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UNIQUE GIFT OF KRIYAYOGA ASHRAM AND RESEARCH INSTITUTE TO GIVE IMPETUS TO WORLD BUILDING AND HUMAN DEVELOPMENT.

## Mokama murder: EC orders replacement of two officials; seeks action compliance report

**NEW DELHI:** Taking firm action in the wake of recent murder of Jan Suraaj Party supporter Dularchand Yadav in Mokama assembly constituency in Bihar, the Election Commission on Saturday ordered the replacement of superintendent of police (SP), Patna Rural, and the Mokama returning officer. The poll panel also called for initiation of disciplinary proceedings against Mokama returning officer Chandan Kumar and two sub divisional police offi-

cers Rakesh Kumar and Abhishek Singh "at the earliest" and asked the report to be furnished to the commission. The EC further directed the immediate suspension of Abhishek Singh over the purported 'law and order' lapse. In a communication sent on Saturday to the Bihar chief electoral officer, the commission said it had approved the replacement of Chandan Kumar, sub-divisional officer (SDO) of Barh and returning officer of Mokama AC, with Ashish Kumar, an IAS



officer and currently additional municipal commissioner of Patna Municipal Corporation. The poll panel also

approved Anand Kumar Singh, deputy SP (DySP), CID, Patna as Rakesh Kumar's replacement and brought Ayush Shrivastava,

Dy SP, Anti-Terrorist Squad, Patna, in place of Abhishek Singh. Directing that Patna Rural SP Vikram Sihag may also be transferred, the EC urgently sought a panel of officers for posting his substitute. "A compliance report in this regard may be furnished by 12 noon of Nov 2, 2025," EC told the CEO. Dularchand Yadav was shot dead in Mokama a couple of days back in the middle of election campaign. The murder triggered a political

slugfest with different parties condemning the incident. RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav cited the incident as a law and order failure and questioned the Patna administration and the EC over action to be taken in the wake of the incident. Mokama – which goes to polls on Nov 6 -- is known for being a stronghold of controversial 'bahubalis' or strongmen who use muscle-power to disturb the level playing field and influence electors to vote for their favoured candidate.

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

**NEW DELHI:** Army chief General Upendra Dwivedi on Saturday addressed a gathering in his hometown Rewa in Madhya Pradesh, where he reflected on Operation Sindoor, spoke about the future of warfare, and even took a dig at US President Donald Trump over his unpredictable statements and recent claims about mediating peace between India and Pakistan. Speaking at an event at TRS College, General Dwivedi highlighted the uncertainty and complexity of emerging global challenges. He said, "... Future challenges are coming. They're instability, uncertainty, complexity, and ambiguity... You and I are completely clueless about what the future holds." PM Modi Hails Operation Sindoor, Says India Breaking Backbone of He then added, "What is Trump doing today? I think even Trump doesn't know what he is going to do tomorrow. Challenges are coming so quickly that by the time you try to grasp an old challenge, a new one emerges, and the same security challenges our military faces. Whether it's on the border, terrorism, natural disasters, or cyber warfare. The new things that have started: space warfare, satellites, chemical, biological, radiological, and information warfare. The way rumours are spread. As you heard in Operation Sindoor, Karachi has been attacked.



So much such news came, which seemed like news to us too. Where did it come from, who did it?... In the scope of all these challenges, you have to work on land, sky, water and all three..." Speaking to reporters in Rewa, General Dwivedi asserted that India only destroyed terrorist infrastructure in the neighbouring country. In response to the April 22 Pahalgam terror attack, India launched Operation Sindoor on May 7, targeting terrorist infrastructure in territories controlled by Pakistan. The strikes triggered four days of intense clashes that ended on May 10 with an understanding to stop military actions. Also read: Foreign policy reset under Trump 2.0? Tulsi Gabbard says regime change era over; details new approach "Operation Sindoor was successful because we fought with the combined strength of our principles and technology. We made it a point that no innocent civilians in Pakistan suffered. We only targeted terrorists and their bosses," the Army chief said.

## "NDA Will Win 160 Seats, Form Govt. With Two-Thirds Majority": Shah

**Patna:** Union home minister Amit Shah expressed confidence today that the NDA will win 160 of the 243 assembly seats in Bihar and retain power for the fifth time since 2005. "NDA will win 160 seats in Bihar, form the government with two-thirds majority," Amit Shah said at the Bihar Power Play event. Bihar, he said, is one of the "most politically aware states in the country" and over the last 20 years, the people have witnessed the progress it has achieved. "You can ask any young person and they will say that the law-and-order situation in the state has improved under Nitish Kumar government and that has been the fundamental of progress," he added. At the event, he also gave a report card for Bihar's progress - enumerating its infrastructure development (four bridges on the Ganga and 10 more planned), creation of employment (a blueprint for self-employment, seed money for women), advances in law and order and the decimation of Maoist violence. "In the past regime, the discussions were about robbery, murder and loot



and today the discussion is about progress," he said. The BJP's chief strategist also reiterated that Nitish Kumar is the face of the ruling alliance for this election. "I have clarified this 50 times -- we are fighting under Nitish Kumar's leadership. He is the Chief Minister, we are fighting under his leadership," he said. He, however, remained non-committal about the situation after the polls, saying, "As far as the Chief Minister face is concerned, there is a constitutional process for that... it will be decided after the polls". The opposition Grand Alliance - since declaring Rashtriya Janata Dal's Tejashwi Yadav as its Chief

Ministerial candidate - has been taking taunting the NDA, saying their house is not in order since they are yet to announce their Chief Ministerial candidate. There has also been speculation that the NDA will opt for a fresh face for the top job. Given that Nitish Kumar has occupied the top post for the better part of 20 years, many believe that a complete reboot will work in NDA's favour in the long term. There has also been concern about the health of the 74-year-old Chief Minister. Shah, however, brushed away those concerns, saying Nitish Kumar has been attending five election rallies a day.

