



Aaron hails Sundar's "effectiveness" against short balls during Hobart T20I



Canada Philippines sign defence pact to boost drills deter China's aggression

Shah Rukh Khan to fans he'll miss seeing them this birthday



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SENSEX	NIFTY
83938.71	25722.10
-465.75	-155.75
GOLD	SILVER
121,284.00	148,399.00
-224.00	112.00

# CHAMPION WOMEN

India's women make history, outclass South Africa to claim first ODI World Cup crown

Batting first, India posted 298/7 in the Women's World Cup final after fine knocks from Shafali Verma, Smriti Mandhana and Deepti Sharma.

Mumbai

India scripted history on Sunday, clinching their maiden ICC Women's ODI World Cup title with a 52-run win over South Africa in the final in Navi Mumbai, as Shafali Verma and Deepti Sharma starred in a commanding all-round performance.

Batting first after being asked to do so, India posted a competitive 298 for seven, powered by Shafali Verma's fluent 87, Smriti Mandhana's 45, and a composed 58 from Deepti Sharma.

Set a victory target of 299 by India, skipper Laura Wolvaardt's fighting century went in vain as South Africa faltered in their chase in the ICC Women's ODI World Cup final here on Sunday.

Wolvaardt struck a fluent 101 off 98 balls before miscuing a lofted shot off Deepti Sharma to Amanjot Kaur at deep mid-wicket, leaving South Africa reeling at 211 for seven in the 41st over. Her dismissal, after a 61-run stand with Annerie Doreksen (35), dented the hosts' hopes as they still needed 88 runs off the final nine overs.



Earlier, South Africa made a steady start, reaching 52 for one in 10 overs. Openers Wolvaardt and Tazmin Brits (23) added 51 runs before a sharp direct hit from Amanjot Kaur caught Brits short of her crease while attempting a quick single.

Anneke Bosch (0) fell soon after, trapped leg before by young spinner Shree Charani, reducing South Africa to 62 for two. Sune Luus (25)

then joined Wolvaardt to rebuild before falling to a miscued shot. India soon struck a major blow as Marizanne Kapp fell for 4 in the 23rd over, tightening their grip on the game. Shafali Verma's robust 87 was followed by combative knocks from Deepti Sharma and Richa Ghosh before South Africa rallied to limit India to an under-par 298/7 in the Women's World Cup final here on Sunday.

Deepti's run-a-ball 58 with three fours and a six and Richa (34) off 24 balls, 2x4s, 2x2s) provided the much-needed late impetus with a 47-run partnership for the sixth wicket after India's innings faltered in the middle overs with Jemimah Rodrigues (24) and captain Harmanpreet Kaur (20) failing to convert their starts.

A lucky South Africa seemed to have spoiled India's aim of a big

first-innings total with regular strikes, aided by a pitch which slowed down and provided grip to the spinners as the contest progressed following a two-hour rain delay to the start of the match.

Shafali showed great maturity with a knock that featured both aggression and deft rotation of strike.

The right-hander used all her experience to lay the platform for India, putting up an opening stand of 104 runs with Smriti Mandhana (45), which sent South Africa scrambling for answers early on.

Shafali, who took charge from India's leading run-scorer in the tournament, began with a cracking four off Ayabonga Khaka (3/58) in the second over and signalled her intent by coming down the track for a boundary off Marizanne Kapp in the fifth over, which was followed by another four with a flick off the pads.

Despite Shafali being the aggressor, Mandhana looked set for a big score but was denied a personal milestone by Chloe Tryon (1/46).

Agency

RJD pointed a 'katta' at Cong's head: Modi in Bihar



Patna

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday claimed that the Congress had been unwilling to accept Tejashwi Yadav as the Indian National Developmental Inclusive Alliance (INDIA) chief ministerial candidate and relented only after the Rashtriya Janata Dal pointed a 'katta', an unlicensed country-made gun, at his head.

The PM made the statement on the campaign trail in Bihar, where he addressed back-to-back rallies in Bhojpur and Nawada districts, and highlighted the RJD's reputation for alleged strong-arm tactics and its troubled equations with alliance partners.

"The Congress never wanted to announce the chief ministerial candidate in favour of the RJD. The RJD secured

### HIGHLIGHT

Modi said Congress wanted to defeat the RJD in the Bihar polls, and urged people to wait for the second phase of polling to be over on November 11 'to see them fighting'.

it by placing a 'katta' on the head of the Congress. They have learnt their lessons in the school of 'jungle raj'. Such elements can never do good for Bihar," he alleged.

Modi said Congress wanted to defeat the RJD in the Bihar polls, and urged people to wait for the second phase of polling to be over on November 11 'to see them fighting'.

Without mentioning Congress leader Rahul Gandhi or Yadav by name, the PM said,

CONTD ON PAGE-2

JD-U candidate Anant Singh held in Dularchand Yadav murder case

Patna

The police arrested Janata Dal-United candidate Anant Singh early on Sunday morning in Bihar's Mokama in connection with the murder of Dularchand Yadav, who campaigned for the Jan Suraj Party candidate.

The police arrested Singh, who is contesting the Mokama assembly seat, between 1 and 2 am and presented him before the chief judicial magistrate.

Yadav died at Khush-halchak village three days ago during election campaigning. An assailant reportedly shot him, and an SUV crushed him, officials confirmed.

The incident had taken place close to the Bhadaur and Ghoswari police stations in the Mokama area.

Anant Singh, the controversial former Bihar MLA seeking to reclaim Mokama seat, and his



two nephews face charges in the murder case.

Locally known as a 'Bahubali', Singh faces over two dozen cases, including charges of murder, kidnapping, and extortion. He recently secured release from jail.

Patna district magistrate Tayag Rajan and SSP Kartkey Sharma confirmed the arrest at a joint press conference

late on Saturday night. DM Rajan stated the incident was an attack on law and order. He promised stern action against everyone involved in the crime.

SSP Sharma revealed that Anant Singh was present during the clash. The police arrested the JD-U candidate after fully investigating the crime, he added. Agency

ISRO's Bahubali rocket launches heaviest satellite

Sriharikota

ISRO scientists have carried out a new experiment on the indigenously developed C25 cryogenic stage of the LVM3-M5 rocket which successfully placed the Communication Satellite CMS-03 into the intended orbit on Sunday, said its Chairman V Narayanan.

Addressing from the Mission Control Centre after the successful launch, Narayanan said the scientists had reignited the thrust chamber in the C25 cryogenic stage of the 43.5 metre tall rocket after reaching the desired orbit.

"I also would like to announce an important experiment that we have carried out. The indigenously developed C25 cryogenic stage for the first time, after successfully injecting into the orbit, we have success-



fully reignited the thrust chamber," the Chairman said.

The reignition of the thrust chamber would allow scientists to inject multiple satellites into various orbits in future missions, he said.

"This is going to be a great experiment which would feed data for re-structuring the cryogenic stage for the future to

enhance the mission flexibility towards injecting multiple satellites into various orbits using the Bahubali rocket LVM3," he said.

The Mission Director of LVM3, T Victor Joseph, said the ISRO scientists have demonstrated the reignition of the cryogenic engine.

"Congratulations to each one of us. For the

8th successive successful mission of LVM3. And this time the vehicle has lifted the heaviest communication satellite from the Indian soil, the CMS-03 and injected it into the required orbit," he said.

"Special appreciation to all the team members for meticulously examining every system (of the vehicle) in this flawless mission. My heartfelt thanks to system development agencies, all ground vehicle centres, industry partners, assembly and integration teams, technical facilities and quality assurance groups," he said.

Meanwhile, the scientists not celebrating immediately after the official confirmation that the mission was success at the Mission Control Centre, raised some doubts. Agency

Russia deploys nuke sub capable of 'wiping out nations'

New Delhi

Russia has launched its latest nuclear submarine to be armed with a 'Poseidon' nuclear drone, also known as 'doomsday missile' capable of 'wiping out' coastal nations, according to media reports.

The nuclear submarine 'Khabarovsk' was launched by Russian Defence Minister Andrei Belousov at a solemn ceremony in the presence of Russian Naval Chief Admiral Alexander Moiseyev and other



top shipbuilding officials in Severodvinsk at

Sevmash shipyards. "Today marks a signif-

icant event for us -- the heavy nuclear-powered missile cruiser Khabarovsk is being launched from the stern of the renowned Sevsmash," Belousov said in his televised remarks late on Saturday night.

Sevmash shipyards have earlier retrofitted INS Vikramaditya aircraft carrier for India.

The Russian defense minister emphasised that the submarine carrying underwater weapons and robotic systems will enable Russia to successfully ensure the

security of its maritime borders and protect its national interests in various regions of the world's oceans, according to TASS, the Russian news agency.

The Khabarovsk nuclear submarine was designed by Rubin, the Central Design Bureau of Marine Engineering, and is intended to address Navy missions using modern underwater weapons, including robotic systems for various purposes, the Russian Defence Ministry said on its website. Agency

15 die as tempo traveller rams stationary truck in Rajasthan

Jaipur

At least 15 people were killed and two others injured after a tempo traveller carrying devotees rams into a stationary trailer truck in Rajasthan's Phalodi on Sunday.

Police officials said the incident occurred near Matoda village on the Bharat Mala Highway. "Fifteen passengers died, while two others sustained serious injuries. The injured were first taken to a hospital in Osian for primary treatment and later referred to Jodhpur," Jodhpur Police Commissioner Om Prakash said.



According to police, the victims were residents of the Sursagar area in Jodhpur and were returning from the Kolyat temple in Bikaner after offering prayers at the Kapil Muni Ashram. All the bodies have been kept in the mortuary of the Osian government hospital.

"The news of the deaths of many people in the road accident that occurred in Phalodi, Rajasthan, is extremely heartbreaking. I express my condolences to the families who have lost their loved ones in this tragedy and pray for the swift recovery of those who have been injured," President Murmu posted on X. Agency

RJD pointed a 'katta' at Cong's head: Modi in Bihar

CONTO FROM PAGE-1  
"The crown prince of 'jungle raj' has been wary that the 'Voter Adhikar Yatra' of the other 'yuvraj' may be denting his own prospects. Hence, the RJD has put up its candidate against the state president of the Congress. Let the polls be over. The two allies will be breaking each other's heads."

The allusion was to the reserved Kutumba seat, where the RJD had reportedly planned to field a candidate against sitting MLA and state Congress president Rajesh Kumar.

Although the RJD decided against doing so, the two allies had ended up in 'friendly fights' at a number of places.

The PM also predicted a record victory for the ruling NDA, which would continue providing a government that was 'upright' and 'foresighted' and build a 'developed Bihar' that was necessary for 'Viksit Bharat'.  
"Jungle raj wallahs" are set to get the worst drubbing in history. The people of Bihar have not forgotten the 'jungle raj', he added.

The PM, who was visibly pleased with the huge turnouts, said, "Analysts sitting in Delhi, who are racking their brains over poll arithmetic, would do well to come here and experience for themselves which way the wind is blowing."

Modi said the manifesto released by the NDA last week was honest and put forth a vision for the future, unlike the charter of promises of the INDIA bloc, which was 'a dossier of lies'.

He also envisaged a future in which people of the state will not migrate under economic compulsions and 'the youth of Bihar will work in Bihar and make their motherland proud'.  
Listing the achievements of the NDA government in the state, he said, "The condition of power connectivity was such that people used to dry clothes on electrical wires, but we changed it."

"Modi also helped open bank accounts for small farmers who have been ignored since independence," he said.

