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इन्बॉक्स INBOX

## 'Even Trump doesn't know ... ': Army chief flags fog of 'clueless' future

**NEW DELHI:** Army chief General Upendra Dwivedi on Saturday addressed a gathering in his hometown Rewa in Madhya Pradesh, where he reflected on Operation Sindoor, spoke about the future of warfare, and even took a dig at US President Donald Trump over his unpredictable statements and recent claims about mediating peace between India and Pakistan. Speaking at an event at TRS College, General Dwivedi highlighted the uncertainty and complexity of emerging global challenges. He said, "... Future challenges are coming. They're instability, uncertainty, complexity, and ambiguity... You and I are completely clueless about what the future holds." "Even Trump Doesn't Know...": Army Chief on Rapidly Evolving Security Challenges

He then added, "What is Trump doing today? I think even Trump doesn't know what he is going to do tomorrow. Challenges are coming so quickly that by the time you try to grasp an old challenge, a new one emerges, and the same security challenges our military faces. Whether it's on the border, terrorism, natural disasters, or cyber warfare. The new things that have started: space warfare.

## Teacher caned kids for discipline, not to harm, says HC; quashes case

**KOCHI:** Kerala high court has set aside a criminal case against a Palakkad school-teacher who caned three class 5 students for fighting, ruling that he acted within his authority to maintain classroom discipline. Justice C Pratheep Kumar, delivering the order on Oct 16, said the teacher's actions were aimed at correcting the students and helping them grow into responsible citizens, not at causing harm. The case had been registered by Vadakkencherry police after parents complained that the teacher struck their children on the legs during class at 10am on Sept 16.

## At the stroke of midnight, India awake as World Champions!

### 'We are the champions!': Harmanpreet's leap & India's glory



**NAVI MUMBAI:** The ending of the fairytale called India's maiden Women's World Cup triumph couldn't have been more fitting. Chasing a low full toss, South African big-hitter Nadine de Klerk, who had smashed a 54-ball 84 not out in the league phase to inflict a three-wicket defeat on India, chipped the ball to extra cover, where Indian captain Harmanpreet Kaur jogged backwards to take the catch. Having slammed a valuable half-century (58, 58b, 3x4, 1x6) earlier, Deepti Sharma took a five-for (5 for 39 in 9.3 overs), making the final her own with both bat and ball while fashioning India's biggest-ever victory in women's

cricket. Soon after, a 45,000-strong crowd, along with the Indian team, broke into celebrations, with Harman and the Women in Blue breaking into tears of joy. Finally, the Indian women's cricket team's '83 moment had arrived. Fighting back after suffering three defeats on the trot that had put their World Cup campaign in danger,

India won the three matches that mattered to cross the line — at last, after numerous heart-breaks. Outclassing South Africa by 52 runs in the final of the 2025 Women's ODI World Cup at the DY Patil Stadium on Sunday night, with 45,000 fans cheering them, India finally put an end to their long wait for an

elusive World Cup crown. A billion hearts can now celebrate the Women in Blue's memorable, historic, game-changing triumph for women's cricket in India for a long time to come — courtesy of a player who wasn't even in the reserves! "God has sent me here to do something good," Shafali Verma had said before India slayed giants Australia in the semifinals, thanks to a brilliant hundred by Jemimah Rodrigues. Unfurling a blistering, career-best 87 (78b, 7x4, 2x6), which helped India post 298 for six after being asked to bat first, and later taking two for 36 in seven overs, Shafali Verma — marking a fairytale .

## 'Our World Cup began that night': Kaur on how one defeat united India to script history



**India's** women's cricket team captain Harmanpreet Kaur revealed how intense criticism after their loss against England brought the team closer together, leading to their first World Cup victory. Speaking at a post-match press conference in Navi Mumbai on Sunday, she emphasized how the team's unity strengthened following their challenging period of consecutive losses. The Indian team faced a difficult phase when they lost three consecutive matches against

South Africa, Australia, and England. The England match was particularly devastating as India failed to chase down a target of 289 despite being well-positioned at 234 for 3. Following the England defeat, head coach Amol Mijundar confronted the team while external critics called for leadership changes. "Not a single player said 'what will happen now' when things were not going well, especially after the heart-breaking loss against England.

## Bihar polls: Opinion poll predicts close victory for NDA

**NEW DELHI:** Janata Dal (United) led- National Democratic Alliance in Bihar is set to retain power in the upcoming assembly elections, an opinion poll by JVC Poll predicted on Saturday. According to the survey report, the NDA is projected to secure 120 to 140 seats in the 243-member Bihar assembly, while the MGB could win 93 to 112 seats. Meanwhile, BJP is expected to be largest party in the assembly with 70 to 81 seats. The survey



also predicted that JD(U) may win 42 to 48, LJP (RV) 5 to 7, HAM(S) 2, and RLM 1 to 2. Within Mahahathbandhan, RJD could get 69 to 78, Congress 9 to 17, CPI(ML) 12 to 14, CPI 1,

and CPM 1 to 2. Poll strategist-turned-politician Prashant Kishor's Jan Suraj Party might open its account with only one seat. Meanwhile, AIMIM, BSP, and others are likely to secure 8 to 10 seats. According to the JVC Poll survey, Tejashwi Yadav is the most preferred face for the chief ministerial post with 33 per cent support. Nitish Kumar finished second with 29 per cent and Chirag Paswan and Prashant Kishor at third with 10 per cent each.

## Taliban to appoint its 1st diplomat in Delhi this month

**NEW DELHI:** India and Afghanistan are set to further ramp up their diplomatic relations with the appointment of a diplomat by the Taliban regime here this month. This will be the first official placement of a diplomat by the Taliban in India since their return to Kabul in August 2021 and will be followed - as conveyed by Kabul to Indian authorities - by the appointment of another diplomat in late December or early January. The relationship has progressed steadily this year, culminating in an unprecedented visit by foreign minister Amir Khan Muttaqi to India last month. India has reinforced its role as a trusted partner of



Afghanistan with its continued supply of aid and medical supplies to the country, even in the absence of an official recognition by the Indian govt of the dispensation in Kabul. Muttaqi's visit saw India announcing its decision to upgrade its technical mission in Kabul to the level of embassy and also agreeing to accept Taliban diplomats. Both sides are expected to soon have a charge d'affaires leading their respective

missions. A Taliban spokesperson on Sunday expressed appreciation for India's donation of over 16 tonnes of anti-vector-borne disease medicines. "This latest donation underscores India's longstanding partnership and developmental support to Afghanistan. By contributing essential medical supplies, India reaffirms its role as a reliable partner in promoting health, stability and humanitarian cooperation.

## Operation Sindoor gave them sleepless nights': PM Modi

**India's** retaliatory strikes in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir had left the Congress' "first family"



**NEW DELHI:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday brought up Operation Sindoor during a campaign rally in poll-bound Bihar, say-

ing that India's retaliatory strikes in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir had left the Congress' "first family"

"sleepless" - a reference to the Gandhis. "Blasts were happening in Pakistan during Operation Sindoor, but

the Congress' first family was spending sleepless nights here (in India)," PM Modi said, according to news agency PTL. PM Modi Hails Operation Sindoor, Says India Breaking Backbone of Terrorists Operation Sindoor, carried out in the early hours of May 7, was India's response to the killing of 26 civil-

ians by Pakistan-backed terrorists in Jammu and Kashmir's Pahalgam on April 22. Following the strikes, India and Pakistan engaged in cross-border exchanges until a ceasefire was reached on May 10 at Islamabad's request. However, US President Trump took the lead in announcing the ceasefire.

## 'Got a panic attack': Rahul mocks PM at Bihar rally; claims Modi 'scared of Trump'

**"Having a huge chest does not make you strong. Just look at Mahatma Gandhi, who had a frail build"**



**NEW DELHI:** Congress leader and leader of opposition in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi on Sunday accused Prime Minister Narendra Modi of being "scared" of US Donald Trump and "remote-controlled" by

industrialists Mukesh Ambani and Gautam Adani.As per news agency PTL, addressing a public rally in Begusarai district, Gandhi said, "Having a huge chest does not make you strong. Just look at Mahatma

Gandhi, who had a frail build but took on the British, who were the superpowers of the time." Taking a jibe at the Prime Minister, he added, "Narendra Modi, with his boast of a 56-inch chest, got a panic attack when Trump called him during Operation Sindoor, and the military conflict with Pakistan ended in two days. He is not just scared of Trump, but is also being remote-controlled by Ambani.

## MP: In-laws demand buffalo for dowry, woman consumes acid; dies

**BHOPAL:** A 21-year-old newlywed woman died after consuming acid in Gwalior district of Madhya Pradesh, allegedly unable to bear the daily harassment by her in-laws who demanded a 'Murrah' buffalo as dowry. Police have registered a case against her husband and four family members for dowry harassment and abetment to suicide. Vimlesh Baghel got married to Dinesh Baghel.

## US, China embrace leaves India out in the cold

**Washington:** In what appears to be a tectonic shift in American foreign policy and world order, US President Donald Trump has openly embraced China as a functional equal, heralding a new duopoly that jettisons Washington's decade-plus view of Beijing as an existential threat, while leaving other powers like EU, Russia, India, and Japan as also-rans. Shortly after announcing "THE G2 WILL BE CONVENING SHORTLY!"



ahead of his meeting with China's President Xi Jinping last week, Trump doubled down on the formulation on Saturday, confirming that it is more than a tactical ploy. "My G2 meeting with President Xi of China was a great one for both of our countries. This meeting

will lead to everlasting peace and success. God bless both China and the USA!" he posted on X. US defense secretary Pete Hegseth followed Trump's post, saying he agreed with the President that the relationship between the US and China "has never been better."

After Trump's meeting with Xi, Hegseth said he had an "equally positive meeting" with his counterpart, China's minister of national defense Admiral Dong Jun in Malaysia, where incidentally he also signed a ten-year defense framework agreement with India's defence minister Rajnath Singh. "The (Chinese) Admiral and I agree that peace, stability, and good relations are the best path for our two great and strong countries.

## 'Put katta on Congress's head': PM on how RJD got oppn to accept Tejashwi as CM face

**NEW DELHI:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday sharpened his attack on the Opposition's INDIA bloc during his campaign rallies in Bihar's Arrah, Bhojpur, and Nawada districts, alleg-

ing that the Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) "forced" the Congress to announce Tejashwi Yadav as their chief ministerial candidate. As per PTL, PM Modi claimed that the Congress "never want-

ed" Tejashwi to be declared the alliance's CM face but was pressured into doing so. "The RJD secured it by placing a katta (country-made gun) on the head of the Congress. They have learnt their lessons

in the school of jungle raj. Such elements can never do good for Bihar," he said at a rally in Bhojpur. The Prime Minister alleged that the RJD's "hooliganism" and "strong-arm politics" reflected the party's

old ways of governance. PM said, "Just a day before nomination filing, behind closed doors, gundagardi was happening. Congress did not want to have an RJD CM, but RJD did not leave the opportunity.

## Women's World Cup: Rawal, Smriti centuries fire India into semifinals

**Navi Mumbai:** Dishing out a clinical brand of cricket when it mattered the most, India outplayed New Zealand by 53 runs (via DLS method) to

make it into the semifinals of the 2025 Women's World Cup as the fourth team at the DY Patil Stadium on Thursday night. The prolific opening

pair of Smriti Mandhana (109 off 95 balls) and Pratika Rawal (122 off 134 balls) slammed scintillating hundreds, while returning to the XI.



## Bharat Ratna Vallabhbhai Patel was the messiah of the poor: Shanti Prakash

**Mauaima.** Bharat Ratna Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel was the messiah of the poor, also known as the Iron Man. Senior social worker Shanti Prakash Patel made these remarks at a program held in Chhata Kanchanpur village of Mauaima on Sunday. On this occasion, he garlanded Sardar Patel's portrait and said that everyone should follow the path shown by Bharat Ratna Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, the symbol of India's unity and integrity, the architect of modern India, a great freedom fighter, and India's first Home Minister. Present on the occasion were Aaship Patel, Sabha Lal Patel, Ram Abhilash Patel, Ram Prasad Patel, Ram Kailash Patel, Naveen Patel, Patti Devi, Manoj Gautam, and others.

## RIL makes record profit amid oil decline

**Delhi :** India's most valuable company, Reliance Industries Ltd., surpassed predictions to register a strong increase in revenue and profit for the April-June quarter, driven by better telecoms and retail profitability despite crude-based difficulties. Profits from its Asian Paints disposal also boosted the bottom line. According to an investor presentation, Reliance's new energy business's production plants—which will drive its growth over the next decade—are being commissioned quickly. The new energy business would create solar modules, generate clean electricity from them, use electrons to run data centres.

