

AKHAND BHARAT SANDESH

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UP/Maharashtra : Aadhaar card will not be valid as birth certificate

New Delhi

The Maharashtra and Uttar Pradesh governments have taken a significant decision, stating that the Aadhaar card will no longer be valid as a birth certificate. An order has been issued in this regard. The order states that the date of birth recorded on the Aadhaar card is not



based on any certified document, and therefore cannot be accept-

ed as an official certificate.UP Government Issues OrderCiting a

letter from the Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI), Special Secretary of the Planning Department, Amit Singh Bansal, stated that the Aadhaar card does not contain any certified document confirming the date of birth, and therefore cannot be considered as a birth certificate.The govern-

ment has issued strict instructions that Aadhaar should not be considered as proof of date of birth in any government process, including appointments, promotions, service register amendments, or other sensitive documents. Other original documents, such as a birth certificate, high school mark-sheet, or a certificate

issued by a municipal body or health department, can be used for this purpose. Aadhaar is not considered proof of citizenship in advance.This means it is not used in citizenship documents. Meanwhile, the state government in Maharashtra has taken a similar decision regarding Aadhaar cards.

GDP growth is projected to be 8.2% in the second quarter



New Delhi

Real GDP is projected to grow by 8.2% in the second quarter of FY2025-26, up from 5.6% in the same period of the previous fiscal year. This indicates a pick-up in the economy and positive activity.

According to the government and economists, this growth rate is a good sign for the country's economy. According to the latest official data released on Friday, India's gross domestic product (GDP) is projected to grow at 8.2% in the second quarter ending September 30, 2025. The Indian econ-

omy grew at 5.6% in the September 2024 quarter (Q2 FY25), the lowest in seven quarters, and had reached 7.8% in the previous quarter (Q1 FY26)."Real GDP, or GDP at constant prices, is estimated at 48.63 lakh crore in the second quarter of FY 2025-26, compared to ₹44.94 lakh crore in the second quarter of FY 2024-25, registering a growth rate of 8.2%," the National Statistical Office said in a statement on November 28. Analysts had estimated economic growth in the second quarter to be between 7% and 7.5%.

Our youth power is scaling new heights: PM Modi

Udupi

Prime Minister Narendra Modi visited the historic Sri Krishna Matha in Udupi, Karnataka, on Friday, where he participated in the "Laksha Kantha Geeta Paathan." PM Modi arrived in Udupi after 14 years and held a massive roadshow. During his address, PM Modi threatened his enemies with the Sudarshan Chakra and said that this is a new India that bows to no one. PM Modi, who arrived in Udupi, Karnataka, said, "Visiting Udupi is very special for me. Udupi has been the birthplace of the Jan Sangh and Bharatiya Janata Party's model of good governance. In 1968, the people of Udupi elected V.S. Acharya of the Jan Sangha to the Udupi Municipal Corporation. With this, Udupi laid the foundation for a



new governance model."Addressing the Laksh Kantha Geeta Paathan program at the Sri Krishna Matha in Udupi, PM Modi said, "I feel deeply honored to be among revered saints."Referring to the Pahalgam attack, Modi mentioned the terrorist attacks in Pahalgam, where many of our citizens lost their lives, including our brothers and sisters from the Kanara community. Previously, when such tragic incidents occurred, governments often remained silent, but this is a new India. It does not bow to anyone, nor does it shirk

its duty to protect its people. We know how to establish peace, and we also know how to protect it.Message of Lord Krishna's compassion from the Red FortPM Modi, who arrived in Karnataka, said, "From the Red Fort, we convey the message of Lord Krishna's compassion, and with that same old inspiration, we also announce Mission Sudarshan Chakra. Mission Sudarshan Chakra means creating a protective shield around the country's key locations, its industrial and public sectors, that the enemy cannot

break. If any enemy dares to attack, our Sudarshan Chakra will destroy them." Sabka Saath, Sabka VikasPM Modi further said that the core of the nation's security policy is that we say Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam and we also repeat the mantra of Dharma Rakshati Rakshitah. Prime Minister Narendra Modi further said, 'In our society, mantras and verses from the Gita have been recited for centuries, but when one lakh voices recite these verses in unison... then such energy is released which gives a new vibration, new power to our mind and brain... this energy is also the power of spirituality, this energy is the power of social unity. So today, this occasion of lakhs of voices reciting the Gita has become an opportunity to experience a huge energy body.'



President Draupadi Murmu, Governor Anandiben Patel and Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath were present during the programme of Prajapita Brahmakumari University held in Lucknow.

Conflict in Mahayuti before local body elections

Mumbai

The Mahayuti alliance in Maharashtra, comprising the BJP, Eknath Shinde's Shiv Sena, and Ajit Pawar's NCP, is about to face a major test in local elections for the first time. Voting for 246 municipal councils and 42 municipal

councils will take place in the first phase on December 2nd. Over 10 million voters will cast their ballots. But even before the vote, things appear to be unclear within the alliance. The Supreme Court has clearly stated that the results of the 57 local bodies where reserva-

tions exceed 50% will be valid only after a final decision. The court has previously warned that elections could be cancelled if the reservation limit is exceeded. The State Election Commission has acknowledged that the limit has been exceeded.This means

that, in addition to politics, a legal dilemma also looms over the elections. between the BJP and Shiv Sena . Last week, Shiv Sena ministers were absent from a cabinet meeting. Later, Shinde and Fadnavis held talks and reached a 'no poaching agreement'.

Russian President Putin's visit to India



New Delhi

Russian President Vladimir Putin will visit India on December 4-5 at the invitation of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The Indian Foreign Ministry announced this on Friday. It is expected that Putin will discuss key issues, including oil purchases and defense and

trade, with the Russian President during this visit. Putin's visit to India was announced during National Security Advisor Ajit Doval's visit to Moscow in August this year. However, the dates were not finalized at that time. PM Modi and Putin later met in China during the Shanghai Cooperation Organization Summit.

Children should stay with their parents after divorce: Supreme Court

New Delhi

The Supreme Court of India, while hearing a case, remarked that if a couple has a dispute that leads to divorce, the siblings should live together and move forward. During the hearing, the court expressed concern that when a couple with two children separates due to marital discord, the children also become separated, with one living with the mother and the other with the father.Regarding this



issue, the Supreme Court questioned why siblings should suffer the hardship of living apart due to problems between their parents. However, the court stated that they should live together and move forward.What is the

whole matter?While hearing a divorce case, a bench of Justices JB Pardiwala and KV expressed dismay when informed that the couple had been living separately for the past few years, and that their minor children were

also living separately. The son lived with the father and the daughter with the mother.The bench stated, "We are saddened to learn that minor siblings are living apart."This separation is very painful. The bench stated that siblings should live together. They have done nothing wrong. Why should they suffer? Even if the husband and wife have decided to separate, we believe the siblings should live together.

Centre issues notice to women employees for seeking proof of menstruation

New Delhi

The Supreme Court on Friday sought responses from the Central Government and other parties on a petition alleging that sanitation workers at Maharshi Dayanand University in Haryana were asked to provide photographs of their private parts to prove they were menstruating.A bench of Justices B.V. Nagarathna and R. Mahadevan issued notices to the Central

Government and others. Justice Nagarathna said this reflects the mindset. "In Karnataka, leave is granted during menstruation. Reading this, I wondered if proof will now be required for granting leave," she said. She added that this reflects the mindset of the people involved. If the female employees were not present for an important task, someone else could have been assigned.

Faith lasts only where thoughts are healthy and emotions are pure: President Murmu

Lucknow

Participating in the state-level inaugural ceremony of Meditation (Yoga) for World Unity and Trust, organized by Prajapita Brahma Kumaris Ishwariya Vishwavidyalaya in Lucknow on Friday, President Draupadi Murmu emphasized the development of spiritual consciousness through Raja Yoga. She emphasized that faith



exists only where the mind is calm, thoughts are healthy, and emotions are pure. She said that a strong soul is the foundation for realizing the concept of world unity.

According to President Murmu, a calm and stable mind sows the seeds of peace in society, and from there, the foundation of world peace and unity is laid. India's ancient

civilization gave the message of Vasudhaiva KutumbakamAttending the event as the chief guest, President Draupadi Murmu began her address with the chant of Om Shanti. She said that India's ancient civilization and culture have always given the message of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam to the world, which means that the whole world is one family.

Rahul Gandhi slams Centre over Delhi's toxic air, questions PM's silence

New Delhi

Congress MP and Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha, Rahul Gandhi, has sharply questioned the silence of the central government and Prime Minister regarding the national capital's continuously deteriorating air quality. He said that the air quality in Delhi and surrounding areas has become so polluted that it has now become a health crisis. Demanding an immediate, detailed discussion in Parliament on the issue, Rahul Gandhi said that the government should introduce a strict and implementable action plan.

'Need to set a procedure for judicial appointments'

New Delhi

Hindustan Aeronautics Limited Chairman and Managing Director DK Sunil termed the crash of the Indian Tejas fighter aircraft on the last day of the Dubai Air Show as an unfortunate accident. He also clarified that the incident will not impact the future of the Tejas program. He stated that there are no shortcomings in the Tejas fighter aircraft. It is an excel-



lent aircraft.No Problems with TejasIn fact, while speaking on defense exports at ANI's National Security Summit, the HAL Director said that there are no problems with the Tejas. From this platform, I declare that it is an excellent fighter

aircraft. He added that it is completely safe and has the best safety record in the world.' While calling the crash of the Tejas aircraft in Dubai unfortunate, he said that this incident will not impact the future of the Tejas. It should be noted that this was the first time the Tejas had crashed on foreign soil. Meanwhile, Tejas has crashed only twice since its development. Tejas will soon have a

A memorandum was submitted to the DM demanding the dismissal of IAS officer Santosh Sharma

IAS officer Santosh Sharma had made a disgusting statement about the daughters of the Brahmin community



Akhand Bharat Sandesh

Kada Kaushambi.

The Brahmin community in Kaushambi has taken a strong stance against IAS officer Santosh Kumar Verma's alleged offensive remarks about the dignity of daughters. A large number of community officials and members, led by the Brahmin Samaj Sena, submitted a memorandum on Friday, demanding strict action and dismissal against the IAS officer. The community clarified in the memorandum that making

derogatory remarks against any community is a blatant violation of administrative decorum and that the officer's continued presence in the administrative system poses a threat to the public's honor and safety. A high-level investigation should be ordered immediately into the officer's controversial statement. IAS officer Santosh Verma should be removed from his position until the investigation is complete. A warning has been issued to launch a peaceful state-wide movement if the community does not receive justice and

respect. Leading the event, President Somprakash Mishra and Advocate Ramprakash Mishra stated that this fight is not against any individual, but to protect the honor and self-respect of the community. They called on the community to unite and raise their voice for respect. Among those who submitted the memorandum were Shivam Pandey, Alok Pandey, Ankit Mishra, Raja Mishra, Himanshu Pandey, Brijesh Shukla, Ajay Tiwari and many other officials and social workers.

Key Meeting Held at Collectorate with Recognized Political Parties Regarding SIR -2026

Etah

In compliance with the directives of the Election Commission of India, a significant meeting was held on Friday at the Collectorate auditorium with representatives of national and state-recognized political parties to discuss the Special Intensive Revision Programme-2026. The meeting was presided over by Sub-District Election Officer /Additional District Magistrate (Administration) Satya Prakash and conducted under the guidance of District Election Officer Prem Ranjan Singh. Addressing the gathering, Satya Prakash informed that Booth Level Officers (BLO) are actively collecting enumeration forms from voters and digitizing the entries on an ongoing basis. Updated information regarding voters marked as "un-collected" is also being regularly shared. He highlighted that a district-



level officer has been appointed for every 10 booths to supervise the collection and digitization process. In addition, Panchayat Secretaries, Lekhpals, Consolidation Lekhpals and other district-level staff are fully engaged in this critical exercise, ensuring that the work is completed within the stipulated timeframe. The Additional District Magistrate urged representatives of all political parties to encourage maximum voter participation so that citizens fill their enumeration forms accurately and completely, submitting the required photograph-attached documents to the BLO promptly. He emphasized that no eligible voter should be left out and no ineligible voter should be included in the rolls. The revision

programme is being conducted with full transparency and integrity and all political parties are being kept continuously updated. Representatives from political parties attending the meeting included BJP District General Secretary Sushil Gupta, Samajwadi Party District President Parvez Juberi, District General Secretary Bhupendra Prajapati, Subhash Shakya, Inderpal Shakya, Dharendra Singh, Congress District President Ashiq Hussain, Gaurav Yadav, Naina Sharma, CPI(M) Rajaram Yadav and Aam Aadmi Party Mohammad Shoaib. Officials from the Election Office present included Assistant District Election Officer Keshav Dev and Senior Personnel Assistants.

