessed Virat Kohli struggle with the outside off-stump trap once again, the superstar batter took to the nets, firing some of his trademark hits while also attempting some back-footed strokes ahead of the second ODI at Adelaide Oval.

In a video posted by SACA News, the official X handle of the South Australia Cricket Association (SACA), the team with Adelaide Oval as their home ground, Virat is witnessed firing big hits and capped off the video with an eye-catching pull shot.

After a disappointing eight-ball duck at Perth on his international return, which dampened the festive feel around this ODI series taking place in Diwali week, Virat would be aiming to make amends with a fine knock and avoid the outside off-stump trap that has followed him for a

long while.

At Adelaide Oval, he is India's highest run-getter of all time, with 975 runs in 12 matches and 17 innings at an average of 65.00, five centuries and four fifties, and a best score of 141.

Notably, he is also the best visiting batter of all time at this venue, and it is his home away from home.

In eight innings this year, he has scored 275 runs in eight ODIs and innings,



Kohli sharpens form ahead of Adelaide ODI

averaging 39.28, with a century, two fifties, and a best score of 100*.

Virat has delivered some of his biggest career statements at this venue. When his credentials as a Test batter were met with scepticism in his early 20s during the 2011-12 Test tour, Virat registered his maiden Test hundred at this venue, against a fiery line-up of Ryan Harris, Ben Hilfenhaus, Peter Siddle against

who even legends like Sachin Tendulkar, Virender Sehwag, VVS Laxman and Rahul Dravid struggled to tackle at twilight of their careers. Result? Virat was the only Indian batter to cross the 300-run mark in the series, which marked the beginning of the end for these legends mentioned above.

His next statement came during December 2014 in the first Test of the tour,

It's been frustrating": Matt Short targets consistency in ODIs

New Delhi: Australia's players will take away different lessons from this ODI series against India. While the series holds its own importance, for some it serves as preparation for the Ashes, for others it's a first real opportunity at the ODI level, and for a few it's a chance to revive their credentials. For Matt Short, however, this is a crucial phase to push his case for a top-order spot, with competition heating up ahead of the 2027 ODI World Cup, as per ESPNcricinfo.

The rain-hit opening match in Perth was Short's 16th ODI since making his debut a little over two years ago in South Africa. In his debut game against India in Mohali, he batted at No. 8, and a few months later, he was sent in at No. 6 against West Indies in Sydney. It was only later that he got an extended run at the top of the order, where he scored his career-best 65 against England during the Champions Trophy earlier this year.

Since then, things haven't gone as planned. Short himself described it as a frustrating period, having been sidelined by injuries, first a



Matt Short eyes consistency after frustration

quad strain that ended his Champions Trophy campaign early, followed by a side injury that kept him out of the T20I series against West Indies and the entire white-ball leg against South Africa.

He played in the three T20Is against New Zealand earlier this month, but runs have been hard to come by in 50-over cricket this season. For Victoria, he has managed scores of 0, 20 and 12. In the Perth ODI, he could score 8 off 17 balls before top-edging a catch to short third man off Axar Patel, missing a good chance to build a partnership with Mitchell Marsh.

"It's been frustrating...I still feel like I'm moving well. I'm feeling good out

in the middle," Short told reporters, as quoted from ESPNcricinfo.

"Just haven't got the runs on the board. But hopefully they come soon. It's been a frustrating year in terms of getting that continuous cricket," he noted.

With Cameron Green (side injury) and Josh Inglis (calf) unavailable, Australia are without two key members of their preferred ODI XI as they look ahead to the 2027 World Cup. While Marsh and Travis Head seem set as the first-choice opening pair, there's likely to be fierce competition for middle and lower-order positions in the post-Steve Smith and Glenn Maxwell 50-over era.

Virat Kohli returns to his happy hunting ground in Adelaide

Adelaide: When star Indian batter Virat Kohli enters the comfortable, lush-green and familiar field of Adelaide Oval for the second ODI against Australia on Thursday, it could be for the last time the legend could be making his appearance at the iconic venue where he has played some of his best cricket. The date of October 23rd, the day of the match, also holds massive significance in his career, and the soon-to-be 37-year-old could script another core memory for the Indian cricket audience at the venue.

