



India's squad for home South Africa Tests announced; Pant, Akash Deep return

Newly elected NYC mayor Mamdani flaunts his Indian roots at victory speech

Harmanpreet, Smriti get inked with special World Cup victory tattoos

CRICKET PAGE-10

WORLD

PAGE-9

FILM PAGE-12

3 DELHI

Sood reviews MCD's waste & pollution control efforts, calls for efficient use of Modern Machinery

5 CHANDIGARH

Haryana leads the way in Gau Sanrakshan & natural farming; CM Saini

7 NATIONAL

VP Radhakrishnan appeals to Naxalites to lay down their arms

8 STATE

Homes of hope rise on freed land as CM Yogi sends stern message to mafias

9 BUSINESS

Civil society group criticises FM for remarks on bank nationalisation

11 SPORTS

High-stakes bidding, big signings mark UP Kabaddi League Season 2 Player Auction

MARKET

SENSEX	25597.65
NIFTY	155.70
519.34	
GOLD	147,260.00
SILVER	1,776.00
120,513.00	
716.00	

WEATHER

Sunrise	6:37 AM
Sunset	5:33 PM
Moonrise	6:00 PM
Moonset	8:36 AM

Today's Prediction

Maximum	27°C
Minimum	14°C

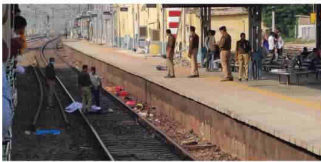
Tomorrow's Prediction

Maximum	27°C
Minimum	14°C



Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday met the triumphant Indian women's cricket team at his residence and lauded the players for their "remarkable resilience and comeback" in the World Cup after enduring a tough phase marked by three consecutive defeats.

6 women killed while crossing tracks at UP railway station



Mirzapur
Six women on their way for Kartik Purnima Snan were run over by a passing train at Chunar Railway Station in Uttar Pradesh's Mirzapur district on Wednesday after they got down from the wrong side of another train and tried to cross the tracks, officials said.

The incident took place around 9.30 am when the passengers got off the Chopan Express on the track and were hit by the approaching Ne-taji Express train from Howrah to Kalkaji, Public Relations Officer of NCR Prayagraj Division Amit Singh said.

Speaking to reporters at the site, District Magistrate Pawan Kumar Gangwar said the incident took place when several passengers got off on the tracks instead of the platform.

"They were struck by another train approaching from the opposite direction, which did not have a stop here. Six persons have died in this tragic incident - one from Sonbhadra district and five from Mirzapur," he said.

Gangwar said the victims appeared to have tried to cross the tracks in haste, thinking they would reach the platform faster.

"They possibly thought they could cross the railway line quickly, which led to this unfortunate accident. It is a deeply saddening incident," he added.

Gangwar further confirmed that no one was injured in the mishap and that all six who came under the train had died on the spot.

The deceased were identified as Savita, 28, Sadhna, 16, Shiv Kumar, 12, Anju Devi, 20, Sushila Devi, 60, and Kalawati, 50.

They had come here for Kartik Purnima Snan, according to officials. The Chunar railway station is located around 2 km from the Ganga banks.

Kartik Purnima is the full moon day in the Hindu month of Kartik (October-November), regarded as one of the most sacred days in the Hindu calendar.

Agency

SC to examine surrogacy bar for second child



New Delhi
The Supreme Court has agreed to examine whether a law banning married couples facing secondary infertility from using surrogacy to have a second child amounts to a restriction by the State on the reproductive choices of citizens.

An intending couple having any surviving child biologically or through adoption or through surrogacy earlier cannot avail surrogacy procedures for a second child.

However, if the surviving child is mentally or physically challenged or suffers from life threatening disorder or fatal illness with no permanent cure, the couple can avail surrogacy for a second child after obtaining medical certificate from a district medical board and with the approval of the appropriate authority.

A bench of Justices BV Nagarathna and R Mahadevan took note of the submission by a lawyer appearing for a couple facing secondary infertility.

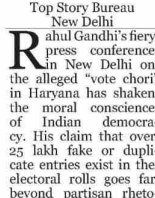
During the hearing, Justice Nagarathna orally observed that the restriction imposed under the provision was "reasonable" in view of the growing population of the country.

The lawyer argued that the government cannot interfere in the private lives and reproductive choices of citizens.

Agency

Democracy at Stake: Rahul Gandhi's "Vote Chori" Charge and the Battle for Electoral Integrity

Top Story Bureau
New Delhi
Rahul Gandhi's fiery press conference in New Delhi on the alleged "vote chori" in Haryana has shaken the moral conscience of Indian democracy. His claim that over 25 lakh fake or duplicate entries exist in the electoral rolls goes far beyond partisan rhetoric; it touches the very soul of the Republic's constitutional promise. Coming on the eve of the Bihar Assembly elections, these allegations acquire enormous political and institutional significance. Gandhi's words were not just a political outburst but an indictment of the credibility of India's



election machinery. By alleging that the Election Commission has tilted the field in favour of the ruling dispensation, he has not merely accused the government of wrongdoing; he has also, perhaps inadvertently, suggested that a fair contest is impossible, thereby acknowledging, in advance, that the Bihar elections could end in the ruling NDA's favour. His critics see this as a calculated disclaimer, an admission of



CONTD ON PAGE-2

HIGHLIGHT
Gandhi unveiled what he called the "H-Files," presenting figures that, if true, amount to an electoral earthquake—over five lakh duplicate voters, nearly a lakh invalid addresses, and about twenty lakh bulk entries registered at single premises, making up 25.41 lakh suspect entries in Haryana's voter list.

Bihar gears up for high stakes first phase of polls

The Opposition's CM face Tejashwi Yadav is in the fray, as are Deputy CMs Samrat Choudhary and V.K. Sinha; crucial test for CPI(ML), LJP(RV), VIP; in 2020, Mahagatbandhan won 63 of 121 seats going to polls

New Delhi
The stage is set for the crucial first phase of the assembly elections in Bihar on Thursday, as 3.75 crore voters will decide the electoral fate of 1,314 candidates, including top leaders such as Indian National Developmental Inclusive Alliance's (INDIA's) chief ministerial face Tejashwi Yadav and Deputy CM Samrat Choudhary of the Bharatiya Janata Party.



Yadav aims at a hat-trick in Raigohpur, while his principal challenger Satish Kumar of the BJP had defeated his mother Rabri Devi in 2010 while contesting on a Janata Dal-United symbol.

The seat was expected to witness a high-voltage contest, with Jan Suraj Party founder Prashant Kishor declaring that he wanted to take on Yadav on his home turf.

However, Kishor decided not to contest, and his party gave a ticket to a less fancied candidate Chanchal Singh.

In adjoining Mahua, Yadav's estranged elder brother Tej Pratap, who has floated his own outfit Janshakti Janata Dal, is locked in a multi-cornered contest.

The elder son of Rashtriya Janata Dal presi-

dent Lalu Prasad seeks to wrest the seat from sitting RJD MLA Mukesh Raushan, though the presence of Sanjay Singh, the Lok Janshakti Party-Ram Vilas candidate who represents the National Democratic Alliance, and Independent Ashma Parveen, the runner-up of 2020, has queered the pitch.

Several ministers in the Nitish Kumar government, including Deputy Chief Ministers Samrat Choudhary and Vijay Kumar Sinha, will also have their electoral fates decided in the first phase of polls.

Sinha hopes to retain Lakshisarai for the fourth consecutive term, surmounting the not-so-formidable chal-

lenge provided by Amresh Kumar of the Congress and Suraj Kumar of the Jan Suraj Party.

Choudhary, who is enjoying his second consecutive term in the legislative council, is contesting a direct election after about a decade from Tarapur.

His victory is bound to cement his position in a party which he joined less than a decade ago, but where his political stock has risen rapidly.

The former state BJP president faces a stiff challenge from RJD's Arun Kumar Sah, who had lost the seat in 2020 by a thin margin of about 5,000 votes.

Somewhat similar to Choudhary's case is that of Mangal Pandey,

a minister and a former state BJP president who is contesting from Siwan, the first instance of his fighting an assembly election.

Pandey, who has been an MLC since 2012, faces a formidable adversary in RJD's Awadh Bihari Chaudhary, a former assembly Speaker who has been a several-term MLA from the seat.

The neighbouring seat of Raghunathpur is being keenly watched because of Osama Shahab, the 31-year-old son of deceased gangster-turned-politician Mohd Shahabuddin, a several-term MP from Siwan who was known as the 'uncrowned king' of the area.

Agency

Bilaspur crash: 'Crew failed to control passenger train'

Chhattisgarh
The crew of a passenger train that collided with a stationary freight train in Chhattisgarh failed to control it at a red signal, according to the findings of a preliminary probe into the incident conducted by railway experts.

The local MEMU (mainline electric multiple unit) passenger train rammed into a stationary goods train in Chhattisgarh's Bilaspur district on Tuesday, killing 11 people, including the loco pilot, and injuring several others.

"Crew of train no. 68733 (MEMU Local) failed to control the train at danger signal no AJ-5 and collided



with the rear brake van (last coach) of train no. N/MDIT (goods train)," the initial probe report said.

It added that the crew of train number 68733 was responsible for not controlling the train at the right time and right

MEMU train, containing eight coaches (six passenger coaches and two motor coaches on either end), departed at 3:48 pm from platform number 2 of the Gevra station towards the Bilaspur station on the 'UP' line.

It overshot a red signal and collided with the rear brake van of a 59-wagon goods train standing at the next red signal at 3:50 pm, the report said.

The impact was so severe that the brake van of the goods train capsized completely and half of the motor coach (locomotive) of the passenger train climbed onto the wagon next to the brake van.

According to the re-

port, the loco pilot and the assistant loco pilot were found injured in the motor coach. While the loco pilot died subsequently, the assistant loco pilot was taken to the nearest hospital immediately, along with other passengers.

Officials said the incident took place on the 'UP' line and the middle line was used to operate a tower car to evacuate the injured passengers to the hospital.

"The middle line was given fit for train movement at 4:30 pm and the 4th line at 4:50 pm. Rescue operations were initially started by the tower car staff at 4:07 pm and it continued," the report said.

Agency

Zohran Mamdani scripts history, becomes NYC's 1st Muslim mayor

New York
Zohran Mamdani scripted history on Election Day as he emerged victorious in the closely-watched battle for New York City Mayor, becoming the first South Asian and Muslim to be elected to sit at the helm of the largest city in the US.

Mamdani, 34, had been the front-runner in the NYC Mayoral election for months and on Tuesday defeated Republican nominee Curtis Sliva and political heavyweight former New York State Governor Andrew Cuomo, who ran as an independent candidate and received



US President Donald Trump's endorsement only on the eve of the election.

Mamdani had upset Cuomo in the Democratic primary race for New York City mayor and was declared victorious in June this year.

"Zohran Mamdani is running for Mayor to lower the cost of living for working class New Yorkers," his campaign had said as the young politician continued to garner support among the youth and working-class New Yorkers, who have been reeling under the burden of high costs and job insecurities amid a tough economic and political climate in the country.

With Mamdani's win, New York City and the US entered a new political and ideological era under the banner of democratic socialist now at the helm of the citadel of capitalism.

Agency

Democracy at Stake: Rahul Gandhi's "Vote Chori" Charge and the Battle for Electoral Integrity

CONT'D FROM PAGE-1

inevitable defeat cleverly wrapped in moral outrage. His supporters, however, argue that he is raising the alarm in national interest, to save democracy from silent subversion.

At the press conference, Gandhi unveiled what he called the "H-Files," presenting figures that, if true, amount to an electoral earthquake—over five lakh duplicate voters, nearly a lakh invalid addresses, and about twenty lakh bulk entries registered at single premises, making up 25.41 lakh suspect entries in Haryana's voter list. To dramatize his charge, he displayed images showing a single woman's face allegedly used on multiple voter IDs. "When the vote is stolen, the voice of the people is silenced," he declared, transforming data into an emotive appeal. His argument was not merely statistical; it was ethical. He claimed the very process of electoral verification had been corrupted to benefit the ruling party and asserted that the same manipulation could repeat in Bihar. In his words, this was not a regional anomaly but a national pattern of "vote theft" designed to subvert democracy from within.

The Election Commission, which stands as the constitutional guardian of free and fair elections, has found itself on trial. Gandhi's charge that it has "colluded with the ruling party" has pierced deep into its institutional credibility. The Commission's brief statement dismissing the allegations as "baseless" has not answered the larger concern haunting the public mind—has the autonomy of the Commission been compromised under pressure? For a democracy that prides itself on the independence of its institutions, even the perception of bias is enough to corrode public trust. The EC cannot merely issue denials; it must open its records, permit independent audits, and embrace a new era of transparency. In an age of data-driven governance, technology can ensure fairness if the will exists.

FOR ADVERTISING IN
TOP STORY
PLEASE CONTACT:
9818799941

'EC now fully exposed': Gehlot backs Rahul's allegations of vote theft in Haryana

Jaipur Former Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot on Wednesday backed Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's allegations of large-scale irregularities in the Haryana Assembly elections, saying the Election Commission's credibility now stands completely exposed.

Reacting to Gandhi's press conference, Gehlot said the Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha has been consistently brought out evidence of "vote theft" and has now

India-Japan partnership enhances stability in Indo-Pacific: Jaishankar

New Delhi The India-Japan partnership enhances the strategic stability in the Indo-Pacific region and contributes to economic growth at the global level, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said on Wednesday.

Jaishankar said maintaining a "free and open" Indo-Pacific is a stronger imperative but also a more complex challenge.

He was speaking at the India-Japan Indo-Pacific Forum organised by the Delhi Policy Group and the Japan Institute of International Affairs.

"Our partnership that has deepened so much in the last few decades has greater value than ever before. It serves to enhance strategic stability in the Indo-Pacific and contribute to the economic one at a global



level," Jaishankar said. "Maintaining a free and open Indo-Pacific is a stronger imperative but also a more complex challenge," he noted.

Jaishankar said Prime Minister Narendra Modi's recent phone conversation with his Japanese counterpart, Sanae Takaichi, as soon

as she assumed office, is testimony to the priority that both sides attach to the relationship. "Looking ahead, the India-Japan partnership

Jaishankar said maintaining a "free and open" Indo-Pacific is a stronger imperative but also a more complex challenge.

must focus on leveraging our strengths, bolstering our supply chains and investing in artificial intelligence, semiconductors, critical minerals, clean energy and space," he said.

Jaishankar said as two major democracies and maritime nations, India and Japan have a larger responsibility towards the Indo-Pacific. "The Indo-Pacific Oceans' Initiative, where Japan co-leads the maritime trade, transport and connectivity pillar, has the po-

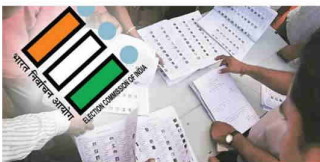
tential to advance our contributions," he said.

Jaishankar highlighted new initiatives, such as the Next Generation Mobility Partnership, Economic Security Initiative, Joint Crediting Mechanism and Joint Declaration on Clean Hydrogen and Ammonia and an MoU in the field of mineral resources, as examples of an evolving contemporary agenda.

"People-to-people exchanges are expected to receive a boost with the Action Plan for Human Resource Cooperation and Exchange. As they unfold, we may expect to create a deeper understanding at the societal level," he said.

"Together, all these initiatives reaffirm the strategic and comprehensive nature of our ties," he added.

SIR in Bengal: Over 84 lakh enumeration forms distributed so far



Kolkata As part of the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in West Bengal, more than 84 lakh enumeration forms were distributed across the state so far, an official said on Wednesday.

The month-long exercise began on Tuesday and will continue till December 4.

"More than 84 lakh enumeration forms were distributed by booth-level officers (BLOs) till 4 pm on Wednesday," an official of the Election Commission said.

"Yesterday, there were no untoward incidents reported from anywhere in the state. If any resistance is reported against a BLO, we immediately instruct the district electoral officers (DEOs) to investigate," the official said.

As part of the process, 80,681 BLOs have been deployed across the 294 assembly constituencies.

Around 7.66 crore enumeration forms have so far been prepared, and each voter will receive two copies, the EC official said.

According to the guidelines for the SIR process, BLO would countersign both forms. The officer would retain one filled-up form for the Election Commission and return the second with a stamped acknowledgement, which

may be required for future reference.

The SIR is being conducted in West Bengal after a gap of 23 years.

The last such revision of voters' lists was held in the state in 2002.

Meanwhile, EC Principal Secretary SB Joshi, Deputy Secretary Abhinav Agarwal reached West Bengal as a part of their schedule to oversee the SIR rollout in Cooch Behar, Alipurduar, and Jalpaiguri districts, an official said.

"During the visit, they will evaluate the performance of BLOs and returning officers (ROs), and may interact with political leaders. Representatives from the office of the Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) will also be present during the review process," the official said.

The EC officials are scheduled to meet the district electoral officers (DEOs), ADM (Election), all the Assistant Electoral Registration Officers (AEROs), and sector magistrates (SMs) in the three districts, he added.

On Thursday morning, they will conduct field visits in Alipurduar before heading to Cooch Behar in the afternoon, the official said.

The next day, the EC officials will continue their field visits in Jalpaiguri and parts of Darjeeling, he added.

These irregularities, the Election Commission has launched SIR in 12 states, even though the matter is sub-judice before the Supreme Court. Why this haste before the verdict? he asked, alleging that the EC's "intent and conduct" were questionable.

"The Election Commission is fully exposed now. Election commission plays an important role in a democracy but if such acts are done, democracy will weaken. The EC should take it seriously," he told reporters in Jaipur.

Sadbhavana Sammelan in Delhi to Unite 450 Saints for National Harmony

TSN/New Delhi

In a remarkable effort to promote peace, unity, and the spirit of human values across the country, around 450 saints and spiritual scholars will assemble in Delhi for the "Sadbhavana Sannamelan." The two-day national event, organized by the Manav Utthan

Seva Samiti, will be held at Shri Hans Nagar Ashram, Pandwala, on November 8 and 9. The gathering coincides with the 125th birth anniversary of Yogiraj Param Sant Shri Hans Ji Maharaj, the revered spiritual figure and founder of the organization.

The Sannamelan will be presided over by Shri Satpal Ji Maharaj, Union Minister in the Uttarakhnad Government and an internationally respected spiritual leader. He will serve as the chief speaker, guiding discussions on how citizens can rise above divisions of caste, creed, and religion to embrace Manav Dharma—the true essence of human religion.

According to Mahat-



ma Satyabodhanand Ji, Manager of Manav Utthan Seva Samiti, the Sadbhavana Sannamelan aims to strengthen the message of harmony and compassion that Shri Hans Ji Maharaj dedicated his life to spreading. "Our goal is to inspire individuals to live by the universal values of love, tolerance, and mutual respect. Humanity must come before all other identities," he said.

For over seven decades, the Manav Utthan Seva Samiti has worked to foster goodwill and social unity across India. Through events such as the Manav Dharma Sannamelan, Rashtriya Ekta Sannamelan, Bharat Jago Sannamelan, Sarva Dharma Sannamelan,

and Vishwa Shanti Sannamelan, the organization has continuously encouraged interfaith dialogue and national integration.

This year's Sadbhavana Sannamelan will witness participation from 17 states, including Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, Haryana, Rajasthan, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Goa, Tamil Nadu, and Delhi. Saints and scholars from more than 250 cities—including Varanasi, Haridwar, Ujjain, Bhopal, Jammu, Shimla, Jaipur, Mumbai, Hyderabad, Chennai, and Bengaluru—are expected to take part.

Mahatma Satyabodhanand Ji noted that the diversity of representation at the Sannamelan reflects the growing commitment among people of all regions and faiths to strengthen harmony and human values. The event is expected to feature devotional discourses, spiritual discussions, and collective prayers for peace and unity in the nation.