## Under the Chief Minister Mass Marriage Scheme, an event will be held at the District Sports Stadium on November 2nd

**Hathas**

In order to ensure the successful completion of the proposed mass marriage and tricycle distribution program in Hathras, District Magistrate Atul Vats, along with Superintendent of Police Chiranjeev Nath Sinha, inspected the venue and reviewed the preparations. The District Magistrate reviewed the entire program through the layout plan. He directed that ID cards be issued to ensure the identification of officers and employees deployed block-wise for the program and a dress code be established. He also directed that a health department team be deployed, proper fire



safety arrangements and adequate police force be ensured during the program to avoid any security or traffic inconvenience. He directed the contractor to promptly complete the remaining work, including lighting, sound and other necessary arrangements, in a timely manner. He also urged that traffic

arrangements be strengthened to ensure that people attending the event do not face any inconvenience. On this occasion, Chief Development Officer PN Dixit informed that block-wise seating arrangements have been made for all the couples participating in the mass marriage program and all necessary

arrangements have been ensured for each couple. During the inspection, Project Director, Additional Superintendent of Police, Fire Officer, Social Welfare Officer, District Sports Officer, Executive Engineer Public Works Department and other concerned officers were present.

## The Gopa Ashtami program was celebrated under the auspices of the Brahmavarta Navjeevan Seva Samiti and the Vishwa Hindu Mahasangh organization

**Kanpur**

The Gopa Ashtami program was celebrated at the Brahmavarta Ghat in the Brahmavarta Tirtha Bithoor Dham under the auspices of the Brahmavarta Navjeevan Seva Samiti and the Vishwa Hindu Mahasangh organization. In which Ganga Ji was worshipped by offering milk, fruits, sweets and flowers and Ganga Mata's Aarti was performed. After that, cow was worshipped by feeding jaggery and grass to mother cow and a pledge was taken on the stage to make mother cow the mother of the nation. Mainly Mahant Jitendra Das of Panki Dham expressed his views in favor of declaring mother cow as the mother of the nation. Ashutosh Dwivedi, Secretary of Brahma Vrat Navjeevan Seva Samiti, gave the slogan of Har-Har Gai, Ghar-Ghar Gai. State President of Vishwa Hindu Mahasangh, Bhikhari Prajapati appealed that mother cow should reside in every house. Adi



saints gave their intellectual views for cow protection. Mainly, Vishwa Hindu Mahasangh Uttar Pradesh State President Bhikhari Prajapati, State President of Sanatan Raksha Vahini Cell and National Festival Dimension Head (Ganga Samagra) Swami Harinarayan Maharaj, State President of Medical Cell Dr. Hemant Mohan, State General Secretary of Medical Cell Dr. Aarti Mohan, State General Secretary of Print Media Cell Praveen Singh Chandel, Ganga Sabha President Shivuddin Dwivedi, People like Ashutosh Dwivedi, Manojanand Maharaj, Jaya Shukla, Bindu Singh, Mahadev Baba, Pushkar Shukla etc. were present.

## Awareness program on new criminal laws

**Bahraich**

Under Mission Shakti Phase 5.0, Mission Shakti team Sub Inspector Babulal Vishwakarma, Lady Sub Inspector Asha Verma, Lady Constable Deepika Trivedi, Lady Constable Swati Tiwari, Lady Constable Roshni Devi, in places like Kasba Kaiserganj Bazaar, Hanuman Mandir Tiraha, Bus Stop, Ramadevi Public School Pavana Road, Osmania



International School Madani Inter College, Sardar Patel Inter College Kaiserganj all the banks falling under Thana Kaiserganj in accordance with the orders and instructions given by the higher officials to the girls

and women of Kotwali Kaiserganj Police Station and keeping in view the public welfare schemes run by the Uttar Pradesh Government and the problems of the girls, informed them about the crimes against women and new

criminal laws, fast track court, zero FIR, e-FIR, provisions for women and child protection, time bound justice and toll free numbers 1090, 1098, 1076, 112, 181, 108 for complaints of crimes related to women and toll free numbers for complaints of cyber related crimes. Information about 1930 was given and counseling was done on the women related applications received at the police station.

## Angered by not getting honorarium, Asha Bahus protested on Saturday



**Bahraich**

Protested at the Community Health Center. It was told that ASHA workers are facing financial crisis due to non-payment of honorarium for four months. Vaccine work has been stopped by all the farmers. The Asha Bahus sitting on the dharna said that they work day and night for health services in the villages and despite

providing support at the time of delivery, vaccination and participating in public awareness campaigns, they are not getting their honorarium on time. Due to this, it has become difficult to maintain the family. The workers involved in the protest demanded immediate payment of honorarium from the health department and administration. They were warned that if payment

was not made immediately, they would be forced to carry forward the agitation. On receiving the information, the CHC in-charge reached the protest site and assured that the pending payment process would be completed soon. At present Pushpa Verma Sarita Srivastava Archan Sonu Sharma Pinky Devi Usha Devi Asha Bahus said that they will continue the protest until the amount is not received.

## Katarniaghat Wildlife Division's tourism season inaugurated

**Bahraich**

The 2025-26 tourism season was inaugurated with great pomp at the Katarniaghat Wildlife Sanctuary. Chief Guest, Member of Parliament Dr. Anand Kumar Gond, along with special guest MLA Balha Saroj Sonkar, Divisional Forest Officer Katarniaghat Suraj and other guests and officials,



inaugurated the 2025-26 tourism season by cutting the ribbon at the Nature

Interpretation Center, Gharial Center, in the Katarniaghat Range, after performing a ritualistic

havan (fire ritual) at the main entrance of the boat ghat. He also flagged off tourists on a gypsy safari for a jungle tour. The special feature of the inauguration of the tourism season was that on the tragic boat accident that took place in the Kaudiyaala river last Wednesday, in which one woman of Bharthapur village situat-

ed in the heart of Katarniaghat died and 8 people went missing, MP Dr. Anand Kumar Gond and MLA Saroj Sonkar expressed deep sorrow and along with the guests, officers, employees, media friends, members of NGO, tourists and nature lovers present, collectively observed a two-minute silence for the peace of the soul of the deceased.

## MP and MLA visited village Bharthapur. Food kits distributed to villagers, consoled by meeting affected families

**Bahraich**

MP Bahraich Dr. Anand Kumar Gond, along with MLA Balha Saroj Sonkar, Area Panchayat Chief Mihinpurwa Saurabh Verma and other dignitaries and elite people, reached village Bharthapur under Tehsil Mihinpurwa on Wednesday and met the families affected in the boat accident that took place late evening and expressed condolences and said that the affected families will be provided all possible assistance as permitted by the



government. The MP and MLA received information about the activities conducted for the rescue of people missing in the heart-wrenching boat accident and gave necessary instructions to the concerned officials. MP Dr. Gond directed the tehsil administration to

provide all possible assistance permitted by the government to the affected families. During the visit to the village, the MP, MLA and Area Panchayat Chief along with Deputy District Magistrate Ram Dayal also distributed food grains kits to the villagers.

## Irish education minister invites Indians for education

**NEW DELHI:** James Lawless, Ireland's Education Minister, on Monday said his country is "very welcoming" for students and has a supportive post-study employment visa arrangement. "Ireland is a very welcoming country. We have a very cosmopolitan culture. We have many nationalities now in Ireland, and many people have made their home, including many, many Indians," the Irish minister said.

## Our legislatures are institutions that embody trust and symbolize the faith and trust of the people: Lok Sabha Speaker

**Raipur**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi today inaugurated the new building of the Chhattisgarh Legislative Assembly in Raipur, marking a significant milestone in the state democratic journey. The inauguration ceremony for this new building was held on the occasion of the 25th anniversary of the state formation. Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla attended the ceremony and congratulated the people of Chhattisgarh. He said that legislatures are institutions that embody trust and symbolize the faith and aspirations of citizens. He further said that the quality of discussions and deliberations held in



these institutions determines the strength of democracy and the success of governance. Birla expressed confidence that the new Assembly building will promote inclusive development and good governance in the state and contribute to realizing the vision of a self-reliant India and a developed India. He also emphasized that the inaugura-

tion of the new building reflects the Central Government commitment to strengthening democratic institutions across the country. The new Assembly complex is designed in accordance with modern architecture and is equipped with state-of-the-art facilities, including advanced digital infrastructure. Birla said that this will

provide MLA with an opportunity to fulfill the aspirations of the people and contribute more effectively to policy-making and public welfare. Birla praised the Chhattisgarh Assembly for maintaining high traditions of dignity, dialogue and democratic conduct. He expressed hope that the new building will further strengthen these traditions and become a vibrant center of democratic ideals, inspiring public representatives to work with dedication. Chief Minister Vishnudev Sai, Speaker of the Chhattisgarh Legislative Assembly Dr. Raman Singh, Members of Parliament, Ministers, MLA, and other dignitaries were present.

## Sampoorna Samadhan Diwas held in tehsils. Out of 183 applications received, 18 were resolved on the spot

**Bahraich**

As part of the Sampoorna Samadhan Diwas, which are held on the first and third Saturdays of every month to promptly resolve public issues, Superintendent of Police Ram Nayan Singh, Chief Development Officer Mukesh Chandra, Sub-District Magistrate Monalisa Jahari, District Development Officer Raj Kumar, and other officials attended the Sampoorna Samadhan Diwas held in Tehsil Nanpara. Superintendent of Police Ram Nayan Singh, Chief



Development Officer Mukesh Chandra, Sub-District Magistrate Monalisa Jahari, District Development Officer Raj Kumar and other officials listened to the complaints of

the complainants with serious attention and directed the concerned officials to ensure timely and quality resolution. Of the 61 applications received during the

Sampoorna Samadhan Diwas, three were resolved on the spot. On this occasion, the CMO, along with the SDM also performed the baby showers for pregnant women and Annaprashan

(food offerings) for children. Similarly, in the Sampoorna Samadhan Diwas organized in Tehsil Sadar Bahraich, 18 out of 19 applications received, 2 each in Mihinpurwa (Motipur), 63 out of 63 in Payagpur and 5 each in Kaiserganj against 22 received and 1 out of 5 applications received in Tehsil Mahsi were disposed of on the spot. On this occasion, PD DRDA Manish Kumar, District Agriculture Officer Dr. Subedar Yadav, AR Cooperative Sanjeev Tiwari, District Program Officer .

## SEKHON HALF MARATHON 2025 IN AGRA

**Mathura**

The First Edition of Sekhon Indian Air Force Marathon (Half Marathon) is planned on 02 Nov 2025. The main event will be flagged off from Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium, New Delhi. It will be simultaneously conducted at 60 Air Force stations, including Agra across the country. This is the first edition Sekhon Marathon in honour of the IAF officer, Flying Officer Nirmal Jit Singh Sekhon who was posthumously awarded the Param Vir Chakra, India highest wartime military decoration, for his valour during the Indo-Pak War

1971. The Marathon in Agra will start from Air Force Station Agra under the planning and supervision of Air Commodore SK Gupta Vayusena Medal, AOC Air Force Station Agra. The run will be in three categories - 21km, 10km and 5km. The run will be covering following areas- Pratap Pura Circle- Commissioner Officer (Circuit Houses) - Taj Metro Station - Shahjahan Park-Jhalkari Bai Statue 1 Roundal (U-turn) - Jhalkari Bai Statue Agra Fort Karriappa Road- Mall Road - Pratap Pura Circle - Idgah Circle. More than 2200 participants have

registered for the Marathon. Civil Administration under the District collector Arvind and Police dept under Sonam Kumar IPS DCP Traffic is extending all help to Chief Coordinator Gp Capt Mohit Srivastav of IAF.

This event not only celebrates physical endurance but shall also be a tribute to Flying Officer Nirmal Jit Singh Sekhon, who fought six enemy fighter jets during the 1971 war, shot two, damaged a third and forced two to retreat. He was awarded Param Vir Chakra posthumously for his exceptional courage during the 1971 war.



