



Jadeja completes 4,000 Test runs, enters elite all-round club



Trump to proceed with legal action against BBC despite apology

CM Saini announces major upgrades at Dada Badhdev Ji anniversary



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**WEATHER**  
Sunrise 6:45 AM  
Sunset 5:28 PM  
Moonrise 3:09 AM  
Moonset 3:04 PM  
Today's Prediction  
Maximum 25°C Minimum 12°C  
Tomorrow's Prediction  
25°C | 13°C

## Nine dead, 32 injured after Faridabad explosives go off at J-K police station

The blast tore through Nowgam police station, torching vehicles and shattering windows in nearby homes. J&K DGP Nalin Prabhat said the explosion was an accident.

Srinagar  
At least nine people were killed and 32 injured after what officials said was an accidental blast that tore through the Nowgam police station on the outskirts of Srinagar on Friday night. Officials said the explosion occurred as authorities were extracting samples from a cache of explosives seized in the Faridabad terror module case, adding that the blast was triggered by the unstable nature of the chemicals.

The material was part of the 360 kg of explosives, including ammonium nitrate, recovered from the rented accommodation of arrested accused Dr Muzammil Ganiea from Faridabad and stored at the police station.

The explosion took place during a routine inspection and sampling process involving a Forensic Science Laboratory team, police personnel and revenue officials, sources said.

The blast caused extensive damage to the



building and set several vehicles in the compound on fire. Windows of nearby houses were also shattered, and the impact was felt few kilometres away.

Those killed in the incident included three personnel from the Forensic Science Laboratory, two from the Revenue Department including a Naib Tehsildar,

two police photographers, one member of the State Investigation Agency, and a tailor. The bodies have been taken to the Police Control Room in Srinagar.

At least 24 police personnel and three civilians have been admitted to various hospitals in the city, the officials said. The massive blast smashed the quiet of the

night and damaged the police station building. Small successive explosions prevented immediate rescue operations by the bomb disposal squad.

Jammu and Kashmir Director General of Police (DGP) Nalin Prabhat on Saturday said the explosion at the Nowgam police station was an "accidental blast",

adding that the cause was under investigation. "During investigation, an FIR No 162 of 2025 of PS Nowgam, a huge quantity of explosives was recovered from Faridabad on November 9. This recovery like the rest of the recoveries was transported and kept securely in the open area of Police Station Nowgam," Prabhat told media persons at the Police Control Room in Srinagar.

"As part of the prescribed procedure, the samples of the recovery have to be forwarded for further forensic and chemical examination. On account of the voluminous nature of the recovery, this process was going on for the last two days by the FSL team," he said.

According to Prabhat, the unstable and sensitive nature of the material meant the sampling and handling were being carried out with extreme caution by the FSL team. "However, unfortunately at around 11.20 pm last night, an accidental

R.K. Singh resigns from BJP following suspension from party

New Delhi  
Former Union minister Raj Kumar Singh on Saturday resigned from the BJP, taking exception to a showcase notice that said he was being "suspended" for "anti-party" activities.

Singh shared on social media his letter to BJP national president Jagat Prakash Nadda in which he said he was giving up the primary membership of the party following the letter issued by state headquarters earlier in the day.

He also shared his letter to Arvind Sharma, the in-charge of state BJP headquarters, who had issued the showcase and whom he informed that he has sent his resignation to the national president.

In both letters, Singh claimed his utterances aimed at "curbing corruption and criminalisation of politics seem to have made some people uncomfortable".

Sharma had also shot off similar letters to MLC Ashok Kumar Agrawal and his wife Usha Agrawal, the mayor of Katihar, both of whom had canvassed for their son Saurabh, who was contesting the Katihar assembly seat on a ticket of Vikassheel Insaan Party, against sitting BJP MLA and former Deputy



HIGHLIGHT

Joining the BJP in 2023, the former IAS officer was repeatedly attacking BJP leaders during the Assembly election and even accused the Nitish Kumar govt of a ₹62,000 crore power scam in Bihar

CM Tarikesh Prasad. Singh, a bureaucrat-turned-politician, who joined the BJP in 2014, months after retiring as the Union home secretary, has been critical of leaders, like Samrat Choudhary, a deputy chief minister of Bihar and a former state BJP president, for their alleged involvement in criminal cases.

Singh, who failed to retain his Arak Lok Sabha seat for a third consecutive term in last year's general elections, has also expressed dissent over the state government's deal with the Adani Group for setting up a power plant in Bhalgalpur. Agency

A new Bangladesh steps into Delhi with fresh strategic signals

Mitali Chandola  
New Delhi  
Bangladesh's decision to send its National Security Adviser, Dr. Khalilur Rahman, to the Colombo Security Conclave (CSC) in New Delhi is far more consequential than the diplomacy-on-paper it appears to be. It marks the first high-level security engagement with India since the ouster of Sheikh Hasina — an event that fractured a decade-long alignment and injected uncertainty into one of South Asia's most interdependent relationships.

Hosted by India's NSA Ajit Doval from November 19-20, the seventh CSC meeting brings together security chiefs from Maldives, Mauri-



Bangladesh's National Security Adviser, Dr. Khalilur Rahman

tius, Sri Lanka, and now Bangladesh — a forum that has expanded quietly but deliberately from a limited trilateral maritime dialogue into a broader Indian Ocean security architecture. Its agenda remains practical: maritime surveillance, counterterrorism coordination, and disaster response. But this year, the subtext matters more than the text.

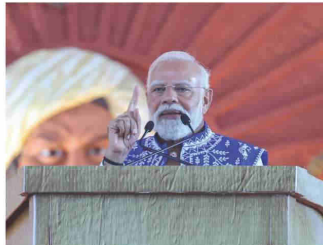
CONTD ON PAGE-2

## Bihar rejected Congress's 'Muslim League-Maoist' combination: Modi

Surat  
Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday said the people of Bihar have rejected the Congress, which has become a Muslim League-Maoist combination, and the Opposition that spewed the poison of casteism.

Taking a swipe at Rahul Gandhi, he said even the Congress nationalist leaders who had worked with former prime ministers Indira Gandhi and Rajiv Gandhi were sad due to the actions of the namdar.

Modi was speaking at a programme organised by Bihar natives living in Gujarat's Surat city to felicitate him for the landslide victory of the National Democratic Alliance in the assembly



polls in the eastern state. He said the Congress' spate of electoral defeats in the last decade is a matter of introspection for that party.

The country has already rejected this 'Muslim League-Maoist Congress' -- MMC. Many

nationalist leaders from the Congress who once worked with Indiraji and Rajivji are also unhappy with the actions of the namdar, said the PM, hinting at Rahul Gandhi.

The PM said many Congress leaders have

HIGHLIGHT

PM Modi said even the Congress' nationalist leaders who had worked with former prime ministers Indira Gandhi and Rajiv Gandhi were sad due to the actions of the namdar.

started saying that it is now difficult to save the party.

The NDA decimated the Mahagathbandhan, an alliance of Congress, RJD and other parties, in the Bihar assembly elections, the results of which were declared on Friday, winning over 200 seats in the 243-member House. The Congress won only six seats. Agency

NDA huddles with Nitish a day after sweeping Bihar



With a landslide victory in Bihar assembly polls placing the NDA firmly in the saddle, leaders of the alliance on Saturday have got down to the brass tacks of forming a new government in the state.

Coalition partners made a beeline at 1, Anne Marg, the Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, the longest-serving incumbent, who heads the JD(U).

Notable visitors included Union minister Chirag Paswan, who is excited at the prospects of his Lok Janshakti Party (Ram Vilas) sharing power in the state as well.

"I have congratulated Nitish Kumar ji on the victory. The NDA's win puts paid to the opposition's false narrative that there has been a rift between the two of us. Even during the campaign, the CM canvassed in seats where our candidate was contesting. We reciprocated the gesture and supported the JD(U) candidate in Alauli, which has been our home turf," Paswan told reporters.

Situated in his native Khagaria district, Alauli, a reserved seat, was represented by the Union minister's late father Ram Vilas Paswan in the 1970s, and, after he became the MP from Hajipur, uncle Pashupati Kumar Paras — now estranged from the family — represented the constituency several times. Agency

## A Tweet-Sized Revolution in Storytelling: Dinesh Singh's 101 Twisted Tales Sparkles With Wit and Insight



By Dr. Anil Kumar Singh  
Editorial Advisor, Top Story & Editor STAR Views

In an age where attention spans are shrinking and storytelling constantly reinvents itself, former Delhi University Vice-Chancellor Dinesh Singh brings a refreshing literary experiment to the Indian reading landscape. His new book, 101 Twisted

Tales, is a compact collection of micro-stories—each under fifty words, each ending with a twist—that captures the ironies, emotions, and delicate truths of everyday life with remarkable brevity.

What began innocently—his daughter installing Twitter (now X) on his phone—soon turned into an unexpected creative journey. Singh began posting short reflective narratives, and the response was immediate. Among those who noticed was Shashi Tharoor, who personally called Singh to say how much he enjoyed the posts and urged him to turn them into a book. Singh agreed, on one charming condition: Tharoor must

write the foreword. Tharoor obliged, enriching the book with his characteristic literary grace and lending the project a unique blend of academic and cultural prestige.

The brilliance of 101 Twisted Tales lies in its mathematical precision—a reflection of Singh's intellectual roots. Each story resembles a theorem: concise, structured, and culminating in a surprising revelation. The result is a form that feels both ancient and modern—part haiku, part aphorism, part micro-fiction. In just a few lines, Singh manages to evoke humour, melancholy, nostalgia, or introspection. It is writing stripped to its essence.



The themes range widely:

- fleeting human encounters,
- social and cultural observations,
- memories and moral paradoxes,
- celebrity anecdotes,
- and the quiet ironies of Indian everyday life.

Whether reflecting on Gandhi's ideals, drawing wisdom from personal experiences, or capturing the quirks of

human behaviour, Singh demonstrates that story and substance need not rely on length. A thought, when expressed clearly, can be as powerful in 40 words as in 400.

The book's launch on 11 November at the India International Centre, New Delhi, attended by eminent figures including Padma Vibhushan Sonal Mansingh, added further weight to this literary novelty. At just 128 pages, the book can be read quickly, but its insights linger. Many of the tales deliver a gentle jolt—reminders that truth often hides in the smallest corners of experience.

spontaneity and literary craft. In transforming tweet-sized ideas into an art form, Singh opens a new window in Indian storytelling. He proves that minimalism, when executed with intent and clarity, can be profoundly impactful.

101 Twisted Tales is not just a book—it is a conversation about how we tell stories today. It invites readers to pause, reflect, and rediscover the extraordinary within the ordinary. For lovers of short fiction, for admirers of elegant brevity, and for readers looking for inspiration in compact form, this collection is a delightful and inventive addition to contemporary Indian literature. Agency

Nine dead, 32 injured after Faridabad explosives go off at J-K police station

CONTD FROM PAGE-1

explosion took place," he said. The blast caused extensive damage to the police station and shook the surrounding area. Windowpanes of many residential houses were shattered, and the impact was felt 2-3 kilometers from the site.