The two-day gathering will also highlight the enduring legacy of Shri Hans Ji Maharaj and his vision of "One Humanity, One Religion," emphasizing that the path to national peace begins with compassion and understanding among individuals.

Bihar witnessed tremendous growth under Modi, Nitish: Nadda

Bethiah/Motihari

BJP national president JP Nadda on Wednesday said the "NDA stands for HIRA" and credited Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar for the state's rapid development.

Addressing public rallies in Bethiah and Motihari, Nadda said, "NDA stands for HIRA... H for Highway, I for Internet, R for Railway, and A for Airport. All these developments have taken place in Bihar and will continue."

He asserted that the election was not merely about winning seats but about providing stability and advancing Bihar's growth.

"The importance of light is realised when you know the darkness of RJD's rule. During Lalu ji's tenure from the 90s to 2005, Bihar faced 'jungle raj'. Today, thanks to Modi ji and Nitish ji, Bihar has moved from the lantern era to the LED era," he said.

BJP is not a threat to Christians: George Kurian

Aizawl

Union Minister George Kurian on Wednesday said that the BJP is not a threat to Christians.

Addressing a rally at Darlung village in north-western Mizoram's Mamit district, Kurian said the BJP is not inimical to Christianity and there is nothing to fear about the party for Christians.

Kurian said that he was baffled by the alleged teaching in the Christian-dominated Mizoram to fear the saffron party.

"I have joined the BJP since its inception in 1980. I am from Kerala, and I am a true and good Christian devotee. I have never come across difficulties for being a BJP member due to my faith. Therefore, teaching people to fear the BJP is only a political game," Kurian said.

"There is no contradiction for a Christian to associate with the BJP," he added.

Kurian, the Union Minister of State for Minority Affairs, Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and



Dairying portfolios, said Dampa must link with Delhi to usher in development in the area.

He said that the BJP government at the Centre will bring several developments, including road connectivity and agricultural link roads, if the BJP candidate is elected in the upcoming bypoll.

Kurian also blamed the Zoram People's Movement (ZPM) government headed by Chief Minister Lalduhoma for allegedly neglecting the Dampa constituency.

"While I was heading to Darlung, I travelled on a very narrow and

bad road. I have witnessed how the state government neglected your area. This is very unfortunate," he said.

Citing that the NDA government's top priority is development, Kurian said Prime Minister Narendra Modi also gave due importance to Mizoram's growth and a Rs 8,000 crore railway line project was opened by the PM in September to improve connectivity between Mizoram and the rest of the country.

The Union Minister also visited other villages within Dampa constituency, and he will leave for Delhi on Thursday, BJP sources said.

2026 TN polls: Fight confined between TVK, DMK: Actor Vijay

Mahabalipuram

Actor-politician Vijay on Wednesday pitched his political party TVK as a strong alternative to the ruling DMK in Tamil Nadu, saying the electoral battle next year was confined only between these two parties.

Regarding the September 27 Karur stampede that left 41 dead and over 60 injured, he said people were questioning the hasty appointment of a one-member commission, since suspended by the Supreme Court, and top state government officials holding a press meet to explain the chronology of events that unfolded on that fatal day.

Vijay, who has been DMK, once again slammed the ruling party and its president and Chief Minister M K Stalin.

Vijay said that "we will shatter all of them."

He reiterated that the fight in the 2026 Assembly election will be confined between DMK and TVK.

"The contest is between only two," he said, and the party functionaries responded by saying "TVK and DMK."

"This contest is going to get stronger. There will be 100 per cent win for TVK," Vijay asserted.

On the Karur stampede, Vijay said it was "an inhuman anguish" for him following the death of near and dear ones.

Taking the DMK government over the issue, he said, "the people are questioning the hasty appointment of the one-member commission by the Tamil Nadu government to probe the stampede in Karur."

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform to public at large that my client Mr. Jagan Singh S/o Sh. Indar Pal aged about 60 year R/o H.No. J-4 Sunder Nagar Delhi-110093 had certain several old relations from his namey Mr. Lavkush and his Daughter In Law (Pairvudha) Mrs. Kashish W/o Sh. Sh. Lavkush, whom he disowned and disbarred them from all movable and immovable properties in Delhi and out of Delhi due to their misbehavior towards him. My client shall not be responsible for their acts, if any person deals with them then he/she will be doing that on his/her own risk, cost and consequences because both are out of control of my client.

Raj Kumar Raju (Advocate)
Ch. No. 563-A Western Wing
Til Hazari Court Delhi-54
Mobile No. 9871837590.

सार्वजनिक सूचना

सर्व सामान्य को सूचित किया जाता है कि मेरे क्लाइंट श्री जगन सिंह का नाम है। वह 60 वर्ष के आसपास उमर के हैं और दिल्ली-110093 में सुन्दर नगर में J-4 ब्लॉक में रहते हैं। उन्होंने अपने पुराने संबंधियों में से कुछ लोगों को अपने नाम से संबंधित संपत्तियों (चलान-चलान) से अलग कर दिया है। मेरे क्लाइंट को इन लोगों के साथ किसी भी तरह का व्यवहार करने से बचना चाहिए। यदि कोई व्यक्ति इन लोगों के साथ व्यवहार करता है, तो वह अपने-आपके जोखिम में ऐसा कर रहा है। मेरे क्लाइंट इन लोगों के साथ किसी भी तरह का व्यवहार करने से बचना चाहिए।

RAJESH KUMAR
(Advocate)
DELHI HIGH COURT
Office - Chamber No. 654,
Western Wing
Til Hazari Court, Delhi-110054
Ph-9818229621

NEWS IN BRIEF

Noida Authority slaps Rs 25 lakh on Modi Mall for littering

Noida
The team of Noida Authority during inspection on Wednesday slapped a fine of Rs 25 lakh on Modi Mall located in sector-25A for violating the solid waste management rules.

General Manager of the authority SP Singh said that during the inspection of Modi Mall management it was found that the rules of solid waste management were not being followed in the context of bulk waste generator, waste segregation, storage and waste processing. Segregation of waste was not being done in the mall. The waste was being given to unauthorised scrap dealers, who were throwing the waste on the road.

The general manager stated that the mall management and staff did not cooperate during the inspection. A fine of 2.5 million rupees has been imposed on the Modi Mall management after numerous deficiencies were found. Strict action will be taken if the fine is not paid within a week. More malls will be inspected in the future. Mall managements found negligent in cleanliness will face action. Public health department officials Indu Prakash and Gaurav Bansal were also present on the inspection team.

DPCC slams Delhi govt for postponing "Phool Walon Ki Sair"

New Delhi
Delhi Pradesh Congress Committee president Devender Yadav here on Wednesday said that the BJP played narrow sectarian politics to force postponement of the centuries-old "Phool Walon Ki Sair" festival.

The "Phool Walon Ki Sair" festival which was scheduled to be held in Mehrauli from November 2, but stands postponed now, he further said, adding every year, people of Delhi eagerly look forward to the week-long festival of flowers, which is a cultural melting pot, but the Delhi Development Authority's stubbornness to deny permission to hold the festival in its traditional venue, Aam Bagh Park in Mehrauli, has forced the organisers of the festival to postpone it to March 2026.

Yadav accused the BJP government of playing politics with this centuries-old festival when the government has several problems for urgent solutions like air and water pollution, broken roads, accumulation of garbage and power and water shortages. He said that dating back to 1811, "Phool Walon Ki Sair" offers a platform for Hindus and Muslims to jointly offer floral 'chhadars' and 'pankhas' at Khwaja Bakhtiyar Kaki Dargah and Yogmaya Temple in Mehrauli, which has never been interrupted since 1942 except for Covid-19 pandemic years of 2020 and 2021.

The BJP government has hurt the sentiments of both Hindus and Muslims by not granting full permission to hold the festival and if the Gupta government thinks that it can influence a section of people in the city for its narrow political gains, it was totally mistaken as the anguish expressed by the public for the postponement of the festival cuts across all sections of society.

Sood calls for stronger MCD action on pollution

Diksha New Delhi
Delhi Urban Development Minister Ashish Sood chaired a key review meeting with senior officials of the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) at the Delhi Secretariat to assess the city's waste management and pollution control measures.

During the meeting, officials informed that about 14,000 metric tonnes of waste are collected daily in the capital. Sood directed officials to expedite waste segregation at the source, stressing that effective segregation is essential for proper waste management.

He instructed that the modern machinery procured by the MCD for cleanliness and pollution control be used efficiently to ensure visible improvement in Delhi's sanitation standards.

The Minister reviewed the operation of 28 smoke



guns, 167 sprinklers, and 52 mechanical road sweeping machines being used across Delhi to control dust and pollution.

He directed officials to ensure that all machines are functional and, if required, employees should work in double shifts. He also asked for a redesign of the operational routes to enhance efficiency and

reduce pollution levels.

Referring to the fire incidents reported at the Ghazipur landfill last year, Sood instructed officials to take strict preventive measures and ensure the proper use of fire-fighting equipment. MCD officials briefed him that 20,000-25,000 tonnes per day of bio-mining is being carried out at landfill sites,

with record achievements recently. No new waste is being dumped at Okhla, and designated zones have been marked for Bhalwsa and Ghazipur.

Sood announced that he will personally review the landfill sites, visiting Ghazipur on Monday and Bhalwsa on Thursday. He also directed installation or repair of GPS systems

He instructed that the modern machinery procured by the MCD for cleanliness and pollution control be used efficiently to ensure visible improvement in Delhi's sanitation standards.

in all cleaning and pollution control vehicles for real-time monitoring.

MCD officials informed him about various preventive measures adopted at the Bhalwsa, Ghazipur, and Okhla landfill sites to prevent fire incidents. Designated areas have been earmarked for the disposal of municipal solid waste (MSW) at Bhalwsa and Ghazipur, while no new waste is being dumped at the Okhla landfill. These measures have significantly reduced landfill fire incidents in recent years.

CM Gupta leads citywide clean-up drive

Staff Reporter New Delhi

Delhi government led by CM Rekha Gupta has launched a significant road cleaning campaign to tackle rising pollution levels in the city.

This initiative includes deploying 200 maintenance vans across all Public Works Department (PWD) roads to clean road surfaces, fill potholes, upgrade signage, and perform other necessary maintenance tasks.

Chief Minister Rekha Gupta has set strict guidelines for this operation and emphasized accountability among officers, stating that negligence will not be tolerated.

In addition to road cleaning, the campaign involves monitoring industrial emissions and vehicles to control pollution hotspots. The PWD has initiated a special drive for deep cleaning and dust control along its roads, with each van responsible for cleaning a specific stretch of road daily under the supervision of a Junior Engineer or Assistant Engineer.



Progress is being made rapidly on 1,400 kilometers of PWD roads, focusing on removing dust, cleaning berch channels, dealing with debris, and in coordination with the Municipal Corporation of Delhi for dumping cases. Regular review meetings are held by senior officers to ensure the work is on track, with a target to complete the tasks within 45 days. Strict actions will be taken against officers who fail to meet their goals.

The campaign also prioritizes tree upkeep along PWD roads, with 60 vans from the Horticulture Department designated for pruning and maintenance works.

The campaign also prioritizes tree upkeep along PWD roads, with 60 vans from the Horticulture Department designated for pruning and maintenance works.

Vijender Gupta marks Guru Nanak Jayanti with reverence

Staff Reporter New Delhi

Vijender Gupta, the Speaker of the Delhi Legislative Assembly, on Wednesday honored the birth anniversary of Guru Nanak Dev Ji by visiting Gurudwara Bangla Sahib.

He participated in prayers, seeking blessings for peace, prosperity, and well-being for the people of Delhi. Gupta emphasized the teachings of Guru Nanak, which promote compassion, equality, and selfless service, encouraging a commitment to societal welfare.

During his visit, the Speaker also explored a special exhibition at the Gurudwara



that showcased the life and teachings of Guru Nanak Dev Ji.

The exhibition included rare photographs, manuscripts, and visual representations of significant events in the Guru's life, highlighting his teachings on equality and efforts to unite humanity across different backgrounds. He expressed admiration for how the exhibition depicted the Guru's contributions towards peace and social harmony.

ing his teachings on equality and efforts to unite humanity across different backgrounds. He expressed admiration for how the exhibition depicted the Guru's contributions towards peace and social harmony.

ing his teachings on equality and efforts to unite humanity across different backgrounds. He expressed admiration for how the exhibition depicted the Guru's contributions towards peace and social harmony.

Cooperative Sector to Play a Leading Role in Building a Developed Delhi: Indraj

Staff Reporter New Delhi

The Delhi government's Minister for Cooperation, Ravinder Indraj Singh, on Wednesday announced plans to strengthen the cooperative banking sector to help build a developed Delhi.

He highlighted the importance of transparency, expanding bank branches, providing easy financial assistance, and promoting self-reliance initiatives. The goal is for Delhi's cooperatives to set an example for the country.

During the announcement, he inaugurated the "Humanity First" ambu-



lance service by Jamia Cooperative Bank. This service will help transport critical patients to hospitals and assist with the transportation of deceased individuals for their last rites. The initiative is part of events celebrating the International Year of Cooperatives 2025.

Ravinder Indraj praised the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi

and Union Home and Cooperation Minister Amit Shah for advancing the cooperative movement in India.

He promoted the motto 'Sakhar Se Samridhhi' (Prosperity through Cooperation) and pointed out that leading cooperatives like Amul and IFFCO rank among the top globally.

To enhance Delhi's cooperative sector, comprehensive reforms are being implemented for the first time. The Cooperation Minister commended Jamia Cooperative Bank Ltd. for its commitment to the cooperative spirit and its efforts to aid small enterprises.

Delhi's AQI declining due to coordinated civic efforts: Manjinder Singh Sirsa

New Delhi

Delhi Environment Minister Manjinder Singh Sirsa on Wednesday said the city's Air Quality Index (AQI) is showing a declining trend due to coordinated civic efforts.

According to official data, 9,325 vehicular challans, 83 truck diversions, 454 complaints were resolved, and 2,348 MT of construction and demolition waste was lifted on Tuesday.

The enforcement drive also saw 126 inter-state buses checked at Delhi's borders. "These numbers reflect Delhi's all-agency effort to keep the air clean. Over 1,200 enforcement teams are on the ground day and night—monitoring, inspecting, and ensuring compliance," Sirsa was quoted as saying in a press release.

Delhi's air quality showed further improvement on Wednesday but was still recorded in the "poor" category with an overall AQI of 202, as favourable wind conditions helped disperse pollutants.

The AQI was recorded at



291 on Tuesday and 309 on Monday, data from the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) showed.

Sirsa said Delhi's consistent progress reflects the success of coordinated, science-based actions being implemented on the ground.

"Every day, multiple agencies across Delhi are working in complete coordination under the leadership of Chief Minister Rekha Gupta. The positive trend in Delhi's AQI is the outcome of this disciplined, data-backed effort," he added.

The AQI on November 5 stood at 202, compared to

field inspections in select areas.

"In the last 24 hours, our teams have inspected 387 construction and demolition sites, 79 municipal solid waste locations, 22 DG-set installations and 12 hotels and restaurants to check fuel usage and dust-control compliance. Action has been taken wherever violations were found," the minister said.

To tackle road dust and vehicular pollution, 90 MT of road dust was collected through mechanical sweeping, while 1,988 km of roads were cleaned through MRS, 1,797 km water-sprinkled and 5,171 km covered through anti-smog guns, using more than 1.07 lakh litres of treated water, he informed.

"We have intensified dust mitigation and road-cleaning operations across all pollution hotspots. The chief minister has issued clear directions to ensure that every agency remains active on the ground," Sirsa said.

He further emphasised public participation in this mission.

Delhi Air quality shows improvement still 'poor'

New Delhi

Delhi air quality showed further improvement on Wednesday but was still recorded in the "poor" category with an overall Air Quality Index (AQI) of 202, as favourable wind conditions helped disperse pollutants.

The AQI was recorded at 291 on Tuesday and 309 on Monday, data from the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) showed.

The levels of PM10 and PM2.5—the key pollutants—also declined, with PM10 measured at 175.2 micrograms per cubic metre, compared to 260 a day earlier, and PM2.5 at 85.5 against 128.2 on Tuesday.

Of the 38 monitoring stations in the city, 28 reported the air quality in the "very poor" category with readings of above 300, according to the CPCB's Saneer app.

Vehicular emissions contributed 66.8 per cent, while other unidentified sources accounted for 44 per cent, according to the daily mean

of local and non-local fracture contribution to PM2.5 in Delhi calculated by the Decision Support System (DSS).

Satellite data showed that on Wednesday, 94 stubble-burning cases were detected in Punjab, 13 in Haryana and 74 in Uttar Pradesh.

According to the Air Quality Early Warning System for Delhi, the wind speed was likely to decrease to below 10 kmph from the northwest direction during the evening and night hours on Wednesday.

The air quality is expected to remain in the "very poor" category between November 6 and 8, it stated.

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) said westerly winds with speeds of up to 15 kmph prevailed over the city in the last 24 hours, aiding the dispersal of pollutants.

Since Diwali, the national capital's air quality has fluctuated between the "poor" and "very poor" categories, occasionally dipping into the "severe" zone.

The maximum temperature on Wednesday was recorded at 30.4 degrees Celsius, 1.6 notches above the seasonal average, while the minimum temperature settled at 18.4 degrees Celsius, the IMD said.

PUBLIC NOTICE

General public is hereby informed that Mr. Anand Kumar s/o Mr. Madan Lal owner of Shop bearing No. 2, on Ground Floor, without roof rights, area measuring 7.11 sq. Yards, Property bearing No. WZ-88, (old house no. WZ-161/41A/1-11), built on Plot No. B-25 & portion of B-26, Khazana No. 432/65, situated in the abadi known as Khazan Basti, area of Village- Nangal Raya, Delhi State, New Delhi, vide Sale Deed dt. 31.12.2019, Doc.No.6454, executed by Mr. Ajay Gupta s/o Late Mr. Rajkumar Gupta & Mrs. Sarita Gupta w/o Late Mr. Ashwani Gupta, SR-VII-A, Sarojini Nagar, Delhi. And in the property chag, Relinquishment Deed dt. 17.12.2019, doc.No.6241, Sale Deed dt. 12.08.1992, doc.No.7253, Sale Deed dt. 14.10.1992, doc. No. 8928 & Sale Deed dt. 10.10.1992, doc.No.10105, were lost and FIR has been lodged vide LR No.3256015/2025 on dt. 05.11.2025. And now said property is being financed by AU Small Finance Bank Ltd., if anybody has any charge/lien/third party interest in the said property of any kind of dispute, kindly inform the undersigned in written with proof within 7 days of this publication on the below mentioned address, failing which I am aware that in case default with the mortgage property, that all borrowers/owners are responsible for the same. Savendra Gautam Advocate Property No. 126, Shop No. 03 Lal Kuan, Ghaziabad, (U.P.)

DDA approves several key proposals

New Delhi

The Delhi Development Authority has approved several proposals including redevelopment of old staff quarters and construction of a world-class sports infrastructure in Narela, officials said on Wednesday.

At its board meeting, the land owning agency also decided to extend to 10 per cent annual escalation fees on rent to residents of soon-to-be-demolished Signature View Apartments in Muker-

jee Nagar, they said.

According to the DDA, for annual escalation, the base rent would be Rs 50,000 per month for high-income group allottees and Rs 38,000 for middle income group. The agency also gave nod for change of land use of an area measuring 40.23 hectares for land polling policy.

"Land pooling area is divided into 138 sections having poolable area of approximately 20,422 hectares.

Probe ordered after video shows Delhi cops manhandling locals in Adarsh Nagar

New Delhi

A viral video showing police personnel allegedly manhandling locals during the detention of a man in north-west Delhi's Adarsh Nagar has surfaced on social media, prompting an internal inquiry, an official said on Wednesday.