A neighbor's relative stole cash and jewelry

Akhand Bharat Sandesh

Ajhuwa, Kaushambi

A woman resident of Adarsh Nagar Panchayat, Ward No. 4, Madhiya Mai, accused a neighbor's relative of stealing cash and jewelry. According to Dhanapati's wife, Kallu, she was at her sister-in-law's house last evening. When she arrived at 10 p.m., a relative of her neighbor, Harischandra, was leaving her house. He didn't respond when asked. When the woman looked inside the house, her purse, half-pen, and 5,000 rupees were missing. The woman has filed a complaint with the police station and demanded action.

Three injured in collision with unknown vehicle

Akhand Bharat Sandesh

Ajhuwa, Kaushambi

Three people riding a bike were hit by an unknown vehicle at the Kanwar border in the Saini Kotwali area, injuring the bike riders. According to the incident, Vipin Maurya, 25, son of Phoolchandra, Chhote, 22, son of Bhagat, a resident of Faridpur,



Thariyanv police station, and Vinda, 55, a resident of Narauli, were riding a bike on their way to a relative's house in a village in the Saini area. As they approached Chaudhary Restaurant near the Kanwar border, an unknown vehicle hit them from behind and fled. The bike riders fell on the road and were injured. An NHI ambulance, responding to information from onlookers, rushed the injured to a hospital in Khaga, Fatehpur.

Suraj Bhan Karawaria released on 3-day parole to attend niece's wedding

Akhand Bharat Sandesh

Prayagraj

The Allahabad High Court released former MLC Suraj Bhan Karawaria, younger brother of Uday Bhan Karawaria, on a three-day parole at 4 pm on Friday. Suraj Bhan was released on parole to attend the wedding of his elder brother Kapil Muni Karawaria's daughter. The three brothers will be seen together at the wedding. Hundreds of supporters and family members arrived to retrieve Suraj Bhan from jail. The Allahabad High Court stated in its order that he was being released on a three-day parole and must appear in the CJM court on December 1st



as scheduled. Attending niece's wedding This order was issued by a division bench of Justice Salil Kumar Rai and Justice Arun Kumar Singh Deswal. He was granted parole to attend his niece's wedding. Suraj Bhan Karawaria was released from Naini Central Jail on November 28th at 4 p.m. He

will return to Naini Central Jail as per rules on December 1st, after the wedding ceremony is over. Sentence in Jawahar Pandit murder case Uday Bhan Karawaria, Kapil Muni Karawaria, and Suraj Bhan Karawaria were sentenced to life imprisonment by the Sessions Court in the Jawahar Pandit murder

case. Uday Bhan Karawaria's sentence was pardoned by the government, and he was released. Kapil Muni Karawaria and Suraj Bhan Karawaria are serving their sentences. Both brothers are serving their sentences in Naini Central Jail. - Kapil Muni also granted one-month parole: Former MP Kapil Muni Karawaria, who was imprisoned in Naini Central Jail for his daughter Meenakshi's wedding, has been released on one-month parole. He will return to Naini Central Jail after the wedding ceremony is over. He too has been granted parole on court orders and will remain under strict surveillance.

Etah Police Conducts Remarkable Traffic Awareness Drive, 223 Vehicles Fined 2.31 Lakh

Etah

As part of "Traffic Awareness Month," the Etah Traffic Police carried out a comprehensive traffic awareness and checking campaign on Thursday, November 27, 2025 resulting in 223 vehicles being fined a total of ₹2,31,500. The campaign was conducted under the guidance of Senior Superintendent of Police, Etah, Shyam Narayan Singh and the close supervision of Deputy Superintendent of Police, Etah, Shwetabh Pandey. During the operation, traffic police carried



ried out intensive checks for violations including modified silencers, black films on windows, unauthorized hooters, sirens and pressure horns. Officers also acted against cases of drink-and-drive, triple riding, driving without a helmet, unlicensed minor drivers, vehicles without number plates, parking violations and overspeeding. Each

violation led to strict enforcement, resulting in the issuance of 223 challans.

In addition to penal action, the police distributed reflectors and pamphlets on traffic safety, educating the public on the importance of helmet and seat belt use, adherence to road safety rules and participation in safe traffic practices.

Community Health Workers Accuse Officials of High-Handedness, Demand Immediate Action

Etah

Several Community Health Workers (CHW) from the Aliganj region have levelled serious allegations of arbitrariness, harassment and financial exploitation against concerned officials. The aggrieved workers submitted a detailed written complaint to Aliganj Circle Officer Nitish Garg, demanding strict action against those responsible. The CHW, who are engaged on a hiring basis, alleged that they are being subjected to continuous mental harassment, unjustified stoppage of honorarium and abusive behaviour by officials. Despite repeated complaints in the past, they claim that no effective action has been taken, forcing them to approach higher authorities. In the complaint, workers including Hardevi, Suman,



Ramvati, Shobha, Shilavati, Phoolmati, Sangeeta, Rekha, Renu, Ganga Devi, Sunita and several others alleged that they are discharging their duties honestly, yet are facing administrative high-handedness. They stated that their names are being arbitrarily removed from lists without justification, their attendance is being obstructed, inquiries are being conducted with bias and unnecessary pressure is being imposed during field work. The workers further said that non-payment of honorarium on time has pushed their families into finan-

cial distress, while continued harassment has caused severe mental stress, driving several employees to the verge of resigning. They accused certain officials of altering names in official records due to personal rivalry, halting field verification processes and frequently using derogatory language. The CHW warned that if corrective action is not taken, they would seek registration of an FIR and pursue legal action off from Azamgarh, Vinay Prakash Bharti informed that a complaint had already been submitted to the Chief Minister.

The Congress workers' protest against the Meja Energy Corporation was a complete flop, with no impact on plant operations

The protesters did not submit any memorandum of demands to the corporation, nor is the Meja Energy Corporation carrying out any construction work in Salaiya Kala.

Akhand Bharat Sandesh

Meja. The protest and demonstration planned by locals, led by a Congress leader, against the Meja Energy Corporation on November 27th was a complete flop. The situation at the main gate of the Meja project and the township area remained completely normal and under control. The plant continued to operate smoothly. The protest received no local support. We have not received any formal notice or memorandum from the protesters. Based on information received from social media and newspapers, the organization's position on the issues raised by the protesters was already clarified in a meeting held at the ACP Meja office on November 25th. The main points of the meeting are as follows: No



new construction work has been started by Meja Energy Corporation Pvt. Ltd. in village Salaiya Kala. Government land in village Salaiya Kala may be reclaimed for the expansion of Meja Thermal Power Project Stage II, a unit of Meja Urja Nigam (Pvt.) Limited, which is currently under process. Regarding employment, it is worth noting that displaced people are encouraged to participate in skill development training contracts, opportunities with agencies, contracted jeeps,

and contract work through the displaced cooperative society. Hundreds of youth have received employment-oriented skill training under CSR. In 2024-25, 131 youth received this training, and in 2025-26, 180 youth are receiving various employment-oriented skill development training programs through CIDC and CRISP. Upon completion of the training, there is also a provision for 100% placement in various institutions across the country. Regarding allegations/demands related to power

supply, withdrawal of lawsuits, minimum wages, and medical facilities, it is also clarified that providing free electricity is not within MUNPL's jurisdiction. MUNPL only generates electricity and, as it lacks a distribution license, is not responsible for providing free electricity or distribution. However, the organization has installed solar-powered streetlights and high masts at public places in the surrounding villages. Law and order and litigation fall under the jurisdiction of the police/administration. In accordance with labor laws, contractors ensure workers receive wages and other benefits (bonuses, PF, ESI, etc.) based on notifications issued by the state government from time to time. Modern technologies such as ESP, FGD, and water sprinklers are implemented

for environmental control. Additionally, the project's township hospital provides OPD, IPD, emergency, and specialized medical services to villagers/displaced persons at subsidized rates, and regularly organizes free medical camps in the surrounding villages. Under MUNPL's Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR), various projects are being implemented for drinking water facilities, including providing safe and clean water in rural areas through hand pumps, mini water systems, and solar-powered rooftop water purification systems. These initiatives aim to improve the health and improve the quality of life of local communities by providing them with clean drinking water. This information explains the overall development and social responsibility of the project.

Father and son from Soraon die in a road accident in Mirzapur

Akhand Bharat Sandesh

Prayagraj

A father and son, who were on their way to Varanasi to see a doctor, died in a road accident on the Katka Mirzapur Highway. Due to dense fog, the car crashed into a truck parked on the side of the road, killing both father and son on the spot. Upon learning of the incident, the family was devastated. Shyam Krishna, an advocate from Toukalpur village under the Soraon police station, was suffering from a serious illness. His son, Anurag Krishna, was on his way to Varanasi to see a doctor when, due to fog, the car rammed into the rear of a truck, killing the father and son on the spot. Upon learning of the incident, the family was devastated.

Shyam Krishna, an advocate from Toukalpur village, had been suffering from a serious illness for the past several months.



His family had been receiving treatment at a hospital in Varanasi, west of Mumbai. Shyam Krishna's elder son Anurag Krishna is a homeopathic doctor. On Friday morning, he was going to Varanasi city in his car to show his father Shyam Krishna to a doctor. During this, he had just reached Mirzapur district area when the car rammed into the back of a truck parked in front on the highway.

Due to which the father and son travelling in the

car died on the spot. On receiving the news of the death of the father and son travelling in the car in the road accident, there was chaos among the family members. Anurag Krishna's younger brother Abhinav Krishna Yadav is working as an APO in the CBI department. Vimala Devi, wife of deceased Shyam Krishna and Akanksha Yadav, wife of deceased Anurag Krishna and their two daughters Anodhya and Anya are in a bad condition due to crying.

The District Magistrate held a meeting regarding the maintenance of streetlights on all roads in the district in view of the Magh Mela 2026

The District Magistrate directed officials from all relevant departments to inspect the streetlights on all roads under their jurisdiction and ensure they are operational within a week

Akhand Bharat Sandesh

Prayagraj. A meeting was held on Friday in the Sangam Auditorium, chaired by District Magistrate Manish Kumar Verma, regarding the maintenance of streetlights on all roads in the district in view of the Magh Mela 2026. The District Magistrate directed officials from the Municipal Corporation, Public Distribution System (PDS), Public Works Department (PWD), and National Highways Department to inspect the streetlights on all roads under their jurisdiction and ensure they are repaired within a week. During the meeting, he conducted a detailed department-wise review of the streetlights installed on each road and main thoroughfare connecting the district to various districts. He



directed the Municipal Corporation in the urban areas and the District Panchayat Raj Department in the rural areas to expedite the acquisition of the lights. He directed the Electricity Department officials to prepare a roster from December 15th to February 15th, 2026, to ensure that there are no power cuts at night and all streetlights remain functional. He directed the necessary action to ensure that the power

supply on Airport Road is diverted from the rural to the urban feeder. He directed that all concerned departments should inspect the functioning of their respective streetlights, and if any lights are out or faulty, they should be repaired. He also directed the National Highways and other related departments to install signage on all routes so that pilgrims do not face any problems while traveling to Prayagraj.

He also directed the number of signage on the Handia to Kanpur and Prayagraj routes to be increased. Present on the occasion were Municipal Commissioner Seelam Sai Teja, Officer/Vice Chairman of the Prayagraj Development Authority Rishiraj, Secretary PDA Ajit Singh, City Magistrate Vinod Singh, District Development Officer, Project Director, and officials from all relevant departments.

Lok Janshakti Party Ram Vilas's 25th Foundation Day Celebrated in a Grand Manner

Lok Jan Shakti Party Stands with the Poor, the Helpless, and Farmers - Chief Guest Rajiv Paswan Saini

Akhand Bharat Sandesh

Prayagraj. On Friday, the Lok Jan Shakti Party's Foundation Day celebrations were held in a grand manner at Shantipuram Gohari. Flowers were offered to the portrait of the party's founder, Ram Vilas Paswan, and he was remembered. Chief Guest Rajiv Paswan, State President, stated in his address that the primary objective of the Lok Janshakti Party (Ram Vilas) is to stand shoulder



to shoulder with the poor, the helpless, and farmers at all times, under all circumstances. In his address, the Chief Guest urged all of us, including the general public, to be a part of Lok Jan Shakti

and support it. "Our party will fully support every poor and helpless person," he said. Like every year, this year too, the party's foundation day was celebrated in a grand manner on November

28th. All the party officials and workers took an oath to take the lead in bringing a new vision and hope, and that they will now stand with every person. The program was presided over by Vinay Kushwaha, District President, Prayagraj. Karan Sonkar, State Vice President, who was present as a special guest on this occasion, also stated in his address that the party will stand with every common man with their problems. Jitendra Pasi, State General Secretary and

Prayagraj Mandal in-charge, also expressed a new vision and new ideas. National Secretary of the Women's Cell, Akanksha Bhartiya and Moti Lal Gangapur Secretary, Shastri Patel, Radhe Shyam, Rahul Pasi, District Vice President of the Legal Cell, Satish, Abhinav Pasi, Hemant, Kuldeep, Shyamdhara Mishra, Jyeshwar, Sunil Pasi, Dashrath, Anil, Jitendra Patel, Viraj, Ashish and Rahul, along with all the party workers and elite were also present.

