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MARKET	
SENSEX	83216.28
NIFTY	25492.30
GOLD	5
	120,640.00
	27.00

WEATHER	
Sunrise	6:38 AM
Sunset	5:32 PM
Moonrise	7:59 PM
Moonset	10:52 AM
Today's Prediction	
Maximum	27°C
Minimum	13°C
Tomorrow's Prediction	
Maximum	27°C
Minimum	13°C

SC orders relocation of stray dogs from institutional areas, highways

The apex court is hearing a suo motu case, initiated on July 28 over a media report on stray dog bites leading to rabies, particularly among children, in the national capital.

New Delhi
The Supreme Court on Friday took note of the 'alarming rise' in dog bite incidents in institutional areas like educational centres, hospitals, bus stands and railway stations, and directed the authorities to move such canines to designated shelters.



The apex court also ordered the authorities, including the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI), to ensure the removal of stray animals and cattle from highways and expressways.

A three-judge special bench comprising Justices Vikram Nath, Sandeep Mehta and N V Anjaria passed a slew of directions in the stray dogs case.

"... (With) regard to the alarming rise in incidents of dog bites within institutional areas, such as educational institutions, hospitals, sports complexes, bus stands and depots and railway stations, this court deems it appropriate to issue the following di-

rections in the interest of public safety, health and management of stray dogs," the bench said.

It directed states and Union territories, through their respective local or municipal authorities, to identify such institutions within two weeks.

The bench asked the

administrative heads of such institutions to ensure that the premises are secured by adequate fencing, boundary walls, gates and such other structural or measures as may be necessary to prevent the ingress of stray dogs.

It said this exercise should be completed as soon as possible, and preferably within eight weeks.

The bench said the management of such institutions shall designate a nodal officer responsible for the upkeep and cleanliness of the premises and for ensuring that stray dogs do not enter or inhabit the

campus.

"The details of the said officer shall be displayed permanently at the entrance and notified to the jurisdictional municipal body or authority," it said.

The bench said local municipal authorities and panchayat shall carry out regular inspections at least once in every three months of all such premises to ensure that no stray dog habitats exist within or in the immediate vicinity of these institutions.

"It shall be the responsibility of the jurisdictional municipal body or authority to forthwith remove every stray dog found within the premises of an educational institution and other institutions... to a designated shelter after due sterilisation and vaccination in accordance with the Animal Birth Control Rules," it said.

The bench said the stray dogs shall not be released back to the same place from where they were picked up.

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Clandestine nuclear activities are in keeping with Pak's history: India



MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal

New Delhi
India on Friday noted US President Donald Trump's comments about Pakistan testing nuclear weapons and said Islamabad's "clandestine" nuclear activities were centred around decades of smuggling, export control violations and secret partnerships.

Last week, Trump named Pakistan among the countries testing nuclear weapons. The US president said this to justify his administration's plans to resume testing of the US's own nuclear assets after a gap of over three decades.

The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), responding to Trump's remarks, said India has always drawn the international community's attention to Pakistan's nuclear proliferation as well as activities of AQ Khan, known as the father of Pakistan's nuclear bomb who died in 2021.

"Clandestine and illegal nuclear activities are in keeping with Pakistan's history, that is centred around decades of smuggling, export control violations, secret partnerships, AQ Khan network and further proliferation," MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said.

"India has always drawn the attention of the international community to these aspects of Pakistan's record. In this backdrop, we have taken note of President Trump's comment about Pakistan's nuclear testing," he said. Agency

No irregularities found as ECI clears Bihar's first phase



Mitali Chandola
New Delhi

The Election Commission of India has given a clean chit to Phase I of the Bihar Assembly elections, confirming that no discrepancies or malpractices were detected during its extensive post-poll scrutiny. In a detailed review involving Form 17A (Register of Voters) and other poll-day documents, the Commission concluded that every polling station under Phase I met procedural integrity standards, eliminating

the need for any re-polls.

According to the ECI, the scrutiny was conducted across all 121 Assembly Constituencies that went to polls in the first phase. The exercise was held in the presence of 121 Returning Officers and 121 General Observers appointed by the Commission, ensuring multi-layer oversight. Approximately 475 candidates and their agents actively participated in the scrutiny process, reflecting a significant level of political stakeholder engagement.

CONTD ON PAGE-2

Vande Mataram was fragmented in 1937, sowing seeds of partition, says PM Modi

New Delhi

In an apparent attack at the Congress, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday said important stanzas of the national song "Vande Mataram" were dropped in 1937 which sowed the seeds of partition and asserted that such a "divisive mindset" is still a challenge for the country.

Modi made the comments after inaugurating the year-long commemoration of "Vande Mataram" to mark 150 years of the national song. He also released a commemorative stamp and coin on the occasion at the Indira Gandhi Indoor Stadium here.

"Vande Mataram became the voice of India's freedom struggle, it expressed the feelings of every Indian. Unfortunately, in 1937, important stanzas of Vande Mataram... a part of its soul, were severed. The



division of Vande Mataram also sowed the seeds of partition. Today's generation needs to know why this injustice was done with this 'maha mantra' of nation building... this divisive mindset is still a challenge for the country," he said.

Noting that "Vande Mataram" is relevant in every era, the prime

minister, in an apparent reference to Operation Sindoor, said, when adversaries dared to attack India's security and honour through terrorism, the world saw that while New India "embodies the spirit of 'Kamala and Vimala' in service to humanity, it also knows how to become Durga — the wielder of ten weapons — for the destruction of terror".

HIGHLIGHT

■ Congress adopted a truncated version as the national song in 1937; "crucial verses" were dropped, says the PM Modi, arguing that the "same divisive thinking remains a challenge for the country even today"

US President Trump says he could travel to India next year



New York/Washington

US President Donald Trump said he could travel to India next year, emphasising that Prime Minister Narendra Modi "wants" him to visit while calling him a "great man" and a "friend". "He's (PM Modi) a friend of mine, and we speak... He wants me to go there. We'll figure that out. I'll go. I will have a great trip there with Prime Minister Modi, he's a great man. And I'll be going," Trump said at the Oval Office on Thursday in response to a question.

When asked if he is planning to go to India next year, Trump said, "It could be, yeah."

India will host leaders from Australia, Japan, and the United States for the Quad summit in New Delhi after the 2024 summit was held in Wilmington, Delaware.

However, the dates for the summit in India are yet to be announced. When asked about Trump's visit to India, Ministry of External Affairs spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal in New Delhi declined to comment on the issue.

"I do not have anything on this to share. I will let you know when I have," Jaiswal said. Agency

Controversial land deal involving Ajit Pawar's son cancelled

Mumbai
Maharashtra deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar on Friday said his son Parth and his business partner were not aware that the land in Pune which their company purchased belonged to the government, and the controversial transaction has now been cancelled.



A committee appointed by the government to probe the Rs 300 crore deal will submit its report within a month, he told reporters here, soon after meeting Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis

amid the raging controversy.

The registration of documents related to the deal was cancelled, and affidavit to this ef-

fect were submitted to the authorities, the NCP chief said, adding that not a rupee had changed hands in the deal. "The concerned land

is a government land which cannot be sold. Parth and his partner Digvijay Patil were not aware of this fact. How the registration (of its sale) was done and who is responsible will come out in the probe being headed by ACS (additional chief secretary) Vikas Kharge, and he will submit his report in a month," Pawar said.

As per his information, the authorities had not been pressurised to transfer the land to Parth Pawar's company (Amadea Enterprises LLP), the deputy CM said. Agency

Snag hits Delhi airport ATC, nearly 300 flights delayed

New Delhi
Delhi airport, the country's busiest airport, plunged into chaos on Friday as more than 300 domestic as well as international flights were delayed due to technical problems with the air traffic control system, sources said.



All airline operations at the airport have been impacted and authorities are working to fix the issues. IndiGo, Air India, Air India Express, SpiceJet and Akasa Air said there are delays in their flights at the Delhi airport due to the issues with the air traffic control system.

The national capital's Indira Gandhi International Airport (IGIA), the country's busiest airport, handled more than 500 flight movements daily. Airports Authority of India (AAI) said flight

operations at the Delhi airport are facing delays due to a technical issue in the Automatic Message Switching System (AMSS), which supports air traffic control data. Agency

SC orders relocation of stray dogs from institutional areas, highways

CONTD FROM PAGE-1

"We have consciously directed the non-release of such stray dogs from the same location from which they were picked up, as permitting the same would frustrate the very impact of the directions issued to liberate such institutional areas from the presence of stray dogs," it said.

The bench referred to an order passed by the Rajasthan High Court in August, issuing directions for tackling the menace of stray animals on city roads and highways.

The top court directed the authorities of all states, Union Territories and the NHAI to ensure the removal of all cattle and other stray animals from state highways, national highways and national expressways falling within their respective jurisdictions.

It said the authorities shall undertake a joint coordinated drive to identify stretches of highways and expressways where stray cattle or animals are frequently found, and take immediate steps for their removal and relocation to designated shelters.

The bench said cattle and other stray animals so picked up shall be kept in appropriate centres or cattle pounds and provided with necessary food, water and veterinary care in accordance with the provisions of the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act and the Animal Birth Control Rules, 2003.

It directed the authorities to constitute dedicated highway patrol teams and assign existing road safety units for continuous surveillance and immediate response to reports of stray cattle or other animals obstructing the roadways.

"All national highways, state highways and national expressways shall have prominently displayed helpline numbers at regular intervals, enabling commuters to promptly report the presence of stray animals or accidents caused thereby," the bench said.

It said these helplines shall be linked to the control rooms of the local police, NHAI, and district administration for real-time redressal and monitoring.

It fixed the matter for further hearing on January 13.

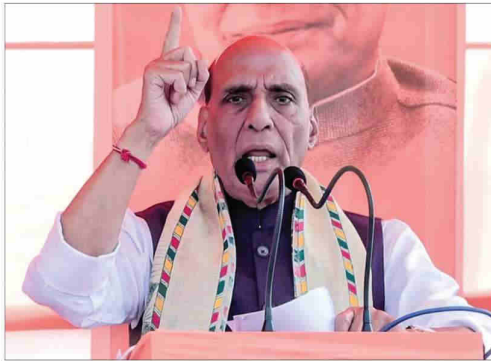
Advt Contact: 9810-799941

Nitish to be CM again PK may draw blank: Rajnath on Bihar polls

New Delhi Senior BJP leader Rajnath Singh on Friday expressed confidence that the NDA will win more than 160 seats in the Bihar Assembly election, and said that Nitish Kumar will naturally return as the chief minister since the alliance is contesting the polls under his leadership.

He dismissed reports that poll strategist-turned-politician Prashant Kishor will have an impact on election results and asserted that the "Prashant Kishor factor is not significant enough to even be considered" as voters understand very well who is fighting the election, and they know that the Jan Suraj Party chief may not win even a single seat.

"Seeing the response of voters in our public meetings, I can say that our government will be formed for sure and we may also secure a two-thirds majority," Singh said in an interview with News18 Network's Editor-in-Chief Rahul Joshi



and asserted that the NDA will win more than 160 seats in Bihar.