According to the police statement, the incident took place earlier in the day when a patrolling team in the Lal Bagh area received information about a person plan-



ning to sell narcotic drugs in the locality.

"The person was later identified as 32-year-old Mohammad Tariq, a resident of

Lal Bagh, who has previous involvement in cases of murder and violence," Delhi Police said in a statement.

When the police team confronted Tariq, he misbehaved with the personnel and gathered his family members and relatives to create pressure on the staff.

As a preventive measure, he was apprehended. However, his relatives attempted to obstruct and pressure the

staff, it added. The video circulating on-

line is reportedly from the moment when the police team apprehended Tariq and his relatives trying to free him, it further said.

Responding to the allegation that a woman was beaten during the incident, police said an inquiry has been ordered under the supervision of the Assistant Commissioner of Police (ACP), Jahangirpuri.

"Appropriate action will be taken based on the findings of the inquiry.

BJP to mark 150 years of 'Vande Matram' at 150 places on Nov 7; PM to attend Delhi event

New Delhi/Gurugram
Vande Matram' will be collectively sung at events planned in 150 places of significance across the country to mark 150 years of the national song, with Prime Minister Narendra Modi set to attend one such programme at the Indira Gandhi Stadium in Delhi on November 7.

Addressing a press conference at party headquarters here, BJP National General Secretary Tarun Chugh said the party plans to celebrate the milestone as a festival.

"Several programmes to celebrate the occasion will be organised across the country from November 7 to 26 (Constitution Day). Vande Matram will be sung at 150 places of significance on November 7,



which will be followed by a pledge for using indigenous products," Chugh said, adding poetry writing, recitation and painting will feature in these events across 20 days.

Information about PM attending the event at the IG Stadium was shared by BJP national secretary Om Prakash Dhankar.

"Prime Minister Narendra Modi will participate in the singing of the song Vande Matram at the Indira Gandhi Stadium in Delhi," Dhankar said while interacting with media persons at the BJP office in Gurugram.

The places where the Vande Matram commemorative events will be held include Kargil War Memorial, Andaman and Nicobar Cellular Jail, Odisha's Savaraj Ashram, Shaheed Smarak Park in Agra and Naini Ghat in Varanasi.

During the conference, Chugh said Vande Matram served as a slogan and a guiding mantra in the lives and actions of millions of revolutionaries during India's freedom struggle.

"Many freedom fighters faced the gallows chanting Vande Matram and endured the oppression of foreign rulers with this slogan on their lips," he said.

The song was composed by Bankim Chandra Chatterjee in 1875, and its first famous public rendition was done by Rabindranath Tagore in Calcutta in 1896.

By 1905, during the period of Bengal's partition, the song had been set to the classical raga 'Desh Malhar' and had become immensely popular, echoing as the voice of the people," he added.

Dhankar, at the press conference, also said that the chief ministers of all the states will also participate in the programmes in their respective capitals to mark the special day.

Vande Matram, an ode to the motherland, was adopted as the national song in 1950.

Delhi govt unveils 'Indraprasth Anthem' at Purana Qila on Kartik Purnima

New Delhi
Delhi Tourism Minister Kapil Mishra on Wednesday unveiled the "Indraprasth Anthem" during a grand cultural evening organised at the historic Purana Qila on the occasion of Kartik Purnima.

Speaking at the event, Mishra said Kartik Purnima and the Purana Qila together symbolise the city's ancient roots and spiritual heritage.

"Today, we are collectively reviving the real history of Delhi... a history that was long hidden or misrepresented," he said.

The minister said that under the leadership of Chief Minister Rekha Gupta, the Delhi government is working to bring the city's authentic cultural and historical identity to the forefront.

"Our culture, art, cuisine, traditions and tourism embody the Indian spirit and it is our mission to restore their rightful pride and recognition," Mishra said.

He also described Kartik Purnima as the "true foundation day" of Delhi, saying that it marks the establishment of Indraprasth - the city associated with Lord Krishna and the Pandavas.



gious and spiritual tourism in Delhi and ensuring that festivals are celebrated in a clean and safe environment.

The minister also said that the Delhi government celebrated Hindu New Year, Navratri and Dussehra at the state level for the first time.

"Together, we are erasing the shadow that covered Delhi's glorious past and present. The city will once again be recognised as Indraprasth," Mishra said.

Expressing gratitude to the dignitaries and artists, the minister said that the efforts of individuals like Neera Misra are instrumental in reviving the glory of Indraprasth.

Highlighting ongoing initiatives in the tourism sector, Mishra said the government is promoting religious and spiritual tourism in Delhi and ensuring that festivals are celebrated in a clean and safe environment.

Over 15.7 lakh vials of banned cough syrup seized in Ghaziabad; 8 held

Ghaziabad (UP)

In one of the biggest crackdowns on the illegal trade of banned pharmaceutical substances in recent years, Ghaziabad Police and the crime branch seized over 15.7 lakh vials of prohibited cough syrup concealed inside four trucks parked at a warehouse along the Delhi-Meerut Road, officials said on Wednesday.

Eight people have been arrested in the operation, which was carried out jointly by Nandgram Police and the crime branch following a tip-off from Sonbhadra Police, who had recently nabbed another group of drug peddlers transporting similar consignments.

According to Additional Commissioner of Police (Crime) Keshav Kumar Choudhary, the raid was conducted at "Machhli Godown" near Ghazinia Mor, where four trucks loaded with Eskuf, Phensedyl, and Tapentadol were found parked.

The trucks were allegedly booked under the pretext of transporting limestone from Indore to Guwahati.

"In total, 15,73,500 vials



"In total, 15,73,500 vials packed in 1,150 cartons were recovered from the trucks. The consignments were concealed behind gunny bags of limestone," Choudhary told reporters on Tuesday.

He added that the estimated market value of the seized material is around Rs 3.4 crore.

The officer said that codeine-based cough syrups, which were originally manufactured for medical purposes, are now widely misused as intoxicants.

"The government has banned the sale of such syrups, and companies like Abbott Pharma at Baddi in Himachal Pradesh stopped their production of Phensedyl in December 2024," he said.

Those arrested have been identified as Saurav Tyagi (37), Shadab (29), Shiv Kant (32), Santosh Bhadana (32), Ambuj (26), Dharmendra

(49), Deepu Yadav (24), and Sushil Yadav (35). Police described Tyagi and Bhadana, both transporters, as the key operators of the racket.

During interrogation, the duo allegedly confessed to supplying banned cough syrups to multiple states, including areas in the National Capital Region, and even across the border to Bangladesh.

"Tyagi, who also serves as the cashier of the Ghaziabad Chemists and Druggists Association, used his professional connections with pharmaceutical firms to source these syrups. He also runs a medical store in the city," Choudhary said.

Apart from the cough syrup consignments, police recovered Rs 20 lakh in cash, a Creta car, two laptops, seven rubber stamps, 10 fake SIM cards, and several forged documents from the accused.

The additional commissioner said efforts were underway to bust the wider interstate and cross-border network involved in the illegal distribution of banned pharmaceuticals.

Those arrested have been identified as Saurav Tyagi (37), Shadab (29), Shiv Kant (32), Santosh Bhadana (32), Ambuj (26), Dharmendra

2 dead 4 injured in car-autorickshaw collision in Gurugram

Gurugram
Two people were killed while four others were seriously injured after a speeding car hit an autorickshaw on Dwarka Expressway in the early hours on Wednesday, police said.

According to the police, the accident happened around 4 am while crossing the Garhi Hansara flyover on the expressway.

A speeding car struck the auto directly, causing it to overturn. The driver fled leaving his car on the spot, they said.

The injured are being treated in hospital. An FIR has been registered at sector 10 A police station.

Mausim, Arif, Sahil and Rihan were returning from a salon they worked at in MG Road, in an auto driven by Sahil. Raju, the driver's brother, was also in the vehicle when they were traveling via Railway Road towards Sector 89, police said.

A police team reached the spot and rushed all the injured to the civil hospital where auto driver Sahil (27) and Arif (30) were declared dead. The injured Mausim, Rihan, Raju and Sahil are still being treated in hospital, police said.

Senior police officers said that they are examining CCTV footage from the expressway to investigate the accident. Efforts are also underway to identify and arrest the car driver. "We have seized the car and bodies are kept in the mortuary for post-mortem," he said.

GreNo Authority hopes to complete survey and relocation work of Bodaki terminal within a year

Noida

The land acquisition survey and relocation work for the Bodaki terminal being built in Greater Noida will be completed within a year. The Greater Noida (GreNo) Authority has prepared a ground plan for this.

The survey work is approximately 90 percent complete, but the relocation will take time. Farmers' consent is being sought for the relocation. The Bodaki terminal will be a multimodal hub where passengers will get train, metro, and bus services under one roof.

As many as 70 trains will run from the Bodaki terminal to eastern states. Most of these trains will be going to Bihar. Currently, no express train stops here. Therefore, the opening of the Bodaki terminal will benefit 3.5 million people in the district. Currently, people

refused to talk with him, they said.

Kanishka, a Class 12 student was on her way back from the library when she was attacked in Faridabad's Shyam Colony on Monday evening. In a CCTV footage, the alleged stalker is seen waiting for her in the street walking up to her and then shooting her at point-blank

the villages daily and are communicating with the farmers there. The administrative team has completed approximately 90 percent of the survey work.

Recently, Ganam Budha Nagar DM Medha Rupam assured the farmers that a social impact assessment survey would soon be conducted to assess the impact the project will have on the lives of the villagers.

Further decisions would be made based on the assessment. The Bodaki railway station will cost ₹1685 crore. A three-year target has been set for its completion.

Srilakshmi VS, CEO of the Greater Noida Authority, said, "Our focus is on completing the survey and relocation work within a year. Land surveys are underway for relocation. The administration is also conducting the survey."

Acting on the directions of Chief Executive Officer Lokesh M, Special Officer Mahendra Prasad carried out an inspection of Village Barola to review sanitation and civil infrastructure issues. The visit was part of an ongoing drive to strengthen cleanliness measures and accelerate the resolution of long-pending civic problems in rural areas under the Noida Authority's jurisdiction.

Accompanying the Special Officer during the inspection were S.P. Singh, General Manager (Public Health-1), Indu Prakash Singh, Public Health Officer, Gaurav Bansal, Project Engineer (Public Health-1), Pradeep Kumar, Senior Manager (Water and Sewerage), and Rajkamal, Senior Manager (Work Circle-3).

During the review, officials informed that regular cleaning of the existing sewer lines is being carried out to prevent overflow and blockages. Pradeep Kumar, Senior Manager (Water and Sewerage), said that considering the rapid population growth in Barola, a sump well is under construction to improve sewage management. He added that most of the sewer lines have already been laid and will soon be connected to the new sump well once the project is complete.

Rajkamal, Senior Manager (Work Circle-3), shared that the estimates for reconstructing the entire drainage system have been approved.

Special Officer Mahendra Prasad inspects Barola village to address civic concerns

Ajit Kumar

Noida

Acting on the directions of Chief Executive Officer Lokesh M, Special Officer Mahendra Prasad carried out an inspection of Village Barola to review sanitation and civil infrastructure issues. The visit was part of an ongoing drive to strengthen cleanliness measures and accelerate the resolution of long-pending civic problems in rural areas under the Noida Authority's jurisdiction.

Accompanying the Special Officer during the inspection were S.P. Singh, General Manager (Public Health-1), Indu Prakash Singh, Public Health Officer, Gaurav Bansal, Project Engineer (Public Health-1), Pradeep Kumar, Senior Manager (Water and Sewerage), and Rajkamal, Senior Manager (Work Circle-3).

During the review, officials informed that regular cleaning of the existing sewer lines is being carried out to prevent overflow and blockages. Pradeep Kumar, Senior Manager (Water and Sewerage), said that considering the rapid population growth in Barola, a sump well is under construction to improve sewage management. He added that most of the sewer lines have already been laid and will soon be connected to the new sump well once the project is complete.

Rajkamal, Senior Manager (Work Circle-3), shared that the estimates for reconstructing the entire drainage system have been approved.

During the inspection, it was also found that several vacant plots within the village were being encroached upon by local residents. The Special Officer directed officials to fence these plots with wire and install signboards to prevent further encroachments.

Observing that many sewers were clogged, leading to waterlogging on roads and streets, Prasad ordered immediate clearing of the sewer lines to restore normal flow and hygiene.

In a related development, S.P. Singh, Indu Prakash Singh, and Gaurav Bansal also inspected Sector-25 (Madi Mall) and Village Sadapur. During this inspection, a fine of ₹25 lakh was imposed for non-compliance by bulk waste generators, and a large quantity of banned single-use plastic was seized. The inspections are part of a broader initiative by the Noida Authority to ensure better sanitation, prevent encroachments, and improve civic infrastructure across villages in the region.



The tender process, he said, will be completed shortly, after which new drains will be constructed across the village. For immediate relief, areas with blocked or encroached drains and culverts will be cleared, and Hume pipes will be installed to ensure smooth water flow.

He further mentioned that development projects worth around ₹20 crore have been approved, and tenders will soon be finalized to begin the work.

During the inspection, it was also found that several

vacant plots within the village were being encroached upon by local residents. The Special Officer directed officials to fence these plots with wire and install signboards to prevent further encroachments.

Observing that many sewers were clogged, leading to waterlogging on roads and streets, Prasad ordered immediate clearing of the sewer lines to restore normal flow and hygiene.

In a related development, S.P. Singh, Indu Prakash Singh, and Gaurav Bansal also inspected Sector-25 (Madi Mall) and Village Sadapur. During this inspection, a fine of ₹25 lakh was imposed for non-compliance by bulk waste generators, and a large quantity of banned single-use plastic was seized. The inspections are part of a broader initiative by the Noida Authority to ensure better sanitation, prevent encroachments, and improve civic infrastructure across villages in the region.

During the inspection, it was also found that several

vacant plots within the village were being encroached upon by local residents. The Special Officer directed officials to fence these plots with wire and install signboards to prevent further encroachments.

GreNo Authority to equip village streets with LED lights

Noida

The dark streets of Greater Noida's villages will soon be illuminated. The Greater Noida (GreNo) Authority has begun preparations to install LED streetlights in more than 15 villages, both urban and rural. Approximately ₹2.20 crore will be spent on this project.

With the expansion of villages, many new streets have emerged where streetlights have not yet been installed. The electricity department has identified these locations and issued tenders. According to the authority, work is expected to begin within a couple of months once the firm is selected.

In the Greater Noida East area including Jhupat, Ghori Bachhara, Sakipur, Jaspur, Vaishpur, Tughlaqpura, Nawada, Echhar, and Kasna, as well as several surrounding villages, settlements are rapidly expanding. However, the lack of streetlights leaves residents facing darkness and insecurity as evening approaches.

The Greater Noida Authority conducted a survey of dark areas a few months ago. Now, in the first phase, work is underway to illuminate the dark streets of these villages with LED lights.

The Greater Noida Authority launched a plan to replace sodium streetlights with LED streetlights in 2021. More than 150,000 LED streetlights have been installed so far. LED lights provide better lighting and save electricity.

It also plans to install LED high-mast lights in parks in sectors 36, 37, P1-1 and 2, Builders area, P-3, Omnicore-1A, and Swarn Nagar. The tender process has begun. This will facilitate visits even during night hours and enhance security in the parks.

Greater Noida Authority CEO N.G. Ravi Kumar stated that a detailed action plan has been prepared to improve lighting in urban and rural areas. Instructions have been given to install streetlights in all dark areas.

Emphasis is also being placed on increasing power supply in industrial areas.

Stalker who shot at teenage girl in Faridabad arrested

Faridabad

The man who allegedly stalked and shot at a 17-year-old JEE aspirant in broad daylight in Faridabad was arrested on Wednesday, police said.

Jitendra alias Jatun Mangla (30) allegedly confessed during interrogation that he fired shots at the victim in a fit of rage after she

refused to talk with him, they said.

Kanishka, a Class 12 student was on her way back from the library when she was attacked in Faridabad's Shyam Colony on Monday evening. In a CCTV footage, the alleged stalker is seen waiting for her in the street walking up to her and then shooting her at point-blank

range - one bullet struck the teen's shoulder and another grazed her abdomen.

The girl is stable but still under treatment in hospital. An FIR on the matter has been registered at City Balalgarh police station.

A team of crime branch, Sector 65 arrested Mangla, a resident of Sarmathila village near Soha in Gurugram, on Wednesday, police said.

"During interrogation, he revealed that he worked in the accounting department at Rawal Institute College, Jakhpore in Faridabad. He met the girl in 2024. He subsequently started harassing her despite her objections."

"On November 3, he followed her and asked to speak, but she refused. Enraged, he shot her. We are questioning the accused," said a Faridabad Police spokesperson.

The victim is a resident of Bhagat Singh Colony and a Class 12 science student. She is currently preparing for the JEE and frequented a library in Shyam Colony to prepare for the JEE.

He further mentioned that development projects worth around ₹20 crore have been approved, and tenders will soon be finalized to begin the work.

During the inspection, it was also found that several

Four of family killed as truck hits motorcycle in Haryana's Nuh

Gurugram

Four members of a family including two children were killed after a truck hit their motorcycle in Haryana's Nuh district on Wednesday afternoon, police said.

The truck driver fled the scene after the accident, abandoning his vehicle. An FIR has been registered at

the Ferozpur Jhirka City police station, and the bodies have been sent to the Mandi Khera hospital for a post-mortem, they said.

The accident occurred when a 10-tonne truck coming en route to Biwan from Ferozpur Jhirka rammed into the family's motorcycle, a police officer said.

Rahul trying to mislead country says Saini

Chandigarh: Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini on Wednesday lashed out at Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, accusing him of trying to mislead the country with his "lies."

However, Saini refused to comment on the allegations of Gandhi, who charged that the 2024 Haryana assembly polls were "stolen," as he cited electoral roll data to claim that 25 lakh entries were fake and the Election Commission colluded with the BJP to ensure the saffron party's victory.

"The 'centralised plan' included a Brazilian model whose photograph was used 22 times in 10 booths in the Rai assembly constituency, using names such as 'Seema, Sweetie and Saraswati' for her. The opposition in the Lok Sabha said at a press conference in Delhi during which he put up a presentation 'The H-files' to back his claim.

When asked about Gandhi's allegations, Haryana CM Saini said he does not want to make any comment.

"But Rahul Gandhi is trying to mislead the country. The Congress always worked towards pushing the country back," said Saini while speaking to reporters in Panchkula.

He further said that the Congress and its 'Yuvraj' are not left with any issue.

"Today, I do not want to make any comments. When the time comes, I will certainly speak, as they lack any issue," he said.

"They (Congress) are misleading the country by speaking lies. People will not join you by spreading such falsehoods.

"You (Rahul Gandhi) are lying. Your four generations ruled the country. Even if after the rule by four generations, the Congress and Rahul Gandhi Baba speak lies, then it is unfortunate," he said.

Fresh snowfall in high-altitude areas of Himachal Pradesh

Shimla: Fresh snowfall was recorded in high-altitude areas in Himachal Pradesh on Wednesday, bringing cheers to the locals and tourists who braved extreme cold conditions.

The tribal district of Lahaul and Spiti and the higher reaches of Kinnaur, Kullu and mountain passes received fresh snowfall, causing a drop in mercury and creating chilly weather in adjoining valleys.

Snowfall was also witnessed in Kukunseri and Keylong in Lahaul and Spiti district. The Met said on Wednesday.

Videos of the snowfall have surfaced on the internet.

The Lahaul valley, Rohang Pass, Koksar, Mari and nearby areas were wrapped in a thin layer of impenetrable white snow, presenting an enchanting look, reports reaching here said.

The people in tribal areas reeled under intense cold conditions with mercury staying two to seven degrees below freezing point, while the mid and lower hills received light rains at isolated places.

