

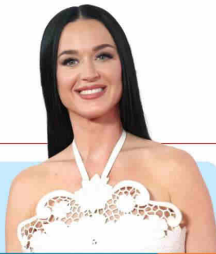


**Hayden suggests MI release two star pacers to boost bench strength**



**Prez Murmu concludes 4-day visit to Angola departs for Botswana**

**Katy Perry expresses gratitude to fans for 'Band-aids' success**



CRICKET PAGE-10

WORLD

PAGE-9 FILM

**3 DELHI**

**CM Gupta unveils clean Delhi mission, orders overhaul of sanitation and road systems**



**5 CHANDIGARH**

**CM Saini calls Guru Tegh Bahadur Ji the Torchbearer of Human Rights**

**7 NATIONAL**

**Rajnath pitches for 'digital sovereignty'**

**8 STATE**

**Opposing Vande Mataram is opposing Mother India: Yogi**

**9 BUSINESS**

**India wants fair equitable balanced trade deal with US: Piyush Goyal**

**11 SPORTS**

**Fit India Kolkata Cyclothon sets record with 4000 Riders**

**MARKET**

<b>SENSEX</b>	<b>NIFTY</b>
83871.32	25694.95
335.97	120.60
<b>GOLD</b>	<b>SILVER</b>
123,937.00	54,303.00
-33.00	612.00

**WEATHER**

Sunrise	6:42 AM
Sunset	5:29 PM
Moonrise	12:23 AM
Moonset	1:41 PM
Today's Prediction	
Maximum	26°C
Minimum	13°C
Tomorrow's Prediction	
Maximum	26°C
Minimum	14°C

# Shah vows to hunt down all culprits as toll reaches 13

**Pulwama doctor believed to be occupant in exploding car; several States on high alert**

**T**SN/New Delhi The investigation into the deadly car blast near the Red Fort that claimed 13 lives on Monday evening has been handed over to the National Investigation Agency (NIA), signaling that the government views the incident as a potential act of terror. The decision came after Union Home Minister Amit Shah chaired two high-level security review meetings on Tuesday, instructing agencies to "hunt down each and every culprit" involved in the explosion.



Officials from the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) said the case's transfer to the NIA underscores the seriousness with which the government is treating the blast. The NIA, established in the aftermath of the 26/11 Mumbai terror attacks to probe terror-related crimes, has begun the formal process of taking over the investigation from the Delhi Police and Jammu and Kashmir Police, who had registered the case under the stringent

Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA). "The Home Minister has decided to hand over the investigation of the blast to the NIA and has instructed the agency to submit a report at the earliest," a senior MHA official said. Shah, in a social media post following the meetings, wrote, "Chaired review meetings on the Delhi car blast with senior officers. Instructed them

to hunt down each and every culprit behind this incident. Everyone involved in this act will face the full wrath of our agencies." The first review meeting was attended by Union Home Secretary Govind Mohan, Intelligence Bureau Director Tapan Deka, Delhi Police Commissioner Satish Golcha, NIA Director General Sadanand Vasant Date, and other sen-

ior security and intelligence officers. Jammu and Kashmir Director General of Police Nalin Prabhat also joined the meeting virtually. A similar set of officers participated in the second meeting later in the afternoon, which was also attended by senior forensic experts, including the Director of the Forensic Science Services and the Chief Director

**Conspirators behind Delhi blast will not be spared: PM Modi**



Thimphu

The conspirators behind the Delhi car blast will not be spared as the probe agencies investigating it will get to the bottom of the case to bring those responsible for it to justice, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Tuesday.

In an address at an event at Changling methang Stadium to mark the 70th birth anniversary of Bhutan's

# Record 69 per cent turnout caps Bihar's high-stakes polls



Patna

**B**ihar on Tuesday witnessed a record-breaking turnout of nearly 69 per cent in the second and final phase of polling, wrapping up a nearly month-long exercise that saw the ruling NDA defend its "sushasan" pitch against the opposition's onslaught, promising 'change'.

The results, which will be declared on November 14, will decide whether Nitish Kumar, the JD(U) president and the longest serving Chief Minister, secures yet another tenure or his former deputy Tejashwi Yadav, who has likened the 20-year-old regime to a "rickety old wheel" (khaataara), takes the reins.

Briefing reporters, Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) Vinod Singh said the state recorded 68.79 per cent voter turnout, provisionally, in the second and final phase of the assembly polls.

In both phases, the state registered a voter turnout of 66.90 per cent, provisionally, which is 0.6 percentage points more than the last assembly polls, the CEO added. Agency

**HIGHLIGHT**

Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) Vinod Singh said the state recorded 68.79 per cent voter turnout, provisionally, in the second and final phase of the assembly polls.

# Nithari killings case: SC acquits Surendra Koli orders his release

**S**urendra Koli, the only convict in the sensational 2006 Nithari mass killings, is now a free man as the Supreme Court on Tuesday acquitted him of charges in the last such case and ordered his forthwith release if not required in any other matter.



This was the 13th case in the Nithari killings in which Koli was acquitted. He was already acquitted in the 12 other related cases.

The Nithari killings had come to light with the discovery of the skeletal remains of eight children from a drain behind businessman Monteer Singh Pandher's house at Nithari in Noida on December 29, 2006. Koli was the domestic help at Pandher's house at that time.

Allowing Koli's curative petition challenging his conviction in the

case related to the alleged rape and murder of a 15-year-old girl in Nithari, the apex court said criminal law does not permit conviction on conjecture or on a hunch.

A curative petition is the last legal recourse available to a party after exhausting other remedies, including a review petition.

A bench comprising Chief Justice B R Gawai and Justices Surya Kant and Vikram Nath said the offences in Nithari

# Return of Nitish Kumar: Exit polls give NDA a clear majority

**E**xit Polls on Tuesday predicted a return of the NDA government in Bihar with a big victory over the Mahagathabandhan, and a disappointing show by Prashant Kishor's Jan Suraj in its debut outing.



Wednesday.

The Bihar polls were conducted in two phases on November 6 and 11, and the results will be announced on November 14.

While the Matriz Exit Poll forecast the NDA likely getting between 147-167 seats, the Mahagathabandhan 70-90, and the Jan Suraj between 0-2 seats, Dainik Bhaskar predicted 145-160 seats for the NDA and 73-91 for the Mahagathabandhan.

Two pollsters -- Axis My India and Today's Chanakya -- will release their exit polls on

While the People's Insight predicted 133-148 seats for the NDA, 87-102 for the Mahagathabandhan and 0-2 for the People's Pulse gave 133-159 seats to the NDA, 75-101 to the Mahagathabandhan, and 0-5 to Prashant Kishore's party. The JVC forecast 135-

150 seats for the NDA and 88-103 for the Mahagathabandhan. The Polstrat predicted 133-148 seats for the NDA and 87-102 for the Mahagathabandhan.

While the Chanakya Strategies gave the NDA 130-138 seats, 100-108 to the Mahagathabandhan, and zero to Jan Suraj, pollster P-Marq predicted

**HIGHLIGHT**

Almost all exit polls have predicted a clear victory for Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar-led National Democratic Alliance government in the Bihar assembly elections, whose results are to be declared on Friday, November 14.

ed the NDA to win 142-162 seats, Mahagathabandhan 80-98 and Jan Suraj 1-4.

The majority mark in the 243-member Assembly is 122. Exit poll projections are made by election survey agencies based on interviews of voters as they come out after casting their votes. These may vary widely from the actual results. Agency

# Delhi's air quality slips to 'severe' category for 1st time this year

**D**elhi recorded its first 'severe' air quality day of the year on Tuesday, with the overall Air Quality Index (AQI) reaching 428, according to the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB). The overall AQI data, which is usually updated by 4 pm every day, was delayed by several hours. On Monday, the CPCB data was updated after 11 pm.



Officials did not immediately provide a reason for the disruption. The air quality, which was in the "very poor"

category for the last several days, deteriorated further on Tuesday morning due to stagnant weather conditions and

local emissions. A "severe" AQI indicates hazardous pollution levels that pose serious health risks,

affecting even healthy individuals and severely impacting those with pre-existing respiratory or cardiac conditions.

This is the first time in 2025 that Delhi's air quality has entered the "severe" zone. The last time the city recorded such poor air quality was in December 2024, the CPCB's data showed.

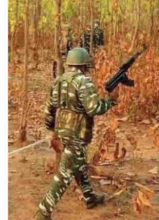
Amid worsening pollution levels, Chief Minister Rekha Gupta announced that schools up to Class 5 will temporarily operate in a hybrid mode -- both online and offline -- to protect children's health.

Chairing a high-level review meeting, Gupta directed for a strict enforcement of Stage III of the Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP), increased the number of enforcement teams to 2,088 and ordered immediate action against the construction sites violating pollution norms.

She also instructed agencies to control dust by paving open areas, installing 300 mist-spray systems by November 30, ensuring proper waste disposal and curbing open and biomass burning. Agency

# Six Naxalites killed in encounter in Chhattisgarh's Bijapur district

**S**ix Naxalites were killed in an encounter with security personnel in Chhattisgarh's Bijapur district on Tuesday, police said.



Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai lauded the operation, describing it as another step towards eradication of the Maoist menace.

The gunfight broke out at around 10 am in the Indravati National Park area when a joint team of security personnel was out on anti-Naxalite operation based on inputs about the presence of senior Maoist cadres in the region, Bijapur Superintendent of Po-

lice Jitendra Yadav said.

Personnel belonging to police's District Reserve Guard (DRG) from Bijapur and Dantewada districts and Special Task Force (STF) were

involved in the operation, he said.

Intermittent exchange of fire continued for several hours, the SP said, adding that during the search of the encounter site, the bodies of six Maoists with automatic weapons, including an INSAS rifle, sten guns, 303 rifle and explosives, were found, the official said.

Additional teams of DRG, STF, Bastar Force, Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) and Chhattisgarh Armed Force (CAF) were rushed to cordon off the area and nab fleeing Maoist cadres, he added. Agency

Shah vows to hunt down all culprits as toll reaches 13

SC reserves verdict on pleas challenging validity of 2021 law on tribunal reforms

RPF rescued 16,450 children, including 11,543 boys & 4,906 girls under Op 'Nanha Farishtey'

CONTD FROM PAGE-1
The Forensic Science Laboratory (FSL), Delhi. During the discussions, officials made detailed presentations on the situation following the blast. Shah directed the FSL to match the DNA samples collected from the bodies found in the car with other specimens retrieved from the blast site to expedite identification and evidence collection.

Investigators have zeroed in on Dr. Umar Nabi, a doctor from Pulwama in south Kashmir, who was allegedly driving the 120 car that exploded near the Red Fort Metro Station. Officials believe Nabi, suspected to have links to an interstate 'white-collar' terror module, was among those killed in the blast. Jammu and Kashmir Police collected a DNA sample from his mother to confirm his identity.

Sources said Umar had been on the run following the busting of a terror module in Faridabad, where eight people, including three doctors, were arrested and 2,900 kg of explosives were recovered. The arrests exposed a network linked to proscribed terror groups Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM) and Ansar Ghazwat-ul-Hind, operating across Kashmir, Haryana, and Uttar Pradesh.

Conspirators behind Delhi blast will not be spared: PM

CONTD FROM PAGE-1
former king Jigme Singye Wangchuck, Modi said he came to Thimpu with a "heavy heart" in view of the incident in Delhi.

The prime minister said throughout Monday night, he was in touch with the probe agencies investigating the blast. Twelve people were killed on Monday evening after a car exploded near the Red Fort.

Modi said India and Bhutan have shared a deep spiritual and cultural bond for centuries and it was his commitment to participate in this "important occasion".

"But today I come here with a very heavy heart. The horrifying incident that took place in Delhi yesterday evening has left us all deeply distressed. I understand the suffering of the families, who have suffered this loss. The nation stands united with them in grief and support," he said.

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Wednesday reserved its verdict on a batch of petitions challenging the constitutional validity of the Tribunals Reforms (Rationalisation and Conditions of Service) Act, 2021. The 2021 Act abolishes certain appellate tribunals, including the Film Certification Appellate Tribunal, and amends various terms related to the appointment and tenure of judicial and other members of various tribunals.

The pleas challenged the 2021 law as contrary to the previous judgments of the top court which held that tribunal members should have at least a five-year tenure and lawyers with a minimum 10-year experience must be considered eligible.

A bench comprising Chief Justice B R Gavai and Justice K Vinod Chandran reserved the judgment after Attorney General R Venkataramani concluded his submissions, urging the bench



that the law has been made by Parliament after a long gestation period and let the statute be allowed to hold the field.

The top court commenced the final hearing in the case on October 16 and heard a battery of senior lawyers, including senior advocates Arvind Datar, Gopal Sankar-narayanan, Sachit Jolly

and Porus F Kaka. The attorney general said the intention was to bring uniformity in the selection processes.

"Please do not get stuck to the proposition that you are bound by MBA III or IV (earlier judgments). They are only one part, one chapter, in the entire story of how it has evolved...," he said.

Datar, appearing for lead petitioner Madras Bar Association, made the rejoinder submissions and said there were certain provisions of the Act that were contrary to previous judgments.

He assailed the minimum age requirement of 50 years to be Tribunal members and the search-cum-selection

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

committee mandating the recommendation of two persons for the post of chairperson.

He also opposed the provisions which provide for a four-year tenure for a Tribunal's member/chairperson.

On November 10, the bench asked how the Centre can bring the same Tribunals Reforms law, whose several provisions were quashed by it earlier, with some minor changes and that too without taking away the

basis of the judgment. "The issue is how Parliament can enact the same law (which was set aside) with some minor changes here and there. You cannot enact the same law," the CJ observed when the attorney general urged the bench that Parliament is not precluded from enacting a law based on its experience.

The attorney general defended the legislation, asserting that it was the result of "detailed deliberations" within the government and not "a figment of imagination". "Parliament has applied its mind to the issues of accountability, trust and efficiency," he said.

Venkataramani said that the 2021 Act represents a balance between judicial independence and administrative efficiency, and that Parliament is within its powers to legislate on the framework governing tribunals.

The top law officer maintained that executive control over appointments, as structured under the Act, was not excessive.

Centre asks Delhi-NCR states to submit reports on pollution control efforts

New Delhi: Union Environment Minister Bhupendra Yadav on Monday directed all state and Union territory authorities in Delhi-NCR to submit concrete action-taken reports on their air pollution control efforts.

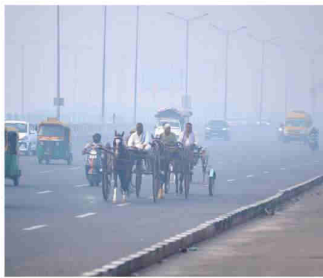
Chairing a high-level review meeting on the air pollution in Delhi and the National Capital Region (NCR) -- the fourth such review this season -- Yadav stressed the need for coordinated, year-round measures to curb stubble burning, road dust and waste burning.

He asked officials to prepare district-wise crop-residue management plans, ensure capacity building of farmers in operating crop-residue management machines and maintain constant monitoring of stubble-burning cases. Delhi Environment Minister Manjinder Singh Sirsa attended the meeting.

The Union minister emphasised zero tolerance against open burning of municipal solid waste and directed civic authorities to prepare strict timelines for the annual National Service Awards Ceremony that was scheduled to be held on 14th November 2025.

The event will now be organised in the last week of December, with the exact date and venue to be announced soon.

At this solemn moment, the People Forum of India stands in solidarity with the victims and their families. The organisation strongly condemns this cowardly act of violence and urges the government and law enforcement authorities



measures under the third stage of the Graduated Response Action Plan (GRAP) in Delhi-NCR, after the city's air quality slipped into the "severe" category.

The decision was taken after Delhi's average Air Quality Index (AQI) rose sharply from 362 on Monday to 425 on Tuesday morning due to calm winds, a stable atmosphere and unfavourable weather conditions that allowed pollutants to accumulate close to the surface, the CAQM said.

The implementation of the Stage-III curbs, which include a ban on non-essential construction work and closure of stone crushers and mining activities, is in addition to the actions already enforced under stages I and II of the GRAP.

Classes up to Class 5 are required to shift to a hybrid mode under Stage 3. Parents and students have the option to choose online education wherever available.

Under Stage 3, the use of BS-III petrol and BS-IV diesel cars (four-wheelers) is restricted in Delhi and nearby NCR districts. Differently-abled persons are exempt.

departments for large-scale plantation on degraded land. He also urged the Delhi Traffic Police to prepare traffic management plans for congestion hotspots and expedite the implementation of the Intelligent Traffic Management System to reduce vehicular emissions.

The meeting was attended by senior officials from the Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM), Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), governments of Delhi, Haryana and Punjab, municipal commissioners of NCR cities and other agencies.

Earlier on Tuesday, the Centre invoked stricter anti-pollution

measures under the third stage of the Graduated Response Action Plan (GRAP) in Delhi-NCR, after the city's air quality slipped into the "severe" category.

The decision was taken after Delhi's average Air Quality Index (AQI) rose sharply from 362 on Monday to 425 on Tuesday morning due to calm winds, a stable atmosphere and unfavourable weather conditions that allowed pollutants to accumulate close to the surface, the CAQM said.

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Sardar Patel played key role in creation of modern India: MP CM



Bhopal: Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Mohan Yadav on Tuesday said Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel played a crucial role in the creation of modern India.

He was addressing 'Unity March' at Sardar Patel Park in Vallabh Bhawan (Mantralaya) here on the former deputy prime minister's 150th birth anniversary (celebrated on October 31). The event was organised with the goal of 'One India - Self-reliant India'.

"Patel laid the foundation for a united India by integrating numerous princely states into the Indian Union. He wove the nation's diversity with the thread of unity... Patel played a significant role in the strength with which India stands before the world today under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi," Yadav said.

Like this Unity March in Bhopal Lok Sabha

constituency, similar marches are being organised in other parliamentary seats across the state.

After lighting a lamp to inaugurate the programme, Yadav planted jackfruit and mango saplings as part of the "EK Ped Maai Ke Naam" campaign.

He also paid floral tributes to the statue of Sardar Patel and released tricolour balloons into the sky to the tunes of patriotic songs played by the police band.

The state BJP president and senior MLA Hemant Khandelwal said that Sardar Patel unified the country.