Asked when the next BJP president will be named, the Union minister said, "I think the name will be announced after the Bihar elections." He also emphasised that the Rashtriya Swamasevak Sangh (RSS) -- the ideological mentor

of the BJP -- does not interfere in the party's political affairs.

"It is true that we are sevak of the RSS and will remain so throughout our lives. But the RSS never interferes in our political affairs," he said.

On Nitish Kumar, Singh said, "Look, the election is being held under his leadership. So, it is

natural that he will be the chief minister."

He further said women feel that in Nitish Kumar's regime, law and order have been maintained, unlike during the BJP's rule.

Singh defended the liquor ban in the state, saying it has proven to be beneficial. Women have personally seen how alco-

He dismissed reports that poll strategist-turned-politician Prashant Kishor will have an impact on election results and asserted that the "Prashant Kishor factor is not significant enough to even be considered" as voters understand very well who is fighting the election, and they know that the Jan Suraj Party chief may not win even a single seat.

BJP leader said such stray incidents may happen sometimes.

"But because of that, you can't simply say that a particular person is a mafia or such-and-such thing. We take all precautions to ensure that we pick people who have a clean image as candidates. When there is such a large group of people involved, mistakes or lapses can sometimes occur. I don't deny that possibility," he said.

Singh further said RJD leader and Mahagabandhan CM candidate Tejashwi Yadav's promise on government jobs was not deliverable.

Asked whether Operation Sindoore will have to be conducted again, the defence minister said, "What will happen and how is uncertain. But I want to make this clear about Operation Sindoore that it is not finished, it is halted for the time being."

He said the operation was not halted under anyone's pressure or on anyone's request.

NIA Raids Expose the Hidden Architecture of Maoist Violence

Mitali Chandola New Delhi

The dense forests of Bastar often feel like a world suspended between silence and chaos. On Friday, that uneasy equilibrium tilted again as the National Investigation Agency carried out searches across 12 locations in Dantewada and Sukma, deepening its probe into the 2023 ambush and IED blast that left the region scarred and security forces shaken. The latest operation marks a strategic push to uncover the infrastructure behind one of the deadliest Maoist strikes in recent years.

The attack, executed on 26 April 2023 near Pedka village under Aranpur police station, bore the unmistakable imprint of the CPI (Maoist)'s Darbha Division Committee. It wasn't simply an act of violence. It was a calculated message, delivered through an explosion that ripped through a police convoy and reignited the long-running question: How do Maoist networks continue to thrive despite years of counter-insurgency operations?

The searches on Friday were aimed at individuals whose names and connections surfaced as the investigation advanced. What investigators found behind closed doors was telling. Cash, handwritten letters, printed levy receipt books, and digital devices emerged from these locations, each item hinting at the organisational circularity and security forces shaken. The latest operation marks a strategic push to uncover the infrastructure behind one of the deadliest Maoist strikes in recent years.

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More than two dozen individuals have already faced legal action as the investigation broadens. What the NIA is piecing together is a map of collaboration, coercion, and logistics, revealing how violence in Bastar is rarely spontaneous. It is constructed, resourced, and executed through a network that has learned to embed itself in the region's social and economic structures.

along with Mohammad Alam, Misbah-ul-Hasan, Yasir Khan, Syed Danish Ali and Mohammad Shahrukh. According to the agency, the six were involved in a targeted act of violence orchestrated on the direction of a foreign handler. The burning of a police officer's car, investigators say, was not an impulsive criminal act but a deliberate show of loyalty to a shadowy hierar-

NCW pushes for safer India: DGPs urged to reinforce women's security frameworks

Mitali Chandola New Delhi

The National Commission for Women gathered top police leadership from across the country on 7 November 2025 at Garvi Gajapati, New Delhi, weaving together a focused dialogue on strengthening mechanisms for women's safety and grievance redressal. The conference, chaired by NCW Chairperson Vijaya Raghavkar, brought representatives from 29 States and Union Territories to one table, turning the venue into a crucible of ideas aimed at building a more responsive policing ecosystem.

The core of the discussion revolved around tightening coordination between enforcement agencies, legal authorities, and institutional support systems. The Commission emphasised that women's safety cannot rest on isolated interventions; it demands an integrated chain of accountability that begins at the police station and travels upward to policy mandates.

A major part of the conference spotlighted the urgent need to upgrade Mahila Thanas and One Stop Centres.



Participants examined gaps in infrastructure, counselling capacity, and operational resources. The role of Child Marriage Prohibition Officers also received pointed attention, especially in rural and semi-urban pockets where early intervention can prevent lifelong trauma.

To close the operational skill gap, the NCW proposed specialised training modules for DSPs, ACPs, SHOs, Inspectors, and Mahila Thana In-charges. These modules will deepen their understanding of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita,

POCSO Act, and Anti-Human Trafficking laws, while also preparing officers to confront emerging cyberthreats such as AI-generated content, deepfakes, and digital harassment.

Raghavkar underscored the need for regular Gender Justice Review Meetings, urging state police to adopt them as non-negotiable checkpoints for transparency and sensitivity. She called for faster FIR registration in cases involving women and pressed for greater representation of women in police ranks to ensure empathetic engagement at

every stage of the justice process.

The conference also pivoted toward the future, highlighting the value of data-driven policing. Mapping regional crime trends, the NCW noted, can create sharper, targeted interventions and guide policymaking with precision. Reaffirming its commitment, the NCW pledged continued collaboration with State Police Departments to build an ecosystem where Indian women can walk, work, and live with dignity, safety, and unshakable trust in the justice system.

HuT Web Runs Deeper as NIA Files New Charges

Our Correspondent New Delhi

The National Investigation Agency has widened the investigative arc of the Hizb-ut-Tahrir (HuT) terror conspiracy with a fresh chargesheet against one accused and additional charges against five others, signalling that the plot uncovered in Madhya Pradesh in 2023 was not an isolated cluster but part of a layered and ideological chain. The move, announced on Thursday, pushes the total number of chargesheeted individuals to 18, marking a significant escalation in a case already viewed in one of central India's most complex radicalisation probes.

Filed before the NIA Special Court in Bhopal, the supplementary chargesheet stems from case RC-15/2023/NIA/DLI. It names Mohsin Khan alias Dawood,



along with Mohammad Alam, Misbah-ul-Hasan, Yasir Khan, Syed Danish Ali and Mohammad Shahrukh. According to the agency, the six were involved in a targeted act of violence orchestrated on the direction of a foreign handler. The burning of a police officer's car, investigators say, was not an impulsive criminal act but a deliberate show of loyalty to a shadowy hierar-

chological indoctrination within the group.

The case began in May 2023, when the Bhopal Anti-Terror Squad detected covert recruitment by HuT members. The group, proscribed globally, allegedly sought to mobilise young Muslim men in Madhya Pradesh and across India, not merely for subversive propaganda but for the creation of a Sharia-based Caliphate through violent overthrow of the democratic Indian state. Meetings masked as religious study circles (Dars) became the launchpads for inflammatory indoctrination, communal polarisation, and discussions on jihad-driven militancy. Alongside ideological grooming, the group reportedly conducted physical training and combat-style drills to prepare recruits for violent action.

ch guiding them from abroad. Mohsin faces fresh charges under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act and the IPC, while the others, already named in the 2023 chargesheet, now face enhanced provisions of both laws. These additions reflect what investigators describe as a clearer picture of operational intent, organisational discipline and ide-

Barabanki NDPS Verdict Sends a Clear Signal to India's Drug Networks

Our Correspondent Barabanki

The courtroom in Barabanki delivered more than a sentence; it delivered a message that rippled far beyond its walls. In a judgement that underscores both speed and seriousness, the Special Judge (NDPS) on 5 November 2025 convicted Azad, the man arrested with 2.7 kg of charas, and awarded him 10 years of rigorous imprisonment along with a fine of ₹1 lakh. The verdict is the culmination of a tightly executed investigation by the Narcotics Control Bureau's Lucknow Zonal Unit, marking a decisive point in NCB's expanding pursuit of drug traffickers.

The case began quietly on 18 November 2022, when intelligence inputs led an NCB team to a nondescript stretch of road near the District Mahila Hospital in Barabanki. What followed was a precise interception, the recovery of commercial-quality charas, and the immediate arrest of Azad. The agency's subsequent complaint, filed in May 2023, set the stage for a trial anchored by four prosecution witnesses whose testimonies held firm under scrutiny.

The significance of this conviction extends far beyond a single arrest. At a time when narcotics networks increasingly exploit smaller transit towns, the Barabanki judgement acts like a

flare cutting through a fog of criminal enterprise. It signals that the state's legal machinery, when armed with solid intelligence and determined investigation, can move with both agility and purpose.

For the NCB, this victory is not merely procedural. It is a reaffirmation of its mandate to insulate society from the corrosive currents of drug trafficking. Each conviction becomes a counterweight, pushing back against networks that thrive on addition, desperation, and anonymity.

The Barabanki verdict stands as a reminder that justice, when purposeful, can pierce through the shadows with remarkable clarity.

No irregularities found as ECI clears Bihar's first phase

CONTD FROM PAGE-1

The Commission stated that the consolidated scrutiny guidelines were designed to detect even subtle forms of malpractice, reinforcing transparency and public trust. Candidates were informed in advance about the schedule, allowing for full participation and accountability. Once the scrutiny concluded, the ECI confirmed that no polling station showed signs of tampering, discrepancy, or procedural lapses. This finding led to the Commission's decision that no re-polls were warranted in Phase I of the election.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given to public at large that our clients, Smt. Rama Melrotra and Late. Anand Kumar, House No. 13-17, Second Floor, Vrsk Vihar Ph-I, Jhansi, Dist. Shahdara, Delhi-110095, have disinherited/decanted/decanted her Daughter-in-law Mrs. Anshita Bansal W/o. Sh. Naman Melrotra R/o. House No. 13-18, 3rd Floor, Anand Vihar, Delhi-110095 from all their properties i.e., 13X/2807, Gali No. 5, Dharanagar, Gandhi Nagar, Delhi-110031, 2/Shop No. 118, Barasti Das Building, Near Surya Jan Guest House, Gandhi Nagar, Delhi-110031, 11th Floor, Tower Q, Anampali, Zodia, Constructed on Plot no. GH-003, Sector-120, Noida, Dist. Gautam Buddha Nagar, UP and any other property which belongs to Smt. Rama Melrotra and estates movable, immovable and themselves acquired properties situated at New Delhi or any other place in India, with immediate effect, and have severed all connection with her.

Anybody dealing with her in past, present or in future, in any manner whatsoever is doing the same at their own risk and responsibility thereto and our clients shall in no manner or way be responsible for any acts, deeds and things done by her.

