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PM Modi will hoist the flag on the top of Shri Ram Janmabhoomi temple

Ayodhya

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will visit the Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Temple in Ayodhya on Tuesday and hoist the flag on the temple's summit. Preparations for this event are complete. Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath arrived in Ayodhya on Monday to



review the preparations for the event at the temple complex and also reviewed the preparations made by the temple administration and

district administration.It is noteworthy that Prime Minister Narendra Modi will arrive in Ayodhya on Tuesday. After greeting

the people of Ayodhya, he will visit the Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Temple. Prior to this, at around 10 a.m., the Prime Minister will visit the Saptmandir and pay obeisance at the temples of Maharishi Vashishtha, Maharishi Vishwamitra, Maharishi Agastya, Maharishi Valmiki, Devi Ahalya, Nishadraj

Guha, and Mata Shabari. He will then visit the Sheshavatar Temple. He will also visit the Mata Annapurna Temple at around 11 a.m. Following this, he will offer prayers in the Ram Darbar sanctum sanctorum.The Prime Minister will hoist the saffron flag at the pinnacle of the Shri Ram

Janmabhoomi Temple at around 12 noon. This event will coincide with the Abhijit Muhurta of the marriage of Lord Rama and Mother Sita on the auspicious Panchami of the Shukla Paksha (waxing phase) of the month of Margashirsha. A 10-foot-high and 20-foot-long triangular flag will be hoisted.

'Operation Sindoor' should have been conducted after the Mumbai terror attack': CM Devendra Fadnavis



New Delhi

Justice Surya Kant, born on February 10, 1962, in Hissar, a small town in Haryana, has become the 53rd Chief Justice of India (CJI). His swearing-in ceremony was held at Rashtrapati Bhavan in a grand ceremony. President Draupadi Murmu administered the oath to Justice Surya Kant. Prime Minister Narendra Modi and several Union ministers were present on the occasion.15-month tenureOn the recommendation of former CJI B.R. Gavai, President Draupadi Murmu approved Justice Surya Kant's name as the next CJI on October 30,

2025. He will now hold the position until February 9, 2027.First CJI of HaryanaJustice Surya Kant is the first CJI from Haryana. He hails from a middle-class family. He completed his law studies in 1984. After earning a law degree from Maharshi Dayanand University in Rohtak, he began practicing in the Punjab and Haryana High Court. In 2011, he received his Master's degree from Kurukshetra University. Appointed to the Supreme Court in 2019In July 2000, he became the youngest Advocate General of Haryana and was designated as a Senior Advocate in 2001.

India's decency is not its weakness: Rajnath Singh

Kurukshetra

Amidst the resonant sound of chanting and blowing of conch shells, the sacred book Geeta was worshipped at the International Gita Mahotsav-2025 in Kurukshetra today. The International Gita Mahotsav-2025 in Kurukshetra commenced with the grand worship of the sacred book Geeta and the recitation of verses from the Geeta. The entire atmosphere around Brahma Sarovar was filled with the spirit of Geeta. Defense Minister Rajnath Singh, Cabinet Minister Anil Vij, Cabinet Minister Krishna Kumar Bedi, Gita scholar Swami Gyananand Maharaj, Kurukshetra Lok Sabha constituency MP Naveen Jindal, and former Minister of State Subhash Sudha performed the full offering in the Geeta Yagya and



worshipped Brahma Sarovar. Guests arrived at the Purushottampura Garden in Brahmasarovar and were welcomed in a traditional manner amid chanting of mantras by Bharat Bhushan Bharti, Political Advisor to the Chief Minister, Dhuman Singh, Vice Chairman of the Haryana Saraswati Heritage Development Board, BJP District President Tejendra Singh Goldy, and Honorary Secretary of the KDB, Upendra Singhal. Folk artists from various states, dressed in their respec-

tive state costumes, welcomed all guests and tourists to the sacred land of Kurukshetra as per tradition.Defense Minister Rajnath Singh performed the final oblation in the Gita Yagna and then worshipped the holy book, the Gita. Congratulating and wishing the nation and the people of the state, he said that a divine confluence of spirituality, culture, knowledge, and art is taking place in the holy city of Kurukshetra. Due to the efforts of the central and state governments, Gita Jayanti was recog-

nized as the International Gita Festival. He noted that the Vedas, Upanishads, and Puranas were composed on the banks of the Saraswati River on this sacred land. Furthermore, Emperor Harshvardhan's magnificent capital, Thanesar, is also located here. Knowing the importance of Kurukshetra, Lord Krishna chose it for the Mahabharata war. It was here that he imparted the divine message of Karma Yoga to Arjuna, which continues to inspire humanity even today.Cabinet Minister Anil Vij stated that the Gita is not only important from a philosophical and spiritual perspective, but also has practical application. It is a unique example of knowledge and science, which is why the Gita is loved not only by Indians but also by foreigners. Over the past



Vice President CP Radhakrishnan visited Gurudwara Rakabganj Sahib in Delhi. Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta was also present with him.

Actor Dharmendra passes away at the age of 89

Mumbai

On Monday, veteran actor Dharmendra passed away. He had been ill for a long time. Prime Minister Modi paid tribute to the actor. Several celebrities, including Karan Johar and Kajol, expressed their condolences on



social media.President Draupadi Murmu expressed grief over the death of actor

DharmendraPresident Draupadi Murmu expressed grief over the death of actor Dharmendra on her Twitter account. She wrote, "The passing away of renowned actor and former MP Dharmendra ji is a huge loss to Indian cinema. One of the most cele-

brated actors, he delivered many memorable performances in his decades-long illustrious career. As a towering figure of Indian cinema, he leaves behind a legacy that will continue to inspire new generations of artists. My deepest condolences to his family and fans.

Congress suppressed Sardar Patel's contribution: Nadda

New Delhi

Recalling the role of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel during an event in New Delhi on Saturday, BJP President JP Nadda alleged that for four decades after independence, the Congress party did not give Patel's contributions the place in history that they truly deserved. He said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi is the leader who has given Sardar Patel the rightful respect. At the event, Nadda also flagged off the 150 Unity March, marking Patel's birth anniversary. Nadda said that at the time of India's independence, the country

was divided into 562 princely states, and the British wanted India to remain weak and divided. However, Sardar Patel unified all these princely states within two years, establishing India as a strong nation. He said that despite his immense contribution, Congress governments, for political reasons, did not give Patel the respect he deserved. Scathing attack on senior leadersNadda alleged that the Congress was in power from 1950 to 1991, but no Prime Minister took the decision to confer the Bharat Ratna on Patel. According to him, political conspiracies were hatched to deny Pate.

Listen to the complaints of every victim in the district and resolve them: Chief Minister

Lucknow

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath held a "Janta Darshan" (public meeting) at his official residence on Monday. More than 52 complainants from across the state attended the meeting. Chief Minister Yogi personally reached out to each complainant, listened to their problems, and provided instructions for redressal. The Chief Minister directed all District Magistrates and Senior



Superintendents of Police to hear the complaints of the victims and resolve them within the district itself. Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath pampered the children who came with their parents, gave them chocolates, and urged them to study diligently.Listen to

An 8th-grade student took her own life after her parents refused to give her a mobile phone

Nagpur

In Nagpur, Maharashtra, when her parents refused to give their daughter a mobile phone, the teenager, driven by stubbornness, committed suicide. The 8th-grade student hanged herself. Upon receiving the information, police arrived at the scene and sent the body to the hospital for a postmortem. The incident occurred near the Hanuman Temple in the Chankapur area of ??Nagpur. The 13-year-old 8th-grade student hanged herself because her parents refused to buy her a new smartphone.

illegal encroachments, electricity, education, police, etc. Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath directed all District Magistrates and Senior Superintendents of Police to hear and resolve all complaints at the district level. District Magistrates should ensure that all departments in the districts hear and resolve the complaints of the victims within the set timeframe.The government's commitment is to serve.

'Lokpal law needs reform', government may consider changes

New Delhi

The Lokpal Act needs to be amended to "prevent any scope for arbitrariness" and ensure its proper implementation. Sources said there is a strong sentiment in some government circles that some of the provisions of this law, enacted more than a decade ago, should now be "reconsidered." The Lokpal and Lokayuktas Act, 2013, came into force on January 1, 2014, after receiving Presidential assent.Who is the current



Lokpal Chairperson?However, it only began functioning on March 27, 2019, after the appointment of the Chairperson and members. Currently, the Lokpal is chaired by former Supreme Court judge Justice Ajay Manikrao

Khanwilkar, and the Lokpal can have eight members—four judicial and four non-judicial. Citing an example, sources said the current Chairperson has decided to hear cases through a single bench consisting of all the members.

People migrating towards the India-Bangladesh border: Bengal Governor Bose

Kolkata

West Bengal Governor C.V. Ananda Bose said that there have been reports of people migrating towards the India-Bangladesh border. Many interpretations are being drawn from this. Before assessing the situation, I want to visit the spot and assess the reality so that I can form my own opinion on the issue. He said, "SIR is an important process and if any complaints



arise during its implementation, the Election Commission will resolve them. We certainly hope that everything will be fine. "Election Commission should protect BLOs:

TMC MPMeanwhile, Trinamool Congress (TMC) MP Saket Gokhale said that if the Election Commission is truly independent, it should protect the rights of booth-level officers

(BLOs) and voters and ensure complete transparency in the SIR process. The Rajya Sabha MP said in a post on Instagram that the party has no objection to SIR, but strongly opposes the hasty, disorganized, and opaque manner in which the process is being conducted in West Bengal.The TMC has been consistently criticizing the Election Commission over the recent deaths of several booth-level officers.

The Superintendent of Police boosted the morale of 107 village guards by distributing bicycles and turbans to them

SP Rajesh Kumar's visionary thinking will transform rural security
Akhand Bharat Sanesh

Kaushambi. In an unprecedented initiative to strengthen the rural security system, Superintendent of Police Rajesh Kumar honored 107 village guards and watchmen of the district by presenting them with bicycles and turbans at a grand ceremony held at the Police Lines on Monday. This initiative is a direct testament to SP Rajesh Kumar's vision, leadership, and ground-level strategy, resulting in a more comprehensive, robust, and proactive security system in villages. The Superintendent of Police has taken a significant decision to encourage village guards. During the event, Superintendent of Police Rajesh Kumar personally announced from the stage that three village guards, Chowkidars Santlal, son of Panchilal, Hathiya Bhit, Sandipanghat police station, Kanhaiya Lal, son of Rajaram, Lehdari, Chayal, and Shivbabu Pal, son of Paltu Pal, Patiria, Visara, Kokhraj, have played an outstanding role in village security.



He presented them with cash prizes of five hundred rupees each and honored them with shawls. SP Rajesh Kumar stated that village guards are the eyes and ears of the police in the village. He clearly stated in his address that village guards are the backbone of village security. They are our strongest link in crime control, maintaining peace, gathering information, and suppressing rumors. The most successful model of police-public cooperation is developed in villages through them. Superintendent of Police Rajesh Kumar urged every village guard to maintain regular patrols, immediately report any incident or suspicious activity to the police, and play an active role in maintaining peace, harmony, and security in the village. He emphasized that if each village guard is vigilant, the entire village is safe, and if the village is safe, the district is safe.

Superintendent of Police Rajesh Kumar's initiative is significant. Through this program, the SP strengthened security at the village level, reducing the trust deficit between police and the public. He integrated the law and order model with community cooperation. He prioritized human support rather than technical support in security. This model in the field of rural security has the potential to become an example at the state level. Additional Superintendent of Police Rajesh Kumar Singh, Circle Officer Kaushambi Lines Janeshwar Prasad Pandey, and police officers and personnel were present at the program. At the end of the ceremony, SP Rajesh Kumar placed his hand on the shoulders of all the village guards and guards, motivating them by saying that if they remain vigilant, the entire district will sleep peacefully.