Noting that Bhupur and adjoining districts were known for providing a large number of recruits in the armed forces, he said national security and those who ensure it are of paramount importance to his government.  
Agency

# Operation Trishul 2025: India's Armed Forces March Towards a Unified Future

Mitali Chandola  
New Delhi:  
In an unprecedented show of coordination and capability, the Indian Armed Forces are set to undertake Operation Trishul 2025 — a large-scale tri-services exercise that promises to reshape India's approach to modern warfare. Spearheaded by the Western Naval Command, this integrated operation will bring together the might of the Indian Navy, Army, and Air Force across the desert and coastal stretches of Rajasthan and Gujarat, extending deep into the North Arabian Sea.

The exercise, to be conducted in close collaboration with the Army's Southern Command and the Air Force's South Western Command, will test India's preparedness for multi-domain warfare — a complex environment where operations across land, air, sea, cyber, and space must merge seamlessly. In a rare display of inter-agency synergy,



The Indian Coast Guard, Border Security Force, and several central agencies will also participate, highlighting the growing emphasis

on jointness in India's defence architecture. Beyond sheer scale, Operation Trishul 2025 signifies a shift in mindset — from ser-

vice-specific operations to integrated mission planning and execution. The exercise will include amphibious operations involving INS

The UP government had on Wednesday announced a Rs 30 per quintal increase in sugarcane prices for the 2025-26 crushing season, terming it a major pro-farmer decision that will benefit lakhs of cultivators across the state.

Jalashwa and Landing Craft Utility vessels, air support from the Indian Air Force's fighter and transport fleets, and ground manoeuvres by the Indian Army's mechanised and infantry units. It will also validate India's growing expertise in Electronic and Cyber Warfare, as well as Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance (ISR) operations.

Equally significant is its reflection of Aatmanirbhar Bharat in defence. The deployment of indigenous systems and platforms underscores India's

commitment to self-reliance and technological innovation in national security. In an era defined by rapid digitisation and hybrid threats, this focus on indigenous capability becomes not just strategic, but essential.

At its core, Trishul 2025 is more than a military drill — it is a message. A message that India's defence forces are evolving to fight together, think together, and act as one integrated force capable of responding to the full spectrum of challenges. As global security dynamics grow more unpredictable, such exercises reaffirm that the strength of the Indian Armed Forces lies not only in their firepower, but in their unity of purpose and precision of coordination.

In the deserts, skies, and seas, Operation Trishul 2025 will stand as a powerful demonstration of India's readiness for the future battlefield — where technology, teamwork, and tenacity converge in defence of the nation.

Modi Pitches Prosperity Plan to Transform Bihar

Mitali Chandola  
New Delhi:  
In the thick of Bihar's political battlefield, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has struck a chord that blends sentiment with strategy. His words — "Jinhe ko mahi poochhita, Modi unhe poojita hai" — were more than a campaign slogan; they were a moral declaration aimed straight at the heart of Bihar's rural voter.

Unveiling the NDA's manifesto that promises Rs 9,000 annual assistance to farmers, Modi transformed policy into poetry. The phrase encapsulated his brand of politics — emotive, inclusive, and sharply populist. In a state where agriculture still anchors livelihoods and dignity, this was not merely about money; it was about recognition. For those who feel unseen and unheard, Modi's message was simple: you matter.

But beneath the empathetic strategy, Bihar's rural landscape, fragmented by caste and poverty, is also where electoral battles are won and lost. The Rs 9,000 promise, pitched as a direct income support measure, builds on the success of PM-KISAN while signalling a more targeted state focus. It's welfare reimagined as political trust — an economic handshake between government and farmer.

Zero tolerance for any kind of violence CEC Gyanesh Kumar on Bihar polls

Kanpur (UP): Any act of violence will not be tolerated and voters will be able to cast their votes peacefully and freely in Bihar, Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar asserted on Sunday, a day after the poll body took action against officials in Patna following violence during campaigning in Mokama.  
"The Election Commission has zero tolerance towards any form of violence during polls," the CEC told reporters here.  
"Any act of violence will not be tolerated. All voters will be able to cast their votes peacefully, freely and transparently. The Election Commission is fully prepared for this, he said.

The Election Commission on Saturday ordered the transfer of Patna Superintendent of Police (SP) and action against three other officials, taking a stern view of violence in Bihar's Mokama in which gangster-turned-politician Dular Chand Yadav was killed during poll campaigning.

Former Bihar MLA Anant Singh, the ruling JDU's candidate from the Mokama seat, was arrested early on Sunday in connection with the case.

Police also arrested two other persons, Manikant Thakur and Ranjeet Ram. Yadav died while he was campaigning for Jan Suraj Party's candidate Piyush Priyadarshi in Patna's Mokama area on Thursday.

The CEC asserted that everyone is equal before the EC, whether it is the ruling side or the opposition.

"For the Election Commission, there is no 'pakhs' or 'vipakhs' (ruling side or opposition). Everyone is 'sankakhs' (equal) before us," Gyanesh Kumar said.

Govt focused on basic amenities, says MLA Chandrashekhar



Rajan Panchhi  
Mandi:  
Dharmapur MLA Chandrashekhar reaffirmed that addressing essential amenities like electricity, water, roads, and healthcare remains the government's top priority.

As part of the 'Your MLA at Your Doorstep' initiative, he visited Khajurti and Cholangarh in Dewgarh Gram Panchayat, and Balehad and Bhaledad in Bhaledad Gram Panchayat on Sunday, where he interacted directly with residents and reviewed their concerns.  
During the visit, the MLA issued on-the-spot directions to officials for resolving public grievances. He said the state government's aim is to deliver solutions at people's doorsteps, reducing their need to visit offices for basic issues.

Chandrashekhar informed that work has begun on constructing a 47-metre-long and 10-metre-high embankment on the Manjhyar-

Fanehal road, which was damaged in recent disasters, and it will soon be made fit for bus movement. He appreciated the Public Works Department for restoring connectivity swiftly after the calamity, noting that most roads in the region are now operational.  
He also announced that construction of the Bhadehar Panchayat Ghar will commence soon after finalizing a suitable site. The MLA emphasized the government's commitment to strengthening rural infrastructure and improving connectivity to boost the local economy.

Villagers extended a warm welcome to Chandrashekhar and raised issues related to drinking water, road repairs, and employment. Responding promptly, he directed officials to act immediately and urged the youth to benefit from schemes launched by the government.

Dr. Singh to prioritise interdisciplinary innovation and the integration of Indian knowledge traditions

Staff Reporter  
New Delhi:  
The Delhi State Science Teachers' Forum held its 8th Science Teachers' Congress on November 1, 2025, at Ramjas International School in New Delhi.  
The theme of the event was the "International Year of Quantum Science and Technology."  
Dr. J. M. V. Reddy, the Chief Guest and Mission Director of the National Quantum Mission, highlighted India's advancements in quantum research.  
Other notable speakers included Dr. Arun Bhardwaj from ISRO, who discussed future space science initiatives, and Dr. Sachchidanand Singh from CSIR-NPL, who addressed climate change's impact in relation to quantum science.

## Ramnamni Delegates Share Heartfelt Moments with PM Modi

Shridhar Rao  
Raipur:

A heartwarming video capturing a deeply emotional interaction between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and members of the Ramnamni community has gone viral across India. Sharing the video on his social media platform X, Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai described the moment as "emotional and inspirational."

During the Silver Jubilee celebrations of Chhattisgarh's Statehood, an unforgettable scene unfolded when representatives of the Ramnamni Samaj devotees who live a life immersed in the chanting of Lord Ram's name met Prime Minister Modi with affection and reverence.

Chief Minister Sai revealed that, just hours before the Prime Minister's arrival in Raipur, members of the Ramnamni community had met him at the Mahanadi Bhawan Secretariat. During that meeting, they had expressed a heartfelt desire to meet the Prime Minister in person. Arrangements were promptly made



to fulfill this wish.  
"When the Ramnamni devotees met the Prime Minister during the Silver Jubilee event," Chief Minister Sai recounted, "they expressed their wish to adorn him with their traditional mornukut (peacock feather crown) and Rambhakti (action)." What followed, he said, was profoundly moving.  
"The Prime Minister accepted their request with rare grace, affection, and warmth, cre-

ating a moment that left everyone present deeply touched and inspired."  
Chief Minister Sai went on to describe the Ramnamni community as "living embodiments of faith." "For them, Ramnamni is religion, and Rambhakti is action," he said. "The sacred name of 'Ram' inscribed on their bodies is a symbol of surrender, penance, and unwavering devotion. Their entire being is dedicated to

Lord Ram; their life itself is a prayer."

He added, "In the Prime Minister's heartfelt gesture to the Ramnamnis, one could see a divine harmony between bhakti (devotion) and karma (action). The moment reaffirmed that Ram devotion is not confined to worship — it is a way of life, one that Prime Minister Narendra Modi has exemplified through his conduct and values."

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Dr Pramod Kumar Singh takes charge of Vidushi Arundhati centre

Staff Reporter  
New Delhi:  
Maitreyi College, University of Delhi, has entrusted Dr. Pramod Kumar Singh with the responsibility of the newly established Vidushi Arundhati Centre for Indian Knowledge Systems (VAC-IKS).



The Centre has been conceived in alignment with the vision of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, and will function as an Advanced Interdisciplinary Centre for Study and Research, dedicated to creating meaningful academic engagements between India's classical knowledge heritage and contemporary intellectual, technological, and pedagogical contexts. It aims to expand the scope of Indian knowledge systems within global scholarship while

strengthening interdisciplinary learning and collaborative research practices.  
Dr. Singh currently serves as Deputy Dean (Students' Welfare) at the University of Delhi and is also an Adjunct Professor at the Institute of Advanced Sciences, USA, where he contributes to international research in Indian philosophical thought, cultural studies, and linguistics. Within Maitreyi College, he takes on several academic and adminis-

trative responsibilities as Nodal Officer, Grievance Redressal Officer, Liaison Officer (PwD), and Coordinator of the Enabling Unit. He has curated and led over 100 national and international academic programmes, including conferences, lecture series, and workshops. His research papers have been published in reputed academic journals, and his institutional service has been recognized with the National Award for Best Employee (Government of India) and the Excellence Teacher Award (University of Delhi),

along with multiple national and international distinctions. He holds a Ph.D. in Sanskrit, is a Gold Medalist in Philosophy, and is well-versed in Pali and Prakrit.  
Sharing his vision for the Centre, Dr. Singh noted that the focus is not merely on preservation but on creative and socially relevant knowledge transmission.

He said, "Our endeavour is to present India's vast knowledge heritage through contemporary mediums — research collaborations, digital archiving, innovative pedagogies, and emerging technologies, including Artificial Intelligence. The Centre will work with an interdisciplinary spirit, involving scholars and students from sciences, humanities, social sciences, arts, and commerce alike."

Delhi State Science Teachers' Forum Organizes 8th Science Teachers' Congress

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Other notable speakers included Dr. Arun Bhardwaj from ISRO, who discussed future space science initiatives, and Dr. Sachchidanand Singh from CSIR-NPL, who addressed climate change's impact in relation to quantum science.

Mr. S. K. Saraswat and Mrs. Richa Sharma welcomed attendees, while Sh. Tahir Hussain moderated the session. The event attracted over 250 participants, including teachers, education officers, and scientists, reflecting the significant role of science educators in India's scientific future.

Several teachers also presented on related topics and Prof. C. V. Shimray moderated the session. The event attracted over 250 participants, including teachers, education officers, and scientists, reflecting the significant role of science educators in India's scientific future.

## Noida Authority to build two dog shelters

**Noida:** The Noida Authority is going to build two dog shelters in sector 123. Each shelter will house approximately 1,000 sick, rabies-infected, and aggressive dogs. Complete facilities including a veterinarian, treatment rooms, food, and safe housing, will be provided to take care of dogs.