Under the leadership of PM Modi, India has become the fourth most powerful economy in the world. The government is making every effort to educate the younger generation about Sardar Patel's vision of a united India, he said.

People Forum of India postpones annual national service awards ceremony following Delhi blast

TSS/New Delhi In light of the tragic incident that occurred yesterday near the Red Fort in Delhi, the People Forum of India, a National Bharat Sevak Samaj (NBSS) initiative under the Government of India, has decided to postpone the Annual National Service Awards Ceremony that was scheduled to be held on 14th November 2025.

The event will now be organised in the last week of December, with the exact date and venue to be announced soon.

At this solemn moment, the People Forum of India stands in solidarity with the victims and their families. The organisation strongly condemns this cowardly act of violence and urges the government and law enforcement authorities



to ensure that no one behind this attack is spared.

Dr. S. Manimozhiyaan, National Chairman, said, "At this difficult hour, our hearts go out to every affected family. The People Forum of India stands united with the citizens and the authorities in ensuring that justice is served. Our resolve to serve the nation and uphold its values remains unshaken." Dr. Bhargav Mallap

pa, National Deputy Chairman (In-Charge, Organisation & Administration), said, "This is not just an attack on a place, but on the peace and confidence of our people. The People Forum of India mourns the loss of innocent lives and prays for the speedy recovery of those injured. We firmly believe that such acts must meet the strictest accountability under law."

The event will be broadcast live across major television channels and digital platforms, while a 200-foot-wide LED screen will be installed at the Ram Jannabhoomi complex.

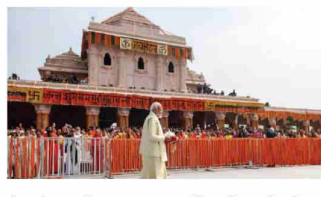
Over 30 additional large screens will be set up across the city to allow devotees to witness the ceremony.

PM Modi to hoist saffron flag atop 161-foot spire of Ram temple on Nov 25

Ayodhya: Prime Minister Narendra Modi will hoist a saffron flag atop the 161-foot-high main spire of the Ram Temple in Ayodhya on November 25, marking a historic first when all seven spires of the temple will be adorned with saffron flags, temple officials said on Tuesday.

Extensive preparations are underway for the event, with senior state officials and members of the Shri Ram Jannabhoomi Teerth Kshetra Trust stationed in Ayodhya.

Officials said that the prime minister's and the chief minister's offices are tracking every development in real time.



Officials said that the prime minister's and the chief minister's offices are tracking every development in real time.

Ayodhya is being decorated for the event with

The Municipal Corporation is also carrying out a large-scale beautification drive, repairing roads, repainting ghats and planting trees, among other initiatives.

Temple Trust Secretary Champat Rai said in a video message that 1,600 rooms have been arranged for invited guests attending the flag-hoisting ceremony on Vivah Panchami day (November 25) at the Shri Ram Jannabhoomi Temple.

Additional accommodation has been set up at Karsevakpuram, Ram-sevakpuram and Teerth Kshetra Puram, with beddings and blankets arranged considering the seasonal chill, Rai said.

सांख्यिक सूचना
महामुक्ति क्रीडा गेम अलि गेम्स कडो...
T.K.MISHRA
Advocate
ENR. NO. D1595510
216, Authority Building
Dist. Centre, Jansakuni, N.D.-58
Mobile: 9911564161

COURT NOTICE
IN THE COURT OF HON'BLE
CIVIL JUDGE S.D. AT
AHMEDNAGAR.
Misc Civil Application No. 234/2024
Applicant: Sandeep Dattaraya Mahajan & others
Opponent: Nil
Whereas, the above named applicant has filed the above mentioned Application for grant of Her ship certificate...
By order (Signature) Sandeep Dattaraya Mahajan, Civil Judge S.D., Ahmednagar, State of Maharashtra

NEWS IN BRIEF

G B Nagar gets new project

**Noida**  
The (UP RERA) on Tuesday approved six real estate projects in five districts including Gautam Buddha Nagar and Varanasi.

These projects will create a total of 1,470 units including flats and shops and are expected to attract an investment of approximately ₹864 crore. Following the meeting in Lucknow, UP RERA chairman Sanjay Bhosroddi stated that two projects have been approved in Bareilly, and one each in Gautam Buddha Nagar, Lucknow, and Varanasi. This is expected to generate investments of ₹136.94 crore in Lucknow, ₹48.94 crore in Varanasi, ₹173.64 crore in Kanpur Nagar, ₹60.42 crore in two projects in Bareilly and the highest investment of ₹44 crore in Gautam Buddha Nagar.

It's worth noting that last month, more than 10 projects were approved. According to the RERA officials concerned, real estate projects have expanded in small and medium-sized cities over the past few years and the popularity of flats has increased.

Commercial flights to resume from Noida airport from Dec 15



**During his recent visit, the chief minister issued clear instructions to ensure commercial flights begin by December 15th. Therefore, trial operations and safety tests are being conducted at the airport.**

**Noida**  
Commercial flights are set to begin operating from the Noida International Airport soon. The officials concerned claimed that flights could begin as early as December 15th. Preparations for airport operations are in full swing, following the instructions of chief minister Yogi Adityanath.

During his recent visit, the chief minister issued clear instructions to ensure commercial flights begin by December 15th. Therefore, trial operations and safety tests are being conducted at the airport. The officials concerned from the Ministry of Civil Aviation will meet with the officials concerned from the Noida International Airport Limited (NIAL) and the Yamuna International Airport Private Limited (YIAPL) on Wednesday. Final preparations for airport operations will be reviewed at this meeting.

The YIAPL has also requested aerodrome security approval from the Bureau of Civil Aviation Security. It is expected that the airport will receive its aerodrome license by the end of November, clearing the way for flights.

All necessary testing is nearly completed and domestic flights will commence in the first phase. Equipped with modern passenger amenities, this airport will serve as a new travel hub for Delhi-NCR as well as Western Uttar Pradesh.

CM Gupta unveils clean Delhi mission, orders overhaul of sanitation and road systems

**Abhishek Byahut**  
**New Delhi**

**C**hief Minister Rekha Gupta on Tuesday chaired a high-level meeting to review cleanliness initiatives and beautification plans for the national capital, announcing a series of measures aimed at transforming Delhi into a cleaner, more organized city.

At the heart of the plan is the installation of modern waste compactors across Delhi and the creation of a dedicated system to manage green waste through specialized machines. The government has directed officials to conduct regular field visits to monitor sanitation work and ensure accountability at every level.

Gupta underlined that a clean environment is essential to building a developed and liveable Delhi. "Sanitation is not just a civic duty but a shared responsibility.



A developed city begins with clean streets and disciplined waste management," she said during the meeting, which was attended by senior officials and department heads.

Taking a sharp dig at the previous administration, the Chief Minister said their approach to cleanliness had

been inadequate and that her government was determined to act swiftly to improve the situation. She assured that sufficient funds have been allocated for sanitation and infrastructure development, urging officials to come forward with innovative and practical ideas.

Gupta emphasized the need to provide proper waste disposal spaces to curb littering and instructed that dustbins be installed across the city, with damaged ones replaced promptly. She also directed departments to expedite the installation of high-capacity compactors in various locations, for which

land would be provided by the Delhi Development Authority (DDA) and the Delhi Urban Shelter Improvement Board (DUSIB).

Acknowledging the growing challenge of managing green waste, Gupta announced that modern processing machines would be deployed in all Assembly constituencies as part of the first phase, with expansion planned at the ward level in the next stage.

Officials were further instructed to conduct daily field visits to maintain consistent cleanliness and motivate sanitation workers. The Chief Minister suggested setting measurable short-term and long-term goals for each department and encouraged them to use social media to share images of cleaned areas. The move, she said, would not only raise awareness but also inspire citizens to take part in keeping Delhi clean.

Urban Development Minister Ashish Sood raised concerns about poor road design and frequent road-cutting works, recommending that a comprehensive road policy be formulated with the input of architects and technical experts.

Responding to these concerns, Gupta directed the Chief Secretary to form a special committee comprising officials from relevant departments to address road design, construction standards, and maintenance coordination. The initiative, she said, aims to minimize repeated road-cutting, ensure durability, and deliver better-quality road infrastructure across the capital.

The meeting concluded with Gupta reiterating her government's commitment to creating a cleaner, greener, and more efficient Delhi—one that reflects the aspirations of its citizens.

Delhi shifts primary schools to hybrid mode as pollution crisis deepens

**Staff Reporter**  
**New Delhi**

Amid worsening air quality in the national capital, Chief Minister Rekha Gupta on Tuesday announced that all Delhi schools up to Class 5 will move to a hybrid learning model, combining online and offline classes. The decision, she said, is a precautionary measure to safeguard children's health as pollution levels continue to rise.

Chairing a high-level review meeting at the Delhi Secretariat, the Chief Minister said the government's foremost priority is the safety and well-being of students. The meeting brought together senior officials and Cabinet Ministers to assess the pollution situation and review ongoing control measures.

Gupta noted that with Stage III of the Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP) currently in force, urgent interventions were necessary. "We cannot compromise when it comes to the health of our children," she said, directing all departments to implement swift and effective steps to mitigate pollution.

DPCC discusses MCD by-polls preparedness with party workers

**Staff Reporter**  
**New Delhi**

Delhi Pradesh Congress Committee president Devender Yadav here on Tuesday held meeting with all the 12 Congress candidates for the by-elections to the MCD, assembly constituency in-charge, observers, representatives of social media and control room members to prepare the strategy.

Yadav asked all the leaders present to formulate their election strategy in such a manner to highlight the failures of the BJP and the AAP as there was a strong feeling against these parties among the people for destroying the capital with their incompetence.

The Congress organisation is fully prepared to meet the challenges of the by-elections as well-knit teams at the block level have been working for a long time to strengthen the party and mobilise the party workers and the local voters to enlighten them about the failures of the BJP and AAP, he further said.

He said that the Congress workers have gone into election mode in all the 12 MCD wards with reg-



ular interaction with the voters, helping them find solutions to their problems and recalling the achievements of the Congress governments to remind the people that Congress has always delivered on its promises during its development-driven governance.

Delhi Congress chief Yadav also directed the candidates and the party observers to hold regular meetings, 'padayatras' and public interaction in every ward. He said that the in-charge, ward observers and assembly observers should organize these meetings by ensuring the participation of the public.

of Delhi and allied agencies to pave unsealed surfaces, repair potholes, and maintain cleaner roads. She also directed that over 300 mist spray systems be installed at pollution hotspots across the city by November 30, 2025.

Highlighting ongoing anti-pollution efforts, Gupta said the city has intensified the use of water sprinklers, anti-smog guns, and mechanical sweepers. Waste disposal systems are being strengthened, and construction sites are under stricter surveillance to ensure dust control measures—such as barricading and debris management—are fully followed.

Solid waste management emerged as another key fo-

cus area. The Chief Minister ordered the immediate removal of garbage heaps and daily clearing of construction and demolition debris from public areas. She also directed the development of a system for proper disposal and recycling of construction waste.

To curb pollution from open burning, Gupta instructed officials to identify households still dependent on traditional cooking fuels and connect them with the Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana, which provides cleaner alternatives. She further announced that electric heaters would be distributed to security personnel to discourage the use of open fires during winter.

Reaffirming her government's commitment to tackling the pollution emergency, Chief Minister Gupta said the administration will maintain a "zero-tolerance policy" toward violations. "Delhi's fight against pollution demands collective responsibility," she said. "Every measure we take today is an investment in a healthier, safer tomorrow for our children."

Boy stabs man for refusing to give him 'bidi' in Delhi's Pandav Nagar

**New Delhi**

A 16-year-old boy reportedly high on marijuana was apprehended for allegedly stabbing a man in east Delhi's Pandav Nagar after he refused to give him a 'bidi', police on Tuesday said.

The incident came to light on Monday morning when an Emergency Response Vehicle (ERV) team noticed a pack of dogs gathered near the bushes on Noida Link Road.

On checking, the team found a man lying unconscious with stab wounds on his abdomen and chest, police said.

The man, later identified as Krishna Sahani, a resident of Delhi, was rushed to Lal Bahadur Shastri Hospital, where timely medical intervention saved his life, police said.

On regaining consciousness, Sahani told police that a boy attacked him for refusing to give him a bidi.

"In a fit of rage, the juvenile stabbed him multi-



ple times and dumped him in the bushes before fleeing," a police officer said.

Police apprehended the boy from Sanjay Lake Garden, where he was sleeping.

A blood-stained knife allegedly used in the crime was found on him, the officer said. During questioning, the boy revealed that he is a class 8 dropout and a habitual drug user.

"He had been under the influence of ganja at the time of the incident. After an argument with Sahani, he fetched a knife from his house and attacked him with the intention to kill," the officer said.

Our govt is committed to stopping pollution: Sood

**New Delhi**

Delhi Minister Ashish Sood on Tuesday said stubble burning in neighbouring states and climate change are the key factors behind pollution in the national capital.

Speaking to reporters, after a high-level meeting on air pollution at Delhi Secretariat, Sood said dust pollution and vehicular traffic in Delhi were also discussed in detail.

"The factors responsible for pollution in Delhi are stubble burning in the neighbouring states, incidents occurring in the neighbouring states and climate change. Along with this, Delhi's dust pollution and vehicle traffic—detailed discussions were held in the meeting on all these subjects," he said.

"Our government is committed to stopping pollution in the coming times. Along with the implementation of GRAP III, there is a provision for hybrid learning in primary classes; immediate action will be taken on this," the minister added. With air quality in the national capital deteriorating sharply, the Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM) on Tuesday invoked Stage III curbs under the Graded Response.

Silence descends on Red Fort lanes a day after deadly blast

**New Delhi**

The centuries-old lanes around the Red Fort, usually echoing with the calls of vendors and the bustle of shoppers, fell into an unsettling silence on Tuesday morning, a day after a deadly blast ripped through the area, leaving behind a trail of destruction and human remains still scattered on the streets.

The powerful explosion, which tore through a slow-moving car at a traffic signal near the Red Fort metro station on Monday evening, killed 12 people and left 20 others injured.

The area, which typically teems with traffic and tourists, has now turned into a cordoned-off zone of mangled metal and shattered calm.

Locals said they continued to spot human remains long after the explosion.

"When I was walking through the street, a piece of flesh got stuck to my slipper. I froze for a moment. It was horrifying. I have never witnessed anything like this before," said local shopkeeper Umesh Rai, who also resides in Chandni Chowk.



Rai recalled that he was at his shop when the blast occurred. "It felt like an earthquake. The whole building shook. Within minutes, people began running in panic. I locked my shop and left," he said.

Residents said that some body parts were flung into a Jain temple adjacent to the site, and they fear that there might be some parts on the terrace of their home or shop.

"There might still be some remains on the rooftops as the intensity was huge," said a local shopkeeper.

Large birds, including eagles, were seen circling over the area cordoned off throughout the morning as police and forensic teams continued their in-

Red Fort metro station to remain closed on Wed: DMRC

**New Delhi**

The Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) on Tuesday said that the Lal Qila Metro Station will remain closed on Wednesday as a precautionary measure, a day after a blast occurred near the Red Fort area.

In a post on X, the DMRC said, "Due to security reasons, the Lal Qila Metro Station shall continue to remain closed on November 12. All other stations are functional as normal."

The Red Fort metro station is closed for commuters today, after a blast in the area killed at least nine people, while traffic restrictions have also been imposed in the area, officials said on Tuesday.

PUBLIC NOTICE

My clients Jakir Hussain and Shaheela Begam W/o Jakir Hussain R/o No. A-68, Gali No. 3, Sainik Enclave, Vikas Nagar, Uttam Nagar, West Delhi-110059, have severed with their daughter Roshni by evicting her from their movable and immovable property due to her misbehavior and out of control. My clients along with their family will not be responsible for any of her act and deed in future.

**ADVOCATE**  
CH. NO. 11, THE HAZARI COURT, DELHI-110054

PUBLIC NOTICE

Be it known to all that my clients Suresh Kumar Gupta S/o Sh. Dilawar Gupta And Anita Gupta W/o Sh. Suresh Kumar Gupta Both R/o T-1692, Gali Robin Cinema, Sabzi Mandi, Delhi-110007 have severed all their relations whatsoever in any manner from their son namely Akash Gupta his wife Kavita @ Devika and daughter Durgu due to misconduct, cruelty and disobedient done by him and also debarred from all his movable and immovable properties and my clients shall not be responsible for any act done by him and if any person deal with him/he/they solely responsible for that in future.

**NAVEEN K SHARMA**  
B.A LL B ADVOCATE  
SUPREME COURT OF INDIA OFFICE-26, Civil Supply Building, The Hazari Court, Delhi-110054

PUBLIC NOTICE

Public at large is hereby informed that my client, Smt. Shanti Devi W/o Sh. Arun Kumar presently residing at 113, Gagan Vihar, East Delhi-110051, have already disinherited, debarred and disown her son VIKRAM KUMAR & his illegal heirs from the inheritance of all her movable and immovable properties due to his not obedient nature, non-cooperative attitude, disrespectful behavior & harassing nature towards my client and he has made the life of my client miserable. Therefore, my client has severed all relations with them long back & now they have no right to claim over the properties of my client, in any case. That if anyone deals with them, will do so at their own risk, cost and consequences, my client and her family shall not be responsible for any act or misconduct done by them, in any case.