### BJP renews attack on Tejashwi

**NEW DELHI:** Addressing a poll rally, BJP president and Union minister Jagat Prakash Nadda launched a sharp attack on Tejashwi Yadav's party, saying, "RJD nominated late gangster Shahabuddin's son, which shows it wants to bring back jungle raj in Bihar." "They Talk, We Act": JDU's Bijendra Prasad Yadav Slams Tejashwi, Rubbishes Mahagathbandhan Manifesto Recalling the turbulent years of the 1990-2005 RJD regime, Nadda said, "From 1990 to 2005, the rule of Lalu Prasad Yadav and Rabri Devi was a dark era for Bihar — it suffered every kind of loss during that time. It endured every kind of humiliation... But under the leadership of Nitish Kumar for 20 years and 11 years of PM Modi, it has seen its development train back on track." He urged voters to back the in the upcoming polls: "When you cast your vote on the 6th of November, I want to request that this vote is not just for candidates... It's a vote to provide stability to Bihar.



The Prime Minister visited and visited the Tribal Freedom Fighters Museum in Nava Raipur, Chhattisgarh.

## CPI(M) Odisha wing swears by Naxal movement

**NEW DELHI:** CPI(Maoist) central committee (CC) member in charge of the banned outfit's Odisha state committee, Ganesh Uike, has criticised his CC colleague Chandranna over his recent surrender before the Telangana police, and claimed that efforts



to take the "Naxal movement" forward will continue notwithstanding the reverses over the last two years.

Uike also disowned Chandranna's claim that politburo member Devji had been chosen to succeed Basavraj as CPI(Maoist) general secretary. "This is a white lie since the central committee has not met even

since general secretary Basavraj was neutralised. With the Central on an offensive against us, the conditions are still not conducive to hold a CC meeting," Uike said in a statement issued on behalf of the CPI(Maoist) Odisha state committee.

## IPL trade: RR, DC close to Sanju Samson, Tristan Stubbs swap; KKR press for KL Rahul

**NEW DELHI:** Sanju Samson and Tristan Stubbs are likely to be involved in the first big trade before the IPL auction later this year as both Rajasthan Royals (RR) and Delhi Capitals (DC) are getting close to finalising the deal. With Samson clear on leaving the Royals, both DC and RR have been locked in negotiations and many tradable options were discussed along the way. It is reliably learnt that DC are keen to have Samson on board but were not willing to trade any of their core players. KL Rahul's name came up for discussions for the swap but DC were reluctant to let go of a player



who had been their key performer last season and brings a lot of brand value. RR are happy with the idea of having Stubbs in their camp but it's understood that they asked for another uncapped player alongside the South African. That, however, wasn't entertained by the Capitals and there is a bright possibility of seeing Samson back in DC colours from the next IPL season.

## Andhra temple stampede: Inquiry ordered as rush kills 9 devotees

**NEW DELHI:** At least nine devotees, including eight women and a 13-year-old boy, died and several others were injured after a stampede broke out at the Sri Venkateswara Swamy Temple—popularly known as Chinna Tirupati—in Kasibugga town of Srikakulam district on Saturday morning. According to official reports, the incident occurred around 11:45 am when an estimated 15,000 devotees gathered for Ekadashi darshan at the newly constructed temple, which was inaugurated just



four months ago. Deadly Stampede at Andhra Pradesh After Chaos, Panic Strikes Venkateswara Temple, At Least 10 Dead The temple, privately managed and not registered under the Endowments Department, reportedly had the same route for entry

and exit. Railing collapse and panic led to tragedy As per news agency PTI, police said the stampede occurred after an iron railing near the temple steps collapsed due to crowd pressure, triggering panic among devotees. Srikakulam SP KV

Maheswara Reddy stated, "It is purely an accident and due to the owner's mistake. They haven't applied for police bandobust; there were no permissions also." Kasibugga DSP Lakshman Rao said, "The public, in fear, thought that something was falling and panicked. They fell from a height of about six feet. There was no stampede." Medical response and casualty details Seven devotees died on the spot, while two succumbed to their injuries at the Community Health Centre, Palasa.

### 'I paid them all': Ex-BPCL CFO Sivakumar K's post on paying bribes

**BENGALURU:** A former top executive of Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL), Sivakumar K, has sparked outrage after alleging in a LinkedIn post that he was forced to pay bribes to officials while dealing with his daughter's death. Sivakumar K, who earlier served as BPCL's chief financial officer, wrote that his 34-year-old daughter had recently died. In the aftermath, he said he was made to pay bribes at multiple points — from arranging an ambulance to securing official paperwork. "Recently my only child passed away at age 34. The amount of open bribes being asked by the ambulance.

## Two Air India pilots grounded for operating flights without mandatory licence requirements; DGCA probe on

Scheduling and rostering lapses at Air India continue five months after being reprimanded by the regulator on this issue. In the latest instance, a co-pilot and a senior captain have been taken off flying duty after the airline found they operated a flight each last month with a lapsed English Language Proficiency (ELP) licence in one case. And in the other, a co-pilot did so without undergoing mandatory corrective training after



not being able to clear the bi-annual pilot proficiency check (PPC) - instrument rating (IR) test. The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) is investigating these lapses and has sought a report from the airline. AI is learnt to have asked pilots to ensure

they meet all licence requirements. The co-pilot had not been able to clear his latest IR-PPC check. While this is not an out of the ordinary occurrence, pilots have to mandatorily undergo corrective training and get their proficiency rechecked to a satisfactory level of performance before they can fly again. In this case, however, the Airbus A320 co-pilot operated a flight without the same and the lapse is learnt.

## Government to issue bus safety checklist for RTOs after fire incidents

**NEW DELHI:** As most sleeper coaches and long-haul buses remain outside the ambit of the mandatory Bus Body Code that came into effect in September 2025, providing an easy escape for operators and local transport authorities, the government is set to issue a mandatory checklist of safety features that regional transport offices (RTOs) must verify while renewing registration and fitness certificates. Road transport minister Nitin Gadkari this week held a meeting on the recent bus fire incidents in Rajasthan and Andhra Pradesh, and directed officials to take necessary steps, including writing to state govts for stricter



enforcement and compliance of notified norms by transport departments. learnt that the checklist — aimed at preventing mishaps like fires and ensuring faster evacuation of passengers in emergencies — will include provisions such as a minimum 450 mm passageway, at least four emer-

gency doors, fire-resistant electrical equipment and wiring, two fire extinguishers, a fire detection and suppression system (FDSS), and hammers at each berth to break glass windows during emergencies. Sources said other items on the checklist include provisions for fixing

yellow reflective tapes along the edge of the passageway and retro-reflective tapes on all borders of the inside face of emergency doors. While several of these provisions — forming part of the Automotive Industry Standards — were notified in phases since 2016 and came into force after March 2017, their enforcement remains a challenge. Officials added that since these norms are already in place, and with additional requirements such as mandatory emergency lighting of the passageway and removal of partition doors between driver and passenger sections from July this year, these features can be included in the checklist for older buses.