This step follows a Supreme Court order of August 22, 2025, which directed local authorities across the country to sterilize and vaccinate stray dogs before releasing them back into their habitat. However, rabies-infected or aggressive dogs will be kept in shelters. The authority currently runs a shelter in sector 94, caring for 1,000 dogs and sterilizing about 50 dogs daily. According to OSD Mahendra Prasad, doctors there also regularly treat sick and rabies-affected dogs. The authority is also conducting a citywide rabies vaccination drive in collaboration with two NGOs. There is also plan to establish 1,200 designated dog feeding points, which will be coordinated with RWAs and local residents. This ₹2.5 crore project aims to regulate feeding arrangements and reduce conflicts between residents and dog feeders.

As per a Supreme Court order, dogs will only be fed at designated locations, otherwise action could be taken.

## GreNo Authority expedites development in Ecotech-16 sector

**Noida:** The Greater Noida (Gre-No) Authority has accelerated the development of the new industrial sector, Ecotech-16. Under this project, the remaining 9.66 hectare of land in three villages: Dhummanikpur, Khedi, and Sumpura, will now be compulsorily acquired for the establishment of industries.

The district administration has issued a notification for a Social Impact Assessment (SIA). The Gautam Buddha University (GBU) has been selected as the agency for this work, which will complete the survey and submit its report within 60 days. Based on the report, the administration will proceed with the acquisition process. Most farmers have already agreed, but some are dissatisfied with the compensation rate.

Consequently, the administration has decided to acquire the remaining land under the Land Acquisition Act to ensure that there are no obstacles in allocating plots to companies interested in investing. The sector has a total of nine industrial plots. Two of these plots have been allotted to Aavaada Electro Private Limited, which will establish a solar panel manufacturing unit.

An investment of approximately ₹3,000 crore is proposed for this project. The authority stated that infrastructure development, including roads, sewerage, electricity, and water supply, is progressing rapidly in the Ecotech-16 sector. The development of this sector will significantly increase industrial activities and employment opportunities in the Greater Noida West area.

# Religious events spread the light of religion, devotion, and knowledge in life: CM Gupta

Staff Reporter  
New Delhi:

Chief Minister Rekha Gupta on Sunday attended various religious events in Delhi, wishing happiness, peace, and prosperity for the citizens. She highlighted the importance of both Sanatan traditions and the need for development and progress.

These events, according to her, provide mental peace and strengthen religious harmony. Among the significant ceremonies she attended were the Shrimad Bhagwat Katha Gyan Yagna ceremony, Kalash Yatra at Jannash-tani Park, Tulsi Vivah in Shalimar Bagh, and Shyam Baba's Birth anniversary in Pitampura. Many devotees joined her in expressing their devotion.

At the Shrimad Bhagwat Katha Gyan Yagna, she received blessings from Guruji, while the Kalash Yatra featured women in traditional attire carrying Kalash



CM Gupta says religious events inspire devotion and wisdom in life

and chanting devotional hymns.

During the Tulsi Vivah ceremony, the Chief Minister wished well for the people of Delhi

on this sacred occasion, hoping for every home to be filled with happiness and prosperity with the blessings of Mother Tulsi and Lord Shaligram.

She described the event as a symbol of women's faith, family values, and societal unity. The Chief Minister emphasized that these events

**Chief Minister Rekha Gupta attended several religious events. CM wished happiness, peace, and prosperity in the lives of citizens.**

go beyond mere religious practices, serving as a way to bring light through religion, devotion, and knowledge. They inspire following the paths of truth, service, and dedication, connecting individuals to inner peace and moral values.

Gupta noted that faith in God and good deeds can lead to personal welfare and contribute positively to society and the nation. She stressed that religious and cultural events enhance unity, harmony, and spiritual awareness within the community.

The Chief Minister called on all citizens to embrace this spirit of devotion and contribute to love, service, and dedication in society.

## BJP MP's demand to rename city as Indraprastha is preposterous: DPCC

Staff Reporter  
New Delhi:

Delhi Congress president Devenver Yadav here on Sunday said that the demand by a BJP MP to rename city as Indraprastha and the Indira Gandhi International Airport as 'Indraprastha Airport' was preposterous.

Delhi's BJP MPs and BJP government in Delhi instead of taking urgent steps to fix the dilapidated civic infrastructure and life-threatening air and water pollution were indulging in petty politicking to get some cheap mileage, Yadav further said adding even historians and experts have ridiculed BJP MP Praveen Khandelwal's demand to rename Delhi as Indraprastha. Delhi as a name had endured through many centuries which no rulers in the past had tried to tamper with.

He said that it was strange that the BJP MP, who was silent when devotees were forced to hold the Chhath Puja in

the highly toxic Yamuna river and Delhi's Air Quality Index shot over to 400, was now making a demand which will do nothing to alleviate the sufferings of the people. The BJP MP, instead of focusing on addressing such issues, was trying to stoke controversy and chaos by making an illogical demand.

Yadav said that it was the Congress government headed by Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, which had given plots to the poor people of Delhi which benefited lakhs of poor people living in the slum clusters, who played a lead role in the all-round development of Delhi. He said that the 15-year tenure of the Congress government in Delhi, witnessed massive developments as all the modern infrastructure that the city boasts of now were created and constructed by the Congress government while the BJP and AAP only deceived the people through false promises and unprecedented levels of corruption.

## Swami Shri Shradhdhanand Sparks the Spirit of Satyagraha in Delhi: Vijender Gupta



Staff Reporter  
New Delhi:

During the International Arya Samaj Conference held in Rohini to mark the 150-year anniversary of Arya Samaj, Delhi Assembly Speaker Vijender Gupta praised Swami Shri Dayanand for his significant role in India's freedom.

He described Swami Dayanand as not just a saint and reformer, but also the true architect of India's independence, emphasizing how his teachings inspired a spirit of revolution across the country.

Gupta highlighted the importance of Swami Dayanand's work 'Satyarth Prakash', which laid the philosophical groundwork for a new India focused on truth, equality, and national pride.

Gupta noted that Swami Dayanand had a profound impact on the

national movement, influencing key figures like Lala Lajpat Rai and Ram Prasad Bismil.

He also honored Swami Shri Shradhdhanand for his courageous leadership during the 1919 Satyagraha in Delhi, which was a significant event leading to the Jallianwala Bagh massacre. Gupta recalled how when the British fired on peaceful protestors, Swami Shradhdhanand stood at the forefront, highlighting his critical role in motivating the movement. Gandhi acknowledged that Shradhdhanand's words were influential in Delhi.

Gupta drew a link between Delhi's Legislative Assembly and the Imperial Legislative Council, referring to it as the country's first Parliament. He referred to the Rowlatt Act, which was passed there despite strong opposition

from Indians, and stated that it was this injustice that led to Gandhi's call for Satyagraha—a movement that Shradhdhanand helped shape in Delhi.

In his conclusion, Gupta recognized that while Arya Samaj is known for its humanitarian service, it is fundamentally rooted in revolution and reform. He praised Swami Dayanand for creating a movement that transcended caste and creed, emphasizing national pride and righteousness.

He congratulated the Arya Samaj community on their 150 years of service and reiterated that their commitment to Swami Dayanand's ideals of truth, equality, and patriotism continues to resonate today. He called for a renewed commitment to the principles that helped shape modern India.

## Yamuna Authority approves ₹1,700 cr for road between Gr Noida West and Jewar airport

Staff Reporter  
Noida:

A new 25-kilometer road will be constructed to connect Ghaziabad and Greater Noida West to the Noida International Airport. The Yamuna Expressway Industrial Development Authority (YEIDA) for the Yamuna Authority, has approved Rs 1,700 crore for the construction of this road.

The road will be 130 meters wide and will connect the Noida Airport to the aviation hub. The authority has decided to appoint the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) to construct this road. This road will pass through several newly developed areas of Yamuna City before reaching the aviation hub.

This road, connecting Noida Airport to Greater Noida and Ghaziabad, will provide thousands of people with convenient travel. It will connect Noida Airport from the opposite (east) direction. Until now, all roads connect the airport to the opposite (west) direction, i.e., the Yamuna Expressway. According to YEIDA CEO RK Singh, "The authority will spend ₹1,700 crore on this new road project, which will improve



connectivity from Ghaziabad and Greater Noida West to Noida International Airport. The authority will spend ₹1,400 crore to acquire the land required for this road project, which will pass through several villages like Sirsa, Aleda, and Thora before reaching the airport."

He said, "We have decided to involve the NHAI for the construction of this project. The alignment of this road is almost in the final stages and land acquisition work will begin." The upcoming aviation and cargo hub of Noida International Airport will have smooth connectiv-

## Man held for forging CM Office letterheads duping poor patients in Delhi

New Delhi:

The police have arrested a contractual employee of the MCD for allegedly forging official letterheads of the Delhi Chief Minister's Office and duping poor patients by promising them free treatment in private hospitals under the EWS quota, an official said on Sunday.

The accused, Sonu (77), a resident of Tagore Garden, was arrested on October 30 following a complaint from the Chief Minister's Office, he said.

Investigation revealed that in the last one and a half months, Sonu had written five such fake letters to hospitals — Action Bahaj (Paschim Vihar), Maharaja Agrasen (Punjabi Bagh), BLK Max (Karol Bagh), Mata Chanan Devi (Janakpuri), and Sir Ganga Ram Hospital (Old Rajinder Nagar) police said.

According to police, the matter came to light after officials from Maharaja Agrasen Hospital in Delhi sent an email to the CMO seeking confirmation of a letter they had received recommending free treatment for a patient, Shyam Shankar, under the EWS category.

"The letter bore the forged signature of the top officials of the CM's office. The hospital authorities grew suspicious as the letter contained spelling mistakes, inconsistent fonts, and improper alignment," Deputy Commissioner of Police (North) Raja Bantia in a statement said.

The officer further said that they also received a phone call from a man identifying himself as Balbir Singh Rathore from the CM Office, who directed them to proceed with the treatment. Finding the communication dubious, the hospital reached out to the CM Office for verification.

Subsequently, Officer on Special Duty to the Chief Minister, SC Vashistha, lodged a complaint at the Civil Lines police station, alleging that someone had fraudulently prepared forged letters using the official letterhead of the CM's office, according to a statement.

# Air quality worsens in Delhi as weak winds trap pollutants

New Delhi:

Delhi's air quality worsened on Sunday as weak winds trapped pollutants, raising the overall AQI to 366 in the "very poor" category with three monitoring stations recording "severe" air above 400, Centre Pollution Control Board data showed.

The PM<sub>2.5</sub> concentration stood at 189.6 micrograms per cubic metre and PM<sub>10</sub> at 316. PM<sub>2.5</sub> refers to the fine inhalable particles with diameters that are 2.5 micrometres or smaller, while PM<sub>10</sub> includes slightly larger particles up to 10 micrometres in diameter, according to the CPCB.

At such levels, these pollutants can cause breathing discomfort, especially among people with lung or heart diseases, children and the elderly.

The overall air quality index (AQI) rose sharply to 366 from 303 recorded



ed a day earlier, CPCB data showed.

Haryana's Dharuhera recorded an AQI of 434, falling in the "severe" category, while Bhiwandi in Maharashtra registered "very poor" air at 376 — both worse than Delhi. Neighbouring cities in

the National Capital Region (NCR) also reported "very poor" air quality — Ghaziabad (351), Gurugram (357), Noida (348) and Greater Noida (340). Faridabad, however, recorded "poor" AQI at 215.

