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MARKET

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

Nehru-Gandhi legacy under fire Tharoor questions idea of inherited leadership

■ **Tharoor said that when political power is determined by lineage rather than ability, commitment, or grassroots engagement, the quality of governance suffers**

New Delhi
Senior Congress leader Shashi Tharoor said dynastic politics across the political spectrum poses a “grave threat” to Indian democracy and asserted that it is high time India traded “dynasty for meritocracy”.

He said that when political power is determined by lineage rather than ability, commitment, or grassroots engagement, the quality of governance suffers.

In an article for international media organisation Project Syndicate, the Thiruvananthapuram MP pointed out that while the Nehru-Gandhi family is associated with the Congress, dynastic succession prevails across the political spectrum.

Meanwhile, the BJP latched on to Tharoor’s remarks, calling it a “very insightful piece” on how Indian politics has become a family business.

“He (Tharoor) has launched a direct attack on India’s nepo kid Rahul and chota nepo kid Tejaswi Yadav!” BJP



Senior Congress leader Shashi Tharoor

spokesperson Shehzad Poonawalla said.

Tharoor’s remarks come weeks after a row over his comments on the India-Pakistan conflict and the diplomatic outreach following the Pahalgam attack. The comments were at variance with the Congress stance, and many party leaders took a swipe at him, questioning his intentions.

In the article titled ‘Family Politics Are a Family Business’, Tharoor

or said that for decades, one family has towered over Indian politics. He said the influence of the Nehru-Gandhi dynasty — including independent India’s first prime minister Jawaharlal Nehru, prime ministers Indira Gandhi and Rajiv Gandhi, and current opposition leader Rahul Gandhi and MP Priyanka Gandhi Vadra — is bound up with the history of India’s struggle for freedom.

“But it has also cemented the idea that political leadership can be a birthright. This idea has penetrated Indian politics across every party, in every region, and at every level,” Tharoor said.

He said Indian political parties are largely personality-driven, with a few exceptions. Leadership selection processes are often opaque, with decisions made by a small clique or even a single leader, figures with little inter-

est in rocking the boat, said Tharoor, who himself unsuccessfully contested Congress presidential elections in 2022.

As a result, nepotism generally trumps meritocracy, he added.

Pointing out that dynastic succession prevails across the political spectrum, Tharoor said that after the passing of Biju Patnaik, his son Naveen won his father’s vacant seat in the Lok Sabha.

The Maharashtra-based Shiv Sena’s founder Bal Thackeray passed the mantle to his son Uddhav, whose own son Aditya is waiting visibly in the wings, he said.

“The same goes for Samajwadi Party founder Mulayam Singh Yadav, a former chief minister of Uttar Pradesh, whose son Akhilesh Yadav later served in the same post; Akhilesh is now an MP and the president of the party. In Bihar, Lok Janshakti Party leader Ram Vilas Paswan was succeeded by his son Chirag Paswan,” he said, citing more examples of political dynasties.

Agency

Pappu, Tappu, Appu can’t see Modi’s work, says Yogi Adityanath in Bihar



Alok Shrivastav Darbhanga

In a day packed with rallies across Darbhanga, Muzaffarpur, Saran, and Patna, Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath turned up the heat in the NDA’s Bihar campaign, launching a fierce attack on the Congress-RJD alliance. He accused the opposition of dragging Bihar back into an era of crime, caste violence, and chaos.

Addressing a massive crowd in Darbhanga, Yogi mocked the opposition bloc as “the three monkeys — Pappu, Tappu, and Appu.” In his trademark style, he said, “Pappu cannot speak the truth, Tappu cannot see the truth, and Appu cannot hear it. They can neither see Modi ji’s development work nor sense

the nation’s progress.” Yogi invoked Mithila’s spiritual heritage, saying the land of Mata Janaki was sending a powerful message to those opposing Lord Ram. “The dawn of Ram Rajya is about to rise in Bihar,” he declared, drawing loud cheers from the audience.

Recalling Congress’s affidavit in the Supreme Court that questioned Lord Ram’s existence, Yogi accused the opposition of repeatedly insulting Hindu faith. “The same Congress, RJD, and Samajwadi Party that are fixed on Ram bhaktis in Ayodhya now talk about faith and development,” he said. “Those who oppose Ram and Janaki are enemies of India, enemies of Mithila, and enemies of all of us.”

CONTD ON PAGE-2

Magisterial probe begins into hostage-taker Rohit Arya’s death

Mumbai
An independent magisterial inquiry has been initiated into the death of social entrepreneur Rohit Arya, who was shot during the police operation while rescuing 17 children and two adults held captive by him at a recording studio in Mumbai on October 30.

The magisterial inquiry is being conducted simultaneously with a probe launched by the Mumbai police’s crime branch.

A senior police officer on Monday stated the concerned magistrate will call witnesses, record statements, and submit a report.

The drama unfolded inside R A Studio in the Mahavir Classic building in the Powai area between 1:30 pm and 5:15 pm on Thursday, resulting in the rescue of the hostages and the death of Arya (50).



Arya suffered a bullet injury during the police operation, following which he was rushed to the hospital, where he was declared dead.

Joint Commissioner of Police (Law and Order) Satyanarayan Chaudhary on Monday confirmed that a magisterial inquiry has been initiated into Arya’s death, as mandated by law and rulings of the Supreme Court.

“The magisterial inquiry is independent.

The concerned magistrate will call witnesses, record statements, and submit a report,” he said.

Commenting on the hostage crisis, the JCP stressed that the safety of children and two adults was the sole priority of the police.

“It was a hostage situation concerning minor children for the police. The police’s priority was to rescue the kids safely and securely,” Chaudhary said.

14 dead as speeding dumper rams 17 vehicles in Jaipur

Jaipur
A road bustling with daily commuters in Jaipur’s Harmada area turned into a scene of devastation on Monday afternoon when a rashly driven dumper truck ploughed into at least 17 vehicles, leaving 14 people dead and 13 injured.

Bodies were strewn across the road, mangled cars lined the highway, and several motorbikes were crushed under the dumper’s wheels following the horrific chain collision that occurred near Loha Mandi.

The dumper truck, whose driver was allegedly under the influence of alcohol, rammed into multiple vehicles on a 300-metre stretch before crashing into a trailer, police said.

President Droupadi Murmu, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Rajast-



han Chief Minister Bhanjan Lal Sharma, his deputies Diya Kumari and Premchand Bairwa and former chief minister Ashok Gehlot expressed grief over the loss of lives.

“Pained by the loss of lives due to a mishap in Jaipur, Rajasthan. My thoughts are with those who have lost their near and dear ones. I pray that the injured recover soon.

“An ex-gratia of Rs. 2

lakh from PMNRF would be given to the next of kin of each deceased. The injured would be given Rs. 50,000,” PM Modi said on X.

Eyewitnesses described the scene as nothing short of a massacre.

“We saw people pulling out one body after another from the wrecked cars. Some were trapped inside; others were lying on the road. It was chaos, screams and blood everywhere,” said Ma-

hesh Sharma, a local shopkeeper.

According to District Collector Jitendra Soni, the dumper came from Road No. 14 towards the Loha Mandi petrol pump at high speed, hitting vehicles in its path.

“Fourteen people died and 13 are injured. The injured are being treated at SMS Hospital’s trauma centre, and several are in a critical condition,” Soni said.

Additional Police Commissioner Rajiv Pachar, who was present at the scene, said that the dumper was being driven recklessly.

“The driver hit a car, prompting locals to chase him. He accelerated further, hitting pedestrians and bikers along the road. He then stopped after colliding with a trailer truck and a car on the Delhi-Ajmer Highway. Agency

Telangana bus crash: Newborn, mother among 19 killed

Hyderabad
At least 19 people, including a 41-day-old girl child, were killed and 22 others injured when a gravel-laden tipper lorry collided head-on with a government bus in Ranga Reddy district of Telangana on Monday, officials said.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the state government announced ex-gratia to the families of the victims.

Telangana Transport Minister Ponnann Prabhakar, who visited the government hospital at



Chevella, where the accident victims were admitted, said, “19 people were killed in the accident.”

The lorry collided with the Telangana State Road Transport Corporation (TSRTC) vehicle near Chevella, about 50

kms from Hyderabad, on Monday morning at around 7 AM, resulting in the gravel falling on the bus, burying the

passengers and causing deaths due to suffocation and trauma, among others.

A district official said 22 people suffered injuries in the accident.

The TSRTC said in a release that the tipper, loaded with gravel and hard stone chips lost control while overtaking multiple vehicles, veering directly into the path of the oncoming bus. The impact caused extensive damage to the bus, with a large volume of gravel and dust pouring into the passenger compartment. Agency

Pakistan, China testing nuclear weapons: Trump’s big reveal

Washington
Pakistan and China are among the countries which are testing nuclear weapons, United States President Donald Trump has said to justify his administration’s plans to resume testing of the US’s own nuclear assets after a gap of over three decades.

Ahead of his meeting with Chinese President Xi Jinping last week, Trump announced that the US will start testing nuclear weapons on an “equal basis” with rival powers.

In an interview with CBS News’ Norah O’Donnell on Sunday,



the US president named Russia, China, North Korea and Pakistan as the countries testing nuclear weapons.

“Russia’s testing, and China’s testing, but they don’t talk about it. You know, we’re an open society. We’re different. We talk about it... We’re going to test, because they test and others test,” Trump said.

“And certainly North Korea’s been testing. Pakistan’s been testing,” he asserted.

Shortly before meeting Xi in South Korea on Thursday last, Trump said on social media that the US will resume testing nuclear weapons for the first time in three decades.

Trump claimed some of the countries conducting tests of their nuclear weapons don’t acknowledge them. Agency

NEWS IN BRIEF

Farmers continue protest against Noida Authority

Noida
The Bharatiya Kisan Union's protest continued for the fifth day here on Monday. The farmers from 81 villages reached the authority office on Monday. After two failed talks, the panchayat started again today.

The farmers held talks with the authority officials concerned for about three hours. But the authority could not reach a consensus on the farmers' demands. Meanwhile, there was a scuffle and pushing between the protesting farmers and the police. Due to which the angry farmers tried to forcibly enter the authority's gate.

On this development, Vimal Tyagi, national president of the Bharatiya Kisan Union Manch, said, "The Noida Authority should not make the mistake of taking the farmers lightly. This time, the farmers will return only after securing their rights from the authority. This time, the farmers will not end their protest on assurances, no matter how long the protest has to be continued."

The farmers will not back down. They had already announced that a panchayat will be held at the Noida Authority on Monday, where decisions would be made on how to proceed with the protest.

However, the police, meanwhile, tried to pacify the farmers. After this, the farmers' group calmed down and resumed their protest. The farmers said they wanted to meet the CEO. The protest will continue until their demands are met. They should also be given an appointment to meet with the chairman. After some jostling, the farmers have peacefully settled down there.

Noida Authority's OSD Kranti Shekhar, Arvind Kumar and DGM Vijay Rawal were present at the protest site.

Noida Authority foils attempt to occupy Rohillapur village land

According to the sources, this land is part of Khasra numbers 167 and 168. It is being reported that some people from Shahpur village were attempting to occupy Khasra numbers 507 and 508 by erecting a wall during daylight and night.

Noida
The Noida Authority team foiled an attempt to illegally occupy approximately 1800 square meter of land belonging to the authority in village Rohillapur.

According to the sources, this land is part of Khasra numbers 167 and 168. It is being reported that some people from Shahpur village were attempting to occupy Khasra numbers 507 and 508 by erecting a wall during daylight and night. Upon receiving information, a team of officials concerned from the authority reached the spot. During this, some people even tried to threaten the authority personnel, due to which the police had to be called. Taking action with the help of sector-126 police station, the walls were removed and the attempt of encroachment was foiled.

This land is worth crores of rupees. The officials concerned asserted that if action had not been taken in time, land worth about Rs 25 crore could have been illegally occupied.

Haze blankets Delhi as air quality remains 'very poor'

New Delhi
A thick layer of haze enveloped the national capital on Monday, with the air quality remaining in the "very poor" category and very likely to deteriorate to "severe" on Tuesday.

According to the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), Delhi recorded an overall Air Quality Index (AQI) of 309 at 4 pm, indicating persistent pollution levels.

Burai was in the "severe" category with a reading of 400, followed by Wazirpur, which recorded 390. Additionally, 23 monitoring stations recorded "very poor" air quality, with readings above 300, as shown on the CPCB's Samser app.

According to the Air Quality Early Warning System (AQEWS) for Delhi, the wind speed dropped below



8 km/h from the northwest direction during the evening and night hours, reducing the dispersion of pollutants. It added that a ventilation index lower than 6,000 m²/s and wind speeds less than 10 km/h are unfavourable for pollutant dispersal.

The air quality is likely to remain in the "severe" category on Tuesday, AQEWS said. The PM_{2.5} concentration

stood at 155 micrograms per cubic metre and PM₁₀ at 278. PM_{2.5} refers to fine inhalable particles with diameters that are 2.5 micrometres or smaller, while PM₁₀ 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.

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

Delhi's maximum temperature was recorded at 31.5 degrees Celsius, 0.2 notches above the seasonal average, while the minimum temperature settled at 17.9 degrees Celsius, 1.9 notches above the season's average, according to the India Meteorological Department (IMD).

Humidity was recorded at 58 per cent at 5.30 pm. The weather office has forecast mist for Tuesday morning, with the maximum and minimum temperatures likely to hover around 29 degrees Celsius and 18 degrees Celsius, respectively.

Delhi pollution now a public health emergency: AAP

New Delhi
The Aam Aadmi Party on Monday slammed the Delhi government for "complete failure" in controlling pollution, saying that there was a "public health emergency" in the national capital.

There was no immediate reaction from the BJP. In a post on X, former Delhi chief minister Arvind Kejriwal said the "four-engine government has ruined everything".

"I tapped to the people of Delhi to take care of themselves - this government is not going to do anything for you," he posted on X in Hindi.

Senior AAP leaders said the capital is "gasping for breath" while BJP ministers remain busy with election campaigns in Bihar. AAP's Delhi unit president Saurabh Bharadwaj said residents can no longer breathe the city's "poisonous" air, which has forced



"Warrior Moms" - a collective of mothers fighting for children's right to breathe clean air - to write to the health minister.

"...during this health emergency, Delhi's health minister and other BJP ministers have been busy in Bihar for the past several days," he said.

Former deputy CM Manish Sisodia said Delhi is facing a full-fledged public health emergency. "The truth is, it is not Delhi's air but the BJP's mindset that has become toxic," he said on X.

PUBLIC NOTICE
It is for General Information that I, Manish Kumar Lachhramka S/o Binod Kumar Lachhramka R/o C-45-50, Panchsheel Greens-1, Sector-16/6, Greater Noida West, Distt: Gautam Buddha Nagar, U.P.-201009 do hereby declare that my name has been wrongly written as Manish Kumar Lachhramka in my driving license record (DL-No JH-2120080015403). The actual name of mine is Manish Kumar Lachhramka as of my Aadhaar Card respectively which may be amended accordingly.

CM Gupta to undertake a three-day intensive campaign in Bihar

New Delhi
Chief Minister Rekha Gupta will start a three-day campaign in Bihar for the ongoing Assembly elections. She will visit 12 to 15 Assembly constituencies to support NDA candidates.

During her trip, she will hold public meetings and participate in roadshows alongside senior leaders from the Bharatiya Janata Party and other allies.

This is her third campaign visit to Bihar, and it is expected to be very intense. She will arrive in Patna on the evening of November 3 and will address a rally in the Bankipur Assembly constituency that night.

On November 4, she will campaign in areas like Siwan, Baharia, and Baskumthapur. The following day, she will cover the Gaura Bauram, Arwal, Gaya City, and Aurangabad constituencies.

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Delhi government aims to transform Yamuna in three years says Verma

New Delhi
The Delhi government is continuously working to clean Yamuna river and will change the picture in three years, Minister for Water Parvesh Verma said on Monday.

He was attending the two-day Yamunotsav 2025, a public awareness programme organised by the Delhi government and NGO Yamuna Sansad at Vasudev Ghat near Kashmere Gate.

"In the last eight months, we have done unbelievable work for cleaning Yamuna. We will change the picture in the next three years," Verma said.