The second ODI between India and Australia will take place at Adelaide Oval from Thursday onwards. After a disappointing



India final 5% match fee for slow over-rate vs Australia

eight-ball duck at Perth on his international return, which dampened the festive feel around this ODI series taking place in Diwali week, Virat would be aiming to make amends with a fine knock and avoid the outside off-stump trap that has followed

him for a long while. At Adelaide Oval, he is India's highest run-getter of all time, with 975 runs in 12 matches and 17 innings at an average of 65.00, five centuries and four fifties, with a best score of 141. Notably, he is also the best visiting

batter of all time at this venue, and it is his home away from home.

Virat has delivered some of his biggest career statements at this venue. When his credentials as a Test batter were met with scepticism in his early 20s during the 2011-12 Test tour, Virat registered his maiden Test hundred at this venue, against a fiery line-up of Ryan Harris, Ben Hilfenhaus, Peter Siddle against who even legends like Sachin Tendulkar, Virender Sehwag, VVS Laxman and Rahul Dravid struggled to tackle at twilight of their careers. Result? Virat was the only Indian batter to cross the 300-run mark in the series, which marked the beginning of the end for these legends mentioned above.

ACB spokesperson slams Pakistan over airstrike that killed 3 Afghan players

Kabul: Sayed Naseem Sadaat, spokesperson for the Afghanistan Cricket Board (ACB), strongly condemns Pakistan's airstrike in Pakhtia province that killed three Afghan cricketers, urging global cricket boards to denounce the attack.

He emphasized that cricket promotes peace and shouldn't be entangled with war, calling for the protection of cricketers and the sport from conflict.

ACB confirmed that the players, identified as Kabeer, Sibghatullah, and Haroon, were among eight people killed in the airstrike in the Urgan district. Seven others were reportedly injured.

In an exclusive interview with ANI, Sayed Naseem Sadaat said, "We call upon all the cricket boards to condemn such barbaric attacks because cricket is a game that carries the message of peace. Cricketers are peace ambassadors and they should be stayed away from the war. War should not be interfered in sports. So we call upon all the cricket fraternity and boards to

condemn such attacks and keep cricket away from war."

Sadaat, stated that they have clear evidence, including a video re-post, indicating that the Pakistani state was responsible for the attack that killed three Afghan cricketers in Pakhtia province.

The attack has been widely condemned by the cricket fraternity, including prominent Afghan cricketers like Rashid Khan. The ACB has also withdrawn from the upcoming Tri-Nation T20I Series involving Pakistan and Sri Lanka in protest.

"We got evidence all the cricket fraternity and all the people around the world would have definitely watched our video report on the incident that was made by our media team. So, we got clear evidence that the attack was done by a Pakistani state," he said.

"After the incident, the management of Afghanistan Cricket Board decided to cancel Afghanistan's participation in the tri-series that was going to be hosted by Pakistan," he added.

Ex-Captain Tim Paine backs surprise name for Ashes fast bowling

Melbourne: Former Australian captain Tim Paine floated the name of former Tasmanian teammate and right-arm pacer Riley Meredith to boost Australia's depleted bowling stocks ahead of the home Ashes series starting from November 21 onwards.

As the first ball of Ashes at home at Perth awaits Australia, they face a serious trouble with their skipper Pat Cummins likely to miss the first Test due to back stress issues. Since the tour to the Windies, the Australian skipper has not bowled in nets, putting himself in serious doubt. Also, all-rounders Cameron Green (back surgery) and Beau Webster (ankle issues) are battling their own concerns and will have to race against time to present themselves as viable pace options at home.