The wanted accused of murdering his brother-in-law has been arrested

Kaushambi

On November 27, in Sarai Akil police station area, a man who had come to his in-laws' house was beaten with sticks by his brother-in-law. He died during treatment. Police arrested the brother-in-law who committed the murder and presented him in the court from where he was sent to jail. According to the incident, the son of Medilal, resident of Chak Ghulam Alam Kosam Inam police station and district Kaushambi, had gone to his in-laws'

house in Surseni, where his brother-in-law Sujit and his family members beat him with sticks, due to which he got seriously injured and died during treatment. FIR No. 318/25 under section 115(2)/105 BNS was registered at Sarai Akil police station. On 28.11.2025, Sarai Akil police station arrested the wanted accused Sujit Kumar Saroj, son of late Gangadin, resident of Surseni, Sarai Akil police station, near the Maa Sharda temple in the village of Surseni. During interrogation, the

accused told that there was an altercation between us under the influence of alcohol, and when the dispute escalated, But I along with my brother and sister had kicked, punched and beaten my brother-in-law with a stick due to which he was seriously injured and was admitted to the hospital for treatment, where he died.

On the pointing out of the accused, one stick used in the incident was recovered. After legal proceedings, the accused was sent to the court.

Accused arrested for murdering a married woman During interrogation, the accused stated that he was in one-sided love



Akhand Bharat Sandesh

Kaushambi. On the morning of November 27th, Deepika Tiwari, the married daughter of plaintiff Ram Mohan Pandey, was shot and killed in Unao village, within the Manjhanpur Kotwali area. A case, FIR No. 408/25, under Section 103(1) of the Criminal

Procedure Code (CrPC), was registered in Manjhanpur. The accused, Ajit Kumar Mishra, OSA, Manjhanpur Police Station, surrendered at the police station. Police took him into custody and arrested him. During interrogation, the accused stated that he was in one-sided love with the deceased and wanted

to keep her with him. The deceased was unwilling to leave her husband and live with him. Consequently, he shot and killed her. One 315-bore pistol and one empty cartridge used in the incident were recovered from the accused's possession. Following legal proceedings, the accused was sent to court.

Second Central Hindi Book Fair and GST Literature Festival Held at GST Bhawan Complex

Akhand Bharat Sandesh

Prayagraj. The three-day Second Central Hindi Book Fair and GST Literature Festival 2025, held over three days (November 25, 26, and 27, 2025) at the GST Bhawan Complex at the Central Goods and Services Tax and Central Excise Commissionerate, Allahabad, was held on the third day. Various cultural programs were organized on the third day with the participation of officers and employees posted in central government offices in Prayagraj and their families. Employees and their families gave captivating performances in genres such as solo singing, karaoke singing, classical dance, skits, and street plays.

A poetry



symposium was also organized for the people of Prayagraj attending the book fair, where renowned poets Akhtar Aziz, Ms. Neelima Mishra, and Jai Krishna Tushar captivated the audience, while young poet Anurag Dwivedi also enthralled the audience. Piyush Shukla, Additional Commissioner, Varanasi, and Shri Rajni Kant Mishra, Additional Commissioner, Prayagraj, also recited their poems. Publishers and book-

sellers who visited the book fair reported receiving immense love from Prayagraj's readers.

Hindi books on literature, culture, history, and contemporary topics were purchased extensively. Books on the 2025 Mahakumbh and the history and culture of Prayagraj remained a major attraction. The GST Department organized three days of programs enriching Hindi literature, art, and culture, including street plays, cultural dances, singing, and



poetry recitations, to connect the public with Prayagraj's glorious heritage. During this literary festival, several books published by government employees were the center of discussion. Recently published books by Raj Kumar Digvijay, IRS, Piyush Shukla, IRS, and Amar Kushwaha, IAS officers, were released locally. Neelima Mishra and Jai Krishna 'Tushar' presented their new Ghazal collections at the function. On the occasion of the closing

of GST Sahitya Utsav 2025, CESTAT Commissioner Mr. Raju Shaktivel said that the aim of literature should be to remove the evils and inequalities prevalent in the society and to establish a realistic and just society. The function concluded with a patriotic song presented by Shyamal Maurya, Head Constable. The stage was conducted by the Department's Official Language Officer Umesh Kumar Maurya.

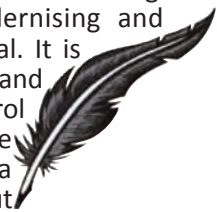
Editorial

Post-Cold War era and Great Power competition

Post-World War II saw the emergence of two power blocks: the US-led North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO), formed in 1949, and the Soviet Union-led Warsaw Pact, formed in 1955. NATO was meant to defend against the spread of Soviet-led communism. The Warsaw Pact was to counter NATO. The resultant Cold War saw huge military buildups and competition in the space and nuclear fields. At its peak between 1975 and 1985, the US and Soviet Union had a nuclear weapons stockpile of nearly 60,000 warheads. The collapse and breakup of the Soviet Union in 1991 brought an end to the Cold War. The period saw arms control treaties and a significant reduction of nuclear weapons, and stockpiles between the two are now around 6,000 each. The period also saw the folding up of the Warsaw Pact, but a significant increase in NATO, which, as of date, has 32 members. The world became unipolar, with the US dominating the security scene. This was also the period when the world concentrated on the War against Terror. West Asia became the area of focus. By 2007, Russia had begun to consolidate its power under President Putin. China had started rising as an economic and military power. China unilaterally usurped nearly three million sq. km of the South China Sea (SCS), and became aggressive for Taiwan unification. The Quad was formed with the US, Japan, Australia and India to thwart China's expansionist designs in the Indo-Pacific. Meanwhile in Europe, Ukraine was showing interest in joining NATO. This would have brought the alliance on the Russian doorstep. This was unacceptable to Russia. Initially to secure its Black Sea fleet, Russia arranged to annex Crimea in 2014. With Ukraine still not relenting on NATO, Russia invaded Ukraine in February 2022. Effectively that brought an end to the post-Cold War era.

Post-Cold War Era Begins

Despite massive NATO support to Ukraine, Russia continues to hold nearly 20 percent Ukrainian territory. The American and European public opinion shows war fatigue, and are not keen to pump more money or weapons. Hamas in Gaza, Hezbollah in Lebanon, Houthis in Yemen and several militias in Syria and Iraq are part of Iran funded and backed "Axis of Resistance". Now, they have a new backer: Russia. Developments in West Asia (Gaza war and Houthis) have also complicated the US' desire to focus more on the Indo-Pacific. Russia has secured lifelines for its economy and defence enterprises, while navigating to retain its military influence outside of Europe. In spite of economic sanctions, Russia has once again emerged as a power to contend with. Russia supports legacy multilateral institutions, along with China. It is strengthening BRICS, and is pushing for the de-dollarisation of international finance. Russia and China want to prevent the US and its allies from writing international rules. Russia has recalibrated its entire foreign policy to fit the needs of a long struggle. Russia has already expanded its trade and political relations with non-Western countries. The pillars of Russia's global foreign policy are self-preservation and global de-compartmentalisation. China has not only emerged as an economic power that is peddling influence around the world through Belt and Road and other economic initiatives, but has also become a significant military and Space power that wants to initially exert influence in Western Pacific and Indian Oceans, and later across the globe. China has also been modernising and expanding its nuclear arsenal. It is not willing to sit with the US and Russia to discuss arms control or evolve new treaties. The antagonism between Russia and the US has already put arms-control treaties on slow-burner.



India presses on land borders amid Chinese expansionism in Indian Ocean

Member of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee and China's Foreign Minister Wang Yi said that on maritime disputes, "China has been exercising a high degree of restraint. [...] In face of deliberate infringements, China will take justified actions to defend its rights in accordance with the law. In face of unwarranted provocation, China will respond with prompt and legitimate countermeasures. China also urges certain countries outside this region not to make provocations, pick sides, or stir up trou-

bles and problems in the South China Sea." Wang Yi's statements on the South China Sea come at a key point where India is mounting pressure on the India-China land border. It has redeployed 10,000 soldiers from its western border to the Indo-Tibetan border in the Indian states of Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh. These troops will join 9,000 troops already guarding the 532 km stretch of the Indo-China border in these states, Bloomberg reported. The area consists of some of Hinduism's holiest sites, known as the Char Dham

(four holy abodes, as defined by Adi Shankaracharya). "China is committed to working with India to safeguard the peace and stability of the border areas," Mao Ning, a spokesperson for the Chinese foreign ministry, said. "We believe that India's practice is not conducive to safeguarding peace and is not conducive to easing tensions." Mao added that "India's increase in military deployments in border areas does not help to calm the situation in the border areas or to safeguard peace and safety in these areas," according to a

report by Reuters. The armed forces are well equipped, capable and ready to give a befitting reply if anyone casts an evil eye on India, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said recently against the backdrop of the nearly four-year border row with China in eastern Ladakh and concerns over Chinese military forays into the Indian Ocean. Maldives' new Islamist, anti-India President Mohamed Muizzu signed a military assistance pact with China earlier this week, surprising analysts from his own country.

India and the Greater Indo-Pacific: Balancing geopolitical equations



Looking at the complex geopolitical and geoeconomic challenges the Indo-Pacific region is currently grappling it is necessary that there is a need to broaden the geopolitical concept of the Indo-Pacific to the Greater Indo-Pacific. The Greater Indo-Pacific can rebalance the global geopolitics and geoeconomics while checkmating China's hegemonic role. India, being the Centre of Indo-Pacific geopolitics, can play a central role in the formation of Greater Indo-Pacific.

Introduction

The recent war between Israel and Hamas, as well as Russia and Ukraine war along with the Red Sea crisis demonstrates that some of these crises are having an impact on the geopolitics of the Indo-Pacific. Along with these wars, the rise of China is also posing a substantial challenge to the Greater Indo-Pacific encompassing major countries of the "Eurasian Heartland" in the phraseology of Halford Mackinder, like India, the US, Japan, South East Asian countries, South Korea, Philippines, Saudi Arabia, UAE, Israel, Egypt, France, Germany, Italy, Greece, Russia and Kazakhstan. Though the idea appears to be entirely imaginary, understanding the present geopolitical complexities is necessary to consider the Greater Indo-Pacific concept. Both the US and Russia should learn from Israel's and Saudi

Arabia's relations. Improved relations between Moscow and Washington can enhance peace and security in West Asia, the Mediterranean and Indo-Pacific regions as well also in the post-Soviet space. Bringing these above-mentioned regions into a Greater Indo-Pacific framework can give impetus to peace and security in the region as well as enhance economic cooperation. A Greater Indo-Pacific can also provide a necessary challenge to China's hegemonic geopolitics. In this context, India can play a vital role in giving the necessary leadership to Greater Indo-Pacific. The prolonged crisis in the "heartland" in the form of a war between Russia and Ukraine, as well as the onset of the war between Israel and Hamas and its spiral impact in the form of the Red Sea crisis, is providing a new kind of geopolitical equation in

the global map. One thing is sure: phrases like alliances and block politics (though not in an ideological framework) and issues relating to armament and disarmament are currently gaining broader importance in geopolitical discourses. The two wars, as discussed above, demonstrate the significance of the metaphor of "Eurasia" as coined by British geopolitical thinker Halford J Mackinder in his classic work Democratic Ideals and Reality published in 1919, where he eulogised the concept of "World Island" and also "Heartland" in the lexicon of geopolitics. The reason for discussing the metaphor of "Eurasia" or "Heartland" in the present strategic polemics on the Indo-Pacific is to highlight how these two trajectories can be relevant in the context of the geopolitics of the region. Though Mackinder has not talked about the concept of

Indo-Pacific, his article titled Geographical Pivot of History, published in 1904, discussed the concept of "Inner Crescent" and "Outer Crescent", where much of the Indo-Pacific comes under the ambit. For instance, India is in the inner crescent of Eurasia and Japan and the United States are in the outer crescent as per Mackinder. Highlighting the strategic significance of both "Inner Crescent" and "Outer Crescent", Mackinder, in his book Democratic Ideals and Reality, suggested that "The actual balance of political power at any given time is, of course, the product, on the one hand, of geographical conditions, both economic and strategic, and, on the other hand, of the relative number, virility, equipment, and organization of the competing peoples" (p.192). Similarly, German geopolitical analyst Karl Haushofer in his seminal work Geopolitics of the Pacific Ocean, published in 1924, outlined the strategic significance of this region in the global geopolitics. Describing the strategic significance of this region, Haushofer describes this region as a "giant space is expanding before our eyes." He further highlights that this region "awaits the dawn of the Pacific age, the successor to the ageing Atlantic, the over-age Mediterranean and the European era." (as quoted in

Weigert, H. W. (1942). Reviewed work(s): geopolitik des pazifischen ozeans by Karl Haushofer (Review: Haushofer and the Pacific.). Foreign Affairs, 20(4), 732-742). Similarly, Nicolas J Spykman in his classic work Geography of Peace, outlines the concept of Rimland where countries like Japan, India, South Korea and Saudi Arabia, located to adjacent Heartland can play a greater role. In this context, he highlights Rimland's logic, which contrasts the Mackinder approach. Spykman stated, "Whoever rules the Rimland commands Eurasia, and whoever rules Eurasia commands the world." The necessity for delving into some of the issues relating to theoretical polemics of Indo-Pacific, as highlighted in the above works of both Mackinder, Haushofer and Spykman is to trace out the significance of the concept of Indo-Pacific, which is gaining much importance in the present-day geopolitical analysis. One may recall here that Indian scholar Kalidas Nag, in his work Greater India, explains India's role in global geopolitics. In the same book, Nag highlights that "India, through the hands of Ashoka, showered her blessings of peace and progress over this symbolic union of Asia, Africa and Europe with the ties of Internationalism" (p.127). Nag's work further highlights India's inroad.

