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## ‘Teen bandar Pappu, Tappu, Appu’: Yogi’s veiled swipe at Rahul, Tejashwi, Akhilesh

**NEW DELHI:** Uttar Pradesh chief minister Yogi Adityanath on Monday took a veiled jibe at Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) leader Tejashwi Yadav, and Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav, comparing them with “three monkeys” - Pappu, Tappu and Appu. While addressing a rally at Darbhanga’s Keoti in poll-bound Bihar, Yogi said that just like Mahatma Gandhi’s three monkeys, who “speak no evil, hear no evil, see no evil,” these leaders too are

blind, deaf, and mute to the truth of the development which has taken place in Bihar. “Just as Gandhiji had three monkeys, today the INDIA alliance has brought in three monkeys in the name of Pappu, Tappu and Appu,” Yogi said. “Pappu cannot speak the truth or say anything good. Tappu cannot see any truth, and Appu cannot hear the truth,” he added. Yogi also accused the Mahagathbandhan of colluding with mafias and pitting caste against caste in the



tate. “These people cannot see the development done by the NDA. These three people hug and mingle with the family mafias and disrupt

the security of the state,” Yogi said. “With guns and pistols, they tainted Bihar’s entire system. These are the same people who divide you

on the basis of caste, invite infiltrators, tamper with your faith, and then undermine national security,” he added. **‘Yogi insulting Hanuman ji’: Congress** Meanwhile, Congress countered the UP chief minister by claiming that he insulted Lord Hanuman through his remarks. Congress leader Pawan Khera said, “He is a Yogi, but he is insulting Hanuman ji. Imagine a Yogi insulting Hanuman ji. What can we say? The public is watching and hearing this.” Meanwhile, election cam-

paigns are in full swing as Bihar heads for the first phase of polling on November 6, followed by the second phase on November 11. The counting of votes and declaration of results will take place on November 14. The total number of electors in the final list stands at 7.42 crore, while there were 7.89 crore electors as of June 24 this year. An Election Commission press release stated that 65 lakh voters were removed from the draft list.

## ‘Only 9 of 37 monitoring stations worked on Diwali’: SC



**NEW DELHI:** The Supreme Court on Monday expressed concern over the failure of several air quality monitoring stations in Delhi during Diwali, observing that authorities cannot wait for pollution levels to hit the “severe” mark before acting. During the hearing of the MC Mehta case, a bench comprising Chief Justice BR Gavai and Justice K Vinod Chandran directed the Commission for Air Quality Management to file an affidavit outlining the steps taken to prevent further deterioration of air quality in the Delhi-NCR region. Delhi’s Air Quality Deteriorates Sharply to ‘Red Zone’ as Diwali Fireworks Trigger Severe Pollution Senior advocate Aparajita Singh, appearing as amicus curiae, flagged alarming media reports that many monitoring stations were non-functional during Diwali - a period when pollution typically spikes. “There are newspapers after newspapers saying that monitoring stations are non-functional. If the monitoring stations are not even functioning, we don’t even know

when to implement GRAP (graded response action plan)... Out of 37 monitoring stations, only nine were functioning continuously on the day of Diwali,” she said. Calling for urgent corrective measures, the amicus urged the bench to ensure that CAQM submits comprehensive data and a clear action plan. She reminded the court that earlier directives had emphasised pre-emptive steps, not reactive ones, once pollution levels worsen. Taking note of her submission, the bench said, “The CAQM is required to place on record an affidavit as to what steps are proposed to be taken to prevent the pollution from turning severe.” Responding to the court’s direction, the counsel for CAQM said that the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) is primarily responsible for monitoring air quality data. Additional Solicitor General Aishwarya Bhati assured the bench that all concerned agencies would file the required report soon. On October 15, the CJI-led bench had permitted the sale and bursting of green firecrackers.

## ‘Why so ashamed?’: PM Modi asks why Lalu ‘missing’ from RJD posters

**NEW DELHI:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday stepped up his attack on the Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) in poll-bound Bihar, questioning why the person responsible for bringing “jungle raj” (lawlessness) to the state is “missing” from the party’s posters. Although he did not name anyone, the remark was a clear reference to RJD chief and former Bihar chief minister Lalu Prasad Yadav.

Watch: Pappu Yadav Gets Angry When Asked Why He Wasn’t Seen with Rahul Gandhi “Look at the posters of the RJD and the Congress. The pictures of the person who brought ‘jungle raj’ to Bihar are either missing altogether or so tiny that they can’t be seen even with binoculars,” PM Modi said at a rally in Katihar. “The one who is such a big leader of the RJD, whose entire family is in politics — why are his pictures not being used?” he asked. PM Modi went on to question why Lalu Prasad Yadav’s son, Tejashwi, was “reluctant” to mention his own father’s name. “Why are you so ashamed to take your father’s name? What is the wrongdoing that



the RJD feels compelled to hide from Bihar’s youth?” he remarked, without naming Tejashwi, the chief ministerial candidate of the RJD-led opposition Mahagathbandhan, which includes the Congress and other allies. The term “jungle raj” is frequently used by political opponents to attack Lalu Prasad Yadav, Tejashwi Yadav, and the RJD. RJD hits back at PM Modi The RJD hit back at PM Modi, with both Tejashwi Yadav and his sister Misa Bharti taking aim at the prime minister. “PM Modi should talk about the 14 crore people of Bihar, why is he talking about useless things? The kind of profit Lalu Yadav has given to the Railways,

PM Modi cannot do that even in 7 births,” the Mahagathbandhan CM face retorted. “PM Modi has come for Bihar elections or to search for Lalu Yadav’s photos? The fear of Lau Yadav has not come out of the minds of NDA leaders and PM Modi. On one side the prime minister of the country talks about ‘katta’ and on the other side, Tejashwi Yadav talks about providing employment to the youth,” Bharti remarked. Bihar will go to the polls in two phases on November 6 and 11, with counting scheduled for November 14. The election is shaping up as a direct contest between the ruling National Democratic Alliance (NDA) and the Mahagathbandhan.

### ‘No time for Ram temple in Ayodhya’: PM

**NEW DELHI:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday accused the Congress and Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) of terming the Chhath festival as “drama” while they celebrate “foreign festivals.” While addressing a rally in poll-bound Bihar’s Saharsa, the Prime Minister slammed RJD supreme Lalu Prasad Yadav for celebrating Halloween with his grandchildren and claimed that INDIA bloc leaders will never find time to visit the Ram Temple in Ayodhya. PM Modi Rips Into RJD-Congress For ‘Insulting Faith’, Warns Bihar Voters “These RJD and Congress people travel all over the world. We read about it on social media and feel ashamed, but they don’t find time to visit the Ram Temple. There’s a temple built there for Nishad Raj,” PM Modi said. “There’s also a temple for Lord Valmiki in Ayodhya. There’s also a temple for Shabari Mata in Ayodhya. If you have a problem with Ram, at least bow your head at the feet of Nishad Raj.



Prime Minister Narendra Modi in a group photo during the inauguration of the Emerging Science, Technology, and Innovation Summit 2025, at Bharat Mandapam, in New Delhi on November 3, 2025.

## ‘Nitish in BJP’s lap’: Congress takes shot at CM

**NEW DELHI:** Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge on Monday launched a sharp attack on Bihar chief minister Nitish Kumar and the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP). He claimed that if the NDA retains power in the state, the saffron party will not



reappoint Kumar as CM, alleging that the post would instead be handed to one of its “chelas (foot soldiers)”

Addressing his first rally in Bihar’s Vaishali district, the Congress leader accused Nitish of betraying the legacy of socialist leaders like Jayaprakash Narayan, Ram Manohar Lohia and Karpooori Thakur by aligning with the BJP. He alleged that the saffron party, which

believes in “Manu Smriti,” has “no concern for Dalits, OBCs or women.” “Nitish Kumar is sitting in the lap of the BJP, which believes in Manu Smriti. He has given up on JP, Lohia and Thakur. He cannot champion the cause of Dalits, OBCs.

## SIR showdown: DMK moves Supreme Court against roll revision in Tamil Nadu

**NEW DELHI:** Tamil Nadu’s ruling Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) on Monday said it has filed a petition in the Supreme Court against the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) in the southern state. The Election Commission of India (ECI) last week ordered the next leg of the SIR of electoral rolls, covering a dozen states and Union territories, and 51 crore electors in all. Enumeration for this phase is set to start on November 4, and the final electoral roll, with January 1, 2026, as the qualifying date, will be published on February 7, 2026. Four of the five states/UT



where assembly polls are due in April-May next year — West Bengal, Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Puducherry — are among the 12 that will witness SIR over the next three months. Assam, though also poll-bound, is not on that list. Earlier today, chief minister MK Stalin accused the ECI of “conspiring to implement” what he described as a “malicious exercise”.

## ‘Darbar Move’ to boost economy, bridge Jammu-Kashmir gap: CM Omar

**JAMMU:** J&K CM Omar Abdullah on Monday said the age-old “Darbar Move” tradition, discontinued four years ago, was revived by his government to bridge the gap between the twin capitals of the erstwhile state — Jammu and Srinagar. The “Darbar Move” bi-annual tradition of shifting the J&K government offices from Srinagar to Jammu in winter and vice-versa in summer was started by Dogra rulers nearly 150 years ago. In June 2021, Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha halted the practice, citing



the administration’s complete transition to e-office, which, he claimed, would save approximately Rs 200 crore annually. The tradition was revived by the Abdullah govt on Oct 16. On Monday, CM Abdullah, accompanied by deputy CM Surinder

### Stray dogs case: Chief secretaries of states tender apology

**NEW DELHI:** Chief secretaries of different states on Monday tendered unconditional apology before the Supreme Court for not filing a response on measures taken by them to curb the menace of stray dog bites. A special bench justices Vikram Nath, Sandeep Mehta, and NV Anjaria said that victims of dog bites must also be heard and allows their plea to participate in the hearing on dog bites menace case which the court took suo motu cognisance on the basis of report. “We will issue order in a few days regarding government institutions, where employees are supporting and encouraging dogs in that area,” Justice Vikram Nath observed.

## Once an industrial hub, this sleepy town boasts of two railway units

**Marhowra** remains a symbol of industrialisation in the state. Even now, whenever there is talk of industrial activity, there are suggestions that the sugar mill in this town near Chhapra should be revived. It’s a task easier said than done. Just search for the now defunct sugar mill and Google Maps would take you to the ‘Ruins of Marhowra’. But for directions, you are likely to miss the narrow lane that takes you to the Morton factory,



which dished out toffees, including the ones filled with coconut, since it started in the 1920s. Subsequently, a sugar mill and a distillery came up near it. There was also British India Corporation-owned Saran Engineering Company, which provided

machinery to the plants. For nearly 30 years now, there has been no activity at the site. Saran Engineering Company has been taken over and the new owners are now selling the land as plots. Old houses that belonged to the employees are there, with Ranvir Singh, a clerk who joined the PSU in 1974, occupying one of them. “The company owed me money and I entered into an agreement with the new management,” he says.

