



Jurel's back-to-back tons help India A set up 417 to win for SA A in 2nd unofficial Test

Israel returns bodies of 15 Palestinians after militants return remains of Israeli hostage

Mann opens Batala Tehsil Complex, Pledges to protect Panjab University's Autonomy

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Flight operations at Delhi airport are normal: DIAL



WEATHER

Sunrise 5:24 AM
Sunset 7:22 PM
Moonrise 10:08 PM
Moonset 8:45 AM

Today's Prediction

Maximum 34°C Minimum 27°C

Tomorrow's Prediction

34°C | 28°C

MARKET

SENSEX	NIFTY
81118.60	24718.60
-573.38	-169.60
GOLD	SILVER
100,143.00	106,415.00
1,751.00	530.00

Parliament's winter session from Dec 1, Oppn questions duration

The Monsoon session of Parliament also saw vociferous protests by several opposition parties over the SIR in Bihar that led to daily disruptions in Parliament.

New Delhi: The Winter session of Parliament will be held from December 1 to 19, Union Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju announced on Saturday, in what the opposition has described as an 'unusually delayed' and truncated session.

The three-week session will have 15 sittings in all and is expected to be stormy as it comes in the midst of the Election Commission's Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in 12 states and Union territories, an exercise against which several opposition parties have raised objections.

"The Monsoon session of Parliament also saw vociferous protests by several opposition parties over the SIR in Bihar that led to daily disruptions in Parliament.

The Hon'ble President of India Smt. Droupadi Murmu ji has approved the proposal of the Government to convene the #WinterSession of



Parliament from 1st December 2025 to 19th December 2025 (subject to exigencies of Parliamentary business), Rijiju said on X.

"Looking forward to a constructive and meaningful Session that strengthens our democracy and serves the aspirations of the people," he said.

The tone for the Winter session will be set by the results of the Bihar assembly elections on No-

vember 14 where the ruling National Democratic Alliance (NDA) is locked in a stiff battle with the opposition Mahagathabandhan coalition.

Several opposition parties are also likely to seek answers from the government on repeated claims made by US President Donald Trump on helping end hostilities between India and Pakistan over trade, after India launched 'Operation Sindoor'.

Soon after the announcement of the session dates, Congress general secretary Jairam Ramesh hit out at the government, saying the session is 'unusually delayed and truncated'.

"It will be just 15 working days. What is the message being conveyed? Clearly the Government has no business to transact, no Bills to get passed, and no debates to be allowed," Ramesh said in a post on X.

Trinamool Congress leader Derek O'Brien alleged that the government has 'Parliament-Ophobia', describing it as a fear of facing the Parliament. "P L I A - MENT-OPHOBIA. PM Narendra Modi and team continue to suffer from the acute condition called Parliament-ophobia, a morbid fear of facing Parliament."

15-day Winter Session announced. Setting dubious records," he said in a post on X.

Last year, the winter session of Parliament was held from November 25 to December 20.

The Election Commission has started phase two of the special intensive revision of electoral rolls in 12 states and Union Territories, including in poll-bound states of Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, Kerala and West Bengal.

Phase two of the special intensive revision (SIR) exercise began on November 4 with the enumeration state and will continue till December 4. Agency

China Eastern to commence Delhi to Shanghai flight from Sunday



Beijing: Chinese airline China Eastern is set to begin its Delhi-Shanghai flight from Sunday, days after IndiGo's flight to Guangzhou from Kolkata, marking the resumption of the flight services between the two countries after a gap of five years.

The China Eastern flight will leave Delhi at 8 PM and arrive in Shanghai early Monday. It will leave Shanghai at 12:30 PM and reach Delhi by evening 6 PM.

The flight will operate on alternate days. India's Consul General in Shanghai, Pratik Mathur, who plans to greet the passengers coming from Delhi by the China Eastern flight, said that the resumption of the flight services will usher in a new age of greater connectivity and encourage stronger people-to-people ties be-

tween India, the fastest growing economy, and the business hub of the eastern China Region led by Shanghai.

This will help to bring India closer to the fast-growing Eastern China Region, which also includes the AI hub of Hangzhou and trading hubs of Yiwu and Keqiao, the textile capital of China, he said here. IndiGo will begin its daily flights from Delhi to Guangzhou from November 10.

The airline has formally kicked off the resumption of flights on October 26, operating the Kolkata to Guangzhou flight.

The flight services between the two sides were suspended following the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020. They were not restored in view of the over-four-year border face-off in eastern Ladakh, which ended in October last year. Agency

Delhi enters 'red zone' as pollution levels cross 400 mark AQI 'severe'

New Delhi: Delhiites are facing increasingly toxic air quality each day, with pollution levels crossing the 400 mark in several parts of the city on Saturday, making the national capital one of the most polluted cities in the country.

The 24-hour average Air Quality Index (AQI), reported at 4 pm every day, stood at 361 on Saturday, placing Delhi in the 'red zone' and making it the second most polluted city in the country, according to data from the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB).

Several parts of the city recorded pollution levels in the 'severe' category. Monitoring stations reported an AQI of 404 at Alipur, 402 at ITO, 406 at Nehru Nagar, 411 at Vivek Vihar, 420 at Wazirpur, and 418 at Burari, according to the CPCB's Sameer app data from 38 monitoring stations across the capital.



In the NCR region, Noida recorded an AQI of 354, Greater Noida 336, and Ghaziabad 339, all falling in the 'very poor' category, according to CPCB data.

On Friday, Delhi recorded an AQI of 322, ranking first among the most polluted cities in the country.

PM2.5 and PM10 remained the key pollutants on Saturday. According to the Decision Support System (DSS) for air quality forecasting, stubble burning contributed around 30 per cent to Delhi's pollution, while the transport sector accounted for 15.2 per cent on Sunday.

Satellite data showed 100 stubble-burning incidents in Punjab, 18 in Haryana, and 164 in Uttar Pradesh on Friday.

The Air Quality Early Warning System for Delhi has predicted that the city's air quality will remain in the 'very poor' category over the next few days. Since Diwali, the national capital's air quality has consistently remained 'poor' or 'very poor', occasionally slipping into the 'severe' zone.

Agency

PM Modi flags off 4 new Vande Bharat trains for enhanced passenger comfort

Abhishek Byahat Ernakulam/Varanasi:

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday flagged off four new Vande Bharat Express trains on different routes of Indian Railways network here from Varanasi Railway Station, expanding India's semi-high-speed Vande Bharat trains to a total 164.

The four new Vande Bharat train routes launched today are: Banaras-Khajuraho, Lucknow-Saharanpur, Firozpur-Delhi and Ernakulam-Bengaluru.

On the occasion, UP CM Yogi Adityanath, Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw joined inauguration of the event in Varanasi. Meanwhile, Governor of Kerala, Rajendra Arlekar, Union Ministers, Suresh Gopi, George Kurian, Ravneet Singh Bittu were connected through videoconferencing to the event.



Addressing a public rally after the inauguration, PM Modi said these Vande Bharat trains will 'enhance connectivity and provide greater comfort' to citizens. Prime Minister Modi stated that the Vande Bharat, Namo Bharat, and Amrit Bharat trains are building the next generation of Indian Railways, a campaign aimed at modernizing the service to be faster and eco-friendly.

PM Modi emphasized that strong infrastructure contributes significantly to a country's progress and noted the increase in airports and Vande Bharat trains as indicators of development. He noted that even foreign passengers are astonished upon seeing Vande Bharat. PM Modi highlighted that India has embarked on a mission to enhance its resources for a developed India, and these trains are poised to become milestones in that journey.

The Varanasi-Khajuraho train aims to boost religious and cultural tourism, connecting key destinations like Varanasi, Prayagraj, Chitrakoot, and Khajuraho. This train will save passengers about 2 hours and 40 minutes compared to current services, offering a quicker, comfortable travel option. This link will not only strengthen religious and cultural tourism but also provide pilgrims and travelers with a fast, modern, and comfortable journey to the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Khajuraho. CONTD ON PAGE 2

Modi wraps up Bihar campaign, hails high turnout as '65-volt jhatka' to opposition

Patna: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday concluded his extensive campaign for the Bihar assembly elections, asserting that the people have delivered a "65-volt jhatka" to the opposition INDIA bloc in the first phase and that its leaders are now spending "sleepless nights."

Addressing his final rally in Bettiah, West Champaran, Modi seemed confident of an NDA victory, citing the high voter turnout of 65.09 per cent across 121 assembly segments on November 6 in



favour of the ruling coalition. He urged voters to "break the record of the first phase on November 11" and ensure that the NDA not only wins all seats but establishes a lead in every booth. Modi, who held 14 ral-

HIGHLIGHT

Prime Minister warns against "katta sarkaar," highlights women voters' turnout, and promises jobs and development under NDA while critiquing opposition for 'mis-governance and intimidation'

close at the land where Bapu Gandhi transformed into the Mahatma," he said. He promised to return for the swearing-in ceremony of a new NDA government. "My campaign ends to-

day but canvassing will continue tomorrow. But voters' job begins on the day of polling. I will come again for the swearing in of an NDA government," the Prime Minister added. Modi, accompanied by Chief Minister Nitish Kumar only at his inaugural rally in Samastipur, showered encomiums on the JD(U) supremo for having ended "jungle raj" in the state. He used the metaphor of "katta", a country-made pistol, to describe what he alleged would be the opposition's high-handedness if they came to power. Agency

Rajnath to review 16 DPSUs, push for reforms and R&D boost

New Delhi:

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh will undertake the annual performance review of the 16 Defence Public Sector Undertakings (DPSUs) in New Delhi on November 10. He had declared 2025 as the 'Year of Reforms', underscoring the importance of development of new technology by DPSUs and the need for enhancing exports and indigenisation. To achieve this objective, he exhorted them to increase their investment and manpower for R&D. Since then, all the DPSUs have prepared their



R&D roadmap for the next five years. Over the last 10 years, a total sum of Rs 30,952 crore has been invested in R&D by the 16 DPSUs. The pace

of R&D is now proposed to be doubled with projected expenditure of Rs 32,766 crore over the next five years. Agency

PM Modi flags off 4 new Vande Bharat trains for enhanced passenger comfort

Vande Mataram the Eternal Mantra of Bharat's Awakening: Amit Shah

CONTD FROM PAGE-1
Regular service between Ernakulam and Bengaluru will start on November 11, 2025, with key stops in Kerala, Tamil Nadu, and Karnataka. The schedule includes departures from Bengaluru at 5:10 AM, arriving in Ernakulam at 1:50 PM, and vice versa, with both journeys taking about 8 hours and 40 minutes. This service will also cut travel time by approximately 2 hours compared to other trains on the route.

The Ernakulam-Bengaluru Vande Bharat Express will connect major IT and educational hubs, providing professionals, students, and tourists with a faster and more comfortable travel option. The route will promote greater economic activity and tourism between Kerala, Tamil Nadu, and Karnataka, supporting regional growth and collaboration.

The Lucknow-Saharanpur Vande Bharat will cover the journey in approximately 7 hours 45 minutes, saving nearly 1 hour of travel time. The Lucknow-Saharanpur Vande Bharat Express will greatly benefit passengers from Lucknow, Sitapur, Shahjahanpur, Bareilly, Moradabad, Bijnor, and Saharanpur, while also improving access to the holy city of Haridwar via Roorkee. By ensuring smoother and faster intercity travel across central and western Uttar Pradesh, this service will play a key role in enhancing connectivity and regional development.