Road Safety Awareness Drive Organized in Etah, NCC Cadets and Officials Took Charge



Etah

A road safety awareness campaign was successfully organized on Friday at Aliganj Tiraaha under the banner of the District Crime Prevention Committee, Etah. NCC cadets from Shri Gandhi Memorial School played a crucial role in the campaign, alongside administrative officials who actively participated in guiding the public. During the program, ARTO Satendra Kumar, TI Anil Kumar Verma, Committee Secretary P.S. Rajput and other office-bearers of the district committee were present. The team distributed awareness pamphlets to two-wheeler riders without helmets, drivers operating vehicles without a valid driving license and four-wheeler drivers not using seat belts-emphasizing the importance of adhering to road safety rules. NCC cadets assisted on-site by stopping vehicles and informing drivers about traffic regulations, linking safe driving practices directly with the protection

of human life. ARTO Satendra Kumar inspected several driving licenses on the spot and took strict action against rule violators, issuing challans as per guidelines. He stated that the most effective way to prevent road accidents is for every citizen to strictly follow traffic rules. District Committee patron Devendra Pal Singh, S.P. Shukla and Program Incharge Amit Gupta were present along with committee members including Ashish Bundela, Ashish Kumar, Pawan Chaturvedi, Amit Arya, Sonu Kumar Mathur, Omendra Pal Singh (Adv.), Chanchal Kumar, Bharat Verma, Manoj Kumar, Pravesh Kumar, Rajeev Kumar, Sunil Kumar, Mohammad Ashif, Mubeen Ahmad, Anuj Chauhan, Prateek Saxena, Keshav Chauhan, Avresh Kumar (Adv.), Lalit Kumar (Adv.) and others. The District Crime Prevention Committee pledged to continue conducting such initiatives regularly to strengthen road safety measures across the district.

Gamblers are gathering in the Charwa police station area, but the police remain unaware

Akhand Bharat Sanesh

Kaushambi. In Chaura Deeh village, under the Chaura Deeh police outpost of Charwa police station area, two dozen gamblers have been gathering for several days in the pigeon pea field behind Boddha Pasi's tubewell. However, from the police station to the outpost police, everyone remains unaware of the gambling operation. It is said that this gambling game is going on without any hindrance under the protection of a local professional gangster who is collecting commission on the gamblers' wins and losses. Who all are the partners in the gambling commission is a matter of investigation. It is said that dozens of gamblers arrive at this gambling den from morning and the gambling continues uninterrupted till evening, where lakhs of rupees are wagered in an hour. Earlier, these gamblers used to gather at Tikka Talab, where gambling worth lakhs of rupees was also taking place openly there. It is said that a policeman from the outpost was seen sitting on the spot. The people of the area have demanded action from the police officers against the gangster who is playing gambling and organizing gambling.

Mahewa Ghat Police Arrested Three Gamblers

Akhand Bharat Sandesh

Kaushambi. Under the direction of the Superintendent of Police, as part of the ongoing campaign against crime and criminals in the district, on the night of 23/24 November 2025, the Mahewa Ghat Police Station team arrested Abhishek Singh, son of Rajiv Singh, resident of Andhawa, Police Station Mahewa Ghat, Shankar Saroj, son of Gunga Saroj, resident of Andhawa, Police Station Mahewa Ghat, and Deepak Kumar, son of Rambhavan, resident of Andhawa, Police Station Mahewa Ghat, near the primary school in Andhawa village. They were gambling with a gambling racket of ₹500, ₹400, and 52 playing cards. Based on the seizure and arrest, a case under Section 13 of the Gambling Act was registered at the police station and legal proceedings were initiated.

Inspection of Special Intensive Revision of Voter List Conducted in Etah

Etah

Under the directives of the Election Commission of India, continuous on-site inspections are being conducted by Electoral Registration Officers as part of the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) Programme of the voter list underway in the Assembly constituencies of the district. The campaign, being carried out under the guidance of District Election Officer / District Magistrate Prem Ranjan Singh, aims to make the electoral roll updated, error-free and 100 percent transparent. During the inspection, Electoral Registration Officers and Assistant



Electoral Registration Officers visited various booths to review the collection and verification of enumeration forms, along with digitization work through the BLO mobile app. Officers issued clear instructions to Booth Level Officers (BLO) to conduct door-to-door visits, collect enumeration forms from eligible voters

within the stipulated time and ensure immediate digitization and uploading of collected forms on the designated portal/app. Supervisors have been directed to review the tasks regularly and update daily progress. The officials also warned that any negligence or delay at any level will invite strict action. They emphasized

that the objective of the SIR programme is to achieve a thoroughly updated and purified electoral roll and therefore every BLO and associated staff must work responsibly and with full commitment. Public cooperation was also appealed for, urging citizens to provide accurate information to BLO to support the process of voter list purification. District Magistrate Prem Ranjan Singh stated that the collection of enumeration forms is of utmost importance and must be completed on a priority basis. He added that ensuring the success of the revision process while adhering to the guidelines of the Election Commission.

SIR forms are not being submitted due to the lack of access to the old voter list

Akhand Bharat Sandesh

Kaushambi

Many voters are facing significant difficulties in filling out the SIR forms issued by the Central Government for elections. Many voters lack voter ID cards, which means they cannot obtain information about their booth number or polling station. Their voter list serial number is missing, preventing many voters' names from being included in the SIR forms. Even after searching online, the 2003 voter list is

unavailable. Furthermore, ordinary voters are unable to obtain the old voter list from the Election Office. Those with access are finding the old voter list through various means, but the poor, illiterate, and vulnerable villagers are struggling to find the old voter list. Those who cannot find the old voter list are unable to complete their SIR forms, preventing them from being submitted. The BLO also lacks the old voter list. Voters who have left their villages and become residents of other areas are

facing the most difficulty in filling out the SIR forms. Their names are listed in the new areas, but they can only access their complete details from the 2003 or earlier voter lists. They will have to fill the new form only then they will be able to become voters but this serious problem has not been solved by the government administration yet due to which many voters will remain untouched from filling the form and the voter list will remain incomplete. The government administration needs to try to solve this serious issue.

ASP Shwetabh Pandey Inspects Two Police Stations in Etah



Etah

Additional Superintendent of Police (ASP) Etah, Shwetabh Pandey, conducted an inspection of Police Station Kotwali Dehat and Police Station Sakrauli on Friday, reviewing the functioning, record management system and infrastructure status of both stations. During the inspection, the ASP issued essential directives for the establishment of Cyber Help Desks at both stations to ensure quick and time-bound assistance for citizens

affected by cyber-crimes. He emphasized the need to strengthen mechanisms for effectively addressing the rapidly increasing cases of online fraud and cyber offences. ASP Pandey also stressed quality disposal of pending cases, maintenance of cleanliness and discipline in the stations, strengthening of the beat policing system, and the implementation of transparent police functioning. He instructed police personnel to maintain regular communication with the public and ensure prompt

resolution of their grievances. Highlighting the urgency of tackling cybercrime, he stated that swift action and sensitive handling of every complaint are mandatory, and warned that any form of negligence will not be tolerated. He appealed to police officers and staff to perform their duties with responsibility, alertness, and dedication. The inspection reaffirmed the police administration commitment to efficiency, accountability and improved public service.

Public Hearing Organized on Thana Samadhan Diwas in Etah



Etah

On the occasion of Thana Samadhan Diwas, a public hearing program was held on Saturday at Police Station Kotwali Dehat, presided over by Additional Superintendent of Police (ASP) Etah, Shwetabh Pandey. Citizens from various areas participated in the event and submitted applications and complaints, which were heard attentively

ly and with seriousness by the ASP. ASP Pandey directed the concerned officials and station in-charges to ensure time-bound, transparent and quality disposal of every complaint so that victims receive justice without delay. He asserted that the prompt resolution of public grievances is the top priority of the police administration and that negligence or carelessness in any

matter will not be tolerated. Instructions for necessary actions on the complaints received during the hearing were issued on the spot. The police administration assured the public that all cases will be resolved impartially and effectively so that citizens can receive timely relief. Several police officers and staff members were present during the public hearing program.

Awareness was created during Traffic Month



Mathura

Under Traffic Month November 2025, a road safety awareness program was organized by the Traffic Police today on 22.11.2025. Under the direction of Senior Superintendent of Police, the Inspector in-charge of Traffic and the team gave detailed information about traffic signals, mandatory and informative signs to the general public. School vehicle drivers and students were made aware about safe travel and following the rules. Reflector tapes were put on tractor-trolleys and safety rules were explained to the drivers. During the campaign, 1661 challans were issued and 07 vehicles were seized for violations including riding without helmet, seat belt, three passengers, wrong direction and modified silencer.

All personnel involved in the SIR process must fulfill their responsibilities: DM

Strict action will be taken against those found negligent at any level. The work of SIR is important, voters should also play their part - District Election Officer

Akhand Bharat Sandesh

Prayagraj

A meeting was held on Monday in the Sangam Auditorium under the chairmanship of District Magistrate Manish Kumar Verma with representatives of all national and state-recognized political parties to ensure the successful completion of the ongoing special intensive revision program. In the meeting, the District Magistrate informed that to date, the respective BLOs have distributed the counting forms to a total of 4,625,206 (98.56 percent) voters across all the district's assembly constituencies. The BLOs are being rapidly collected and digitized through the BLO app, retrieving one copy of the counting forms from the respective voters. It was informed at the meeting that the counting forms of a total of 9,22,865 voters have been digitized so far. The District Magistrate urged representatives of all political parties to coordinate their appointed Booth Level Agents (BLOs) with the respective booths to ensure the smooth completion of the intensive revision program. The District



Magistrate also asked representatives of all political parties to provide assistance to the Booth Level Agents (BLAs) at each polling station to ensure the smooth distribution of counting forms to all voters and the collection of counting forms from them. He urged the BLAs and the respective BLOs appointed by them to coordinate and ensure the distribution and collection of counting forms for all voters. He also advised that if people encounter any difficulties in filling out or understanding the forms, video clips detailing the instructions can be used. He urged everyone involved in the SIR process to fulfill their responsibilities. Strict action will be taken against anyone found negligent. He told the representatives of political parties that if the

concerned BLOs are not filling the forms after visiting their areas or if any other problem is being faced, then provide information about it immediately so that the problem can be resolved immediately. The District Magistrate said that the work of SIR is important, it should be completed on priority basis within the stipulated time period. For this work, voters should also understand their responsibilities and fill the forms quickly and provide them to the BLOs so that the forms can be fed on time. The District Magistrate told the representatives of all political parties that a special intensive revision campaign is being conducted to remove the discrepancies in the voter list and make it error-free, for which cooperation is expected from all of you.

Traffic on the Sirathu Overbridge has collapsed, causing long traffic jams to plague commuters

Even the nearby police station is not providing relief from the traffic jam. The traffic in-charge's November traffic month has been limited to just the publication of photos

Akhand Bharat Sandesh

Kaushambi. To streamline the traffic system throughout the district during Traffic Month (November), the traffic police are conducting daily discussions and checking. However, even then, the general public continues to struggle with traffic problems. The traffic in-charge is nowhere to be seen to address the underlying issues in the area. The traffic in-charge's role in November is limited to merely publishing photos. Publishing photos of the traffic in-charge will neither prevent accidents nor provide relief from traffic jams. People have lost hope of a solution to the traffic problem from the traffic in-charge, who is merely pretending to mislead the authorities. It is noteworthy that the traffic system



on the Sirathu Overbridge has completely collapsed these days, causing pedestrians and local residents to face hours-long traffic jams daily. Despite the traffic in-charge's claims of streamlining traffic during Traffic Month (November), this situation becomes even more concerning when the Sirathu police post is located just steps away from the traffic jam site, yet no traffic

police or home guards are seen deployed on the roads. Locals report that drivers are acting arbitrarily on the overbridge. And the problem of traffic jams remains serious due to improper parking. During peak hours, the traffic jams become so severe that even ambulances have difficulty passing through. Despite the proximity of a police station, the absence of

policemen raises the question whether the administration has completely ignored this important traffic point. Commuters have demanded that higher authorities find a permanent solution to this problem and ensure regular deployment of traffic policemen on the overbridge so that the general public can be relieved of the daily hassle of traffic jams.