**Sourabh Grover**  
Advocate  
Chamber No.207, New Lahore Colony, Shastri Nagar, Delhi-110031.

EASTERN RAILWAY

Tender No.: BMF-BGG-MACHINING-ICF-200, dated: 07.11.2025. Dy. CME/BMF/ICF, Bogie Manufacturing Factory, Eastern Railway, 88/1, Anand Das Road, Budge Budge, Kolkata - 700 137 invites open tender for purchase of BMF-BGG-MACHINING-ICF-200 for the following works. Bidders will be able to submit their proposals till 11.00 AM on the date and time only. Manual offers are not allowed against this tender, and any such manual offer received shall be ignored. Name of Work: Bogie Frame Machining using 5 axis CNC Milling Machine and delivery of 20 nos. of 200 nos. of 200 nos. of work. Bidding System: Single packet system. Advertised Value: Rs. 1,27,44,000/- Estimated Value: Rs. 2,13,000/- Cost of Tender Document: Rs. 0.00. Period of Validity of Offer: 60 Days. Date and Time of uploading Tender: 07.11.2025 at 17.26 hrs. Bidding Start: 08.11.2025. Tender Closing Date & Time: 22.11.2025 at 10.30 hrs. The details are available at website [www.rps.gov.in](http://www.rps.gov.in). MSC-272/2025-26. Tender Notices are also available at Website [www.indianrailways.gov.in/rps/rps.gov.in](http://www.indianrailways.gov.in/rps/rps.gov.in)

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# Grief and chaos outside LNJP as families await blast victims

New Delhi

It was chaos outside the LNJP Hospital here on Tuesday morning as family members huddled up at the gates, either heartbroken after identifying bodies of their kin killed in last evening's blast or holding on to hope while waiting anxiously for a word about their loved ones.

The mortuary gates of the hospital remained under tight security, with only authorised personnel allowed entry. Some could be seen pleading with hospital staff for information about missing family members, while many broke down in tears as ambulances kept arriving and departing.

A worker at the LNJP Hospital mortuary, who had completed his early morning shift, described the scenes from the night as "gruesome".

"The bodies that came in were beyond recognition. Some were just lumps of flesh. Many had their internal organs torn apart or missing. It was hard to tell one from another. That's how devastating it was," he



said.

One such family was that of Noman. He was among those who died in the blast near Red Fort Metro Station on Monday evening. On Tuesday morning, his family held each other tightly, trying to console one another after identifying his body.

As authorities took away his remains wrapped in a white cloth, the mourning family followed the ambulance quietly. Noman's

friend Sonu could not bring himself to enter the mortuary, saying he was not ready to see his friend in such a state.

Since morning, most of the bodies have been handed over to relatives who managed to identify them. One family sat in an e-rickshaw, weeping as they followed an ambulance carrying the body of their loved one, holding and comforting each other.

The death toll in the high-

intensity explosion that ripped through a slow-moving car at a traffic signal near the Red Fort metro station on Monday evening has risen to 12.

The bodies were taken to the Delhi government-run LNJP Hospital that has remained under tight security, with the emergency ward completely sealed and entry barred.

On Tuesday morning, patients arriving at the hospital were redirected to other

blocks, while security personnel stationed at the gates firmly turned away anyone attempting to enter the emergency and casualty wards. Many gates of the hospital were also closed, with people being asked to use alternate entry points.

One of the patients, standing near gate number four, said that they have been asked to take a long detour to enter the hospital from another side. "The gates are closed, and they told us to go from the other side," the patient said.

Anita Gupta, whose mother is undergoing treatment at the hospital, expressed frustration over the restrictions. "We reached here and found the gates locked. Now we have to take a long U-turn to enter from another gate. Outside the wards, security guards are asking everyone to leave and denying entry even to patients and their attendants," she said.

Delhi Lieutenant Governor V Saxena also arrived at the hospital late Tuesday morning to inspect the situation.

# Delhi court convicts man for sexually assaulting 5-year-old girl in 2015

New Delhi

A Delhi court has convicted a man for sexually assaulting a five-year-old girl in 2015, saying the prosecution had connected the dots and established the chain of events to prove the accused's guilt.

Additional Sessions Judge Sandeep Gupta was hearing the case against the man, against whom an FIR was registered for the offence of kidnapping, outraging a woman's modesty and aggravated sexual assault.

In an order dated October 29, the court said the minor rendered a coherent story that when she was playing in a park, the accused offered her sweets, took her to his house, and sexually assaulted her.

"It is trite that minor contradictions or embellishments that do not affect the core of the allegations should not be a ground to reject the testimony of a victim of sexual assault since the court

generally focus on the broad spectrum of the prosecution case and the overall credibility of the witness," Judge Gupta said.

He said the minor and her mother had sufficiently rendered a narration of the alleged incident. "It can safely be dis-



**Additional Sessions Judge Sandeep Gupta was hearing the case against the man, against whom an FIR was registered for the offence of kidnapping, outraging a woman's modesty and aggravated sexual assault.**

cerned that the prosecution has been successfully able to join the dots and to prove that the chain of events are well integrated with each other," the court said.

The court said the prosecution had established that the child was sexually assaulted by the accused, thereby constituting the offence of aggravated sexual assault under Section 10 of the POCSO Act.

It added that the offences of kidnapping and outraging the modesty of the child were also proved.

Convicting him of the offences, the court posted the matter for hearing the arguments on sentencing to a later date.

# NGT directs UP authorities to protect restore water bodies in Meerut

A bench of NGT judicial member Arun Kumar Tyagi and expert member Afroz Ahmad was hearing a matter where it took suo motu cognisance of the damage caused to ponds in Meerut district.

The National Green Tribunal on Tuesday directed the Uttar Pradesh authorities to ensure identification, demarcation and restoration of all water bodies in Meerut.

A bench of NGT judicial member Arun Kumar Tyagi and expert member Afroz Ahmad was hearing a matter where it took suo motu cognisance of the damage caused to ponds in Meerut district.

In its order, tribunal said that compliance in the district for rejuvenation of water bodies was unsatisfactory.

It said the district magistrate did not submit an action plan or details on geo-tagging and unique identification (UID) of ponds and lakes in the district.

"The district magistrate of Meerut is directed to include the programme of identification and demarcation, removal of encroachments and restoration of water bodies in the district environment plan and monitor the same on a monthly basis," the bench said.

It directed that all water bodies be identified, demarcated, geo-tagged, and assigned UIDs, besides preparing a district-level action plan specifying roles, allocating budget, and timelines.

The tribunal also directed the district authorities to upload monthly progress reports and sent them to the chief secretary.

It said the divisional forest officer must undertake afforestation and catchment protection measures, and asked the chief secretary to hold regular review meetings with the district magistrates for monitoring compliance across the state.

# Swadeshi and Security Take Center Stage at Delhi Traders' Conference

Ravi Dalmiya  
New Delhi

East Delhi witnessed a grand gathering of the business community on November 10, as the Indian Industry and Traders' Association (Delhi State) hosted a high-profile traders' conference at Lajwala Banquet Hall near Preet Vihar Metro Station. The event, organized to honor and guide traders, was coordinated by the association's state vice-president, Mahavir Goyal.

The conference's chief guest, Sunil Singh, Chairman of the National Traders' Welfare Board (Government of India), addressed the audience, offering insights and encouragement to the business community.

The conference resonated with energetic slogans such as "Where there is trade, there is a trader; where there is a trader, there is trade," "Adopt Swadeshi," and "Vocal for Local." The mood took a serious turn when news broke of a car bomb explosion at the Red Fort carried by terrorists. In response, the gathering also raised calls for the eradication of terrorism. Rajiv Sharma, General Secretary of the



Federation of All India Trade Associations (Delhi State), appealed to the Prime Minister and Home Minister to take decisive action against terrorism that would send a strong message to perpetrators.

Sunil Singh lauded the efforts of traders in promoting Swadeshi products in line with Prime Minister Modi's vision, calling their commitment "a milestone in India's path to self-reliance." He emphasized the pivotal role of traders in the nation's economy, stating that widespread adoption of Swadeshi by both traders and households would make India truly self-reliant. A special poster under the "This is Swadeshi" campaign, featuring Prime Minister Modi and the "Vocal for Local"

message, was unveiled during the event as a symbol of inspiration for the movement.

The conference also saw discussions on GST 2.0 and the association's roadmap for protecting traders' interests. Among the attendees were national patron Bal Kishan Agrawal, board members of the National Traders' Welfare Board including Naveen Garg, Naresh Jain, Sanjeev Michal, Munish Bansal, Sushil Kumar Jain, Yogesh Agrawal, Nitin Agrawal, Rajiv Sharma, and several other dignitaries.

The gathering concluded with a shared message from all speakers: when traders are empowered, the country becomes self-reliant, and a self-reliant India will leave its mark on the global stage.

# Devisa Jewellery Launches in Delhi with Inaugural Offer of Zero Making Charges and Grand Rewards

TSN/New Delhi

Delhi's iconic jewellery hub, Karol Bagh, just got brighter with the arrival of Devisa Jewellery, a new fine jewellery brand from the House of Durga, a trusted name in trade and retail. Building on the company's legacy of integrity and customer trust, Devisa Jewellery marks its strategic expansion into the fine jewellery segment, offering customers a modern retail experience defined by certified purity, transparent pricing, and lasting value.

The flagship showroom, located at Bank Street, Karol Bagh, spread across 5,000 sq. ft., features an extensive range of Hallmarked Gold Jewellery, Certified Natural Diamonds, Gold Coins, and Bridal Collections — designed to cater to every taste, occasion, and budget. The brand offers diverse selection blending classic artistry with modern retail experience, positioning itself as India's most affordable destination for 22KT Gold Jewellery and Gold Coins under its Inaugural Offer with 0%



Making Charges. With this launch, Devisa aims to set a new benchmark for value, purity, and transparency in fine jewellery retail.

To celebrate its launch, Devisa Jewellery has announced its Inaugural Offer — "Karol Bagh ka Sabse Bada Gold Lucky Draw Carnival", featuring exciting customer rewards and festive benefits. Every shopper will receive a lucky draw coupon for every ₹10,000 spent, giving them a chance to win bumper prizes, including a brand-new car, refrigerator, air conditioner, and other premium home appliances.

As part of the inaugural offer, customers can also enjoy zero making charges on 22KT gold jewellery and gold coins, ensuring genuine value, certified purity, and transparent pricing. Complementing this is a Buy 1 Get 1 Free offer on certified natural diamond jewellery below ₹1.5 lakh, making this one of Delhi's most attractive

# Greater Noida leads the way with AI-based land encroachment monitoring initiative

Ajeet Kumar  
New Delhi

Greater Noida is set to become a pioneer in technology-driven urban governance with a groundbreaking initiative by the Greater Noida Industrial Development Authority (GNIDA). In collaboration with the National Remote Sensing Centre (NRSC) of the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), GNIDA has announced the development of an AI-based Encroachment Monitoring System, aimed at improving land management, ensuring transparency, and preventing illegal encroachments.

The project, which will be formalized through an MoU in the coming days under the guidance of GNIDA Chief Executive Officer N.G. Ravi Kumar, is expected to commence immediately. The first phase of data collection is slated to be completed by December, with the full system targeted for operational readiness by March 2026. This initiative is the first of its kind by any development authority in India and signals a major shift toward in-



**The project, which will be formalized through an MoU in the coming days under the guidance of GNIDA Chief Executive Officer N.G. Ravi Kumar, is expected to commence immediately.**

tegrating advanced technology into urban governance.

The system will combine artificial intelligence with high-resolution satellite imagery to identify encroachments accurately and pro-

vide precise information about land availability. By leveraging GIS-based images, the authority will be able to access real-time, actionable information, enabling faster and more informed decision-making. The NRSC will also develop an AI-based monitoring dashboard and alert system, and train GNIDA staff to ensure seamless operation and management once the system is handed over to the authority.

Speaking about the initiative, CEO N.G. Ravi Kumar described it as a "significant step toward technology-driven governance," highlighting that the collaboration with ISRO will

bring greater accuracy, transparency, and accountability in land management and public asset administration. ACEO Sumit Yadav, who is leading the project, emphasized that AI and satellite-based monitoring will greatly enhance GNIDA's capacity for proactive encroachment prevention and enforcement, establishing a smart and data-driven enforcement framework for the city.

The initiative is being hailed as visionary and transformative, representing a forward-looking approach to urban management. The AI-based model developed in collaboration with ISRO is expected to set a benchmark for other development authorities and urban bodies across India, providing a replicable roadmap for modern, technology-driven administration. Beyond land protection, this project underscores GNIDA's commitment to good governance, transparency, and public interest, positioning Greater Noida as a model for smart and accountable urban development.

# Technology and Childhood development require careful evaluation, says Naresh Kumar

TSN/New Delhi

Manappuram Finance, one of India's leading NBFCs, organised an exclusive 'Manappuram Dialogue' in Delhi, which was focused on the theme "Digital Dementia — Understanding and Addressing the Cognitive Cost of Technology".

Mr. Naresh Kumar, IAS, former Chief Secretary of the Government of Delhi, graced the occasion as the Chief Guest. He said, "The technological revolution, though transformative, presents significant challenges that warrant our attention. I commend Manappuram Finance for creating awareness on digital dementia and the effects of excessive screen use on children. The growing cognitive imbalance among children is a concern, reminding us to use technology wisely to enhance, not erode, human life."

Addressing the distinguished participants, Manappuram Finance Chairman and Managing Director Mr. V.P. Nandakumar said, "The impact of technology on human behaviour in general



and children in particular is profound and unambiguous. Technology also has a disruptive element, and it plays a critical role in altering the established norms of social communication and individual behaviour. As a result, innovative tools such as social media, artificial intelligence, and mobile communication devices are deeply influencing cognitive and behavioural aspects of our children."

The keynote address was delivered by Dr. Manoj Kumar Sharma, Professor of Clinical Psychology at NIMHANS, Bengaluru, and pioneer of India's technology-addiction initiative, the SHUT Clinic. Dr. Sharma explained that digital dementia refers to memory loss and attention issues linked to excessive device use. He em-

phasized the need for preventive measures to limit screen time and encouraged parents to promote offline activities and create tech-free zones at home to nurture healthier habits.

The exclusive event 'Manappuram Dialogue' was held in Delhi on Friday, November 7, 2025. The keynote session was delivered by Dr. Manoj Kumar Sharma. The event was graced by several distinguished guests, including Fr. Julius Arakkal CMI, Director of Amala Hospital, Mr. K.M. Noordeen, Chairman of Alpha Palliative Care, Fr. Davis Chiramad, Chairman of the Kidney Federation of India and Founder of ACTS, Thrissur, Dr. Benny Joseph, CEO of Jubilee Mission Hospital, Mr. Sanjay Herber, General Manager and Chief PRO of Manappuram Finance, addressed the gathering while Mr. K.M. Ashraf, Senior PRO of Manappuram Finance, delivered the welcome address. The event concluded with a vote of thanks proposed by Mr. George De Das, CEO of the Manappuram Foundation.

Over 59 per cent polling recorded till 5 pm in Tarn Taran bypoll

Tarn Taran (PB)

A voter turnout of 59.21 per cent was recorded by 5 pm during polling for the Tarn Taran Assembly bypoll in Punjab on Tuesday, with polling remaining peaceful.

Polling concluded at 6 pm, but the turnout figure may increase as more data regarding voting comes in.

Voting began at 7 am and continued until 6 pm, with strict security measures in place, according to officials.

The vote counting is scheduled for November 14.

In the first two hours (7 am to 9 am) of polling, the voting percentage was 11 per cent, and till 11 am, it was 23.35 per cent, according to the Election Commission data.

Voting percentage increased to 36.62 per cent till 1 pm and 48.84 per cent till 3 pm, the data read.

The Tarn Taran assembly seat fell vacant following the death of Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) MLA Kashmir Singh Sohal in June.

Despite the early morning chill, many voters, particularly elderly individuals and women, made their way to polling stations on Tuesday. There were long queues outside several polling stations early in the day.

Among the early voters were Congress candidate Kamal Singh Buri and AAP candidate Harmeet Singh Sandhu. Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) candidate Sukhwinder Kaur Randhawa visited a polling station in Kaka Kandiala village to cast her vote, accompanied by her daughter Kanchanpreet Kaur.

Akhilesh announces SP's 'Vision India' initiative

Lucknow:

Samajwadi Party (SP) president Akhilesh Yadav on Tuesday announced the launch of the party's new national programme, "Vision India," which aims at shaping a "new India" driven by scientific, progressive and inclusive thinking.

He also praised the youth, calling them progressive, tolerant, inclusive and those who reject the "division" of society. "We want to connect the issues of the youth and other issues and move forward with them," he remarked.

Speaking at a press conference at the party headquarters here, Yadav said the first event under the initiative will be held in Bengaluru. The programme will be conducted across the country to promote SP's vision for a modern India.

The campaign will be centred around the youth, who represent openness, inclusivity, and forward-looking ideas, he added.

"Vision India aims to create new paths and new thinking for the making of a new India. By 'new India', we mean an India that is scientific in its outlook, positive in approach, and progressive in its spirit," Yadav said.

The young generation thinks differently; they are tolerant, flexible, compassionate, and modern in outlook, he said, adding that they reject divisive and regressive ideas by believing in coexistence and progress.

# CM Saini calls Guru Tegh Bahadur Ji the Torchbearer of Human Rights

Komal Ramola

Chandigarh

On the 350th martyrdom year of Hind ki Chadar Sri Guru Tegh Bahadur Ji, the second Nagar Kirtan Yatra began on Tuesday from the sacred land of Piar in Haryana's Panchkula district. An Ardas ceremony was held at Gurdwara Sri Guru Nanak Darbar in village Gorakhnath in the presence of Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini, who offered prayers before the Guru Granth Sahib for the prosperity and well-being of the people of Haryana.

Addressing the gathering, the Chief Minister described Sri Guru Tegh Bahadur Ji as the first global protector of human rights, who made the supreme sacrifice for faith, freedom, and humanity. He said the Nagar Kirtan Yatra aims to spread Guru Ji's message of devotion, sacrifice, and the defense of righteousness among the masses.

The Chief Minister informed that four Nagar Kirtan Yatras are being organized across Haryana to mark the 350th martyrdom year, covering all districts of the state. These will culminate in Kurukshetra on



Haryana Chief Minister, Sh. Nayab Singh Saini addressing the gathering during the Shikhi Yatra programme dedicated to the 350th martyrdom year of Sri Guru Tegh Bahadur Ji, organised at Gurdwara Sri Guru Nanak, Dera J, village Gorakhnath, Panchkula district, on November 11, 2025.

November 24, followed by a Mahasammelan on November 25, where Prime Minister Narendra Modi will attend as the chief guest.

Highlighting Guru Tegh Bahadur Ji's deep connection with Haryana, Saini recalled that in 1665, Guru Ji had shifted the Sikh sect's headquarters to Dhamtan in present-day Jind and visited several places including Kaithal, Pehowa, Barna, and Thanesar, spreading the message of righteousness and compassion. "The people of Haryana are blessed that Guru Ji's sacred feet graced this land and inspired genera-

tions to uphold Dharma," he said, adding that the Gurughar established at these places continue to preserve his legacy.