On the second day of Yamunotsav, experts expressed concerns that the river water is currently unsuitable to enter to the needs of Delhi residents.



munotsav, experts expressed concerns that the river water is currently unsuitable to enter to the needs of Delhi residents.

The second day of the programme began with a band performance by 101 Jal Sahelis (water sisters) who came from Bundelkhand.

Delhi BJP president Virendra Sachdeva, who also participated in the event, said that the saffron party came to power in Delhi due to the blessing of Yamuna."

He said meaningful discussions are taking place at the Yamuna Conclave, which will provide further guidance to the government.

Yamuna Sansad convenor Ravishankar Tiwari said, "This event would hopefully be a milestone in the direction of restoring Yamuna's continuous flow and purity."

Over 500 vehicles below BS-IV emission standards denied entry in Delhi

New Delhi
More than 500 vehicles below BS-IV norms were turned back from Delhi's borders after the ban on the entry of commercial goods vehicles compliant with BS-III or lower emission standards came into force in the national capital.

The ban on the entry of such vehicles kicked in on Saturday. According to data shared by the transport department, 266 vehicles were returned on the first day, followed by 179 on Sunday and 68 on Monday.

Transport department and traffic police teams have been deployed at Delhi's borders.



The 23 locations where the teams have been deployed include the Kundli border, the Rajokri border, the Tikri border, the Aya Nagar border, the Kalindi Kunj border, the Auchandi border, Mandoli, Kapashera and the Bajghera toll or Dwaraka Expressways, they said.

According to the officials, an estimated 50,000 to 70,000 vehicles in Delhi are below BS-IV emission standards.

There are no restrictions on the entry of commercial goods vehicles registered in Delhi, BS-VI compliant diesel vehicles, until October 31, 2026, or vehicles running on CNG, LNG, or electricity.

The AQI on Monday was recorded at 309, declining from Sunday, when it stood at 366.

People want clean air not excuses Rahul slams BJP over Delhi pollution

New Delhi
Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Monday raised concern over the worsening air quality in the national capital, saying with both the Centre and Delhi under BJP rule, people expect clean air instead of excuses.

In a post in Hindi on X, Gandhi said Delhi's air is becoming "increasingly poisonous", but the BJP governments keep changing their excuses.

"Year after year, Delhi's air is becoming increasingly poisonous, but BJP governments just keep changing their excuses. Now, both at the Centre and in Delhi, it's their own government in power. No excuses now, the public wants clean air," he said in his post.

environmentalist near the India Gate complex here early in the morning. Gandhi is heard saying in the video, "I have been having breathing issues and my eyes are burning. The last week has been terrible."

He remarked that while the damage caused by air pollution continues throughout the year, people tend to realise its effects only during this period.

Gandhi mentioned that he had considered shifting his mother - former Congress president Sonia Gandhi - out of Delhi during this period due to the rising levels of air pollution.

Officers to face action for cost escalations under new PWD arbitration guidelines

New Delhi
The Public Works Department has issued fresh arbitration guidelines under which lapses by erring officers will be identified and responsibility fixed, in any projects where cost escalates, according to the standard operating procedure, officials said on Monday.

Earlier this year, the department removed the arbitration clause from its contracts and tenders, which means in case of any dispute between the PWD and a private contractor, the matter will be dealt with only in the courts.

However, it continues to deal with claims arising from old agreements. "In all arbitration cases where awards of the arbitrator go against the department, detailed reasons and lapses, if any, on the part of concerned officials due to which the awards have gone against the department should be examined in detail



by the chief engineer concerned," the new SOP, released on October 31, stated.

The chief engineer is required to send recommendations to the administrative secretary regarding fixing responsibility and initiating action against the erring officers if the amount of the arbitral award exceeds 10 per cent of the work cost, it added.

The PWD, which executes several infrastructure projects for client departments such as health, education, home, and judiciary, has to secure funds from the res-

spective departments to pay arbitration awards, if any, decided against the government.

The government said in the Barapullaha Phase 3 project, it lost Rs 300 crore because the PWD did not file an appeal against the arbitration order, allowing the private company to benefit.

Two died after inhaling toxic gas from septic tank at Noida residence

Noida
Two brothers died while another man fell ill, on Monday after inhaling toxic gas from a septic tank in a house in Gautam Buddha Nagar district, police said.

According to an official, the incident occurred in Sector 63 police station limits after one of the deceased, Chandrabhan (40), fell into a septic tank after its stone lid collapsed.

Raju, his brother, also jumped into the tank to save him, but both fell unconscious.

The official said when their neighbour Hemant Singh tried to enter the tank to help them, he too got affected by the poisonous gas and is presently undergoing treatment.

On receiving the information, the police reached the spot, cut the floor of the septic tank with a power tool and recovered the brothers, rushing them to the Noida district hospital, where doctors declared both of them dead.

New Okhla Industrial Development Authority
Main Administrative Building, Sector-6, Noida, G.B. Nagar, (U.P.)
Website: www.noidaauthorityonline.in

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

1. Job No. 04/Manager System/AMC-Stabilizer/2025-26.
AMC of 3KVA Stabilizer Qty 80 (For 1 Year) cost Rs. 5,90,000/- Inclusive of GST.
Which can be uploaded by date 10/11/2025 upto 5.00 PM. Pre-qualification shall be opened/downloaded on date 11/11/2025 at 11.00 AM. **Manager (System)**

CLEAN, GREEN, SAFE & SECURE Noida

NORTHERN RAILWAY
1st CORRIGENDUM
Name of Work: "Electrical work regarding Provision of Rooftop type Solar Plants with other allied works at stations, service buildings, residential buildings and LC gate over Delhi Division".
The amendments in above said tender are as under:
Tender No: 42-SRDEE-G-DLI-2025-26

Name of work	Earlier published	Amended
42-SRDEE-G-DLI-2025-26	42-SRDEE-G-DLI-2025-26	42-SRDEE-G-DLI-2025-26
Electrical work regarding Provision of Rooftop type Solar Plants with other allied works at stations, service buildings, residential buildings and LC gate over Delhi Division.	Electrical work regarding Provision of Rooftop type Solar Plants with other allied works at stations, service buildings, residential buildings and LC gate over Delhi Division.	Electrical work regarding Provision of Rooftop type Solar Plants with other allied works at stations, service buildings, residential buildings and LC gate over Delhi Division.

Approx. cost of the works in Rs. 18058925.00
Address of the office: Sr. Div. Elect. Engineer/General, New Delhi, Rs. 1054300.00
Bid Security: Rs. 1054300.00
Date & time of submission of tender: 04.11.2025, 16.00 Hrs. 07.11.2025, 16.00 Hrs.
Opening of tender: 04.11.2025, 16.00 Hrs. 07.11.2025, 16.00 Hrs.
The tender document of above-mentioned tender has been modified kindly go through the amended documents available on www.irps.gov.in and submit your offer accordingly. Tender No. 42-SRDEE-G-DLI-2025-26 34102025

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

Shyam Lal College organizes Two-Day National Summit- SRINEP 2025

■ The summit aims to strengthen the link between academic research and real-world applications, encouraging students to think beyond textbooks and create solutions that contribute to a sustainable and self-reliant India.

TSN/New Delhi
Shyam Lal College (SLC), University of Delhi in collaboration with Internal Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC), Research and Development Centre (RDC) and Institution Innovation Council (IIC) with DRDO, IUAC, IHC, CIO(DU), DU Research Council, NIELIT & SEBI as knowledge partners organized a Two-Day National Summit-SRINEP 2025 (Student Research and Innovation under NEP) on 31st October and 1st November 2025.

Accredited with A++ and a NIRF 43rd rank under the able leadership of Prof. Rabi Narayan Kar, the college has become a cornerstone of academic excellence and community connect.

As the New Education Policy 2020 puts strong emphasis on holistic, multidisciplinary and skill-based education, the college has been a pioneer in smooth facilitation of the same.

SRINEP 2025 conceptu-



alized by SLC is one of its kind initiative that brings together innovators, researchers, industry professionals, and students to discuss the growing importance of student led research & innovation and Start Up journey towards achievement of Viksit Bharat.

The summit aims to strengthen the link between academic research and real-world applications, encouraging students to think beyond textbooks and create

solutions that contribute to a sustainable and self-reliant India.

Professor Avinash Chandra Pandey, Director of IUAC, New Delhi was the Chief Guest and Dr. Chandrasekhar Buddha, CEO of Anuvadini AI and Chief Coordinating Officer of AICTE (MoE, Govt. of India) was the Keynote Speaker during the Inaugural Session of the event.

Prof. Pandey delivered an insightful address on Sus-

tainable Development and Self-Reliance in Modern India and emphasized that technological dependence on foreign nations, especially for high-end tools like ultraviolet lithography machines used in semiconductor production, must be reduced. He urged young researchers to focus on practical, application-oriented research, combining theoretical understanding with hands-on experimentation.

Dr. Buddha too inspired

the audience with his talk on Turning Skill into Skill Capital. He emphasized that while India has immense talent and innovation potential, there is still a need to channel this creativity into impactful outcomes.

He highlighted that under NEP 2020, education must go hand in hand with skills, innovation, and entrepreneurship. His words motivated students to become creators rather than consumers of technology and knowledge.

Prof. K.G. Suresh, Director, India Habitat Centre, Chief Guest for the Vaedictory Session on 1st November 2025 in his valedictory address highlighted that SLC has always been a pioneer in Research & Innovation and many Start Ups have come from SLC, the same is visible in accreditation and higher rankings of the college by various Govt. agencies from time and again.

Grand Geeta Yuva Summit set for November 6 at Talkatora



Staff Reporter
New Delhi

A Geeta Yuva Summit will take place on November 6 at Talkatora Stadium, aimed at helping students combat despair and depression.

The event will feature guidance from Geeta scholar Pujya Swami Gyananand Ji Maharaj and will welcome Chief Minister Rekha Gupta along with other notable figures.

The summit is designed to support youth facing various challenges in today's world, highlighting the importance of instilling good values and positive energy. Attendees will include prominent personalities such as Union Minister Manohar Lal Khattar, RSS Co-Sarkaryavah Arun Kumar, and several university Vice Chancellors, among others.

Dr. Ved Prakash Tan-

don, the Delhi State Head of GO Geeta, mentioned that extensive preparations have been made for the event.

Prior to the summit, discussion sessions on the Geeta were held at many universities, and a Geeta Knowledge Test was conducted for students in grades 11 and 12. A total of 3,484 students from 40 schools in the Delhi-NCR area participated in this exam, demonstrating strong interest and performance. Students who made it to the merit list will receive awards during the ceremony.

Dr. Yandou encourages the youth of Delhi and NCR to take advantage of this informative discussion. The entire GO Geeta team, including key members like Dr. Markandeya Ahuja and Dr. Amit Bhal-Chancellor, are dedicated to ensuring the event's success.

Fraud trail ends in Pune, Rs 47 Lakh recovered



Amar Saini
Noida

In a major breakthrough, the Beta-2 Police have exposed a cyber fraud worth ₹75.57 lakh by arresting the wanted accused, Ganesh Suryakant Oti, from Pune, Maharashtra. The arrest marks a significant success for the police, who had been tracking the accused for several months.

According to officials, the case dates back to March 19, 2024, when the victim received a phone call from a person impersonating a legitimate source. During the call, the accused managed to deceitfully transfer ₹75.57 lakh from the victim's bank account to his own through an ITGS transaction. Following the incident, the victim lodged a complaint at Beta-2 Police Station, after which an FIR was registered and an intensive investigation was launched.

During the probe, the accused was identified as Ganesh Suryakant Oti, a resident of Rajuri in Pune,

Maharashtra. Acting on leads, a police team traced his location and arrested him from Pune on October 31, 2025. He was subsequently brought to Gautam Buddha Nagar on transit remand for further questioning.

Police have so far managed to recover approximately ₹47 lakh from the accused's possession, and efforts are underway to trace the remaining amount. The accused has been booked under Sections 420, 467, 468, and 471 of the Indian Penal Code for cheating, forgery, and related offences.

Speaking on the development, Additional DCP Greater Noida, Sudhir Kumar, said that the police are continuing their investigation to trace other possible accomplices and recover the remaining defrauded funds. He also urged citizens to remain vigilant and avoid sharing personal or banking information over phone calls to prevent falling prey to such cyber frauds.

RGCIRC hosts 12th international NURSICON 2025 in Delhi

New Delhi

The Department of Nursing at RGCIRC (Rajiv Gandhi Cancer Institute & Research Centre) successfully hosted the 12th Annual International Nursing Conference - NURSICON 2025, held on 31st October and 1st November, 2025 in New Delhi. Themed "Oncology Nurses Leading Change: Elevating Care, Rising Stronger," the 2-day conference brought together oncology nurses, healthcare professionals, academicians, and researchers from India and abroad, serving as a vital forum for exchanging ideas, sharing experiences, and highlighting the evolving role of oncology nurses in shaping the future of cancer care.

Mrs. Evelyn P. Kannan, Secretary General, The Trained Nurses Association



of India (TNAI) and a Board Member, CNMF Asia Region, graced the conference as the chief guest.

Day one focused on strengthening critical areas in oncology nursing, with sessions comprising competency-based training, early recognition and management of sepsis, and new approaches to prevent catheter-related infections along with the cultural pro-

gram. Experts highlighted early identification of chemotherapy-induced toxicities and strategies to reduce surgical site infections and also spoke about the use of smart pumps in infusion therapy to enhance safety, ethical considerations in end-of-life care, and ways to strengthen empathy in nursing practice. The Skill Station organised during the conference offered hands-on

demonstrations, including ostomy care and PICC tip confirmation, which was followed by a panel discussion on leadership, exploring how nurses can transform care by leading with compassion.

Mr. D. S. Negi, Chief Executive Officer, RGCIRC, said, "NURSICON 2025 reflects our strong belief that oncology nurses are not just caregivers, but also leaders, educators, and innovators. Their role in elevating cancer care is indispensable. At RGCIRC, we remain committed to creating platforms that empower nurses with advanced knowledge, practical skills, and leadership opportunities. By investing in nursing excellence, we strengthen the very foundation of cancer care."

Day two started with abstract presentation where nurses presented their re-

search papers in various domains of nursing, it carried forward the momentum with a wide range of scientific sessions. Experts discussed radiation-induced toxicities, the role of nurses in early detection and screening of cervical and ovarian cancers, and the use of ECG-based technology for PICC tip confirmation. Sessions on clinical trials in oncology shared insights into bone marrow harvesting, advanced dressings, and ICU infection control strategies, with each discussion reinforcing how oncology nurses can strengthen safety, quality, and hope for patients at every stage of treatment.

Speaking at the occasion, Col. Madhumita Dhall, Director - Nursing at RGCIRC, said, "Oncology nurses face the harsh realities of cancer

with unflinching courage and compassion every day. Our role goes beyond clinical care. We are listeners, advocates, and a source of strength for patients and their families. This year, we are focusing on how oncology nurses can adapt to new technologies and lead innovations in patient safety - while continuing to uphold the human touch that forms the heart of healing. We are preparing a future where the latest best practices walk hand-in-hand with compassion, ensuring patients receive the best possible oncological care."

In her closing remarks, she praised the dedication and resilience of oncology nurses, and recognised them as the backbone of cancer care, applauding their ability to combine skill, research, and compassion in ways that directly impact patient outcomes.

DPCC poses nine questions on Gupta govt's failure to control air and water pollution

Staff Reporter
New Delhi

Delhi Congress president Devendra Yadav here on Monday asked nine questions to Rekha Gupta government on the failure to control air and water pollution.

Yadav raised questions like how did Delhi become the world's most polluted capital; why 15 out of 100 deaths in the capital are due to pollution; why did the Winter Action Plan to control pollution fail, and why Yamuna was not cleaned despite wasting thousands of crores? He further said that in Delhi the AQI level crossed

The BJP government had also made bombastic promises about cleaning the Yamuna river, but the river continues to be highly toxic as ever. After eight months in power, the BJP government, headed by CM Rekha Gupta, has not fulfilled any of these promises, he added.

400 on more than 13 places like Anand Vihar, Wazirpur, Mundka etc. Under the mission, the BJP said it will "deploy road-sweeping machines

in every assembly constituency and water-sprinkling machines in every municipal ward". The BJP also promised to deploy more such machines in highly polluted areas such as "Anand Vihar, Mundka, RK Puram" etc.