# IFFCO Organizes Vigilance Awareness Competition

Phoolpur

On Sunday, at the IFFCO Ghiyanagar Phulpur Community Center, the Vigilance Department organized a collage competition on the theme "Vigilance: Our Shared Responsibility" for students in grades 9 to 12 and a painting competition titled "Best from Waste: Best Out of Best" for students in grades 4 to 8. A large number of students participated. Chief Vigilance Officer Ajay Kumar Mishra stated that the objective of the competition is to develop creative skills in children. He added that last week, the Vigilance Department successfully organized a vigilance seminar for indentors on the theme "Vigilance: Our Shared



Responsibility," a quiz for employees on the topic of vigilance, a short play competition and Sanskarshala seminar for Kendriya Vidyalaya children, a Frame of Integrity

short video competition for employees, a Rangoli competition on "Rangotsav - Festival of Colors and Values" for women, and a "Little Hands - Big Values"

painting competition for children up to grade 3. A large number of IFFCO employees, women, and children participated in the event. One attachment Scanned by Gmail

The NDA govt. is going to be formed in Bihar with an absolute majority once again- Deepak Patel

Prayagraj. Phulpur MLA Deepak Patel visited the residence of Ajay Prasad Patel, the Janata Dal United's Panchayat President, in Usri Panchayat, Baikunthpur Block, under the Baikunthpur Assembly constituency of Gopalganj, and held a meeting with prominent people and workers of the area to formulate an election strategy in support of Baikunthpur Assembly candidate Mithilesh Tiwari. Deepak Patel appealed to all present to further strengthen the government's development and welfare policies by giving a majority to NDA candidate Mithilesh Tiwari. NDA under the leadership of Narendra Modi and Nitish Kumar once again proves that the have faith.

## The body of an elderly man was found hanging from a noose inside a temple

Kaushambi

The body of an 85-year-old man was found hanging from a noose inside a temple in Pandeymau, a municipal council in Bharwari, under the Kokhraj police station area, on Sunday morning. The discovery caused a stir. When worshippers discovered the body, they informed the deceased's family and the police.

Police arrived and are investigating the matter. Arjun Vishwakarma, 85, son of the late Ramswaroop, a resident of Pandeymau, a municipal council in Bharwari, under the Kokhraj police station area, was unmarried. He had no children and owned considerable property, which many relatives had their eyes on.

On Sunday morning, the body of 85-year-old Arjun Vishwakarma was found hanging from a noose inside a temple built in the



village. In the morning, when the villagers reached the temple to worship, they were stunned to see the old man's body hanging from the stove. On getting information about the incident, the family members of the deceased also reached the temple premises and informed the police. The police, who reached on the information, are currently doing the paperwork. He was undergoing treatment for the past several months. The nephew says that he committed suicide by hanging. Or is it someone's conspiracy, the police will investigate it. Whether the old man was killed alone to take over the property is a matter of investigation.

## Mission Shakti 5.0: A New Dimension of Women's Power, a New Chapter in Women's Safety

Akhand Bharat Sandesh

Mission Shakti 5.0 Campaign Launched by Mission Shakti Teams from All Police Stations in Ganganagar Akhand Bharat Message Prayagraj. Under Mission Shakti 5.0, an ambitious government-run scheme aimed at ensuring the safety, respect, and self-reliance of women and girls, under the direction of the Commissioner of Police, Prayagraj, and the Additional Commissioner of Police, and under the able supervision of Deputy Commissioner of Police, Ganganagar, Kuldeep Singh Gunawat, and Additional Deputy Commissioner of Police, Ganganagar, on Sunday, women police personnel and Mission Shakti teams from all police stations in Ganganagar Zone visited major

markets, towns, educational institutions, religious sites, and other crowded public places in their respective police station areas to educate women and girls about their rights and various government-run schemes. The team also provided information on cyber-security and advised girls to use social media cautiously. In case of harassment by any hooligan, they were told to immediately complain to Dial-112 or Mission Shakti team. Regarding women safety and women empowerment, the Mission Shakti team made girls, students and women aware by giving information about various helpline numbers like Police Emergency Service 112, Women Powerline 1090, Women Helpline 181, CM Helpline 1076, Cyber ?? Helpline 1930 and Mission Shakti Centre etc.

## The body of a prisoner serving a life sentence for murder was found hanging from a noose in the jail

Akhand Bharat Sandesh

Kaushambi. A prisoner serving a sentence in Naini Jail for a murder case five years ago in the West Sharira police station area has died under suspicious circumstances inside the jail. It is reported that the prisoner committed suicide, but the circumstances surrounding the suicide or whether he was murdered inside the jail are still under investigation. A middle-aged man from the district was serving a life sentence for murder in Naini Central Jail in Prayagraj. Late Saturday evening, the prisoner's body was found hanging from a tree. The deceased was identified as Udayraj, 58, son of the late Udayraj, a resident of



"The deceased's wife, Rajkali, stated that he had gone to visit during Navratri. He was absolutely fine and was talking well"

Barua village in the West Sharira police station area. The deceased has been identified as Rameshwar. According to information, the deceased had a dispute with a villager named Mansingh five years ago, on June 11, 2020, over picking mangoes from a mango orchard in Barua village. Udayraj, along with his brother, beat Mansingh to death with sticks. Udayraj and his three other brothers were

sentenced to life imprisonment in this case. On Saturday, his body was found hanging from a tree near the carpet warehouse inside the jail. Following the incident, chaos reigned within the jail. Upon learning of the incident, senior officials, along with the jail administration, arrived at the scene. The news of the incident caused chaos within the deceased's family in Barua village.

Kaushambi district. Relatives had gathered at the home the night before. The deceased's wife, Rajkali, stated that he had gone to visit during Navratri. He was absolutely fine and was talking well. We fed him food, he asked me to eat samosa but I said we have already eaten samosa. You can eat it. I asked him if he needed money, he said give me 600 rupees, I gave him 600 rupees and as I was leaving the jail, he said next time you come, bring other clothes for me, I said okay. We left from there. On Saturday night, my son informed me on the phone that he had died inside the jail. I am unable to understand how this happened. This death inside the jail has left many questions.

## Student dies after being hit by a train; father says daughter left for computer class and never returned

Akhand Bharat Sandesh

Prayagraj. A 17-year-old girl was killed after being hit by a train in the Puramufi police station area. The girl's body was found at Manauri railway station around 6 p.m. Police informed the family and sent the body for post-mortem. Mahesh Kumar Kushwaha, a resident of Mahagaon in the Kaushambi Sandipan Ghat police station area, supports himself and his family through farming. He has five children: three sons and two daughters. His daughter, Khushboo (17), has completed her intermediate education and was currently taking a computer class in Manauri. Father Mahesh

Kushwaha said his daughter had gone to Manauri for a computer class on Saturday. When she did not return home by late evening, he called the computer operator to inquire. He learned that his daughter had left for home. Relatives and acquaintances searched for her, but no trace of her was found. When Puramufi police called the police to the scene to identify the body, the daughter was identified. According to Inspector Puramufi, the body was recovered and identified based on information from local residents. The family has not expressed any suspicions in their complaint. Further legal action will be taken based on the post-mortem report.

## DM Issues Instructions in Meeting on Preparations for Dev Deepawali

Prayagraj

A meeting was held in the Sangam auditorium regarding preparations for the grand and divine celebration of Dev Deepawali. Departmental officials and dignitaries discussed the matter. The district administration, along with the Civil Defense, NCC, and others, were requested to cooperate. Emphasis



was placed on sector-wise arrangements for the lighting of lamps in a proper and orderly manner. District Magistrate Manish

Kumar Verma directed the Health Department to ensure all necessary arrangements, including ambulances, and route signage and parking

arrangements. The District Magistrate stated that cultural programs and other events will be held at the main event venue, the Sangam area, on the occasion of Dev Deepawali. The Electricity Department has been directed to ensure proper lighting arrangements and compliance with electrical safety standards for the Dev Deepawali festi-

val. He directed the Fair and Development Authority to provide generators for uninterrupted power supply, the Municipal Corporation to ensure sanitation, water tankers, and mobile toilets. The District Magistrate directed the Municipal Corporation to ensure cleanliness and lighting at all major intersections for Dev Deepawali, and

the relevant officials of the National Highways Authority of India (NHI) to ensure lighting on bridges. He directed the Fair Authority to make necessary arrangements for the venue and the Regional Tourism Officer to arrange for a laser show at Kali Ghat. The District Magistrate directed all concerned officials to diligently.

on Devuthani Ekadashi, following a centuries-old tradition, women in dozens of villages

## In keeping with tradition, women expelled poverty from their homes, a massive procession was held, and youth burned the effigy

Akhand Bharat Sandesh

Prayagraj. On Sunday morning, on Devuthani Ekadashi, following a centuries-old tradition, women in dozens of villages, including Sahason, expelled poverty from their homes by playing sugarcane whips. Following this, the youth, in a modern style, created an effigy of poverty and took out a procession amidst the blaring of DJ music, musical instruments, and fireworks. The



procession, accompanied by the effigy, proceeded through the Sahason bypass to the roundabout.

A large number of youth from surrounding villages joined in, dancing and singing to the tunes of



devotional and modern music. Nearly two decades ago, the originator of this tradition, Dr.

Quddus Alam, Medical Officer at CHC Saraipith Dhanupur, along with some local youth,

revamped the tradition of burning the effigy of poverty and the procession. By initiating this tradition, he symbolically established social harmony, brotherhood, mutual love, goodwill, and uniformity, and awakened social bonds with a new initiative, striving to eliminate negativity from society. Now, this tradition is no longer merely a religious tradition, but also a symbol of social unity and collectivity.

## A young woman has accused a young man of raping her after calling her to school

Akhand Bharat Sandesh

Mauaima. A young woman from the area befriended a man on social media and Instagram. It is alleged that a young man from the village called her on the phone at

around 6 p.m., claiming he had an important conversation. When the young woman arrived at the school, two other young men were present. The woman alleges that the young man and his two friends grabbed her.

## Change of Name

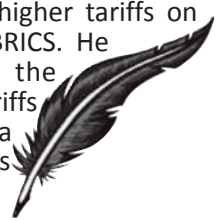
It is informed to the general public that in my Aadhar card number 6871 64 9815 44, my name has been mistakenly written as Jamati, which is wrong. My correct name is Jalamati, wife of Amarnath, resident of Dai ka Purba Beraucha Pargana Karari, Tehsil Manjhanpur, District Kaushambi. My name Jalamati is included in all my records, ration card, gas connection, bank passbook, copy of family register, all service related records of my husband and also in the investigation report of the Sub-District Magistrate.



## Editorial

### India uses BRICS to push reforms—not to challenge the US

The latest edition of the BRICS Summit was significant because all 10 member countries participated. It included Iran, Egypt, Ethiopia, and the UAE, which attended as member states for the first time at the 2024 summit in Russia, and Indonesia, which joined in early 2025 as the first Southeast Asian country in the bloc. With its expansion, the group is now known as BRICS Plus—a term first used at the 2024 summit. Although forming groups of countries to promote cooperation is common globally, BRICS is more than a conventional grouping. It is a group of countries challenging the clout of the developed powers, particularly the US and European nations. In 2010, the first five members—Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa—constituted 18 per cent of the global GDP. Their collective share has risen to 26.5 percent in 2025. These nations are now challenging the hegemony of the West. Calls for de-dollarisation—reducing reliance on the US dollar in trade and finance—are becoming prominent, posing a threat to America's financial and geopolitical dominance. It gives China and Russia (and India too) a louder voice on the world stage. It fuels global economic realignment away from the dollar and Western institutions, pointing to a multipolar world order—something that US President Donald Trump doesn't support. The recent expansion of BRICS, with five new members joining, has increased the worries of the West, particularly the US. And without mincing words, Trump has started expressing his unhappiness over the developments happening in BRICS. Here are the key reasons why Trump opposes BRICS: The primary reason is that both the original members (Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa) and new entrants like Saudi Arabia, UAE, Egypt, Iran, and Ethiopia are openly discussing reducing reliance on the US dollar in trade and finance. Trump's long-standing "America First" stance makes any move away from the dollar a direct challenge to U.S. economic influence and its ability to enforce sanctions. The second point that irks Trump is BRICS' geopolitical opposition to the West. BRICS increasingly positions itself as a counterweight to Western institutions like the G7, the International Monetary Fund (IMF), and the World Bank. The deepening ties between China and Russia within BRICS are seen as part of a broader anti-Western alignment. Third, Trump has consistently taken a hardline stance on China, through trade wars, tariffs, tech and investment restrictions, etc. BRICS giving China a leadership platform to challenge the US on the global stage agitates him. He views BRICS as a vehicle for China's global expansion under the guise of multipolarity. Fourth, the inclusion of Saudi Arabia and Iran gives BRICS influence over global energy markets. There is growing potential for oil trade to be conducted in non-dollar currencies (e.g., yuan or BRICS currency), which would weaken the petrodollar system—a critical pillar of US global economic power. Fifth, Trump perceives BRICS expansion as a sign that the 'Global South' is drifting away from Western influence, forming its own independent bloc. This runs contrary to Trump's vision of negotiating "from strength," where US dominance is unquestioned. Sixth, Trump views global influence in zero-sum terms. Any rise of a non-Western grouping that excludes the US is seen as a personal and national affront. BRICS summits that propose alternative visions for world order without US involvement are perceived as a threat to 'American prestige'—something Trump values highly. He has threatened to impose higher tariffs on countries siding with the BRICS. He has already announced the imposition of 50 per cent tariffs on Brazil. Although India is a member of BRICS, its approach is more nuanced.



