



Jadeja returns to Ranji Trophy, set to play against MP in Rajkot

EU leaders seek role in Gaza at summit focused on Ukraine & Russia

Jonita Gandhi, Progressive Brothers to open for Enrique Iglesias in Mumbai



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WEATHER

Sunrise	6:28 AM
Sunset	5:44 PM
Moonrise	8:54 AM
Moonset	7:13 PM

Today's Prediction

Maximum	31°C	Minimum	20°C
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Tomorrow's Prediction

Maximum	31°C	Minimum	20°C
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MARKET

SENSEX	84556.40	NIFTY	25891.40
GOLD	124,044.00	SILVER	148,225.00
	2,187.00		2,667.00

INDIA bloc names Tejashwi as CM face, Sahni as deputy

■ Congress' leader Pawan Khera said those hoping to stoke divisions within the INDIA bloc must be disappointed. "Tejashwi Yadav has been unanimously declared the CM face for Bihar," he added.

Patna
The opposition INDIA bloc on Thursday declared RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav its chief ministerial candidate for the Bihar assembly polls, in what is being seen as a last-ditch effort to put an end to squabbles after weeks of intense deliberations and project unity ahead of the elections.

Senior Congress leader Ashok Gehlot, who has been in Patna since Wednesday to resolve differences with the Opposition bloc, also said that Vikasheel Insaan Party (VIP) chief Mukesh Sahni and leaders from other sections of society will be deputy CMs if the INDIA bloc comes to power in the state, "keeping in mind the complex social structure of Bihar".

Addressing a joint press conference along with Yadav, CPI (ML)-L general secretary Dipankar Bhattacharya and other members of the INDIA bloc, Gehlot said, "We have decided, after consultations with our national president



Mallikarjun Kharge and Leader of the Opposition Rahul Gandhi, besides all coalition partners who are here, to name Tejashwi Yadav as our chief ministerial candidate."

Sahni, who wields influence among Mallah and Nishad communities, reportedly drove a hard bargain during seat-sharing talks. A former Bollywood set designer, the 45-year-old leader entered politics in 2014 when he campaigned for the BJP in the Lok Sabha polls, only to allege, later, that the party failed to keep its promise to keep Scheduled Castes status to his community.

He founded VIP in 2015, contested the 2019 Lok Sabha polls in alliance with the Congress-RJD combine, but returned to the NDA a year later, alleging that Tejashwi Yadav had

"backstabbed" him in a seat-sharing deal. In the 2020 assembly polls, VIP won four seats, and though Sahni himself lost from Simri Bakhtiarpur, he was inducted into the Nitish Kumar cabinet.

His abrasive campaign in the Uttar Pradesh assembly polls of 2022, when he openly criticised Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chief Minister Yogi

Adityanath, had the BJP gunning for him and led to his expulsion from the cabinet, while all VIP MLAs joined the BJP. He was back in the INDIA bloc in the thick of the Lok Sabha polls last year.

Incidentally, demands have been made by a section of Congress leaders in Bihar that it would like one of its leaders, preferably a Muslim or a Dalit, as a deputy CM if the multi-party coalition came to power.

Speaking at the press conference, Yadav, who had led the Mahagathabandhan in the last assembly polls, thanked his allies for reposing his trust in him again and said, "It was not a big issue for us, but since there was so much media speculation, we decided to make it clear."

CONTD ON PAGE-2

Govt clears Rs 79,000-cr weapons deal for defence upgrade

New Delhi

India on Thursday cleared proposals to procure weapons and military hardware worth Rs 79,000 crore, including Nag missiles, amphibious warfare ships and electronic intelligence and surveillance systems, to boost the combat capabilities of the military.

The procurement proposals were cleared at a meeting of the Defence Acquisition Council (DAC), chaired by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh.

It is the second major decision on procurement following Operation Sindoor.

Procurement projects worth Rs 67,000 crore were approved on August 5.

The DAC approved various proposals amounting to a total cost of about Rs 79,000 crore, the defence ministry said.

For the Indian Navy, approval was granted for the procurement of Landing Platform Docks (LPDs), 30-mm Naval Surface Guns (NSGs), Advanced Lightweight Torpedoes (ALWTs), the Electro Optical Infra-Red Search and Track System and Smart Ammunition for 76-mm



Defence Minister Rajnath Singh

Super Rapid Gun Mount.

The procurement of LPDs will help the Navy undertake amphibious operations along with the Army and the Air Force, the ministry said.

LPDs are amphibious warfare ships that are used to transport heavy equipment and land troops.

The ministry said the integrated sea capability provided by LPDs will also help the Navy undertake peacekeeping operations, humanitarian assistance, disaster-relief measures etc.

"The induction of ALWT, which is indigenously developed by Naval Science and Technological Laboratory, DRDO is capable of targeting conventional, nuclear and midget submarines," it said. Agency

PM Modi dubs Oppn as 'lathbandhan'

New Delhi
Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday said the people of Bihar will never forget the "misdeds of Jungle Raj", an apparent reference to the RJD rule, and dubbed the opposition alliance as a "lathbandhan" (a coalition of criminals), whose leaders are out on bail.

Interacting with young BJP workers through the NaMo App, Modi also asked all the NDA partners to campaign together for the two-phase Bihar elections next month and highlight the achievements of the NDA government in the state.

The prime minister also gave a new slogan "Raftaar pakad chuka Bihar, phir se NDA sarkar", asserting that the state was witnessing all-round development with schools, hospitals



and new rail routes being built.

"This is because there is a stable government in the country and in Bihar," Modi said in an interaction with BJP workers under the 'Mera Booth Sabse Majboot: Yuva Samvaad' initiative.

The prime minister urged the youth to participate in large numbers in the 'Run for Unity' on October 31 to mark the birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel.

CONTD ON PAGE-2

Delhi govt to introduce artificial rain on Oct 29

New Delhi

Following the successful trial of cloud seeding across the national capital by the Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur, Delhi environment minister Manjinder Singh Sirsa on Thursday called the event a "historic milestone" under the leadership of Chief Minister Rekha Gupta.

Sirsa mentioned that there will be clouds over Delhi from October 28 to 30 and noted that the Delhi government is ready with physical trials and permissions to induce artificial rain on October 29.

"Today was a historic day for Delhi as the Delhi government, under the leadership of CM Rekha Gupta, achieved a historic milestone. The first successful trial of cloud seeding was done today. Agency

Modi skips meeting Trump, to join ASEAN summit online

New Delhi
Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday said he would join the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)-India Summit virtually in Malaysia next week.

Modi conveyed this to his Malaysian counterpart Anwar Ibrahim during a phone call on Thursday.



"Had a warm conversation with my dear friend, Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim of Malaysia. Congratulated him on Malaysia's ASEAN Chairmanship and conveyed best wishes for the success of upcoming Summits," Modi said in a post on X.

"Look forward to joining the ASEAN-India Summit virtually, and to further deepening of the ASEAN-India Comprehensive Strategic Partnership," Modi said.

The ASEAN meetings are scheduled from October 26-28.

Malaysia has invited US President Donald Trump as well as leaders of several countries which are the dialogue partners of the ASEAN grouping.

Trump is set to travel to Kuala Lumpur on October 26 on a two-day trip.

Meanwhile, the Congress on Thursday claimed that the reason for Modi not going to Malaysia was that he doesn't want to be cornered by Trump. Agency

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INDIA bloc names Tejashwi as CM face, Sahni as deputy

CONT'D FROM PAGE-1

and will spare nobody accused of a crime, be it his own shadow or anyone with influence," said Yadav, who has enjoyed two short tenures as deputy CM.

The RJD leader also alleged that the bogey of 'jungle raj' was a "propaganda" by the BJP, which shares power in Bihar, where "not a day passes that murders and rapes do not take place. Victims of sexual assault die for want of timely medical help".

He also claimed that Nitish Kumar will "never be made chief minister again" by the NDA. And to back his claim, Yadav cited Union Home Minister Amit Shah's recent comment that the coalition would contest the assembly polls "under the leadership" of Kumar, who heads the JD(U), but "the legislators would decide" who will occupy the top post after the elections.

Shah's remark has been seen by many as a sign that the BJP, which had outperformed the JD(U) in the last assembly elections, now wanted to have its own chief minister in the only Hindi heartland state where it is yet to occupy the seat of power.

Later, Congress media and publicity department head Pawan Khera, who was present at the press conference, told reporters: "We have taken the lead by announcing our face. Now it is for the NDA to stop equivocating on the issue and declare whom it proposes to make the CM if it forms the government".

Meanwhile, the NDA parties insisted that attempts at putting up a united face notwithstanding, cracks within the INDIA bloc were there for all to see.

The BJP shared on its X handle a photograph of the poster put up at the press conference, with a huge image of Yadav, highlighting the fact "there are not even thumbnails of other INDIA bloc leaders, including Rahul Gandhi".

Independent MP Pappu Yadav, who supports the Congress but has been critical of the RJD, said, "Dalits and the extremely backward classes would vote for the INDIA bloc only because of Rahul Gandhi. His image should have been there. Alliance partners like Bhattacharya should also have been in the poster."

Adv't Contact: 9810-799941

SC rules minors' conduct enough to reject unauthorised property deals

New Delhi

In a significant verdict on property transactions involving minors, the Supreme Court has ruled that those aged below 18 years, upon attaining majority, are not mandatorily required to institute a lawsuit to repudiate property transfers executed by their natural guardians without approval from a court.

In a judgement delivered on October 7, the apex court said minors, on becoming majors, can repudiate the transfer of properties by manifesting through clear and unambiguous conduct, such as independently selling or transferring the same.

The verdict came in the case of K S Shivappa Vs Smt K Neelamma from a bench of Justices Pankaj Mishal and Prasanna B Varale.

"It can safely be concluded that a voidable transaction executed by the guardian of a minor can be repudiated and ignored by the minor within time on attaining majority either by instituting a suit for setting aside the voidable transaction or by repudiating the same by his unequivocal conduct," Justice Mishal, authoring the judgment, said.

The verdict said the moot question was whether it was necessary for minors to have filed a suit upon attaining majority within the prescribed time period to set aside an earlier sale deed executed by their natural guardian.

It said the question was whether such a sale deed could be repudiated through their conduct within three years of attaining majority.

In order to answer the questions, the bench referred to sections 7 and 8 of the Hindu Minority and Guardianship Act, 1956 and said, "A simple reading of the provisions makes it abundantly clear that a natural guardian of a minor has no authority in law to mortgage, sell, gift or otherwise transfer any part of the immovable property of the minor or even to lease out any part of such property for a term exceeding five years or for a term extending more than one year beyond the date on which the minor will attain majority without the prior permission of the court."

"Therefore, prior permission of the court is a sine qua non for a guardian of a minor to transfer the property of the minor in any of the manners provided under sub-section (2) of section 8 of the Act," it said.

The dispute revolved around two adjoining plots -- numbers 56 and 57 -- in Shmanur village in Karnataka's Davanagere, originally purchased in 1971 by one Rudrappa in the names of his three minor sons -- Maharudrappa, Basavaraj and Mungeshappa.

Without obtaining prior permission from the district court, Rudrappa sold these plots to three parties. Plot number 56 was sold to S I Bidari and later, purchased by B T Jayadevamma in 1983.

After the surviving minors attained majority, they and their mother sold the same plot to K S Shivappa in 1989.

A civil suit filed by Jayadevamma, claiming ownership, was eventually rejected by the Karnataka High Court, which upheld the minors' right to repudiate their father's sale through their own subsequent sale deed.

A similar transaction occurred with plot number 57, which Rudrappa sold without the court's permission to Krishnoji Rao, who in turn sold it to K Neelamma in 1993.

The surviving minors, on attaining majority, sold the same plot to K S Shivappa, who later combined both the plots and built a house.

Neelamma then filed a case before the additional civil judge in Davanagere, claiming ownership.

The trial court dismissed her suit, holding that the sale executed by Rudrappa was voidable and validly repudiated by the minors' subsequent sale.

However, both the first appellate court in 2005 and the high court in 2013 reversed this finding, holding that since the minors had not filed a formal suit to set aside their father's sale deed, the transaction stood confirmed.

Shivappa then approached the Supreme Court.

Referring to the provisions, the apex court reiterated that a natural guardian cannot transfer a minor's immovable property without the prior permission of a court and that any such transaction is voidable at the instance of the minor.

However, the bench clarified that the statute does not specify the mode by which such a voidable transaction must be repudiated.

Justice Mishal observed that a minor, on attaining majority, may avoid or repudiate such a transaction, either expressly by filing a suit for the cancellation of the sale deed or impliedly by clear and unequivocal conduct such as executing a fresh sale of the same property.



SC rules minors' conduct enough to reject unauthorised property deals

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ECI's two-day Conference of CEOs on SIR preparedness concludes

Staff Reporter
New Delhi

The Election Commission of India's two-day Conference of Chief Electoral Officers concluded on Thursday at the India International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Management in New Delhi.

Chief Election Commissioner Shri Gyanesh Kumar, along with Election Commissioners Dr. Sukhbir Singh Sandhu and Dr. Vivek Joshi, led the conference attended by CEOs from various States and Union Territories.

The Commission instructed the CEOs to finalize their preparations for the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) in their regions. Senior officers presented on the SIR process, and the CEOs had their questions answered.

The Commission evaluated progress on previous directions to align current elections with those from the last SIR. It also held one-on-one interactions with CEOs from polling States like Assam, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, Kerala, and West Bengal. This conference followed an earlier one held on September 10, 2025.

PM Modi dubs Oppn as 'lathbandhan'

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Modi will kickstart his campaign for the Bihar elections by addressing two public meetings at Samastipur and Begusarai on Friday.

Bihar goes to polls on November 6 and 11. The counting of votes will be held on November 14.

The prime minister said people will not forget the "Jungle Raj" in Bihar for another 100 years. No matter how hard the Opposition tries to hide its misdeeds, people will not forgive it, he added.

"British job and the NDA worked hard to bring Bihar out of the 'Jungle Raj' and establish the rule of law. Now people take pride in calling themselves Bihari," Modi said.

Addressing the BJP workers in Bihar ahead of assembly polls, Modi said, "We all need to be amongst people 24x7 for the next 20 days."

Modi asked the BJP youth workers to connect with first-time voters of Bihar and tell them about the power of their vote.

Adv't Contact: 9810-799941

Nitish takes swipe at Tejashwi over Jeevika promise

Patna

Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar on Thursday took a veiled swipe at his former deputy Tejashwi Yadav, accusing him of trying to "mislead" women by making hollow promises about the Jeevika self-help groups.

Without naming the RJD leader, Kumar said in a lengthy social media post, "The people of Bihar had given them a chance, but they used power to serve their own interests instead of serving the people."

His remarks came a day after Yadav, now the opposition INDIA bloc's chief ministerial candidate, promised government employee status to contractual workers and a hike in monthly remuneration to Rs 90,000 for nearly two lakh "community mobilisers" involved with Jeevika self-help groups.

"Some people, just before elections, are trying to portray themselves as champions of Jeevika. Didis and half of Bihar's population. The truth is, in the name of 'Jeevika Didis', they are seeking a livelihood for their own families," Kumar wrote.

"They are making grand promises of bringing the moon and stars for half the population. Bihar's people gave these individuals a chance as well, but back then, their focus was more on personal gains than on service", he added.

He added, "During their rule, women's development was limited to their own families. The pain, suffering, and commitment and your conviction," he added.

Islam said people, however, understand that it is an attempt to hide the divisions within the opposition camp.

"They announced Tejashwi Yadav's name as the CM face out of compulsion. They also named Sahani as their deputy CM candidate out of compulsion. Those who have made these announcements today should worry if he (Yadav) will be able to become even the LoP (after the Bihar

poll results)," the BJP spokesperson said.

Senior JD (U) leader K C Tyagi also took on the Opposition and said Yadav is a "defeated soldier" and his defeat is once again "certain" in the upcoming state assembly polls.

"Several elections have been fought under his leadership. He is a defeated soldier."

"And in this battle also, his defeat is certain. He has nothing new to show and do," Tyagi said Videos when asked for comment on the announcement of Yadav's name as the Opposition's chief ministerial face for the Bihar



Nitish Kumar

BSF constable Shivani earns out-of-turn promotion after silver win at World Wushu Championship

Mitali Chandola
New Delhi

In a proud moment for India's paramilitary forces, Border Security Force (BSF) Constable Shivani has been promoted out of turn to the rank of Head Constable after clinching a silver medal at the 17th World Wushu Championship 2025 in Brazil. The rare recognition celebrates her outstanding performance and contribution to India's growing stature in international martial arts.

The promotion ceremony was held at BSF Camp Chhawla, where BSF Director General Daljit Singh Chawdhary personally conferred the new rank upon Shivani. The event was attended by senior officers, members of the BSF sports cell, and fellow athletes, who lauded her achievement as a source of pride for both the force and the nation.

Shivani's feat stands out not only for the medal itself but also for the speed of her recognition — she received the promotion within just five months of joining the BSF. The force obtained special approval and procedural relaxations from the Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT) to make the promotion possible, underscoring its intent to encourage exceptional talent among its personnel.

Praising Shivani's performance, DG Chawdhary said her promotion symbolises the BSF's belief in honouring merit and excellence in every field. "Her achievement embodies the spirit of the BSF — courage, endurance, and national pride," he said, adding that her success will inspire a new generation of BSF athletes to pursue both professional and sporting excellence with equal zeal.

This is not the first time the BSF has recognised its sportspersons with such distinction. Earlier in July 2025, Constable Anuj from the BSF Central Wushu Team received an out-of-turn promotion for winning laurels at the 10th Sanda World Wushu Championship in China.

The BSF's continued support for its athletes reflects a growing focus on nurturing sports talent within the ranks. Officers said the organisation sees sporting success as an extension of its discipline, teamwork, and determination — values that define the force both on and off the field.

With her silver medal and swift promotion, Shivani has not only brought global recognition to Indian Wushu but has also emerged as a role model for young women in uniform, proving that excellence in service and sport can go hand in hand.

Adv't Contact: 9810-799941



BSF constable Shivani earns out-of-turn promotion after silver win at World Wushu Championship

revealed that a surgical bandage had been left inside her abdomen during the operation — a shocking act of negligence that eventually led to fatal complications.

Following the complaint, the district health authorities have set up an inquiry committee to review the hospital's records, surgical procedures, and post-operative care protocols. The operating surgeons and nursing staff are now under scrutiny, and officials have sealed medical documents related to the case.

Officials stated that strict action will be taken if negligence is proven, which could include suspension or cancellation of the hospital's license. Meanwhile, the victim's family has demanded criminal prosecution of the doctors involved and appropriate compensation for the loss caused by gross medical carelessness.

Dehradun woman dies months after childbirth; probe ordered

Mitali Chandola
New Delhi

In a disturbing case from Dehradun, a young woman has died months after giving birth, allegedly due to medical negligence during her delivery. The incident has triggered widespread outrage, leading the Uttarakhand health department to order a formal investigation into the allegations.