District-level sports competition concludes

Akhand Bharat Sandesh

Prayagraj

Under the direction of the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, Government of India, Mera Yuva Bharat Prayagraj, under the guidance of Deputy Director Jagriti Pandey, organized a district-level sports competition at the Babu Jokhai Pal Mini Stadium in Andawa. Under the supervision of Rishi Pal, President of the Babu Jokhai Pal Youth Committee, and his committee members, the winning teams from the block-level sports competitions from Baharia, Uruwa, Bahadurpur, Shringverpur, Chaka, and Kaudihar participated in



this competition. A total of six sports were organized, including kabaddi (girls), volleyball (boys), long jump, 200-meter race, 800-meter race, and 400-meter race, with finals and closing ceremonies. The Chief Guest of this competition was Prayagraj Mayor Ganesh Kesharwani, and as a special guest, Phulpur MLA Deepak Patel, and special guest, former Handia

MLA Prashant Singh, distributed prizes, certificates, medals, T-shirts, and tassels to the winners, boosting enthusiasm for sports in the region. In this event: Kabaddi winner - Bahadurpur team, runner-up - Manda team, Volleyball - Bahria team, captain - Divyanshu, and runner-up - Trivenipuram team, captained by Sudhir. First in the 200-meter race was Shivni, second -



Shilpa, and third - Sunaina Nishad. First in the 400-meter race was Imran Ali from Meja, second - Pramod Pal from Uruwa Block, and third - Akash Kumar from Bahadurpur. First in the 800-meter race was Kavita, second - Soumya, and third - Shilpa. First in the long jump was Arjun Yadav from Bahadurpur, second - Priyansh Yadav from Soraon, and third - Sahil

Pal from Meja. The jury included Vimlesh Pal, Vishal Yadav, Akshay Pal, Arun Pal, Saroj Anand, Ajay Pal. Local social workers P.N. Akela, Gulab Singh Yadav, Deepu Pal, Arush Pal, Golu Pal, Raju, Manish, Vishal, Aman, Harsh, Ravi, Rohit, Ajay, Prince, Adarsh, and teachers of Gandhi Inter College extended their support in this sports competition from the area.

District Magistrate Inspects Warehouse at Mundera Mandi

Akhand Bharat Sandesh

Prayagraj

District Magistrate Manish Kumar Verma conducted his monthly inspection of the EVM and VVPAT ware-



house in Mundera on Monday. He inquired about the functioning of CCTV cameras and the condition of the security rooms. He directed that all necessary arrangements be main-

tained in the warehouse. Joint Magistrate Animesh Verma, Assistant Election Officer Phoolchandra, and other election officials were present during the inspection.

A joint awareness program was organized under Traffic Month 2025 and Cyber Crime - Mission Shakti

Akhand Bharat Sandesh

Prayagraj

Under Traffic Month 2025, Cyber Crime and Mission Shakti, a comprehensive public awareness program was organized on Monday at Jagat Taran Golden Jubilee School and Colonelganj Inter College under the joint aegis of the Commissionerate of Prayagraj and the Uttar Pradesh Crime Prevention Committee, Lucknow Branch, Prayagraj. During the program, students were provided with detailed information regarding traffic rules, cyber security, and Mission Shakti. Mission Shakti Female Sub-Inspector Mozbeen Bano from George Town Police Station informed the girls about self-defense, women's safety, and various government welfare schemes under Mission Shakti. SI Divya also provided detailed information on how women can seek assistance in emergencies through helpline numbers. Sub-Inspector Divya Gupta and Constable Komal Verma also raised awareness among students about cyber security, explaining how cyber criminals use new methods to deceive and defraud people, and that vigilance and caution are essential to protect themselves from them.



Traffic Sub-Inspector Indrapal Verma provided detailed information on road safety and traffic rules. He emphasized the importance of using helmets and seat belts, following traffic signals, and following safe travel through educational illustrations displayed by the department. In his inspiring address, Secretary Santosh Kumar urged students to participate in this awareness campaign and spread a positive message to society, and not to succumb to temptations that could harm their families and society. Principal Arindam Ghosh and Sushmita Kango presided over the program at Jagat Taran Golden Jubilee School.

They welcomed the visiting officials from the stage and urged them to continue organizing such awareness programs. Among the outstanding teachers, Manoj Dubey, Smita, Pinky Mukherjee, Akanksha Singh, Kapil Dwivedi, Piyush Kumar Singh, Indu Bala

Goyal, Roshni Dutt, Jyoti Srivastava, and the school principal were honored with certificates of appreciation for their excellent work and cooperation. In the same sequence, the above information was also made available to the children and teachers of Colonelganj Inter College by the officials and the program was organized under the chairmanship of Principal Ajay Kumar. Today's program was mainly organized in coordination with Ajit Kumar Sinha, Sub-Inspector, District School Inspector, Education Cell In-charge Committee Zone, Shoaib Alam Public Relations Officer, Secretary Environment Cell Hasan A Naqvi, Priyanka Parashar Women Cell, In-charge City Sandeep Soni, Arjun Singh. Finally, the program was concluded after the national anthem and in the program, 20 teachers of Colonelganj Inter College were honored by the committee by giving them certificates of appreciation for their excellent work.

Traders, middlemen, and hobby farmers have been troubled by paddy procurement centers for two decades

Center in-charges have amassed vast wealth by manipulating paddy and wheat procurement. While the timing for weighing farmers' paddy is set, middlemen weigh until midnight

Akhand Bharat Sandesh

Kaushambi

Despite all the efforts of the officials, the interference of middlemen and traders in paddy procurement centres is not ending. When farmers face problems due to non-weighing of their paddy on time, the traders and middlemen directly take advantage of it. They buy paddy from farmers at low prices, obtain the land records of the same farmers, sell it at the paddy procurement centre and pocket the commission. The involvement of the marketing inspector and the district distribution officer is being exposed behind all this drama. If farmers are weighed on time, they get timely payment for their produce, they get the money when they need it, and their needs are met, then the farmers will not sell their produce to middlemen and traders at low prices. However, farmers' produce is not weighed on time and they do not get paid on time, due to which the farmers are helpless. After colluding with the paddy pro-



curement centre in-charge, middlemen and traders are openly taking advantage of the farmers' helplessness. The interference of middlemen and traders in paddy procurement centres is not a new thing. For the past 20 years, middlemen have been a hobby, and only a few dozen have been identified. Middlemen become wealthy by disrupting the entire paddy procurement center system. In just 20 years, middlemen have amassed revenues of several crores, and officials have failed to identify them, making it completely meaningless to deny the involvement of the marketing inspector and dis-

trict marketing officer in the system.

Weighing times are set for farmers, but there are no set times for weighing the produce of brokers and middlemen. The paddy of middlemen is weighed until midnight. At the newly opened paddy procurement center in Osa, due to the involvement of the marketing inspector, middlemen are openly visible in and around the procurement center at all times. Despite the lack of a ban on middlemen, the possibility of a gathering of brokers in the market, with the connivance of the district distribution officer, cannot be denied.

Farmers bring paddy to the market, but their paddy is not being weighed because of the numerous brokers operating within the market premises, who provide tea and snacks to the officials. These middlemen and traders have established their dominance over the paddy procurement center for the past 20 years. They also fill their pockets, pay for petrol, and fulfill all the needs of the center in-charge, so that the paddy of the traders is weighed first. The paddy that was unloaded at the procurement center 2 days ago, the paddy of the middlemen and traders is weighed first. Farmer Lavkush Tripathi says that since November 13, he has been lying here with his paddy in the market premises, his body shivering in the cold, no resources have been made for the farmers to stay, but even after 12 days, his paddy is not being weighed. The center in-charge has been doing it all the time, the paddy of the farmers has not been weighed even after 12 days, but the center in-

charge gets angry when the brokers and middlemen are discussed.

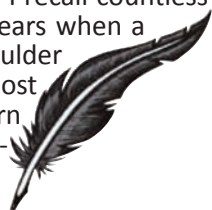
The paddy of the traders is weighed first, paddy is filled in a 41 kg 200 gram sack. Farmers are being looted in the center even in the weight and the officers remain silent. Despite this, paddy is deducted separately from the paddy of the farmers in the name of recovery. Farmers are exploited in various ways at the center, due to which the farmers are helpless, whereas this system there is no control on brokers and middlemen. After filling the pockets of the centre in-charges, the rules and regulations are different for them.

The centre in-charges have earned huge wealth by manipulating the purchase of paddy and wheat. If their huge wealth is investigated by the Anti-Corruption Organization, then the corruption prevalent in Kedo will also be exposed, but the government administration does not seem to be ready to investigate their huge wealth.

Editorial

India's GDP victory over Japan is still a year away

There has been much discussion about the assertions made by BVR Subrahmanyam, the CEO of NITI Aayog, India's only official think tank. Speaking at a press conference following the 10th NITI Aayog Governing Council Meeting chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and presumably attended by senior bureaucrats, Subrahmanyam said that "as I speak", India has overtaken Japan in current dollar GDP. Critics of the government's assertion make two points, one relevant and the other "noisy". The relevant point is that the IMF World Economic Outlook (WEO) database clearly shows that for the fiscal year 2024-25 (ending in March 2025), India's GDP was \$3.9 trillion while Japan's was \$4.0 trillion—that is, Japan was 2.6 per cent ahead. Fortunately, both Japan and India have the same fiscal year—April-March—hence adjustments to WEO data are not needed. Equally clearly, the database presents estimates of India's GDP for fiscal year 2025-26 as \$4.187 trillion and Japan's as \$4.186 trillion—that is, India's GDP exceeds Japan's by 0.02 per cent in 2025-26. From this, many, if not most, analysts have erroneously concluded that this won't happen until March 2026. Why erroneous? Because it is a fiscal year conclusion, and the 'centre of gravity' of an April-March fiscal year is September. So, it is likely that the NITI Aayog CEO, in making his hasty conclusion, was wrong by only four months. As it happens, Subrahmanyam was hasty by approximately a year. Note that his conclusion and inference pertains to current dollar GDP, and we have to contend with the conversion from rupees to US dollars, and from Japanese yen to US dollars. First, let us look at the Indian estimate. Data just released by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) on Friday shows that India's GDP in current prices for January-March 2025 quarter was Rs 88.17 trillion, or annualised Rs 352.7 trillion. On 23 May, the last market day before Subrahmanyam's assertion, the exchange rate was Rs 85.4/\$—that is, current GDP in March 2025 was 352.7/85.4 or \$4.13 trillion. Indian nominal GDP is growing by about 10 per cent a year. So, by March 2026, we should expect current India GDP to reach \$4.54 trillion. Now we examine the fortunes of Japan's GDP. The seasonally adjusted quarterly estimate of Japan's GDP is 624.9 trillion yen for Q1 of 2025. On 23 May, the exchange rate was 142.6 yen/\$; hence Japan's GDP in March 2025 was \$4.38 trillion, some 6.1 per cent ahead of India's GDP on the same date. Given that exchange rates change every day, we need to decide as to what exchange rate we should use. Amongst many, we can use a calendar year estimate, a quarterly estimate or a 23 May estimate. But no matter which one we use, it will be wrong because exchange rates do not remain constant, and the future is not asked to see, que sera sera. All of us are concerned with the 23 May estimate, hence the discussion and this note. Japan's nominal GDP growth has averaged 3.4 per cent for the last three years. Assuming this to be the average for 2025-26, the estimate for March 2026 is \$4.53 trillion GDP (as 4.38*1.034). So it will be sometime in March 2026 that India's GDP will exceed Japan's in current dollars. Again, que sera sera, the conclusion will depend on what happens to exchange rates. Changes in exchange rates affect nominal dollar GDP calculations. Assume in March 2026 all estimates come true except the \$ yen exchange rate changes from 142.7 to 135 (the yen has become stronger by 5.7 per cent), then Japan's GDP will be 5.7 per cent higher and the day of decision will be delayed beyond March 2026. How do we interpret the dash to conclusion by the CEO? As a sports junkie, I recall countless occasions over the last 50 years when a sprinter looked over his shoulder to see his competitor – and lost the race. What do we learn from this data-heavy exercise?