The BJP government had not taken timely steps to stop stubble burning; why didn't effective action taken to control pollution from vehicular exhaust, broken roads and construction dust particles; why no effective steps have been taken to increase green cover in Delhi and why have the three garbage landfills not yet been dismantled despite tall claims?

The other questions Yadav raised include despite the



Noida
Noida International University (NIU) has achieved a prestigious milestone as its Computer Science & Engineering undergraduate program has been accredited by the National Board of Accreditation (NBA), reaffirming NIU's commitment to academic excellence, innovation, and global standards in technical education.

The NBA accreditation recognizes programs that meet rigorous benchmarks in curriculum design, faculty ex-

perienced, research, and outcome-based education (OBE). NIU's program earned this recognition after a detailed multi-stage evaluation, acknowledging its strong academic foundation, industry integration, and research-driven approach.

Dr. Divesh Kumar Singh, Chairman, NIU, said, "Earning the NBA accreditation is a proud moment for us. It validates our commitment to quality education and enhances our global standing."

Prof. (Dr.) Uma Bhardwaj, Vice Chancellor, added, "This achievement highlights our dedication to outcome-based learning and skill de-

NEA raises industrial land issues at district Udyog Bandhu Meet



Ajeet Kumar
Greater Noida

The Noida Entrepreneurs Association (NEA) highlighted key industrial concerns during a District Udyog Bandhu meeting chaired by District Magistrate Megha Rupani at the Greater Noida Industrial Development Authority office in Surajpur on Monday.

NEA President Mr. Vipin Kumar Malhan presented the challenges faced by entrepreneurs due to the current e-auction system for industrial plots. He said that the rates in e-auctions often rise to ₹1-1.5 lakh per square meter, significantly increasing the cost of setting up new industries. Earlier, the lease rent was charged at ₹25-30 per square meter or 5 percent of the plot cost, which made industrial development more feasible.

Malhan urged that the lease rent be fixed per square meter rather than as a percentage of the plot cost to reduce financial pressure on busi-

nesses.

He also raised the long-pending case of Sensors Embedded Fluid Systems, which was allotted Industrial Plot No. 262 in Sector EcoTech-3, Udyog Kendra Extension, back in 2016. Despite nine years having passed, the company has not yet received possession of the plot. NEA requested that if the Authority cannot hand over the original plot, the adjacent Plot No. 259 should be allotted instead, so that the company can begin construction and operations.

After hearing the concerns, Mrs. Rupam directed officials to review the lease rent policy and take prompt action to resolve the plot possession issue. The meeting was attended by NEA President Mr. Vipin Kumar Malhan, Senior Vice President Mr. Kapil Bhatia, Vice President Mr. Rajendra Mohan Jindal, Secretary Mr. Mayank Gupta, and members Mr. Rajat Khurana and Mr. Ashim Jagia.

YEIDA board meeting likely to be held on Nov 7

Noida

The board meeting of the Yamuna Expressway Industrial Development Authority (YEIDA) will be held on November 7. Proposals are being prepared for this meeting.

Many proposals including operation of hydrogen buses till Noida Airport, residential plot scheme including Heritage City will be passed to name a few are expected to be passed in the said meet. Under the chairmanship of YEIDA CEO RK Singh, the officials were busy preparing the proposals on Monday.

This time the most im-

portant proposal in the board meeting is about operation of hydrogen buses. The buses are to be operated by mid-November this month. A proposal has come from the National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) to run hydrogen buses in Yamuna City. This will also give the city a new identity as a green transport hub. The NTPC will initially deploy four luxury AC buses with 45 seats. These buses will be able to travel approximately 600 km on a single hydrogen refuelling. They will emit only water vapour, producing no pollution.

INS expresses concern over newspaper delivery disruptions in Punjab on Nov 2

Chandigarh
The Indian Newspaper Society has expressed serious concern over reports of disruption in newspaper delivery in Punjab on Sunday, apparently due to intensive police checking and detention of vehicles for several hours.

The opposition parties in Punjab sought to corner the AAP dispensation over the incident, terming it an attack on press freedom and people's right to information.

The Indian Newspaper Society (INS) said that while law enforcement operations are an essential part of the state, such actions should not hinder newspaper distribution, as readers' access to daily news updates is integral to press freedom and the citizens' Right to Information.

INS Secretary General Mary Paul has urged the Punjab government to take immediate steps to issue necessary instructions to all field officers to ensure smooth and unhindered movement of newspaper delivery vehicles across the state and prevent the recurrence of such disruptions.

Notably, newspaper deliveries were delayed at some places in Punjab on Sunday morning after police conducted vehicle checks, particularly commercial transports, during the intervening night of Saturday and Sunday.

Even though Punjab Police clarified that it undertook checking of vehicles carrying various items following specific intelligence inputs, opposition parties came out at the AAP government.

In a post on X, Congress veteran Parag Singh Bajwa said, "Raids on newspaper delivery vans across Punjab are a chilling attack on press freedom."

LG lays foundation for 'smart houses' for cloudburst-affected families in Kishtwar

Jammu
Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Monday laid the foundation stone for the construction of 'smart houses' for cloudburst-hit families in Chisoti village of Kishtwar district.

As many as 19 houses, which were completely damaged during the natural disaster on August 14, will be rebuilt free of cost with the support of the High-range Rural Development Society (HRDS India), a civil society organisation.

The cloudburst also killed 65 people, mostly pilgrims visiting the Machail Mata shrine, and left over 100 others injured, while more than 30 people remain untraced.

Paying homage to those who lost their lives in the tragedy, the Lieutenant Governor said the catastrophic floods swept away precious lives, wiped out several homes, and tore through infrastructure.

PM Modi to attend Gita Mahotsav, 350th Shahidi Diwas Event in Kurukshetra

Komal Ramola
Chandigarh
Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini announced that Prime Minister Narendra Modi will visit Kurukshetra on November 25 to participate in the state-level event commemorating the 350th Shahidi Diwas of Hind Ki Chadar, Sri Guru Tegh Bahadur Ji. The Prime Minister will also take part in the International Gita Mahotsav (IGM-2025), which will be held from November 15 to December 5.



Haryana Chief Minister, Sh. Nayab Singh Saini addressing a press conference regarding the International Gita Mahotsav, held in Chandigarh on November 3, 2025. Gita Manish Swami Gyananand ji Malhotra is also seen in the picture.

Addressing a press conference in Chandigarh on Monday, the Chief Minister said that this year's Gita Mahotsav will be a 21-day celebration of culture, knowledge, and spirituality. The event, which is being held across the sacred Dhar-makshetra-Kurukshetra region, will highlight its 48-kos radius that encompasses 182 pilgrimage sites identified by the Kurukshetra Development Board.

Saini noted that the International Gita Mahotsav has evolved into a global festival, having been celebrated in Mauritius, the United Kingdom, Canada, Australia, Sri Lanka, and Indonesia. The increasing participation of devotees from India and abroad, he said, reflects the universal appeal of the Bhagavad Gita's message.

He announced that Madhya Pradesh will be the partner state for this year's Mahotsav, bringing with it a vibrant showcase of its cultural and spiritual heritage. A dedicated pavilion from Madhya Pradesh is being constructed at Purushottam Pura Bagh near Brahma Sarovar to offer visitors an immersive experience of the state's diverse traditions.

The Chief Minister said the festival will be formally inaugurated on November 24 with a Gita Yagna and worship ceremony at Brahma Sarovar, followed by a three-day International Gita Seminar at Kurukshetra University. The seminar will feature 25 scholars from 16 countries, supported by the Ministry of External Affairs. Through the same ministry, Gita Mahotsav programs will also be held in 51 countries and streamed live.

Adding to the spiritual fervour, twenty pandits from Fiji and Trinidad and Tobago will visit Kurukshetra for two days to take part in the festivities. From November 26 to 30, Padma Vibhushan Rambhadracharya will conduct a special Katha under the aegis of Jeevo Geeta at Purushottampura Bagh. A Sant Sammelan will follow on November 29, featuring saints and spiritual leaders from across the country, and on November 30, the All India Devasthanam Conference will bring together heads of major religious institutions at Kurukshetra University.

The Chief Minister said that to engage devotees globally, the Haryana Information and Public Relations Department will run a dedicated YouTube channel during the festival. Devotees will be encouraged to share their reflections on verses from the Bhagavad Gita, and the most-viewed entry will receive a cash prize of ₹1 lakh during the closing ceremony.

A grand Gita Maha Aarti will illuminate the Brahma Sarovar every evening from November 15 to December 5, while cultural performances will be staged at various pilgrimage sites across the 48 Kos Kurukshetra region. On December 1, a Gita Yagna, Gita Path, and Bhagwat Katha will be held at Jyotisar Tiratha, accompanied by a global recitation of the Gita by 18,000 students at the Theme Park, Kurukshetra. Millions of devotees worldwide are expected to join the event online.

Saini also announced a 48 Kos Tirtha Sammelan at Kurukshetra

University, with representatives from all 182 Tirtha Samitis participating. On December 1, a grand Deepotsav will be celebrated simultaneously at all pilgrimage sites, accompanied by a Gita Shobha Yatra.

As in previous years, a Gita Book Fair will run from November 24 to December 1 at Brahma Sarovar, alongside exhibitions on public welfare schemes, a craft fair, a fun fair, and the traditional Balram Kushthi Dargal.

Extending the celebrations beyond Kurukshetra, the Chief Minister said that district-level events will also be held across Haryana starting November 28. On December 1, a Gita Shobha Yatra will be organized in every district, and 1,800 students will participate in a synchronized recitation of the Gita. Village panchayats will join in the festivities by lighting lamps during evening Deepotsavs at local pilgrimage sites.

Agency

Haryana wage revision 2025: Part-Time & daily workers

Chandigarh
The Haryana government has revised the wages of part-time and daily-wage workers engaged in various government departments, boards, corporations, and public undertakings across the state.



The new wage structure will come into effect from January 1, 2025.

According to a notification issued by the Chief Secretary Anurag Kastoji, the decision to revise wages follows numerous representations from government departments and organizations requesting an upward revision in the remuneration for workers employed on a part-time or daily basis.

The notification divides the state into three district categories for determining wage rates. This classification takes into account socio-economic and developmental differences among districts. The revised rates have been prescribed for different levels of workers under each category.

In Category-I districts, workers at Level 1 will now receive a monthly wage of ₹19,900, a daily wage of ₹576, and an hourly wage of ₹96.

At Level 2, the monthly wage has been fixed at ₹23,400, with a daily wage of ₹900 and an hourly rate of ₹113. For Level 3, the monthly wage will be ₹24,100, daily wage ₹927, and hourly wage ₹116.

In Category-II districts, the Level 1 wage will be ₹17,550 per month, ₹675 per day, and ₹84 per hour. At Level 2, the monthly wage will be ₹21,000, daily wage ₹808, and hourly wage ₹101. For Level 3, the monthly wage has been set at ₹21,700, daily wage ₹835, and hourly rate ₹104.

In Category-III districts, the revised wage at Level 1 will be ₹16,250 per month, ₹625 per day, and ₹78 per hour. Workers at Level 2 will receive ₹19,800 monthly, ₹762 daily, and ₹95 hourly, while Level 3 workers will get ₹20,450 monthly, ₹787 daily, and ₹98 per hour.

Punjab govt launches portal to streamline pension services

Chandigarh
Punjab Chief Minister Harpal Singh Cheema on Monday announced the launch of the Pensioner Seva Portal, a one-stop solution designed to streamline services for approximately 3.15 lakh pensioners in the state.

The portal will automate the workflow of pension disbursements and provide a range of services to pensioners and family pensioners.

Cheema said the portal will initially offer some key services to pensioners — submission of digital life certificates through 'Jeevan Pramaan' mobile app, application for conversion of pension into family pension through the Succession Module, application for Availing Leave Travel Concession, submission of pension-related grievances through the grievances module, and updation of pensioner's personal details through the Profile Updation Module.

He said the process

to avail these services is simple and user-friendly.

The pensioners can register on the Pensioner Seva Portal by completing e-KYC through the Aadhaar authentication facility in the portal. "They can then access these services from the comfort of their homes using a login ID on their mobile phones, PCs or laptops. They can also avail these services by visiting the nearest Seva Kendras, requesting for home delivery of service, concerned pension disbursing banks, or district treasury offices," Cheema said.

He said that the portal is currently operational only within India and work is underway to enable e-KYC for NRI pensioners. "Therefore, pensioners residing abroad are not required to complete e-KYC in this initial phase and will continue to submit manual Life Certificates as they have done previously, he said.

Punjab's GST surge outpaces nation threefold despite floods

Chandigarh

Defying odds posed by widespread floods and recent tax rate rationalisations, Punjab has posted an impressive 21.51 per cent increase in Net GST collections up to October 2025—three times higher than the national average growth rate of 7 per cent. The achievement underscores the state's fiscal resilience and effective tax administration, Finance, Planning, Excise and Taxation Minister Advocate Harpal Singh Cheema said in a statement issued here on Monday.

Cheema said that from April to October 2025, Punjab collected ₹15,683.59 crore in Net GST, compared to ₹12,907.31 crore in the same period last year—an increase of ₹2,776 crore. He noted that the growth rate during the corresponding period of the previous financial year stood at just 3.80 per cent, highlighting the state's remarkable turn-



around in 2025-26. For October 2025 alone, the state registered a Net GST collection of ₹2,359.16 crore, up from ₹2,061.23 crore in October 2024. The ₹298 crore increase translates to a 14.46 per cent year-on-year growth, reflecting sustained economic momentum even amid challenges.

Cheema said the surge in GST revenue is particularly significant given that several tax slabs

were lowered under GST 2.0 reforms introduced in September 2025. "Despite the reduction in tax rates and the devastation caused by floods, Punjab's GST revenue has risen sharply. This reflects the success of our digital monitoring systems, enhanced compliance, and anti-evasion drives," he said.

The minister added that post-settlement figures of SGST and IGST further affirm Punjab's fiscal strength, with cumulative receipts up to October 2025 outpacing all neighbouring states except Haryana. He said the figures demonstrate the resilience of Punjab's trade and industry sectors, which continued to perform strongly despite nearly half of the state's districts being flood-affected.

Cheema credited the Excise and Taxation Department's focus on technology-driven governance for the state's fiscal turnaround. He highlighted the use of data analytics, digital integration, and on-ground enforcement as key factors driving the improvement.

"Our department remains committed to supporting honest taxpayers while taking strict action against evaders," Cheema said. "The strong revenue growth shows that Punjab's economy is on a path of revival powered by transparency, efficiency, and accountability in tax governance."

Punjab turns classrooms into startups: Mann launches 'Business Class' revolution

Staff Reporter
Chandigarh

In a move that could redefine higher education in India, Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann has launched an ambitious initiative called 'Business Class' — an Entrepreneurship Mindset Course (EMC) aimed at transforming college students from job seekers into job creators.

Inspired by Arvind Kejriwal's education model and aligned with the National Education Policy (NEP 2020), the Punjab government has made EMC a mandatory subject in higher education. Starting from the 2025-26 academic session, it has been introduced in major courses such as BBA, BCom, BTEch and BVC. Nearly

1.5 lakh students across 20 universities, 320 ITIs and 91 polytechnic institutions have already enrolled in the program.

"Now every youth of Punjab will become an entrepreneur, and every college will become the birthplace of new businesses," said Chief Minister Mann while launching the initiative.

Based on the successful Punjab Business Blasters model, the program encourages students to develop and test business ideas every semester. They create prototypes, take their products to the market, and earn real income — replacing traditional exams with practical learning. Each student is awarded two academic credits for their entrepreneurial projects.



At the heart of the initiative is the AI-enabled Punjab Startup App, available in Punjab, Hindi and English. The app guides students through every step — from idea to ideation, financial management and connecting with investors. In just two weeks since

"Now every youth of Punjab will become an entrepreneur, and every college will become the birthplace of new businesses," said Chief Minister Mann while launching the initiative.

the launch, over 75,000 students have registered on the app, recording a business turnover of ₹25 lakh. Many are already earning up to ₹10,000 per semester through their ventures.