ANSHI KUMAR MAGGO Advocate Office at: WZ-15, 1st Floor, Ram Nagar, Tilak Nagar, New Delhi-110018 Cont. No: +91931272800

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PUBLIC NOTICE

Information is given to general public at large that our client Mr. Manoj Anand & Mrs. Geetika Anand who are purchasing the Property bearing No. H-1, area measuring 45 sq yards, Railway Part, in the area of village Kireji Khaj, Illaga Shahdara, Delhi, vide virtue of Regd. Relinquishment Deed dated 24/12/2024, as Doc. No. 2024-4142791, in the office of SR-VIII Delhi.

As per Regd. GPA Deed- 47943, ATS & Regd. Deed dated 12-08-1998 order of Mrs. Pooja Devi W/o Late Mr. Manoj Anand Gupta from Mr. Mukesh Gupta above mentioned property transferor she is died on 23-03-2025 (1) Mr. Manoj Kumar Gang (Ssn), (2) Vinita Rastogi, (3) Nalla Aggarwal, (4) Anil Gang (Daughters) & (5) Mr. Sanyu Gang (son), no any other legal heirs in respect of above mentioned property our client intending to purchase above said property and same is intend to mortgage the same against the financial assistance from Bank of India (BI) to comply the requirements of BANK/NBFC, we give this public notice so that any person having any objection regarding ownership and/or creating mortgage of the said property is/are hereby requested to intimate in writing to the undersigned within 07 days at below address.

Vinayak Law Associates Address at: Chandanpura Office Address: -11-A, Second Floor, G.T. Road, Kirti Vihar, Mohan Nagar Ghazipur, UP Mobile No. 9279976454

Sood announces modern NCC academy in Delhi at Vande Mataram 150th Anniversary Event

Diksha New Delhi
A grand event was organized by the NCC Directorate, Delhi, near the War Memorial at KG Marg to mark the 150th anniversary of the patriotic song Vande Mataram. Delhi's Education Minister Ashish Sood attended the event as the Chief Guest and addressed a large gathering of NCC officers and cadets from across the city. In his address, Sood highlighted the historical and cultural legacy of Vande Mataram, describing it as a timeless anthem of courage, revolution, and unity. "When Bankim



Chandra Chattopadhyay wrote Vande Mataram, he gave voice to an India

yearning to rise from the darkness of slavery into the dawn of freedom," he said. Reflecting on India's progress, Sood noted that even after 150 years, Vande Mataram continues to inspire the nation during its Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Mann Ki Baat, he said. The phrase embodies boundless energy and emotion, reminding citizens of their duty toward the nation and the vision of a developed India by 2047. Speaking about Delhi's challenges, Sood emphasized the collective role of citizens in addressing issues such as pollution, Yamuna rejuvenation, traffic congestion, and waste management. "If each of Delhi's three crore residents takes one step daily toward solving a problem, the city will move three crore steps forward," he said, urging NCC cadets to lead the way. Announcing a major step for youth empowerment, Sood declared that the Delhi Government has approved the expansion of NCC and the establishment of a modern, state-of-the-art NCC Academy. "This academy will serve as a laboratory of discipline, leadership, and national service," he added. Concluding his address, Sood said, "Vande Mataram is not just a song of the past, but a mission for the future — to build a disciplined, united, and developed India."

Delhi Congress slams Gupta govt over air pollution

Staff Reporter New Delhi
Delhi Pradesh Congress Committee president Devender Yadav here on Friday said that severe air pollution posed serious health threats to the people as the Rekha Gupta government failed to take effective measures to address the crisis. He said that according to experts, the most immediate and common effects of the toxic air in Delhi to safer places and even foreign countries. The Gupta government's lack of concern for the health of the people and failure to take strong steps to combat the air pollution have adversely affected Delhi's position as a great tourist destination, though Delhi is home to the diplomatic missions of all the major nations, and the city's tarnished image of Delhi as one of the most polluted cities in the world has stopped the inflow of foreign tourists in to the city.

Delhi Govt Launches 'School Web App' to Revolutionize Education System

Diksha New Delhi
The Delhi Government today launched the "School Web App," a comprehensive digital platform aimed at transforming the education and administrative systems in government schools. The initiative seeks to make education more smart, transparent, and accessible, providing students, parents, and teachers with all essential facilities through a single interface. Speaking at the launch, Education Minister Ashish Sood said that the initiative aligns with the vision of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Digital India and Viksit Bharat 2047. He added that the app would simplify time management for students,



streamline administrative tasks for teachers, and enhance overall learning outcomes. Through this app, users can access vital information such as timetables, homework, notes, attendance, and results directly from home. The platform also ensures stronger parent-teacher connectivity, allowing parents to stay informed about their child's academic progress. Senior officials from the Directorate of Education, school principals, management members, and students attended the event. Highlighting the broader vision, Sood stated that the app would foster a

spirit of innovation and entrepreneurship among students. "Now, time will not be wasted searching for information — instead, information will reach the students directly. This is the true essence of digital empowerment," he said. He further emphasized that in line with the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, the app will encourage skill-based learning and promote sports activities under the Fit India initiative. Expressing gratitude to developers, teachers, and administrators, Sood remarked that the app marks a significant step toward building a modern, tech-driven education ecosystem in Delhi, where tradition and technology move forward hand in hand.

150 years of Vande Mataram: Delhi Police Turns a Song into a Civic Awakening

Mitali Chandola New Delhi
Delhi woke up to a chorus that once fuelled a national uprising. As Vande Mataram completes 150 years, Delhi Police transformed the milestone into a citywide civic moment, reminding citizens that the national song is more than an anthem of the past; it is a living call to unity and responsibility. Across every district, police stations stepped out of their routine to lead mass singing sessions, blending uniformed discipline with the warmth of community participation. At the Delhi Police Headquarters, Commissioner of Police Satish Golcha joined senior officers and personnel for a collective rendition that echoed through the campus with an almost ceremonial gravity. Yet the power of the day lay not in hierarchy, but in the simultaneity: dozens of police units, hundreds of stations, thousands of voices



rising at once. In neighbourhood stations, beat officers invited residents to join them in simple, open gatherings. Community policing cells took the celebrations to schools, recognising that patriotism gains strength when planted early and nurtured through shared experiences. Children belting the national song beside police personnel reshaped a common narrative: law enforcement and the public on the same

Delhi tops pollution chart NCR not far behind

New Delhi
Delhites breathed the most polluted air in the country on Friday, with the national capital recording the worst air quality among all cities, followed by NCR towns that ranked close behind. The 24-hour average Air Quality Index (AQI), reported at 4 pm every day, stood at 322, placing Delhi in the 'red zone' and making it the most polluted city in the country, according to data from the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB). The national capital had ranked fifth the previous day, while Ghaziabad occupied the second position on Friday with an AQI of 314. Noida recorded an AQI of 306, placing it in the 'very poor' category. Of the 38 monitoring stations in the capital, 29 reported air quality in the 'very poor' category, with readings above 300, according to data from the CPCB's Sameer app. PM2.5 remained the key pollutant on Friday. The Decision Support System (DSS) for air quality forecast estimated that stubble burning contributed 8.6 per cent to Delhi's pollution and predicted that the share would rise to 30.9 per cent on Saturday and 31.2 per cent on Sunday. Satellite data showed that on Thursday, a total of 351 stubble-burning incidents were detected in Punjab, 35 in Haryana, and 200 in Uttar Pradesh. Apart from stubble burning, Delhi's transport sector is expected to contribute 15 per cent on Saturday and 14 per cent on Sunday to the city's PM2.5 levels. According to the Air Quality Early Warning System for Delhi, the air quality is likely to remain in the 'very poor' category over the next few days.

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PWD to hire 200 anti-smog guns to combat rising air pollution

New Delhi
Delhi's Public Works Department (PWD) is planning to hire 200 anti-smog guns at the cost of Rs 58 crore to deploy across the national capital, officials said on Friday. According to the latest order issued by the department, water-sprinkling anti-smog guns fitted on a truck are under process of hiring, and a budget of Rs 58.834.480 has been approved. Budget allocation for providing service of 200 of truck-mounted anti-smog guns on a hire basis for 5 months in two shifts from October 2025 to February 2026, for dust pollution control with environmental messages on the machines," the

PWD's order states. According to officials, procurement of these machines is ongoing and more will be hired soon. "The smog gun should have a throw power of not less than 50 metres horizontal distance, 330-degree rotation in the horizontal plane and 60 degrees tilting in the vertical plane, and the size of droplets should be in the range of 10 to 30 microns," says the tender notice issued by the PWD. The machines will operate in 8-hour daily shifts, spread across all the 11 zones of the PWD. An anti-smog gun is a device to combat air pollution which will spray atomised water to settle the dust and other suspended particles in the atmosphere.

Inter-state syndicate smuggling cigarettes from Myanmar to Delhi busted; 4 held

New Delhi
A cigarette-smuggling syndicate, which sourced contraband from Myanmar, operating between Assam and Delhi, was busted with the arrest of four people, police said on Friday. Police recovered prohibited cigarettes worth Rs 31 lakh, they said. The accused have been identified as Santosh (53), a resident of Sultanpur; Mantosh (43), a resident of Narela; Waseem alias Badshah (46) from Naya Bansa; and Kishore (44) from Assam's Guwahati, they said. The probe revealed that the syndicate sourced contraband from Myanmar

through the border town of Moreh in Manipur. The cigarettes were then concealed among legitimate goods and transported through Imphal, Nagaland, Meghalaya, and Assam before being sent to Delhi. The accused, police said, operated a well-organised supply network linking Assam-based suppliers and Delhi receivers through fake identities, digital payments, and transport channels. According to the police, acting on a tip-off about the movement of a large consignment of prohibited cigarettes from Assam, a team intercepted a truck at Mori Gate on October 28. "On checking, the team recovered 2.22 lakh prohibited cigarettes of two brands. The packets were found without mandatory health warnings or packaging details, violating provisions of the Cigarettes and Other Tobacco Products Act (COTPA)," a senior police officer said. The truck driver, identified as Santosh, was apprehended on the spot. During the interrogation,

he disclosed that he ran a transport firm, M/s Shiv Shakti Transport, and had been receiving assignments from Assam-based individuals through phone and on-line messaging. The goods were unloaded by one of the trucks at the Bavana Industrial Area, secured by another truck, and delivered to Mori Gate under the instructions of the handlers, the police said. CCTV footage and technical surveillance led to the arrest of co-accused Mantosh, who allegedly acted as the Delhi contact for a Guwahati-based transporter, M/s Double Dynamic SR Transportation.

