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Australia's Travis Head 22 runs away from 3,000 ODI runs

Trade tensions back as Xi prepares to meet Trump at APEC Summit

Feel like we're the best gang together, says Rashmika Mandanna



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Most issues settled; India close to finalising trade deal with US: Official

Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal said India will not sign any trade agreement in haste or accept conditions that restrict its choices

New Delhi/Berlin India and the US are "very near" to finalising a bilateral trade deal, an official said on Friday...



Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal

In the Berlin Global Dialogue, Goyal said India is in active dialogue for a trade pact with the EU and the US.

"...But we do not do (trade) deals in a hurry and we do not do deals with deadlines or with a gun to our head," he said...

Goyal on Thursday said that talks between India and the US for the proposed trade agreement are progressing...

resolution. Talks are progressing on the agreement, and no new issues are acting as a hurdle in the negotiations...

These deliberations are important, as relations between the two countries have been under severe strain since 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".

Goyal said India is looking at newer markets to deal with the high tariffs.

that is long term with conditions attached. Goyal said, "I do not think India has ever decided (that) who its friends will be based on any other considerations other than national interest...and somebody tells me (that) you can't be friends with the EU, I won't accept that or somebody tell me tomorrow, I can't work with Kenya, it's not ac-

ceptable". The decision to buy a particular product from a country is something that the entire world will have to take a call on, he added.

"I was reading in today's paper, Germany is asking for an exemption from US sanctions on oil...The UK already has sorted or probably got an exemption for procuring oil from the US...so then why single out India," he wondered.

These remarks assume significance as the US is putting pressure on India to stop buying crude oil from Russia.

The US, on October 22, imposed sanctions on Russia's two largest crude oil producers, Rosneft and Lukoil, barring all American entities and individuals from conducting business with them.

A team of Indian officials, 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.

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NC wins three seats BJP one in J-K's first Rajya Sabha polls



(L) NC chief and J&K CM Omar Abdullah and (R) BJP Jammu and Kashmir State Rayinder Bains

Srinagar The results of Jammu and Kashmir's first Rajya Sabha polls after becoming a Union Territory followed expected lines, with the ruling National Conference securing three seats on Friday and the BJP clinching the final one, largely due to a possible strategic cross-voting by a few Independents and the People's Conference's abstention.

Polling for the four Rajya Sabha seats was held on Friday, and the entire process was divided into three notifications. Chowdhry Mohammed Ramzan of the NC had a direct contest with Ali Mohammed Mir of the BJP in one of the seats. The NC candidate secured 58 votes, while the BJP managed only

the party strength of 28. In the second seat, NC's Sajjad Kitchloo had a direct fight against the BJP's Rakesh Mahajan. Kitchloo secured 57 votes, and the BJP managed 28. One vote of the NC was rejected.

For the third notification, the NC had fielded two candidates - G S Oberoi, also known as Shammii Oberoi, and Imran Nabi Dar. The BJP, on the other hand, fielded its Jammu and Kashmir unit chief Sat Sharma.

Oberoi got 31 votes, while Dar could only manage 21. The BJP candidate secured 32 votes, indicating that the party got four more votes, probably from the independent MLAs. Three votes were rejected. CONTD ON PAGE-2

Doctor ends life, suicide note on palm claims cop raped her

SATARA A woman doctor working at a government hospital in Maharashtra's Satara district has died by suicide, leaving a note on her palm, accusing two cops of rape and mental harassment, police said on Friday.

Chief Minister Devendra Fadnis spoke to the Satara superintendent of police, ordering immediate suspension of the police officers named in the suicide note.

The 28-year-old doctor, who hailed from Beed district and worked at a government hospital in Phaltnan tehsil, was found hanging in a hotel room at Phaltnan late on Thursday night, an official said.

Fadnis, who also holds the Home portfolio, has directed that strict action be taken against the accused, an



official release said.

In a suicide note written on her palm, the doctor alleged that she had been raped and mentally harassed by two personnel of the Satara police station over the last five months.

She wrote that sub-inspector Gopal Badame raped and sexually harassed her on multiple occasions, and another policeman Prashant Bankar mentally harassed her.

"We have registered a case, and the body has

been sent for post-mortem. We are also investigating the allegations mentioned in the suicide note on the victim's hand," an official from the Satara police said.

Maharashtra Women's Commission chief Rupali Chakravarti said, "We have taken cognizance of the matter and ordered Satara Police to take strict action against the accused."

Maharashtra Legislative Council Deputy Chairperson Neelam

Gorhe said the doctor's suicide was a matter of concern. "This is a serious issue. I have written to CM Fadnis, seeking stringent action against those involved," Gorhe said.

"Environment minister Shambhuraj Desai, who hails from Satara district, has assured that there will be an impartial probe into the case," Gorhe said.

Minister of state for health Meghna Bordikar said she spoke to the Satara city surgeon and was informed that the doctor had never complained about facing any sort of harassment.

Describing the doctor's suicide as a grave incident, Maharashtra Congress spokesperson Sachin Sawant said the incident highlights the breakdown of law and order situation in the state. Agency

20 killed as Bengaluru-bound private bus catches fire in Andhra's Kurnool



Mitali Chandola Kurnool, Andhra Pradesh

A Bengaluru-bound private bus caught fire in this district on Friday after colliding with a two-wheeler, with the blaze being triggered after the motor bike with its fuel cap open was dragged underneath the bus, leaving 20 people dead.

Most of the victims were charred beyond recognition, police said. The dead included two children and the biker, while nine persons suffered injuries.

Condolences poured in, with President Droupadi Murmu, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi, Chief Ministers N Chandrababu Naidu (AP) and A Revanth Reddy (Telangana) expressing anguish over the early morning incident. The Centre, Andhra Pradesh and Telangana governments announced ex-gratia.

Survivors recounted tense moments ahead of their miraculous escape, albeit with injuries, while the not so lucky ones perished in their sleep. Passengers broke window glass to escape to safety.

The ill-fated bus was carrying 44 passengers

at the time of the accident.

"According to information given by one of the bus drivers, the bike was lying on the road. It may have been due to a separate accident or a self-fall," Kurnool SP Vikrant Patel said about the cause of the accident. Investigation is on to ascertain this.

Several passengers were fast asleep and died without even realizing what was happening when the vehicle caught fire around 3 AM. The blaze completely gutted the sleeper bus, reducing it to a metal skeleton. There were some techies onboard when the accident happened. One of them was proceeding to Bengaluru to attend an interview in a top IT firm.

Some of the bodies were charred beyond recognition, prompting officials to call forensic teams to collect DNA samples of the deceased.

"So far, 19 bodies have been retrieved from the charred bus. The biker's body is in the mortuary," Kurnool Range DIG Koya Praveen said.

The bus door got jammed due to a short circuit and the vehicle was completely gutted within minutes. Most survivors were aged between 25 and 35 years, police added.

According to officials, some of the materials used for making beds and curtains were flammable, which might have intensified the fire, causing it to spread quickly.

Home Minister V Anitha said the state government has constituted a committee comprising officials from the transport, roads and revenue departments to investigate the fatal fire. She further stated that 16 teams have been constituted to probe the incident.

The vehicle possessed an All India permit and a valid fitness certificate, and investigators are examining how the accident occurred.

State Transport Minister M Ramprasad Reddy, addressing a press conference said there were people from different states on the bus among which six belonged to AP.

As per CM Naidu's instructions, the government will provide ex-gratia of Rs 5 lakh to the kin of the deceased and Rs 2 lakh to those who were injured. Similarly, Karnataka and Telangana have agreed to give a similar amount, he said. Three persons who belong to Odisha, Tamilnadu and Bihar will also be taken care of.

ISIS duo held in Delhi; Molotov cocktails, IED timer seized

Rakesh Rawat New Delhi

Two suspected ISIS operatives have been arrested from Delhi and Madhya Pradesh with police seizing explosive-making material including plastic bombs, Molotov cocktail, timer devices and an ISIS flag from a house in the national capital, officials said on Friday.

The accused, Mohammad Adnan Khan alias Abu Muharib (19) from Delhi and Adnan Khan alias Abu Mohammad (20) a resident of Bhopal in Madhya Pradesh, were allegedly planning to carry out a terror strike in a high-footfall area of the city, including in a mall in south



Delhi and a public park, they said.

"During a search of Md Adnan's house in Sadq Nagar, three mobile phones containing ISIS propaganda ma-

terial, images and manuals detailing remote detonation systems and instructions on making plastic bombs along with Molotov cocktails were recovered," Additional

Commissioner of Police (Special Cell) Pramod Singh Kushwah said in a statement.

A pen drive, hard disks, an ISIS flag - the clothing used during

his Bay'ah (pledge of allegiance), and a timer clock used in improvised explosive device (IED) was also recovered from his house, the statement added.

Police said the recovery exposed the duo's advanced stage of preparation to carry out terror strikes in crowded areas of Delhi during the on-going festive season.

The second accused, Adnan Khan was arrested in coordination with the Bhopal Anti-Terrorism Squad (ATS). The two, police said, were allegedly running a social media network to spread ISIS propaganda and recruit youths by circulating edited "jihadi" videos. Agency

Most issues settled; India close to finalising trade deal with US: Official

CONTD FROM PAGE 1
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 of 2025. When asked about the November deadline, the official said: "We are hopeful". Last month, Goyal also led an official delegation to New York for trade talks. The talks paused briefly after the US announced high tariffs on Indian goods. After a brief break, Assistant US Trade Representative for South and Central Asia Brendan Lynch met with Indian officials in New Delhi on September 16. In that meeting, both sides agreed to push for an early and mutually beneficial conclusion to 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.

NC wins three seats BJP one in J-K's first Rajya Sabha polls

CONTD FROM PAGE 1
Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah congratulated the three NC candidates who got elected to the Rajya Sabha and made it clear that all party votes remained intact across the four elections, and the poll agent saw each polling slip. "There was no cross-voting from any of our MLAs. So the questions arise -- where did the four extra votes of the BJP come from? Who were the MLAs who deliberately invalidated their votes by marking the wrong preference number while voting? "Do they have the guts to put their hands up and own up to helping the BJP after promising us their votes? What pressure or inducement helped them make this choice? Let's see if any of the BJP's secret team owns up to selling their souls!" Abdullah said in his post on X. He also had a word for the losing candidate, Imran Nabi Dar. Agency

# When youth succeed, the nation succeeds: PM Modi at Rozgar Mela



PM addressing at Rozgar Mela via video conferencing on October 24, 2025.