Chief Minister Mann said the initiative is part of a larger vision to make Punjab a 'Startup State'. "There is no shortage of

talent in Punjab's children — they just need equal opportunities. We have given them not just books, but tools to turn dreams into reality," he said.

The government aims to reach five lakh students by 2028-29, potentially generating thousands of startups and giving a strong boost to the state's GDP.

From solar torches to USB chargers, Punjab's students are turning classroom ideas into real businesses. The state's education system, once focused on rote learning, is now shaping a generation of innovators. With 'Business Class', Punjab has set the course for an educational and economic transformation — one where earning and learning go hand in hand.

It's time to translate decisions into tangible outcomes: J-K CM to officials



Jammu
Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Monday directed all departments to focus on the timely implementation of projects, saying it is time to translate decisions into tangible outcomes.

Chairing a meeting with the council of ministers and administrative secretaries at the civil secretariat here, he said a series of district-level review meetings would be initiated across the Jammu division to assess developmental progress and address public issues.

The meeting was convened shortly after the government shifted its operations to the secretariat in Jammu for the next six months in accordance with the age-old 'Darbar Move' practice — the relocation of the administrative capital of the Jammu and Kashmir government between Srinagar and Jammu with changing seasons.

Addressing the meeting, which was held to review the functioning of various departments and assess administrative preparedness, the chief minister described the restoration of the 'Darbar Move' after a gap of four years as "a welcome experience", according to an official statement.

Speaking on the challenges ahead, Abdullah said the government is expected to deliver "actual ground results".

Kharge in Patna: Congress Chief Sharpens Attack on PM Modi, Declares “No Vacancy for Nitish”

In a charged political atmosphere ahead of Bihar’s Assembly elections, Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge addressed a spirited press conference at Hotel Maurya in Patna, turning it into a strong political statement against Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s style of governance and conduct in the Bihar campaign. Flanked by a galaxy of senior leaders including K. C. Venugopal, Ashok Gehlot, former Chief Minister of Rajasthan, Bhupesh Baghel, former Chief Minister of Chhattisgarh, Pramod Tiwari and Akhilesh Prasad Singh, both Rajya Sabha members, as well as other senior functionaries of the party, Kharge’s message was loud and unambiguous — the Congress and Mahagathbandhan are entering the elections with a clear vision, a united front, and a commitment to end the “era of arrogance and political hypocrisy” in Bihar.

Calling Prime Minister Modi’s campaign rhetoric “divisive, arrogant and detached from Bihar’s realities,” Kharge accused the BJP of turning the entire election into “a show of one man and one slogan.” He charged that the Prime Minister’s campaign speeches have failed to address Bihar’s basic concerns — employment, farmer distress, poverty, and infrastructure — and instead focus on self-praise and attacks on opponents. “Modi ji talks more about himself than about India,” Kharge remarked, adding that the Prime Minister’s approach had reduced the dignity of the campaign to “personal theatrics.” The Congress chief said that Bihar’s youth, women and farmers are looking for governance with compassion, not self-glorification. “The people of Bihar know who worked for their dignity and who used them as political slogans. Mahagathbandhan represents the collective conscience of Bihar,” he said to applause from the assembled media and party workers.

The press conference also marked the formal launch of the Mahagathbandhan’s manifesto, titled ‘Naya Bihar, Naya Bhavishya’, which Kharge described as “a promise of social justice with economic vision.” The document, unveiled jointly with Tejashwi Yadav, lays emphasis on employment generation, agricultural reforms, women’s safety, industrial revival, and caste-based economic inclusion. Among its key promises are ten lakh new jobs in the first two years, a legal guarantee for MSP to farmers, a caste-wise economic census to ensure equitable welfare distribution, cooperative-based industrial growth, and women’s empowerment schemes linked with direct support for self-help groups. “We are not making promises for headlines; we are making commitments for history,” Kharge said, asserting that unlike the NDA’s hollow slogans, the alliance offers a concrete and time-bound roadmap.

As the event progressed, I asked Kharge a direct question that drew the most decisive response of the day — whether the Mahagathbandhan would welcome Nitish Kumar back into the INDIA bloc if he were to again switch sides after the polls, especially as the NDA has not declared him as its Chief Ministerial candidate. Kharge’s answer was crisp, blunt, and politically loaded: “No vacancy for CM. He is



By Dr. Anil Singh

Editor - STAR Views | Editorial Advisor - Top Story



not welcome.” His words triggered instant murmurs across the packed hall, as journalists and leaders exchanged glances. By publicly ruling out any post-poll accommodation for Nitish Kumar, Kharge drew a sharp boundary between stability and opportunism. “Nitish ji has already had too many rehearsals in switching. Let him now stay where he feels comfortable. Bihar deserves a stable government, not political tourism,” he said with measured sarcasm, signaling both confidence in Tejashwi Yadav’s leadership and a refusal to indulge in the political fluidity that has long defined Bihar’s alliances.

Throughout the press conference, Kharge’s criticism of the Prime Minister was relentless and pointed. He accused Modi of treating Bihar as a “political theatre” and of remembering the poor only when cameras are on. He alleged that the BJP-led Centre had systematically weakened institutions, destroyed the federal balance, and used central agencies like the ED and CBI to intimidate the opposition. “This government runs not on Cabinet decisions but on one man’s orders,” he said, asserting that India’s democratic framework has been reduced to propaganda. He also questioned why Bihar’s long-standing demand for special status, promised by both the BJP and JDU, had never materialised. “When it comes to

publicity, Modi ji’s Bihar is shining; when it comes to development, Bihar is still waiting,” he quipped.

The presence of Tejashwi Yadav at the event gave it local resonance and symbolic depth. His confident and composed demeanour reflected his acceptance as the face of the Mahagathbandhan. Kharge referred to him as “the young leader who understands Bihar’s pain,” adding that his earlier tenure as Deputy Chief Minister had shown his focus on development rather than dynasty. With Kharge’s clear endorsement of Tejashwi as the alliance’s Chief Ministerial candidate, the opposition sought to remove any ambiguity over leadership within the bloc. The strong national presence on the dais — from Venugopal to Gehlot, Baghel, and others — further highlighted the Congress’s renewed seriousness about Bihar, a state where the party had been a marginal player for years but now sees a revival opportunity through coordinated opposition unity.

Kharge’s press conference came at a defining moment in the Bihar campaign. The NDA’s strategy has revolved almost entirely around Prime Minister Modi, with Nitish Kumar’s role remaining unclear. The BJP’s silence on naming a Chief Ministerial candidate has led to speculation that Nitish’s future in

the alliance is uncertain. By declaring “no vacancy for CM,” Kharge not only pre-empted any post-election defection narrative but also diminished Nitish’s leverage within Bihar’s shifting equations. It was a calculated political message — that the Mahagathbandhan is united, confident, and not dependent on recycled alliances.

In tone and substance, Kharge’s address contrasted sharply with the BJP’s campaign built on “Modi’s guarantee.” The Congress leader reframed the Bihar contest as a clash between arrogance and accountability. “The youth of Bihar are not asking for slogans; they are asking for salaries. They are not looking for speeches; they are looking for security,” he said, asserting that the INDIA bloc represents the voice of ordinary people against authoritarian centralisation. His emphasis on jobs, education, and dignity sought to connect emotionally with Bihar’s vast migrant population and economically struggling families who have left behind despite years of high-decibel development claims.

Beyond the rhetoric, the event also served a clear organisational purpose — to revive the Congress cadre in Bihar, energise its local leadership, and restore morale through visible central participation. The presence of Gehlot and Baghel — both popular former Chief Ministers — sent a message of unity and experience, while K. C. Venugopal’s coordination signaled that the national command is personally supervising Bihar’s campaign. Insiders revealed that Kharge’s visit marked the beginning of a broader campaign trail that will take him to Gaya, Darbhanga, and Bhagalpur, focusing on employment, social justice, and the failures of double-engine governance.

Kharge’s Patna press conference was more than a campaign stop; it was a statement of political intent and ideological clarity. By attacking the Prime Minister head-on, ruling out Nitish Kumar’s return, and projecting Tejashwi Yadav as the undisputed face of the Mahagathbandhan, Kharge has given the opposition alliance a new confidence and direction. Whether this assertive message converts into electoral gains will depend on ground mobilisation and voter sentiment, but one thing is clear — Kharge’s firm declaration, “No vacancy for CM,” will resonate through Bihar’s political discourse. In a state where shifting loyalties have long blurred political identities, his categorical tone reflected a rare firmness in opposition ranks. The battle for Bihar is now not merely about alliances or arithmetic; it is about defining the moral and political character of governance. Kharge’s message was simple yet powerful — that Bihar deserves leadership with stability, empathy, and purpose, not opportunism and spectacle.

Mainstreaming Pranayam as Preventive Mental Health Policy: A Call Centre-based Experiment

India is at a critical crossroads in its public health journey. Non-communicable diseases such as hypertension, diabetes, and stress-related disorders are rising at alarming rates, threatening not only individual well-being but also the nation’s economic productivity. While clinical interventions remain essential, it is equally urgent to strengthen preventive mental health measures. Among the most powerful tools available to us is pranayam—the ancient practice of controlled breathing rooted in India’s cultural heritage.

The Experiment: A Pranayam Helpline

To mark the 75th birthday of Prime Minister Narendra Modi on 17 September, Global Peepal Policy League (GPPL) launched a Pranayam Helpline, offering guided live meditation till Gandhi Jayanti. The concept was simple: offer citizens a phone number to connect with trained yoga instructors, available 24x7, to learn or practice basic pranayam techniques over the phone.

In less than 2 weeks, the helpline received nearly 300 calls, with an average call duration of 3 minutes, many serious cases even exceeding 15-20 minutes. The response proved that Indians are willing and eager to engage with accessible, voice-based wellness solutions. The initiative also gained momentum online, drawing more than 6,000 visits on social media, amplified by leaders like Amitabh Kant (G20 Sherpa, ex-CEO of NITI Aayog) and actor Rahul Bhat. Offline, posters at Resident Welfare Association (RWA) events and interactions with MP Bansuri Swaraj reinforced its legitimacy and reach.

Voices from the Ground

Testimonials revealed the true value of the initiative: “I had an argument with my parents and I called the Calm-line immediately. The lady listened to me, gave me suggestions for future and breathed with me to reduce my anger.” — student in Delhi. “It felt personal and supportive... I never thought a helpline could deliver meditation so effectively. She asked me to observe how my stomach was expanding—contracting as I was breathing” — Retired teacher. “The yogi guided me step-by-step and I felt calmer within minutes. It is very helpful for working people like us under stress.” — young professional from Bengaluru.

These experiences underline pranayam’s potential not just as a cultural practice but as a scalable public health intervention.



By Ms. Snigdha Verma

Ms. Snigdha Verma holds an MSc in Public Policy and Management from Carnegie Mellon University (2010). She began her career with The World Bank and IFC in Washington, DC, working on financial and private sector development, before moving to rural India to serve the ‘Solar Mamas’ at Barefoot College. A regular speaker at global platforms like the Tufts Energy Conference, UN CSW, and Asia Climate Summit, she has also been a visiting fellow at Monash University, Australia. In 2024, she received the Woman in Power Award from ISGF.

Policy Lessons

The pilot offers several insights for India’s policy-makers:

Demand exists: Pranayam is a well-known technique in India. Once benefits are experienced, callers were actively seeking guided wellness support.

Cost-effective: Minimal infrastructure for telephonic guidance.

Trained workforce: Well-trained Yoga graduates from institutions of repute like Morarji Desai make this scalable.

Medical access gap: Clinical therapy involves stigma and has acute access gap with average 1 psychologist per 100,000 citizens.

Community-ready: RWAs and local networks amplify adoption. Topic of wide interest.

Soft power: A Digital Yoga Helpline can also strengthen India’s global leadership in wellness diplomacy.

The Way Forward

To move from pilot to policy, India should: 1. Launch a National Pranayam Helpline such as under the Ministry of AYUSH. 2. Integrate pranayam and yoga counselling into existing digital health platforms. 3. Expand services to multilingual formats to reach India’s diverse population, and eventually

outside India as well. 4. Encourage RWA-NGO-CSR partnerships for grassroots scaling. 5. Introduce robust bio-feedback systems to track outcomes like stress reduction through wearables or app-based HRV trackers. 6. Market the helpline as an immediate calming support. “Can’t sleep? Call us.” “Meeting anxiety? Breathe with us for five minutes.”

Why It Matters

The success of GPPL’s helpline is more than a program—it is a proof of concept that preventive healthcare can be democratized through digital tools. In a country of 1.4 billion people, even a small shift towards preventive mental health practices can reduce the burden on hospitals, psychologists, improve quality of life, and cut long-term healthcare costs.

India pioneered the International Day of Yoga on the world stage. It now has the opportunity to pioneer a new era of Pranayam for Mental Health Diplomacy—where every citizen, regardless of geography, has access to simple, effective wellness practices at the tap of a phone.

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SC raps Centre over move for bigger bench

New Delhi
The Supreme Court on Monday took strong note of the Centre's application seeking a direction to refer to a larger bench the pleas challenging the provisions of the Tribunals Reforms (Rationalisation and Conditions of Service) Act, 2021, saying that it did not expect this from the government at the final hearing.



The 2021 Act abolishes certain appellate tribunals, including the Film Certification Appellate Tribunal, and amends various terms related to the appointment and tenure of judicial and other members of various tribunals.

A bench comprising Chief Justice B R Gawai and Justice K Viond Chandran, which has already heard final arguments on behalf of petitioners, including lead petitioner Madras Bar Association, in the matter, was irked over the fact that the Centre now wanted the matter to be referred to a five-judge constitution bench.

"On the last date (of hearing), you (attorney general) did not raise these objections and you sought adjournment on personal grounds. You cannot raise these objections after hearing them fully on merits... we do not expect the Union to indulge in such tactics."

"This is after we have

heard one party fully and accommodated the Attorney General on personal grounds," said the visibly irked CJ.

The CJ observed that it seems the Centre wanted to avoid the present bench. CJ Gawai is demitting office on November 23.

Attorney General R Venkataramani urged the bench not to misunderstand the Centre's application seeking adjudication by a larger bench and said that the preliminary objections on this aspect were already part of the reply filed by the Union government earlier.

"If we reject this application, you will observe that the Union is trying to avoid this bench. We will not hear this now after we have heard one side on merits," the CJ said.

"No, please do not get this impression. The Act was passed after due deliberations... we are only saying that should the Act be just struck down because of these issues. Let it get some time to be stabilised," the attorney general said.

Justice Chandran said the issue of referring the matter to a larger bench was not raised earlier and the same cannot be done at such a belated stage.

"At least at some stage you should have raised this issue... that too an application for this? You took an adjournment because you wanted to come and argue," the bench observed.

When the attorney general tried hard to dispel the notion that the Centre wanted to defer the hearing, the CJ said, "We have the highest

regard and respect for you. You (AG) please confine yourself to respond to the submissions made by (Arvind) Datar (the senior advocate who argued against the law)," the CJ said.

"Argue on the basis of any documents that may arise. If during the course of arguments, we think that reference to a larger bench is needed we will do it... but we will not do it at the best of your application which comes at midnight," the bench said.

The attorney general commenced final arguments in the case.

He said the government, in its wisdom, came out with a law after a long gestation period and the statute be allowed to work to gain experience. "The court should not set

aside the law," the top law officer said and referred to the provisions of the law with regard to minimum term and prerequisites for appointments in various tribunals. "Merit cannot be sacrificed for selections to take place from the waitlist," he said.

Tribunal establishment has gained some history now and at the time, let the Act gain some more experience and be there for some more time and to say that striking the complete Act now won't be justified, he said.

The hearing would resume on Friday.

The top court, on October 16, commenced the final hearing on the petitions challenging the constitutional validity of various provisions of the Act.

Datar said in July 2021, the top court quashed several provisions of the Tribunals Reforms (Rationalisation and Conditions of Service) Ordinance, 2021 and found that they infringed upon the principles of judicial independence and the separation of powers.

The Centre came up with the Tribunal Reforms Act after the apex court verdict quashed several provisions of the ordinance, he said.

Strangely, the Act "verbatim" contained the provisions of the ordinance which were struck down by the top court which is impermissible

unless the basis of the judgement is removed by the government, he said.

The top court had struck down the provision of the ordinance that reduced the tenure of tribunal members and chairpersons to four years, noting that a short term of office could encourage executive influence over the judiciary.