How women are navigating challenges and taking centre stage?

Amid rapid digitization, Artificial Intelligence (AI) is no longer a buzzword but has emerged as a priority for businesses across industries. Whether it is voice assistants like Siri and Alexa fulfilling our wishes at a simple voice command, the ETA of cabs we book, or Natural language processing (NLP) and Machine learning (ML) algorithms-enabled chatbots resolving our queries instantly, AI is revolutionizing different aspects of our lives. However, to ensure its impactful development, equal and inclusive participation is essential. And women are rising to the occasion to explore prospective opportunities and break barriers with a vision to shape the future of AI. In an industry historically dominated by men,

women have defied bias to occupy a prominent position in the STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics) sector. They have made significant strides in facilitating AI and ML advancements. In fact, women are credited with being one of the most prominent pioneers in the field of AI. Dating back to the mid-19th century, Ada Lovelace, known as the world's first computer programmer, worked collaboratively with Charles Babbage on the design of the Analytical Engine. Even in the mid-20th century, Katherine Johnson was instrumental in the success of the first manned space flights and went on to become a role model for women in the STEM field.

Closer home, several women are

leading the AI revolution. India has the highest skill penetration rates, and women are contributing by being at the forefront of AI research and development. Take Aakanksha Chowdhery, for instance. She is a staff research scientist at Google DeepMind whose extensive research and contributions extend to fields like signal processing, ML, edge computing, etc. Additionally, strong-headed women like Tessy Thomas at the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), Ishu Jain leading central analytics at Swiggy and Divya Mittal, Director of data science at American Express, among others, are shining examples of female excellence in the field.

How India's South-South cooperation in Africa's agricultural sector is a win-win game

Exciting things were happening in Nairobi at the end of February. Indian models for Global South cooperation were in focus over a few days. This was particularly evident at the 11th Sankalp Africa summit session on scaling agricultural innovation through South-South collaboration.

As many as 1500 people with ideas for impacting the development of their communities gathered at this annual event from across Africa. Investors and impact financiers looked at them and interacted to find solutions. Many sessions focused on possible solutions using the success of models in different countries, particularly India.

The agriculture and South-South cooperation session aimed at creating a deeper understanding of the challenges that agriculture value chains face in Africa. The role of agricultural innovations and how targeted interventions and sustainable development approaches could positively impact them and consequently benefit small farmers were emphasised. These have particular relevance for an enhanced understanding of the enabling aspects, barriers to technology transfers, and their adaptability.

One of the areas that was focused on was South-South collaboration through innovative



agricultural enterprises, which could perhaps foster cross-border partnerships. This is relevant as the East African Community expands to include more countries and the Africa Continental Free Trade Area takes more steps towards implementation. A focused discussion brought together major stakeholders like development partners, policymakers, representatives of farmers, innovative agricultural enterprises, and investors. The Indian model of a bustling innovative agricultural ecosystem, which has been impacted by innovative enterprises serving 15 million farmers, was in focus. The context was set by discussing how India-Africa cooperation has traditionally focused on the private sector and heavily on agriculture. Even bilateral cooperation at the government-to-government level and through the India-Africa summits has had agriculture at its core. Agriculture features in PM Modi's 10-point action plan for Africa, enunciated in

Uganda in 2018.

Yet, do government-to-government initiatives always work? As per a recent book, The Harambee Factor, many of these initiatives, like seed demonstration centres, rural technology centres, farm science centres, and the like, were offered by India to African countries, but these were not easily absorbed by African governments. Wherever the private sector or civil society is involved, the absorption is better and more conducive to backward integration. This approach was then discussed with several partners at the session. There were two entrepreneurs: Giraffe Bioenergy and Everest Enterprises. They were complimented by investing companies, the Delta 40 and the Katapult VC. The World Bank and the Gates Foundation also participated, as did the CEO of the Cereal Growers Association of Kenya, which brings together half a million cereal growers for better marketing.

Briefs

KOLKATA

West Bengal uploading Waqf records

The West Bengal Minority Affairs and Madrasah Education Department has instructed all district magistrates to begin uploading details of Waqf properties to the Centre's 'UMID' portal, with officials describing the exercise as a "time-bound compliance requirement" set by the Union government, a well-placed source said on Friday.

NEW DELHI

ITBP boss gets addl charge of BSF

Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) chief Praveen Kumar has been assigned the additional charge of Border Security Force (BSF) director general from December 1. Daljit Singh Chaudhary, the BSF chief, is superannuating on November 30.

GUWAHATI

Tea garden workers to get land rights

The Assembly on Friday passed the Assam Fixation of Ceiling on Land Holdings (Amendment) Bill, 2025, a historic decision that will grant land rights to nearly three lakh tea garden workers across the state for the first time. Despite uproar, the Bill was cleared, marking what many leaders described as a transformative moment for the Tea Tribe and Adivasi communities who were brought to Assam by the British more than 200 years ago and have lived without formal land ownership ever since. —Digjyoti Lahkar

TIRUPATI

Tirumala temple official held

The Supreme Court-appointed Special Investigation Team (SIT) has arrested a serving official of Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanam (TTD) in the Laddu prasadam ghee adulteration case. The SIT, led by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), arrested senior TTD Engineering Department official RSSVR Subrahmanyam in connection with the TTD laddu-ghee adulteration case.

GUWAHATI/IMPHAL

Assam Rifles patrol team fired upon

An Assam Rifles patrolling party on Friday came under fire from unidentified militants in Manipur's Tengnoupal district, a defence spokesperson said. Security personnel 'immediately retaliated with control and caution' considering civilian safety, the official said, adding that the area is close to the Myanmar border.

ATTACKING MODE | Saffron party accuses Bengal's ruling outfit of hiring private data-entry operators to create fake family links of some voters**TMC rigging poll process: BJP**

NEW DELHI

The Bharatiya Janata Party on Friday accused the Trinamool Congress of allegedly rigging the Special Intensive Revision of electoral rolls in West Bengal through introduction of "fake linkages and hired parents" introduced in the submissions during the Phase I of the exercise.

Sharing a news report, which had quoted the state Chief Electoral Officer stating that 4.3 per cent of the registered voters screened as part of the exercise could not be mapped to the data from the last SIR of electoral rolls in 2002 or that of any other state or union territory, BJP's national information and publicity department in-charge Amit Malviya said this figure has come down drastically from 49 per cent when the electoral roll was released on January 1, 2025.

He charged that the gap between it and the 2002 list was 49% but has come down due to electoral malpractices. "But now, with fake linkages and hired parents introduced in the submissions during Phase I of the SIR, the gap has narrowed to 4.3%. This makes it imperative to run the databases of the draft roll (before it is published) against the January 1, 2025 roll to flag discrepancies, issue notices and initiate re-verification with the relevant documents," the BJP leader demanded.

Malviya, who heads the sa-

ffron party's social media team, also charged that, "The TMC is rigging the process using hired private data-entry operators who are creating fake family linkages. All BLOs have reportedly been instructed that the dead/shifted/duplicate/absent EF forms should not be digitised and that the physical forms should be diverted to the panchayat office."

Therefore, he urged the Election Commission of India to "weed out these illegal and fake voters through extensive combing of the submissions made so far."

Malviya also alleged that in a gross violation of the Election Commission's directives, shocking scenes have emerged from the state of "temporary and outsider workers, including teenagers and college students, illegally handling SIR data, openly flouting EC rules."

Sharing a video and citing a case from the Arambagh Block Development Officer's office, Malviya said in a post on "X" that, "When journalists attempted to take photographs, the BDO rushed to hide their faces, an admission of guilt in real time."

Stating that local reports had alleged that these individuals were "IPAC employees", the BJP leader said, "Let's not forget: The BJP narrowly lost Arambagh Lok Sabha twice, and holds 4 of the 7 Assembly seats. This is one of the few regions where Mamata Banerjee has repeatedly failed to make inroads."



TMC MPs including Mahua Moitra, Satabdi Roy, Derek O'Brien after a meeting with full bench of Election Commission, outside Nirvachan Sadan in New Delhi on Friday

CEC has 'blood on his hands': TMC

KOLKATA

A Trinamool Congress delegation on Friday met with the full bench of the Election Commission of India here and alleged that around 40 SIR-related deaths had occurred in West Bengal so far, accusing the poll panel chief of having "blood on his hands".

The 10-member delegation, led by TMC Rajya Sabha leader Derek O'Brien, met the EC officials amid the ongoing Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in West Bengal.

The delegation consisted of Lok Sabha MPs Mahua Moitra,

Satabdi Roy, Kalyan Banerjee, Pratima Mondal, Sajda Ahmed, and Rajya Sabha MPs Dola Sen, Mamata Thakur, Saket Gokhale, and Prakash Chik Barik.

Following their meeting, O'Brien said that the party had raised five questions, but Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar did not respond to any of them. "We started the meeting by stating that the CEC has blood on his hands. We raised five questions. After this, Kalyan Banerjee, Mahua Moitra, and Mamata Thakur spoke and shared whatever they had to in about 40 minutes," O'Brien said.

"Then the CEC spoke uninterrupted for one hour. We were also not interrupted while we spoke, but we did not receive any answer to any of our five questions," he added.

WHAT ECI SAID

The ECI gave a point-by-point rebuttal of all allegations raised by TMC, said sources. The ECI also told the delegation not to influence or threaten the BLOs regarding dead, shifted and duplicate voters, they added. The ECI requested the TMC delegation to give claims and objections after Dec 9, when the draft list is shared with them, sources said.



Waves triggered by Cyclone Ditwah crash against the shore in Ramanathapuram, Tamil Nadu, on Friday

After Sri Lanka, cyclone 'Ditwah' heads for TN

CHENNAI

Cyclone Ditwah was slowly moving closer towards the Tamil Nadu coast and it was likely to bring heavy rainfall, the weather office said on Friday, as the state government reviewed its preparedness to face the second such weather system in a month.

The weather office forecast heavy rains in the southern and Cauvery delta districts of the state, between November 29 and 30.

The name, 'Ditwah', referring to a lagoon, was suggested by Yemen. It is likely named

after Detwah Lagoon, a large, saline lagoon on the northwest coast of the island of Socotra in Yemen.

In a bulletin on Friday evening, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said the cyclonic storm 'Ditwah' over the coast of Sri Lanka and adjoining southwest Bay of Bengal moved slowly northwards at speed of 3 kmph during past 6 hours and lay centred at 2.30 hrs of today, Nov 28 over the same region.

It is located about 300 km south-southeast of Karaikal, 410 km south-southeast of Puducherry and 510 km south-southeast of Chennai.

Shah arrives for high-level DGP meet in Chhattisgarh

RAIPUR

Union Home Minister Amit Shah has arrived in Chhattisgarh for the 60th edition of the three-day All India Conference of Director Generals/Inspector Generals of Police, which begins on Friday. Chief Minister Vishnu Deo

Sai welcomed Shah after he landed at Swami Vivekananda Airport in a special plane late on Thursday night.

The conference will be held at the Indian Institute of Management, Raipur, from Nov 28 to 30, and PM Narendra Modi will also take part on November 29 and 30 and is likely to arrive here on Friday late evening.

As pollution chokes Delhi, RaGa dares PM to Parliament debate

NEW DELHI

Ahead of the Winter session of Parliament, Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi on Friday demanded a detailed discussion in the House on the issue of air pollution in the national capital as he questioned the silence of Prime Minister Narendra Modi on this "health emergency".