Elsewhere, coming to fringe names, West Aussie quick Lance Morris will miss the whole summer due to back surgery, while the same back issues have caught



Paine backs surprise pacer for Ashes

up with left-armed pacer Spencer Johnson. South Australian pacer Brennan Doggett, who had to withdraw from tour to West Indies due to hip injury, had to miss out on two opening rounds of Sheffield Shield due to hamstring issues. Seamer Sean Abbott, a name seen in and out of the Australian squad, is also undergoing a mandatory 12-day stand-down period after being substituted out of last week's

red-ball contest against Victoria with a split webbing in his hand.

Injuries troubles have not stopped for Jhye Richardson either, who has not played this season, having undergone shoulder surgery in January, while white-ball specialist Ben Dwarshuis is facing a calf-strain which has kept him away from ongoing ODIs against India.

Two more speedsters, Victoria's Fergus O'Neill

and Queensland's Michael Nesher have had an impressive start to their Sheffield Shield campaigns and they could play Tests at some stage during the summer. While Fergus had an impressive six-wicket outing (including a five-wicket haul) against New South Wales, Nesher has taken 11 wickets in two four-wicket hauls in his name and like Fergus, is a capable batter.

World No.1 ODI batter Smriti Mandhana extends lead at top of ICC Women's rankings

New Delhi: India opener Smriti Mandhana has increased her lead at the top of the ICC Women's ODI Batter Rankings as the ongoing ICC Women's Cricket World Cup made gains following the latest update to the rankings.

Mandhana has scored consecutive half-centuries at the Women's World Cup, with her most recent effort coming against England when she contributed a stylish innings of 88 during a narrow loss for India in Indore.

It helped Mandhana boost her overall rating and increase her lead as the No. 1-ranked ODI batter to 83 rating points, with England captain Nat Sciver-Brunnt her closest challenger following 191 runs for the tournament.

Mandhana is in a purple patch of form of late, with the left-hander hav-



ing been adjudged the ICC Women's Player of the Month for September 2025 for her exploits in the ODI series against Australia that preceded the World Cup.

Australia skipper Alyssa Healy gains one place to improve to equal third overall following consecutive centuries at the World Cup, with in-

form South African Tazmin Brits (up one spot to ninth) also making

ground inside the top 10 on the back of her own efforts with the bat.

There is also some movement outside the top 10, with India captain Harmanpreet Kaur (up three places to 15th), Australia opener Phoebe Litchfield (up five spots to 17th) and England veteran Heather Knight (up 15 runs to 18th) all rewarded for their strong form with the bat at the World Cup.

Cristiano Ronaldo's son earns first-ever Portugal under-16 team call-up

Lisbon: Legendary Portugal footballer Cristiano Ronaldo's son has earned a call-up to the national under-16 squad for the first time ever, reported ESPN on Tuesday.

The fifteen-year-old Cristiano Ronaldo Jr, currently with his father in Saudi Arabia, where the iconic footballer represents Al Nassr, has been included in the Portugal under-16 22-player squad for the Federation Cup tournament in Turkey.

The youth tournament, which will be played from October 30 to November 4, will feature matches against teams from Turkey, Wales, and England.

His selection comes after a call-up to the under-15 team this year in May, and this step takes him one step further towards possibly starting the pitch with his father in national colours someday.

CM Pramod Sawant unveils FIDE World Cup 2025 logo, anthem

Panaji: A glittering ceremony celebrating Goa's rich cultural heritage and India's growing stature as a global chess powerhouse marked the launch of the official logo and anthem of the FIDE World Cup 2025, unveiled by Chief Minister Pramod Sawant here on Tuesday.

The anthem—voiced by musician Daler Mehndi—captures the spirit and vibrancy of Goa, according to a release by the All India Chess Federation (AICF).

Punjab FC announces Samir Zeljkovic as first overseas signing of season

Mohali: Punjab FC on Tuesday announced the signing of Samir Zeljkovic, who will be the Sher's first overseas signing ahead of the All India Football Federation (AIFF) Super Cup 2025, starting October 25 in Goa.

Zeljkovic has been signed on a free transfer and penned a one-year contract with the club, after spending the last season with Radnicki 1923 in Serbia, as per a press release from Punjab FC.