Yamuna Authority's profit increases nearly threefold

Noida
The Yamuna Expressway Industrial Development Authority (YEIDA) or the Yamuna Authority continues to strengthen its financial position. The authority has reported revenue of ₹1,746.38 crore as of October 31, 2025, an increase of ₹112.32 crore from the previous year's ₹1,554.78 crore. Its net profit has reached ₹1,564.19 crore, nearly three times that of the previous year. This information was provided at YEIDA's 87th board meeting. The meeting stated that these results reflect the authority's strong financial position and transparent functioning. It was reported that all pending cases related to industrial plots allotted between 2007 and 2013 have been completely resolved. Investors were provided relief by paying a No Litigation Incentive. This has further strengthened the confidence of industrialists. A total of 574 applications have been received under the One Time Settlement Policy during July-August 2025. However, pending cases related to about 575 res-

idential plots are still to be settled. The YEIDA has begun allotment of residential plots at a 7% increased rate. Rapid development is underway in several areas, including Jakpur, Vatta, Kukshi, and Phylkari, and new colonies are being developed. The authority's new building will be built under a "Theme Based Vision" and will be a green building, based on the principles of earthquake-resistant design and universal accessibility. The YEIDA, in partnership with the NTPC, will soon launch a hydrogen bus service. This service, which operates on a revenue-sharing model, will initially operate three buses on the Delhi-NCR to Agra route. Following its success, the service will be expanded to other routes. The construction of a 45-metre-wide Lucknow-Industrial Link Road and other sector roads has been approved under the Master Plan 2041. This is expected to accelerate the allotment of new plots and industrial development.

GreNo Authority to bring group housing plot scheme

Noida
The Greater Noida Authority is going to introduce a group housing plot scheme in Greater Noida's Integrated Industrial Smart Township. Amid rapid growth of industrial activity, plans are underway for four new plots for group housing. The project is expected to begin next month on in the new year. The township is experiencing a surge in housing demand due to the rapidly expanding industrial activity. All necessary amenities, including electricity, water, and roads, have already been developed. In fact, within the Delhi-Mumbai Industrial Corridor (DMIC), Integrated Industrial Township Greater Noida Limited (IIT-GNL) is developing a state-of-the-art integrated industrial township of 750 acres. It will house industrial, commercial, and residential facilities within a single campus. According to a Greater Noida Authority, 39 plots have been reserved for industries, four for group housing, and eight for commercial activities. So far, 26 industrial-grade plots have been allotted, while a scheme for allotting the remaining plots was launched two months ago.

CHANGE OF NAME
I Rahul Kumar Sharma son of Ramnath Sharma r/o village harsinghpur dist hapur hereby affirm that my father's name be changed from Kusum Sharma DOB 03/02/1970 to Kusum devi DOB 03/01/1970 for all further reference.

CHANGE OF NAME
I Rahul Kumar Sharma s/o Ramnath Sharma r/o village harsinghpur Dist Hapur hereby affirm that my father's name be changed from Ramnath Sharma DOB 1/1/1969 to Ramnath Sharma DOB 1/1/1968 for all future reference.

PUBLIC NOTICE
Be it known to public that my clients SMT. KAMINI W/o SH. BRAHAM PRAKASH AND SH. BRAHAM PRAKASH R/O M-396, J. J. COLONY, RAGHUBIR NAGAR, NEW DELHI-110027 heretofore have severed all their relations from their son namey Sh. GAURAV S/o Sh. Braham Prakash R/O M396, J. J. COLONY, RAGHUBIR NAGAR, NEW DELHI-110027 because of his ill behaviour towards my clients and my clients have also debarred them from her movable and immovable properties for all purposes in future. Any body dealing with them shall be doing so at his/her own risk and responsibility and my client shall not be responsible for any act of the aforesaid persons. **MANINDER SINGH (Advocate)** Chamber No. B-30, B.G.S. Block Tis Hazari Court Delhi-110054

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IMPORTANT INFORMATION
INTRODUCTION OF NEW VANDE BHARAT EXPRESS TRAIN
For the convenience of rail passengers Railways have decided to introduce a regular service of New Vande Bharat Express Train between Firozpur Cantt. - Delhi Jn. - Firozpur Cantt. from 10.11.2025, as per the details mentioned below:-
26462/26461 Firozpur Cantt. - Delhi Jn. - Firozpur Cantt. Vande Bharat Express (6 Days a Week)

Train No. 26462	STATIONS	Train No. 26461	
ARR. DEP.	ARR. DEP.	ARR. DEP.	
07:55	Firozpur Cantt. Jn.	22:35	---
08:23	Fardkot	22:03	22:05
09:10	Bathinda Jn.	21:15	21:20
10:26	Dhuri Jn.	19:56	19:58
11:05	Patiala	19:13	19:15
11:58	Ambala Cantt. Jn.	18:30	18:32
12:28	Kurukshetra Jn.	17:40	17:42
13:05	Panipat Jn.	17:00	17:02
14:35	Delhi Jn.	---	16:00

Days of run - 26462 Ex. Firozpur Cantt. Jn. and 26461 Ex. Delhi Jn. everyday from 10.11.2025 (except Wednesday).
Accommodation - Chair Car & Executive Chair Car

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Vande Mataram: 150 Years of a Living National Spirit

The year 2025 marks a defining milestone in India's civilizational journey — 150 years of the national song Vande Mataram. Composed in 1875 by Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay, this song was far more than a literary creation. It was a weapon of words that sowed the seeds of Indian consciousness, identity, freedom, and nationhood. Vande Mataram was the anthem of awakening — a surge of faith that pierced through the darkness of colonial rule and kindled the dawn of independence.

In the long arc of India's freedom struggle, there was scarcely a moment when the cry of Vande Mataram did not echo from the throats of revolutionaries, satyagrahis, reformers, and patriots ready to lay down their lives for the motherland.

Born in the political and social ferment of Bengal, the song soon became the voice of India's soul. In 1882, through the novel Anandamath, it entered the public imagination as the spiritual core of national awakening. When Rabindranath Tagore first sang it publicly at the 1896 Calcutta Congress session, it became the hymn of unity. Then came the Partition of Bengal in 1905, which transformed Vande Mataram into a living emblem of national pride. From village squares to secret meetings of revolutionaries, one chant bound the nation — Vande Mataram!

It was this song that defied the motherland and infused the freedom movement with spiritual strength, emotional fire, and ideological direction. In 1950, Dr. Rajendra Prasad, India's first President, accorded it the status of National Song — a fitting recognition of its timeless power.

I believe that no movement can succeed through arms alone. It needs conviction, thought, emotion,



By Nayab Singh Saini

Chief Minister of Haryana



and character. Vande Mataram shattered the colonial mindset that glorified servitude and reminded Indians that they belonged to one of the world's oldest civilizations — rich in culture, tradition, values, and unshakable self-respect.

From its rhythm arose the courage of Veer Savarkar, the sacrifice of Chandrashekhar Azad, the rebellion of Bhagat Singh, and the nationalist vision of Subhas Chandra Bose. History bears witness — every word of Vande Mataram had the power to unsettle the British Empire.

Today, under the visionary leadership of Prime Minister Sh. Narendra Modi, India strides confidently toward new horizons — self-reliance, technological leadership, global trust, cultural renaissance, and the pursuit of world peace.

In this era of Amrit Kaal, Vande Mataram assumes renewed significance. Modern India does not wish to merely celebrate its past glory, rather it aspires to shape the future. The song remains a moral compass for Indian democracy, reminding us that politics is not about power — it is about the primacy of the nation.

For Prime Minister Modi, every policy decision begins with one guiding belief — India first, the people of India first, and the spirit of India first. That, he says, must be the core direction of Indian democracy.

Over the past decade, the Prime Minister has redefined Vande Mataram as more than a cultural memory or a symbolic chant. He has placed it at the heart of modern nation-building, inspiring a new generation to embrace nationalism with confidence, dignity, and purpose. As India emerges as a global power, he has reaffirmed the country's civilizational prestige at every world platform, evoking respect for the motherland, pride in identity, and the conviction that the nation always comes first.

As we mark 150 years of Vande Mataram, it is evident that the spirit of this song continues to animate

the philosophy, confidence, and policy direction of a New India.

The next 25 years will be decisive in shaping India's destiny. The journey to 2047 is not merely about becoming an economic powerhouse, but about nurturing collective character, social discipline, cultural resurgence, and deepening the roots of democracy. To achieve this, India needs a unifying national emotion that binds generations together and that spirit lies in Vande Mataram.

Vande Mataram does not merely connect us emotionally; it awakens our democratic responsibility. It reminds us that nationalism is not about division — it is about unity. It is this inclusive nationalism that makes India's democracy the strongest, most vibrant, and most compassionate in the world.

Vande Mataram is not just a song; it is a salutation to Mother India. It is the eternal hymn of our Constitution, our culture, our freedom, our identity, and our shared national spirit.

As we mark 150 years of this immortal verse, we must remind future generations that no matter how far India advances, how fast technology evolves, or how vast globalization becomes — our soul, our identity, and our national axis will always remain rooted in the motherland. There is nothing holier than the soil of India.

Vande Mataram.

Indian Army's pioneering role in UN Peacekeeping Operations: A legacy of courage and commitment

The Indian Army's association with the United Nations Peacekeeping Operations (UNPKO) is a remarkable saga of courage, professionalism, and humanitarian service. Since the inception of UN peacekeeping in 1948, India has played a pioneering and consistent role, earning global respect for its discipline, integrity, and compassion in conflict zones. With over 2.80,000 troops deployed across 50+ missions, India stands among the largest contributors to UN peacekeeping, having sacrificed more than 160 soldiers in the line of duty. The Indian Army's participation reflects the nation's deep-rooted philosophy of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam — the world is one family — and demonstrates India's belief in global peace, stability, and collective security.

Historical Foundations: India's Early Commitment to Global Peace: India's engagement with UN peacekeeping began soon after its independence, showcasing its moral and political commitment to world peace. The country, emerging from colonial rule, understood the value of stability and cooperation among nations.

India's first major contribution came in 1950, when it sent the 6th Parachute Field Ambulance Unit to Korea under the UN Command during the Korean War. The unit, comprising 346 personnel, provided medical aid to both soldiers and civilians, earning global admiration for impartial service.

This mission established the Indian Army's image as a humanitarian force committed not just to conflict resolution but also to saving lives and upholding dignity in the midst of chaos.

Pioneering Missions in the 1950s and 1960s: India's early participation in UN peacekeeping set global benchmarks for professionalism.

- UN Operation in the Congo (ONUC, 1960-1964):** This mission marked India's first major combat role under the UN flag. The Indian contingent, led by Brigadier K.A.S. Raja, played a crucial role in restoring order, protecting civilians, and ensuring the safe withdrawal of foreign mercenaries. The courage and discipline displayed by Indian soldiers in extremely hostile conditions earned worldwide recognition.

- United Nations Emergency Force (UNEF, 1956-1967):** Indian troops were deployed in Egypt and Gaza following the Suez Crisis to supervise ceasefire and withdrawal of foreign forces. The professionalism and neutrality of the Indian Army enhanced the credibility of UN operations in the Middle East.

- United Nations Mission in Lebanon (UNIFIL):** India's participation from 1958 onward further strengthened its reputation as a stabilizing force in volatile regions.

These early missions established India as a dependable partner in peacekeeping and humanitarian intervention.

Expanding Role Across Continents (1970-1990): During the following decades, India continued to support UN missions across Asia, Africa, and the Middle East. The Army's growing operational experience made it a key contributor to the UN's evolving peacekeeping architecture.