TSN/New Delhi Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday asserted that when the youth of the country succeed, then only the nation succeeds, while addressing the Rozgar Mela in the national capital via video conferencing. Speaking on the occasion, the Prime Minister remarked that this year's festival of lights, Diwali, has brought new illumination into everyone's lives. Amidst the festive celebrations, receiving appointment letters for permanent jobs adds a double dose of joy--both the cheer of the festival and the success of employment. According to the Prime Minister's Office release, PM Modi highlighted that this happiness has reached over 51,000 youth across the country today. He acknowledged the immense joy this brings to their families and extended his congratulations to all the recipients and their family members. He conveyed his best wishes for this new beginning in their lives. Highlighting the enthusiasm, capacity for hard work, and the self-confidence born from fulfilled dreams among the newly appointed youth, PM Modi remarked that when this

spirit is combined with a passion to serve the nation, their success transcends personal achievement and becomes a triumph for the country. The Prime Minister emphasised that today's appointments are not merely government jobs, but opportunities to actively contribute to nation-building. He expressed confidence that the appointees will work with integrity and sincerity, and play a vital role in creating better systems for the India of the future. The Prime Minister further appealed to the

11 lakh appointment letters issued through these Melas in recent times. PM Modi further stated that these efforts are not limited to government jobs alone. The government has launched the PM Viksit Bharat Rozgar Yojana with a target to provide employment to 3.5 crore youth. He further remarked that initiatives like the Skill India Mission are equipping youth with the necessary training, while platforms such as the National Career Service are connecting them with new opportunities.

According to the Prime Minister's Office release, PM Modi highlighted that this happiness has reached over 51,000 youth across the country today.

He also noted that through this platform, information on more than seven crore vacancies has already been shared with the youth.

The Prime Minister announced a major initiative for youth--the 'Pratibha Setu Portal'--which offers opportunities to candidates who made it to the final list of the UPSC but were not selected.

He emphasised that their efforts will not go in vain, as both private and public institutions are now engaging with these talented individuals through the portal. PM Modi remarked that this optimal utilisation of youth talent will showcase India's youth potential to the world.

Highlighting that the festive season has been enriched by the GST Bachat Utsav, PM Modi noted the significant reform in GST rate reductions across sectors, including foreign policy, which is now being shaped with the interests of young Indians in mind.

eration GST reforms are also expanding employment opportunities. When everyday goods become cheaper, demand rises; increased production and supply chains; and higher factory output leads to the creation of new jobs. Therefore, the GST Bachat Utsav is also transforming into an Employment Festival.

The Prime Minister pointed out the record-breaking sales witnessed during Dhanteras and Diwali, with new records set and old ones surpassed, demonstrating how GST reforms have given fresh momentum to the nation's economy.

He noted the positive impact of these reforms on the MSME sector and retail trade, which are now generating new employment opportunities in manufacturing, logistics, packaging, and distribution.

"India is currently the youngest country in the world and the strength of India's youth is one of its greatest assets", stated PM Modi, emphasising that this belief and confidence guide the nation's progress across sectors, including foreign policy, which is now being shaped with the interests of young Indians in mind.

ShardaCare launches AI-Powered free breast health screening across community

Greater Noida In a significant step towards early detection and awareness of breast cancer, ShardaCare Healthcity has launched a free community breast health screening program using TheraLix, an AI-powered solution. The initiative, timed with Breast Cancer Awareness Month, offers a contactless, radiation-free, and painless screening method and is being conducted at the hospital as well as in corporate offices, residential communities, and local centers. The program, led by Dr. Anil Thakwani, Senior Consultant and Head of Oncology at ShardaCare Healthcity, aims to promote self-awareness, healthy lifestyle practices, and timely professional screenings to detect potential breast health issues across all age groups. With breast cancer accounting for nearly 14% of cancer cases among Indian women and projected to rise from 200,000 cases in 2020 to approximately 232,832 in 2025, early detection remains a critical priority. Low screening rates, social stigma, and limited healthcare infrastructure have left many cases undiagnosed.

# India prepares for grand celebration of Sardar Patel's 150th Birth anniversary

Mitali Chandola New Delhi India is set to commemorate the 150th birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, the nation's Iron Man and architect of national integration, on October 31, during the observance of Rashtriya Ekta Diwas. This year's celebration holds special significance as it marks a sesquicentennial milestone, reflecting the enduring relevance of Patel's vision of a united India embracing its rich diversity.



The centerpiece of the festivities will be Ekta Nagar in Gujarat's Narmada district, home to the iconic Statue of Unity. The event promises a grand parade and a cultural festival designed to celebrate the spirit of "Unity in Diversity." Central Armed Police Forces and state police units from across the country, including Assam, Odisha, Madhya

Pradesh, Maharashtra, Punjab, Jammu & Kashmir, Kerala, and Andhra Pradesh, will participate in the parade. A notable feature this year will be the all-women Guard of Honour, led by a female officer, with women personnel from CISF and CRPF demonstrating martial arts and unarmed combat drills, symbolizing the rising prominence of women

in India's security forces. Highlights of the parade will include the BSF's Indian-bred dog squad, Gujarat Police's horse-mounted contingent, Assam Police's motorcycle daredevil display, and the BSF's camel-mounted band. The Mudhol Hound, recently honoured at the All India Police Dog Competition, will lead the canine unit.

The celebrations will also feature tableaux from 10 states and Union Territories, showcasing India's cultural and regional diversity. Complementing this, 900 artists will perform classical dance forms under the Ministry of Culture's flagship programme, presenting a vibrant tapestry of India's cultural heritage. Following the main event, the two-week-long Bharat Parv, from November 1 to 15, will feature food festivals, folk performances, and programmes dedicated to Birsa Munda Jayanti, celebrating the contributions and spirit of India's tribal communities.

This year's Rashtriya Ekta Diwas is more than a commemoration; it is a reaffirmation of Sardar Patel's enduring legacy -- that the idea of India, diverse yet united, remains the cornerstone of the nation.

PMI India expands talent initiative to boost career ownership and coaching Culture

Chandigarh Philip Morris International Inc.'s (PMI) India affiliate, IPM India, is strengthening its commitment to talent development by expanding its one-on-one coaching initiative, Grow Talent Growth Business (GTGB). The program, built around the Career Ownership Growth Model and the WeAce digital coaching platform, empowers employees to take charge of their careers while aligning personal growth with business priorities.

The Career Ownership Growth Model provides a reflective framework that helps employees plan their careers, assess strengths, and identify development needs. By fostering agility and encouraging feedback, the model enables individuals to stay relevant in a rapidly evolving business environment, while promoting a

mindset of self-driven growth. Complementing this, the WeAce coaching platform democratizes access to development opportunities through flexible one-on-one and group coaching. Employees can take on coaching roles based on readiness and aspirations, creating a culture of peer-to-peer learning. With participation reaching 53 percent across India and other growth markets, WeAce supports both technical and leadership development, covering areas such as Best-in-Class Merchandising, Commercial Acumen, Leadership in Ambiguity, and Service Leadership.

Public Notice This is to inform to public at large that my client Mrs Onwadi Aro Late Sh. Manoj Kumar aged about 47 year R/o H.No-117 Gali No.-3, C-1, Noida, Uttar Pradesh. My client shall not be responsible for his acts, if any person deals with him then he/she will be doing that on his/her own risk, cost and consequences because he is out of control of my client. Raj Kumar Raj (Advocate) C.No. 563-A Western Wing Th Hazrat Court Delhi-54 Mobile No. 981789941

# NCB & CBSE unite for a drug-free school environment

Mitali Chandola New Delhi In a joint effort to promote a drug-free school ecosystem, the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB), Delhi Zonal Unit, in collaboration with the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE), organized a drug awareness programme at Sanskriti School, Chanakyapuri, in New Delhi. Over 500 students and teachers participated, pledging to lead a drug-free life and build a healthier, responsible generation. The event is part of the MoU signed between CBSE and NCB on September 3, 2025, aimed at strengthening preventive education and sensitizing students to the dangers of substance abuse. The

programme included interactive sessions, group discussions, and a street play reinforcing the message -- "Say Yes to Life, Yes to Dreams, No to Drugs." NCB officers sensitized students about the harmful effects of drug abuse on health, its social and legal consequences, and the importance of making informed choices. Students engaged in discussions on "Every Student is an Ambassador of Awareness" and "How Social Media and Online Games Expose Students to Drugs." Addressing the gathering, Dr. Anees C. IRS, Deputy Director, NCB, highlighted the agency's focus on enforcement, capacity building, and awareness initiatives.

He urged students and teachers to remain vigilant and promote the radical Islamist group Tehreek-e-Labbaik Pakistan (TLP). The decision comes just a day after the federal cabinet had Mitali Chandola formally approved the ban, marking a decisive step by the government to curb rising domestic unrest. TLP, known for its hardline stance and history of violent demonstrations, had recently organised large-scale protests in Lahore and Islamabad that resulted in multiple casualties and widespread disruption. The group's protests were reportedly sparked by opposition to political decisions surrounding the Gaza Peace Deal, which Pakistan in-

# Pakistan bans TLP following violent protests and shift in military support

New Delhi: In a significant political move, Pakistan's Interior Minister Donald Trump's Pakistan has officially issued a notification to ban the radical Islamist group Tehreek-e-Labbaik Pakistan (TLP). The decision comes just a day after the federal cabinet had Mitali Chandola formally approved the ban, marking a decisive step by the government to curb rising domestic unrest. TLP, known for its hardline stance and history of violent demonstrations, had recently organised large-scale protests in Lahore and Islamabad that resulted in multiple casualties and widespread disruption. The group's protests were reportedly sparked by opposition to political decisions surrounding the Gaza Peace Deal, which Pakistan in-

itially supported in line with former US President Donald Trump's proposed plan. However, Pakistan's parliament later reversed this position, triggering outrage among TLP supporters. Historically, TLP had enjoyed tacit backing from Pakistan's military and intelligence agencies (ISI), which allowed the group considerable operational freedom and political leverage. This backing has dramatically shifted following the recent protests, which were seen as a challenge to state authority and public order. Analysts note that the ban reflects a broader government effort to assert civilian control and curb extremist influence that had grown under the guise of religious activism. The move is expected to have immediate do-

mestic implications. TLP has a significant support base, particularly in Punjab, and its ban may provoke backlash among its followers. Security forces are reportedly on high alert to prevent potential unrest, while government officials emphasize that the ban is necessary to safeguard national security and public peace. International observers are also watching the development closely, as it signals Pakistan's willingness to confront radical elements that once operated with relative impunity. For the government, the TLP ban represents a delicate balancing act between maintaining public order, managing political pressures, and navigating the complex dynamics of religion and politics in Pakistan.

बिहार सरकार पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन विभाग आदेश संख्या- 4/नवम्बर-20/2025 /040809090, पटना-15, दिनांक- 25/11/2025

बिहार सरकार पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन विभाग आदेश संख्या- नवम्बर-03/2024 /040809090, पटना-15, दिनांक- 03/11/2024

NEWS IN BRIEF

90 people booked for illegal construction on Jewar airport land

Noida  
An FIR has been filed against 90 people for illegal construction on land belonging to the Noida International Airport being, Jewar. This action was taken on the complaint of the regional kkkhpal. This illegal construction was being done on several bighas of airport land in many villages including Nagla Hukam Singh, Ranhera, Kuraiva and Karauli Bangar. The Gautam Buddha Nagar district administration had informed the police about this matter. It has been reported that despite repeated notices, construction work continued in these locations.

It is alleged that such illegal construction is tarnishing the image of the government and is also causing damage to government property. It is worth noting that the construction of the Noida International Airport is underway at Jewar and for this reason, the land of these villages has been authorized for the construction of Phase 2 of the airport. Along with the authorization, it was also ordered that no construction work would be carried out here.

A notice was issued stating that no construction work would be carried out, but despite this, some people were continuously carrying out illegal construction work in these villages. This illegal occupation was being carried out by the people. Taking action in this matter, a case has now been registered against 90 people.