## CSP with a specific focus on trade and economy, technology and innovation

Prime Minister Narendra Modi is on his fourth visit to the UK. He will hold wide-ranging discussions with PM Keir Starmer on the entire gamut of India-UK bilateral relations, and exchange views on issues of regional and global importance. He is also expected to call on King Charles III. During the visit, the two sides will also review the progress of the Comprehensive Strategic Partnership (CSP) with a specific focus on trade and economy, technology and innovation, defence and security, climate, health, education, and people-to-people ties. Following the UK's exit from the European Union, economic and trade relations between the two countries acquired a new salience. India-UK bilateral trade set a new record when it crossed \$55 billion (£42.6 billion) in 2024, registering an increase of around 10 per cent over the previous year. Indian companies have made significant investments in the UK. Grant Thornton (GT) and Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) research in 2024 highlighted a record number of 971 Indian companies in the UK with a combined turnover of over £68 billion. The report India Meets Britain Tracker 2024 found that Indian companies in the UK are thriving, with 100 companies having a revenue growth of at least 10 per cent. The Britain meets India Tracker 2024 identified 667 British companies in India with a turnover of approximately £47.5 billion. The UK is the sixth-largest contributor of FDI to India.



Cumulative FDI from the UK to India is around \$36 billion between 2000 to March 2025. India's investment in the UK during this period is close to \$20 billion. The Indian diaspora in the UK is also a major presence in the UK's economic scenario. The 2020 GT report, done with the High Commission of India, London, and Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FICCI), identified 654 diaspora-owned companies with a turnover of at least £100,000, generating a cumulative annual turnover of £36.84 billion. The wealth generated by Indian diaspora-owned businesses in the UK was estimated to be around £75 billion by this report. The 1.8 million Indian diaspora forms about 2.7 per cent of the UK's population. During PM Modi's visit, the signing of the India-UK Free Trade Agreement (FTA) is expected. The forward-looking agreement complements India's growth aspirations. The FTA has been described as both historic and ambitious. It is expected to boost jobs, exports, and growth, benefitting 99 per cent of Indian exports from zero per cent duty, opening export

opportunities for labour-intensive sectors such as textiles, marine products, leather footwear, sports goods and toys, gems and jewellery, and others such as engineering goods and organic chemicals. Trade in services is also expected to receive a significant fillip. Enhanced global mobility for aspirational young Indians and a three-year exemption from social security payments come as a major relief for Indian employees and companies based in the UK. Despite the record bilateral trade, the UK's trade with India accounts for around 2.5 per cent of its total trade. With both sides seeking trade diversification and supply-chain resilience, an India-UK FTA will hopefully create the doorway for businesses to drive the economic relationship forward. Given the immediate challenges on India's borders, cooperation in the defence sector with partners such as the UK has achieved greater importance. The Defence Minister Rajnath Singh's visit to the UK in January 2024 provided fresh impetus to the defence pillar of the relationship. In 2023, ties were elevated to a 2+2 mechanism. The British

defence sector could emerge as a key collaborator in technology transfers, the development of advanced capabilities, and supporting the Make in India effort by attracting more British FDI into the defence sector. Several defence cooperation agreements—covering production of Man Portable Air Defence Systems (MANPADS) and Lightweight Multirole Missiles (LMM), the establishment of an Advanced Short-Range Air to Air Missile (ASRAAM) assembly and test facility in India and a Statement of Intent to design and develop an Integrated Full Electric Propulsion system for Indian Navy ships—signal good times ahead for India's defence sector. India's focus on indigenous development does present challenges for the British industry, with fears that it could potentially make cooperation in certain sectors commercially unviable. Intellectual-property (IP) issues also need to be resolved. These issues can hopefully be addressed through the robust defence engagement mechanism that now exists between the two countries. Moreover, the UK-India military cooperation has grown in recent times.

The Royal Navy made six ship visits to India in 2023, while its Littoral Response Group (South) conducted exercises with the Indian Navy in March 2024. In August 2024, the UK's Royal Air Force participated in exercise Tarang Shakti in India. An Indian naval officer, Lieutenant Commander N Dinesh Anand, has joined

Britannia Royal Naval College as Divisional Training Officer for the first time. India and the UK are making a serious effort to build technology partnerships. The new bilateral Technology Security Initiative (TSI), formally launched during UK Foreign Secretary, David Lammy's visit, aims to catalyse collaboration on critical and emerging technologies in seven key sectors: telecoms, critical minerals, semiconductors, Artificial Intelligence, quantum, biotechnology and health technology, and advanced materials. Tech collaboration between India and the UK also extends to sectors including financial services, innovation in health, climate, renewables, and startups. The participation of stakeholders from government, industry, and academia would be important for taking the Technology Security Initiative forward. Both countries are global hubs of innovation, science, technology, and research. India is one of the world's largest startup ecosystems and has over 100 unicorn companies. The increasing focus on these areas is welcome. Education is an important pillar of India-UK relations. The University of Southampton opened its campus in Gurugram on 16 July 2025, becoming the first foreign university campus under the New Education Policy (NEP). The UK remains one of the preferred destinations for Indian students, with around 1,70,000 students studying in the UK in the academic year 2023-2024.

### Pak accomplices, shootouts, sealed chargesheet—how the 7/11 blasts case fell apart

The men gathered early one morning in a one-room tenement inside the Deccan Cooperative Society in Sewri, on the grimy eastern fringes of suburban Mumbai. They began packing ammonium nitrate-fuel oil gel, the lethal but readily available commercial explosive used across India, inside 35-kilogram pressure cookers. Then, a detonator cap was loaded into each pressure cooker and linked to a simple Ajanta-brand digital clock, set to 6:30 pm. Each cooker was then packed in a shopping bag. Later that evening 209 people died—far more than on 26/11—when the bombs went off in packed first-class compartments on seven separate trains running from Churchgate. This week, 19 years on, the Bombay High Court finally held what successive governments, police services, and the intelligence services themselves have long known: The five men sent to death row for their role in the bombings, and the seven others given shorter sentences, had nothing to do with the bombing. The

Maharashtra government has announced it will appeal—but disturbing evidence will surface that the botched trial has enabled the terrorists actually responsible for the crime to evade responsibility. Intelligence and police services at the time were struggling to detect the real workings of the Lashkar-e-Taiba-linked network that came to be known as the Indian Mujahideen. Therefore, following the 7/11 bombing, the usual suspects—generally men with loose ties to conservative Muslim groups—were pulled in and charged with terrorism, as was the pattern in several prosecutions from the period. Following the bombing of the Sankat Mochan Temple in Varanasi, as well as the local railway station, the Imam of the mosque at Phulpur was arrested and charged with the murder of 28 people. The Uttar Pradesh police alleged that Waliullah had handed over the explosives and the pressure cooker cases to three terrorists from Bangladesh, who were never identified.

### China was quick to test the nuclear bomb. India missed vital landmarks

In an era of multiple strifes across continents, an anniversary quietly slipped under the radar of world watchers. Eighty years ago, an explosion ushered in a new age of combat, weapons, tactics, and technology. At 5:29 am local time on 16 July 1945, the United States tested the world's first atomic bomb in the desolate desert of New Mexico in an area called Jornada del Muerto—Spanish for "Dead Man's Road". The site couldn't have been chosen because of the irony in its name. In the days of Spanish expansion into the New World, this must have certainly been a deadly route to take, but that was centuries before America's wartime quest for the world's most potent weapon. And it was tested under the codename 'Trinity'. A multi-billion-dollar initiative that involved scores of enterprises, institutions, and scientists of various disciplines working under strict military supervision, it was innocently labelled 'Manhattan Project'. Innocent, since the name didn't convey its unifocal military purpose. The world entered the nuclear age with a military purpose, and its impact on 6 and 9 August 1945 over Hiroshima and Nagasaki are historical landmarks that will not be erased anytime soon. Reams have been written about the Manhattan Project and its impact. The ghastly use of the bomb against Japan has also been dissected. What has been relegated to dusty shelves and nerdy researchers, however, is the official report on the programme. It's unambiguously called Atomic Energy for Military Purposes. Among the most extraordinary aspects of the report is that it was made public on 12 August 1945, even before the radioactive clouds had lifted from Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Princeton University physicist Henry DeWolf Smyth penned the report. Within the community that contributed to making the nuclear fission device a success, the Smyth Report

was the working paper on how the Manhattan Project was to be discussed. It is patently clear that the US was working on a long-term nuclear perspective. The American military approach is a far cry from how India viewed the arrival of the nuclear era. Although its nuclear journey is extraordinary among formerly colonised nations, India missed vital landmarks along the way. In July 1945, India already had a nuclear research programme at the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research (TIFR), established months before Washington's Trinity test. Within a year of Independence, the country also had an Atomic Energy Commission, and in less than a decade, it had commissioned Asia's first nuclear reactor, APSARA, at Trombay. India was light years ahead of any other Asian country. In the 1950s, China was largely dependent on its larger ideological ally, the Soviet Union. It entered the nuclear age with a sole purpose, based on Chairman Mao's dictum, "Power flows from the barrel of a gun." The simple formulation offered Beijing both short-term benefits and dividends in the long run, too. It is now obvious that the possession of weapons of mass destruction will not invite military intervention.

In an era of mass hypocrisy. Iran and Iraq, which didn't possess nuclear arsenals, were attacked, while North Korea, which did, wasn't. Hypocrisy and discrimination are obviously kosher in today's world order. India, however, approached the nuclear era from the perspective of "peaceful utilisation" to harness unlimited energy and enter the club of rapidly developing countries. It officially launched a three-stage nuclear programme with an indigenous research and development project. But eight decades after TIFR initiated its research programme, India remains light years away from its early energy vision. And it has also missed the bus to power.

## Saiyaara proves star kids don't need hype, just a good film and a killer soundtrack

Mohit Suri's Saiyaara is a lesson in successfully launching new actors. The film did not hold press conferences, 'exclusive' interviews, or have its lead pair jet-setting across cities to interact with crowds. Instead, it opted for radio silence. It banked on the release alone. The movie had a box office opening of Rs 21.5 crore, and has now crossed the 100-crore mark before completing the first week of its release. Ahaan Panday and Aneet Padda stole the thunder when it came to making a memorable big-screen debut.

The film's unprecedented opening even had Ajay Devgn scramble to postpone the release of his film Son of Sardaar 2 from 25 July to 1 August. The film relied on one star—the music. Suri, known for his films Zeher (2005), Woh Lamhe (2006), and Aashiqui 2 (2013), has let his films' music do the talking. Each of these films had a breakout song that pushed the film to audiences. Be it 'Woh Lamhe' from Zeher to 'Kya Mujhe Pyar Hai' of Woh Lamhe and 'Tum Hi Ho' from Aashiqui 2, Suri's films capture the mood of heart-

break like no other in their album.

The star-crossed lovers, the looming tragedy, and the music have all been done before by Suri. Gen Z has now succumbed to what was millennial 'poison'. While most star kids were launched with an overdose of PR appearances, from doing a hook step of their movie's title track to being part of creators' videos, Saiyaara's lead cast was conspicuous through their absence from social media. The PR team clearly decided to learn from others' mistakes.

Ahaan Panday had a blink-and-miss appearance in his sister Alanna's wedding and was absent from her Prime Video show, The Tribe (2024). In contrast, his cousin Ananya Panday was everywhere before and during her debut in Student of the Year 2 (2019). Her social media already had a massive follower count, and she was seen rubbing shoulders with the who's who of Bollywood. More recently, massive social media hype was built before Ibrahim Ali Khan made his debut with Nadaaniyan (2025).