The locals and businessmen are pinning hope that early snowfall would increase the tourist footfall in Manali and Lahaul and Spiti. Snow would give a boost to the tourism industry in local Kirri Krishan and Rupal.

Haryana leads the way in Gau Sanrakshan & natural farming: CM Saini

Shiv Kumar New Delhi: Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini reaffirmed his government's commitment to Gau Sanrakshan (cow protection) and the promotion of natural farming, emphasizing that these are top priorities for the state.

He was speaking at the inauguration of the Swadeshi National Godhan Summit 2025 at Major Dhyani Chand National Stadium in New Delhi on Wednesday. The event, organized under the guidance of Guru Dalip Singh Maharaj, coincides with the 556th Prakash Purab of Guru Nanak Dev Ji and will continue until November 19. The summit has drawn public representatives and spiritual leaders from across the country to discuss cow protection and natural farming practices.

After inaugurating the summit, the Chief Minister visited the grand Namdhari exhibition set up at the venue. He said the six-day event provides an opportunity for meaningful dialogue and collective efforts toward the cause of Gau Sanrakshan.

Saini highlighted that Gau Seva (service to cows) and agriculture are interlinked, describing the cow as the foundation of India's traditional economy. "Since ancient times, wealth was measured by the number of cows a person owned. The milk of indigenous cows is not only sacred but also beneficial for health, particularly in preventing diabetes and heart diseases," he said.

The Chief Minister also lauded Prime Minister Narendra Modi's "Vocal for Local" initiative, calling it a crucial step toward achieving self-reliance. "The path of Gau Mata Sanrakshan and the strength of Swadeshi lead us toward Atmanirbhar Bharat. We must dedicate ourselves to this vision with full sincerity," he added.

Saini outlined several steps taken by the Haryana Government to ensure cow welfare. He said the state is working to make Haryana free from stray cattle and has established two Gau Abhyarnas in Panipat and Hisar, equipped with proper sheds, water, and fodder facilities. Currently, about four lakh cows are being cared for in 686 Gaushalas across the state. Of these, 330 Gaushalas have been equipped with solar power plants to ensure sustainability. He also noted that Gaushala land is registered free of cost and the budget of the Haryana Gau Seva Aayog has been increased to ₹595 crore.

Extending greetings on the occasion of Guru Parv, Saini recalled the teachings of Guru Nanak Dev Ji, who preached the values of Kirat Karni (honest work), Vand Chhakna (sharing with others), and Naam Japna (remembering God). "If we follow these three principles in life, we can create a better and more compassionate society," he said.

Among those present at the event were Ms. Jeevan Kaur, Ms. Gurmit Kaur, former MP Sanita Duggal, Haryana Gau Seva Aayog Chairman Sarvan Garg, and several other dignitaries and officers.



Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini inaugurating the Swadeshi National Godhan Summit 2025 at Major Dhyani Chand National Stadium in New Delhi on Wednesday.

He was speaking at the inauguration of the Swadeshi National Godhan Summit 2025 at Major Dhyani Chand National Stadium in New Delhi on Wednesday. The event, organized under the guidance of Guru Dalip Singh Maharaj, coincides with the 556th Prakash Purab of Guru Nanak Dev Ji and will continue until November 19. The summit has drawn public representatives and spiritual leaders from across the country to discuss cow protection and natural farming practices.

CM Mann dedicates Shahpur Kandi Dam to people on Guru Nanak Dev Ji's Parkash Purab

Komal Ramola Pathankot: On the auspicious occasion of the Parkash Purab of Sri Guru Nanak Dev Ji, Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann inaugurated the much-awaited Shahpur Kandi Dam Project, a major infrastructure milestone worth Rs 3,394.49 crore, calling it a historic gift to the people of Punjab.

Addressing the gathering after the inauguration, the Chief Minister said the project marks a proud and transformative moment for the state. He expressed gratitude to the engineers, employees, and laborers who worked relentlessly to bring the project to completion. Mann said the Shahpur Kandi Dam will serve as a boon for farmers, industrialists, traders, and citizens alike, while also creating significant employment opportunities for the youth.

"Punjab is an agrarian state, and this project will not only strengthen our irrigation network but also enhance power generation capacity. The Shahpur Kandi Dam will become the lifeline of Punjab, particularly for the Majha region," he said, adding that the project will illuminate lakhs of homes and improve countless lives.

Sharing project details, the Chief Minister said the dam is being constructed at a cost of Rs 3,394.49 crore, with Punjab contributing Rs 2,694.02 crore (80%) and the Government of India funding Rs 700.45 crore (20%). A total of 3,171.72 acres of land have been acquired for the project, of which 1,643.77 acres fall in Punjab and 1,527.95 acres in Jammu and Kashmir.

The project is expected to significantly enhance irrigation in the state. Mann said it will bring water to 5,000 hectares (12,500 acres) of farmland in Pathankot, Gurdaspur, Amritsar, and other Majha districts. Additionally, it will ensure uninterrupted irrigation for 1.18 lakh hectares under the Upper Bari Doab Canal system.

Before the dam's construction, the Ranjit Sagar Dam Power House could not utilize its full 600 MW capacity during peak demand hours due to the absence of a downstream reservoir, leading to water flowing unused into Pakistan.



Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann inaugurating the Shahpur Kandi Dam Project, a major infrastructure milestone worth Rs 3,394.49 crore, calling it a historic gift to the people of Punjab.

Before the dam's construction, the Ranjit Sagar Dam Power House could not utilize its full 600 MW capacity during peak demand hours due to the absence of a downstream reservoir, leading to water flowing unused into Pakistan.

CM Mann confirms ₹1000 monthly transfer for Punjab Women

Chandigarh: Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann has confirmed that the much-awaited ₹1000 monthly assistance for women will be rolled out after the upcoming budget session, calling it a landmark step toward women's empowerment and financial independence.

Addressing a massive public gathering during a roadshow in support of Aam Aadmi Party candidate Harmeet Singh Sandhu ahead of the Tarn Taran assembly by-election, the Chief Minister said that the scheme will directly benefit every eligible woman in the state through Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) — "without paperwork, without middlemen, and with just one click."

"This ₹1000 is not just financial aid; it is a new definition of respect and self-reliance for the women of Punjab," Mann declared, drawing enthusiastic applause from the crowd. He said the promise made to women during the previous election campaign would now be fulfilled in full, as the government continues to deliver on its commitments one by one.



The Chief Minister explained that the monthly transfer will provide much-needed relief to households, help women participate more actively in decision-making, and strengthen the financial stability of families. "When a woman becomes economically strong, the entire family becomes strong," he said.

Calling himself the "Minister of Sorrows" (Dukh Mantri), Mann said he considers it his duty to stand by the people in both joy and hardship. He added that his government's welfare measures—ranging from 300 units of free electricity and employment generation to improved schools and Aam Aadmi Clinics—reflect its commitment to an honest and people-centric governance model.

equipped with proper sheds, water, and fodder facilities. Currently, about four lakh cows are being cared for in 686 Gaushalas across the state. Of these, 330 Gaushalas have been equipped with solar power plants to ensure sustainability. He also noted that Gaushala land is registered free of cost and the budget of the Haryana Gau Seva Aayog has been increased to ₹595 crore.

Extending greetings on the occasion of Guru Parv, Saini recalled the teachings of Guru Nanak Dev Ji, who preached the values of Kirat Karni (honest work), Vand Chhakna (sharing with others), and Naam Japna (remembering God). "If we follow these three principles in life, we can create a better and more compassionate society," he said.

Among those present at the event were Ms. Jeevan Kaur, Ms. Gurmit Kaur, former MP Sanita Duggal, Haryana Gau Seva Aayog Chairman Sarvan Garg, and several other dignitaries and officers.

Punjab govt transforms Mid-Day Meal Scheme with expanded Coverage

TSN/Chandigarh: The Bhagwant Mann-led Punjab Government has introduced far-reaching reforms in the Mid-Day Meal Scheme (MDMS), turning it into one of the most impactful social welfare programs in the state. The changes aim not only to improve children's nutrition but also to expand employment opportunities for thousands of women across Punjab.

In a landmark step, the government extended the scheme in September 2023 to cover nearly 1.95 lakh children in UPK classes in government schools—ensuring that even the youngest students in the public education system receive a daily nutritious meal. The decision reflects the government's belief that proper nutrition during early childhood is vital for learning and cognitive development. For many children in rural Punjab, the mid-day meal remains their most nutritious meal of the day.

Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann said the expansion is part of a broader vision to make education equitable and hunger-free. The move also translates into more employment for women cooks, reinforcing the program's dual purpose as both a nutritional and economic intervention.

Starting January 2024, the Mann government introduced seasonal fruits once a week—initially bananas, later joined by locally grown Kinnow and carrots—to enhance the nutritional diversity of children's diets. The initiative links nutrition with Punjab's farm economy by sourcing produce from local growers, ensuring freshness while supporting rural livelihoods. In November 2025, a new weekly menu designed by nutrition experts was rolled out, focusing on balanced, protein-rich, and vitamin-dense meals to combat malnutrition and promote healthy growth among children.

Building on this momentum, the state government has proposed a Chief Minister's Breakfast Scheme, inspired by Tamil Nadu's model, which would provide a nutritious morning meal to primary school students. The proposal, currently under Cabinet consideration, is intended to address the widespread problem of children arriving at school on empty stomachs. Once implemented, the initiative is expected to create additional employment for women while improving attendance, concentration, and learning outcomes.

Migrant Uttarakhandis are our true brand ambassadors: CM Dhami

Dehradun: Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami on Wednesday described migrant Uttarakhandis as the true 'brand ambassadors' of the state and called upon them to become partners in the state's development campaign.

Addressing the "Pravasi Uttarakhandi Conference" organised as part of the Silver Jubilee celebrations of the establishment of Uttarakhand, he said that migrant Uttarakhandis are taking the state's culture, traditions, and the pride of the motherland to new heights.

They carry with them the culture of the Devbhoomi and the fragrance of their soil wherever they live, Dhami added.

The state government has formed the Migrant Uttarakhand Council to incorporate their suggestions and experiences into the mainstream of the state's development, the CM said.

In this regard, he said that many migrants in the state are contributing to development by adopting their own villages.

Dhami said the state government is continuously moving forward towards the goal of "Developed India, Developed Uttarakhand" and the state has made remarkable progress in all sectors, including education, health, roads, sports, drinking water, tourism, energy, and air connectivity.

The state's first-place ranking in the NTII Aayog's Sustainable Development Goals, the "Achievers" ranking in the "Ease of Doing Business" category, and the "Leaders" ranking in the "Startup Ranking" are the result of the state's well-planned efforts, CM Dhami added.



Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami addressing the "Pravasi Uttarakhandi Conference" on Wednesday.

Asserting that the Uttarakhand government is also fully committed to maintaining cultural values and demographic balance, he said that in four years, more than 26,000 youth have been given government jobs, while more than 200 corrupt people have been sent to jail.

"The state government's goal is to make Uttarakhand a state by the Golden Jubilee year where every youth has access to respectable employment, migration is stopped, and migrants return with dignity," he said.

Former Haryana minister Sampt Singh joins INLD

Chandigarh: Former Haryana minister Sampt Singh returned to the INLD fold on Wednesday, three days after quitting the Congress he had joined 16 years ago.

The senior leader claimed that he wasted years after joining Congress from the INLD.

INLD chief Abhay Singh Chautala and the party's state unit president Rampal Majra welcomed Singh back into the party fold. Majra said those who worked with Chaudhary Devi Lal and fought alongside him, "are once again present among us today, and we welcome him."

Singh expressed his gratitude to Chautala and Majra, saying he has got back the platform that former deputy prime minister late Chaudhary Devi Lal and ex-Haryana chief minister late Om Prakash Chautala gave him.

In his resignation letter to Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge, Singh had alleged that the party in Haryana has been reduced to a personal fiefdom where loyalty is rewarded with servitude and dissent with exile.

No accountability has been fixed for the party's continuous decline between 2009 and 2024, he had claimed.

On Wednesday, Singh said while INLD currently has only two MLAs in the 90-member Haryana Assembly, he is determined to make it the strongest alternative to the BJP.

If INLD forms government after the next state elections, it will formulate policies for the development of all sections of society, with special emphasis on education and healthcare, he said.

Chautala said, "He has taken this decision to carry forward the policies of Chaudhary Devi Lal. We express our gratitude to him." He also announced making Sampat Singh INLD patron.

Abhay Chautala alleged that BJP president and his elder brother Ajay Singh Chautala had "ruined" Sampt Singh and Rampal Majra to leave the INLD.

Majra, who had switched over to the BJP, later rejoined the INLD.

Asked about Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's charge that the 2024 Haryana assembly polls were "stolen," Abhay Chautala said, "Who taught 'vote short'? Earlier, the Congress used to do this. Now the BJP is carrying it forward."

"Why didn't Rahul Gandhi cite these examples when the Congress came to power in Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka, and Telangana? Vote theft could have occurred there too," he said.

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Wednesday alleged that the 2024 Haryana assembly polls were "stolen," as he cited electoral roll data to claim that 25 lakh entries were fake and the Election Commission colluded with the BJP to ensure its victory in the state.



Former Haryana minister Sampt Singh returned to the INLD fold on Wednesday, three days after quitting the Congress he had joined 16 years ago.

India's Push for Talent Retention and Inclusive Growth in the Gig Era

For decades, India has grappled with the loss of its brightest minds—scientists, engineers, academics, and researchers—who have sought better prospects abroad. The persistent “brain drain” has long weakened India’s innovation potential and slowed its progress toward self-reliance in science and technology. However, in recent years, the Government of India has shifted from lamenting this loss to strategically transforming it into an opportunity. Through new frameworks and targeted reforms, India is trying to reclaim its position as a global innovation hub, not by competing on cost, but by building a robust, talent-driven ecosystem.

At the center of this renewed effort lies the Bharat-TALENT (Transforming and Leveraging Expertise and National Talent) Framework and the proposed Bharat Talent Alliance. Together, they represent India’s most comprehensive attempt yet to unify policies on human capital, research, and innovation.

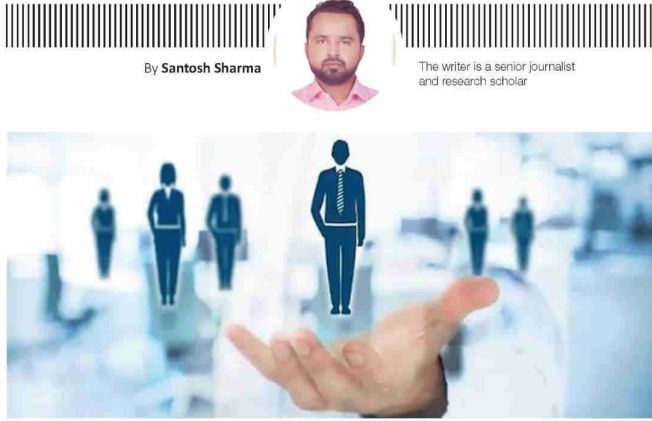
The Bharat-TALENT framework signals a paradigm shift in how the country manages its talent pool. It integrates a wide range of existing initiatives that previously operated in isolation across ministries and departments. The framework focuses on three core goals: retaining talent within the country, attracting overseas Indian professionals through the “Bharat-Return” initiative, and strengthening institutional capacity to foster a more enabling research and innovation ecosystem.

The Bharat Talent Alliance, a proposed coordination body under this framework, aims to bring coherence to policies, streamline recruitment and funding processes, and serve as a single platform for engaging with the global Indian diaspora. It will also help align domestic research priorities with global collaborations. Complementing this, the Ministries of Education and Science & Technology are designing new programs to attract Indian-origin researchers and academics for short-term, high-impact appointments in Indian institutions. This model will strengthen local research capacity while giving diaspora scholars structured opportunities to contribute to India’s development agenda.

To make India a competitive destination for global Indian talent, the government is crafting incentives such as leadership roles in IITs, IISc, and national laboratories, along with attractive postdoctoral fellowships. A new initiative, “Brain Gain Bharat,” aims to draw thousands of Non-Resident Indians (NRIs) and foreign experts by offering competitive salaries, start-up research grants, and relocation support. These efforts build upon earlier schemes like the VJRA Faculty Scheme, Ramalingaswamy Fellowship, and Ramanujan Fellowship, which sought to bring back Indian-origin scientists. While these programs achieved some success, they often struggled with fragmented implementation and bureaucratic inertia, limiting their impact.

In parallel, India is investing heavily in nurturing talent at home. Programs such as the Prime Minister’s Research Fellows (PMRF), INSPIRE, STARS (Scheme for Transformational and Advanced Research in Sciences), and the MK Bhan Young Researcher Fellowship are creating stronger pathways for young scientists to pursue research careers within the country. These initiatives aim not only to reduce the outflow of researchers but also to ensure that India’s research environment is intellectually stimulating and professionally rewarding.

Complementing these human capital efforts are broader ecosystem reforms. The government is



By Santosh Sharma

The writer is a senior journalist and research scholar

ramping up investments in research infrastructure, setting up new laboratories, centers of excellence, and collaborative hubs across premier institutions like IISc, TIFR, and IITs. Innovation programs such as Startup India, Make in India, and Atmanirbhar Bharat have helped cultivate a vibrant culture of entrepreneurship and technological innovation. Diaspora engagement platforms like Pravasi Bharatiya Divas, the VAIBHAV Summit, and the Global Initiative of Academic Networks (GIAN) are connecting Indian institutions with global experts. The National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, with its focus on quality enhancement and interdisciplinarity, further complements these initiatives by positioning “Study in India” as a global brand.

However, despite this progress, structural challenges remain deeply rooted. Many public universities, particularly state universities, are constrained by bureaucratic procedures, underfunding, and dependence on temporary faculty. Scientists returning to India often face administrative hurdles, lack of clarity about research support, and limited institutional autonomy. Many central universities are located in remote regions, making relocation difficult. Evaluation systems, meanwhile, tend to reward past achievements rather than future potential or local impact. These issues, if left unresolved, risk diluting the impact of the country’s otherwise ambitious programs.

India’s policymakers are now looking eastward for lessons. China’s Thousand Talents Plan, launched in 2008, transformed the country’s innovation landscape by aligning incentives, infrastructure, and long-term strategy. While India cannot replicate China’s top-down model due to its democratic structure, it can certainly learn from its coherence and consistency. For India, the key lies in balancing autonomy and accountability, offering transparent processes, and ensuring that talent—whether homegrown or returning—finds an environment conducive to impactful research.

A unified “Brain Gain Bharat Mission,” anchored in the Bharat Talent Alliance, could help achieve this. Simplified administrative procedures, greater institutional autonomy, and flexible career pathways

that integrate research, teaching, and industry collaboration are essential. Regional universities must be strengthened so that opportunities are not limited to a few elite institutions. Dual-track incentives, such as long-term grants and joint appointments, can help retain top minds. Strengthening industry-academia linkages is also vital to ensure that research translates into tangible technologies and solutions.

The success of India’s transition from a talent-exporting nation to a knowledge-driven innovation hub will depend not only on policy incentives but also on institutional reform, meritocracy, and accountability. For India’s global and domestic talent to view the country as a first choice rather than a fallback, it must offer not just opportunities, but trust, freedom, and infrastructure that match global standards.

This broader shift in India’s labour landscape also mirrors another quiet transformation underway—the rise of the gig economy. According to the Ministry of Labour and Employment, India’s gig workforce is projected to reach nearly 62 million by 2047. These workers, often engaged through digital platforms, are redefining the contours of employment. The Code on Social Security (2020) defines a gig worker as one who earns from work outside a traditional employer-employee relationship. This model offers flexibility and new income streams, but it also exposes workers to exploitation and instability.