"Any other speculation into the cause of this incident is unnecessary," the DGP asserted. He said nine people were killed in the explosion, while 27 policemen, two revenue officials and three civilians from adjacent areas sustained injuries. The injured were immediately taken to hospital.

Prabhat, said the police station building was severely damaged and nearby structures had also suffered impact. "The extent of this damage is being ascertained. The cause for this incident is being inquired into," he said.

While some of the explosives recovered have been kept at forensic lab of police, the major part of the 360 kg of explosives was stored at the police station, where the primary case for the terror module was registered.

The explosives were stored at the same police station where the initial FIR was registered in mid-October after posters threatening police and security forces appeared on walls in Bunpora, Nowgam.

Treating the incident as a serious threat, Srinagar police registered a case on October 19 and formed a dedicated team.

A new Bangladesh steps into Delhi with fresh strategic signals

CONTD FROM PAGE-1

For the Yunus-led interim government, participation served two goals. It signals institutional continuity at a time of political volatility and positions Dhaka as a cooperative regional actor despite its domestic turbulence. The government has stressed renewed regionalism — citing its leadership of BIMSTEC and efforts to revive SAARC — but the real test lies in whether this outreach can rebuild trust with India.

Delhi-Dhaka ties have undeniably cooled. Bangladesh accuses India of shielding Hasina after the student-led uprising forced her from power, while India quietly worries about rising anti-India sentiment in Dhaka and the safety of Hindu minorities. Against this backdrop, Dhaka's presence at a security forum hosted by Doval is not routine — it is strategic signalling.

The participation of Maldives' NSA Ibrahim Latheef, Mauritius' NSA Vivek Jhori, and Sri Lanka's Defence Secretary Air Vice Marshal (Ret'd.) Sampath Thuyacantha underscores a broader shift: Indian Ocean states are repositioning themselves amid new geopolitical currents and domestic recalibrations.

# Film Industry Rattled as Police Track Massive Trafficking Network

Mitali Chandola Mumbai

Mumbai's film industry, long accustomed to glamour, red carpets and high-stakes negotiations, has been jolted into uneasy silence as the city's Anti-Narcotics Cell (ANC) intensifies its investigation into a sprawling ₹252-crore drug trafficking network suspected to have connections with D-Company operatives. What began as a routine follow-up to a narcotics seizure has now widened into one of the most dramatic probes the ANC has handled in recent years.

Sources within the investigation confirmed that the probe expanded sharply after the interrogation of arrested accused Shaikh, who reportedly provided information about a se-



ries of high-profile parties attended by several individuals from the entertainment industry. Police documents describe these gatherings as having taken place at private farmhouses, secluded venues, and high-security estates on the outskirts of Mumbai and Thane.

According to officers familiar with the case, Shaikh's state-

ments form only one part of the evidentiary trail, and investigators are treating them as claims requiring verification, not findings of guilt. The ANC has been cross-checking his disclosures against digital evidence, financial trails, surveillance inputs, and electronic communication patterns associated with the narcotics network.

However, what has shaken Bollywood is not the naming of any particular celebrity—none have been officially accused—but the scale and seriousness of the criminal network under scrutiny. The syndicate under investigation is believed to have routed drugs, money and logistical support through hawala channels, offshore handlers,

Sources within the investigation confirmed that the probe expanded sharply after the interrogation of arrested accused Shaikh, who reportedly provided information about a series of high-profile parties attended by several individuals from the entertainment industry.

unless independently corroborated.

Still, the very mention of the industry during interrogation has sent ripples across production houses, PR agencies, and celebrity management circles. Phones are switched off, lawyers are on stand-by, and publicists are scrambling to contain speculation as the ANC continues to widen its net.

Officials say the probe is now in a "critical stage," with teams analysing bank records, CCTV footage and mobile extractions to determine whether Shaikh's claims hold ground or collapse under scrutiny.

For now, Mumbai Police maintains a firm line: "The investigation is ongoing. Only verified evidence—not rumours—will dictate the next steps."

## BML Munjal University Closes SAAR 2025 on a High

Gurugram

BML Munjal University (BMU), a Hero Group initiative, successfully concluded the inaugural edition of SAAR 2025 — Showcase of Action, Achievement and Reflection on Friday.

Conceived as a tribute to the vision and values of Padma Bhushan Late Dr. B.M.L. Munjal, the event, which coincides with Founder's Day of the university, brought together the BMU community and its wider network to celebrate innovation, leadership, and societal impact.

The inauguration ceremony began with an invocation of the Almighty, followed by a series of felicitations of students and alumni who have excelled in their respective branches. Two key Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) were signed, with Bosch India Foundation and ICICI Foundation.

While the former aims to empower young innovators and researchers to develop impactful technology-driven solutions that advance sustainable mobility, the latter aims to promote clean energy, efficient resource utilization, and environmentally responsible campus practices.

Addressing the esteemed gathering, Mr Akshay Munjal, Pro Chancellor, BML Munjal University, said: "At BMU, we have always believed that education is the most strategic investment a nation can make. Guided by the Hero philosophy of learning by doing, empathy-led leadership and service to community, we created a university that bridges the gap between what industry needs and what society aspires for. SAAR re-

flects that commitment to nurture leaders who not only excel professionally but also uplift the world around them."

Shah to chair Northern Zonal Council meet in Faridabad on Monday. New Delhi: Union Home Minister Amit Shah will chair a meeting of the Northern Zonal Council (NZC) that will be held on Monday in Faridabad, Haryana, officials said.

Chief ministers of Punjab, Haryana and Himachal Pradesh, lieutenant governors of Delhi, Jammu and Kashmir, and Ladakh, and the administrator of Chandigarh, among others, are likely to participate in the meeting.

Coordination among the state governments, water sharing issues and development work are expected to be discussed in the 32nd NZC meeting, officials said on Saturday.

The meeting bears significance as it will be held days after a 'white-collar' terror module was busted following the recovery of a huge amount of explosives in Faridabad in a coordinated operation by multiple state and central agencies.

Explosives linked to the terror module are suspected to have been used in the Red Fort blast on November 10 that left 43 people dead.

The explosives seized in Faridabad, which were taken to Jammu and Kashmir, also led to an accidental blast in a police station in Nowgam, killing nine people and injuring 32 others.

The explosion occurred around 11:20 pm on Friday when a specialised team was extracting samples from the "unstable" cache of explosives.

Mitali Chandola New Delhi

In a country where the dream of homeownership often demands a lifetime of savings, the Enforcement Directorate's latest case cuts deeper than yet another financial crime. It exposes the fragile architecture of trust on which India's housing ecosystem rests—and how easily one promoter's greed can turn that structure into a trap door.

and other states unravelled what investigators describe as a systematic laundering mechanism tied to Ocean Sevdan Buildtech Pvt. Ltd. (OSBPL). The agency arrested Swaraj Singh Yadav, the firm's Managing Director, recovering ₹86 lakh in cash and a trove of digital evidence. But the numbers, while striking, hide the real story: an alleged betrayal of homebuyers who believed they were investing in stability, not suspicious receipt.

## 'Our Air, Our Lives': Gurugram children issue urgent mandate for action on air pollution

TSN/Gurugram:

On Children's Day, the District Administration, Gurugram, and the Raahgiri Foundation hosted "Our Air, Our Lives," a powerful panel discussion dedicated to amplifying the voices of the city's youngest citizens on the persistent public health crisis of air pollution. Held at the Museum Camera Centre for the Photographic Arts, the event brought together five child panelists, administrative leadership, and medical experts to underscore the human cost of environmental degradation.

The program successfully centered the children's emotional plea as a demand for immediate, actionable policy. Students, some holding handmade placards, shared poignant personal testimonies about how toxic air restricts their health, education, and basic right to play outdoors. The event was inaugurated by Shri Ajay Kumar, IAS, DC Gurugram, and featured a medical perspective from Dr. Rachita Chopra, Thoracic Surgeon from Medanta.

The powerful discussion was moderated by Jyoti Pande Lavakar, journalist and author of the book *Breathing Here is Injurious to Your Health*. The young panelists delivered a unified message that the ongoing crisis is forcing unacceptable choices upon their daily routines and educational access.

Prince, 17, Young Content Creator and Marathon Runner, linked health to urban infrastructure demands: "I am a marathon runner, but in this air, my parents don't let me run, because it's so dangerous for my health. If we want citizens to be ac-



ture, we must prioritize policy that creates safe, walkable cities. That is the concrete solution I am asking DC Sir to commit to today."

Sneha, College Student from LSR, emphasized the policy vacuum: "I wake up dreading my commute to college, knowing I'll be exposed to this level of pollution for hours. We have to question the motivations behind why these problems persist. Addressing this environmental crisis must become our foremost political demand."

Bismann Singh, 9th Grade, Heritage School, offered a nuanced perspective on farm fires: "I feel suffocated and simply cannot breathe properly when the pollution peaks. While stubble burning absolutely should not be done, we must remember that farmers often lack alternatives. The government must provide them with the necessary resources and help before expecting compliance."

Harshit, 8th Standard, Happy School, demanded aggressive ecological solutions: "My solution is clear and simple: we should plant more trees—thousands of them! Stubble burning is hurting the farmers themselves before it hurts us, so it must stop. Planting and protection are the fastest ways to clean our air."

Jyoti, Student from Literacy India, described the untenable dilemma facing students: "My mother tells me not to go to school when I wake up because the pollution is too severe, but I have to study. What am I supposed to do? I never ask my family for firecrackers because I understand the environmental impact—we need the system to respect the environment as much as we do."

Leadership, Health, and the call for Systemic Change Ajay Kumar, IAS, DC Gurugram, acknowledged the existing policy gaps and affirmed the administrative commitment to action: "CAQM is body has imposed restrictions on classes till 5, in a hybrid model, various activities are being carried out, there are gaps, and I know we have to improve capacity for enforcement and project

management. NGOs and RWAs are coming forward, I'm sure collectively we will deal with this challenge. We are committed to strengthening the necessary policy frameworks to deliver it."

Sarika Panda, Co-founder and Trustee, Raahgiri Foundation, and Director, Nagarro, underscored the urgency of translating advocacy into infrastructure: "The children's courage confirms that air quality is a human rights issue that demands engineering solutions. Our work on walkable streets and low-emission zones is directly aimed at tackling the vehicular pollution that prevents these children from having a healthy future."

Dr. Rachita Chopra, Thoracic Surgeon from Medanta, issued a direct warning on the long-term health impact: "When a school holds its sports day in 300 AQI, we are hurting our children, which can lead to neuroinflammation and long-term issues like ADHD. We must immediately recognize and treat this state of air quality as a health emergency."

The ED's commitment to track and recover diverted funds offers a measure of accountability. But it also raises a blunt question: How many more families must lose before regulatory vigilance becomes preventive rather than reactive?