According to the victim's husband, his wife had been suffering from severe abdominal pain, fever, and recurrent infections ever since her cesarean delivery at a private hospital in the city. Despite multiple follow-ups with the doctors, her condition kept deteriorating. Later, a medical examination reportedly

This tragic case has once again brought to light the urgent need for medical accountability and patient safety in India's healthcare system. Experts argue that such incidents not only erode public trust in private healthcare institutions but also expose systemic gaps in medical oversight and ethical responsibility.

As the probe continues, the incident serves as a grim reminder that negligence in the operation theatre can destroy entire families — and that justice for victims of medical malpractice must not be delayed.

Adv't Contact: 9810-799941

PUBLIC NOTICE

My client Sri. Yashoda W/o Late Sh. Shishu Pal, R/o D-121, Nehru Vihar, New Matia, Utam Nagar, W/o Late Sh. Shishu Pal, Singh and Sons, Resma Singh W/o Sh. Gopul Kumar (Daughter-in-law) from all movable and immovable properties

DTC to set up automated vehicle testing facility at Nand Nagari depot

New Delhi

The Delhi Transport Corporation (DTC) is planning to establish an automated testing station (ATS) at its Nand Nagari depot, an official said on Thursday.

The infrastructural work for the facility has already been completed, and the International Centre for Automotive Technology (ICAT), Manesar, has been roped in to provide consultation for the selection of a vendor through e-tender for the supply, installation, commissioning, and operation of vehicle-testing equipment, the official said.

A tender issued by the DTC said detailed test lane layouts and drawings submitted by the selected bidder will be vetted by the ICAT to meet required standards.

The visual inspection pits will be interconnected to ensure smooth vehicle movement, with safe access through stairways or ramps, guardrails, and anti-slip provisions, the official said.

All necessary utilities such as CNG generator sets, UPS,



air compressors, metring kiosks, air conditioners, water coolers with RO purifiers, calibration tools, and requisite software, will be installed and commissioned by the private company engaged through bidding process.

All equipment will be required to meet environmental, health, and safety norms, with a two-year warranty from the date of commissioning.

The testing software will comply with the Central Motor Vehicles Rules, 1989, and will allow additional vehicle inspection tests as directed by competent authorities.

Visual checks conducted

on vehicles will be photographed and records preserved for at least six months for audit purposes.

According to the official, the ATS will also integrate an NPR (number plate recognition) system to capture vehicle registration numbers and photographs automatically, with data synchronised with the token software and VAHAN portal as per prescribed forms. This will ensure seamless vehicle lane allocation according to vehicle category, officials said.

Audit and assessment of the testing station will be conducted every six months or as directed by the DTC, they said.

Delhi Minister Sirsa hints at artificial rain to fight pollution

New Delhi

The Delhi Police have intensified patrolling along the Yamuna riverbanks ahead of the Chhath Puja celebrations to ensure safety, smooth crowd management, and maintain law and order during the four-day festival, an official said on Thursday.

Deputy Commissioner of Police (Shahdara) Prashant Gautam visited the Yamuna ghats in Gurgaon and Gandhi Nagar areas to assess security arrangements and preparations being made for the upcoming festivities.

During the inspection, DCP Gautam reviewed access routes, crowd movement plans, and deployment points to ensure that devotees can perform rituals safely.

"Our priority is to ensure that the festival is celebrated peacefully. Adequate police deployment will be made according to the size of the crowd, and we are coordinating closely with civic agencies for smooth management," Gautam said.

He added that the police teams are continuing to patrol sensitive areas along the Yamuna and keeping a close watch to prevent any untoward incident. "If the crowd increases, police deployment will also be scaled up accordingly," the officer said.

Besides Shahdara, police personnel from north, east, northeast, and southeast districts, whose jurisdictions touch the Yamuna, have been instructed to maintain round-the-clock vigilance and ensure that ghats remain safe.

Delhi's air quality improves slightly but remains 'very poor' for 4th day

New Delhi

Delhi's air quality showed a slight improvement on Thursday but remained in the 'very poor' category for the fourth consecutive day, aided by stronger surface winds that helped disperse pollutants.

The city's 24-hour average Air Quality Index (AQI) stood at 305 at 4 pm, according to the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB).

Anand Vihar recorded an AQI of 410 - the highest among all the monitoring

Stalker stabs man to death in Ranhola; 3 juveniles nabbed

New Delhi

A 17-year-old boy allegedly stabbed to death a man outside his home in outer Delhi's Ranhola area after the victim confronted him for harassing his brother's daughter, police said on Thursday.

The incident took place around 8:30 pm on Wednesday in Vikas Kunj when the teenager, armed with a knife-like weapon, arrived outside the house of the 27-year-old and picked a fight with the mother of the girl.

Police have apprehended the juvenile, a vegetable seller, and two of his associates who were with him at the time of the attack.

"He attacked him in a fit of rage when the victim went to confront the accused, who was trying to misbehave with the girl's mother. The victim suffered a deep stab wound to his chest and collapsed on the spot," said an officer.

Locals told police that the boy fled after the attack, leaving the victim, Hoti Lal, bleeding profusely. Neighbours rushed him to a nearby private hospital, but he succumbed.

An incident of stabbing was reported at around 8:45 pm, and a police team was immediately rushed to the spot, the officer said.

Preliminary investigation revealed that the accused had been stalking and harassing the girl for the past two months.

"The girl's family had lodged a complaint at Ranhola Police Station earlier, alleging that the boy often followed her and even came to their house with a sword and some associates to intimidate them," said a police source.

Back then, a compromise

was reached between the two parties, with the juvenile giving a written undertaking that he would not approach or harass the girl again.

Despite the oath, he continued to follow her to tuition classes and loiter near her house with others, the source said.

On Wednesday evening, the boy allegedly turned up outside the girl's home and hurled abuses at her family. When the girl's mother confronted him, he reportedly misbehaved with her too.

"Seeing the commotion, her uncle, who lived nearby, came out to intervene and scolded the boy. Enraged, the accused allegedly pulled out a knife-like weapon and stabbed him in the chest," the source said.

Neighbours said the incident was so sudden that no one could react in time.

The father of the girl said that the boy had been disturbing his daughter for the last two months.

"The boy even tried to pour petrol on himself some time back. He was obsessed. Last night, my wife scolded him as he refused to move from the house porch. He misbehaved with my wife, and when my brother came downstairs to stop him, he stabbed him," he said.

The man said his brother was a good man who was only trying to stop the boy from troubling the girl.

The officer termed the killing a likely act of revenge for the police complaint.

The girl said that the boy had been chasing her for the past two months. "The boy

PUBLIC NOTICE

We are Jai Bhagwan S/o Daryav Singh and Sumita W/o Jai Bhagwan W/o R/o H.No. 752-753, Mangolpuri North West Delhi-110083, have severed with our son Pankaj and his wife Manisha their child Parth by evicting them from our movable and immovable property due to their misbehavior. We are along with our family will not be responsible for any of their act and deed in future. Deponent Jai bhagwan and Sumita

EAST BOUND FESTIVAL SPECIAL TRAINS-2025

In order to clear extra rush of passengers during Chhath Puja Festival, Northern Railway has planned to run the following East Bound Festival Special Trains from 24.10.2025 to 26.10.2025 in addition to normal regular trains as per schedule given below:-

EAST BOUND TRAINS FROM DELHI AREA TERMINALS ON 24.10.2025 (FRIDAY)						
Spl. Train No.	Station From	Dept. Time	Station to	Arr. Time	Accommodation	Stoppages
04090	Anand Vihar (T)	14:25	Patna Jn.	11:00	2 Tier AC, 3 Tier AC, Sleeper & General	Kanpur Central, Prayagraj Jn., Varanasi Jn., Ghazipur City, Ballia, Sahawar, Surainmanpur, Chhapra & Patliputra
04022	New Delhi	14:00	Gorakhpur Jn.	05:00	1 st AC, 2 Tier AC, 3 Tier AC, Sleeper & Gen.	Hapur, Moradabad, Bareilly, Shahjahanpur, Hardoi, Lucknow Jn., Gonda Jn. & Basti
04070	Anand Vihar (T)	00:20	Rajgir	19:50	1 st AC, 2 Tier AC, 3 Tier AC	Govindpur, Prayagraj, Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Jn., Buxar, Ara, Danapur, Patna Jn., Rajendra Nagar, Bakhtiyarpur Jn., Bihar Sharif & Nalanda
04450	New Delhi	15:10	Dharbhanga	16:30	Sleeper & General	Ghaziabad, Aligarh Jn., Kanpur Central, Unnao Jn., Aishbagh, Badshahnagar, Gonda Jn., Gorakhpur, Deoria Sadar, Siwan Jn., Chhapra, Sonpur Jn., Hajipur Jn., Muzaffarpur Jn. & Samastipur Jn.
04454	New Delhi	20:00	Mansi	23:30	Sleeper & General	Ghaziabad, Aligarh Jn., Tundia Jn., Etawah, Kanpur Central, Unnao Jn., Aishbagh, Badshahnagar, Barabanki Jn., Gonda Jn., Basti, Khalilabad, Gorakhpur, Deoria Sadar, Siwan Jn., Chhapra, Sonpur Jn., Hajipur Jn., Shahpur Patore, Barauni Jn., Begu Sara & Khagaria Jn.
04456	New Delhi	22:40	Dhanbad	02:20	Sleeper & General	Ghaziabad, Hapur, Moradabad, Bareilly, Shahjahanpur, Hardoi, Almorav, Utraula Jn., Rae Bareilly Jn., Amethi, Ma Beha Devi Pratapgarh, Bhadohi, Varanasi Jn., Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Jn., Bhabua Road, Sasaram, Dehri On Son, Anugrah Narayan Road, Gaya, Koderma, Hazaribagh Road, Parsnath & Gomoh
04458	Anand Vihar (T)	13:40	Bhagalpur	14:30	Sleeper & General	Ghaziabad, Kanpur Central, Prayagraj Jn., Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Jn., Buxar, Ara, Patna Jn., Patna Sahib, Fatuha, Khusrupur, Bakhtiyarpur Jn., Barh, Mokameh Jn., Haridih Jn., Bahariya, Luckeesarai Jn., Kufi Jn., Kajra, Abhaipur, Dhanara, Jamalpur Jn., Bararpur & Sultanganj
04016	Anand Vihar (T)	15:30	Sitamari	15:00	2 Tier AC, 3 Tier AC, Sleeper & General	Ghaziabad, Hapur, Moradabad, Bareilly, Shahjahanpur, Hardoi, Lucknow, Gonda Jn., Gorakhpur, Kaptanganj Jn., Siwa Bazar, Bagaha, Harinagar, Narkataganj Jn., Sikta, Raxaul Jn. & Bargiria
04452	New Delhi	18:15	Howrah	23:30	Sleeper & General	Ghaziabad, Aligarh Jn., Tundia Jn., Etawah, Govindpur, Prayagraj Jn., Janghri Jn., Varanasi Jn., Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Jn., Bhabua Road, Sasaram, Dehri On Son, Anugrah Narayan Road, Gaya, Koderma, Parsnath, Dhanbad Jn., Asansol Jn., Durgapur, Bardhaman & Bandel Jn.,
04094	Hazrat Nizamuddin	11:00	Patna Jn.	05:00	1st AC, 2 Tier AC & 3 Tier AC	Ghaziabad, Govindpur, Prayagraj Jn., Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Jn., Buxar, Ara & Danapur
04096	Anand Vihar (T)	00:05	Patliputra	21:30	1 st AC, 2 Tier AC, 3 Tier AC, 3 Tier AC Economy, Sleeper & Gen.	Ghaziabad, Kanpur Central, Prayagraj Jn., Varanasi Jn., Ghazipur City, Phephna Jn., Ballia, Sahawar, Bakulha, Chhapra & Dighwara
04098	New Delhi	09:30	Hasanpur Road	12:00	3 Tier AC Economy & General	Ghaziabad, Kanpur Central, Unnao Jn., Aishbagh, Badshahnagar, Barabanki Jn., Burhwal Jn., Gonda Jn., Gorakhpur, Kaptanganj Jn., Siwa Bazar, Bagaha, Narkataganj Jn., Bettah, Sagauli Jn., Bapudim Mothari, Muzaffarpur Jn. & Samastipur Jn.
04404	Shakurbasti	15:15	Patna Jn.	13:30	Sleeper & General	New Delhi, Ghaziabad, Aligarh Jn., Tundia Jn., Etawah Jn., Govindpur, Subedarganj, Mirzapur, Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Jn., Buxar, Ara & Danapur
04406	Shakurbasti	20:15	Saharsa Jn.	05:30	Sleeper & General	New Delhi, Ghaziabad, Aligarh Jn., Tundia Jn., Etawah Jn., Kanpur Central, Unnao Jn., Aishbagh, Badshahnagar, Barabanki Jn., Gonda Jn., Basti, Khalilabad, Gorakhpur Jn., Deoria Sadar, Siwan Jn., Chhapra, Sonpur, Hajipur Jn., Muzaffarpur Jn., Samastipur Jn., Dalangh Sara, Barauni Jn., Begusarai, Khagaria Jn. & Mansi Jn.
04410	Shakurbasti	13:00	Jhanjharpur Jn.	18:30	Sleeper & General	New Delhi, Ghaziabad, Aligarh Jn., Kanpur Central, Unnao Jn., Aishbagh, Badshahnagar, Gonda Jn., Gorakhpur Jn., Kaptanganj Jn., Narkataganj Jn., Raxaul Jn., Sitamari & Shisho
04058	New Delhi	13:30	Muzaffarpur Jn.	14:00	1st AC, 2 Tier AC & 3 Tier AC	Ghaziabad, Aligarh Jn., Tundia Jn., Kanpur Central, Unnao Jn., Aishbagh, Badshahnagar, Gonda Jn., Basti, Gorakhpur Jn., Deoria Sadar, Siwan Jn., Chhapra, Sonpur & Hajipur Jn.
04236	Shakurbasti	09:45	Lucknow	20:00	2 Tier AC, 3 Tier AC, 2 Tier cum 3 Tier AC, Sleeper & General	Dehi Safdarjung, Hazrat Nizamuddin, Ghaziabad, Moradabad, Bareilly & Shahjahanpur

EAST BOUND TRAINS FROM DELHI AREA TERMINALS ON 25.10.2025 (SATURDAY)						
Spl. Train No.	Station From	Dept. Time	Station to	Arr. Time	Accommodation	Stoppages
04090	Anand Vihar (T)	14:25	Patna Jn.	11:00	2 Tier AC, 3 Tier AC, Sleeper & General	Kanpur Central, Prayagraj Jn., Varanasi Jn., Ghazipur City, Ballia, Sahawar, Surainmanpur, Chhapra & Patliputra
04450	New Delhi	15:10	Dharbhanga	16:30	Sleeper & General	Ghaziabad, Aligarh Jn., Kanpur Central, Unnao Jn., Aishbagh, Badshahnagar, Gonda Jn., Gorakhpur, Deoria Sadar, Siwan Jn., Chhapra, Sonpur Jn., Hajipur Jn., Muzaffarpur Jn. & Samastipur Jn.
04454	New Delhi	20:00	Mansi	23:30	Sleeper & General	Ghaziabad, Aligarh Jn., Tundia Jn., Etawah, Kanpur Central, Unnao Jn., Aishbagh, Badshahnagar, Barabanki Jn., Gonda Jn., Basti, Khalilabad, Gorakhpur, Deoria Sadar, Siwan Jn., Chhapra, Sonpur Jn., Hajipur Jn., Shahpur Patore, Barauni Jn., Begu Sara & Khagaria Jn.
04456	New Delhi	22:40	Dhanbad	02:20	Sleeper & General	Ghaziabad, Hapur, Moradabad, Bareilly, Shahjahanpur, Hardoi, Almorav, Utraula Jn., Rae Bareilly Jn., Amethi, Ma Beha Devi Pratapgarh, Bhadohi, Varanasi Jn., Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Jn., Bhabua Road, Sasaram, Dehri On Son, Anugrah Narayan Road, Gaya, Koderma, Hazaribagh Road, Parsnath & Gomoh
04458	Anand Vihar (T)	13:40	Bhagalpur	14:30	Sleeper & General	Ghaziabad, Kanpur Central, Prayagraj Jn., Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Jn., Buxar, Ara, Patna Jn., Patna Sahib, Fatuha, Khusrupur, Bakhtiyarpur Jn., Barh, Mokameh Jn., Haridih Jn., Bahariya, Luckeesarai Jn., Kufi Jn., Kajra, Abhaipur, Dhanara, Jamalpur Jn., Bararpur & Sultanganj
04016	Anand Vihar (T)	15:30	Sitamari	15:00	2 Tier AC, 3 Tier AC, Sleeper & General	Ghaziabad, Hapur, Moradabad, Bareilly, Shahjahanpur, Hardoi, Lucknow, Gonda Jn., Gorakhpur, Kaptanganj Jn., Siwa Bazar, Bagaha, Harinagar, Narkataganj Jn., Sikta, Raxaul Jn. & Bargiria
04452	New Delhi	18:15	Howrah	23:30	Sleeper & General	Ghaziabad, Aligarh Jn., Tundia Jn., Etawah, Govindpur, Prayagraj Jn., Janghri Jn., Varanasi Jn., Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Jn., Bhabua Road, Sasaram, Dehri On Son, Anugrah Narayan Road, Gaya, Koderma, Parsnath, Dhanbad Jn., Asansol Jn., Durgapur, Bardhaman & Bandel Jn.,
04094	Hazrat Nizamuddin	11:00	Patna Jn.	05:00	1st AC, 2 Tier AC & 3 Tier AC	Ghaziabad, Govindpur, Prayagraj Jn., Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Jn., Buxar, Ara & Danapur
04096	Anand Vihar (T)	00:05	Patliputra	21:30	1 st AC, 2 Tier AC, 3 Tier AC, 3 Tier AC Economy, Sleeper & Gen.	Ghaziabad, Kanpur Central, Prayagraj Jn., Varanasi Jn., Ghazipur City, Phephna Jn., Ballia, Sahawar, Bakulha, Chhapra & Dighwara
04098	New Delhi	09:30	Hasanpur Road	12:00	3 Tier AC Economy & General	Ghaziabad, Kanpur Central, Unnao Jn., Aishbagh, Badshahnagar, Barabanki Jn., Burhwal Jn., Gonda Jn., Gorakhpur, Kaptanganj Jn., Siwa Bazar, Bagaha, Narkataganj Jn., Bettah, Sagauli Jn., Bapudim Mothari, Muzaffarpur Jn. & Samastipur Jn.
04404	Shakurbasti	15:15	Patna Jn.	13:30	Sleeper & General	New Delhi, Ghaziabad, Aligarh Jn., Tundia Jn., Etawah Jn., Govindpur, Subedarganj, Mirzapur, Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Jn., Buxar, Ara & Danapur
04406	Shakurbasti	20:15	Saharsa Jn.	05:30	Sleeper & General	New Delhi, Ghaziabad, Aligarh Jn., Tundia Jn., Etawah Jn., Kanpur Central, Unnao Jn., Aishbagh, Badshahnagar, Barabanki Jn., Gonda Jn., Basti, Khalilabad, Gorakhpur Jn., Deoria Sadar, Siwan Jn., Chhapra, Sonpur, Hajipur Jn., Muzaffarpur Jn., Samastipur Jn., Dalangh Sara, Barauni Jn., Begusarai, Khagaria Jn. & Mansi Jn.
04410	Shakurbasti	13:00	Jhanjharpur Jn.	18:30	Sleeper & General	New Delhi, Ghaziabad, Aligarh Jn., Kanpur Central, Unnao Jn., Aishbagh, Badshahnagar, Gonda Jn., Gorakhpur Jn., Kaptanganj Jn., Narkataganj Jn., Raxaul Jn., Sitamari & Shisho
04008	Anand Vihar (T)	08:30	Jogbani	17:00	1st AC, 2 Tier AC, 3 Tier AC, Sleeper & General	Ghaziabad, Hapur, Moradabad, Bareilly, Shahjahanpur, Hardoi, Almorav, Utraula Jn., Rae Bareilly Jn., Amethi, Ma Beha Devi Pratapgarh, Bhadohi, Varanasi Jn., Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Jn., Bhabua Road, Sasaram, Dehri On Son, Anugrah Narayan Road, Gaya, Koderma, Hazaribagh Road, Parsnath & Gomoh
04234	Shakurbasti	09:45	Lucknow	20:00	1st AC, 2 AC, 3 AC, 3 Tier, Sleeper & General	Dehi Safdarjung, Hazrat Nizamuddin, Ghaziabad, Moradabad, Bareilly & Shahjahanpur
02252	New Delhi (Vande Bharat)	08:35	Patna Jn.	21:30	AC Chair Car & Exec. Chair Car	Aligarh Jn., Kanpur Central, Prayagraj Jn., Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Jn., Buxar & Ara
01662	Hazrat Nizamuddin	21:30	Rani Kamalapati	10:50	2 AC, AC 3 Tier, AC 3 Tier Economy, Sleeper & General	Mathura Jn., Agra Cantt Jn., Gwalior Jn., Virangana Lakshmi Bahadur Jn., Bina Jn. & Vidisha