India’s gig economy, which included around 7.7 million workers in 2020, is expected to grow to 23.5 million by 2030. It has become a vital employment absorber, bringing parts of the informal economy into semi-formal structures. Yet, a NITI Aayog report notes that the gig workforce is polarising—expanding at both low and high ends of the skill spectrum while the middle disappears. This growing divide reflects a broader imbalance in India’s labour market.

While digital platforms have widened access to work, they have also deepened inequality. Many gig firms rely on extractive business practices that prioritize profit over worker welfare. Most gig workers remain confined to low-income, low-skill jobs with limited prospects for advancement. In effect, platform

work has become a safety net for millions but not a pathway to prosperity. Capital owners and higher-income groups benefit from cheap services, while gig workers shoulder the insecurity of fluctuating incomes and lack of social protection.

India’s gig economy thus stands at a crossroads. On one hand, it generates employment, supports startups, and enhances efficiency. On the other, it risks entrenching a “cheap labour” model that perpetuates inequality. The challenge is to make this sector inclusive and sustainable by integrating gig workers into the formal economy through fair contracts, skill development, and social protection.

Labour market reforms must prioritise upward mobility. Skill development programs, digital literacy, and financial inclusion can help gig workers transition to better-paying roles. Standardised contracts, platform accountability, and minimum wage guarantees are essential to ensure fairness. Recent state-level initiatives, like Rajasthan’s 2023 Gig Workers Welfare Bill and Karnataka’s 2025 measures for platform workers, are steps in the right direction. Public-private partnerships should build on these efforts to expand digital and vocational training, while national platforms like the National Career Service can help experienced gig workers shift into formal employment.

India’s current labour force stands at about 610 million, with agriculture accounting for 45 percent, industry for 25 percent, and services for 30 percent. Over the decades, the share of agriculture has steadily declined, but the transition has not followed the classical industrialisation path. Instead of moving into manufacturing, surplus rural labour has increasingly flowed into low-productivity service jobs and gig work—a trend described as “premature deindustrialisation.” The gig sector has become a third space for employment—neither fully formal nor entirely informal—absorbing labour that manufacturing could not.

This dual reality encapsulates India’s development dilemma: while high-end digital and financial services flourish, millions remain trapped in precarious, low-income work. The road to 2047, the year India envisions achieving developed-nation status under the Viksit Bharat framework, must therefore balance innovation and inclusion. The same strategic coherence driving the Bharat-TALENT mission should inform India’s approach to the gig economy.

A forward-looking strategy must ensure that technological advancement does not come at the expense of worker dignity. The gig economy, if properly regulated, could be a bridge between the informal and formal sectors, offering flexibility alongside security. To achieve this balance, India must formalise the grey workforce, build robust labour protections, encourage entrepreneurship, and promote pathways from low-skill to high-skill employment.

Ultimately, India’s twin challenges—reversing brain drain and managing the gig economy—are two sides of the same coin. Both are about harnessing human potential. The first demands that India create conditions where its brightest minds choose to stay or return; the second requires ensuring that millions at the base of the workforce ladder have a fair chance to climb higher. Together, they will define whether India’s growth story in the coming decades is not just fast, but fair, sustainable, and driven by talent at every level.

Scientists Have Discovered a Way to Boost Memory in Aging Brains Health

Virginia Tech scientists found that age-related memory loss stems from molecular changes in the brain. Memory decline might not be just a natural part of aging. Researchers at Virginia Tech have discovered that it is connected to particular molecular changes in the brain, and that fine-tuning these processes can actually enhance memory function.

“Memory loss affects more than a third of people over 70, and it’s a major risk factor for Alzheimer’s disease,” said Jarome, who also holds an appointment in the School of Neuroscience. “This work shows that memory decline is linked to specific molecular changes that can be targeted and studied. If we can understand what’s driving it at the molecular level, we can start to understand what goes wrong in dementia and eventually use that knowledge to guide new approaches to treatment.”

Targeting memory loss in two key brain regions

In the first study, published in the journal *Neuroscience* and led by Timothy Jarome and doctoral student Yeeun Bae, the researchers explored a mechanism known as K63 polyubiquitination. This molecular process works like a tagging system that signals proteins in the brain on how to act. When operating properly, it supports communication between brain cells and aids in memory formation.

The team discovered that aging interferes with this process in two key regions of the brain. In the hippocampus, the area responsible for forming and recalling memories, K63 polyubiquitination levels rise with age. By using the CRISPR-Cas13 RNA editing system to lower these levels, the researchers successfully enhanced memory performance in older rats.



By Vijay Gang

Vijay Gang Retired Principal Educational columnist, Eminent Educationist street kour Chand MHR Maicut Purjab



In the amygdala, which is important for emotional memory, the researchers noted that K63 polyubiquitination declines with age. By reducing it even further, they were able to boost memory in older rats.

“Together, these findings reveal the important functions of K63 polyubiquitination in the brain’s aging

process,” Jarome said. “In both regions, adjusting this one molecular process helped improve memory.”

Reactivating a gene that supports memory

A second study, published in the *Brain Research Bulletin* and led by Jarome with doctoral student Shannon Kincaid, focused on IGF2, a growth-factor gene that supports memory formation. As the brain ages, IGF2 activity drops as the gene becomes chemically silenced in the hippocampus.

“IGF2 is one of a small number of genes in our DNA that’s imprinted, which means it’s expressed from only one parental copy,” Jarome said. “When that single copy starts to shut down with age, you lose its benefit.”

The researchers found that this silencing happens through DNA methylation, a natural process in which chemical tags accumulate on the gene and switch it off. Using a precise gene-editing tool, CRISPR-dCas9, they removed those tags and reactivated the gene. The result was better memory in older rats.

“We essentially turned the gene back on,” Jarome said. “When we did that, the older animals performed much better. Middle-aged animals that didn’t yet have memory problems weren’t affected, which tells us timing matters. You have to intervene when things start to go wrong.”

Together, the two studies show that memory loss is not caused by a single molecule or pathway and that multiple molecular systems likely contribute to how the brain ages.

“We tend to look at one molecule at a time, but the reality is that many things are happening at once,” he said. “If we want to understand why memory declines with age or why we develop Alzheimer’s disease, we have to look at the broader picture.”

Collaborative, graduate-led research

Both studies were driven by graduate researchers in Jarome’s lab and supported through collaborations with scientists at Rosalind Franklin University, Indiana University, and Penn State. Yeeun Bae, who completed her doctoral work with Jarome in the School of Animal Sciences, led the study on K63 polyubiquitination. Shannon Kincaid, a doctoral student in the same program, led the study on IGF2.

“These projects represent the kind of graduate-led, collaborative research that defines our work,” Jarome said. “Our students are deeply involved in designing experiments, analyzing data, and helping shape the scientific questions we pursue.”

The research was supported by the National Institutes of Health and the American Federation for Aging Research.

“Everyone has some memory decline as they get older,” he said. “But when it becomes abnormal, the risk for Alzheimer’s disease rises. What we’re learning is that some of those changes happening at a molecular level can be corrected—and that gives us a path forward to potential treatments.”

VP Radhakrishnan appeals to Naxalites to lay down their arms

Nava Raipur
Vice President C P Radhakrishnan on Wednesday appealed to all Naxalites to surrender, noting that Naxalism is on the wane due to the combined efforts of security forces and the government in Chhattisgarh.

Addressing the closing ceremony of Chhattisgarh Rajat Mahotsav in Nava Raipur, the Vice President hailed Chhattisgarh's "extraordinary" journey from being one of the youngest states in India to one of the most promising and progressing states.

"Chhattisgarh is proud as we are now ending Naxalism, which has long hindered the state's growth. Peace is a must. Without peace, there can be no development," he said.

"I appeal to all Naxalites to give up arms and surrender before the state administration," he said.

He said peace and stability have been restored in the regions once affected by terrorist violence due to the tireless efforts of Central security forces and state police forces, and commitment of Central and state governments, supported by the active cooperation of local communities.

"The end of red terrorism is being done by the new government of Chhattisgarh, and also great steps are being taken by Prime Minister Narendra Modi ji and Union Home Minister Amit Shah ji. They all have been working together to end this red terrorism," the vice president added.



g, and also great steps are being taken by Prime Minister Narendra Modi ji and Union Home Minister Amit Shah ji. They all have been working together to end this red terrorism," the vice president added.

Highlighting Chhattisgarh's achievements since its formation on November 1, 2000, Radhakrishnan said that over the last 25 years, the state has undertaken a remarkable journey of development on social, economic, cultural, and administrative fronts.

Chhattisgarh has shown the world how a region rooted in tradition can march confidently forward with modern economic development and modernity, he said.

"Villages, forests, rivers,

and mines in Chhattisgarh narrate stories of both struggle and success, as the people have turned challenges into opportunities through dedication and hard work," the vice president added.

Expressing deep respect for tribal communities, the Vice President said, "For centuries, they have preserved the state's rich natural and cultural heritage. Their harmony with nature and respect for land and collective living serve as a lesson for the entire world in this age of climate change."

Highlighting Chhattisgarh's achievements, Radhakrishnan said the state has undergone transformation across all sectors, including education, health care, infrastructure, and connectivity.

"Roads, railways, and air links have connected even remote areas to national markets. Even the Naxalite-affected Bastar region is witnessing unprecedented expansion of the railway network, which was never seen in the past," he said.

Radhakrishnan further said that progress is not measured solely by GDP, but also by the smiles on people's faces, the trust they repose in governance, and the hope shining in every child's eyes.

He urged the youth of Chhattisgarh to seize emerging opportunities in artificial intelligence, green technologies, and global markets and contribute to nation-building with courage, creativity, and compassion.

Earlier in the day, the

Vice President attended the 'Lakshmi Didi Sammelan' in Rajnandgaon. He described the initiative as a reflection of the strength and determination of women of India.

"The initiative reflects the resolve of women, the Didis, who are turning challenges into opportunities. The term 'Lakshmi Didi' is not just about income but embodies independence, dignity, and confidence," he added.

The vice president stated that thousands of self-help groups led by women are demonstrating how hard work, discipline, and solidarity can transform lives in India.

He said PM Modi's vision of creating three crore Lakshmi Didis is an extraordinary step toward building women-led development. The vice president described the Lakshmi Didi initiative as a vibrant movement that has enabled over two crore women nationwide and five lakh women in Chhattisgarh to achieve financial independence through SHGs and income-generating activities.

"The leadership of women is growing in Chhattisgarh and across India," he added.

He also hailed the efforts to eliminate the Naxal menace, attributing it to the collaborative vision of PM Modi, Home Minister Shah, the state government, and

security forces.

The vice president further observed that creating wealth is as important as distributing it. He added that both the Central and Chhattisgarh governments are effectively pursuing these goals, which have helped reduce challenges such as Naxalism.

Recalling the progress achieved in Chhattisgarh, he stated the state had once lacked water, electricity, and development. However, it now produces electricity for the entire country and has made remarkable improvements in health-care.

Referring to the recent victory of the Indian women's cricket team in the World Cup, Radhakrishnan drew an inspiring parallel to the social transformation being led by the women of Chhattisgarh.

He also inaugurated a new five-storey facility at Udayachal Health and Research Institute in Rajnandgaon.

Chhattisgarh Governor Ramen Deka, Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai, and Speaker of the Legislative Assembly Raman Singh attended. The Vice President also witnessed the spectacular air show by the Indian Air Force's (IAF) famed Suryakiran Aerobatic Team (SKAT) in Nava Raipur Atal Nagar earlier in the day.

CareEdge Says RBI Payout Could Balance FY26 GST Dip



Mitali Chandola New Delhi

A higher-than-expected dividend payout by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) is likely to act as a fiscal cushion for the government in the financial year 2025-26, offsetting the revenue loss arising from the recent Goods and Services Tax (GST) rate rationalisation, according to a latest report by CareEdge Ratings.

The report notes that while the government's move to rationalise GST rates could lead to a moderate revenue shortfall—estimated at nearly 0.1 per cent of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP)—the substantial non-tax revenue inflow from the central bank's dividend will help balance the books.

The RBI had earlier transferred a record dividend to the central government, far exceeding the budget estimates. The higher surplus was attributed to robust earnings from its foreign exchange operations, revaluation gains, and prudent management of reserves. This windfall is expected to strengthen the government's fiscal position, enabling it to absorb the revenue dip from lower indirect tax collections.

CareEdge's analysis highlights that both direct and indirect tax collections have grown at a slower pace than expected in the first half of the current fiscal year. While direct taxes such as corporate and income tax remain steady, the pace of GST revenue growth has moderated following recent rate adjustments aimed at rationalising the tax structure and easing the burden on specific sectors.

However, non-tax revenue sources have provided a buffer. The strong dividend inflow from the RBI, along with contributions from public sector undertakings (PSUs), has significantly improved the revenue side. This, CareEdge says, has limited the fiscal stress that could have otherwise emerged due to tax underperformance.

The report also underlines that expenditure pressures continue to persist, particularly on account of capital outlays and welfare schemes. To maintain fiscal discipline and stay on the path of consolidation, the government will need to keep a close watch on spending patterns during the remaining months of the fiscal year.

Experts believe that the RBI's dividend payout has given the government breathing room to manage its fiscal deficit target, but structural reforms in tax administration and compliance will be essential for sustainable revenue growth in the long term.

In summary, while GST rationalisation may temporarily trim government revenues, the unexpected surge in the RBI's dividend earnings has turned out to be a timely fiscal lifeline—helping India stay on course toward its fiscal roadmap for FY26.

Rahul's Haryana vote-theft claim baseless attempt to defame India: BJP

New Delhi

Dismissing Rahul Gandhi's claims of vote theft in the Haryana Assembly polls as "false and baseless", the ruling BJP on Wednesday accused the Congress leader of raising questions on the Election Commission (EC) to hide his failures and defame India's democracy.

Union minister Kiren Rijju also accused Gandhi of trying to "instigate" the GenZ and asserted that such efforts will never succeed as India's youngsters are wise enough not to fall for such provocations.

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader's retort came hours after Gandhi cited electoral-list data from Haryana to claim that 25 lakh entries were "fake" and the poll victory in the state was "stolen" from the Congress last year.

The leader of opposition in the Lok Sabha said he has "100 per cent" proof of the malfeasance he has alleged. Rijju rejected Gandhi's allegations as "baseless and false", and said he is alleging vote theft in the Haryana polls and abusing the EC, while his party colleagues have said the Congress lost the election due to its own reasons.

"During the Haryana polls, their senior leader, Kumari Selja, had said the Congress will not be able to win because Haryana Congress leaders wanted the party to lose," he told a press conference at the BJP headquarters here.

Three days ago, a former Congress minister resigned from the party and said the Congress lost the Haryana polls because its leaders were not working and were engaged in ensuring the party's defeat," Rijju claimed.

Haryana Congress president Rao Narendra Singh had also said there was no coordination in the party at the grassroots level, he added.

Rijju termed Gandhi's allegations "unsubstantiated and il-

logical", alleging that Congress leader is repeatedly claiming vote theft to hide his failures and has now come up with "baseless" claims of irregularities in the Haryana election just to divert public attention.

"Polling will be held in Bihar in two days and he is telling the story of Haryana. This makes it clear that there is nothing left in Bihar (for the Congress). That is why he came up with the Haryana issue to divert public attention," the BJP leader said.

The Union minister for parliamentary affairs said the BJP wins elections because of the hard work of its workers and leaders, unlike the Congress.

"At the time of elections, he goes abroad. During Parliament session, Rahul Gandhi silently goes to Cambodia and Thailand. When poll campaigns were underway in Bihar, he went to Colombia," he said.

"This man abuses our country, system, judiciary, democratic institutions, going abroad. When he does not go to people and keep travelling abroad, he is bound to lose elections," the BJP leader said.

"Rahul Gandhi cannot work hard and go to people. He is not a person who can live with people... He has never seen farming, but he does a drama for a photograph with farmers. He has never caught a fish, but he does a drama of catching fish for a photograph. This habit of getting photographed cannot help win elections," he added.

Rijju said if there is any irregularity in voting or in the electoral rolls, then one must file a complaint with the EC or approach a court.

"But they do not have to file an appeal before the EC or approach the court. He (Gandhi) will just call a press conference, give a presentation backed by someone else and run away," he said and asked, "Will democracy function in such a manner?"

Salman Khan faces legal trouble over alleged misleading Pan Masala advertisement

Mitali Chandola New Delhi

Bollywood actor Salman Khan has landed in legal trouble after a complaint was filed against him in the Kota Consumer Court, alleging that an advertisement for a popular pan masala brand endorsed by him was "misleading" and deceptive to consumers.

The complaint, lodged by Inder Mohan Singh Honey—a senior BJP leader and advocate of the Rajasthan High Court—accuses Khan and the company behind Rajshree Pan Masala of making false claims about the product's contents and benefits. The complainant argues that the advertisement promotes a product claimed to be "safron-in-

fused," despite the improbability of such an ingredient being included in a low-cost pan masala. He further asserted that the ad misled consumers and glamorised the consumption of a harmful substance.

The Kota District Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission has taken cognizance of the complaint and issued notices to Salman Khan, the advertising agency, and the manufacturer of the product. All parties have been asked to submit their responses before the next hearing, scheduled for November 27, 2025.

The complaint also raises ethical questions surrounding celebrity endorsements of pan masala,

tobacco, and related products. It argues that a public figure of Salman Khan's stature, with a massive influence over youth, should not be associated with advertisements that indirectly promote addiction or products known to have adverse health effects.

This is not the first time Bollywood celebrities have faced backlash for endorsing such brands. Previously, actors like Akshay Kumar, Ajay Devgn, and Shah Rukh Khan were criticised for promoting similar products. The Advertising Standards Council of India (ASCI) has also issued guidelines urging celebrities to exercise "due diligence" before endorsing products that may have a negative

impact on public health. Legal experts say that if the court finds the advertisement misleading, both the actor and the manufacturer could face penalties under provisions of the Consumer Protection Act, 2019, which prohibits false or deceptive advertising.

The case highlights growing scrutiny over surrogate advertising practices in India, where companies use pan masala or elachi variants to indirectly promote tobacco-based products. As the hearing approaches, all eyes are on how the court interprets celebrity responsibility in consumer protection—a verdict that could set a significant precedent for future brand endorsements in Bollywood.

New Bombay HC complex should be temple of justice not 7-star hotel: CJJ Gavai

Mumbai

Chief Justice of India (CJI) Bhushan Gavai on Wednesday laid the foundation stone for a new Bombay High Court complex here and expressed confidence the new building will be a "temple of justice and not a seven-star hotel".

Addressing a gathering after laying the foundation stone of the complex in suburban Bandra (East), he emphasised the new building should not depict an imperial structure and instead be in tune with democratic values imbibed in the Constitution.

"While planning court buildings, we concentrate on the needs of judges, but should not forget we exist for the needs of citizens, the litigants," CJI Gavai noted.

The CJI, who assumed office on May 14, 2025, said this was his last visit to Maharashtra before demitting the top judicial post on November 24, and noted he was satisfied with the judicial infrastructure in his home state.



"Earlier I was reluctant to be part of this event. But now I am experiencing gratitude that, as a judge who once discharged his duties in the Bombay High Court, I am ending my tenure with laying the foundation stone of the best court building in the entire country. The judiciary, legislature and executive must work under the Constitution to provide justice to society," he maintained.

"This building should be a temple of justice and not a seven-star hotel," the CJI emphasised.

"Today is a momentous moment, an important milestone in history of the Bombay High Court," he stated.

CJI Gavai disclosed initially he was reluctant to attend the foundation stone laying ceremony, but he changed his mind when he was told it is not known when a Bombay High Court judge will occupy the country's top judicial post again.

He said when the building is completed, it will be the most iconic structure on the Western Express Highway in Mumbai.

The CJI, who assumed office on May 14, 2025, said this was his last visit to Maharashtra before demitting the top judicial post on November 24, and noted he was satisfied with the judicial infrastructure in his home state.