A Bosnia & Herzegovina international, Zeljkovic has the ability to play either as a centre back or a defensive midfielder and has experience playing in European leagues, playing in the 2025-26 UEFA Conference League qualifiers for his last club, Radnicki 1923. He was called up to the probable squad for the 2020-21 UEFA Nations League games against Italy and the Netherlands, and also for the friendly against Iran.

The 28-year-old is a product of the PK Sarajevo youth academy, where he spent six years before moving to Ignjat Kopic, where he made his senior debut in Bosnia's second

division in the 2017-18 season. He made his big move the next season to Velez Mostar, one of the biggest clubs in Bosnia and Herzegovina, for whom he made 149 appearances across five seasons.

In 2023, Zeljkovic returned to his boyhood club, FK Sarajevo, from where he was loaned to Uzbekistan Super League club Bunyodkor.

Speaking on the signing, Punjab FC Technical Director Nikolaos Topolitis expressed his view saying, "Our approach to recruitment has always been strategic, by identifying players who not only fit our system but also bring strong character



CM Sawant unveils FIDE World Cup 2025 logo & anthem

and professionalism to the squad. In Samir, we have a player with experience across Europe and Asia. We are confident Samir will not only elevate the performance level but also positively influence the development of our younger players."

Samir Zeljkovic is looking forward to starting this new journey in Mohali. "I am excited to wear the Punjab FC colours and start this new adventure. It's always special to join a club that's building something meaningful. I have heard great things about Punjab FC's vision for developing football in India, and I want to be part of that story.

grandeur and mystique to the event, the release said. At the launch ceremony, Goa Chief Minister Pramod Sawant said, "It is a moment of immense pride for Goa to host the FIDE World Cup 2025

one of the most prestigious events in global chess. This milestone not only reaffirms our state's commitment to becoming a premier destination for international sport but also celebrates India's

rising prominence on the world chess stage. The official logo and anthem reflect the very soul of Goa — vibrant, creative, and deeply rooted in culture — while capturing the strategic elegance of chess. We are ready to welcome the world's finest players to our shores for 28 days of top-class competition, camaraderie, and an experience that blends the spirit of Goa with the brilliance of the game," as quoted from a release by AICF.

India's hosting of the FIDE World Cup underscores the nation's growing influence and deepening passion for chess. The Indian contingent will be led by reigning World Champion D Gukesh, alongside top talents such as Arjun Erigaisi, R Praggnanandhaa, Nihal Sarin, Vidit Gujrathi, and Women's World Cup Champion Divya Dethmund. He will be playing her first home game since the historic win.

Extending Kane's contract would be madness: Bayern Munich midfielder Hamann

New Delhi:

Former Bayern Munich and Germany midfielder Dietmar Hamann has cautioned the Bundesliga champions to reconsider their reported decision of handing an early contract extension for the prolific striker Harry Kane, classifying the move as "madness".

England captain Kane is currently under contract that runs until 2027. Kane, 32, will turn 34 by the time his deal with the most decorated club in Bundesliga concludes. Last month, Bayern Munich's sporting director Max Eberl hinted at the prospect of extending Kane's stay with the club.

The prospect of handing a contract extension to Kane stems from his stellar record since his arrival in 2023. After finding the back of the net against Werder Bremen last month, Kane reached 100 goals in just 104 games for Bayern Munich.

Despite his scorching form, Hamann believes extending Kane's contract could turn out to be a misstep. While citing concerns over his age and long-term impact,



Hamann questioned the logic behind renegotiating Kane's deal when he still has a year and a half left on his current agreement. He also wondered if the English forward has the capacity to score against top-tier teams in the European competition.