## 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 Vrindavan Municipal Corporation 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 Mauzamad 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-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 Gurubarathi, 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 Lothe 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



## Chief Justice of India B.R. Gavai attended the annual festival of Maheshwari Prasad Inter College

The annual festival was celebrated on the memorial day of the late Devendra Nath

Srivastava. Chief Justice of India B.R. Gavai attended the annual festival of Maheshwari Prasad Inter College, located at Alam Chand, within the Haraipur Kaushambi Muratganj block area, on Saturday. Chief Justice B.R. Gavai was given a grand welcome at the college. All the judges of the Allahabad High Court and other related courts also attended the event. Chief Justice of India (CJI) Justice Bhushan



Ramakrishna Gavai attended the annual festival held on Saturday at Maheshwari Prasad Inter College, located at Alam Chand in the Chail tehsil area. Several judges, including those from the Allahabad High Court, also attended the event. Chief Justice of India (CJI) Justice Bhushan Ramakrishna Gavai

was given a grand welcome at the event. During this, Supreme Court Judge Vikram Nath Srivastava, Allahabad High Court Chief Justice Arun Bhasali, Allahabad University Vice Chancellor Sangeeta Srivastava, Manager Vatsal Nath, Principal Jitendra Nath Srivastava and



all the school staff including many others were present. The District Magistrate Superintendent of Police had made strict security arrangements for the arrival of the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court. A heavy police force was deployed at the venue and nearby for the security of the

Chief Justice. On the memorial day of late Devendra Nath Srivastava, the school children have captivated the people by presenting various types of programmes. On the memorial day, the school children have enhanced the beauty of the annual function by presenting various types of programmes.

## Woman Dies Tragically in Road Accident

Akhand Bharat Sandesh

**Utran.** The wife of a sanitation worker died tragically in a road accident in front of the Jagatpur Regional Rural Bank in the Uttaraon police station area of Prayagraj district. Police arrived at the scene, took the body into custody and sent it for a post-mortem examination. Lal Bahadur Pal, a resident of Barauna, Uttaraon police station, worked as a sanitation worker. His wife, Rita, 40, was traveling with their son, Arjit Pal, on a motorcycle to get medication at Swaroop Rani Hospital in Prayagraj on Saturday. Around 11:00 a.m., they had just arrived in front of the Jagatpur Regional Rural Bank in the Uttaraon police station area when a speeding Magic van carrying gas cylinders struck them. The woman lost control and fell to the ground, crushing her head. The driver then stopped the vehicle a short distance away and fled.



Uttaraon police took the cylinder truck into their custody and sent it to the police station. On receiving the information, Station House Officer Pritam Kumar Tiwari and his team arrived at the scene, took the body into custody, and sent it for a post-mortem examination. The deceased has two sons, one Arjit Pal, 20, and the other, Abhipal, 18. The son is in shock after Rita's death in the accident in front of him. Upon receiving the information, family members also arrived at the scene. Currently, Rita's husband and son are in a state of mourning over her death. The police have seized the vehicle; the driver is absconding and a search is underway.

## The list of UP Board examination centers will be released on December 30th

Prayagraj

The UP Board has finalized and released the examination center determination policy for the 2026 high school and intermediate board examinations. Board Secretary Bhagwati Singh stated that centers will be determined through an online process to ensure purity, sanctity, quality, reliability, and a cheating-free examination for the 2026 high school and intermediate examinations. The Secretary stated that the policy/standards for determining examination centers have been established by Government Order No. 1, November 2025. The entire process of determining examination centers will be completed online from November 10 to December 30, 2025. The UP Board has also finalized the timetable for the main steps for determining examination centers. Details regarding physical resources will be uploaded by schools by November 10, 2025, and physical verification by the tehsil-level committee will be done by November 17, 2025. Secretary Bhagwati Singh informed that the last date for uploading the verified report online is November 24, 2025. The preliminary list of centres selected online by the council will be released by November 27, 2025. The list of

debarred and ineligible schools will be displayed on November 28, 2025. Secretary Bhagwati Singh stated that the last date for receiving objections/representations online is December 4, 2025. The District School Inspector will resolve objections by December 11, 2025. The approved center list will be uploaded to the Board's website by December 17, 2025. He added that anyone with further objections can submit them online until December 22, 2025. The final list of examination centers will be released by December 30, 2025. All proceedings will be conducted through the Board's website, upmsp.edu.in. Secretary Bhagwati Singh stated that the District Center Determination Committee and Tehsil-level Verification Committees, constituted under the chairmanship of the District Magistrate in each district, will oversee the entire process. The examination center determination process will be conducted with complete transparency, technical verification, and timeliness, ensuring that the upcoming board examinations are completely free of cheating. The Secretary stated that all school principals, students, parents, and administrators should participate in the online process within the stipulated timeframe.

## A meeting regarding preparations for the Indira Marathon was held under the chairmanship of the City Magistrate

Prayagraj

Following the instructions of District Magistrate Manish Kumar Verma, a meeting regarding preparations for the 40th All India Prize Money Indira Marathon was held in the Sangam Auditorium at the Collectorate on Saturday, chaired by Additional District Magistrate (City) Satyam Mishra and in the presence of City Magistrate Vinod Kumar Singh. At the meeting, the City Magistrate directed officials from all departments to ensure timely preparations for their respective departments. The City Magistrate stated that athletes should not face any inconvenience along the marathon route. He directed the deployment of Sector Magistrates along the marathon route, the



Executive Engineer (PWD) to repair the marathon race routes, and the Municipal Corporation to ensure cleanliness. The Health Department was directed to ensure adequate arrangements for doctors, medicine kits, and ambulances. He has asked the Superintendent of Police Traffic to make traffic arrangements and the District School Inspector to ensure maximum participation of players. The Regional Sports Officer informed that

online and offline applications for Indira Marathon will be accepted from 4th November and male and female players above 18 years of age can participate by registering themselves during office hours. He informed that in the 40th Indira Marathon, the first winner will be given Rs 2 lakh, the second Rs 1 lakh and the third winner Rs 75000 along with 11 people will be given consolation prizes of Rs 10,000 each. He said that all the arrangements for