It had held that the tenure must be five years to ensure security of service, with a maximum age of 70 for chairpersons and 67 for members.

The bench had also struck down the minimum age of 50 for appointments to tribunals. It stressed the need to induct younger members to ensure the judiciary remains robust and vibrant, stating that a minimum of 10 years of practice should be a sufficient qualification for judicial members, similar to what is required for High Court judges.

The verdict had also rejected the government's power to make appointments from a panel of two names recommended by the Search-Selection Committee.

The ordinance was promulgated in April 2021.

After the apex court verdict, the government in August introduced and passed the Tribunals Reforms Act with provisions almost identical to those that were struck down.

SC to act on rising dog bite menace on Nov 7

New Delhi
The Supreme Court on Monday said it will pass interim directions on November 7 to tackle the issue of "grave menace" owing to dog bites in institutional areas, where employees feed and encourage stray dogs.

A three-judge special bench comprising Justices Vikram Nath, Sandeep Mehta and NV Anjaria said to tackle the issue of "grave menace" owing to dog bites in institutional areas, where employees feed and encourage stray dogs.

"We have considered the issue of grave menace owing to dog bites in institutional areas. We shall issue interim directions to tackle the said issue on the next date. List for orders on November 7," the bench said.

During the hearing, the bench observed it will issue directions with respect to the stray dogs menace being faced in institutions, including government and public sector ones, where the employees are supporting, feeding and encouraging the canines.

The bench said it will try and issue some further directions regarding dog bite incidents happening across the country.

"Apart from recording the appearances and affidavits and everything, we will also be issuing some directions with respect to institutional menace which is being faced in government institutions, public sector institutions and other institutions where the employees are supporting, feeding and encouraging dogs in that area," Justice Nath said.

One of the advocates appearing in the matter urged the bench that they be heard prior to passing of directions on the issue.

"For institutional matters, we are not going to hear any arguments at all. Sorry," Justice Mehta said.

The bench said personal appearance of the chief secretaries of states and UTs would not be required.

"However, their presence would again become necessary in case there is any default in the compliance of the orders passed by this court," it said.

The bench said it had called the chief secretaries of all the states and UTs, except West Bengal and Telangana, to remain present before it as they had neither filed their compliance affidavit nor were they represented during the hearing on October 27.

The bench said the states and UTs, except West Bengal and Telangana, were "completely lethargic" and had not filed their affidavits earlier.

It noted that except for the UTs of Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu and Chandigarh, all others have filed their compliance affidavits.

"The counsel representing the UT of Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu has sought two days for filing the affidavit, the same shall be filed before the next date of hearing, i.e., November 7," it said.

The bench noted the submission of counsel representing UT of Chandigarh that they have filed the compliance affidavit on October 30 but the same is not on record. It asked the apex court registry to verify the same and place it on record.

The apex court on August 22 asked the states and UTs about the steps being taken for compliance of the Animal Birth Control (ABC) Rules.

During the hearing on Monday, the bench said the Animal Welfare Board of India be made a party in the matter and notice be issued to it.

It also allowed the application seeking exemption from personal appearance filed by the chief secretary of Kerala while noting that the state has filed its compliance affidavit and its principal secretary, local self government of Kerala, was present in the court.

At the outset, Solicitor General Tushar Mehta said most of the states and UTs have filed their compliance affidavit with some delay for which they have tendered apology.

When one of the advocates raised the issue of designated feeding points for stray dogs, the bench said, "This matter is going to continue for sometime. It is not coming to a closure today. We are still doing the house-keeping work. Let us complete that."

The bench asked senior advocate Gaurav Agarwal, assisting the top court as an amicus curiae, to make a convenience compilation of all the affidavits along with its summary.

Mehta said victims of dog bite incidents should also have a say in the matter.

The bench allowed the interlocutory applications filed by the victims and said they would not be required to make any deposit to the apex court registry.

In its August 22 order, the top court said each individual dog lover and NGO that have approached it shall deposit Rs 25,000 and Rs 2 lakh respectively with its registry, failing which they shall not be allowed to appear in the matter any further.

VP Radhakrishnan urges stakeholders to make Indian coir a global brand

Kollam (Kerala)
Vice President C P Radhakrishnan on Monday described coir as a symbol of sustainable development and urged stakeholders to make Indian coir a global brand.

He also highlighted the pivotal role played by exporters and stakeholders in propelling the Indian coir industry onto the global stage.

The Vice President interacted with the members of the Federation of Indian Coir Exporters Associations (FICEA) in this south Kerala district.

The interaction brought together distinguished exporters, industry leaders, and members of FICEA to celebrate the remarkable growth and resilience of the country's coir sector.

Addressing the gathering, Radhakrishnan underscored the opportunities presented by the global shift towards sustainable and eco-friendly materials.

knowledge with modern technology to enhance branding, quality, and market access.

Commending FICEA's pivotal role in uniting exporters, safeguarding interests, and ensuring Indian coir's strong presence in global markets, the Vice President encouraged stakeholders to further strengthen the spirit of partnership to make Indian coir synonymous with sustainability, quality, and innovation worldwide.

He expressed confidence that the coir industry, under robust leadership and with sustained cooperation, would continue to achieve new milestones, shine globally, and exemplify the enduring spirit of Indian craftsmanship.

FICEA members fondly recalled Radhakrishnan's tenure as Chairman of the Coir Board (2016-2020), noting that exports had doubled during that period, a result of collective efforts and industry-wide collaboration.

Education is wealth that cannot be taken away, says VP Radhakrishnan

Kollam (Kerala)
Vice President C P Radhakrishnan on Monday said education is the greatest wealth a person can possess and lauded Kerala's contribution to India's education sector. Speaking at the diamond jubilee celebrations of Fatima Mata National College here, he quoted Tamil poet Thiruvalluvar, saying, "Education is wealth that cannot be taken away from a person."

No wealth can be equal to the richness of education. "At a time when the world is grappling with uncertainty—be it due to climate change, digital disruption, or social fragmentation—the role of education is more vital than ever, he said.

"We need colleges that do not merely prepare students for jobs. We must not be interested in creating 'gumastas' (clerks). We should be more interested in producing scientists and great administrators who can render greater service to society," the Vice President said.



Education should equip students with critical thinking, compassion, and a global perspective, he added. Radhakrishnan lauded Kerala's contribution to India's educational progress, saying the state's achievement of 90 per cent literacy when others had not even reached 40 per cent was "remarkable and incomparable".

The Vice President urged students to think of a timetable not just as something for school days, but as something that should guide them throughout life. "Don't get drowned in social media

all the time. We should not be habituated to anything—otherwise, it will start dictating terms to us."

"We must have self-control over everything," he said. He also spoke strongly against drug and alcohol abuse, saying he has launched an initiative called "No to Drugs" to raise awareness. "Where there is no freedom, we must never misuse it. Instead, we should exercise self-control. 'No to Drugs' should become a people's movement," he insisted.

Radhakrishnan said that he hoped to return for the college's centenary celebrations. "If God wills, I will

come back for the centenary celebrations," he said. Expressing his vision for the nation, the Vice President said, "We want our country to become the most powerful in the world."

"We never dictate terms to other countries. No country should dictate terms to us," Kerala Governor Rajendra Arlekar said education should focus on nation-building and on creating job-givers rather than job-seekers, aligning with the vision of "Viksit Bharat" and "Viksit Kerala".

He said Kerala has made immense contributions to the nation, especially in culture and education. "Education is not just for personal growth, but also for the progress of the nation," he said. Arlekar said all efforts should lead towards achieving the vision of "Viksit Bharat 2047".

He added that educational institutions should nurture entrepreneurs and innovators who can create jobs for others.

BSF launches four digital initiatives to boost efficiency and cybersecurity

Mitali Chandola
New Delhi

In a major stride towards digital transformation, the Border Security Force (BSF) has rolled out four key IT initiatives designed to enhance efficiency, transparency and security within the force. The initiatives — Integrated Centralized Liquor Management System (CLMS), e-Bill System, BSF Private Cloud, and Endpoint Detection and Response (EDR) Solution — were inaugurated by Director General BSF, Daljit Singh Chawdhary, at the Force Headquarters in New Delhi on Monday.

The launch marks a significant milestone in BSF's journey towards creating a "Digital BSF — Smart BSF," aligning with the government's vision of a technology-driven governance ecosystem. Each of these platforms aims to modernize internal processes,



strengthen data security, and deliver smoother digital services to Seema Praharis, both serving and retired.

The Integrated CLMS will serve as a unified digital platform for all Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs) — including BSF, CRPF, ITBP and SSB — for managing liquor allocations and inventories across units. The move is expected to bring long-awaited standardization and transparency to the system, replacing manual records with a seamless digital workflow. The e-Bill System, another

management of IT resources, the cloud system will provide a reliable and protected environment for data storage and critical applications.

In a time of growing cyber threats, the deployment of an enterprise-grade Endpoint Detection and Response (EDR) Solution adds an essential layer of protection. The EDR will enable continuous monitoring, early detection, and swift mitigation of cyber incidents across BSF's digital assets, ensuring operational resilience.

Officials said the new IT systems have been developed indigenously, underscoring BSF's commitment to self-reliance and innovation. The initiatives are expected to set new benchmarks in digital governance within India's security forces, offering a blueprint for other CAPFs to emulate.

Ministry of Railways Actively Participates in Month-Long Special Cleanliness Campaign 5.0

Staff Reporter
New Delhi

The Ministry of Railways took part in a special month-long campaign called Special Campaign 5.0 from October 2 to October 31, 2025.

This campaign aimed at cleanliness, resolving pending issues, and managing records better. It was carried out across all Zonal Railways and Production Units, guided by the Railway Board.

During this campaign, the Ministry surpassed its previous records from Special Campaign 4.0. They held 84,184 cleanliness initiatives at various locations, focusing on disposing of scrap, which cleared up 6.06 lakh square feet of space and generated revenue of Rs. 570 Crore.

Under the effective leadership of the Railway Board, the Ministry met all



targets for handling public complaints and other outstanding matters. They reviewed 99,968 files, closing 59,248 physical files and 7,482 e-files.

To increase awareness, the Ministry organized citizen-focused events called 'Amrit Samvad' at major stations, including 105 Am-

Modi's India future ready emerging as global protagonist: Jitendra Singh

New Delhi
Science and Technology

Minister Jitendra Singh on Monday urged scientists to meet the global benchmarks and strategies to realise the goal of a Viksit Bharat by 2047.

Addressing the Emerging Science, Technology and Innovation Conclave (ESTIC) here, Singh said India never lacked talent, but required an enabling environment which was provided when Narendra Modi assumed office of prime minister in 2014.

"India is no longer a follower, the country today beckons others to follow it. India is no longer a global player, it is emerging as a global protagonist. India is no longer the trailing India of the 20th century, it is future ready," Modi's India of 21st century," Singh said.

Zubeen Garg murdered charge-sheet to be filed by Dec 8: Himanta

Tezpur:

Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on Monday claimed that cultural icon Zubeen Garg was murdered in Singapore, even as the probe into the case was underway.

The celebrated singer died under mysterious circumstances while swimming in the sea in Singapore on September 19. He had gone to the Southeast Asian nation to attend the 4th edition of the North East India Festival (NEIF).

"I am not terming it an accident. The charge-sheet in Zubeen Garg's murder case needs to be submitted by December 17. I have set a target to submit it by December 8. We are ready now," Sarma told reporters here.

He, however, did not share further details about the case or the kind of evidence that establishes the death as murder.

A Special Investigation Team (SIT) under the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) of the Assam Police is currently probing Garg's death case after more than 60 FIRs were lodged across the state.

Speaking about the process of filing the charge-sheet, Sarma said, "If any incident takes place abroad, an approval is required from the Ministry of Home Affairs. Yesterday, I met Union Home Minister Amit Shah to get an approval soon."

He said the SIT is likely to write to the MHA within the next three to four days, seeking necessary approval.

Congress-RJD are anti-Ram, casteist, and protectors of mafias: CM Yogi

Saran:

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Monday launched a fierce attack on the Congress and RJD while addressing a massive public rally in the Garkha Assembly constituency of Saran district in support of NDA candidate Seemant Mirnal.

He said the Congress and RJD not only defamed Bihar's identity, but also insulted Hindu faith by denying the existence of Mata Janaki and Lord Shri Ram. "Congress says Lord Ram never existed. What could be a bigger insult to Hindus than this?" he asked, adding that the RJD government stopped the Ram Rath Yatra and ordered lathi charges on devotees, while the Samajwadi Party even opened fire on them.

"Despite their opposition, we stood firm and said, 'Ram Lalla hum aayenge. Mandir wahi banayenge.' Today, the grand Ram Temple stands completed in Ayodhya, something only possible because of the BJP's double-engine government," he said.

Targeting the RJD, Yogi said that between 1992 and 2005, Bihar became synonymous with massacres, kidnappings, and fear. "Over 60 caste-based massacres and more than 30,000 kidnappings took place. Traders were unsafe, daughters were afraid to step out, and youth were forced to migrate. That was RJD's Bihar," he said.

Advt Contact : 9818-799941

Six dozen caste massacres define RJD's dark legacy: CM Adityanath

Staff Reporter Patna:

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, on Monday, delivered a fiery address at a public rally in Patna's Digha constituency, launching a sharp attack on the RJD-Congress Grand Alliance. He accused them of plunging Bihar into an era of loot, caste massacres, and lawlessness.

"Those who once endangered Bihar's identity are now back seeking votes," Yogi said, recalling that during Lalu Yadav's rule, six dozen caste massacres took place, women and traders lived in fear, and even the poor were robbed of their food and fodder.

He asserted that while the RJD-Congress regime had tarnished Bihar's image, the NDA has restored people's faith and set the state on the path to a "golden era." "The same poor who were deprived of



Six dozen caste massacres define RJD's dark legacy: CM Adityanath

their rights are now getting free ration, health insurance, houses, toilets, and gas connections under Prime Minister Modi's leadership," he stated, adding that 80 crore people are benefitting from free ration and 50 crore from health coverage.

Reminding people of Bihar's historic role in defending democra-

cy, Yogi said, "Under Loknayak Jayaprakash Narayan's leadership, Bihar's youth once overthrew the Congress dictatorship. That same spirit must now strengthen the NDA." Taking a swipe at opposition leaders, he likened the Grand Alliance to "three monkeys — Pappu, Tappu, and Appu — one who can-

not speak properly, one who cannot see clearly, and one who cannot hear anything."

The Chief Minister said that under Prime Minister Modi's leadership, both Bihar and Uttar Pradesh are advancing together in heritage and development. "A grand temple of Lord Ram stands in Ayodhya, and a magnificent tem-

Congress repeating false promises in Bihar, says Nihal Chand Sharma

Rajan Punchhi Mandi:

BJP District President Nihal Chand Sharma has accused the Congress Party of deceiving voters with hollow assurances, claiming that the same false promises made in Himachal Pradesh are now being repeated in Bihar.

Speaking to the media, Sharma said the Congress came to power in Himachal by misleading people with attractive guarantees such as ₹1,500 monthly assistance for women, five lakh jobs for the unemployed, and swift resolution of employee issues. None of these commitments, he asserted, have been fulfilled, leaving people across the state disillusioned.

He added that Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu is now attempting to replicate the same strategy in Bihar by making similar promises in a bid to mislead voters. "The people of Bihar will not fall for these false assurances. They can see how Congress has failed



to deliver in Himachal," Sharma said.

Highlighting the achievements of the NDA government in Bihar, Sharma pointed out that under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, the state has witnessed steady development and good governance. He said the people of Bihar believe in progress, stability, and accountability, not in empty guarantees.

Expressing confidence in the upcoming elections, Sharma said the people will once again support the NDA to form a development-oriented government and give a fitting reply to what he called the "politics of deception" practiced by the Congress.

HP seeing collapse of system at every level under Sukhu govt: BJP's Jai Ram Thakur

Shimla:

BJP leader Jai Ram Thakur on Monday launched a scathing attack against the Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu government in Himachal Pradesh, alleging that every level of governance has seen a collapse of the system under the Congress dispensation.

He took a dig at Chief Minister Sukhu, saying his government does not give proper thought, nor does it seriously consider various aspects before making a decision.