## MHA's silent shake-up sets a new tone

Mitali Chandola New Delhi

In a government ecosystem where files often outlive the hands that draft them, the Ministry of Home Affairs' Special Campaign 5.0 became more than an administrative exercise—it emerged as a rare moment of introspection. Conducted from October 2 to October 31, 2025, the campaign sought to institutionalize cleanliness and dismantle pendency, echoing Prime Minister Narendra Modi's long-stated vision of a state machinery that is both efficient and accountable. But beneath the headline numbers lies a deeper story: a bureaucracy learning, perhaps slowly, to breathe again.

Under the direction of Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation Amit Shah, field and outpost offices—those where the public encounters the most friction—received critical attention. What began as a list of 4,187 sites expanded to an ambitious 7,678, signalling the Ministry's recognition that the nation's administrative arteries of choice not in Delhi's corridors, but in remote, everyday outposts where a single missing file can stall a citizen's life.

The statistics of the campaign tell their own tale of scale and strain relieved. A total of 119 references from Members of Parliament and 199 from state governments were addressed—a reminder of the persistent political and administrative demands that crowd the Centre's working bandwidth. Additionally, 3,977 public grievances and 718 appeals were resolved, marking a meaningful dent in the case backlog that erodes citizens' trust in the system.

### PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the general public at large that my client, Sant. Megha Kumar W/o Sh. Sheela Kumar R/o 747, G/F, Sector - 11, Vasundhara Ghazabad, Phase-2 - 201012 (UID No. 9823249777) is the absolute owner of the built-up Residential Unit of Second Floor No. 304, (Right Side Back Portion) without Roof/Terrace rights, with proportionate Area measuring 93 Sq. Fts., built on property bearing No. C-42 (Part) and 43, Area (Out of 375 Sq. Yds.) of Plot No. 12, Masudiya No. 10, situated in the Revenue estate of Village Masudiya, Delhi State Delhi, Colony known as Masana Karam Park, Sector-11, New Delhi - 110059, with common car parking space at ground floor. The GPA and ATIS stands duly executed in favour of my client. It is hereby notified for the information of the general public that any person dealing with the aforesaid property with any third party, including but not limited to, shall be doing so at his/her own risk, cost, and consequences, and any such transaction shall be treated as null and void. If any person has any claim, right, or interest in the said property, he/she is hereby called upon to submit the same along with supporting documents to the undersigned within 15 days from the date of publication of this notice.

Anand Kumar Singh Advocate, Sector-10, En. No. D20162013 Chamber No. 720, Lawyer's Chamber Dwarka District Court Complex, Sector-10, New Delhi-110075 Mobile No: 9654186209

### PUBLIC NOTICE

Be it known to all concerned that my Client Sh. Azad Singh S/o Late Sh. Harnam Singh R/o 439, Midlan Panna, Village Dehson, New Delhi-110043, was discovered and disintegrated his son's name Manjeet Singh Chahal along with his wife Sat. Sonu @ Koyal Sharma from all her movable and immovable properties and got it published in the Indian Express New Delhi and English dated 30/10/2025.

Now my above said client wants to declare the said publication as null and void. Henceforth the above said publication is null and void. (YOGESH SHARMA) ADVOCATE CHAMBER NO. 424 AND 806X, THE DWARKA DISTRICT COMPLEX, NEW DELHI-110075

FOR ADVERTISING IN: **TOP STORY PLEASE CONTACT: 9818799941**

# Sood flags garbage neglect in ward 95 as Delhi Govt infuses ₹175 Cr into MCD cleanup

Diksha New Delhi  
 Delhi Urban Development Minister Ashish Sood on Saturday inspected multiple locations in Ward 95 (Vishnu Garden), Rajouri Garden, as part of a citywide cleanliness review initiated by the Chief Minister.

The Minister visited B-Block Barat Ghar, J-6 Store, A-Block Post Office, and the area near SBI Bank to assess sanitation conditions and interact with residents.

Sood said the Delhi Government is taking "multi-level measures" to strengthen waste management and restore the capital's sanitation system.

He noted that on the



Chief Minister's call, all Ministers were on the ground monitoring cleanliness work to ensure a healthier city and to contribute to the vision of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Swachh Bharat Abhiyan.

In a major move to support city sanitation, the government has released ₹175 crore as special financial assistance to the Municipal Corporation to

help clear contractors' pending dues. He added that additional proposals for financial support are being prepared at the Cabinet level.

Sood criticised the previous tenure of the Aam Aadmi Party in the Municipal Corporation, alleging that "mismanagement and faulty contracts" over two and a half years weakened the system, causing widespread deterioration in sanitation services. He said the current administration is working "with full seriousness" to rectify long-standing issues created over nearly three decades.

During the visit, residents in the Municipal Corporation to and that sanitation workers frequently leave tasks incomplete, resulting in foul smell and health concerns.

Sood issued strict warnings to MCD officials, sanitation staff, and garbage collection agencies, directing them to ensure timely waste removal, regular cleaning of hotspot areas, and focused dust control measures.

He urged residents to send daily photographs of overflowing bins and stagnant water to his personal mobile number, assuring swift action. Emphasising community participation, Sood said collective efforts would help strengthen Delhi's sanitation system and intensify the fight against pollution.

# Noida steps up cleanliness drive as Authority cracks down on violators



Ajit Kumar Noida

Noida is pushing harder than ever to climb to the top spot in the Swachh Survekshan rankings, and the Noida Authority has moved into an intensive enforcement mode to make that happen. With the national cleanliness survey approaching, officials are focusing on cleaner public spaces, stronger waste management, and strict action against those who flout the rules.

and ensure that every violator is held accountable.

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
 This is to inform to public at large that my client Shaikat Ali alias Shaikat Ali, son of Shri Rehmat Ali, resident of House No. 43F, Railway Colony, Tughlakabad, Badarpur, South Delhi - 110044, has severed all relationship with his son, namely Arshad Ali and disowned and debarred him from all their movable and immovable properties as he has become disobedient, bad behavior, conduct and he is out of control of my above-mentioned client, and my client has nothing to do with him. My client shall not be responsible for his acts, deeds, if any person deals with him, then they will be doing that at their own risk, cost and consequences.  
**Deepak Gupta Advocate**  
 Ch. No.444, Saket Court, New Delhi-17

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
 This is to inform to public at large that my client Shaikat Ali alias Shaikat Ali, son of Shri Rehmat Ali, resident of House No. 43F, Railway Colony, Tughlakabad, Badarpur, South Delhi - 110044, has severed all relationship with his wife, namely Mrs. Shabnam and disowned and debarred her from all their movable and immovable properties as my said Mrs. Shabnam is weak-minded and mentally unstable, she has become disobedient. My client shall not be responsible for her acts, deeds, transactions, dealings, or liability in any manner whatsoever. If any person deals with her, then they will be doing that at their own risk, cost and consequences.  
**Deepak Gupta Advocate**  
 Ch. No.444, Saket Court, New Delhi-17

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
 Know to all the General Public that my clients Shri. Azad Singh Lukhar son of Late Shri Raghbir Singh and Shri Panjkar Kumar Lukhar both resident of B-690, Weavers Colony, Ashok Vihar, Phase-I, Delhi-110052 have severed all their relations from their nephew/grandson Shri Shivam Lukhar (A.No.7098 4031 1051) and also have been disinherited from all their assets (movable and immovable) with immediate effects, due to his willful disobedience behaviour and aggressive temperament and making unsozial and unparliamentarily remarks towards my above said clients. If any act or deed, activities or consequences by the above said disowned person, in any manner, my clients shall not be responsible or liable for any such acts, deeds, or activity committed or performed or incurred liability by the above said disowned person. Further any person, if deals or negotiates with above named disowned person in any form or manner then he/she shall do so at their own risk and my clients shall have no concern to that.  
**ADV. PRASHANT KUMAR**  
 Chamber No.6, Civil Side, Tis Hazari Court, Delhi  
 Office at B-757, Weavers Colony, Ashok Vihar, Delhi

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
 My client Naresh Kumar pingola, S/O Shri Kalu Ram R/O 15/1211-E, Khalsa Nagar, Padam Singh Road Balaji Gali Sabji Mandi, Kardi Bagh, New Delhi-05, OD severed his relation with his legally wedded wife namely Santosh his son namely Lovdeep and with his Daughter Kanika disowned all of these family members from his Movable and Immovable property no.16/1211-E with immediate effect and if any person deals with any Movable and Immovable Property in any manner then my client shall not be responsible for that.  
**ADVOCATE THAMARA**  
 (ADVOCATE)  
 100, Gajandhar Block, Tis Hazari Court Delhi-110054

## 2 minors among 3 held for stabbing man to death



New Delhi  
 A forensic team visited the crime scene and collected exhibits for examination. The victim's body was shifted to the GTB Hospital for post-mortem, the official added.

During the probe, police identified three suspects, two of whom are minors. All three have been taken into custody, and the knife used in the stabbing has been recovered, a senior officer said.

Preliminary enquiry suggests the murder stemmed from an old dispute between the parties, police said, adding that further investigation is underway.

## CM Rekha Gupta launches portal for online renewal of fire safety certificates

New Delhi  
 Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta on Saturday launched a portal for online renewal of fire safety certificates, and said the move will boost ease of doing business in the capital.

Developed jointly by the National Informatics Centre (NIC) and the Delhi government, the portal will facilitate the renewal of fire safety certificates required by buildings and other establishments, officials said.



The mandatory annual self-certification report required during the validity period can also be submitted through the portal, they said. The applicants need to provide four basic details in the user-friendly system - the address of the premises, PAN, customer account number on the electricity bill, and the previous fire clearance certificate number, Delhi Home Minister Ashish Sood said.

Previously, the fire safety certificate renewal process

was entirely manual, posing substantial challenges for the applicants and the Delhi Fire Services (DFS), as the applicants were required to visit the DFS offices repeatedly for document submission and verification, an official statement said.

Manual file processing led to frequent delays, involved the risk of misplaced documents, and provided inadequate transparency. Even obtaining a status update required a physical visit, making the system time-consuming and inefficient, the statement said.

The online system has now

issued online, and the applicants will receive SMS and email notifications at every stage, it said.

The chief minister said that over the past eight months since assuming charge, the Delhi government has introduced several reforms to benefit the traders, citizens, and institutions across the city.

Processes relating to fire permits, licensing, and other statutory approvals have been simplified, made more transparent, and integrated through a single-window mechanism, she said.

Earlier, multiple agencies were involved, resulting in procedural delays and inconvenience (to people), Gupta added.

In alignment with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of 'Digital India', the Delhi government remains committed to delivering a 'Digital Delhi' where services are faceless, transparent, and technology-driven, the chief minister said.

## Delhi's air quality 'very poor' as mercury dips to 9.7 deg C season's lowest

New Delhi  
 Delhi's air quality remained in the 'very poor' category for a second consecutive day on Saturday with 16 monitoring stations logging 'severe' AQI, while the minimum temperature dipped to 9.7 degrees Celsius - the season's lowest so far.

The capital's three-day streak of 'severe' air quality ended on Friday, with the overall Air Quality Index (AQI) settling at 387 in the 'very poor' category.

On Saturday, the 24-hour average AQI stood at 386, also in the 'very poor' range, according to the 4 pm bulletin issued by the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB).