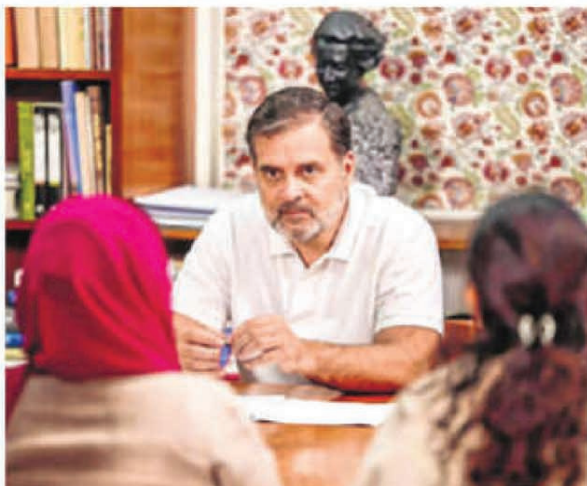
He also demanded a strict, enforceable action plan to tackle air pollution and asked why the Modi government was not showing any urgency or accountability on the issue.

Gandhi held an interaction with a group of mothers at his residence on the issue and shared a video of his conversation with them, with several of them raising concerns over the impact of pollution on the health of their children.

"Every mother I meet tells me the same thing: her child is growing up breathing toxic air. They are exhausted, scared and angry."

"Modi ji, India's children are choking in front of us. How can you stay silent? Why does your government show no urgency, no plan, no accountability?" he asked in a post on X.

"India needs an immediate, detailed Parliament debate on air pollution and a strict, enforceable action plan to tackle this health emergency," the Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha said.



LoP in the Lok Sabha and Congress leader Rahul Gandhi during an interaction with mothers who shared how their children are struggling to breathe in toxic air, in New Delhi

'Will Modi speak to Trump on S Africa's G20 exclusion?'

The Congress on Friday asked if PM Narendra Modi would take up South Africa's cause with his "good friend" and US President Donald Trump after he announced that the African nation would not get to attend the next G20 summit to be hosted in Florida. Raising the issue, Congress general secretary Jairam Ramesh said, "South Africa has been in the G20 from the very beginning simply because it is the largest economy measured by size of GDP in the African continent." He had added that the African nation was not in the grouping "because the US is doing it some favour". Speaking on behalf of South Africa, which is also one of the founder members of the BRICS groups that also comprises India, Ramesh said, South Africa has been "very much present at the very first G20 Summit held in Washington DC that was chaired by President George W. Bush and has been a valued presence in all subsequent G20 Summits." —Gaurav Vivek Bhatnagar

**SHO suffers burns as Punjab roadways staff stir turns violent**

CHANDIGARH

Tempers ran high and chaos prevailed as the Punjab police and the striking contractual employees of the Punjab roadways and the Pepsu Road Transport Corporation (PRTC) clashed in Dhuri town of Punjab's Sangrur district on Friday.

Even as passengers were left in the lurch throughout the day across the state, the striking staff who protested against the kilometre scheme of the state government went on strike and their protest turned violent in Dhuri when police attempted to thwart their stir.

According to information, while over two dozen protesters were arrested, the station house officer (SHO) of the Dhuri, Jasvir Singh, suffered burns when his uniform which was drenched with petrol sprinkled by the protesters caught fire during the clash. He was rushed to hospital where his condition was said to be stable.

Clash also ensued as the police teams also attempted to thwart some protesters who had climbed atop buses and threatened to immolate themselves. There were reports that some of the protesters allegedly sprinkled petrol on the cops anguished over the detention of their leaders late last night.

K'taka power shift: Congress top brass to meet tomorrow

BENGALURU

In order to iron out the differences between CM Siddaramaiah and Deputy CM DK Shivakumar, the Congress party high command has decided to hold a high-level meeting on Sunday evening.

Before the final meeting, the party Parliamentary Board would be meeting in New Delhi on Saturday, which is likely to delegate the powers to take a decision to LoP Rahul Gandhi and Sonia Gandhi.

Sonia Gandhi will be returning from abroad on Saturday, the Parliamentary Board will be authorising her to convince any one of the two to abide by the party decision. Meanwhile, former MP and DK Shivakumar's brother DK Suresh has left for Delhi and is expected to hold meetings with the key members of the Parliamentary Board.

Meanwhile, the power transfer issue has turned out to be a caste war between Vokkaliga and Kuruba communities in Karnataka. Since Thursday, key members of both the communities have started issuing statements in favour of their party leaders.

The first statement came through the seer of Adichunchanagiri Mutt Nirmalananda Swamiji, who expressed his disappointment



over the ongoing issue. He said that the community was expecting a Vokkaliga to become chief minister, but does not look to be happening.

Reacting sharply to the statement, seer of Kaginele Mutt Niranjanananda Puri Swamiji, which belongs to Kuruba community said that there was no provision in the Constitution to make someone Chief Minister as per the wishes of swamijis.

However, seer of Nidumamidi mutt Channamallappa Swamiji, which belongs to backward class communities said if Siddaramaiah has promised to transfer power after two and a half years, he has to abide by his words and if there are no such agreements, he should continue as the Chief Minister.

CM-DCM meet

Amid reports of a behind-the-scenes tussle between the two top Karnataka leaders over the Chief Minister's post, the Congress high command has asked Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar to hold a meeting. Following the nudge from the party leadership, the Chief Minister and the Deputy Chief Minister are scheduled to meet for breakfast on Saturday. This will be the first meeting between the two leaders after the intervention by the Congress high command.

PDP chief flays NC govt for scribe's house demolition

SRINAGAR

Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) chief Mehbooba Mufti criticised the demolition of a house of a journalist by the authorities in Jammu, saying the Union territory is suffering the "brutal consequences" of the National Conference (NC) government's decision to dismiss the party's "anti-bulldozer" bill in the assembly recently.

An anti-encroachment drive was carried out on Thursday by the Jammu Development Authority during which bulldozers demolished illegal structures in the Transport Nagar area of the city.

The demolished structures included the house of journalist Arfaz Ahmad.

"These aren't the homes of helpless Muslim families in UP or elsewhere where targeting minorities has become the norm. This is Jammu & Kashmir where Arfaz, a journalist who built a modest home 40 years ago on 3 marlas of land, saw it being crushed to rubble in seconds," Mufti said in a post on X on Friday.

"The NC government dismissed the PDP's anti-bulldozer bill by branding these residents as land grabbers. Today, the brutal consequences of that decision are for all to see," the PDP chief said.

Raj temple gets record ₹51 cr in two months

JAIPUR

The famous Shri Sanwaliaji Temple, popularly known as Shri Sanwaliaji Seth in Chittorgarh, Rajasthan, has received a record Rs 51 crore in donations in just two months. Besides cash donations, two quintals of silver and one kilogram of gold were also received in the temple during this period.

At the same time Rs 10 crore in cash and money orders, along with 219 grams 400 milligrams of gold and 121 kg 593 grams of silver as gifts, were received in the offering room of the temple.

criminal mindset?**Thar owner seeks Hry DGP's apology**

CHANDIGARH

Thar and Bullet riders may appear or sound toughies, there are some who can be very sensitive about their vehicles.

Or that seems to be case of Sarvo Miter, a Gurugram resident and a Mahindra Thar owner who has shot off a legal notice to Haryana director general of police (DGP) OP Singh, seeking a public apology and withdrawal of his remarks that allegedly presented Thar and Bullet motorcycle owners as having "criminal mindset".

His legal notice was sent on Monday, last.

Speaking on the state of affairs of road safety and traffic violations on November 8 last, according to media reports, Singh had remarked before newpersons that most Thar and Bullet riders have a criminal mindset.

The remark whipped up a discussion on social media, with the Thar and Bullet owners as well as vehicle owners calling it a sweeping generalisation. At the said press conference, Singh was explaining why police often stop Thar and Bullet for checks as these were found to have



been frequently associated with the reckless behaviour.

"If it is a Thar, how can we let it go?... All rogue elements use these two. The choice of the vehicles reflects your mindset", he was reported to have quipped in the media reports, citing past incidents,



including the one in which a senior police officer's son was involved in a fatal accident while driving a Thar.

Miter, who bought his Thar in January two years ago for over Rs 30 lakh, said he bought this SUV because of its strong build quality, safety features

and the performance met his requirement for a dependable vehicle for daily travel.

The notice sent by him says that DGP's remark was "mocking, insulting and baseless, causing the complainant embarrassment and stress as friends, relatives and neighbours questioned him after the said video went viral, according to media reports.

The notice further held that the DGP's words carry significant influence and therefore inflicted "grave reputational harm" on Thar owners. The DGP has been asked to tender an unconditional apology within 15 days.

Briefs

LUCKNOW

Maulana Yasoob Abbas Files SIR Form

Maulana Yasoob Abbas, General Secretary of the All India Shia Personal Law Board filled out the SIR form for the voter list in the presence of BLO, he urged the public to participate actively and fill out the forms.

BALLIA

Man dead, wife critical after poison

A domestic dispute in Pashuhari village turned tragic when a couple, Suraj Rajbhar (29) and his wife Shashi (28), consumed a poisonous substance following an argument. Suraj died while being taken to Varanasi for treatment. His wife is undergoing treatment at a private hospital in Mau, where her condition is now reported to be stable. The police stated they are not officially aware of the incident but will act if a formal complaint is lodged.

JAUNPUR

BJP gears up for Graduate Poll

The BJP held a joint meeting for Jaunpur and Machhlishahr districts to strategize for the Legislative Council Graduate Constituency election. Presided over by District President Ajit Prajapati, the meeting featured former MLA Surendra Narayan Singh, who emphasized the goal of winning by a large margin.

LUCKNOW

Play 'Urmila' Set to Stage on December 1

Yayavar Rangmandal will stage the play "Urmila," directed by Mohammad Hafiz, on December 1 at the Raj Umanath Bali Auditorium in Kaiserbagh. The play, written by Ashok Kumar Shrivastav, explores the untold story of Urmila from the Ramayana. The poster was released by director Puneet Mittal, who highlighted the troupe's legacy of over 900 performances across India and its commitment to socially relevant theatre since its establishment.

CHANDAULT

Fake diagnostic centers operate freely in Chakia

An investigation has exposed a rampant racket of unlicensed diagnostic centers in Chakia, operating even in front of the Primary Health Centre (PHC). Centers like 'Care Diagnostic' function without qualified pathologists, using fake doctor stamps on reports. Locals allege the CMO is aware but takes no action, accusing the health department of complicity.

SAHARANPUR

Gravel dumper crushes car, 7 dead

A gravel-laden dumper overturned onto a car in the Gagahedi police station area, crushing the vehicle and killing all seven occupants instantly. The victims were a family traveling to a relative's funeral. The impact was so severe that the car was compressed to two feet. Three cranes were needed to lift the dumper. Commissioner Ropes Kumar and other officials visited the site and the hospital.

PRESIDENTIAL VISIT | President urges youth to build a strong, skilled and compassionate India at Jamboree

One strong person can empower thousands: President Murmu

LUCKNOW

President Draupadi Murmu addressed the closing ceremony of the Bharat Scouts and Guides Diamond Jubilee and the 19th National Jamboree on Friday, urging youth to use their skills, discipline, and compassion to strengthen the nation. She said that young people are not just the makers of India's future but also custodians of its cultural traditions. "Just as one lamp lights many others, one strong and sensitive individual can empower countless people," she remarked.

The President noted that more than 35,000 young participants from across India and 2,000 Scouts and Guides from 25 countries took part in the Jamboree. She encouraged them to exchange experiences and build lasting connections. Highlighting the numerous competitions held during the

**President Murmu emphasises that youth are both the architects of India's future and protectors of its cultural heritage.**

event, she said these activities strengthened team spirit and provided valuable learning opportunities. She stressed that meaningful progress requires both healthy competition and a spirit of cooperation.

President Murmu high-

lighted that India now has over 63 lakh Scouts and Guides, making it one of the world's largest such organisations. She praised the organisation's growing number of female Guides, noting that more than 25 lakh girls are now part of the movement. She said the

Scouts and Guides have consistently promoted discipline, service, and nation-building among youth.

She added that the organisation strengthens national unity by bringing together young people from diverse regions, cultures, and faiths. The President appreciated the organisation's focus on leadership, life skills, environmental awareness, and personality development, calling it essential for preparing an empowered and sensitive new generation. She said achieving the vision of a "Viksit Bharat by 2047" depends on determined efforts from India's youth, and initiatives like "Mera Yuva" play an important role in channeling their potential.

President Murmu also reiterated the Scouts and Guides' motto "Be Prepared," urging youth to develop communication, coordination, leadership, and problem-solving abilities. She praised the Jamboree's

"Green" initiatives, including waste segregation and a plastic-free campus.