He noted the old HC building in south Mumbai was completed with an expenditure of Rs 16,000 and Rs 300 was even saved from the allocated funds.

The CM said he requested well-known architect Hafeez Contractor, who is involved in the project, to ensure the

grandeur of the new building was kept democratic and not imperialistic.

He said government legal officers should have good space for their offices in the new sprawling premises.

"We (government) are the biggest litigants and there should be space for (our) legal officers," the CM opined.

Fadnis said he was confident the new HC building will be AI-enabled and will be completed on time.

Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar noted the foundation stone laying ceremony was a historic moment and a new era in the 150-year-old history of Bombay High Court. He informed that 15-acre land has already been transferred for the project and the rest 15 acres will be handed over by March 2026. The new complex will be spread across 50 lakh square feet. Another Deputy Chief Minister, Eknath Shinde, expressed confidence the upcoming complex will be iconic.

Teachings of Guru Nanak Devji continue to inspire society: CM Yogi

Lucknow
Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath attended a program at D.A.V. College in Lucknow on Wednesday to mark the 556th Prakash Parv of Sri Guru Nanak Dev Ji, the founder and first Guru of the Sikh faith. The Chief Minister paid obeisance to the Sikh Gurus and was felicitated by the organizing committee with an Angavastr and a memento.

Addressing the gathering, CM Yogi described Guru Nanak Dev Ji as a revered spiritual figure whose message of equality, service, and social harmony continues to shape India's moral and social fabric.

He said that at a time when the country was reeling under the oppression of foreign invaders and temples were being destroyed, Guru Nanak Dev Ji fearlessly stood for truth and unity. "When kings and rulers bowed before invaders, Guru Nanak Dev Ji had the courage to call Babar a Jabar—a tyrant. This reflects the strength of India's saintly tradition," the Chief Minister remarked.

CM Yogi added that India's saints and sages have kept the nation's soul alive even in times of crisis, and their teachings remain a guiding light for society today.

He said that at a time when the country was reeling under the oppression of foreign invaders and temples were being destroyed, Guru Nanak Dev Ji fearlessly stood for truth and unity. "When kings and rulers bowed before invaders, Guru Nanak Dev Ji had the courage to call Babar a Jabar—a tyrant. This reflects the strength of India's saintly tradition," the Chief Minister remarked.

Calling for unity and a strengthening of faith in society, the Chief Minister said that today, when activities like religious conversions are being seen in some regions, it is important to reinforce the core spirit of the Sikh faith—unity, organization, and service. He added that if any shortcomings exist, they must be overcome collectively. Recalling the contribution of Guru Gobind Singh Ji Maharaj, CM Yogi said that when he established the Khalsa Panth, he united every section of society, and that same spirit must be revived today.

Advt Contact:
9818-799941

Taj Security Police Spread Awareness on Women's Safety and Cyber Fraud at Taj Mahal

Akash Jain
Agra

In a proactive step toward promoting women's safety and digital awareness, the Taj Security Police organized an interactive session on Wednesday at the western gate of the Taj Mahal. The event, held under the "Mission Shakti" campaign, was conducted under the direction of the Agra Police Commissioner and led by ACP Taj Security.

The awareness drive was coordinated by Station House Officer (SHO) Tilak Ram Bhati. Students from Gurugram, Ghaziabad, Mathura, and other cities took part in the session, which focused on women empowerment and cyber fraud prevention. SHO Bhati addressed the gathering, explaining

Homes of hope rise on freed land as CM Yogi sends stern message to mafias

Alok Srivastava
Lucknow

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Wednesday turned a powerful message into reality as he handed over newly built homes to poor families on land once under the control of mafia. Don-turned-politician Mukhtar Ansari. The event, held at Ekta Van in Jiamau, Dalibagh, marked the inauguration of the Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel Housing Scheme, coinciding with the auspicious occasion of Kartik Purnima.

Addressing the gathering, Yogi declared that Uttar Pradesh has no place for mafias or goons. "This is not just the distribution of houses, it is a message that the dreams of the poor will now take shape on land once held by mafias," he said. In a sharp warning to land grabbers, the Chief Minister added, "Anyone who occupies land belonging to the poor or public property will be made to account for every inch of it."

The housing complex, developed by the Lucknow Development Authority (LDA), stands on reclaimed land previously



erogated upon by place under his government's zero-tolerance policy toward mafias. "Before 2017, mafias mocked the law, insulted the Constitution, and officials were forced to bow before them. Today, that era is over," he said, asserting that the government now stands firmly with the people. "Those who sympathize with mafias are enemies of the state's development. Mafias belong to no one—they are a danger to the poor, traders,

Rakesh Singha Demands Land and Homes for Disaster Victims at Mandi Convention



Rajan Punchhi
MANDI

The Himachal Kisan Sabha on Wednesday organized a one-day state convention at the Vishwakarma Temple in Mandi, calling on the government to adopt a "land for land and house for house" policy for families affected by natural disasters across the state.

The convention, inaugurated by State Secretary Rakesh Singha, focused on the growing distress among people who have lost their land, homes, and livelihoods to landslides, floods, and other recurring calamities. Addressing the gathering, Singha said the suffering of disaster-hit families has deepened over time as relief measures remain inadequate. "People have lost their fields, barns, and even their

lives. Vast tracts of land have been washed away, and in many areas, families do not even have two bighas left to rebuild their homes," he said.

Singha urged the central government to amend the Forest Conservation Act to allow the allocation of at least five bighas of land to those who have been displaced. He also called for immediate construction of houses for those rendered homeless and the provision of monthly rent assistance until permanent rehabilitation is ensured.

Affected people from several districts attended the convention and shared their grievances. Many claimed that revenue officials had not properly recorded their losses, leaving them excluded from official compensation lists.

Rs 25 cr Integrated Aqua Park be established at Nadaun

Top Story News
Shimla

Himachal Pradesh Government is set to establish an Integrated Aqua Park at Nadaun in District Hamirpur with an investment of Rs. 25 crore. Suitable land for the project has already been identified, and the Detailed Project Report (DPR) has been prepared by ICAR-CIFA, Bhubaneswar.

The upcoming Aqua Park will serve as a hub for employment generation, self-employment and livelihood creation, transforming the fisheries sector into a profitable and sustainable enterprise. It will act as a centre for the dissemination of modern freshwater aquaculture technologies to the grassroots level, empowering youth and farmers through diverse aquaculture and allied ventures such as fish seed production, fish feed formulation, and value addition, and marketing.

By ensuring the availability of high-quality fish feed, the Aqua Park will help increase fish



production and profitability for local farmers. It will also feature demonstration units for fish feed formulation and advanced aquaculture practices, providing practical training to unemployed youth and promoting self-employment in the sector.

As per the proposal, the park will focus on producing superior-quality seed of Indian Major Carps (Rohu — Jyanti Rohu, Catla — Amrit Catla, Mrigal), Exotic Carps (Hungarian and Amur strains), Minor Carps (Kulwan, Catfishes (Pangasius,

Murrels), and Ornamental Fishes (Gold Fish, Koi Carp, Guppy, Molly). Equipped with state-of-the-art infrastructure, the Aqua Park will include modern hatchery facilities for carps and catfishes, nursery and rearing units, broodstock raising facilities, and high-end aquaculture systems such as Biofloc and Recirculatory Aquaculture System (RAS), a feed mill, ornamental fish rearing units, a public aquarium, an aqua shop with marketing and incubation facilities, an administrative-cum-laboratory and training

complex, a quarantine and wet laboratory, an effluent treatment plant, and other essential amenities.

Chief Minister Thakur Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu said "Strengthening the rural economy remains a key priority for the State Government, and the fisheries sector can play a pivotal role in enhancing farmers' income. The department has been directed to adopt and promote modern aquaculture practices among farmers to ensure they receive remunerative returns for their hard work."

Agra's Nakshatrashala to Unlock the Mysteries of the Cosmos, Boost Educational Tourism

Akash Jain
Agra

Agra is set to take a giant leap in the field of science education and tourism with the establishment of a state-of-the-art Science Park and Nakshatrashala (Observatory). The twin projects, worth Rs 99.62 crore, mark a major addition to the city's growing list of development initiatives and are expected to transform Agra into a hub for educational tourism.

The foundation stone for the projects will be laid by Uttar Pradesh's Minister of Science and Technology, Anil Kumar, alongside Cabinet Minister for Higher Education, Yogendra Upadhyay, on Thursday, November 6, at 12 noon. The announcement was made during a program held at Sattu Lala Food Court in Shahganj,



attended by several party leaders, including BJP Metropolitan President Rajkumar Gupta.

Speaking on the occasion, Minister Yogendra Upadhyay said that the project was conceptualized when he was in charge of the Science and Technology Department. "We

prepared the detailed proposal and presented it before Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath. After Cabinet approval, the Chief Minister facilitated the transfer of land from the Basic Education Department to the Science and Technology Department, ensuring the project's timely progress," he said.

Mandavya Utsav Brings Choti Kashi Alive with Prayers, Procession and Folk Splendour



Rajan Punchhi
MANDI

The second edition of Mandavya Utsav Choti Kashi-2025 began in Mandi, the cultural capital of Himachal Pradesh, with spiritual fervour and grand celebrations. The five-day festival opened with prayers at the temples of the royal deity Madhorai and Baba Bhoothath, followed by a havan near the sacred Mandavya Shila and a colourful procession that filled the streets of the old town with devotion, dance and music.

Mayor Vinendra Bhatt Sharma, who inaugurated the event, led the prayers at the Madhorai and Baba Bhoothath temples before participating in the traditional yagna and puja. The

ceremony, organized by the Mandi Municipal Corporation, was attended by councilors and local devotees. Prasad was distributed at the Paddal fairground after the rituals. The Dharma Sangh Bhoothath Temple also offered prayers to Mandavya Shila for world peace and public welfare.

The grand procession began at the Deputy Commissioner's Temple Complex and made its way through Chauhatta Bazaar, Samkhet Bazaar, Balak Roopi, and Bhoothath Bazaar before culminating at the historic Seri Manch. The streets of Choti Kashi came alive with vibrant tableaux, traditional attire, and rhythmic beats from police and school bands.

CM Yogi calls RJD-Congress era a 'dark chapter' marked by crime and fear

Gaya

Despite his busy schedule in Uttar Pradesh, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Wednesday campaigned for the second phase of the Bihar Assembly elections. He addressed his first rally in Wazirganj in support of BJP candidate and sitting MLA Birendra Singh, where he highlighted the BJP's record of development and launched a sharp attack on the RJD-Congress alliance.

"Before 2015, Bihar was gripped by crime, caste conflicts, Maoism, and Naxalism. Both Bihar and Uttar Pradesh suffered from a loss of respect at the national and global levels," the Chief Minister said. "During Lalu Prasad Yadav's regime, the state witnessed over 60 caste massacres and more than 30,000 kidnappings, leaving businessmen, doctors, engineers, and the elite living in fear."

Recalling that period as a "dark chapter of jungle raj," CM Yogi said that nearly 30-40 percent of Bihar's population had migrated to Gorakhpur and Varanasi in search of safety and livelihood.

He added that under the leadership of Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, Bihar has laid a strong foundation for good governance over the past two decades. Along with improved road, rail, and air connectivity, new waterway links are further strengthening Bihar's connection with Uttar Pradesh. Farmers' produce and regional specialties such as makhana are now reaching global markets through these waterways.

Addressing the gathering in Gaya, described by him as "the land of knowledge, liberation, and spirituality," CM Yogi underlined its sacred significance in the Sanatan tradition, saying, "It is believed that even the ancestors of heaven attain satisfaction upon visiting this holy land."

Typhoon Kalmaegi leaves 85 dead mainly in Philippine province

Manila: Typhoon Kalmaegi has left at least 85 people dead with 75 others missing in the central Philippines, many in widespread flooding that trapped people on their roofs and swept away cars in a hard-hit province still recovering from a deadly earthquake, officials said Wednesday.

Among the dead were six people who were killed when a Philippine air force helicopter crashed in the southern province of Agusan del Sur on Tuesday. The crew was on its way to provide humanitarian help to provinces battered by Kalmaegi, the military said. It did not give the cause of the crash.

Kalmaegi blew away from western Palawan province into the South China Sea before noon Wednesday with sustained winds of up to 130 kph (81 mph) and gusts of up to 180 kph (112 mph), according to forecasters.

Bernardo Rafaelito Alejandro IV, deputy administrator of the Office of Civil Defence, and provincial officials said many of the deaths were reported in the central province of Cebu, which was pummeled by Kalmaegi on Tuesday, setting off flash floods and causing a river and other waterways to swell.

BUSINESS

GST Impact: State Revenue Decline, PRS Report

New Delhi: The aggregate revenue for states from taxes subsumed under GST has declined for most states, even as some North-Eastern states have seen an improvement in the subsumed tax-to-GDP ratios as compared to the pre-GST regime, a report has said.

According to a report by PRS Legislative Research, since its introduction, aggregate revenue for states from subsumed taxes has declined from 6.5 per cent of GDP in 2015-16 (in the pre-GST regime), to 5.5 per cent of GDP in 2023-24.

The Goods and Services Tax (GST), implemented in 2017 as a tax reform, subsumed a range of taxes and levies at the central and state level, including VAT, Central Sales Tax, Excise Duty, and Entry Tax.

The report said the average SGST as a percentage of GDP over the seven years of GST (2.6 per cent) has been below the average subsumed taxes in the four full years before GST.

States were guaranteed a 14 per cent annual

Newly elected NYC mayor Mamdani flaunts his Indian roots at victory speech

New York: From Nehru's 'Tryst with Destiny' to 'Dhoom Macha le' New York's newly elected mayor, Zohran Mamdani, did not forget to flaunt his Indian roots during his first victory speech, although he did not mention India or Indians directly.

Flanked by his Indian-origin parents and wife Rama Duwaji on the stage, Mamdani quoted India's first prime minister Jawaharlal Nehru's famous 'Tryst with Destiny' address in his victory speech.

Mamdani invoked Nehru as he spoke about ushering in a new era in New York City politics.

"Standing before you, I think of the words of Jawaharlal Nehru: 'A moment comes, but rarely in history, when we step out from the old to the new, when an age ends, and when the soul of a nation, long suppressed, finds utterance.'" Mamdani said, recalling the words of Nehru who delivered his famous speech on the



eve of India's independence. "If that is not evidence enough of his strong bond with India, Mamdani walked off the stage with the exuberant, celebratory track from the 2004 blockbuster 'Dhoom' playing in the background.

The use of "Dhoom Machale" set social media abuzz, with many users applauding Mamdani for his choice of song. "Probably one of the most iconic things to ever happen at the end of the New York Mayor's victory speech...they really dropped 'Dhoom Machale!'" wrote one user on X.

"Zohran Mamdani closes victory speech as mayor of New York to Dhoom Machale. This is like a Bollywood movie in real life," added another.

"This is not the first time that Mamdani has used the popular appeal of Hindi cinema.

Several of his campaign videos, to reach out to New York's Indian American voters, used songs and dialogues from hit Hindi movies to great effect. One video, for instance, referenced "Deewaar", "Karz" and "Om Shanti Om", all cult hits from the recent and not so recent past.

Indian-origin Mam-

dani secured a thumping victory in the closely-watched election in which he defeated independent candidate Andrew Cuomo and Republican nominee Curtis Sliva.

Mamdani was born and raised in Kampala, Uganda and moved to New York City with his family when he was 7. He became a naturalised US citizen only recently, in 2018.

Mamdani is the son of renowned filmmaker Mira Nair and Columbia University professor Mahmood Mamdani.

Mamdani attended Bronx High School of Science and received a Bachelor's Degree in Africana Studies from Bowdoin College.

If that is not evidence enough of his strong bond with India, Mamdani walked off the stage with the exuberant, celebratory track from the 2004 blockbuster 'Dhoom' playing in the background.

Mamdani was born and raised in Kampala, Uganda and moved to New York City with his family when he was 7. He became a naturalised US citizen only recently, in 2018.

Mamdani is the son of renowned filmmaker Mira Nair and Columbia University professor Mahmood Mamdani.

Mamdani attended Bronx High School of Science and received a Bachelor's Degree in Africana Studies from Bowdoin College.

Nepal's 10 left parties merge to form single party ahead of general elections

Kathmandu: Ten left parties, including the CPN (Unified Socialist) chief Madhav Kumar Nepal will serve as co-coordinator.

The party will follow Marxism-Leninism as its guiding ideology and convene its national convention within six months.

"This day, Nov. 5, 2025, has been registered as an important historic day for the Nepalese communist movement. Today, not one or two, but ten communist parties have been united to form a grand organisation with the name 'Nepali Communist Party'," Prachanda said, addressing the unity conference.

"We all have to be proud to witness this historic moment. This will not only forge unity among the Communist parties of Nepal, but will also form the basis for national unity at a time of unprecedented national crisis," he added.

Prachanda also expressed gratitude to the Gen-Z youths for opening the eyes of political parties and highlighting their weaknesses by voicing against corruption and in favour of good governance by making great sacrifices.

The unification announcement was made at a mass gathering at Bhrikutimandap here.

With the merger, the Maoist Centre, which led the decade-long insurgency, has dropped the term "maoist" from its official name.

Ahead of the formal unification ceremony, a grand procession was held. The alliance has been formed in the backdrop of the recent youth-led Gen Z protests against corruption, nepotism and political disorder in the country.

The unified party will be called the Nepali Communist Party, with a five-pointed star as its election symbol.

CPN (Maoist Centre) chairman and former prime minister Pushpa Kamal Thapa Prachanda will act as coordinator of

EU agrees on new emissions targets before global climate summit in Brazil

Brussels: The European Union said on Wednesday it would slash carbon emissions by 90 per cent by 2040, in an agreement widely seen as a weakening of the 27-nation bloc's previous climate goals, after an overnight debate ahead of the UN climate conference in Brazil.

Hungary, Slovakia and Poland voted against



the agreement, despite other nations agreeing to key compromises, including allowing flexibility for member states to

use of offshore carbon laundering to meet this nominal target means the EU's own commitment is much lower, and that commitment means even less with a baked-in clause to dilute the target every two years," said Greenpeace EU climate campaigner Thomas Gelin.

Environmentalists criticised the deal for provisions that will allow the EU to buy carbon credits from less-developed countries, effectively outsourcing the bloc's obligations. "The

use of offshore carbon laundering to meet this nominal target means the EU's own commitment is much lower, and that commitment means even less with a baked-in clause to dilute the target every two years," said Greenpeace EU climate campaigner Thomas Gelin.

Environmentalists criticised the deal for provisions that will allow the EU to buy carbon credits from less-developed countries, effectively outsourcing the bloc's obligations. "The

use of offshore carbon laundering to meet this nominal target means the EU's own commitment is much lower, and that commitment means even less with a baked-in clause to dilute the target every two years," said Greenpeace EU climate campaigner Thomas Gelin.

Environmentalists criticised the deal for provisions that will allow the EU to buy carbon credits from less-developed countries, effectively outsourcing the bloc's obligations. "The

use of offshore carbon laundering to meet this nominal target means the EU's own commitment is much lower, and that commitment means even less with a baked-in clause to dilute the target every two years," said Greenpeace EU climate campaigner Thomas Gelin.

Environmentalists criticised the deal for provisions that will allow the EU to buy carbon credits from less-developed countries, effectively outsourcing the bloc's obligations. "The

India, US Trade Talks Ongoing: Goyal

Auckland: Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal on Wednesday said India and the US are holding continuous discussions for the proposed bilateral trade agreement.

"Talks are going well... and are continuously going on. Jaise samvedanashlekk mudda hai, kare-gambhiroer mudda hai, toh svabhavik hai ki thoda samay lagega (There are many sensitive issues, so it is natural that it will take some time)," he told reporters here.