Saini noted that the Haryana government is celebrating the festivals of Gurus and great leaders with reverence and grandeur. After the state-level observance of Sri Guru Nanak Dev Ji's 550th birth anniversary, similar devotion is being shown in commemorating the 350th martyrdom year of Guru Tegh Bahadur Ji. The Chief Minister praised Sardar Jagdish Singh Jhinda, President of the Haryana Sikh Gurdwara Prabhak Committee, for

leading the yatras and promoting the teachings and philosophy of the Gurus among people.

Sharing details of state initiatives honoring the Sikh Gurus, Saini said a research chair has been set up in Guru Tegh Bahadur Ji's name at Chaudhary Devi Lal University in Sirsa. The under-construction medical college in Yamunanagar has also been named after the Guru. In addition, the Panchkula-Paonta Sahib road now bears the name of Guru Gobind Singh Ji, a college in Assandh has been named after the Guru's younger son, and a VLDA College

# AAP Govt lifts Punjab's aviation sector to new heights

TSN/Chandigarh

Under the leadership of Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann, the Aam Aadmi Party government has transformed Punjab's aviation sector into a key pillar of its "Rangla Punjab" vision.

Since taking office in March 2022, the government has focused on making aviation a driver of economic growth, industrial connectivity, and tourism, supported by over ₹100 crore in investments through the 2022 Industrial and Business Development Policy.

A major milestone in this journey is the revival of the Halwara International Airport near Ludhiana. Once nearly abandoned due to financial and administrative hurdles, the project was revived after Chief Minister Mann personally intervened and released ₹60 crore from the state treasury to resume construction. His direct oversight ensured that the long-stalled project regained momentum.

By April 2025, the interim terminal was fully completed and inaugurated on July 27, 2025. The state assembly unanimously approved the airport after freedom fighter Shaheed Kartar Singh Sarab-



ha. Once operational, it is expected to boost Ludhiana's industrial growth and generate around 10,000 jobs.

At the same time, the AAP government has made significant progress in strengthening existing airports. The Sri Guru Ram Das Ji International Airport in Amritsar has emerged as a cornerstone of Punjab's aviation revival. In the financial year 2024-25, passenger traffic grew by a record 22.6%, surpassing 3.5 million travelers for the first time. New international routes have connected Amritsar to Kuala Lumpur, London, Rome, and Verona, further cementing its role as Punjab's global gateway. In recognition of its improved efficiency and passenger facilities, AirAsia X awarded Amritsar Airport the "Best Station Award" in July 2024 for achieving 95% on-time performance among 24 international airports.

# 25 aquaculture cold storage units set up in Haryana 18 more planned: minister Rana

Chandigarh:

Twenty-five cold storage units for aquaculture have already been set up in Haryana to increase the incomes of fish farmers, while 18 more are in the pipeline, Haryana Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare Minister Shyam Singh Rana said on Tuesday.

Presiding over a review meeting with officers of the fisheries department, Rana stated that plans are underway to establish fish markets in Faridabad, Gurgaon, and Hisar, which will provide significant benefits to fish farmers. Additionally, the state government plans to start a shrimp processing unit at an appropriate location within the state.

The minister emphasised that fish farmers must be supplied with high-quality fish seed to avoid any production issues.

There are currently 15 government-run seed centres in the state. He directed officials to expand facilities and accelerate progress towards achieving fisheries development targets.

The minister announced the establishment of an Integrated Aqua Park Centre of Excellence on 24.5 acres of land in Garwa village of Bhiwani district, for Rs

Shiv Kumar

New Delhi

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Saini praised Prime Minister Narendra Modi's belief that players who perform their best on the field also succeed in life, saying Haryana's sportspersons have proved this through their achievements. "Our land has for centuries been the land of warriors, sportspersons, and dedicated workers," he said, adding that Haryana's sons and daughters have con-

# Haryana Aims to Become Sports Power of India as CM Saini Inaugurates State Championship 2025

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Haryana Chief Minister, Sh. Nayab Singh Saini laying the foundation stone for a Hockey Astro turf field and 4-Lane Synthetic Athletic track at village Baragarh, Narainagar, Ambala district, on November 11, 2025. Principal Secretary, Sports Department, Sh. Navdeep Singh Virk is also seen in the picture.

sistently brought glory to the nation at the Olympics, Asian Games, Commonwealth Games, and National Championships.

The Chief Minister urged the youth to let their voices echo on the field, to think of victory, learn from defeat, and never lose courage. "Through this Championship, players will be able to further enhance their level of performance," he said.

Linking the event with the state's ongoing observance of the 350th Shaheed Diwas of Guru Tegh Bahadur Ji, Saini said the Guru's sacrifice, renunciation, and courage continue to inspire the youth to stand against injustice and uphold moral values.

Highlighting the government's focus on sports infrastructure, Saini said the new track and Astro turf field will help nurture the next generation of champions.

The modern Hockey Astro turf field will prove to be an effective step in making Haryana the Sports Power of India," he said, drawing parallels with Shahbad's hockey academy that produced stars like Rani Rampal and Savita Punia.

Saini noted that the construction of a four-lane synthetic athletic track will boost athletics in the state. "Every sport begins with running, and when running is done on a modern track, the results too will be world-class," he said.

The track, he added, will help athletes improve speed and reduce the risk of injuries.

The Chief Minister said that Haryana's sports budget has been more than doubled with around Rs 589 crore allocated this year for infrastructure and development. Currently, the state boasts 3 state-level sports complexes, 21 district-level stadiums, 25 sub-divisional stadiums, 163 Rajiv Gandhi Rural Sports Complexes, 245 rural stadiums, 10 swimming pools, 11 synthetic athletic tracks, 14 hockey Astro turfs, 2 football synthetic surfaces, and 9 multipurpose halls. Additionally, Haryana Sports University track has been established at Rai, Sonapat.

# Himachal DGP directs police to tighten security after Delhi blast

Shimla (HP)

Security has been tightened across Himachal Pradesh, a day after the bomb blast near Delhi's Red Fort, that killed at least 12 people and injured several others, police said on Tuesday.

According to officials, superintendents of police of all districts have been directed to remain on high alert.

In a letter to all the SPs, the Director General of Police (DGP) Ashok Tewari said an explosion occurred in a car near the Red Fort in Delhi on Monday, gutting several vehicles.

The blast occurred hours after around 3,000 kilograms of explosive material were recovered from Faridabad, he said in the letter.

In view of these developments, the DGP directed all the district superintendents of police to remain extremely vigilant, particularly in border and sensitive districts.

There are a total of 14 police districts in Himachal Pradesh, and the majority of them share borders with other states or two Union territories (UT) or a country.

DGP Tewari also directed that field and intelligence units may be suitably sensitised to maintain heightened surveillance over suspicious vehicles, abandoned objects or unusual movements.

He also instructed them to ensure close coordination with local agencies and other departments.

Police have also stopped checking of vehicles entering the state from Punjab, Haryana and Jammu and Kashmir since Monday night.

Patrolling has been increased in the border district of Chamba, which shares a 213 km-long border with Jammu and Kashmir.

Security has been heightened on state borders and important tourist places in the district, said Chamba SP Vijay Kumar. Adequate force has been deployed at the borders and his staff and strict vigil is being kept, said Bilaspur SP Sandeep Dhawal.

# Mann govt ushers in a new era of skill-based education

TSN/Chandigarh

The Punjab government, led by Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann, has launched a landmark initiative to ensure that every student graduating from school will not only hold a 12th-grade certificate but also possess job-ready skills. The move is part of the Mann government's broader vision to build a self-reliant Punjab where every young person is equipped not just with academic knowledge, but with practical abilities to succeed in life.

Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann described the initiative as a step towards transforming education from a textbook exercise into a life skill movement. "Our goal is not just that children pass exams, but

and technical training into school education, turning the traditional "12th pass" student into a "12th + skill certified" individual. The move is part of the Mann government's broader vision to build a self-reliant Punjab where every young person is equipped not just with academic knowledge, but with practical abilities to succeed in life.

Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann described the initiative as a step towards transforming education from a textbook exercise into a life skill movement. "Our goal is not just that children pass exams, but

that they succeed in life. Every child of Punjab should be confident, skilled and self-reliant," he said, underlining his government's focus on linking education with employability.

Under the MoU, students in government schools will receive hands-on training, modern equipment, and internship opportunities in addition to their regular curriculum. Lend A Hand

India, known for promoting skill-based education nationwide, will provide technical support, materials, and training to teachers. The partnership aims to build a generation of students who can turn knowledge into practical action.

Officials said the initiative will help students develop market-relevant skills that open doors to both employment and entrepreneurship. Once fully implemented, each student will receive two certificates — one academic and one vocational — creating a new model of schooling that combines education with empowerment.

The government believes this program will strengthen Punjab's economy by producing a workforce ready for the evolving demands of industry. Beyond economic benefits, it aims to instill a sense of dignity and independence among the youth.

"This is not just an MoU between two institutions, but a bridge between the government and people's aspirations," said an official from the education department. "It reflects the Mann government's belief that education must prepare every student for life, not just for exams."



# The Verdict in the Making: Bihar's Polls and the Message of Change



By Dr. Anil Singh

Editorial Advisor Top Story, and Editor STAR Views

**B**ihar stands at a defining moment in its political journey. The two-phase Assembly elections have concluded, and the numbers themselves tell a story of awakening and assertion. The first phase recorded 65.08 percent turnout, and the second 67.14 percent till the close of polling—one of the highest in the state's electoral history. For a state often dismissed for apathy or fatalism, this record participation marks a quiet revolution. It is not only about ballots cast but about voices raised, about a people determined to shape their destiny rather than inherit it. Having spent a week travelling through North Bihar—Muzaffarpur, Sitamarhi, Darbhanga, Saran and other districts—talking to ordinary citizens, farmers, students and women voters, the message was clear: Bihar is restless, self-aware, and ready to demand results.

The air in the towns and villages was electric with anticipation. Queues stretched through narrow lanes; women arrived early, men discussed issues under banyan trees, and first-time voters spoke with surprising maturity. The turnout figures reflect not just enthusiasm but intent. In Bihar, high turnout is rarely neutral—it carries the weight of aspiration. This time it signals both faith in democracy and fatigue with unfulfilled promises. Across the spectrum, people are asking what the last fifteen years have achieved and what the next five must deliver. And even as that question hangs in the air, almost all major news channels and exit-poll analyses predict a clear and decisive victory for the National Democratic Alliance (NDA), suggesting that continuity, not change, will prevail—but continuity now comes with a warning: perform or perish.

The NDA's predicted comeback with a huge margin reflects not just loyalty to its leadership but confidence in its relative stability amid a fragmented opposition. Yet beneath the celebration lies a silent message from the electorate: the vote is for delivery, not complacency. People want the government to work faster, deeper, and fairer. The fatigue with rhetoric is visible even among those who vote for the ruling coalition. They do not reject it; they renew its licence cautiously. The second phase's 67.14 percent turnout, especially dominated by women and youth, is a powerful reminder that Bihar's democracy is alive and impatient.

Travelling through the northern belt, one could sense that the old logic of caste equations is no longer enough to guarantee political success. The young Yadav, the Kurmi entrepreneur, the Dalit graduate, and the migrant's family now share the same anxiety: employment and dignity. At tea stalls and bus stops, people no longer debated who belongs to which caste; they compared who built roads, who created jobs, who made recruitment transparent. Identity still matters, but aspiration overrides it. This shift marks the beginning of Bihar's political maturity. The social blocks that once voted mechanically are now demanding tangible outcomes in education, health, and livelihood.

Across conversations, a recurring plea echoed: "Rozgaar chahiye, ghar ke bete bahar na jayen." Migration, once considered an unavoidable economic escape, has become Bihar's deepest wound. Every family has someone working in Delhi, Mumbai or Surat, often in precarious conditions. Migrants are the invisible pillars of other states' economies while



their own state remains industrially barren. The new government must recognise that tackling migration means tackling unemployment, skill mismatch, and lack of local enterprise all at once. Bihar cannot rely solely on agriculture; it must create jobs where people live. A Reverse Migration and Regional Growth Unit, operating directly under the Chief Minister's Office, could map migration flows, develop industrial clusters in high-out-migration districts, and coordinate land, power and skills to generate employment locally. This is not only economic policy—it is social reconstruction.

The education sector reflects the same paradox. Bihar's children are bright, its youth ambitious, but the system fails them. In rural schools, teachers are missing, infrastructure is broken, and digital access is poor. Yet the hunger to learn is extraordinary. Students want quality education linked to real employment, not hollow degrees. The next government must treat education not as welfare but as investment. Teacher recruitment and training should be made transparent, schools upgraded, and higher education tied to local industry needs. A twin-track programme to modernise 500 government schools and link 50,000 apprenticeships to industry within two years could transform Bihar's human capital.

Healthcare too needs urgent restructuring. Primary Health Centres exist on maps but rarely function round the clock. Villagers travel miles for basic treatment. During the pandemic, Bihar saw both tragedy and resilience—but lessons remain unlearned. A Health Mission—Village to District should be

launched to upgrade at least one PHC in every block to 24x7 operation, equipped with tele-health links to district hospitals and mobile vans for remote villages. In six months, such a model could visibly reduce the suffering of rural poor. Healthcare cannot remain a slogan; it must become a service.

Industrialisation remains Bihar's oldest promise and newest disappointment. Roads and bridges have multiplied, but industries have not followed. Investors hesitate because bureaucracy is slow and land policy uncertain. The next government must act as facilitator, not gatekeeper. A realistic approach is to build agro-processing parks, dairy clusters, and small-scale industrial zones near existing agricultural hubs. Bihar produces surplus crops, but loses wealth in transit. Converting that produce into local industry is the path from subsistence to sustainability. The Industrialisation with Agro-Linkages Plan—creating one functional cluster in each division within 18 months—should be the state's central economic mission.

Governance itself must evolve from distribution to delivery. Bihar's welfare programmes have expanded but leakages persist. Corruption at the local level continues to frustrate beneficiaries. To bridge the trust gap, a Digitised Service Delivery Dashboard should publicly display budgets, beneficiaries and progress of all major schemes. Citizens must see where their tax and vote converge. Transparency will build confidence faster than any speech.

Women voters, who turned out in record num-

bers this year, have already changed Bihar's political grammar. Their participation, now at par with or higher than men, has infused new substance into the democratic process. They vote for peace, price stability, education and health—issues beyond party lines. The government should institutionalise their role through a Women and Youth Participation Audit, enabling local female representatives to file quarterly reports on school attendance, health services and safety. This will turn symbolic empowerment into functional accountability.

The credibility of the democratic process must also be preserved. Allegations about voter-roll manipulation or selective policing, if ignored, corrode institutions. Bihar's Election Commission has managed a peaceful and large election; now it must ensure post-poll transparency. The 65.08 and 67.14 percent turnout will hold meaning only if the fairness of the process remains beyond question.

What emerges from these elections is a trinity of expectation: governance, growth and goodwill. Governance must be professional, growth must include every district, and goodwill must transcend caste and cynicism. The people have matured; their patience is not infinite. The NDA's predicted landslide victory will be meaningful only if it becomes a mandate for acceleration, not arrogance. The government must set a 100-Day Bihar Action Charter, publicly listing its short-term deliverables—job creation, school reform, health centre upgrades, industrial park approvals—and publishing progress every month. Accountability must become culture, not compulsion.

When I left Bihar after days of travel, I carried memories of anger mixed with optimism. People were disillusioned with inefficiency but not with democracy. They have not abandoned faith in the system; they have reclaimed it through their vote. The long queues in the November sun were not rituals; they were declarations of responsibility. This is Bihar's silent revolution—democracy maturing beyond despair. The record turnout of both phases is not just a statistic; it is the sound of a society awakening. It says clearly: we will no longer accept excuses; we want results.

If the NDA returns with the huge margin predicted by every major network, it must remember that victory is not vindication. It is a contract renewed under public scrutiny. The people have trusted it again not for continuity alone but for change within continuity. They expect a new phase of Bihar's development—faster roads, functional schools, honest governance, jobs that keep families together. The next five years must be about fulfilment, not festivity.

The story of Bihar mirrors the story of India itself: a tale of resilience, reform and rising expectations. A state once dismissed as backward now leads in democratic participation and civic awareness. The voter turnout—65.08 percent in the first phase and 67.14 percent in the second—stands as testimony to a people who refuse to give up. Whether the NDA governs again or a future government takes its place, Bihar has already sent its message to all: perform or perish, deliver or depart. The power no longer lies in the corridors of Patna—it rests in the quiet determination of millions who are tired of vote-buying, believing that the ballot still has the power to change Bihar's destiny.

## Patrolling Faith in Secular India: Are Anti-Conversion Laws Necessary?



By Dr. Satyavan Saurabh

Poet, freelance journalist and columnist, All India Radio and TV panelist

**I**ndia is a multi-religious, multicultural, and diverse country, whose identity lies in its secularism and religious freedom. Articles 25 to 28 of the Indian Constitution guarantee citizens the fundamental right to profess, propagate, and practice their religion. However, the enactment of anti-conversion laws in several states in recent years has seriously questioned this constitutional guarantee.

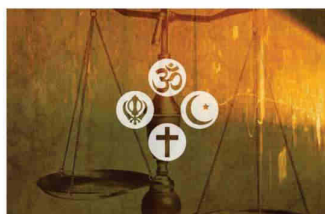
These laws are stated to be intended to prevent conversions by force, inducement, or fraud, but in practice their scope is so broad and vague that they directly or indirectly have a repressive impact on personal freedom, inter-religious marriages, and minority communities.

The issue of religious conversion in India has been controversial since pre-independence times. During British rule, the spread of Christianity by various missionaries led to political and social reactions. After independence, the Religious Freedom Bill was introduced in Parliament in 1954, but it failed to pass.

However, some states enacted such laws on their own—Odisha (1967) was the first to pass the Freedom of Religion Act. Subsequently, states such as Madhya Pradesh (1968), Arunachal Pradesh (1978), Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, and Haryana enacted similar laws. The primary objective of all these acts is stated as "preventing forced or fraudulent religious conversion," but the interpretation of their provisions has questioned the spirit of the Constitution.