Several parts of the city continued to breathe toxic air, with 16 stations reporting 'severe' AQI on Saturday. Bawana recorded the high-



est AQI at 443, followed by Wazirpur at 434, according to the CPCB's Sameer app. According to the CPCB, an AQI between 0 and 50 is considered 'good', 51-100 'satisfactory', 101-200 'moderate', 201-300 'poor', 301-400 'very poor', and 401-500 'severe'.

PM10 and PM2.5, referring to particulate matter measuring ten micrometres and 2.5 micrometres respectively, remained the

dominant pollutants. According to the Decision Support System (DSS), a mechanism used by the Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM), Pune, for air quality analysis and forecast, stubble burning emissions comprised 16.3 per cent of Delhi's pollutants on Saturday, while vehicular emissions accounted for 18.3 per cent, the highest share among all sources.

The forecast suggests that

## 21-year old student held for rash driving car impounded

Gurugram  
 The Gurugram Police have arrested a 21-year-old BA final-year student for reckless driving and seized his car, police said on Saturday.

An FIR was registered in this regard at Sadar police station, and the student was released on bail after joining the investigation, they said.

According to an official, a police team deployed on an emergency response vehicle (ERV) near DPG college in Gurugram Sector 34 on Friday spotted a black Hyundai Verna car - with a "BLACKLISTED" sign for its front number plate and a "YADAV" sign for its rear - "being driven recklessly.

When the team signalled the driver to stop, he halted the car several steps ahead and tried to flee, but the police nabbed him,

An FIR was registered in this regard at Sadar police station, and the student was released on bail after joining the investigation, they said.

The accused, identified as Sonu - resident of Kharkhara village in Haryana's Rewari district - is a BA final year student at DPG college," the Gurugram Police spokesperson said, adding that the accused had removed the front and rear number plates and replaced them with the "BLACKLISTED" and "YADAV" signs.

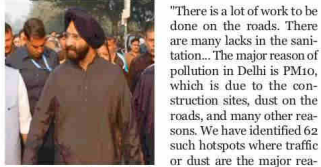
the officer said.

## Sirsa reviews sanitation and cleanliness in Vasant Kunj

New Delhi  
 Delhi Environment Minister Manjinder Singh Sirsa on Saturday inspected and reviewed the status of sanitation and cleanliness in Vasant Kunj.

Sirsa said the government has identified 62 major pollution hotspots in the city, where dust and traffic are key contributors to poor air quality, and is taking steps to address them.

He highlighted that road dust, construction sites, and other sources of PM10 are



"There is a lot of work to be done on the roads. There are many larks in the sanitation... The major reason of pollution in Delhi is PM10, which is due to the construction sites, dust on the roads, and many other reasons. We have identified 62 such hotspots where traffic or dust are the major reasons, and we are working on all of them. We have reviewed all the hotspots of Vasant Kunj and Vasant Vihar. There is a lot of work needed in this..."

## DMRC reopens two gates at Lal Quila Metro Station days after Delhi blast

New Delhi  
 The Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) on Saturday reopened two gates at Lal Quila Metro station.

The gates were closed after the blast near the Red Fort in the national capital that killed 12 people and left several injured.

In a post on X, the DMRC said, "Gate number 2 & 3 at Lal Quila Metro Station now open for commuters."

On Thursday, the Delhi Metro Rail Corporation

(DMRC) announced the closure of Lal Quila Metro Station until further notice due to security reasons.

According to the DMRC, entry and exit at the Lal Quila station have been temporarily suspended, and services will remain halted until clearance is received from the concerned security agencies.

"The Lal Quila Metro Station will remain closed till further notice due to security reasons. All other metro

stations and lines are functioning as per schedule," the DMRC said in an official statement.

The station, located on the Violet Line of the Delhi Metro, serves as a key access point for several prominent landmarks, including the historic Red Fort, Jama Masjid, and the bustling Chandni Chowk area. The temporary closure is expected to impact daily commuters and tourists visiting Old Delhi, especially during

peak hours and weekends.

Earlier, fresh CCTV footage surfaced showing the prime accused, Dr Umar Uu Nahi, entering the national capital through the Badarpur border in an i20 car, further tightening the net around the accused in the ongoing blast investigation.

In the footage, Umar was seen arriving at the Badarpur toll plaza, where he stopped his vehicle, took out cash, and handed it to the toll collector.

# The mad rush for entertainment apps and the rise of pornography

**T**he digital revolution has transformed the world with equal rapidity, impacting our means of entertainment. Mobile phones, the internet, and cheap data have taken entertainment from homes and directly into the hands and pockets of everyone. Today, hundreds of entertainment apps—web series, short video platforms, social media streaming, and live shows—vie for viewers' attention every second. As wonderful as this convenience may seem, it also raises deep concerns. This very ease has dangerously altered the definition of entertainment. Entertainment no longer means art, culture, storytelling, or sensitivity—but rather a blind competition for high views, viral content, and provocative scenes.

Today, many apps deliberately promote obscenity, vulgarity, lewd dialogue, and provocative scenes. This content neither exemplifies creativity nor does it expand social consciousness. The goal is simply to increase viewership, and through these viewership, profit from advertising and subscriptions. The entertainment industry has reached a point where the prestige of art and culture is becoming meaningless in the face of economic greed.

Indian cinema, theater, and literature were once considered a medium for preserving society's values. The power of storytelling, dialogue, acting, and imagination compelled audiences to think. Today, digital platforms have created a completely opposite environment. Web series and short videos feature offensive language, unabashed obscenity, and unnecessary intimate scenes as if they represent "modernity" or "realism." The truth is that this is not reality, but a deliberately created illusion—intended to keep the viewer captivated through excitement and sensationalism.

The younger generation is paying the biggest price for this race. Teenagers have mobile phones in their hands, and within them, they have access to a world that influences them without restraint. Adolescence is a time when personality, thinking, morality, and social values are formed. However, the content available on these apps gives them a fast-paced, shallow, and often confusing perspective. Misconceptions about relationships are formed, respect for women diminishes, and a tendency to view life solely in terms of physical attraction, materialism, and appearance increases.

The type of content today's youth consumes daily is gradually changing their behavior, words, emotions, and assessment of life. What they perceive as "entertainment" or "trends" is actually creating a sense of worthlessness and depression within them. Many psychologists believe that this type of content, while appealing to the eyes, puts a heavy burden on the mind. Fast-paced scenes, vulgar dialogue, uncontrolled emotions, and aggressive presentations are bound to affect any teenager's mental balance.

But there's another aspect to the problem—content creators and app companies resort to terms like "user

By Dr. Satyavan Saurabh



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



In the race for high profits, digital platforms are leaving behind art, sensitivity and social values and making obscenity the new 'entertainment' – its ill effects are deep and dangerous, especially on the psyche of the youth.

choice," "adult tags," or "viewer discretion" to deflect responsibility. They argue that viewers should choose what they want to watch. This argument isn't entirely wrong, but it's certainly incomplete. Because when an app bases its entire marketing strategy on provocative and inflammatory content, viewers' choices are less free and more influenced. Content that is consistently

promoted will be viewed more.

The regulatory system is equally weak. India has a censor board for films and broadcast control for TV, but digital apps operate with almost no effective control. Guidelines have been established, but their enforcement is neither strict nor consistent. Digital

platforms believe they are above general media laws. They argue that the internet is a "free medium." But does freedom mean giving free rein to content that disrupts social balance? Is freedom the same as ignoring culture, morality, and sensibilities?

The problem also has a social dimension. Families try to restrain their children, but the digital world is so complex that complete control is nearly impossible. Digital literacy, especially in middle-class and rural families, is still low. Parents don't know which content is good for children and which is harmful. App companies are also more interested in expanding their user base than in guiding parents.

At a time like this, we must understand that the solution lies not in mere bans. The solution lies in a balance between widespread social awareness, ethical production policies, and strict regulation. Entertainment companies must decide for themselves what is appropriate to show. They must strike a balance between art and commercialism. They must abandon the habit of gaining views through obscenity and present content that is creative, emotional, and socially relevant.

Additionally, the government must impose ethical controls on digital platforms, similar to those on television or films. Transparent regulations, strict penalties, and clear categorization are essential steps in this direction.

Society's duty is equally important. Parents must be educated on digital literacy. Young people must be taught that there is a difference between entertainment and stimulation. Instant gratification through vulgarity is no substitute for the deeper experiences and creative joy of life.

The purpose of entertainment isn't merely to shock or excite; it's to sensitize the mind, deepen thinking, and guide society for the better. But when the world of apps abandons art and begins to veer toward obscenity, both culture and civilization are threatened.

The question before us today is—do we want a digital world where entertainment is grounded in creativity, cultural values, and social responsibility? Or are we about to enter an era where provocation becomes art and sensation becomes entertainment?

The times demand that we say it clearly: we want entertainment—but not something that undermines society.

If the digital world does not change in this direction, then future generations will enter a cultural darkness where there will be plenty of entertainment, but it will have no meaning.

# A new flight of hope in space

**I**ndia is on a new flight now. This flight will achieve the goals of national security and sustainable development through space. The powerful rockets and satellites of the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) are playing an important role in achieving these dreams, proving their capabilities and competencies while setting new records. The most recent achievement came on November 2, when ISRO launched the country's heaviest satellite, Gsat-7R from its most powerful rocket (LVM3-M5). Developed to meet the strategic and operational needs of Indian Navy, this satellite is an example of India's self-sufficiency as well as growing credibility in world space market. When it comes to the advancement of space, the issue is with heavy satellites and powerful rockets. The future space race is about the ability to carry heavy satellites, build space stations and send missions to the moon and Mars. The international competition in this case is increasing day by day. In fact, the US government agency NASA and private agency SpaceX are in competition with Russia's Raskasmas, China's CNSA and Europe's ESA agencies. US SpaceX is developing the world's most powerful rocket Falcon Heavy and Starship, which will be capable of carrying over a hundred tons of payload. China is also continuing to build super-rockets like its Heavy Rocket Long March 5B and Long March 9 for the future. These powerful rockets include Russia's protons and the name of the rocket Angara being developed. The successful launch of the four and a half tonne communications satellite Gsat-7R (CMS 03) has empowered India and ISRO, which is essential to put the country at the forefront in strategic, scientific and commercial missions. It is noteworthy that the Jsat-7R is India's heaviest communication satellite ever. This satellite with many state-of-the-art indigenous technical components has been specifically developed to meet the operational and strategic requirements of Indian Navy. Being able to launch heavy satellites indicates that India has now achieved the efficiency for which there was never an alternative outside of Russia or US space agencies. As far as the Gsat-7R capabilities are concerned, it can be called the most modern communication platform of Indian Navy. This will multiply the Navy's space-based communication system and maritime surveillance capabilities. The satellite will provide comprehensive and improved telecommunications services to the Indian Ocean region. It has such modern devices that absorb and communicate audio, data and video links quickly installed which will meet the needs of sea, deployed and real-time communication between Indian Navy ships, aircraft, submarines and maritime operations centers. Obviously, it will be an impor-