According to the Air Quality Early Warning System (AQEWS) of Delhi, the wind speed dropped below 8 kmph from the northwest direction during evening and night hours, reducing the dispersion of pollutants. It added that a ventilation index lower than 6,000 m<sup>2</sup>/s and wind

**At such levels, these pollutants can cause breathing discomfort, especially among people with lung or heart diseases, children and the elderly.**

speeds less than 10 kmph are unfavourable for pollutant dispersal.

The air quality is likely to remain in the "very poor" category till November 4, the AQEWS said.

Three monitoring stations in the capital recorded "severe" air quality with readings above 400, with Wazirpur reporting the highest level at 413.

Another 28 stations registered "very poor" air quality with readings above 300, according to CPCB's Sameer app.

An AQI between 0 and 50 is considered "good", 51-100 "satisfactory", 101-200 "mod-

erate", 201-300 "poor", 301-400 "very poor" and 401-500 "severe", according to CPCB standards.

The maximum temperature in Delhi was recorded at 30.7 degrees Celsius on Sunday, 0.5 degree below the seasonal average, while the minimum settled at 16.8 degrees Celsius, 1.5 notches above normal, according to the India Meteorological Department (IMD).

The humidity stood at 75 per cent at 5.30 PM.

The weather office has forecast shallow fog for Monday, with the maximum and minimum temperatures likely to hover around 30 and 15 degrees Celsius, respectively.

A ban on the entry of commercial vehicles not registered in Delhi and not compliant with BS-III or lower emission standards came into force in the national capital on November 1.

# Operation Sindoor: India's 100-Hour War of Precision and Honour

**O**peration Sindoor—India's decisive 100-hour war—marked a new era in the nation's military history. Conducted between 6th and 9th May 2025, the operation demonstrated India's technological supremacy, strategic foresight, and moral strength. Unlike previous wars that involved large-scale troop movements and prolonged engagements, Operation Sindoor was a short, high-intensity conflict characterized by air power, precision strikes, drones, cyber warfare, and joint-service coordination. The operation was not driven by territorial ambition but by moral outrage and national security imperatives—an answer to the brutal killing of 26 innocent Indian pilgrims at Pahalgam by Pakistan-sponsored terrorists. In just 100 hours, India proved that it could strike with surgical precision, uphold humanitarian values, and redefine the modern art of limited warfare.

**Background: The Trigger of Terror and the Breaking Point:** The immediate cause of Operation Sindoor was the Pahalgam massacre in early May 2025, where unarmed Indian civilians were targeted after being identified by their religion. The barbarity of the act—executed by terrorists trained and sheltered in Pakistan-occupied territories—shocked the nation and the world.

India, which had shown restraint for decades in the face of cross-border terrorism, reached a moral and strategic threshold. Public outrage, political consensus, and military readiness converged to initiate a decisive yet limited punitive action. The operation was designed to destroy terrorist infrastructure, neutralize high-value targets, and send an unambiguous message that India's patience should never be mistaken for weakness.

**Strategic Planning and Objectives:** The operation's code name Sindoor—meaning sacred red, symbolizing purity and sacrifice—was chosen to represent India's righteous resolve to protect its honour. Planning began under the supervision of the Chief of Defence Staff (CDS), General Anil Chauhan, and was executed through joint coordination among the Army, Navy, and Air Force, supported by intelligence agencies such as RAW, DIA, and NTRG.

## The key objectives were:

- To eliminate terrorist training camps and launch pads operating across Pakistan-occupied territory.
- To destroy logistic and command infrastructure used for cross-border terrorism.
- To inflict maximum strategic damage within a limited timeframe, avoiding civilian casualties.
- To demonstrate India's capability for precision warfare without escalating into a full-scale conflict.

## This limited yet powerful response would redefine deterrence dynamics in South Asia.

**The Nature of Warfare:** From Ground Engagement to Technological Supremacy: Operation Sindoor was distinct from previous conflicts such as Kargil (1999) or Balakot (2019) in its technological depth and operational tempo. The war was fought across multiple dimensions—air, space, cyber, and intelligence—with minimal ground engagement.

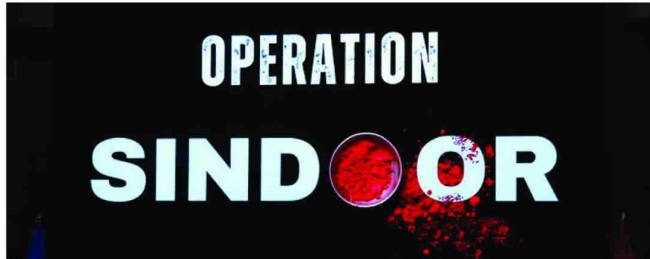
**Air Power:** The Indian Air Force (IAF) spearheaded the offensive using Rafale, Su-30 MKI, and Tejas Mk1A jets, supported by AWACS and mid-air refuellers. Precision-guided munitions struck terror hubs in Skardu, Muzaffarabad, and Manshera with surgical accuracy.

**Drones and Missiles:** Swarm drones and loitering munitions played a decisive role, targeting enemy bunkers and communication nodes. BrahMos cruise missiles, launched from both land and sea



By Major (Dr) TC Rao

Veteran, Military Historian



platforms, neutralized command centres and ammunition depots.

**Cyber Warfare:** Indian cyber units crippled Pakistan's communication grids, radar systems, and propaganda networks within hours, ensuring strategic paralysis.

**Intelligence Dominance:** Real-time satellite imagery and AI-assisted data analytics ensured precision in target identification and post-strike verification.

This was India's first fully network-centric war, where technology multiplied the effectiveness of every strike.

**Role of the Indian Army:** Guarding the Frontlines with Discipline: While the air campaign dominated headlines, the Indian Army maintained a crucial defensive and deterrent posture along the Line of Control (LoC). Infantry and artillery units were mobilized in readiness to counter any Pakistani retaliation.

Elite formations such as Para (Special Forces) and Ghatok Platoons conducted limited cross-border raids on specific terror camps, ensuring zero collateral damage.

The Army's air defence and missile regiments neutralized any attempted drone or rocket intrusions from across the border.

Psychological operations (PsyOps) were launched to demoralize enemy ranks and reassure local populations.

Notably, the operation reaffirmed the Army's doctrine of "swift response, minimum escalation", maintaining control even amidst provocation.

**Role of the Navy:** Silent Strength from the Sea: The Indian Navy played a strategic role in deterrence and dominance. Its Western Fleet moved into offensive positions in the Arabian Sea, cutting off potential reinforcements and ensuring sea-lane security.

INS Chennai and INS Kolkata launched BrahMos strikes against terrorist supply routes near Karachi and Gwadar.

The submarine arm, including INS Arihant, remained on strategic patrol, providing second-strike capability.

Naval aviation units monitored coastal movements, ensuring Pakistan's naval assets remained docked.

The naval deployment served as a silent deterrent, ensuring the conflict remained contained and under India's control.

## 100 Hours of Execution: Phases of Operation Sindoor:

**Phase I (6th May 2025):** The operation began with a massive electronic and cyber offensive, disabling enemy radars and communication. Within the first six hours, precision drone strikes hit terror camps in PoK, eliminating dozens of militant leaders.

**Phase II (7th May):** Coordinated air and missile strikes destroyed major command centres, arms depots, and launch pads. The IAF achieved air superiority within 24 hours. Pakistani retaliatory attempts were intercepted and neutralized.

**Phase III (8th May):** Special Forces executed cross-border raids on identified terror hubs, retrieving intelligence material and confirming destruction of key assets. Civilian areas were carefully avoided, highlighting India's commitment to humanitarian principles.

**Phase IV (9th May):** By the 100th hour, the mission objectives were met. With mounting international pressure and domestic exhaustion, Pakistan sought a ceasefire through diplomatic channels. India, having achieved its goals, agreed—on its own terms.

**Global Reactions and Diplomatic Impact:** Operation Sindoor garnered widespread international attention. Most global powers acknowledged India's right to self-defence and praised its measured, precise, and non-escalatory approach.

The United States, France, and Japan expressed solidarity with India's anti-terror campaign.

The United Nations Security Council refrained from condemning India, noting the operation's precision and respect for international law.

Even adversarial nations recognized the professionalism of Indian forces and the restraint shown in avoiding civilian harm.

Diplomatically, the operation elevated India's image as a responsible global power capable of defend-

ing itself while upholding humanitarian principles.

**Lessons and Military Takeaways:** Operation Sindoor offered crucial lessons for the Indian military's future doctrine:

**Technological Integration:** AI, drones, and cyber tools have become indispensable in modern warfare.

**Joint Command:** Coordination among the Army, Navy, and Air Force ensured seamless operations—validating the future concept of Integrated Theatre Commands.

**Rapid Response Doctrine:** The 100-hour timeline demonstrated India's ability to deliver decisive results before global diplomatic intervention.

**Precision over Prolongation:** Limited yet effective operations achieved deterrence without prolonged conflict.

**Information Control:** Psychological warfare and media management helped maintain narrative dominance and public morale.

The operation symbolized a transition from traditional attrition warfare to smart, strategic, and technology-led deterrence.

**Human and Moral Dimension:** Courage and Honour: Behind every successful strike were thousands of soldiers, airmen, and sailors working with discipline and dedication. The Ahir, Sikh, Gorkha, Rajputana, and Kumaon regiments, among others, stood vigilant across the border, ready for any escalation.

India's restraint in avoiding civilian casualties reflected its ethical code of conduct in war—fighting with honour, not hatred. The fallen soldiers were remembered as heroes who carried forward India's timeless military tradition of "Veer Bhogya Vasundhara" (The brave inherit the earth).

**The Legacy of Operation Sindoor: A New Era of Deterrence:** Operation Sindoor redefined India's approach to national security. It showcased a new military doctrine of precision, preparedness, and proportional response. The war also strengthened the morale of the armed forces and the confidence of the nation.

Strategically, it established a credible deterrent against cross-border terrorism.

Technologically, it demonstrated India's ability to conduct network-centric warfare independently.

Morally, it reaffirmed India's commitment to righteousness even in conflict.

The operation's success has since become a case study in military academies, symbolizing India's transformation into a 21st-century military power guided by both might and morality.

Operation Sindoor will be remembered not just as a 100-hour war but as a turning point in India's defence history. It was a conflict fought not for conquest but for justice, honour, and deterrence. The synergy of the armed forces, supported by technology and guided by moral conviction, ensured a swift and decisive outcome.

In the annals of military history, Operation Sindoor stands as a testament to India's evolving strength—where precision replaced escalation, technology complemented courage, and honour triumphed over terror. It proved to the world that India, when provoked beyond tolerance, can respond with both power and principle—firm, fearless, and fair.

# Developed India 2047: A New Call for Compassion, Coexistence, and Environmental Ethics

**A**s India moves toward the centenary of its independence in 2047, it is not merely pursuing economic development, but also resolving to rebuild a moral, balanced, and humane society. But this resolve will only be meaningful if development is founded on the welfare of all creation, not just humans. Today, when we talk of a "developed India," its scope appears limited to industry, technology, infrastructure, and income growth. But a truly developed nation will be one where human qualities like compassion, coexistence, and kindness are at the heart of policies and plans.

The Constitution of India exemplifies this vision. Article 48(A) directs the State to protect the environment and wildlife, while Article 51(A)(g) establishes the fundamental duty of every citizen to have compassion for all living creatures. These provisions are not merely legal rules, but the hallmarks of a civilizational ideology based on the principles of non-violence, compassion, and "Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam." For centuries, Indian culture has taught that every living being in creation has its own dignity, purpose, and rights.