## Indian doctors and nurses form backbone of global health systems, says OECD report

Indian doctors and nurses have become indispensable to health systems across advanced economies, according to the International Migration Outlook 2025 released on Monday by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD). From the perspective of the 38 OECD member countries (which include the US, Canada, European nations, and Australia), the report states that the growing dependence on migrant medical professionals’ underscores both a lifeline and a vulnerability in global healthcare. The report finds that India is now the single largest source of migrant



doctors and the second-largest source of migrant nurses working in OECD member countries. In 2020-21, there were 98,857 Indian-born doctors and 122,400 Indian-born nurses employed across OECD nations — up by 76 per cent and 435 per cent, respectively, since 2000-01. OECD member countries housed more than 8,30,000 foreign-

born doctors and 1.75 million foreign-born nurses, representing respectively about one-quarter and one-sixth of the workforce in each occupation. Asia is the main region of origin, accounting for approximately 40% of doctors, and 37% of nurses. India, Germany, and China are the main countries of origin for doctors, while the Philippines,

India, and Poland are the top three countries for nurses. “Migrant doctors and nurses are increasingly vital to the sustainability of OECD member countries’ health systems,” the report notes, adding that shortages are structural rather than temporary and will worsen without sustained international recruitment. The United Kingdom (UK), United States (US), Canada, and Australia remain the largest destinations for Indian health professionals. The OECD report distinguishes between ‘foreign-born’ and ‘foreign-trained’ health professionals. The former refers to doctors and nurses who were born outside the countr.



## Sahara India Challenges Municipal Corporation Action in High Court

Lucknow

Sahara India Commercial Corporation Limited has approached the Lucknow Bench of the Uttar Pradesh High Court against the possession proceedings initiated by the municipal corporation. The company termed the sealing of Sahara City by the municipal corporation as unilateral and against the fundamental principles of justice. Serious Allegations Raised in High Court Petition In its petition filed before the High Court, Sahara India alleged that the municipal corporation forcefully took possession and sealed Sahara City without giving the company an opportunity to present its side and overlooked previously issued stay orders. The petition demands the cancellation of the municipal



orders. Instructions for Lease Extension Already Issued Sahara India has also informed the court that clear instructions for extending the lease term had already been given as part of the ongoing arbitration process. Despite this, the municipal corporation allegedly violated these orders and proceeded to seal Sahara City, which Sahara claims is a breach of judicial proceedings. Sealing Action Termed Unjust Sahara India contends that the municipal corporation's action is not only unjust but has also caused seri-

ous damage to the company's reputation and commercial activities. The petition further states that the corporation did not provide any opportunity for a hearing, which is against the principle of natural justice. Hearing Expected This Week The petition filed before the Lucknow Bench of the High Court is likely to be heard this week. Given the seriousness of the matter, the court is expected to intervene there has been no official response from the municipal corporation regarding this issue.

## The High Power Management Committee of the Shri Banke Bihari Temple met

Mathura

The sixth meeting of the Thakur Shri Banke Bihari Temple High Powered Management Committee, Vrindavan Mathura was held in the auditorium of the Laxman Shaheed Memorial Building, Vrindavan, under the chairmanship of Justice (Retired) Ashok Kumar of the Allahabad High Court. Six points were discussed at the meeting, including the views of the Goswamis regarding the impasse in complying with the decision taken at the committee meeting on September 29, 2025 to extend the darshan timings at the Shri Banke Bihari Temple.

The progress of the opening of the Golas (circles) located in the Shri Banke Bihari Temple, as discussed at the committee meeting on September 29, 2025. The progress of the opening of the closed rooms located in the Shri Banke Bihari Temple, as discussed at the committee meeting on September 29, 2025. The progress of



the investigation by the three-member committee formed to investigate irregularities in the 357-square-yard vacant, semi-constructed site in the courtyard of the Thakur Shri Banke Bihari Temple. Presentation by Chief Executive Officer, Uttar Pradesh Braj Teerth Vikas Parishad, Mathura, regarding the corridor of Thakur Shri Banke Bihari Temple, Vrindavan. Status of compliance of the decisions taken by the committee in the previous meetings. President Justice (Retd.) Allahabad High Court Ashok Kumar Member/ District and Sessions Judge (Retd.) Mukesh Mishra Member/ District and Sessions Judge Mathura Vikas Kumar Member/ Munsif/Civil Judge

Mathura Shipra Dubey Member Secretary/ District Magistrate/ Collector Mathura Chandra Prakash Singh Member/ Senior Superintendent of Police Mathura Shlok Kumar Member/ Municipal Commissioner Mathura Jag Pravesh Member/ Vice Chairman Mathura Vrindavan Development Authority Mathura Shyam Bahadur Singh Member/ Superintendent Archaeologist Archaeological Survey of India Agra Dr. Smita S Kumar Member/ Goswami Rajbhog Group Shrivardhan Goswami son of Jugalkishore Goswami were present in the meeting.



## Jaipur-Ajmer highway inferno: LPG truck collision triggers massive fire

**NEW DELHI:** A major fire broke out on the Jaipur-Ajmer highway late night after a truck carrying LPG cylinders collided with another vehicle near the Dudu area, officials said. The impact of the crash triggered multiple explosions as gas cylinders began to burst, sending flames and shockwaves across the stretch. The blaze and loud explosions were visible and audible from several kilometres away, according to news agency PTI. Police personnel and fire brigades rushed to the scene, halting traffic on both sides of the busy highway. Rescue and fire-fighting operations continued late into the night as teams worked to bring the situation under control. Rajasthan chief minister Bhajanlal Sharma directed deputy chief minister Dr Prem Chand Bairwa and MLA Kailash Verma to visit the site and assess the situation. In a post on X, he wrote, "The accident of a fire breaking out in a truck loaded with gas cylinders on the Jaipur-Ajmer National Highway in the Mauzamabad police station area of Jaipur Rural is extremely tragic. Fire brigade and disaster management teams are engaged in relief and rescue operations at the incident site." "Instructions have been given to the district administration to ensure proper treatment for the injured and to provide all possible assistance to those affected. I pray to God for the safety and well-being of all citizens affected by this heart-wrenching incident", he further added. Jaipur district collector and other senior officials also head-post on X, confirmed that relief and rescue efforts were underway near Sawarda culvert in the Mojmabad area.

## Himachal tragedy: 18 dead as landslide strikes bus in Bilaspur; many missing

**KULLU:** At least 18 people were killed after a massive landslide slammed into a private bus near Barthi village in Bilaspur district of Himachal Pradesh, around 100km from Shimla, on evening. Many are missing and the rescue operation was on when this report was filed.

The bus was carrying 30-35 passengers to Ghumarwin when the landslide struck around 6.30pm, said an official. Rocks and boulders crashed through the roof, crushing passengers to death in their seats. Debris completely enveloped the 42-seater vehicle. Bilaspur administration immediately dispatched a team to the site. Before police or rescue per-



sonnel arrived, however, local people rushed to the spot in large numbers and began digging through the mound of debris to reach survivors. The rescue team brought along a JCB to clear the debris. With the help of locals, police

pulled out four survivors, three of them children. They have been admitted to a govt hospital in Barthi. None of the deceased had been identified till night. Bilaspur ADC Om Kant Thakur and SP Sandeep Dhawal were supervising the

search and rescue mission on the spot. It has been raining heavily in Himachal for the past two-three days and the landslide was triggered by a downpour, said an official. Prime Minister Narendra Modi expressed grief over the tragedy. "Saddened by the loss of lives due to a mishap in Bilaspur, Himachal Pradesh. My thoughts are with the affected people and their families during this difficult time. Praying for the speedy recovery of the injured," a PMO statement said. An ex gratia of Rs 2 lakh from PM National Relief Fund will be given to the next of kin of each deceased, and the injured would be given Rs 50,000, it said.

## Fat-loss drug Mounjaro now India's No. 2 pharma brand

**NEW DELHI:** Soaring demand for weight-loss therapies has brought Eli Lilly's Mounjaro within striking distance of Indian pharma market's long standing leader GlaxoSmithKline's Augmentin, an antibiotic. During September, Mounjaro recorded sales of Rs 80 crore, becoming the second-largest brand in the pharma retail market, latest data culled by TOI from market research firm Pharmatrac showed. As against this, Augmentin gen-

erated sales of Rs 85 crore during the month. Typically, top-selling medicines in the pharmaceutical market are either Augmentin or anti-diabetic therapy, Mixtard, which generates around Rs 75-80 crore in monthly sales. Launched in March this year, Mounjaro generated a cumulative revenue of Rs 233 crore by September. Bulging sales Augmentin unit value lower than Mounjaro's Industry experts said the introduction of

Mounjaro in a pre-filled device, KwikPen, in August has boosted sales. A key reason for the sales is the higher unit value of the drug even though the volumes are lower. Average monthly cost of Mounjaro for a patient starts from Rs 14,000 and goes up to Rs 27,000, depending on the prescription. In contrast, a strip of 10 tablets of Augmentin 625 Duo costs under Rs 200. Sales of Mounjaro's rival, Wegovy, marketed by Novo Nordisk, have.

## Bihar assembly elections: NDA, INDIA bloc race to complete poll pacts

**PATNA/ NEW DELHI:**

As Bihar's governing NDA and opposition INDIA bloc engaged in hectic seat-sharing talks on , a day after the Election Commission announced the two-phase assembly poll dates, the opposition alliance was expected to induct two more allies - Jharkhand Mukti Morcha and ex-Union minister Pashupati Kumar Paras-led Rashtriya Lok Janshakti Party - even as it tried to negotiate seats with its dissatisfied Left constituents. NDA, likely to announce its seat-sharing arrangement on Thursday, too, was trying to iron out wrinkles with its allies, especially with Chirag Paswan's LJP (Ram Vilas).

**Seat struggle** CPI(ML) rejects offer of 19 seats from



Tejashwi's RJD The INDIA bloc, which comprises RJD, Congress, CPI, CPI(M), CPI(ML), and Mukesh Sahni's Vikassheel Insaan Party (VIP), met late Monday evening but failed to reach a consensus as CPI(ML) Liberation and CPI wanted more than the number of seats offered and sought shares based on their 2020 performances, according to highly placed sources. Discussions were scheduled to resume on evening. CPI(ML) rejected the

offer of 19 seats - the same number it had contested in 2020 - from Tejashwi Yadav's RJD as against their demand for between 40 and 45 seats. With the senior leadership seeing this proposal from RJD as neither "dignified" nor "respectable", it proposed on a nearly 25% climbdown to convey to RJD a list of around 30 seats which, sources said, would be "non-negotiable". State CPI(ML) secretary Kunal said, "There is no discontent among us. We want 40 seats