By Vijay Garg



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



tant aid in enhancing the naval strategic capabilities at sea. The successful launch of a nearly four and a half tonne satellite into space orbit is an important milestone for India being seen. The LVM3 M rocket is also known as 'Bahubali' because of its ability to lift loads. The success level of this type of GSLV

launch vehicle in the field of rocket science will be one of its early American lunar missions if we want to measure. Nearly 56 years ago, NASA sent the Blue Armstrong to the moon from its Apollo 11 spacecraft weighed 4,932 kilograms. That is, if a country's rocket can carry up to five tons into space, then it should

think about the dream of sending humans to the moon in the way that LVM3 M5 has shown new charisma. It means that this rocket could soon take up to five tonne satellites into space. This confirms India's claim to send humans to the moon. The same rocket is planned to be used in the launch of Chandrayaan-4. In However, through this launch, ISRO has proved that space missions are no longer just a matter of our curiosities but the successes India has achieved one after another open up paths to exploitation of many resources. It can simplify business interests and also meet the needs of defence sector. Speaking of achievements in space, China is moving fast after the US and Russia. He has sent a human mission into space and beyond that, the exploitation of lunar minerals is in his hands. He also wants to break into the foreign satellite launch market with his rocket. In the five and a half decades since its inception, ISRO has set more than one record for building powerful launchers and successfully installing multi-purpose satellites into space orbit. Moon and Mars exploration missions have already established India's threat to space. In the last four or five years, ISRO has taken steps together on many new fronts. In the year 2023, ISRO got a lot of successes together, most

These achievements came together, the most significant of which was the successful landing of Chandrayaan-3 on the Moon's south pole. India became the first country in the world to achieve this feat. This achievement is significant because neither the superpower America nor its arch-rival Russia had succeeded in a similar attempt, which was undertaken hastily in 2023. The Moon's South Pole has long been the target of numerous space agencies around the world, but the scientific and technical challenges posed a challenge even for Russia, the United States, or China. It's also important to note that any advancement in space is meaningful only if it achieves concrete, practical goals beyond business and space research, and opens avenues for the betterment and development of the country's people. It's hoped that whatever the country achieves through ISRO's capabilities will ensure solid economic growth, benefiting the public.

SHORT STORIES

Cong fizzles out in Bihar, faces wipeout in Himachal: Ajay Thakur

Rajan Panchhi Mandi

BJP State Spokesperson Ajay Thakur applauded the people of Bihar and the workers of the BJP and its alliance partners for what he called a historic mandate in favour of the National Democratic Alliance. He said the results reflected the trust earned by the double-engine government and showed that voters had rejected what he described as the "Maha Thugbandhan."

Thakur targeted Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhna, saying the Congress leader failed to make an impact as a star campaigner in Bihar because he had not fulfilled even one major promise at the home. According to him, voters were not swayed by Sukhna's campaign and delivered a clear verdict. He added that just as Congress could not reach double digits in Bihar, the party would face a complete wipeout in Himachal in the next elections.

He also recalled the years of the Lalu-Rabri administration, alleging that people in Bihar still remember the lawlessness and corruption of that period. Thakur claimed voters had made it clear they would not support what he called the dynastic politics of leaders like Rahul Gandhi and Tejashwi Yadav.

Continuing his criticism of the Congress, Thakur said the party had turned governance into an opportunity for misuse of public funds. He described the current Congress government in Himachal Pradesh as a symbol of corruption and inefficiency, and argued that the public was ready to remove it from power.

Thakur said the mandate in Bihar had strengthened the NDA's confidence ahead of upcoming electoral battles, including those in Himachal Pradesh.

Woman suffers severe burns after husband's acid attack

Rajan Panchhi Mandi

According to police, the husband had been in a prolonged family dispute with his wife. After the attack, he locked himself in an upstairs room and tried to hide. Officers later located him, took him into custody and registered a case. An investigation is underway.

Rajan Panchhi Mandi

A woman in Mandi's Sain Mohalla suffered serious burn injuries after her husband allegedly threw acid on her and pushed her from the first floor of their home on Saturday evening.

Police said the couple had been arguing when the attack took place around 6:15 pm. Additional Superintendent of Police Abhimanyu Verma said he received information about the incident and reached the spot immediately. The woman, who had sustained about 50 percent burns, was taken to the hospital and later referred to AIIMS Bhopal due to her critical condition.

According to police, the husband had been in a prolonged family dispute with his wife.

# CM Saini announces major upgrades at Dada Badhdev Ji anniversary

Shiv Kumar New Delhi

Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini marked the birth anniversary of Dada Badhdev Poonia with a series of development announcements for Khark Ponia village, including the upgrade of the local school into a Sanskriti Model School. He also committed to building a community center and setting up a library to support learning and social activities within the village.

Saini addressed a large gathering hosted by the All Haryana Seva Yat Poonia Samaj in Hissar district. He said the government would give full consideration to any development proposal submitted by the Panchayat in the name of Dada Badhdev Ji.

Paying tribute, the Chief Minister said Dada Badhdev Ji's life reflected the strength of truth, discipline and brotherhood. He noted that a Khap rooted in public welfare never weakens and said the Poonia Khap



has consistently placed national and social interest above all else.

Saini added that the state government is committed to walking the path shown by Dada Badhdev Ji. He urged the Khap to guide the youth away from drugs and help them grow stronger through education, sports and technology.

Referring to the event held in Badkhalsa a day earlier to honour the martyrdom of Dada Kushal

Singh Dahiya, he said Dahiya's sacrifice alongside Sri Guru Tegh Bahadur Ji stands as a reminder of courage and faith. He noted that the state is observing the 350th martyrdom year of Guru Tegh Bahadur Ji in a grand manner and confirmed that Prime Minister Narendra Modi will attend the commemorative program in Haryana on November 25.

Saini said the state is rapidly expanding welfare

schemes under the guidance of the Prime Minister. He highlighted new projects and extensive road development over the past eleven years, and said job opportunities for youth are being offered strictly on merit. He also said the process to establish ten new Industrial Model Townships is underway, with land for the next set of IMTs to be made available soon.

The Chief Minister said the government has already

fulfilled 50 of the 217 commitments made during the elections in its first year. He added that Haryana is the only state procuring all 24 crops at MSP and has granted land ownership rights to leaseholders pre-dating the formation of the state. He said families living on Panchayat and Municipal land for over two decades will also be given ownership rights.

He pointed to the abolition of Abiana, a tax in place since the British era, as a major relief for farmers. He also outlined the Deendayal Laado Laxmi Yojana, under which eligible women are receiving monthly financial assistance of Rs 2,100, and the Har Char-Har Grehini Yojana, which offers gas cylinders at Rs 500 to nearly 19 lakh poor families. Education Minister Mahipal Dhandra, Public Works Minister Kanbir Gangwa, SEWA Minister Krishan Kumar Bedi, Haryana BJP in-charge Satish Poonia, several MLAs, former ministers and senior party leaders were present during the event.

## New Mandi ASP Abhimanyu Verma sets mission to save youth from Chitta

Rajan Panchhi Mandi

Newly appointed Additional SP of Mandi, Abhimanyu Verma, said his top priority is to pull young people out of the grip of dangerous drugs like Chitta and launch a full-scale campaign against the drug network operating in the district. Speaking to reporters after taking charge, he said the fight against drugs would be handled like a mission, backed by special vigilance teams in all sensitive areas.

Verma said the Mandi police would work closely with residents to curb the drug trade and warned that no trafficker would be spared. He emphasised that the police uniform stands for public protection, and that the force is committed not only to maintaining justice but also to ensuring justice for victims. He urged people to consider the police as allies rather than something to fear.

Before coming to Mandi,

Verma said the Mandi police would work closely with residents to curb the drug trade and warned that no trafficker would be spared.

Verma said those efforts would be strengthened further in Mandi, especially by tightening surveillance on interstate smugglers. The crackdown, he said, will not stop at arrests but will extend to identifying and dismantling the source networks behind the illegal trade.

To achieve this, the department plans to upgrade its tracking systems with technology-backed monitoring, drone support and cyber expertise.

## Suitcase secrets unravel India's silent drug pipeline

Mitali Chandola New Delhi

Drug trafficking rarely looks like the stereotype. Sometimes it walks through an international airport in the form of two ordinary women carrying two ordinary suitcases. What the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) stumbled upon at Chennai International Airport on 13 November 2025 was not just a consignment — it was a snapshot of a shifting, more elusive drug economy.

Acting on specific intelligence, NCB Chennai intercepted two female passengers arriving from Phuket, uncovering 28.080 kilograms of premium Hydroponic Ganja — a high-grade, high-demand variant of cannabis — valued at nearly ₹10 crore. The contraband was concealed in their check-in baggage, a method that reflects both confidence and calculation. Initial investigations revealed an emerging pattern: tourist-friendly foreign destinations are becoming key nodes for sourcing sophisticated narcotics into India's urban markets.

What this bust underscores is the evolving architecture of drug trafficking. No longer are syndicates dependent on hardened smugglers or elaborate maritime routes. The new model is decentralized, opportunistic, and disturbingly simple: tourists as couriers, foreign hotspots as sourcing bases, and metropolitan nightlife economies as distribution zones.

The women involved represent a troubling but growing trend — ordinary citizens lured by extraordinary profits. One is a real-estate professional, the other, a former domestic worker in Dubai who now takes small supporting roles in Tamil cinema. Neither fits the traditional profile of a drug courier. Yet both were allegedly recruited in Phuket, handed suitcases packed with Hydroponic Ganja, and instructed to deliver them to Chennai. Early press suggested the intended recipients included individuals possibly linked to the Kollywood ecosystem — highlighting how India's entertainment circuits can quietly become consumption hubs.

What this bust underscores is the evolving architecture of drug trafficking. No longer are syndicates dependent on hardened smugglers or elaborate maritime routes. The new model is decentralized, opportunistic, and disturbingly simple: tourists as couriers, foreign hotspots as sourcing bases, and metropolitan nightlife economies as distribution zones.

The NCB's appeal is clear: vigilance cannot be outsourced. Citizens can report suspicious narcotics activity through the MANAS helpline (1933), where identities remain confidential. Because in today's drug economy, the next breakthrough may come not from an airport scanner — but from an informed citizen refusing to stay silent.

## The hidden Lab that blew open India's drug battle



Mitali Chandola New Delhi

India's fight against synthetic drugs is no longer confined to its metropolitan crime hubs or high-stakes border interceptions. It is now unfolding in the most unlikely of places — sleepy farmhouses, remote villages, and forgotten corners of the hinterland. The recent bust of a clandestine Mephedrone-manufacturing lab in Sirohi district, Rajasthan, is not just another enforcement success story. It is a stark reminder of how globalised, adaptive, and dangerously innovative the drug economy has become.

Under the central government's zero-tolerance stance on narcotics, the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) and Rajasthan Police dismantled a secret laboratory hidden in a deserted farmhouse in Daantrai village. What they found was staggering: hundreds of kilograms of precursor chemicals — enough to produce nearly 100 kilograms of Mephedrone with a street value of ₹40 crore. This was not a backyard experiment; this was an industrial-scale operation, run with precision, secrecy, and a chilling level of technological literacy.