Article 25(1) of the Indian Constitution guarantees every individual the right to "freedom of religion." This right consists of three fundamental elements: the freedom to profess any religion, the freedom to practice it, and the freedom to propagate it. This right is subject to the State's obligations regarding public order, morality, and health, but these limitations are not intended to infringe on individual liberty but to maintain social harmony.

Article 14 guarantees the right to equality, while Article 21 protects life and personal liberty. Anti-conversion laws also conflict with both of these rights be-



cause they allow the state to unduly interfere with citizens' personal decisions, beliefs, and marital choices.

India's secularism is not based on the "complete separation of state and religion" as in Western countries, but rather on positive secularism—in which the state views all religions equally and does not favor or oppose any. However, when the state, through anti-conversion laws, imposes conditions, permissions, and penalties on the freedom to convert from one religion to another, it deviates from its secular nature.

These laws often require anyone wishing to change their religion to first notify the district magistrate and obtain permission. This process itself violates the freedom guaranteed by the Constitution, as the decision about one's faith is a matter of conscience, not government approval.

Anti-conversion laws have had the most profound impact on interfaith marriages. Many states have

linked these laws to the concept of so-called "love jihad"—the practice of converting women of one religion to another through marriage.

Laws based on this concept, such as the Uttar Pradesh Prohibition of Unlawful Conversion of Religion Act, 2021; the Madhya Pradesh Freedom of Religion Act, 2021; and the Haryana Freedom of Religion Bill, 2022—provide that marriages entered into for the purpose of conversion can be declared illegal and void.

This creates two major problems—first, the violation of personal freedom: Love or marriage is a personal choice. The state should not have the right to dictate which religion a person should marry into. Second, social division: Such laws foster religious mistrust, fear, and hatred in society, affecting interfaith interaction and harmony.

Anti-conversion laws have the greatest impact on minority communities, particularly Christians and Muslims. Christian missionaries are often accused of engaging in "allurement and conversion" through education and health services. This has led to increased surveillance and harassment of their social work. Regarding the Muslim community, it is propagated that they convert through "love jihad," leading to increased incidents of Muslim youth being trapped in false cases. This has created an atmosphere of fear and insecurity within these communities. False rumors of conversion have often led to incidents of mob violence, which is a matter of deep concern for democratic India.

The Indian judiciary has commented on this issue several times. In Reverend Stanislaw v. State of

Madhya Pradesh (1977), the Supreme Court held that "the right to propagate religion is not a right to convert." However, the context at that time was related to forced conversion. In the Hadiya case (2018), the Supreme Court clearly stated that "an adult person has the absolute freedom to choose the religion of his or her choice and to choose his or her life partner." In Lata Singh v. State of Uttar Pradesh (2006), the Court held that interfaith marriage is a personal right protected by the Constitution and should not be interfered with.

It is clear from these decisions that the courts oppose forced or fraudulent religious conversion, but consider voluntary religious conversion or inter-religious marriage as complete individual freedom.

Anti-conversion laws have become not only a legal but also a political tool. Some political parties use them to advance their polarizing agendas. The ulterior motive for these laws is to gain electoral advantage by making religious identity a political issue. Consequently, they also have a negative impact on social harmony and national unity.

In a democratic and multi-religious country like India, freedom of conscience must be paramount. The state's duty is not to regulate individuals' faith, but to ensure that no one faces discrimination or persecution because of their religion or belief.

Ultimately, it can be said that the current structure of anti-conversion laws goes against the spirit of the Indian Constitution—liberty, equality, and secularism. If these laws are limited to forced or fraudulent conversions, they may be considered justified; but when they begin to interfere with a person's freedom of personal faith, marriage, and life, they threaten the fundamental principles of democracy.

Therefore, it is essential to re-examine India's conversion laws, align them with the Constitution, and ensure that no law undermines religious freedom and the spirit of secularism. Religious diversity is India's greatest strength, and protecting this diversity is a testament to our true patriotism.

# Rajnath pitches for 'digital sovereignty'

New Delhi

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Tuesday called upon the military to extend its approach of self-reliance to the digital domain for control over algorithms, data architectures and encrypted networks.

"True strategic autonomy will come only when our code is as indigenous as our hardware," he said in an address at a defence conclave.

Singh underlined the need to not only acquire new innovations, but create the conditions where niche products thrive through sound processes, agile institutions, and a spirit of collaboration.

He pitched for an approach that unites soldiers, the scientists, the start-ups and the strategists.

"The defence minister underscored the need to extend 'Atmanirbhara' (self-reliance) beyond manufacturing indigenous systems to 'digital sovereignty' saying control over the algorithms, data, and chips that power



Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Tuesday called upon the military to extend its approach of self-reliance to the digital domain for control over algorithms, data architectures and encrypted networks.

platforms was crucial.

"We are encouraging secure, indigenous software stacks, trusted semiconductor supply chains, and home-grown AI models trained on Indian data."

"Amidst all the excitement about machines and algorithms, we must remember that technology is not meant to replace human judgement, but to amplify it," he said.

"We must also invest in the

ethical, psychological, and legal dimensions of these emerging technologies. India, as a civilisational power, can and must lead the conversations on responsible and humane use of military technology," he said.

Singh stressed on the fact that technology must be seen not only as a force multiplier, but also as a resource optimiser. He supported leveraging technology and data

analytics in the capital procurement process to improve decision-making and ensure optimal use of every resource.

"In many advanced nations, the concept of life-cycle cost is deeply woven into their procurement framework. Recently, I have directed that we must begin to assess these sustenance costs right at the inception stage of every procurement proposal," he said.

"The power of technology is not limited to devices or al-

gorithms; it lies in its all-encompassing nature — the way it redefines every process, system, and decision that contributes to national security."

"Harnessing technology is not just about adding new tools; it is about making our institutions more agile, anticipatory and adaptive, and creating a defence architecture that learns continuously, responds instantly and evolves relentlessly in tune with the pace of change," he stated.

Singh asserted that high-speed data link, AI-driven algorithm, quantum computing and autonomous systems will achieve less without quick internal processes and robust human and institutional capacity to absorb and apply them effectively.

He highlighted that much of defence readiness rests on "invisible technologies which include secure data architectures, encrypted networks, automated maintenance systems, and interoperable databases."

"The external affairs minister's participation in the G7 foreign ministers' meeting reflects India's continued commitment to working with international partners in addressing global challenges and bolstering the voice of the Global South in international fora," it said.

Jaishankar will join the outreach session of the G7 partners in Ontario at the invitation of his Canadian counterpart Anita Anand, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said on Tuesday.

"The external affairs minister's participation in the G7 foreign ministers' meeting reflects India's continued commitment to working with international partners in addressing global challenges and bolstering the voice of the Global South in international fora," it said.

Jaishankar is also expected to hold bilateral meetings on the sidelines of the G7 meeting including with Anand.

The outreach partner nations that Canada has invited for the G7 meeting include Australia, Brazil, India, Saudi Arabia, Mexico, South Korea, South Africa and Ukraine.

Canada last week said the G7 gathering will discuss pressing global economic and security challenges, including maritime security and prosperity, economic resilience, energy security

and critical minerals. Jaishankar's trip to Canada comes a month after Anand visited India during which both sides unveiled an ambitious roadmap to boost ties in areas of trade, critical minerals and energy.

In their meeting, the two foreign ministers had agreed to commence ministerial-level discussions on bilateral trade and investment at an early date considering the global economic realities and each other's "strategic priorities."

The India-Canada relations hit rock bottom following then Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's allegations in 2023 of a potential Indian link to the killing of Sikh separatist Hardeep Singh Nijjar.

India had dismissed Trudeau's accusation as "absurd". In October last year, India recalled its high commissioner and five other diplomats after Ottawa attempted to link them to the Nijjar case. India also expelled an equal number of Canadian diplomats.

However, Liberal Party leader Mark Carney's victory in the parliamentary election in April helped in beginning the process to reset relations.

Both sides have already posted their high commissioners in each other's capitals.

# EAM Jaishankar to visit Canada on Wednesday to attend G7 meeting



External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar will visit Canada on Wednesday to participate in the G7 foreign ministers' meeting, in yet another step to normalise bilateral ties.

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# Justice demanded for victims of Delhi Blast

New Delhi

The Left parties on Tuesday demanded a thorough probe into the explosion near the Red Fort that claimed 12 lives, as they condemned the incident and expressed condolences to the families of the victims.

The Politburo of the Communist Party of India (Marxist), in a statement, said the recovery of a huge quantity of explosives from Delhi's neighbouring area, which has been linked to the explosion near the Red Fort, indicates involvement of an organised network.

Condemning the explosion in the heart of the national capital, the party stressed that it is the government's responsibility to bring the perpetrators to justice.

It appealed to people to be vigilant, maintain peace and harmony without succumbing to any provocations.

"It is deeply disturbing to learn from reports that large quantities of explosives and firearms have been discovered in areas around Delhi, which are now being linked to the attack."

"This indicates the involvement of an organised network. It is the responsibility of the government to uncover it and bring all the perpetrators to justice," CPI(M) said.

CPI General Secretary D Raja, in a post on X, expressed shock over Monday's blast in the national capital, and said the government must ensure a thorough, transparent, and time-bound probe into it.

"The Communist Party of India expresses deep shock and grief over the explosion near the Red Fort in Delhi. The party conveys heartfelt condolences to the bereaved families and wishes a speedy recovery to all those injured," he said.

"The CPI demands a thorough, transparent and time-bound probe into the incident. The government must ensure the best possible medical treatment for the injured and take all necessary steps to maintain peace and public safety," he said.

CPI Rajya Sabha MP P Sandosh Kumar, who visited the LNJP hospital here and met some of the blast victims, said the treatment of the injured is the priority, as he also hoped that the incident would not be used to create rifts in society.

# Supreme Court accepts apology, ends forest officer case

New Delhi

The Supreme Court on Tuesday closed the contempt proceedings against an Indian Forest Service officer after he tendered unconditional apology for approaching the Uttarakhand High Court seeking a stay on his prosecution in a CBI case lodged for alleged illegal construction in the Jim Corbett National Park.

The Uttarakhand High Court had stayed the state government's order granting sanction to prosecute Rahul, an Indian Forest Service officer and former director of Corbett Tiger Reserve, in the alleged illegal construction and tree felling case that too when the top court was seized of the matter.

On October 15, a bench comprising Chief Justice of



India B R Gavai and Justice K Vinod Chandran was furious over the development and had said as to how the high court sat over appeal against the observations and orders of the top court.

The sanction to prosecute the officer was granted by the Uttarakhand government

following various orders from the top court which has been monitoring illegal constructions and rampant felling of trees in the Jim Corbett National Park in the state.

The top court had not only issued the contempt notice to the officer but also stayed the

high court order besides transferring to itself the jurisdiction.

On Tuesday, the top court took note of the unconditional apology and pardoned the officer keeping in mind his 21 years of "unblemished services" and future prospects.

"The majesty of law is not in forgiving the guilty but in forgiving," the CJI said, adding that the officer can avail remedy seeking relief like discharge in the case before appropriate judicial forum.

The bench, however, cautioned that he cannot challenge the grant of sanction to prosecute which was granted by the state government at the instance of the top court.

The CJI said though the

# SC denies bail to man linked to ISIS case

New Delhi

The Supreme Court on Tuesday denied bail to a man, who is allegedly associated with the proscribed Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) outfit, noting that he has been accused of trying to create a "ring of terror" in the country.

During the hearing, which took place a day after a blast near Delhi's Red Fort that killed at least 12 people, a bench of Justices Vikram Nath and Sandeep Mehta said it was the "best morning to send a message".

The observation came from the bench after the petitioner's counsel said it may not be the best morning to argue the case after what happened on Monday.

The bench was hearing a plea filed by the accused Syed Mamoor Ali, challenging a January order of the Madhya Pradesh High Court that denied him bail in the case.

The case was lodged for alleged offences under various sections of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) and the Indian Penal Code (IPC).

The petitioner was arrested in May 2023 in the case, which was probed by the National Investigation Agency (NIA).

During Tuesday's hearing, the bench asked the petitioner's counsel about the recoveries made in the case.

"Forget the witnesses for the moment, how do you explain the recoveries?" it asked.

"There is no recovery except Islamic literature," the counsel replied.

The bench said it was alleged that the accused had formed a WhatsApp group identical to that of the ISIS.

"What was the intention behind that?" it asked. The bench said charges



India B R Gavai and Justice K Vinod Chandran was furious over the development and had said as to how the high court sat over appeal against the observations and orders of the top court.

The sanction to prosecute the officer was granted by the Uttarakhand government

following various orders from the top court which has been monitoring illegal constructions and rampant felling of trees in the Jim Corbett National Park in the state.

The top court had not only issued the contempt notice to the officer but also stayed the

high court order besides transferring to itself the jurisdiction.

On Tuesday, the top court took note of the unconditional apology and pardoned the officer keeping in mind his 21 years of "unblemished services" and future prospects.

"The majesty of law is not in forgiving the guilty but in forgiving," the CJI said, adding that the officer can avail remedy seeking relief like discharge in the case before appropriate judicial forum.

The bench, however, cautioned that he cannot challenge the grant of sanction to prosecute which was granted by the state government at the instance of the top court.

The CJI said though the

high courts are not inferior to the Supreme Court, it should not interfere in a matter which is being monitored by the apex court.

"When the Supreme Court is seized of the matter, the high court should not have interfered," he added.

Earlier, while issuing the contempt notice to the officer, the bench had sought his personal presence before it and show cause as to why the contempt proceedings be not initiated against him.

The bench went on to add, "The high court, being a constitutional court, has vast powers. But, when it was the matter of record that the Supreme Court is seized of the matter then the high court should not have entertained the plea and granted the stay..."

# RPA to play bigger role in future wars, says Major General Rai

Nashik

Remotely Piloted Aircraft (RPA), drones, and UAVs have a major role in future wars, and they need to be controlled in a better manner, Major General Abhinava Rai said on Tuesday.

Addressing the "Army Aviation in Decade of Transformation- Runway Round Table First Edition" seminar held at Combat Army Aviation Training School (CAATS) in Nashik, the senior Army officer stated



He disagreed with the narrative that RPAs are

meant to fly only during peacetime operations.

"Looking at the roadmap

for Army aviation, I feel the RPAs have a much bigger role to play. Some may believe and feel that the Army is slow-moving and therefore won't have a significant role in future wars. I absolutely disagree with an ongoing narrative that RPAs are meant to be flying in peace time operations", the senior Army commander said.

Major General Rai emphasised that RPAs, drones, and UAVs have a role to

play, and they need to be controlled in a better manner.

The two-day seminar discussed a comprehensive roadmap for the evolution of Army aviation, its doctrine and organisational structure, and contours for capability development in response to the changing character of warfare as witnessed during recent conflicts, including Operation Sindoor.

The seminar also delib-

erated on the concept of "air littoral" and the significance of control of such space to the TBA commander. The delegates also explored how AI-enabled technology can revolutionise aviation operations, decision-making, and other important aspects, including combat aviation training.

The seminar discussed the AI powering precision in Skies and Vision @ 2047 for aviation.

As the two-phase polling in Bihar concluded on Tuesday evening, Exit Polls predicted a big victory for the NDA, with the Mahagathbandhan a distant second.

Hussain said the BJP and NDA worked hard during the elections, while the JD and the Congress kept fighting among themselves.

Asked about the Jan Suraj party, the BJP leader said it was only visible on social media and not on the ground. "It will be a big thing if Jan Suraj even opens its account (wins at least one seat in the election)," he added.

# BJP predicts massive victory for NDA in Bihar



The BJP on Tuesday exuded confidence about the NDA winning the Bihar Assembly polls with a "massive majority", while asserting that there was a "one-sided wave" among the electorate in favour of the state's incumbent alliance.

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UP shines in National Water Awards 2024, Mirzapur Named Best District

**Lucknow:** Uttar Pradesh has earned national acclaim for its outstanding achievements in water conservation and management at the Sixth National Water Awards 2024, announced by the Ministry of Jal Shakti. Mirzapur district has been declared the Best District in the Northern Zone, while the Agra Municipal Corporation secured joint third place in the Best Urban Local Body category, reaffirming the state's leadership in sustainable water initiatives.

The recognition marks a major milestone in Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath's water conservation drive, which emphasizes the vision of "Har Ghar Nal, Har Khet Ko Pani." It reflects the success of the double-engine government's efforts to blend community participation with technological innovation in resource management.

Under CM Yogi's leadership, Mirzapur has effectively implemented the Jal Jeevan Mission and Atal Bhujal Yojana, reviving traditional reservoirs, constructing new drains, and expanding irrigation coverage in rural areas. The district's focus on rainwater harvesting and pond rejuvenation has led to a measurable rise in groundwater levels. Panchayats, self-help groups, and youth volunteers have played a pivotal role in transforming these initiatives into a people's movement.

**UP govt offers surcharge waiver on pending power bills**

**Lucknow:** The Uttar Pradesh government on Tuesday announced a scheme for electricity consumers, offering full waiver on surcharge for their pending bills and up to 25 per cent rebate on clearing the principal dues upfront.

The 'Bijli Bill Rahat Yojana 2025' was announced by the Urban Development and Energy Minister A K Sharma during a press conference here.

"Under the scheme, 100 per cent waiver on surcharge and up to 25 per cent rebate will be given on the principal amount for consumers clearing their outstanding electricity bills in one-time payments. Never-paid and long-unpaid consumers will benefit from the scheme," Sharma said.

Describing the initiative as a "gift from the government and an unprecedented public participation drive", he added that the objective is to ensure no consumer remains burdened by electricity dues while strengthening the financial health of the state's power distribution system.

According to Sharma, consumers making lump-sum payments will receive a 25 per cent rebate if they register between December 1 and December 31, 2025; 20 per cent if registered between January 1 and January 31, 2026; and 15 per cent for registrations between February 1 and February 28, 2026.

The scheme covers both domestic consumers (up to 2 kW load) and small commercial consumers (up to 1 kW load).

# Opposing Vande Mataram is opposing Mother India: Yogi

**Barabanki (UP):** Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Tuesday said those opposing Vande Mataram are "opposing Mother India", asserting that the national song is not associated with any particular form of worship.