Indira Marathon will be completed on time. On this occasion, Raj Kumar Meena, ACP, Vimal Kumar Mishra, ACP, Jhushi, Dr. Sanjay Barwal, Medical Health, Rameet Chaturvedi, ARTO, Anil Kumar, Chief Warden, Shailesh Kumar Singh, Assistant Commandant, Dr. V.N. Singh, United Group, Rahul Maurya, Youth Welfare Department, Jagdish Prasad, Superintendent, Government Garden, Ajay Kumar Giri, Co-District School Inspector, Devvrat Singh, District Basic Education Officer, Devi Prasad, Deputy Sports Officer, Manish Gupta, Deputy Sports Officer, R.S. Bedi, International Player, Mudassar Chaudhary and all the trainers, staff and other social workers of the stadium were present.

## Assistant District Development Officer, Baghpat Summoned

Prayagraj

The Allahabad High Court has summoned the Assistant District Development Officer of Baghpat in a contempt case. The court expressed displeasure over the administrative officials' failure to produce original records in response to a petition against the suspension of Village Development Officer Prem Kumar. The court also directed the Chief Judicial



Magistrate (CJM), Baghpat, to ensure the presence of Justice Vikas Budhwar issued this order

Development Officer's presence. Justice Vikas Budhwar issued this order

on Prem Kumar's petition. Gungakheri Village Head had filed a complaint of irregularities against Prem Kumar, Village Development Officer, Baraut Block. Based on the complaints, the District Development Officer, Baghpat, suspended Prem Kumar and initiated a departmental inquiry. Based on the investigating officer's report, the District Development Officer (DDO), Baghpat, permanently withheld

Prem Kumar's salary increment for the year 2025-26. Prem Kumar challenged this order by filing a petition.

The petition stated that the petitioner was not given a chance to present his case and the above punishment was imposed, which violates natural justice. On May 26th, the High Court had directed the production of the original records of the departmental proceedings. Despite repeated intima-

tions from the standing counsel, the original records were not produced. The court took this seriously and directed the Assistant District Development Officer, Baghpat, to appear with the original records. When this order was also not complied with, the court directed the Chief Justice of Baghpat to ensure the presence of the Assistant District Development Officer with the original records.

## Ganesh of Gadhiyav, still deprived of government assistance

## A young man from Gadhiyav village with 94 teeth and a height of two feet has astonished everyone

Amit Pandey  
Prayagraj

Ganesh Patel, a resident of Gadhiyav, a small village in the Karchana region of the Yamuna River, is a unique creation of nature. Born two feet tall and with 94 teeth in his mouth, this young man is not only a mystery to doctors but also a story of struggle and hope for his family. A human being normally has 32 teeth in his mouth, but 25-year-old Ganesh Patel from Gadhiyav village in the Karchana region has



become a strange miracle of nature. Ganesh has a total of 94 teeth in his

mouth, which have grown in three layers. According to doctors, this condition is

extremely rare and considered no less than a mystery from a medical perspective. Ganesh is only two feet tall and has an unusually built body. The structure of his hands, feet, and mouth is also different from that of a normal human being. In addition to his physical disabilities, Ganesh is speechless and suffers from autism and intellectual disability. Despite this, the innocent smile on his face is heart-breaking. Ganesh's father, Bulbul Patel, and mother, Gayatri Devi, have dedi-

cated their entire lives to serving his family. Struggling with poverty, these parents care for their son day and night. Although the administration has issued Ganesh a disability certificate, he has yet to receive any government assistance or benefits.

The situation is so dire that Ganesh's name was even removed from the ration card due to his fingerprints not being able to be taken.

Amidst his family's hardships, this young man from

Gadhiyav village has now become a symbol of curiosity and faith for people. People come from far and wide to see him, some offer sweets, while others leave money. Some consider him a miracle, while others see him as a wonderful creation of God. But for Ganesh's family, this is not a miracle, but a story of struggle, a confluence of love and helplessness. Gayatri Devi's eyes sparkle with hope every day that someday her Ganesh will receive government help and societal sympathy.

## Barabanki Police organized an awareness program to raise awareness

Barabanki

In light of the "Mission Shakti Phase 5" initiative being implemented by the state government for the safety, respect, and self-reliance of women and girls, under the direction of Barabanki Superintendent of Police Arpit Vijayvargiya, female officers/employees of the Mission Shakti Centers operating in all Barabanki police stations created awareness about women's safety in their respective areas and provided information about all the schemes and arrangements implemented by the Uttar Pradesh government and the Uttar Pradesh Police. For

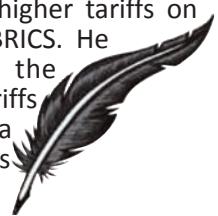
redressal of complaints related to violence against women and other issues. 1. Women Power Line (1090) 2. Police Emergency Service (112) 3. CM Helpline Number (1076) 4. Child Helpline Number (1098) 5. One Stop Center (181) 6. Cyber Helpline Number (1930) 7. Healthcare Helpline Number (102) 8. Ambulance Service (108) 9. Public Hearing Portal, Help Desk of local police station, District Protection Officer, National/State Women's Commission, District Legal Services Authority located in the District Court, and awareness was created about cyber crime.