Om Birla inaugurates Bundi Mahotsav with traditional rituals

Kota:
The three-day Bundi Mahotsav 2025 began on Saturday with the worship of Lord Ganesh at the entrance of the historic Taraghar Palace, followed by a series of cultural and traditional events, officials said. Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla, accompanied by Rajasthan Energy Minister Heralal Nagar, Bundi District Collector Akshya Godara and other dignitaries, performed the rituals and hoisted the inaugural flag of the festival.

Birla also inaugurated a canvas painting workshop at the Garh Palace. A grand procession based on the patriotic theme Vande Mataram, marking the 150th anniversary of the national song, followed the ceremony, they added.

The procession featured people in traditional attire, folk artists, and decorated camels and horses. It passed through the main markets of Bundi and concluded at the police parade ground, where traditional games such as tug-of-war, moustache and turban-tying competitions, and the Panihari race were held.

The events, organised by the district administration and tourism department, saw enthusiastic participation from locals and foreign tourists.

Mitali Chandola
New Delhi:

Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation Amit Shah has described 'Vande Mataram' as the "song of freedom, the spirit of unyielding resolve, and the first mantra of Bharat's awakening." In a special blog marking 150 years of the national song written by Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay, Shah said the hymn was not only the soul of India's freedom struggle but also the first proclamation of cultural nationalism.

Reflecting on the power of music and art in shaping India's social and political movements, the Home Minister wrote that from the war songs of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj's army to patriotic anthems of the freedom struggle and the Emergency, music has always stirred collective consciousness in Indian society.

Among these, he said, 'Vande Mataram' stands



apart as the national song that emerged not from a battlefield but from the calm and resolute mind of a scholar. Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay, drawing inspiration from Atharva Veda's invocation "Mata bhumi putro aham prithivya" "The earth is my mother, and I am her son" — and the Devi Mahatmya's praise of the Divine

Mother, composed the hymn in 1875 on the day of Jagaddhatri Puja.

According to Shah, Bankim Babu's creation was both a prayer and a prophecy — an expression that redefined Bharat not merely as a geographical territory but as a living civilisation rooted in cultural unity. Quoting Maharshi Aurobindo, he said Bankim Chandra was "a sage of

Among these, he said, 'Vande Mataram' stands apart as the national song that emerged not from a battlefield but from the calm and resolute mind of a scholar.

would go on to inspire generations.

The minister noted that 'Vande Mataram' transcended linguistic and regional boundaries. Subramania Bharati rendered it in Tamil, while revolutionaries in Punjab sang it in defiance of British rule. During the partition of Bengal in 1905, when the British banned public recitations, thousands in Barisal defied the order, chanting 'Vande Mataram' even as police charged at them.

From the Ghadar Party in California to the Azad Hind Fauj and the Royal Indian Navy mutiny of 1946, Shah said the sacred chant echoed through every corner of the freedom

struggle. Freedom fighters such as Khudiram Bose, Ashfaqulla Khan, Chandrashekhar Azad and Tiruppur Kumaram found inspiration in it, while Mahatma Gandhi himself admitted the song had "the magical power to stir even the dullest blood."

Maharshi Aurobindo, Shah recalled, described 'Vande Mataram' as "the mantra of Bharat's rebirth," uniting liberals and revolutionaries, scholars and soldiers alike.

Referring to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Mann Ki Baat address on October 26, Shah said the Prime Minister reminded the nation of 'Vande Mataram's' glorious legacy. To commemorate its 150th year, the Government of India will hold year-long celebrations beginning November 7, during which the full version of the national song will resonate across the country to inspire the youth to internalise the essence of cultural nationalism.

Ease of living is possible when ease of justice is ensured: PM Modi

New Delhi:

Noting that ease of doing business and ease of living are only possible when ease of justice is ensured, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday said several steps have been taken in this direction in the past few years.

The Prime Minister, who inaugurated the National Conference on 'Strengthening Legal Aid Delivery Mechanisms' at the Supreme Court, said legal aid plays a vital role in ensuring that justice is accessible to all.

"I am satisfied that today, through Lok Adalats and pre-litigation settlements, millions of disputes are being resolved quickly, amicably, and at low cost. Under the Legal Aid Defence Counsel Scheme instituted by the Government of India, nearly 800,000 criminal cases have been resolved in just three years. These government efforts have ensured justice for the poor, Dalits, oppressed, exploited, and deprived sections of the country," he said.

"As I've said before, ease of doing business and ease of living are possible only when ease of justice is also ensured. Several steps have been taken to further ease justice in the last few years, and this will be expedited further," he added.

The Prime Minister said that when justice is accessible to everyone, is timely, and when it reaches every individual without regard to social or financial background, only then does it become the foundation of social justice.

The Prime Minister said that mediation has "always been a part of our civilization" and the new Mediation Act is carrying forward this tradition, giving it a modern form.

Pointing out that technology is becoming a medium for inclusion and empowerment today, PM Modi said that the e-courts project is also a good example of this in justice delivery. During the programme, the Prime Minister launched the Community Mediation Training Module prepared by the National Legal Services Authority (NALSA).

The two-day conference, organised by NALSA, will deliberate on key aspects of the legal services framework, such as the Legal Aid Defence Counsel System, panel lawyers, para-legal volunteers, permanent Lok Adalats and the financial management of compassionate health care.

Bharatmatma Ved Puraskar to be Held in Pune on November 17



TSN/Pune:

The prestigious Bharatmatma Ved Puraskar will be presented on November 17 at the Dadasaheb Darode Auditorium in Pune, on the occasion of the death anniversary of Late Shri Ashokji Singhal Ji. The ceremony will take place in the presence of Param Pujya Swami Shri Govinddev Giriji Maharaj, and the awards will be conferred by Param Pujya Acharyaji Shri Pradyumnaji Maharaj.

Established in memory of Late Shri Ashokji Singhal Ji, the Bharatmatma Ved Puraskar recognizes contributions to Vedic education and scholarship.

Singhal, a visionary leader and a founding member of the Vishwa Hindu Parishad (VHP), played a pivotal role in the Shri Ram Jannabh

movment and served as the International President of the VHP for over two decades. A devoted follower of India's ancient wisdom, he was deeply committed to the revival and propagation of the Vedic knowledge tradition and the Gurukul education system. Throughout his life, Shri Singhal made invaluable contributions to preserving and promoting the study and practice of the Vedas.

Now in its ninth edition, the Bharatmatma Ved Puraskar have been presented annually for the past eight years. The awards recognize exceptional contributions across three categories: Outstanding Vedic Student — ₹5 lakh cash prize, Ideal Vedic Teacher — ₹5 lakh cash prize, and Excellent Vedic Institution

Award recognizes excellence in preserving and teaching India's Vedic traditions

— ₹7 lakh cash prize. Each recipient will also receive a certificate and a commemorative memento.

The ceremony will also include the presentation of the Veda Arpita Jeevan Samman, or Lifetime Vedic Dedication Award. This honour is given to scholars aged 65 or above who have devoted their lives to the study, teaching, and practice of Vedic knowledge. The award carries a cash prize of ₹5 lakh and a certificate of recognition.

The winners of the Bharatmatma Ved Puraskar 2025 will be announced during the ceremony.

PM Modi attended the largest gathering of paediatric cardiac surgery patients



New Delhi:

Prime Minister Narendra Modi attended the largest gathering of paediatric cardiac surgery patients, recognized by Guinness World Records, at Nava Raipur. He interacted with 2,500 children who received free cardiac surgeries through the 'Gift of Life' initiative. Modi emphasized the importance of a healthy future for the young generation as India aims for development by 2047.

The Sri Sathya Sai Sanjeevani Centre for Child Heart Care in Nava Raipur contributes to the One World One Family Mission's extensive network of pediatric cardiac care hospitals, providing advanced treatment for children with congenital heart diseases. This mission operates under the principle of compassion, ensuring that children have health, hope, and dignity.

On this special day, Sadguru Sri Madhusudan Sai, the founder of the mission, expressed that true compassion should not be commercialized and thanked the Prime Minister for his presence at the event. Notable figures like Dr. C. Sreenivas and Sri Sunil Gavaskar also participated, celebrating a significant milestone reflecting the

The Sri Sathya Sai Sanjeevani Centre for Child Heart Care in Nava Raipur contributes to the One World One Family Mission's extensive network of pediatric cardiac care hospitals, providing advanced treatment for children with congenital heart diseases.

idea that healthcare is a right for everyone. The Mission has treated over 37,000 children in India and beyond, highlighting the importance of compassionate health care.

Ernakulam-Bengaluru Vande Bharat launches; A big relief to professionals, students, & entrepreneurs

Abhishek Byahut
ERNAKULAM:

In order to provide fastest travel experience between Ernakulam and KSR Bengaluru, the much-awaited new Vande Bharat Express train that connects Kerala, Tamil Nadu, and Karnataka was virtually flagged off by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday from Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh.

Governor of Kerala, Rajendra Arlekar, Union Ministers of State Suresh Gopi and George Kurian, State Industries Minister P. Rajeev, among the other dignitaries who connected through videoconferencing from



here to the event.

With the run of this train, thousands of professionals, students, and entrepreneurs who regularly travel between Ernakulam and Bengaluru, would get directly ben-

efited with this fastest service.

The newly introduced Vande Bharat Express between Ernakulam and Bengaluru has witnessed huge demand. The tickets that opened

for booking earlier in the day were sold out within hours, for the next few days.

This train service marks the third Vande Bharat Express for Kerala. It will be operated and maintained by the Southern Railway (SR) zone. However, the existing two Vande Bharat services, between Kasaragod-Thiruvananthapuram (via Kottayam) & Thiruvananthapuram Mangaluru Central (via Alappuzha) intertwine the Southern and Northern ends of Kerala and beyond.

The Ernakulam-Bengaluru Vande Bharat Express will run six days a week, covering a dis-

tance of about 596 km in only 8 hours and 40 minutes, thereby saving more than 2 hours of journey time compared to the existing services.

This Vande Bharat train is consist of eight coaches. There are two types of seating arrangements: AC Chair Car and Executive AC. The ticket price for travelling in an AC Chair Car on Vande Bharat Express between Ernakulam and KSR Bengaluru is Rs 1615. For an Executive Chair Car, this comes up to Rs 2980.

The Vande Bharat Express train will run from Ernakulam to KSR Bengaluru, making stops at Thrissur, Palakkad,

Coimbatore, Tirupur, Erode, Salem, and Krishnarajapuram.

The train aims to boost trade, education, tourism, pilgrimage, and healthcare between the three states. It will be the first Vande Bharat Express to reach Palakkad and includes modern amenities for passenger comfort and safety.

Designed for comfort, speed, and efficiency, this train has world-class amenities like reclining seats, automatic doors, Wi-Fi aboard, GPS-based passenger information systems, bio-vacuum toilets, and LED lighting, besides other energy-efficient

features. While the maximum permissible speed for the train is 160 km/h, it would run at an average speed of about 70 km/h due to terrain and operational constraints on this route.

Railways Minister Ashwini Vaishnav said, "The introduction of the Ernakulam-Bengaluru Vande Bharat is part of the government's commitment to offering world-class travel experiences. This train is not only about speed; it is about the transformation in the passenger experience. From design to manufacturing, every element of Vande Bharat is made in India."

CM Gupta pushes slum survey to boost Ujjwala reach

New Delhi
Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta has directed DUISIB to conduct a survey in slum areas to identify families still using traditional stoves and hearths, so that clean fuel can be provided to them under the Ujjwala Yojana, according to the Delhi CMO.