- Cyprus (UNFICYP, 1964-Present):** India has maintained a continuous presence in Cyprus for decades, helping prevent hostilities between Greek and Turkish Cypriots. The Indian contingent's conduct has been commended for impartiality and empathy.



By Major (Dr) TC Rao

Veteran, Military Historian



- Middle East and Africa:** Indian officers have served as military observers in Yemen, Iran-Iraq, Angola, Namibia, and Mozambique, facilitating ceasefire monitoring and humanitarian aid delivery.

- Transition to Multi-National Cooperation:** Indian contingents began operating alongside forces from other nations, reflecting the Army's adaptability, cross-cultural competence, and leadership in multinational environments.

The experience gained during these decades built a foundation for India's leadership role in large-scale missions that followed in the 1990s.

Leadership in Post-Cold War Peacekeeping (1990-2010): With the end of the Cold War, UN peacekeeping expanded significantly, and the Indian Army emerged as a cornerstone of the UN's new global missions.

- Somalia (UNOSOM II, 1993-94):** Indian troops operated in one of the most difficult UN missions, facing heavy armed resistance while delivering humanitarian relief. Indian soldiers' courage and restraint earned widespread appreciation.

- Angola (UNAVEM):** Indian engineers and doctors played a vital role in rebuilding war-torn infrastructure and providing essential medical care.

- Rwanda (UNAMIR, 1994-96):** During the Rwandan genocide, Indian officers and troops displayed extraordinary humanity by protecting refugees and orphans amidst chaos.

- Sierra Leone (UNAMSIL, 1999-2001):** This mission stands as one of the most significant in Indian peacekeeping history. The 5/8 Gorkha Rifles, 14 Jat, and 18 Grenadiers regiments distinguished them-

selves through exceptional bravery.

- Brigadier Manjit Singh,** commanding the Indian contingent, led the successful rescue of 233 peacekeepers held hostage by rebels, displaying tactical acumen and leadership.

- Captain Gurpreet Singh** and several others received UN Gallantry Awards for their heroism.

India's decisive contribution in Sierra Leone cemented its position as one of the most professional and reliable peacekeeping forces in the world.

Women in Indian Peacekeeping: A New Dimension of Courage: In keeping with India's progressive values, the Indian Army has also pioneered the inclusion of women in peacekeeping roles.

- In 2007,** India deployed the first-ever all-women Formed Police Unit (FPU) to Liberia under the UN Mission (UNMIL). Their presence transformed local perceptions of women in law enforcement and inspired Liberian women to join their police force.

- Women officers** from the Indian Army have served as military observers, doctors, and administrators in missions across Africa and the Middle East.

- India continues to send female engagement teams** to conflict zones, where their communication skills, empathy, and professionalism have proven invaluable in community outreach and post-conflict recovery.

This inclusion demonstrates India's commitment to gender equality and its recognition of women's crucial role in peacebuilding.

Continuing Contributions in the 21st Century: In the new millennium, the Indian Army has remained a key pillar of UN operations across Africa and Asia.

Major ongoing missions include:

- Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO):** Indian troops have been continuously deployed since 2005, providing security, medical assistance, and engineering support. Their courage in combating armed militias has been widely acknowledged.

- South Sudan (UNMISS):** Indian battalions have played a crucial role in protecting civilians and supporting humanitarian aid under extremely challenging conditions.

- Lebanon (UNIFIL):** Indian troops continue to maintain peace along the Blue Line between Lebanon and Israel, serving as trusted intermediaries.

Indian Army engineers have built bridges, schools, and roads, while Army medical teams have conducted thousands of surgeries and humanitarian operations — earning immense goodwill among local populations.

Principles Behind India's Peacekeeping Philosophy: India's participation in UN peacekeeping is

guided by its civilizational ethos and foreign policy principles. The Indian Army operates under values that distinguish its approach from others:

- Impartiality and Neutrality:** Indian peacekeepers focus on humanitarian objectives rather than political interests.

- Respect for Local Culture:** Troops engage with local communities, understanding their traditions and needs.

- Discipline and Humanitarianism:** Indian soldiers combine firmness in security with compassion in service.

- Non-Alignment and Global Responsibility:** India views peacekeeping as a moral responsibility, not as a tool of power projection.

This unique blend of ethics and professionalism has made Indian troops among the most respected in UN operations.

Recognition and Global Impact: The Indian Army's contributions have been recognized globally through numerous awards, commendations, and leadership appointments:

- Indian officers** have served as Force Commanders in UN missions in Cyprus, Sudan, Ethiopia-Eritrea, and Lebanon.

- The UN** has repeatedly commended Indian contingents for discipline, bravery, and cultural sensitivity.

- Memorials in India and abroad** honour the 160+ Indian peacekeepers who made the supreme sacrifice while serving humanity beyond borders.

India's commitment also strengthens its case for a permanent seat in the UN Security Council, given its unmatched record in promoting international peace.

Challenges and the Way Forward: Peacekeeping today faces evolving challenges — complex civil wars, terrorism, and resource constraints. The Indian Army continues to adapt by integrating technology, intelligence, and community engagement models.

India advocates reforms in UN peacekeeping that emphasize clear mandates, adequate resources, and stronger partnerships between troop-contributing nations and the UN Secretariat. As one of the oldest and largest contributors, India's experience is vital in shaping the future of global peacekeeping architecture.

The Indian Army's pioneering role in UN Peacekeeping Operations stands as a testament to its courage, professionalism, and unwavering commitment to global peace. From the battlefields of Korea and Congo to the refugee camps of Rwanda and the villages of South Sudan, Indian soldiers have carried not just weapons, but compassion and hope.

Their service transcends borders and politics — guided by the conviction that peace is humanity's highest calling. As India continues its journey as a responsible global power, the legacy of its Army in UN peacekeeping remains a shining example of what disciplined courage, humanitarian spirit, and moral conviction can achieve for a safer world.

CM Saini urges citizens to live the spirit of Vande Mataram

Komal Ramola Chandigarh
Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini called Vande Mataram not just a song but the heartbeat, identity, and soul of India, as he addressed the state-level celebration of its 150th anniversary in Ambala on Friday. He congratulated the people of Haryana on this historic milestone, describing the national song as a symbol of India's unity, courage, and eternal spirit. The event coincided with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's national address from New Delhi, marking the inauguration of a year-long commemoration of Vande Mataram. The Prime Minister also released a commemorative coin and stamp to honour the song's 150-year legacy. His address was telecast live at the Ambala ceremony, where the Chief Minister and other



dignitaries joined thousands in listening to his message of unity and patriotism. Saini said Vande Mataram was more than a patriotic hymn—it was the lifeblood of India's freedom movement. He described it as a divine force that united Indians across castes and faiths, inspiring courage and sacrifice. "The British feared this song because, though it was

not a weapon, it possessed power millions of times greater than weapons," he said. Tracing the song's journey, Saini noted that Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay composed Vande Mataram in 1875, and Rabindranath Tagore first sang it publicly in 1896. By 1905, during the anti-partition movement in Bengal, it had become a rallying cry for independence. The Chief Minister said that its message of unity in diversity continues to resonate across generations. He also recalled Ambala's proud contribution to India's freedom struggle, calling it the land where the first war of independence ignited in 1857. The state, he added, continues to honour that legacy through memorials like the Shaheed Smarak in Ambala Cantonment.

Saini criticized those who oppose Vande Mataram, saying they fail to understand India's soul and culture. Referring to past political disagreements over the song, he said it should never be seen as a controversy but as a sacred offering to the motherland. "Vande Mataram is the song of those who walk the path of patriotism, not appeasement," he remarked. Recalling the freedom fighters who sang the song as they faced imprisonment or execution, he said Vande Mataram became the mantra of resistance during the Quit India Movement. "Its echo—alongside Inquilab Zindabad and Jai Hind—inspired a nation to rise against oppression," he said. The Chief Minister urged citizens to take five pledges to give true meaning to the 150-year journey of Vande Mataram: placing the nation above all, rejecting appeasement, ensuring justice and opportunity for all, embracing swadeshi and innovation, and maintaining zero tolerance for anti-national forces. He said these values embody the spirit of a "Viksit Bharat."

Saini also administered a swadeshi pledge to the attendees and visited an exhibition on Vande Mataram set up by the Information, Public Relations, Language, and Culture Department. Renowned musician Pt. Subhash Ghosh captivated the audience with a soulful rendition of Vande Mataram, while the Haryana Police choir and school students filled the venue with patriotic performances. Among those present were BJP State Vice President Banto Kataria, Deputy Commissioner Ambala Ajay Singh Tomer, and Additional Director (Administration) of the Information and Public Relations Department Varsha Khangwal. Concluding his address, Saini called upon citizens to unite in building a developed India under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. "Vande Mataram is the soul of our nation, our pride, our identity," he said.

Punjab erupts over University row

TSN/Chandigarh
 A political storm has swept across Punjab after the Centre issued a sudden notification dissolving the Senate of Punjab University. The move triggered a fierce backlash from Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann and the AAP leaders, who accused the BJP government of attempting to "crush Punjab's identity." What began as an administrative order has now spiralled into a full-scale movement defending the state's heritage and autonomy. On Tuesday, the streets of Chandigarh and university towns across Punjab turned into rally grounds. Thousands of students from AAP's student wing, ASAP, poured out in protest, raising slogans that echoed through the city—"Punjab will not be suppressed" and "Hands off our university." Placards reading "Punjab's institutions are not yours" and "Not by force" filled the air, as the crowd vowed to resist what they called an attack on the state's soul. The Centre's order to dissolve the Senate—the university's top governing body—has been described by AAP leaders as a "politically motivated" move aimed at taking control of Punjab's oldest and most prestigious institution. Established in 1882, Punjab University has long been seen as the cradle of the state's intellectual and cultural life. "This is not administration; it is an attempt to capture Punjab's heritage," said a senior AAP leader. Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann hit back sharply, declaring that "Punjab University is not just a building, it is Punjab's soul." He reminded the Centre that the institution had produced revolutionaries like Bhagat Singh and countless leaders who shaped the state's modern identity. "BJP has targeted the wrong state. Punjab does not bow. Punjab does not break," he said, adding that his government would defend the university "at any cost."

Mann Govt rolls out 3,000 bus routes, drives jobs for over 10K youth

TSN/Chandigarh
 The roar of engines is replacing the silence of Punjab's rural roads as Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann's government revives 3,000 long-defunct bus routes across the state. The ambitious initiative is not just reconnecting villages but also transforming more than 10,000 young Punjabians into self-employed entrepreneurs—fulfilling the Chief Minister's promise to turn job seekers into job creators.

Under this plan, every new route will see private operators, primarily unemployed youth, running buses with government support. Each bus is expected to provide direct work to at least three individuals, ensuring that thousands of rural families gain a sustainable livelihood. The government has also set up a streamlined system to offer easy loans, enabling youth to purchase buses and operate them independently.