## Editorial

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

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



## Many questioned whether Modi was in Bihar trying to test the ideological limits of the BJP

Prime Minister Narendra Modi attacked the opposition, calling members of the party who support "jungle raj" anti-Indian and anti-faith. Furthermore, he said that the state's citizens would hold anybody who insults Maha Kumbh in contempt forever. Political circles were captivated by his attention on Maha Kumbh, which he displayed barely two days before Maha Shivratri, as the event was coming to a close. For what reason did Modi bring up the holy event, which has been going on for almost two months, Was all he was doing

was addressing the Opposition's strong criticism of what they saw as poor administration during the world's largest religious gathering, the Maha Kumbh, and the two stampedes that occurred there. Did he want Maha Kumbh to be a part of the National Democratic Alliance's Bihar election platform? It is quite probable that Modi, who had begun the NDA's Bihar election campaign with Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, purposefully brought up the controversy surrounding Maha Kumbh in order to strengthen the Hindu sup-

port among the OBC. Many also saw it as an effort to win over religiously inclined female voters. Meanwhile, political scientists claimed Modi didn't really need to mention Maha Kumbh. In contrast to Uttar Pradesh, religious and communal appeals do not have the same impact on elections in Bihar. A transformative governance agenda has traditionally had a greater impact on the state. Rather than a rising embrace of the Hindutva ideology of the BJP, observers pointed out that Bihar was shifting away from the Rashtriya Janata

Dal (RJD) led by Lalu Yadav owing to fears of his previous misrule. North Bihar is still firmly under the control of the NDA, and yatras, which were once used to communalize politics, have not been very successful. The Hindu Swabhimani Yatra, which Union Minister Giriraj Singh attempted last year but was unable to launch, is a prime example. In this context, many questioned whether Modi was in Bihar trying to test the ideological limits of the BJP. "Those who believe in jungle raj hate our heritage and our faith," he

## Trade in services is also expected to receive a significant fillip



Full Electric Propulsion system for Indian Navy ships—signal good times ahead for India's defence sector. India's focus on indigenous development does present challenges for the British industry, with fears that it could potentially make cooperation in certain sectors commercially unviable. Intellectual property (IP) issues also need to be resolved. These issues can hopefully be addressed through the robust defence engagement mechanism that now exists between the two countries. Moreover, the UK-India military cooperation has grown in recent times.

The Royal Navy made six ship visits to India in 2023, while its Littoral Response Group (South) conducted exercises with the Indian Navy in March 2024. In August 2024, the UK's Royal Air Force participated in exercise Tarang Shakti in India. An Indian naval officer, Lieutenant Commander N Dinesh Anand, has joined Britannia Royal Naval College as Divisional Training Officer for the first time. India and the UK are making a serious effort to build technology partnerships. The new bilateral Technology Security

Initiative (TSI), formally launched during UK Foreign Secretary, David Lammy's visit, aims to catalyse collaboration on critical and emerging technologies in seven key sectors: telecoms, critical minerals, semiconductors, Artificial Intelligence, quantum, biotechnology and health technology, and advanced materials. Tech collaboration between India and the UK also extends to sectors including financial services, innovation in health, climate, renewables, and startups. The participation of stakeholders from government, industry, and academia would be important for taking the Technology Security Initiative forward. Both countries are global hubs of innovation, science, technology, and research. India is one of the world's largest startup ecosystems and has over 100 unicorn companies. The increasing focus on these areas is welcome. Education is an important pillar of India-UK relations. The University of Southampton opened its campus in Gurugram on 16 July 2025, becoming the first foreign university campus under the New Education Policy (NEP). The UK remains

one of the preferred destinations for Indian students, with around 1,70,000 students studying in the UK in the academic year 2023-2024.

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

in the UK are thriving, with 100 companies having a revenue growth of at least 10 per cent. The Britain meets India Tracker 2024 identified 667 British companies in India with a turnover of approximately £47.5 billion. The UK is the sixth-largest contributor of FDI to India. Cumulative FDI from the UK to India is around \$36 billion between 2000 to March 2025. India's investment in the UK during this period is close to \$20 billion. The Indian diaspora in the UK is also a major presence in the UK's economic scenario. The 2020 GT report, done with the High Commission of India, London, and Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FICCI), identified 654 diaspora-owned companies with a turnover of at least £100,000, generating a cumulative annual turnover of £36.84 billion. The wealth generated by Indian diaspora-owned businesses in the UK was estimated to be around £75 billion by this report. The 1.8 million Indian diaspora forms about 2.7 per cent of the UK's population. During PM Modi's visit, the signing of the India-UK Free Trade Agreement (FTA) is expected. The forward-looking agreement complements India's growth aspirations. The FTA has been described as both historic and ambitious. It is expected to boost jobs, exports, and growth, benefiting 99 per cent of Indian exports from zero per cent duty, opening export opportunities for labour-intensive sectors such as textiles.

## “Raising the illustrious banner of jihad against the Hindus and all those who fight ”

The questions turned to embarrassment in November 2007. Newsrooms across the country began receiving emails from an organisation calling itself the Indian Mujahideen—a term used to distinguish it from Pakistani groups, rather than a brand in itself. The emails were often sent seconds before terrorist attacks. The first email claimed responsibility for earlier attacks, including Varanasi in 2006, Hyderabad in August 2007, and the 7/11 Mumbai train bombings. Each of the emails cast the actions of the perpetrators as revenge for the 2002 communal massacre in Gujarat. The email issued after the Ahmedabad bombing of 26 July 2008, for example, said that the Indian Mujahideen was “raising the illustrious banner of jihad against the Hindus and all those who fight and resist us.” Faking it isn't, of course, a uniquely Indian talent. The ‘usual suspects’ were also lined up in London after the bombs went off at the Horse and Groom, Seven Stars, and the King's Arms

pubs. Paul Hill was identified by a British Army Intelligence Officer in Belfast, who noticed he had shoulder-length fair hair. The photograph the officer was looking at, though, was of two women survivors, not a perpetrator. Gerry Conlon was picked up based on past suspicion of ties to the Irish Republican Army, which were never proven. Patrick Armstrong and his girlfriend, Carole Richardson, were living in squats. “The English language is rich in words, but no single one can adequately describe your crime,” Justice John Donaldson declared at sentencing. There was one he didn't consider: innocent. There were no worthwhile forensics, alibis were ignored, and credible claims of torture were dismissed. Later, when the Guildford Four had become middle-aged, an official investigation conducted by the British parliament would conclude: “The material then in the possession of the Crown, including such explanations as the police officers concerned were then prepared,

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

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

by failing to test a bomb on time. Even as it was obvious that the world was entering a discriminatory nuclear regime that no amount of third-worldism or non-alignment mantras could prevent, India persisted in keeping company with those who had nothing to lose. China, on the other hand, tested its first device in 1964, as soon as it could put the nuclear bolts together. It joined the nuclear club and subsequently became a permanent member of the United Nations Security Council. By the time India tested the bomb in 1974, the doors of the nuclear elite club had closed. Manvendra Singh is a BJP leader, Editor-in-Chief of Defence & Security Alert, and Chairman, Soldier Welfare Advisory Committee, Rajasthan. He tweets @Manvendralasol. Views are personal.