GreNo Authority to build elevated road between Iteda and Shahberi

Noida  
The Greater Noida (GreNo) Authority is going to construct a 2.5 km elevated road between the region's busiest Iteda - Shahberi area and is planning to connect it to the Delhi-Meerut Expressway.

This road will improve connectivity between Noida and Ghaziabad and speed up travel for those traveling from Delhi to Meerut. The Greater Noida Authority has initiated the process of preparing a detailed project report (DPR) for this project. The DPR will include geotechnical surveys, detailed engineering designs, environmental impact assessments and cost estimates. According to the authority, five consulting firms have expressed interest in the project and one of them will be tasked with preparing the DPR. Once the DPR is approved, a tender will be issued and a construction timeline will be established.

This elevated road which may cost approximately Rs 250 crore, is expected to be completed in two years. Once the project is operational, it will bring significant relief to thousands of residents of areas like Shahberi, Iteda, Gaur City, and Bistrakh who are stuck in traffic jams for hours on a daily basis.

Currently, the people have to travel a long distance to reach NH-24, which wastes both time and fuel. Once the new elevated road is constructed, this distance will be reduced considerably and passengers will be able to travel without traffic jams. The officials concerned maintained that the project will boost Greater Noida West's infrastructure. Improved connectivity will also significantly benefit the real estate sector and property prices in the area may see an increase.

Devotion meets convenience: Delhi set to be 'Chhathmaye' this year: CM Gupta

Staff Reporter  
New Delhi

Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta on Friday inspected the Chhath Puja Ghat at Pochanpur and took part in voluntary work as part of preparations for the upcoming Chhath Mahaparv.

During her visit, she noted that the government has made significant arrangements to ensure that devotees have a hassle-free experience during the festival. The final preparations include the construction of 17 ghats along the Yamuna and the provision of essential facilities at over 1,000 puja sites across the city.

The Chief Minister highlighted that this year's festival represents a grand celebration, integrating both devotion and convenience for the people of Delhi. Local residents and members of the Chhath Puja Committee expressed their appreciation for the governments efforts in organizing the event.



Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta on Friday inspected the Chhath Puja Ghat at Pochanpur and took part in voluntary work as part of preparations for the upcoming Chhath Mahaparv.

CM Gupta inaugurates ₹30 Cr development projects in Laxmi Nagar

Staff Reporter  
New Delhi

The 'Autumn Festival 2025' has begun in Delhi, showcasing the rich culture of Northeast India, particularly Nagaland. Inaugurated by Kapil Mishra, Delhi's Minister for Art, Culture & Languages and Tourism, the festival is organized by the Nagaland Department of Tourism and hosted by Nagaland's Tourism Minister, Tenjen Imma Along.

The event took place at Nagaland House and attracted several dignitaries, including Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh and various ambassadors. During the festival, Mishra opened the "Artisans' Corner" and various stalls featuring tribal artifacts from Nagaland who displayed their handmade products and traditional Naga food. He expressed gratitude to Shri Tenjen Imma Along and his team for their efforts in putting together the event, highlighting the long-standing brotherhood between Delhi and Nagaland, a bond that he described as older than the Mahabharata.

He emphasized that this connection, enriched by the presence of many Nagaland residents in Delhi, will continue to grow.

The Chief Minister emphasized that the Delhi Government is dedicated to the city's development and will ensure funding for future projects proposed by MLAs and municipal councillors.

Personnel to use electric heaters instead of wood fires for winter heating. She expressed her honor at being called the "Daughter of Purvanchal," acknowledging the responsibility that comes with it. The inaugurated development projects include the construction of 153 lanes and roads costing ₹16 crore, laying of 75 sewer and water lines for ₹12.36 crore, and a culvert at Ganesh Nagar Complex for ₹1.30 crore. Additional work includes surveys for project beautifications and infrastructure improvements.

Delhi police pays tribute to martyred police personnel at National police memorial, Chanakyapuri

Staff Reporter  
New Delhi

Delhi Police on Friday held a tribute at the National Police Memorial in Chanakyapuri to honor police personnel who died in the line of duty, as part of All India Police Commemoration Day.

Commissioner of Police, Satish Golchha, led senior officers in laying wreaths at the memorial's Central Sculpture.

This day is recognized every year on October 21 to remember the sacrifices and dedication of police officers. From October 22 to 30, different police organizations conducted their own commemorative events, and on October 24, Delhi Police was responsible for organizing activities at the memorial.



Delhi Police Commissioner Satish Golchha, led senior officers in laying wreaths at the memorial's Central Sculpture.

The observation included a "Run for Martyrs," which started at Nehru Park and ended at the memorial, with Sh. Golchha leading the run. Later, families of fallen officers and current personnel visited the memorial to pay their respects, view a video about police bravery, and explore the museum and the Wall of Valour, which honors those who lost their lives in duty.

Delhi witnesses the vibrant glimpse of Northeast India as the 'Autumn Festival 2025' begins

Staff Reporter  
New Delhi

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Social Welfare Minister Inaugurates High Mast Lights in Six Villages

Staff Reporter  
New Delhi

The Delhi Government's Minister for Social Welfare, Ravinder Indraj Singh, on Friday inaugurated high mast lights in six villages: Punjab Khor, Jat Khor, Qutubgarh, Bajitpur Thakran, Nangal Thakran, and Dariyapur.

This installation, funded by the MLA, responds to a long-standing request from villagers, improving safety and quality of life in these areas. Villagers expressed their gratitude, as the lights will illuminate dark areas, making it safer to move around at night and allowing local athletes to practice in the evenings.

CM Gupta Lays Foundation for Clean Water at Chhawla BSF Camp

Staff Reporter  
New Delhi

Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta on Friday laid the foundation stone for a clean drinking water project at the Chhawla BSF Camp, addressing a long-standing issue faced by soldiers there.

This new pipeline will provide safe drinking water to the camp and also benefit nearby villages.

During the event, CM Gupta celebrated Bhai Dooj with BSF personnel, recognizing their role as protectors of the nation and emphasizing the government's responsibility to ensure their welfare.

She responded to their request for a synthetic track, promising its construction within the camp. The pipeline will connect to the Dwaraka Water Treatment plant, ensuring a reliable water supply for both the camp and local residents. The event also included local MLA Sandeep Saharawat, BSF officials, and community members.

During her inspection, the Chief Minister actively participated in painting and decorating the ghat. This involvement fostered a sense of enthusiasm and showed how collaboration between elected representatives and citizens enhances the celebration of cultural unity.

The Chief Minister also addressed the families start their preparations early in the morning for this important day, which is why the holiday has been declared.

She expressed her best wishes to all devotees, highlighting that the Chhath festival honors nature and involves worship of the Sun God and Chhathi Maiya. Moreover, she remarked that the festival reflects faith, devotion, and cleanliness, promoting environmental protection.

Monday will be a public holiday on Chhath: CM Gupta

Staff Reporter  
New Delhi

Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta on Friday announced that Monday, October 27, will be a public holiday in celebration of the Chhath festival.

This day is significant as it marks the third day of the four-day festival, when devotees gather by rivers or ponds at sunset to pray to the setting of Sun God.

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She expressed her best wishes to all devotees, highlighting that the Chhath festival honors nature and involves worship of the Sun God and Chhathi Maiya. Moreover, she remarked that the festival reflects faith, devotion, and cleanliness, promoting environmental protection.

It serves as a celebration of Indian culture that unites families and communities. The Chief Minister assured that the Delhi government has arranged for cleanliness, security, and necessary facilities at all Chhath ghats, enabling devotees to worship with peace of mind. She believes this festival will enhance happiness, prosperity, and societal harmony.

Plans set to begin in early 2026 for an annual 'Naga Culture Festival' in Delhi.

Minister Tenjen Imma Along remarked on the festival's role in providing Delhi residents a chance to connect with the heritage of Nagaland.

He mentioned that the festival serves as a lead-up to the 26th Hornbill Festival scheduled from December 1 to 10, 2025.

Mishra also noted the significance of the festival as a prelude to the annual Hornbill Festival in Nagaland, promising to participate in it this year. He advocated for organizing similar cultural events beyond Nagaland House, suggesting prominent locations in Delhi such as university campuses and Central Park, to allow more people to experience Naga culture.

Developed Delhi relies on subsidized village development.

He also noted that the relevant department is tasked with maintaining the new lights to ensure their function well over time.

The Minister encouraged villagers to actively contribute to keeping their surroundings clean and attractive, aiming for well-lit and pleasant villages.

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PUBLIC NOTICE

It is to be informed to the public at large that one Mr. K.S. Sundaresan, who is the owner of said property i.e. Residential Apartment bearing No. 01B-72 located in Wing-B, on 7th Floor, having a Super Area of 1746 Sq.Ft. (162.21 Sq.Mtrs.) in Building No. 01, located in the multi-storied residential group housing complex known as "OAKWOOD ESTATE" in Residential Building known as DLF City, Phase-II (formerly known as DLF Qutab Enclave Complex) situated in the revenue estate of Villages Sarhau, Shahpur, Nathpur, Sikanderpur Ghosi, Teshil and District Gurugram, Haryana (Hereinafter referred to as property in question) having acquired the same by virtue of Reg. Will dated 09.12.2015 executed by Mrs. Sneh Lata Sundaresan in favour of Mr. K.S. Sundaresan in relation to the property in question and the said Will is duly registered as Document No. 1227 Book No. 3, Volume No. 462/995 on Pages 107/74-75 on date 09.12.2015 in the office of Sub Registrar, Gurugram. Notice is hereby given to the general public that if Any other person having claims regarding sale, mortgage, charge, trust or otherwise are requested to inform. Further, it is hereby declared that the title of the said Property, is absolutely valid, clear and marketable and there is no dispute / litigation pending in any court of law, in respect of said Property. Whosoever, is having any objection to this and any Person having any type of claim/right/title/interest over the said property may inform in writing, at the address mentioned below, about his objection within 15 days from today, failing which it shall be presumed that the said property is free from all type of encumbrances, lien etc.