## A case of corruption in MNREGA works has come to light in Umaria Gram Panchayat under Nawabganj block

Bahraich

A large number of laborers have been marked present on the online master roll under the MNREGA scheme in Umaria Gram Panchayat under Nawabganj Block. This has raised questions about the Additional Program Officer, Technical Assistant and the Block Development Officer directly. Is it the Block Development Officer responsibility to record such fake attendance? It has rained for the past two days, yet development work appears to be happening only on paper. Not a single laborer was seen on the spot, because who wants to get wet in the rain? Corruption is flourishing due to the favor of those in charge. Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has ordered strict action against corrupt individuals, but work is being carried out in Umaria Gram Panchayat, ignoring all those orders. Large numbers of workers are being recorded as attendance on the online master roll, showing land development work as plantation work. On the spot, villagers Raju, Santosh and others claim that no development work has been carried out in the past three or four days. No trees have been planted, yet the



number of workers has been recorded. An attempt was made to contact Block Development Officer Rahul Pandey on the matter. A call was made to his CUG number, but the call kept ringing and the officer did not answer. Meanwhile, Additional Program Officer (APO) Nawabganj Anil Tiwari is also failing to discharge his responsibilities. Corruption is rampant and the Block officials are trying to tarnish the image of the district. The District Magistrate and Chief Development Officer are so strict that they issue strict orders through meetings to ensure no corruption and to ensure that MNREGA work is carried out according to standards and is followed. However, these

orders are being ignored and the work being carried out in the Panchayat is being carried out and the Block Official and Additional Program Officer are being lenient. Development work is being done online only on paper, but no development work is visible on the spot. But the number of labourers is being inflated and government money is Questions are also being raised on DC MNREGA, that since he is the officer of the district, then isn't it his responsibility to curb such corruption in MNREGA, but DC MNREGA remains ignorant and does not take cognizance of any case. That there is massive loot going on in MNREGA. When APO Nawabganj Anil Tiwari was talked to in this regard, he said that he will get it looked into. But no officer reached the spot the whole day.

## Examination Stress Management Clinic launched at BHU

Varanasi

To support students during the examination season, the Well-Being Services Cell (WBSC) of Banaras Hindu University has launched the Examination Stress Management Clinic at the Student Welfare Centre. The clinic will operate from 1st November 2025 to 30th January 2026, offering a safe and supportive space for students to address examination-related stress, anxiety and emotional challenges. Foster a non-judgmental environment where students can openly express their concerns. Introduce students to relaxation methods, mindfulness practices and time management strategies. Strengthen student coping mechanisms to help them navigate academic pressures effectively. Enhance awareness around mental health and encourage emotional balance. Encourage habits of self-care, emotional regulation, and efficient planning. On 1st November, 17 students from various faculties participated in a group

counselling session led by the Student Counsellor, exploring the root causes of examination stress and practical ways to manage it. Beginning next week, every Tuesday, a professor from a different academic discipline will engage with students to discuss examination-related challenges and share academic insights, fostering a culture of empathy and academic support. An interactive workshop titled "Campus Toolkit for a Resilient Mind: Strategies to Stay Calm and Excel in Exams" will be held on 4th November 2025. Resource Person: Rajveer Yadav, Mentor for Change, NITI Aayog. The workshop is designed to equip students with practical tools to manage stress, enhance focus and perform effectively during examinations. This initiative reflects the Well-Being Services Cell's commitment to the holistic development of students, ensuring their emotional wellbeing is nurtured alongside academic excellence.

## Sampoorna Samadhan Diwas was held on the first Saturday of November



Mathura

On the occasion of Sampoorna Samadhan Diwas, District Magistrate Chandra Prakash Sangh and Senior Superintendent of Police Shlok Kumar heard the grievances of the public in Tehsil Mant. The District Magistrate directed officials to resolve complaints promptly and with high quality. He stated that ensuring that the benefits of government schemes reach the eligible beneficiaries is the administration priority. During this period, 70 complaints were received in Tehsil Mant, of which 8 were resolved on the spot. Five out of 40 complaints were resolved promptly in Tehsil Govardhan, three out of 62 in Chhata, three out of 51 in Sadar, and four out of 28 in Mahavan. The District Magistrate directed that no complainant should return disappointed and that complaints be resolved in a transparent and fair manner.

## Bharatiya Kisan Union Sunil protest continues for the 141st day

Mathura

The indefinite protest by farmers in Kota Mouza village of Mathura block, under the banner of Bharatiya Kisan Union (Sunil), entered its 141st day today. The farmers protested vigorously against the arbitrary actions of the district administration, railways, and revenue department by marching from Kota Mouza through Chandan Nagar and Kunjan Nagar to the highway. National spokesperson Pawan Chaturvedi stated that the country food-providing farmers have been at the



protest site for 141 days, but the administration's anti-farmer policies have become unbearable. The protest will continue until the farmers receive

compensation four times the Mathura-Vrindavan Municipal Corporation's circle rate of 7,500 per square meter. Further challenging the government, he said the

protest will now be held on the railway tracks, for which the district administration and railway officials will be solely responsible.

He stated that the farmers of Kota Mouza are fighting for their legitimate demands and they should receive their due. On this occasion, General Secretary Narottam Lal Parashar, Metropolitan President Bharat Agarwal, senior leader Prayagnath Chaturvedi, Dharmendra Pathak, Gopichand Sharma, Dr. Mahendra Sharma, Chetan Pathak and many farmers were present.

## National Lok Adalat to Be Held on December 13

Barabanki

As per the directives of the Uttar Pradesh State Legal Services Authority, Lucknow, a National Lok Adalat is scheduled to be held in the district on December 13. In preparation for the event, a meeting of judicial officers was held on Saturday under the chairmanship of Rakesh Kumar Singh, Special Judge (E.C. Act) and Nodal Officer for the National Lok Adalat, in the conference hall of the Administrative Building. During the meeting, detailed discussions were held in compliance with the directions of District Judge Pratima Srivastava to ensure the upcoming Lok Adalat is organized more effectively and successfully. The nodal officer instructed that a greater



number of civil and criminal cases be identified in advance and that summons and notices be prepared and handed over to the police department promptly for service. Krishna Chandra Singh, Secretary, District Legal Services Authority, emphasized that all identified cases must be fully entered on the NJDG

(National Judicial Data Grid) portal and that the required forms should be obtained from the DLSA office to complete the entire process within the stipulated timeframe. He further stated that the aim is to make the final National Lok Adalat of 2025 the most successful and effective one to date.

## Panic in Deva Range Over Fake Lion Photo, Youth Admits to Making Image

Barabanki

Chaos erupted in the Deva Range on Friday afternoon after a photo showing a lion in the Shahpur Reserved Forest went viral on social media. As soon as the image surfaced, the Forest Department swung into action and conducted a detailed inspection of the area. Deva Ranger Mayank Singh said that the investigation found no evidence of any large wild animal in the forest. Tracing the origin of the viral photo, the team reached Arun Kumar, son of Prakash, a resident of village Shahpur under



Deva police station. During questioning, the youth initially tried to mislead the officials but later admitted that he had created the image using artificial intelligence (AI) and shared it on social media just for fun. The Forest Department has taken the act seriously and warned

that strict action will be taken against those spreading such false information. Ranger Mayank Singh stated that such misleading posts create unnecessary panic among the public. The department has appealed to citizens to immediately inform forest officials if they truly spot.

## Teachers Protest Against Online Attendance, Submit Memorandum to CM



Barabanki

On the call of the All India Primary Teachers Association, teachers under the banner of the Uttar Pradesh Primary Teachers Association staged a sit-in protest on Friday in the premises of the Sugarcane Office, led by district president Dr. Rakesh Singh. The teachers

submitted a memorandum to the Chief Minister and the Basic Education Minister through the District Magistrate. Dr. Singh stated that departmental officials are pressuring teachers to mark online attendance, which he termed impractical. He added that the issue had previously been discussed with the govern-

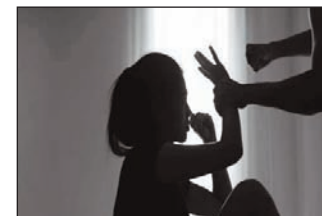
ment and an assurance was given to stop the practice, but no resolution has yet been implemented. Teacher leaders warned that they would not comply with the online attendance system until their demands are met. Those present at the protest included District Secretary Umanath Mishra, Treasurer Rajesh Srivastava.

## Minor Girl Raped by Youth: Case Registered Against Accused and family

### Family Threatened Victim Parents, Police Begin Probe

Barabanki

A shocking case has surfaced in a village under Fatehpur police station where a 14-year-old girl was allegedly



raped by a local youth. The accused, identified as Mata Prasad alias Raja, son of Siyaram, reportedly lured the minor away on the night of October 16 and committed the crime. When the girl parents, both daily wage laborers, failed to find her, suspicion grew as the accused was also missing from his home.

Later, after pressure from the family, the accused relatives admitted that the girl was at their house. The victim was brought home, where she narrated the incident and revealed that the youth had forcibly assaulted her. The accused and his family allegedly tried to coerce the victim parents into agreeing to a forced marriage with the minor to avoid legal consequences.



**TITLE:** *Good Boy*  
**DIRECTOR:** Ben Leonberg  
**CAST:** Shane Jensen, Larry Fessenden, Arielle Friedman, Stuart Rudin  
**WHERE:** In theatres near you  
**RATING:** ★★☆☆

# Canine horror is eerie, tender, unconventional

Ben Leonberg's *Good Boy* is that rare horror film where the scariest thing isn't the ghost but the dog's unwavering gaze. Told almost entirely from the viewpoint of Indy, a Nova Scotia Duck Tolling Retriever with the moral gravity of a monk and the eyes of a philosopher, this indie chiller is equal parts experiment and elegy. Leonberg's conceit, to shoot the story from a dog's perspective, sounds gimmicky, yet it yields startling emotional resonance. Through Indy's anxious eyes, the mundane becomes menacing, and a dying master's final days turn into a meditation on loyalty and loss.

Still, beneath its canine curiosity lies a film wrestling with itself. At 73 minutes, *Good Boy* alternates between eerie subtlety and clumsy supernatural flourishes. Leonberg crafts a moody ghost story set in a decaying country home haunted by illness, regret, and possibly something worse. Yet, just when tension builds, the pacing droops. The spec-

tral elements, tar-drenched phantoms, grainy videotapes, and family secrets feel stretched thin, as if the director's ambition outpaced his budget. It's a film that wags its tail thoughtfully but occasionally forgets what it's chasing.

**Actors' performance**  
To call Indy the "lead actor" is no metaphor. The dog is the movie. Leonberg wisely lets his canine co-star dictate the rhythm, capturing real behaviour instead of polished tricks. Indy's brow-furrowed concern, tentative sniffs, and steadfast companionship evoke more empathy than many human performances this year. His naturalism gives the film an almost documentary sincerity.

an animal's eye view of mortality that is heartbreakingly pure. Shane Jensen as Todd, the ailing owner, and Arielle Friedman as his sister, remain mostly half-seen and half-heard, reinforcing the dog's lonely perspective. Veteran horror figure Larry Fes-

senden brings spectral gravitas as the deceased grandfather, materialising in flickers of VHS gloom. Together, they orbit around Indy's consciousness, like ghosts in his loyal mind. If Leonberg ever doubted his pet's screen presence, he needn't have. Indy is as expressive as De Niro, only furrier.

**Music**  
Leonberg and his team understand that horror breathes through silence and sound. Kelly Oostman's sound design is outstanding, transforming whimpers, scratching paws, and forest winds into a symphony of unease. Composer Sam Boase-Miller's score is spare yet haunting, alternating between ambient dread and elegiac stillness. The cinematography,



## Horror sequel rings loud, but not always clear

Scott Derrickson's *Black Phone 2* brings back not just its masked villain but also the 1980s horror vibe, with its creaky charm, moral undertones, and icy terror. The story begins four years after Finney Blake's escape from the Grabber, showing that death, like the phone, still has a dial tone. A snow-blanketed Christian camp sets an atmospheric stage, but Derrickson's focus on mood often chokes the plot. Lost between Catholic symbols, childhood trauma, and dream logic, the film forgets to scare. It aims for depth, but the connection often falters.

Still, there's a perverse joy in seeing Derrickson play with horror's visual grammar: the Super-8 hallucinations, the echo of A Nightmare on Elm Street, the spectral phone booth framed against white desolation. This is a horror film that prioritizes ghosts, guilt, and grainy film stock over coherent plotting. Yet, for all its erratic narrative choices, the film never feels lazy; it feels haunted by ambition.