Yet, animal welfare has been left far behind in the race for modern development. Industrialization, urbanization, and the race for reckless consumption have not only impacted natural resources but also threatened the survival of countless animal species. The declining numbers of vultures, the shrinking habitats of elephants and leopards, the impact of pollution on marine life—these all reflect this imbalance. When even a single species disap-



By Priyanka Saurabh

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pers from an ecosystem, it impacts the entire environment and human life.

When we cut down forests, pollute rivers, and destroy animal habitats in the name of development, it's not just a harm to nature but a weakening of the roots of humanity itself. Therefore, it's essential that India's vision of a "Developed India 2047" not rest solely on human material prosperity, but rather embrace the welfare of all living beings as its fundamental goal.

Integrating animal welfare into India's development approach is not just a matter of sensitivity, but a prerequisite for sustainable development. Livestock is the backbone of India's rural economy. Millions of families depend on the milk, wool, eggs, and other products they provide. If these animals are cared for, fed, well-being, and treated with respect, productivity will increase and rural incomes will stabilize.

Humane animal husbandry and balanced use of resources also benefit soil fertility, water quality,

and environmental sustainability.

Additionally, animal welfare is directly linked to public health. Events like the COVID-19 pandemic and Nipah virus have demonstrated that animal health, human health, and the environment are deeply interconnected. An imbalance in one area impacts the others. Therefore, it is essential that the Ministries of Environment, Agriculture, and Health work together to implement the spirit of a "One Health Approach" at the policy level.

Animal welfare approaches should also be incorporated into education, urban planning, and industry. If the school curriculum instills the values of compassion and coexistence towards all living things, future generations will naturally become more sensitive. Urban planning should include wildlife corridors, animal crossings, and humane arrangements for stray animals. The wildlife paths created on the Delhi-Mumbai Highway are inspiring examples in this direction.

India should also update its outdated animal pro-

tection laws. The Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960, needs timely amendments to strengthen penal provisions and ensure real impact. Furthermore, expanding veterinary services and scientific care can improve livestock quality.

Technological innovations can also be helpful in this area. Artificial intelligence-based surveillance, satellite mapping, and electronic security systems are playing a revolutionary role in wildlife conservation. The e-surveillance system in Kaziranga National Park has significantly reduced poaching incidents. This is proof that combining science and compassion can be the most effective solution to protect our environment and wildlife.

Promoting "cruelty-free production" in animal-based industries—such as dairy, leather, and textiles—will not only promote ethical trade but also enhance India's reputation internationally. Consumers also need to be aware that choosing ethical products is a social responsibility.

The Indian philosophies of "Ahimsa Paramo Dharma" and "Sarve Bhavantu Sukhina" are not just religious maxims, but rather a maxim for sustainable living. If animal welfare is combined with "Mission Lifestyle" (which emphasizes adopting environmentally friendly living), India will emerge as a nation that combines development with compassion.

Amit Shah's 'Pandavas vs Jungle Raj' Pitch: The Battle for Bihar's Political Dharma

Mitali Chandola Patna:

When Amit Shah takes the stage, it is rarely just an election rally — it is a political theatre of ideology, strategy, and sharp symbolism. His latest speech in Bihar, invoking the 'Pandavas vs Jungle Raj' metaphor, was no exception. In one stroke, the Union Home Minister transformed a regional campaign pitch into a moral and political narrative about governance, order, and the fight for Bihar's future.

The choice of metaphor was deliberate and layered. The 'Pandavas', representing the NDA alliance led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, were cast as defenders of dharma — justice, progress, and social stability. The opposing forces, implied to be the RJD-led opposition, were painted as the return of 'Jungle Raj' — a term that continues to haunt Bihar's political imagination, symbolising lawlessness and misgovernance of the 1990s.

For Shah, Bihar is more than a battleground; it is a barometer of political credibility. His speech combined electoral rhetoric with developmental arithmetic — listing a slew of projects that signal continuity and growth: a medical college in Mahua, a sprawling industrial park promising thousands of jobs, expressways linking the state's neglected interiors, and new bridges stitching together divided geographies. These are not mere infrastructure announcements; they are instruments of narrative — bricks and mortar for the idea of a 'new Bihar.'

Punjab reclaims peace as Punjab Govt's crackdown crushes crime and drug networks

Chandigarh:

Punjab's streets are calmer today than they have been in years, as Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann's government declares victory in its campaign against organized crime and drugs. When the Aam Aadmi Party came to power, gangsterism and narcotics were the twin threats that had eroded the state's safety and youth's future. Within months, the new administration vowed to dismantle both, marking the beginning of what it called a 'zero tolerance' era.

At the heart of this turnaround is the Anti-Gangster Task Force (AGTF), a specialized police unit formed immediately after Mann took office. Equipped with advanced technology and given operational freedom, the AGTF has led a statewide offensive against organized crime. Its raids and encounters dismantled several major gangs, curbing a problem that had flourished for years under political protection.

The results are visible in data. As per the National Crime Records Bureau, Punjab recorded a decline in murders, kidnappings, and thefts in 2022 compared to 2021. Officials say the trend reflects the government's commitment to restoring law and order through swift and uncompromising action.

# CM Yogi stresses Judicial strength for good governance

TSN/Lucknow:

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath attended the 4th Convocation Ceremony of Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia National Law University, Lucknow, on Sunday, congratulating the graduating students and wishing them success in their future endeavors. Calling the university a matter of pride for both Uttar Pradesh and the nation, the Chief Minister said its graduates are playing a vital role in strengthening the country's judicial system.

He noted that the convocation mantra 'Satyam Vad, Dharmam Char' reflects India's ancient Gurukul tradition and resonates with the judicial maxims 'Dharmo Rakshati Rakshitah' and 'Yato Dharmasya Tato Jayat.' CM Yogi said that for India, dharma is a way of life, not mere worship, and that fulfilling one's duties faithfully is true religion. He emphasized that a robust judicial system is essential for



democracy, stating, 'The stronger the judiciary, the easier it becomes to achieve the objectives of good governance.' Referring to the ancient ideal of Ram Rajya, he said just and impartial governance can be realized today through modern systems of good governance.

Highlighting efforts to strengthen the judiciary, the Chief Minister said the state government is promoting e-Courts, Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR), Cyber Law training, and the use of Artificial Intelligence (AI). He added that modern infrastructure including classrooms,

sports complexes, and hostels—is being developed across universities, alongside skill development and training for judicial officers, prosecutors, police, and administrative officials. CM Yogi described the Amri Kaal as a period of transformative judicial reform, marked by

the introduction of three new legal codes—the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, and Bharatiya Sakshya Sanhita.

Underlining the importance of harmony between the Bench and the Bar—the Bench represents wisdom, and the Bar represents sensitivity. When wisdom and sensitivity come together, true justice takes shape.

The Chief Minister informed that integrated court complexes are being developed in Uttar Pradesh, with funds already released for 10 districts. These complexes will house all levels of courts, advocates' chambers, and residential facilities within a single campus. He added that the Allahabad High Court has become a model of world-class infrastructure.

## Minister Nandi to attend meet at Agra, footwear industry's grand showcase



Akash Jain Agra:

Uttar Pradesh's Industrial Development Minister Nand Gopal Gupta 'Nandi' has been invited to attend the upcoming Meet at Agra event, one of the country's largest gatherings for the footwear industry. A delegation from the Agra Footwear Manufacturers and Exporters Chamber (AFMEC) met the minister at his official residence on Kalidas Marg in Lucknow on Saturday and extended a formal invitation for the three-day event, which will be held from November 7 to 9 at the Agra Trade Centre.

Minister Nandi assured the delegation of his presence as chief guest and praised the event's role in promoting innovation, investment, and global recognition for Uttar Pradesh's footwear sector.

He said the state government, under the leadership of Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath and guided by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, is committed to advancing the vision of Aatmanirbhar Bharat and Aatmanirbhar Uttar Pradesh.

Discussions during the meeting also focused on the state's growing industrial ecosystem and policies designed to attract new industries.

AFMEC President Gopal Gupta said the 7th edition of Meet at Agra will bring together factory owners and their associates to explore emerging trends, technologies, and market opportunities. 'Meet at Agra is not just an exhibition—it has become a festival for the footwear industry, a platform where innovation meets opportunity,' he said.

## Indo-German Pact Sparks a Green Energy Revolution

By Mitali Chandola Chennai:

In an era when energy defines both economic might and environmental responsibility, India and Germany have quietly scripted one of the most compelling success stories in global green diplomacy. Parliamentary State Secretary Johann Sathoff's recent visit to India marks not just a ceremonial milestone in the 25th anniversary of Indo-German strategic partnership, but a reaffirmation of how sustainability can shape geopolitics.

The visit, spanning Delhi-NCR and Chennai, was anchored in tangible action. At the Renewable Energy India Expo 2025, Sathoff inaugurated the German Pavilion, showcasing innovations in solar, wind, and green hydrogen—technologies that now define the core of the global climate dialogue. What stood out was the unified 'Team Germany' approach, bringing together ministries, financial institutions like GIZ and KfW, and private enterprises, all aligned with India's renewable momentum.

The strategic under-



tone of this collaboration extends beyond trade or technology. It lies in shared purpose—two democracies harnessing green growth as a pathway to equitable development. Sathoff's interactions with Indian policymakers and CEOs of the solar sector emphasized a mutual learning model: Germany sharing its advanced engineering expertise while India leads in scalable innovation and policy-driven clean transition.

The visit's most symbolic moment came at the Indian Agriculture

Research Institute, where Sathoff reviewed India's 'tremendous' Agri-Photovoltaic (Agri-PV) demonstration—an innovation marrying solar energy and agriculture. The idea of a 'third harvest,' combining food and clean energy, captures the essence of climate-smart rural transformation. It's a vision that redefines how sustainability meets livelihood.

As Sathoff reflected on India's 'tremendous' energy and optimism, his remarks resonated with a truth the world must heed: green cooperation is not just an

environmental imperative—it's an economic and moral one. The Indo-German partnership, grounded in trust and innovation, symbolizes a global shift from energy dependency to energy democracy.

In this convergence of policy, purpose, and people, India and Germany aren't merely advancing renewable energy—they are crafting a template for global sustainability diplomacy. A partnership born of pragmatism, powered by innovation, and poised to illuminate the world's clean energy future.

## Nirankari Mission Inspires Unity and Selfless Service: CM Saini

Komal Kamola Chandigarh:

Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini said that the Nirankari Mission has shown humanity's true path of unity, rising above barriers of caste, religion, language, and region. He was speaking at the 78th Nirankari Sant Samagam held in Samalkha, Panipat, on Sunday.

Extending his greetings to devotees attending the Samagam, Saini praised the Nirankari Mission for its tireless efforts in spreading the message of love, peace, and God-knowledge across society. He called the Mission a guiding light that has upheld the spirit of selfless service for decades.

Reflecting on the event's theme of introspection, the Chief Minister said that in the rush to change the outer world, people often forget to look within. 'This Samagam gives us the opportunity for self-reflection, bringing us closer to the Almighty,' he said. True introspection, he added, means



examining whether one is living a life rooted in compassion, kindness, and love.

Describing the Nirankari Mission as a beacon of social service, Saini noted that its activities go far beyond spirituality. From blood donation camps and tree plantation drives to education support and disaster relief, the Mission, he said, continues to embody the principle that 'a true servant is one who lives for others.'

He also lauded the Mission's recent initiatives in environmental protection, drug

de-addiction, and public welfare, calling them vital contributions to a healthier and more harmonious society.

The Chief Minister commended the global influence of the Mission under the guidance of Baba Hardev Singh Ji, Mata Savinder Hardev Ji, and Satguru Mata Sudiksha Ji Maharaj, who have carried forward the message of 'Be human first,' making love, cooperation, and devotion the foundation of life.