EAST BOUND TRAINS FROM DELHI AREA TERMINALS ON 26.10.2025 (SUNDAY)						
Spl. Train No.	Station From	Dept. Time	Station to	Arr. Time	Accommodation	Stoppages
04090	Anand Vihar (T)	14:25	Patna Jn.	11:00	2 Tier AC, 3 Tier AC, Sleeper & General	Kanpur Central, Prayagraj Jn., Varanasi Jn., Ghazipur City, Ballia, Sahawar, Surainmanpur, Chhapra & Patliputra
04450	New Delhi	15:10	Dharbhanga	16:30	Sleeper & General	Ghaziabad, Aligarh Jn., Kanpur Central, Unnao Jn., Aishbagh, Badshahnagar, Gonda Jn., Gorakhpur, Deoria Sadar, Siwan Jn., Chhapra, Sonpur Jn., Hajipur Jn., Muzaffarpur Jn. & Samastipur Jn.
04454	New Delhi	20:00	Mansi	23:30	Sleeper & General	Ghaziabad, Aligarh Jn., Tundia Jn., Etawah, Kanpur Central, Unnao Jn., Aishbagh, Badshahnagar, Barabanki Jn., Gonda Jn., Basti, Khalilabad, Gorakhpur, Deoria Sadar, Siwan Jn., Chhapra, Sonpur Jn., Hajipur Jn., Shahpur Patore, Barauni Jn., Begu Sara & Khagaria Jn.
04456	New Delhi	22:40	Dhanbad	02:20	Sleeper & General	Ghaziabad, Hapur, Moradabad, Bareilly, Shahjahanpur, Hardoi, Almorav, Utraula Jn., Rae Bareilly Jn., Amethi, Ma Beha Devi Pratapgarh, Bhadohi, Varanasi Jn., Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Jn., Bhabua Road, Sasaram, Dehri On Son, Anugrah Narayan Road, Gaya, Koderma, Hazaribagh Road, Parsnath & Gomoh
04458	Anand Vihar (T)	13:40	Bhagalpur	14:30	Sleeper & General	Ghaziabad, Kanpur Central, Prayagraj Jn., Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Jn., Buxar, Ara, Patna Jn., Patna Sahib, Fatuha, Khusrupur, Bakhtiyarpur Jn., Barh, Mokameh Jn., Haridih Jn., Bahariya, Luckeesarai Jn., Kufi Jn., Kajra, Abhaipur, Dhanara, Jamalpur Jn., Bararpur & Sultanganj
04016	Anand Vihar (T)	15:30	Sitamari	15:00	2 Tier AC, 3 Tier AC, Sleeper & General	Ghaziabad, Hapur, Moradabad, Bareilly, Shahjahanpur, Hardoi, Lucknow, Gonda Jn., Gorakhpur, Kaptanganj Jn., Siwa Bazar, Bagaha, Harinagar, Narkataganj Jn., Sikta, Raxaul Jn. & Bargiria
04452	New Delhi	18:15	Howrah	23:30	Sleeper & General	Ghaziabad, Aligarh Jn., Tundia Jn., Etawah, Govindpur, Prayagraj Jn., Janghri Jn., Varanasi Jn., Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Jn., Bhabua Road, Sasaram, Dehri On Son, Anugrah Narayan Road, Gaya, Koderma, Parsnath, Dhanbad Jn., Asansol Jn., Durgapur, Bardhaman & Bandel Jn.,
04094	Hazrat Nizamuddin	11:00	Patna Jn.	05:00	1st AC, 2 Tier AC & 3 Tier AC	Ghaziabad, Govindpur, Prayagraj Jn., Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Jn., Buxar, Ara & Danapur
04096	Anand Vihar (T)	00:05	Patliputra	21:30	1 st AC, 2 Tier AC, 3 Tier AC, 3 Tier AC Economy, Sleeper & Gen.	Ghaziabad, Kanpur Central, Prayagraj Jn., Varanasi Jn., Ghazipur City, Phephna Jn., Ballia, Sahawar, Bakulha, Chhapra & Dighwara
04098	New Delhi	09:30	Hasanpur Road	12:00	3 Tier AC Economy & General	Ghaziabad, Kanpur Central, Unnao Jn., Aishbagh, Badshahnagar, Barabanki Jn., Burhwal Jn., Gonda Jn., Gorakhpur, Kaptanganj Jn., Siwa Bazar, Bagaha, Narkataganj Jn., Bettah, Sagauli Jn., Bapudim Mothari, Muzaffarpur Jn. & Samastipur Jn.
04404	Shakurbasti	15:15	Patna Jn.	13:30	Sleeper & General	New Delhi, Ghaziabad, Aligarh Jn., Tundia Jn., Etawah Jn., Govindpur, Subedarganj, Mirzapur, Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Jn., Buxar, Ara & Danapur
04406	Shakurbasti	20:15	Saharsa Jn.	05:30	Sleeper & General	New Delhi, Ghaziabad, Aligarh Jn., Tundia Jn., Etawah Jn., Kanpur Central, Unnao Jn., Aishbagh, Badshahnagar, Barabanki Jn., Gonda Jn., Basti, Khalilabad, Gorakhpur Jn., Deoria Sadar, Siwan Jn., Chhapra, Sonpur, Hajipur Jn., Muzaffarpur Jn., Samastipur Jn., Dalangh Sara, Barauni Jn., Begusarai, Khagaria Jn. & Mansi Jn.
04410	Shakurbasti	13:00	Jhanjharpur Jn.	18:30	Sleeper & General	New Delhi, Ghaziabad, Aligarh Jn., Kanpur Central, Unnao Jn., Aishbagh, Badshahnagar, Gonda Jn., Gorakhpur Jn., Kaptanganj Jn., Narkataganj Jn., Raxaul Jn., Sitamari & Shisho
04236	Shakurbasti	09:45	Lucknow	20:00	2 Tier AC, 3 Tier AC, 2 Tier cum 3 Tier AC, Sleeper & General	Dehi Safdarjung, Hazrat Nizamuddin, Ghaziabad, Moradabad, Bareilly & Shahjahanpur

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Delhi's pollution control drive brings significant AQI improvement

Staff Reporter
New Delhi

Delhi's air quality has seen a significant improvement, with the Air Quality Index (AQI) dropping nearly 50 points from 350 to 305 in just one day, thanks to efficient and coordinated actions by the government.

Under the leadership of Chief Minister Rekha Gupta, approximately 2000 enforcement teams are working around the clock to combat pollution from waste burning, vehicle emissions, and construction dust.

The city has deployed various tools such as 376 anti-smog guns, 266 water sprinklers, and 91 mechanised sweepers, all tracked by GPS.

The government's approach includes 443 teams



focused on reducing burning of waste, 578 teams for vehicular emissions checks, and 91 mechanised sweepers, all tracked by GPS.

The mobile prosecution teams consist of 505 officers, working within a struc-

tured framework that ensures real-time response via the Green War Room. They are concentrating on 13 pollution hotspots and adjusting resources based on pollution levels and traffic conditions.

Environment Minister Manjinder Singh Sirsa emphasized that the strategy for managing pollution is based on scientific data and aims to ensure clean air for all residents. He acknowledged the improvements

while also indicating the government's commitment to long-term actions, including future enhancements such as adding 70 more mechanised sweepers and anti-smog devices, as well as promoting innovations through initiatives like the Clean Air Challenge.

In terms of enforcement, the city has organized comprehensive teams to manage dust from construction sites and implement strict regulations against open burning. With dedicated day and night patrols in place involving over a thousand personnel, the government closely monitors compliance with environmental regulations.

Additionally, Delhi is advancing towards a sustainable transportation model by transitioning to an electric vehicle fleet to cut down

on emissions from traditional vehicles. This shift, along with the installation of the anti-smog infrastructure, shows a proactive commitment to ongoing air quality management.

The winter action plan contains a focus on science and innovation, including upcoming cloud seeding collaboration with IIT Kanpur and IMD, pending weather conditions. The city's efforts also led to the biominning of over 136 lakh tonnes of legacy waste, with no landfill fires reported in 2025, marking a significant achievement.

Minister Sirsa highlighted the importance of continuous effort to maintain cleaner air, advising that air quality improvement should be seen as an everyday commitment rather than a one-time event.

Four wanted Bihar gangsters killed in police encounter in Rohini

New Delhi

Four wanted criminals allegedly involved in multiple cases of murder in Bihar were killed in a shootout with a joint team of Delhi Police and Bihar Police in Rohini in the early hours of Thursday, police said.

The accused, identified as Ranjan Pathak (25), Bimlesh Mahto alias Bimlesh Sahni (25), Manish Thakur (33) and Aman Thakur (21), all residents of Bihar's Sitamarhi district, were part of the 'Sigma Gang', they said.

The encounter, which took place around 2.20 am on Bahadur Shah Marg in Rohini, was one of the biggest carried out in Delhi in recent years, police said.

The accused, who were wanted for heinous crimes, including multiple murders and extortion, were reportedly planning to carry

out criminal activities in Bihar ahead of the Assembly elections scheduled on October 6.

A police source said they had committed a murder in Bihar after the model code of conduct came into place for the elections on October 6.

Ranjan Pathak, the kingpin of the gang carrying a bounty of Rs 25,000 for information leading to his arrest, was reportedly wanted in eight criminal cases.

The encounter took place when the joint team launched an operation to trace the accused, who were reportedly hiding in Delhi for the past several days, a senior police officer said.

During the operation, the accused allegedly opened fire at the police team, prompting retaliatory action that left all four injured, the officer said.

Mayor reviews preparations for Chhath Mahaparv

Staff Reporter
New Delhi

The Mayor of Delhi, Sardar Raja Iqbal Singh, has inspected preparations for the upcoming Chhath Mahaparv at key ghats in the city, including Shyam Ghat and Ram Ghat. During his visit, he was accompanied by various officials and local leaders. The Mayor emphasized that Chhath Mahaparv represents the faith and unity of Delhi's residents, and the Municipal Corporation of Delhi is working quickly to ensure all necessary arrangements for the festival.

The inspections focused on essential aspects such as cleanliness, lighting, power supply, drainage, and accessibility for devotees. The Mayor announced that spe-



cial teams have been organized for sanitation, lighting, fogging, and waste management to keep the ghats clean and safe for worshippers. He added that sanitation workers are actively cleaning and removing waste from the ghats to prevent any in-

convenience to the public. Under the guidance of Chief Minister Mrs. Rekha Gupta, the Mayor noted that this year's preparations are exceptional, aiming to provide a clean, safe, and well-organized environment for all participants.

Chhath Puja to be organized at over 1300 ghats across Delhi; Delhi Govt. working at a war footing

Staff Reporter
New Delhi

The Government of Delhi is actively preparing for a grand celebration of Chhath Puja 2025 at over 1300 ghats throughout the city.

Hon'ble Lieutenant Governor Vinay Kumar Saxena and Minister Kapil Mishra on Thursday inspected Vasudev Ghat to ensure all arrangements are thoroughly completed.

They stressed the importance of cleanliness, lighting, security, and traffic management to provide a smooth experience for devotees.

This year's celebrations are set to be the largest ever in Delhi, marking a historic scale of organiza-



tion along the Yamuna. The government is dedicated to making this event a memorable and culturally enriching experience for

the devotees. During the inspection, Kapil Mishra highlighted the extensive planning involved and reassured that

all preparations will be completed on time. He noted that this Chhath Puja is especially significant as it is the first

under Chief Minister Rekha Gupta's leadership, allowing devotees to perform traditional rituals on the banks of the Yamuna.

Kapil Mishra criticized the previous government for banning Chhath Puja, stating that it insulted the Purvanchali community.

He asserted that the current government supports all devotees and has lifted the ban, enabling them to celebrate the festival with pride and self-respect. Kapil Mishra emphasized that the Government of Delhi is committed to following through on its promises to the community and ensuring a significant and respectful celebration of Chhath Puja this year.

Greater Noida gears up for Chhath Puja as devotees prepare to offer Arghya

Ajeet Kumar
Greater Noida

The city is getting ready to celebrate one of its most revered festivals, Chhath Puja, with devotion and grandeur. Devotees will offer Arghya to the setting sun on the evening of October 27 and to the rising sun on the morning of October 28. To ensure smooth celebrations, the Greater Noida Authority has undertaken extensive preparations across the city's artificial ponds, where the rituals are traditionally performed. Water will be filled in these ponds a day before the festival, allowing devotees to perform their prayers without any inconvenience.

Chhath Mahaparv draws a large number of devotees in Greater Noida every year. In anticipation of the festival, the CEO of the Greater Noida Authority, N.G. Ravi Kumar, directed all work-circle officers to oversee the repair of artificial ponds in



their respective areas. The instructions emphasized proper cleaning, water supply, and lighting arrangements. Following these directives, the project department has been actively restoring the city's ponds and ghats, ensuring they are ready for devotees.

Among the key Chhath Ghats in the city are those near IEC College in Knowledge Park I, the Haibatpur Community Center, the

Cherry County Society in Techzone-4, and two more ghats within Techzone-4. Additional ghats are located in Sector 3, Sector P-3, Kulesra, and Sector Zeta-II. These locations will serve as designated spots for devotees to offer their Arghya to the Sun.

All repair work at these ghats has now been completed, and cleaning arrangements have been finalized. ACEO Prerna Singh

has instructed the Electrical Engineering and Water Departments to ensure that all ghats have proper lighting and adequate water supply for devotees. According to ACEO Sumit Yadav, all necessary arrangements are being made to facilitate a comfortable and safe environment for the celebrations.

The Authority has also opened channels for devotees who wish to perform rituals at other ponds or water bodies. Those seeking additional cleaning or lighting arrangements can notify the administration, which will make the necessary provisions. Senior managers have been instructed to visit the designated Chhath Puja sites and ensure that any remaining tasks are completed promptly.

With these preparations, Greater Noida is set to witness the Chhath Puja festival in full fervor, combining devotion, tradition, and community spirit.

ATS Nobility residents fed up with poor roads in Gr Noida West

Noida

The residents of the ATS Nobility and the Golf Homes societies, located near Shahberi in Greater Noida West, are fed up with poor road infrastructure. Their biggest complaint concerns the road leading to Shahberi.

The stretch of open drains, accumulated garbage and filth along this road not only raise questions about cleanliness but also pollute the environment. Illegal roadside vendors and food stalls add to their woes.

The residents have made three demands to the Greater Noida Industrial Development Authority and other departments concerned. They demand immediate cleaning of the garbage along Shahberi Road. They also demand that the open drain also be covered. The unpaved road near the AIIMS site be paved as soon as possible. Furthermore, the gathering of alcoholies should be eliminated. AK Singh, senior manager of the Greater Noida Authority, said that a survey would be conducted to address the problems related to the Shahberi Road.

The stench of open drains, accumulated garbage and filth along this road not only raise questions about cleanliness but also pollute the environment. Illegal roadside vendors and food stalls add to their woes.

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The alternative route, which passes next to the AIIMS site, tells its own tale of misery. The road is completely unpaved and riddled with

large potholes. It has become the main route for school buses and thousands of vehicles. Dust billows throughout the day, posing a constant threat of accidents. The locals have even complained to the environment department and the pollution control board.

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Shops in Old Delhi's Katra Neel sealed following SC order

New Delhi

Several shops in Katra Neel, Chandni Chowk, were sealed on Thursday following a Supreme Court order, said Sanjay Bhargava of the Chandni Chowk Traders Association.

He said that around eight shops were sealed on Thursday by the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD), while 750 shops were listed in the court hearing.

However, after reaching out to the MCD, no immediate response was received from the official.

Praveen Shankar Kapoor, general secretary of Chandni Chowk Nagrik Manch, clarified that the MCD acted on a directive from the Supreme Court after a resident of Katra Neel filed a petition.

"This sealing was not the MCD's initiative. If the traders had approached the court in time, legal relief could have been obtained," Kapoor said.

He added that under the Delhi Master Plan 2021, most parts of Katra Neel are designated commercial and the proposed Master Plan 2041 shows the entire area as 100 per cent commercial. However, trade associations failed to present these facts before the Supreme Court through competent legal representation.

"Despite opportunities provided by the MCD and urban area officers, the concerned trade associations did not take the necessary steps to secure relief," Kapoor said, adding that negligence in hiring a capable lawyer has left traders paying the price, with their shops now sealed.

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Improved Yamuna water brings relief to Noida Chhath devotees

Noida

As the Chhath festival approaches, preparations are in full swing across the city. Migrant families from western Uttar Pradesh and Bihar are already experiencing the spirit of Chhath.

This time, the clear waters of the Yamuna River have brought both peace and excitement to the faces of Chhath devotees. Last year, the Chhath devotees had to perform the puja by wading through the froth and dirty swamps of the Yamuna. The filth and foam on the river banks caused immense inconvenience to devotees.