The closing ceremony was attended by Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, Mizoram Chief Minister P. Lalduhoma, Deputy Chief Ministers Keshav Prasad Maurya and Brajesh Pathak, national and state officials of the Scouts and Guides, and thousands of participants. President Murmu released a souvenir, while Governor Patel unveiled the Jamboree magazine. The event also featured cultural performances, including Gatka demonstrations, and a march past in which the President took the salute.

At the event, Governor Anandiben Patel said she was honoured to witness the skills displayed by participants. She noted that hosting the Jamboree in Uttar Pradesh after 61 years reflects the state's commitment to a self-reliant and progressive India.

MGNREGA convergence drives large scale anganwadi development



LUCKNOW

Under the leadership and direction of the Deputy Chief Minister, Anganwadi centres are being constructed in large numbers across rural Uttar Pradesh through MGNREGA convergence. Centres that were earlier operating from rented premises are now being shifted to newly built structures under a coordinated effort involving the MGNREGA scheme, the Department of Child Development and the Panchayati Raj Department. Officials have been instructed to ensure that all buildings follow the prescribed standards and that no compromise is made on construction quality.

According to the Rural Development Department,

Over 7,000 Anganwadi centres completed in three years; more than 11,000 currently under construction.

1,984 centres were completed in 2023-24 under this convergence model. The number rose to 3,192 centres in 2024-25. In the ongoing financial year 2025-26, 1,721 centres have already been completed, while 11,042 sites remain under construction.

These centres include provisions for children's play and activity areas, and care has been taken to ensure that no Anganwadi centre is built adjacent to a national highway for safety reasons.

Uttar Pradesh stops use of aadhaar as birth date proof

LUCKNOW

The Uttar Pradesh government has issued a fresh directive restricting the use of Aadhaar cards as proof of date of birth. Following a communication from the Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI), the state has clarified that Aadhaar cannot be used as a valid birth certificate in any government process, service, or verification procedure.

According to the order issued by Amit Singh Bansal, Special Secretary of the Planning Department, UIDAI's regional office in Lucknow stated on October 31, 2025, that the date of birth mentioned on Aadhaar is not verified by the authority. As a result, using Aadhaar as a certified birth document is not permissible.

**UIDAI clarified that Aadhaar birth dates are not verified data, prompting the revised state directive**

The state government noted that despite earlier instructions, some departments were still accepting Aadhaar as a birth-date proof. The fresh order reiterates that such practice must stop immediately. Departments have been instructed to ensure the direc-



tive is implemented at all levels and that Aadhaar is not treated as an acceptable document for confirming age or date of birth. Officials have been asked to monitor compliance and prevent any lapses. The government emphasized that only documents officially designated as birth proof—such as a birth certificate issued by civic authorities—can be used for official purposes.

The revised rule is now in force across Uttar Pradesh, and all departments are required to update their procedures accordingly.

Maharshi University holds sixth convocation

LUCKNOW

The Maharshi University of Information Technology in Lucknow hosted its sixth convocation ceremony today, where a total of 2,455 students received their degrees, diplomas, and PhDs. The event was graced by Chief Guest Professor Sanjeev Mishra, Vice-Chancellor of Atal Bihari Vajpayee Medical University, and Guest of Honor, ISRO scientist Anil Kumar, Director of the Telemetry Tracking Command Network.

Prof. Mishra encouraged graduates to explore the healthcare sector, noting that 70% of medical devices are imported, highlighting a significant scope for innovation in India.

UP's SIR drive sparks political dispute and employee unrest

KAUSHAMBI

Amid widespread protests over the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) process in Uttar Pradesh, MLA Pallavi Patel openly announced that she will not submit the SIR form. During her visit to Gonda on Friday, she said she has all valid documents and questioned the need for filling the form again. Patel also advised voters to fill the form only if they clearly understand it.

She alleged that the SIR exercise resembles earlier announcements that did not progress on the ground and claimed the process could lead to the exclusion of marginalised groups from voter lists. The remarks surfaced as concerns regarding deadlines and workload continued to grow

**Four personnel on SIR duty have died across the state; employee unions demand action and extended deadlines.**

among field staff.

A woman BLO from Mathura stated that booth-level agents of political parties often create pressure, adding that heavy workload has affected her family responsi-

bilities. The demand for extending the SIR deadline by 15 days has been raised in multiple districts.

Four personnel assigned to SIR duty have died so far—one revenue officer and one teacher reportedly died by suicide, while two others died due to medical emergencies during the assignment. In Noida, two women teachers resigned citing work pressure. FIRs have been filed against 21 BLOs in Ghaziabad for alleged negligence.

Employee unions in Mau, Bijnor and Sambhal held protests demanding FIRs against senior officials and compensation for families of deceased staff. In several districts, BLOs have requested more time, stating that the workload is not manageable under current deadlines.

Differentiated care training held to reduce TB mortality

LUCKNOW

A two-day training program on Differentiated TB Care concluded in Lucknow, attended by senior officials from seven North Indian states, including Uttar Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Haryana, Punjab, and others. Dr. Urvashi B. Singh, Deputy Director-General of the Central Health Department, addressed the officials, emphasizing the goal of reducing TB-related mortality by promptly identifying serious cases, linking them to necessary internal and external patient services, and improving treatment outcomes.

She instructed all State TB Officers (STOs) to assimilate the newly released guideline.

Moving bus bursts into flames on highway

KANPUR

A major accident was averted on Friday morning when a moving bus caught fire on the Naubasta-Rama Devi National Highway in Kanpur. The incident occurred around 10:30 am when a Delhi-to-Varanasi passenger bus carrying nearly 35 people suddenly caught fire near the Rama Devi crossing. Within minutes, the flames engulfed the entire vehicle, forcing passengers to jump out through windows to save their lives.

Locals alerted the police, and teams reached the spot immediately. Officers rescued the remaining passengers trapped inside the burning bus. The fire brigade arrived shortly after and brought the blaze under control after intense efforts, but the bus was

**The blaze caused a long traffic jam on the national highway; no casualties were reported**

completely destroyed.

Passengers stated that flames began from the luggage placed on the roof, which may have triggered the massive fire. Thick smoke rising from the burning bus was visible from several kilometers away, causing panic among commuters.

Prisoner's suicide sparks uproar

LAKHIMPUR KHERI

A prisoner identified as Suresh Kumar Verma of Madhopurwa village committed suicide inside the Lakhimpur Kheri District Jail washroom on Friday morning, just one day after being remanded to judicial custody on November 27. Verma had been arrested in connection with a murder case.

The news sparked an angry protest at the police station by his relatives, who refused to allow the post-mortem. They have leveled serious allegations against the Dhaurahra Station House Officer (SHO), Shivaji Dubey, claiming the officer held Verma illegally for three days, subjected him to severe assault, and extorted ₹5 lakh before sending him to jail on false charges.

Teen aies after assault and forced acid intake

LUCKNOW/ HAMIRPUR

A 16-year-old girl from Hamirpur, assaulted and forced to consume acid on October 28 in Jalalpur area, died during treatment at KGMU on Thursday night. According to her father's statement, a minor boy and two youths entered their house and assaulted her, after which she was forced to drink acid, severely damaging her intestines and causing continuous internal bleeding. Following the incident, the girl was taken to Sarila CHC and later referred to Jhansi Medical College, where she remained under treatment for 12 days. With no major improvement, she was shifted to SGPGI, and later to the district hospital and Kanpur's Hallet Medical College. After nearly 15 days of treatment there, she was again referred to SGPGI and finally

**Police arrested one minor accused; investigation continues under stronger charges following the girl's death**

moved to KGMU, where her condition worsened. She reportedly had critically low blood levels at the time of admission. Police arranged emergency blood units on Thursday evening, but her condition deteriorated and she died around 2 am. Officials stated that the case is now being updated to stronger sections following the death.

DJ killed over music during wedding procession

HARDOI

A wedding celebration in Hardoi's Atrauli area turned tragic after the groom's brother-in-law allegedly shot and killed the DJ operator for refusing to play music late at night, citing government restrictions. The deceased, Putilal (45), was shot in the stomach and died on the way to Lucknow for treatment.

The incident occurred around midnight when the groom's brother-in-law, Akash Gautam, Chairman of the Lucknow-based Ishara Group (a real estate company), arrived with his elder brother, Abhishek Gautam, in a Jaguar car. Drunk and demanding music, they reportedly became enraged when Putilal refused to comply.

Ex Congress Minister Shriprakash Jaiswal passes away at 81

KANPUR

Former Union Minister and senior political leader Shriprakash Jaiswal passed away in Kanpur on Friday at the age of 81 after a prolonged illness. According to hospital authorities, his condition deteriorated earlier in the day, and he was rushed to the Kanpur Cardiology Hospital, where doctors declared him dead upon arrival. The hospital's Director of Cardiology confirmed the death.

Born on 25 September 1944 in Kanpur, Jaiswal had a long and influential political career. He represented the Kanpur



Lok Sabha constituency three times, first elected in 1999 and subsequently re-elected in 2004 and 2009. During the UPA government, he held key positions at the national level. From 2004 to 2009, he served as Minister of State for Home Affairs, and later, between 2011 and 2014, he was appointed as the Union Minister of Coal.

Schools set to host massive seven day language festival

LUCKNOW

The School Education Department has announced that a seven-day cultural programme, the Indian Language Festival 2025, will be organised in 1.32 lakh council schools across Uttar Pradesh from 4 to 11 December. Approximately 1.48 crore (14.8 million) students are expected to participate. The initiative follows directions issued by the Ministry of Education, Government of India.

The festival is based on the theme "Many Languages, One



Emotion", and aims to help students develop respect for Indian languages while strengthening their connection with local and mother tongues. According to departmental guidance, the programme is also aligned with the

National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, which emphasises mother-tongue-based learning and linguistic diversity.

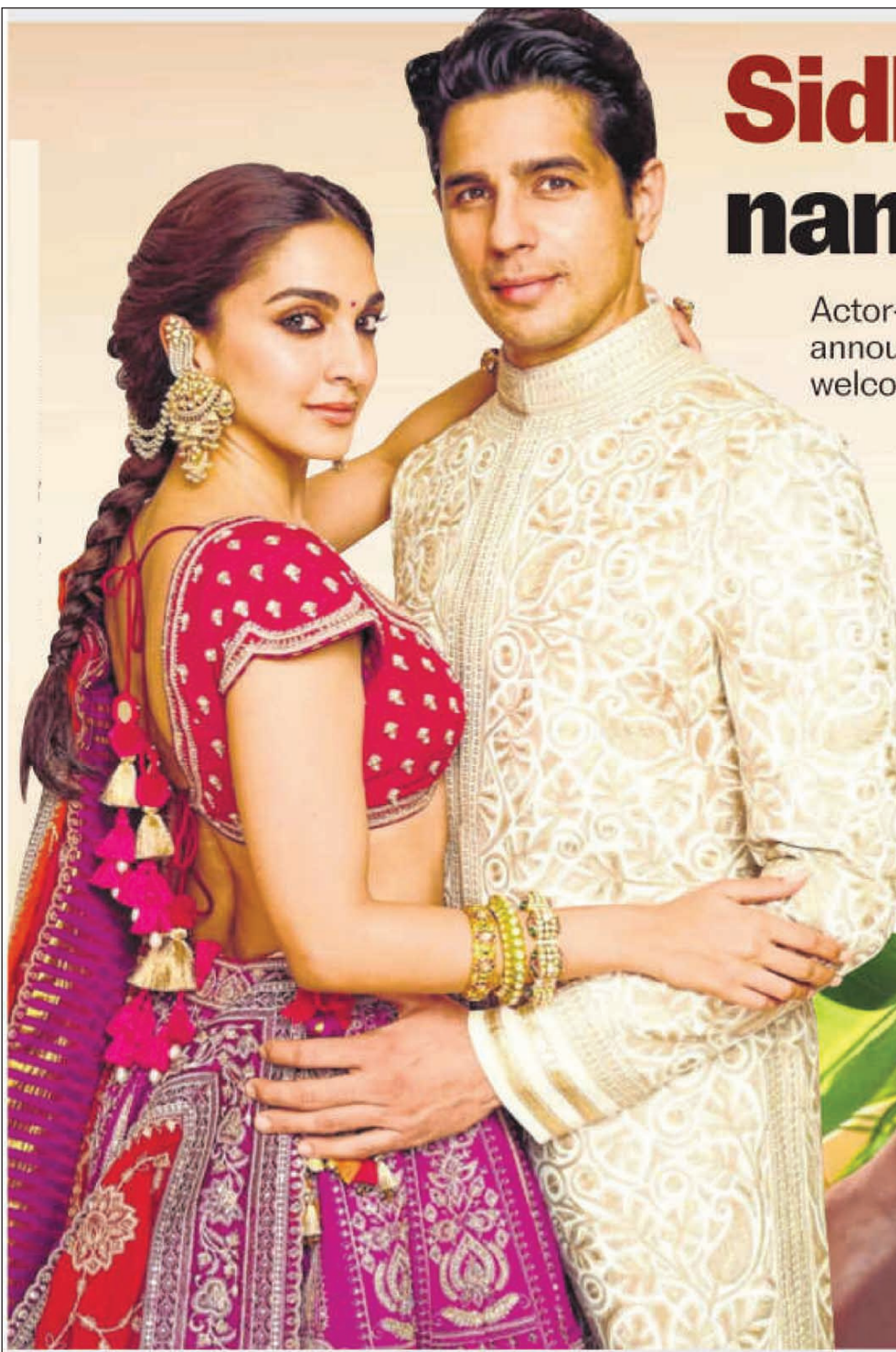
Seven Themed Days of Activities

Each day of the festival will

The theme "Many Languages, One Emotion" aims to strengthen linguistic awareness and cultural sensitivity among students.

focus on a different aspect of India's linguistic and cultural heritage. On 4 December, schools will create Language Trees and Linguistic Heritage Walls where students will present the languages spoken in their homes, regions, and across

the country. On 5 December, students will present poems and songs in multiple Indian languages as part of a poetry-and-music themed day. On 6 December, cultural programmes based on festivals celebrated in different Indian languages will be showcased, along with the Voice of Language Podcast, created by students. The festival will continue on 8 December with the theme Unity in Proverbs, where children will explore proverbs from across states. Under Language Mitra Cooperation, students will teach each other new words from their respective languages.