She stated that the government's goal is to ensure access to clean energy for every family in slum settlements, reducing both pollution and health risks, as stated in the CMO.

The Chief Minister also clarified that such families will be given priority for gas connections so that no one has to depend on tradi-



Honorable Chief Minister Rekha Gupta, National Capital Territory Government of Delhi, is seen addressing a press conference. She is wearing a yellow sari and speaking into a microphone. Behind her is a banner with the Delhi Government logo and the text 'Honorable Chief Minister National Capital Territory Government of Delhi'.

tional fuels anymore. Launched in May 2016, PMUY aims to provide deposit-free LPG connections to adult women from poor households across the country. All PMUY beneficiaries receive a deposit-free LPG connection, which includes a Security Deposit (SD) for the Cylinder, Pressure Regulator, Suraksha Hose, Domestic Gas Consumer Card (DGCC) booklet and installation charges. As per the existing modalities of Ujjwala 2.0, the first refill and stove are also provided free of cost to all beneficiaries.

As per the existing modalities of Ujjwala 2.0, the first refill and stove are also provided free of cost to all beneficiaries.

PMUY beneficiaries are not required to make any payments for the LPG connection or the first refill or stove, as the Government of India/OMCs bears the cost for these.

Meanwhile on Friday, Chief Minister Rekha Gupta has decided to change

the working hours of the offices of the Delhi Government and the Delhi Municipal Corporation.

This decision has been taken as a precautionary measure to prevent pollution, ensuring that the pressure of vehicles on the roads does not increase all at once and the traffic load is evenly distributed, thereby reducing pollution levels, according to the release.

According to the Chief Minister, a meeting was recently held with senior scientific officers of the Environment Department to discuss the pollution in the capital. It was decided that during the winter season (from November 15, 2025, to February 15, 2026),

phased changes would be made in the office timings of various departments of the Delhi Government and the Municipal Corporation.

The meeting also noted that during the previous government's tenure, office timings were altered when pollution increased in the capital during these periods.

The Chief Minister instructed the officials to maintain a gap in the opening and closing times of offices to prevent simultaneous traffic pressure. During winters in Delhi, the levels of pollutants such as PM 2.5 and PM 10 rise far above normal standards, severely deteriorating air quality and significantly impacting public health.

According to 200 officials, a total of 8,065 people, including 954 school children from 12 schools, visited the zoo, marking a lively restart for one of Delhi's top weekend destinations.

The zoo had been closed since August 30 due to the detection of avian influenza in its waterbird aviary.

In a bid to streamline visitor experience, the National Zoological Park introduced an "InstaTicket Booking Service", enabling visitors to book tickets instantly by scanning a QR code displayed at the entry gate. The new system, designed for quick access, supports payments via UPI apps, debit and credit cards, and net banking. A zoo official said the initiative ensures a seamless and time-saving entry process. Many visitors expressed satisfaction with the convenience of the new system on the first day of its launch.

The zoo management emphasised its commitment to enhancing visitor facilities while ensuring safety.

"The National Zoological Park always prioritises the convenience and safety of its visitors and continues to enhance its facilities to offer a memorable experience of nature and wildlife," a statement from the zoo read.

Traffic restrictions around JLN Stadium for Akon concert on Sunday

New Delhi
Delhi Police on Saturday issued a traffic advisory ahead of the "Akon India Tour 2025" concert, warning commuters of congestion and diversions in the surrounding areas.

The live concert, performed by American rapper and singer Akon, is scheduled to be held at the Jawahar Nehru Stadium on Sunday evening from 5 pm to 10 pm. Authorities expect a crowd of around 10,000 people to attend the show.

According to the advisory issued by the traffic police, entry for spectators will be permitted through Gate Numbers 13 and 14 of the

stadium. Parking for visitors' vehicles has been arranged at Gates 7 to 9 and at the SCOPE Complex Municipal Corporation of Delhi parking area, which has been booked by the event organisers. Restrictions on the movement of heavy transport vehicles (HTVs) will be imposed on the JLN Stadium Red Light to Whole B P Marg between 4 pm and 11 pm on Sunday, to ensure smooth traffic movement.

Commuters have been advised to avoid B P Marg, CGO Complex Road, the area around JLN Stadium, and approach roads during this period, the advisory read. "All emergency vehicles, including Delhi Police, ambulance, and fire brigade, will be allowed free access on roads where restrictions are in place while on duty," it further said, while urging such vehicles to preferably avoid B P Marg and CGO Complex Road to prevent inconvenience.

The police said elaborate arrangements have been made to manage the expected crowd and regulate vehicular movement.

"Motorists and the general public are advised to use public transport and plan their journeys, keeping in mind the heavy rush around the stadium," the advisory added.

DDA launches second phase of Jan Sadharan Awaas Yojana housing scheme

New Delhi
The Delhi Development Authority (DDA) has launched the second phase of the Jan Sadharan Awaas Yojana housing scheme, offering around 1,500 affordable flats across well-connected areas of the city, officials said on Saturday.

The scheme, launched on November 7, offers flats under the low-income group and economically weaker section (EWS) categories, located across key areas of Delhi like Shivaji Marg, Ramgarh Colony, Rohini, and Narela.

"All flats in Rohini,

Ramgarh Colony, and Shivaji Marg were booked on the first day itself," the DDA said in a statement.

Overall, more than 1,000 flats were booked within the first 24 hours, reflecting the continued public enthusiasm and confidence in DDA's affordable housing programmes, it said.

Lieutenant Governor V K Saxena, who reviewed the progress of the scheme, expressed satisfaction with its implementation and the overwhelming positive response it has received from the public, according to the statement.

"He appreciated the DDA's efforts in ensuring transparency, accessibility, and efficiency in the entire process, and reiterated the importance of expanding such initiatives to meet the housing aspirations of all sections of society," the authority said.

The Jan Sadharan Awaas Yojana Phase II carries forward the strong legacy of Phase I, which had set new benchmarks in DDA's affordable housing segment, it said.

"Phase 1, launched in September 2025, had of-

Delhi court acquits man accused of dowry death



Additional Sessions Judge Rajinder Kumar was hearing the case against Abhishek. The prosecution had alleged that Abhishek treated her wife, Kashak, with cruelty on July 15, 2024, which led her to take the extreme step.

Cleaner November for Delhi, GRAP-III still on watch

New Delhi
The Delhi Pollution Control Committee (DPC) on Saturday said that coordinated efforts by various government departments to curb air pollution in the national capital have started showing visible results, with the city's air quality remaining better on most days this November compared to the same period last year.

Officials said that Delhi has so far avoided reaching the pollution levels that had triggered the implementation of Stage III of the Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP) around the same time in 2023.

"Out of the last seven days, six have recorded better air quality than the corresponding days last year. This has been possible be-



cause of timely and coordinated action taken across departments," an official said during a press briefing.

During the briefing, officials mentioned that multiple agencies have received directives to control dust and vehicular pollution, as well as to enforce strict regulations against biomass burning and industrial emissions.

"Mechanical road sweeping and water sprinkling have been intensified. Over 100 machines are currently being operated by various municipal bodies. Potholes are being repaired, landfill sites are being managed, and anti-smog guns are be-

ing used at several locations," the official said.

The transport department has been instructed to conduct more checks on polluting vehicles, and Resident Welfare Associations (RWAs) have been encouraged to discourage biomass burning, especially as temperatures begin to drop.

Officials emphasised that the goal this year is to avoid implementing GRAP Stage III and IV restrictions through proactive enforcement and public participation.

"Last year, GRAP Stage III was imposed on November 13. This time, with support from all departments and the residents of Delhi, we hope to prevent reaching that stage," the official said.

Delhi gets winter chill as mercury falls to season's lowest

New Delhi
The onset of winter in the national capital was perceptible with a crisp chill in the air on Saturday.

The minimum temperature dipped to 11 degrees Celsius, the coldest night of the season so far. The night-time reading of minimum temperature was 3.3 notches below the season's normal, according to the India Meteorological Department (IMD).

The minimum temperature dropped below the 15 degrees Celsius mark in Delhi for the first time this winter on Thursday.

The lowest temperature recorded in 2024 was 9.5 degrees Celsius, while it was 9.2 degrees Celsius in 2023 and 7.3 degrees Cel-



sus in 2022, according to IMD data.

The city's maximum temperature on Saturday stood at 27.2 degrees Celsius, 2.3 notches below normal, the IMD said.

Officials attributed the chill to cold winds blowing into Delhi following fresh snowfall in the western Himalayas, coupled with clear night skies that enhanced radiational cooling.

PUBLIC NOTICE

General public is hereby informed that Mr. Ravir Singh s/o late Mr. Bed Ram Singh owner of MC No. 535, area measuring 83.93 sq. meter, part of GATA No. 2887, situated in Kasba Khurja under Chungi near Hira Nagar colony Khurja, Pargana & Tehsil Khurja, Bulandshahr, U.P., vide Gift Deed dt. 23.04.2025, Doc.No.8498, executed by Mr. Badan Singh & others, SRO-Khurja.

As in the property chain Org. Sale Deed dt. 26.07.2001, doc.No.2621, was lost and FIR has been lodged vide LR No.3256118/2025 on dt. 08.11.2025.

And now said property is being financed by AU Small Finance Bank Ltd., if anybody has any charge/title/third party interest in the said property of any kind of dispute, kindly inform the undersigned in written with proof within 7 days of this publication on the below mentioned address, failing which I am aware that in case default with the mortgage property, that all borrowers/owners are responsible for the same.

SatendraGautam
Advocate
Shop no. 3, Property no. 126, Lal Kauna Ghaziabad, U.P.

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is hereby informed to the Public at Large that My Client Laxmi Devi W/O Late Shri Lala Ram R/O A-872 Madipur Colony New Delhi has disown and bear his Son Gaurav, his wife Aasha and Granddaughter Mannat From her all kind of movable and immovable properties and breaks all relation with them. If anyone deals with them, they may do so at their own risk, cost and consequences, my client or any of her family members shall not be responsible for their any, unlawful act or deed.

KHALIL AHMED QURESHI
Advocate
Ch. No. C-24B, C.I. Joseph Block Tis Hazari Courts, Delhi-110054

Delhi CM encourages use of public transport, carpooling amid 'very poor' AQI

New Delhi
Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta has advised the people in the national capital to opt for carpooling and use public transport frequently to combat the air pollution.

According to the Delhi Chief Minister's Office (CMO), Gupta encourages private institutions to prioritise work-from-home arrangements in light of the prevailing pollution situation.

In view of the rising air pollution in the capital, Chief Minister Gupta had earlier decided to change the working hours of the offices of the Delhi Government and the Delhi Municipal Corporation.

This decision has been taken as a precautionary measure to prevent pollution, ensuring that the pressure of vehicles on the roads does not increase all at once and the traffic load is evenly distributed, thereby reducing pollution levels, according to the release.

The Chief Minister also stated that the government is continuously making serious efforts to tackle pollution. In this series, the BJP government has already shown proactiveness by taking this step. The



government does not want to seek solutions after the problem arises.

According to the Chief Minister, a meeting was recently held with senior scientific officers of the Environment Department to discuss the pollution in the capital. It was decided that during the winter season (from November 15 to February 15, 2026), phased changes would be made in the office timings of various departments of the Delhi Government and the Municipal Corporation.

The meeting also noted that during the previous government's tenure, office timings were altered when pollution increased in the capital during these periods. The Chief Minister instructed the officials to maintain a gap in the opening and closing times of offices to prevent simultaneous traffic pressure.