But this time the situation is different. The water of the Yamuna appears much cleaner than before. The work of removing the

garbage accumulated on the Yamuna River near Okhla Barrage is going on at a war footing. The local administration and puja committees

are jointly engaged in cleaning the ghats. The water of the Yamuna flowing through Delhi is now clear, replacing the foam. Chhath Puja committee president Sujit Kesari and official Avinash Singh explained that women had to wade through dirty swamps to complete their fast, causing significant inconvenience to devotees. They said there was a ray of hope this time: "The Yamuna's water is clean, and the ghats are being cleaned on time. Devotees will be able to offer prayers to the Sun God without any hassle."

Air quality remains poor in Haryana Punjab

Chandigarh
Air quality in parts of Haryana was recorded in the poor and very poor categories, while it was poor in neighbouring Punjab on Thursday.

The Air Quality Index (AQI) in Dharuhera in Haryana's Rewari district stood at 338 at 10 am, according to Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) data.

Jind and Rohtak too recorded very poor air quality with an AQI of 305 and 302 respectively.

Among places where AQI was in poor category included Ambala (248), Bhiwani (251), Charkhi Dabri (263), Gurugram (230), Panchkula (257), Panipat (275), Kurukshetra (249), Karnal (207), Fatehabad (277) and Sonapat (226).

In Punjab, Mandi Gobindgarh recorded an AQI of 274, Jalandhar 213, Ludhiana 251, Patiala 119, Amritsar 151, Khanna 152, Rupnagar 157 and Bathinda 90.

Chandigarh, the common capital of Punjab and Haryana, recorded an AQI of 129.

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', 401 and 450 'severe' and above 450 'severe plus'.

At 484 stubble burning cases in Punjab spiked over past week

Chandigarh
Punjab recorded 484 stubble burning incidents from September 15 to October 22, marking a sharp increase of 296 from the 188 cases recorded till October 16, Punjab Pollution Control Board (PPCB) data showed.

As per the data, Tara Taran witnessed the highest number of farm fires at 154, followed by Amritsar at 126, Ferozepur 55, Patiala 31 and Gurdaspur 23, as many farmers continue to ignore government appeals to stop crop residue burning.

Stubble burning in Punjab and Haryana is often blamed for the rise in air pollution in Delhi-NCR.

As the window for the Rabi crop, wheat, is very short after paddy harvest in October and November, some farmers set their fields on fire to quickly clear off the crop residue.

Fines amounting to Rs 11.45 lakh have been imposed as environmental compensation in 226 cases so far, according to PPCB data. Of the total fine, Rs 7.40 lakh has been collected so far.

The data also showed that 184 FIRs, including 61 in Tara Taran and 53 in Amritsar, were registered against farm fire incidents during this period under Section 223 (disobedience of order promulgated by public servant) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS).

State authorities have also marked 187 red entries, mostly in Tara Taran and Amritsar, in land records of farmers who burnt crop residues.

Punjab CM seeks relaxation in Paddy procurement norms amid flood damage

Komal Ramola
Chandigarh
Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann has urged the Centre to relax uniform specifications for paddy procurement in light of widespread crop damage caused by recent floods. During an inspection of procurement operations in local grain markets on Thursday, Mann said that heavy rains and flooding had led to increased moisture content, discoloration, and grain damage, making it difficult for farmers to meet existing procurement standards.

Mann said he had already requested the Union government to consider these exceptional circumstances and allow flexibility to ensure that affected farmers are not penalized. "The food growers have suffered huge losses due to inclement weather. The Government of India should provide relaxation in specifications to facilitate a smooth procurement," he said.

Despite the flood devastation, Punjab is still expected to contribute around 170 lakh metric tonnes (LMT) of paddy to the national pool this season. Mann said the state government has made elaborate arrangements across 1,822 regular purchase centers notified for Kharif Marketing Season 2025-26 to ensure a smooth procurement process.

According to official data, 63.49 lakh metric tonnes of paddy have arrived in the mandis so far, out of which 61.01 lakh metric tonnes have already been procured. The Chief Minister said that 91.80 percent of the procured paddy had been lifted within



72 hours, as per state norms, and payments worth Rs 13,073.07 crore have been made to farmers. "The state government is ensuring that every farmer receives payment within 24 hours of selling their crop," he said.

Mann credited the state machinery for ensuring timely procurement, transportation, and lifting of paddy from mandis. "The operations have been smooth and

hassle-free because of our proactive planning. Farmers have not faced any inconvenience in selling their produce," he said.

Taking aim at the Union government, Mann accused it of "step-motherly treatment" towards Punjab during this crisis. He said the state is yet to receive Rs 1,600 crore in flood relief announced by the Prime Minister. "The Centre should stop discriminating against Punjab, which is both the food bowl and the sword arm of the nation," he said.

Mann said he had already requested the Union government to consider these exceptional circumstances and allow flexibility to ensure that affected farmers are not penalized.

of Eminence, where 265 students have qualified for JEE Mains, 44 for JEE Advanced, and 848 for NEET.

In the healthcare sector, Mann said 881 Aam Aadmi Clinics are operational across Punjab, providing free medicines to 1.75 crore people, and the number will soon cross 1,000. He added that 90 percent of households now receive zero electricity bills due to reforms in the power sector, giving major financial relief to the public.

The Chief Minister also announced that he will invite President Droupadi Murmu to Punjab for a series of events commemorating the 350th martyrdom anniversary of the Ninth Sikh Guru, Sri Guru Tegh Bahadur Ji. The state government will organize the events primarily in Sri Anandpur Sahib to honor the Guru's supreme sacrifice and spread his message of secularism, humanism, and resistance against tyranny.

"These events will be organized with deep reverence. Guru Tegh Bahadur Ji's sacrifice is unparalleled in human history and continues to inspire us to uphold freedom and justice," Mann said.

Father-son duo held in Hoshiarpur shooting case

Hoshiarpur (Punjab): A man and his son, wanted in an attack on a jewellery shop here, were arrested after a brief encounter with police on Thursday, officials said.

Krishan Gopal, a resident of village Baincha, and his son Keshav Bawa were apprehended by the Anti-Gangster Task Force (AGTF) Punjab in a joint operation with Hoshiarpur police, Director General of Police (DGP) Gaurav Yadav said.

In the exchange of fire, Bawa was injured after being hit on his right leg, the officials said.

A 32-caliber pistol along with live cartridges was recovered from the duo, and their motorcycle bearing a fake number plate was impounded, they said.

The arrested men were allegedly involved in the October 18 attack at a jewellery shop. Two assailants on motorcycles had opened fire at the shop, police said.

Following the attack, the shop owner received a threat call from an unknown foreign number demanding Rs 20 lakh in extortion, the DGP said.

An FIR was registered at Mahilpur police station

Krishan Gopal, a resident of village Baincha, and his son Keshav Bawa were apprehended by the Anti-Gangster Task Force (AGTF) Punjab in a joint operation with Hoshiarpur police, Director General of Police (DGP) Gaurav Yadav said.

tion under relevant sections of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) and the Arms Act.

A fresh FIR has been registered under sections 109 (attempt to murder), 221 (obstructing public servant in discharge of functions), 132 (assaulting or using criminal force against a public servant), 3(5)(a) criminal act committed by multiple people) of BNS and Section 25 of the Arms Act following the encounter, police said.

Sharing operational details, additional DGP, AGTF, Promod Ban said police teams from AGTF and Hoshiarpur district conducted investigations to identify the suspects.

Haryana govt writes to Centre for CBI probe into death of ex-Punjab DGP's son

Chandigarh
The Haryana government has written to the Centre, recommending a CBI probe into the death of the son of former Punjab DGP Mohammad Mustafa, sources said on Thursday.

The investigation will be handed over to the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) once the Centre accepts the state government's request, they said.

Mustafa and his wife Razia Sultana, a former Punjab minister, have been booked by the Haryana police in connection with the death of their 35-year-old son Aqil Akhter.

Akhter was found dead at his residence in Haryana's Panchkula on October 16. Also booked in the case are Akhter's wife and sister.

The FIR was registered on October 20 under Sections 103 (i) and 61 that deal with murder and criminal conspiracy charges, after a man named Shamsuddin from Punjab's Muzaffargarh filed a complaint alleging foul play in the death.

The complainant alleged that Akhter died under "suspicious circumstances", the police had earlier said.

Shamsuddin had told the Panchkula police that he knew the family quite well.

The investigation will be handed over to the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) once the Centre accepts the state government's request, they said.

The complainant in the case has given an account of a purported video recorded by Akhter in August, in which he has levelled serious allegations against his father and other family members.

Mustafa, a retired 1985-batch IPS officer, served as Punjab DGP (human rights), while his wife was a minister in the previous Congress government in the state.

Mustafa has dismissed as "completely false" all allegations levelled against him and his family in connection with the death of his son.

The Mustafa family has said that Aqil was undergoing treatment at a hospital in Panchkula as he had become "psychotic" and was not in sound mental health.

Addressing the media in Saharanpur on Tuesday, the former DGP had said he welcomed the police case registered against him and his wife, as the investigation would "reveal the truth".

Haryana leads in farmers' welfare with highest sugarcane MSP: CM Saini

Shiv Kumar
New Delhi

Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini reaffirmed the government's commitment to the welfare of farmers, saying that both the Central and State Governments, under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, are continuously taking steps to enhance farmers' income and strengthen the rural economy.

Interacting with farmers at his residence, Sant Kabir Kutir, the Chief Minister said that the recent increase in the Minimum Support Price (MSP) for sugarcane is a reflection of this commitment. Farmers from Kurukshetra, Yamunanagar, and several other districts met him to express their gratitude for the Diwali announcement, calling it an unexpected and welcome gift.

Expressing happiness over the move, farmers thanked the Chief Minister and conveyed their appreciation to Prime Minister Modi for the decision that, they said, would bring relief and prosperity to the farming community.

The Chief Minister said that the price of early-variety sugarcane has been raised from ₹400 to ₹415 per quintal, and that of late-variety sugarcane from ₹393 to



Haryana Chief Minister Sh. Nayab Singh Saini being thanked by sugarcane farmers in Chandigarh for increasing the sugarcane price.

₹408 per quintal. He noted that this increase not only recognizes the hard work of farmers but also strengthens their economic condition. "By offering the highest sugarcane support price in the country, Haryana reaffirms its commitment to farmers' welfare," he said, adding that the move will give a new impetus to the state's agricutural economy.

Highlighting Haryana's record in agricultural reforms, the Chief Minister said it is the first state in the country to procure all crops at MSP, with payments made within 48 hours of procurement. Through the Meri Fasal Mera Byora portal, payments worth ₹1.58 lakh crore have been directly trans-

ferred into the accounts of 12 lakh farmers over 11 procurement seasons. He also pointed out that Haryana was the first state to implement the Bhavantar Bhampal Yojana, under which incentives of ₹135.37 crore have been deposited directly into the accounts of 29,864 farmers for 21 fruits and vegetables.

Saini further informed that compensation for crop damage due to heavy rains or natural disasters has been increased to ₹15,000 per acre. Additionally, claims worth ₹9,626 crore have been disbursed to 33 lakh farmers under the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana. Over the past 11 years, the state has released ₹15,627 crore in compensation

to farmers for crop losses caused by natural calamities.

During the interaction, the Chief Minister sought feedback on the paddy procurement process and other crop-related systems in the mandis. Farmers expressed satisfaction with the arrangements and said they were not facing any issues in selling their produce.

Chairman of Market Committee Pehowa Tarun Warriach, Ramgopal Rana from Yamunanagar, Sarpanch Rajkumar from Vyaspur, Madan Rana from Jalbehara, Sarpanch Balwinder Singh, Jagjit Singh, and Nambardar Gian Singh were among those present during the interaction.

Punjab sees decline in farm fire incidents: Minister Aman Arora

Chandigarh
Punjab Cabinet minister Aman Arora on Thursday said the state has witnessed a 92 per cent decline in stubble burning incidents during the September 15 to October 21 period in comparison to farm fires in corresponding period in 2021.

He said the number of stubble burning incidents stood at 415 during September 15 to October 21 as compared to 4,327 in 2021.

Arora further said the state saw 62 crop residue burning incidents on October 21 while it was 597 on the same day in 2021.

The reduction in stubble burning incidents, according to the minister, was possible because of the concerted efforts of the state government and the immense cooperation of farmers.

Arora further said the state government has provided over 1.50 lakh crop residue management (CRM) machines to farmers at subsidised rates to manage the paddy straw effectively.

He also appealed to farmers to join the mission to bring stubble burning cases to zero, while assuring them of the government's unwavering commitment and support.

Meanwhile, Arora lashed out at Delhi minister Manjinder Singh Sirsa for his remarks blaming the AAP dispensation in Punjab for the toxic haze over the national capital.

"The BJP-led governments are hell-bent on defaming Punjab, Punjabis and our farmers. The recent allegations by Sirsa, who directly and shamelessly blamed Punjab for Delhi's pollution crisis and even alleged a conspiracy by the Punjab government, are not just false, but are a deliberate act of hatred against Punjab and its people," alleged Arora here.

Agency

AAP lashes out BJP for circulating 'fake video' targeting CM Mann

Chandigarh
Punjab's ruling AAP party on Thursday lashed out at the BJP, accusing it of indulging in character assassination of Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann by allegedly circulating a fake video on social media targeting him.

Addressing reporters in Morinda, Mann slammed the BJP, saying, "except a fake (video), what else do they have?"

On Tuesday, the Punjab Police registered a case against Canada-based Jagman Samra for allegedly posting "vulgar content on social media that could incite hatred and enmi-

ty." Subsequently, a Mohali court on Wednesday issued directions to Facebook and Google to take the video down.

Addressing the media in Chandigarh, AAP MP and spokesperson Malvinder Singh Kang condemned the BJP for its attempts to defame the chief minister through the distribution of a fake video allegedly created using artificial intelligence.

"The video was made with the sole intention of defaming our beloved chief minister and conducting character assassination," he stated.

Kang claimed the video went viral, emphasising that many BJP leaders, including official party bearers and spokespersons, played significant roles in amplifying it.



Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann

politically, it has now resorted to indulging in his character assassination by making his fake video viral on social media. That is BJP's politics," he added.

Kang also asserted that while everyone has the right to express their opinions in politics, creating AI-driven fake videos to defame an elected chief minister crosses an unacceptable line.

"Punjab's people will answer this conspiracy in due time. We condemn this plot by the BJP in the strongest possible terms. If you try to defame our leader with fake videos, you will not be spared. Our party

will take stringent legal action against you," he warned.

Another AAP leader, Baltej Pannu, echoed the condemnation of the BJP for circulating the fake video targeting Mann, calling it a "desperate and disgraceful attempt at character assassination."

Pannu noted that the Mohali court has ordered the video to be removed from all platforms (Facebook and Google) within 24 hours, and has mandated that it must not appear in search results. He warned of strict legal action against anyone who fails to comply.

Advt Contact: 9818-799941

“Nitish Kumar: The Last Clean Face in Bihar’s Murky Politics”

Bihar, a land of intellect, struggle and resilience, stands again at a crossroads. The 2025 Assembly elections have reignited the battle for the state’s moral and political identity. Amid the chaos of caste alignments, muscle-money politics, and rampant corruption, one figure still evokes trust — Nitish Kumar. In a political landscape darkened by criminality and opportunism, he remains the only white-clad symbol of credibility, a man whose personal honesty and administrative sincerity distinguished him from the rest of Bihar’s tainted political tribe.

When one surveys Bihar’s political class today, the picture is grim. Judicial observations themselves have lamented the rising nexus between crime and politics. Leaders accused in forgery scams, ticket-selling rackets, and financial embezzlements are contesting elections with impunity. The corruption is not hidden — it is visible, vulgar, and unashamed. Yet, amidst this disillusioning environment, Nitish Kumar’s clean image continues to command rare respect. His public life has been as transparent as his white kurta — unblemished, uncorrupted, and untainted by personal greed.

Nitish Kumar’s journey from a humble engineer in the Indian Railways to the Chief Minister of Bihar is not merely political; it is a testament to discipline, honesty, and hard work. When he first assumed office in 2005, Bihar was synonymous with lawlessness and despair. What he inherited was a collapsed system — crumbling roads, absent teachers, fleeing investors, and terrified citizens. What he built was a state slowly rediscovering governance. In his tenure, Bihar found its road network, its electricity, and most importantly, its faith in government. The transformation of Bihar’s infrastructure was not an illusion of publicity but a hard-earned outcome of his governance. The bridges over the Ganga, the all-weather roads linking remote villages, and the revived administrative capital of Patna all bear his signature of precision and persistence.

Nitish Kumar understood that development was not about announcing grand projects but about restoring dignity to everyday life. He made power supply reach the remotest hamlet, brought piped water into homes, and ensured that a child in rural Bihar could study under a working bulb. His Saat Nischaay Yojana became a blueprint of local development — water, roads, sanitation, women’s empowerment, and skill creation. These were not mere political slogans but life-changing interventions.

His most remarkable achievement remains the empowerment of women. By reserving fifty percent of seats for women in panchayats, he altered the grammar of Bihar’s politics forever. From the shadows of the courtyard to the forefront of governance, thousands of rural women emerged as decision-makers, entrepreneurs, and symbols of self-respect. His initiatives like Mukhya Mantri Kanya Uthhan Yojana and the Cycle Yojana for schoolgirls have become legendary for breaking social barriers and ensuring that



By Dr. Anil Singh



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



daughters do not drop out of schools because of poverty or prejudice. Bihar’s literacy, gender ratio, and girl-child enrolment improved dramatically under his watch, reminding the state that progress can be engineered with conscience.

On the question of caste, Nitish Kumar never practiced the divisive arithmetic that others thrive on. He has represented social justice not as a slogan but as a structural correction. The creation of the Mahadalit category, targeted welfare for EBCs and minorities, and hostels for backward-class students were measures rooted in fairness, not favouritism. Unlike his contemporaries who used caste as an instrument of survival, Nitish used it as a tool for inclusion. His governance was designed to uplift, not to divide.

In an age when politics has become a theatre of aggression, Nitish Kumar remains the calm centre of Bihar’s turbulence. He does not shout; he persuades. He does not abuse; he argues. His politics is of dialogue, not demagoguery. Even when mocked or misunderstood, he carries the dignity of a statesman,

rarely crossing the line of civility. He has changed alliances, but never his moral compass. His coalition shifts, often criticised as opportunism, are better understood as the pragmatism of a man trying to preserve stability in a fractured polity. He has never used hate, religion, or vendetta to sustain his power. In a time when populism sets louder than principles, Nitish Kumar remains a rare reminder that decency is still possible in a public life.

His decision to enforce prohibition in 2016 may have been controversial, but it was born of conviction, not calculation. It stemmed from genuine concern for families destroyed by alcoholism. The ban reduced domestic violence, improved family savings, and became a moral marker of his governance — not without flaws, but full of intent. This courage to take unpopular decisions sets him apart from populist politicians who chase applause instead of reform.