**TITLE:** *Black Phone 2*  
**DIRECTOR:** Scott Derrickson  
**CAST:** Ethan Hawke, Mason Thames, Madeleine McGraw, Demian Bichir  
**WHERE:** In theatres near you  
**RATING:** ★★☆☆

gory feel lived-in, even when the script's theology flirts with melodrama.

**Music**  
If storytelling stumbles, the film's sound and style almost make up for it. Atticus Derrickson's score hums like a choir trapped in a freezer: atonal, eerie, and curiously sacred. The sound design transforms snow crunches into heartbeats and wind howls into whispered confessions. Visually, cinematographer Par M. Ekberg captures the cold as both punishment and poetry. The recurring Super-8 sequences, mimicking cursed home movies, inject nostalgia with nausea. Derrickson's aesthetic control is impeccable; even when the plot meanders, the imagery never loses focus.

**FPJ verdict**  
*Black Phone 2* is a chilling, uneven sermon about sin, survival, and the dead refusing to hang up. It's more moral parable than horror, more atmosphere than adrenaline. For fans of Derrickson's eerie craftsmanship and Hawke's mask-wearing menace, the film offers enough to warrant a call back. But those expecting relentless terror may find the line goes dead halfway through.

Overall, visually haunting but narratively tangled, the film delivers ghostly chills over genuine scares. It's a stylish, uneven sequel that whispers more than it screams. Watch, but don't expect nightmares.

**Actors' performance**  
Mason Thames returns as Finney, no longer the timid child but a simmering young man scarred by the past. His transformation from victim to vengeful survivor lends the film some backbone. Madeleine McGraw, however, steals the show as Gwen. Her psychic torment is rendered with an intensity that's both tender and terrifying. McGraw gives the supernatural a human face, grounding Derrickson's frostbitten fables in real emotion.

Ethan Hawke's Grabber, now part Freddy Krueger, part televangelist nightmare, is deliciously menacing but underused. His presence hovers more like an idea than a character, a ghost haunting his own legacy. Demian Bichir, as the camp's caretaker, adds warmth and quiet gravity, though his role feels more like a sermon than a subplot. The ensemble works hard to make Derrickson's spiritual alle-



## Buzzes with satirical fury

Ybizarrely elegant cocktail of corporate satire, eco-horror, and cosmic paranoia, shaken with his trademark deadpan and served cold. A reimagining of the 2003 Korean cult film *Save the Green Planet!*, it transports the original's feverish energy into our age of internet-fuelled delusion. The premise is both absurd and eerily plausible: a deluded beekeeper, Teddy (Jesse Plemons), kidnaps Michelle Fuller (Emma Stone), the sleek CEO of a pesticide empire he believes is an alien plot to annihilate humankind. What unfolds is part torture thriller, part philosophical chess match, and part tragicomic fable about who's really destroying the planet, and why we insist on believing in aliens rather than accountability.

Lanthimos's lens, always fascinated by the grotesque beauty of human folly, glides between menace and mirth. The film is structured like a fever dream in a boardroom. It is clinical, stylized, yet uncomfortably intimate. It's the kind of film that makes you laugh, then wince at your laughter. The satire is unmistakable, but the emotional undercurrent which is rooted in grief, guilt, and desperation, gives *Bugonia* its haunting sting. This film feels like an autopsy of modern paranoia.

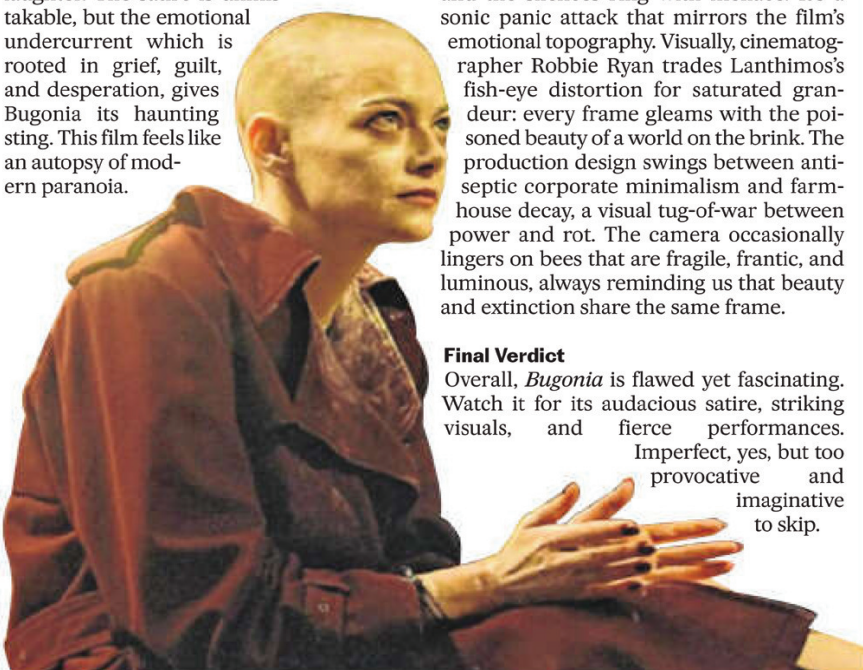
**Music**  
Jerskin Fendrix's score is a delirious assault where strings shriek, percussion trembles, and the silences ring with menace. It's a sonic panic attack that mirrors the film's emotional topography. Visually, cinematographer Robbie Ryan trades Lanthimos's fish-eye distortion for saturated grandeur: every frame gleams with the poisoned beauty of a world on the brink. The production design swings between anti-septic corporate minimalism and farmhouse decay, a visual tug-of-war between power and rot. The camera occasionally lingers on bees that are fragile, frantic, and luminous, always reminding us that beauty and extinction share the same frame.

**Actors' Performance**  
Emma Stone, Lanthimos's long-time muse, delivers another high-wire act; commanding, cruel, and impossible to look away from. Her Michelle is a creature of glass and steel, a corporate goddess masquerading as a moralist. Even chained in a dingy basement with her head shaved, she radiates authority, as if every word she utters were an HR memo from hell. Stone never reaches for sympathy, only precision; she weaponizes stillness like a boardroom dagger.

Jesse Plemons, meanwhile, is the film's quietly imploding conscience. His Teddy is pitiable yet terrifying, a man undone by grief, hubris, and the algorithmic echo chamber. Plemons gives him the trembling righteousness of a true believer, making his madness oddly tender. Aidan Delbis as Don, Teddy's neurodivergent cousin, brings heartbreaking innocence to the chaos, while Alicia Silverstone haunts the margins as a dying mother and moral ghost. Together, the cast builds a world where delusion feels like destiny.

**Final Verdict**  
Overall, *Bugonia* is flawed yet fascinating. Watch it for its audacious satire, striking visuals, and fierce performances. Imperfect, yes, but too provocative and imaginative to skip.

**TITLE:** *Bugonia*  
**DIRECTOR:** Yorgos Lanthimos  
**CAST:** Emma Stone, Jesse Plemons, Stavros Halkias  
**WHERE:** In theatres near you  
**RATING:** ★★☆☆



# Bollywood Halloween

Halloween 2025 in Bollywood was anything but spooky — it was a runway of creativity, glam, and larger-than-life characters. From action heroes to iconic movie legends, the stars went all out, proving that no one celebrates in style quite like B-Town. From Deepika Padukone as Lady Singham to Rhea Chakraborty's Witch glam, take a look at how Bollywood stars dressed for this year's eerie season!

**Alia Bhatt as Lara Croft**  
Alia Bhatt channelled her inner action goddess as Lara Croft. In a fitted black tee, matching shorts, and a studded utility belt, she looked ready to take on an adventure. Fingerless gloves,

thigh straps, and knee-high boots sealed the deal, while a prop gun completed her transformation into the iconic Tomb Raider.

**Deepika Padukone as Lady Singham**



Deepika Padukone didn't just show up for Halloween; she arrived in full Bollywood swagger as Lady Singham. Trading gowns for a crisp cop uniform with aviator shades, she brought the drama and the discipline in one go. Meanwhile, her husband and actor Ranveer Singh brought his signature

energy, even behind a mask in a Spiderman costume.

**Janhvi Kapoor as Angela De Marco**



Janhvi Kapoor nailed the '80s glam vibe as Angela De Marco. Her black mini bodycon dress, brown fur coat, stockings, and dark shades gave pure diva energy.

**Rhea Chakraborty as a Witch**  
Rhea Chakraborty kept it classic yet chic with her witch look. She wore a one-shoulder black top, a leather skirt, lace stockings, and sheer gloves, all tied together with a pointed hat and a



**Arjun Kapoor as The Terminator**



trousers, a brown shirt and tinted shades. With a prop gun in hand, he nailed the iconic cyborg swagger.

broom. Equal parts spooky and sultry, her ensemble screamed "Halloween done right."

Arjun Kapoor stepped into the party as The Terminator, sporting a white blazer, matching



# Cooking Up A Storm With

## RJ Anmol

RJ Anmol is conspicuously Indian in his taste of food, unlike other celebrities who are into other cuisines like Chinese, Italian, Thai, etc. Serve him *dal-chawal* for dinner, and he is a happy man. Ask him if he is a foodie, and he reveals, "By the way, people don't know this, but Amrita is quite a foodie, much more than I am."



**Foods which I avoid:** Any food that gives me acidity because it affects my throat and my voice. I avoid oily and spicy food.  
**Foods I consciously have:** I make sure I have cold milk before I sleep. Also sunflower seeds, dates, et al. These are an important part of my daily routine — and of course water. I'm still lagging behind on that front; I have to

**My dietary preference:** I used to eat fish on a daily basis after my workouts. But my non-veg intake has really gone down in the last one year. So if you ask me currently, it's 90% veg, and occasionally I go for chicken or fish.

**I begin my day with:** Warm water with honey and a pinch of *haldi*, and quickly follow it with a cup of black coffee.  
**I eat my breakfast:** After my workout. It comprises a protein shake clubbed with some *parathas* and eggs in different forms.

**My lunch is:** Generally in two variations; one comprises a *sabji*, the other a *dal* or anything with curry and *rotis*. I try to add *chaas*/curd.  
**My dinner is:** Ideally, dinner should happen around 7:30, but I am unable to adhere to that, so I eat late and therefore a very light dinner — rice with *dal*.

**My favourite desserts:** *Rasgullas*, *rasmalai*, *halwa* (which my mom makes), and ice cream.

**My fitness regime:** For the last three years, it has been a proper mix of gym workout and playing a sport. I play Pickleball, and I combine that with my workout, and it is giving me amazing results. I have also added *Vipassana* to my life so that I get a holistic fitness regime, not just muscle building.

buckle up on my water intake.  
**I can cook:** The best stories. **For Amrita I have made:** French toast or *masala omelette*, but now that she's not even eating eggs, I think I have to just make it up by cooking some stories only for her.

**My favourite cook in the family:** Mom. She makes delicious *aloo* and *paneer parathas*. Her *roti ki churi* is made from leftover *roti* of the night before with jaggery.

**My favourite beverage:** A shake made with peanut butter, dates, nuts, and honey — it's yummy. I love *thanda doodh* with *Roohafza* or with *thandai*. I also relish ABC juice.

**My childhood memories of food:** Nirula's ice creams at Connaught Place, Delhi. Their Triple Sundae ice cream was wow.

**My idea of a romantic meal:** Whenever we can steal some time is romantic for us. Frankly, the time bit is the most important thing for us. We love going out. Mushroom soup is one of our favourites; we start our meal at Planet Hollywood with hot mushroom soup.

**One tip to my readers:** It's okay once in a while to binge on food, to eat some junk also, but God has given this body as a gift to us, and you must take care of what goes inside the body — whether it is food, water, drinks, or thoughts. What enters our mind, body, and soul defines the way we look at things and people.

## Recipe of Mangalorean Fish Curry

### INGREDIENTS

- 2 to 3 Pomfret fish (cleaned, washed, and cut into 2 to 3 slices)
- 2–3 tablespoons coconut oil
- 1 onion (finely chopped)
- 2 tablespoons tamarind pulp
- Salt to taste
- Water as required

### FOR THE MASALA PASTE

- 1 cup grated coconut
- 7–8 dried Byadgi red chillies
- 2 table-

- spoons coriander seeds
- 1 teaspoon cumin seeds
- 1/4 teaspoon fenugreek seeds
- 6–8 black peppercorns
- 6–8 garlic cloves
- 1/2 teaspoon turmeric powder
- 1 small onion (roughly chopped)

### METHOD:

In a small pan, dry roast red chillies, coriander seeds, cumin seeds, fenugreek seeds, and peppercorns on a low flame until aromatic. Remove from flame and let it cool. Grind the roasted spices with grated coconut, garlic, turmeric, and onion. Add water gradually to make a smooth, thick paste. Keep aside. Heat coconut oil in a non-stick pan or a heavy-bottomed vessel. Add the chopped onion and sauté on a low flame till light golden. Add the ground masala and sauté for 5 minutes on low flame until the oil begins to separate. Add tamarind pulp and sufficient water for a medium-thick gravy. Add salt and bring to a boil. Gently add the fish pieces and simmer. Stir gently so that the fish does not break. Cook covered for 7–10 minutes or until the fish is just done. Let the curry rest for a few minutes so that the flavour gets infused. Serve hot with steamed rice.