In an era of multiple strifes across continents, an anniversary quietly slipped under the radar of world watchers. Eighty years ago, an explosion ushered in a new age of combat, weapons, tactics, and technology. At 5:29 am local time on 16 July 1945, the United States tested the world's first atomic bomb in the desolate desert of New Mexico in an area called Jornada del Muerto—Spanish for “Dead Man's Road”. The site could-

n't have been chosen because of the irony in its name. In the days of Spanish expansion into the New World, this must have certainly been a deadly route to take, but that was centuries before America's wartime quest for the world's most potent weapon. And it was tested under the codename ‘Trinity’. A multi-billion-dollar initiative that involved scores of enterprises, institutions, and scientists of various disciplines working under strict military supervision, it was innocently labelled ‘Manhattan Project’. Innocent, since the name didn't convey its unifocal military purpose. The world entered the nuclear age with a military purpose, and its impact on 6 and 9 August 1945 over Hiroshima and Nagasaki are historical landmarks that will not be erased anytime soon. Reams have been written about the Manhattan Project and its impact. The ghastly use of the bomb against Japan has also been dissected. What has been relegated to dusty shelves and nerdy researchers, however, is the official report on the programme. It's unambiguously called Atomic Energy for Military Purposes. Among the most extraordinary aspects of the report is that it was made public on 12 August 1945, even before the radioactive clouds had lifted from Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Princeton University physicist Henry DeWolf Smyth penned the report. Within the community that contributed to making the nuclear fission device a success, the Smyth Report was the working paper on how the Manhattan Project was to be discussed. It is patently clear that the US was working on a long-term nuclear perspective. The American military approach is a far cry from how India viewed the arrival of the nuclear era. Although its nuclear journey is extraordinary among formerly colonised nations, India missed vital landmarks along the way. In July 1945, India already had a nuclear .



## Vice President of the Women's Commission participated in the Chaupal held at the old age home

**Bahraich**

Addressing the discussion on the Drug Eradication Chaupal and Mahila Shakti Mission held at the old age home in Nagarour, Vice President, Deputy Minister-level, Uttar Pradesh State Women's Commission, Aparna Yadav, said that drug addiction is a social scourge. Public dialogue and public support are essential for effective control of drug addiction. She added that Hon'ble Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has taken effective steps for women's empowerment. The government is committed and dedicated to the safety and security of women. The government is providing all possible support for women's empowerment. Advocate Sanjeev Srivastava, President of the Rule of Law Society, Awadh Region, stated



that public awareness is essential for effectively curbing the illegal drug trade. Police Circle Officer Harshita Tiwari stated that the police administration is continuously taking effective action to effectively control the illegal drug trade. Sub-District Magistrate Sadar Pooja Chaudhary provided information about various helplines and schemes operated for the safety, security and self-reliance of women. Social Welfare Officer Shraddha Pandey explained departmental schemes in detail. District Probation Officer Vinod Rai pro-

vided information about departmental programs for exploited children and destitute women. Inner Wheel Club General Secretary Jyoti Bansal assured effective participation in life-support programs for poor and disabled women. Women Police Station in-charge Manju Yadav distributed leaflets about the Mahila Shakti Mission and urged women to establish coordination and communication. The program was conducted by Conciliation Officer Anil Mishra and the vote of thanks was given by Old Age Home Manager Dilip Dwivedi.

## Now there will be war, not begging - Mahendra Pratap

**Mathura**

The pilgrimage, organized with the support of the Shri Krishna Janmabhoomi Mukti Trust, reached Mathura on Thursday under the guidance of Acharya Rajeshwar Maharaj, President of the United Indian Dharma Sansad. The pilgrims were given a grand welcome at the city's KDS International School. The meeting held on this occasion was presided over by Saint Govindananda Tirtha Maharaj of Seva Mangalam Ashram in Vrindavan. Advocate Mahendra Pratap Singh, President of the Shri Krishna Janmabhoomi Mukti Trust and a Hindu party in the Shri Krishna Janmabhoomi-Shahi Eidgah Mosque case, said in the meeting that the birthplace of Lord Krishna is the center of our faith. Citing historical references to the Shri Krishna Janmabhoomi, he explained how the temple was repeatedly demolished, and each time the Hindu community rebuilt it. He said, "The time for begging is over. This bat-



tle is being fought with full force in the court. We have all the historical and evidential evidence that the original sanctum sanctorum of Lord Krishna was located at the same place where the mosque is built. Now our resolve is to build a grand temple at that very spot." Acharya Rajeshwar Maharaj stated that a nationwide campaign is underway for the liberation of Shri Krishna's birthplace. He explained that the first yatra started from Dwarka to Mathura, and this second yatra came to Mathura from Badrinath Dham. The next yatra will start from Rameshwaram to Mathura, with the aim of strengthening public awareness and religious unity. He explained that when he began this yatra, a person from Australia

contacted him and informed him that Advocate Mahendra Pratap Singh was representing the case. "Upon contacting him, we found that he is not only fighting on the legal front but is also working to raise awareness in society," he said. Saint Govindananda Teerth Maharaj stated that this struggle to liberate Shri Krishna's birthplace is a religious war. "Truth always triumphs. Unrighteousness never triumphs. This war is for the protection of Sanatan Dharma and the liberation of Shri Krishna's birthplace," he said. Kumar Damodar Singh, founder of KDS International School, said that the struggle for the liberation of the birthplace symbolizes Indian culture and self-respect. He emphasized that society must play an active role in this campaign. Dr. Aditya Anand Giri Maharaj of Chintamani Kunj, Vrindavan, said, "Those organizing the procession are doing their part, those fighting the case are struggling in court, but now we must also awaken.