India May Be Barking Up The Wrong Tree As It Takes On Pakistan In IMF

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) approved the disbursement of another \$1 billion to Pakistan under its latest Extended Fund Facility (EFF), reinstating Pakistan's dependence on international bailouts. As a country with a high dependence on imported oil, whenever oil prices hike or international borrowing declines, Islamabad's reserves take a further hit. Since 1958, whenever this occurs, Pakistan has approached the International Monetary Fund (IMF) for a bailout approximately every three years, seek-

ing to save its economy under the condition of improving macroeconomic indicators. While the role of the IMF has been minimal in reforming Pakistan's governance, its fund facilities have stabilised the economy from falling into the pit grave. However, the key question remains: have IMF bailouts inadvertently enabled an environment to facilitate terror financing? If so, should India try to block IMF funds to Pakistan? Contrary to popular imagination, the IMF's role is distinct, and its programmes impose strict conditions that

compel Islamabad to demonstrate some accountability in governance and economic management. And India needs an accountable Pakistan. While the IMF can serve as a platform for India to signal its displeasure and apply international diplomatic pressure following the Pahalgam attack on April 22 by alleged Pakistan-backed terrorists, a more effective route to achieving strategic objectives would be to target terror financing networks and financial opacity through the Financial Action Task Force (FATF), the global watchdog on

money laundering and terror financing, where reports suggest India is already preparing to build a robust case against Pakistan. Persistent macroeconomic imbalances have led to a state of massive public debt, with the country facing massive external debt repayment dues. The Pakistani economy has structural weaknesses, from a narrow tax base to low productivity. Islamabad is also extremely dependent on imported energy, with energy imports accounting for 20 to 40 % of total imports. Of the previous 25 IMF programmes.

Tharoor's loyalty keeps colliding with Congress scepticism



"Would you be interested in contesting for the post of (UN) Secretary-General?" It's a question that then-Prime Minister Manmohan Singh asked Shashi Tharoor in New York in 2005. Tharoor, who was serving as the United Nations Under-Secretary-General, would later admit that Singh's question caught him a little off guard. Having served in various capacities at the UN since 1978, Tharoor felt that his "entire working life had seemed like a preparation" for the organisation's top post. Yet, he had no reason to believe that New Delhi was ready to back such a bid on his behalf, at least not at the time. India did eventually nominate him, albeit after a delay, for the position in mid-2006. Tharoor lost to Ban Ki-moon of South Korea, whose government mounted an aggressive campaign for its candidate. It was, however, the United States that emerged as the biggest stumbling block to Tharoor's candidacy. "Three factors—the bilateral relationship with Korea, a perception of a lack of conviction on India's part, and the Bush Administration's desire not to repeat the Kofi Annan experiment of a 'strong' Secretary-General—combined to ensure the US veto that scuttled my candidacy," he wrote in Open magazine in 2016. Two decades later, in a classic twist of irony, Tharoor finds himself embroiled in a controversy tinged with diplomatic hues. The same Congress party that once championed his bid for the highest seat in global diplomacy is now glum over the Centre naming him as the leader of a multi-party delegation visiting various world capitals on Operation Sindoor. His UN battle lost in

2006, Tharoor started spending more time in India and found a home in the Congress party, which offered him the post of Minister of State for External Affairs after his first Lok Sabha victory from Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala, in the 2009 general elections. Tharoor continues to retain the seat, winning four elections on the trot. In 2015, Tharoor claimed that when he was still considering his options after the UN stint, he had also received offers to join the BJP and the Left. But he chose the Congress because, as he explained in 2009, "I have nothing economically in common with the ideology of the Left and Communist parties. Those who have followed my writing for years know that I have nothing in common with the communalism that has been unfortunately encouraged by people associated with the Bharatiya Janata Party... and that basically means the Congress party." Nevertheless, Tharoor's loyalty to the Congress has remained suspect in the eyes of a section of party leaders from the beginning. His words of praise for Narendra Modi just days after the Congress' drubbing in the 2014 general elections marked the beginning of a series of statements over the last decade that cemented

this perception. In a HuffPost article, Tharoor wrote that just as Modi "remade himself from a hate-figure into an avatar of modernity and progress, he is seeking to remake the BJP from a vehicle of Hindu chauvinism to a natural party of governance." He continued: "For an opposition member of Parliament like myself, it would be churlish not to acknowledge Modi 2.0's inclusive outreach and to welcome his more conciliatory statements and actions. The moment he says or does something divisive or sectarian in the Modi 1.0 mould, however, we will resist him robustly. India's people, and its pluralist democracy, deserve no less." Following criticism from his party colleagues, Tharoor reaffirmed his commitment to the Congress and the principles of secularism in a letter to the party's communication department. "By praising him (Modi) for specific things, we help frame public expectation of his continued behaviour and raise the bar against which we will judge him in future," he wrote. However, it did little to dispel the growing perception of Tharoor as a misfit within the Congress. As Congress general secretary (communications) Jairam Ramesh told a press huddle last month, "Congress mein hona aur Congress ka hona

mein zameen aasman ka antar hai" (There is a major difference between being in the Congress and being of the Congress). At the same time, the Congress leadership agrees that any disciplinary action against Tharoor will likely backfire. "His popular appeal, especially in urban India, is not lost on the party," a senior Congress leader told ThePrint when asked whether the party was considering action against Tharoor. His standing has also risen at a time when Kerala, his home state, is heading to the polls in less than a year. As it is, a section of the party close to the Congress high command was miffed with Tharoor for accepting the Centre's invitation to lead a multi-party delegation on Operation Sindoor without first seeking the leadership's concurrence. His public statements during the trip have only deepened the rift. On 29 May, addressing a gathering of the Indian community in Panama, Tharoor said that in 2016 "for the first time, India breached the Line of Control between India and Pakistan to conduct a surgical strike on a terror base." "Even during the Kargil War, we had not crossed the LoC; in Uri we did. Then came the attack in Pulwama... this time we crossed not only the LoC but [also] the international border and we struck terrorist headquarters in Balakot."

"And let me say to you that this is going to be the new normal. The PM has made it very clear that Operation Sindoor was necessary because these terrorists came and wiped the sindoor off the foreheads of 26 women," he said. These remarks riled up the Congress leadership so much so that it endorsed statements by party

functionary Udit Raj, known for his controversial remarks, that Tharoor should consider becoming a BJP spokesperson. Tharoor hit back, dismissing such critics as "zealots" and "trolls". Congress spokesperson Pawan Khera, considered close to Rahul Gandhi, promptly produced excerpts from Tharoor's own book to highlight the contradiction in his position. In his 2018 book *The Paradoxical Prime Minister*, Tharoor had pointed out that the Congress, while in the government, had authorised many cross-border surgical strikes, but did not exploit them politically—an assertion that countered his statement that India under Modi crossed the LoC "for the first time" in 2016. "The shameless exploitation of the 2016 'surgical strikes' along the Line of Control with Pakistan, and of a military raid in hot pursuit of rebels in Myanmar, as a party election tool — something the Congress had never done despite having authorized several such strikes earlier — marked a particularly disgraceful dilution of the principle that national security issues require both discretion and non-partisanship," Tharoor wrote in the book. Currently in Colombia, Tharoor is yet to respond to Khera.

However, a tweet made by him in 2018 to introduce his book remains instructive. "My new book, *THE PARADOXICAL PRIME MINISTER*, is more than just a 400-page exercise in floccinaucinihilipilification," Tharoor had posted, emphasising that the book was more than just a critique of the prime minister. Perhaps Khera should take note.

Orthodox Russia doesn't take orders from the Pope. Vatican can't convince Putin for a ceasefire

Russia's rejection of Vatican-led ceasefire talks with Ukraine should come as a surprise only to those who are ignorant of the historic animosity between the two religious institutions, the Vatican and the Russian Orthodox Church. Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov's clarification that it is a little 'awkward for Orthodox countries to discuss issues on a Catholic platform' should put at rest all efforts initiated by US President Donald Trump. The election of the hitherto unknown Robert Francis Prevost, a quiet lawyer-bishop with years of experience in Church matters, as the vicar of Jesus Christ, the first American Pope, does not change the ground realities of the Russia-Ukraine conflict. Patriarch Kirill of Moscow, head of the Russian Orthodox Church (ROC), did not attend the funeral of Pope Francis, though the two held a meeting in 2016 in Cuba, after almost 10 centuries of schism. There is no reason why Pope Leo XIV would broker peace between Russian President

Vladimir Putin and Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy just because the president of America wants him to do it. Trump's idea of involving the Papal office in the Vatican, the highest seat of the Catholic Church, in the ceasefire talks was a blunder for several reasons. Russia's Russian Orthodox Church (ROC) and the Roman Catholic Church have been at loggerheads for over ten centuries, probably right from 988 when Grand Prince Vladimir was baptised. The theological split first appeared in 1054 when the then Pope Leo IX of Rome excommunicated Patriarch Michael Cerularius of Constantinople, who responded with his own excommunication of the Bishop of Rome, Pope Leo IX. The October Revolution of 1917 further alienated the two Christian faiths, even as Moscow under the brutal atheist regime of Vladimir Lenin and Joseph Stalin stifled religious freedom. After deriding religion as the 'opium of the masses.'

Bangladesh Army Chief wants elections. Muhammad Yunus wants to get rid of him

Among military chiefs in the Indian subcontinent, Bangladesh Army chief Waker-Uz-Zaman must have the most unenviable job right now. While his Pakistan counterpart Asim Munir has been elevated to Field Marshal after a military confrontation with India, General Waker-Uz-Zaman risks losing his job. Or worse. His one big mistake? Saying that the national election be held by December this year so that Bangladesh can return to being an electoral democracy. On 22 May, The Daily Star, Bangladesh's highest-selling English newspaper, reported that Chief of Army Staff General Waker-Uz-Zaman said the national election should be held by December this year, "according to three sources with direct knowledge of his remarks made at a high-level gathering in Dhaka cantonment". "Bangladesh needs political stability. This is only possible through an elected government, not by unelected decision-makers," one source quoted the army chief as saying in an Officers' Address. This was not the first time the General had spoken about the national election. The Daily Star report mentioned an

event marking the National Martyred Army Day at Raowa Club on 25 February this year, where the General was quoted as saying—"Every time I spoke with Dr Yunus, I completely agreed with him that there should be a free, fair, and inclusive election and that the election should be held within December or close to that." Soon after, reports that Muhammad Yunus, caretaker to the interim government in Bangladesh, was mulling resignation came out. "He (Yunus) said he is thinking about it (resignation). He feels that the situation is such that he cannot work," Nahid Islam, student-led National Citizen Party chief, said on the night of 22 May, after a meeting with Yunus. Two days later, on 24 May, it was clarified that Yunus would remain as the head of Bangladesh's interim government by an adviser in his cabinet. Former High Commissioner of India to Bangladesh Veena Sikri claimed that the speculation about Yunus resigning was "complete drama" to distract from the Bangladesh Army chief's statement on elections. "He had no intention of resigning at all, and in fact, he

never said himself that he would resign," the former High Commissioner said in an interview. But this "complete drama" generated hate towards Yunus's perceived detractors, the main target being General Waker-Uz-Zaman. Students, radicals, and some of Bangladesh's most popular and influential YouTubers openly attacked the army chief. Bangladeshi journalist Sahidul Hasan Khokon told ThePrint that both the student-led, newly formed political party National Citizen Party and the Islamist political outfit Bangladesh Jamaat-e-Islami have been busy channelising mob rage against General Waker.