Adityanath was in Barabanki to inaugurate and lay the foundation stone for 254 development projects worth Rs 1,734 crore in Barabanki.

Addressing a gathering for the occasion, the UP chief minister said, "Anyone who is opposing Vande Mataram is opposing Mother India. Vande Mataram does not belong to any person, any caste or religion."

The song does not "link a person with any particular form of worship", it just shows reverence to 'Bharat Mata', he said.

"Recognise these faces, who stand in



the front of the queue to grab government schemes but won't sing the Vande Mataram," Adityanath said.

He added, "We have derived the strength to take India (Bharat) and Indianness (Bharatiyata) ahead by worshipping Goddess Saraswati, Goddess Laxmi and Goddess Durga."

Adityanath was in Barabanki to participate in the launch of the "National Unity Yatra" in Kursi assembly constituency, as part of the 150th birth anniversary celebrations of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel.

"Be it any religion, caste or creed, it cannot be greater than the nation. Remember that for us, the nation has to be first. If the nation is secured, then we are secured. If the nation is united, we are united," Adityanath said.

This comes a day after Adityanath said that singing the "Vande Mataram" will be made compulsory in every school and educational institution of the state.

Debate over India's national song rekindled last week when Prime Minister Narendra Modi said after inaugurating the year-long commemoration of 150 years of "Vande Mataram" that dropping key stanzas in 1937 had "sown the seeds of Partition".

Penned by Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay in 1875, Adityanath was in Barabanki to inaugurate and lay the foundation stone for 254 development projects worth Rs 1,734 crore in Barabanki.

**Adityanath was in Barabanki to inaugurate and lay the foundation stone for 254 development projects worth Rs 1,734 crore in Barabanki.**

"Vande Mataram" was officially adopted as India's national song by the Constituent Assembly on January 24, 1950.

Adityanath also said the politics of caste, dynasty and regionalism and division in the name of religion should not be accepted.

History, he said, is not only meant for studying, it also gives an opportunity for introspection. "We should rectify the mistakes of history at the earliest", and make the future beautiful by taking inspiration from moments of pride in history.

Agra's Yamuna belt gets major relief 55 000 homes to receive clean drinking water

**Agra (UP):** With a view to resolve the long-standing drinking water crisis in the areas nearby the Yamuna river in Agra, Uttar Pradesh Jal Nigam has begun constructing a massive 85 million litres per day (MLD) intake well in the Yamuna at Polyta Ghat, along with a 55 MLD Water Treatment Plant (WTP), an official statement issued here on Tuesday said.

Once operational, this project will ensure a morning and evening supply of treated Yamuna water to 55,000 households in the region, the statement added.

Under the project, an 85 MLD intake well will be set up in the Yamuna near Polyta Ghat towards Khandoli.

The structure will sit 3 to 7 metres inside the river, depending on suitable soil conditions. Jal Nigam teams have already started soil sampling and will begin structural work where the strata are strongest, it said.

away from the intake point, a 55 MLD WTP will also be built, the statement said.

Raw water will be pumped directly from the intake well to the plant, treated, and then supplied as clean drinking water to Yamuna-side colonies, it read.

To complete the project on schedule, Jal Nigam has fast-tracked the laying of a 231-kilometre pipeline, with household connections being installed in parallel.

The target is to complete the project within one-and-a-half years, after which residents will no longer depend on tanker water or face seasonal shortages, it said.

Several newer localities on the Yamuna belt have suffered severe shortages due to a lack of pipeline networks, especially in summer.

Residents were forced to rely on private tanker suppliers, who often overcharged. Complaints flooded the civic body and the District Collectorate on a daily basis.

Commonwealth Parliamentary meet Harivansh calls for greater legislative accountability



**TSN/Kohima:** Deputy Chairman of the Rajya Sabha, Harivansh, on Tuesday called for greater legislative accountability, regional cooperation, and sustained focus on inclusive development.

He was speaking during the valedictory session of the 22nd Annual Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) India Region Zone-III Conference hosted by the Nagaland Legislative Assembly (NLA) here.

Reflecting on the two-day deliberations, Harivansh said the sessions embodied the "true spirit of parliamentary democracy" with vibrant debates and a shared commitment to public welfare.

He expressed gratitude to Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla for his "inspiring leadership and tireless efforts" in strengthening legislative institutions, and to Nagaland Speaker

Sharingan Longkumer for conducting the plenary sessions with excellence.

Highlighting the vision of India@2047, he emphasised that each state must chart its development milestones while aligning with the national goal of Viksit Bharat.

Appreciating insights shared by Speakers and delegates from the north-eastern states on inclusive development, innovation, and sustainability, he stressed that legislatures must ensure "accountability and monitoring of execution on the ground."

Citing examples from Sikkim's organic farming model and Meghalaya's reforms in land and labour laws, Harivansh called for annual legislative discussions on Viksit Bharat to review policies that drive long-term growth.

He highlighted the role of technology, innovation, and research in ad-

ressing complex governance challenges.

Touching on environmental sustainability, he referred to his visit to Khonoma Village, describing it as "a living example of sustainable living," and urged legislatures to address climate change challenges through adaptive planning and regional cooperation.

"Conferences like these are vital platforms to build consensus and act with a coherent vision," he said, adding that the strength of democracy lies not just in laws but in "the sincerity with which we uphold the trust of the people."

He lauded the Nagaland Legislative Assembly, the state government, and the people of Nagaland for their exceptional hospitality, also commending the quality of local products and coffee showcased during the event.

Jai Ram Thakur accuses CM Sukhu of turning relief event into political show

**Rajan Pundhi Mandi:** Former Chief Minister and Leader of the Opposition Jai Ram Thakur launched a sharp attack on Chief Minister Sukhinder Singh Sukhu, accusing him of converting a disaster relief distribution event into a political platform to vent his anger.

Addressing a press conference at the Circuit House in Mandi, Thakur said that the government should have shown sensitivity during such an occasion, but instead "all limits were crossed at the linguistic level."

Thakur alleged that the state government deliberately excluded BJP MLAs from the event to avoid political scrutiny. "If the Chief Minister claims that opposition MLAs were invited, he should show proof," Thakur said. He added that the behaviour of the Chief Minister's ministers at the event reflected their "insensitivity and mental state" and revealed the Chief Minister's "helplessness."

Referring to central assistance, Thakur said the Union government had provided around ₹5,500 crore and 1.11 lakh Prime Minister's



Housing Scheme benefits to Himachal Pradesh since 2023. Yet, he claimed, the Sukhu government had spent less than a tenth of the funds meant for disaster-affected people. "After four months of publicity, the government has only distributed ₹81 crore. Even roads damaged last year remain unrepaired," he said, adding that it would be a "great favor" if the Chief Ministers simply passed on the central funds to those in need.

The former Chief Minister also criticized Sukhu for failing to visit disaster-hit regions personally. He cited the recent road collapse in Bilaspur that killed 16 people, accus-

ing the Chief Minister of showing no concern for the victims. "While disasters were being discussed in the assembly, the Chief Minister was on an election tour in Bihar, where there were no elections. This reflects his insensitivity and misplaced priorities," Thakur said.

Taking aim at the government's claims of infrastructure achievements, Thakur remarked, "The Chief Minister boasts of building structures worth ₹1,000 crore. If he thinks we did wrong, he can demolish them all with bulldozers. Because apart from destruction, his government seems capable of nothing else." He described Sukhu as

"the most negative Chief Minister the state has ever seen—one who finds joy in taking Himachal backward rather than forward."

Thakur further alleged large-scale corruption in state-run hydroelectric projects. He said that contracts once handled by major public sector undertakings were now being given to private contractors from Congress-ruled states such as Karnataka, Telangana, and Andhra Pradesh. "This is not in the interest of the state. Central PSUs are being sidelined so that private contractors can fill the pockets of political leaders. A group of cronies is busy trying to sell the entire state," he alleged.

Mandi hosts first district-level conference on child rights and drug-free society

**Rajan Pundhi Mandi:** A one-day district-level conference on child rights and protection was held today at the Zila Parishad Hall, Mandi, under the joint aegis of the Mandi District Administration and the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR). The event focused on key issues including education, the Juvenile Justice Act, and the POCSO Act.

Deputy Commissioner Apoorv Devgan, who presided over the conference, emphasized that collective efforts are essential to safeguard children's rights and build a drug-free society. He urged all participants to apply the lessons learned during the session and introspect on whether their work aligns with the larger goal of child welfare.



and parents to help children realize their capabilities and steer them toward positive development. Highlighting that children are the most vulnerable during disasters, he stressed the importance of prioritizing child safety in disaster management plans.

"India can only become a developed nation when its younger generation is empowered and self-reliant," Devgan said. He directed the District Child Protection Officer to compile ten key takeaways from the conference to guide future policymaking and child protection initiatives.

Senior Advisor to NCPCR, Umesh Chandra Sharma, in his keynote address, underlined that every child rights case represents a personal story, not just a statistic. He informed that NCPCR resolved more than 26,000 cases in the past six months, rescued 600 children, and rehabilitated over 1,000 in their home districts. He added that the Commission is developing artificial intelligence-based tools to address child mental health issues, cybersecurity challenges, and online sexual abuse material.

Angad Singh orders High-Tension Line Shifting Near Schools

**Akash Jain Agra:** A review meeting of the District Child Protection Council's State Electricity System Inquiry Committee was held at the New Circuit House auditorium in Agra under the chairmanship of Hon'ble Angad Kumar Singh. Committee members Shri Manvendra Pratap Singh, Shri Satyapal Singh Saini, Shri Vijay Shivhare, and Shri Akash Agrawal attended the meeting, along with officials from Agra, Ferozabad, and Mainpuri districts.

At the start of the session, District Magistrate Arvind Mallappa Bangari (Agra) and Anjani Kumar Singh (Mainpuri), along with Assistant Commissioner of Police Rambhand Singh, welcomed the Chairman and committee members with bouquets, mementos, and



shawls. The committee reviewed the state of electricity supply, maintenance, and management systems across the region. It directed that power supply be maintained as per the prescribed roster in both urban and rural areas. Strengthening transformer maintenance, improving response time for complaints received on the toll-free helpline 1912, and taking firm action against electricity theft were among the key directives issued.

Chairman Singh sought details on electricity connections in panchayat buildings, community toilets, schools, and anganwadi centers, instructing officials to ensure full electrification and timely bill payments. He also stressed transparent vigilance operations and recommended organizing Electricity Chaupals in high-complaint areas for on-the-spot grievance redressal.

US, China Sri Lanka 'deeply saddened' by loss of lives in Delhi blast

Beijing/Washington: The US, China, Sri Lanka, the Maldives, Israel, Ireland and Nepal on Tuesday said they were "deeply saddened" by the tragic loss of lives in an explosion in the Indian capital that killed at least 12 people and wounded several others.

A powerful explosion ripped through a slow-moving car at a traffic signal near the Red Fort metro station on Monday evening, killing nine people and injuring 20 others. The death toll rose to 12 on Tuesday, with three more people succumbing to injuries, police said.

Expressing condolences over the deadly explosion, the US said it continues to closely monitor the situation.

"Our hearts are with those affected by the terrible explosion in New Delhi. We continue to closely monitor the situation. Our sincere condolences to the families who lost their loved ones. Praying for the speedy recovery of those injured," the State Department's Bureau of South and Central Asian Affairs said in a post on X Monday.

China expressed shock over the bomb blast in Delhi. "We are shocked by the incident," Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Lin Jian told a media briefing in Beijing, replying to a question.

He conveyed condolences to the victims, extended sincere sympathies to the families of the deceased and the injured, and wished the injured a speedy recovery.

**BUSINESS**

**Platinum Love Bands unveils the new season collection this Wedding Season**

TSN/Mumbai: Platinum Love Bands unveils its new Season Collection - a tribute to the unspoken language shared between couples. Rooted in the belief that every love story has its own dialect, one the world may not understand, this collection transforms those quiet connections into something you can cherish for life.

These aren't just rings. They're part of your private language. Symbols of a bond so personal, only you two know the story they hold.

The collection draws inspiration from the unspoken gestures that define real connection: the quiet understanding and shared rhythm between two people. Each design in this collection reflects a quiet intimacy, the kind of love that finds meaning in shared glances and familiar silences.

Crafted in 95% pure platinum, these bands stand for a connection that is unwavering and true, mirroring the strength and resilience of the metal itself. From entwined motifs that symbolize two paths becoming one, to dual-tone details that

**Prez Murmu concludes 4-day visit to Angola departs for Botswana**

Luanda (Angola): President Droupadi Murmu on Tuesday left for Botswana on the second leg of her two-nation State Visit after concluding her trip to Angola, where she held discussions on expanding the economic ties beyond the traditional energy business.

On the last day of her four-day State Visit to Angola, President Murmu attended the country's 50th Independence Day celebrations before moving to the Angola International Airport, where she was given a ceremonial farewell.

Giving details of the visit, Secretary (Economics & Relations), Ministry of External Affairs, Sudhakar Dalela, said Angola has come forward to partner with India in some "very critical" areas like renewable energy, wildlife conservation and management, and bio-fuels, which are "very significant" outcomes of the president's visit



On the last day of her four-day State Visit to Angola, President Murmu attended the country's 50th Independence Day celebrations before moving to the Angola International Airport, where she was given a ceremonial farewell.

to the African nation. It was the first-ever visit by an Indian President to Angola. During the visit, President Murmu held high-level talks with her Angolan counterpart Joao Manuel Goncalves Lourenco and oversaw the signing of two MoUs between the two countries.

Murmu told Lourenco that Indian companies were "capable of exploration of critical and rare earth minerals as she stressed that this cooperation can also be extended to electric vehicles, semiconductor technology and artificial intelligence partnership.

Speaking about defence collaboration, Murmu said India was a "trusted" defence equipment exporter and "we are ready

to fulfil Angola's defence-related requirements." She also underlined the interest of Indian Oil and Gas companies in Angola through long-term purchase contracts.

Dalela said there was a "strong and positive momentum in the bilateral ties."

"Both leaders reviewed the existing bilateral cooperation in various sectors, including trade and investment, agriculture, health, infrastructure development, capacity building, defence, and development partnership.

"They discussed ways to further strengthen and expand our cooperation in these sectors with a shared commitment to sustainable growth and mutual prosperity," Dalela said.

Angola, the secretary said, has agreed to join the International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA) and the Global Biofuel Alliance (GBA), two initiatives led by India.

**Bangladesh's deposed PM Hasina condemns Delhi blast**



Dhaka/New Delhi: Deposed Bangladesh prime minister Sheikh Hasina has strongly condemned the explosion in the Indian capital on Monday that killed at least 12 people and wounded several others.

"The appalling terrorist attack in New Delhi is unacceptable under any circumstances," Hasina said in a statement posted on Awami League's social media.

Hasina said the Awami League extended its full support to Prime Minister Narendra Modi "in this principled struggle against terrorism."

"We firmly believe there is no place - and no forgiveness - for such heinous crimes against humanity in today's civilized world," she said.

"These extremist terrorist groups strike at the very foundations of a secular, humane and welfare-oriented state," she added.

She said the terrorist groups, "rooted in Pakistan, have infiltrated networks across countries, including Bangladesh, and were carrying out attacks in India to undermine regional peace and stability."

"Wherever the roots of terrorism lie, they must be eradicated completely. Those who support these terrorist groups in Bangladesh and elsewhere are enemies of humanity, and we strongly denounce them as well," she said.

Hasina expressed deep sorrow for the deceased and extended her condolences to the bereaved families and wished a speedy recovery to the injured.

**UK govt is caught up in feud between Trump, BBC**

London: Britain's government was due to weigh in Tuesday on a feud between the BBC and US President Donald Trump, who is threatening to sue the broadcaster over the way it edited a speech he made after losing the 2020 presidential election.

Culture Secretary Lisa Nandy was set to deliver a statement on the BBC crisis in the House of Commons, with critics demanding major changes to the corporation and supporters urging the government to defend the UK's public broadcaster from political interference.

Outgoing BBC Director-General Tim Davie, who announced his resignation on Sunday because of the scandal, said the BBC needed "to fight for our journalism" in the face of growing attacks.

"We have made some mistakes that have cost us," Davie acknowledged in a statement to staff, but added he was "fiercely proud" of the organisation.

"I think we've got to fight for our journalism," he said.

A lawyer for Trump is demanding a retraction, apology and compensation from the broadcaster over the allegedly defamatory sequence in a documentary broadcast last year.

Fallout from the documentary has already dented the BBC's top executive, Davie, and head of news Deborah Turner, who both resigned over what the broadcaster called an "error of judgment."

The BBC has apologised for the misleading editing of a speech Trump delivered on Jan. 6, 2021, before a crowd of his supporters stormed the Capitol in Washington.

Broadcast days before the November 2024 US election, the documentary "Trump: A Second Chance?" spliced together three quotes from two sections of the speech, delivered almost an hour apart, into what appeared to be one quote in which Trump urged supporters to march with him and "fight like hell." Among the parts cut out was a section where Trump said he wanted supporters to demonstrate peacefully.

BBC chairman Samir Shah said the broadcaster accepted "that the way the speech was edited did give the impression of a direct call for violent action."

The BBC has not yet formally responded to the demand from Florida-based Trump attorney Alejandro Brito that it "retract the false, defamatory, disparaging, and inflammatory statements," apologise and "appropriately compensate President Trump for the harm caused" by Friday, or face legal action for USD 1 billion in damages.

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BBC chairman Samir Shah said the broadcaster accepted "that the way the speech was edited did give the impression of a direct call for violent action."

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TR. The fund seeks to

the allegedly defamatory sequence in a documentary broadcast last year.

Fallout from the documentary has already dented the BBC's top executive, Davie, and head of news Deborah Turner, who both resigned over what the broadcaster called an "error of judgment."

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**India wants fair equitable balanced trade deal with US: Piyush Goyal**

New Delhi: Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal on Tuesday said India wants a fair, equitable, balanced trade deal with the US and it will not compromise on the interests of farmers, fishermen, and the dairy sector.

He said India and the US are negotiating a good proposed bilateral trade agreement.