As Bihar’s political parties sink deeper into scandals of bribery and ticket-trading, Nitish Kumar’s personal integrity becomes even more luminous. He stands tall not because he is loud, but because he is clean. He has no business empire, no nepotistic family empire, and no secret deals. His relatives remain away from politics, his personal life devoid of extravagance. In an era where corruption is flaunted as cleverness, he remains proof that honesty still has political value.

Critics say his charisma has faded, that his electoral base has shrunk. Yet, even they concede that his credibility endures. He may not command crowds through oratory, but he commands respect through character. Bihar has had louder leaders, but none as consistent in moral conviction. In a state where power is often pursued as personal wealth, Nitish Kumar still treats it as public trust.

His contribution to governance is not limited to roads and bridges. He institutionalised accountability. The Public Grievance Redressal Act 2015 gave citizens a right to demand administrative answers — a revolutionary idea in a state where government once meant inaccessibility. His focus on education and health, on vocational training and start-ups, slowly changed the mindset of Bihar’s youth. His belief that development and dignity must go together made him a symbol of hope for an entire generation.

Today, as Bihar prepares for yet another election clouded by money, muscle, and manipulation, Nitish Kumar’s image stands like a moral mirror to the state. Every candidate tainted by criminal cases, every leader exposed in scams, every party that trades nominations for cash makes his spotless record shine

brighter. He is the last ethical anchor in a decaying system — the one man who still reminds the people that politics can be clean, governance can be sincere, and leadership can be selfless.

His political journey is also a story of endurance. Few leaders have faced as much criticism from both sides of the aisle and yet continued to command institutional respect. Whether aligned with the BJP or standing against it, Nitish has never compromised on Bihar’s interest. His politics is not of loyalty to a party but of commitment to the state. That sense of duty, detached from personal ambition, is what makes him the last statesman of Bihar’s contemporary history.

In the wider moral crisis that defines Indian politics, Nitish Kumar’s conduct becomes not just exemplary but essential. Bihar needs to learn from his example to rebuild a culture of political ethics. The coming years must focus on institutionalising transparency — declaring candidate finances, curbing criminalisation, introducing state-funded campaigns, and empowering local governments with fiscal autonomy. Bihar should lead the way in establishing an independent ethics commission to monitor political conduct. That would be the true tribute to Nitish Kumar’s legacy — turning his personal virtue into a public value.

For the young generation disillusioned by cynical politics, Nitish Kumar represents the possibility that honesty and governance can coexist. He is the bridge between the old ideals of service and the new demands of development. His calm presence in Bihar’s noisy democracy offers the reassurance that morality has not yet vanished from Indian public life.

Bihar’s politics today is a drought of decency. In this drought, Nitish Kumar remains the last well of water — the last clean source of faith. His journey proves that leadership is not about theatrics but about trust. As voters of Bihar approach the ballot once again, they must remember that in choosing Nitish Kumar, they are not merely electing a Chief Minister; they are preserving the conscience of their state.

He has been mocked, doubted, and misunderstood, yet never accused of corruption. He has been challenged by louder men, yet none more respected. In a political ecosystem infested with greed, he stands like a lone banyan of integrity, unshaken by wind or temptation. Bihar’s destiny, once darkened by cynicism, still flickers with hope because Nitish Kumar continues to prove that politics, at its noblest, is not a career but a calling.

If Bihar’s democracy still has a pulse, it beats in his quiet resolve. Nitish Kumar’s legacy is not confined to policy or power — it lies in the faith he restored, the dignity he upheld, and the truth he practiced. In a state drenched in deceit, he remains the last clean face of politics — a reminder that one honest man can still make the difference between chaos and conscience.

The truth beyond festivals: Air pollution in Indian cities is a year-round crisis

Air pollution in Indian cities today is not just an environmental problem, but a profound threat to health, economy, and social stability. Every year, as winter approaches or the festival of Diwali approaches, discussions about air pollution suddenly intensify across the country. Images of haze and smog fill news channels, newspapers, and social media. For a few weeks, people wear masks, governments make emergency plans, and then the issue is gradually forgotten. This tendency—to treat pollution as a seasonal problem that lasts only a few days—is actually the biggest mistake. Because air pollution in India is not a temporary or limited problem to festivals, but a multi-source, multi-sectoral challenge that persists throughout the year.

Air quality remains poor throughout the year in most Indian cities. According to the World Air Quality Report 2024, nine of the ten most polluted cities in the world are in India, including Delhi, Ghaziabad, Bhiwadi, Faridabad, and Ludhiana. Delhi’s average PM 2.5 level was found to be eighteen times higher than the World Health Organization’s limit. Attributing this solely to firecrackers during Diwali hides the true extent of the problem. The main causes of pollution are active year-round—vehicular exhaust, industrial emissions, construction dust, burning of garbage and stubble, particulate matter from thermal power plants, and the use of domestic fuels.

Considering the problem merely seasonal also leads to reactive policies. Governments only act when pollution reaches its peak. Schools are closed for a few days, odd-even schemes for vehicles are implemented, firecrackers are banned, or construction activities are temporarily halted. These measures provide temporary relief but do not address the root causes. As soon as the weather changes, all policies become ineffective. This approach is meant to postpone the problem, not solve it.

The effects of air pollution aren’t limited to just a few weeks. It impacts our bodies year-round. According to the World Health Organization, approximately 1.7 million people in India die prematurely each year due to air pollution. A study by the All India Institute of Medical Sciences found that cases of asthma, allergies, and lung diseases among children in Delhi increased by 10 to 15 percent throughout the year. This proves that the effects of pollution are not seasonal, but permanent.

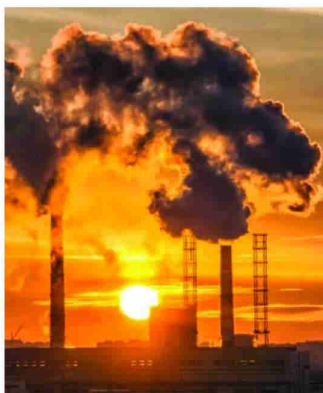
It also severely impacts the economy. A 2023 World Bank report indicates that India loses more than a



By Priyanka Saurabh



Research Scholar in Political Science, Post, freelance journalist and columnist,



tenth of its gross domestic product each year due to air pollution. Lost working days, increased health expenditures, reduced productivity, and increased medical burden all impact the country’s economic progress.

When it comes to sources of air pollution, the transportation sector is the biggest culprit. India has millions of vehicles on the roads, most of which run on petrol or diesel. Old trucks and buses emit significant amounts of smoke. The number of small vehicles is so high that their emissions are continuously increasing the amount of nitrogen oxides and fine particles in the air. The industrial sector also contributes significantly to pollution. Many small and medium-sized industries still do not use clean fuels. Old boilers and coal-fired plants emit sulfur dioxide and metallic particles.

Dust from construction activities also contributes to widespread pollution. Exposed soil on roads, open piles of construction materials, and the transportation of sand and cement in uncovered trucks release particles into the air. Similarly, stubble burning in Punjab and Haryana annually poisons the air in cities across North India. Research suggests that stubble burning increases pollution levels in Delhi and surrounding areas by 30 to 40 percent.

Burning household fuels such as wood, coal, or dung cakes also significantly increases pollution levels, especially among poor households. Coal-fired power plants still provide about 60 percent of the country’s energy, and many of these older plants operate without pollution control equipment.

Controlling all these sources requires a long-term approach to policy and governance. Lack of coordination between the central, state, and municipal bodies remains a major obstacle. Many cities lack air quality monitoring stations, preventing the availability of realistic data. Public awareness is also extremely low. Citizens associate pollution only with bad air days, rather than considering it a daily responsibility. Unless society recognizes that clean air is a shared responsibility, the full impact of any policy will remain elusive.

India launched the National Clean Air Programme in 2019, aiming to reduce pollution levels in major cities by 40 percent by 2026. This is a commendable initiative, but it must be implemented with rigorous monitoring and local enforcement, not just a budgetary announcement. Each city’s geographical and industrial situation is different, so city-specific action plans are needed rather than a blanket policy.

The transportation sector must rapidly transition to clean energy. The proliferation of CNG, electric vehicles, hydrogen fuel, and public transport is essential. Following the implementation of the electric vehicle policy in Delhi, the share of EVs in new vehicles has reached 17 percent. This demonstrates that citizens embrace change if policies are clear and incentivized.

To prevent stubble burning in agriculture, it is essential to provide technical and financial support to farmers. Organic technologies like the Pusa De-composer and Happy Seeder machines are yielding positive results, but they need to be widely promoted and the subsidy system strengthened. Concrete steps must be taken to encourage crop diversification and replace rice with crops that require less water and less residue.

Continuous emission monitoring systems should be mandated in the industrial sector. It is essential to install desulfurization units in coal-fired plants, and promote the use of cleaner fuels such as LNG or PNG. It is also important to rapidly transition to renewable energy sources such as solar and wind, so that by 2030, India can obtain half its energy from clean sources.

Incorporating green infrastructure into urban planning is also crucial. Cities should adopt green belts, rooftop plantings, open spaces conservation, and modern street cleaning systems. Measures such as covering and sprinkling water at construction sites should be implemented regularly.

Administrative reforms are also necessary. The Air Quality Management Commission should be given greater powers to ensure effective coordination and enforcement across states. Clean air campaigns in schools, residential associations, and local groups are useful for citizen participation. Measures such as car-free days, public transport weeks, and waste segregation can increase civic awareness.

From a technical perspective, we must move towards data-driven policymaking. Real-time monitoring, satellite-based tracking, and the use of artificial intelligence can identify and predict pollution sources. This will allow for action before a crisis occurs.

India should learn from other countries around the world. Beijing, China, reduced pollution levels by 35 percent between 2013 and 2020 by reducing its dependence on coal, relocating industries out of cities, and making public transportation cheaper. Los Angeles, USA, overcame a smog crisis in the 1970s and cleaned its air through strict emission standards and technological innovation. These examples clearly demonstrate that improvement is possible if the government demonstrates strong will, the public cooperates, and industries adopt technology.

Operation Sindoor shows India's Naval power and readiness: Rajnath

Staff Reporter
New Delhi

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Thursday hailed the Indian Navy's decisive role in Operation Sindoor, describing it as a symbol of India's strength, self-reliance, and readiness to face any challenge. Addressing the Naval Commanders' Conference in New Delhi, Singh said the operation sent a strong global message that India is always prepared to respond to threats, whether at sea or on land.



The minister praised the Navy's deterrent posture during the operation, noting that it compelled Pakistan's naval assets to remain confined to harbours or close to their shores. Operation Sindoor, launched in the aftermath of the Pahalgaon terror attack, saw the deployment of the Navy's carrier battle group, submarines, and aviation units in the northern Arabian Sea. According to Singh, the forward-deployed forces were ready to strike strategic targets, including in Karachi, under-

scoring India's growing maritime strength.

Calling the Indian Ocean Region (IOR) the "centre of contemporary geopolitics," Singh said it has become an arena of both cooperation and competition. In this changing landscape, he said, the Indian Navy has emerged as a key stabilizing and leadership force. "The Navy's presence in the IOR brings comfort to friendly nations and dis-

comfort to those who seek to destabilize the region," he said.

Highlighting the Navy's operational reach over the past six months, Singh said Indian ships, submarines, and aircraft have been deployed at an unprecedented scale, ensuring the safe passage of around 335 merchant vessels carrying 1.2 million metric tons of cargo worth USD 5.6 billion. This, he said, reflects India's

transformation into a trusted and capable partner in the global maritime economy.

The minister urged the naval leadership to advance strategy and planning in line with the world's evolving challenges. "We must work together in three areas: capability, people, and partnerships," Singh said. "Capability means technology and strength; people include our sailors and their

families; and partnerships extend to industries, academia, and international cooperation. When these three come together, our Navy will become an even more powerful force."

Singh also emphasized the role of technology and innovation in modern warfare, noting that future conflicts will depend as much on intelligence and data systems as on ships and submarines. He reiterated the government's commitment to self-reliance in defense under the vision of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, calling the Navy a "pillar of Aatmanirbhar Bharat."

Over the past decade, about 67 percent of the Navy's capital acquisition contracts have gone to Indian industries, signaling a decisive shift away from import dependence. Singh said the force is currently pursuing 194 innovation and indigenization projects that involve private firms, startups, and young innovators.

He also underscored the Navy's contribution to economic and employment

growth, noting that every ship and submarine built in India adds momentum to industrial development. Citing Project 17A, Singh said ships with over 75 percent indigenous content have generated more than 1.27 lakh jobs at shipyards such as Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders (MDL) and Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers (GRSE). Recent contracts worth Rs 315 crore for constructing yard crafts, he added, further strengthen the Vocal for Local initiative.

The minister also lauded the Navy's advancements in maritime aviation, including projects for Multi-role Maritime Reconnaissance Aircraft and Naval Shipborne Unmanned Aerial Systems, which enhance operational capability and self-reliance.

"Technology provides an edge," Singh concluded, "but geography, timing, and human judgment remain equally vital. The Indian Navy represents not just our maritime strength, but the spirit of a confident, self-reliant India."

CBI raids suspended DIG Bhullar's Chandigarh home again



Mitali Chandola
New Delhi

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) on Thursday conducted another round of searches at the residence of suspended DIG, Ranar Ranga, Harcharan Singh Bhullar, as the probe into alleged corruption, disproportionate assets, and misuse of official position continues to widen.

Bhullar, an IPS officer of the 2009 batch, was arrested this month after being caught in a CBI trap linked to a bribery case. He remains in judicial custody while investigators dig deeper into his sources of wealth and financial dealings.

Officials said the fresh raid, the second within two weeks, aimed to track unaccounted assets and scrutinize money trails connected to Bhullar and his associates. During the earlier raid, the agency had recovered over ₹7.5 crore in cash, around 2.5 kilograms of gold jewellery, high-end watches, and a collection of property papers pointing to benami holdings. The CBI is now examining bank transactions, stock contents, and property documents seized during the previous searches to establish the full scale of Bhullar's assets.

The suspended officer's arrest on October 16 followed a complaint by a Fatehgarh Sahib-based scrap dealer, who alleged that Bhullar had demanded a monthly payment to "settle" a pending police case. Acting on the tip-off, the CBI caught Bhullar's aide red-handed while accepting ₹8 lakh on his behalf. Bhullar was subsequently taken into custody and later suspended under Rule 3(2) of the All India Services (Discipline and Appeal) Rules, which man-

dates suspension for any officer detained beyond 48 hours.

Thursday's operation, carried out amid tight security, lasted several hours. The CBI team reportedly seized digital evidence, bank records, and documents related to luxury vehicles. Investigators are also exploring possible links to money laundering and benami transactions, which could prompt the Enforcement Directorate (ED) to join the investigation.

Officials involved in the probe said Bhullar's unexplained accumulation of wealth has raised serious concerns about deep-rooted corruption within Punjab's police hierarchy. The agency is also probing whether other officers or middlemen may have been part of a larger network benefiting from similar practices.

Meanwhile, the Punjab government has sought legal advice on initiating Bhullar's dismissal from service — a move that would require approval from the Centre, since only the President of India has the authority to remove an IPS officer from service.

The case has sparked a wider conversation about transparency and integrity in law enforcement. The CBI, reiterating its commitment to a "zero-tolerance policy" towards corruption, said it is determined to pursue the matter "to its logical conclusion."

Bhullar's arrest and the ongoing raids have sent ripples through the Punjab police establishment, revealing how a single bribe case has unraveled a much larger web of alleged illegal wealth, misuse of authority, and compromised accountability across departments.

ED takes strong action against PLFI Chief Dinesh Gope and associates



Mitali Chandola
New Delhi

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has filed a Supplementary Prosecution Complaint (PC) under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), 2002 against the self-styled chief of the banned Naxal outfit People's Liberation Front of India (PLFI), Dinesh Gope, along with 19 other individuals and entities. The complaint has been lodged before the Special PMLA Court in Ranchi, marking a significant step in the government's efforts to dismantle the financial networks that sustain Naxal activities.

According to the ED, its investigation revealed that PLFI members engaged in systematic extortion, levies, and other illegal collections from businesses, contractors, and mining operations across the region. Experts note that often the hidden backbone of such organisations, and targeting them can significantly disrupt their operational capabilities. By focusing on money laundering and illegal funding, authorities are attempting to strike at the root of insurgency rather than just its visible manifestations of violence. This move by ED underscores the growing focus on economic containment of insurgent and terrorist groups, signaling a tougher approach to dismantling not just the violent actions but also the funding mechanisms that sustain such outfits. The ongoing investigation will continue to track assets, bank accounts, and other financial channels associated with PLFI, ensuring a comprehensive approach to curbing its influence.

Dinesh Gope, who is already in custody of the National Investigation Agency (NIA), along with other accused, is now facing additional legal scrutiny under PMLA. The ED has so far traced ₹3.36 crore of criminal proceeds, which have been attached, with further investigation ongoing. The agency has stressed that these measures aim to cut off the economic lifelines of Naxal outfits and pre-

vent them from mobilising resources for terrorism and insurgency. According to the ED, its investigation revealed that PLFI members engaged in systematic extortion, levies, and other illegal collections from businesses, contractors, and mining operations across the region.

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VP praises India's leap in global innovation during meeting with Dr. Jitendra Singh

TSN/New Delhi

Vice-President C. P. Radhakrishnan on Thursday commended India's remarkable progress in science and technology, lauding the nation's steady rise on the global innovation landscape. His remarks came during a meeting with Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Science and Technology and Earth Sciences, Dr. Jitendra Singh, at Parliament House, where the Minister briefed him on key scientific and technological advancements.

Dr. Singh, accompanied by senior officials from the Ministries, presented an overview of major initiatives aimed at promoting research and innovation, technology development, and commercialization. The discussions covered areas including biotechnology, quantum computing, cyber-security



systems, meteorological services, climate and ocean studies, and disaster risk mitigation.

The Vice-President praised the concerted efforts of the Ministries in fostering a strong, innovation-driven ecosystem and advancing India's capabilities in frontier technologies. He noted that India's position in the Global Innovation Index had improved dramatically—from

81st in 2015 to 38th in 2025—reflecting a significant rise in patents, scientific publications, and technology-led industrial growth.

Highlighting some of India's landmark achievements, Shri Radhakrishnan applauded breakthroughs in vaccine development, the creation of BharatGenAI — India's large language model — and the country's growing expertise in quantum

computing. He also emphasised the need to ensure ethical practices in biotechnology research and to inspire young minds to take up careers in science and innovation.

The Vice-President underscored the value of stronger collaboration between government, academia, and industry to sustain India's scientific momentum. He also drew attention to the rapid progress made in weather forecasting and the expanding opportunities within the blue economy, which he described as a crucial driver for sustainable growth.

Calling for continued international cooperation, Shri Radhakrishnan said that global partnerships are essential to ensure India remains at the forefront of scientific advancement and innovation.

Indian Railways' 12,075 special trains provide relief to millions of passengers: Vaishnav



Staff Reporter
New Delhi

Indian Railways has launched 12,075 special trains to help millions of passengers during the Durga Puja, Dussehra, Diwali, and Chhath festivals.

Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnav shared this information with the media at the Ministry of Railways' National War Room, highlighting new initiatives aimed at improving passenger convenience for festive travel.

The Railway Minister mentioned that special attention is being given to train operations and infrastructure development. Key officials from the Railway Board, including Chairman Satish Kumar, were also present at the briefing. The war room is equipped with CCTV cameras at major stations to monitor crowd sizes and activities. Permanent holding areas with 150 toilet

units have been established at New Delhi station to enhance passenger comfort, allowing for the accommodation of over 7,000 people at once.

Additional facilities in the holding area include automatic ticket vending machines for unreserved tickets and free drinking water for all passengers. Monitoring rooms have been set up at major stations to track crowds using 24-hour CCTV surveillance.

The Railway Minister noted that stations like Udhna, Bandra, and Ahmedabad are also seeing significant passenger traffic. To cater to the high demand, special trains are being operated alongside regular services, including on-demand unreserved trains.

Minister Ashwini Vaishnav is actively supervising operations, having personally inspected major stations in Delhi.

Nitin Nabin leads Bihar's AI-Powered expressway revolution

Under the vision of PM Narendra Modi and CM Nitish Kumar, Bihar's Road Construction Minister Nitin Nabin is transforming the state's infrastructure through Artificial Intelligence, sustainable models, and transparent execution.

TSN/Patna

Bihar's road infrastructure is witnessing an unprecedented transformation — a shift from uneven, dusty roads to world-class expressways driven by technology, sustainability, and innovation. At the center of this revolution is Nitin Nabin, the state's young and dynamic Road Construction Minister, who has made modern infrastructure synonymous with Bihar's growth story.

Speaking exclusively about this transformation, Nabin emphasized that Bihar is no longer lagging behind in connectivity. "For decades, Bihar was known for poor roads and weak connectivity. That image is changing rapidly," he said. "Under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi ji and Chief Minister Nitish Kumar ji, we made infrastructure the backbone of Bihar's growth."

According to the minister, five major expressways worth ₹1.18 lakh crore are currently being built across the state — the Raxaul-Haldia, Gorakhpur-Siliguri, Patna-Purnea, Buxar-Bhagalpur, and Varanasi-



Kolkata corridors. "These are not just highways; they are economic corridors linking farmers to markets and industries to national and international trade routes," he explained.

Nitin Nabin attributes much of this success to the adoption of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and the Hybrid Annuity Model (HAM), which together have reshaped the way Bihar builds and maintains its roads.

"We're moving from traditional road building to smart and sustainable infrastructure," he said. "Under the Hybrid Annuity Model, we combine public funding with private execution. This ensures faster work, quality

control, and long-term maintenance — contractors are responsible even after completion."

Bihar has also introduced AI-based bridge health monitoring, the first of its kind in Eastern India. Smart sensors, drones, and analytics now help engineers detect cracks or corrosion before they become safety risks. "It's a proactive, predictive maintenance model that ensures public safety and saves costs," Nabin said.

"Transparency, Nabin stressed, is the foundation of his department's work. The Road Construction Department uses GIS mapping, drone surveys, and digital dashboards to track every stage of project development. "Anyone can view updates — from project status to contractor details," he noted.

The department also conducts fortnightly review meetings to maintain momentum and accountability. "There's zero tolerance for delay or negligence," Nabin said. "Bihar's road governance today is digital, transparent, and time-bound."

Bihar's expressway revolution, Nabin said, goes beyond construction — it is rooted in sustainability and inclusivity. The state is building Green Highways equipped with LED lighting, recycled materials, and extensive tree plantation drives.

In addition, rural connectivity remains a key focus. "Through the Mukhyamantri Gram Sadak Yojana, we're ensuring that rural roads are seamlessly integrated with expressways," he said. "Every village connects to the growth network."

The minister underscored the far-reaching impact of these projects on ordinary citizens. "A farmer in Champaran reaches markets faster; a manufacturer in Bhagalpur saves time and transport costs; a student from Purnea can now reach Patna in hours instead of half a day," he said.

The expressway boom is also creating thousands of jobs in construction and allied sectors. "Every kilometer of expressway we build is a promise for Bihar's future — a future where no village feels distant, no dream too far," Nabin remarked.

Woman killed mother after firecracker dispute turns violent

Mathura: A 24-year-old woman died and her mother was seriously injured in an alleged stone-pelting incident after a minor dispute between children bursting crackers turned violent here, police said on Thursday.

The deceased's father, Tikendra Singh, a resident of Jaint village, lodged a complaint alleging that on Wednesday night, due to an old enmity, Manohar and six others attacked his family after a quarrel erupted over children bursting crackers. Additional Superintendent of Police (SP) Rajeev Kumar Singh said.

"When my wife Saroj and daughter Sadhna went to complain about the issue, the accused started pelting stones from the roof with the intent to kill them. My daughter died from the injuries, while my wife was seriously hurt," Tikendra said in the complaint.

According to the police, Sadhna, who was married to Shankar, had recently come to her parental home to celebrate the Bhai Dooj festival.

She succumbed to her injuries while being taken to the hospital, while her mother is in critical condition. An FIR has been registered against the seven named accused, including Manohar, and further investigation is underway, police added.

Biker killed by 'Chinese manjha' on UP highway

Shahjahanpur (UP): A 25-year-old biker died of a throat slit caused by a stray strand of 'Chinese manjha' on the Sitapur highway here, police said on Thursday.

Ravi Kumar Sharma was on his way to his in-laws' house for Bhai Dooj in Mohamaddi with his wife as pillion rider, they said. Sharma was rushed to the Government Medical College, where doctors declared him dead, Superintendent of Police (SP) Rajesh Dwivedi said.

Sharma was a native of Nagla Jaju village under Katra Police Station limits, he said. Police said this was not the first such incident to have happened in the district.

In January this year, a police constable died of a deep incision in his throat caused by the glass-coated Chinese manjha near Azizganj.

A crackdown was launched against the sale of the already-banned kite string in the wake of that death. In July, the district police seized more than 900 bundles of Chinese manjha and arrested several traders, an act that divided the traders' association.

Yogi plans specialised fire units across UP

Lucknow: Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath called for the strengthening and modernisation of Uttar Pradesh's fire department to meet the challenges of rapid population growth, industrialisation, and urbanisation.

Reviewing the department on Thursday, Adityanath noted that it must evolve into a comprehensive disaster management, rescue, and emergency response system, according to a statement.

The chief minister directed the formation of specialised units across regions to handle chemical, biological, and radiological emergencies, as well as incidents in super-high-rise buildings. He also called for equipping the force with state-of-the-art technology and highly-trained personnel.

Adityanath further instructed the creation of new posts, including a district-level accounting cadre to improve administrative efficiency and financial transparency, along with additional positions at the state



CM Yogi performs Govardhan Puja, stresses cattle care & farmer welfare

fire training college to enhance training and research quality.

Following his directives, the state government approved the creation of 98 new gazetted posts and approximately 922 non-gazetted posts, marking a significant

step toward strengthening the fire department's efficiency and service delivery across districts, regions, and headquarters.

Emphasising the importance of a timely response in emergencies, the chief minister directed that small

fire stations equipped with fire tenders be established every 100 kilometres along expressways to ensure immediate rescue and relief operations within the 'golden hour' of an accident.

Officials informed Adityanath that new

The chief minister directed the formation of specialised units across regions to handle chemical, biological, and radiological emergencies, as well as incidents in super-high-rise buildings.

operational fire service units have already been deployed at Kushinagar, Azamgarh, Shravasti, Kanpur Nagar, Ayodhya, Aligarh, Moradabad, Chitrakoot, and Sonbhadra airports.

The chief minister stated that the UP Fire Service is directly linked to the protection of public life and property. Therefore, its structure must ensure a quick, efficient, and sensitive response to every emergency.

Additionally, he instructed that the department's reorganisation process be completed promptly so that the benefits of these reforms reach the people as soon as possible.

7 injured in violent clash between 2 communities in Ballia



Ballia (UP): Seven people were injured in a violent clash between two groups from the Yadav and Bind communities over a dominance-related dispute in a village here, police said.

According to officials, the incident occurred on Wednesday night in the Reoti police station area when members of both groups allegedly attacked each other with sticks and iron rods during a confrontation.

The injured, identified as Sunil Yadav and Kamlesh Yadav on one side, and Dhananjay, Lal Babu Prasad, Kapil Dev, Ravindra, and Mantu Bind on the other, were rushed to a government hospital. Four of them were later referred to the district hospital for advanced treatment, police said.

Following complaints from both sides, two separate FIRs have been registered. Based on a complaint lodged by Sunil Yadav, the first FIR was registered naming eight accused and several unidentified persons, Deputy Superintendent of Police (DSP) Mohamud Faheem Qureshi said.

Another FIR was registered, naming 14 accused along with some unidentified individuals, following a complaint by Manoj Kumar Prasad, Qureshi added.

Police have arrested five accused and detained five others for questioning. The DSP noted that the clash originated from a long-standing rivalry and local power struggle between the two groups, adding that the situation in the village is under control.

Anurag Thakur highlights India's Humanitarian Vision

Hamirpur (HP): BJP leader Anurag Thakur said India's humanitarian engagement is guided by the idea of sovereignty, non-interference and moral responsibility and it remains committed to principles of humanity, neutrality and impartiality.

Thakur, a former Union minister and a sitting MP from Himachal Pradesh's Hamirpur, said this at the 151st Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPI) in Geneva in Switzerland, according to a statement issued by BJP on Thursday.

Representing India's MPs at the gathering of parliamentarians from 170 countries, Thakur cautioned against a decline in multilateral cooperation and a decrease in humanitarian funding amid rising instances of conflicts and disasters.

He presented India's position on "Upholding Humanitarian Standards and Supporting Humanitarian Action in Times of Crisis" at the general debate of the IPU.

"India's humanitarian engagement is guided by sovereignty, non-interference, moral responsi-



bility and India remains committed to the core humanitarian principles of humanity, neutrality, impartiality and independence," Thakur said.

The Lok Sabha MP appealed to governments, international agencies, and private stakeholders to increase support for the UN humanitarian assistance system to ensure timely, adequate, and principled assistance.

He also underscored India's long-standing contribution to international peace and security with over 2,00,000 Indian personnel serving in 49 UN peacekeeping missions and India's leadership during the COVID-19 pandemic, when it supplied over 301 million vaccine doses to 100 countries and UN entities, he said.

He called for compre-

Atrocities against Dalits rising under BJP rule in UP: Akhilesh

Lucknow: Samajwadi Party president Akhilesh Yadav on Thursday alleged that incidents of injustice and atrocities against Dalits have increased under the BJP government in Uttar Pradesh, saying "feudal forces" have gained strength and are being protected by those in power.

"The morale of feudal elements is high in this government. Criminals and feudal-minded people are enjoying the protection of the BJP administration. Discrimination is taking place at every level," Yadav said in a statement issued here.

He alleged that while people supporting the government are "humiliating" members of the PDA (pichhde, Dalit, alpankhyak) community in various ways, the BJP government is "snatching away their jobs, reservations and rights."

The former chief minister said, "In Rae Bareilly, a young man from the Dalit community was beaten to death, while in Kakori near Lucknow, an elderly Dalit man was subjected to humiliating treatment. These are just a



few examples — such incidents are happening across UP every day. The police and administration remain mute spectators."

Yadav further alleged that UP has the highest number of crimes against Dalits and women in the country under the BJP regime.

"Dalits are being insulted and oppressed. The police do not act against antisocial elements due to pressure from those in power. The arrogance of this government is at its peak. The BJP is misusing state power and

politicising the police," he charged.

Claiming that the PDA community has united against the "injustices" of the BJP government, Yadav said the people are preparing to oust the ruling party in the 2027 Assembly elections.

"Only when the BJP government goes will Dalits, backward classes, women and minorities get justice. Discrimination will end, and people will regain their rights, reservations, and opportunities for development," he said.

Jairam Thakur accuses CM of misleading public on Panchayat Polls

Rajan Puncthi Mandi: Leader of the Opposition Jairam Thakur launched a sharp attack on the Himachal Pradesh government, accusing Chief Minister Sukhinder Singh Sukhu and his ministers of misleading the people over the upcoming Panchayat elections. Thakur alleged that despite public assurances of conducting the polls on time, the government has failed to initiate the necessary steps mandated by law, including the release of the reservation roster.

He said the High Court had clearly directed that the reservation roster for Panchayat and Municipal elections must be issued at least 90 days before the start of the election process, allowing time for public objections and legal scrutiny. "If the res-



ter had been released by September 25, the election process could have started on time," Thakur stated. "But the government's inaction shows that its real intention is to delay the elections under various pretexts." Thakur further pointed out that on September 15, the Panchayati Raj Sec-

retary had written to all District Deputy Commissioners instructing them to release the roster by September 25. However, instead of following those directions, the Deputy Commissioners reportedly wrote back to the government suggesting that the elections be postponed. Following this, the

Chief Secretary issued a letter to that effect, raising further doubts about the government's commitment. "When questions were raised by the opposition, both the Chief Minister and the Panchayati Raj Minister claimed that elections would be held on time. But now, when the roster has not been released, the people of Himachal are asking—how can elections be held as scheduled?" Thakur questioned. He said the government's actions appear to be in direct violation of the High Court's ruling in the Manish Dharmek vs State of Himachal Pradesh case, which requires the reservation roster to be published three months before the elections.

The former Chief Minister accused the government of hiding behind procedural excuses to buy time. "Instead of fulfilling its responsibility, the government has tried to stop elections first through an ordinance and then by bringing a new law in the Assembly. The Chief Minister is only trying to delay the inevitable by spreading falsehoods," Thakur said. He added that the current situation clearly indicates that the government is neither ready nor willing to hold the elections on time. "The Chief Minister, who is skilled in political the- atres, should stop misleading the people. If he cannot conduct the elections as scheduled, he should admit his failure before the state instead of blaming the opposition," Thakur said.

2 dead 3 injured after truck plunges into gorge in Solan



Shimla: Two people died while three others sustained injuries after their pickup truck plunged into a deep gorge in Himachal Pradesh's Solan district, police said on Thursday.

The incident occurred on Wednesday night near Chail, when the truck carrying five construction workers en route to a construction site fell into a gorge in Jubbar Lake.

In a statement to the police, an eyewitness, Nikhil Thakur, said he received a phone call from a contractor who was sending some labourers in a vehicle and directed him to show them to the location.

Thakur was waiting for the vehicle when he heard the sound of the accident and rushed to the spot, the police said.

Upon arriving, he found two people, including the driver, dead inside the vehicle, while two men and a woman were lying injured. He immediately called an ambulance and informed the police.

The injured were rushed to a government hospital in Solan and are undergoing treatment. A postmortem of the deceased is also being conducted there. Superintendent of Police (SP) Solan, Gaurav Singh said.

Advt Contact:
9818-799941

UK police arrest 3 men in London on suspicion of spying for Russia

London: British counterterrorism police arrested three men in London on Thursday on suspicion of spying for Russia. The Metropolitan Police force said that the men, ages 44, 45 and 48, were detained at addresses in the city under the National Security Act "on suspicion of assisting a foreign intelligence service." Police said that the country in question is Russia.

The force said that officers were searching several London properties in connection with the investigation. British authorities allege that Russia is conducting an increasingly bold campaign of espionage, sabotage and cyber-misdeeds against the UK. "We're seeing an increasing number of individuals who we would describe as proxies being recruited by foreign intelligence services, and these arrests are directly related to our ongoing efforts to disrupt this type of activity," said Cmdr. Dominic Murphy, head of counterterrorism policing in London.

Last week, the head of the MI5 security service, Ken McCallum, alleged that Russia had committed to causing havoc and destruction. "In the last year, we and the police have disrupted a steady stream of surveillance plots with hostile intent aimed at individuals Russian leaders perceive as their enemies," he said.

BUSINESS

Tasva and Shubman Gill Redefining the Meaning of Togetherness

New Delhi: Tasva, the modern Indian menswear brand by AdityaBirla Fashion & Retail Ltd. in collaboration with couturier Tarun Tahiliani, announces its new brand vision with a series of Shubman Gill as Ambassador. This marks Shubman Gill's first association with a wedding wear brand, a significant step in Tasva's journey as it signals a bold cultural shift - redefining wedding as a celebration of love, intimacy, and shared agency rather than rigid traditions.

For generations, weddings were defined by societal expectations and family alignments. Today, couples are writing their own stories, where differences are embraced and individuality is celebrated. Tasva embodies this change, creating clothing that is premium, contemporary, and designer-led while staying rooted in India's cultural richness. The brand's philosophy is clear: marriages are about equals, about two people and

EU leaders seek role in Gaza at summit focused on Ukraine & Russia

Brussels: European Union leaders are seeking a more active role in Gaza and the occupied West Bank after being sidelined from the US-brokered ceasefire between Israel and Hamas. At a summit Thursday in Brussels largely focused on Ukraine and Russia, EU heads of state are also expected to discuss the shaky ceasefire in Gaza and potential EU support for stability in the war-torn coastal enclaves. The EU has been the biggest provider of aid to the Palestinians and is Israel's top trading partner.

"It is important that Europe not only watches but plays an active role," said Luc Frieden, the prime minister of Luxembourg, as he headed into the meeting. "Gaza is not over, peace is not yet permanent," he said. Outrage over the war in Gaza has riven the 27-nation bloc and pushed relations between Israel and the EU to a historic low. European Commission



Blomberg HC to see new FTI phase on Israel's post-war rights

President Ursula von der Leyen announced in September plans to seek sanctions and a partial trade suspension against Israel, aimed to pressure it to reach a peace deal in Gaza.

Momentum driving the measures seemed to falter with the ceasefire deal mediated by US President

Donald Trump, but European supporters say they should still be on the table as violence continues to flare up in Gaza and the occupied West Bank.

In the run-up to the ceasefire, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said earlier this month that "Europe has essentially become irrelevant and displayed enormous weakness."

The deal came about with no visible input from the EU, and European leaders have since scrambled to join the diplomacy effort currently reshaping Gaza.

The EU's top diplomat, Kaja Kallas, has said the EU should play a role in Gaza to bolster stability. The force called for in the current 20-point ceasefire plan. It has also sought membership in the plan's "Board of Peace" transitional oversight body, Dabravka Suka, European Commissioner for the Mediterranean, said this week.

Pakistan court sentences man to death for killing mother three sisters

Lahore: In a case of honour killing, a Pakistani court has sentenced a 21-year-old man to death for murdering his mother and three sisters, a court official said on Thursday.

The gruesome incident took place in Karbiwala, around 290 km from Lahore, in June last year. "Additional District and Sessions Judge Sajjad Hussain Baloch (Karbiwala) awarded a death sentence to Muhammad Abbas, 21, on four counts in light of evidence against him", said the court official.