During winters in Delhi, the levels of pollutants such as PM 2.5 and PM 10 rise far above normal standards, severely deteriorating air quality and significantly impacting public health.

Currently, Delhi Government offices operate from 9:30 AM to 6:00 PM, and Delhi Municipal Corporation offices from 9:00 AM to 5:30 PM. Due to a 30-minute difference in timing, heavy traffic and congestion occur both in the morning and evening, further exacerbating air pollution.

The Chief Minister said that if a greater gap is maintained between the opening and closing times of both institutions, the number of vehicles on the roads at the same time will decrease, helping to reduce pollution.

According to the Chief Minister, there is a likeli-

During winters in Delhi, the levels of pollutants such as PM 2.5 and PM 10 rise far above normal standards, severely deteriorating air quality and significantly impacting public health.

with better air quality.

She instructed the officials to implement this arrangement throughout the winter season strictly and to monitor traffic and pollution levels continuously. The Chief Minister expressed hope that this step would help reduce pollution and provide relief to the citizens of Delhi.

Since Diwali, the Air Quality Index (AQI) in Delhi and the National Capital Region (NCR) has been categorised as 'poor' and 'very poor' in several areas, even as Stage 2 of the Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP) remains in effect.

The New Delhi Municipal Corporation (NDMC) has already announced the doubling of parking fees across the national capital after the Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP) Stage II was invoked due to deteriorating air quality.

Under the proposed changes, the new winter timings for government offices will be as follows: Delhi Government offices from 10:00 AM to 6:30 PM, and Delhi Municipal Corporation offices from 8:30 AM to 5:00 PM. The Chief Minister stated that the objective of this decision is not only to distribute traffic pressure but also to provide citizens

NORTHERN RAILWAY
S1/DIMMS/ALP/83256117/2025 Date: 07/11/25
Invitation of Tenders through E-Procurement system
Sr.DMM, Northern Railway, New Delhi-110001, for and on behalf of the President of the Railway Board, invites tenders through e-procurement system for supply of the following items.

Sr. No.	Tender No.	Brief Description	Qty.	Closing Date
1	83256117	Synchronised Electrical Operated Screw Jack (Set of 05 jacks) as per specification attached.	04 SET	15-12-25

Note: 1. Vendors may visit the IREPS website i.e. www.ireps.gov.in for details. 2. No Manual offer will be entertained. 3. 27/10/2025

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

The Legacy of Ancient Indian Warfare and Armies

Ancient Indian warfare was a blend of valor, strategy, and spiritual philosophy. Rooted deeply in the ideals of dharma (righteousness) and honour, it reflected the cultural, political, and moral ethos of the time. From the early Vedic tribes to the mighty empires of the Mauryas, Guptas, and Cholas, warfare in India evolved into a sophisticated system that combined disciplined armies, advanced weaponry, and well-defined military codes. The ancient Indian soldier was not merely a warrior; he was a guardian of justice and protector of civilization.

Evolution of Warfare in Ancient India: Warfare in India evolved from tribal skirmishes during the Rigvedic period (1500–1000 BCE) to organized battles fought by powerful kingdoms. Initially, conflicts were fought over cattle, land, and prestige. As societies grew more complex, wars became instruments of expansion and statecraft. By the time of the Mahajanapadas (600 BCE), warfare had become institutionalized, with standing armies, espionage systems, and organized command structures.

The epics Ramayana and Mahabharata reflect early understandings of military ethics and tactics, such as chakravayuha (circular formation), garuda vyuha, and psychological warfare. These epics were not only mythological but also instructional texts that shaped the military culture of subsequent Indian empires.

The Structure of Ancient Indian Armies: Ancient Indian armies were composed of four principal divisions known as the Chaturanga Bala — infantry (pada), cavalry (ashva), elephants (gaja), and chariots (ratha). This fourfold structure symbolized balance, mobility, and versatility in battle.

(a) **Infantry (Pada Sena):** Infantry formed the backbone of the army. Soldiers were trained in archery, swordsmanship, and the use of shields, spears, and maces. They were often drawn from peasant classes and trained under royal patronage. Discipline and morale were maintained through spiritual teachings and a sense of duty.

(b) **Cavalry (Ashva Sena):** With the introduction of horses from Central Asia, cavalry became a decisive force. Horse-mounted archers and lancers brought speed and mobility, especially during the Mauryan and Gupta periods. Cavalry units were crucial in reconnaissance, rapid assaults, and flanking maneuvers.

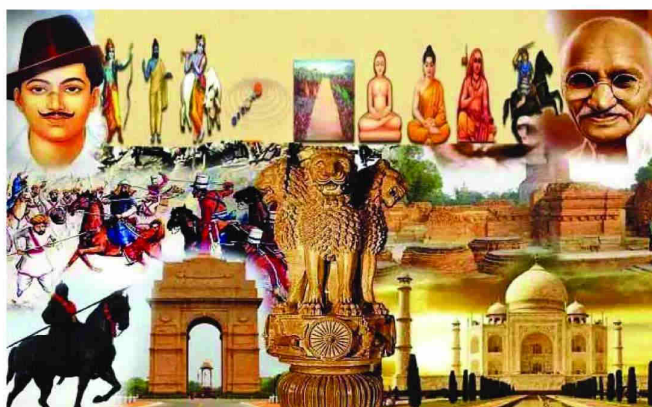
(c) **Elephants (Gaja Sena):** Elephants symbolized power and terror. Used as living tanks, they could crush enemy lines and create psychological panic. However, they were also difficult to control in chaotic situations. Famous commanders like Chandragupta Maurya and Samudragupta used them effectively in decisive battles.

(d) **Chariots (Ratha Sena):** In early warfare, chariots were symbols of prestige and command. Kings and generals often fought from chariots, which carried archers and spear-throwers. Though they declined with the rise of cavalry, chariots remained culturally significant, as seen in Lord Krishna's guidance to Arjuna on the chariot of Kurukshetra.

Military Organization and Command Structure: Ancient Indian armies followed a well-defined hierarchy. The supreme commander was the Senapati, equivalent to a modern-day general. Under him were subordinate officers such as nayakas, pratiharas, and



By Major (Dr) TC Rao
Veteran Military Historian



padadhikaris. The Mauryan Empire, under Chandragupta and Ashoka, had perhaps the most sophisticated military administration, as documented in Kautilya's Arthashastra.

The Mauryans maintained a standing army of around 600,000 soldiers, supported by a network of fortresses, supply chains, and intelligence officers (spies or guptacharas). The empire's military council supervised six boards responsible for infantry, cavalry, elephants, chariots, navy, and logistics.

Weapons and Warfare Technology: India's ancient weaponry reflected both innovation and craftsmanship. Common weapons included bows (dhanush), arrows (bana), swords (khadga), spears (shula), maces (gada), and shields (khetaka). Metallurgical expertise allowed Indian blacksmiths to produce superior iron and steel weapons, particularly during the Gupta period.

Projectile warfare using fire arrows, catapults (yantras), and siege engines was known. Defensive architecture flourished — forts (durgas) were strategically built near rivers, hills, or forests to ensure natural defense.

Strategy, Formations and Tactics: Indian commanders employed complex formations (vyuhas) and strategic thinking. Some of the notable ones included:

• **Chakravayuha:** A circular formation, difficult to penetrate, mentioned in the Mahabharata.

• **Padmayuyha:** Lotus-shaped formation used to trap enemies.

• **Makara and Garuda Vyuhas:** Symbolic formations representing crocodile and eagle shapes for offense and defense.

Apart from battlefield formations, Indian warfare emphasized niti (policy) and danda (force). The Arthashastra elaborated on the fourfold policy of sama (conciliation), dana (gifts), bheda (division), and danda (force), which guided diplomatic and military strategies.

War Ethics and Dharma Yuddha (Just War): A unique aspect of Indian warfare was its moral framework. The concept of Dharma Yuddha ensured that wars were fought for righteous causes and within ethical limits. According to the Mahabharata and Manusmriti, certain codes were observed:

- No attack on unarmed or sleeping enemies.
- No destruction of civilian property or harm to non-combatants.
- Battles were to be fought during daytime and on open ground.
- The wounded and surrendering enemies were to be spared.

This ethical dimension set Indian warfare apart from many other ancient civilizations and inspired later thinkers, including Ashoka, who renounced violence after the Kalinga War and adopted Ahimsa as a guiding principle.

Naval Warfare and Overseas Expeditions: Though primarily a land-based civilization, India developed strong naval traditions, especially under the Cholas, Satavahanas, and Mauryas. The Cholas (9th–13th century CE) established naval supremacy across the Bay of Bengal, launching expeditions to Sri Lanka, Myanmar, and Southeast Asia.

Ancient ports like Lothal, Bharuch, and Tamralipti show evidence of organized dockyards and shipbuilding expertise. Naval forces were employed not only for warfare but also for protecting maritime trade routes and spreading Indian culture abroad.

Famous Commanders and Military Thinkers:

- **Kautilya (Chanakya):** Authored Arthashastra, a treatise on warfare, espionage, and statecraft.
- **Chandragupta Maurya:** United India through military strategy and alliances.
- **Ashoka:** His transformation after the Kalinga War marked a shift from conquest to compassion.
- **Samudragupta:** Known as the "Napoleon of India," led extensive campaigns across the subcontinent.
- **Rajendra Chola I:** Extended Indian naval power to Southeast Asia, projecting India's influence overseas.

Decline and Transition in Later Periods: By the end of the ancient era, Indian warfare faced challenges from foreign invasions — Persians, Greeks, Scythians, and later the Huns. Despite resistance, the fragmented political landscape weakened defense coordination. However, Indian armies continued to adapt — adopting new weapons like the cavalry bow, iron stirrup, and later integrating war elephants in innovative ways.

The medieval period saw a shift toward fort-based defense, composite bows, and armored cavalry, influenced by Central Asian invaders. Yet, the foundational principles of valor, discipline, and ethical warfare persisted through generations.

Legacy and Impact on Modern Military Thought: Ancient Indian military philosophy continues to influence modern doctrines of warfare and leadership. The integration of moral values with military strength, as seen in the concept of Dharma Yuddha, remains relevant in modern defense ethics. Strategic principles from Arthashastra are still studied in military academies worldwide for their insights on intelligence, alliances, and psychological warfare.

India's ancient heritage also underscores the idea that true power lies not merely in weapons or armies, but in disciplined minds, righteous causes, and moral leadership.

Ancient Indian warfare was not just a pursuit of conquest but an embodiment of cultural ideals, discipline, and dharma. It showcased a harmonious blend of science and spirituality, tactics and ethics. From the disciplined legions of the Mauryas to the naval might of the Cholas, Indian warfare evolved with sophistication and moral restraint. Its legacy lies not only in historical victories but also in the timeless principles of righteous conduct, courage, and compassion that continue to inspire soldiers and leaders in the modern era.

Men May Need More Exercise Than Women

When it comes to fitness, the "one-size-fits-all" approach may not be entirely accurate — especially when comparing men and women. Emerging research suggests that men might need more exercise than women to achieve similar health benefits, particularly when it comes to heart health, metabolism, and longevity.



By Vijay Garg
Vijay Garg Retired Principal Educational columnist Eminent Educationist street kour Chand MHR Malout Punjab

Biological Differences at Play

Men and women differ not just in hormones but also in muscle composition, fat distribution, and cardiovascular responses. Testosterone gives men an advantage in building muscle, but it also increases the need for higher energy expenditure to maintain metabolic balance. Women, on the other hand, are naturally more efficient at burning fat during low-intensity exercise, thanks to estrogen's protective influence.