The mastermind, a young graduate named Vala Ram, represents a new and unsettling profile of drug syndicates in South Asia. Not a career criminal, not a cartel-trained operative, but a frustrated aspirant who turned to synthetic drugs after failing competitive exams. He learned his chemistry from darknet forums, operated through virtual SIMs, sourced advanced equipment from Gujarat, and leased the farmhouse through a local

associate. This is the new face of narcotics entrepreneurship — hyper-local in setup, transnational in technique. The breakthrough itself was made possible through an unusual but increasingly necessary model of policing: decentralised vigilance. Monthly NCB meetings led by the NCB trained district police to detect micro-indicators — blackened windows, chemical stains, unusual ventilation systems, or misplaced industrial drums. These subtle clues, often invisible to untrained eyes, helped officers in Sirohi identify the operation on 6 November 2025 and alert NCB Jodhpur.

The swift collaboration that followed — joint inspections, forensic intervention from the National Forensic Science University, and coordinated arrests across Rajasthan and Gujarat — unfolded in just five days. It reflects a global policing truth: synthetic drug networks operate at high speed, and only agile, intelligence-driven enforcement can keep pace.

But this incident carries a deeper warning. As synthetic drugs replace traditional narcotics across Asia, the battlefield is shifting. Labs can be set up anywhere. Knowledge is downloadable. Equipment is easily sourced. A single individual, armed with chemistry and anonymity, can seed a crisis.

India's crackdown in Sirohi is a victory. But more importantly, it is a wake-up call. The next lab might not wait for the police to find it. And the next mastermind might not fit any profile we know. The war against synthetic drugs has only just begun.

## Massive unity march in Bulandshahr celebrates national integration and Sardar Patel's legacy

Avnish Tyagi Bulandshahr

A grand and vibrant unity march was held in Sikandrabad city of Bulandshahr on Saturday, drawing thousands of participants from across the region. Led by Water Resources Minister Swatantra Dev Singh, the procession also saw the participation of prominent political leaders, including MP Dr. Mahesh Sharma, Rajya Sabha MP Surendra Nagar, MLA Laxmi Raj Singh, district in-charge Basant Tyagi, and BJP district president Vikas Chauhan. The event was organized by BJP workers under the leadership of MLA Laxmi Raj Singh, with party workers and citizens lining the streets to greet the marchers with flowers and applause. Students from local schools and colleges joined the rally, adding to the festive and energetic atmosphere.

The march began at a school in Sikandrabad and proceeded through key city locations, including in front of the police station and along Gulavthi Road, finally culminating at Walson



PG College. Prior to the march, a public meeting was held at New Lancer Convent School, where students from Kasturba Gandhi Salempur School performed cultural programs that were well received by the audience. Water Resources Minister Swatantra Dev Singh was formally welcomed as the chief guest and addressed the gathering, emphasizing the importance of unity and public participation in community development.

The event also marked the birth anniversary of India's Iron Man, Sardar Vallab-

Sardar Patel's extraordinary contributions to the nation but also to spread the message of national unity, integrity, and the importance of active civic engagement. Senior party officials, regional secretaries, MLAs, local representatives, chairpersons, block leaders, and respected citizens from both urban and rural areas attended the program in large numbers. Through speeches and participation, the dignitaries urged the public to embrace Patel's ideals of courage, commitment to nation-building, and the value of collective responsibility for India's progress.

The twin events — the unity march and the commemorative foot march — highlighted the importance of fostering harmony, celebrating historical legacies, and encouraging civic awareness at the grassroots level. Citizens expressed their appreciation for the initiative, noting how such programs strengthen the connection between leaders, communities, and the principles of national integration.

The foot march was designed not only to honor

## Sameer Wankhede urges youth to choose purpose over addiction

TSN/Mumbai

An impactful anti-drug awareness event at Veer Savarkar Ground in Malad East brought together students, parents and community members for a strong message on the dangers of addiction. Chennai's Additional Commissioner (IRS) Sameer Wankhede and former Mumbai Police Director General Mohan Rathore attended as chief guests and addressed the growing concern of drug abuse among young people.

Wankhede spoke directly to students, telling them that addiction destroys both health and ambition. He said drugs act like a fire that consumes the body first and then the dreams that follow. He reminded the audience that discipline and clarity of purpose are what lead to real success. He encouraged young people to choose meaningful goals, surround themselves with positive influences and stay engaged in sports and creative work. According to him, these habits help build a life filled with di-



responsibility among youth and wants to create an environment where young people feel equipped to make the right choices. The campaign drew a large turnout of schoolchildren, college students and parents. The organisers said the message of the evening was clear: the fight against drugs belongs to the whole society, not only to the police or government. The event aimed to spark collective responsibility and reinforce the belief that guiding youth towards healthier goals is one of the strongest tools in the battle against addiction.

# Spinners give India command on fast-moving day

**Kolkata**  
South Africa ended Day 2 of the first Test at Eden Gardens in deep trouble at 93/7, as India's spinners ripped through their batting line-up. Ravindra Jadeja was the star performer, finishing the day with four wickets and once again proving why he is almost unplayable in home conditions.

At Tea, South Africa were 18/1, but the final session turned into a complete collapse. The Proteas lost six wickets while adding just 75 runs, unable to counter the turn and accuracy of India's spin trio. In total, the day produced 15 wickets, three in the morning, six in the afternoon and six more in the final session.

Aiden Markram was the first to go in the final session, dismissed for 4 by Jadeja. Wiaan Mulder followed for 11, with the left-arm spinner striking again. Tony de Zorzi also failed to make an impact, falling for 2 as Jadeja pocketed his third of the day, leaving



South Africa at 40/4. Tristan Stubbs became Jadeja's fourth victim, bowled for 5, before Marco Jansen was removed for 13 by Kuldeep Yadav, who picked up his second wicket of the innings. Axar Patel also chipped in with a wicket, keeping the pressure firmly on the visitors. Jadeja's figures of 4/29

added another milestone to his outstanding home record. He is now the second cricketer after Stuart Broad to register both 2000-plus runs and 250-plus wickets in a single country. With 2154 runs and 250 wickets in 52 home Tests, Jadeja also became the fourth Indian to claim 250 wickets on home soil. He is

now the seventh bowler to reach 150 wickets in the World Test Championship (WTC) and the third spinner to do so. Kuldeep Yadav ended the day with 2/12, while Axar Patel returned 1/30. Corbin Bosch on 1 and skipper Temba Bavuma on 29 were unbeaten at stumps, with South Africa

holding a slender lead of 63 runs, one they will hope to stretch on Day 3 to stay alive in the contest.

Earlier, fiery bowling spells from South African spinner Simon Harmer and pacer Marco Jansen restricted India to 189/9.

Earlier on day one, the Proteas won the toss and opted to bat first. Despite a half-century partnership between openers Aiden Markram (31 in 48 balls, with five fours and six) and Ryan Rickelton (23 in 22 balls, with four boundaries), the current WTC champions just could not battle the pace and class of Jasprit Bumrah (5/27) and Mohammed Siraj (2/47) and were skittled out for 159 runs.

India ended the first day at 37/1, with Marco Jansen getting Yashviji Jaiswal for 12.

Brief scores: South Africa 159 & 93/7 (Tamba Bavuma 29\*, Marco Jansen 13, Ravindra Jadeja 4/29) vs India 189/9 (KL Rahul 39, Washington Sundar 29, Simon Harmer 4/30).

# Jadeja completes 4,000 Test runs, enters elite all-round club

**Kolkata**  
Indian all-rounder Ravindra Jadeja completed 4,000 runs in Test cricket on Saturday and entered an elite club of all-rounders to have both 4,000 Test runs and at least 300 wickets in the longest format of the game.

Jadeja achieved this milestone during the second day of the first Test against South Africa in Kolkata, ending the first session at 11\*, which was enough to take him to the milestone.

In 88 tests, Jadeja has scored 4,001 runs at an average of 38.84, with six centuries and 27 fifties, and a best score of 175\*. In nine tests this year, Jadeja has been sensational with the bat, scoring 670 runs in 14 innings at an average of 83.75, with two centuries and five fifties.

He has also got 338 scalps at an average of 25.25, with best figures of 7/42, with 15 fifties and three ten-fers. Jadeja has not been at his most spectacular this year with the ball, though, with just 15 scalps in nine matches at an average of almost 50. He has taken two four-fers this year.

He has joined the company of Kapil Dev (5248



runs, 434 wks), England legend Ian Botham (5200 runs, 383 wks), and New Zealand legend Daniel Vettori (4531 runs, 362 wks) as the fourth player to reach a double of at least 4,000 Test runs and 300 Test wickets.

At the end of the first session on day two, India was 138/4, with Ravindra Jadeja (11\*) and Dhruv Jurel unbeaten. Rishabh Pant (27 in 24 balls, with two fours and two sixes) and Washington Sundar (29 in 82 balls, with two fours and a six) failed to convert their starts into something big, while skipper Shubman Gill had retired hurt after pain in his neck following a sweep shot for 159 runs.

## Indian opener KL Rahul completes 4,000 Test runs

**Kolkata**  
Indian opener KL Rahul completed 4,000 Test runs on Saturday.

The right-handed opener reached the milestone during his side's first Test against South Africa at Kolkata's iconic Eden Gardens. He scored 99 in 119 balls, with four boundaries and a six, failing to convert his start into something big.

Now in 66 tests, he has scored 4,024 runs at an average of 36.58, with 11 centuries and 20 fifties, and his best score of 199 after 115 innings.

The Karnataka batter has been exceptional for India this year and is in the form of his life, with 784 runs in nine Tests at an average of 52.26, with three centuries and three fifties and a best score of 137. This includes a 532-run series in England of five matches, where he smashed two centuries. Also, against the West Indies at Ahmedabad, he broke his home century drought of nine years, getting only his second century in home con-



ditions after 199 against England way back in 2016. At the end of the first session on day two, India was 138/4, with Ravindra Jadeja (11\*) and Dhruv Jurel unbeaten. Rishabh Pant (27 in 24 balls, with two fours and two sixes) and Washington Sundar (29 in 82 balls, with two fours and a six) failed to convert their starts into something big, while skipper Shubman Gill had retired hurt after pain in his neck following a sweep shot for four.

India had resumed the action at 37/1, trailing by 122 runs in response to South Africa's first innings total of 159. Rahul (13\*) and Washington Sundar (6\*) were unbeaten.

## BCCI confirms skipper Shubman Gill sustained neck spasm

**Kolkata**  
The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) confirmed that Indian skipper Shubman Gill suffered a neck spasm following his sweep shot for a boundary during day two of the first Test against South Africa in Kolkata, with the decision set to be taken today on his further participation in the match.

During the 35th over of the match, Gill took to the field after Washington Sundar's dismissal and played an aggressive sweep for a four on the third delivery he faced. However, after that, he was seen holding his neck and looked in pain. He was taken back to the pavilion, and he retired hurt.