PUBLIC NOTICE

MY CLIENT M/S AARPIA ASHIANA OWNER OF BUILT ON PROPERTY BEARING NO. 15-C, 16 AND 16/2, AREA MEASURING 50 SQ. YDS, OUT OF KHASRA NO. 67/8, SITUATED AT VILLAGE HASTSAL DELHI ABADI COLONY KNOWN AS OIM VIIP PHASE-5, BLOCK-A, UTTAM NAGAR NEW DELHI-110059 WIDE REGISTERED SALE DEED DATED 23.06.2025 EXECUTED BY (1) M/S GAGAN BUILDTECH THROUGH ITS PROF. MR. ANAND KUMAR SHARMA AS GPA OF MR. SUNIL KUMAR & (2) M/S KARTIK BUILDTECH THROUGH ITS PROF. MR. MUKESH DUTT AS GPA OF MR. HARDYAV VIDE DOC. NO. 2025/25/17817, VOL. NO. 15158, BOOK NO. 1, PAGE 159-176 ON DATED 23.06.2025 AT SR-II-B DELHI AND THIRD FLOOR WITH ROOF BACK SIDE PORTION, TO BE SOLD TO MS. PUNAM YADAV D/O MR. HIRANJAN YADAV, THE ABOVE-MENTIONED PROPERTY IS GOING TO BE MORTGAGE WITH BAJAJ HOUSING FINANCE LTD. ANY PERSON/BANK/FINANCIAL INSTITUTION HAVING ANY CLAIM/RIGHT, LIEN ANY OBJECTION WHATSOEVER IN REGARD TO ABOVE PROPERTY, SHOULD NOTIFIED TO THE UNDERSIGNED ALONG WITH DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE UNDER ADDRESS THROUGH REGISTERED A/D WHICH ANY CLAIM, LIEN OR OBJECTION SHALL BE DEEMED TO HAVE BEEN WAIVED

PUBLIC NOTICE

ADV. VISHAL MEHAN, E-713, KARKARDOOMA COURT, DELHI-110092

NORTHERN RAILWAY E-TENDER NOTICE

Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer/Traction Distribution, DRRM's Office, State Entry Road, New Delhi for & on behalf of President, Railway Board for the tender under notice work:

- Name of Work with its location: Miscellaneous works: interconnection with reliable improvement of TRD assets in the jurisdiction of CHS, ENDS, CHS, JMK & CHS/EN/SZ.
- Approx. Cost of work: Rs. 96,47,888.44.-
- Earliest Money Deposit: Rs. 1,91,000/-
- E-Tender Bid Online Submission Period: 03.11.2025 (00.01 Hrs.) to 17.11.2025 (15.00 Hrs.)
- E-Tender Bid Submission End Date & E-Tender Open Date & Time: 17.11.2025 (15.00 Hrs.)
- Fund Allocation: 07/04/1032
- Website particulars where complete details of tender documents can be seen: www.treps.gov.in

No. 26-TRD-NDS-2025-28 Date: 23.10.2025 3362/2025  
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GOLD AUCTION NOTICE

Borrowers & Public are notified that Gold pledged against the following loan accounts will be auctioned for non-repayment of dues.

LOS ID: 12010889, 12010962, 12010656, 12011196

Date of Auction (20/11/2025) via online: https://gold.samil.in  
If auction does not take place on notified date, Rupeek reserves its right to conduct e-auction/private sale on a later date without further notice.

For more information please contact - 1800 419 8000

Sd/- Authorised officer Rupeek Capital Pvt. Ltd.

# Chhath: The Grand Festival of Supernatural Significance

**A**t a time when the world trembles under the shadow of wars and violence, when terrorism wounds the innocent and the conscience of humanity seems to wither away; when greed and injustice overpower compassion, and the sanctity of human values is fast eroding, it is precisely then that the human spirit of resilience and purity rises once again. The festival that rekindles this timeless spirit of harmony, equality, goodwill, and faith is Chhath.

This is not merely a festival; it is a sacred conversation between humanity and divinity, a dialogue between faith and reason, and a bridge between nature and culture. It represents the living essence of the eternal Sanatan tradition — a celebration of light, energy, and devotion that transcends time and geography.

According to legends and folk traditions, the life-giving energy of the Sun — the central deity of Chhath — emanates from his consorts Usha and Pratyusha. During this sacred observance, devotees worship not only Lord Bhaskar (the Sun God) but also these two divine feminine forces — the setting Sun symbolized by Pratyusha and the rising Sun represented by Usha. Offering Arghya, the ritual libation of water, to both the setting and the rising Sun signifies reverence for balance and the eternal rhythm of life, for every sunset holds the promise of a sunrise. Chhath thus becomes a festival of the perfect union of energy (Shakti) and devotion (Bhakti), expressing the profound human gratitude toward nature and creation.

The roots of this festival reach back to the Vedic era, where references to Sun worship are found in the Rigveda, Vishnu Purana, Bhagavata Purana, and Brahma Vaivarta Purana. Among all deities, the Sun is unique — visible, tangible, benevolent, and universal. His light and warmth sustain all living beings without distinction. One legend tells us that after the establishment of Ram Rajya, Lord Rama and Mata Sita observed the Chhath fast on Kartik Shukla Shashthi and Saptami, offering prayers to both the setting and the rising Sun. From that sacred moment onward, this festival has symbolized the pursuit of righteousness and gratitude toward the cosmic source of life.

What makes Chhath truly remarkable is its simplicity, purity, and deep ecological awareness. There are no idols, no intermediaries, and no grandeur of material display — only faith, sunlight, water, and devotion. It is one of the rare festivals entirely free from artificiality, adorned by folk belief and guided by spiritual discipline. The observance involves a four-day ritual cycle — Nahay Khay (the sacred bath and meal), Kharna (the day of fasting), Sandhya Arghya (offering to the setting Sun), and Usha Arghya (offering to the rising Sun). These rituals reflect humanity's eternal harmony with the elements and the discipline of life. Through fasting, austerity, and heartfelt prayer, the devotee experiences both physical purification and spiritual

By **Dr. Manish Kumar Chaudhary**



Assistant Professor,  
Daulat Ram College, University of Delhi



awakening — a deep connection with the cyclical rhythm of nature.

Originally rooted in Bihar, Jharkhand, and eastern Uttar Pradesh, Chhath today has crossed oceans and boundaries. It is celebrated with equal devotion in Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata, and Bengaluru, as well as across the world — in Mauritius, Fiji, the Netherlands, Suriname, Singapore, Dubai, Muscat, England,

South Africa, Nigeria, Australia, New Zealand, and throughout the United States, from Texas to California and Washington. Wherever people from Bihar, Jharkhand, or Purvanchal reside, the songs of Chhath echo with the same devotion and emotion, carrying with them the fragrance of home and the rhythm of the Ganga. It is not merely a ritual — it is an identity, an emotion, and a collective remembrance of belonging.

The folk music of Chhath holds an unmatched power to touch the soul. Its melodies are not just songs but emotional bridges connecting the devotee to the homeland and the divine. American singer Christine once rendered a Chhath song, demonstrating its universal appeal. Renowned Indian artists like Sharda Sinha, Anuradha Paudwal, Manoj Tiwari, Kalpana Patowary, Richa Chaurbe, and Neelotpal Mishra have enriched this genre with their devotion and artistry. Songs such as “Kelva ke paat par ugo Suraj Dev,” “Pahile pahile hum kaini Chhathi Maiya,” “Kanch hi baans ke bahangiya lakhakta jaye,” and “Uthahu Suraj Dev bhayile bihan” are not merely melodies — they are cultural treasures, echoing through generations. Listening to them brings back childhood memories of riverside rituals, golden sunsets, and the fragrance of the earth after dusk. They awaken a deep yearning for one's roots — a reminder that faith, emotion, and memory are inseparable in human existence.

Yet, amid the march of urbanization and modernity, the collective essence of Chhath faces new challenges. The rivers once central to its rituals are shrinking, and with them, humanity's intimate bond with nature seems to be weakening. The festival therefore serves as a timely reminder to renew our relationship with the environment, to preserve our water bodies, and to restore the purity of air, soil, and spirit. It urges us to return to simplicity, humility, and harmony — values that are rapidly vanishing in the noise of modern life.

Even as humanity reaches distant planets and touches the Moon, every human heart still seeks belonging — the warmth of community, the rhythm of culture, and the solace of faith. In that search lies our redemption. Every time Chhath is celebrated, it reawakens in us the understanding that life's truest rhythm beats in togetherness, tolerance, and gratitude.

Humanity's ultimate destination lies in creation — in compassion, patience, and coexistence. Chhath teaches that devotion is not escape but engagement; it is not merely a ritual, but a renewal of the soul. It calls upon us to rise above chaos, to purify our hearts, and to return to our roots — for sometimes, returning is the only way to move forward.

Chhath, therefore, is not only a festival. It is the eternal manifestation of human faith and divine energy, the luminous bridge between man and nature. It is the sunlight of the human spirit that never fades — a radiant reminder that even in the darkest times, the light within us continues to shine.

# When Justice, Politics, and People Fail — Delhi Suffocates

**T**he morning after Diwali, people woke up to a thick blanket of smog, with reports stating that over 30 out of 36 monitoring stations in Delhi were in the red zone of pollution levels. Though this has become an annual story, this season was expected to be different due to above-average rainfall, which had initially kept pollution levels relatively low. There was hope that this winter, Delhi would finally be able to breathe cleaner air but those hopes were shattered by a sudden and sharp spike in pollution levels on Diwali night.

Since 2018, the Supreme Court has imposed a blanket ban on firecrackers during the festive season. However, in consonance with the government's plan, the Court permitted, on an experimental basis the use of green crackers, allowing a limited window of a few hours for their bursting. Yet, with Delhi turning into a gas chamber every winter, this was hardly the time for an experiment, especially when 2.3 crore lives are at stake each year. As Amitabh Kant rightly remarked, “The Supreme Court chose the right to burn crackers over the right to life and health of the general public.”

The government too cannot escape blame by indirectly propagating the use of crackers, failing to ensure effective enforcement and monitoring, and neglecting public awareness campaigns. Neither were the restrictions on cracker-bursting hours followed, nor was there any credible check on whether the crackers sold were actually “green.” Traditionally, Diwali the festival of lights has been celebrated by lighting diyas, decorating homes, and sharing sweets, not by polluting the air we breathe.

At this time of year, due to still winds and temperature inversion, pollutants remained trapped close to the ground, leading to extremely poor air quality. A study has found that air pollution shortens the average life expectancy in Delhi by nearly 12 years. Rising cases of bronchitis, allergies, asthma, and other respiratory ailments are being reported, posing grave health risks to residents. Ironically, people flood social media with posts lamenting pollution yet many of the same individuals continue bursting crackers without restraint.

Each year, come October, every authority seems to suddenly “wake up.” The GRAP (Graded Response Action Plan) measures are mostly curative, with little evidence of long-term effectiveness in improving AQI levels. Structural, preventive measures remain largely absent. This persistent crisis is a collective failure of the judiciary, government,

By **Dr Diksha**



Guest Faculty, DTU



civil society, and citizens alike.

Cities like London and Beijing, once infamous as gas chambers, successfully overcame their pollution crises through strong political will and citizen cooperation, backed by long-term structural interventions. Delhi needs a similar transformation led by firm and sometimes unpopular policy decisions taken for the larger public interest. The ban on pet-

rol vehicles older than 15 years and diesel vehicles older than 10 years was one such step, but the pace of implementation and monitoring remains inadequate.

The lack of awareness and public hypocrisy stands exposed people who show no restraint in bursting crackers later complain about pollution. What fault do newborns and children have that they must suf-

fer for no mistake of theirs? Even stray animals bear the brunt terrified by the deafening noise of crackers, yet the voices of animal lovers remain conveniently silent during this time.

According to an August 2025 report, over 2 lakh people were hospitalised in Delhi due to air pollution over a three-year period, while nearly 22 lakh children have suffered irreversible lung damage owing to the city's toxic air.

This situation demands a comprehensive, multi-sectoral response including the phasing out of coal-based industries, strict enforcement of construction dust guidelines, greater investment in efficient, affordable, and reliable public transport, and accelerated adoption of electric vehicles.

However, beyond policies on paper, what Delhi desperately needs is stronger monitoring, stricter implementation, and consistent accountability. Regulatory mechanisms must be transparent, technology-driven, and uncompromising. Every violation whether industrial, vehicular, or individual must carry tangible consequences.