## FY26 fiscal targets: Meeting estimates might be difficult

India's goal of meeting its full-year financial targets for FY26 may prove difficult, with a new report from Union Bank of India flagging slower-than-expected growth in corporate and income tax collections. The bank's report points out that the Centre's fiscal strategy for FY26 relies heavily on strong tax revenues, even as capital expenditure continues at an elevated pace. It states, "The reduced fiscal deficit target for FY26 was premised on strong tax collections, while the government continues its robust capex push—essential for stimulating consumption and creating jobs. However, achiev-



ing the full-year FY26 fiscal math appears challenging amid subdued growth in corporate and income tax revenues. "Data for the first half of the financial year reveals that the fiscal deficit has already climbed to Rs 5.73 lakh crore between April and September, representing 37% of the budget estimate. The fiscal gap during the same period a year ago stood at Rs 4.75 lakh crore, or 30% of the revised estimate. The sharp

increase, up 21% year-on-year, has been attributed to capital spending outpacing revenue inflows. In the first six months of FY26, government expenditure rose by 9% on a yearly basis, whereas receipts grew by only 5.7%. Despite the uneven growth, the government continues to target a reduction in the fiscal deficit to 4.4% of GDP in FY26, compared with 4.8% in FY25. The Union Bank report cautions.

## Aviation expansion: Akasa Air eyes Kenya, Egypt, East Africa

Akasa Air is evaluating new routes to Kenya, Ethiopia, Egypt and other international destinations as part of its next phase of overseas expansion, CEO and founder Vinay Dube said. The three-year-old airline, which has grown steadily since its launch, now feels "very good" about its Boeing aircraft delivery schedule. "Our aircraft are capable of hitting the shores of East Africa. Absolutely, it can go to Mauritius and on the southern side, it can go to Kenya, Ethiopia, Egypt... We can also go into Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan... Boeing



737 MAX is also capable of going deep into South Asia. All will be considered," Dube told PTI in an interview. He said Akasa Air's international network will continue expanding "on the right path" and that the airline will soon announce services to Sharjah. Currently, the airline operates flights to six international cities --

Doha, Jeddah, Riyadh, Abu Dhabi, Kuwait City, and Phuket -- along with 24 domestic destinations. The airline's international share of Available Seat Kilometres (ASK) has reached 20 per cent and is expected to rise to around 30 per cent by March 2027, Dube said. ASK measures an airline's total passenger-carrying capacity.

## RIL makes record profit amid oil decline, sets clean energy outlook

**Delhi :** India's most valuable company, Reliance Industries Ltd., surpassed predictions to register a strong increase in revenue and profit for the April-June quarter, driven by better telecoms and retail profitability despite crude-based difficulties. Profits from its Asian

Paints disposal also boosted the bottom line. According to an investor presentation, Reliance's new energy business's production plants—which will drive its growth over the next decade—are being commissioned quickly. The new energy business would create solar mod-

ules, generate clean electricity from them, use electrons to run data centres, and make hydrogen, ammonia, and aviation fuel. Reliance did not provide timescales. Reliance Industries' oil-to-chemicals (O2C) business's operating profit fell in the first quarter.

## Competition law vs patent rights: NCLAT rules CCI has no power to probe patented product disputes

The National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT) has ruled that the Competition Commission of India (CCI) does not have the power to investigate disputes related to patented products, holding that the Patent Act takes precedence over the Competition Act in such cases, PTI reported. Dismissing an appeal against a CCI order that had closed a complaint against Swiss pharma major Vifor International (AG), a two-member NCLAT bench said that the fair trade regulator lacks jurisdiction to examine such matters, PTI reported. "Considering the judgment of the Delhi High Court in the case of Telefonaktiebolaget LM



Ericsson (PUBL) and the Supreme Court in SLP No. 25026/2023, it is apparent that the CCI lacks the power to examine the allegations made against Vifor International (AG)," the tribunal observed. Vifor International held the patent for Ferric

Carboxymaltose (FCM) injection, a drug used to treat Iron Deficiency Anaemia (IDA). The tribunal stated: "The Patent Act will prevail over the Competition Act in the facts of this case, as the subject matter of contention is FCM, which was developed and patented by Respondent

No. 2 (Vifor International)." NCLAT noted that Section 3(5) of the Competition Act provides specific protection to patent holders to restrain infringement or impose reasonable conditions to safeguard their rights. "The Competition Act, in Section 3(5), has laid down that the Act will not restrict the right of any person in protecting his rights under the Patent Act," it said. The appeal was filed by Swapna Dey, CEO of a hospital offering free dialysis services under the Pradhan Mantri National Dialysis Programme (PMNDP). Dey alleged that Vifor's "anti-competitive and abusive conduct" had made FCM injections unaffordable.

## McSwadeshi? McDonald's serves millet bun burger; Centre hails

**NEW DELHI:** As international fast food chain McDonald's launched its millet bun burger, the Central government called it a "vindication" of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's "Millet movement" where he promoted it as "super-food". "Videshi turns to Swadeshi" as the popular international food chain McDonald's serves India's "Millet Bun Burger", prepared using indigenous technology developed by the Mysore based CSIR institute, the 'Central Food Technological Research Institute'



CFTRI," Union MoS science & technology Jitendra Singh said in a post on X. He also shared a picture of the burger. "And, a grand vindication for India's Millet movement which had gained momentum with the UN declaring 2023

as the 'International Year of Millets' at the behest of India with the personal intervention of PM Narendra Modi," he added. "A proud moment showcasing how Indian innovation and traditional nutrition are reshaping global food trends," he said.

## Opec+ announces fresh 137,000 bpd hike from December; aims to pro-

The eight key members of the Opec+ alliance, including Saudi Arabia and Russia, have agreed to raise oil production by 137,000 barrels per day (bpd) starting December, marking a modest increase that will hold steady for three months, the group said in a statement after a virtual meeting on Sunday, AFP reported. The move, aligned with analyst expectations, represents a pause in the series of monthly hikes that began in April, as the group — known as the Voluntary Eight (V8) — seeks to consolidate market share amid steady oil prices and waning US shale output. Since April, the V8 — comprising Saudi Arabia, Russia, Iraq, the UAE, Kuwait, Kazakhstan, Algeria and Oman — has raised output by about 2.7 million bpd. The



Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries and its allies (Opec+) had accelerated production at an unexpectedly fast pace this year after years of supply cuts designed to bolster prices. Analysts see the latest move as a strategic effort to defend market position against US producers. "Supply by US shale producers is not increasing anymore, it's going sideways," said Ole Hvalbye, commodities analyst at SEB Bank, noting "less investment in new US production." The V8 cited "low oil inventories" as justification for the

output rise. According to the US Energy Information Administration (EIA), US crude inventories have fallen sharply, keeping Brent crude prices steady near \$65 per barrel. However, analysts warned that additional supply could pressure prices. "An increase in Opec+ quotas of 137,000 barrels would result in lower actual production, limiting the impact on prices," said Emily Ashford of Standard Chartered Bank. Some members, including Russia, may face constraints due to overproduction in previous months.

## US tariffs hit India's export engine: GTRI report shows 37.5% slump across key sectors

India's exports to the US plunged 37.5% between May and September 2025 as sweeping tariff hikes by the Trump administration squeezed margins across major sectors, according to a report by India-based trade think tank Global Trade Research Initiative (GTRI), ANI reported. The US, India's largest export market, saw shipments fall from \$8.8 billion to \$5.5 billion over the five-month period, marking one of the steepest short-term declines in recent years, GTRI said in its analysis. The study assessed India's export performance from May to September 2025 to gauge the fallout from US tariffs imposed starting April 2. According to GTRI, the duties began at 10%, rose to 25% by



August 7, and hit 50% by late August for Indian products. Tariff-free goods—making up nearly one-third of India's total shipments—saw the steepest contraction, plunging 47% from \$3.4 billion in May to \$1.8 billion in September. "Smartphones and pharmaceuticals were the biggest casualties," GTRI said. Smartphone exports, which had surged 197% in the same period a year earlier, crashed 58% from \$2.29 billion in May to \$884.6 million in

September. Shipments fell consistently each month, and GTRI noted, "The reasons for decline are not known and need examination." Pharmaceutical exports dropped 15.7%, from \$745.6 million to \$628.3 million, while industrial metals and auto parts—subject to uniform tariffs globally—recorded a milder 16.7% dip. Within that category, aluminium exports fell 37%, copper 25%, auto parts 12%, and iron and steel 8%. "Because all global suppliers faced similar duties.

## 'No better place to build new partnerships': PM Carney cites 'progress' with India, Asia-Pacific

Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney on Saturday highlighted his country's "progress" in building partnerships with India and other Asia-Pacific nations, even as tensions with the United States escalate over tariffs. His remarks came days after US President Donald Trump terminated all trade talks with Canada, accusing Ottawa of "egregious behaviour", reported PTI. Speaking to reporters after the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) summit in South Korea, Carney said, "There is no better place to build new partnerships than in the fastest growing part of the world that represents 60 per cent of the global economy." Referring to developments in the region, he cited the free trade deal with Indonesia, ongoing talks with the Philippines and Thailand, and a "turning point" in relations with China. "Progress which we have been making with India... So I didn't meet directly with Prime Minister (Narendra) Modi here, (but) the foreign minister, other ministers have been meeting with India," Carney said, adding that his government is focused on "reducing reliance on the United States" by diversifying trade partnerships. "That's what we're doing to build our strength at home, first and foremost. Build these partnerships abroad, reduce our reliance on the United States. It can't happen overnight, but we're moving very fast," he added. Carney also apologised to President Trump earlier this week for an anti-tariff television advertisement released by Ontario.





## Briefs

AUCKLAND

## Williamson retires from T20I cricket



Charismatic batter and former New Zealand skipper Kane Williamson on Sunday called time on his T20 International career days before the commencement of a five-match series against the touring West Indies. Williamson, who played 93 T20I games for New Zealand, was recently appointed the strategic advisor for the IPL franchise Lucknow Super Giants for the 2026 season. The 35-year-old top-order batter was not included in the 14-member T20I squad for the series against the West Indies. Williamson, who amassed 2575 runs T20Is but never scored a century, will also miss the ensuing ODI series to focus on the three Tests against the Caribbean side. He retires as New Zealand's second-highest men's T20I runs-scorer at an average of 33, with 18 half-centuries.

HOBART

## India release Kuldeep from T20I squad



India's team management on Sunday released spinner Kuldeep Yadav from the T20I squad in Australia for the upcoming second four-day match between India A and South Africa A in Bengaluru from November 6. "The Indian team management has requested to release Kuldeep Yadav from the ongoing five-match T20I series in Australia to allow him to participate in the India A series against South Africa A at the BCCI Centre of Excellence in Bengaluru," the BCCI said in a statement. "The decision has been taken to provide Kuldeep with red-ball game time in preparation for the upcoming IDFC First Bank two-match Test series against South Africa," the Board added.

LAHORE

## Babar's fifty leads Pakistan to series win



Babar Azam made a triumphant return to T20 cricket with his 37th half century and led Pakistan to a series-clinching

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## WOMEN'S WORLD CUP | Wolvaardt ton goes in vain as Deepti-led attack restricts Proteas to 246

## Harmanpreet &amp; Co create history

NAVI MUMBAI

When Harmanpreet Kaur latched onto the catch to dismiss Nadine De Klerk off Deepti Sharma's bowling, India created history by clinching their first ever Women's ODI World Cup title beating South Africa by 52 runs in an enticing final at the DY Patil Stadium, here on Sunday.

In pursuit of a tricky 299, South Africa were barely in the game except for the brilliance of skipper Laura Wolvaardt, who slammed a fine hundred although in vain, as they were bowled out for 246 in 45.3 overs.

Deepti Sharma and Shafali Verma's all-round efforts were the highlights for India as the former scalped 5/39 and scored 58 while the latter picked two wickets and struck a superb 87 while India batted and scored 298/7 in 50 overs.