He was replying to a question about the progress on India-US negotiations on the pact.

Goyal is here on a four-day official visit. He is leading a business delegation.

Five rounds of talks have been completed so far for the first phase of the bilateral trade agreement between the US and India.

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

In February this year, leaders of India and the US directed officials to negotiate a proposed Bilateral Trade Agreement (BTA). They have fixed a deadline to conclude the first tranche of the pact by the end of 2025.

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

Civil society group criticises FM for remarks on bank nationalisation

Kolkata: Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman's recent observation that bank nationalisation did not fulfil its objectives has prompted a civil society group to contest her claim, and cautioned the government against privatising public sector banks (PSBs).

In a letter to the finance minister, the Bank Bachao Desh Bachao Manch (BBDBM), a Kolkata-based forum, said that nationalisation fundamentally reshaped India's financial system by ensuring access to institutional credit in rural and semi-urban areas, which private banks had ignored before 1969.

"The economic progress of the country since 1969 can be single-handedly attributed to public sector banks, which remain the backbone of India's financial architecture," the group claimed in the letter.

Sitharaman on Tues-



day, however, allayed apprehension that privatisation of state-owned banks would hurt financial inclusion and national interest.

The civil society group said that PSBs still account for over 60 per cent of total deposits and advances, and operate more than 90 per cent of rural branches serving farmers, low-income

households and small businesses.

Citing data, the BBDBM noted that PSBs were instrumental in expanding financial inclusion - opening more than 53.1 crore Jan Dhan accounts, of which over 31 crore are in rural and semi-urban areas, with 55 per cent belonging to women. They have also led govern-

ment-backed insurance and loan schemes such as PMJJBY, PMSBY, Mudra and PM SVANI-dhi.

The forum alleged that, in contrast, corporate borrowers have enjoyed leniency, with PSBs writing off over Rs 12.08 lakh crore between FY16 and FY25, while total write-offs across scheduled com-

"The economic progress of the country since 1969 can be single-handedly attributed to public sector banks, which remain the backbone of India's financial architecture," the group claimed in the letter.

mercial banks exceeded Rs 16.35 lakh crore. Of this, more than Rs 9.26 lakh crore pertained to large corporate and service sector borrowers, it said, adding that recoveries remained "barely around 20.5 per cent."

"The government appears intent on portraying nationalisation as a failure so that public sector banks may ultimately be transferred to a few favoured business conglomerates," said the letter, signed by Biswaranjan Ray and Soumya Datta, who are the Joint Convenors of the group.

"It should stop abusing international forums," he emphasised.

Talking about the country's economic growth and social progress, Mandaviya said India's development story is one of transformation at scale.

"In the last 10 years, through persistent reforms, convergence of welfare programmes, and digital innovation, approximately 250 million Indians have been lifted out of multidimensional poverty," he highlighted.

India Slams Pak at Doha Summit Over Internal Affairs

New Delhi: Union Minister of Labour and Employment Mansukh Mandaviya on Wednesday said Pakistan has no locus standi to comment on India's internal affairs, and it should stop abusing global forums.

The minister asserted that Pakistan is engaged in acts of cross-border terrorism against Indian citizens and advised the neighbouring country to introspect.



Session of the Second World Summit for Social Development in Doha, Qatar.

He took strong objection to certain unjustified references made by the President of Pakistan to India in his remarks on Tuesday.

"This is an abuse of an international forum to distract the world from focusing on social development by peddling

disinformation against India. We wish to set the record straight," Mandaviya asserted.

On the Indus Waters Treaty, he said Pakistan has undermined its spirit through "sustained hostility and cross-border terrorism."

The minister noted that Pakistan has also "repeatedly misused the Treaty mechanisms to obstruct India's legitimate projects."

With regards to the Indian Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, Mandaviya said Paki-

stan has no locus standi to comment on India's internal affairs.

"This is particularly so when it indulges in acts of cross-border terrorism against the citizens of India," the Minister said.

He advised Pakistan to introspect and address its own serious challenges related to development.

Due to these internal challenges, Mandaviya said Pakistan has become dependent on handouts by the international community.

Australia's chief selector responds to Steve Waugh's 'pick the sides, not players' dig

Canberra:

Australia's chief selector George Bailey has responded to his former captain Steve Waugh's remarks on team selection ahead of the upcoming Ashes series, stressing that every player chosen has earned his spot, regardless of age, according to Sen.

Waugh had recently urged the selectors to make tougher decisions to allow younger talent to come through, pointing out that several senior players could be featuring in their final Ashes campaign. Usman Khawaja will turn 39 during the series, while Nathan Lyon is 37 and Mitchell Starc is 35.

"George Bailey's going to have to make some tough calls and I think in the past, he hasn't really had the appetite for that at times, so he's going to have to step up to the plate with the other selectors because it is a time of transition," Waugh said before the Australian squad was announced, as quoted from Sen.

"The bowlers are in their 30s and some of the batsmen are getting on as well, but that's natural for every team. You just want to make sure that three or four players don't go out at the same time," he added.

"That leaves a big hole in the team. So, they got to just make sure that it is a transition, but not all at once," he noted.

"I'd like to see the selectors pick the sides, not the players. There's been a lot of players recently picking sides and saying who should be in the team. That's the selectors' job," he said.

Veda Krishnamurthy on team's retention dilemma ahead of next season

Mumbai:

As the announcement of retained players by franchises for the next Women's Premier League (WPL) season draws closer, former Indian cricketer Veda Krishnamurthy spoke on Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) selection dilemma, if they should retain three or two overseas players, with skipper Smriti Mandhana and Richa Ghosh performing well in India's maiden ICC Women's World Cup win and South African all-rounder Nadine de Klerk being a "tempting" choice after an explosive tournament as well.

In the upcoming season of the Women's Premier League (WPL) 2026, franchises can retain a maximum of five players ahead of the mega auction, according to ESPNcricinfo. The deadline for announcing retentions has been set for November 5, which has been communicated to the teams. The auction window will be between November 25 and 29, according to ESPNcricinfo.

Advt Contact: 9818-799941

India's squad for home South Africa Tests announced; Pant, Akash Deep return

Mumbai: The return of wicketkeeper-batter Rishabh Pant and pacer Akash Deep were the highlights as the Indian squad for the two-match Test series against South Africa at home was announced on Wednesday.

The two-match Test series between India and ICC World Test Champions South Africa will commence on November 14, with the first Test at the Eden Gardens in Kolkata. The second Test will take place at ACA Stadium in Guwahati.

The top-order will feature the rock-solid opening pair of Yashasvi Jaiswal, KL Rahul, with Sai Sudharsan, skipper Shubman Gill, Pant, and Ravindra Jadeja as some of the certainties. Besides them are Dhruv Jurel as a back-up wicketkeeper-batter option and Devdutt Padikkal as an option for the top order as well.

Pant returns after healing from his injured foot suffered during the fourth Test in England and got himself some game time as India's captain during the on-



going two unofficial Tests against South Africa, scoring 17 and 90 in India's win in the first game at Bengaluru. He will also be featured in the second game, starting tomorrow.

Akash Deep, who also experienced fitness issues during the England series, missed out on the home Tests against West Indies in October and gained game time by playing the Irani Cup for Rest of India and two rounds of the Ranji Tro-



phy for Bengal, taking seven wickets and scoring 90 runs across five innings.

The other spin bowling all-rounders in the squad are Washington Sundar and Axar Patel, while Nitish Kumar Reddy is a pace bowling all-round option. Teams could choose any of these alongside Jadeja as per the conditions, with Washington and Nitish having featured in both West Indies Tests at home and Axar sitting

out. Kuldeep Yadav is the spin specialist within the team and will make up a world-class bowling attack with Jasprit Bumrah, Mohammed Siraj, Akash Deep

and Axar Patel, Nitish Kumar Reddy, Mohammed Siraj, Kuldeep Yadav, Akash Deep

India's Test squad: Shubman Gill (C), Rishabh Pant (WK) (VC), Yashasvi Jaiswal, KL Rahul, Sai Sudharsan, Devdutt Padikkal, Dhruv Jurel, Ravindra Jadeja, Washington Sundar, Jasprit Bumrah, Axar Patel, Nitish Kumar Reddy, Mohammed Siraj, Kuldeep Yadav, Akash Deep

Spin bowling all-rounder Dunith Wellalage named Sri Lanka A skipper for Rising Stars Asia Cup

Colombo:

Left-arm spin bowling all-rounder Dunith Wellalage will captain Sri Lanka A in the Rising Stars T20 Asia Cup, in Doha, scheduled to begin on November 14.

The Sri Lanka A squad also features leg-spinners Vijayakanth Vijayakanth and Sahar Arachchige, all-rounders Milan Rathnayake and Ramesh Mendis, and top-order batters Nuwanindu Fernando and Nishan Madushka, and seamer Pramod Madushan.

Even though the majority of the players haven't found a consistent place in the senior Sri Lanka team, Wellalage, Nuwanindu, and Madushka have featured regularly in the white-ball format in the past couple of months. Rathnayake contested in Sri Lanka's Test series against Bangladesh in June.

Vishen Halambage, a 20-year-old batting all-rounder who has been called up to the Sri Lanka squad but is yet to make his debut, has also been included in the team. Ramesh Mendis played for Sri Lanka against Austral-

ia in a Test in February. Vijayakanth has come close to breaking into the international setup. However, the presence of Wanindu Hasaranga and Jeffrey Vandersay has kept him out of the mix.

The teams have been drafted into two groups: Group A comprises Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Hong Kong, and Sri Lanka, while Group B includes India, Oman, Pakistan, and the UAE.

The Rising Stars Asia Cup will commence with a contest between Pakistan A and Oman. Sri Lanka A will begin their campaign against Afghanistan A on November 15.

PM Modi meets India's Women's World Cup winning team at his residence

New Delhi:

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday hosted the Indian women's team, which secured the ICC Women's World Cup, at his residence at Lok Kalyan Marg.

PM Modi congratulated the team for the victory and praised their remarkable comeback in the tournament after a string of three defeats and the trolling they had faced on social media. The players were gifted a signed jersey with 'Namoi' printed on it to PM Modi. The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) president, Mithun Manhas, was also present.

Captain Harmanpreet Kaur recalled meeting the Prime Minister in 2017 (after a narrow loss to England in the finals at Lord's), when they had met the PM without the trophy, and now that they have met him with the trophy, they wish to meet him more often.

Vice Captain Smriti Mandhana, who ended the tournament as the second-highest run-getter with 434 runs in nine innings, including a century and two fifties, said PM had motivated them and



has been an inspiration for all of them. She also spoke about how girls are doing well in all fields today, and it is because of PM Modi.

Deepthi Sharma, who was crowned the 'Player of the Tournament' with 215 runs and 22 wickets for her name, including a fifty and five-wicket haul in the final against South Africa, said she had been waiting to meet the Prime Minister Modi. She recalled their meeting in 2017, and when the PM had asked them to keep working hard, and then they would achieve their dream.

PM mentioned how Deepthi had written 'Jai Shri Ram' on her Instagram account and had

a tattoo of Lord Hanuman on her arm. The all-rounder said it gives her strength.

Harmanpreet asked PM Modi how he manages to always remain in the present. To this, he said that being so happy has been a part of his life and has become his habit.

The Prime Minister also recalled the famous catch of Harleen Deol in 2021 against England (during a T20I in the UK), about which he had posted on social media at that time.

PM Modi discussed how Harmanpreet pocketed the ball after the final match. She said she was lucky that the ball came to her, and she kept it.

Former India head coach Ravi Shastri extends birthday wishes to Virat Kohli

New Delhi:

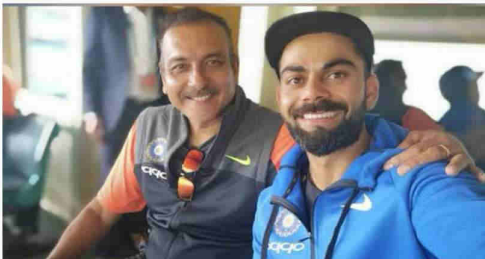
Former India head coach Ravi Shastri penned a heartfelt birthday wish for 'Champion and a half' Virat Kohli, who turned 37 on Wednesday.

Since bursting onto the international cricket scene back in 2008 as a promising teenager from the streets of West Delhi, the batting wizard has reached a stratosphere in world cricket that few have achieved.

The 1983 World Cup-winning player and Virat formed a dynamic coach and captain duo from 2017 to 2021, elevating India's status in the Test format to new heights. While extending birthday wishes to Virat, Shastri hopes that the inspiration to the next generations keeps shining.

"Here's wishing a Champion and a Half, a true inspiration for the young generation and beyond. Keep shining, keep boosting spirits on and off the field. Happy Birthday! @virat.kohli God bless," Shastri wrote on Instagram.

Former off-spinner Harbhajan Singh, who



lifted the World Cup trophy in 2011 with Virat, was effusive about the 37-year-old's professionalism and setting new standards of fitness and commitment.

"Warm birthday greetings to @imvirkohli -- a true champion whose passion, discipline, and determination continue to inspire millions across the world. You have redefined professionalism and set new standards of fitness, focus, and commitment for the younger generation. Indian cricket takes immense pride in your remarkable journey and achievements. Wishing

you continued success, good health, and happiness. Have a wonderful birthday!" Harbhajan wrote on X.

Stylish opener KL Rahul posted a birthday message for Virat on Instagram, which read, "Happy birthday @virat.kohli. Have a great one bro."

Virat played 123 Tests, scoring 9,230 runs at an average of 46.85, with 30 centuries and 31 fifties and a best score of 254*, ending his Test career as India's fourth-highest run-getter. In 305 ODIs, he has scored 14,255 runs at an average of 57.71, with 51

centuries (most by a player in ODIs) and 75 fifties and a best score of 183. He is the second-highest run-getter in ODIs of all time.

He is the fastest to achieve milestones of 8,000, 9,000, 10,000, 11,000, 12,000, 13,000, and 14,000 runs in ODI cricket in the format's history. With 4,188 runs in 125 matches at an average of 48.69 and a strike rate of over 137, including a century and 38 fifties in 117 innings, Virat was one of India's most reliable batters in the shortest format and is currently the third-highest run-getter in the format.

Winning in sport begins with healthier everyday habits, like good ORAL HEALTH, says cricket legend Rahul Dravid

New Delhi:

In a recent episode of Breakfast with Champions, legendary cricketer and Head Coach Rahul Dravid brought critical attention to an often-overlooked element of peak athletic preparation: ORAL HEALTH. Drawing on his experience at the highest level of competitive sport, Dravid highlighted how meticulous attention to the "smallest things" now defines the pursuit of excellence, confirming that ORAL HEALTH is fast becoming recognized as an essential factor in achieving and maintaining superior sporting performance.

Dravid emphasized that in modern, high-stakes competitions, success hinges on securing the slightest advantage, or the "1% margin." He asserted that dedication to physical condition now extends to every detail of an ath-



lete's well-being, especially ORAL HEALTH. Dravid cited the example of elite global sport, noting that Hansi Flick, the coach of FC Barcelona, made ORAL HEALTH checks compulsory for athletes, alongside their physical requirements. This decision underscores a growing global trend to elevate oral care from basic hygiene to an indispen-

sable component of performance fuel.

"You don't necessarily think about this, but when I read that and read the research around it, it makes absolute sense. If you're going to look after yourself as a professional athlete, you've got to look after your ORAL HEALTH as well," Rahul Dravid said.

Reflecting on his own career, Dravid under-

BCB "refutes" allegations of physical abuse against women's team captain Nigar Sultana

Dhaka:

The Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) strongly refuted allegations of physical abuse made by fast bowler Jahannara Alam against the women's team captain Nigar Sultana.

Alam, 32, who hasn't made an international appearance since December 2024, had claimed that Sultana had beaten up her teammates during an interview with Bangladesh newspaper Kaler Kantho, according to ESPNcricinfo.

"The BCB categorically and strongly refutes these allegations, which are baseless, fabricated and devoid of any truth. The Board finds it unfortunate that such derogatory and scandalous claims have been made at a time when the Bangladesh Women's Team is showing commendable progress and unity on the international stage,"



BCB said in a statement.

"The Board believes that the timing and nature of these comments are deliberate, ill-intentioned and seemingly aimed at undermining the spirit and confidence of a team that continues to represent the country with pride. It is deeply disappointing that an individual who currently has no involvement or relevance in the plans of Bangladesh cricket has

chosen to make such misleading statements in public," the statement added.

The Bangladesh board affirmed that it fully trusts and supports the national women's team's leadership, players, and management. While confirming that no evidence has been found to support Alam's claims, the Bangladesh board has reaffirmed its support for the women's team.

Pukhraj blazes his way to top with bogey free 63 in IGPL Jamshepur

Jamshepur: Pukhraj Singh Gill, who has come close to a win on more than one occasion, put himself in the pole position with an outstanding round of 9-under 63 on the Par-72 Beldi Golf Course in the IGPL Invitational Jamshepur hosted by Arjun Munda.

Pukhraj opened a massive lead of four shots over Harendra Gupta, an experienced star who, like him, is looking for his maiden win in the IGPL. Harendra, who has won on the domestic Tour in the past, before coming over to IGPL, shot 5-under 67 and was tied second with Sudhir Sharma (67) and Sachin Baisoya (67), as per a release from IGPL.

Yashas Chandra, who recovered from an early bogey on his starting hole, the third, found five birdies after that to be 4-under and in sole fifth.

Pukhraj's nine-under was the fourth such score, though the previous three by Aman Raj - twice in Jaipur and once in Kolkata - came on par-70 courses.

The IGPL Order of Merit leader and winner of the last two events, Aman Raj shot 69 and tied sixth alongside former Asian Tour winners Chinnaswamy Muniyappa and Chiragh Kumar, who also shot 69 each. Ashbeer Saini, IL Aalaap and Trishul Chinappa were also in the big bunch of six players at Tied-sixth at 69.

Aman Raj, who won back-to-back titles in Jaipur and Kolkata, opened with a birdie on the first and had a total of five birdies, but he also gave away two bogeys, one on each side of the course, to be 3-under 69 and six behind the leader.

Pukhraj, who was the runner-up behind Gaganjeet Bhullar at the IGPL Jaypee Greens, besides finishing in Top 10 in Chandigarh, Pune and Kolkata, started from the fifth hole in the shotgun start in the morning wave.

Pukhraj, a long hitter of the tee, who has also played on the Asian Tour and Asian Development Tour, started with a birdie on the fifth and added two more on the seventh and eighth.

High-stakes bidding, big signings mark UP Kabaddi League Season 2 Player Auction

Lucknow: Uttar Pradesh Kabaddi League (UPKL) concluded its season two player auction in Noida with intense bidding and landmark signings.

With 12 franchises and a total purse of Rs 1.70 crore, the event on Tuesday marked a new chapter in UPKL's journey to becoming India's most successful state-level league across any sports.

The auction featured 500 players, including national players, emerging talent and young prospects. The auction also witnessed the debut of its newest franchise, Gazab Ghaziabad, which joined the competition alongside Aligarh Tigers, Kanpur Warriors, and Purnanchal Panthers, further expanding UPKL's footprint to twelve teams, as per a UPKL press release.

The auction saw strong participation across all 12 franchises, with top bids reflecting the growing market value of kabaddi



Big bids & bold signings light up UP Kabaddi League Season 2 auction

talent in Uttar Pradesh. Acquired by Aligarh Tigers, Vinay Tevathia emerged as the highest purchase of the day at Rs 5.80 lakhs.

Nitin Panwar was the second highest purchase of the day at Rs 4.45 lakh, acquired by Ganga Kings of Mirzapur, who were closely followed by Ashu Singh at Rs 4.35 lakh, who was purchased by

Noida Ninjas. Further to this were Shubham Kumar, who was purchased by Kanpur Warriors at Rs 3.20 lakh, and Abhinav Raghavanshi, who was sold to Awdh Ramdoots at Rs 2.95 lakh.