## The closing ceremony of National Nutrition Month was held under the chairmanship of Dr Babita



**Mathura**

The closing ceremony of National Nutrition Month was held in the auditorium of BSA Engineering College under the chairmanship of Dr. Babita Singh Chauhan, Chairperson of the Uttar Pradesh State Women's Commission. MLA Baldev Puran Prakash, District Program Officer Buddhi Mishra, District Probation Officer Vikas Chandra, District Basic Education Officer Ratan Kirti, District Information Officer Prashant Kumar Suchari, Block Development Officer Farah, Neha Rawat, and Ruchi Sharma, Block Development Officer Rural, all Child Development Project Officers and Supervisors of the Child Development Department, along with Anganwadi workers from the district were present at the ceremony. Dr. Babita Singh Chauhan, Chairperson of the Uttar Pradesh State Women's Commission, visited various stalls set up by Anganwadi workers at the event. She inspected the stalls displaying delicious and nutritious dishes prepared by the Anganwadi workers and tasted the dishes. The District Program Officer informed that all the dishes were prepared with less sugar, less oil, and less salt. Various nutritious dishes made from millets were also displayed at the stalls. In the closing ceremony of the National Nutrition Month, Dr. Babita Singh Chauhan performed the baby shower ceremony for 5 women. The Chairperson of the Uttar Pradesh State

## The Ghosh Dal of Krishna Chandra Gandhi Saraswati Vidya Mandir, Mathura, won first place at the district level

**Mathura**

The Ghosh Dal of Krishna Chandra Gandhi Saraswati Vidya Mandir Inter College, Madhav Kunj, Mathura, achieved first place in the District Level School Band Competition 2025, organized by the District Project Office of Samagra Shiksha (Secondary), Uttar Pradesh, Mathura district, thanks to its excellent performance. School media in-charge Umesh Sharma stated that the school's Ghosh Dal performed brilliantly in the competition, placing first among all participants. On this occasion,



the school's Manager, Sameer Bansal (Advocate), congratulated Ghosh Instructor Sitaram Baghel and all the Ghosh Dal students, saying, "This achievement is the result of the students' hard work, dedication, and discipline.

Such competitions develop social and emotional skills in students, increasing their dedication and self-confidence towards success. "School Principal Vinay Kumar Singh said, "This is the result of the students' dedication, skill, discipline,

self-confidence, and skillful leadership. Participating in competitions develops team spirit, social connections and tolerance. This victorious team from the school will now represent Mathura district in the state-level competition."

## Major reshuffle before local polls: Entire Gujarat cabinet resigns

**NEW DELHI:** The entire Gujarat cabinet except chief minister Bhupendra Patel resigned on Thursday, news agency PTI reported citing sources. The cabinet comprised of 16 members including eight cabinet-rank ministers and nine ministers of state. "Resignations of all the 16 ministers have been taken by the party. Except for chief minister Patel, all the ministers have resigned," BJP source told PTI. The reshuffle comes nearly three years into the current government's term and just



months before crucial local body elections across the state, including municipal corporations, municipalities, district panchayats, and taluka panchayats. Major Cabinet Reshuffle in Gujarat as Ministers Step Down Before Local Polls. Gujarat's 182-member assembly allows up to 27 ministers, or 15% of

the house. Earlier this month, MoS Jagdish Vishwakarma was appointed BJP's Gujarat state president, succeeding Union minister CR Paatil. Bhupendra Patel was sworn in for his second term as CM on December 12, 2022. Earlier PTI had reported that the cabinet will be expanded on Friday.

## 'Priority is to safeguard interests of consumers': India

**NEW DELHI:** The ministry of external affairs on Thursday issued a statement in response to US President Donald Trump's claim that PM Narendra Modi had "assured him that India would stop buying Russian oil". The government said India's import policies are guided entirely by "priority to safeguard the interests of the Indian consumer in a volatile energy scenario". "India is a significant importer of oil and gas. It has been our consistent priority to safeguard the interests of the Indian consumer in a volatile energy scenario. Our import policies are guided entirely by this objective," said MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal. Stating stable energy prices and secured supplies as India's twin goals of our energy policy,



Jaiswal said: "This includes broad-basing our energy sourcing and diversifying as appropriate to meet market conditions. "The government said the Trump administration has shown interest in deepening energy cooperation with India and that discussions are ongoing. "Where the US is concerned, we have for many years sought to expand our energy procurement. This has steadily progressed in the last decade. The current Administration has shown interest in deepening energy cooperation with India. Discussions are ongoing," the MEA

said. Trump claimed on Wednesday that PM Modi has assured him that India will stop buying Russian oil, months after he imposed punitive tariffs over the purchases. "He's assured me there will be no oil purchased from Russia," Trump said. "You know, you can't do it immediately. It's a little bit of a process, but the process is going to be over with soon," he added. Responding to ANI's question whether he views India as a reliable partner, Trump said: "Yeah, sure. He's (PM Narendra Modi) a friend of mine.

## Farmers should earn more income by using in-situ agricultural machinery for stubble management: CDO

**Bahraich**

Presiding over the Kisan Diwas meeting held in the Vikas Bhawan auditorium to address farmers' problems, Chief Development Officer Mukesh Chandra reviewed the complaints received from previous Kisan Diwas meetings point by point. Following this, the CDO stated that Bahraich is an agricultural district and all farmers are being covered on time by providing fertilizers, seeds and Prime Minister Crop Insurance. Every effort is being made to prioritize and resolve any problems. He suggested making agriculture profitable. He urged farmers to cultivate cash crops to maximize their



income. The CDO urged all farmers in the district not to burn crop residues after harvesting and threshing the current paddy crop, but to manage them using in-situ machinery and incorporate them into the fields, increasing the fertility of the fields to achieve higher yields. The CMO urged combine harvester owners present at the meeting to harvest crops using a reaper attached to their combine harvesters. Otherwise, if found harvesting without a reaper, their combine harvesters will be con-

fiscated and other legal action will be taken. He urged all farmer producer organizations in the district to prevent their associated farmers and surrounding farmers from burning stubble and to explain the benefits of stubble management, which will maintain human and environmental health and maintain soil fertility. The CMO provided information about the application process for other schemes, including the Chief Minister's Child Service Scheme and the Kanya Sumangala Scheme.

## Karnataka vs RSS: Cabinet approves new rules; no activities allowed in public places without permission

**NEW DELHI:** The Karnataka cabinet on Thursday decided to frame new rules to regulate Rashtriya Swayamsevak



Sangh (RSS) activities, including marches and events held on government-owned properties and public roads, information technology and biotechnology minister Priyank Kharge said, according to PTI. The decision follows a letter from Kharge to chief minister Siddaramaiah, seeking a ban on RSS activities and those of its affiliated organizations in public and government spaces.