## TN drug inspectors had failed to detect toxic cough syrup production for 14 years

**CHENNAI:** For 14 years, Sresan Pharmaceutical, the manufacturer of toxic Coldrif cough syrup that has been blamed for the deaths of 17 children in Madhya Pradesh, operated unchecked from a dingy building in Kancheepuram, Tamil Nadu, even as drugs were manufactured in patently unhygienic conditions with no proper facilities and zero adherence to rules. It took the fatalities in MP's Chhindwara district for the Tamil Nadu drug authorities to finally wake up and inspect the manufacturing unit, which held a licence since 2011, and subsequently seal the premises. The inspection, carried out



a day after receiving a letter from MP's drug controller, confirmed 364 critical and major violations at every stage — right from sourcing raw materials to drug making, testing and packing. On October 3, Tamil Nadu's deputy director of drugs control S Gurubharathi, who is the licensing and controlling

authority in the state, directed the pharma firm to halt the manufacture, sale and distribution of drugs, after lab test revealed the Coldrif solution manufactured in the unit contained 48.6% diethylene glycol, an industrial chemical that causes acute renal failure when ingested. Sriperumbudur drug control inspector Manimegalai

issued a show-cause notice to the company on afternoon. The company has been called upon to provide a detailed explanation for the discrepancies in the medicine's quality and labelling. A police team from MP reached Chennai on evening and are likely to visit the facility on Wednesday morning to conduct a detailed probe. A release from the Tamil Nadu directorate of drugs control said despite October 1 and October 2 being public holidays, the inspection of the manufacturing facility was begun just hours after receiving MP's request on October 1. The entire investigation, including inspection, sam-

pling, analysis of the syrup and stopping production, was completed within two days, it added. **What churned out killer syrup: Filthy unit, leaking equipment** Senior drug inspectors P Nithin Kumar in Kancheepuram and R Sasikumar in Tiruvallur inspected the premises and found that the company purchased a non-pharmaceutical grade of propylene glycol, a raw material for manufacture of drugs, but there was no invoice for the purchase. Four other syrups manufactured with propylene glycol as an excipient were found to be safe. The drug inspectors stated

## Cough syrup tragedy: Toll hits 17; doctors say toxic

**NAGPUR/BHOPAL:** Toxic cough syrup Coldrif prescribed to children in MP's Chhindwara snuffed out two more lives on , taking the toll to 17 in 43 days. Jayashu Yaduvanshi and Vedansh Pawar, both aged two and suffering from renal failure, suc-



cumbed during treatment in Nagpur, report Sarfaraz Ahmed and Amarjeet Singh. Both died following severe brain damage inflicted by diethylene glycol. Dr Ashish Dieth GMCH said DEG sticks to brain tissues and is impossible to filter. "Permissible

limit is 0.1%, but DEG was at 48.6%, nearly 500% more," he said. Civic & health officials in Nagpur said 11 children remain critical. A door-to-door survey was launched to trace bottles of Coldrif that were already sold. by the time the ban was



## DM directed that the complaints received at the Samadhan Diwas be resolved in a timely and quality manner

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**Prayagraj.** A Sampoorna Samadhan Diwas was organized in Tehsil Meja on Monday under the chairmanship of District Magistrate Manish Kumar Verma. The District Magistrate issued strict instructions to all concerned officials, stating that any negligence or indifference in resolving public complaints would not be tolerated. He directed them to resolve complaints in a timely and quality manner. On this occasion, he inspected the stalls set up by various departments in the Tehsil premises, gathered information about their respective schemes and programs, and directed the officials of the concerned departments to widely publicize the schemes and ensure that eligible people benefit from them. On this occasion, the District Magistrate also performed the baby shower ceremony for four women and the Annaprashan ceremony for four children under the Mission Shakti-5.0 campaign, which focuses on the safety, respect, and self-reliance of women and girls, in the tehsil. He also obtained information about the vaccines administered to preg-



nant women. Listening to public grievances on the occasion of the Sampoorna Samadhan Diwas, the District Magistrate directed officials from the revenue, police, health, and other related departments to investigate the issues at the ground level and resolve them in a timely and quality manner. He also directed officials to take strict action against the concerned officials if there is a delay in the timely investigation, action, and resolution of complaints. The District Magistrate directed the Revenue Inspectors and Lekhpals present at the

Samadhan Diwas to resolve public grievances promptly and with quality. The District Magistrate stated that resolving public grievances is one of the government's highest priorities, and any negligence or indifference is unacceptable. He also directed the complainants to obtain feedback and ensure that they are satisfied with the resolution of their complaints. The District Magistrate has directed for speedy disposal of inheritance, illegal occupation and other complaints received on the Samadhan Diwas. The District Magistrate has directed the concerned to take necessary



action by making separate lists of the applications. A total of 506 complaints were received in Tehsil Meja on the Sampoorna Samadhan Diwas, out of which 202 were related to the Revenue Department, 41 to the Development Department, 91 to the Police Department, 11 to the Social Welfare Department, 3 to the Education Department, 2 to the Health Department and 156 to other departments, out of which 8 complaints were disposed of on the spot. For disposal of the remaining complaints, the District Magistrate has directed the officials of the concerned

departments to receive the complaints today itself and dispose of them in a quality manner within the stipulated time limit. While giving instructions to all the concerned officials, the District Magistrate has said that the complaints must be disposed of within the stipulated time limit. On this occasion, Additional District Magistrate (Administration) Pooja Mishra, Sub-District Magistrate Meja Surendra Kumar, District Development Officer G.P. Kushwaha, District Panchayat Raj Officer Ravi Shankar Dwivedi and other concerned officers were present.

## Lakhs of rupees were stolen from an empty house 200 meters from the police station



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**Bharawari, Kaushambi.** In the district, fearless thieves broke into an empty house just 200 meters away from the Bharwari police post and committed theft worth lakhs. Police arrived on the information of the theft and are engaged in investigation. Devi Prasad, son of Jamuna Prasad, a resident of Khalilabad, had gone with his family to his sister's house in Khedwa, Chitrakoot district, on Sunday for a house warming ceremony. In the morning, people from the

neighborhood informed him over the phone, and he rushed back home. Upon reaching home, he found that the thieves had broken the lock outside his house and broken the cupboard kept in the upstairs room. The thieves stole about 15 thousand rupees in cash and gold and silver jewellery worth about 5 to 6 lakh rupees kept in the cupboard. Devi Prasad informed the Bharwari police post about this. Police arrived on the information and are engaged in investigation of the matter.

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

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Mission Shakti 5.0 Campaign Launched by Mission Shakti Teams from All Police Stations in GanganagarAkhand Bharat MessagePrayagraj. 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 cybersecurity 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.

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**Azhuva, Kaushambi.** Shyam Baba's birth anniversary was celebrated with great pomp and grandeur on Sunday evening at the vegetable market of Adarsh ??Nagar Panchayat Azhuva. A grand court was decorated. The event included perfume showers, flower showers, Holi of flowers, and fifty-six offerings. The Jagran was organized by the event's organizer, Shri Shyam Mitra Mandal. Thousands of Shyam devotees attended this grand Bhajan. Everyone enjoyed the devotional songs and



bhajans. Singers Prachi Upadhyay and Aditya Kumar Sehgal, who came from Prayagraj, enthralled everyone present. The entire vegetable market and surrounding area resounded with chants of Shyam Baba. The Jagran began at 9:00 pm and continued late into the night. The attractive tableaux attracted the attention of Shyam devotees. The Bhajan singer group forced

the people to dance by presenting one devotional song after another and bhajans steeped in the devotion of Khatu Shyam Baba. Among the bhajans sung by them were Sanwali Sarkar Teri Leela Aparampar\*\*\*Blue horses, red reins\*\*Today Shyam has come to Khatu, all men and women sang auspicious songs, drums and trumpets

played dear, today Shyam has come to Khatu\* In the festival that continued till late night, a supernatural decoration of Shri Shyam Prabhu Khatu Wale was done. With the occasional flower shower and devotional bhajans, the venue was colored in the colors of Lord Shri Shyam Khatu Wale. After the completion of the program, Prasad was distributed among the devotees. On this occasion, mainly Shri Khatu Shyam Mitra Mandal Aman Kesarwani, Rishabh Kesarwani, Himanshu Kesarwani, Animesh Sahu and thousands of Shyam devotees were present.

## 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 Puramufti 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 Puramufti police called the police to the scene to identify the body, the daughter was identified. According to Inspector Puramufti, 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.

## A young man walking on foot was injured after being hit by a roadways bus

Akhand Bharat Sandesh

**Kokhraj Kaushambi.** Once again, gross negligence by roadways bus drivers has been exposed in the district. A young man walking on the road was hit by a speeding, uncontrolled roadways bus driver,



injuring him. He fell to the ground and lay writhing in pain. Nearby residents rushed to the scene,

reported the incident to the police, and the injured man was admitted to the hospital. Roadways bus

drivers have caused numerous accidents in the past month, yet their actions remain unchecked. According to reports, Bajrangi Saroj, son of Girdhari Lal Saroj, was walking from his home to his farm on the road near the Kashiya West Hanuman Temple in the Kokhraj police sta-

tion area when, due to the negligence of a speeding roadways bus driver, the young man walking on the tracks was hit by the bus, causing him to fall onto the road and sustain serious injuries.

Upon learning of the incident, a crowd of villagers gathered at the scene. Upon

arriving, the villagers, with the help of an ambulance, admitted the injured man to the nearest hospital. Upon receiving information about the incident, the station in-charge arrived at the scene, took the roadways bus into custody, and began investigations.

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

## The son of a sub-inspector injured in an attack by neighbors dies after nine days

Akhand Bharat Sandesh

**Prayagraj** A shocking news came to humanity on Sunday night in the Koraon police station area. Nine days ago, the son of a sub-inspector seriously injured in an attack by neighbors finally lost his battle for life. 25-year-old Suraj Kumar died early Monday morning during treatment. His death has caused an atmosphere of grief and outrage in the entire village.

According to reports, Suraj Kumar's father, Santlal, was a sub-inspector with the Uttarakhand Police. Due to illness and paralysis, he had been living in the village for the past four years. Suraj lived with his family in the village, studying and farming. At around 3 a.m. on October 25th, while Suraj was sleeping in his room, death struck him. Suraj's brother, Sawan, said that someone knocked on the door late at night. When the



grandfather opened the door without suspecting anything, neighbor Harischandra and his sons, Sohith and Mohit,

barged in. Without a word, they began repeatedly attacking the sleeping Suraj with an axe and an iron rod. The attack was so sudden and horrific that Suraj suffered deep wounds to his head and legs. By the time the family members raised an alarm, the accused had fled. The family rushed the bleeding Suraj to Swarup Rani Nehru Hospital, where his condition was reported critical. He was later admitted to a private hospital in Georgetown.

For nine days, a team of doctors tried to save his life, but Suraj succumbed to his injuries at around 4 a.m. on Monday. The family is inconsolable after the incident. The deceased's father, Santlal, a police officer himself, collapsed upon seeing his son's body. He explained that during his service, he had sent many criminals to jail, but could not save his own son. Koraon police said that a case of attempted murder had initially been regis-

tered in this case. Now, following Suraj's death, the charges will be increased to a murder case. Police teams are conducting raids to arrest the accused, Harishchandra, and his two sons. This incident has sent shockwaves through the area. Villagers say that Suraj was a calm and helpful young man. His death has shaken everyone to their core. The villagers have demanded the immediate arrest and severe punishment of the accused.

## Thieves fled with gold, silver, and cash worth lakhs

Akhand Bharat Sandesh

**Kaushambi.** Unknown thieves targeted the home of Karan Singh, son of Ramchandra Lodhi, in Mahendra village, under the Karari police station area, last night. The thieves broke into the house at midnight and stole gold and silver jewelry, along with cash. Goods worth lakhs were missing from the house.

The family learned of the theft in the morning, causing panic in the entire area. Villagers allege that thefts are continuously increasing in the Karari police station area, but the police have yet to solve any of the cases. Locals are angry with the police station's handling of the case. The victim's family



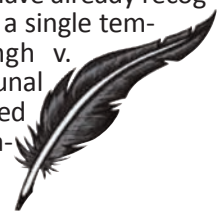
has filed a complaint with the police. As in previous incidents, the police are investigating this case as well. The villagers have demanded to tighten the security arrangements and increase continuous patrolling in the area. Earlier, the police had not yet disclosed the theft incident that took place in Lahna and Rasulpur Soni villages of Karari police station area, then another theft took place.