"We are working for a good trade deal in the interest of India. At the same time, India is not going to compromise the interests of our farmers, fishermen, workers, labour, and our dairy... We are working on a fair equitable and balanced trade deal," he said here at Udyog Samagam 2025 - a conference of industries and commerce ministers of states.

"We want a fair, equitable and balanced trade deal (with the US). If that happens, it could happen any day, it could happen tomorrow, it may happen next month, it may happen next year... But as a government, we are preparing for everything," he said.

He also said India is looking for new markets such as Russia for the country's fishery sector, which is facing issues due to the steep tariffs in the US.

India and the US are negotiating a bilateral trade agreement. So far, five rounds of talks have been completed. Both sides have announced to finalise the first tranche of the deal by fall of 2025.

Meanwhile, an official said another round of negotiations may not be necessary.

"They (US) have to get back to us. India's negotiations have been the most comprehensive, most detailed, WTO-compliant compared to any other country. May be it took time, but we negotiated very cautiously, keeping in view the interests of our sensitive sectors," the official added.



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**FinMin to meet PSB Chiefs for Quarterly Review**

New Delhi: The finance ministry has called a meeting of heads of public sector banks (PSBs) on Wednesday to review the second-quarter and half-yearly financial performance.

The meeting is scheduled to be chaired by Financial Services Secretary M Nagarkar.

This is the first meeting since Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman last week said the country needs big and world-class banks, and discussions are on with the Reserve Bank and lenders in this regard.

"Government is looking at this and this work has already commenced. We are discussing with the RBI. We are discussing with banks," she had said.

The review meeting on November 12 with public sector banks will also deliberate on progress made on flagship schemes of the government besides their financial numbers, sources said.

Public sector banks posted a record cumulative profit of Rs 49,456 crore in the second quarter of the current fiscal, reflecting a 9 per cent year-on-year growth despite two lenders reporting a decline.

All 12 public sector banks (PSBs) together made a profit of Rs 45,547 crore in the September quarter of FY25. Thus, the increase in profit in absolute terms was Rs 3,909 crore as compared to the previous quarter of the previous financial year.

Market leader SBI alone contributed 40 per cent to the total earnings of Rs 49,456 crore, as per the published numbers on stock exchanges.

SBI logged a net profit of 20,160 crore in Q2 FY25, 11 per cent higher than the same period of the previous fiscal.

**Bajaj Finserv AMC Launches Fund to Tap India Growth**

Chandigarh: Bajaj Finserv Asset Management Limited has launched the Bajaj Finserv Banking and Financial Services Fund, an open-ended equity scheme aimed at tapping into India's rapidly expanding financial sector. The New Fund Offer (NFO) opens for subscription from November 10, 2025, and will close on November 24, 2025. The fund is bench-



marked against the NIFTY Financial Services TRI. The fund seeks to capture opportunities across the entire banking and financial services spectrum, including banks, NBFCs, insurers, asset management companies, and capital market intermediaries. It will invest in 45-60 stocks drawn from a curated universe of around 180-200 companies aligned with long-term structural trends shaping India's financial ecosystem.

India's BFSI sector has evolved far beyond traditional banking, fueled by digitization, credit expansion, financial inclusion, and regulatory reforms. Over the last two decades, its market capitalization has surged nearly 50 times, reflecting the sector's pivotal role in India's economic transformation. The new scheme aims to give investors a focused yet diversified exposure to this megatrend, offering potential for long-term wealth creation.

Ganesh Mohan, Managing Director of Bajaj Finserv Asset Management Limited, said the fund is designed to help investors participate in India's journey toward becoming a global economic powerhouse. "As India marches toward Viksit Bharat and becomes one of the world's

top three economies, the financial services sector will play a significant role in enabling this growth. Increasing affluence and aspirations will drive expansion across lending, insurance, investments, and payments," he said.

Nimesh Chandan, Chief Investment Officer, said the investment approach rests on disciplined research and quality selection.

# Red Fort Under Attack: India's Security and Honour at Stake



By **Dr. Anil Singh**  
Editorial Advisor, Top Story,  
and Editor, STAR Views



**Introduction**

When the Red Fort — India's eternal emblem of sovereignty and sacrifice — becomes the scene of explosions and gunfire, it shakes the conscience of the nation. From the historic echoes of "Inqilab Zindabad" by Shah Nawaz Khan, Sehgal and Dhillon, to the chilling sounds of terror today, the transformation is deeply disturbing. At a time when the country is questioning the cracks in its internal security and intelligence coordination, **Top Story speaks exclusively to Commander Praful Baxi**, a decorated naval officer, defence strategist, and one of India's most outspoken voices on national security.

In this hard-hitting dialogue, Commander Baxi lays bare the vulnerabilities within India's security system, the failure of intelligence synergy, and the larger geopolitical motives behind targeting India's national pride.

**Q Dr. Anil Singh:** Commander Baxi, one time the Red Fort resonated with the voices of India's heroes — Sehgal, Dhillon, and Shah Nawaz — symbolising the victory of the tricolour. Today, it echoes with the sounds of blasts and gunfire. How do you, as a soldier and as an Indian, see this assault on our national identity?

**A Commander Praful Baxi:** Dr. Singh, it's heartbreaking. The Red Fort is not just a monument — it's the beating heart of India's freedom. When such a sacred symbol is attacked, it's not merely a terrorist act; it's an assault on the soul of the nation.

What's worse is that this is not an external invasion — this is treachery from within. No foreign army has crossed our borders. The hands that executed this crime may have been funded from across the border but the minds and bodies behind it are our own citizens. It's like a son setting his own house on fire.

This is not just a law-and-order failure — it's a civilisational wound. We must stop calling these incidents "isolated." They are well-planned, psychological strikes aimed at eroding public confidence and projecting India as vulnerable.

**Q Dr. Anil Singh:** Has our intelligence system collapsed, Commander? Despite multiple terror warnings, hundreds of kilos of explosives seem to enter our cities undetected. Are our

agencies failing to connect the dots?

**A Commander Praful Baxi:** The problem isn't the absence of intelligence — it's the absence of integration. We have the information, but we lack the discipline to act collectively. Every agency — IB, RAW, NIA, NSG, Military Intelligence — functions in its own silo, guarding turf like feudal fiefdoms. There's data, but no direction.

What's happening is a crisis of coordination. Intelligence is being collected in abundance, but no one is accountable for timely action. The bureaucracy is rigid, the communication lines are fractured, and the result is national vulnerability.

Let's be clear: the intelligence community knows what's coming — but if the command structure doesn't act in unison, the warning dies in files. This is a systemic flaw, not a lack of patriotism or competence.

**Q Dr. Anil Singh:** So, do you consider this latest Red Fort explosion a mere act of sabotage or a full-fledged terrorist operation designed for international impact?

**A Commander Praful Baxi:** This is a major terrorist operation, planned to humiliate India at the global level. The selection of the Red Fort was not random — it was symbolic and psychological. It's like attacking America's Capitol or Britain's Buckingham Palace. The objective was not just destruction, but defamation.

By striking the heart of India's heritage, the perpetrators wanted to show the world that India's defences can be penetrated and its pride violated. It's information warfare, wrapped in the cloak of terrorism. And the sad truth is — they succeeded in generating headlines across the world.

The scale of damage may be limited, but the moral damage is immense. It sends a message

that India's red lines can be crossed. That is unacceptable for a sovereign nation.

**Q Dr. Anil Singh:** Do you see this as a failure of India's counter-terror doctrine, or a deeper problem within our decision-making machinery?

**A Commander Praful Baxi:** It's both. Our counter-terror doctrine is sound on paper — but weak in implementation. We have excellent field officers, brave soldiers, and the best technology. What we don't have is one unified command to control and coordinate.

Every time an attack happens, the same post-mortem begins — who was responsible, who failed to act, who will resign. But no one reforms the system. Intelligence is only as good as the action it triggers. Unless all security inputs are integrated into a single, central command room with authority and accountability, we'll keep reacting instead of

preventing.

I've said it before — national security cannot be run like a bureaucratic department. It must operate like a battle command.

**Q Dr. Anil Singh:** You've often argued that India should treat terrorism as an act of war. Does the government's response so far reflect that resolve?

**A Commander Praful Baxi:** The government's doctrine after Operation Sindoor was very clear — any terrorist act on Indian soil will be treated as an act of aggression. I support that principle completely. However, responses must be swift, visible, and decisive.

Diplomacy and deterrence must go hand in hand. If the enemy knows that every act of terror will invite an immediate and disproportionate response, they will think twice. But if we remain slow, cautious, or reactive, the message of deterrence weakens.

India today has the political will and the military capability to strike back. What we need is strategic consistency — not episodic outrage.

**Q Dr. Anil Singh:** Finally, Commander Baxi, if you had to advise the Prime Minister, the Home Minister, and the Defence

Minister right now — what would you say?

**A Commander Praful Baxi:** I would say three things: First, unify command and control. Merge all intelligence and security operations under one national counter-terror grid with a single operational authority.

Second, empower accountability. There must be consequences for inaction.

Third, act decisively. Terrorism must be answered in the language it understands — firmness and precision.

If the armed forces are given full operational command, you'll see results within weeks. Our soldiers don't lack courage — they lack clearance. The government must now show that India's patience is not weakness, and that every attack on our soil will have a price.

The time for half-measures is over. National security cannot be compromised — not at the Red Fort, not anywhere in India.

**Q Dr. Anil Singh:** Commander Baxi, thank you for your forthright insights and your service to the nation.

**A Commander Praful Baxi:** Jai Hind.

SPORTS

Hayden suggests MI release two star pacers to boost bench strength

Mumbai: Ahead of the announcement of retentions by Indian Premier League (IPL) franchises, JioStar expert and former Australian opener Matthew Hayden noted that releasing and potentially buying Trent Boult and Deepak Chahar back could free up funds to strengthen their bench strength with quality backups.

The retentions by all the IPL teams will be announced on November 15. The team boasts of a quality pace attack consisting of Jasprit Bumrah, Boult, Chahar, skipper Hardik Pandya, Reece Topley, and a young left-arm Ashwani Kumar, among others.

Speaking on JioStar's IPL 2026 "Retention Preview", Hayden spoke on MI's retention dilemma on Boult. "Mumbai Indians have a very balanced playing eleven, but they face some tough decisions. Trent Boult has been exceptional, taking 22 wickets last season and making a strong impact in the powerplay.

## Botham backs nine-Test-old English pacer to "surprise" during away Ashes

Melbourne: Former England all-rounder Ian Botham said that pacer Brydon Carse could "surprise a few" during the away Ashes series Down Under, which also marks his first time being a part of this iconic rivalry.

Botham was in Melbourne on Tuesday and said that Australians should expect plenty of short balls coming their way during the series. Offering a word of advice to the quicks, he also said that Aussies, who are facing their share of batting woes, would not "like it (ball) on their ribs" if they are not batting well.

The legendary all-rounder also cited West Indies' usage of four pacers during their 1979/80 tour to Australia, where the quartet of Colin Croft, Joel Garner, Michael Holding and Andy Roberts dominated Australia and WI won the three Test series 2-0. "I think West Indies did pretty well [in the 1980s] with four pace bowlers, and six waiting to get in. I think it is the right way. I think you want to be aggressive,



you want the ball to come through. Players, if they are not playing very well, do not like it in the ribs, so it will be interesting," said Botham as quoted by the Sydney Morning Herald. "I do not know if they are going to rattle them [Australia]. These [Australian] guys have been around for a long time. It is not a case of rattling them — it is a case of winning and trying to go out and win. That is what they [England] do. They lose a few. They win a few," he continued.

Speaking of 30-year-old, nine-Test old Carse,

Botham said that he is a "very aggressive bowler" and pointed out how handy he is with the bat as well. "I think Carse might surprise a few of you — he is a very aggressive bowler, he has enough pace to make you hop around a bit. He can bat a bit as well," Botham said. "He is a good cricketer. Everyone is focused on (Mark) Wood and (Jofra) Archer, but I think Carse will slide in quietly," he added.

In nine Tests, Carse has taken 36 wickets at an average of 30.11, with best figures of 6/42, in-

cluding two four-fers, a five-wicket haul and a ten-wicket haul. With the bat, he has scored 258 runs in 13 innings, averaging 23.45 and striking at an aggressive rate of 77.01, with a fifty to his name.

Botham also said that the more Aussies make Usman Khawaja wait while unveiling his opening partner, out of Marcus Labuschagne and Jake Weatherald, the better it will be for England bowlers.

"But... I am sure they already know who is doing what — they perhaps just do not want to unveil

Botham was in Melbourne on Tuesday and said that Australians should expect plenty of short balls coming their way during the series.

at the moment. I think it makes sense, but you need settled players at the top. I would not put [Marcus] Labuschagne as an opener — I would leave him at three," he added. "The Ashes in Australia will start from November 21 onwards at Perth, with Steve Smith leading the side in the match due to the absence of Pat Cummins due to a back injury. England would aim to secure their first Ashes series win in Australia since 2011 and their overall first since 2015.

Australia's First Test squad for Ashes: Steve Smith (c), Sean Abbott, Scott Boland, Alex Carey, Brendan Doggett, Cameron Green, Josh Hazlewood, Travis Head, Josh Inglis, Usman Khawaja, Marnus Labuschagne, Nathan Lyon, Mitchell Starc, Jake Weatherald, Beau Webster. Agency

## When anti-India slogans turned cricket match into brawl: Manjrekar

New Delhi: Former Indian cricketer Sanjay Manjrekar reminisced on the Karachi 1980 Test against Pakistan, saying that during the course of the match, an intruder interrupted the proceedings by walking on the field and shouting anti-India slogans, which led to a "full blown scuffle" in the middle of the match with skipper Kris Srikkanth being a part of it.

Manjrekar was speaking on 'The Great Indian Cricket Show' on Doordarshan. He shared a dramatic memory from one of the most intense India-Pakistan encounters.

Manjrekar said, "During a match in Karachi, I was at mid-off when suddenly a man in local attire walked onto the field, shouting anti-India slogans. Before we could react, he charged straight at our captain, Kri namachari 'Srikanth'." He added, "What followed was surreal. A full-blown scuffle in the middle of a Test match! Srikanth fought back, his shirt buttons ripped, and the game stopped as security scrambled to intervene." Manjrekar further



recalled, "The funniest part? Kiran More jumped in to defend his captain and started kicking the intruder with his pads still on! It was chaos, like a street fight on a cricket pitch," he concluded.

The incident took place during the first Test of India's 1980 tour of Pakistan at the National Stadium in Karachi, a series that marked Sachin Tendulkar's Test debut. The match ended in a draw. Also, the series ended in a 0-0 draw. In the match at Karachi, India opted to field first and Pakistan posted 409 in the first innings, with a century from skipper Imran Khan (109\*) being the headline act aside from fifties from Shoaib Mohammad (67), and Javed Miandad (78). Kapil Dev secured a four-fer while Manoj Prabhakar got a five-wicket haul.

**Khelo India University Games to be held in Rajasthan from November 24**

Jaipur:

Rajasthan will host the fifth edition of the Khelo India University Games (KIUG) from November 24 to December 5, marking the first time the multi-sport university-level event will be held in the state, officials said on Tuesday.

The games, aimed at promoting sports among youth and providing a national and international platform for emerging athletes, will take place across seven cities — Jaipur, Ajmer, Bharatpur, Udaipur, Kota, Bikaner, and Jodhpur.

Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel Choudhary has directed officials to ensure that the event is successfully conducted, an official statement said.

District-level committees have been formed in all divisions, and the Rajasthan State Sports Council has also constituted committees to oversee arrangements. The event will be telecast live by Prasar Bharati, it added.

Around 7,000 athletes from nearly 200 universities across the country are expected to participate in 24 sporting disciplines. Jaipur will host 11 sports, Udaipur three, while Ajmer, Bharatpur, Bikaner, Jodhpur, and Kota will host two each.

The official unveiling of the logo, mascot, anthem, torch, and jersey of the games will take place on Wednesday at the Jaleb Chowk of Amer Fort in Jaipur.

For the first time, canoeing, kayaking, beach volleyball, and cycling will be part of the Games. A total of 23 medal sports and one demonstration event (kho-kho) will be featured.

Officials said the event will not only promote sports awareness among youth but also help identify new talent and boost Rajasthan's sports ecosystem.

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# Fit India Kolkata Cyclothon sets record with 4000 Riders

**Kolkata:**  
The first-ever Fit India Kolkata Cyclothon 2025, sponsored by Coal India Limited and organized jointly by Loha Foundation and the Sports Authority of India (SAI - Regional Centre, Kolkata), and supported by the Fit India Movement, transformed Kolkata's iconic streets into a vibrant carnival of fitness and sustainability—marking it the city's biggest cycling event to date, as per a release from Kolkata Cyclothon.

The one-day event which is a part of the nationwide Sundays on Cycle movement—launched by Union Minister of Youth Affairs & Sports Mansukh Mandaviya—drew over 4000 participants from the city and adjoining areas.

The event was graced by dignitaries which included Ms. Amar Jyoti,



Fit India Kolkata Cyclothon sets new record with 4000 riders

Executive Director, SAI Kolkata; Krishna Prakash, IPS, Honorary Race Director; Mukesh Kumar, Commissioner of Police, Bidhanagar; Sanjay Kumar Jha, Chairman, Coal India Limited; P. M. Prasad, former Chairman, Coal India

Limited; Padma Bhushan Awardees Legendary tennis player Leander Paes and Pop Queen Usha Uthup; Bollywood singer Shadab Faridi; and the Postmaster General of Kolkata, Ashok Kumar.

The course traced

a 35 km loop which started at the SAI Main Gate and went through Karunamoyee, Sector V, CNCI Hospital, towards ITC Hatisala, followed by a return to the SAI Main Gate—with the 70 km completing two loops. The shorter

categories used proportionate turn-arounds along the same protected corridor.

Themed "Ride for Change, Ride for Kolkata," the event showcased the city's growing passion for green mobility and wellness. The routes spanned five categories—the 70 KM Pro Ride, 50 KM Endurance Ride, 25 KM Amateur Ride, 10 KM Fun Ride, and 5 KM Fun Run—encouraging citizens of all ages and abilities to join the movement. The city's streets buzzed with excitement as cheering squads and live music created an inspiring atmosphere, uniting families, students, professionals, and seasoned athletes for a fitter Kolkata. Embodying the spirit of inclusivity, the cyclothon saw enthusiastic participation from all walks of life.