Chasing a challenging 299 for victory, South Africa crumbled under the pressure of a World Cup final against an Indian team determined more than ever to undo and erase the pain and agony of the previous two World Cup final defeats in 2017 and 2020 and present the Cup to the nation.

Laura Wolvaardt was the lone woman who stood up for South Africa with a brilliant 101 that went in vain eventually but India will applaud themselves for a terrific all-round performance that saw them bowl out South Africa for 246 all out in 45.3 overs.

Bowlers led by Deepti Sharma (5/39), Shafali Verma (2/36) and Shree Charani (1/48) complemented the efforts of the batters with Shafali starring with the willow as well scoring a cracking 87 and Deepti's 58 the icing on the



India's players celebrate the wicket of South Africa's Sune Luus at the DY Patil Stadium on Sunday. PTI

cake in India's total of 298/7 in 50 overs.

Amanjot Kaur's run out of Tazmin Brits effected by a direct hit had started the procession of South African wickets during the chase in the Women's World Cup final at the DY Patil Stadium, here on Sunday.

Shafali Verma scalped two crucial wickets of Sune Luus and Marizanne Kapp while Shree Charani saw the back of Anneke Bosch as India pegged SA back in the game to give themselves the best shot at winning the elusive World Cup.

Deepti Sharma took the wicket of Sinalo Jafta while Amanjot Kaur's direct hit of Tazmin Brits had helped India get their first wicket.

Earlier, terrific half-centuries from Shafali Verma and Deepti Sharma and some late pyrotechnics from Richa Ghosh powered India to 298/7 in 50 overs. Shafali's 87, Deepti's 58 and Richa's 34 were the major highlights of the Indian innings where they failed to get 320-330 total owing to some disciplined bowling from the South African bowlers.

For SA, Ayabonga Khaka

was among the pick of the wickets as she scalped 3/58 in nine overs while Nonkululeko Mlaba, Nadine De Klerk and Chloe Tryon bagged a wicket apiece.

## Rain delay

Earlier, the match began after a two-hour delay at 5 pm owing to persistent rain that looked threatening at one point. When India began proceedings, Shafali Verma opened the account when she cracked a boundary through mid-wicket after Smriti Mandhana batted out six dot balls in the first over of the

day. The right-handed seemed a bit more aggressive in the first three overs as she attacked Ayabonga Khaka and Marizanne Kapp in the fourth and fifth overs with four boundaries.

Mandhana was taking her time to settle down and eventually struck two fours in the sixth over off Khaka as she fed off Shafali's fluency with the bat. The pressure was telling on the South Africans as Khaka bowled five wides in the second last ball of the sixth over as Mandhana and Shafali grew in confidence.

## Scoreboard

**India:** S Mandhana c Jafta b Tryon 45, S Verma c Luus b Khaka 87, J Rodrigues c Wolvaardt b Khaka 24, H Kaur b Mlaba 20, D Sharma run out (Tryon/Jafta) 58, A Kaur c & b de Klerk 12, R Ghosh c Dercksen b Khaka 34 **Extras:** (LB-2, W-12, NB-1) 15 **Total:** 298-7 (In 50 Overs) **FoW:** 1-104, 2-166, 3-171, 4-223, 5-245, 6-292, 7-298

**Bowling:** M Kapp 10-1-59-0, A Khaka 9-0-58-3, N Mlaba 10-0-47-1, N de Klerk 9-0-52-1, S Luus 5-0-34-0, C Tryon 7-0-46-1.

**South Africa:** L Wolvaardt c A Kaur b Deepti 101, T Brits run out 23, A Bosch lbw b Charani 0, S Luus c & b Shafali 25, M Kapp c Ghosh b Shafali 4, S Jafta c Yadav b Sharma 16, A Dercksen b D Sharma 35, C Tryon lbw Deepti 9, N de Klerk c H Kaur b Deepti 19, A Khaka run out (Deepti/Ghosh) 1, N Mlaba (not out) 0 **Extras:** (NB 2, W 12) 14 **Total:** 1246 all-out (in 48.3 Overs) **FoW:** 1-51, 2-62, 3-114, 4-123, 5-148, 6-209, 7-220, 8-221, 9-246 **Bowling:** R Singh 8-0-28-0, K Gaud 3-0-16-0, A Kaur 4-0-34-0, D Sharma 9-3-0-39-5, S Charani 9-0-48-1, R Yadav 5-0-45-0, S Verma 7-0-36-2.

Nonkululeko Mlaba's first ball of the evening was driven beautifully by Shafali for a boundary through the covers as India piled on the runs.

## Pant stars in India A win over South Africa A

BENGALURU

Around skipper Rishabh Pant's glittering central act of 90, late order batters played dogged little knocks as India A registered a fighting three-wicket win over South Africa A in the first four-day match here Sunday.

India A now leads the two-match series 1-0, and the second match will be played at the BCCI CoE grounds from next Thursday.

Starting from a rather unsteady 119 for four overnight, the India A were served well early by Pant (90, 113b, 11x4, 4x6) and Ayush Badoni (34, 47 balls) who added 63 runs in 12 overs.

India needed 166 runs when the day began to reach the target of 275, but Pant and Badoni adopted an aggressive approach to whittle down the target.

Pant smashed pacer Okuhle Cele for a six in the second ball of the day, and followed that one-handed shot with two guided fours to third man region. Cele conceded 14 runs in the day's first over.

It set the tone for the rest of their fifth wicket alliance as runs flowed in at six runs an over.

At this stage, the South Africans realised the folly of bowling fuller length, and increased the percentage of short-pitched deliveries.

Already hurried by a couple of snorters, Pant did not have the required time to execute a pull off Tiaan Van Vuuren, and Lesego Senokwane took the catch rushing in from second slip.

It was a huge relief for Senokwane as he had dropped Pant on 80 off Prenelan Subrayen behind forward short leg.

## Sundar not putting pressure on himself

HOBART

If anyone thought that Washington Sundar would have been under pressure to perform with bat after not getting a chance to bowl his off-breaks, the India all-rounder proved them wrong with a power-packed 49 not out off 23 balls to script his team's win in the third T20 International against Australia here Sunday.

India skipper Suryakumar Yadav didn't use Washington mainly because there were too many right handers in the Australian line-up and during chase the Tamil Nadu man showed his hitting prowess with four sixes and three fours making a tricky chase look very easy.

"If I keep thinking about I should definitely perform with the bat because if not I haven't gotten much with the ball or vice versa, I think that puts a lot of pressure on me and it means you are not really enjoying the game," Washington said at the post-match press conference.

For Washington, the most important aspect is visualization of what he intends to do and then executing the plan to perfection.



"Every practice session that I go to there's a purpose. I think about what exactly I want to achieve from that session and I try and achieve that, at least if it doesn't happen in the first session over a period of time it does happen as long as there's purpose to every single thing that I do," he explained his mindset.

For Washington, representing India across formats and being able to fulfil the requirements of each version does give satisfaction.

"I mean the challenges are definitely exciting because there are different questions thrown at you and you just got to find your answers and that's the beauty of playing at the highest level," he said.

Washington admitted how he needs to switch to a different mindset once this series is over and get ready for the South Africa Test series.

HOBART

Washington Sundar enhanced his reputation as a T20 hitter with India batting in top gear through the innings to comfortably chase down a target of 187 for a series levelling five-wicket win over Australia here on Sunday.

This is the first time that Australia have lost a T20 International at the Ninja Oval, earlier known as Bellerive Oval. Tim David (74 off 38) bludgeoned the Indian bowling attack to take Australia to 186 for six after the visitors opted to bat.

With the firepower India possess, they were expected to overhaul the target but Nathan Ellis (3/36) made their job tougher with his sharp and testing spells. India eventually got home in 18.3 overs.

Abhishek Sharma (25 off 16) once again produced a flurry of boundaries in the power-play before skipper Suryakumar Yadav (24 off 11), Tilak Varma (29 off 26), Axar Patel (17 off 12) and Washington (49 not out off 23) did their bit.

Jitesh Sharma (22 not out off 12), playing his first game of the series, got valuable time in



India's Arshdeep Singh celebrates the wicket of Australia's Marcus Stoinis during their 3rd T20I match, at Bellerive Oval in Hobart on Sunday. BCCI

the middle and got the job done alongside Sundar.

Washington, who is rather underrated as a power-hitter, showed he can use the long handle effectively with majority of his sixes coming in the cow corner region.

The absence of Josh Hazlewood in the opposition camp – the pacer's focus now shifts to the Ashes, also made India's task a lot easier.

Barring Ellis, who troubled the Indian batters with short balls at express pace, Australian bowlers were not able to test the Indians

enough. The fourth T20 of the five match series will be played in Gold Coast on November 6.

Opting to bowl in nippy conditions, India started well courtesy Arshdeep Singh who struck twice in a two-over spell on his return to the side. His performance earned him the Player of The Match award. Playing his first game of the series, India's leading wicket taker in the format removed the dangerous Travis Head and Josh Inglis to leave Australia at 14 for two.

However, India's early

## Scoreboard

**Australia:** T Head c Yadav b Arshdeep 6, M Marsh c Tilak b Varun 11, J Inglis c Patel b Arshdeep 1, T David c Tilak Varma b Dube 74, M Owen b Varun 0, M Stoinis c sub (Rinku) b Arshdeep 64, M Short (not out) 26, X Bartlett (not out) 3 **Extras:** (LB-1) 1 **Total:** 186-6 (in 20 overs) **FoW:** 1-6, 2-14, 3-73, 4-73, 5-118, 6-182 **Bowling:** A Singh 4-0-35-3, J Bumrah 4-0-26-0, V Chakravarthy 4-0-33-2, A Patel 4-0-35-0, S Dube 3-

0-43-1, A Sharma 1-0-13-0. **India:** A Sharma c Inglis b Ellis 25, S Gill lbw b Ellis 15, S Yadav c Ellis b Stoinis 24, T Varma c Inglis b Bartlett 29, A Patel c Bartlett b Ellis 17, W Sundar (not out) 49, J Sharma (not out) 22 **Extras:** (NB-2, W-5) 7 **Total:** 188-5 (in 18.3 overs) **FoW:** 1-33, 2-61, 3-76, 4-111, 5-145 **Bowling:** X Bartlett 4-0-30-1, S Abbott 3.3-0-56-0, N Ellis 4-0-36-3, M Kuhnemann 4-0-31-0, M Stoinis 2-0-22-1, M Short 1-0-13-0.

## European Football

## First home win for West Ham United in eight months

LONDON

Jacob Murphy's fourth-minute opener for Newcastle, which came seconds after Jarrod Bowen struck the post at the other end, failed to spark what proved to be a sluggish performance by the visitors.

Instead, West Ham grew more into the game and after Lucas Paqueta equalized in the 35th minute with a long-range shot that crept inside the near post, Newcastle

defender Sven Botman stretched to block a cross but only succeeded in turning the ball into his own net in first-half stoppage time.

Substitute Tomas Soucek added a third for West Ham in second-half stoppage time.

West Ham, whose last home win was against Leicester on Feb. 27, stayed in the relegation zone but climbed above Nottingham Forest into third-to-last place. Forest was the only team West Ham had previously beaten this season.

## Arsenal extend lead

The wins just keep on coming for Arsenal - and Liverpool's losing streak is finally over. Mikel Arteta's team extended its lead at the top of the Premier League to seven points on Saturday with a 2-0 victory against Burnley. Liverpool won by the same scoreline against Aston Villa to end a four-game losing run in England's top flight.

It's 13 wins from 15 games in all competitions for Arsenal after a flying start to

the season that has only strengthened belief it will end its long-running title drought.

## Mbappe scores brace

Kylian Mbappe's spectacular scoring run just keeps on going. Two more goals on Saturday helped Real Madrid to a 4-0 win against Valencia, which extended its lead at the top of La Liga to seven points. On a day when the France striker showed off his golden boot award for European soccer's top scorer

last season, he took his tally this term to 21 goals in 17 games for club and country.

Mbappe scored from the penalty spot in the 19th minute at the Santiago Bernabeu and doubled Madrid's lead in the 31st. When Madrid won a second penalty before half-time, it was Vinicius Jr who stepped up to take it - but his effort was saved by Valencia goalkeeper. Moments later, Madrid had its third when Jude Bellingham struck from outside the area. Alvaro Carreras completed the win.



Newcastle United's Jacob Murphy (L) and West Ham's Lucas Paqueta in action in London on Sunday. AP