"That would be madness. He'll be 34 when the contract expires. You can't extend a contract that still has 20 months to run. It would be madness. The first thing that could suffer is that he stops scoring goals. This concern comes despite Kane opening the scoring in the 22nd minute of that very match, a result which sent Bayern seven points clear at the top of the Bundesliga," the 52-year-old said.

plaudits for his all-round contribution and work rate. During Bayern's 2-1 win over arch-rival Dortmund, Kane appeared on the scoresheet and earned praise for his defensive output. However, Hamann sees it as a negative sign and feels the all-round efforts could distract Kane from his primary role.

"It shouldn't become common practice for Kane to slide tackle 20 meters from his own goal. The first thing that could suffer is that he stops scoring goals. This concern comes despite Kane opening the scoring in the 22nd minute of that very match, a result which sent Bayern seven points clear at the top of the Bundesliga," the 52-year-old said.

Breaking Time

What to do

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

		9	3	7	2			1
2			8	1		6		
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Solution, Sudoku

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

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Liverpool legend says Salah should not be a weekly guarantee

London: Former Liverpool defender Jamie Carragher believes it is about time that the club's star winger Mohamed Salah should no longer be a guaranteed starter every week.

The last season's Premier League Golden Boot winner, Salah, turned out to be one of the most underwhelming performers for Liverpool, during their 2-1 home defeat against Manchester United on Sunday.

In front of a bustling crowd in Anfield, Salah missed a golden opportunity to put his name on the scoresheet and level the scoreline after Bryan Mbeumo broke the stalemate in the second minute of the rivalry fixture.

With another flop show, Salah has foundered in finding the back of the net in seven Premier League games without a non-penalty goal, his longest such run since moving to Anfield in 2017 from AS Roma.



Liverpool legend: Salah shouldn't be an automatic starter

head coach Arne Slot to rethink about using the 33-year-old, who signed a two-year contract extension at the end of the last season.

"I think we're at that stage now where Mo Salah shouldn't be a guaranteed starter every week. I do think this is a real conundrum for the manager going forward," Carragher told The Gary Neville Pod-

cast as quoted from Sky Sports.

"I don't think Salah should be like a Virgil van Dijk where it's like 'first name on the team sheet'. Liverpool have got two away games - in the Champions League at Frankfurt and then they go to Brentford. I don't think Salah should start both of those games. Carragher further

Carragher voiced his concern and believes it is time for head coach Arne Slot to rethink about using the 33-year-old, who signed a two-year contract extension at the end of the last season.

explained the rationale behind dropping Salah for away games and believes that if a situation arises when Salah is dropped from the XI, the Egyptian should have nothing to complain about the decision.

"He should always start at Anfield because Liverpool will be on top, around the edge of the box and more of-

Ronaldo not part of India trip, Al Nassr still pack a punch against FC Goa

New Delhi: India's FC Goa (FCG) is set to face a daunting test when they take on Saudi Pro League heavyweights Al Nassr FC in their third AFC Champions League Two 2025-26 Group D encounter at Fatorda on Wednesday, as per Olympics.com.

The match between FC Goa and Al Nassr FC will kick off at the Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium, Goa.

While Cristiano Ronaldo has not travelled with the team to India, Al Nassr still possesses a star-studded squad capable of dominating proceedings. Portuguese forward Joao Felix, who recently scored a hat-trick against Al Fateh in the Saudi Pro League, is expected to lead the attack alongside Senegalese striker Sadio Mane. French winger Kingsley Coman and former Barcelona defender Inigo Martinez are also likely to be part of the starting XI.



No Ronaldo, no problem — Al Nassr ready to face FC Goa

back as he will seek to contain Al Nassr's big names and organise the defence effectively.

The Gaurs (FCG) will be desperate to get off the mark in Group D after suffering defeats to Al Zavrta SC of Iraq and FC Istiklol of Tajikistan in their first two fixtures. They currently sit at the bottom of the table, while Al Nassr top the standings with two wins from two matches.

Each team in the group will play the other twice, home and away, with the top two sides advancing to the Round of 16 in February 2026. The quarter-finals and semi-finals are scheduled for March and April, respectively, while the final will be played on May 16 at a neutral venue.