"The suspect had also confessed to having killed his mother and three sisters for disgracing the family honour," he added. According to the prosecution, Abbas shot and killed his three sisters while they were working on the farmland. He later returned home and killed his mother.

The character of his mother and sisters. The killings once again highlight the continuing menace of honour crimes in Pakistan, where women are often targeted by family members.

According to the Human Rights Commission of Pakistan, between 2004 and 2016, as many as 15,222 incidents of honour killings - 1,170 every year - were recorded.

"Nationally, the numbers are likely much higher. Research shows that honour killings are primarily perpetrated by family members and that, as a result, people do not come forward to report incidents. Such disputes are instead settled outside of the court system. Further, in some segments of society, there is a level of support for the perpetrators: the criminality of these murders is not recognised within the social and cultural contexts in which they occur," it says.

UK boosts security funding for mosques amid hate crimes spike

London: Prime Minister Keir Starmer on Thursday announced a 10-million-pound boost to security funding for the UK's mosques and Muslim faith centres to protect them from hate crime and attacks.



Security measures such as CCTV, alarm systems, secure fencing, and security personnel services.

The scheme was created to protect mosques, Muslim community centres, and Muslim faith schools that have experienced or are vulnerable to hate crime. "Britain is a proud and tolerant country. Attacks on any community are attacks on our entire nation and our values," said Starmer. "This funding will provide Muslim communities with the protection they need and deserve, allowing them to live in peace and safety. I want a Britain built for all and my government is committed to delivering safer streets for everyone - and that means protecting places of worship from those who seek to divide us through hate and violence," he said.

The most recent official statistics revealed that anti-Muslim hate crimes rose by 19 per cent in the year ending March 2025, and 44 per cent of all religious hate crimes targeted Muslims. The funding boost follows Starmer's visit to Peacehaven Mosque in East Sussex, which was targeted in an arson attack earlier this month.

"The attack on the Peacehaven Mosque was an appalling crime that could easily have led to an even more devastating outcome," said UK Home Secretary Shabana Mahmood. "I am proud of this country because of the rights we all have to show a faith of our choosing, and to live free from hatred and fear."

India-US Trade Talks Progressing: Goyal

New Delhi: Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal on Thursday said talks between India and the US for the proposed trade agreement are progressing, and expressed hope that both sides would work towards a fair and equitable agreement in the near future.

An Indian official team, headed by Commerce Secretary Rajesh Agrawal, was in Washington last week to hold trade talks with their US counterparts. The three-day talks ended on October 17.

"We are in dialogue with the USA, our teams are engaged. We recently had the Commerce Secretary visit the US, and he met with his counterparts. We continue to engage with them and talks are progressing."

"We hope to work towards a fair and equitable agreement in the near future," Goyal told Devarshani in Berlin.

In February this year, leaders of India and the US directed officials to negotiate a proposed Bilateral Trade Agreement



(BTA).

They have fixed a deadline to conclude the first tranche of the pact by the fall (October-November) of 2025. So far, five rounds of negotiations have been completed.

Last month, Goyal also led an official delegation to New York for trade talks.

These deliberations are important as the relations between the two countries have been reeling under severe stress after the Trump administration imposed a steep 50 per cent tariff on Indian goods. It includes a 25 per cent additional import duty for buying Russian crude oil.

India has described these duties as "unfair, unjustified and unreasonable."

The talks halted for a brief period after the US announced high tariffs on Indian goods.

After a brief gap, Assistant US Trade Representative for South and Central Asia Brendan Lynch held talks with

An Indian official team, headed by Commerce Secretary Rajesh Agrawal, was in Washington last week to hold trade talks with their US counterparts. The three-day talks ended on October 17.

Indian officials in New Delhi on September 16. In that meeting, both sides agreed to push for an early and mutually beneficial conclusion of the agreement.

The proposed pact aims to more than double the bilateral trade to USD 500 billion by 2030 from the current USD 191 billion.

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

It accounts for about 18 per cent of India's total goods exports, 6.22 per cent in imports, and 10.73 per cent in the country's total merchandise trade.

RBI proposes to mandate UTI for all OTC derivative transactions

Mumbai: The Reserve Bank has proposed to mandate a Unique Transaction Identifier (UTI) for all transactions in OTC markets for rupee interest rate and foreign currency derivatives from the next financial year, beginning April 1.

In this regard, the central bank on Thursday released a draft circular on "UTI for OTC Derivative Transactions in India". Over-the-counter (OTC) derivatives are financial derivative contracts that are traded directly between two parties rather than on a regulated exchange.

The LEI is a 20-character unique identity code assigned to entities that are parties to a financial transaction.

UTI will have a maximum of 52 characters consisting of LEI of the generating entity, followed by a unique identifier and shall be unique to a derivative transaction throughout its lifecycle, according to the proposals.

"It has been decided to implement UTI for all transactions in OTC markets for Rupee interest rate derivatives, forward contracts in Government securities, foreign currency derivatives, foreign currency interest rate derivatives, and credit derivatives in India. A framework for the implementation of UTI for OTC derivative transactions," the draft said.

The UTI has been conceived as one of the key data elements identified globally for reporting over-the-counter (OTC) derivative transactions with a view to enabling payers to obtain a comprehensive view of the OTC derivatives market.

Digital Payments Dominate: RBI Report 2024

Mumbai: Digital payment transactions accounted for 99.7 per cent in terms of volume and 97.5 per cent in value in the payments system during calendar year 2024, and the trend continued in the first half of 2025, according to a Reserve Bank report released on Thursday.



The payments ecosystem in India has witnessed remarkable growth in recent years, said the RBI's half-yearly Payment System Report, June 2025.

The payments landscape in India consists of a bouquet of payment systems designed to cater to the diverse needs of users, which include paper-based instruments (cheques) as well as digital payment systems.

Digital payment systems include NEFT, IMPS, RTGS, NACH,

debit and credit cards, prepaid payment instruments, and UPI.

The report also showed an increasing trend across all categories, except for paper-based instruments. Cheques account for 2.3 per cent of the total transactions in terms of value.

In terms of volume, the payment transactions grew from 3,248 crore in CY 2019 to 20,849 crore in CY 2024, and in terms of value, they rose from Rs 1,975 lakh crore to Rs 2,830 lakh crore during

this period. In the half-year ended June 2025, transaction volume was 12,549 crore, amounting to Rs 1,572 lakh crore, the report said.

Almost all of the growth in payments is attributable to digital payment transactions.

In CY 2019, digital payments accounted for approximately 96.7 per cent of the total payment transactions by volume and 95.5 per cent by value.

"By CY 2024, these figures had risen to 99.7

per cent in terms of volume and 97.5 per cent in terms of value. This trend continued in H1 of 2025, with digital payments contributing 99.8 per cent of volume and 97.7 per cent of value," the report said.

In terms of volume, UPI (Unified Payments Interface) accounted for the largest share at 85 per cent during the first half of 2025 (H1 2025). It accounted for a modest rise per cent in terms of value during the same period.

On the other hand, during this period, the Real Time Gross Settlement (RTGS) system recorded the largest share of 69 per cent in terms of value but accounted for the lowest share of 0.1 per cent in terms of volume.

"Being a large value payment system, also called a wholesale payment system, RTGS, with a minimum transaction amount of Rs 2 lakh, contributes higher in terms of transaction value but records fewer transactions than other payment systems," the report said.

Afghanistan penalised for slow over-rate in one-off Test against Zimbabwe

Harare: The Afghanistan Cricket Team have been fined 25 per cent of their match fees for maintaining a slow over-rate in the one-off Test, which was being played at Harare Sports Club.

The sanction was imposed by Richie Richardson of the Emirates ICC Elite Panel of Match Referees after Afghanistan were ruled to be five overs short of the target time, allowances were taken into consideration, as reported by the ICC.

In accordance with Article 2.22 of the ICC Code of Conduct for Players and Player Support Personnel, which relates to minimum over-rate offences, players are fined five per cent of their match fee for every over their side fails to bowl in the allotted time.

On-field umpires Adrian Holdstock and Nitin Menon, third umpire Forster Mufizwa and fourth umpire Percival Sizara laid the charge.

Afghanistan captain Hashmatullah Shahidi pled guilty to the offence and accepted the proposed sanction, so there was no need for a formal hearing, as reported by the ICC.

The one-off Test saw Zimbabwe clinch their first-ever Test win on home soil since 2013. An all-round effort from the hosts saw them mount a victory by an innings and 73 runs.

Irfan Pathan lauds Harshit Rana's cameo against Australia

Adelaide: Former Indian cricketer Irfan Pathan praised seamer Harshit Rana's crucial cameo in the back end to push India to 264 runs in their 50 overs, against Australia in the second ODI at the Adelaide Oval on Thursday.

In a must-win fixture against Australia, Rana showcased good game sense and slammed 24 runs off just 18 balls and added vital 37 runs with Arshdeep Singh for the ninth wicket to push India towards a respectable total.

In an X post, Pathan wrote, "Crucial runs from Harshit Rana. Showed decent technique and good game sense."

Rana came in on bat when India were 223-7 in 44 overs. He batted alongside Nitish Reddy before Adam Zampa removed Reddy for eight.

Rana also took on Zampa, who was the most successful Aussie bowler in the match, in his final over of the innings, smashing him for 16 runs. Zampa finished his spell with four scalps under his belt.

Rana has played seven ODI fixtures, scalping 11 wickets at an average of 23.40 and an economy of 5.80. India posted a target of 265 after they registered their third-lowest power-play score after the 2023 ICC ODI World Cup, as they finished on 29/2 with Sharma and Iyer on the crease.

Connolly, Short fifties take Australia to series win over India, seal 2nd ODI

Adelaide: Half-centuries from Matt Short and Cooper Connolly helped Australia secure a series win over India at home, beating the Men in Blue by two wickets at Adelaide Oval on Thursday.

With this win, Australia is 2-0 up in the series with a game to go. While India managed to reach a solid 264/9 thanks to half-centuries from Rohit Sharma (73 in 96 balls, with seven fours and two sixes) and Shreyas Iyer (61 in 77 balls, with seven fours) and a valuable late 37-run stand between Harshit Rana and Arshdeep Singh, Short (74 in 78 balls, with four boundaries and two sixes) and Connolly (61 in 53 balls, with five fours and a six) kept the team afloat even as the wickets were lost. Owen's quickfire cameo of 36 in 23 balls (with two fours and three sixes) effectively killed the game for India.

In the run chase of 265 runs, the Aussie opening pair of skipper Mitchell Marsh and Travis Head started slowly. The first



Connolly, Short fifties power Australia to series win over India

boundary shot of the innings came in the seventh over's final ball against Siraj by Travis Head, a maximum. The duo struggled against the opening burst of Arshdeep Singh and Mohammed Siraj.

The pressure built on Aussies paid off as Arshdeep drew first blood by removing Marsh for a 24-ball 11, with a four. Australia was 30/1 in 7.2 overs.

Matt Short joined Head and ended the power play in style by pulling Arshdeep for a six over deep square, with the score at 42/1 in 10 overs.

Australia reached the 50-run mark in 11.1 overs. Harshit Rana landed India a big breakthrough wicket of Head, for 28 in 40 balls (with a four and six), with Virat Kohli taking a catch at mid-off. Australia was 54/2 in 12.2



Matt Short eyes consistency after frustration

specialist consultation, he has commenced a structured rehabilitation program under the supervision of the High Performance medical team and Momentum Multiply Titans medical staff.

Batters Matthew Breetzke and uncapped Tony de Zorzi have been added to the T20i squad, while Donovan Ferreira will captain the side.

Otneil Baartman has been named as Cotezsee's replacement in the ODI squad. South Africa T20i squad against Pakistan: Donovan Ferreira (Captain), Corbin Bosch, Dewald Brevis, Nandre Burger, Quinton de Kock, Reeza Hendricks, George Linde, Kweana Maphaka, Lungi Ngidi, Nqaba Peter, Lhuan-dre Pretorius, Andile Simelane, Lizaad Williams, Matthew Breetzke, Tony de Zorzi

South Africa ODI squad against Pakistan: Matthew Breetzke (Captain), Corbin Bosch, Dewald Brevis, Nandre Burger, Quinton de Kock, Tony de Zorzi, Donovan Ferreira, Bjorn Fortuin, George Linde, Kweana Maphaka, Lungi Ngidi, Nqaba Peter, Lhuan-dre Pretorius, Sithemba Qeshile, Otneil Baartman.



Tilak Varma aims to finish career with most ICC titles

also recalled his win against Chennai Super Kings (CSK) there and marveled at the fans' love for MS Dhoni, noting how the stadium turns yellow when Dhoni takes the field before reverting to blue once he's out. "Playing at Wank-

shaw for 90 in 30 balls, with a four and six each. Australia was 109/3 in 21.4 overs.

Short reached his third ODI fifty in 48 balls, with three fours and a six. The spinners continued to deliver the goods, as it was Washington Sundar who removed a dangerous Alex Carey for nine. Australia was 132/4 in 27 overs.

Cooper Connolly kept collecting boundaries effortlessly against spinners, getting two of those against Axar, bringing up the 150-run mark in 31.4 overs.

The Aussies were threatening to take the match away, as Connolly, Short found easy gaps and boundaries against Harshit and Sundar. Their 50-run stand came in 51 balls, with Connolly being the aggressor.

However, it was Harshit who got his team another breakthrough, as a fine catch at deep mid-wicket by Mohammed Siraj, who had earlier dropped one, removed Short for a 78-ball 74, with four boundaries and two sixes. Australia was 187/5 in 36 overs.

Short joined forces with Matt Renshaw, rotating the strike intelligently and collecting some boundaries against Nitish Kumar Reddy. The 100-run mark was up for the Aussies in 19.3 overs.

The partnership crossed the half-century mark and had been looking threatening, but Axar produced a magical delivery to remove Ren-

shaw's 51-run stand came in 51 balls, with Connolly being the aggressor. However, it was Harshit who got his team another breakthrough, as a fine catch at deep mid-wicket by Mohammed Siraj, who had earlier dropped one, removed Short for a 78-ball 74, with four boundaries and two sixes. Australia was 187/5 in 36 overs.

Rohit's 97-ball 73 and Shreyas Iyer's 61 helped India to a solid 264/9 in 50 overs, giving fans some cheer after flop shows by skipper Gill (9) and Virat Kohli (0). During the run-chase, Matt Short (74 in 78 balls, with four boundaries and two sixes) and Cooper Connolly (61 in 53 balls, with five fours and a six) produced valuable half-centuries, and Mitchell Owen's cameo of 36 in 23 balls (with two fours and three sixes) killed the game for India as the target was chased down with two wickets in hand.

In his first assignment as an ODI captain, Gill had a tough time, losing the series 2-0.

Speaking during the post-match presentation, Gill said the team

had just enough runs on the board and that catch drops did not help. He also pointed out that the toss was an important one to win.

"We had just enough runs on the board. Newer easy when you drop a couple of chances to be able to defend that kind of a total. In the first game, the toss was more crucial because of the rain. But in this game, I would not say that much because both the teams

Jadeja returns to Ranji Trophy, set to play against MP in Rajkot

New Delhi: Ravindra Jadeja is set to turn out for Saurashtra in the second round of the 2025-26 Ranji Trophy, beginning October 25, as per ESPN-Cricinfo.

His inclusion will give Saurashtra a big boost as they take on Madhya Pradesh at home in Rajkot, on the same surface where spinners claimed 31 of the 35 wickets to fall in last week's clash between Saurashtra and Karnataka.

Currently ranked the No. 1 Test all-rounder, Jadeja is on a short break from international cricket. He last featured in India's two-match home Test series against the West Indies earlier this month, where he scored his sixth Test century, an unbeaten 104 in the opening Test at Ahmedabad and picked up eight wickets in the series as India was victorious 2-0.

Jadeja was not part of India's ODI squad for the ongoing series in Australia, something he said was "not a surprise" after being informed of the team management's plans.

"It is a good thing that they communicated the reason behind my omission," Jadeja had said earlier, as quoted from ESPN-Cricinfo. "I am happy about that. But whenever I get a chance next, I will try and do what I have done all these years," he added. "If I get a chance in the World Cup and there are many ODIs before, and if I do well there, it will be a good thing for Indian cricket. Winning a World Cup is everyone's dream. We narrowly missed out last time, so next time we will try and make up for it," he noted.

Against Madhya Pradesh, Jadeja will reunite with his longtime Saurashtra spin partner, Dharmendra Singh, who starred with a match haul of 10/203 in the previous fixture, helping Saurashtra secure first-innings lead points against Karnataka.

Jadeja last represented Saurashtra in the previous Ranji season, taking 12 wickets in two matches, both against Delhi, including a best of 7/38.

Pleased with the way he batted, missed out on big knock: Gill

Adelaide: Following his side's series loss to Australia, Indian skipper Shubman Gill hailed batter Rohit Sharma's knock, saying that he fought out a tough spell from Josh Hazlewood and Mitchell Starc really well and missed out on a big knock.

Rohit's 97-ball 73 and Shreyas Iyer's 61 helped India to a solid 264/9 in 50 overs, giving fans some cheer after flop shows by skipper Gill (9) and Virat Kohli (0). During the run-chase, Matt Short (74 in 78 balls, with four boundaries and two sixes) and Cooper Connolly (61 in 53 balls, with five fours and a six) produced valuable half-centuries, and Mitchell Owen's cameo of 36 in 23 balls (with two fours and three sixes) killed the game for India as the target was chased down with two wickets in hand.

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Gill happy with intent but rues missing a big knock

had just enough runs on the board and that catch drops did not help. He also pointed out that the toss was an important one to win.

"We had just enough runs on the board. Newer easy when you drop a couple of chances to be able to defend that kind of a total. In the first game, the toss was more crucial because of the rain. But in this game, I would not say that much because both the teams

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Ultimate goal is to end my career with highest ICC titles to my name: Tilak Varma

New Delhi: Young Indian cricketer Tilak Varma has set an ambitious target, stating that he wants to have the highest number of ICC titles in his career and also match the records of veterans Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli in terms of their title wins.

Tilak was speaking on the 'Breakfast with Champions' show with presenter Gaurav Kapur.

"My ultimate goal is that when I end my career, I need the highest ICC titles to my name. Right now, Rohit and Virat have that," the left-hander stated.

The 22-year-old player also shared his excitement about playing at Mumbai's Wankhede Stadium, describing the electrifying atmosphere and passionate crowd. He



Tilak Varma aims to finish career with most ICC titles

also recalled his win against Chennai Super Kings (CSK) there and marveled at the fans' love for MS Dhoni, noting how the stadium turns yellow when Dhoni takes the field before reverting to blue once he's out. "Playing at Wank-

on. I thought this was amazing. Once he gets out, the blue shirts come on again," the southpaw added.

Since the 2022 season, Tilak has been the spine of MI's middle-order, having made 1,499 runs in 51 innings at an average of 37.47, with a strike rate of 144.41 and eight fifties.

Tilak had a fine Asia Cup campaign for India, emerging as the team's second-highest overall fourth-highest run-getter with 213 runs in six innings at an average of 71.00, strike rate of over 130, with a match-winning 69* against arch-rivals Pakistan in the final being his most notable knock.