Chief Minister Mann called the initiative a "double engine" of progress—one that powers both employment and connectivity. "Every bus is a door of employment for one family," he said, adding that the project reflects his government's resolve to empower young people and revive the rural economy. "This is not just a transport scheme, it's a social investment in Punjab's future." The Transport Department has already issued 154 stage carriage permits as part of the first phase, under Section 5 of the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988, and Clause 3(E) of the state's approved transport scheme. The buses will operate mainly on rural link roads and district routes, improving access be-

Vande Mataram at 150 Marks India's Enduring Spirit of Unity and Freedom

Chandigarh
 If India's national consciousness were summed up in just two words, none would carry as much depth and emotion as "Vande Mataram." Composed in 1875 by the great Bengali poet Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay, the song continues to echo through the nation's soul 150 years later—symbolizing courage, unity, and the unbroken spirit of a free India.



What began as a literary creation in Chattopadhyay's novel Anandamath in 1882 soon became the heartbeat of India's freedom movement. From Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore's first public rendition at the 1896 Congress session in Calcutta to its recognition as the National Song in 1950, Vande Mataram has tra-

versed a remarkable journey from poetry to national identity. During the struggle for independence, the song became a battle cry for revolutionaries and patriots alike. It echoed through the streets during protests, was sung in prison cells, and inspired generations to dream of a free motherland. The British even branded its chanting as seditious, yet the slogan endured—uniting millions under one emotional banner.

Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini described Vande Mataram as "the soul of the nation," calling it a timeless reminder of India's unity in diversity. "It embodies self-respect, confidence, and national spirit," he said, urging citizens to take five pledges for a Viksit Bharat built on cultural unity and democratic strength. Saini noted that under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership, the song has regained new meaning in the modern era. "Our Prime Minister has re-established Vande Mataram in the national consciousness—not just as words, but as a living value system," he said, highlighting its role in shaping civic character and national pride.

Punjab opens fire brigade doors to Women as Mann Govt breaks Decades-Old barriers

Chandigarh
 In a landmark move for gender equality in public service, the Bhagwant Manned Punjab government has rewritten history by paving the way for women to serve as firefighters. With a crucial amendment in the state's Fire Brigade recruitment rules, Punjab has become the first state in India to formally include women in the fire and emergency services through fair, practical, and progressive standards. The decision follows decades of exclusion caused by outdated physical test requirements dating back to the 1970s. Until now, all firefighter candidates—regardless of gender—were required to lift 60 kilograms over 100 yards within one minute, a benchmark set for men that effectively disqualified women applicants. In 2022, over 1,400 women applied for the post, but none could qualify due



to these rigid norms. Recognizing this as systemic discrimination, the Mann government amended the recruitment criteria under the Punjab Fire and Emergency Services Bill, 2024. The weight-lifting requirement for female candidates has been reduced from 60 kilograms to 40 kilograms, along with moderate relaxation in height norms. The reform aligns the standards with modern principles of physical fitness, agility, and skill rather than brute strength. Chief Minister Bhagwant

Mann described the reform as "a victory for equality and courage," saying it represents the state's commitment to empowering women in every field of public service. "The era of symbolic inclusion is over. This is real equality based on merit and courage," he said. The change has already transformed the recruitment landscape. For the first time, dozens of women have successfully cleared the physical tests and will soon join Punjab's fire and emergency services. Among them is Simranjit Kaur from Amritsar, who had twice failed under the old standards. "Earlier, 60 kilos blocked my way. This change has given me and many others a fair chance," she said. Officials say the amendment marks the start of a new chapter in Punjab's public service system. "The government understood that real capability is measured not in kilos, but in character," said a senior official, calling the step long overdue.

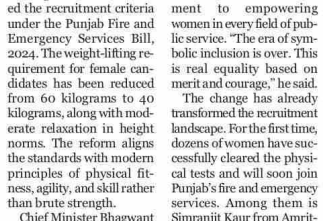
For young women across the state, this decision is more than a policy update—it is an invitation to serve, protect, and lead. In Punjab's fire stations, uniforms will soon be worn by women who once stood outside the gates of opportunity. And with this change, the Mann government has sent a clear message: strength has no gender, and equality must be built into the system, not just promised in words.

Drawing a parallel between past challenges and modern times, CM Yogi compared the resilience shown during the pandemic a century ago with the collective effort seen during COVID-19. He said that true leadership is guided by compassion and duty toward the nation and its people. Emphasizing that Vande Mataram belongs to every citizen, the Chief Minister said the song does not glorify any deity or sect but calls upon everyone to fulfill their duty toward the nation. "We often talk about our rights, but rarely about our duties. Our duties must illuminate the path for present and future generations," he said, echoing Prime Minister Modi's message. He added that the remarkable progress achieved by Uttar Pradesh in the past eight years reflects this spirit of responsibility and dedication.

The protests quickly spread beyond Chandigarh. In cities like Patiala, Ludhiana, Amritsar, and Bathinda, students organized sit-ins and campus rallies. A student leader in Ludhiana said, "If we stay silent today, tomorrow every institution in Punjab will be taken over. We are ready to fight—not just for a university, but for our rights." ASAP's state president warned of a statewide road blockade if the Centre does not withdraw the order within three days. The movement has infused new energy into AAP's political base. Senior leaders joined the student protests, framing the issue as a fight for Punjab's self-respect. "This is not AAP's fight alone; this is Punjab's fight," said the party's Chandigarh unit head. "BJP cannot govern Punjab by force. The people here and their government stand united."

Vande Mataram Echoes as India's Eternal Mantra, Says CM Yogi

Lucknow
 A wave of patriotism filled Lok Bhavan on Thursday as Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath led celebrations marking 150 years of Vande Mataram. The ceremony, organized by the Union Ministry of Culture, witnessed a mass rendition of the national song and a pledge for Swadeshi. The event was broadcast live in the presence of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.



Addressing the gathering, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath said Vande Mataram became the immortal chant of India's freedom movement and continues to embody the nation's soul. "Despite severe oppression under foreign rule, our freedom fighters awakened the country's collective consciousness, singing Vande Mataram in towns and villages to unite people with the spirit of the Motherland," he said. Paying tribute to Bankim

Chandra Chatterjee, the composer of Vande Mataram, the Chief Minister called the song a powerful medium that transcended caste, creed, and religion. "It gave India a new direction and became the voice of revolution. Whenever a slogan or a flag was conceived during the freedom struggle, Vande Mataram served as its soul," he said. He recalled how the song, composed in 1875, spread the message of freedom across the nation, blending Sanskrit and Bengali to express the essence of India. Even when the British tried to divide Bengal in 1905, he noted, Vande Mataram became a rallying cry for unity

and resistance. Drawing a parallel between past challenges and modern times, CM Yogi compared the resilience shown during the pandemic a century ago with the collective effort seen during COVID-19. He said that true leadership is guided by compassion and duty toward the nation and its people. Emphasizing that Vande Mataram belongs to every citizen, the Chief Minister said the song does not glorify any deity or sect but calls upon everyone to fulfill their duty toward the nation. "We often talk about our rights, but rarely about our duties. Our duties must illuminate the path for present and future generations," he said, echoing Prime Minister Modi's message. He added that the remarkable progress achieved by Uttar Pradesh in the past eight years reflects this spirit of responsibility and dedication.

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On social media, #SavePunjabUniversity trended across platforms, with Punjab's youth, artists, and diaspora adding their voices. Writers and intellectuals have also condemned the Centre's decision, calling it an assault on federal values. AAP leaders have warned that if the notification is not revoked, the protests will escalate. "We are not a weak government," said an AAP spokesperson. "BJP believes that power at the Centre gives them control over everything, but Punjab's voice cannot be silenced. This is a land where standing up for justice is a tradition."

Conch Shells Mark a New Chapter for Industry at Meet at Agra

Akash Jain Agra
 The seventeenth edition of Meet at Agra Footwear Fair began with a traditional bell ceremony and the sound of conch shells at the Agra Trade Centre on Mathura Road on Friday. Uttar Pradesh Minister for Industrial Development, Export Promotion, NRI, and Investment Promotion Nand Gopal Gupta "Nandi" inaugurated the three-day event, describing it as a "power booster for the industry." Nandi announced that the state government is moving



investors until their industries are fully established. He also assured that the government will advocate strongly for industries in the Taj Trapezium Zone (TTZ). Inviting feedback from entrepreneurs to strengthen the supply chain ecosystem, he said that constant dialogue with the Centre is underway to push industrial reforms. "Previous governments ignored industrial growth, but since 2017, Uttar Pradesh has written a new chapter in development," Nandi said. He informed that the state

has already distributed incentives worth ₹4,000 crore and is constructing seven new expressways, soon making UP the state with the highest number of expressways in the country. He also said preparations for the Jewar Airport inauguration are nearly complete. Chairman of the Council for Leather Exports (CLE) and former AFMEC president Puran Dawar called the footwear sector one of the largest employment generators in India. He commended AFMEC's collective efforts to strengthen tradi-

tional clusters but said many bureaucratic hurdles remain. Dawar noted that industries still require 13 separate NOCs, which are not yet fully online. He urged the state to bring them under a single-window digital system and simplify the purchase of agricultural land for industrial use. He also pressed for the removal of TTZ restrictions, saying the government's advocacy in the matter has been "weak." Dawar further suggested upgrading the testing and design facilities at the Agra Trade Centre.

CLE Chairman Rajendra Kumar Jagan said the weak supply chain ecosystem has limited the footwear industry's potential, though Meet at Agra has played a key role in changing that. The event, he said, has significantly benefited Agra, Noida, and Kanpur. Jagan pointed out that while footwear accounts for 67 percent of all items sold globally, it ranks only seventh among India's exports. Agra's export value, he said, stands at about ₹3,800 crore, consistent with last year's 2.54 crore pairs.

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Bihar Has Changed, Jungle Raj will not return": D.K. Tyagi



By Dr. Anil Singh

Editor - STAR Views & Editorial
Advisor - Top Story Guest: D.K. Tyagi, Overseas BJP (London Chapter)



Introduction

D.K. Tyagi, a prominent NRI leader based in London, has been actively associated with the Bharatiya Janata Party's Overseas Wing, working to strengthen the party's global outreach and mobilize the Indian diaspora in support of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of Viksit Bharat @ 2047.

Currently visiting Bihar during the ongoing Assembly elections, Tyagi has been touring Muzaffarpur, Patna, and other districts to connect with voters and gauge the mood on the ground. **In this exclusive conversation with Dr. Anil Singh for Top Story,** Tyagi shares his observations on Bihar's transformation, NDA's unity, Modi's appeal, and the political undercurrents shaping the 2025 polls.

Q Dr. Anil Singh: Tyagi ji, you're here in Bihar during the peak of the election campaign after years of working with the Overseas BJP in London. What's your first impression of the ground situation? Is the BJP narrative connecting with the people this time?

A D.K. Tyagi: Bharat Mata ki Jai! Vande Mataram!