A statement issued by BCCI on their X handle said, "Shubman Gill has a neck spasm and is being monitored by the BCCI medical team. A decision on his participation today will be taken as per his progress."

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sion on day two, India was 138/4, with Ravindra Jadeja (11\*) and Dhruv Jurel unbeaten. Rishabh Pant (27 in 24 balls, with two fours and two sixes) and Washington Sundar (29 in 82 balls, with two fours and a six) failed to convert their starts into something big, while skipper Shubman Gill had retired hurt after pain in his neck following a sweep shot for four.

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## Irfan Pathan advises PBKS to secure backup options for Arshdeep Singh

**New Delhi**  
Ahead of the Indian Premier League (IPL) 2026 mini-auction, former all-rounder Irfan Pathan highlighted that Punjab Kings (PBKS) should secure a reliable backup spinner to support Yuzvendra Chahal and an additional Indian fast bowler to complement Arshdeep Singh. Speaking on a JioStar's TATA IPL 2026 'Retention Preview' show, Irfan Pathan noted that Chahal being such a key spinner for Punjab Kings should have a reliable backup spinner to support the team's preparation. He also pointed out that while pacer Arshdeep Singh is irreplaceable, PBKS should have a backup Indian option.

There are two important factors Punjab needs to consider ahead of the auction. Firstly, with Yuzvendra Chahal being such a key spinner, having a reliable backup spinner is crucial to support the team's preparation. Secondly, Arshdeep Singh is an exceptional player who bowls year-round, and while he's irreplaceable, it



would be wise to have a backup Indian fast bowler for the squad," said JioStar expert Irfan Pathan.

Both Arshdeep and Chahal played a crucial part in Punjab's IPL 2025 campaign that saw them reach the finals, where they went down to Royal Challengers Bengaluru. While Arshdeep claimed 21 wickets, Chahal took 16 for the Shreyas Iyer-led side.

Subramaniam Badrinath shared his perspective on Lucknow Super Giants' (LSG) retention strategy noting that while LSG have invested a heavy amount on captain Rishabh Pant,

## Hazlewood ruled out of first Ashes Test

**Perth**  
Australia's fast-bowling resources have taken another major hit ahead of the Ashes series, with ace pacer Josh Hazlewood ruled out of the first Test in Perth, as reported by the International Cricket Council (ICC). The setback follows the earlier unavailability of Australia's regular captain and fast bowler Pat Cummins, who is recovering from a back injury and will miss at least the opening Test.

Hazlewood sustained the injury during New South Wales' Sheffield Shield clash against Victoria in Sydney, forcing him off the field. While initial scans suggested no muscle strain, follow-up imaging confirmed a hamstring injury, highlighting the challenges of early detection in low-grade muscle injuries.

"Initial scans on Wednesday were clear of muscle strain, however, follow-up imaging today has confirmed the injury. Early imaging can occasionally underestimate low-grade muscle injuries," a Cricket Australia statement on Saturday said, as quoted by ESPN-cricinfo.



Australia find themselves very thin on fast-bowling resources, with Sean Abbott, Lance Morris, Jhpie Richardson and Spencer Johnson, along with Cummins and Hazlewood, all currently unavailable due to injuries.

In Hazlewood's absence, pacer Michael Neser has been added to the squad for the first Ashes Test, set to take place from November 21 at the Perth Stadium.

Hazlewood's injury might pave the way for South Australia pacer Brendan Doggett, who could earn his maiden Test cap if selected. Hazlewood, who has 295 Test scalps in 76 matches to his name, is the second-highest wicket-taker for Australia in the ongoing World Test Championship 2025-27 after Mitchell Star, with 14 wickets in three matches.

## Pant breaks Sehwa's record for most sixes in Tests for India

**Kolkata**  
Star wicket-keeper batter Rishabh Pant smashed his way to a record, overtaking Virender Sehwag as India's most prolific six-hitter in Tests! He achieved this feat on Day 2 of the India vs South Africa 1st Test at Eden Gardens, Kolkata, hitting 2 sixes off 24 deliveries.

Pant now leads the charts with 92 sixes, followed by Sehwag (90), Rohit Sharma (88), Ravindra Jadeja (80), and MS Dhoni (78). He's also 7th globally, behind England's Ben Stokes (136).

The left-handed batter ranks seventh on the all-time list for most sixes in Test cricket, with England captain Ben Stokes leading the table at 136.

Pant needed one six to go past Virender Sehwag's tally of 90 sixes for India in Tests when he came to the crease on Saturday morning, and he achieved the objective on the very fifth ball that he faced off the South African spinner Keshav Maharaj's bowling. Soon after, he hit Maharaj another six before he was dismissed by pacer Corbin Bosch.

Coming to Day 2 of the India vs South Africa Test in Kolkata, India went into Lunch at 138/4, with Ravindra Jadeja and Dhruv Jurel unbeaten at the crease. Resuming from the overnight score of 37/1 and trailing South Africa by 122 runs, KL Rahul and Washington Sundar added steady runs before spinner Simon Harmer ended their 57-run stand, dismissing Sundar for 29. Shubman Gill retired hurt shortly after, bringing Pant to the middle. Pant scored a quickfire 27, but was removed by Corbin Bosch just as his partnership with Rahul began to build. Rahul was later dismissed for a gritty 39, leaving India at 132/4 before Jadeja and Jurel saw the team through to the first session's end.

## Breaking Time Sudoku

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

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

## Solution, Sudoku

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

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Japan protests China's travel advisory over Taiwan remarks



Beijing  
Japan raised objections Saturday after China advised its citizens to avoid visiting Japan, as a feud over the new Japanese leader's remarks on Taiwan showed no signs of dying down.

The government in Tokyo lodged a protest and its top spokesperson, Chief Cabinet Secretary Minoru Kihara, urged China to take "appropriate measures," Japan's Kyodo News Service reported.

China advised its citizens Friday to refrain from travelling to Japan in the near future. It cited earlier attacks against Chinese in Japan and what it called Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi's "erroneous remarks" on Taiwan, which it said undermined the atmosphere for China-Japan exchange.

Kihara told reporters that it is precisely because of the differences between the two governments that multilayered communication is essential, a Kyodo report said.

China has repeatedly recommended its nationals take security precautions when in Japan over the past year, but the latest announcement appeared to be stronger in advising against travel, according to notices posted on the website of its embassy in Tokyo.

Trump to proceed with legal action against BBC despite apology

London  
US President Donald Trump has declared that he intends to proceed with legal action against the BBC despite the British public service broadcaster apologising to him for the way his speech was edited for one of its news documentaries aired last year.

"We'll sue them. We'll sue them for anywhere between a billion and 5 billion dollars, probably sometime next week," Trump told reporters on Air Force One overnight on Saturday.

"We have to do it, they've even admitted that they couldn't have not done that. They cheated. They changed the words coming out of my mouth," he said.

The row follows an intense period for the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC), resulting in the resignation of top officials and an apology for an "error of judgment" from its Indi-



US President Donald Trump

an-origin chair, Samir Shah.

On Thursday, the BBC said the edit of Trump's January 6, 2021, speech had unintentionally given "the mistaken impression that President Trump had made a direct call for violent action" and said it would not be broadcast again.

While it has apologised to the American President, the BBC has ruled out paying any financial

compensation.

Trump had threatened to sue the broadcaster for USD 1 billion in damages unless the corporation issued a retraction, apology and paid him compensation. However, he has now said he intends to proceed with the legal action despite the apology.

In an interview with the UK's 'GB News', Trump said that while he was not looking to

get into lawsuits, he felt he had an "obligation to do it".

"This was so egregious. If you don't do it, you don't stop it from happening again with other people," he said.

The 'Panorama' documentary in contention was aired in October 2024 and referenced Trump's 2021 address in Washington DC, when he told his supporters: "We're going to walk

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down to the Capitol, and we're going to cheer on our brave senators and congressmen and women."

Over 50 minutes later in the speech, he said: "And we fight. We fight like hell."

However, the programme showed him saying: "We're going to walk down to the Capitol, and I'll be there with you. And we fight. We fight like hell."

Controversy around how Trump's speech was edited has led to the resignations of BBC director general Tim Davie and head of news Deborah Turness.

Iran confirms seizure of oil tanker in Strait of Hormuz

Tehran  
Iran on Saturday confirmed seizure of a Marshall Islands-flagged oil tanker as it travelled through the narrow Strait of Hormuz over violations including carrying an illegal consignment, state media reported.

A report by the official Iran news agency carried a statement by the Revolutionary Guard that said the tanker was taken to Iranian waters. It did not elaborate on the "illegal" consignment, "the crew or say where the ship was now heading."

It said the seizure came following a court order and the operation was aimed at "protecting Iran's national interests and resources." It identified the oil tanker as the Talara and said it was carrying 30,000 tons of petrochemical products.

The seizure happened on Friday.

Tehran has been increasingly warning it could strike back after a 12-day war with Israel

in June that saw the US strike Iranian nuclear sites.

It said the ship had been en route to Singapore when Iranian forces intercepted. A private security firm, Ambrey, described the assault as involving three small boats.

A US Navy MQ-4C Triton drone had been circling above the area where the Talara was for hours on Friday observing the seizure, flight-tracking data analysed by The Associated Press showed.

The British military's United Kingdom Maritime Trade Operations centre separately acknowledged the incident, saying a possible "state activity" forced the Talara to turn into Iranian territorial waters.

Cyprus-based Columbia Shipmanagement later said in a statement that it had "lost contact" with the tanker, which was carrying high sulphur gasoil. It did not immediately provide any update on Saturday.

First major winter rains pummel Gaza destroying makeshift shelters

Deir al-Balah  
The first heavy rainfall of the season sent water cascading Saturday through the sprawling Muwasi tent camp in the Gaza Strip, as the embattled enclave struggles to cope with flooding and devastated infrastructure from two years of war.

Residents attempted to dig trenches to direct the water from flooding their tents, as rain

dripped through tears in tarpaulins and makeshift shelters.

The first rain of the season pounded down in intermittent bursts, soaking the scant belongings families have managed to save. Strong winds can also topple tents and destroy families' attempts to gather food and supplies as another bleak winter sets in.

Two weeks ago, Bas-



sil Naggar bought a new tent from the black market for 2300 NIS (USD 712.50), because

the scorching summer sun had worn his old tent thin. Still, rainwater leaked through his tent.

"I spent all (Friday) pushing water out of my tent," Naggar said, adding that his neighbours' tents and belongings were completely wrecked. "Water puddles are inches high, and there is no proper drainage," he said. Barefoot children splashed in puddles as women made tea outside under dark clouds.

According to the UN, Muwasi, which was

largely undeveloped decades before the Israeli military designated it a humanitarian zone early in the war, held up to 425,000 displaced Palestinians this past summer, the vast majority living in makeshift temporary tents.

The Israeli defence body in charge of humanitarian aid in the Gaza Strip has said it is allowing in winterization materials, including

blankets and heavy tarpaulins, but aid organisations warn the efforts are far from sufficient when temperatures plummet in the winter and the wind whips off the sea.