Sidharth, Kiara name daughter

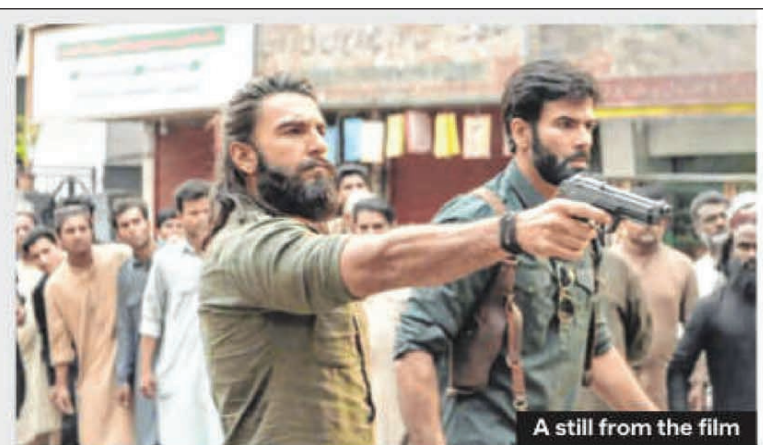
Actor-couple Sidharth Malhotra and Kiara Advani announce their newborn daughter's name, welcoming Saraayah Malhotra into their family

Actor-couple Sidharth Malhotra and Kiara Advani on Friday announced they have named their daughter Saraayah Malhotra. The couple shared the news with a joint Instagram post, which featured both the actors holding the toes of their daughter. "From our prayers, to our arms, our divine blessing, our princess, Saraayah Malhotra," read the caption.

Sidharth, 40, and Kiara, 34, tied the knot in an intimate ceremony at the Suryagarh Palace

in Jaisalmer, Rajasthan, in February 2023. The couple, who worked together for the first time on the acclaimed film *Shershaah* (2021), had kept their relationship private.

They announced the arrival of Saraayah in July with an Instagram post, which read, "Our hearts are full and our world forever changed. We are blessed with a Baby Girl." Sidharth's latest work is *Param Sundari* from Tusshar Jalota. The film also starred Janhvi Kapoor in the lead role. It released on August 29. Kiara featured alongside Hrithik Roshan and Jr NTR in *War 2*. Released in August, the film was directed by Ayan Mukerji and is a sequel to the 2019 film *War*.



A still from the film

Dhurandhar in legal trouble

Late Major Mohit Sharma's family moves Delhi High Court, seeks stay on release of Ranveer Singh starrer

Ranveer Singh starrer *Dhurandhar* is one of the most-awaited films of the year. The movie is inspired by true events, and some of the reports claimed that it is based on the life of the late Major Mohit Sharma. While filmmaker Aditya Dhar recently confirmed that his film is not based on Sharma's life, the latter's family has moved to the Delhi High Court seeking a stay on the release of *Dhurandhar*.

According to a report in Bar and Bench, the petition says that the movie seems to be based on the real-life, secret missions, and death of a well-known Special Forces officer, Major Sharma, but the filmmakers never took permission from the Indian Army or his family.

It also states that important parts of Major Sharma's life, especially his undercover anti-terror operations in Kashmir, appear to be shown in the movie's trailer and promotions. In the petition, the family also stated that while some media reports have

linked the film's story to Major Sharma's life, the filmmakers have neither admitted this nor spoken to them about it.

Sharma's family says that the film not only violates the rights of the martyred under Article 21 of the Constitution, but also affects their privacy and dignity because it portrays him without their permission.

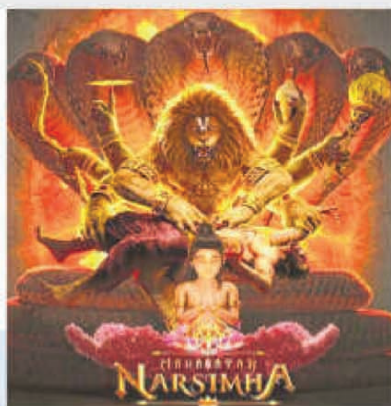
In the petition, concerns about national security are also raised. The family have urged the Court to stay the release of *Dhurandhar* and order a private screening of the film for them.

The Union Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, the Central Board of Film Certification, the ADGPI, the film's director and co-producer Aditya Dhar, and producer Jio Studios have been named as the respondents in the petition.

Mahavatar Narsimha enters Oscars

Animated film *Mahavatar Narsimha* enters 2026 Oscar race, competing with global hits for Best Animated Feature Film

India's mythological animated film *Mahavatar Narsimha* has leapt to the global stage by entering the Oscar race for the Best Animated Feature Film at the 98th Academy Awards. The Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences (AMPAS) has released a list of 35 animated feature films under consideration for Best Animated



Feature at the 2026 Oscars.

Mahavatar Narsimha will be facing the competition from stellar hits like *KPop Demon Hunter*, *Zootopia 2* and *Demon Slayer: Kimetsu no Yaiba Infinity Castle*. In an official statement, AMPAS wrote, "Thirty-five features are eligible for consideration in the Animated Feature Film category for the 98th Academy Awards. Some of the films have not yet had their required qualifying release and must fulfil that requirement and comply with all the category's other qualifying rules to advance in the voting process." The final five nominees will be released later after the voting process.



SCIFF 2025 inspires students through cinema

Mumbai witnessed a special screening of *Little Thomas* at Pragnya Bodhini High School, Goregaon, as part of the 8th School Cinema International Film Festival (SCIFF) 2025. The event brought together over 900 students and notable guests, including National Award-winning filmmaker Kaushal Oza and child actor Hridansh Parekh.

Acclaimed actor Rasika Dugal also conducted a masterclass, "The Magic of Acting," giving students practical insights into performance and storytelling.

SCIFF 2025, running until November 30, aims to engage students across 41,000 schools nationwide, showcasing 100+ films from 25 countries. The



Over 900 students attend SCIFF 2025 screening in Mumbai, exploring creativity, empathy and cinema through workshops and masterclasses

festival's "WATCH, LEARN, MAKE" initiative encourages learning through cinema, workshops, and filmmaking competitions. Festival Director Syed Sultan Ahmed emphasized cinema's power to ignite curiosity, creativity, and empathy among young learners.

'I like to surprise my audience and myself,' says Aamir Khan

The last Fireside Chat of the 56th International Film Festival of India (IFFI), titled "The Narrative Architect of Social Transformation and Inclusivity," saw noted actor-filmmaker Aamir Khan address a packed Kala Academy.

Moderated by acclaimed film critic Baradwaj Rangan, the session began with a tribute to legendary actor Dharmendra. Aamir recalled, "Though hailed as the He-Man of Indian cinema, he excelled in all genres. His passing is a profound personal and artistic loss."

Aamir reflected on his lifelong love for stories, inspired by childhood tales from his grandmother and radio dramas like *Hawa Mahal*. "I've always been drawn to stories—they've guided every choice I've made as an actor," he said.

The actor revealed his instinct-driven approach to cinema: "I like to surprise my audience and myself. I can't repeat myself. I look for stories that feel fresh, unique, and creatively exciting," he explained.



Actor Aamir Khan shares insights on instinct-driven filmmaking, storytelling and surprising audiences, reflecting on his journey and socially resonant films

On addressing social themes, he added, "Many of my films reflect social issues, but that happened organically, not by design. My primary objective is to entertain my audience." He credited the writers of *Taare Zameen Par*, *3 Idiots*, *Dangal*, and *Laapata Ladies* for creating the worlds and characters that moved him.



Ramesh Sippy celebrates 50 years of Sholay

Cinema lovers were taken on a nostalgic journey as legendary filmmaker Ramesh Sippy, creator of the iconic *Sholay*, shared insights at an "In-Conversation" session titled "50 Years of Sholay: Why Sholay Still Resonates?" during the 56th International Film Festival of India (IFFI).

Hosted by his wife, actor-producer Kiran Sippy, the session was filled with stories, revelations, and heartfelt tributes. Ramesh Sippy reflected on the making of the film, which became a cultural milestone in Hindi cinema.

In a treat for fans, Sippy an-

nounced the re-release of *Sholay*—this time with its original ending intact. When the film first released in 1975, the censor board had objected to the climax where Thakur Baldev Singh kills Gabbar Singh using spiked shoes, citing that a police officer could not be shown seeking revenge. The ending had to be re-shot at the time.

"Now you will see the movie as it was made," Sippy told the audience, celebrating the restoration of his original creative vision. The announcement sparked excitement among cinephiles eager to experience the *Sholay* as it was meant to be seen.

STORYTELLING, CULTURE, AND NATION-BUILDING

At the IFFI, National Award-winning filmmaker Ram Madhvani and acclaimed producer Mahaveer Jain shared insights on storytelling, culture, and nation-building. The session, titled "The Power and Impact of Our Stories on Nation Building," explored how cinema shapes values and reflects India's rich cultural heritage. Madhvani highlighted India's storytelling legacy, saying, "Our responsibility is to craft stories that not only entertain but also carry forward the values, questions, and memories that define us. Storytelling is a sacred act." Jain emphasized the global relevance of India's ancient wisdom, urging filmmakers to propagate it through cinema. Madhvani also spoke about his cinematic approach, expressing his fascination with tragedy and the emotional catharsis it can evoke in audiences. IFFI continues to serve as a platform for filmmakers and producers to celebrate cinema's role in shaping culture, identity, and national narratives.



Siva restoration reveals struggles

Superstar Nagarjuna and CV Rao revealed the challenges behind the 4K restoration of Ram Gopal Varma's cult classic *Siva* at the 56th IFFI. The 1989 blockbuster, starring Nagarjuna, Amala, and Raghuvaran, faced sticky negatives, torn frames, scratches, and two damaged audio reels. Rao described painstaking frame-by-frame cleaning, ultrasonic treatments, and tracking old prints from exhibitors to recover missing audio. Nagarjuna called the remastered version "stunning," adding it allowed classic films to come alive with modern visuals and Dolby Atmos sound. *Siva* was re-released on November 14, 2025, celebrating 50 years of Annapurna Studios and its enduring legacy in Indian cinema.



Pics: Instagram, @iffigoa/PIB

Briefs

NEW DELHI

India to host SL for five WT20Is



The Indian women's team will take on Sri Lanka in a five-match T20I series in Visakhapatnam and Trivandrum from December 21 to 30, the BCCI said on Friday, days after a scheduled rubber against Bangladesh was postponed due to political tensions between the two countries. This will be the first assignment for the 'Women in Blue' after their ODI World Cup-winning campaign earlier this year. "The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) announces the schedule for the upcoming Women's T20I series as India hosts Sri Lanka for a five-match contest next month. The series will begin in Visakhapatnam before moving to Thiruvananthapuram for the remaining fixtures," the BCCI said in a statement.

NEW DELHI

Mhatre to lead India in U19 Asia Cup



Promising batter **Ayush Mhatre** was on Friday retained as captain of a 15-member Indian team for the upcoming U19 Asia Cup in which the focus will be again on teen batting sensation Vaibhav Sooryavanshi. The age-group continental tournament will be held in Dubai from December 12-21 in 50-overs format. Mhatre had also led India during a multi-format tour of Australia in September and October. Vihaan Malhotra has been appointed as the vice-captain for the tournament which will serve as a preparatory ground for the U19 World Cup, to be played in Zimbabwe and Namibia in January-February next year.