MLA Pramod Vij and Samalkha MLA Manmohan Bhadana were also present on the occasion.

## Lamps Lit in Tribute to Karsevaks Martyred in Ayodhya

Staff Reporter Mathura:

In a solemn tribute to the Ram devotee karsevaks who were martyred on November 2, 1990, during the Shri Ram Janmabhoomi movement, hundreds of lamps were lit near Raja Ghat at Vishram Ghat and offered into the Yamuna River by various Hindu organizations.

Senior Hindu leaders including Gopeshwar Nath Chaturvedi, VHP leader Acharya Brajendra Nagar, Vijay Bahadur Singh, Prayag Nath Chaturvedi, Yogesh Upadhyay Awa, Vijay Agrawal, Banendra Nath Kamashwar Nath Chaturvedi, former councillor Ramdas Chaturvedi, and Raman Bihari Tandon attended the ceremony and paid homage to the martyrs.

Speakers recalled the events of 1990, when Chief Minister Mulayam Singh Yadav had declared that 'not even a bird will be able to fly



into Ayodhya.' Defying the warning, lakhs of Ram devotees gathered in Ayodhya, hoisted the flag atop the temple dome, and offered prayers to Ram Lalla. Following this, on November 2, 1990, police opened fire on unarmed devotees chanting 'Shri Ram Jai Ram Jai Ram,' leaving the sacred land soaked in the blood of martyrs.

Participants said the lamp offering symbolized remembrance and prayers for the peace of those souls who laid down their lives for the

Ram temple cause. Tributes were also paid to Neeraj Chaturasi and Vijay Patal Vale, who were martyred in Mathura during the same movement.

Former councillor Moolchand Arora, Gangadhar Garg, Murari Lal Agrawal, Sandeep Chaturvedi, and Vishnu Das Agrawal were among those present. The event concluded with chants echoing through the ghats: 'Do not forget the martyrs of Ayodhya' and 'Ayodhya is ours, now it's Mathura's turn.'

## Punjab govt delivers relief through zero power bills

Chandigarh:

Punjab is witnessing a transformation in governance with the Bhagwant Mann-led government's 'Zero Electricity Bill' guarantee, a move that has lifted a major financial burden from ordinary citizens. What began as an election promise has turned into a landmark welfare reform that has illuminated homes across the state—both literally and figuratively.

According to official data, 90 percent of Punjab's families are now receiving zero electricity bills. In just one billing cycle between August and September 2025, the bills of 73.87 lakh families came to zero, providing them monthly savings of ₹1,500 to ₹2,000. Many households say this money is now being used for their children's education and daily needs.

Since the scheme's launch in July 2022, the government has issued more than 11.39 crore 'Zero Electricity Bills' till October 31, 2025. In total, over 13.46 crore consum-



ers have benefited from subsidized power. The Mann government says these figures reflect not just successful implementation but also the people's trust in the 'Punjab Model' of governance.

Officials argue that this success contrasts sharply with previous governments, which, they claim, failed to provide basic economic relief despite decades in power. The administration insists that what sets the current model apart is its clarity of purpose and fiscal discipline.

The 'Zero Bill' guarantee is also part of the

broader Roshan Punjab mission, which focuses on both households and farmers. Around 13.5 lakh farmers continue to receive free electricity for agricultural use, reducing their input costs and strengthening Punjab's role as the country's food provider.

The consistency of the initiative has reinforced its credibility. In 2023-24 alone, 3.60 crore zero bills were issued, while in 2024-25 the figure reached 3.46 crore. The government says this sustained relief is evidence of sound financial management rather than populism.

Under the scheme, households consuming up to 600 units of electricity pay nothing—not even fixed charges, meter rent, or taxes. Additionally, weaker sections, including SC, BC, and BPL families, pay only for units exceeding the 600-unit threshold, ensuring equitable benefit distribution.

With over 11 crore zero bills, 90 percent of homes getting relief, and continued support to farmers, the Mann government says Punjab has entered a new era of governance—one defined not by political promises, but by delivered guarantees.

# Bihar's Political Crossroads: The Battle Between Power, Pride, and Possibility



By Dr. Anil Singh

Editor - STAR Views; Editorial Advisor - Top Story



Dr. Anil Singh

Vinod Sharma

**Q Dr. Anil Singh:** Vinod ji, welcome to Topstory Bihar's political ground seems to be shifting fast — the social chemistry, economic aspirations, and power alignments are all in flux. Do you see the state truly heading for change, or will history repeat itself?

**A Vinod Sharma:** Change in Bihar is never linear — it's cyclical. Every decade brings a new alignment of old players. But yes, this election carries an unusual energy. For the first time in years, a credible third narrative is visible — led by Prashant Kishor. His campaign is smart, aggressive, and emotionally resonant. He's speaking directly to the youth, to aspiration, and to the forgotten class. Whether he converts this emotional momentum into votes remains the big question.

What's equally telling is how the NDA released its manifesto — with all the top leaders, including Nitish Kumar, standing silently on stage for a photo-op and then walking off, leaving Samrat Choudhary alone to explain it. The message was clear: Nitish is being visually and symbolically sidelined. BJP leaders avoid even uttering his name as the CM face. When the INDIA bloc openly declares Tejaswini Yadav as their leader, BJP's silence on Nitish is deafening. Are they preparing to retire him?

Remember, Amit Shah recently said in Samrat Choudhary's constituency, "Vote for him, I'll talk to the PM to get him promoted." Promotion from deputy CM means only one thing — chief ministership. If Samrat is being

"promoted," it's obvious someone else is being "demoted."

And now, promising one crore jobs after 20 years in power — that's political theatre, not policy. The people of Bihar deserve sincerity, not slogans.

**Q Dr. Anil Singh:** That's sharply put. But Bihar's politics has always been caste-anchored. Voters here don't support parties — they support their caste equations. Given that, can Prashant Kishor really disrupt the RJD-BJP bipolar turf? Or will Nitish once again become the balancing figure between the two poles?

**A Vinod Sharma:** Excellent point. Bihar's democracy runs on caste hydraulics. Prashant Kishor's challenge is to transcend that and craft a developmental discourse. But if the NDA fails to project Nitish as CM, his base — especially the extremely backward castes and his Kurmi community — will feel abandoned.

Nitish's core "Luv-Kush" coalition — Kurmis and Koeris — is being fractured. Samrat Choudhary, a Koeri, represents one half, and ironically, his father Shakunt Choudhary was once a Nitish loyalist. Now the son is being groomed to replace the mentor. That's not just politics; it's poetic irony.

Prashant Kishor, a Brahmin by caste, is drawing the educated, restless youth. But the real test is — can he breach the caste firewall? His campaign touches hearts, but Bihar's ballot still follows bloodlines.

**Q Dr. Anil Singh:** Samrat Choudhary may be visible, but he's not BJP's ideological anchor in Bihar. The party's vote bank is organizational, not personal. RJD's Yadav-Muslim base is equally unmovable. The real battle seems to be about new equations — particularly the inclusion of the Mallah community. How do you see the NDA managing this churn?

**A Vinod Sharma:** That's the million-dollar question. The Vikassheel Insaan Party, representing Mallahs, adds a layer of uncertainty. But its real influence is limited. The bigger story is this: Bihar is facing an election without anger against Nitish. Imagine — a man ruling for two decades, and still no deep anti-incumbency!

Why? Because he created new political constituencies — the extremely backward classes and women. His empowerment programs for women have changed Bihar's social landscape. Yet, in the NDA's discourse today, women have vanished. No one is even suggesting a woman chief minister.

If Nitish feels disrespected or ignored, he has every reason to fall away. And if he does, NDA's farewell party will be far from pleasant — it will be politically explosive.

**Q Dr. Anil Singh:** Fair point. Samrat Choudhary lacks Nitish's administrative stature and Tejaswini's mass connect. Without BJP's machinery, his relevance fades quickly. If Nitish feels cornered, do you think he will once again switch sides?

**A Vinod Sharma:** Of course, he can — and he will if pushed. Bihar's political DNA is built on pride. If Nitish Kumar is humiliated, Bihar will react emotionally. Let's be honest, Biharis won't accept a rubber-stamp Chief Minister imposed from Delhi. They may forgive failures, but not insult.

Bihar is not Rajasthan or Madhya Pradesh where faceless leaders are appointed overnight. Here, politics is personal, and legacy matters. BJP might be underestimating the emotional voltage of Bihar's political pride.

**Q Dr. Anil Singh:** There's a growing view that if injustice is done to Nitish, he has alternative doors open — and those waiting behind them are more than willing to welcome him back. Would such a move alter not just Bihar's, but Delhi's power arithmetic?

**A Vinod Sharma:** Absolutely. Any mistreatment of Nitish will echo far beyond Patna. Delhi understands this — which is why the BJP's top brass is treading carefully. Rahul Gandhi's quip that Nitish "would even dance if asked" was tasteless, but in the rough language of politics, such barbs happen.

Still, the deeper truth is: if BJP continues to use Nitish merely as a tool, it's playing with fire. The man has kept them relevant in Bihar for years. To now discard him would be political arrogance.

Let's be honest — the BJP fattened itself on Nitish's goodwill. They once used Chirag Paswan

## Introduction

As Bihar heads into a decisive electoral battle, the state's political air is thick with uncertainty. Nitish Kumar, the long-standing chief minister, finds himself caught between allies who seem hesitant to claim him and opponents who view him as a spent force. At the same time, new entrants like Prashant Kishor are stirring public sentiment in unexpected ways.

To decode the changing pulse of Bihar's politics — from caste alignments to coalition fractures — **Top Story spoke to veteran journalist Vinod Sharma**, known for his sharp political insight and deep understanding of India's power corridors. In this candid conversation with **Dr. Anil Singh, Editor of STAR Views and Editorial Advisor to Top Story**, Sharma reflects on the shifting alliances, the BJP's strategy, and Nitish Kumar's uncertain yet pivotal position in Bihar's political destiny.

to split his vote, reducing JDU to a secondary player while keeping RJD dominant. This time, they want to become Bihar's number one party — even if that means burning the bridge with Nitish. That's not alliance politics; that's opportunism.

**Q Dr. Anil Singh:** Let's talk about the opposition. Do you think the Mahagathabandhan — particularly RJD — is well-positioned to emerge as the leading bloc, given its MY (Muslim-Yadav) base and the addition of Mallah votes?

**A Vinod Sharma:** RJD continues to be the number one party in terms of base strength. But their challenge is arithmetic. Being No. 1 isn't enough — they need the numbers to form a government. The Congress remains their weakest link. Despite contesting widely, its winnability looks bleak. Last time, it contested 70 seats and won only 19. This time, it may fare worse.

The INDIA bloc's unity came too late. Rahul Gandhi's campaign lacked intensity and timing. Coordination among allies was half-hearted. It's a coalition stitched with anxiety, not ambition.

**Q Dr. Anil Singh:** Final question, Vinod ji — after two decades in power, Nitish Kumar still carries an image of integrity and

efficiency. Bihar's infrastructure has transformed under his leadership. Does he still have the moral and political capital to lead the NDA on his own strength?

**A Vinod Sharma:** Nitish remains Bihar's most credible face. But the BJP is trying to project him as yesterday's man. Occasionally his erratic public gestures fuel that narrative, and the BJP uses it to justify sidelining him.

Yes, the roads, bridges, and basic infrastructure have improved immensely — that's his legacy. But Bihar's real deficits remain in healthcare, education, and employment. There's no world-class medical institution, no major university hub. Nitish's governance created progress, not prosperity. Yet, in the moral vacuum of Bihar politics, he stands as the only leader with credibility. And that makes him indispensable — however inconvenient that truth may be for his allies.