I've been in Bihar for the past few days - in Muzaffarpur, Patna, and nearby districts - and the transformation is remarkable. Twenty years ago, Bihar symbolized fear, decay, and misgovernance; today it reflects growth, order, and confidence. Roads are smooth, cities cleaner, and people move freely even at night. The change is visible in every corner. This is the result of Prime Minister Modi's vision and Nitish Kumar's administrative consistency. The "jungle raj" era is over, and people will not allow it to return.

Q Dr. Anil Singh: But every election has its own pulse. The opposition claims the people now want change after two decades of Nitish Kumar's rule. Do you sense any anti-incumbency this time?

A D.K. Tyagi: Honestly, no. There's no anger against Nitish ji - only recognition of his steady governance. The NDA's development model has deliv-

ered results - roads, bridges, power, women's welfare, and education. People want continuity, not chaos. The NDA is cohesive; BJP, JD(U), HAM, LJP (R), and VIP are united. The Mahagathbandhan, by contrast, looks fractured and purely power-driven. Bihar's voters are mature; they can see who's working and who's talking.

Q Dr. Anil Singh: Still, questions keep arising about leadership. JD(U) demands that BJP formally declare Nitish Kumar as the CM face. Doesn't that suggest friction?

A D.K. Tyagi: Not at all. These are media-made stories. The Chief Ministerial face is Nitish Kumar ji - it's understood within the NDA. The BJP is focused on victory, not speculation. After results, the alliance will decide collectively, as always. Nitish ji has publicly committed himself to Prime Minister Modi's leadership and the NDA framework. This alliance has historic

roots dating back to Atal Bihari Vajpayee's time and remains strong in purpose and trust.

Q Dr. Anil Singh: In Bihar, the BJP largely banks on Modi ji's charisma. Do you believe the "Modi magic" can once again swing the state for the NDA?

A D.K. Tyagi: Absolutely. Modi ji's appeal is universal. His credibility is his biggest asset. Every household in Bihar has felt the impact of his governance - through Jan Dhan, Ujjwala, Awas Yojana, free ration, and digital empowerment. People know he speaks less and delivers more. Modi ji has redefined leadership, and the trust he enjoys among ordinary people is unmatched. Bihar will once again endorse him overwhelmingly.

Q Dr. Anil Singh: Opposition leaders argue that real issues like unemployment, migration, and poor healthcare still plague Bihar. Has the government done enough?

A D.K. Tyagi: Development is a process, not a miracle. Look at where Bihar stood two decades ago - and where it is now. Migration has slowed, industries are being set up, and connectivity has transformed. Airports, expressways, and industrial parks are taking shape. Health and education are improving but need sustained focus. As for the opposition's promise of "one government job per home," it's absurd. Where will that money come from? When they were in power, kidnappings and extortion drove people away. Now people are returning. NDA offers sustainable progress, not election-season fantasies.

Q Dr. Anil Singh: The Mahagathbandhan says the "jungle raj" argument is outdated. They insist a new, educated generation is looking at politics differently. Are you clinging to the past narrative?

A D.K. Tyagi: If they call this a new generation, where are the

new faces? The leadership is still hereditary. The same family that once ruled through fear now wants another chance. Bihar hasn't forgotten those years. You can change faces, not the DNA of dynastic politics. Nitish Kumar represents clean, result-oriented governance. The NDA represents trust and transparency. That's why people are sticking with us.

Q Dr. Anil Singh: Some say Nitish Kumar's spottish image is being overshadowed by corruption charges against certain ministers. Does that not dent your clean-governance claim?

A D.K. Tyagi: Nitish Kumar's integrity is beyond question. In more than twenty years, not a single corruption stain has touched him. If there are individual lapses, institutions will act. But leadership matters - and his leadership has set high standards. The BJP too believes in accountability. That's the fundamental difference between us and the opposition: we correct ourselves; they conceal everything.

Q Dr. Anil Singh: You've been associated with the BJP abroad for many years. What role does the Indian diaspora play in this election?

A D.K. Tyagi: The diaspora is our strength. Millions of Indi-

ans abroad - especially Biharis in the UK, US, Gulf, and Canada - are emotionally connected to this election. They campaign online, talk to families back home, and send a message of stability and pride. As part of the Overseas BJP, I'm here to reinforce that spirit. Our NRI volunteers highlight India's transformation under Modi ji and the need to keep Bihar aligned with that vision.

Q Dr. Anil Singh: Finally, your ground-level assessment - what's your prediction for the November 14 results?

A D.K. Tyagi: My personal survey across four districts suggests a decisive NDA victory. The energy on the ground is unmistakable - people want continuity, not confusion. I expect the NDA to cross 150 seats comfortably. Modi ji's credibility and Nitish ji's governance together form an unbeatable combination. Bihar has moved forward, and it will not go back. Jungle raj is history.

Dr. Anil Singh: Thank you, Tyagi ji, for sharing your insights. We'll reconnect after the results for your post-poll analysis.

A D.K. Tyagi: Thank you, Dr. Singh. Always a pleasure to speak with Top Story. Bihar's transformation is India's success story - and the journey continues.

SPORTS

Voices of Unity Rise: Sports Ministry begins yearlong Vande Mataram celebrations

Mitali Chandola
New Delhi

The morning air at New Delhi's SAI headquarters carried a special resonance on 7 November, as more than a hundred officers and staff of the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports and the Sports Authority of India gathered for a collective singing of Vande Mataram. The event, graced by Minister of State for Sports Raksha Khadse, marked the national launch of the yearlong celebrations commemorating 150 years of the iconic national song composed by Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay.



The ceremony opened with the live broadcast of the national inauguration led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi from the Indira Gandhi Indoor Stadium. Address-

ing the nation, the Prime Minister called upon citizens to uphold the timeless values symbolised by Vande Mataram: unity, patriotism and selfless service. His mes-

sage set the tone for the day, turning the musical tribute into a collective pledge. At SAI headquarters, officials and employees stood in unison as they

The ceremony opened with the live broadcast of the national inauguration led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi from the Indira Gandhi Indoor Stadium.

proudly rendered the full version of Vande Mataram - a melody that has, for generations, stirred the spirit of national identity. The gathering transformed into a moment of shared reverence, reflecting the deep emotional and cultural imprint that the song continues to hold.

Shyam Lal College enters into Pre-Quarterfinals of DU Inter College Cricket Tournament

New Delhi

Brilliant performances by Rounak Rao (3 for 37 and 22 runs), Aryan (46) and Abhishek Tiwari (3 for 10) helped Shyam Lal College beat Aryabhata College by 3 wickets to enter into the pre-quarterfinals of the Delhi University Inter College Cricket (Men) Tournament 2025-26 here at Swami Shradhdhaanand

College Ground. Earlier, in the first round match Shyam Lal College defeated Shaheed Bhagat Singh College (Evening) by 7 wickets.

Shyam Lal College's Captain Vinay Negi won the toss and decided to bowl first. Aryabhata College was all out for 157 runs in 30.3 overs. In re-



Shyam Lal College Cricket players with Cricket Coach Mr. Rakesh Thapliyal.

ply Shyam Lal College scored 160 runs for the loss of 7 wickets in 34.3

overs and won the match by 3 wickets. Brief score: Aryabhata

College: 157 all out in 30.3 overs (Harshvardhan 56, Rounak Rao 3 for 37, Abhishek Tiwari 3 for 10, Sandeep Rajput 2 for 21, Devansh Bisht 2 for 32) Shyam Lal College: 160 for 7 in 34.3 overs (Aryan 46, Raviraj 23, Rounak Rao 22, Asmit Panwar 21, Kunal 3 for 24, Harshvardhan 2 for 38).

SS Mota Singh Model School, Guru Harkrishan Nagar hosts grand Hockey Tournament



Staff Reporter
New Delhi

The 40th S. S. Mota Singh Memorial Hockey Tournament started on November 7, 2025, at S. S. Mota Singh Model School in Guru Harkrishan Nagar, led by Chairperson Mrs. Kiran Bhasin Bhatia. The event began with excitement in the school playground, celebrating 40 years of hockey excellence. The opening ceremony featured distinguished guests, including members of the school management and education representatives. The program opened

with a Shabad (hymn) by the school choir and a Lamp Lighting Ceremony to bless the tournament. Principal Mrs. Ashu Mehta welcomed the guests and emphasized the importance of sportsmanship, discipline, and teamwork in student development. Noted educationist Mr. V. P. Tandon praised the school's efforts and encouraged players to embody unity and fairness. The event included a Guard of Honour and a March Past by the four school houses, showcasing their team spirit. Cultural performances

like "Arambh Hai Prasthan - The Glorious Beginning," Kids Blossom (Flower Drill), and the Fan-tastic Drill entertained the audience. General Secretary Mrs. H. K. Anand officially opened the tournament, followed by an Oath-Taking Ceremony where participants pledged to uphold fair play. The day concluded with the introduction of teams from various schools, marking the beginning of exciting matches and reflecting the school's commitment to sportsmanship and holistic development.

Multiple explosions shake a mosque in an Indonesian high school injure 55

Jakarta (Indonesia)
Multiple explosions shook a mosque at a high school during Friday prayers in Jakarta, Indonesia's capital, injuring at least 55 people, mostly students. Police tried to dissuade speculation that the blasts were a terror attack and said they were investigating.



Witnesses told local television stations that they heard at least two loud blasts around midday, from inside and outside the mosque, just as the sermon had started at the mosque at SMA 27, a state high school within a navy compound in Jakarta's northern Kelapa Gading neighbourhood.

Students and others ran out in panic as gray smoke filled the mosque.

Most of the victims suffered minor to severe injuries from glass shards and burns. The cause of the explosions was not immediately known but they came from near the mosque's loudspeaker, according to Jakarta Police Chief Asep Edi Suheri.

The injured were rushed to nearby hospitals, from where some were sent back after initial treatment but 20 students remained hospitalised for burns, three of them with serious injuries, the police chief said.

Videos circulating in social media showed dozens of students in panic form running in panic across the school's basketball court, some covering their ears with their hands, apparently to protect themselves from the loud blasts.

Some of the injured were carried on stretchers to waiting cars. Shocked relatives of the

students gathered at centres set up at Yarsi and Cempaka Putih hospitals to seek information about loved ones. Parents told television stations their children had wounds from being hit in the head, feet and hands by sharp nails and pieces of exploding objects.

Suheri, the police chief, said an anti-bomb squad that was deployed at the scene found toy rifles and a toy gun near the mosque.

"Police are still investigating the scene to determine the cause," he said and urged against speculation that the incident was an attack before police investigation is completed.

"Let the authorities work first," Suheri said. "We will convey whatever the results are to the public."

Indonesia, the world's most populous Muslim-majority country, was struck by a major militant attack

in 2002 when al-Qaida staged bombings on the resort island of Bali that killed 202 people, mostly foreign tourists.

In subsequent years, there have been mostly smaller, less deadly strikes that have targeted foreigners, the government, police and anti-terrorism forces, as well as those considered infidels by militant groups.

In December 2022, a Muslim militant and convicted bomb-maker who was released from prison the previous year, blew himself up at a police station in West Java, killing an officer and wounding 11 people.