## Editorial

### Tax terror and India's same-sex couples

When a homemaker and a lawyer went to the Bombay High Court this month, they were not asking for the right to marry; they were asking for the right not to be taxed for giving gifts to each other. In their petition, they argued that Section 56(2)(x) of the Income Tax Act exempts gifts between spouses from tax, but does not extend that exemption to same-sex couples since the law does not recognise them as spouses. In their case, the absence of marriage recognition meant the presence of a tax bill. It is a reminder that even without entering the debate on marriage equality, the law is already punishing same-sex couples in small and large ways that are rarely discussed. This tax case is not an isolated problem. It is one of the many points in a web of laws where the word 'spouse' decides who is entitled and who is excluded. Inheritance laws under the Hindu Succession Act, 1956 or the Indian Succession Act, 1925 give priority to a legally recognised spouse, leaving partners as legal strangers. Many states also offer concessional stamp duty for property transfers between spouses, but same-sex couples pay the higher rate because they cannot produce a marriage certificate. In practice, it can mean paying significantly more for the same transaction. These gaps are not just about money; they appear in moments of crisis. Research on discrimination in Indian hospitals has shown that queer people are often denied recognition of their chosen partners as next of kin. In emergencies, this can mean being refused entry to an intensive care unit (ICU) or being blocked from giving consent for urgent treatment. The Surrogacy (Regulation) Act of 2021 and the Assisted Reproductive Technology (Regulation) Act, 2021 go further, excluding same-sex couples from surrogacy and restricting adoption to single individuals or married heterosexual couples. In effect, the laws treat them as incapable of raising a child together, no matter their stability or commitment. Employment rules reinforce the same pattern. In government service, Leave Travel Concession (LTC), medical reimbursement, and family pension benefits are tied to a recognised spouse. Private companies may choose to extend coverage, but the default language in most HR manuals mirrors the government's. Studies of India's insurance sector show that traditional group health insurance schemes frequently exclude same-sex partners, and even where some progressive companies extend coverage, it is not guaranteed by law. The Employees' Provident Fund allows broader nominations, but pension rules under the Employees' Pension Scheme, 1995 limit eligibility to spouses or children. Even when a company accepts a same-sex partner as a nominee, it is a discretionary gesture, not a right protected by law. Immigration policy adds another layer of instability. A foreign national married to an Indian citizen can apply for a dependent visa or be registered as an Overseas Citizen of India, but same-sex partners cannot. They rely on tourist or business visas that require regular renewals, creating a constant risk of separation if paperwork lapses or rules change. These are invisible forms of insecurity that heterosexual couples rarely have to confront. The lack of recognition also weakens legal protections when relationships end. The Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005, while covering women in domestic relationships, leaves uncertainty about its application to same-sex couples. Maintenance and alimony provisions in personal laws and the Criminal Procedure Code apply to spouses, shutting out partners who may have been financially dependent for years. Without these remedies, breakups can mean abrupt eviction, loss of shared assets, and no legal recourse. India's own courts have already recognised that families do not fit a single template. In the Deepika Singh v. Central Administrative Tribunal judgment, the court observed that such atypical manifestations of the family unit.



### GST reform is pointless if it doesn't simplify tax slabs

No single power—be it the United States, China, Russia, Iran, or India—can fundamentally change the reality of Balochistan or the lives of its inhabitants on either side of the border. Borders always divide; they are never as "organic" or as "natural" as we imagine them. Balochistan remains a complex geographical and ethnographic conundrum. In Interviews I have conducted with Baloch human rights activists, a stark reality often emerges: the people are not regarded as citizens, and their lives are not valued. This is not merely a humanitarian crisis—it is a strategic condition. For security analysts,

mastering the terrain is half the battle—after all, geopolitics is quite literally the politics of geography. The shared challenge facing India, China, Pakistan, and Iran is that, contrary to the neat abstractions of the nation-state, their borders stretch into regions better described as frontiers—zones of transition rather than lines of separation. These areas are dynamic, expansive, and marked by extreme poverty and shifting norms. The issue is not the rule of law, but the absence of it. This civilisational challenge defines Balochistan, as it does Kurdistan and, for decades, Afghanistan. How India engages with this liminal-

ity carries strategic consequences. Baloch militancy can be broadly divided into two ideological currents: First, the Baloch Liberation Army (BLA), a secular ethnonationalist insurgency opposing both Pakistan and China, echoes the outlook of the People's Defense Units (YPG) in Syria. Second, Jaysh al-Adl (Army of Justice), a Sunni-Jihadi group operating from the Iranian side of the border and a successor to Jundallah, resembles Al-Nusra Front in its tactics and ideology. Despite their ideological differences, both the BLA and Jaysh al-Adl groups engage in similar tactical operations.

Across Balochistan, irregular forces compete with Pakistani and Iranian security services for control over territory, populations, smuggling routes, and revenue. Control remains fluid.

The US designation of the BLA as a Foreign Terrorist Organization (FTO) ostensibly responds to attack patterns. Yet, the focus on secular insurgents rather than jihadist actors creates a paradox—especially given the tactical symmetry across the border—emerging from overlapping identities, pulls and pressures. Baloch groups are held together by tribal, kinship, religious, and paramilitary networks.

## Digital innovation and citizen-centric policies, aim to eliminate inefficiencies



As the Minister of Revenue and Land Reforms in Bihar, I am honoured to lead a department that forms the bedrock of our state's socio-economic framework under the dynamic leadership of Chief Minister Nitish Kumar and the visionary guidance of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Land is not merely an asset in Bihar; it is the foundation of livelihoods, heritage, and progress. Since assuming this role in February 2025, my team and I, in alignment with the state government's commitment to transformative governance, have prioritised reforms to modernise the land management system. These initiatives, rooted in digital innovation and citizen-centric policies, aim to eliminate inefficiencies, reduce disputes, and empower millions with secure property rights. They resonate with PM Modi's ambitious vision for a Viksit Bharat by 2047 and Nitish Kumar's relentless pursuit of a prosperous, inclusive Bihar. In this article, I highlight our key achievements, their impacts, and how they contribute to the shared vision of a developed India. PM Modi's Viksit Bharat 2047 vision, articulated in his historic 103-minute Independence Day speech on 15 August 2025 from the Red Fort, envisions India as a \$35 trillion economy by its centennial independence, leading globally in technology, defence, and inclusivity. He urged every institution and individual to work toward this goal, emphasising self-reliance (Atmanirbhar Bharat), innovation, and citizen empowerment. In Bihar,

Nitish Kumar's government has embraced this vision, driving policies that blend technological advancement with grassroots development. His leadership has been instrumental in transforming Bihar from a state of challenges to one of opportunities, with land and water reforms serving as critical pillars. Our initiatives in the Revenue and Land Reforms Department align seamlessly with PM Modi's call for a developed India and Nitish Kumar's focus on equitable growth, ensuring Bihar contributes significantly to the Viksit Bharat mission. Under the state government's digital-first approach, championed by Nitish Kumar, we have accelerated the Bihar Bhumi portal, a flagship platform that reflects PM Modi's Digital India vision and Bihar's commitment to ease of living. This portal enables landowners to access, verify, and update records remotely, streamlining processes like mutation and ownership verification. In February 2025, we extended the self-declaration window for plot details until February 2026, allowing citizens to provide their ownership details, plot numbers and areas to update Khatian

(record of rights) and online land record. This has allowed the processing of thousands of applications while reducing corruption and backlog, mirroring the state government's focus on transparency and PM Modi's success with national schemes like Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT). Bihar's pioneering Integrated Land Record Management System with Spatial Mutation portal, the first in India to automatically update land maps with property transactions, enhances transparency and reduces disputes, contributing to the Viksit Bharat goal of efficient governance. A statewide toll free helpline — 18003456215 — for land related issues has also been launched, facilitating information and complaint redressal and bringing government close to masses. The Rajaswa Maha Abhiyan, launched on 16 August and running until 20 September, is a testament to Nitish Kumar's emphasis on grassroots governance. This door-to-door campaign, which has seen the distribution of over 23 lakh Jamabandi (land register) copies and correction forms so far, leverages GIS mapping and drone surveys for precision. Panchayat-level camps

with laptops ensure real-time data entry, making services accessible in remote areas and embodying PM Modi's last-mile connectivity ethos and Bihar's inclusive development model. Integrated with the Bihar Bhumi portal, the campaign allows citizens to track applications, fostering trust and participation, which are the key tenets of both Viksit Bharat and Nitish Kumar's citizen-led governance. To amplify outreach, we engaged PR professionals to leverage social media platforms like X and Meta aligning with PM Modi's innovative communication strategies and Nitish Kumar's focus on public engagement. This has educated Biharis on land rights, driving transparency and participation, much like the state's successful awareness campaigns for schemes like Saat Nishchay. On 7 May this year, Bihar, under Nitish Kumar's visionary Jal-Jeevan-Hariyali Mission, became the first Indian state to launch the Gazetteer-cum-Atlas of Water Bodies, mapping over 550 rivers, 4,500 wetlands, and 1.06 lakh ponds with Unique Identification Numbers (UIDs). This initiative, inspired by water body depletion in Darbhanga, supports PM Modi's Jal Jeevan Mission and Viksit Bharat's sustainability goals, as well as Nitish Kumar's environmental agenda. Enriched with historical, socio-economic, and environmental data, the atlas aids anti-encroachment efforts, plans new ponds in water-scarce areas, and strengthens water conservation.

It aligns with PM Modi's praise for the Jal

Jeevan Mission's success in providing tap water to about 15.7 crore rural households and Nitish Kumar's focus on sustainable rural development, positioning Bihar as a model for water resource management. Beyond digitalisation, the state government has prioritised structural reforms to support PM Modi's vision of a streamlined, self-reliant governance framework and Nitish Kumar's goal of administrative efficiency. The Bihar Amin Cadre Rules, 2025, enforced in August, reorganise amins' cadres with seniority lists and performance-based promotions, ensuring a skilled workforce for land surveys. This supports the statewide survey, extended to December 2026, covering 661 villages with GPS and drone technology to update cadastral maps and resolve disputes. These efforts echo PM Modi's push for institutional reforms, as seen in his Task Force for Next-Generation Economic Reforms, and Nitish Kumar's focus on disciplined governance. Our district-wise ranking system, introduced in April 2025, evaluates performance on mutation efficiency and revenue collection, with Sheikhpura leading the state. This fosters competition and efficiency, aligning with PM Modi's call for accountability and Nitish Kumar's emphasis on performance-driven administration. We have also addressed disruptions like the recent survey workers' strike, reflecting the state government's resolve for uninterrupted progress, a principle shared with Viksit Bharat.