Sukhu had been in student politics for a long time, Thakur said, and claimed that even now, the way he is making decisions, he appears to be running his government like he is running a student organisation.

The government's loss of state has also impacted the state's development, the BJP leader said.

Further training guns on the Sukhu government, Thakur said, it is for the first time in the



"We did not see a change in system, but a collapse of systems at every level," he said.

Thakur touched upon the "mounting" state debt and claimed that in just three years of the Congress government, it has increased from nearly Rs 70,000 crore to over Rs 1.05 lakh crore.

More than Rs 35,000 crore they have borrowed during the three years, and the state debt has crossed Rs 1.05 lakh crore, which has impacted the development in the state, he said.

The government's loss of state has also impacted the state's development, the BJP leader said.

Further training guns on the Sukhu government, Thakur said, it is for the first time in the

state that 2,000 institutions have been closed. "Before the polls, the Congress made tall promises and had asserted that 10 guarantees would be fulfilled in the very first cabinet meeting."

"After three years, people know the fate of the promises made to women. They also promised to give 300 units of power for free, implement the old age pension scheme, and one lakh jobs every year," the former chief minister said.

Thakur said people still remember the work done by the previous BJP government in Himachal. However, the Sukhu dispensation either shut or paralysed several schemes which were started by the BJP government, he alleged.

Tiger Terror in Pilibhit: Family's Safari Turns into a Scare

Pilibhit:

A family's weekend adventure at Uttar Pradesh's Pilibhit Tiger Reserve turned into a frightening ordeal when a tiger suddenly attacked their safari vehicle, leaving everyone inside shaken. The big cat leapt onto the gypsy and clawed at its body before the driver managed to speed away. The entire incident, caught on camera, has since gone viral, showing just how close the family came to danger.

According to eyewitness Nitin Agarwal, a resident of Purnapur in Pilibhit, he had set out on the safari with ten members of his family on Saturday afternoon. It was their first visit to the reserve, planned at the insistence of his children who were eager to see a tiger in the wild.

As the group ventured deeper into the forest, the driver slowed down after spotting movement in the dense bushes. The children, excited by the possibility of seeing a tiger, began recording on their mobile phones. Within seconds, the excite-



ment turned to panic as the tiger emerged and began sprinting toward their gypsy.

"The tiger came charging at us," Agarwal recalled. "Before the driver could accelerate, it reached dangerously close and pounced on the rear of the vehicle. Luckily, because the gypsy was higher, the tiger couldn't reach us."

In the video, the tourists can be heard excitedly whispering and pointing toward the bushes moments before the tiger appears. The mood changes abrupt-

ly as shouts of "run, run!" fill the air while the driver accelerates to escape the charging animal.

The family escaped unharmed, but the terrifying encounter has left many visitors uneasy about jungle safaris at the reserve. Forest department officials have so far declined to comment on the incident, though sources say an internal review of the safari route and safety procedures is likely.

Established in 2008, the Pilibhit Tiger Re-

serve spans nearly 727 square kilometers and is one of northern India's most important protected forest areas. Home to the majestic Bengal Tiger, the reserve plays a vital role in the species' conservation and is known for its rich biodiversity, attracting thousands of wildlife enthusiasts each year.

For Nitin Agarwal and his family, however, what began as an exciting first encounter with nature quickly became a moment they will never forget.

UP Mati Kala Board sees record-breaking sales of more than Rs 4.20 crore

Lucknow:

The Uttar Pradesh Mati Kala Board has registered record-breaking sales of more than Rs 4.20 crore this year through a series of state, regional, and district-level fairs, the state government said on Monday.

The total sales mark a significant increase of Rs 91 lakh compared to last year, reflecting a 27.7 per cent growth despite fewer stalls being set up this year, it said.

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath's vision to uplift traditional artisans and promote indigenous crafts has been a key driver behind this success, the state government said in a statement.

"The government's focused approach to marketing, branding, and



training is enabling the state's pottery products to reach both national and international markets, it said.

According to government figures, the 10-day Mati Kala Mahotsav held at Khadi Bhavan in Lucknow from October 10 to 19, 2025, recorded sales of Rs 1.22 crore from 56 stalls. Similarly, the sev-

en-day regional fairs organised in Gorakhpur, Agra, Kanpur, Dehat, and Moradabad from October 13 to 19 saw 126 stalls generate Rs 78.84 lakh in sales.

In addition, the three-day district-level Mati Kala fairs held across 70 districts between October 17 and 19 registered sales of Rs 2.19 crore through 509

stalls, it stated.

In 2024-25, 878 stalls had achieved Rs 3.29 crore in sales. The higher turnover this year, despite fewer stalls, shows improved product quality, better fair management, and stronger market linkages, according to the statement.

"This reflects growing consumer interest in traditional pottery products and increasing confidence among artisans," the government said.

The Mati Kala Board aims to continue empowering artisans through advanced training, design development, exhibition management, and branding initiatives, ensuring long-term economic sustainability, it said.

To protect and promote traditional crafts, strengthen artisans' economic security, and

generate employment through innovation, the Yogi government established the Uttar Pradesh Mati Kala Board, the statement said.

Through this initiative, thousands of families have gained new avenues of self-reliance, and traditional pottery has found a renewed identity in modern markets, it said.

A landmark decision under this initiative allows members of the Prajapati community to extract clay free of cost from village ponds, significantly reducing input costs and facilitating uninterrupted production.

"These steps reflect the government's commitment to preserving traditional crafts while enabling them to compete globally," the statement said.

Mudit Chandra takes over the charge of PCPO/NCR



Agra:

Mudit Chandra, has taken over the charge of Principal Chief Personnel Officer, North Central Railway, Prayagraj. He has assumed this charge following the superannuation of the outgoing Principal Chief Personnel Officer, Shri S. Balachandra Iyer, on October 31, 2025.

Shri Chandra is an Indian Railway Personnel Services Officer and belongs to Civil Services 1998 Exam batch. He

attained his early education from St. Joseph's College, Prayagraj and thereafter graduated in Mechanical engineering (B.E.) from Motilal Nehru National Institute of Technology, Prayagraj.

Sri Chandra has served in various capacities in Indian Railways as Deputy General Manager/General, HR head at Agra, Jhansi & Prayagraj divisions of NCR and ADRM/Operations at Agra Division before joining NCR/HRQ

Hong Kong court rejects Tiananmen vigil organiser's bid to quash indictment

Hong Kong:
A Hong Kong court on Monday rejected a former Tiananmen vigil organiser's attempt to quash her indictment, pressing ahead with a landmark case widely seen as part of a years-long crackdown on the city's pro-democracy movement.

Chow Hang-tung, a former leader of the group that organised a decades-old vigil to remember China's 1989 crackdown on pro-democracy protesters in Beijing's Tiananmen Square, was charged in 2021 with inciting subversion, which carries a maximum penalty of 10 years. She was charged together with two of the group's other former leaders, Albert Ho and Lee Cheuk-yan.

Their case was brought under a national security law imposed by Beijing in 2020 to quell massive anti-government protests in 2019. The trio were accused of inciting others to challenge the leadership of the Communist Party by unlawful means.

Chow, who is a barrister and is defending herself, argued that the indictment was unacceptably broad and vague because authorities did not specify an unlawful means. She said it could amount to a "catch-all charge."

Judge Alex Lee remarked during the hearing that the charge was broad, but not vague.

BUSINESS

IRF welcomes MoRTH move to install QR code on every major road project



TSN/New Delhi:
International Road Federation (IRF) on Monday welcomed highways minister Nitin Gadkar's recent announcement to install QR code on every major road project for improving the quality of roads, and termed it as a bold new transparency push and a major step towards better project governance.

IRF is a global road safety body working for better and safer roads worldwide.

IRF president emeritus K K Kapila said the bold new transparency and visionary initiative to introduce QR codes for improving the quality and monitoring of Indian roads marks a significant milestone in the nation's journey towards creating a more transparent, accountable, and technolo-

Israel returns 45 Palestinian bodies after soldier remains handed back

Deir Al-Balah:
Israel on Monday handed over the bodies of 45 Palestinians, health officials in Gaza said, a day after Hamas returned the remains of three hostages. Israeli officials identified the three as soldiers who were killed in the Hamas-led attack on Oct. 7, 2023, that triggered the war.

The exchange marked another step forward for the tenuous, US-brokered ceasefire in the two-year war — the deadliest and most destructive war ever fought between Israel and the militant Hamas group.

Since the truce took effect on Oct. 10, Palestinian militants have released the remains of 20 hostages, with eight now still remaining in Gaza.

For each hostage returned, Israel has been releasing the remains of 15 Palestinians. Monday's return brought the number of Palestinian bodies handed back since the ceasefire began to 270.

Only about 75 of all the



Zaher al-Wahidi, a spokesperson at the Gaza Health Ministry, told The Associated Press that the 45 released bodies of Palestinians were received at the Nasser Hospital in Gaza around the noon.

Only about 75 of all the

returned bodies have so far been identified, the ministry said. Forensic work is complicated by a lack of DNA testing kits in Gaza, it added. The ministry posts photos of the remains online, in the hope that families will recognise them.

Meanwhile, the office of Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu identified the three hostages returned to Israel on Sunday night as Capt. Omer Neutra, an American-Israeli, Staff Sgt. Oz Daniel and Col. Assaf Hamami. A Ha-

The exchange marked another step forward for the tenuous, US-brokered ceasefire in the two-year war — the deadliest and most destructive war ever fought between Israel and the militant Hamas group.

mas statement earlier said their remains were found on Sunday in a tunnel in southern Gaza.

Neutra, an American-Israeli, was 21 when Hamas militants abducted him and the rest of his tank crew on Oct. 7, 2023. In December 2024, the military announced Neutra had been killed in the attack that started the war.

US President Donald Trump said Sunday he had spoken with Neutra's family, describing their relief and heartbreak. "They were thrilled, in one sense, but in another sense, obviously, it's not too great," Trump said.

Pak security forces kill several TTP terrorists

Peshawar:
Security forces killed several militants of the banned TTP after they attacked a police convoy in Pakistan's restive Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province on Monday, police said.

The convoy headed by the District Police Officer (DPO) North Waziristan Waqar Khan was attacked on Miranshah Road, Bannu district.

The Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) militants opened fire at the convoy using automatic and heavy weapons. However, the DPO and other policemen retaliated, killing several terrorists, and causing others to flee from the scene.

Police officials did not specify the number of militants killed. Six policemen also sustained injuries and were shifted to the District Headquarters (DHQ) Hospital, where they were provided medical treatment.

DPO Khan and his squad escaped unharmed as his vehicle was bullet-proof.

The area was cordoned off by the police, and a search operation was launched. In a separate incident, security forces killed a senior Daesh-Khorasan operative involved in several high-profile assassinations during an intelligence-based operation (IBO) in the province, according to officials.

Daesh Khorasan refers to the banned terror outfit Islamic State - Khoresan Province (ISKP), primarily active in Afghanistan, Pakistan, and parts of Central Asia.

The militant was gunned down in the Kausara area of Bajaur district.

He was reportedly behind multiple target killings, including those of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leader Rehan Zeb, Awami National Party's Maulana Khan Zeb, the Deputy Commissioner of Nawagai, Buner district, and several police and Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam members.

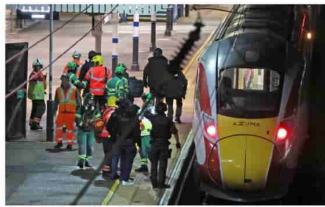
He had earlier been imprisoned at Kabul's Pul-e-Charkhi Jail and was released following the Taliban takeover in Afghanistan, officials said, adding that he entered Pakistan in 2023 and has been orchestrating attacks in Bajaur and adjoining areas.

UK police charge man with attempted murder over train mass stabbings

London:
British police on Monday charged a 32-year-old man with attempted murder in connection with the stabbings that injured 11 people on board a London-bound train over the weekend.

Anthony Williams, a black British national, appeared before a court in eastern England on Monday morning.

British Transport Po-



lice (BTP) said Williams is charged with 10 counts

of attempted murder, one count of actual bodily harm (ABH) and one count of possession of a bladed article in connection with "the major incident" at Huntingdon railway station on Saturday evening.

Armed police had stormed the train after several people were attacked on the Doncaster to London King's Cross high-speed service.

"The criminal investigation and support for the victims is a priority for British Transport Police," said BTP Deputy Chief Constable (DCC) Stuart Cundy.

"Our investigation is also looking at other possible linked offences. Following the charges authorised by the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS), I would stress the importance of not saying

or publishing anything which might jeopardise or prejudice ongoing criminal proceedings, or the integrity of the investigation," he said.

The police revealed that Williams is also charged with another count of attempted murder and possession of a bladed article in connection with an incident at Pontoon Dock DLR station in London on Saturday.

The man, of Langford Road in Peterborough, appeared before Peterborough Magistrates' Court following the charges and will remain remanded in custody.

A second man, a 35-year-old British national from London who was arrested at the scene in Huntingdon, was later released "with no further action".

India, New Zealand FTA Talks Commence

New Delhi:
Officials of India and New Zealand started the fourth round of negotiations in Auckland for the proposed free trade agreement, the commerce ministry said.

Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal will reach Auckland this week to meet his New Zealand counterpart Todd McClay to review the progress of the negotiations.

"The Fourth Round of negotiations for the India-New Zealand Free Trade Agreement (FTA) commenced today (Monday) in Auckland, New Zealand," the ministry said in a statement.

Negotiations in this round are focusing on key areas, including trade in goods and services, and Rules of Origin.

"Both sides are working constructively to build on the progress achieved in earlier rounds, to reach convergence on outstanding issues and move towards the early conclusion of the FTA," it said.

The FTA negotiations were formally launched on March 16, 2025. The third round of



negotiations for the agreement concluded on September 16 in Queenstown, New Zealand.

India's bilateral merchandise trade with New Zealand stood at USD 1.3 billion in 2024-25, registering a growth of nearly 49 per cent over the previous year.

The proposed FTA is expected to further boost trade flows, promote investment linkages, strengthen supply chain resilience, and create a predictable framework for businesses in both countries.

New Zealand's average import tariff is just 2.3

"The Fourth Round (November 3-7, 2025) of negotiations for the India-New Zealand Free Trade Agreement (FTA) commenced today (Monday) in Auckland, New Zealand," the ministry said in a statement.

India and New Zealand began negotiating the CECA in April 2010 to boost trade in goods, services, and investment. After nine rounds of discussions, however, the talks stalled in 2015.

India's key goods exports to New Zealand include clothing, fabrics, and home textiles; medicines and medical supplies; refined petroleum; agricultural equipment and machinery such as tractors and irrigation tools, auto, iron and steel, paper products, electronics, shrimps, diamonds, and basmati rice.

The main imports are agricultural goods, minerals, apples, kiwifruit, meat products such as lamb, mutton, milk albumin, lactose syrup, coking coal, logs and sawn timber, wool, and scrap metals.

India, Bahrain Trade Deal Negotiations Begin

New Delhi:
India and Bahrain on Monday announced commencement of negotiations for an ambitious trade deal and inching closer to seal an investment pact as External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar held extensive talks with his Bahraini counterpart Abdullah bin Rashid Alzayani to further broad-base over-all ties.

In their talks, the two ministers also agreed to develop a common understanding to commence negotiations for a double taxation avoidance agreement (DTAA).

This would help eliminate double taxation, provide tax certainty and promote trade and investment, officials said.

Alzayani landed in India on Sunday on a two-day visit with an aim to further expand bilateral ties in the areas of trade, investment and defence at a time West Asia has been witnessing conflicts and geopolitical turmoil.

In his opening remarks at the meeting, Jaishankar reiterated India's support for the Gaza peace plan and hoped that it would lead to a lasting and durable solution to the conflict in the region.

In their talks, Jaishankar and Alzayani explored ways to boost bilateral cooperation in areas of defence, security, economic trade, investment, health, fintech, space, culture and people-to-people ties.

UPI Transactions Hit Record High in October

New Delhi:
Fuelled by festive buying, the transaction through the popular Unified Payments Interface (UPI) touched a record high of Rs 27.28 lakh crore and 20.7 billion in value and volume terms, respectively, in October, according to data released by the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI).