Since 2023, the Southeast Asia nation has experienced what authorities here call a "zero attack phenomenon," crediting the government with the stable security situation.

Nepal's PM Karki urges new generation to get enrolled in voters' list



Kathmandu
Prime Minister Sushila Karki on Friday urged the new generation to get their name enrolled in the voters' list and utilise their vote in the upcoming elections.

In a video message, Prime Minister Karki reminded the young generations about the importance of official registration in the voters' roll.

The Election Commission has been updating the voters' lists nationwide for the House of Representatives (HoR) elections scheduled for March 5, 2026. Those who reach the age of 18 years on March 3, 2026, will be eligible to cast their votes in the upcoming elections.

"In order to translate the dream of Gen Z youths and overall Nepalis for building a real Nepal, first we all should make the voter identity card. Then, we are eligible to rightly utilise our right to elect proper representatives," she pointed out.

Meanwhile, the Election Commission has enrolled 1,46,657 new eligible voters till Friday for the March 5 general election. During the past parliamentary elections in 2022, there were 1,81,68,000 eligible voters in

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Nepal. November 16 is the last day for registration of new voters for the upcoming elections.

In the current fiscal year, 15 new political parties have submitted their application to take part in the upcoming elections, according to Narayan Prasad Bhattarai, spokesperson at the Election Commission.

The EC is scrutinising the documents submitted by the political parties for their official registration for the March 5 elections. The number of parties so far registered with the Election Commission has reached 125. November 16 is the deadline for submitting the application for registration for the March 5 elections.

Pakistan PM Shehbaz leaves for Azerbaijan on two-day visit

Islamabad
Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Friday left for Azerbaijan on a two-day visit during which he will hold talks with President Ilham Aliyev and attend the fifth anniversary of Victory Day celebrations.

According to the Foreign Office, the Prime Minister was undertaking the visit at the invitation of President Aliyev.

"During the visit, the prime minister will attend the official Victory Day celebrations and hold a meeting with President Aliyev," it

said. "Discussions will focus on reviewing the entire gamut of bilateral relations and identifying new avenues to further deepen cooperation in diverse sectors, including trade and investment, energy, defence, education, and regional connectivity," it added. In a post on social media, state-run PTV said that Information Minister Attaullah Tarar was also accompanying the premier.

The FO said that Pakistan and Azerbaijan enjoy "long-standing fraternal relations, rooted in shared faith, history, culture, and mutual trust."

Sudanese army intercepts RSF drones targeting 2 cities

Cairo
The Sudanese army intercepted drones fired overnight by its rival paramilitary group on two cities in Sudan's northeast, a military official said Friday.

The army official, who spoke on condition of anonymity to freely discuss the matter, said 15 drones targeted Atbara, a city north of the capital, in River Nile province. He confirmed that strikes caused no casualties. Local media reports said residents heard explosions.

The official added that ground defenses intercepted a smaller-scale drone attack that also targeted Omdurman, the sister city of the



capital Khartoum. The RSF drone strikes came a day after the group announced that it agreed to a humanitarian truce proposed by a US-led mediator

group known as the Quad. A Sudanese military official told The Associated Press on Thursday that the

two former allies that were meant to oversee a democratic transition after a 2019 uprising. The fighting has killed at least 40,000 people, according to the WHO, and displaced 12 million. However, aid groups say the true death toll could be many times higher. Over 24 million people are also facing acute food insecurity, according to the World Food Programme.

The US-led plan for a truce would start with a three-month humanitarian truce followed by a nine-month political process, said Massad Boulou, a US adviser for African affairs, earlier this week.

BUSINESS

Digital frauds rise since July, says RBI DG

Mumbai
Reserve Bank Deputy Governor T Rabi Sankar on Friday said that the incidence of digital frauds has been rising since July this year. Speaking at a SBI event here, Sankar said that the frauds were going down till July and the Reserve Bank is checking reasons for the increase since then.

"If you look at frauds per number of transactions, we would see that compared to last year, from the beginning of the year that incidence (of frauds) kept on reducing substantially until about July when it again started rising up," he said. Without sharing the degree of the increase, Sankar said the increase can either be cyclical or seasonal. He said that the digital infrastructure is being deployed by the regulator like the mule hunter which is designed to track down conduit accounts to flush out money received through frauds.



As per the annual report for FY25, there was a decrease in frauds in FY25 to 29,953 from over 36,000 in the preceding financial year. Frauds occurred predominantly in the category of digital payments including card and internet in terms of number. Private sector banks account for nearly 60 per cent of the fraud cases by numbers, while PSBs' share by value is over 71 per cent as of end-FY25, it said. Sankar said that in context of payments, it would be "reasonable to assume" that banks "did not foresee" the UPI potential due to some structural aspects, while the more nimble fintechs could pull off the same.

Addressing the audience comprising majority of bankers, the RBI DG said that banks are "structurally vulnerable" because of their monolithic IT systems and high fixed costs arising from branch networks and compliance costs, and warned that "incremental digitisation is unlikely" to keep them competitive.

Indo-US Trade Deal Likely by Nov-end, says NITI CEO

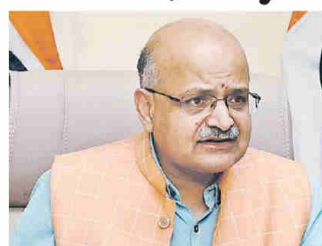
New Delhi
NITI Aayog CEO BVR Subrahmanyam on Friday expressed confidence that some positive news on India's proposed Bilateral Trade Agreement (BITA) with the US will come out by the end of November.

Speaking at CNBC-TV18's Global Leadership Summit 2025-2nd Edition, Subrahmanyam also said by the end of November, the National Manufacturing Mission will be up and running.

"I think things have been a bit difficult with the United States, and I think a reset is being tried. The trade negotiations are on... Hopefully, by end of the month, we may hear some news on that front," he said.

The CEO noted that New Delhi continues to attract a steady stream of foreign investors.

"You got American companies opening global capability centres in India. You do



not see anybody listening. So that basically means the fundamental attraction of India will trump everything else," Subrahmanyam said.

His remarks assume significance as the US is putting pressure on India to stop buying crude oil from Russia. The US, on October 22, imposed sanctions on Russia's two largest crude oil producers, Rosneft and Lukoil, barring all American entities and individuals from conducting business with them.

The US has imposed 25 per cent tariffs on India as a penalty for purchasing oil from Russia. It is over and above the 25 per cent reciprocal tariffs on Indian goods entering American markets. Overall, Indian goods are attracting a steep 50 per cent additional import duties in the US.

Subrahmanyam noted that there were many certainties after the Second World War, which is no longer the case.

"So the world is in flux where trade is flat, FDI is flat or declining," he said, referring to trade-related worries after the imposition of tariffs by US President Donald Trump on trade partners.

While observing that the world does not know how to handle this, Subrahmanyam said that the world is heading where low growth is a norm.

"And in all this, India is a standout case. I mean, it is the brightest spot in the global economy, and that is what makes it important," he said.

The CEO pointed out that India is bright because it has size, it has a market, and it has innovative talent.

"Given that, I think India will be a pole which will attract everybody else. So rather than us being forced to make choices, others will be compelled to actually reach out to India.

"And I think that is the sweet spot India is in. So it is not necessary for India to take sides between the US

and BRICS," he said. According to him, people will cut their own cloth to adjust to India.

"We are doing very good because there are strong inherent strengths. And I think if you have to live in the slightly more turbulent times, be it war, be it economy, be it tariffs, build up your internal strengths," Subrahmanyam said.

He said the more India builds up its internal strength, the more the world will actually look at New Delhi far more favourably.

Referring to the recent reform measures announced by the government, Subrahmanyam said the biggest reform measure announced by the government in this year's Budget, the National Manufacturing Mission, will be up and running by the end of November.

"The National Manufacturing Mission is going to transform India's manufacturing landscape.

AI Innovation Prioritized Over Regulation: IT Secy

New Delhi
The central government will prioritise fostering innovation over imposing immediate regulation in the artificial intelligence (AI) sector, IT Secretary S Krishnan said on Friday.

Addressing concerns about potential regulation, Krishnan stated that the primary objective was to create an environment conducive to AI innovation, with regulation to follow as the sector evolves.

"Today, the emphasis is fundamentally on innovation. The emphasis is on making sure that innova-



tion is given adequate play in the AI space so that we can harness the benefits of this technology and, at the same time, guard against whatever harms can come up. "...We have a very posi-

horizontal technology to be realised by the Indian economy, by India's people," Krishnan said at CNBC-TV18's Global Leadership Summit 2025.

He said as with all technologies, there will be elements that are problematic, and wherever issues arise, the government will use existing legal frameworks and tweak existing rules or legislate, depending on the requirement.

Krishnan, Secretary at the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, said internal discussions and consultations are

underway to continue and extend the largescale electronics manufacturing, which is set to end this year. Addressing concerns about employment disruption in the IT sector due to AI adoption, Krishnan acknowledged the changing nature of jobs but emphasised that "the impact on employment isn't likely to be as grave," as feared.

He stressed the importance of skilling and upskilling, stating that both new entrants and experienced workers must be prepared for evolving market requirements.

Forex Reserves Drop USD 689.73 Billion

Mumbai
India's forex reserves dropped USD 5,623 billion to USD 689.73 billion for the week ended October 31, the Reserve Bank of India said on Friday.

The overall reserves had declined by USD 6,925 billion to USD 695,355 billion. For the week ended October 31, foreign currency assets, a major component of the reserves, decreased by USD 1,957 billion to USD 564,591 billion, the data released on Friday showed.

Expressed in dollar terms, the foreign currency assets include the effect of appreciation or depreciation of non-



US units, like the euro, pound and yen held in the foreign exchange reserves.

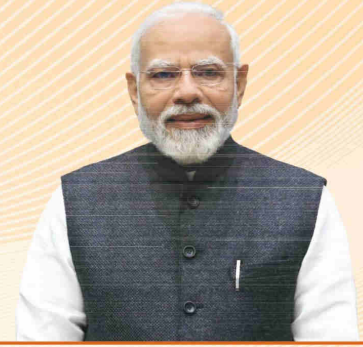
The value of the gold reserves declined by USD 3.81 billion to USD 101,726 billion during the week, the RBI said.

Rights (SDRs) were down by USD 19 billion to USD 18,644 billion, the apex bank noted.

India's reserve position with the IMF increased by USD 164 million to USD 4,772 billion in the reporting week, according to the data.

The Special Drawing

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Emergency lighting, windows and Talk Back units in all coaches

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Reduce travel time

Provide passengers with modern, comfortable and efficient travel options

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In the august presence of

Anandiben Patel
Governor, Uttar Pradesh

Yogi Adityanath
Chief Minister, Uttar Pradesh

Ashwini Vaishnaw
Union Minister of Railways, Information & Broadcasting, Electronics and Information Technology

Saturday, 08th November, 2025 08:00 AM Banaras, Uttar Pradesh



INDIAN RAILWAYS