Heart Health and Longevity

Recent studies have shown that moderate physical activity can significantly reduce the risk of heart disease in both sexes — but men often need to exercise more frequently or at higher intensities to gain the same level of protection. This may be because men tend to accumulate more visceral fat around the abdomen, which is strongly linked to cardiovascular disease and insulin resistance.

Exercise and Mental Health

Both genders benefit mentally from exercise, but research indicates that women may experience greater emotional gains from shorter, less intense workouts, while men often require longer or more vigorous physical activity to achieve similar mood and stress-reducing effects.

Lifestyle and Sedentary Risks

Modern lifestyles, especially desk-bound jobs, have increased sedentary behavior among both men and women. However, men tend to accumulate more risk factors from inactivity — such as higher blood pressure, cholesterol, and body fat percentages. Therefore, public health experts suggest men should engage in more structured exercise routines, combining cardio with strength training.

Finding the Right Balance

While men may need more exercise quantitatively, the quality of movement matters for everyone. Women



benefit from strength training just as men do, and men gain from flexibility and endurance exercises traditionally favored by women. The key lies in maintaining a consistent, well-rounded routine that suits individual needs, age, and health conditions.

Key Findings on Heart Health Benefits:

• **Disparity in Risk Reduction:** The study, which analyzed data from tens of thousands of adults, found a significant difference in how men and women benefit from physical activity in terms of heart health.

moderate activity, women experienced a greater relative reduction in heart risk (about 22%) than men (about 17%).

Why the Difference? Biological Factors at Play

Scientists believe that biological differences between the sexes likely explain why women may gain proportionally more cardiovascular benefit from lower doses of exercise:

• **Hormones:** Women's higher levels of circulating estrogen are thought to play a role, potentially aiding in more effective fat burning during exercise, which can improve cholesterol levels and heart health.

• **Muscle Composition:** Women tend to have a greater proportion of slow-twitch (Type I) muscle fibers, which are highly efficient for endurance and sustained activity. Men typically have more fast-twitch (Type II) fibers, suited for short bursts of power. This difference in muscle efficiency may allow women to reap greater cardiovascular rewards from the same movement.

Implications for Current Guidelines

Current international and national exercise guidelines (such as those from the World Health Organization and the American Heart Association) generally recommend the same minimum amount of exercise for all adults — typically at least 150 minutes of moderate activity per week.

These new findings suggest that a sex-specific approach might be more effective, especially for preventative heart health.

Conclusion

The idea that men may need more exercise than women isn't about competition — it's about biology. Gender differences influence how our bodies respond to physical activity, but both men and women share one universal truth: regular exercise remains one of the most powerful tools for a healthier, longer life.

* The "Dosage" Gap:

• Women who engaged in about 250 minutes of moderate-to-vigorous physical activity each week saw a risk reduction for coronary heart disease of approximately 30%.

• Men required nearly twice that amount — around 530 minutes (nearly 9 hours) per week — to achieve the same 30% risk reduction.

• **Benefits at Lower Levels:** Even at the commonly recommended minimum of 150 minutes per week of

Mann opens Batala Tehsil Complex, Pledges to protect Panjab University's Autonomy

Komal Ramola
Chandiigarh

Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann on Saturday dedicated the newly constructed Tehsil Complex at Batala, calling it a major step toward delivering efficient, citizen-centric governance. The ₹10 crore facility, built to house multiple administrative offices under one roof, aims to simplify access to government services for residents across six Assembly constituencies.

Speaking at the inauguration, Mann said the new Tehsil Complex would serve people from 314 villages, including areas under Batala Sub-Division, and parts of Fatehgarh Churian, Qadian, Sri Hargobindpur Sahib, Dera Baba Nanak, and Kahnunwan constituencies. This initiative will make it easier for citizens to avail essential administrative services without delay. I feel privileged to contribute to the development of this sacred city," he said.

The Chief Minister noted that the complex, built on an



area of one acre and 5-5 kanals, includes offices of the SDM, Tehsildar, Kanungo, and Patwaris, along with a citizen service center, an e-Registry office, and a lift for public convenience. It also features a waiting area with comfortable seating and clean drinking water. Its proximity to the Judicial Complex and Police Lines, he added, would make administrative coordination smoother for residents.

Turning to political mat-

ters, Mann accused the BJP-led central government of attempting a "backdoor entry" into Punjab's tableaus from national celebrations. "The BJP's stepmotherly attitude towards Punjab is evident in every action," he remarked.

On another front, the Chief Minister shared details of the state government's plans to commemorate the 350th martyrdom anniversary of Sri Guru Tegh Bahadur Ji. Around

₹70 crore, he said, are being spent on the development of 140 towns and villages associated with the ninth Sikh Guru. A special Vidhan Sabha session and a series of commemorative events are scheduled at Sri Anandpur Sahib from November 23 to 25.

Mann also voiced concern over the Election Commission of India's "declining credibility," alleging that the BJP is acting as its mouthpiece while the Commission remains silent on key electoral issues. "If political parties are raising questions about EVMs and vote manipulation, the Election Commission must clarify its position. Its silence damages democracy," he said.

Criticizing the state Congress leadership, Mann said that its leaders' use of "foul language" reflects their feudal mindset. He claimed that figures such as Amarinder Singh Warring, Partap Singh Bajwa, and Sunil Jakkhar have a history of making disrespectful remarks, even against their own party leaders.

Highlighting his government's achievements, the Chief Minister said that over 55,000 youths have been given government jobs on merit. He added that the newly formed Sadak Suraksha Force has helped reduce road accident deaths by 48%, earning appreciation from the central government.

Mann also outlined improvements in education and healthcare, noting that Schools of Eminence have produced 265 JEE Mains qualifiers, 44 JEE Advanced qualifiers, and 848 NEET qualifiers this year. He said that 881 Aam Aadmi Clinics are now operational, serving nearly two crore people with free medicines, and that the number would soon cross 1,000.

Concluding his address, the Chief Minister said that 90 percent of households in Punjab now receive free electricity, while the closure of 19 toll plazas has saved the public nearly ₹67 lakh every day. "These initiatives reflect our commitment to good governance and people's welfare," Mann said.

Himachal Nurses ready for global Healthcare roles

Rajan Puncthi
Mandi

The Himachal Pradesh government has launched a new initiative to help nursing professionals find employment opportunities abroad, aiming to replicate the success story of Kerala's globally renowned nurses. Minister for Urban and Rural Planning, Technical Education, Vocational and Industrial Training, Rajesh Dharmani, announced that under the leadership of Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu, the state has introduced the Overseas Employment Project through the Labour Department to turn the dream of working overseas into reality for nursing graduates.

Speaking as the chief guest at the annual festival "Sai Con Carnival 2025" at Shri Sai College of Nursing and Shri Sai Institute of Paramedical Science, Daboh (Lip-pur Behali), Sundernagar, Dharmani said that nurses and paramedical staff form the backbone of the healthcare system. "Doctors alone cannot deliver treatment; nurses are their biggest allies," he remarked, urging students to work with dedication, compassion and a sense of service inspired by Mother Teresa.



Highlighting the government's focus on strengthening medical infrastructure, the minister said that all six medical colleges established during the Congress government's tenure are being upgraded with world-class facilities. "Old MRI and diagnostic machines that are nearly 20 years old will soon be replaced, and robotic surgery has already been introduced in two medical colleges. Additionally, modern laboratories worth ₹125 crore are being set up," he added.

Dharmani lauded the institute's initiative to teach German to nursing students, noting that language training would open international avenues for them.

Bulldozer justice crushed mafia in UP: CM Yogi

TSN/Gaya

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, addressing a rally in Atri in support of NDA candidate Romit Kumar, launched a scathing attack on the RJD-Congress alliance, accusing them of pushing Bihar into an "identity crisis."

"Bihar is no longer in the dim light of lanterns—it's ready to shine in the brightness of LEDs," he declared, promising jobs for youth and jail for criminals if the NDA comes to power.

CM Yogi said this sacred land, which gave the world Lord Buddha, Lord Mahavira, Dr. Rajendra Prasad, and Jayaprakash Narayan, was plunged into darkness by RJD-Congress misrule. "The land of Nalanda, Chanakya, and Aryabhata became synonymous with illiteracy and lawlessness. Under them, Bihar saw over 60 massacres and 30,000 kidnappings. Traders and daughters were unsafe, and even cattle fodder wasn't spared from loot," he said.

Drawing a parallel with Uttar Pradesh, the Chief Minister asserted, "In UP, we crushed the mafia with bulldozers—their bones are broken, and youth are thriving. Bihar too must choose governance over goon-daraj." He lauded Prime Minister Modi's leadership for transforming India into a strong, assertive nation. "During Operation Sindoor, when a BrahMos missile from Lucknow fell in Pakistan, the enemy trembled. Today's India strikes at its foes in their own homes," he said.

Himachal Pensioners Warn of Protest, May Seek President's Rule

Rajan Puncthi
Mandi

The Himachal Pradesh Pensioners' Joint Struggle Committee has intensified its campaign, warning the state government of a massive protest during the upcoming winter session of the Assembly in Dharamshala if their long-pending demands are not addressed soon. The committee, led by its chairman Suresh Thakur, held a state-level meeting at the Vishwakarma Temple in Mandi, where representatives from eighteen affiliated organizations participated and discussed the issues faced by retired employees.

Addressing the meeting, Suresh Thakur declared that pensioners would no longer remain silent spectators in the face of government apathy. "If our demands are not met promptly, one lakh pensioners will surround the Assembly in Dharamshala. We will then meet the Honorable Governor and demand the imposition of President's rule, given the alarming financial condition of the state," he said.

Thakur noted that pensioners aged between sixty and ninety have been compelled to protest on the streets because of flawed policies and delays in dues. Among the key demands raised were the payment of revised gratuity, commutation, and leave encashment for those who retired between January 1, 2016, and January 31, 2022. He added that arrears under the



Sixth Pay Commission, effective from January 1, 2016, remain unpaid. While the previous government had released an installment of ₹50,000, the present administration has withheld payments to employees of the Himachal Pradesh Road Transport Corporation.

The committee also expressed concern over non-payment of medical reimbursement claims pending for five years and the delay in clearing pay matrix cases for pensioners and family pensioners pending with the Accountant General's office for more than a year. Additionally, 13 percent dearness allowance and 111 months' arrears are yet to be released.

The pensioners have demanded that revised pensions for local urban body employees be implemented from January 1, 2016, and that retired Himachal Pradesh Police personnel receive similar educational and employment reservation benefits for their children as enjoyed by

families of Indian Army personnel. They also sought parity in medical allowances for pensioners of twenty boards and corporations and pre-2016 benefits for Himachal Pradesh Electricity Board retirees, along with payment of arrears from February 2022 to May 2023 and implementation of the Old Pension Scheme (OPS) in the Electricity Board.

Concluding the meeting, Thakur gave the government a one-week deadline to hold talks on these issues, failing which the committee vowed to proceed with its plan to surround the Assembly and submit a memorandum to the Governor.

District Mandi Convener Hem Singh Thakur welcomed the delegates, while Bhup Ram Verma, Brahmanand, T.D. Thakur, Himmat Ram Sharma, Balram Puri, Seth Ram, Ravindra Singh Rama, Madan Sharma, Ganga Ram Sharma, Rajesh Rama and others took part in the discussions.