"The local media is not reporting this, but the mob is ready. If need be, there will be violent street protests against the Army, like there were during the July revolution against Hasina when the mob turned against the police and killed many policemen," Hasan said. Hasan added that Jamaat had got a free rein ever since Yunus took over and the new student's party will need more time to organise itself. Hence, December polls, as suggested by General Waker, would suit neither of.

Geneva discussions termed "most productive yet" as Kyiv signals cautious optimism and Washington refines 28-point proposal.

PROGRESS — BUT NO PEACE YET IN US-UKRAINE TALKS

GENEVA [SWITZERLAND]

US Secretary of State Marco Rubio expressed optimism after what he called the most constructive round of US-Ukraine talks so far in Geneva, where negotiators continued work on President Donald Trump's 28-point peace plan aimed at ending the Russian-Ukrainian war. Rubio noted the proposal remains "a living, breathing document" and acknowledged gaps still exist, though he described them as "not insurmountable."

The plan has faced bipartisan criticism in the US for offering concessions to Russia, including asking Ukraine to cede territory, limit its armed forces and abandon NATO ambitions. A State Department spokesperson clarified the proposal was written by the US with input from both Russia and Ukraine. The White

Trump signals 'progress' in Ukraine peace push

US President Donald Trump has expressed cautious optimism about the result of talks in Geneva on the American peace plan to end the Ukraine conflict, saying that "something good" may be happening. Washington presented Kiev with the proposal last week, giving it until Thursday to respond. Ukrainian and US delegations then met with key European NATO backers in Geneva on Sunday, after which the White House said in a statement that an "updated and refined peace framework" had been drafted, with final decisions on it to be made by Trump and Ukraine's Vladimir Zelensky. "Is it really possible that big progress is being made in peace talks between Russia and Ukraine? Don't believe it until you see it, but something good just may be happening," Trump wrote on his Truth Social platform on Monday.

House said revisions were made after consultations with senior Ukrainian, American and European officials, and Kyiv now believes the updated version reflects its national security concerns. The Ukrainian side said issues such as security guarantees, sovereignty, infrastructure protec-

tion and economic development were addressed.

President Volodymyr Zelensky called the talks "substantive" and said "much is changing." His chief of staff, Andriy Yermak, praised the meeting as "very productive" and thanked Trump for efforts "to bring this peace." Their re-

Europe too sees progress

European leaders cautiously welcomed progress at Geneva talks on a controversial US peace plan for Ukraine, initially seen favouring Russia. Key NATO-related clauses were removed, easing concerns. US Secretary of State Marco Rubio called discussions productive, though major gaps remain. Meanwhile, Russia intensified drone strikes in Ukraine, killing civilians and damaging infrastructure.

marks followed Trump's criticism claiming Ukraine had shown "zero gratitude" for US mediation while Europe "continues to buy oil from Russia."

A joint statement from the White House and Zelensky's office described the discussions as "highly productive," noting progress in

aligning positions and refining the peace framework. Ukraine also formally expressed appreciation to the US and Trump. Rubio stressed that deadlines remain flexible, adding Russia "gets a vote" and more time is needed.

The US delegation included envoy Steve Witkoff, Army Secretary Dan Driscoll and Jared Kushner. European leaders at the G20 in South Africa welcomed renewed diplomacy but warned the draft plan required significant revision. CNN reported a European counter-proposal softened NATO restrictions and rejected recognition of Crimea, Donetsk and Luhansk as Russian territory, insisting any agreement must avoid limits on Ukraine's defence capabilities.

Further meetings—including planned US-Russia talks—are expected, with EU and coalition leaders convening in the coming days as diplomacy intensifies.

Man driving stolen car in Tokyo hits 11 people, killing 1

TOKYO

A man driving a stolen car struck 11 people in Tokyo on Monday, killing one and seriously injuring a woman, Japanese media reported. The driver was arrested after fleeing.

Police didn't immediately comment.

Kyodo News reported that a seriously injured man in his 80s was confirmed dead. A woman in her 20s was seriously injured and remains unconscious, according to Nippon TV.

Nine other people were injured. Initial media reports said 12 people were struck.

The car, a stolen vehicle, drove onto a walkway for pedestrians, the report said.

Police arrested a 37-year-old man who fled the scene, Nippon TV said.

Other details weren't immediately available. Monday was a national holiday in Japan.

Mamdani stands by 'fascist' & 'despot' remarks

Mayor-elect refuses to soften criticism even as both sides call first meeting constructive

WASHINGTON

New York City Mayor-elect Zohran Mamdani met US President Donald Trump at the White House on Friday for their first in-person meeting — a discussion described as civil and "productive" despite deep political differences and Mamdani's refusal to retract past criticism of the President.

Appearing on NBC News' Meet the Press on Saturday, Mamdani reaffirmed that he still views Trump as a "fascist" and a "despot." However, he stressed that political disagreement would not prevent him from working with the administration. "I'm not coming into the Oval Office to make a point or make a stand. I'm coming in there to deliver for New Yorkers," Mamdani said.

Trump adopted a light tone when the topic resurfaced during the White House meeting, reportedly patting Mamdani's arm and joking. "That's okay, you can just say yes... it's easier than explaining it."

Both leaders indicated that the meeting focused largely on affordability concerns, with Mamdani highlighting skyrocketing rent and living costs as the top issue raised by New Yorkers during the campaign — including those who voted for Trump. The mayor-elect



said tackling affordability would be his immediate priority and that he hoped to build a working relationship centred on practical outcomes.

The two also addressed Trump's earlier statements about potentially deploying the National Guard to New York City.

Mamdani said he conveyed that the NYPD was capable of maintaining public safety, while Trump later told reporters he would only send troops "if they need it."

During the campaign, Trump had repeatedly criticised Mamdani online, labelling him a "communist lunatic" and threatening funding cuts. He also backed former Governor Andrew Cuomo, who ran as an independent after losing to Mamdani in the Democratic primary.

Cameroon oppn leader flees to Gambia after contested polls

SERREKUNDA (GAMBIA): Gambia said it was temporarily hosting Cameroonian opposition leader Issa Tchiroma Bakary after a disputed election in his country saw longtime President Paul Biya win an eighth term, triggering deadly protests. Gambia's Ministry of Information said in a statement on Sunday that Tchiroma arrived in the small West African country on Nov. 7 and is being hosted "purely on humanitarian grounds" and for "the purpose of ensuring his safety." The statement added that Gambia was working with regional partners like Nigeria to "support a peaceful and negotiated outcome" to the post-election tensions in Cameroon. Tchiroma's spokesperson, Alice Nkom, confirmed the opposition leader's presence in Gambia in a statement on Sunday.

US to brand 'Cartel de los Soles' a terror group

CARACAS (VENEZUELA)

The United States is preparing to label the alleged Maduro-linked Cartel de los Soles as a foreign terrorist organisation, escalating pressure on Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro. While Washington describes the group as a cartel directed by Maduro, experts stress it is not a cartel in the traditional sense.

The move follows US Secretary of State Marco Rubio's claim that the network is responsible for "terrorist violence" across the Western Hemisphere. The designation also aligns with President Donald Trump's broader strategy to curb drug trafficking into the US, which has included a large-scale military buildup in the Caribbean,

maritime interdictions, and the destruction of vessels Washington claims were used for trafficking—operations that have already resulted in more than 80 deaths.

The term Cartel de los Soles ("Cartel of the Suns") emerged in the 1990s, referring initially to Venezuelan generals implicated in drug smuggling. Over time, it broadened to include police, politicians and networks engaged in illegal mining, smuggling, corruption and fuel trafficking under late President Hugo Chávez and later Maduro. The "suns" reference comes from the insignia worn by senior military officers.

The US elevated the term in 2020 when the Trump administration indicted Maduro and key allies on narcoterrorism charges. However, analysts say the label is misleading,

Indian-origin man on Canada's most wanted list held

PTI/OTTAWA

Toronto police have arrested an Indian-origin man on Canada's 25 most wanted list" with firearms and ammunition, police said.

Nicholas Singh, 24, wanted on a Canada-wide warrant for Breach of Parole, was arrested on Friday, a statement issued by the Toronto Police said.

Singh was arrested with a firearm, an extended magazine, and ammunition, it added. The police say that officials were attending the Bathurst Street and Dupont Street area when they located Singh in a vehicle. He was arrested without any incident, it added.

Singh was serving a five-year, five-month and 10-day sentence for discharging a restricted/prohibited firearm with intent, armed robbery and possessing a weapon contrary .

China warns Japan over missile deployment near Taiwan

Calls Tokyo's move extremely dangerous as tensions spike

BEIJING

Beijing sharply criticised Japan's plan to deploy surface-to-air missiles on Yonaguni Island, just 110 km from Taiwan, calling it a "deliberate provocation" that risks triggering a regional military confrontation.

Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Mao Ning said the move—combined with recent remarks by Japanese Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi on Taiwan—was "extremely dangerous" and must raise alarm among neighbouring countries and the international community.

Japanese Defence Minister Shinjiro Koizumi defended the deployment, arguing it would help deter attacks rather than escalate tensions. The missile system, a Type-03 medium-

range interceptor capable of taking down aircraft and ballistic missiles, is part of Japan's wider defence buildup amid fears of China's expanding military power.

Beijing accused Japan of attempting to break from its post-war pacifist constitution and "revive militarism." The decision comes after Takaichi said a Chinese attack on Taiwan could constitute a "survival-threatening situation" for Japan, allowing it to conduct joint military operations with the US. She refused to retract her statement despite Chinese demands.

In response, China has reinstated restrictions on Japanese seafood imports, issued a travel warning that has triggered mass tourist cancellations, and lodged formal

protests. Planned diplomatic engagements—including a China-Japan-South Korea trilateral meeting—have also stalled, and Premier Li Qiang notably avoided Takaichi at the recent G20 summit.

Meanwhile, Chinese military forces have intensified drills near Taiwan and the Yellow Sea, signalling growing tensions. The United States reaffirmed its "unshakable commitment" to Japan's defence alliance, further entrenching geopolitical rivalries in the region.

China maintains that Taiwan is an inseparable part of its territory and vows eventual reunification, by force if necessary—placing Tokyo's missile move squarely at the centre of a rapidly widening strategic divide.

UK steps up vigil as Russian Naval activity surges near its waters

IANIS
LONDON

Britain has intensified maritime and aerial surveillance after a series of encounters with Russian naval vessels operating close to UK waters, prompting warnings from defence officials and renewed commitments to bolster national security.

The Ministry of Defence confirmed that the Royal Navy patrol ship HMS Severn intercepted the Russian corvette RFN Stoikiy and tanker Yelnya as they passed through the Dover Strait and into the English Channel in recent days. HMS Severn shadowed the vessels before handing over the operation to a NATO ally off the French coast, while continuing to observe from distance.

The development follows De-



fence Secretary John Healey's statement last week that Russian vessel Yantar — labelled by the UK as a spy ship capable of mapping undersea cables — operated on the edge of British waters north of Scotland. RAF pilots tracking Yantar were reportedly targeted with lasers, while Royal Navy frigate HMS Somerset experienced GPS jamming, which London described as "reckless and hostile behaviour".

The Russian Embassy rejected the claims, calling the accusations "militaristic hysteria" and insist-

ing its vessels operate lawfully in international waters with no intent to undermine UK security.