NEW DELHI

Pune Grand Tour from Jan 19-23



The inaugural edition of the Pune Grand Tour, the country's first-ever Union Cycliste Internationale 2.2 category Road Race, will be held from January 19 to 23. Hosts India will field two

GSPBL | Co-founder Shashank Khaitan feels Indian players will benefit immensely

Growth of pickleball enormous: Khaitan

MUMBAI

With the Global Sports Pickleball League (GSPBL) scheduled from December 16-23 at the Andheri Sports Complex, Global Sports Pickleball co-founder **Shashank Khaitan** shared his thoughts on pickleball, its growth and potential and much more in this exclusive Q&A with

Q. I'll just start off by asking, what are your thoughts on the Global Sports Pickleball League starting on December 16th?..Your expectations from the league..

A. We're really looking forward to showcasing this to the world, our partnerships in terms of our streaming broadcasting partners with Zee5 coming on board. So we're really, I think, seeing a surge in pickleball. We're also seeing a surge in the world wanting to watch it and come and play. And for us specifically with the league, with us having such a grand event spread over almost 8 days of December. We're really hoping that people, not just the players, but also a lot of people come and just participate, view it, and really see what pickleball is all about.

Q. Shashank, how do you see the growth of pickleball in the last couple of years and the potential it has going forward as a popular sport?

A. I think the growth and potential both have been enormous and I think Global Sports as a company had seen it three years back. And we've been actually meticulously working towards building it and growing it for the last three years. In fact, a lot of the growth that you see today is because of the marketing push and the celebrity collaborations Global Sports managed to

bring to the game from where pickleball actually became a household name. Even if people have not played it or seen it, they've heard of it. And I think that was a real early battle for us to fight for the first year, year and a half. So the growth has been amazing. I think the potential of Indian players is amazing. Some of the Indian players have been creating their name world over, really competing with the best in the world. And I think even from a standpoint of what the game is, I think India is going to be a key contender even when it comes to Olympics and other key tournaments. I think what's really important is how all the stakeholders of the game in India, whether it's the federations, associations and private players like us continue to build pickleball in its right way and ensure that players have opportunities, coaches, managers have opportunities and more and more people can make a career out of pickleball. And I think once that starts happening, it will actually penetrate the system much deeper.

Q. Shashank, this initiative of yours is not just targeted at promoting pickleball through professional leagues, but there is also an emphasis on coaching camps and player development programs. Could you just elaborate on that aspect?

A. Yes, absolutely. Coaching camps, player development programs and also something for who we called the people who love playing the game, maybe not professionally. So for the lack of a better word, calling them amateurs or challenger level players. Our idea is really to create pickleball into this community activity, which can be sports, which can be fun, which can be recreation. And then it can be a pro sport as well. We also want to help bring in early training into pickleball so that less

and less injuries happen. People start training for pickleball at an early age. As with every sport, the more you know about it, the better you get about it. And soon we start seeing people from a very young age compete professionally as well. And then the guys who are 30+, 40+, 50+, 60+, they also come and experience tournaments on an everyday basis, experience the joy of this game. So I think for us, that is really, really critical that how a person who wants to become a pro player versus someone who also just wants to play it for recreation ends up having equal amount of fun.

Q. Shashank, talk us a bit through the events that Global Sports Pickleball has hosted so far and your experience with the conduct of those events.

A. So we have actually scattered it from an events perspective into 3-4 small bits. One is our marquee events, which this year we are doing one of the biggest marquee events in the world called the Indian Pickleball Grand Slam, which happens in December along with the leagues 16th to 23rd. Other than that, we have created certain IPs called the Indian Open and the Monsoon Pickleball Championships, which have been events we have been running for the last 3 years. They are events which the world has taken notice to. Some of the best players across the world like to come and play that and it has really made a global mark. And then besides that, we do a lot of smaller tournaments in different cities of India. We have a tournament happening in Goa in fact, as we speak, it's going on. It's over this weekend. We have done events in Ahmedabad. We have done events in Surat, in Baroda. And the idea is to keep going into smaller towns as well. So that the scope of pickleball increases, the awareness of pickleball increases, people realize

that there are tournaments and leagues happening across the world. And of course, the idea of the league was to really ensure that there are more stakeholders of the game working towards growing pickleball. So that's how we have always kind of looked at things. And so, this combination of tournaments, leagues, infrastructure, trying to build some of the best courts around. And then as you already mentioned, the coaching programs, the player signings. Just overall ensure that there is a massive boost to the whole pickleball ecosystem. Lovely. Shashank, you are from the world of entertainment and the movies primarily.

Q. How did pickleball happen to you and what got you hooked on to the sport?

A. I think I have always been an athlete all my life. I started playing tennis very, very early in life. And I have played the junior international circuit. I have played multiple other sports as well. So, even as I continue to be a film-maker and work in the film industry, I was always connected to sport from a recreational perspective or an exercise perspective. And it was during one of these tennis games that I actually discovered pickleball. And genuinely the first time I played the game, I felt deeply connected to the game. I really felt that this is my game. This is something I want to do something in. And that's how the idea of finding who the best people in the business are. That's how I found Global Sports. And then we started chalking out a plan of saying how do we create this into one of the premier companies promoting pickleball all across India and the world and the Middle East came about. So, it came from two things.

One is my passion for sport and just as a player. And one is also a business opportunity to see what more we can do with this game and how can we really expand the portfolio of Indian sport.

Q. Just one last question, Shashank, what would you tell sports lovers who would be eager to attend Global Sports Pickleball League in December? What can they look forward to? Your opinion.

A. I think multiple things. One is great quality pickleball. Secondly, an opportunity to just come and try. There are going to be multiple courts over there. So, even players coming in, the idea is that beginner level, never played a sport, can come, pick up a paddle, try and hit a few balls around and really experience the world of pickleball. Also, experience the world of the pickleball community. Just to see so many different pickleballers from across the world come in over there, showcase their talent, that will be something exciting.



Chameera stars as Sri Lanka beat Pakistan, enter final

Opening batter Kamil Mishra's 76 off 48 balls had earlier anchored Sri Lanka to 184-5 batting first

RAWALPINDI

Fast bowler **Dushmantha Chameera** (2nd left) grabbed 4-20 and stifled Pakistan in the final over as Sri Lanka breezed into the final of the T20 tri-series with a six-run victory on Thursday.

Pakistan, which had already qualified for Saturday's final with three successive wins, was held to 178-7 with captain Salman Ali Agha's career-best unbeaten 63 going in vain.

Opening batter Kamil Mishra's 76 off 48 balls had earlier anchored Sri Lanka to 184-5 in a game the team had to win in order to reach the final instead of Zimbabwe.

"Proud of how the boys bounced back," Sri Lanka captain Dasun Shanaka said. "Everybody contributed. . Of course Chameera (exhibited) world-class bowling." Chameera dented Pakistan's chase with figures of 3-3 in the power play and then returned for the final over to concede just three runs when Pakistan



required 10 for victory.

The tall fast bowler deceived Sahibzada Farhan (9) with a slower ball and had him caught at short cover before pinning Pakistan's premier batter Babar Azam lbw for two-ball duck.

Left-handed batter Saim Ayub (27) once again couldn't convert his aggressive start off 18 balls before he dragged Eshan Malinga back onto his stumps.

Chameera had Pakistan on the mat at 4-43 in the sixth over when Fakhar Zaman holed out at mid-on.

Agha and Usman Khan (33) put the chase back on track with an aggressive 56-run

Proud of how the boys bounced back. Everybody contributed. Of course Chameera (exhibited) world-class bowling

Dushmantha Chameera
Sri Lanka pacer

stand before Wanindu Hasaranga broke through in the 13th over and Khan sliced a catch to short third.

LUCKNOW

Ayush Mhatre's 53-ball 110 not out and India all-rounder Shivam Dube's unbeaten 39 powered Mumbai to a comprehensive seven-wicket victory over Vidarbha in their Elite Group A match of the Syed Mushtaq Ali T20 Trophy here on Friday.

The defending champions recovered from early blows riding on Mhatre's knock to overhaul the target of 193 with 13 balls to spare, making 194/3 in 17.5 overs at the Ekana Stadium.

The 18-year-old Mhatre peppered the on-side with eight sixes and hit an overall eight boundaries to make his maiden T20 ton.

Mumbai were rocked twice as Darshan Nalkande trapped Ajinkya Rahane (0) in the second over and then they lost Hardik Tamore (1) to slip to 21/2.

India T20I captain Suryakumar Yadav continued with his return to form with a strokeful 35 off 30 balls with four fours and a six, while put-



Brief scores

Vidarbha 192/9 in 20 overs (Atharva Taide 64, Aman Mokhadde 61; Atharva Ankolekar 2/30, Shivam Dube 3/31, Sairaj Patil 3/33) lost to **Mumbai** 194/3 in 17.5 overs (Ayush Mhatre 110 not out, Suryakumar Yadav 35, Shivam Dube 39 not out; Darshan Nalkande 1/35) by 7 wickets. **Railways** 149/7 in 20 overs (Navneet Virk 32, Ravi Singh

25; NM Sharafuddeen 2/32, KM Asif 3/27, Akhil Scaria 2/18) beat **Kerala** 117/8 in 20 overs (Sanju Samson 19; Atal Bihari Rai 3/23, Shivam Chaudhary 2/19) by 32 runs. **Andhra** 184/7 in 20 overs (KS Bharat 42, Ashwin Hebbar 39, Ricky Bhui 47; Bipal Samantaray 3/20) beat **Odisha** 118 in 17.2 overs (Sourav K Gowda 24; Prithvi Raj Yarra 3/4, Saurabh Kumar 3/23) by 66 runs.

ting on 88 runs for the third wicket with Mhatre to lead Mumbai's revival.

However, Yash Thakur had Suryakumar caught by Yash

Rathod in the 12th over which brought Dube at the crease.

Dube hit three sixes and three fours to make 39 not out from only 19 balls, adding 85

runs from only 35 balls.

Earlier, half-centuries from Atharva Taide (64) and Aman Mokhadde (61) took Vidarbha to a formidable 192 for nine.

Openers Taide and Mokhadde set the platform for Vidarbha with their 115-run stand inside the first 10 overs, but yet they finished under 200.

Taide made 64 off 36 balls with nine fours and a six, whereas Mokhadde displayed his all-round game to hit two sixes and seven fours in his 61 off only 30 balls. But courtesy Dube's 3/31 and Sairaj Patil's 3/33, Mumbai were able to keep Vidarbha to 192 for nine.

In the morning, India wicketkeeper-batter Sanju Samson fell for a 25-ball 19 in Kerala's 32-run defeat against Railways. Samson was dismissed by Karn Sharma in the 10th over with Kerala slipping to 43 for three, and they failed to resurrect their chase, making a modest 117 for eight in 20 overs in reply to Railways' 149/7. Andhra crushed Odisha by 66 runs after Prithvi Raj Yarra and Saurabh Kumar shared six wickets.

Rolls Royce Phantom

Poonawalla to create history at the 1000 Miglia Rally

MUMBAI

India's foremost classic car collector and industrialist Yohan Poonawalla is ready to make history by becoming the first collector worldwide to showcase seven Rolls Royce Phantoms at a single venue. The extravagant collection will be displayed at the 1000 Miglia rally in the UAE. Two among these seven Phantoms will take to the open roads and five will join

the curated display, as India's finest collection is set to take the centre stage at the world's most prestigious classic car rally.

The exceptional automobile collection will include a 1928 Rolls-Royce 17 EX Phantom I previously owned by the Maharaja of Kashmir, a 1933 Rolls-Royce Phantom II previously owned by Sir Captain Malcolm Campbell, a 1937 Rolls-Royce Phantom III previously owned by the Maharaja of Panchkote, a

1962 Rolls-Royce Phantom V previously owned by the Ruler of Qatar, a 1979 Rolls-Royce Phantom VI owned by Queen Elizabeth II, a 2005 Rolls-Royce Phantom VII which was the first Phantom to come to India post re-launch and the 2024 Rolls-Royce Phantom VIII the last extended wheelbase with privacy suite in the world.

All seven will be exhibited as part of the curated 'Phantom Centenary Exhibition' to celebrate 100

years of Rolls Royce Phantom from 1925 to 2025. The Phantom VI and Phantom VII will take to the open roads, participating in the rally itself, traversing through scenic routes across the Emirates alongside some of the world's most celebrated automobiles such as Stirling Moss' Mille Miglia winning 300 SLR.

The mega event, which will be hosted from Nov 30 to Dec 4, is considered to be one of the world's most pres-

tigious and exclusive classic car rallies. Hosted by Octanium Experiences, in collaboration with 1000 Miglia Srl Italy, this year's rally unites 120 teams and collectors from around the globe in a five-day celebration of heritage, design and driving passion.

"Representing India for the fourth time in a row at the 1000 Miglia Experience UAE is a proud and emotional moment," Poonawalla said.