Operation Trackdown Roars: Haryana Police Arrest 56 Notorious Criminals in Two Days

Komal Ramola
Chandiigarh

Haryana Police's massive statewide crackdown, Operation Trackdown, has made a powerful start, sending a strong message to criminal elements across the state. Launched on November 5 and running till November 20, the special drive has already yielded impressive results in its first two days, with 56 dreaded and wanted criminals arrested, along with 602 other accused. The operation has not only tightened the noose around organized crime but also instilled confidence among citizens that the law will not spare offenders.

According to police officials, the campaign began on November 5 with the arrest of 32 wanted criminals in a single day. The momentum

continued on November 6, when 24 more notorious offenders and 252 additional accused were taken into custody. In the process, nine history sheets were opened to update criminal records and pave the way for the cancellation of bail for repeat offenders.

Director General of Police O.P. Singh is leading the operation with a multi-tier strategy involving coordination at the police station, district, and state levels. Each police station has drawn up a list of its five most wanted criminals, while district-level teams are pursuing their top ten offenders. The Special Task Force has also identified twenty of the state's most dangerous criminals, with focused efforts underway to apprehend them.

To strengthen police-pub-

lic cooperation, Inspector General (Crime) has shared his personal mobile number — 90342 90495 — encouraging citizens to share information about criminals confidentially. Officials said this open communication channel has already begun generating valuable leads and enhancing community trust. The campaign is also marked by strong inter-state coordination. Haryana Police has joined hands with the police forces of Punjab, Rajasthan, Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, and Chandigarh to track fugitives operating across borders. Joint raids and warrant executions are being carried out in sensitive border zones to prevent criminals from evading arrest by fleeing to neighboring states.

Police officials emphasized that Operation Trackdown is not limited to making arrests. The broader goal is to dismantle criminal networks, seize illegal assets, cancel bail for habitual offenders, and ensure that those arrested cannot resume unlawful activities. The early success of the drive has spread panic among criminal circles, reinforcing the government's message of "zero tolerance" toward crime. As the campaign continues through mid-November, Haryana Police officials say the results so far are only the beginning of a sustained push to make the state safer. "This operation has made it clear — there's no place to hide for criminals in Haryana," an officer said, summing up the mood of the force and the public alike.

NCB secures major convictions in cross-border heroin and charas trafficking cases

Mitali Chandola
Chandiigarh

In a major success against cross-border drug smuggling, the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB), Chandigarh, has secured the conviction of a key trafficker involved in a 2021 heroin seizure near the Indo-Pakistan border. A Special NDBPS Court in Fazilka on November 7, 2025, convicted Gurpreet Singh Alsia Mangal, a resident of Village Kotha in Fazilka district, and sentenced him to 12 years of rigorous imprisonment along with a fine of ₹1.5 lakh under various provisions of the NDBPS Act, 1985.

The case stems from an

operation conducted on April 14, 2021, when the NCB Amritsar team, in coordination with the Border Security Force (BSF), seized 5,958 kg of heroin from the border area near PO P Lakhia Asli in Fazilka, Punjab. Gurpreet Singh was apprehended while attempting to receive the consignment smuggled from across the border. After a detailed investigation and trial, the court found him guilty, holding that he was in conscious possession of a commercial quantity of heroin. The verdict marks a significant milestone in NCB's continued efforts to curb cross-border narcotics traf-

ficking.

In another notable judgment, a Special NDBPS Court in Barabanki on November 5, 2025, sentenced an accused, Azad, to 10 years of rigorous imprisonment and imposed a fine of ₹1 lakh under Section 8/20 of the NDBPS Act. The conviction relates to the seizure of 2.7 kg of charas in 2022. Acting on specific intelligence, NCB's Lucknow Zonal Unit intercepted Azad near the District Mahila Hospital in Barabanki on November 18, 2022, recovering the contraband from his possession. Following investigation, a formal complaint was filed on May 12, 2023.

Cong, RJD and CPI-ML are gang-lords of their own territories: CM Yogi

East Champaran

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath continued his aggressive campaign for the Bihar Assembly elections with back-to-back rallies. Addressing a gathering in Pipra to seek votes for BJP candidate Shyambabu Prasad Yadav, the Chief Minister urged people to ensure a decisive victory for the NDA. During the rally, CM Yogi spotted a young girl holding his photograph, invited her onto the stage, and encouraged her, drawing applause from the crowd.

Launching a sharp attack on the Grand Alliance, CM Yogi accused the RJD, Congress, and Left parties of insulting faith and opposing cultural heritage. "After Lord Ram and Lord Krishna, these people are now opposing Chhath Maiya. Those who oppose Ram and insult faith do not deserve a single vote," he said.

CM Yogi said the Congress always rejected Lord Ram, the RJD stopped the Ram Mandir Rath Yatra, and the Samajwadi Party fired bullets on Ram devotees. "When devotees said 'Ram Lalla Hum Aayenge, Mandir Wahin Banayenge,' these parties rained bullets and lathis.

Meet at Agra Draws 7,000+ Visitors, showcases bright future of Indian footwear industry

Akash Jain
Agra

The second day of the 17th "Meet at Agra" footwear fair at the Agra Trade Centre in village Singna on Mathura Road drew an impressive crowd of over 7,000 visitors from across the country. Brimming with energy, innovation, and opportunity, the event saw 3,140 trade visitors and a large number of students and aspiring entrepreneurs exploring the future of India's footwear industry.

Delivering the keynote address, Footwear Design & Development Institute (FDDI) Managing Director Vivek Sharma called on



young Indians to embrace entrepreneurship. "India is one of the fastest-growing economies in the world. At such a time, our youth must focus on creating jobs rather than seeking them," he said. "FDDI is not just an educational institution—it's a

school of entrepreneurship that inspires students to be part of the industry's growth story."

AFMEC President Gopal Gupta described the fair as a reflection of the industry's resilience and progress toward an Atmanirbhar

Bharat. "The enthusiasm among exhibitors and buyers points to a golden future for the footwear sector," he said, adding that the event has also opened doors for collaboration with entrepreneurs from textile, engineering, electronics, and furniture sectors.

Former AFMEC President and DCFI Chairman Purnan Dawar, along with Vice Presidents Rajesh Sehgal and Rajeev Vasran and General Secretary Pradeep Vasran, urged entrepreneurs to focus on expanding India's global footprint. "India is already the world's third-largest footwear producer. Our next goal is to become

a global export powerhouse," Dawar said.

In a first, "Meet at Agra" honoured international buying agents who have played a key role in boosting India's footwear exports. Among those felicitated were Ravish Pippal, Sachit Kumar, Varun Kochhar, and several others. "The event has evolved beyond a trade fair into a global networking platform," said Ravish Pippal, noting that foreign buyers were highly impressed with the quality of Indian products.

Banking and financial experts from SBI, ICICI Bank, PNB, and ECG conducted sessions for MSMEs, offering insights into new

factoring and provident fund management. Anuj Kumar of India Factoring explained how small industries can convert pending bills into instant cash, and PF expert Shrawan Kumar Mishra discussed worker welfare and compliance benefits for employers.

Reflecting on the event's growing impact, AFMEC

Vice President Rajesh Sehgal said it had brought together stakeholders across policy, production, and marketing. "Agra is no longer just a footwear hub—it's emerging as the innovation capital of the industry," added Rajeev Vasran. General Secretary Pradeep Vasran noted that each edition of the fair is becoming larger, more organized, and globally recognized.

With 6,922 visitors, including 3,140 trade professionals and 911 aspiring entrepreneurs, Day Two of "Meet at Agra" reaffirmed India's position as a rising leader in the global footwear industry.

Indian recurve archers eye revival at Asian Championships

Dhaka

India's recurve archers will look to end a prolonged medal drought and restore lost pride when they line up at the season-ending Asian Archery Championships, beginning here on Sunday.

The continental event will also serve as a crucial test for the squad ahead of next year's Asian Games in Japan.

India finished second behind Korea in the previous edition with three gold, one silver and three bronze medals (6-2-3 for Korea), thanks largely to their compound specialists.

The men's recurve contingent drew a blank, continuing a worrying slide that saw them return empty-handed from the World Championships this year and manage just four medals — three bronze, one silver and no gold — across four World Cup stages this year.

It also meant they could not qualify for the World Cup Final this year.

With archery powerhouse South Korea fielding a second-string side this time — missing Olympic champion Kim Woo-jin and world No. 1 Kang Chae-young — the Indian recurve teams, especially the men, will fancy their chances to end the barren run.



For India, it will also be a battle against rustiness as the archers return after a two-month-long break following the World Championships in September. In between some of them though competed at the inaugural Archery Premier League in October.

Atanu Das returns

The men's recurve lineup sees the return of former India No. 1 and two-time Olympian Atanu Das, who is in fine form having topped the selection trials.

Das last competed at the Antalya World Cup in June

before missing out on the World Championships berth. He will team up with Asian Games-bound Dhiraj Bommadevara, the country's top-ranked male recurve archer, and Yashdeep Bhoge, who returns after four years since his last appearance at the Chengdu World University Games in 2021.

The Korean men's team will be led by 33-year-old Jang Chae-hwan, alongside Jung Jiho, Seo Mingi (who topped their trials), and 20-year-old rookie Kim Yechan, the Chengdu University Games gold medalist.

In women's recurve, Deepika Kumari and Anika Bhakat bring experience, and

are joined by Abhishek Verma, Prathamesh Fuge, Sahil Jadhav and debutant Sangaeta.

The Indian quartet will look to capitalise on Korea's relatively inexperienced women's side, which is missing its celebrated trio of Kang Chae-young, Lim Si-hyeon and An San.

Even without them, Korea remain formidable, led by Shanghai World Cup gold medalist Lee Gahyun, former world champion Jang Min-hee (returning to international competition after four years), Olympic silver medalist Nam Su-hyeon, and veteran Kim Sunin.

Jawark back in compound fold

In compound section, which has been India's strength over the past few years, the spotlight will be on Prathamesh Jawark.

The Maharashtra archer returns to his pet discipline after briefly switching to recurve last year in pursuit of an Olympic medal. With compound archery now included in the Los Angeles 2028 Olympics, the 22-year-old 2023 World Cup winner has returned to the compound as he would look to reclaim his form and rhythm after slipping to world No.105.

India's men's compound

team of Abhishek Verma, Prathamesh Fuge, Sahil Jadhav (World University Games champion) and Jawark will aim to improve upon their bronze from the last edition.

Veteran Verma will also vie to go deep in the individual event having bagged a bronze in 2023.

In women's compound, veteran Jyothi Surekha Vennam spearheads a young lineup featuring Chikitha Taniparthi, Prithika Pradeep and Deepshikha, who returns after two years.

With Parmeet Kaur, the defending champion, missing out this time, Jyothi's leadership will be crucial as India target another dominant showing after winning team gold last year.

Teams

Recurve, Men: Dhiraj Bommadevara, Atanu Das, Rahul, Yashdeep Bhoge; Women: Deepika Kumari, Anika Bhakat, Anshika Kumari, Sangeta.

Compound, Men: Abhishek Verma, Prathamesh Fuge, Sahil Jadhav, Prathamesh Jawark; Women: Jyothi Surekha Vennam, Chikitha Taniparthi, Prithika Pradeep, Deepshikha.

Fifth T20I with Australia called off due to rain, India clinch series 2-1

Brisbane

The fifth and final T20I between India and Australia has been called off due to rain at The Gabba in Brisbane on Saturday. India clinched the five-match series 2-1.