### India-China ties — improvement signs are loud, problems sliding under the radar

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar recently warned journalists against linking present trends in India-China relations with India's more recent frustrations vis-à-vis the US. There is a strong degree of truth in this warning. Contrary to the prevailing analysis that Trump has induced India and China to improve and repair ties, the bilateral relationship has shown little to no sign of improvement and arguably has even deteriorated under the calmer surface. Let me explain. At present, the quantum of trends as well as indications of 'improved' ties in the bilateral relationship can be divided into four categories. First, a return to diplomatic and economic 'normalcy' such as the resumption of flights, religious pilgrimages and border trade. Second, increasing talk of economic convergence amid a gradual return of Chinese investments. Third, growing peace and tranquillity at the border. And finally, strategic/geopolitical convergences in the age of

Trump. Across all these four domains, 'improvement signs' are loud but misleading or chimerical, while 'deteriorating' trends are getting more entrenched under the radar. This entails signs such as resumption (or planned resumption) of direct flights, exchange of journalists, enhanced people-to-people ties, issuing of visas for businesspersons, resumption of border trade and the sharing of hydrological data. The drip-feed of small but persistent and incremental news pertaining to these developments shapes and reinforces the idea that ties are improving over time. However, this is based on a false causal theory. The two countries are aiming to reinstate exchanges and processes that were the norm until 2019. However, no one was ever of the view back in 2019 that relations were positive and improving because such exchanges existed. In other words, the resumption of these processes says very little about real improvement in ties.

### India must move Japan from 'old friend' trap to real partners

After months of diplomatic turbulence, Prime Minister Narendra Modi is finally embarking on a bilateral visit that matters. It's not Washington, not Moscow, not Beijing, but Tokyo. Japan has always been a natural partner for India. It's a relationship anchored in shared democratic values, economic complementarities, and maritime imperatives. Yet despite this "naturalness", India-Japan ties have rarely lived up to their potential. This visit, the first by an Indian Prime Minister in seven years, comes at a moment of strategic fluidity: after a heartbreak with the United States, a misconstrued reset with China, and an even more misconstrued rebound with Russia. Against this backdrop, turning to Japan is not only timely but necessary. The timing itself is deliberate. The visit precedes India's participation in the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO), a grouping increasingly dominated by China, backed by Russia, and including Pakistan, which is ever more entangled in Beijing's orbit. If India is to remain relevant in this shifting regional balance—and beyond—anchoring its partnership with Japan provides an indispensable

counterweight. The India-Japan story is often told with nostalgia. Conferences, policy papers, and panel discussions frequently dwell on the sentimental—the Azad Hind Fauj, the elephant gifted to Japan, or Rabindranath Tagore's exchanges with Japanese thinkers. Even in more contemporary discussions, Shinzo Abe's landmark "Confluence of the Two Seas" speech in 2007 often dominates, credited with inspiring the vision of a free and open Indo-Pacific and, eventually, the Quad. These legacies are important, but excessive reliance on them has created a trap. When a partnership is framed primarily through the lens of "past goodness", it risks obscuring the urgency of present opportunities. Too much of India-Japan engagement has either been anchored in historical frameworks or subordinated to the Quad, leaving bilateral possibilities underexplored. For a relationship described as "natural", its underperformance in tangible outcomes is striking. India and Japan's partnership has underdelivered because New Delhi has played it too safe. For one, it has not kept pace with Tokyo's transformation into a more assertive security actor,

leaving defence technology cooperation underexploited and co-development opportunities on the table. Trade too has been disappointing—stuck around \$22 billion despite decades of Japanese investment. Japan's vast development footprint in South Asia through the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) has barely been woven into India's regional playbook. Most importantly, India still clings to a narrow view of security, ignoring Japan's sharper recognition that the Euro-Atlantic and Indo-Pacific are now inseparably linked.

By staying cautious instead of ambitious, India has allowed a "natural partnership" to remain underwhelming, missing the chance to shape the regional order alongside one of its most reliable allies. To be sure, there are visible positives with the latest visit. Japan is expected to invest around \$68 billion in India's semiconductor and other tech sectors, part of its strategy to diversify away from China. For decades, Japan's overseas development assistance (ODA) was its primary foreign policy tool, compensating for constitutional restrictions on military engagement.



## Awareness Program Organized on World Mental Health Day

Bahraich

Under Mamta Sansthan's Project Jagriti-4, an awareness program was organized at the Fakharpur Community Health Center, Bahraich on the occasion of World Mental Health Day. The Chief Guest of the program was the Chief Medical Officer, Bahraich. He was accompanied by the District Program Manager (DPM), District Health Education and Information Officer (DHEIO), MOIC, BCPM and members of the District Mental Health Team. On this occasion, the District Mental Health Program team counseled beneficiaries and provided information on various topics related to mental health. Experts explained that mental health is an important part of our overall health and it is crucial to be aware of it. In his address, the Chief Guest, Chief Medical Officer, Bahraich, said, "There are still many misconceptions in society regarding mental



health. We must understand that mental illness is treatable, just like physical illness. If someone is experiencing problems like stress, anxiety, or depression, they should seek advice from a specialist instead of hiding it. Such programs are extremely useful in raising awareness in society." I thank the Mamta Sansthan and its team for their excellent work on this issue at the community level. All the guests present at the event shared their thoughts and praised the efforts of the Mamta Sansthan, saying that the organization is taking positive initiatives regarding mental health in the community. The support of the Mamta Sansthan staff was instrumental in making

this program a success. District Program Manager Sarju Khan, District Psychiatrist Dr. Vijay Jaiswal, Community Health Center Incharge Dr. Narendra Singh, and District Health Education Officer Brijesh Singh addressed the event. Brijesh Singh raised awareness about mental health by citing several important examples. District Psychiatrist Dr. Vijay Jaiswal informed the audience that at the district level, mental health outpatient department (OPD) is held on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, and mental health counseling and outpatient department (OPD) camps are held on other days.

## Zubeen Garg's Mysterious Death: Seven Arrested, No Poison Found, SIT Uncovers New Lead

Assam

The sudden and mysterious death of Assam's celebrated singer Zubeen Garg on September 19, 2025 in Singapore has shaken the entire nation, particularly his home state of Assam. Initially reported as an accidental drowning, the case has since taken a sharp turn after allegations of poisoning surfaced, prompting a full-scale investigation. Assam Police's CID and Special Investigation Team (SIT) have now arrested seven individuals in connection with the case.

Those detained include Zubeen's manager Siddharth Sharma, festival organizer Shyamkanu Mahanta, his cousin and police officer Sandipan Garg, his personal security officer, and several others. Investigators believe the private yacht party where Zubeen spent his final hours plays a crucial role in uncovering the



truth behind his death. Preliminary medical and forensic reports from Guwahati Medical College and Hospital (GMCH) and the Central Forensic Science Laboratory (CFSL), Delhi have found no trace of any poisonous substance, indicating drowning as the immediate cause of death. However, the SIT and CID continue to probe deeper angles involving financial transactions, suspicious conduct by associates and possible criminal conspiracy. Under mounting public pressure in Assam, Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma has assured that no guilty person will escape justice. He stated that the final CFSL viscera report will provide clearer direc-

tion for the investigation. Meanwhile, the SIT is intensifying efforts to ensure a flawless and transparent inquiry. Authorities have also summoned several Assam-origin NRIs from Singapore who were reportedly with Zubeen in his last days. The investigation is now exploring money trails, alleged negligence by event organizers, and other connected complications. Officials have confirmed that an official charge sheet will soon be filed in court once all evidence is compiled. Zubeen Garg's untimely death remains an emotional wound for Assam's cultural and musical community. Even as no conclusive evidence of poisoning has surfaced, investigators continue to treat the case as suspicious. The state waits anxiously for justice for one of its most beloved voices—a man whose legacy transcended generations and genres.

## DOE issues guidelines for direct entry to Class XI in govt schools



**Delhi:** Delhi Directorate of Education (DOE) has issued guidelines for direct admission to Class XI in govt schools under the non-plan admissions category for the academic session 2025-26. The online registration process begins and is open to students residing in Delhi who did not study in govt or govt-aided schools under DOE in 2024-25. The admission process will be conducted in three cycles from May 27 to June 9 (cycle I), July 1 to July 10 (cycle II), and Aug 1 to Aug 11 (cycle III). Students can register online at DoE's website, and help desks at schools will assist applicants who need support with the form. Applicants must meet specific academic criteria for their chosen stream. For example, students seeking admission in the Science stream with Mathematics must have at least 55% overall, with 50% in English, Mathematics, and Science. Relaxations of up to 5% in one subject are available for students belonging to SC/ST, OBC (non-creamy layer), minorities, Kashmiri migrants, or those excelling in national-level sports.

## School eco clubs will be rebranded and given more resources

**Delhi:** As part of a statewide push to improve environmental education among students, all Delhi schools have been ordered to rebrand their current Eco Clubs as "Eco Clubs for Mission LiFE" and reinstate them by August 31. An official release said that this project.

## Assam Assembly's Public Accounts Committee Conducts Inspection Visit in Kamrup District

Assam

A five-member delegation of the Public Accounts Committee (PAC) of the Assam Legislative Assembly, led by Chairman Nurul Huda, visited the inspection bungalow of the Public Works Department (PWD) at Amin Gaon in Kamrup district on Tuesday. The committee was welcomed by Deputy Commissioner Dev Kumar Mishra, representing the Kamrup district administration. During the visit, the committee held a meeting with heads of various departments to review ongoing government projects. The meet-



ing was attended by PAC members and MLAs Karim Uddin Barbhuiya and Abdul Rashid Mandal, along with Chief Executive Officer of Kamrup Zila Parishad Siddhartha Goswami, District Development Commissioner Sushant Kumar Dutta, and several departmental officers. Following the meeting,

the committee members conducted field inspections at several sites, including the under-construction Saraighat Cricket Stadium, Tularam Bafna Kamrup Civil Hospital, Agriculture Department's food processing groups, Model Anganwadi Centres under the Social Welfare Department, and projects

carried out under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Gramin) and the 15th Finance Commission. In addition, the committee reviewed the progress of works implemented by departments such as Water Resources, Public Health Engineering, Public Works (Roads and Buildings), and Public Works (National Highways). Later, the committee also held a comprehensive review meeting at the Co District Commissioner conference hall in Rangia, where senior officials from the Kamrup district administration and other departments were present. The meeting was attended by

## Maintain pre-2010 7% OBC quota

**Delhi :** Calcutta high court ordered the West Bengal University of Health Sciences (WBUHS), a government medical university in Kolkata, to enroll students with 7% reservation for 66 OBCs notified in the state before 2010. In its ruling, justice Kaushik Chanda noted that a division bench of the high court had set down the state's reservation policy in May, which divided OBCs into A and B categories and offered 10% and 7% quota, respectively. The state must apply OBC reservations solely to the 66 backward classes recognized by



the backward class department before 2009. Justice Chanda that the state's OBC reservations should be 7% per November 6, 1997 notification. Caste certificates for 66 grades produced before 2010 have been preserved and 7% reservation maintained, the decision stated. The government suspended quota-based recruit-

ment and admissions after a division bench of the high court revoked OBC designation for 77 Muslim communities granted by the state since 2010. Supreme Court challenge by TMC government. West Bengal offered 17% OBC reservation in public sector jobs and state-run schools before the May ruling. It was divided into two brackets:

## Villagers held a candlelight march demanding a judicial inquiry into the death of NDA cadet Antariksh

Bahraich

The mysterious death of NDA cadet Antariksh, a resident of Narainapur (Sumerpur) village in the Rupaidiha police station area, is gaining momentum. The villagers, both in the village and surrounding areas, are in shock. The incident is being discussed in other villages. To uncover the mystery behind the mysterious death of the promising Antariksh, villagers from the village and surrounding areas held a candlelight march late Monday evening, demanding a judicial inquiry. The candlelight march was led by the deceased's mother. A large number of young people, elders, and prominent people from the area also participated. The family members, calling the cadet's death suspicious, have demanded a judicial

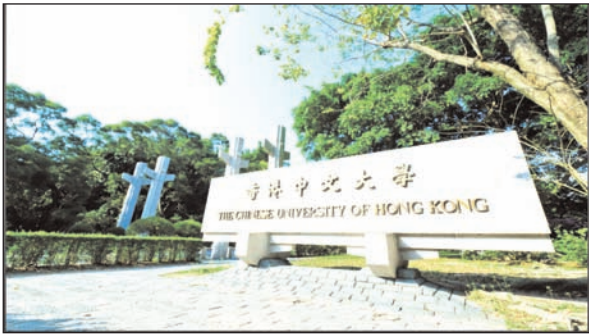


inquiry. Seema Singh mother of the deceased cadet Antariksh Kumar, alleged that her son was a very promising person and the people of the area are constantly praising him. He has even written a book to inspire young people. He had gone to Pune to study, not to die. She explained that when she arrived at the scene, the room was strewn with belongings. The mother stated that her son could not have committed suicide; he wanted to achieve something after training. He was determined to achieve

great heights. Mother Seema Singh stated that she last spoke to her son on October 9th at 4 p.m. She also stated that the cadet had previously complained about being harassed by some seniors. She also stated that they had received assurances from higher authorities, which satisfied the family. The mother alleged that her son had been wronged and that they were not even shown CCTV footage. Last Friday morning, Antariksh Kumar's body was found hanging from a noose in his hostel.

## Scholarships offered by University of Hong Kong to outstanding students

**Delhi:** The University of Hong Kong (HKU), which was rated seventeenth in the QS World University Rankings 2025, has launched a scholarship program for exceptional students from the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE). Under this program, high-achieving CBSE students interested in majoring in HKU's undergraduate programs that promote innovation, technology, and interdisciplinary learning will be offered full-ride scholarships that pay for everything. On a national level, CBSE operates. It consistently produces a large number of students who get into professional colleges through entrance exams at the national and state levels. Not only do these students thrive in their professional and social lives,



" It consistently produces a large number of students who get into professional colleges through entrance exams at the national and state levels. Not only do these students thrive in their professional and social lives, but they also excel in professional colleges. CBSE has increasingly prioritized competency-based education "

but they also excel in professional colleges. The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) has increasingly prioritized competency-based education and assessment since the New Education Policy—2020 came into effect. Higher education institutions overseas are providing several exemptions and support to our students as

a result of the high-quality education they receive from connected schools and their performance in STEM and other areas.

The CBSE notification detailed the exemptions and support, and it instructed schools to notify pupils about them so that they might reap the benefits.

## India's Mahendra sets world record in World Para Athletics Grand Prix



**Delhi:** Roberto Florian Edenilson of Brazil had previously held the world record of 59.19 meters, but the 27-year-old beat him in 2022. Following throws of 56.11 and 55.51 meters, he set a new world record with a throw of 61.17 meters on his third try. Throws of 58.54, 57.25, and 58.07 meters were his final three on Sunday. Field athletes who experience mild limitations in the use of one leg should consider F42. Sumit Antil, who has won gold at the Paralympics twice and holds the world record for the men's javelin F64 category, also placed first with a throw of 72.35 meters. Athletes competing on the field who have little or no movement in either leg can use F64. But Gurjar was one of many para-athletes from the F40, F57, F63, and F64 categories who competed in a combined event. Competition was open to para-athletes from all different classifications because it was a mixed event. The Swiss coach of Gurjar, Samarjeet Singh Malhi, informed that his charge set a world record in the F42 category and also won the gold medal. Having para-athletes from multiple categories compete in a combined event is "normal practice," he continued.



## IIT Kharagpur-Singapore's A\*STAR IME boost semiconductor future

**Delhi :** This MoU was launched during SEMI-CON Southeast Asia 2025, where IIT Kharagpur exhibited India's academic and technological expertise in semiconductors. This agreement shows India and Singapore's commitment to international collaboration to establish a robust, innovative, and skilled semiconductor ecosystem. This alliance's technical partner, IIT Kharagpur, India's top science and technology university, has decades of experience in microelectronics, chip design, nanofabrication, and innovative materials. "This MoU with A\*STAR IME marks a significant step in IIT Kharagpur's global ambition to drive semiconductor innovation," said Prof. Anandaroop Bhattacharya, Dept. of Mechanical Engineering. This kind of academia-industry-government partnership will help India become a semiconductor hub quickly and establish a strong, self-sufficient, and competitive semiconductor ecosystem. This agree-



ment puts IIT Kharagpur at the forefront of global semiconductor value chain strengthening measures as India expands its semiconductor production and R&D. The MoU allows cooperation in research in advanced CMOS and post-CMOS technologies, heterogeneous integration and packaging, AI hardware accelerators, next-generation memory systems, photonics and quantum devices, chip reliability, thermal management, and failure analysis. Student and researcher exchanges, knowledge-sharing workshops, and co-development of semiconductor talent training modules are all supported by the collaboration.

### Ecom Express loses 150 workers before Delhivery merger

**Delhi :** Logistics company Ecom Express had considerable labor changes before being acquired by Delhivery. About 150 mid-level and regional operations workers quit voluntarily. These departures correspond with the company's Delhivery merger. Ecom Express CEO Ajay Chitkara and other senior executives are anticipated to leave after regulatory approval. Delhivery will buy 99.4% of Ecom Express for Rs 1,407 crore. Delhivery informed stock exchanges that the acquisition will boost its market value.

## Carmakers promote hybrids to help purchasers switch to electrics

**Delhi :** For India's 2030 goal of 40% electrification, mass acceptance of electric vehicles will be difficult, requiring carmakers to promote hybrids as a stop gap. Hybrids are cheaper than fully electric vehicles, thus all carmakers, from Maruti Suzuki to Toyota Kirloskar to Mercedes-Benz, prefer them. Hybrids have fossil fuel engines and electric motors. These cars run on either power source. The upshot is that hybrid automobiles get better fuel economy than gasoline or diesel cars.



Senior leaders from numerous industries argue that electrifying hybrids and plug-in hybrids is the best answer before being electric by 2047. This will help buyers adapt to the changing transport ecosystem. CV Raman, executive director (engineering),

Maruti Suzuki, told Moneycontrol, "Price and cost are very important when it comes to electric vehicles. Hybridization is cheaper than electrification. Hybrids compliment EVs and are better than IC engines.

## IndiGo to start direct flights to London, Athens, 8 other overseas cities this fiscal

**Delhi:** IndiGo will start direct flights to London, Athens and eight other overseas cities in the current financial year as the country's largest airline continues with international expansion and expects to have more than 600 aircraft in its fleet by FY30. There is an

enormous opportunity in Indian aviation where rising demand is supported by infrastructure expansion. There is an unmatched growth leading to doubling of passengers from 2025 to 2030 and that the rising demand is supported by infrastructure expansion,

airline CEO Pieter Elbers said at a briefing in the national capital. While flights to Manchester (UK) and Amsterdam (the Netherlands) from Mumbai will commence in July, the airline will connect eight more overseas destinations . -- London (UK), Athens

## Higher loans, credit cards for street traders

**Delhi :** After banks joined the new PM SVANidhi plan, street sellers will receive higher-subsidized loans and credit cards with a Rs 30,000 maximum. Street vendors who have repaid Rs 10,000, Rs 20,000, and Rs 50,000 subsidized loans will receive credit cards from banks. The modified idea will shortly be presented to Cabinet for approval, TOI reports. Sources stated rural street vendors who go to cities for work will now receive subsidised loans. The housing and urban affairs ministry did not react to inquiries, but sources indicated the enhanced loan amount will



include Rs 10,000. Sources said the credit card facility will provide street sellers with better credit and more rolling cash for business, with banks setting repayment requirements. FM Nirmala Sitharaman high-

lighted in her Budget speech that the 2020 plan, established during the COVID-19 pandemic, has saved over 68 lakh street sellers from high-interest informal sector loans. "Building on this success,

### ICAI to Evaluate IndusInd's Financial Statements

**Delhi :** The financial accounts of IndusInd Bank, which were affected by fraud in 2023-24 and 2024-25, will be reviewed by the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI). An examination by the Financial Reporting Review Board (FRRB) of the ICAI will be conducted. In order to determine whether or not a company's financial statements comply with accounting and auditing requirements, among others, FRRB reviews them. Trouble has been brewing for IndusInd Bank for the past two months, beginning with a report on March 10.

## Starlink arrives in India with plans under Rs. 850 per month

**Delhi:** Starlink is preparing to launch its satellite communication services in India after clearing most regulatory hurdles. A report claims that its plans could cost \$10 (Rs. 850) per month as the debut approaches. Consumers may receive unlimited data plans under initial promotional schemes. The Elon Musk-backed business hopes to swiftly build its user base to 10 million to offset high spectrum prices due to volume benefits. The Department of Telecommunication



(DoT) granted Starlink a Letter of Intent to launch satellite communication services in India earlier this month. The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) may impose a Rs. 500 per month per urban user price, making satellite internet services more expensive than wired and wireless broadband

connections, according to the. In addition, 4 percent of total adjusted gross revenue (AGR) with a minimum yearly charge of Rs. 3,500 per spectrum block and an 8 percent licensing fee for commercial services in India are required. The government has yet to approve these recommendations.

## CNG Kit for Nissan Magnite Starts at Rs. 6.89 Lakh

**Delhi :** Dealers can retrofit the Nissan Magnite's CNG kit. The CNG Kit is fully developed and manufactured by Motozen, a third-party company, following company standards. Motozen warranties CNG kit parts. Complete retrofitting costs Rs. 75,000. CNG kits are only available with the new Nissan Magnite 1.0 liter naturally aspirated petrol engine with manual gearbox. For now, turbo variants won't have CNG. . CNG kit prices include fire extinguisher, third-party warranty, RC endorsement, and installation. Initial CNG kit installation is available at Nissan-authorized dealerships in Delhi-NCR,



Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Kerala, and Karnataka. Phase 2 will expand it to other states nationwide. New Magnites are E20 compliant and CNG-ready, so existing owners cannot retrofit the CNG kit. The dealership will install the CNG kit and a 12-kg single-cylinder for the Magnite. An auto cut-off valve and 7 mm walls will be on the cylinder. The firm

claims that the CNG cylinder would not affect bootspace and that the suspension will handle the extra weight. The SUV can hold two luggage and two small bags. The Nissan CNG kit is government-certified, and Nissan and Motozen will provide a 3-year, 1 lakh kilometer warranty. Official Nissan Magnite CNG fuel efficiency data will be released in weeks. Nissan expects to sell 200,000 Magnites in India by month's end.