Rani Mukerji salutes the spirit of Indian Police through Mardaani 3



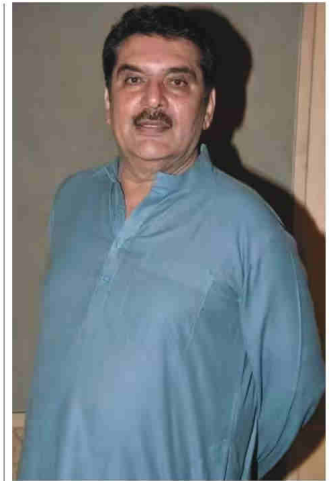
Bollywood actor Rani Mukerji is all return as the bold and fearless cop Shivani Shivaji Roy with the third instalment in the blockbuster franchise, the film will bring Rani back in the uniform, showing her solve a "brutal case." Ahead of her return to the big screen, Rani has extended her heartfelt salute to the Indian Police Force on the occasion of Police Commemoration Day 2025.

Expressing her heartfelt gratitude towards the Indian Police Force, Rani said "It is an honour for me to salute the Indian Police Force through my film franchise Mardaani and I also look forward to every opportunity possible to salute the hard work of the police across

the country by participating in as many of them. In every corner of our nation, there are cops protecting people, risking their lives, sacrificing their personal time to keep us safe. Words cannot do justice to the work that the police force of our country does to put our nation and the people first." Paying her respects to the "unwavering courage, relentless dedication, and selfless service of the Indian Police Force" who work towards protecting and upholding justice for every citizen of India, she emphasised on the need to identify the contribution of police.

"We should never forget that behind the uniform, there is a human being who chose to do good, chose the path of selfless service and decided that the country comes first. We should never forget that they are also someone's son, daughter, husband, wife, father, mother. I respect the force with all my heart and I will make it a point to say this loudly to every Indian," Rani said.

The actor also hailed the police force's selfless courage, especially while confronting dangerous crimes and criminals, adding that they have inspired her to live fearlessly. "We should not let their work and their sacrifices go unnoticed – they miss important moments of their lives to serve the nation. It cannot get more selfless than this and I love honouring them through Mardaani. The Indian Police Force should be a reminder to us all what courage, devotion and unwavering patriotism means and how we can all learn from them and do our bit to stand up for the country," Rani said.



Asrani was born to act, entertain: Raza Murad

Among a few actors who managed to carve a niche for themselves in the golden era of Hindi cinema, Govardhan Asrani, fondly known as Asrani, became a beloved figure across generations. The actor passed away on Monday after battling health issues for a long time.

While tributes continue to pour in, veteran actor Raza Murad also offered his final respects, further reflecting on collaborating with the late actor and his cinematic journey.

Raza Murad said, "An era has come to an end with the passing of Asrani Sahab. An era that spoke with pride for almost six decades. I don't think there would be any artist with the same versatility that Asrani Sahab had, except for two or three artists. You could give him

comic roles, you could give him villainous roles, you could give him serious roles; he also appeared as a hero in many Gujarati and Hindi films, whatever role he played, he did it very successfully."

The veteran actor remembered his old ties with Asrani, revealing being a student under him at the Film and Television Institute of India in 1969.

"I had many other relationships with him. First, there was a guru-disciple relationship, then I was his co-actor; we worked together in Namak Haram. After that, I worked under his direction in the film Dil Hi To Hai. We also did many shows together," he shared.

Remembering Asrani's celebrated film career, Raza Murad stated that the late actor was born to not just act but also entertain people.

Film fraternity mourns the loss of veteran actor Asrani



Veteran actor-comedian Govardhan Asrani passed away on Monday, sparking a wave of grief in the industry. While tributes have been pouring in from fans across social media platforms, Bollywood celebrities have also come forward to extend their final respects.

Actor Akshay Kumar, known for working with Asrani in several hit films, led the lines of tributes with an emotional message. Remembering their films, Akshay described his passing as an "absolute loss" to the film industry. He also confirmed working with the late actor in Priyadarshan's upcoming films, "Bhoot Bangla" and "Haiwaan".