Australia skipper Mitchell Marsh won the toss and elected to bowl. India's opening pair, Abhishek Sharma and Shubman Gill, had a flying start, putting up a 50-run partnership in just 4.5 overs, before the game was halted due to lightning and rain, and eventually abandoned after a two-hour delay.

At the stoppage of play, the visitors were 52/0 in 4.5 overs with Shubman Gill (29*) and Abhishek Sharma (23*) unbeaten on the crease. After the first T20 was washed out due to rain, Australia won the second, and the Indian team won the next two.

Sharma, during his unbeaten innings of 23, achieved a world record and became the fastest batter to reach 1,000 T20I runs in terms of balls faced.

He surpassed Indian captain Suryakumar Yadav to become the fastest batter to reach 1000 T20I runs among full-member nations, achieving the milestone in 528 balls.



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Suryakumar Yadav had achieved the feat in 573 balls. England's Phil Salt is third on the list and had taken 599 balls to reach 1000 T20I runs.

Sharma has played 29 T20I matches, batting in 28 innings and remaining not out once. He has scored a total of 1,012 runs at an impressive average of 37.48 and a blistering strike rate of 180.51. His highest score in the format is 135, and his tally includes two centuries and six half-centuries.

Abhishek also joined an elite company by becoming the second-fastest Indian to reach 1000 T20I runs, achieving the milestone in just 28 innings, behind only Virat Kohli, who achieved it in 27.

With this series victory, India's unbeaten run in the T20I series under head coach Gautam Gambhir continues, marking five consecutive bilateral T20I series wins.

India announces 111-member contingent for Deaflympics 2025

New Delhi

India have announced a 111-member contingent for the Deaflympics 2025 in Tokyo, marking the country's largest-ever delegation to the event, as per Olympics.com.

The contingent consists of 73 athletes and 38 coaches, making it the biggest ever Indian contingent at the Deaflympics. Deaflympics 2025 in Tokyo is scheduled to be held from November 15 to 26.

From 1924 to the present day, a total of 24 Summer and 18 Winter Deaflympics have been held. These are conducted in the years following the Olympics. India has been participating in the International Deaf Games since 1965. Seven male athletes and five officials took part in India's maiden appearance in Washington.

In 1985, India sent its first three female athletes to the Deaflympics, marking a milestone in the country's participation in the event. By the 2022 edition, held in Caxias do Sul, Brazil, the

Indian contingent had grown to include 65 athletes, comprising 39 men and 26 women.

India won a best-ever 16 medals — eight gold, one silver, and seven bronze — to finish ninth among 77 participating nations last time around.

India's Deaflympic athletes shone bright, with Jerlin Jayaratchagan claiming three gold medals in badminton. Dhanush Srikanth made history, securing two gold medals and setting a new world record in the tom air rifle shooting event with an impressive score of 247.5. Meanwhile, Pritivi Sekhar bagged three medals in tennis.

In wrestling, Virender Singh secured his fifth consecutive Deaflympics medal, a bronze, while Tokyo Olympian golfer Diksha Dagar claimed gold to add to her silver from the 2017 Games.

India's previous best came at Sofia 1993, when it won seven medals, including five gold and two bronze.

Jurel's back-to-back tons help India A set up 417 to win for SA A in 2nd unofficial Test

Bengaluru

A back-to-back century from batter Dhruv Jurel helped India set up South Africa A a massive 417 runs to win ending the day three of the second unofficial Test at Bengaluru on a high.

SA A was 25/0 at the day's end, with Jordan Hermann (15*) and Lesego Senokwane (9*) unbeaten.

India A started the day three at 78/3 with a lead of 112 runs, after bundling out South Africa for 221 in response to their first innings score of 255 after being put to bat first. KL Rahul (27) was removed early. Skipper Rishabh Pant sustained a few body blows and was retired hurt at 17, with India's score at 108 runs at the loss of four wickets. Kuldeep Yadav (16), the nightwatchman's dismissal marked India's fifth loss at 116 runs.

Jurel walked onto the crease and made an immediate impact with his fearless strokeplay, stitching a 184-run six-wicket partnership with all-rounder Harsh Dubey (84 in 116 balls, with 12 fours and a six). After Dubey's dismissal, Pant walked out to bat, stitching



an 82-run stand for the seventh wicket with Jurel, scoring 65 in 54 balls, with five fours and four sixes.

Jurel, who had scored his century in 159 balls, ended with 127* unbeaten in 170 balls, with 15 fours and a six, striking at over 74. India A declared at 382/7, leading by 416 runs.

Hermann and Lesego made sure that South Africa A ended the day without a wicket lost.

Earlier, India A started off the second day after being bundled out for 255 on day one by putting the Proteas to bat and having them try to overcome this modest deficit. SA A was reduced to 12/3, with Akash getting South

African men's skipper Temba Bavuma for a golden duck.

SA A captain MI Akerman kept the fighting going for his side, bringing up a counter-attacking century in 99 balls, with 14 fours and three sixes, even as wickets kept falling. His side was bundled out for 221 runs, with him being the ninth wicket to fall to spinner Harsh Dubey, scoring a commendable 134 in 118 balls, with 17 fours and five sixes.

Opener Jordan Hermann (26 in 73 balls, with five fours) and Premlan Subrayen (20 in 30 balls, with two fours and a six) were the only other ones to touch the 20-run mark as they trailed

Dr. Deepa Malik inspires Young minds at Vidya Jain Public School's Annual Sports Festival 'VIGOUR'

Staff Reporter
New Delhi

Vidya Jain Public School, Rohini, came alive with energy and excitement as it hosted its annual sports festival VIGOUR, a celebration of spirit, strength, and sportsmanship. The day-long event turned the school's sports ground into a vibrant arena of athletic excellence and youthful enthusiasm. The occasion was graced by Padma Shri, Khel Ratna, and Arjuna Awardee Dr. Deepa Malik, a true symbol of courage and resilience. As the first Indian woman Paralympic medalist and a Board Member of the Asian Paralympic Committee, Dr. Malik's presence brought an air of inspiration to the event. Addressing the gathering, Dr. Malik delivered a powerful message on perseverance and positivity. "I turned my weakness into my



strength. I transformed my wheelchair into a win chair. We must never give up, no matter the situation," she said, drawing heartfelt applause from students, teachers, and parents alike. Her words deeply resonated with the audience, motivating the young participants to face life's challenges with courage and conviction. The festival was attended by Principal Ms. Meghna Chandra, Manag-

ing Director Mr. Saurabh Jain, and Chief Executive Officer Ms. Surbhi Jain, who emphasized that VIGOUR reflects the school's commitment to holistic education. They noted that the event stands as a testament to Vidya Jain Public School's belief in nurturing not only academic excellence but also physical fitness, character, and leadership among students. The program began with a grand march past,

followed by an array of athletic events, yoga demonstrations, and cultural performances, showcasing the remarkable talent and discipline of the students. The atmosphere brimmed with cheer as participants gave their best on the field, embodying the true spirit of competition and teamwork. As the day concluded, winners from various categories were honored with medals, trophies, and certificates, celebrating their dedication and hard work. In their closing remarks, the school management congratulated all participants and reiterated that sports are not merely extracurricular but an essential part of life. They expressed pride in how VIGOUR continues to instill confidence, unity, and leadership among students, inspiring them to strive for excellence both on and off the field.

Devajit Saikia hails Jay Shah's vision for elevating Women's cricket in India

Guwahati

The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) secretary Devajit Saikia credited Jay Shah for initiating key reforms that have boosted women's cricket in India. He highlighted Shah's idea for the Women's Premier League (WPL), pay parity, annual contracts for women players, and expanded domestic cricket opportunities. While Jay is currently serving as ICC president, it was under his leadership as secretary of BCCI from 2019 to 2024 that the board adopted the idea of pay equality and enhanced professional leagues for women cricketers, as well as grassroots investment and civil visibility. This has now empowered Indian women cricketers to take up Cricket.

"It was during 2022-23 when Jay Shah was the secretary for the second time.

He initiated all these things. These are all his brainchild, whether it is WPL or pay parity, bringing the girls under the annual contract system, or expanding the scope of domestic cricket for women. And not only that, the recent increase in the prize money just about one month before the Women's World Cup. So there was a huge increase in the prize money, about 300 times. So all these things have worked, and I am sure this has really done wonders for the women, and during a very short period of time, with these positive steps, the results are for everyone to see now," Devajit Saikia said. Under Jay Shah's leadership as BCCI Secretary, the Indian women's cricket team underwent a significant transformation, evolving from a promising pursuit to a world-class sporting enterprise.

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UK spies handed over intel to Canada on Nijjar killing: report

London: It was with the help of British spy call intercepts that the Canadian authorities drew alleged links between India and the killing of Hardeep Singh Nijjar in June 2023, a new document released this week has claimed.

Inside the Deaths that Rocked India's Relations with the West by 'Bloomberg Originals' reports that a British intelligence agency — believed to be the UK's Government Communications Headquarters (GCHQ), often referred to as the country's listening post — intercepted calls that appeared to be discussing three targets.

Nijjar, a Canadian Sikh designated a terrorist by India in 2020 for Khalistani extremism, was allegedly among the names on the intelligence passed on to the Canadian authorities under the 'Five Eyes' intelligence sharing agreement between the UK, US, Canada, Australia and New Zealand.

In late July 2023, there was a "breakthrough" in the Nijjar murder investigation case when the UK obtained "relevant information", the video documentary claims. The British intelligence would only be shared under strict conditions: hand-delivered to Ottawa and kept off electronic systems and only a handful of Canadian officials, pre-approved by London, could see it, it is claimed.

BUSINESS

India-New Zealand Trade Pact: Boost Trade

Auckland: The proposed free trade agreement between India and New Zealand is expected to enhance trade flows, deepen investment linkages and strengthen supply-chain resilience, the commerce ministry said on Saturday.

It may also provide greater predictability and market access for businesses in both countries, it said.

Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal was here to give an impetus to the trade pact negotiations with his New Zealand counterpart Todd McClay.

The fourth round of negotiations on the India-New Zealand Free Trade Agreement (FTA) concluded on November 7, in Auckland and Rotorua.

The ministers "acknowledged the steady progress made during this round and reaffirmed their commitment to work towards a modern, comprehensive, and future-ready FTA," it said.

Both delegations held detailed engagements

Israel returns bodies of 15 Palestinians after militants return remains of Israeli hostage

Khan Younis (Gaza Strip): Israel on Saturday returned the bodies of 15 Palestinians to Gaza, hospital officials in the strip said, a day after militants returned the remains of a hostage to Israel under the terms of the tenuous ceasefire agreement in the two-year war.

The exchange marked another step forward for the tenuous, US-brokered truce. As part of the deal, Israel has returned the remains of 15 Palestinians for each Israeli hostage.

The Nasser Hospital in the city of Khan Younis said the 15 bodies were brought there.

The return came shortly after Israel confirmed the remains given on Friday night were of an Israeli man who died while fighting Hamas in the militants' Oct. 7, 2023, attack that started the war. The hostage's body was identified as that of Lior Rudaveff, according to a statement from Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's office.

Meanwhile, Israeli settlers attacked Palestinian farmers and journalists in the occupied West Bank on Saturday, the latest violence to mar the territory.

The Hostages and Missing Families Forum said Rudaveff was born in Argentina and moved to Kibbutz Nir Yitzhak, a farming community in southern Israel, as a child. He volunteered for more than 40 years as an ambulance driver

and was a member of the community's emergency response team. The forum said he was killed in the Hamas-led attack and that his body was taken to Gaza.