**Dr. Anil Singh:** Well said, Vinod ji. Bihar stands at a political turning point — and Nitish Kumar remains both its anchor and its uncertainty. Thank you for sharing your sharp and candid insights with STAR Views.

**Vinod Sharma:** Thank you, Dr. Singh. Always a pleasure to speak on Top Story.

## SPORTS

### Washington, Arshdeep star in India's series-levelling win

**A** blitz from Washington Sundar and Jitesh Sharma towards the end and valuable contributions from almost the entire line-up helped India secure a five-wicket win over Australia in the third T20I at Hobart on Sunday.

With this win, the series is levelled at 1-1, with two matches left. Earlier, India won the toss and opted to bowl first. After powerplay heroics from pacer Arshdeep Singh (3/35), it was a partnership between skipper Mitchell Marsh (11) and Tim David (74) in 38 balls, with eight fours and five sixes of 59 runs for third wicket and a 64-run stand between Marcus Stoinis (64 in 39 balls, with eight fours and two sixes) and Matt Short (26\* in 15 balls, with two fours and a six) took Australia to 186/6 in 20 overs. In the run-chase, contributions did come from skipper Abhishek Sharma (25 in 16 balls, with two fours and two sixes), skipper Suryakumar Yadav



(24 in 11 balls, with a four and two sixes) and Tilak Varma (29 in 26 balls, with a four and six). India was 145/5 in the 15th over in a tricky spot. However, a blitz from Washington (49\* in 23 balls, with three fours and four sixes) and Jitesh Sharma (22\* in 13 balls, with three fours) helped India keep series alive.

During the run-chase of 187 runs, opener Abhishek Sharma gave India the brief headstart they needed, smashing pacer Sean Abbott for two fours and a six in the second over. However, Nathan Ellis managed to get him for the third time in the series, as a top edge went straight into the hands of the wicketkeeper Josh Ing-

lis. He was gone for 25 in 16 balls, with two fours and two sixes. India was 33/1 in 3.3 overs.

Skipper Suryakumar Yadav was next up on the crease, announcing his intentions and showcasing glimpses of his top-notch rhythm and hand-eye coordination with two sixes within just four balls. India reached the 50-run mark in 4.5

**During the run-chase of 187 runs, opener Abhishek Sharma gave India the brief headstart they needed, smashing pacer Sean Abbott for two fours and a six in the second over.**

overs, with vice-captain Shubman Gill playing it safe at run-a-ball.

In the final over of powerplay, after flicking Ellis over mid-wicket for a four, Gill was trapped leg-before-wicket for 15 in 12 balls, continuing his poor T20I run. India was 61/2 in 5.3 overs and ended the powerplay at 64/2, with Surya and Tilak Varma at the crease.

With a boundary each, the duo kept the run-rate in good health. However, Surya chipped the delivery to cover straight into the hands of Ellis, giving Stoinis the third Indian wicket for 76 runs in 7.3 overs. The captain was back in the bat for 24 in 11 balls, with a four and two sixes.

### Aaron hails Sundar's "effectiveness" against short balls during Hobart T20I

**F**ormer Indian pacer Varun Aaron hailed all-rounder Washington Sundar for his fine knock against Australia in Hobart, lauding his "effectiveness" against short-pitched deliveries. Sundar's explosive 49\* in 23 balls was the highlight of India's successful run-chase of 187 runs during the third T20I against Australia at Hobart to level the series 1-1, with two more matches to go.

Speaking during the "Cricket Live" programme after the match, Aaron said about Sundar's knock, "Washington has demonstrated his effectiveness with the bat, especially against short-pitched deliveries, as we saw in the previous IPL. His first five boundaries off the fast bowlers were all through short balls, showing how well he thrives on them. Australia likely underestimated his capability to play the short ball, and his early six off Nathan Ellis set the tone perfectly. Though he did not bowl in this match, his



Former Indian pacer Varun Aaron

contribution with the bat was crucial."

He also expressed happiness with the return of Arshdeep Singh, whose left-arm angle helped him get three wickets, and he formed a fine bowling partnership with Jasprit Bumrah, saying that two of the best T20I bowlers in a playing XI is a "huge asset". "Arshdeep and Jasprit both excel at taking wickets and restricting

runs. Having two of the world's best T20 fast bowlers is a huge asset. Arshdeep was invaluable, especially with his ability to move the ball in the power play. He bowled tightly to key batsmen like Travis Head and Josh Inglis, taking crucial wickets and maintaining pressure. Even though Marcus Stoinis played well, Arshdeep's wickets were well deserved and pivotal for India," he concluded.

### Iraq's foreign minister calls for disarmament of 'PKK elements' in north

**Baghdad:** Iraq's Foreign Minister Faidan Hussein on Sunday called on Kurdish separatist fighters who have withdrawn to the country's north after waging a decades-long insurgency in Turkey to disarm.

Kurdistan Workers' Party, or PKK, began laying down its arms in July in a symbolic ceremony in northern Iraq after withdrawing its fighters from Turkey to Iraq as part of a peace effort with Ankara.

But armed "PKK elements" remain in northern Iraq, notably in Sinjar and Makmur, according to Hussein.

### BUSINESS

### India's exports to US dip 37.5 pc during May-Sep 2025: GTRI

**New Delhi:** India's exports to the US have dipped 37.5 per cent during May-September 2025 from USD 8.8 billion in May to USD 5.5 billion in September, think tank GTRI said on Sunday.

It said that exports of pharmaceuticals, smartphones, metals and auto parts have declined during the period.

Pharmaceutical product exports dipped 15.7 per cent from USD 755.6 million in May to USD 628.3 million in September. Industrial metals and auto parts facing uniform tariffs for all countries saw a modest 16.7 per cent drop, from USD 0.6 billion to USD 0.5 billion.

Aluminium exports fell 37 per cent, copper 25 per cent, auto parts 12 per cent, and iron-steel 8 per cent, GTRI Founder Ajay Srivastava said, adding that with similar duties on global suppliers, the dip likely reflects softer US industrial activity rather than lost competitiveness.

He added that labour-intensive sectors such as textiles, gems and jewellery, chemicals, agri-foods, and machinery endured a 33 per cent decline, from USD 4.8 billion to USD 3.2 billion.

## Canada, Philippines sign defence pact to boost drills and deter China's aggression

**Manila (Philippines):** Canada and the Philippines, both staunch critics of China's increasingly coercive actions in the disputed South China Sea, signed a key defence agreement on Sunday to boost combat drills and expand security alliances to deter aggression, officials said.

Canada and other Western nations have been bolstering their military presence in the Indo-Pacific to help promote the rule of law and expand trade and investment in the region. The strategy dovetails with President Ferdinand Marcos Jr.'s efforts to build defence ties with other countries to help the Philippines' underfunded military face a militarily superior China in the disputed waters.

There was no immediate comment from China, which has accused the Philippines of being a "troublemaker" and a "saboteur of regional stability" following joint patrols and combat drills with the United States and other countries in the South China Sea.

Beijing claims the waterway, a major trade route, virtually in its entirety, despite a 2016 arbitration ruling that invalidated those claims based on a 1982 UN convention. China has dismissed the ruling and has employed powerful water cannons and dangerous blocking maneuvers against Philippine coast guard and other vessels, resulting in collisions and injuries to crew. Vietnam, Malaysia, Brunei and Taiwan also have been involved in the long-simmering territorial disputes.



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Philippine Defence Secretary Gilberto Teodoro Jr. signed the Status of Visiting Forces Agreement with his Canadian counterpart, David McGuinty, after a closed-door meeting in Manila on Sunday.

McGuinty said the agreement will boost joint military training, information-sharing and cooperation in addressing emergencies, including responding to natural disasters.

Teodoro told reporters the agreement will be key to fostering a rules-based international order in a region threatened by China's aggression. "Who is hegemonic? Who wants to expand their territory in the world? China," Teodoro said.

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Such agreements provide a legal framework for visits by foreign troops for joint large-scale exercises in either country.

### Russia launches new nuclear submarine carrier of doomsday drone

**Moscow:** Russia has launched its latest nuclear submarine to be armed with a Poseidon nuclear drone, also known as 'doomsday missile' capable of "wiping out" coastal nations, according to media reports.

The nuclear submarine "Khabarovsk" was launched by Russian Defence Minister Andrei Belousov at a solemn ceremony in the presence of Russian Naval Chief Admiral Alexander Moiseyev and other top shipbuilding officials in Severodvinsk at Sevmashtshipyards.

"Today marks a significant event for us - the heavy nuclear-powered missile cruiser Khabarovsk is being launched from the stern of the renowned Sevmasht," Belousov said in his televised remarks late on Saturday night.

Sevmasht shipyards had earlier retrofitted INS Vikramaditya aircraft carrier for India.

ble Russia to successfully ensure the security of its maritime borders and protect its national interests in various regions of the world's oceans, according to TASS, the Russian news agency.

The Khabarovsk nuclear submarine was designed by Rubin, the Central Design Bureau of Marine Engineering, and is intended to address Navy missions using modern underwater weapons, including robotic systems for various purposes, the Russian Defence Ministry said on its website.

This nuclear submarine would be the carrier of underwater weapons and robotic systems to successfully address the challenge of ensuring the security of Russia's maritime borders and protecting its national interests in various parts of the world's oceans, it underscored.

Commenting on the launch of the latest nuclear submarine, business daily Kommersant reminded that last week Russia tested the Poseidon underwater drone, equipped with a nuclear propulsion system.

## Over 2 000 Sikhs to visit Pakistan for Guru Nanak birth anniversary

**Lahore:** As many as 2,150 Indian Sikhs are expected to arrive at Lahore via Wagah border to take part in festivities related to the 560th birth anniversary of Guru Nanak Dev on November 5, a top official said Sunday.



place where Guru Nanak was born.

"The (Pakistan) government has issued 2,150 visas to Indian Sikhs to attend Baba Guru Nanak Dev Ji's birthday anniversary. The Indian Sikhs will arrive at Lahore via Wagah border on coming Tuesday (November 4)," Evacuee Trust Property Board (ETPB) spokesperson Gulnam Mohyuddin told PTL.

The ETPB looks after holy places of minorities in the country.

Tensions remain high between New Delhi and Islamabad after deadly clashes between the nuclear-armed rivals earlier in May following the terror attack in Jammu and Kashmir's Pahalgaon that killed 26 people.

Each other and no Indian pilgrim had visited Pakistan.

## Highways Min to penalise contractors for repeat accidents on NH stretches

**New Delhi:** To prevent road accidents and fatalities, the highways ministry has decided to penalise contractors if more than one accident happens in a year on a particular stretch of National Highways, built under the build-operate-transfer (BOT) model, a senior government official said on Sunday.

Road Transport and Highways Secretary V Umashankar said the highways ministry has revised the BOT document, and now contractors will have to undertake crash management and take corrective steps if more than one accident happens in a particular period on a highway stretch built by them under the BOT model.

"If more than one accident happens in a particular stretch, say 500 meters, then the contractor will face a penalty of Rs 25 lakh.



Penalty will increase to Rs 50 lakh if an accident happens next year," he added.

Umashankar said the highways ministry has identified 3,500 accident-prone stretches.

National Highways projects are executed mainly in three modes: build-operate-transfer, hybrid annuity model (HAM) and engineering procurement and construction (EPC).

### Gold may consolidate for 3rd week as traders track US data tariff hearing

**New Delhi:** Gold prices are likely to see consolidation for the third straight week as traders focus on key macroeconomic indicators and policy developments, including the US Supreme Court's tariff hearing on November 5, analysts said.