The medical community must also take centre stage, with doctors and health experts actively communicating the grave risks of air pollution. Their voices, grounded in science and public health, can make the invisible crisis visible urging behavioral change through awareness and education.

Ultimately, the Right to Life under Article 21 of the Constitution must be upheld in its truest sense the right to live with dignity and clean air. The Supreme Court and judiciary must rise beyond symbolic bans and embrace judicial activism that compels governments to act, ensures compliance, and prioritizes public health over politics or populism.

Delhi's battle against pollution can only be won when citizens, governments, and courts work together not reactively during winter, but consistently throughout the year. The time for experiments and tokenism is over. What Delhi needs now is enforcement with empathy, governance with grit, and justice that breathes life into the air we share.

# Charan Suhave Yatra draws devotees in Faridabad, CM Saini hails Guru Gobind Singh's legacy

Shiv Kumar  
New Delhi

Faridabad witnessed a rare spiritual spectacle on Thursday as the "Charan Suhave Guru Charan Yatra," carrying the sacred Joda Sahib of Shri Guru Gobind Singh Ji Maharaj and Mata Sahib Kaur Ji, arrived in the city to a grand welcome. The atmosphere was filled with devotion as thousands gathered to greet the Yatra, which began in Delhi and will conclude at Takht Sri Harmandir Ji Patna Sahib in Bihar.

Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini received the Yatra at Sri Guru Darbar Sahib Gurudwara in NIT-5, along with Union Minister Sar-dar Hardeep Singh Puri. The Chief Minister bowed before the holy relics, listened to the ardaas, and honoured the Panj Pyaras and Sant Sangat by presenting turbans. Representatives from the



Haryana Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee and Sikh community leaders also welcomed the dignitaries.

Speaking on the occasion, Saini said that Faridabad had been blessed as the first stop of this sacred pilgrimage. "This city, known as the gateway to

Delhi, has now been sanctified by the dust of the Guru's feet," he said, adding that any land touched by the Guru becomes a pilgrimage site.

Paying tribute to Guru Gobind Singh Ji, the Chief Minister described him as a "symbol of sacrifice, valor, and justice," who gave

up everything to defend faith and humanity. "He transformed ordinary people into the Khalsa — a force of righteousness," Saini said, recalling the Guru's pledge, "Sava lakh se ek ladaun, tabe Gobind Singh naam kahaun."

He also spoke about Mata Sahib Kaur Ji,

**Announcing the program, Education Minister Harjot Singh Bains said the effort aims to ensure that higher education in Punjab goes beyond academics, fostering moral, spiritual, and ethical strength among students.**

Suhave Yatra a "spiritual bridge between Delhi and Patna Sahib," Saini reaffirmed the Haryana Government's commitment to preserving the teachings of the Gurus. He highlighted the state's celebrations of the 400th birth anniversary of Guru Tegh Bahadur Ji and the 550th of Guru Nanak Dev Ji, along with the grand commemoration of Guru Gobind Singh Ji's 350th birth anniversary.

The Chief Minister also announced that from November 1 to 24, four yatras will be organized across Haryana to mark the 350th shahidi diwas of Guru Tegh Bahadur Ji, culminating in Karnakshetra on November 25.

Saini further noted that the state had passed a resolution to offer government jobs to one member of each of the 121 families affected by the 1984 riots — a gesture he described as a tribute to the Sikh community's resilience.

# Punjab Govt mobilizes youth through Guru Tegh Bahadur's legacy

Chandigarh

The Punjab government has designed not just to educate, but to inspire students to embrace values of truth, service, and courage, drawing lessons from the Guru's timeless example. Detailed guidelines have been issued to college and university heads to ensure that the events are conducted with the utmost religious dignity and respect.

Officials say the initiative marks a significant step in nurturing a generation that is aware of its heritage and inspired to lead with integrity, reflecting on the supreme sacrifices of the Sikh Gurus. The government hopes that these programs will leave a lasting impact on Punjab's youth, motivating them to follow the path of righteousness and service.

Minister Bains emphasized that the programs are designed not just to educate, but to inspire students to embrace values of truth, service, and courage, drawing lessons from the Guru's timeless example. Detailed guidelines have been issued to college and university heads to ensure that the events are conducted with the utmost religious dignity and respect.

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**UP gov't to increase PWD officers' financial powers fivefold amid rising costs**

Lucknow

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has approved a major overhaul of the Public Works Department (PWD), marking the first such reform in three decades. The Chief Minister has sanctioned a five-fold increase in the financial powers of PWD officers and a comprehensive revision of the engineers' service structure. The move is aimed at granting greater autonomy to officers, reducing dependence on higher-level approvals, and expediting processes like tendering, contracting, and project execution.

At a PWD review meeting, it was noted that financial powers were last revised in 1995, while construction costs have risen over 5.5 times since then, as per the Cost Inflation Index. CM Yogi said the revision was essential to improve administrative efficiency, ensure timely project execution, and uphold financial discipline.

After detailed discussions, it was decided that the financial limits for civil works will be increased up to five times and for electrical and mechanical works at least two times. The Chief Minister emphasized that the reform will enhance both transparency and accountability in departmental functioning.

Under the new system, the Chief Engineer can now approve works up to Rs 10 crore, up from Rs 2 crore; the Superintending Engineer up to Rs 5 crore, up from Rs 1 crore; and the Executive Engineer up to Rs 2 crore, up from Rs 40 lakh. Assistant Engineers will also receive limited authority to approve tenders and minor works. The Chief Minister said this reform will expedite projects, reduce delays in approvals, and ensure greater administrative efficiency, transparency, and accountability.

The meeting also approved key amendments to the Uttar Pradesh Engineer Service (PWD) (Higher) Rules, 1990, restructuring the electrical and mechanical cadres. A new post of Chief Engineer (Level-1) has been created, while the number of Chief Engineer (Level-2) and Superintending Engineer positions has been increased.

# Railways gears up for smooth return travel after Chhath Puja

TSN/Gorakhpur

Indian Railways has rolled out an extensive plan to ensure passengers return home safely and comfortably after Chhath Puja. More than 12,000 special trains are being operated across the country to handle the festive rush, with 6,181 of them scheduled between October 28 and November to facilitate passengers' return to their workplaces.

To manage the surge in traffic, holding areas and additional ticket counters have been set up at major stations such as New Delhi, Anand Vihar Terminal, Udhna, Pune, Mumbai, Bengaluru, Gorakhpur, Chhapra, Siwan, Varanasi, and Ballia. Railway staff are on duty round the clock to guide passengers and maintain order.

At Gorakhpur Junction, five holding areas have been developed over 2,500 square meters, while similar facilities have been arranged at other key stations—two at Chhapra Junction (600 sq. m.), two at Siwan (450 sq. m.), one at Ballia (200 sq. m.), and one at Varanasi (190 sq. m.). In Bihar, stations such as Patna, Danapur, Rajendra Nagar Ter-

minal, Saharsa, Darbhanga, Muzaffarpur, Gaya, Samastipur, and Barauni have also been equipped with weather-resistant holding areas to offer passengers comfortable waiting spaces.

To ease ticketing operations, automatic ticket vending machines, reservation counters, and mobile unreserved ticketing facilities have been expanded. Ten mobile UTS units are running at Gorakhpur Junction, eight at Chhapra, seven at Siwan, three at Varanasi, and two at Ballia.

Security has also been strengthened with additional Railway Protection Force (RPF) personnel deployed at major stations. Passenger assistance booths, queue management systems, and public announcement facilities have been enhanced to ensure smooth crowd movement. Cleanliness, lighting, and sanitation are being continuously monitored.

Rail Bhavan and all zonal and divisional offices are operating dedicated 24x7 war rooms to monitor train operations in real time. Round-the-clock medical booths have been set up at Patna, Muzaffarpur, Darbhanga, Gaya, Saharsa, and Gorakhpur, supported by coordination with state governments, fire departments, and ambulance services.



At major stations, Passenger assistance booths, queue management systems, and public announcement facilities have been enhanced to ensure smooth crowd movement. Cleanliness, lighting, and sanitation are being continuously monitored.

Rail Bhavan and all zonal and divisional offices are operating dedicated 24x7 war rooms to monitor train operations in real time. Round-the-clock medical booths have been set up at Patna, Muzaffarpur, Darbhanga, Gaya, Saharsa, and Gorakhpur, supported by coordination with state governments, fire departments, and ambulance services.

Security has also been strengthened with additional Railway Protection Force (RPF) personnel deployed

# Punjab creates over 5 Lakh jobs without recommendations, focuses on ability

TSN/Chandigarh

The Punjab government, led by Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann, has made a landmark achievement in employment generation, creating more than 5 lakh new job opportunities since taking office on 16 March 2022. This includes 54,422 government jobs and 4.5 lakh private sector positions, all awarded based on merit rather than recommendations, fulfilling a long-standing promise to the state's youth.

The government's flagship "Ghar Ghar Rozgar Te Karobar Mission" has played a central role in this transformation. The portal, pgrkam.com has registered over 8 lakh job seekers and 4,500 companies, serving as a one-stop platform for jobs, training, and entrepreneurship support. Large-scale employment fairs, including one that provided 90,000 jobs, have further expanded opportunities, alongside a ₹2,500 monthly training allowance for participants.

On the government side, over 54,422 permanent positions have been filled across 40 departments, particularly in education and



police, with recruitment conducted transparently through PPSC and PSSSB. The administration also regularized 9,000 temporary employees immediately after assuming office, and by December 2024, a total of 50,000 permanent jobs had been provided, boosting schools and hospitals with fresh teachers and doctors.

The private sector has also seen unprecedented growth, with more than ₹1.25 lakh crore in new investments leading to 4.5 lakh jobs in industries such as auto parts, food processing, and electronics. Major companies

like Infosys and Haldimans are setting up operations in Punjab, aided by simplified business regulations and reduced inspections. A new law passed in October 2025 is expected to generate an additional 25,000 jobs.

Unemployment has steadily declined, from 6.80% in March 2023 to 6.5% by July 2025, with rural and urban unemployment falling to 5.8% and 8.2% respectively. The government's focus on youth, women, and rural populations is evident through 1,149 self-employment camps that have helped 1.64 lakh people, offering training in agri-

culture, computer skills, and other trades. By emphasizing ability over nepotism, women have gained significant employment in health and education, while village-based industries reduce migration to cities and curb social issues like drug abuse.

Despite initial challenges, including a state debt of ₹3 lakh crore and political criticism, the government has delivered tangible results. Chief Minister Mann's guiding principle, "Not recommendation, ability," has underpinned the state's success, transforming employment opportunities across Punjab.

# Raja Singh Malhotra marks Anurag Thakur's birthday with ration drive at children's home

Rajan Puncthi  
Mandi

On the birthday of former Union Minister and Hamirpur MP Anurag Thakur, Himachal Hockey Vice President and Mandi District Hockey President Raja Singh Malhotra celebrated the occasion by distributing ration at a children's home in Mandi.

Speaking on the occasion, Malhotra said Anurag Thakur's life is an inspiration for everyone, from organizations to the government. "Anurag Ji is a true role model for today's generation. His dedication, vision, and leadership continue to inspire us all. From youth empowerment to the ground-building, his journey reflects passion, purpose, and unwavering commitment," he said.