## Rangareddy, Adilabad clinch titles at 58th Senior TIDKHO Kho Championship

Peddapalli:

The 58th Senior Telangana Inter-District Kho Kho Championship for Men and Women concluded on Sunday, here at India Mission High School, Peddapalli Town, with Rangareddy emerging as Men's champions and Adilabad lifting the Women's title after four days of intense competition.

The championship was organised under the aegis of the Telangana Kho Kho Association (TKKA), under the aegis of the Kho Kho Federation of India (KKFI) and the Sports Authority of Telangana Olympic Association, according to a release from KKFI.

In the Men's final, Rangareddy showcased a commanding performance to defeat Hyderabad by 38-28, securing the championship. Warangal and Adilabad finished third and fourth, respectively, in the category.

In the Women's final, Adilabad registered a convincing 26-15 win over Rangareddy to claim the championship, while Mahabubnagar and Nalgonda claimed the third and

fourth positions.

The championship featured participation from 11 men's teams and 11 women's teams, along with Telangana Police in the men's division. Districts represented included Rangareddy, Hyderabad, Warangal, Adilabad, Karimnagar, Nizamabad, Nalgonda, Peddapalli, Kamman, Medak, and Mahabubnagar.

The four-day event concluded with the prize distribution ceremony, where winners, runners-up, and officials were felicitated for their contributions.

Earlier this month, Patiala stamped its authority at the Punjab State Junior Kho Kho Championship 2025, claiming both the boys' and girls' titles at the event held on November 2 and 3, here at Revat Bahra Professional University.

The championship, which featured Under-18 teams from 15 districts, was organised by the Kho Kho Association of Hoshiarpur under the auspices of the Kho Kho Association of Punjab and the Kho Kho Federation of India.

## From Haryana to the World: KCL promises to redefine the future of kabaddi

New Delhi:

India's own game of grit, agility, and teamwork — is witnessing a powerful revival with the announcement of the Kabaddi Championship League (KCL), an initiative aimed at empowering young kabaddi talent from Haryana and beyond. This ambitious sporting platform is set to elevate the traditional game into a professional and globally recognised league, nurturing the next generation of athletes and providing them the spotlight they truly deserve.

The excitement and anticipation surrounding KCL are palpable, with kabaddi enthusiasts, players, and coaches expressing their confidence in the league's mission and vision. The state of Haryana, long celebrated as the heartland of Indian kabaddi, will once again take centre stage as the breeding ground for some of the sport's finest players, as per a press release.

Speaking on the occasion, star kabaddi player Ashu Malik emphasised the league's impact on youth empowerment, stating, "KCL is going to be a powerful platform



for the youth of Haryana to showcase their real kabaddi talent and make their mark on a bigger stage." His words echo the spirit of the initiative — to transform raw passion into professional excellence. With thousands of players expected to participate in the upcoming trials, the league is already generating buzz across Haryana's districts and sports academies.

Few states in India have contributed to kabaddi as significantly as Haryana. The state has produced some of the finest raiders, defenders, and captains who have led India to international victories. Recognizing this legacy, Jaideep Dahiya, another star player, remarked,

"This league was much needed for Haryana, a state that has always

been the backbone of Indian kabaddi. KCL will give our players the recognition they truly deserve." Jaideep's statement highlights a sentiment shared by countless athletes — that Haryana's local talent has long awaited a stage that can bridge the gap between village-level sport and global recognition. KCL is poised to fill that void with a well-organized, transparent, and inclusive approach.

The strategic vision behind KCL extends beyond a single season or competition. The league is being meticulously structured to serve as a continuous ecosystem — one that identifies young players, mentors them, and facilitates their progression into national and international kabaddi circuits.

## Breaking Time

What to do

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

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

## Solution, Sudoku

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

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## Sunil Chhetri Calls for Competitive Football in India

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The course traced a 35 km loop which started at the SAI Main Gate and went through Karunamoyee, Sector V, CNCI Hospital, towards ITC Hatisala, followed by a return to the SAI Main Gate—with the 70 km completing two loops. The shorter categories used proportionate turn-arounds along the same protected corridor. Themed "Ride for Change, Ride for Kol-

kata," the event showcased the city's growing passion for green mobility and wellness. The routes spanned five categories—the 70 KM Pro Ride, 50 KM Endurance Ride, 25 KM Amateur Ride, 10 KM Fun Ride, and 5 KM Fun Run—encouraging citizens of all ages and abilities to join the movement. The city's streets buzzed with excitement as cheering squads and live music created an inspiring atmosphere, uniting families, students, professionals, and seasoned athletes for a fitter Kolkata. Embodying the spirit of inclusivity, the cyclothon saw enthusiastic participation from all walks of life.

The event was marked by strong representation from various organisations including the Railways, NDRF, Coal India, the National Institute of Homeopathy, local Police, and the armed forces.

Most notably, in a heartwarming display of community and perseverance, more than 300 specially-abled children along with their buddies from the National Institute of Locomotor Disabilities joined the event, truly making it a ride and run for everyone.

The day began with the flag-off setting the tone for a precision-ride and run morning with the flagship 70 km ride at 4:20 AM from the SAI Main Gate (NSEC, Salt Lake). As the finishers raced their way back, they were welcomed by an enthralling performance by Bollywood singer Shadab Faridi.

Adding to the festive spirit, Padma Bhushan awardees Leander Paes and Usha Uthup graced the occasion, inspiring thousands with their presence and words. Adding a collector's flourish, the Postmas-

ter General, Kolkata released a special postal cancellation dedicated to the Cyclothon's first edition.

"It's inspiring to see so many people come together for a cause that promotes fitness, sustainability, and community. Events like the Kolkata Cyclothon remind us that every pedal stroke towards building a healthier and greener future," said Leander Paes, tennis legend and Olympic medalist, as quoted from a release by Kolkata Cyclothon.

"It's absolutely fabulous to be here, and I'm truly proud to share the stage with one of the best in the world, Leander Paes. Together, let's pedal towards a brighter future," said Usha Uthup, iconic singer and cultural ambassador of Kolkata.

"The Cyclothon has massively fuelled Kolkata's cycling community and fitness enthusiasts, celebrating and reinforcing a growing fitness consciousness that paves the way for a happier, healthier Kolkata and India," said Amar Jyoti, Executive Director, SAI RC Kolkata.

## Hyderabad joins Lionel Messi's GOAT India Tour; event set for Nov 13

Kolkata:

Lionel Messi's much-celebrated GOAT India Tour is expanding its footprint across India, with another major stop added to the list, this time in Hyderabad. The football legend is set to grace the city on the evening of November 13, much to the delight of his fans in South India.

After the grand celebration in Kolkata on November 13, Messi will travel to Hyderabad for the next leg of the event on the same day.

Speaking to ANI, the man behind bringing Messi to India, Satadru Dutta, confirmed the development.

"Hyderabad has been added, it will be in the evening of 13th," Dutta said, adding that the event will follow the same structure as the other cities.

"The GOAT event will have similar events to what we have planned for other states," he added.



Mumbai's Kizan & Krish shine, secure 2nd place in National Karting Championship

The event will feature a short football clinic, a musical tribute, and a felicitation ceremony, similar to other cities.

On board, the GOAT India Tour achieves a true pan-India presence, spanning the East (Kolkata) and South (Hyderabad) on December 12 and in the end, North (Delhi) on December 15. Chief Executive Parvati Reddy and event execution partner Hyderabad Talkies are working tirelessly to ensure that the event in Hyderabad becomes a grand success and an unforgettable experience for football lovers in the region.



Allu Arjun concedes victims of Delhi blast, extends 'heartfelt prayers'

Hyderabad South superstar Allu Arjun expressed his deep sorrow for the victims of the deadly blast at Red Fort in the national capital.

Taking to his Instagram handle, Allu Arjun extended his 'heartfelt prayers' for the victims of Monday's blast.

"Deeply saddened by the tragic incident near Delhi's Red Fort. My heartfelt prayers are with the victims and their families, and I wish for peace to prevail once again," wrote Allu Arjun.

Earlier, actor Raveena Tandon took to her X handle, calling it "horrible news."

"Condolences to all those bereaved families who lost their loved ones in the Delhi blast. Horrible news," she wrote.

Sonu Sood also reacted to the news and expressed grief toward the affected victims.

"My heart reaches out to everyone impacted by today's tragic blast near the Red Fort in Delhi. Let's support the victims, look out for each other, and commit to peace," he wrote in an X post. Union Home Minister Amit Shah said that a blast occurred in a Hyundai 120 car at the Subhash Marg traffic signal near the Red Fort in Delhi at 7 pm on Monday, and the explosion injured some pedestrians and damaged some vehicles.

# RajKummar Rao wraps up shooting for 'Nikam'

Mumbai Actor RajKummar Rao has finished shooting for 'Nikam'.

Taking to Instagram, RajKummar shared a heartfelt note from the film's direction team, updating his fans about the film's schedule.

The handwritten letter, addressed to "Raj Sir," expresses deep gratitude and admiration for his portrayal of public prosecutor Ujjwal Nikam, calling it "a privilege" to watch him build the character with

such calm, honesty and grace.

"Nikam is a biopic on India's celebrated public prosecutor Ujjwal Nikam.

More details regarding the film have not been disclosed yet.

Meanwhile, RajKummar is also busy working as a producer.

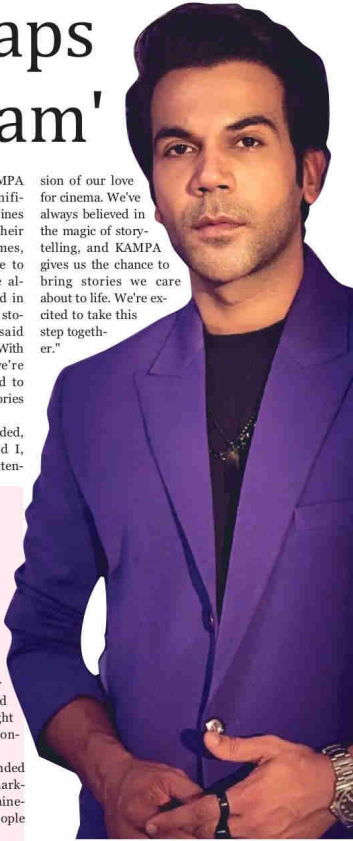
A few months ago, he and his wife Patralekhaa launched their own pro-

The handwritten letter, addressed to "Raj Sir," expresses deep gratitude and admiration for his portrayal of public prosecutor Ujjwal Nikam, calling it "a privilege" to watch him build the character with such calm, honesty and grace.

Film. The name KAMPA holds personal significance, as it combines the initials of their mothers' names, paying tribute to them. "We've always believed in the power of storytelling," said Patralekhaa. "With KAMPA, we're looking forward to sharing these stories with the world."

Rajkummar Rao added, "For Patralekhaa and I, KAMPA is a natural exten-

sion of our love for cinema. We've always believed in the magic of storytelling, and KAMPA gives us the chance to bring stories we care about to life. We're excited to take this step together."



Sydney Sweeney on how she gained 30 pounds for 'Christy'

Washington

Actor Sydney Sweeney shared how she gained roughly 30 pounds to portray real-life boxer Christy Martin in her new movie, 'Christy,' and it included a diet heavily made up of fast food, according to E! News.

In the sports drama, the 'Euphoria' star portrays trailblazing boxer Christy Martin, who, in November 2010, was left for dead by her abusive then-husband, James 'Jim' Martin, after he stabbed and shot her inside their home.

In two photos shared to her Instagram Story, Sydney wore two different costumes, a military uniform and a blue oversized T-shirt and jeans, while on the set of the drama. In one of the snaps, she's eating an entire pizza herself, while in the other, she's enjoying a personal order from a popular fast-food chain.

Reflecting on her efforts to transform into an athlete, she wrote, "Trying hard to keep your calories up lol," according to E! News.

Apart from a carb-intensive diet, she also focused on workouts. In a separate Instagram Story, the ace star shared a video of herself doing "workouts between takes." In the clip, Sydney is seen wearing Christy's white-and-red boxing uniform and curly-haired brown wig, performing some bicep curls with a pair of hot pink 8-pound dumbbells.

# Katy Perry expresses gratitude to fans for 'Band-aids' success



Washington

Katy Perry is celebrating the success of her latest single, 'Band-aids,' and she expressed gratitude to her fans for their love and support, according to People.

She shared an Instagram post that featured behind-the-scenes moments on the set of the 'Band-aids' music video, including a video of Perry smiling as she submerges herself in a pool of mud.

"Thank you for the love on band-aids..." Perry wrote in her caption. "I struggled for months with the idea of putting this song out... even after all these years it can be scary to be vulnerable..."

"but hopefully the lyrics of this song resonate with someone going through what I have been through and maybe they won't feel so alone and will find the strength to keep going like

I have..." she continued.

'Band-aids' is Perry's first single since her breakup with actor Orlando Bloom, and seems to provide insight into why their relationship fell apart.

Perry and Bloom ended their engagement, marking the end of their nine-year relationship. People confirmed in June.

In the song's chorus, she shared that she had done everything to save the relationship, but it still wasn't enough.

"Tried all the medications / Lowered my expectations / Made every justification / Bleeding out, bleeding out, bleeding out / Broken / Band-Aids over a slow heart," Perry sings.

"Though Perry wrote that it's 'scary to be vulnerable,'" fans thanked her for her authenticity on 'Band-aids' in the comments of her Instagram post.

# Superman spinoff series 'DC Crime' in works

Washington

A Superman spinoff series titled DC Crime is currently in development at DC Studios and HBO Max, reported Deadline.

According to the outlet, the series is billed as being akin to a true-crime docuseries with Jimmy Olsen from Superman hosting (played by Skyler Gisondo in the summer blockbuster directed by James Gunn).

Season one reportedly will be centered around DC bad guy Gorilla Grodd, who often wrestles speedster 'The Flash'.

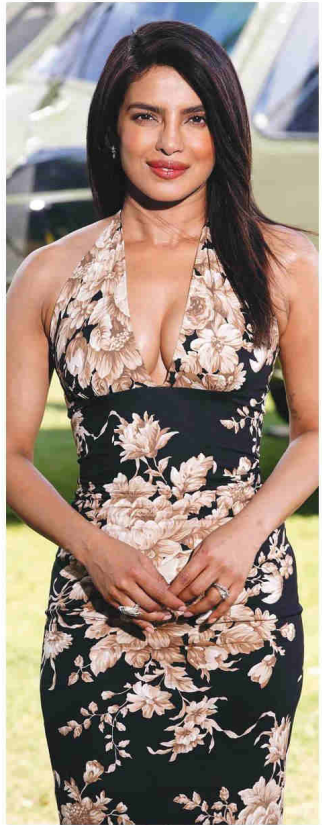
Grodd had psychic powers and other skills after his encounter with an alien spaceship. The character was created in 1959 and has even starred in the former DC's Arrow-verse, re-



ported Deadline.

DC Crime comes from Tony Zaccanta and Dan Perault who are the creators of Netflix's 'American Vandal' series, a crime satire series that ran from 2017-2018.

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# Priyanka Chopra wishes "new adventures" for Raghav Chadha in sweet birthday post

Mumbai

Priyanka Chopra shared warm wishes to her brother-in-law, politician Raghav Chadha, on his birthday.

Taking to her Instagram story, Priyanka shared a picture with

Raghav and

Taking to her Instagram story, Priyanka shared a picture with Raghav and Parineeti from their wedding festivities. In her caption, the actor extended a special message.

Parineeti from their wedding festivities. In her caption, the actor extended a special message.

"Happy Birthday @raghavchadha88! Wishing you a wonderful year ahead filled with health, happiness, and new adventures with the little one," she wrote on Instagram.

Earlier in October, Priyanka, who is affectionately called 'Mimi Didi' by her cousins, took to social media to share her greetings as the couple became parents to a baby boy.

posted on Instagram Story. Parineeti and Raghav announced the birth of their baby boy via a joint Instagram post. They posted a sweet note which read, "He's finally here! Our baby boy. And we literally can't remember life before! Arms full, our hearts are fuller. First, we had each other; now, we have everything."

The couple signed off with, "With gratitude, Parineeti & Raghav."

Earlier in the day, Parineeti dropped a carousel of pictures with Raghav, showing the couple sharing adorable moments at their vacation getaways, family gatherings, and casual outings.

Parineeti married Raghav in September 2023 at the Leela Palace Hotel in Udaipur, Rajasthan, in the presence of their close friends and family members.

On the work front, Priyanka Chopra has back-to-back projects in the pipeline, including SS Rajamouli's tentatively titled 'Globe Trotter'. The film also features Mahesh Babu in the lead role. The makers recently unveiled

the first look of Prithviraj Sukumaran, who appears to be playing the lead antagonist as 'Kumbha'. Further details about its plot or cast have been kept under wraps.

# 'V for Vendetta' in works for upcoming TV series, 20 years after film release

Los Angeles

'V for Vendetta' is all set to make a comeback, this time for television at DC Studios.

According to a Variety report, a 'V for Vendetta' TV series is currently in development at HBO, with Pete Jackson attached to write the series adaptation. James Gunn and Peter Safran of DC Studios will serve as the executive producers, while Ben Stephenson and Leanne Klein will produce the show.

Even though the details are yet to be officially announced, if confirmed, the 'V for Vendetta' series will be the latest DC Studios live-action show at HBO.

Written by Alan Moore and illustrated by David Lloyd, 'V for Vendetta' began as a comic serial, making its debut in 1982 in the



British anthology 'Warrior'. DC took over publishing it in 1988. Set in Britain in a dystopian, not-too-distant future where the country is controlled by the fascist Norsefire party, the story follows an anarchist named V, known for his Guy Fawkes mask, who seeks to overturn the government

with the help of a young woman he rescued from the country's secret police.

'V for Vendetta' was adapted into a feature film in 2005, with Hugo Weaving and Natalie Portman in the lead roles. It was directed by James McTeigue, with a screenplay from the Wachowskis.

The film received positive response from the audience as well as critics, also grossing over \$130 million worldwide.

It has remained popular since then. Warner Bros is now also set to bring the film back to theatres in November 2026 in honour of its 20th anniversary.