The defending champions, Lucknow Lions, retained key performers from their title-winning squad, including Arjun Deshwal, Vivek Chaud-

hary, Arpit Saroha, and Mohd Amaan, ensuring a blend of stability and experience as they prepare to defend their crown.

Speaking on concluding the auction for UPKL Season 2, Sambhav Jain, Founder and Director, SJ Uplift Kabaddi, said, "UPKL has established itself as a formidable league in Kabaddi as well as India's broader sports eco-

system. The league has created value for players and franchises unlike any other state-level league to date. It has unlocked a platform for talent to thrive and has defined what grassroots sports really stand for. The auction witnessed strategic, competitive, and disciplined bidding, resulting in balanced squads across the teams. We're excited to see how this season unfolds and are committed to amplifying the visibility kabaddi truly deserves."

The auction witnessed the unveiling of the Broadcast Partner for UPKL's upcoming three seasons by Former IAS Awanish Kumar Awasthi, advisor to Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath. Also present at the auction were ace Indian Kabaddi player and UPKL brand ambassador Rahul Chaudhary, Secretary of Uttar Pradesh Kabaddi Association Rajesh Singh, UP Kabaddi Federation's Vinay Kumar Singh, among others.

Kerala Blasters eye semifinal berth in decisive clash against Mumbai City FC

Panaji: Kerala Blasters FC (KBFC) are all set for a massive Super Cup Group D clash against Mumbai City FC (MCCF) at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium, Fatorda, on Thursday. Riding high on confidence after two commanding wins, the Blasters will look to continue their unbeaten run and secure a place in the semifinals. A draw would be enough to seal qualification, but the Blasters will step onto the pitch with clear intent to go for all three points and finish the group stage in style, as per a release from KBFC.

Head coach David Catala on the team's preparation and goals, "This is going to be a decisive game against Mumbai, with a place in the semifinals at stake. It's not going to be easy, so we need to stay sharp and make every moment count. The team has developed great fluidity in our attacking combinations, and we are comfortable keeping more of the ball. What

impresses me most is how the players handle hold-up situations, staying composed, creating space, and making every move count. That balance between structure and creativity is what we will look to bring into this match as well," as quoted from a release by KBFC.

With six points from two matches, David Catala's men sit comfortably at the top of Group D. The team has played with purpose, control, and attacking flair, a reflection of Catala's evolving philosophy that has brought balance and belief to the squad. Spanish striker Koldo Obieta has been in red-hot form, scoring three goals in his first two appearances. The Blasters have also been rock solid at the back, with Juan Rodriguez and Bikash Yunnam forming a reliable defensive wall that has yet to be breached in the competition. Having scored four goals and kept two clean sheets, Kerala Blasters have been one of the standout teams of the tournament so far.

When we won gold medal in 1975 WC...: Former Indian hockey player BP Govinda

New Delhi:

In the last half a decade, the Indian men's hockey team have bagged two bronze medals at the Olympic Games, and that brought a lot of joy to the fraternity. India had to wait a bit before experiencing Olympic glory, but that was not the case for the major part of the last 100 years. With 13 medals at the Olympic Games and three at the World Cup, India is among the most decorated teams in the sport.

Reflecting on India's glorious history, a two-time World Cup medalist (runners-up in 1973 and winner of 1975 edition) and an Olympic medallist (1972 bronze medal), BP Govinda said, "It is a nice thing and a big achievement that we can celebrate such a glorious 100 years of Indian hockey. The journey started all the way back in 1928 with our first Olympic medal, and we are all very happy that Hockey India is making a celebration of this landmark of 100 years."

Considered to be one of the fastest players during his era, BP Govinda



was a crucial part of the Indian team. In 1973, it was his goal that helped India overcome Pakistan in a thrilling semi-final, before they went on to win the silver medal.

In the next World Cup in 1975, BP Govinda again played a big role in the team's success, scoring important goals in the tournament, as India outclassed arch-rivals Pakistan in the final to win the coveted gold medal. Reflecting on the memories of those World Cup campaigns, BP Govinda said, "The 1975 World Cup, we really outclassed Pakistan in the finals, but before that, Malaysia gave us a very tough time in the semifinals."

He further added, "When we won the

Gold medal in 1975 in the World Cup in Kuala Lumpur, there are no words to express the feeling. All the members of the Indian team were overjoyed, and there was a lot of emotion as it was the first World Cup Gold medal, and of course, we were all very thrilled to stand on the podium."

Now, as a former player and a fan of the sport, BP Govinda believes that the current generation of players should always strive for excellence. He said, "As a team, the Indian men's hockey team should always expect a lot from themselves. It is important to aim for the top prize; the team should always aim for a gold medal. We have won two bronze medals in the last two Olympics.

Breaking Time

What to do

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

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

Solution, Sudoku

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

TOP STORY

Dear Reader, If you have any news or you have any suggestion regarding our newspaper or you have any problem with any government department, you may contact us on 24 hour helpline no- 0120-4225517, 4241284for Delhi & Ghaziabad (9882310372), for Noida(981899989), Advertisement (9818799941), Circulation (08586925450)

FORADVERTISING IN

TOP STORY
PLEASECONTACT:
9818799941

Readers are recommended to make all necessary enquiries and seek appropriate advice before action on any advertisement and content published in this publication. The printer, publisher, editor and seller of the Top Story do not vouch for any claims. The publication is being sold on the condition and understanding that information given in this publication is merely for reference and must not be taken as having final authority of or binding in any way. We do not owe any responsibility for damage or loss to any person, a purchase of this production is not for the result of any action taken on the basis of this work. All disputes are subject to the exclusive jurisdiction of court and forums in Delhi/New Delhi only.

Umed Kumar races into three-shot lead in round two of Dilip Tirkey Invitational

Bhubaneswar: Umed Kumar carded a two-under 70 in round two to race into a three-shot lead at the PGTI NEXGEN's Dilip Tirkey Invitational 2025, being played at the Bhubaneswar Golf Club.

Overnight joint leader Umed (67-70), who hails from Chandimandir, Haryana, moved his total to seven-under 137 on day two, thus raising his hopes of bagging his second NEXGEN title this season.

Divesh Rana (67-73), the other overnight joint leader, dropped down to second position at a total of four-under 140 following his round of 73 on Wednesday. Sanjeev Kumar (72-69) moved up four spots to third position at three-under 141 thanks to his error-free second round of 69. Rs 20 lakh event is supported by Indian hockey legend and Hockey India President Dilip Tirkey.

Ankit Padhi and Ajay Kumar Sabu were the two local professionals who made the cut as



Umed Kumar takes commanding three-shot lead at Dilip Tirkey Invitational

they were both placed tied 26th at five-over 149. The cut fell at eight-over 152. Thirty-nine professionals made the cut.

The 24-year-old Umed Kumar is currently placed second in the NEXGEN Order of Merit and has now emerged as a top contender for the number one spot in

the rankings that would earn him exemption on the PGTI's main tour next year.

Umed, who mixed five birdies with three bogeys, struggled to find the fairways and greens on day two. However, Umed's putting saved the day for him as he made several conversions for birdie and par

from a range of five to 10 feet.

Umed said as quoted from a press release by PGTI, "It was my consistent putting that kept me on top of the pack for the second straight day. I also recovered really well from the trees on a few occasions, where I managed to extract bird-

ies. A couple of par-saves from tricky positions were crucial too. It now boils down to capitalising on that handy lead in the final round. Keeping the ball in play on those narrow fairways will be the key for me, something I didn't do well in round two."

Divesh Rana made six birdies and seven bogeys during his second round of 73. Sanjeev Kumar, the current NEXGEN Order of Merit leader, could pose a major challenge to Umed for the number one spot in the rankings if he moves up from his current third position in the tournament on the final day.

Sanjeev's season earnings stand at Rs 7,08,740 while Umed's earnings read Rs 6,06,840. The cheques for the top three finishers at Bhubaneswar are worth Rs 2,54,300, Rs 2,14,300 and Rs 1,36,300. That's how close it is between Sanjeev and Umed in the Order of Merit race.

Triathletes honoured as IRONMAN 70.3 Goa marks 5 years of endurance, growth

Panaji: With less than a week to go for the fifth edition of IRONMAN 70.3 Goa, India, on November 9, anticipation is high as athletes from across the country return to India's most iconic endurance race.

Since its debut in 2019, the event has grown year after year, attracting both first-time triathletes and returning participants drawn by its scenic route and electric atmosphere, according to a release.

Among those returning to the start line once again are Dinesh Heda from Goa and Srivani YV from Bengaluru, who have completed every edition of the race since its inception. Recognising their remarkable consistency and dedication, IRONMAN India has honoured athletes who have completed at least three editions in the individual category with a special Badge of Honour.

For 56-year-old Dinesh Heda, a celebrated accountant by profession, triathlon began as an extension of his



IRONMAN 70.3 Goa celebrates 5 years of endurance and excellence

love for running. "I took up my first Olympic-distance triathlon around 2015, and entered the Half Ironman distance only when the race came to Goa in 2019. Since then, I've done every edition here," he said, as quoted from a release.

For Srivani YV, a chemical engineer and mother from Bengaluru, IRONMAN Goa is deeply personal. "My coach suggested I try triathlons when I got back to swimming years ago. Since then, I've done eight Half Iron distances and Goa re-

mains my favourite," she shared. "It's close to home, perfect for a family trip, and the race vibe is unlike any other. The 70.3 distance is the sweet spot, challenging yet enjoyable."

Both athletes have seen the event evolve dramatically, with the fifth edition set to feature close to 1,300 participants.

"From the first edition at Dona Paula to now, the race has grown like crazy. Even a week before race day, you can already see cyclists and runners on the route.

'Golmaal 5' to be set in Goa? Ajay Devgn teases director Rohit Shetty

Mumbai
Actor Ajay Devgn is celebrating another milestone of his much-celebrated film franchise, 'Golmaal'.
Helmed by Rohit Shetty, the Golmaal films have been entertaining audiences for nearly two decades, beginning with 'Golmaal: Fun Unlimited' in 2006. Over the years, the franchise has evolved into one of India's most successful comedy series. While fans eagerly await the next film in the franchise, Ajay Devgn marks 15 years of 'Golmaal 3'.
"@itsrohitshetty when are we planning our next Goa vacation? #15YearsofGolmaal3," he wrote in



the Instagram story, teasing that the team might be finally moving on with the project in the coastal town. Director Rohit Shetty shared his plans to return to making light-hearted films, especially 'Golmaal 5'.
"I would like to take a break from the cop universe...I have been continuously working on cop films since 2008 but now I am really looking forward to creating comedy films...Golmaal is coming next," he revealed.
The first film featured Ajay Devgn, Sharman Joshi, Arshad Warsi and Tusshar Kapoor, with their fun banter making it a popular one among audiences. The film is still regarded as one of Rohit Shetty's best works. Paresh Rawal and Rimi Sen also featured in the film.
The success of 'Golmaal' prompted Rohit to expand the franchise with the second, third and fourth parts. Actors like Kareena Kapoor Khan, Kunal Kemmu, Amrita Arora, Parineeti Chopra, and Tabu have also become part of Rohit's comedy franchise over the years.

Virat Kohli receives birthday wishes from brother Vikas, sister Bhawna

Mumbai
Virat Kohli celebrates his birthday today, heartfelt wishes have been pouring in from across the globe. Along with fans and fellow cricketers, his family members also joined in to shower him with love and warm birthday greetings.
Kohli's brother, Vikas, and sister, Bhawna, penned the light in your soul- Happy Birthday," she captioned on their respective Instagram handles.
Vikas shared a picture of Virat and Anushka and wrote, "Happy birthday bhai...stay blessed with all happiness and love."
Bhawna shared a beautiful picture of Virat with his niece and nephews.
"Grace in your heart, light in your soul- Happy Birthday," she captioned the post.
Left-arm wrist spinner Kuldip Yadav took to X to wish his senior on his 37th birthday, saying, "Happy Birthday, Virat Bhai. Keep shining and inspiring always."
Yuvraj Singh shared a nostalgic video capturing Kohli's journey from his early days to his modern-day dominance, featuring several moments of the duo together. "Once a King, always a King. Happy birthday @imVkohli! Sending you lots of love for a great year ahead. Stay blessed!" Yuvraj said.



Former India all-rounder Yuvraj Singh shared a nostalgic video capturing Kohli's journey from his early days to his modern-day dominance, featuring several moments of the duo together. "Once a King, always a King. Happy birthday @imVkohli! Sending you lots of love for a great year ahead. Stay blessed!" Yuvraj said.



Kareena, Neha Dhupia, Angad Bedi offer prayers at Gurdwara

Mumbai
On the auspicious occasion of Gurpurab, Bollywood actress Kareena Kapoor Khan paid a sacred visit to a gurdwara in Mumbai.
In the visuals captured by the shutterbugs, Kareena was seen in an elegant ethnic suit, her head gracefully covered with a dupatta.
On Wednesday evening, couple Angad Bedi and Neha Dhupia, were also spotted offering prayers at the gurdwara.
Actor Sidharth Malhotra extended heartfelt wishes to his fans via a sweet post on Instagram.
Gurpurab, also known as Guru Nanak Prakash Utsav or Guru Nanak Jayanti, celebrates the birth of Guru Nanak, the first Sikh guru.
The auspicious occasion is observed on the full moon



date of Kartik month or Kartik Purnima every year.
The day is also celebrated as Parkash Utsav. Devoted to the Divine from his childhood, Guru Nanak Dev was a man of peace who spent his entire life emphasising equality and tolerance.
Guru Nanak composed many hymns, which were collected in the Adi Granth by Guru Arjan. He visited pilgrimage sites throughout India. The main verses from the Guru Granth Sahib elaborate that the creator of the universe is one. His verses also propagate selfless service to humanity. Prayers are being held in Gurdwaras on Gurpurab. The different aspects of the celebration go on till night.



Huge crowd perform 'Manuhe Manuhor Babe' song to pay tribute

Guwahati
A crowd of nearly 5000 people paid tribute to Bharat Ratna Dr Bhupen Hazarika by performing the song 'Manuhe Manuhor Babe' at the Latasil playground in Guwahati on the occasion of the 14th death anniversary of the singer.
Bhupen Hazarika, popularly known as the "Bard of Brahmaputra" and "Sudhakantha" (the Nightingale), was one of the doyens of the Assamese cultural space. Born on September 8, 1926, in Tinsukia district, Assam, he made an indelible mark as a musician, singer, composer, and poet.
To pay tribute to the singer, fans and followers gathered at the Latasil playground to perform the iconic song 'Manuhe Manuhor Babe'.
In the visuals, the women were seen dressed in sarees, while the men wore kurtas and formal attire as they all sang in a chorus. A national anthem followed it.
Assam Minister Bimal Borah paid tribute to the singer by calling Dr Bhupen Hazarika a singer who "instilled a hope of living" among his listeners and fans.
"Bharat Ratna Bhupen Hazarika was not only an icon of Assam's culture but also a reason for the celebration among people of all sectors. His creative songs instilled a hope of living among the people. He also sang the songs about nature.



Rajinikanth collaborates with Kamal Haasan for 'Thalaivar 173'

Chennai
Megastar Rajinikanth's new film 'Thalaivar 173' will be created under Kamal Haasan's RaajKamal Films International banner.
Sundar C has come on board to direct the movie.
This landmark collaboration not only unites two towering forces of Indian cinema but also celebrates five decades of friendship and brotherhood between Superstar Rajinikanth and Kamal Haasan, read a statement.
'Thalaivar 173' is slated for a grand theatrical release through Red Giant Movies during Pongal 2027.

Helen Mirren to be honoured with Cecil B DeMille Award

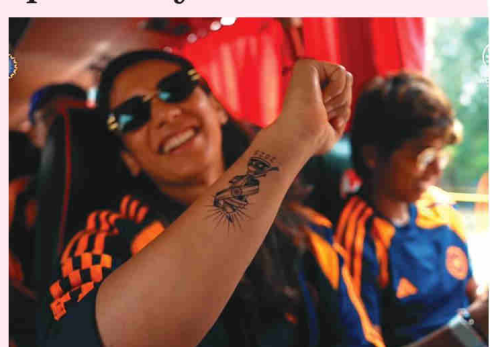
Washington
Actress Helen Mirren will be honoured with the prestigious Cecil B DeMille Award during the new primetime special 'Golden Eve', which airs Thursday, January 8, prior to the Golden Globes ceremony on Sunday, January 11, reported Variety.
The special honouring the three-time Golden Globe winner and Oscar, Emmy and Tony Award-winning actress will air on CBS and stream on Paramount+, reported Variety.
According to the outlet, Mirren is the latest in a line of legendary recipients of the DeMille Award, which has celebrated the lifetime achievements of Hollywood's most iconic figures since its inception in 1952.
The award presentation will headline 'Golden Eve', a reimagined special that also honours the Carol Burnett Award recipient, still to be announced, and kicks off the festivities leading up to the 83rd annual Golden Globe Awards.
"Helen Mirren is a force of



nature, and her career is nothing short of extraordinary," said Helen Hoehne, president of the Golden Globes.
"Her transcendent performances and commitment to her craft continue to inspire generations of artists and audiences alike. It is a profound honour to present her with the Cecil B. DeMille Award," added Helen, as quoted by Variety.
Mirren's prolific career spans more than six decades across film, television and stage. She earned Golden Globe Awards for her role in Stephen Frears' 'The Queen', portraying Queen Elizabeth II, and for her TV roles in 'Elizabeth I' and 'Losing Chase'.
Award," added Helen, as quoted by Variety.
Mirren's prolific career spans more than six decades across film, television and stage. She earned Golden Globe Awards for her role in Stephen Frears' 'The Queen', portraying Queen Elizabeth II, and for her TV roles in 'Elizabeth I' and 'Losing Chase'.
Award," added Helen, as quoted by Variety.
Mirren's prolific career spans more than six decades across film, television and stage. She earned Golden Globe Awards for her role in Stephen Frears' 'The Queen', portraying Queen Elizabeth II, and for her TV roles in 'Elizabeth I' and 'Losing Chase'.

Harmanpreet Kaur, Smriti Mandhana get inked with special World Cup victory tattoos

New Delhi
Harmanpreet Kaur and Smriti Mandhana marked Team India's historic maiden ICC Women's World Cup triumph with special tattoos.
On Wednesday, Harmanpreet Kaur took to Instagram and shared a picture of the tattoo, which features the World Cup Trophy.
"Forever etched in my skin and my heart, waited for you since Day 1, and now I will see you every morning and be grateful," Harmanpreet wrote.
Leading from the front, Harmanpreet Kaur had a memorable campaign with the bat. She scored 260 runs in nine matches, including two half-centuries, and played a match-winning knock of 89 runs in the semi-final against Australia, helping India chase down a massive target of 339.
During the pulsating final on Sunday, India posted a



daunting total of 298/7 on the board, courtesy of Shafali Verma's blistering 87(78) and Deepti Sharma's fiery run-a-ball 58. In reply, skipper Laura Wolvaardt single-handedly led the fight with a rollicking 101(98) while the rest of her compatriots crumbled against India's spin attack. Player of the Tournament, Deepti Sharma, delivered the final blow, and India experienced a wave of euphoria.
India took a victory lap inside the stadium to prolong the moment of jubilation. Former cricketers Jhulan Goswami and Mithali Raj joined in the victory celebrations and lifted the coveted title with teary eyes. Former India men's captain Rohit Sharma, who was present at the stadium with his family, was visibly overwhelmed with emotions.
After the nerve-racking final, Harmanpreet was effusive about past stalwarts Jhulan Goswami and Anjum Chopra. She credited the duo for providing her support during her illustrious 16-year career.