# Family of eight lost in Mandi forest found safe after nightlong rescue operation

Rajan Puncthi  
Mandi

A family of eight who went missing in the dense forests near Shikari Mata Temple on Friday evening was found safe early Saturday morning near Tangra Nala, following a nightlong rescue operation coordinated by local authorities.

The family, residents of the Dadour area, lost their way around 7:30 pm on



Raja Singh Malhotra also announced that sports kits, including trackuits and shoes, will be distributed to the children of the Bal Ashram in honour of Anurag

October 23 due to heavy fog and the challenging forest terrain. Among them was retired principal Rajendra Kumar, who strayed from the main path while returning from the temple. Aarti, a former student of Kumar from Janjehli, was also with the group.

Upon receiving news of the missing family, SDM Thunag Manu Verma stayed at the scene

throughout the night, closely monitoring the search efforts. Deputy Principal Bhim Singh immediately informed the Janjehli police station, prompting the deployment of three separate search teams: one towards Budhahaker, another along the main road from Raigarh, and the third from Deji towards Pakthiyar. When the initial search did not yield results, the

Thakur's birthday. He said it was a privilege to spend the day serving children and supporting their development through sports.

He added that the Hockey Association is committed to promoting sports at every level and believes that encouraging children to play helps build discipline and confidence. Malhotra has pledged to provide sports trackuits and shoes to 25 children at the Bal Ashram.

The children expressed their gratitude to Raja Singh Malhotra, saying his initiative will motivate them to take up sports and enhance their skills.

State Disaster Response Force (SDRF) was dispatched from the District Emergency Operations Center in Mandi. The team reached Ruhada by 2:00 am and began a coordinated search. Working under difficult conditions, teams from the police, revenue department, home guards, fire brigade, and local volunteers combed the area meticulously.

# Modi's Mission Book Unveiled at Raj Bhavan in Mumbai

New Delhi/Mumbai

A detailed exploration of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's life and leadership, titled Modi's Mission, was officially launched at Raj Bhavan, Mumbai, in a ceremony attended by prominent state leaders. Maharashtra Governor Adharya Devraj, Chief Minister Devendra Fadnis, and Deputy Chief Minister Eknath Shinde were present for the launch, highlighting the significance of the occasion.

Authored by lawyer and writer Berjis Desai, Modi's Mission delves into Modi's journey from his early chal-



lenges to becoming one of India's most influential leaders. The book examines his governance philosophy and vision for a developed, self-reliant India. It also offers insights into landmark initiatives and policies, including the abrogation of Article 370, implementation of the Goods and Services Tax, demoneti-

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# Cognizant to be Title Sponsor of New Delhi Marathon

**C**ognizant, will be the title sponsor of the upcoming edition of the New Delhi Marathon, India's premier AIMS-certified National Marathon and among the most credible long-distance running events in Asia, scheduled for February 22, 2026. This was announced at a press conference held today addressed by Rajesh Varrier, President-Global Operations and Chairman and MD, Cognizant India and Nagaraj Adiga, CMD - NEB Sports. The occasion was graced by Ms. Meenakshi Lekhi, Former Minister of State for External Affairs and Culture.

The Cognizant New Delhi Marathon marks a milestone partnership between a globally respected technology and professional services company and one of the nation's most iconic mass participation sporting events.



Celebrating its eleventh edition in 2026, the marathon has become a symbol of national pride and endurance, uniting citizens, athletes, and organizations in a shared celebration of fitness and community spirit. Over the years, the event has attracted more than 30,000 runners from India and overseas in each edition, including elite athletes, corporate teams, running groups, and defence personnel. Speaking on the occasion, Rajesh Varrier, President - Global Operations and Chairman and Managing Director, Cognizant India, said: "We are excited to become the title sponsor of the New Delhi Marathon from 2026. Cognizant supports diverse and inclusive sports that resonate with its employees,

clients, and communities we serve. Marathons transcend boundaries and cultures and celebrate the indomitable human spirit."

Globally, Cognizant's sports sponsorship portfolio spans golf, racing, and cricket, representing the inspiration and energy sports provide and the opportunity they offer for social good. Nagaraj Adiga, CMD - NEB Sports, added: "We are delighted to welcome Cognizant as the Title Sponsor of the New Delhi Marathon. Their partnership adds great strength and credibility to the event as we continue to inspire a culture of fitness and social responsibility. Together, we look forward to delivering an exceptional experience to runners and the larger community."

The Cognizant New Delhi Marathon 2026 will feature multiple race categories - Marathon, Half Marathon,

10K, and 5K - encouraging participation across all age groups and fitness levels. The event will also continue its tradition of supporting several NGOs and social initiatives, extending the spirit of running beyond the finish line. The AIMS (Association of International Marathons and Distance Races) certification ensures that the race meets the highest global standards of accuracy, safety, and organization. The route covers Delhi's most historic and heritage landmarks, including India Gate, Rajpath, and Rashtrapati Bhavan, which offer runners a world-class experience in the heart of the capital.

The event is supported by leading partners, with ASICS as the Official Sports Goods Partner and Volini as the Recovery Partner, adding to the marathon's world-class ecosystem and runner experience.

## Travis Head hopes Australian pitches remain spicy for Ashes

**A**delaide Australia swashbuckler Travis Head is hoping for seam-friendly surfaces in the Ashes, as he enjoys batting on such strips more than flatter ones, believing they offer more opportunities to score runs.

The pitches that England and Australia will battle on have become a massive talking point in the buildup to the Ashes opener on November 21 in Perth. Over the past four years, Australia has moved heavily towards seam-bowling pitches compared to the previous decade. In the 2021-22 Ashes, Head engineered remarkable centuries on challenging pitches in Brisbane and Hobart. He hopes the trend continues and, as quoted from ESPNcricinfo, "I probably enjoy batting on those sort of wickets. The flatter wickets, with the grind, that more so challenge technique, I think, over longer periods of time [trying] to eke out runs has never probably come as natural to me with being a stroke player and wanting to get on with it."

"It's a run-based game.



You see some of the great players, like Steve Smith, Joe Root, you blink and they're on 30 or 40. And that's something that I've always appreciated, and definitely [on] these wickets, you know that you potentially have got one with your name on it. You can still play well. You can still get runs. Sometimes you've got that go about it in different ways. But ultimately, it's a game where you try and score as many as you can," he continued.

"And the slower, flat wickets probably don't tend to that. But fast-paced pitches that nip, you can maybe get away with a few things. And then obviously, the way I

## Not first time I spoke with Barcelona about potentially coming here: Marcus Rashford

**O**ut-of-favour England forward Marcus Rashford revealed that his summer loan deal with Barcelona wasn't the first time he was in contact with the Spanish behemoths about a potential transfer. The one factor that swayed him to join the Catalan club was a desire for change after spending more than 20 years with his parent club, Manchester United.

After enduring a couple of turbulent seasons with Manchester United and being excised from the main squad, Rashford has found his lost mojo, netting five goals in 12 appearances. The 27-year-old explained the reason behind his newfound purple patch and explained that he is benefiting from "a new environment".

"It was so many years in one place. People forget this, but 24 years, 23 years of my life was with Manchester United. So sometimes you just need a change. I think maybe this is the case with me, and yeah, I'm enjoying everything," Rashford told ESPN in an exclusive inter-



view ahead of this weekend's Clasico at Real Madrid.

Axed from the squad at Old Trafford under current head coach Ruben Amorim, Rashford made it his priority to join Barcelona after his loan spell with Aston Villa ended this summer.

"I just believe that things happen when they're supposed to happen. It's not the first time I spoke with Barcelona about potentially coming here, but for whatever reasons it didn't happen in the past and now is my opportunity to make it happen," Rashford said.

After scoring twice during Barcelona's 6-1 win over Olympiakos in the Champions League on Tuesday, Rashford has set his sights

on facing Real Madrid in El Clasico. "I feel like there's no time like the present now. So I just take things day to day. The key thing for me is just to continue to improve because when you retire, you're going to miss everything - the good stuff, the bad stuff - you're going to miss it about the sport. Every day, I just take it day by day and just try to improve from the day before," Rashford added.

After his year-long deal expires the following summer, there is an option to make his stay at Barcelona permanent. Even though his contract with Manchester United is until 2028, Rashford is planning to extend his time in Spain.

## Ashwin explains why he is "worried" about Virat Kohli's dismissal during second ODI

**N**ew Delhi Decorated off-spinner Ravichandran Ashwin is "worried" about the manner in which batting stalwart Virat Kohli lost his wicket during India's narrow two-wicket defeat in the second ODI against Australia in Adelaide.

Virat's return to the international circuit hasn't panned out on a fairytale note as many fans would have hoped for. In a rain-curtailed series opener at the Optus Stadium in Perth, Virat perished against Mitchell Starc's seaming delivery. He fell for an eight-ball duck, with Cooper Connolly completing an acrobatic catch.

In Adelaide, a venue



where the 36-year-old has revelled in a purple patch, runs continued to elude his bat. He appeared poised after his first three deliveries, but was outfoxed by Xavier Bartlett's nipping in delivery and got trapped in front of the stumps. As he departed with a four-ball duck, Virat took off his gloves and made a goodbye gesture towards the Adelaide spectators as the crowd stood on its feet and applauded. For Ashwin, the most concerning

sign about the pattern of Virat's dismissal was his inability to read the line of the ball. The 36-year-old's brief stay at the crease is a clear indicator to Ashwin that Virat needs to spend more time there.

"One thing I would be worried about is Virat actually missed the line of the ball. Virat planted his foot in line with the ball. That is telling me a story that he needs time in the middle. In Sydney, there is no reason why Virat should not make runs. But I think he would be thinking very deeply about how he got out in the last two games. It is not going to be easy, but I hope Virat gets out of it," Ashwin said on his YouTube channel.

## Starc three wickets away from 250 ODI scalps ahead of Sydney match

**Sydney** Australian speedster Mitchell Starc is just three wickets away from touching the 250 ODI wickets mark, becoming only the fourth Aussie bowler to do so, ahead of the third and final ODI against India at Sydney on Saturday.

With the series having been won by Australia 2-0, the match at the iconic Sydney Cricket Ground (SCG) will witness what is practically a dead rubber. Starc has been solid in the series so far, with three wickets in two matches at an average of 28.00, with best figures of 2/62.

Starc is currently Australia's fourth-highest wicket-taker in ODIs, with 247 scalps at an average of 26.75, with best figures of 6/28. He has taken 12 four-wicket hauls and nine five-wicket hauls in his ODI career.

If he takes three more, he will join Glenn McGrath (380 wickets in 249 matches), Brett Lee (380 wickets in 221 matches) and spinner Shane Warne (291 scalps in 193 matches) in the 250-wicket club for Australia.

Compiled half-century," Mithali concluded. In five matches in the World Cup so far, Mithali has scored 141 runs in five innings at an average of 35.25, with a strike rate of 119.49 and a half-century to her name. Coming to the match, New Zealand elected to field first, but a massive 212-run opening stand between Smriti Mandhana (109 in 95 balls, with 12 fours and four sixes) and Pratika Rawal made them regret it.