Officials say Russian naval activity threatening British waters has increased by 30 per cent in the last two years. Recent operations include HMS Duncan monitoring destroyer Vice Admiral Kulakov and HMS Iron Duke tracking a Russian submarine, alongside RAF surveillance flights along NATO's eastern and northern borders.

Prime Minister Keir Starmer and Healey have pledged a significant defence upgrade, including strengthened air and missile systems and expanded drone capabilities, despite budget pressures. "My message to Russia and to Putin is this: We see you. We know what you are doing. And we are ready," Healey warned.

Israel claims killing top Hezbollah commander

IANIS
JERUSALEM

The Israel Defence Forces (IDF) on Sunday claimed responsibility for a precision airstrike in Beirut's southern suburbs that allegedly killed senior Hezbollah commander Haytham Ali Tabatabai — a figure Israeli officials described as one of the most influential leaders in the organisation's military wing.

Tabatabai, according to Israeli intelligence, functioned as Hezbollah's de facto chief of staff and ranked directly below Secretary-General Naim Qassem in the group's hierarchy. Hezbollah has not yet confirmed his death or responded publicly to the claim.

The strike reportedly occurred in Dahieh, a heavily fortified Hezbollah bastion in south

Beirut. Israeli officials said Tabatabai had served the Iran-backed group since the 1980s, holding multiple senior roles, including leadership of the elite Radwan Force and oversight of Hezbollah's military operations in Syria and along the Israel-Lebanon border.

During the 2024 conflict between Israel and Hezbollah, Tabatabai was appointed head of operational command, directing battlefield planning, troop deployments, and strategic engagement. Following November's ceasefire, he was named Hezbollah's chief of staff, tasked with rebuilding the group's command systems and military readiness.

Israel has characterised the strike as a major strategic achievement that could weaken Hezbollah's long-term operational capabilities.

SK Prez warns of clash risk with North Korea

IANIS/SEOUL

South Korean President Lee Jae Myung has warned of growing risks of an "accidental clash" with North Korea amid escalating tensions and stalled communication. Speaking to reporters during his overseas trip, Lee said inter-Korean relations have become "extremely hostile," with North Korea installing new barriers and repeatedly crossing the Military Demarcation Line.

He urged patience and renewed efforts to resume military and political dialogue, stressing that communication is essential to prevent unintended conflict. While reaffirming peaceful unification as a long-term goal, Lee ruled out unification by force or absorption.

Artists protest Baul singer's arrest, violent attack on supporters

IANIS
DHAKA

A coalition of Bangladeshi singers and cultural activists staged a protest in Dhaka on Monday, condemning the arrest of prominent Baul singer Abul Sarkar and the violent attacks on his supporters in Manikganj.

The demonstration, organised under the banner Sadhuguru Bhakta and Oli-Awlia



Ashekan Parishad outside the Jatiya Press Club, demanded Sarkar's immediate release and

the arrest of those responsible for the assault.

Sarkar, president of the

Bangladesh Baul Samity, was arrested on November 20 in Madaripur district on allegations of hurting religious sentiments, local media reported.

Tensions escalated Sunday when members of the group Towhidi Janata allegedly attacked Sarkar's supporters with sticks and bricks during a rally, injuring at least four people. All were admitted to Manikganj District Sadar Hospital, where doctors confirmed multiple

head injuries requiring stitches.

Police confirmed legal action has begun, acknowledging clashes between opposing groups—one calling for punishment, the other demanding Sarkar's release.

Justice Makers Bangladesh in France (JMBF) condemned the arrest, calling the charges "fabricated and baseless," and criticised the attack as an assault on Bangladesh's cultural and spiritual heritage.

Iran alleges US-Israel plot to assassinate Khamenei

TEHRAN

Iran's intelligence minister has accused the United States and Israel of attempting to assassinate Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei in what he described as a plan to destabilize the Islamic Republic, Iran's ISNA news agency reported.

Minister Esmail Khatib claimed the alleged efforts included "assassination attempts and hostile attacks," though he did not specify whether officials had uncovered an active plot.

Public claims of threats against Khamenei have been rare but have intensified fol-

lowing the 12-day Iran-Israel war in June.

During the conflict, Israeli strikes killed senior Iranian military figures and nuclear scientists before a US-brokered ceasefire was reached on June 24. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu later said the operations were aimed at stopping Iran's nuclear programme—a campaign Washington supported, participating in coordinated strikes on June 22. Tehran denies pursuing nuclear weapons.

Khatib accused internal and external actors of aiding Iran's adversaries and warned that "those who act in this direc-

tion, knowingly or unknowingly, are infiltrating agents of the enemy."

He also claimed Israel was facing a "wave of espionage" within its own institutions, citing the recent arrest of an Israeli Air Force officer for allegedly spying for Tehran. Khatib said Iran had acquired secret nuclear and security documents during the breach.

His remarks come amid unconfirmed reports that Israeli leadership previously discussed targeting Khamenei during the June war. Former US President Donald Trump later claimed he had blocked such a strike, calling Khamenei "an easy target."

50 students escape Nigeria mass abduction

AGENCIES/ABUJA

At least 50 of the more than 300 schoolchildren abducted from St. Mary's Catholic Primary and Secondary School in Niger State, north-central Nigeria, have escaped, according to the Christian Association of Nigeria (CAN).

The pupils, aged 10 to 18, fled between Friday and Saturday and have since been reunited with their families, CAN confirmed on Sunday.

Armed men stormed the boarding school in the early hours of Friday, abducting students and staff. While police have not released final figures, CAN said the attackers seized

315 people — including 303 students and 12 teachers. Of these, 253 pupils and all staff members remain in captivity.

Niger State CAN chairman Most Rev. Bulus Yohanna said 141 additional pupils were not abducted. Nigerian police said a joint military-led rescue operation is underway.

The mass kidnapping is one of Nigeria's largest and comes amid a surge in attacks targeting schools and churches.

Just days earlier, 25 girls were abducted from a boarding school in Kebbi State, where two staff members were killed. Authorities have ordered temporary school closures in affected regions.

Slovenians oppose assisted-dying law

IANIS
LJUBLJANA

A majority of Slovenian voters have rejected a law that legalises assisted dying, the State Electoral Commission said.

According to preliminary results of the national referendum on Sunday (local time), 53.4 per cent voted against the law, while 46.6 per cent supported it. Voter turnout

reached almost 41 per cent.

The legislation, adopted by the centre-left government coalition in July, would have allowed adults of sound mind suffering from incurable diseases to request medically assisted death under regulated conditions, reports Xinhua news agency.

Supporters argued it offered dignity and relief to terminally ill patients, while opponents

warned of possible misuse and insufficient safeguards.

The result marks a setback for the ruling coalition, which is preparing for a general election in March and had framed the law as part of broader social reforms.

Ales Primc, an activist who spearheaded the referendum initiative, welcomed the outcome. "This is a big victory for the disabled, the sick and the

elderly, because people said today that they are not a burden, but loved and respected," he told reporters.

The opposition Slovenian Democratic Party, the largest centre-right party and a vocal critic of the legislation, also hailed the defeat of the law. In contrast, Andrej Pleterski, a campaigner who supported the reform, expressed regret. He said he believed Slovenia

would eventually adopt such legislation, noting that several European countries have already legalised some form of assisted dying.

Slovenia has debated end-of-life rights for years. A few European countries that have approved similar assisted-dying laws include the Netherlands, Germany, Spain, Portugal, and Slovenia's neighbour, Austria.

Adios, Veeru!

Film industry across India pays heartfelt tribute to Bollywood legend Dharmendra for his remarkable career



A “bonafide legend” of Indian cinema, “an inspiration for generations” and the “original He-Man” is how celebrities, including Akshay Kumar, Ajay Devgn, Karan Johar, Allu Arjun and others remembered Dharmendra who breathed his last on Monday. Dharmendra, the star who wrote himself into showbiz legend in a 65-year career spanning 300 films ranging from *Satyakam* to *Sholay*, passed away at the age of 89.

Saira Banu remembers Dharmendra as family

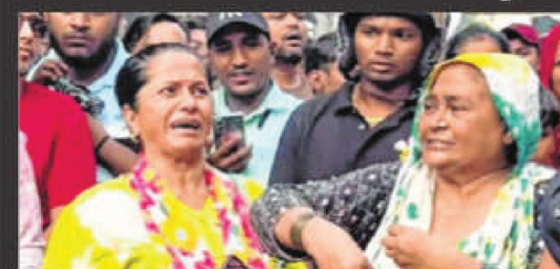
Dharmendra and Dilip Kumar were like brothers who loved playing badminton and were foodies at heart, veteran actor Saira Banu said on Monday, remembering her *Aadmi Aur Insaan* co-star.

During their lifetimes, Dharmendra and Dilip Kumar appeared on screen together on two occasions — first in Dharmendra's only Bengali film *Paari* (1966), and then in its 1972 remake *Anokha Milan*. In both films, Dilip Kumar had cameo appearances.

Dharmendra often cited Dilip Kumar's 1948 film *Shahed* as an inspiration for becoming an actor. When he entered the film industry, he became close friends with the matinee star, who passed away in 2021 at the age of 98.

Banu said both actors considered each other family. “It's the saddest day because he was family. I'm shocked. I thought we would celebrate his birthday,” she told PTL. “Dilip sahab considered him like a younger brother. They shared a relationship that went beyond work. We were there for each other in both good and bad times. He was one of those rare people who visited Dilip sahab quite often, whether he was in hospital or at home. Sometimes he would come at odd hours as well,” she added.

Fans disappointed with Deol family



The Hindi film industry is mourning the loss of veteran Bollywood icon Dharmendra, who passed away on Monday at his Mumbai residence. Videos circulating on social media showed Dharmendra's mortal remains being taken to the Pawan Hans Crematorium for his final rites. Family members followed the ambulance in several cars, while Hema Malini and Esha Deol arrived separately to pay their respects. A few other Bollywood personalities, including Salman Khan, Aamir Khan, Akshay Kumar, and Salim Khan, were also present. As the visuals spread online, fans expressed grief and condolences. However, many questioned the family's decision to keep the funeral low-key, saying they had expected a more public farewell for an actor of Dharmendra's stature.

Pics: X

Ikkis makers offer heartfelt tribute

The makers of *Ikkis* set for release next month have unveiled a new poster featuring legendary actor Dharmendra. Filmmaker Karan Johar confirmed the news of the actor's demise on Monday.

Honouring his last appearance on the big screen, Maddock Films unveiled a new poster of *Ikkis*.

“Fathers raise sons. Legends raise nations. Dharmendra ji, an emotional powerhouse as the father of a 21-year-old immortal soldier. One timeless legend brings us the story of another,” the caption of the post read. The makers also shared another poster, featuring the lead cast of Agastya Nanda, Jaideep Ahlawat, and Dharmendra.

With a homage to the late actor's character in the film, they added, “A father's worst nightmare became a nation's chance to dream again. ‘Woh joh na sirf Hindustani, balki Pakistani fauj ke liye bhi misaal ban gaya.’” The trailer for *Ikkis* was released in October this year, featuring Agastya Nanda in the lead as the young and cou-

rageous war hero, Second Lieutenant Arun Khetarpal. *Ikkis* will hit theatres in December 2025. The news of Dharmendra's passing has left his fans and the entire film fraternity grieving.

Celebrities like Amitabh Bachchan, Abhishek Bachchan, and Agastya Nanda arrived to offer their homages at the crematorium.



‘I still learn so much from Neena Gupta’

Veteran actor Sanjay Mishra, who attended the screening of his upcoming film *Vadh 2* at the 56th International Film Festival of India (IFFI), took a moment to celebrate and express deep admiration for his long-time co-star Neena Gupta.