## Partnership between Noida Airport and Uber to provide on-site ridesharing

**Delhi :** In order to provide visitors with transportation options right from the airport, Noida International Airport (NIA) has partnered with the ride-hailing company Uber. According to NIA, as part of the strategic partnership, Uber will run designated areas for driver partners to be picked up, as well as



provide on-site assistance and special parking. According to the airport operator, the partnership will provide several benefits to customers using Uber at Noida International Airport, including the ability to follow their rides in real-time and get projected arrival times through the app, as well as the

opportunity to pay without using cash, which is more convenient. Speaking about the importance of app-based taxi services like Uber, Christoph Schnellmann, CEO of Noida International Airport, stated that it is crucial for travelers to have access to last-mile transit alternatives.

## In FY 25, general insurance premiums total Rs 3.07 lakh crore

**Delhi :** Union Minister for Finance and Corporate Affairs Nirmala Sitharaman chaired a PSGIC review meeting. The Minister assessed premium revenues, insurance penetration and density, and incurred claims ratios. From Rs 80,000 crore in 2019 to approximately Rs 1.06 lakh crore in 2025, PSGIC premiums increased. The general insurance market also grew, collecting Rs 3.07 lakh crore in FY 2024-25. While general insurance penetration in India is low at 1% of



GDP (compared to 4.2% globally in 2023), insurance density has progressively increased from \$9 in 2019 to \$25 in 2023. The finance minister stressed that PSGICs must increase penetration and density to preserve financial assets. Officials also provided a five-year health

insurance report demonstrating constant premium growth across Private, SAHI, and PSGICs. PSGICs had 126% incurred claims ratios in FY21, while private insurers had 105%. This ratio dropped to 103% for PSGICs, 89% for private insurers, and 65% for SAHI by FY24.

### Fewer jobs at Tata Motors, smaller hikes for top deck

**Delhi:** For the first time in five years, automotive manufacturer Tata Motors saw its workforce shrink in a fiscal year, when its employee base fell 3% in FY25 compared with the previous fiscal. Alongside, the fiscal also saw median salary hikes for its senior-most executives at just 3% compared with 15% in

FY24, the company's annual report for FY25 showed. The twin developments happened against the backdrop of falling demand for its cars, trucks and buses in the fiscal. The total employee count of the country's third-largest automaker, excluding employees of its UK-based subsidiary Jaguar Land Rover.



## On two years, Indian firms will invest 11-15% on smart tech



**Delhi:** According to a Confederation of Indian Industry Manufacturing Competitiveness Study, most manufacturers recognize technology adoption as a key driver of profitability and competitiveness, although many invest less than 10% of their budgets. In the next two years, the report expects increasing investment in IoT, robots, and Big Data, aiming 11-15% of budgets. It stated high prices, unclear ROI, and legacy system integration remain challenges for SMEs. The research also stresses the importance of work-

force upskilling to close the skills gap and facilitate advanced technology adoption. Manufacturing Competitiveness Study by the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) examined how smart technologies have transformed India's manufacturing sector. The research, 'Smart Manufacturing: Unlocking India's Potential,' emphasizes the sector's digital revolution and its importance in achieving the ambitious goal of 25% manufacturing GDP share in the near future. The report shows how IoT, AI, ML, robotics,

and automation are transforming manufacturing, boosting efficiency, innovation, and global competitiveness. Semiconductors, Aerospace, and Automotive are leading the way in implementing these technologies, while Textiles and Food Processing are gradually digitizing. To overcome these barriers, the study suggests public-private partnerships to establish shared technology hubs, technology budget increases, industry-academia collaboration, and supportive policies to promote smart manufacturing.

## FY24 Snapdeal loss drops to Rs 160 crore

**Snapdeal's** FY24 loss was Rs 160.38 crore, down from Rs 282.20 crore in FY23. Snapdeal Additionally, the company's FY24 EBITDA loss fell 88% to Rs 16 crore. That was Rs 144 crore in FY23. The company's loss decreased due to lower expenses. The company spent Rs 540.76 crore in FY24. FY23: Rs 687.93 crore. The company spent Rs 158.4 crore on employee benefits in FY24, down 48.5% YoY. FY23: Rs 307.53 crore. The company's advertising spending fell 23.5% YoY to Rs 70.37 crore. Snapdeal's operational income rose 2.1% to Rs 379.76 crore in FY24 from Rs 371.96 crore in FY23. The company's major income source is market services at Rs 252.55 crore. YoY, it fell 9.6% from FY23. The company's FY24 enablement income rose 14.8% to Rs 103.36 million. The company's other income rose 8 times to Rs 23.85 crore last year. Snapdeal cut its Unicommerce investment, per the stock exchange filing. The



## Adani Defence & Aerospace buys Air Works for Rs 400 crore

**Delhi:** Ahmedabad Adani Defence & Aerospace reached a binding agreement to acquire Air Works, India's largest private-sector MRO company, for Rs 400 crore. "Adani Defence Systems & Technologies Ltd (ADSTL) has signed a share purchase agreement to acquire 85.8 per cent shareholding in Air Works India (Engineering) Private Ltd," a press release said. Air Works maintains narrow-body, turboprop, and rotary air-

craft in Hosur, Mumbai, and Kochi with regulatory permits from over 20 countries. The statement stated Air Works, a civil aviation industry leader, has deep defence MRO capabilities, executing projects for major Indian Navy and Air Force aircraft. "The acquisition enhances the Adani Group's capabilities in the defence MRO sector, solidifying its position in India's airborne defence ecosystem," it added. It

also said that this strategic. company raised Rs 33 crore from the secondary sale of 3.4% stake in May-June 2024 before the IPO and Rs 81 crore from the August 2024 IPO offer for sale of

9.2% equity. A significant Indian e-commerce platform is Snapdeal. Snapdeal, founded in 2010, serves over 10 crore Indian value shoppers online.

## CAPSULES

### Food storage expansion in NE states approved by government

**Delhi:** Union Minister of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, and New and Renewable Energy Pralhad Joshi stressed the need to strengthen Centrally-sponsored scheme execution. The Union minister met with Tripura Chief Minister Dr. Manik Saha and approved the state government's proposal to open a Food Corporation of India (FCI) regional office in Agartala. He also reviewed the implementation of Centrally-sponsored schemes like Pradhan Mantri Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana and PM Kisan Urja Suraksha evam Uthtan Mahabhiyan. A Private Entrepreneurs Guarantee (PEG) project was approved by the Indian government to increase storage space in the Northeast. This project will triple FCI's storage capacity in Tripura by building 70,000 MT in two years, said the minister. Joshi reviewed a Tripura Renewable Energy Development Agency project in Charilam, Sepahijala. The minister stated the country generated 214 GW of renewable energy and aims to reach 500 GW by 2030. Tripura advanced in renewable energy. Before 2018, 2.5 MW of state electricity came from solar. In the last 6.5 years of BJP control, renewable electricity generation reached 20.5 MW, claimed the minister.



## Indian mutual fund women investors gain 2.5 times in 2024

**Delhi:** A survey found that women investors in the Indian mutual fund (MF) business, notably from smaller cities and villages, had expanded more than 2.5 times year-on-year amid the stock market boom. Research shows that women's financial inclusion is rising in urban and emerging regions, with tier 4 cities seeing over 140% growth in MF participation. We had excellent growth across all segments in 2024, but two stood out. Number of women investors doubled this year. And the number of portfolios over 1 crore doubled this year," Metro, tier 1, 2, and 3 cities had over 100% growth in women's MF participation. Women MF investors are most prevalent in Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata (Metro) and Pune, Lucknow, Nagpur, Ahmedabad,



**" Women's SIP contributions are 25% higher than men's, and female SIP investors now make up one in four "**

and Jaipur (Non-Metro). "Women's SIP contributions are 25% higher than men's, and female SIP investors now make up one in four (compared to one in five last year)," the data stated. SIP contributions aver-

age Rs 2,500 per month, demonstrating a concentration on long-term wealth. 50 per cent of women SIP investors are under 30, 33 percent are 30-40, and 17 percent are 40 or beyond.

## Naidu takes a step back, says no action can be taken until concrete proof

**Delhi:** More than a month after pledging action regarding US bribery allegations involving the Adani Group and the previous Y S Jaganmohan Reddy government, Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu has now adopted a cautious stance, stating that action requires substantial evidence and awaits the US case outcome. "We can't back out of contracts unless concrete proof is available. We will have to pay a stiff penalty.

## E-Shram worker registrations reach 30 crore, NCS portal adds 3.89 crore jobs

**Delhi:** Unorganized labor gained access to social sector initiatives through the eShram site. Registrations averaged 60,000 a day in October, climbing rapidly. Twelve social security/welfare schemes are connected and mapped using eShram. ONORC, IGNDPS, IGN-WPS, NFBS, and MGN-REGA are among these. The integration of other schemes with eShram will continue in phases. The Ministry of Labour and Employment stated the platform lets agencies



verify workers' eligibility, ensure scheme saturation, and target potential beneficiaries at State and District levels using eShram data. To target welfare scheme delivery and saturation to workers, eShram shares registrant details with all states/union territories. The National Career Service (NCS) is now a 'one stop platform' for career services like private and government jobs, online and offline job fairs, skill/training programs, and more.

## Life microinsurance premium in India exceeds Rs 10,000 crore

**Delhi:** India's life insurance micro-insurance premiums topped Rs 10,000 crore for the first time in FY24, according to industry data. Microinsurance aids low-income people with affordable items. The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) reported that life insurance's micro-insurance segment's new business premium (NBP) rose 23.5% to Rs 10,860.39 crore in FY24. Individual NBP fell 23.78% to Rs 152.57 crore, while group NBP rose 24.61% to Rs 10,707.82 crore. IRDAI reported 102,000 micro-insurance agents in FY24. About 19,166 are public-sector life insurers and the rest private.

The research showed that 4.49% of micro-insurance agents are NGOs, 0.25 percent self-help groups, 0.24 percent microfinance institutions,



0.12 percent business correspondents, and others 94.90%. Over 21 lakh people have received life insurance through the Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana (PMJJBY). PMJJBY term life insurance was launched in May 2015. This policy pays Rs 2 lakh to the insured's family in the event of death. The scheme enrolled 21.67 crore by October 20. The total claims were 860,575, totaling Rs 17,211.50. India's insurance market expanded 11% annually to \$130 billion in FY2020-23, outpacing China and Thailand, which grew less than 5%.

## Adani Group exits Wilmar JV for \$2bn

**Delhi:** For \$2 billion, Gautam Adani's Ahmedabad-based conglomerate is selling Adani Wilmar, its staples business, to Wilmar International of Singapore to raise funds. This fund inflow should meet the group's infrastructure business liquidity needs. Adani Enterprises and Adani Commodities own 44% of Adani Wilmar, which owns Fortune sunflower oil and Kohinoor basmati rice. Wilmar would buy 31% at Rs 305 per share of the group's 44%, boosting its holding to 75% in Mumbai-listed Adani Wilmar. Wilmar will buy the chunk at \$1.4 billion, down 7.2% from Monday's close. Indian regulations limit promoters' equity to 75% and require public shareholders to own 25%. Along with 12% public ownership, the remaining 13% interest will be offered for sale. This ends the group's 25-year staples presence. Following the transaction, the company will be called AWL, AWL Agri Business, or Fortune Agri Business. The transaction comes one month after US prosecutors accused Gautam Adani of securities and wire fraud for a \$265 million Indian power contract bribery scam, which the group denied. The sale of Adani Wilmar will boost the group's primary infrastructure.