Since the ceasefire took effect on Oct. 10, Palestinian militants have released the remains of 23 hostages, including Rudaveff's body, with five still remaining in Gaza.

Including the remains returned on Saturday, Israel has handed over the bodies of 300 Palestinians. Health officials in Gaza have struggled to identify the bodies without access to DNA kits, and have so far identified 59 of the bodies, according to Gaza's Health Ministry.

Under the terms of the US-brokered ceasefire, Israel is supposed to allow substantially more aid into Gaza.

However, relief efforts under the pact still fall well short of what is needed in Gaza, according to Farhan Haqq, deputy spokesperson for the United Nations. More than 200,000 metric tons of aid is positioned to move into Gaza, but only 37,000 tons, mostly food, have been admitted, he said.

The 2023 Hamas-led attack on southern Israel killed about 1,200 people and saw 251 taken hostage. Israel's sweeping military offensive has killed more than 68,800 Palestinians in Gaza, according to Gaza's Health Ministry. The ministry, part of the Hamas-run government and staffed by medical professionals, maintains detailed records viewed as generally reliable by independent experts.

Arrests and detentions of Afghan nationals in Pakistan surged by 146 per cent in the week ending November 1, driven largely by the reopening of border crossings, according to a UN report.

A total of 7,764 Afghan nationals were arrested and detained during the week, a sharp rise from the previous seven-day period, Peshawar.

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Russian drone strike on tower block in eastern Ukraine kills 3 injures 12

Kyiv: A Russian drone slammed into a tower block in eastern Ukraine early on Saturday while many were sleeping, killing three and injuring 12 people, Ukrainian authorities reported.

The attack in Dnipro, Ukraine's fourth-largest city, was part of a large Russian missile and drone barrage across the country that targeted energy infrastructure.

In eastern Ukraine, fighting for the strategic city of Pokrovsk has reached a key stage, with many civilians killed and injured. The Kremlin claims its only targets are linked to Kyiv's war effort. Russia's Defence Ministry asserted Saturday that the nighttime strikes hit military and energy sites supplying Ukrainian forces.

Moscow and Kyiv have traded almost daily assaults on each other's energy targets as US-led diplomatic efforts to stop the nearly four-year war had no impact on the battlefield.

Authorities switched off power in several regions due to the attacks, Ukrainian Energy Min-

ister Svirlana Grynechuk said in a post on Facebook.

A fire broke out and several apartments were destroyed in the nine-story building in Dnipro, the emergency services said. Rescuers recovered the bodies of three people, and two children were among the injured.

Almost four years after its all-out invasion, Russia has been pummeling Ukraine with near-daily drone and missile strikes, with many civilians killed and injured. The Kremlin claims its only targets are linked to Kyiv's war effort. Russia's Defence Ministry asserted Saturday that the nighttime strikes hit military and energy sites supplying Ukrainian forces.

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Arrests of Afghan nationals in Pakistan jump 146 in one week: UN report

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Flight operations at Delhi airport are normal: DIAL

New Delhi: Airline operations at the Delhi airport, the country's busiest airport, are normal now, airport operator DIAL said on Saturday, a day after a glitch with the air traffic control system delayed more than 800 flights.

The technical problem with the Automatic Message Switching System (AMSS), which supports the air traffic control's flight planning process, continued for over 15 hours from around 5:45 am on Friday before the Airports Authority of India (AAI) said at around 9 pm that the issue had been resolved.

The Indira Gandhi International Airport (IGIA) in the national capital, which has four runways, handles more than 1,500 flight movements daily.

All flight operations are normal, an official said. "All flight operations

are normal at Delhi Airport... passengers are advised to stay in touch with their respective airlines for the latest flight updates," DIAL said in a post on X.

Earlier in the day, Delhi International Airport



Ltd (DIAL) had said the technical issue that affected the AMSS is gradually improving.

Apart from over 800 flights that faced delays, some services were also cancelled on Friday, impacting hundreds of passengers.

The country's largest airline, IndiGo, on Saturday morning said the airport operator and Air Traffic Control (ATC) teams are working on a priority basis to fully restore systems and stabilize operations.

The situation is expected to be normalised over the next few hours. During this period, some departure and arrival timings may continue to be adjusted," it said in a post on X in the morning.

Information available on the flight tracking website Flightradar24.com showed that over 500 flights were delayed at the airport, including arrivals and departures, on Saturday.

Specific reasons for the delays could not be immediately ascertained, while the official said it was also due to the backlog from Friday.

said the joint report by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and International Organisation for Migration (IOM) released recently.

The crackdown was concentrated in Balochistan, which accounted for 86 per cent of the arrests.

The arrests and detentions surged by 146 per cent in the week ending November 1, the report noted.

Between October 26 and November 1, Afghan Citizen Card (ACC) holders and undocumented Afghans made up 77 per cent of those arrested, while Proof of Registration (PoR) card holders comprised the remaining 23 per cent, it said.

Across Pakistan, the districts of Chagi, Attock and Quetta recorded the highest number of arrests and detentions between January 1 and November 1 this year.

Returns and deportations also rose steeply in the final week of October. UN data showed returns increasing by 101 per cent and deportations by 131 per cent compared to the week

of October 19-25. The number of returns climbed from 18,630, including 3,341 deportations, to 37,448, of which 7,733 were deportations, in the week ending November 1.

"This notable increase is primarily attributed to the reopening of the Chaman border, with Torkham also reopening on Nov 1," the report said.

Markets regulator Sebi on Saturday warned investors against investing in digital or e-gold products, saying such instruments fall outside its regulatory framework and involve significant risks.

The cautionary statement came after Sebi observed that some online platforms have been promoting 'digital gold' or 'e-gold' products as an easy alternative to investing in physical gold.

"In this context, it is informed that such digital gold products are different from Sebi-regulated gold products as they are neither notified as securities nor regulated as commodity derivatives. They operate entirely outside the purview of Sebi," the regulator said in a statement.

"Such digital gold products may entail significant risks for investors and may expose investors to counterparty and operational risks," it added.

Sebi further clarified that investor protection mechanisms applicable to regulated securities will not extend to such unregulated digital gold schemes.

The regulator said that investors can gain exposure to gold through Sebi-regulated instruments such as Gold Exchange Traded Funds (ETFs) offered by mutual funds, exchange-traded commodity derivative contracts, and Electronic Gold Receipts tradable on stock exchanges.

Further, investments in these Sebi-regulated gold products can be made through registered intermediaries and are governed by the regulatory framework prescribed by the regulator, it added.

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Ambala: HDFC ERGO General Insurance Company, one of India's leading private sector general insurers, has been authorized by the Government of Haryana to implement the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) for the Rabi 2025-26 season. The company will administer the scheme for both loanee and non-loanee farmers across the districts of Ambala, Gurgaon, Karnal, Jind, Mahendragarh, Hisar and Sonapat.



The PMFBY scheme, a flagship initiative of the Government of India, provides comprehensive insurance protection to farmers against crop losses arising from a variety of natural and climatic risks. These include droughts, floods, dry spells, landslides, cyclones, hurricanes, hailstorms, inundations, pest attacks and plant diseases.

Under the scheme, the Haryana Government will carry out Crop Cutting Experiments (CCEs) on the notified crops to assess the actual yield in the designated areas. If the yield recorded from these experiments is found to be lower than the guaranteed level, affected farmers will be entitled to compensation for the shortfall. The scheme covers all stages of the crop cycle—from pre-sowing to post-harvest—offering farmers financial security throughout the agricultural process.



Uttarakhand **25**
SILVER JUBILEE YEAR

Heartfelt Congratulations
on the

STATE FORMATION DAY



“The Hon'ble Prime Minister has declared the third decade of the 21st century as the “Decade of Uttarakhand.” In line with the Prime Minister’s vision, we are working with unwavering determination to make the state an ideal one in every field.”

Pushkar Singh Dhami
Chief Minister, Uttarakhand

Uttarakhand Silver Jubilee Utsav

Inauguration & Foundation Stone Laying

of projects worth **₹8260+ Crore**
from various departments of Uttarakhand.

“There are two main pillars in building a developed India of the 21st century — first, pride in our heritage, and second, every possible effort toward development. Today, Uttarakhand is continuously strengthening both these pillars. This decade will be the decade of Uttarakhand.”

Narendra Modi
Prime Minister

► Main Inaugurated Projects

- * Water Supply Project under AMRUT Scheme
Drinking water supply project in 23 zones of Dehradun.
- * Pithoragarh Electricity Substation
Inauguration of the Pithoragarh electricity sub-station.
- * Solar Power Plants: Solar power plants installed in government buildings.
- * AstroTurf Hockey Ground: AstroTurf hockey ground established at the Haldwani Stadium.

► Main Foundation Stone Laid Projects

- * Song Dam Drinking Water Project: To supply 150 MLD (Million Litres per Day) of drinking water to Dehradun.
- * Jamrani Multipurpose Project, Nainital: For drinking water, irrigation, and power generation.
- * Establishment of Electricity Substations: Foundation laid for new electricity substations.
- * Women’s Sports College in Champawat: Establishment of a sports college for women.
- * State-of-the-Art Milk Plant in Nainital: Establishment of a modern milk processing plant.



Prime Minister Sh. Narendra Modi Ji

Date: 09th November, 2025 | Time : 9.00 AM | Venue: F.R.I., Dehradun, Uttarakhand

August Presence

Lt Gen Gurmeet Singh

PVSM, UYSM, AVSM, (Retd)
Governor, Uttarakhand

Pushkar Singh Dhami

Chief Minister, Uttarakhand

Sankalp
NAYE UTTARAKHAND KA

- Uttarakhand became the first state in the country to implement the Uniform Civil Code.
- A strong land law, strict anti-conversion law, strict anti-cheating law, and anti-riot law have been enforced in the state.
- During the Global Investors Summit organized in the state, MoUs worth ₹3.56 lakh crore were signed. Investments worth more than ₹1 lakh crore have already been grounded.
- For the first time in the state's history, a budget exceeding ₹1 lakh crore was presented.
- The ex-gratia amount for the dependents of martyred soldiers has been increased from ₹10 lakh to ₹50 lakh. The ex-gratia for Param Vir Chakra awardees has been increased from ₹50 lakh to ₹1.5 crore.
- The size of the state's economy has increased 26 times, and per capita income has grown 17 times. At the time of state formation in the year 2000, the economy's size was ₹14,501 crore, which is estimated to grow to ₹3,78,240 crore in 2024-25.
- The reconstruction of Kedarnath and development works in Badrinath Dham under the master plan are in progress. Development projects worth ₹255 crore are underway to develop Badrinath Dham as a smart spiritual hill town.
- In the Kumaon region, under the Manaskhand Mandir Mala Mission, 48 temples are being connected as part of a pilgrimage circuit.
- With the construction of the elevated road between Delhi and Dehradun, the travel time will be reduced to just 2-2.5 hours.
- The Rishikesh-Karnaprayag rail line project is progressing rapidly, with 70% of the work already completed.
- To promote startups in the state, a venture fund of ₹200 crore has been established.
- The old-age pension has been increased to ₹1,500. Now, both elderly spouses are entitled to receive old-age pension benefits. The pensions for the elderly, widows, and persons with disabilities will now be paid monthly instead of once every three months.
- Under the Vibrant Village Program, 51 border villages have been selected for planned development.
- Under the Chief Minister Antyodaya Free Gas Refill Scheme, around 1.75 lakh poor families in the state are receiving three free gas refills per year.

VIKSI

Bharat
SASHAKT
Uttarakhand