While speaking with ANI, Mishra said working with her has always been an experience filled with learning and admiration. Calling her a strong artistic influence, Mishra shared, “Neena Gupta meri senior hai aur aaj bhi main bahot kuch seekhta hoon unse.” (Neena Gupta is my senior and even today I learn so much from her.)

The actor added that Gupta



could not make it to IFFI due to health reasons. With concern and warmth in his voice, he said, “Aaj aa nahin payi, unki tabiyat thodi kharab thi. Warna woh bhi aapke paas hoti aaj.” (She couldn't attend today because she's a little unwell. Otherwise she would have been here with you). The actor went on to describe *Vadh 2* as an emotional and narrative leap from the 2022 original. While speaking to the media, the actor shared, “*Vadh 2 Vadh one se aage hai*,” he said, emphasising that the sequel builds on the intensity of the first film. He

added with a hint of humour and pride, “Achi baat hai ki as an actor mein aapko hasa bhi sakta hoon aur rula bhi sakta hoon.” (The good thing is that as an actor, I can make you laugh and I can make you cry). Directed by Jaspal Singh Sandhu and produced by Luv Ranjan and Ankur Garg under the banner of Luv Films, *Vadh 2* was showcased at IFFI on Sunday. The film is positioned as a spiritual successor rather than a direct continuation of its predecessor, which followed the story of a middle-class couple driven to desperation by a ruthless loan shark after being abandoned by their son, who settled in America.



At IFFI, Sanjay Mishra lauds Neena Gupta's influence, sharing she missed the *Vadh 2* screening due to ill health

Jennifer Lopez dazzles in saree at Udaipur wedding

International superstar Jennifer Lopez lit up Udaipur on Sunday night with a spectacular performance at Netra Mantena and Vamsi Gadiraju's wedding reception, leaving guests thrilled with her energy and star power. The singer delivered a high-octane set featuring global hits like *Waiting for Tonight*, *Play*, *On the Floor*, *Save Me Tonight*, and *Get Right*, paired with her signature dance moves. Videos from the event, now viral on social media, show attendees grooving along, creating a vibrant, celebratory atmosphere. JLo wore a series of bold stage outfits—a black cut-out dress with long boots, followed by a shimmering golden bodysuit with matching knee-high boots. She also raised a toast to the newlyweds during the evening. Earlier, Lopez embraced Indian tradition by wearing a rose-gold embellished saree for the wedding ceremony. She arrived in India over the weekend for the star-studded celebrations, warmly greeting paparazzi at the airport.



Pics: X

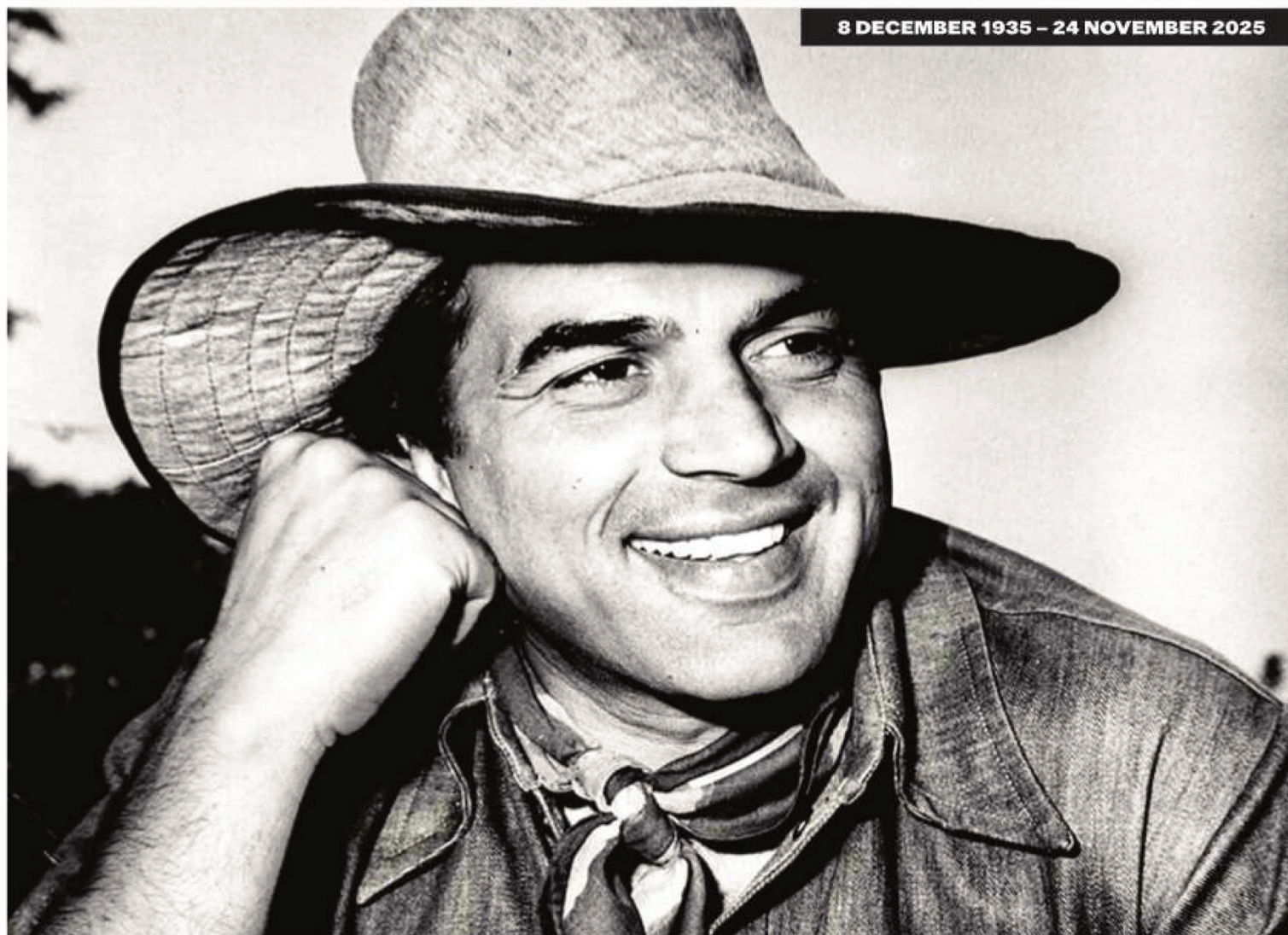


**Dharmendra
passes away**

DHARMENDRA The Eternal He-Man

From Punjab's small village to Bollywood's grand stage, veteran actor Dharmendra lived a larger-than-life story of courage, charm & heart

8 DECEMBER 1935 – 24 NOVEMBER 2025



INTERESTING FACTS ABOUT DHARMENDRA

- 1 He once said his biggest dream was to work with Dilip Kumar — his childhood idol.
- 2 Before acting, he worked as a clerk at an oil company in Punjab.
- 3 Dharmendra's photograph once won the title of "Most Handsome Man in the World" from a UK magazine in the 1960s.
- 4 He was offered Hollywood roles but refused because he didn't want to leave Indian cinema.
- 5 He produced films like *Ghayal* and *Ghatak*, which made his son Sunny Deol a superstar.
- 6 Dharmendra loved writing poetry and often shared his verses on social media.
- 7 Avoided controversy and believed in forgiveness and friendship.
- 8 His farmhouse near Lonavala is famous for mango trees and horses—he spends most of his time there.
- 9 Even in his late 80s, he maintained his charm and sharp sense of humour.
- 10 Called himself a "simple farmer at heart who accidentally became an actor."

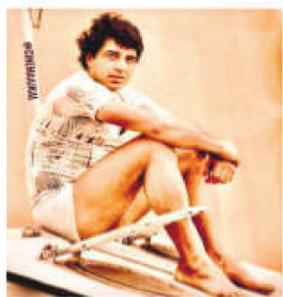
Personal life and family

Dharmendra married Prakash Kaur in 1954 and has four children with her — actors Sunny, Bobby, Vijeta and Ajeeta. During his film career, he met and fell in love with actress Hema Malini, his co-star in many successful films. They married in 1980 and have two daughters — Esha Deol and Ahana Deol. The Deol family is one of Bollywood's most respected film dynasties. Despite the ups and downs in his personal life, Dharmendra always remained a devoted father and husband. He supported all his children in their film journeys and continues to appear in family productions even today.



Dharmendra, the name itself brings a smile to generations of movie lovers. Born on December 8, 1935, in Punjab, he rose from a small-town boy to one of the greatest stars Hindi cinema has ever seen. With his tall frame, dashing looks, and humble attitude, Dharmendra became the true "He-Man" of Bollywood — a symbol of strength and sincerity.

He ruled the silver screen for more than six decades, acting in over 300 films. From romantic dramas in the 1960s to action-packed blockbusters in the 1970s and family entertainers in the 1980s, Dharmendra did it all. He was the man who could make audiences cry with emotion or cheer with excitement. But behind the stardom, there was a man who loved poetry, family, and his fans deeply. His life is a story of passion, simplicity, and grace — a journey that continues to inspire.



Why 'He-Man' of Bollywood?

Dharmendra earned the title "He-Man of Bollywood" because he brought real power and presence to the screen. In an age before gyms and six-packs, he maintained a naturally strong, athletic physique. His action scenes were performed without body doubles, and his punches looked real. But what made him special was his balance — he wasn't just a muscleman, he was also sensitive, respectful, and charming. Off-screen, he was gentle & kind, winning people with his warmth. His combination of toughness, tenderness made him ideal hero — strong enough to fight villains but soft enough to win hearts.



Early life and entry into cinema

Dharmendra was born in a humble Sikh family in Nasrali, near Ludhiana, Punjab. His father was a schoolteacher, and life was simple but disciplined. From a young age, Dharmendra was fond of movies, often watching them at local theatres. In 1958, he took a big step — he entered the Filmfare talent contest held in Bombay. Out of thousands of participants, Dharmendra was chosen as one of the winners. That contest changed his life forever. He shifted to Bombay with dreams and determination. After many auditions and struggles, he got his first break in *Dil Bhi Tera Hum Bhi Tere* (1960). Though it didn't do well, his screen presence impressed many filmmakers, marking the start of a legendary journey.

Popularity, industry friends and bonding

Dharmendra's popularity went beyond the screen. He was loved by co-stars and technicians alike. He shared a brotherly bond with actors like Amitabh Bachchan, Jeetendra, and Shatrughan Sinha. Filmmakers admired his professionalism — he was always on time and treated everyone with respect. His chemistry with actresses like Hema Malini, Meena Kumari, and Asha Parekh made him a favourite of directors. People called him "Garam Dharam" — a nickname that showed his fiery energy and kind spirit. Unlike many stars, he never let fame change him. Even today, younger actors like Salman Khan and Akshay Kumar call him their inspiration.



Rise to stardom

The mid-60s saw Dharmendra transform into a superstar. With *Phool Aur Patthar* (1966), his strong personality and emotional depth won millions of hearts. Audiences loved how he balanced toughness with tenderness. Then came *Anupama*, *Aaye Din Bahar Ke*, and *Mera Gaon Mera Desh* — all proving his unmatched versatility. His most iconic role arrived in *Sholay* (1975), where he played Veeru, the fun-loving yet brave dacoit. His friendship with Amitabh Bachchan's Jai remains one of cinema's greatest pairings. The film made Dharmendra a national icon.

Political career

In 2004, Dharmendra entered politics as a candidate of the BJP. He contested and won the Lok Sabha seat from Bikaner, Rajasthan. His victory showed how loved he was, even outside cinema. Though he served only one term (2004–2009), his simplicity and honesty won him praise. He later said that politics was a different world and that he missed the creative environment of films. After completing his term, he stepped away from active politics but continued to be a public figure known for his patriotism and affection for people.