NPCI said the value of transactions was at Rs 27.28 lakh crore in October against Rs 23.49 lakh crore in the same month a year ago, registering a 16 per cent growth on an annual basis.

was Rs 25.14 lakh crore in May, while in terms of volume, the last high was 19.47 billion in July.

NPCI said the value of transactions was at Rs 27.28 lakh crore in October against Rs 23.49 lakh crore in the same month a year ago, registering a 16 per cent growth on an annual basis.

On a month-on-month basis, the growth was 9.5 per cent in terms of value. The UPI transaction in value terms was Rs 24.90 lakh crore, while volume was 19.63 billion.

The average daily transaction in October was 668 million with an average value of Rs 87,993 crore during the festival month.

"The steady rise in UPI volumes, particularly during high-traffic periods like Diwali, demonstrates the strength of India's digital infrastructure and its ability to handle massive, real-time transactions seamlessly.

"It also highlights how behavioural change has taken firm root, from large cities to the heart of Bharat, where digital payments are now part of daily life," Spice Money CEO Dilip Modi said.

Today, UPI accounts for 85 per cent of all digital transactions in India. Its impact goes beyond national borders, powering nearly 50 per

cent of global real-time digital payments.

UPI is already live in seven countries, including the UAE, Singapore, Bhutan, Nepal, Sri Lanka, France, and Mauritius. Its entry into France is a milestone because it is UPI's first step in Europe. This allows Indians travelling or living there to pay seamlessly without the usual hassles of foreign transactions.

NPCI, an initiative of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and the Indian Banks' Association, is an umbrella organisation for operating retail payments and settlement systems in India (IBA).

It runs the Unified Payments Interface (UPI) used for real-time payments between peers or at merchants' and while making purchases.

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Afghanistan head coach Jonathan Trott set to part ways with ACB after T20 World Cup 2026

New Delhi: The Afghanistan Cricket Board (ACB) on Monday announced the tenure of Head Coach Jonathan Trott will officially conclude following the ICC T20 World Cup 2026, set to take place in February.

This decision comes as part of ACB's long-term strategic planning for the next phase of the national team's growth, as per a release from ACB.

Jonathan Trott, who took charge of the Afghanistan National Team in 2022, has worked closely with the players over the past few years, contributing to the team's development and rising international competitiveness.

During his tenure, Afghanistan celebrated some of its most memorable moments in recent cricket history, including major tournament successes, historic victories against top-ranked nations, and milestones that elevated the country's global cricketing profile.

ACB recognises that coaching transitions are a natural part of the global cricketing ecosystem. Just as teams evolve, so do their leadership and strategic needs. No international side remains under a single coach forever, and this change marks a new chapter for Afghanistan as the Board continues building toward long-term excellence.

Labuschagne continues red-hot domestic run with third One Day Cup ton

Sydney: Australian batter Marcus Labuschagne continued to unleash torrent of runs in domestic circuit, slamming his third ton of the ongoing One Day Cup against Queensland against New South Wales at Sydney on Monday.

Following last two years of indifferent form in international cricket, especially Tests, Australia's second-most premier batter after Steve Smith continues to be hell-bent on proving that his class is permanent and runs would soon flow, as he smashed 101 in 111 balls, with six fours and a six, striking at 90.99.

His total helped Queensland reach 287/9 in 50 overs, with spinner Tanveer Sangha (3/64) being the pick of the bowlers for NSW. Later during the defence of the total, he also picked two wickets, with Lachlan Shaw (60 in 64 balls, with six fours and a six) and Sam Konstas (47 in 74 balls, with three fours) being top contributors as NSW was restricted to 191 all out, losing by 96 runs.

Marnus is the top run-getter in the tournament, with 338 runs in four innings at an average of 84.50, with three centuries and a strike rate of over 99, with best score being 130.

This is his fifth century in past eight innings in domestic cricket across formats, having already slammed two Sheffield Shield centuries as well. He rules the batting charts of Aussies' most premier red-ball tournament as well, with 341 runs in four innings at an average of 85.25, a healthy strike rate of 77.67 and two centuries, with best score of 160.

BCCI announces award of Rs 51 crore, PM Modi to Virat Kohli all hail Women's World Cup win

Mumbai: The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) announced a cash reward of Rs 51 crore for the ICC Women's World Cup-winning Indian team and everyone from Prime Minister Narendra Modi to Sachin Tendulkar to Virat Kohli raised a toast to the women on Monday, the day after a victory that is being hailed as a defining moment that could inspire generations.

BCCI secretary Devajit Saikia confirmed that the entire team, including players, coaches, selectors and support staff, would share the reward.

The long-awaited moment of glory arrived at the DY Patil Stadium in Navi Mumbai as captain Harmanpreet Kaur's team defeated South Africa by 52 runs in the final, ending decades of heartbreak that included the 2005 and 2017 losses in the finals. This victory marked India's first-ever Women's World Cup title.

"In 1989, Kapil Dev inspired a new era in Indian cricket with the men's World Cup win. Today, our women have reig-



₹51 crore reward as India's queens lift the World Cup!

nited that same spirit and pride for the nation," Saikia said announcing the reward.

India opener Smriti Mandhana said she was still struggling to process the magnitude of her team's achievement, calling it "unreal."

"I haven't been emo-

tioned on the cricket field. But yeah, just a very unreal moment, home World Cup and just to read that we are Champions, I just can't, I'm still not able to process it," she said.

India women's head coach Amol Muzumdar described his team's historic World Cup triumph as a "watershed moment" for Indian cricket, lauding his players for their relentless work ethic and composure under pressure.



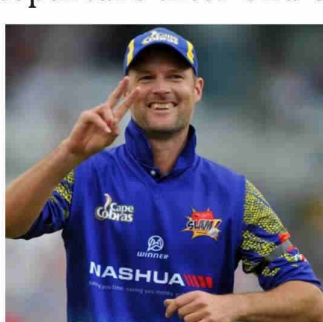
Sanjay Dubey: Every heart in the nation is chanting 'Harman, Harman.' When a ship reaches its destination, the glory belongs to its captain; when it sinks, the captain bears the burden. Twice before, the Indian women's cricket team's ship had sunk. This time, Harmanpreet Kaur stood at the helm, determined to reach the shore.

The journey was far from smooth. After three consecutive wins, came three crushing defeats that nearly broke the team's spirit. But true champions rise from setbacks. Regaining their rhythm, the women in blue fought back fiercely. Their determination peaked in the semifinal, where they defeated a formidable Australian side—virtually seen as the champions already—by five wickets. The final was a statement of dominance: South Africa, a strong contender, fell short by 52 runs.

The victory brought back memories of Chak De! India, a film that captured how belief, uni-

versal and mental approach of our batters, contributing to several notable performances across formats," ACB said in a statement on X.

"His professionalism, calm demeanour, and commitment to player development have left a lasting and positive impact on both the coaching unit and the players. Having started his journey with ACB in January 2024, his contract concludes on December 31, 2025. We take this opportunity to thank Andrew for his hard work, passion, and devotion to Afghanistan cricket. He will always remain a respected member of the ACB family, and we wish him the very best in his future coaching endeavours. Thank you, Andrew, and best of luck in your next chapter," ACB concluded.



During his reign, Afghanistan reached the semi-finals of the T20 World Cup 2024 in the USA and the Caribbean for the first time. In their historic run, Afghanistan toppled New Zealand and Australia in the group stage and Super 8s.

line. That's about it. We dominated, lot of majority of those matches so we didn't look at this as losses," he said.

"We just thought that there are some hiccups in the campaign. We were still alive in the tournament and here we are on 2nd November 2025 World Champions." Shafali Verma was named Player of the Match for her blistering knock and crucial spell of bowling, while Deep-ti Sharma was crowned Player of the Tournament for her stellar all-round performance, scoring 215 runs and claiming 22 wickets in the tournament.

Encumbrances for the team have been pouring in since the victory.

At an event where he inaugurated the Emerging Science, Technology and Innovation Conclave (ESTIC) 2025 at Bharat Mandapam in New Delhi, Prime Minister Modi said: "Today's event is related to science. But before that, I would like to talk about India's magnificent victory in cricket. The entire nation is delighted by the success of our cricket team."

Harman's Triumph: The Captain Who Steered India to Glory

New Delhi: Every heart in the nation is chanting "Harman, Harman." When a ship reaches its destination, the glory belongs to its captain; when it sinks, the captain bears the burden. Twice before, the Indian women's cricket team's ship had sunk. This time, Harmanpreet Kaur stood at the helm, determined to reach the shore.

The journey was far from smooth. After three consecutive wins, came three crushing defeats that nearly broke the team's spirit. But true champions rise from setbacks. Regaining their rhythm, the women in blue fought back fiercely. Their determination peaked in the semifinal, where they defeated a formidable Australian side—virtually seen as the champions already—by five wickets. The final was a statement of dominance: South Africa, a strong contender, fell short by 52 runs.

The victory brought back memories of Chak De! India, a film that captured how belief, uni-



versal and the right mentorship could transform a team. The Indian women's team found that guiding force in coach Amol Muzumdar. When he took charge, the team was often accused of buckling under pressure. Muzumdar, once hailed as a contemporary of Sachin Tendulkar but denied a national call-up, brought with him the hunger and grit

Mithali Raj hails India Women's team on maiden ICC World Cup win

New Delhi: Former India captain Mithali Raj, with pride, emotion and joy, hailed India as they lifted their maiden ICC Women's World Cup trophy after defeating South Africa in a thrilling final on Sunday.

Under Jay Shah's leadership, the BCCI has championed gender equality in cricket, driving initiatives like pay parity and the Women's Premier League (WPL). Raj praised ICC Chairman Jay Shah for these initiatives, which are changing the course of women's cricket.

In an X post, Mithali Raj wrote, "What happened last night is a testament to the fact that when you give wings to a dream, dreams do come true. The girls were brilliant, but one must acknowledge the support behind this watershed moment, four

BCCI president Manhas on Women's WC winning team

Mumbai: As the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) announced a cash reward of Rs 51 crore for the ICC Women's World Cup winning Indian team, the board's president Mithun Manhas congratulated the team for their maiden World Cup triumph, saying that the triumph "vindicates the investment and faith the BCCI placed in building a world-class women's programme."

All-round performance from Shafali Verma (87 and 2/36) and Deep-ti Sharma (58 and all-round performance, scoring 215 runs and claiming 22 wickets in the tournament).

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To honour this unprecedented success, the BCCI has announced a cash reward of INR 51 crore for the players, support staff and selection committee, in recognition of their remarkable performance, dedication and contri-

bution to the nation's sporting glory.

Under the astute guidance of the BCCI, the players' support staff and every stakeholder have delivered an extraordinary performance on the grandest stage, fulfilling the aspirations of millions of fans across the country.

The BCCI also took the opportunity to highlight the pivotal role of Jay Shah, who served with distinction as Honorary Secretary of the BCCI and now holds the position of Chairman of the International Cricket Council (ICC) in boosting the women's cricket ecosystem in India with moves like equal match fees as men's players and the Women's Premier League (WPL) franchise event, giving young Indian talent a chance to brush up with world-class Indian and overseas superstars.

The transformation of women's cricket in India, from modest beginnings to world-stage triumph, owes much to his steadfast vision, his commitment to professionalising the women's game and ensuring India builds a pipeline of talent capable of achieving global success.

with the bat, the ball, or in the field. Cricket, a game that often glorifies individual records, saw the power of teamwork. Deep-ti Sharma, with crucial runs and five wickets in the final, seemed the ideal choice for Player of the Match. Yet, the balance of awards went to Shafali Verma, the Player of the Series, who had stepped in for the injured Pratikha Rawal. Amanjot's incredible catch of the South African captain—after three determined attempts—became one of the defining moments of the final, symbolizing the team's never-give-up spirit.

This win was not just a sporting milestone—it was an emotional one. The daughters of India have carved history with their courage and composure. The sight of men dancing and celebrating the women's triumph in city squares reflected a beautiful shift in the nation's sporting spirit. Harmanpreet and her team didn't just win a trophy; they won hearts, uniting 1.46 billion Indians in joy and pride.



World Cup being hosted at home and the prize pool raised to 13.88 million dollars, a fourfold increase that shows how far the game has come. For every person standing behind a young girl who dares to dream of wearing India's colours, this is a pivotal moment, a reminder that dreams do come true when those dreams get the support they truly deserve, she added.

Charles Coste, world's oldest Olympic champion, passes away at 101

New Delhi:
The world's oldest Olympic champion, cyclist Charles Coste, died at the age of 101.
An Olympic champion as a part of the team pursuit cycling event back in London Olympics 1948, he carried the Olympic torch as the penultimate torchbearer at the opening ceremony of the last year's Paris Olympics.
As per Olympics.com, Coste died on Thursday, October 31. Coste was alongside Serge Blusson, Fernand Decanali, and Pierre Adam when France won the Olympic gold in men's team pursuit event in 1948.
He had been the oldest living Olympic champion, since Hungary gymnast Agnes Keleti died on January 2025.

Coste was born on February 8, 1924 in Ollioules, in the Var region and quickly found a passion in sport and cycling. He became the French national pursuit champion in 1947 and won the Olympic gold a year later as the leader of Team France, outlasting Great Britain at their home turf in the semi-finals and then Italy in the final.

The five-time Judo champion in Olympics, Teddy Riner, who had received the Olympic torch from Coste, said on social media as quoted by Olympics.com, "Charles Coste has left us. I had the immense honour of receiving the Olympic flame from him at the Paris 2024 Games. That moment symbolised the passion and transmission that drove him. Charles Coste represented commitment, respect, and love for sport in all its forms. His career commands admiration and his legacy will continue to inspire future generations."

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Mandaviya announces centenary celebrations to mark 100 years of Indian Hockey

New Delhi:
Union Minister for Youth Affairs and Sports Mansukh Mandaviya announced on Monday the grand celebration to mark 100 Years of Indian Hockey.

The centenary celebrations, to be held in association with Hockey India, will take place on November 7 at the Major Dhyan Chand National Stadium in New Delhi, with parallel events scheduled across more than 550 districts in India.

Indian Hockey on November 7 completes 100 years. For decades, even before India gained independence, Indian hockey was considered the epitome of sporting excellence on the global stage. With a proud haul of Olympic medals, including 8 gold, one silver, and 4 bronze, India established itself as a powerhouse in the sport.

"As India celebrates 100 years of hockey, we honour a century of pride, perseverance,



and national glory. This milestone is an occasion to remember our heroes who brought honour to the country and to draw inspiration from their journey as we look ahead. Hockey is more than just a sport for India -- it is part of our identity and collective spirit. The celebrations across more than 550 districts will not only

highlight our legacy but also take the story of Indian hockey to every corner of the nation, inspiring young boys and girls to pick up the stick and play with passion," Mansukh Mandaviya said.

Elaborating on the arrangements for the celebrations, Mandaviya said, "Hockey is turning 100 in the country on November 7th. In

these 100 years, hockey has brought pride and respect to the country. On November 7th, more than 1,400 hockey tournaments will be organised in more than 550 districts across the country. So that there is widespread awareness about hockey in the country. The youth of the country should see and understand hockey,

become familiar with its history and shape the future."
Hockey India president Dilip Tirkey said that celebrating 100 years of Indian hockey is a deeply emotional and proud moment for the country.

"This milestone honours our glorious past while inspiring a new generation to carry the legacy forward. Indian hockey has always represented the spirit of resilience, unity, and excellence. As we celebrate this centenary, our focus is on strengthening the game from the grassroots, empowering both men and women equally, and preparing our teams to reach the pinnacle of world hockey once again. I extend heartfelt gratitude to all those who have stood by Indian hockey over the years -- our players, coaches, fans, and partners. Together, we will make the next century even more golden," he said.

Real Madrid defender channels club legend with thunderbolt

Rome:
The game was almost done. Real Madrid were leading 9-0 against a Valencia team in a relegation zone. The Bernabeu was a little bit flat. Three first half goals had already sealed the match, and Madrid had shifted down a gear in the second half.

In the 82nd minute of the game, Alvaro Fernandez Carreras decided to channel his inner Roberto Carlos and bring the Bernabeu to life. A hammer of a strike later, Carreras had scored his first ever goal for the club he joined as a child and made some with-in the Bernabeu (including Florentino Perez) realise a diminutive Brazilian club legend.