## Mithali hails Jemimah's "fluent" 76 against New Zealand in WC clash

**Mumbai** Following India's semifinal spot sealing victory over New Zealand in the ICC Women's World Cup, former Indian skipper Mithali Raj hailed batter Jemimah Rodrigues for her crucial knock, calling it a "test of character". The ex-Indian skipper hailed the youngster for her "confident, fluent and expressive" knock.

After missing the clash against England, Jemimah walked down to the crease at number three, aiming to



match Smriti Mandhana and Pratika Rawal's 212-run partnership in brutality. She did just that, scoring a free-flowing 55-ball 76, with 11

Speaking during the 'Crickit Live', JioStar expert Mithali termed Jemimah's entry point in the 34th over as ideal, saying, "Coming back into the XI after being sidelined against England and walking in at number three for a big game, that was a test of character. The timing of her entry was ideal; it is a phase she is comfortable in, and it allowed her to settle."

The former Indian skipper said that having a "calm and communicative" Pratika at

## Australia's Travis Head 22 runs away from 3,000 ODI runs

**Sydney** Australian opener Travis Head stands just 22 runs away from completing 3,000 runs in ODIs. Australia will play the final match of the ODI series against India on Saturday.

Australia have won the three-match series and has a 2-0 lead, and India will be aiming for that consolation win. India have been able to contain Travis Head, and he has just scored eight and 28 runs in the first two ODIs.

In 78 ODIs and 75 innings, Head has scored 2,978 runs at an average of 43.79, with a strike rate of 105.64, including seven centuries and 17 fifties and a best score of 154\*. In three ODIs at Sydney, he has a solid record, with 122 runs in three innings at an average of 40.66, a strike rate of 98.38 and two half-centuries, including a best score of 52.

In nine international outings at the iconic venue, Head has scored 296 runs at an average of 32.88, with three fifties in 10 innings and a best score of 70. His overall international record does not make for an impressive reading.

### Breaking Time Sudoku

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.

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

### Solution, Sudoku

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

## TOP STORY

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14 migrants dead after dinghy sinks in Aegean off Turkey's coast

Ankara  
A rubber dinghy carrying 18 migrants sank in the Aegean Sea off Turkey's southwestern coast on Friday, leaving at least 14 dead, Turkish officials said.

Two people survived, including an Afghan national, while search and rescue efforts were underway for two others still missing.

A statement from the regional governor's office said the dinghy began taking in water shortly after departing from Bodrum, a coastal town popular with tourists in Mugla province. One survivor swam for six hours to reach the shore, while another was found on a nearby island, according to the statement. Four coast guard boats, a diving team and a helicopter have been deployed to locate the missing migrants.

It was not immediately clear whether the migrants were attempting to reach the Greek island of Kos, which lies close to Bodrum.

Greece is a major entry point into the European Union for people fleeing conflict and poverty in the Middle East, Africa and Asia. Many attempt the short but perilous journey from Turkey's coast to nearby Greek islands in inflatable dinghies or small boats, often in poor conditions. Fatal accidents are a common occurrence.

Earlier this week, authorities apprehended 169 people — most of them foreign nationals — suspected of trafficking migrants in a nationwide operation, the Interior Ministry said.

Trade tensions back as Xi prepares to meet Trump at APEC Summit



US President Donald Trump and Chinese President Xi Jinping

Beijing  
China on Friday confirmed that President Xi Jinping will visit South Korea to attend the APEC Summit, during which he is expected to hold crucial talks with his US counterpart Donald Trump to ease escalating trade tensions between the two countries.

Earlier, the White House had announced that Trump and Xi would meet on October 30 in South Korea.

At the invitation of South Korean President Lee Jae-myung, Xi will attend the 32nd APEC Economic Leaders' Meeting in Gyeongju and pay a state visit from Oct 30 to Nov 1, Chinese foreign ministry spokesperson Guo Jiakun told reporters here.

Replying to a question, Guo said China and the US are maintaining close communication on a potential meeting between the two heads of state.

While Trump was

open about his plans to meet Xi, Beijing was guarded in confirming the meeting.

On Thursday, White House press secretary Karoline Leavitt told a media briefing in Washington that Trump will "participate in a bilateral meeting with President Xi" on October 30 in South Korea.

The meeting will take place at the end of a three-nation Asia trip

to Malaysia, Japan and South Korea by the US president.

The meeting will take place in the South Korean city of Busan, ahead of the official start of the main Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) summit scheduled for October 31 to November 1, the Hong Kong-based South China Morning Post reported.

The meeting between the heads of the top two

world economies comes amid heightened tensions as Beijing signalled tighter control over rare earth exports, while Washington threatened additional tariffs and new curbs on key technologies.

Trump, who had earlier threatened to scrap the meeting amid the trade war flare-up, said on Wednesday he hoped for a deal "on everything".

At the invitation of South Korean President Lee Jae-myung, Xi will attend the 32nd APEC Economic Leaders' Meeting in Gyeongju and pay a state visit from Oct 30 to Nov 1, Chinese foreign ministry spokesperson Guo Jiakun told reporters here.

Speaking to reporters in Washington on Thursday, the president said during his talks with Xi, he will raise "some big issues" like the plight of US farmers, but the "first question" that he'll ask him will be about fentanyl exports, referring to the US' accusation that China has failed to curb precursor shipments linked to America's opioid crisis.

Analysts in Washington have warned against expecting major breakthroughs in the meeting.

Unidentified gunmen abduct 18 construction workers in Pak's Balochistan



Karachi  
Unidentified gunmen on Friday abducted 18 workers from a construction company's site in the Khuzdar district of the restive Balochistan province, security officials said.

The armed men also set several vehicles on fire before taking away the 18 labourers at gunpoint.

The armed men first overpowered the site guards and then took the workers to an undisclosed location, officials said.

In a second such incident in the last five days, labourers mostly belonging to other provinces have been kidnapped at gunpoint.

Earlier, seven labourers were abducted from a site while constructing

a security check post in the Dasht Mastung district. Their whereabouts are still not known.

With the latest incident the security has been increased at all construction sites in the province as police are still investigating the motive behind these abductions.

Balochistan, Pakistan's largest province by area, has for years witnessed attacks on security personnel and labourers from other provinces by separatist groups who contend that Islamabad's policies and large-scale projects like the CPEC have benefited external and federal interests while failing to provide equitable benefits to the local population.

EU accuses Meta TikTok of breaching transparency rules

Brussels  
The European Union on Friday said Meta and TikTok had breached their transparency obligations after an investigation that could result in billions of dollars in fines.

The inquiry found both companies had violated the Digital Services Act, the EU's trailblazing digital rule book that imposes a set of strict requirements designed to

keep internet users safe online, including making it easier to report counterfeit or unsafe goods or flag harmful or illegal content like hate speech, as well as a ban on ads targeted at children.

"We are making sure platforms are accountable for their services, as ensured by EU law, towards users and society," said Henna Virkunen, the EU's executive vice



president for tech sovereignty, security and democracy, in a post

on X. "Our democracies depend on trust. That means platforms must

empower users, respect their rights, and open their systems to scrutiny. The DSA makes this a duty, not a choice."

The 27-nation bloc launched investigations in 2024 into both Meta and TikTok. They found that the companies did not allow easy access to data for researchers.

They also found that Meta's Instagram and Facebook did not make it easy for users to flag

illegal content and effectively challenge moderation decisions.

"Allowing researchers access to platforms' data is an essential transparency obligation under the DSA, as it provides public scrutiny into the potential impact of platforms on our physical and mental health," according to a statement by the European Commission, the EU's executive body.

The inquiry found that both Facebook and Instagram deployed "dark patterns" or deceptive interface designs for their protocols for flagging malicious content like child sex abuse or terrorist content. That led to a kind of obfuscation, with the Commission saying it was "confusing and dissuading" and therefore be ineffective.

Agency

BUSINESS

EU Regulations Impact Businesses: Goyal

Berlin/New Delhi  
A host of regulations, including the Carbon Tax, introduced by the European Union are expected to impact its businesses, Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal said on Friday.



The EU has announced regulations such as Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM) and EU Deforestation Regulation (EUDR) which have been strongly objected by India.

"Because of all these regulations, I suspect that Europe is going to have an existential problem for their businesses. Their infrastructure is going to get costlier. Automobiles and planes are going to get costlier."

"Their cost of living will be difficult to manage and they will be living in a cocoon, while other trading partners will be trading around the world with each other," he said at the Berlin Global Dialogue.

The minister is in Berlin to participate in the dialogue, a meeting of leaders and German businesses to discuss ways to boost bilateral trade and investments.

The minister said that

there are 73 EU regulations.

It is nearly impossible to fulfil the paperwork requirements to comply with these regulations,

"They (EU) are seeking to hyperenate too many issues. Trade is about trade, why are we hyperenating too many issues with trade, we are actually messing up the free trade," he added.

India is negotiating a free trade agreement with the EU.

Under CBAM, Indian exports of steel, aluminium, and cement to the EU could face tariffs of 20-35 per cent.

India's exports of products like coffee, leather hides and paperboard worth USD 1.3 billion annually to the European Union will get impacted due to the deforestation regulation adopted by the EU, a report by think tank GTRI has said.

Hyundai, Gurugram Police and IRTE Join Hands to Transform Traffic Management

Gurugram/New Delhi  
In a major step toward improving road safety and traffic efficiency, Hyundai Motor India Foundation (HMIF), the Gurugram Traffic Police, and the Institute of Road Traffic Education (IRTE) have strengthened their partnership to carry out forensic engineering audits and modernize traffic management at 24 key intersections across Gurugram. Work has already begun at two of the city's busiest junctions—Rajiv Chowk and Shankar Chowk.



As part of Hyundai's CSR initiative under its 'Easy Roads' campaign, a Traffic Engineering Centre (TEC) and an Organisation Development Centre (ODC) have been set up at the Traffic Towers in Gurugram. These centres aim to build technical and managerial capacity among traffic police, road engineers, and transport professionals while promoting a data-driven approach to traffic regulation and infrastructure planning.

Puneet Anand, Vice President of Hyundai Motor India Limited,

said, "At Hyundai Motor India Foundation, our commitment to building a safer mobility ecosystem is at the heart of our 'Easy Roads' initiative. The Traffic Engineering Centre in Haryana stands as a model for scientific traffic management, road safety audits, and capacity building for enforcement agencies. By harnessing cutting-edge technology, we aim to reduce accidents, improve driver behavior, and create a more

efficient transportation environment."

He added that the recognition received at the United Nations Global Forum for Road Traffic Safety (WP.1) reflects India's growing leadership in evidence-based road safety interventions. "Building on the success of the Haryana centre, we are proud to expand this initiative to Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu, advancing our vision of 'Progress for Humanity' by fostering

safer roads nationwide," Anand said.

Dr. Rohit Baluja, President of IRTE, explained that the TEC is conducting scientific audits to develop a sustainable traffic management system for Gurugram. "IRTE's engineers are studying traffic movement, violations, and the behavior of vulnerable road users while analyzing congestion patterns. These observations are supported by camera inputs from

As part of Hyundai's CSR initiative under its 'Easy Roads' campaign, a Traffic Engineering Centre (TEC) and an Organisation Development Centre (ODC) have been set up at the Traffic Towers in Gurugram.