He will be seen in action during the T20I leg of India's Australia tour from October 29.

Chandigarh:

Indian Premier League (IPL) franchise Punjab Kings (PBKS) confirmed the appointment of former India cricketer and experienced coach Sairaj Bahutule as the team's new spin bowling coach ahead of the upcoming season, as per a release from PBKS.

Bahutule replaces Sunil Joshi, who served in the role, previously from 2023 to 2025.

Sairaj Bahutule brings in years of experience, having been a veteran of first-class cricket and a highly-regarded cricket coach. He has previously held coaching roles with domestic teams like Kerala, Gujarat, Vidharbha and Bengal, and IPL franchise Rajasthan Royals, focusing on developing young talent and optimizing bowling strategies across formats.

Salish Menon, CEO of Punjab Kings extended



Sairaj Bahutule replaces Sunil Joshi as Punjab Kings spin bowling coach

a warm welcome to Bahutule and said, "We extend our sincere thanks to Sunil Joshi for his dedicated service and contribution to the Punjab Kings over the years. As we look forward, we are thrilled to welcome Sairaj Bahutule to our coaching staff. Sairaj's deep understanding of the game, particularly his extensive experience in grooming domestic bowlers and managing strategy, will be invaluable to our side. His expertise aligns perfectly with our vision of building a strong and cohesive bowling unit

for the season ahead," as quoted from a release by PBKS. Sairaj Bahutule also shared his excitement about joining the franchise and stated, "I'm really excited to join Punjab Kings as a spin bowling coach for the upcoming IPL season. This is a team that plays a different brand of cricket, and I can see the potential is massive. They have a bunch of talented players, and I'm looking forward to working with them to refine their skills and help them reach new heights."



Bengaluru Torpedoes set for high-voltage clash against Ahmedabad Defenders

Hyderabad (Telangana): The Bengaluru Torpedoes are gearing up for a thrilling semi-final showdown against the Ahmedabad Defenders in the Prime Volleyball League (PVL) at the Gachibowli Indoor Stadium, Hyderabad, on Thursday.

The Torpedoes finished second on the table with 14 points from seven matches, delivering one of their most consistent seasons under two-time Olympic medalist and head coach David Lee. Meanwhile, Ahmedabad, the 2023 champions, followed close behind in third with 12 points, continuing grit and experience to reach the playoffs, as per a press release from PKL.

Bengaluru's season has been defined by balance and resilience. Attackers Jalan Penrose and Joel Benjamin have led from the front, while middle blockers Muzibul Haque and Jishnu PV have provided a strong defensive spine along with the reliable libero, Midhankumar.

Reflecting on the campaign, head coach David Lee expressed immense pride in his squad's growth. "I am pretty impressed with how we played for the entire season. Even though we were kind of up against the wall most of the time, they fought back really well and showed they can still compete even when we're not at full strength."

The Defenders, on the other hand, will look to their Mongolian powerhouse Battur Bataraa, whose explosive hitting and all-round presence have been pivotal to their success this season. His chemistry with seasoned setter Muthusamy Appavu gives Ahmedabad a lethal attacking edge, especially in transitions.

"The team must have zero regrets when they leave, that is all I can ask for. We are going to try to prepare as well as we can for the Defenders. But if we come out and fight like we've done all season, we can be satisfied. As long as they have that mentality, I will leave everything on the floor for his team tomorrow. That's all I am looking for," David stated.

Sports Ministry invites public feedback on three sets of draft national sports governance rules

New Delhi: The Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports has invited feedback and comments from the general public and concerned stakeholders on three sets of draft Rules, namely, Draft National Sports Governance (National Sports Bodies) Rules, Draft National Sports Governance (National Sports Board) Rules, and Draft National Sports Governance (National Sports Tribunal) Rules.

As per a release, these Rules have been formulated to facilitate the implementation of the National Sports Governance Act, 2025.

Feedback/comments may be submitted to the Ministry either by post addressed to Director (Governance) 1 at Hall No. 103, Jawaharbalaya Stadium, Lodhi Road, New Delhi, or by email at rules-nsga2025@ports.gov.in. The last date for submission of comments/feedback is November 14, 2025, release stated.



The National Sports Governance Act, 2025, was passed by the Lok Sabha on August 11, 2025, and by the Rajya Sabha on August 12, 2025, and received the President's assent on August 18, 2025, vide Gazette Notification No. OG-DL-B-19082025-26582 New Delhi, or by email at rules-nsga2025@ports.gov.in. The last date for submission of comments/feedback is November 14, 2025, release stated.

As per a release, these Rules have been formulated to facilitate the implementation of the National Sports Governance Act, 2025. The Act aims to ensure ethical practices, promote fair play across all levels of sport, safeguard the interests of sportspersons as the primary stakeholders, and establish a robust ecosystem for sports in the country, according to a release from the SAI media.

The Draft National Sports Governance (National Sports Bodies) Rules provide the framework for the inclusion of Sportspersons of Outstanding Merit, the composition of the General Body and Executive Committee, election procedures, and disqualification criteria for members of National Sports Bodies and Regional Sports Federations. They also outline provisions for the National Sports Election Panel and specify procedures for registration and periodic updating of affiliate units with the Na-

tional Sports Board. Draft National Sports Governance (National Sports Board) Rules prescribe the structure, functions, and composition of the National Sports Board, including the constitution of the Search-cum-Selection Committee, manner of appointment of the Chairperson and Members, staffing arrangements (as per government procedure), and provision for relaxation by the Central Government where applicable. Draft National Sports Governance (National Sports Tribunal) Rules define the institutional framework of the National Sports Tribunal, governing the appointment, tenure, and service conditions of the Chairperson, Members, and staff (as per government procedure). They further outline the powers, procedures, and administrative mechanisms for the expeditious adjudication of sports-related disputes.

India re-elected as VC of COP10 bureau, reaffirms commitment to clean sport

New Delhi: India actively participated in the 6th Session of the Conference of the Parties (COP10) to the International Convention against Doping in Sport, held from October 20 to 22 at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris.

The meeting marked the 20th anniversary of the Convention, which is the only legally binding international instrument committed to promoting integrity and eliminating doping in sport globally, as per a press release from the Union Sports Ministry.

The Indian delegation, comprising Hari Ranjan Rao, Secretary (Sports), and Anant Kumar, Director General, National Anti-Doping Agency (NADA), engaged with delegates from over 190 States Parties, alongside representatives of the African Union, International Olympic Committee, World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA), and other international organisations.

During the proceedings, India was re-elected as the Vice-Chair-

person of the Bureau for the Asia-Pacific (Group IV) for the term 2025-2027. Azerbaijan was elected Chairperson of the COP10 Bureau. Brazil, Zambia, and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia were also elected as Vice-Chairs for their respective regional groups.

India also extended in-kind support to the proceedings of the COP10 Session by facilitating provision of Interactive Boards displaying the journey of the Anti-Doping Convention.

More than 500 representatives of national governments, anti-doping organisations, and permanent delegations to UNESCO attended the meeting. Discussions focused on strengthening governance and compliance under the Convention, financing the Fund for the Elimination of Doping in Sport, and addressing emerging challenges, including gene manipulation, traditional pharmacopoeias, and ethical considerations in sport.

Servotech Sports launches Fastest Bowler, Batter of India competition in North Zone



New Delhi: Servotech Sports has launched the Fastest Bowler of India (FIB) and Fastest Batter of India (FBI) competitions in the North Zone. The initiative aims to discover and nurture India's next generation of explosive cricketing talents.

Each participant, bowler or batter, will get six balls to showcase their speed and skill. For the Fastest Bowler of India, any participant bowling above 135kmph will be shortlisted for the next round, while in the Fastest Batter of India contest, players will be evaluated on bat speed, timing, and power, as per a press release.

Speaking about the launch, Rishabh Bhatia, Director of Servotech Sports, said, "With the FIB initiative, our goal is to identify raw pace and batting power from the grassroots level and give them a professional pathway. India has incredible untapped talent, and we want to be the bridge that connects these players to big opportunities."

The overall winners will receive a cash prize of Rs 1 lakh, while two standout players will be awarded a one-year stipend to aid their professional growth. Additionally, five promising players will be granted a full year of free professional coaching, ensuring they receive the right guidance to refine their skills.

The winners will also enjoy a one-year sponsorship with SAI, one of India's leading cricket equipment brands, and gain the exclusive opportunity to meet and interact with international fast bowlers and batters.

Servotech Sports has been actively working to empower young athletes through initiatives like these and grassroots trials across the country. The launch of FIB further reinforces its mission to bring structured talent development and recognition to emerging cricketers nationwide.

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.

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

Solution, Sudoku

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

TOP STORY

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Viswanathan Anand inaugurates Global Chess League Experience center in Dallas

Dallas: Tech Mahindra has launched the Global Chess League (GCL) Experience Centre at its U.S. headquarters in Plano, Dallas. Viswanathan Anand, five-time World Chess Champion, inaugurated the centre, marking a significant milestone in Tech Mahindra's mission to combine technology, innovation, and the spirit of chess, as per a release from GCL.

The GCL Experience Centre serves as a unique hub for showcasing the intersection of technology, sports, and strategy, offering fans, players, and innovators an immersive environment to explore how cutting-edge AI, analytics, and digital platforms are transforming the world of chess.

Located at Tech Mahindra's Dallas headquarters, the space offers a panoramic view of Plano's skyline and



Viswanathan Anand opens Global Chess League Experience Centre in Dallas

features state-of-the-art facilities for tournaments, live analysis, digital chess innovations, and community engagement.

"Viswanathan Anand, five-time World Chess Champion, said, "The Global Chess League has always stood for innovation and collaboration. This Experience Centre represents the next step

in making chess more engaging, interactive, and global. I'm proud to see how Tech Mahindra is leveraging technology to expand the reach of the game and inspire the next generation."

The Experience Centre is designed to foster collaboration with universities, chess federations, and technology partners, promot-

ing the study of AI in chess, digital coaching tools, fan engagement innovations, and sports integration. It also serves as a base for Tech Mahindra's growing global chess initiatives, including Global Chess League Season 3, set to take place in Mumbai later this year.

Speaking about the vision behind

the centre, Peeyush Dubey, Chairperson, Tech Mahindra Global Chess League, said, "The Experience Centre is more than just a space; it's a living ecosystem for the global chess community. Our goal is to bring together players, fans, clubs, universities, and partners to co-create the future of chess. By combining the game's strategic depth with Tech Mahindra's expertise in AI and digital transformation, we're building an innovation hub that reflects the future of the sport."

Since its inception, the venue has already hosted notable events such as the Texas Women's State Chess Championship, which brought together competitors from 13 countries. It will continue to host tournaments, chess-tech showcases, and interactive programs for enthusiasts, students, and partners.

Shyam Lal College wins All India 43rd Shriyut Baba Bhagat Smriti Hockey Tournament at Shahjahanpur



New Delhi: Shyam Lal College of Delhi University defeated SAI Kurukshetra 2-1 to win the title of All India 43rd Shriyut Baba Bhagat Smriti Hockey Tournament held at Shahjahanpur, District Kotputli, Rajasthan.

As a winner, Shyam Lal College team also received prize money of Rs 25,000. For Shyam Lal College, Satish and Pratyush Singh Jaggi scored one goal each in the final match, while for SAI Kurukshetra, Sahajpreet scored one goal.

32 teams from all over India participated in this tournament.

The Best Defender of the Tournament award went to Rahul of Shyam Lal College, while the Best Forward of the

Tournament award went to Sai Kurukshetra player Eetu. Champion team of Shyam Lal College, Harsh Sharma (Captain), Rahul, K Rohit Himanshu, Mohammad Kamil (goalkeeper), Lalit, Naven Bidhuri, Shlok Tiwari, Pratyush Singh Jaggi, Nandkishore, Pankaj, Bhupendra, Manmohan, Raju, Satish and Ganesh.

Ranbir-Alia make stylish appearance at Kalina airport with daughter Raha



Mumbai
After having a Diwali bash with family and friends, Bollywood couple Ranbir Kapoor and Alia Bhatt grabbed the eye-



balls with their chic and casual look at Kalina Airport in Mumbai.

The couple were seen getting out of their

car with adorable Raha, drawing attention from fans and paps.

Ranbir Kapoor greeted the paparazzi with his signature smile and a casual wave before entering the terminal.

He sported a classic denim jacket over a plain white T-shirt, teamed with a cap, creating an effortlessly cool look. Alia chose a white tank top and sunglasses, keeping her look simple and com-

fortable.

Recently, the 'Jigra' actor shared the glimpses of their fun-filled Diwali celebration, posting adorable pictures of Ranbir, her daughter Raha, Shaheen Bhatt, filmmaker Ayan Mukerji, and others.

Taking to her Instagram handle, she shared a series of photos, with the first one showing Alia and Ranbir posing for the camera. While Ranbir opted for a white Kurta, Alia looked stunning in a pink kurta with a light green pleated skirt.

Alia also shared a cute picture of Raha in which she can be seen painting the diyas, while the video of 'Highway' star with Shaheen perfectly captures the sisters' bond.

Along with the pictures, Alia gave a sweet caption, "Diwali Diwali..Happy Diwali to you and yours"



Jonita Gandhi, Progressive Brothers to open for Enrique Iglesias in Mumbai

Mumbai
Indo-Canadian singer Jonita Gandhi and the electrifying EDM duo Progressive Brothers will open for global artist Enrique Iglesias in his upcoming Mumbai concert.

Excited about her performance, Jonita Gandhi in a press note stated, "It's truly a dream to

bring our unique sound to the audience and set the stage for an unforgettable show!"

Enrique will perform on October 29-30 at MMRDA Grounds, BKC.

"I've missed performing in India. The fans there are some of the most loyal and passionate in the world. Since my first show back

in 2004, the love has always been un-

real. I can't wait to get back to Mumbai and bring them this new show," said Iglesias in a statement.

Excited about her performance, Jonita Gandhi in a press note stated, "It's truly a dream to come true to share the stage with Enrique Iglesias. I grew up listening to his music, he's such an icon. I'm incredibly excited to connect with fans and bring my energy to this concert."

share the stage with Enrique Iglesias. I grew up listening to his music, he's such an icon. I'm incredibly excited to connect with fans and bring my energy to this concert."

Progressive Brothers added, "Opening for Enrique is an incredible honour. We can't wait to

This marks Enrique's return to India after 13 years. His last concert in the country was in 2012 during his "Euphoria World Tour," where he performed in Pune, Gurugram, and Bengaluru. 'Hero', 'Baby I Like It', 'Bailamos', and 'Beautiful' are some of his memorable tracks that audiences still listen to on loop.

Nikita Porwal offers prayers at Ujjain's Mahakaleshwar temple

Ujjain

Femina Miss India World 2024 Nikita Porwal offered prayers at Shri M a -



hakahaleshwar Temple in Ujjain on Thursday and sought the blessings of Lord Shiva. She attended the Bhasma Aarti and experienced the divine atmosphere while seated in the Nandi Mandapam.

Shared her experience after visiting the temple and attending Bhasma Aarti, Nikita said "For the first time, I got the good fortune of getting the darshan of Baba Mahakal and attending Bhasma Aarti. I am very

grateful to Baba Mahakaleshwar because nothing can happen without his will. I also thank the temple administration for inviting and giving me the opportunity to attend the Aarti."

Baba Mahakaleshwar's world-renowned Bhasma Aarti is considered divine and mystical. Devotees from far and wide gather at the Mahakal temple to witness the sacred ritual performed during the Brahma Muhurta and seek blessings from Baba Mahakal.



Prabhakar Prabhakar receives heartfelt birthday wish from sister Pragathi

Prabhas' new film 'Fauzi' announced, check out first poster



Hyderabad

Actor Prabhas turned a year older on Thursday, 23rd October 2025. Making his special day even more special, his loved ones flooded social media with heartfelt wishes. His sister Pragathi also penned a sweet wish for her "Annayaaaaa".

Taking to Instagram, she wrote, "Happy happy birthday Annayaaaa. Love you so muchhhhh Our built-in protector and life long guide @actorprabhas Always your biggest fan and loudest cheers." She also shared a string of pictures with Prabhas.

Prabhas also received an adorable message from "Kantara" fame Rishab Shetty. "Wishing our own Darling #Prabhas Sir a blessed and powerful year ahead May you continue to entertain and inspire audiences across the world with your incredible journey Happy Birthday." Rishab wrote on X.

Mumbai
On the occasion of his birthday, Prabhas treated his fans to a special announcement of his new film.

Titled 'Fauzi', the film is directed by Hanu Raghavapudi. The makers also shared an intriguing poster of Prabhas' character.

"#PrabhasHanu is #FAUZI -- The bravest tale of a soldier from the hidden chapters of our history. Happy Birthday, Rebel Star #Prabhas (sic)," the post read.

"Happy Birthday to our dearest #Prabhas garu . Taking pride in presenting you as #FAUZI, this journey so far has been unforgettable and only promises to get bigger from here! FAUZI - The bravest tale of a soldier from the hidden chapters of our history," he posted.

Earlier in the day, Prabhas received an adorable birthday message from his sister Pragathi.

Taking to Instagram, she wrote, "Happy happy birthday Annayaaaa. Love you so muchhhhh Our built-in protector and life long guide @actorprabhas Always your biggest fans and loudest cheers."



Ram Charan, wife Upasana Kamineni Konidela expecting their second child



Mumbai

It's a double celebration at megastar Chiranjeevi's home as his son Ram Charan and daughter-in-law Upasana Kamineni Konidela are expecting their second child.

Upasana took to her Instagram account on Thursday to share the happy news as she posted an adorable video from the family's Diwali celebrations, which also coincided with her Seemantham (baby shower).

Along with the video, she wrote, "This Diwali was all about double the celebration, double the love and double the blessings."

In the clip, Upasana is seen dressed in a blue tra-

ditional outfit, surrounded by her loved ones who showered her with love, blessings, and gifts. Ram Charan and their daughter Klin Kaara stood by her side throughout the ceremony. Chiranjeevi and his wife Surekha were also seen posing happily with the couple. Actor Nagarajuna and his family were also part of the Diwali celebrations, making the occasion even more special.

Upasana and Ram Charan welcomed their first child, daughter Klin Kaara, in 2023. The couple, however, has not yet revealed her face to the public.

Recently, Ram Charan was seen with his wife and father-in-law, Archery Pre-

mier League co-founder Anil Kamineni, meeting Prime Minister Narendra Modi during the ongoing Archery Premier League tournament.

On the workfront, the actor will be next seen in Peddi. "Peddi" also stars Janhvi Kapoor, Shiva Rajkumar, Jagapathi Babu, and Divyendhu in key roles. The film is being produced by Venkata Satish Kiluru under the banner of Vriddhi Cinemas, with Mythri Movie Makers and Sukumar Writings as presenters. Directed by Uppena fame Buchi Babu Sana, the film stars Ram Charan in the lead and is set for a global release on March 27, 2026.