Actor-filmmaker Farhan Akhtar mourned Asrani's demise and paid tribute with a heartfelt message on Instagram.



Sidharth Malhotra, Kiara Advani celebrate first Diwali as parents

Bollywood star couple Sidharth Malhotra and Kiara Advani celebrated their first Diwali together after embracing parenthood. In July this year, Sidharth and Kiara welcomed their first child, a daughter.

Taking to Instagram, the couple shared a joint post, giving a glimpse into their Diwali festivities. The couple shared an adorable video which shows them twinning in matching yellow ensembles.



Kiara look beautiful in a bright yellow anarkali, marking her first appearance after becoming a mother, whereas Sidharth looked handsome as ever in a yellow kurta and

white pyjamas. The couple playfully posed for pictures, while sharing moments of laughter and affection. "Happy Diwali. Love, Light and Sunshine," they wrote in the caption.

Fans were quick to react to the post as many appeared excited to see the couple together after a long time. Following the birth of their daughter, Kiara has been keeping a low profile, avoiding public appearances as she seems to have dedicated all her time to the newborn.

Akshay Kumar pays emotional tribute to "Bhoot Bangla" co-star Asrani



Actor Akshay Kumar extended an emotional tribute to his longtime co-star, Govardhan Asrani, fondly known as Asrani, after the veteran actor's passing on Monday.

Taking to his Instagram handle, Akshay penned a heartfelt post, remembering Asrani and his contribution to the film industry. He also remembered meeting the late actor a week back at the shooting of Priyadarshan's "Haiwaan".

"Speechless with grief at the passing of Asrani Ji. We had just shared the warmest of hugs just a week back at the shoot of Haiwaan. Bahot pyare insaan the...he had the

most legendary comic timing. From all my cult films Hera Pheri to Bhagam Bhag to De Dana Dan, Welcome and now our unreleased Bhoot Bangla and Haiwaan...I had worked and learned so much from him. What an absolute loss to our industry. God bless you Asrani Sir, for giving us a million reasons to laugh. Om Shanti," he wrote.

Along with his final tributes, Akshay also shared an unseen picture from what appears to be from one of their upcoming films together.

Asrani will feature posthumously in Priyadarshan's upcoming directorials, "Bhoot Bangla" and "Haiwaan".

Actor-comedian Asrani passed away on Monday after a prolonged illness. He was 84 years old. His last rites were performed at Santacruz Crematorium where his family gathered for the last rites.

Twinkle Khanna and Akshay Kumar share a witty Diwali moment



Bollywood's favourite couple, Akshay Kumar and Twinkle Khanna, may have celebrated Diwali far from home this year, but their festive spirit and, of course, sense of humour stayed perfectly intact.

The duo celebrated Diwali away from Mumbai in London and gave fans a glimpse of their festivities.

On Monday, Twinkle took to Instagram to share glimpses of their cozy Diwali celebration abroad, and the pictures were every bit as charming as the couple themselves. The post featured the two sharing light-hearted moments at home, dressed in elegant traditional outfits.

Akshay looked dapper in a beige kurta with delicate silver embroidery, paired with matching pajamas. A mug in

Chiranjeevi joins Nagarjuna, Venkatesh Daggubati, Nayanthara for Diwali festivities

Megastar Chiranjeevi's Diwali celebrations turned into a star-studded affair with his friends and fellow actors Nagarjuna, Venkatesh Daggubati, and Nayanthara.

Taking to his Instagram handle, Chiranjeevi offered a glimpse into the festivities, showing him meeting the South stars for Diwali along with their respective family members.

"Very delighted to have celebrated the Festival of Lights with my dear friends, #Nagarjuna,



tors dressed in traditional outfits, decked up in line with the festive vibe.

Chiranjeevi went for a pink silk kurta paired with white pyjamas, while Nagarjuna also chose a printed kurta. Venkatesh Daggubati was seen dressed casually in a t-shirt with black jeans and a beige shirt.

The pictures show the ac-