218 junctions, with valuable assistance from ICCG Gurugram," he said.

Saurabh S. Shrama of Hyundai Motor India Limited emphasized that this initiative marks a significant shift toward data-led, scientific traffic management. "By combining enforcement expertise with forensic methodologies, we can ensure more sustainable and effective road safety interventions," he noted.

The collaborative project aims to make Gurugram a model for modern traffic systems in India through evidence-based engineering, technology integration, and focused capacity-building.

Sebi standardizes rules for unclaimed amounts

New Delhi  
Markets watchdog Sebi on Friday proposed changes to align regulations for entities issuing non-convertible securities, standardising the process for handling unclaimed amounts by allowing their transfer only after seven years from maturity.

In its consultation paper, the regulator has proposed amendments to the Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements (LODR) Regulations to align them with the provisions of the Companies Act, 2013 and the Investor Education and Protection Fund (IEPF) Rules.

At present, Section 125 of the Companies Act mandates that unclaimed amounts, including matured debentures and the accrued interest thereon, be transferred to the IEPF only after 7 years from the date of maturity.

Rule 3 (3) of the IEPF Rules further clarifies that unclaimed interest is to be transferred along with the matured debenture amount after this period.

However, Regulation 61A of the LODR Regulations currently requires that unclaimed interest held in an escrow account for seven years be transferred to the IEPF or the Investor Protection and Education Fund (IPEF), irrespective of whether the debentures have matured. This has created an inconsistency between the two frameworks.

ED seizes assets worth Rs 67.79 cr in Corporate Power case

Mitali Chandola Nagpur

The Enforcement Directorate (ED), Nagpur, has provisionally attached movable and immovable assets worth Rs. 67.79 crore on October 16, 2025, in connection with the ongoing investigation against M/s Corporate Power Limited and others under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), 2002.

The attached assets include bank balances, lands, buildings, flats,

and commercial properties located across Maharashtra, Kolkata, Delhi, and Andhra Pradesh. The attachment has been made in the names of Manoj Jayaswal, his family members, and other associated individuals.

This action is part of the ED's broader probe into alleged money laundering and financial irregularities by the company and its directors. The agency had earlier undertaken mul-



tipule investigations and financial audits, which revealed that substantial funds were illeg-

ly diverted and layered through various entities and properties.

With this latest attach-

This action is part of the ED's broader probe into alleged money laundering and financial irregularities by the company and its directors.

ment, the total value of assets seized, frozen, or attached in this case now stands at approximately Rs. 571 crore. The ED has emphasized that the measures are provision-

al, and further investigation is ongoing to trace the flow of funds, identify additional assets, and establish the links of accused individuals with the alleged laundering activities.

The attached properties include both residential and commercial spaces, showcasing the scale of alleged irregularities in the operations of M/s Corporate Power Limited. Investigators are also examining bank transactions and other

Advt Contact: 9818-799941



# Janhvi Kapoor Pens Heartfelt Poem for Sridevi

**Mumbai**  
Bollywood actress Janhvi Kapoor paid an emotional tribute to her late mother Sridevi by reciting a heartfelt poem written by her. The actress read out the poem while on a talk show hosted by Twinkle Khanna and Kajol – "Two Much with Kajol and Twinkle" – where she appeared with Karan Johar. She read, "Bachi thi phir achanak ek din woh haq kho diya, Jo laad mangti thi usse muh mod liya. Apni awaaz kho ke apni maa ki awaaz me baat karti hu, Issi jariye me unke paas bhi rakhti hu." (I was a child who suddenly lost her right; the one I sought love from, I turned away;



having lost my own voice, I now speak in my mother's, and through it, I keep her close.) Her mother and Bollywood superstar Sridevi passed away on February 24, 2018, in Dubai due to accidental drowning. She was 54 at the time of her death. Sridevi's death just months before Janhvi's debut film Dhadak left the nation in shock. Lakhs of fans took to the streets of Mumbai to bid

her a tearful farewell during her funeral procession. Post Sridevi's death, Boney Kapoor's children Arjun Kapoor and Anshula Kapoor from his first wife, Mona Kapoor, were seen getting closer and bonding better with their step-sisters Janhvi Kapoor and Khushi Kapoor. Janhvi has since starred in films including Gunjan Saxena: The Kargil Girl, Good Luck Jerry, Millie, Bawal, and Mr & Mrs Mahi.

# SRK Bids Farewell to Piyush Pandey with a Touching Note

**Mumbai**  
Bollywood superstar Shah Rukh Khan has paid a heartfelt tribute to advertising king Piyush Pandey who passed away on October 24.



Taking to his X, formerly Twitter, account, Shah Rukh Khan wrote, "Working and being around Piyush Pandey always felt effortless and fun." It was an honour being part of the pure magic he created. He carried his genius so lightly and revolutionised the advertising industry in India. Rest in peace, my friend. Will miss you lots."

Earlier in the day, Bollywood actor Gajraj Rao too offered condolences to the legend. Taking to his social media account, he remembered Piyush Pandey as the "Sam Manekshaw of Indian Advertising". Rao, praising his unmatched understanding of Indian society, his ability to connect with both newcomers and veterans in the

industry, and his irreplaceable talent and courage, shared a monochrome image of the late legendary advertising guru. He further wrote, "Piyush Pandey, sir, in my eyes, was the general of the Indian advertising world, who used to stand in the front row with his pen on every small and big creative front. Every obstacle had a break. Their grip on Indian society was amazing, especially since he was the advertising guru who understood rural India better." He added, "Whether it is a novice writer or a veteran client, Pandey Saab used to make a relationship with a bit of betkalkuffiy. He was Sam Manekshaw, General of Indian Advertising, rich with unique talent and courage; no one can replace him. Salute!!! #piyushpandey #rip." Several notable personalities from the Indian film industry paid tribute to the late Piyush Pandey.

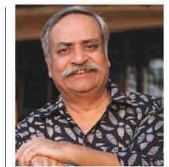
# Feel like we're the best gang together, says Rashmika Mandanna

**New Delhi**  
The upcoming sequel to the 2012 hit 'Cocktail' is already exciting fans, especially with its new trio: Kriti Sanon, Shahid Kapoor, and Rashmika Mandanna. The team has recently wrapped up their schedule in Italy, and judging by the cast's updates, it seems the trio had a lot of fun during the shoot.

Speaking about her experience working with her co-stars, Rashmika couldn't stop smiling as she shared how much she enjoyed shooting with them and how she can't wait to resume filming with them again in Delhi. "I love Kriti and Shahid. I feel like we're the best gang together. Homi sir (Homi

Adajania), whom we're working with, is also a joy to collaborate with. It's such a pleasure to work with all of them. I'm very excited to go back to Delhi to start shooting again," Rashmika said. The actress further shared that she had a great time filming with her co-stars and is eagerly waiting for the audience to feel that same energy on screen. "And every time I'm in a scene with Kriti or Shahid, I'm just enjoying myself. So, I really hope that when this

film releases, you'll feel the same enjoyment and also enjoy it," Rashmika added with a smile. Speaking about her experience working with her co-stars, Rashmika couldn't stop smiling as she shared how much she enjoyed shooting with them and how she can't wait to resume filming with them again in Delhi.



Advertising world doyen Piyush Pandey passes away

**Mumbai**  
Advertising legend Piyush Pandey has passed away. He was 70.

The news of Piyush Pandey's demise was shared by columnist Suhel Seth on X on Friday morning.

"Deeply deeply saddened and devastated at the loss of the genius that my dearest friend Piyush Pandey was. India has not lost a just a great advertising mind but a true patriot and a fine fine gentleman. Now the heavens will dance to Mile Sur Mera Tumhara," he posted.

Pandey started his advertising journey in 1982 with Ogilvy & Mather India (now Ogilvy India), beginning as a trainee account executive before transitioning to the creative side. With his talent, he literally changed the face of Indian advertising.

He's the mastermind behind iconic ad campaigns like Asian Paints' "Har khushi mein rang laaye", Cadbury's "Kuch Khaas Hai", and Fevicol's iconic "Teg" film.

# Harryd Sandhu drops his new song 'Ki Haal Aa'

**Mumbai**  
Punjabi singer-songwriter Harryd Sandhu has come up with a new track 'Ki Haal Aa'.

The song seamlessly integrates traditional Punjabi influences with contemporary sounds.

"With 'Ki Haal Aa', I aimed to encapsulate the celebratory essence of Punjabi culture while crafting a sound that appeals to a global audience. The track's melodies are upbeat and vibrant, designed to make everyone want to dance and celebrate life," Harryd said.

Meanwhile, on the personal front, Harryd Sandhu and his wife, Zenith Sidhu, were recently blessed with

their second child.

On Tuesday, Harryd took to Instagram and shared the good news with his fans via an adorable post.

He shared a picture showing the tiny hands of the newborn, beautifully framed by his hands, his wife's hands, and those of his first-born, making it look like a perfect family portrait.

"Our beautiful blessing has arrived. Happy Diwali to everyone," he posted.

Harryd Sandhu is best known for his songs 'Soch', 'Joker', 'Backbone', 'Naah Goriye' and 'Bijlee Bijlee' among others. Notably, Harryd Sandhu is also a former cricketer. He had played Under-19 for India and Ranji Trophy matches for Punjab.

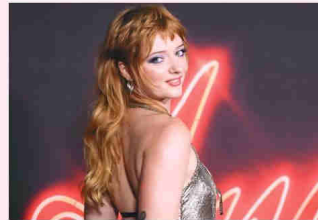


# Lindsey Normington to guest star on 'Elsbeth' season 3

**Los Angeles**  
Actress Lindsey Normington will be seen making a special appearance in the third season of 'Elsbeth'.

The hit series has also added Jaime Pressly and Andrew Rannells as Season 3 guest stars, as per Deadline.

Based on the character featured in The Good Wife and The Good Fight, Elsbeth Tascioni (Carrie Preston) is the astute but unconventional consent decree attorney working with the NYPD to catch New York's well-heeled murderers, utilising her unique perspective. Wendell Pierce also stars as Captain Charles Wallace (C. W.) Wagner.



Normington will appear in Episode 307 as Alia Jade, a soulful pop star who purchases a convent with plans to transform it into a recording studio.

Pressly will appear in Episode 309 as Tiff Giles, who was once a top model but now works as a bartender at a dive in Pennsylvania. When her old room-

mate from the "model house" where they began their careers invites Tiff to a reunion and photo shoot, Tiff returns to New York for the first time seeking closure... and revenge.

Rannells will appear in Episode 310 as Harris, a former dancer who sits on the board of a prominent New York ballet company.

# 'The Rainmaker' renewed for second season

**Los Angeles**  
There's great news for the fans of 'The Rainmaker' show.

As per Variety, the show has been renewed for a second season.

The update comes a few days after the legal drama aired its Season 1 finale at the basic cable.

Season 2 will be out in 2026.

The series hails from Lionsgate Television and



Blumhouse Television and is based on the John Grisham novel of the same name. Per USA, the first nine episodes have averaged 1.3 million viewers across all platforms.

Announcing the new season, Val Boreland, president of entertainment at Versant, said, "The verdict is in – 'The Rainmaker' is returning for season two on USA Network."