## NHAI to blacklist FASTags 'kept in hand', seeks details from toll operators

**Delhi:** Drivers who don't fix their FASTags on the windshield of their vehicles will face permanent blacklisting of tags, a measure taken in view of the malpractice of people handing out "loose or unfixed tags" for payment of highway-user fee, which leads to congestion at toll plaza lanes and sometimes alterations with toll collectors. The NHAI company dealing with toll collection and management of highways, IHMCL, has asked



federations of toll collectors, highway builders and operators to report such cases for quick action. "Tags-in-hand" have been categorised as "loose tags". Despite repeated advisories against the

practice there have been several cases of people handing out FASTag at toll gates for deduction of user fee. In letters addressed to these federations, IHMCL said, "This leads

to lane-level congestion due to manual handling and violation issues, misuse in closed-loop tolling operations, generation of false charge-back demands and overall disruption.



## Hard work paying off: Shami roars back to form, sends selectors a fiery reminder

● This development has ended weeks of anticipation after both the Kerala government and private sponsors had announced a high-profile friendly match scheduled

**NEW DELHI:** Senior pacer Mohammed Shami on Tuesday reaffirmed his readiness for an India comeback, declaring that his “hard work is paying off” after a stunning performance for Bengal in the Ranji Trophy. The veteran fast bowler, who has been sidelined from national duties following ankle surgery, delivered a fiery spell to lead Bengal to a 141-run win over Gujarat at the Eden Gardens — a result that has reignited calls for his recall to the national side. “Grateful for the rhythm and hard work paying off. Always proud to represent my team,” Shami wrote on X, sharing photos from the match and the game ball — a subtle yet powerful



### The situation highlights challenges in coordinating sports events

The situation highlights challenges in coordinating international sports events, particularly regarding communication between various stakeholders. The cancellation has disappointed Indian football fans, particularly in Kerala,

message to critics and selectors alike.

where Argentina and Messi have a substantial following. Messi's last appearance in India was in 2011, when he led Argentina against Venezuela at Kolkata's Salt Lake Stadium in his debut match as national captain.

Shami  
The 35-year-old pacer

### Rare sight! Lionel Messi scores flying header for Inter Miami vs Nashville SC

Lionel Messi received the Golden Boot award before leading Inter Miami to victory with a diving header. In the Major League Soccer playoffs, Messi scored twice as Inter Miami secured a 3-1 win against Nashville SC in Game 1 of their Eastern Conference best-of-three first-round series on Friday

was at his vintage best, taking 5 for 38 in Gujarat's second innings and finishing with eight wickets in the match. His figures marked his 13th five-wicket haul in first-class cricket and cemented his position among the top three wicket-takers in this Ranji season,

night. Inter Miami's victory featured contributions from Messi and Ian Fray, who assisted Tadeo Allende's goal. The team now has two opportunities to advance past the first round during Messi's tenure. The upcoming matches are scheduled for November 1 in Nashville.

with 15 wickets at 10.46 from just four innings. What is Bronco Test? Will Rohit Sharma and Mohammed Shami be able to clear it? An expert explains! Speaking after the game, Shami said his motivation was simple: to stay fit and perform.

## Who is Uma Chetry? Meet the Assam cricketer who replaced Richa

**Wicketkeeper-batter** Uma Chetry made her highly anticipated ODI debut for India against Bangladesh in the ICC Women's World Cup 2025. Chetry, the second woman from Assam to achieve this feat, received her cap from vice-captain Smriti Mandhana. Her debut in a World Cup match highlights her consistent progress and dedication. Uma Chetry received her ODI cap from



Smriti Mandhana. Wicketkeeper-batter Uma Chetry made her long-awaited ODI debut on Sunday as India faced Bangladesh in their final group-stage match of the ICC Women's World Cup

2025 at the DY Patil Sports Academy in Navi Mumbai. She replaced Richa Ghosh in the playing XI, becoming only the second woman from Assam to represent India in ODIs after Ritu Dhrub

## Iyer injury: Low body vitals, hospitalisation, controlling bleeding and ICU exit



**Shreyas Iyer injury: Low body vitals, hospitalisation, controlling bleeding**

**India** cricketer Shreyas Iyer is now stable after a frightening on-field injury during the third ODI against Australia in Sydney on Saturday that led to internal bleeding and emergency ICU care. The 30-year-old suffered a spleen laceration while diving forward to catch Alex Carey. What first appeared to be a rib injury turned serious soon after, as Iyer's body vitals dropped sharply in the dressing room, prompting an immediate rush to Sydney's St Vincent's Hospital. Doctors later confirmed he had sustained a blunt abdominal impact causing a ruptured spleen and internal bleeding.

Shreyas Iyer's condition critical after suffering life-threatening injury in Sydney | Inside details The BCCI, in a statement on Tuesday, confirmed the diagnosis: “The injury was promptly identified, and the bleeding was immediately arrested. His condition is now stable, and he continues to be under observation. A repeat scan on October 28 has shown significant improvement. The BCCI Medical Team, in consultation with specialists in Sydney and India, will continue to monitor his progress.” Iyer's condition was initially life-threatening, with sources revealing that his blood pressure had dropped to “alarmingly low levels” before doctors acted swiftly to control the bleeding. He was shifted to the ICU and underwent a non-surgical medical procedure to stop the hemorrhage.

## Multan Sultans' Tareen calls for truce with PCB after explosive showdown



In a dramatic turn of events, Multan Sultans owner Ali Khan Tareen has extended an olive branch to the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) just days after ripping up their legal notice on camera — a defiant act that sent shockwaves through Pakistan's cricketing circles. On Tuesday, Tareen appeared to change tone, calling for a “fresh relationship” with the PCB built on “transparency, cooperation, and trust.” “Even though tearing the notice was quite satisfying, it's time to move forward,” Tareen wrote on X. “In recognition of the PSL as a national asset, we're putting grievances aside and aiming for a fresh relationship with the board. To that end, I've written to the PCB Chairman, proposing four key reforms to strengthen how the PSL

is managed.” Tareen's post was accompanied by a detailed letter addressed to PCB Chairman Mohsin Naqvi, outlining proposals that include greater franchise involvement in decision-making, involvement of franchises in PSL hirings, creating professional management structure and regular update by the PSL to franchises. Click to read the detailed letter written by Ali Khan Tareen to PCB chairman This conciliatory move follows a heated confrontation that dominated headlines earlier this month. The PCB had sent a legal notice to Multan Sultans, accusing Tareen of breaching clauses in their 10-year contract and demanding a public apology for his critical remarks.

## From Shami to Rahane: India players not afraid to call out selectors led by Ajit Agarkar

The spark came from Mohammed Shami, who dismissed the of his recent appearance

**NEW DELHI:** In a rare show of collective dissent, several senior Indian cricketers — led by Mohammed Shami, Ajinkya Rahane, and Karun Nair — have publicly voiced their frustration over the selection policies and communication gaps under chairman Ajit Agarkar's selection committee. From questions about transparency to age bias, the simmering tension between players and selectors has once again come to the fore.



The spark came from Mohammed Shami, who dismissed the notion of his recent appearance for Bengal being a “comeback.” The veteran pacer, who claimed 5 for 38 in a commanding Ranji Trophy win, questioned the constant media narrative around his career and hinted at a lack of clarity from selectors. “When you call it a comeback match, I

honestly don't understand. Playing for Bengal always comes straight from the heart,” he said. What is Bronco Test? Will Rohit Sharma and Mohammed Shami be able to clear it? An expert explains! Shami's comments follow his earlier swipe at the selection panel after being excluded from India's Test squad for the West Indies

### My job is to play matches

My job is to play matches.” Since then, Shami's form in domestic cricket has been blistering, his performances seemingly doing all the talking ahead of India's South Africa tour. Meanwhile, Ajinkya Rahane, another senior pro, expressed disappointment over what he called “age-based selection” after scoring 159 for Mumbai.

series. Agarkar had claimed Shami hadn't played enough cricket post-surgery to be considered fit, but the 35-year-old hit back, saying “It's not my job to give updates.

## Drama in Pakistan cricket: Mohammad Rizwan revolts, refuses to sign central contract

**The 33-year-old wicketkeeper-batter, known for his consistency and fighting spirit**

**Pakistan** wicketkeeper-batter Mohammad Rizwan has refused to sign the new central contract offered by the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) after being demoted to Category



B, according to a PTI report. Rizwan is reportedly the only one among the 30 contracted players who has not signed the document.

The PCB, in a major overhaul, decided to scrap the elite Category A — which had previously been reserved for senior

players like Babar Azam, Shaheen Shah Afridi, and Rizwan himself. The move is being viewed as a clear signal from the board that it is dissatisfied with the national team's performance over the past year. Under the new structure, 10 players, including the senior trio, were grouped together in Category B. However, Rizwan is

believed to have conveyed to the board that he would not sign the contract until his concerns were addressed. His refusal reportedly stems from a mix of dissatisfaction over his demotion and his recent removal as Pakistan's ODI captain. Rizwan has allegedly demanded that the PCB reinstate Category A for senior players and ensure that

whoever is appointed as captain is given a clear term and full authority to execute their plans without interference. The 33-year-old wicketkeeper-batter, known for his consistency and fighting spirit, has been a key member of Pakistan's setup across formats in recent years. Yet, he has not featured in T20Is since December 2024.

With the team management maintaining close contact and monitoring his recovery

## BCCI issues medical update on Shreyas Iyer: 'Internal bleeding arrested, now stable and recovering'



**Indian** cricketer Shreyas Iyer is in stable condition after suffering a spleen laceration

during the third ODI against Australia in Sydney on Saturday. The injury occurred

while he was catching Australia's Alex Carey, leading to his immediate hospitalization and ICU admission due to internal bleeding. The BCCI released a statement Tuesday confirming that Iyer sustained a blunt injury to his abdomen during the match on October 25, resulting in spleen laceration with internal bleeding. Suryakumar Yadav press conference: On

Shreyas Iyer's injury, his own form and Australia series “The injury was promptly identified, and the bleeding was immediately arrested. His condition is now stable, and he continues to be under observation. A repeat scan done on Tuesday, 28th October, has shown significant improvement, and Shreyas is on the road to recovery. The BCCI Medical

Team, in consultation with specialists in Sydney and India, will continue to monitor his progress,” the BCCI statement said. What was initially thought to be a rib cage issue turned out to be more serious. , as scans revealed the spleen laceration that required ICU care in Sydney. Iyer has now been moved out of ICU, with the team.

## CM Omar Abdullah bats for 'spirit of the game'

**Jammu and Kashmir** CM Omar Abdullah said Suryakumar Yadav-led India should have shaken hands with Salman Ali Agha's Pakistan side during the Asia Cup held in Dubai earlier this year. “If you're playing, you might as well shake hands,” he told India Today. “And was it a hockey match where we tapped each other's shoulders or did something? There was something — was it kabaddi or hockey? There was something where we didn't quite shake hands, but we tapped shoulders

or did something. “If you're playing, then you should play the game in the spirit it was intended.” Abdullah, who is a keen cricket lover, also batted for India-Pakistan cricket matches. “And why not? I mean, what's wrong with a multilateral tournament?” India and Pakistan met each other thrice in the Asia Cup and did not shake hands on any of those occasions — something the women's team also followed when they played the arch-rivals in their World Cup game at a neutral Sri Lankan venue.