As heavy clouds threatened further rain, some attempted to take shelter in destroyed buildings, even those showing signs of collapse, with gaping holes covered by pieces of tarpaulin.

BUSINESS

India needs 30,000 Pilots: Aviation Minister

Vishakhapatnam  
India will need an additional 30,000 pilots once the pending orders for 1,700 aircraft from the Indian carriers are delivered, Union Civil Aviation Minister K Ram Mohan Naidu said on Saturday.

Addressing a session on the sidelines of CII Partnership Summit here, Naidu said on the lines of FedEx, a global logistics company that has a dedicated airport in the USA, the central government is also mulling the creation of cargo airports in the country.

Naidu also highlighted that currently India has about 8,000 pilots for a fleet of 834 aircraft, out of which 2,000 to 3,000 are not actively flying. The Indian carriers have already placed orders for 1,700 aircraft with makers such as Boeing and Airbus.

To run a plane, one needs an aircraft in a proper schedule, you will need at least 10 to 15 pilots per



Union Civil Aviation Minister K Ram Mohan Naidu

aircraft, so that they can do the routes according to their schedule.

So, 1,700 planes, 10 to 15 pilots, the requirement would be around 25,000 to 30,000. That (demand) is going to be generated. Now, as these planes come in, imagine 30,000 pilots that is the demand that is there," he said.

In order to meet the demand there should be more Flying Training Organisations (FTO) as the existing ones produce only a limited number.

The minister underscored that one job in

the Indian aviation sector creates 15 indirect jobs as against IATA's figure of 6.

"It is very, very important for us to train our individuals and to have the skilling and training and ecosystem also perfectly done in the country," he said.

Naidu further said the aviation cargo sector has been facing tough competition from rail and road transport, which are cheaper, even as airport operators focus more on improving passenger facilities, causing cargo to take a back seat.

Jitin Prasad Inaugurates 'Ramalaya' Experience Centre at UP Pavilion during IITF 2025

TSN/New Delhi  
The Uttar Pradesh Pavilion at the India International Trade Fair drew a large crowd on Saturday as Union Minister of State for Commerce and Industry Jitin Prasad inaugurated the new Ramalaya Experience Centre. Former Uttar Pradesh Chief Secretary Durga Shanker Mishra joined him at the event, which highlighted the state's growing focus on culture, art and luxury craftsmanship. The launch aligned closely with this year's IITF theme, Ek Bharat, Shreshtha Bharat.

Ramalaya has been designed as an immersive cultural space that brings together fragrance, traditional art and narrative. It introduces visitors to a sensory interpretation of India's sacred stories, using elements drawn from scripture, visual tradition and modern design. The centre features a fragrance



universe inspired by ancient texts, a collection of Madhubani and Pattachitra storytelling artworks, and national award-winning cultural pieces showcased in a contemporary setting.

The installation includes the Shripad Ramayana Series, which has won national recognition for its presentation of ten episodes from the epic. These moments are illustrated in Mithila art and paired with fragrances created to evoke the emotions

linked to each chapter. The Shri Krishna Leela Series draws from the spiritual legacy of Mathura and Vrindavan, combining Pattachitra-style imagery with aromatic notes crafted to interpret each scene.

Speaking at the inauguration, Jitin Prasad said Ramalaya demonstrated how India's heritage could be presented in a refined global format. He noted that such initiatives strengthen the cultural economy while creating new opportunities in

international markets. The Shri Krishna Leela Series called the installation a proud moment for the state and praised its efforts to connect younger generations with their civilizational roots.

Ramalaya founder Prashant Kumar described the project as a responsibility as much as a brand. He said the team's aim was to bring India's cultural fragrance to homes across the country and abroad, and that support from senior leaders rein-

Ramalaya has been designed as an immersive cultural space that brings together fragrance, traditional art and narrative. It introduces visitors to a sensory interpretation of India's sacred stories, using elements drawn from scripture, visual tradition and modern design.

forced their belief in the potential of heritage-driven luxury.

The centre has quickly become one of the main attractions at the Uttar Pradesh Pavilion. Visitors can explore the award-winning collections, experience sacred stories through scent and art, interact with traditions from Ayodhya, Mathura and Janakpur, and take home curated souvenirs that reflect the spiritual identity of the region.

Self Regulation: A Strategic Middle Path for India's Crypto Dilemma

New Delhi  
The Reserve Bank of India recently clarified that it neither intends to regulate nor ban crypto-assets. Statements from various other policymakers noted that the government intends to tax unbacked crypto-assets to discourage their usage and not endorse them. Yet, India remains one of the hottest markets for crypto-assets with the highest adoption rates in the world. This highlights the policy problem in front of the regulators and policymakers: how to regulate crypto-assets with-

out regulating them. In other words, how can India ensure accountability and consumer protection in the crypto sector without conferring it with full regulatory legitimacy?

There are many ways in which this problem can be addressed. For instance, China has banned crypto-assets on its mainland but allowed Hong Kong, its special administrative region, to emerge as a hub of investment and innovation in crypto-assets. This allows China to monitor the sector from a strategic distance



without granting it regulatory legitimacy. However, India lacks a comparable 'policy-buffer', but similar ends can be achieved through insti-

tutional measures such as self-regulatory organisations (SROs) that can provide oversight from an arm's length.

The SRO concept has been utilized globally to create a balance between innovation and oversight. For example, in Japan, the Financial Services Agency has officially recognized the Japan Virtual and Crypto Assets Exchange Association as an SRO for the cryptocurrency sector. The SRO establishes standards for all service providers, conducts audits, disciplines members, and responds to user complaints. In contrast, Taiwan's Virtual Asset Service Act requires all bitcoin market participants to be SRO

members. The SRO provides a full operational and ethical framework, including rules for membership governance, token listing, consumer protection, AML/CFT compliance, anti-fraud measures, cybersecurity, and asset segregation. These two examples demonstrate how SROs can ensure market integrity, customer trust, and compliance without direct legislative oversight.

In India, there are already effective instances of self-regulation. The Reserve Bank of India and the Securities and

Exchange Board of India have formally recognized organizations such as the Association of Mutual Funds in India, Microfinance Institutions Network, Finance Industry Development Council, and Fintech Association of Consumer Empowerment as SROs to promote fair practices, transparency, and governance in the financial sector. Extending similar treatment to the crypto sector could allow Indian government to supervise crypto enterprises without regulating the entire industry. The Bharat Web3

Association (BWA) has also taken a similar approach, adopting legislation that require strong cybersecurity precautions as well as fair trade practices to promote openness and integrity, among other things. It has made significant efforts to establish independence, transparency, and enforcement capacity. It has taken substantial steps to ensure independence, transparency, and enforcement capabilities. Official recognition from the government and authorities could assist to boost it even more.



यत्र योगेश्वरः कृष्णो यत्र पार्थो धनुर्धरः ।  
तत्र श्रीर्विजयो भूतिर्धृवा नीतिर्मतिर्मम ॥

गीता 18-78  
Wherever there is Krishna, the lord of yoga,  
and Partha (Arjuna), the archer, I think, there will surely be  
fortune, victory, welfare and morality.



# International Gita Mahotsav

(Inspiration for Duty, Peace, Harmony & Swadeshi)

November 15 to December 5, 2025 | Kurukshetra

## Programmes

Time	Venue	Programme
<b>Monday, 24 November</b>		
7:30 AM	Purushottampura Baag, Brahma Sarovar	Gita Yajna & Gita Pujan
10:00 AM	Purushottampura Baag, Brahma Sarovar	Inauguration of Haryana Pavillion & Partner State Madhya Pradesh Pavillion
10:30 AM	Srimad Bhagavad Gita Sadan, Kurukshetra University	Inauguration of International Gita Seminar
2:30 PM	Senate Hall, Kurukshetra University	Gita Chintan Session by International Delegates
5:00 PM	Purushottampura Baag, Brahma Sarovar	Bhajan Sandhya & Maha Aarti
7:00 PM	Purushottampura Baag, Brahma Sarovar	Cultural Programmes
<b>Wednesday, 26 November</b>		
10:00 AM	Brahma Sarovar	The commencement of Bhagavad Gita Panchamrit by Padma Vibhushan Swami Rambhadracharya Ji
<b>Saturday, 29 November</b>		
10:00 AM	Purushottampura Baag, Brahma Sarovar	Virat Sant Sammelan — In the presence of eminent saints of the Nation
<b>Sunday, 30 November</b>		
10:00 AM	Purushottampura Baag, Brahma Sarovar	Bhagavadgita Panchamrit- Viram Evam Bhandara Prasad
3:00 PM	Senate Hall, Kurukshetra University	All India Religious Shrines Conference (Akhil Bhartiya Devasthanam Sammelan)
<b>Monday, 1 December</b>		
7:30 AM	Jyotisar, Birthplace of the Gita	Complete Recitation of the Gita & Gita Yajna
9:30 AM	Jyotisar	Purna Ahuti of the Yajna & Worship of the Sacred Banyan Tre

Time	Venue	Programme
10:00 AM	Keshav Park, Kurukshetra	Global Gita chanting by 21,000 students
2:00 PM	Srimad Bhagavad Gita Sadan, Kurukshetra University	48-Kos Tirtha sammelan
3:00 PM	From Outside Kurukshetra Development Board Office	Gita Shobha Yatra
5:30 PM	Sannihit Sarovar & 48-Kos Kurukshetra Region	Deepotsav
6:00 PM	Purushottampura Baag, Brahma Sarovar	Gita Maha Aarti & Deep Daan
6:30 PM	Purushottampura Baag, Brahma Sarovar	Cultural Programmes
<b>15 November – 5 December</b>		
9:00 AM	Brahma Sarovar	Crafts and Saras Fair- A confluence of renowned craftsmen
9:00 AM	Mela Area, Brahma Sarovar	Fun Fair
4:30 PM	Aarti Sthal, Brahma Sarovar	Bhajan Sandhya & Maha Aarti
6:15 PM	Jyotisar	Light & Sound Show based on the Mahabharata and the Gita
7:00 PM	Jyotisar	3D Mapping Light & Sound Show on Vishwaroop
<b>24 – 26 November</b>		
10:00 AM	Kurukshetra University	International Gita Seminar
<b>24 November – 1 December</b>		
9:00 AM	Brahma Sarovar	Exhibitions of religious, educational & social Institutions
9:00 AM	Purushottampura Baag, Brahma Sarovar	State-Level Exhibition by Information, Public Relations & Languages Department, Haryana
9:00 AM	Brahma Sarovar	Gita Book Fair by Haryana Granth Academy
10:00 AM	Jyotisar & Sannihit Sarovar	Srimad Bhagwat Katha
11:00 AM	Purushottampura Baag & Mahila Ghat, Brahma Sarovar	Cultural Programmes
4:30 PM	Purushottampura Baag, Brahma Sarovar	Bhajan Sandhya & Maha Aarti
6:00 PM	Purushottampura Baag, Brahma Sarovar	Cultural Programmes



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