In 2020, then known with his paternal surname, a 17-year-old Alvaro Fernandez left Real Madrid's academy to join Manchester United's youth program. The La Liga games weren't too perturbed -- Alvaro showed no signs of ever living up to his idols -- Marcelo and Roberto Carlos.

His time in England was mixed -- despite impressing with the Man Utd U-23 setup, even being named their MVP, the left-back was never afforded a sen-

ior appearance. He made the bench on a couple of occasions, was loaned out to Preston, North End, Grimsby and then Benfica with the Portuguese club having an optional purchase clause of six million. A figure that Manchester United will only look back on with regret.

Come the summer of 2024, Benfica had no doubts and exercised their option. Now adopting his maternal surname, Carreras went on to grow by leaps and bounds. Madrid came calling once more and parted with 50 million to secure his services. Kabi Alcaraz was in need of a solution at left-back, with Ferland Mendy perennially injured, Fran Garcia not up to snuff and David Alba getting woefully found out in the UEFA Champions League against Arsenal last season.

Alonso trusted the 22-year-old right from the off, as Carreras began the season with aplomb. Using his pace and positional nous to tie up opposition wingers, he represented a secure platform for Vinicius Jr. and others in the Madrid squad (hardly the greatest support defensively) to have their freedom.

ROME --
It's not just Grand Slam titles that Jannik Sinner and Carlos Alcaraz have taken turns collecting this year.

The top two tennis players are also trading the No. 1 ranking back and forth.

Sinner officially returned to the top spot in the ATP rankings on Monday following his Paris Masters victory - replacing Alcaraz, who had held the honor for nearly two months.

But due to the rankings' math and rules, Alcaraz will return to No. 1 next Monday.
The Italian and the Spaniard are separated by so few points now - Sinner leads with 11,500 points to Alcaraz's 11,250 - that it will come down to their performances at the upcoming ATP Finals in Turin to determine who ends the year at No. 1.

Points dropping off While neither Sinner nor Alcaraz are playing this week - except for Sinner on Sunday - the reason the rankings will change again next Monday is because that's the day when the points



from each player's performance at last year's finals drops off.
Sinner next week will lose the 1,500 points he earned from winning the final last year, while Alcaraz will lose only the 800 points that he earned after failing to advance from the group stage.

So next Monday, the rankings will read: Alcaraz 11,050 and Sinner 10,000.

And there's zero possibility for any other player to move into the top two spots anytime since No. 3 Alexander Zverev (5,560 points), No. 4 Taylor Fritz (4,735) and No. 5 Novak Djokovic (4,580) trail far behind.
Sinner and Alcaraz have amassed their huge

Jannik Sinner replaces Carlos Alcaraz at No. 1 with the year-ending top spot still uncertain

Breaking Time

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

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

Solution, Sudoku

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

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Chennai Super Champs to serve up sports spectacle in the city in Nov with Chennai Open

Chennai:
Chennai Super Champs, the city's World Pickleball League (WPBL) franchise, on Monday announced the opening of 6 state-of-the-art indoor courts in partnership with, and at, Sathyabama University.

The courts will be home to the inaugural edition of its flagship pickleball championship, The Chennai Open, to be held between November 29-16, 2025. The vibrant city of Chennai will host one of the most anticipated sporting festivals in the region, as per a press release.

Organised by Chennai Super Champs in conjunction with WPBL, the inaugural edition promises to be a community-driven movement that brings the rapidly growing sport of pickleball to the heart of the city, and it's doing so with India's biggest-ever pickleball prize pool of Rs 25 Lacs up for grabs. It will also give a chance to budding youngsters



Chennai Super Champs set to light up November with the Chennai Open

to showcase their talent and graduates to the next level starting with the upcoming season of WPBL.

Set against the backdrop of Chennai's blazing sporting culture, the Chennai Open will transform the city into a buzzing hub of activity, welcoming players, fans, families, and newcomers to experience pickleball

like never before. Across four action-packed days, the event will feature high-energy matches, vibrant on-ground experiences, and an atmosphere that blends elite sport with community celebration.

Speaking about the upcoming edition, actress Samantha Ruth Prabhu, Owner of Chennai Super Champs, said,

"Chennai has always embraced the sport with unmatched passion, and the Chennai Open is a reflection of that spirit. This tournament is for everyone, including youngsters looking to take up the sport. Pickleball is fun, inclusive, and accessible, and we want people from all walks of life to come, play, and

live as a part of this growing community. Chennai deserves a sporting festival that belongs to the city and its people, and that's exactly what we are building as we look to grow this exciting sport."
Sharing his vision for the tournament's broader impact, Himank Duvvuru, co-owner of Chennai Super Champs, remarked, "Our goal is to make pickleball a part of Chennai's everyday life with Chennai Open. We are also organising camps for school kids, women, working professionals, and more. We aim to inspire more people to pick up a paddle, play with friends, and discover the joy of this incredible sport."
The Chennai Open 2025 is designed for all ages, genders, and playing abilities. From passionate amateurs to seasoned professionals, the tournament's inclusive format and community-first approach aim to cement its place as one of India's most exciting pickleball events.

Aryna Sabalenka, Jessica Pegula win WTA Finals openers

RIYADH:
Top-ranked Aryna Sabalenka put on a dominant serving display in her opening match at the WTA Finals, producing 10 aces in a 6-3, 6-1 win over No. 8-ranked Jasmine Paolini on Sunday.

Sabalenka served four aces in the final game of the first set and overall put 82.7% of her first serves in play.
The match, which was Sabalenka's 500th at the WTA level, lasted 70 minutes.

"I was focused, I was calm, and it felt like everything was in control," Sabalenka said.

On Saturday, Sabalenka was presented with a trophy for finishing the year at No. 1.

"I'm super happy and super proud of the work that has been done and that things are working, and I'm getting better and better every day," she said. "And I just hope that we're going to keep doing what we're doing, and hopefully we can stay there."

The season-ending tournament for the year's top eight players starts with two four-woman groups of



Sabalenka & Pegula start strong at WTA Finals

round-robin play. The top two finishers in each group advance to the semifinals.

"I take this tournament as a regular tournament that I have to win five matches if I want to win the title," Sabalenka said. "So I'm just trying to bring my best tennis and fight for every point."

In the same group, Jessica Pegula beat defending champion Coco Gauff 6-3, 6-7(4), 6-2 in an all-American matchup.

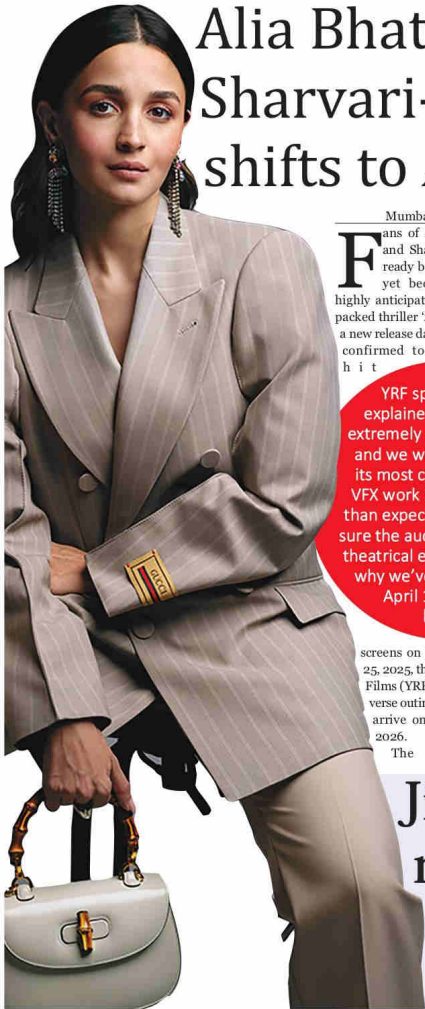
Gauff again struggled with her serve, hitting 17 double faults -- including one to hand the first

set to Pegula, her former doubles partner.

Before she ultimately pulled it out in the tiebreaker, Gauff twice failed to serve out the second set. On her second such chance, she hit three consecutive double faults to let Pegula break her again and force a tiebreaker.

Three weeks ago, Gauff beat Pegula in the final of the Wuhan Open in China.

"Coco is a great champion, great competitor, good friend. So it's always tough playing her," Pegula said. "I don't think there's any secrets with this group of girls here."



Alia Bhatt and Sharvari-starrer 'Alpha' shifts to April 2026

Fans of Alia Bhatt and Sharvari, get ready but not just yet because the highly anticipated action-packed thriller 'Alpha' has a new release date. Earlier confirmed to hit

A YRF spokesperson explained, "Alpha is an extremely special film for us, and we want to present it in its most cinematic form. The VFX work is taking a bit longer than expected. We want to ensure the audience gets the full theatrical experience. That's why we've decided on an April 17, 2026 release."

screens on December 25, 2025, the Yash Raj Films (YRF) spy-universe outing will now arrive on April 17, 2026. The change

comes as the film's visual effects team needs extra time to perfect the high-octane action sequences. Sources close to the production reveal that the team is leaving no stone unturned to ensure 'Alpha' delivers a visually stunning experience especially as it marks the first female-led entry in YRF's spy universe.

A YRF spokesperson explained, "Alpha is an extremely special film for us, and we want to present it in its most cinematic form. The VFX work is taking a bit longer than expected. We want to ensure the audience gets the full theatrical experience. That's why we've decided on an April 17, 2026 release."

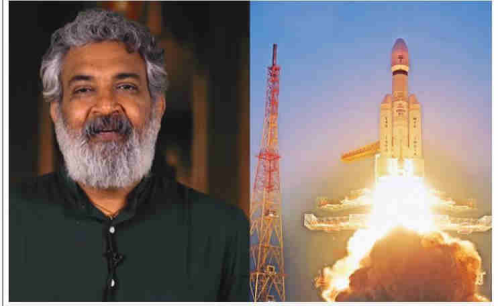
The film brings together Alia Bhatt and Sharvari in what promises to be a relentless action showdown. They will go head-to-head against Bobby Deol, with Anil Kapoor also playing a key role in this spy saga.

Industry insiders suggest that the duo's fight sequences and high-stakes stunts require meticulous VFX which cannot be rushed if the film is to maintain its cinematic impact.

A top trade source added, "The push is purely about ensuring the film's quality. The VFX team was under significant pressure, and the original timeline was simply unrealistic. This decision has nothing to do with crowded release windows or competing films. It's about giving audiences the best version of Alpha."

Fans who were eagerly marking December for a festive release will have to wait a little longer.

SS Rajamouli celebrates ISRO naming its rocket 'Bahubali'



Filmmaker SS Rajamouli, who just released "Bahubali" in theatres, celebrated the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) naming one of its rockets after the film's character, calling it a privilege for the entire team.

India witnessed a proud moment in space history as ISRO successfully launched its heaviest communication satellite, CMS-03 on Monday. The satellite, aimed at enhancing telecommunication and broadcasting capabilities, was carried into orbit by

ISRO's most powerful launch vehicle, which has now earned an affectionate and familiar nickname, 'Bahubali'.

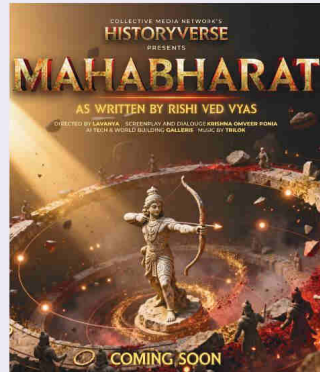
"Congratulations to #ISRO on the successful launch of the heaviest communication satellite CMS-03 today! A proud moment for India showcasing our technological strength and self-reliance in space exploration. Onwards and upwards!" the director wrote in an X post on Sunday.

The official 'Bahubali' social media team joined in the celebration reposting videos of the launch with a caption that perfectly cap-

tured the spirit: "The #Bahubali spirit truly knows no limits, from winning hearts across the world to now conquering the skies! Congratulations Team @ISRO #BahubaliTheEpic #ISRO #LVM3M5."

So, what makes this launch historic? The CMS-03 satellite weighs a whopping 4,410 kg, replacing GSAT-7, which serves the Indian Navy. The rocket, LVM-3, successfully placed the satellite into Geosynchronous Transfer Orbit (GTO) on Sunday evening marking a major leap for India's space capabilities.

Jiostar and collective media network partner to launch Mahabharat



and emotional depth, allowing for an unparalleled immersive viewing experience. With Mahabharat: Ek

sibilities of tomorrow. The series is a testament to the powerful outcome of innovative storytelling, allowing for a world of infinite possibilities.

Kevin Vaz, CEO, Entertainment, Jiostar, said: "The entertainment we offer our viewers is not just about encompassing the varied and myriad cultures that is India. It is as much about leveraging the power of technology to enhance the viewing experience. Mahabharat: Ek Dharmayudh is a celebration of that belief – a fusion of a timeless epic and machine intelligence that mirrors the spirit of a new India. Through this series, we're building a bridge between tradition and the future, proving that our oldest and most revered stories can still be our most futuristic yet."

'Tu Meri Main Tera Main Tera Tu Meri' to release on December 25



Bollywood is a place where timing is of essence. Be it the box-office clashes or their aversion, timing plays a huge role in how things play out on the ticket windows.

The Kartik Aaryan-starrer 'Tu Meri Main Tera, Main Tera Tu Meri', which was earlier scheduled to close the entertainment year on December 31, 2025, now has a new release date. The film is set to arrive in cinemas on December 25, 2025.

Over the past few years, Kartik Aaryan has emerged as one of the most bankable stars in the

positioned him as the face of the new-age commercial cinema, someone who bridges the gap between youth appeal and family audiences.

However, the true star power also lies in being smart with the release of the films. The change in the release date of the film comes shortly after Alia Bhatt-starrer 'Alpha' vacated December 25, and shifted to April 17, 2026. Kartik, and the makers made a quick decision to consolidate the closing week of 2025 at the box-office.

With Tu Meri Main Tera, Main Tera Tu Meri, Kartik seems to have

At a time when creative communities across the world grapple with the challenges of harnessing the power of artificial intelligence in movie making, Jiostar has powered ahead to launch a mythological web series – Mahabharat: Ek Dharmayudh – showcasing how, when a timeless epic meets groundbreaking technology, the outcome can be pure magic.

The series serves as testament to how an epic as timeless as the Mahabharata, can be reimagined for a new era of viewers using artificial intelligence that helps breathe the life into ancient legends with breathtaking scale

Slam Out Loud and Motwani Jadeja join hands to nurture young artists



dren grow in curiosity, imagination, emotional awareness and regulation, and agency, alongside civic capabilities, and digital

evidence comes directly from children's voices and work, offering a richer and more authentic picture of growth.

The transformative power of such support is best seen in the journeys of young artists like Abbas Ali and Deepak Kumar. Abbas, a Class 10 student from Delhi, once wrote about cracks in his identity that felt like cracks under his skin. Today, at 20, he has graduated on a full scholarship and joined SOL's Fellowship, mentoring the next generation of young artists. Deepak, from a small town in Rajasthan, once



Jennifer Aniston makes it official with Jim Curtis

Jennifer Aniston and Jim Curtis: Jennifer Aniston has finally shared some exciting news with her fans. She's in love again! The beloved 'Friends' star, 56, made the announcement in her signature heart-felt style.

The actress marked the occasion with a touching birthday post for her new beau, Jim Curtis, on Instagram. In a striking black-and-white photograph, Jennifer is smiling softly, eyes closed while wrapping her arms around Curtis from behind. The caption was short, sweet, and full of affection: "Happy birthday my love! Cherished!"

But it wasn't just the words that caught fans' attention. A sparkling diamond band on Jennifer's ring finger immediately sparked rumors that she might be engaged. Curtis

making this a rare and joyful glimpse into her personal life. Fans have playfully dubbed the announcement "the hard launch of the year", celebrating the actress' happiness in the comments. Many noted how heartwarming it is to see her so openly affectionate and glowing.

According to reports, Jennifer and Jim Curtis (a hypnotherapist, author, and life coach) first met through mutual friends. The two were first linked publicly in July 2025, when they were spotted together on a yacht in Mallorca. Sources say the pair started out as friends, and Jennifer had already read his book and admired his work. One insider shared with the media, "He's very different from anyone she's dated before," while another added, "He's amazing to be around, and Jennifer clearly