The focus will be on manufacturing and services PMI data from key regions as well as China's trade and growth numbers.

In the US, private data, including ADP non-farm payroll, consumer sentiment and inflation expectations, will also be closely watched as they will steer the bullion prices in the near-term, they added.

"Also in focus will be the tariff hearing in the US Supreme Court on November 5 and any decision, positive or negative, markets may see a significant reaction," Pranav Mer, Vice President, EBG - Commodity & Currency Research, JM Financial Services Ltd, said.

## Epsilon Carbon signs USD 20 mn pact with Alba eyes IPO by 2027-end

**Manama:** Leading coal tar pitch Epsilon Carbon on Sunday announced that it has signed a USD 20-million memorandum of understanding with Aluminium Bahrain (Alba) to explore a long-term supply of liquid coal tar pitch to the Middle East region.

Epsilon Carbon Managing Director Vikram Handa said that the company looks to boost its Coal Tar Pitch (CTP) production capacity to 300,000 tonnes by next year to cater to growing demand from the Mid-



dle East. CTP is used to manufacture carbon anodes and cathodes for aluminium smelting and for EV batteries.

"We look to export more and more, and we wanted to take the opportunity to bring a local supply chain to Bahrain.

"Between the smelters in Bahrain, Qatar and Saudi Arabia, about 250,000 tonnes of pitch is consumed every year. Most of it comes from China, Japan and India,

**Epsilon Carbon Managing Director Vikram Handa said that the company looks to boost its Coal Tar Pitch (CTP) production capacity to 300,000 tonnes by next year to cater to growing demand from the Middle East.**

from us. So, our facility here will be a melter where we will transport pitch from India to Bahrain," Handa said.

The collaboration with aluminium smelter Alba is an important step toward sustainable industrial growth, he further said.

including in the US, Finland, and Germany.

Epsilon aims to enhance the CTP manufacturing capacity to 3,00,000 tonnes by next year from 1,80,000 tonnes currently.

"In Odisha, we have announced a Rs 10,000 crore investment, and in Karnataka, we're investing Rs 500 crore," Handa said.

## Pankaj Tripathi's mother passes away at 89

Mumbai Actor Pankaj Tripathi's mother, Hemwanti Devi, has passed away in his hometown Belsand, in the Gopalganj district of Bihar. She was 89.

According to a statement from the actor's family, she was unwell for some time and left for her heavenly abode on Friday, October 31.

"She passed away peacefully in her sleep, surrounded by her loved ones. Pankaj Tripathi was by her side during her final moments," the statement added.

Her final rites were carried out on Saturday, November 1, in Belsand in the presence of close family members, relatives, and friends.

Deeply mourning the immense loss, the family has urged the media and



well-wishers to respect their privacy during the period of grief.

Pankaj Tripathi was recently seen in the fourth season of 'Criminal Justice', and 'Metro... In Dino'.

Pankaj Tripathi is also known for his roles

in series like 'Sacred Games,' 'Mirzapur,' and 'Criminal Justice.'

Some of his major film credits include 'Gangs of Wasseypur,' 'Bareilly Ki Barfi,' 'Stree,' 'Stree 2,' 'Mimi,' 'OMG 2,' and 'Murder Mubarak,' among others.

## Shah Rukh Khan to fans he'll miss seeing them this birthday

Mumbai Bollywood star Shah Rukh Khan's much-awaited fan meet has been cancelled, dimming the celebrations for many who were eagerly waiting to catch a glimpse of the actor on his birthday.

Taking to his X handle, SRK shared that the most-cherished annual ritual has been cancelled for safety concerns and crowd control issues.

"Have been advised by authorities that I will not be able to step out and greet all you lovely people who have been waiting for me. My deepest apologies to all of you but have been informed that it is for the overall safety of everyone due to crowd control issues.

Thank you for understanding and believe me," the actor wrote on X.

Noting that he was looking forward to greet his fans, Shah Rukh said, "Thank you for understanding and believe me... I will miss seeing you more than you will."

It is worth mentioning streets outside Shah Rukh Khan's home, Mannat, turned into a sea of love on Sunday.

The superstar turned 60 on Sunday, November 1, and, as always, fans from across the country gathered to wish their favourite actor well and hope to catch just one glimpse of the "King of Bollywood".

Crowds lined the streets, holding posters and banners reading "We love you SRK" and "Happy Birthday King Khan". Fans were even seen chanting his name outside the residence.

Many, in fact, travelled miles just to see their idol appear on the balcony and greet them.

Prior to this, SRK, during a #AskSRK session, suggested that he would meet his fans as part of their annual fan meet. In response to one of the fans, the actor, in his witty style, said, "Of course, but may have to wear a hard hat!!!"



## Shashi Tharoor calls SRK's 60th birthday a 'cover-up'



Mumbai Birthday wishes continue to pour in for Bollywood superstar Shah Rukh Khan as he turned a year older on Sunday.

The actor's friends, fellow co-stars, and colleagues from the industry have showered him with heartwarming wishes across social media platforms alongside his millions of fans, who have turned the day into a festival.

Joining the line of greetings, Congress MP Shashi Tharoor penned an elaborate note, making the best use of his rich vocabulary to celebrate SRK's 60th birthday.

Calling him the "ultimate King of Bollywood," Shashi Tharoor wrote, "I have to admit, I'm finding this '60' number deeply suspicious. A crack team of independent fact-checkers and forensic detectives investigated this '60' claim & concluded: 'In the complete and absolute absence of any discernible visual evidence—specifically, no non-photoshopped grey hair, no undeniable signs of slowing down, and a persistent appearance of someone significantly younger—the claim that Shah Rukh Khan is turning 60 cannot be factually confirmed.'"

Tharoor, who found it difficult to believe that the 'Jawan' star has started ageing, playfully described his 60th birthday as a "cover-up" and added, "SRK is actually starring in a real-life, decades-long, global-scale Bollywood adaptation of 'The Curious Case of Benjamin Button.' He's ageing in reverse."

Giving a shoutout to the actor's high energy levels and youthful look, he wrote, "I predict by the time he hits his '70th' birthday, he'll be auditioning for teenage roles. Mercifully, I don't expect to be around when he turns into a child star. Congratulations on this unbelievable milestone, Shah Rukh! Please keep defining physics and biology, & confusing us all for many years to come."

## Justin Baldoni's lawsuit against Blake Lively dismissed after missing deadline



Los Angeles

It seems like Justin Baldoni and Blake Lively's much-publicised legal war is nearing its end, with the director-actor having his lawsuit dismissed.

According to TMZ, Justin Baldoni has missed the deadline to appeal a judge's ruling that dismissed his lawsuits against Blake Lively, Ryan Reynolds, and a news publication. In the final judgment that was recently entered in the case, the judge rejected all the claims made by Baldoni against the star couple and the publication.

While the ruling came

out in June, allowing time for Baldoni to make an appeal, he failed to do so before the deadline.

On the other hand, Blake Lively's claims against her 'It Ends With Us' co-star and director remain intact, as she looks forward to ensuring that Baldoni pays her attorneys' fees for defending against his claims.

Lively had sued Baldoni in December last year, accusing him and his publicists of spreading false stories about her in the media after she spoke about sexual harassment during the film's production. Baldoni filed a countersuit,

accusing her of ruining his reputation, but that case was dismissed later.

Lively's legal team alleged, per the July 11 filing, that Baldoni's team had previously "refused Ms Lively's reasonable requests" to cooperate.

"Defendants have not denied that their intent is to manufacture a harassing publicity stunt by requiring Ms Lively to parade through paparazzi," the request stated, "or by inviting unknown attendees to the deposition, including members of the media or social media influencers, or any other number of abusive tactics," reported E! News.

## Indonesian fans dance, cut cake outside Mannat on SRK's 60th birthday

Mumbai

It's superstar Shah Rukh Khan's birthday today, and as the actor celebrates his special day, fans from across the world gathered outside his residence, Mannat, in Mumbai.

Among the many who travelled to Mumbai on the occasion of SRK's birthday on Saturday was a group of fans who travelled all the way from Indonesia just to catch a glimpse of their favourite actor. Dressed



in SRK-themed outfits, they danced, sang songs, and even cut a cake near his residence to mark the special day.

One of the fans said, "We have come from In-

donesia. Happy birthday, Shah Rukh Khan. We love you and we hope to meet you..."

As fans celebrated their idol, Shah Rukh Khan gave them a special gift too. On the occasion of his birthday, the makers of his much-awaited action film King unveiled the official title and teaser of the movie.

The film, produced by Red Chillies Entertainment and Marflix Pictures, marks Shah Rukh Khan's second collaboration with director Siddharth Anand after 'Pathaan'.

As per the makers, the film is also being described as Siddharth Anand's "biggest mass action film yet," promising larger-than-life stunts, scale, and story-telling.

## Allu Arjun named 'Most Versatile Actor of the Year' at Dadasaheb Phalke Awards

Mumbai In another feather to his cap, actor Allu Arjun has bagged a big win at the prestigious Dadasaheb Phalke International Film Festival Awards 2025.

As announced on the festival's official social media handle, Allu Arjun has been honoured with the Most Versatile Actor of the Year Award at the ceremony. "Congratulations to Allu Arjun for this prestigious recognition, celebrating his exceptional range and cinematic impact" the post read.

Dubbed as India's most prestigious film festival and award ceremony, it aims to celebrate excellence in cinema, art, culture, tourism, and heritage.

The grand celebration was held on October 30, 2025, at the NSCI Dome in SVP Stadium, Mumbai.

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al Film Awards for this incredible honour. Truly humbled. My warm congratulations to all the winners across categories this year. A sincere thank you to my audience for your continued love and support. I humbly dedicate this award to my fans, Allu who is in his Instagram story.

The Dadasaheb Phalke win came months after Allu Arjun took home the Best Actor award at the 2025 edition of the South Indian International Movie Awards (SIIMA).

He received the honour for his performance in Sukumar's 'Pushpa 2: The Rule.' Allu Arjun also received the Best Actor award for 'Pushpa 2' at the Gaddar Telangana Film Awards.



## Jimmy Shergill, Siddharth starrer series 'Operation Safed Sagar' unveiled

New Delhi

Actor Jimmy Shergill starrer upcoming series titled 'Operation Safed Sagar' was unveiled during the first-ever Sekhon Indian Air Force Marathon 2025 in New Delhi on Sunday.

The event celebrated the spirit of the Indian Air Force and its role in one of the most daring missions of the Kargil War.

The series is created by Abhijeet Singh Parmar and Kushal and directed by Oni Sen.. Apart from Shergill, it also features Siddharth. "Muniya" fame Abhay Verma, Mihir Ahuja, Taaruk Raina, and Arnav Bhasin in key roles. It is produced by Matchbox Shots and Feel Good Films, with support from the Indian Air Force. The show will stream on Netflix in 2026.

The makers also took to their Instagram account to share the first look at the upcoming series.



The marathon took place at Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium and saw participation from serving officers, veterans, dignitaries, and thousands of citizens. Air Chief Marshal Amar Preet Singh, Chief of the Air Staff, attended the event, along with senior members of the force and the film's creative team.

Speaking at the event, Air Chief Marshal Amar Preet Singh, Chief of the Air Staff, as per a press release, shared, "I am very happy to see 12,000 people participate in this marathon in Delhi, which was also simultaneously conducted at 46 other locations. I would like to congratulate Netflix on launching the series Operation Safed Sagar. It was an air battle at the highest altitude, and the Indian Air Force displayed the highest degree of professionalism in achieving the Kargil heights."