FAMOUS DIALOGUES

**"Kutte, kamine!
Main tera khoon
pi jaoonga!"**

**"Basanti, in
kutto ke samne
mat nachna."**

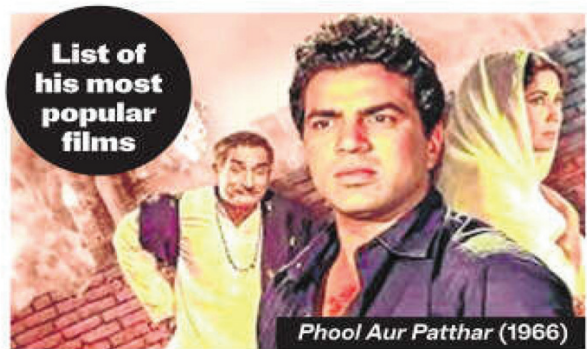
**"Tere ghar mein
calendar hai ...
1997 gaur se
dekh le, kyun ki
1998 tu dekh
nahin payega."**

**"Kafan odhne
waale ghante
nahin ...
gadhiyan ginte
hain."**

**"Begum, ishq
ka mazaa hi
chupke chupke
se karne mein
hai."**

**"Mard ka khoon
aur aurat ke
aasoon jab tak
na bahe ... unki
keemat nahi
lagayi ja sakti."**

**"Dharam naam
hai mera, aur
main sach ke
liye jeeta hoon."**



Briefs

NEW DELHI

Medvedev, Bopanna for WTL India



Russian star **Daniil Medvedev** and Indian veteran Rohan Bopanna will play in the same squad, while Sumit Nagal is part of a side that features former world number 6 Gael Monfils for the World Tennis League to be held here from December 17 to 20. Nick Kyrgios, and Canadian star Denis Shapovalov are the other big draws that will headline the franchise-based event comprising four teams. The 2025 edition will feature 16 international and Indian players across four teams at the SM Krishna Tennis Stadium, marking the league's first staging outside the UAE after three seasons. Fresh from his Almaty Open title last month, world number 13 Medvedev will turn out for defending champions Game Changers Falcons, teaming up with doubles great Rohan Bopanna.

MUMBAI

Legends Pro T20 League to debut in Goa



The Legends Pro T20 League, promoted by the SG Group, isn't just another legends tournament, it is an outstanding global cricketing experience crafted to redefine how the world celebrates its legendary players. Featuring iconic names such as Shikhar Dhawan, Harbhajan Singh, Shane Watson, and Dale Steyn, the Legends Pro T20 League brings together some of the most accomplished names in world cricket while giving fans an electrifying start to the new year. More than a showcase of nostalgia, Legends Pro T20 League is a celebration of cricketing excellence.

GUWAHATI

Kumble pans India's batting application



The legendary Anil Kumble on Monday slammed the Indian batters' approach after the team conceded a 288-run lead to South Africa in the second Test here, even as pace great Dale

2ND TEST Indian batting flops on flat deck to be shot out for 201 in their first innings by a 6 feet 8 inches tall pacer

'Marco The Man' turns destroyer for India

GUWAHATI

Sai Sudharsan was careless, Dhruv Jurel was indiscreet and skipper Rishabh Pant plain irresponsible as a progressively ugly Indian batting collapse left them on the brink of an embarrassing home series whitewash against South Africa here on Monday.

On a pitch that Kuldeep Yadav had compared to a "road", the Indian batters were bounced out for a lowly 201 in their first innings by a 6 feet 8 inches tall pacer Marco Jansen, who returned a haul of 6 for 48 after smashing 93 on the second day.

At stumps on the third day of the second and final Test here, South Africa were 26 for no loss and had consolidated their overall lead to 314, aiming to give India a target in excess of 450 and with 120 overs in hand for their bowlers.

Jansen will cherish his performance on Monday as it came in conditions where there was nothing much for any type of bowler.

While head coach Gautam Gambhir copped a lot of flak for the choice of a rank turner pitch in Kolkata, no one should mind a dressing down from the fiery former batter after the poor game awareness displayed by home batters during the first session and a half of the third day.

Yashasvi Jaiswal (58) and KL Rahul (22) had given the team a steady start but both were a tad unlucky to get the only two deliveries from spinners that bounced from length to see their back.

Slumping from 95 for 1 to 122 for 7 required a cavalier



South Africa's Marco Jansen during day three of the second Test. PTI

SCOREBOARD

South Africa first innings: 489

India first innings: (O/n: 9/0): Y

Jaiswal c Jansen b Harmer 58, KL Rahul c Markram b Maharaj 22, S Sudharsan c Ricketton b Harmer 15, D Jurel c Maharaj b Jansen 0, R Pant c Verreynne b Jansen 7, R Jadeja c Markram b Jansen 6, N Kumar Reddy c Markram b Jansen 10, W Sundar c Markram b Harmer 48, K Yadav c Markram b Jansen 19, J Bumrah c Verreynne b Jansen 5, M Siraj (not out) 2. **Extras** (LB-8, NB-1) 9. **Total** (all out, 83.5

overs) 201.

Fall of wickets: 1-65, 2-95, 3-96, 4-102, 5-105, 6-119, 7-122, 8-194, 9-194

Bowling: M Jansen 19.5-5-48-6, W Mulder 10-5-14-0, K Maharaj 15-1-39-1, S Harmer 27-6-64-3, A Markram 10-1-26-0, S Muthusamy 2-0-2-0.

South Africa second Innings:

R Ricketton (not out) 13, A Markram (not out) 12. **Extras** (B-1) 1. Total (For no loss, 8 overs) 26.

Bowling: J Bumrah 3-0-13-0, M Siraj 3-1-8-0, R Jadeja 1-0-2-0, K Yadav 1-0-2-0

attitude towards opposition's bowling attack and lack of respect for the game situation. The Indians, on Monday, were guilty of both.

Sudharsan (15), Jurel (0) and Pant (7) were out in a space of 13 balls and wouldn't like to look at those dismissals again.

In the dug-out, the head coach helplessly watched what could be mildly termed as a "collective brain fade".

The pitch was the kind on which one merely needed to play normal cricket and stick around as spinners, after the dismissal of the two openers, hardly made any impact.

The dogged as ever Washington Sundar (48 off 92 balls) added 62 runs in just under 35 overs with the gutsy Kuldeep Yadav (19 off 134 balls). Nearly 35 overs constitute a session and if Kuldeep

could bat for over two hours, Jurel and Pant would need to introspect what they could have achieved if they had shown a bit of common sense.

Sudharsan is unlikely to get any more opportunities in Test matches when India restart red-ball cricket against Sri Lanka after six months. One of the reasons would be a failure to learn from his mistakes.

Thea, Agastya bag Willingdon SC's annual putting titles

An event which has always been well attended every year, saw 116 golfers this year battle it out for the top



MUMBAI

Thea Ajoomal, Agastya Aggarwal, Aryaan Tyebjee and Dev Shah clinched titles in the Willingdon Annual Putting Competition that took place on Friday, November 21.

They defeated single digit handicappers to bag the crowns. Something unprecedented in the history of golf at the Willingdon Sports Club.

An event which has always

With everyone participating in Round 1, the field was narrowed down to 64 people in the second round

been well attended every year, saw 116 golfers this year battle it out for the top prize.

With everyone participating in Round 1, the field was narrowed down to 64 people

in round 2, and the field kept reducing by half thereafter for each round.

The Quarter Finals saw 8 teams battle it out for a place in the Semi Finals, which had the 4 top teams competing for a shot at Gold. The final took place close to midnight with the top 2 teams in an intense battle for supremacy. Before the competition began, there was 1 team which was unsure whether they could participate.

Saina wants Indian players to focus on fitness aspects

Indian badminton legend feels current players have to improve physically

NEW DELHI

Olympic medallist shuttler Saina Nehwal has suggested the Indian players need to improve their physical fitness to cope with the demands of international badminton and attain the consistency required to win titles regularly on the world tour.

In a free-flowing interaction with PTI, the 2012 London Games bronze medallist spoke about how injuries have become "normal" for the current generation, and how the new crop of women's singles players lack "aggression" and have become "soft" in the age of social media.

"We need to be more consistent to be like how it was before. We need more consistent results from Satwik-Chirag or Lakshya or Sindhu or the upcoming ones. We need the results for sure," Saina, who is in the city for the Legends'

Vision Legacy Tour India, said on Monday.

"Maybe they should look for good trainers and physios. The coaching part is not that difficult if your body is 100%. So maybe just focus on more trainers and physios and getting your body stronger to win back-to-back titles."

"Viktor (Axelsen) did that in his prime. Carolina (Marin) did that. It's not mental training, mentally everyone is strong. Physically they just

need to develop a bit more," she added, attributing the lack of sustained results to recurring injuries.

"Lakshya is our best men's singles player right now"

Lakshya Sen on Sunday ended a difficult phase by clinching his first title of the 2025 season, defeating Japan's Yushi Tanaka in the Australian Open Super 500 final in Sydney. Saina was glad that Lakshya has finally tasted success this season.

"A win is always a win, it gives you a lot of confidence. He has done well in this tournament. It's a good sign that he is coming back to winning style," Saina said.

"He played well in the Olympics and again here. But as a player, you have

because it's part of the job."

Lakshya, who faced criticism after narrowly missing a medal at the Paris Olympics, became only the second Indian to win a title this season after Ayush Shetty's US Open Super 300 triumph.

"He's at the highest level, so people expect him to win because we all were winning back to back at one point. The level has become so high that everyone expects everyone to win back to back," she said.

"For his level, he is the best men's singles player right now, so there is extra pressure. But he is performing well and showing results, which is a good sign." While Saina and PV Sindhu were winning senior international tournaments as teenagers, the current generation of singles players is yet to make that impact.



We need to be more consistent to be like how it was before. We need more consistent results from Satwik-Chirag or Lakshya or Sindhu or the upcoming ones. We need the results for sure

badminton

Srikanth, Prannoy eye turnaround at Syed Modi event

LUCKNOW

Senior shuttlers **Kidambi Srikanth** and HS Prannoy will look to end the season on a high but they will face stiff challenge from a crop of ambitious youngsters, gearing up to test themselves against top players at the Syed Modi International Super 300, beginning here on Tuesday.

The USD 240,000 event also lost a bit of sheen with US Open champion Ayush

Shetty withdrawing from the event at the last moment after competing in the recent Australian Open.

Former champion Srikanth appeared to have found a second wind with a runner-up finish at the Malaysia Masters, but he could not build on that momentum. Now, a home event gives him another chance to end the year on a positive note.

Prannoy, recovering from a side strain that forced him out of the European leg in

October, also returns hungry for success.

The 2023 world championships bronze winner competed at the Japan Masters and the Australian Open over the last two weeks but bowed out in the second round on both occasions.

Fifth seed Srikanth will open against Meiraba Luwang Maisnam, while third seed Prannoy faces Kavin Thangam in his first round. All eyes will also be on sixth seed Tharun Mannepalli, who takes on

Sathish Kumar Karunakaran, while S Sankar Muthusamy Subramanian will also back himself when he opens against Manraj Singh.

Mithun Manjunath meets Kazakhstan's Dmitriy Panarin, while Priyanshu Rajawat returns to action after a long injury lay-off caused by a knee issue.

BM Rahul Bharadwaj will look to make a statement against Tarun Reddy Katam, Kiran George faces Israel's Daniil Dubovenko, Alap Mishra meets Thailand's

Kantaphon Wangcharoen, and Rithvik Sanjeevi Satish Kumar runs into top seed Jia Heng Jason Teh of Singapore.

The women's singles field features a host of emerging Indian talents, with second seed and former world champion Nozomi Okuhara of Japan standing out as the top international name.

The Indian line-up includes top seed Unnati Hooda, who opens against Aakarshi Kashyap; former world junior no. 1 Tasnim Mir, who faces Aditi Bhatt.