Speaking to reporters after the cabinet meeting, Kharge said, "The rules we want to bring is regarding public places, government schools, colleges, government premises, government owned institutions and aided institutions. We will bring together the previous orders issued by the home department, law department, and the education department to frame a new rule. In the next two to three days, the new rule will come into force within the framework of law and the Constitution." He clarified that while the government cannot control any organisation outright, "from now on you cannot do whatever you want in public places or roads. Whatever you have to do, it has to be done after seeking the government's permission." Kharge further explained that granting permission will be at the government's discretion.



India's women's cricket team stormed into the final of the ICC Women's World Cup 2025 with a thrilling five-wicket victory over defending champions Australia. Soon after, several celebrities, including Kareena Kapoor Khan, Alia Bhatt, Rishabh Shetty, Varun Dhawan, Suniel Shetty, Manoj Bajpayee, and Arjun Rampal, among others, celebrated India's historic win, cheering for the team on social media.

Alia Bhatt wrote, "Our women in blue did it again. What a match, what a team!!"

Varun Dhawan also penned on his Instagram Stories, "My hero."

Suniel Shetty added, "339 ... Against Australia !!! That was a blizz total to chase. But the belief was bigger. Jemimah's unbeaten ton and India's fearless chase - pure magic! Team India into the finals, with fire and belief!"

Vikrant Massey took to his Instagram Stories and wrote, "One step closer!! Well played." He also added, "Thank you @jemimahrodrigues, one of the greatest batting displays in the history of cricket."

Arjun Rampal's post read, "Not every day you witness a chase like this. What a great moment for Women's cricket. What emotion. What an epic. Salute our girls. You are champions already. Take a bow #jemimahrodrigues. Prayers for the finals has already begun more than a billion hearts you girls have won. #jemimahrodrigues #icc-womensworldcup2025."



## Bollywood cheers women cricketers

Kareena, Alia, Varun, Suniel, Manoj and Arjun celebrate India's women cricket team reaching ICC World Cup 2025 final

Rishabh Shetty tweeted, "What a moment for India! Our women's team @BCCIWomen storms into the ICC #WomensWorldCup2025 Final with a thrilling win over Australia! A stunning display of determination, unity, and brilliance on the field. Take a bow, @JemimahRodrigues, that century was pure class!"

India will clash with South Africa in the final on Sunday, November 2, in Navi Mumbai



## Tribute to Zubeen

Assam pays tribute to late Zubeen Garg as *Roi Roi Binale* screens exclusively, with a special seat in his honour

Singer Zubeen Garg passed away in September this year in Singapore. He sang many popular songs, but we are sure not many people would know that Zubeen was also an actor and starred in numerous Assamese movies. On Friday, his last film *Roi Roi Binale* has hit the big screens, and something special has been done for Zubeen in Assam theatres. There's a special seat kept for Zubeen in the theatres of Assam. The seat is decorated, and a picture of the actor-singer has been kept on it.

*Roi Roi Binale* is directed by Rajesh Bhuyan. Apart from being an actor in the film, Zubeen also composed the songs and wrote the story of the movie. According to a report in Bollywood Hungama, in Assam only Zubeen Garg's film *Roi Roi Binale* will be screened, and even new films that are releasing on Friday won't get any shows.

A source told the portal, "All theatres



in the North-eastern state will discontinue holdover releases. Even new releases like *Baahubali: The Epic*, *Single Salma*, *The Taj Story*, *The Black Phone*, *Bugonia*, *Good Boy*, etc., will not be screened. Every cinema in Assam will show *Roi Roi Binale* only." *Roi Roi Binale* is expected to do exceptionally well at the box office. According to reports, during its advance booking itself the film was sold out for a week.

## An epic watch!

**TITLE:** Baahubali The Epic  
**DIRECTOR:** SS Rajamouli  
**CAST:** Prabhas, Anushka Shetty, Ramya Krishnan, Rana Daggubati  
**WHERE:** In theatres near you  
**RATING:** ★★★★★

In the past few years, many Indian films have been re-released. While some did well at the box office, some failed to make a mark. To celebrate the 10 years of the *Baahubali* franchise, the makers decided to re-release the movies, but with a twist. They have re-edited *Baahubali: The Beginning* and *Baahubali 2: The Conclusion*, and converted them into a single film titled *Baahubali: The Epic*. So, is this film actually an epic watch? Read on to know that...

In the first half, we get to watch what we saw in *Baahubali: The Beginning*. The pace of the first half is quite fast; the makers have edited out many scenes to make it very crisp. For example, the romantic portion featuring Tamannaah Bhatia and Prabhas is just explained with a voice-over.

The film's interval has a slate which reads, "You don't have to wait for two years to know W (Why) K (Katappa) K (Killed) B (Baahubali)."

The second half of *Baahubali: The Epic* is what we saw in *Baahubali 2: The Conclusion*. Here also many scenes have been edited out to make it crisp. However, still after a lot of re-editing, the movie's runtime is around 3 hours 45 minutes. So, yes, be ready to be inside the theatre for around four hours (including the interval time).

The *Baahubali* franchise is still remembered for its grandeur. The film, even after 10 years, feels very fresh when you watch it on the big screen. When Prabhas mouths the dia-

logue, "Amarendra Baahubali yaani main," you will still feel like cheering for him. When Ramya Krishnan holds the child in her hand and shouts, "Mahendra Baahubali," it will still give you goosebumps. Also, watching those amazing VFX on the big screens is a treat to the eyes.

**Actors' performances**  
We have already watched these actors performing amazingly in *Baahubali* Parts 1 and 2. So, *Baahubali: The Epic* is a treat for Prabhas, Ramya Krishnan, Anushka Shetty, and Rana Daggubati's fans.

However, Tamannaah Bhatia fans will be disappointed. Her role has been cut a lot, and it is merely a cameo now.

**Music**  
MM Keeravani's music does wonders again. But yes, we cannot ignore that most of the songs have been edited out of the movie.

### FPJ verdict

Overall, *Baahubali: The Epic* proves one thing, that re-watching the SS Rajamouli directorial on the big screen will always be a fantastic cinematic experience. If you loved the *Baahubali* franchise, you can surely watch this film in theatres, and if you haven't watched parts 1 and 2, then *Baahubali: The Epic* is a must-watch for you. But remember, the film's runtime is quite long.



The film starts off with Sikandar Khan (Shreyas Talpade), who, despite his broken English, takes the audience on a nostalgic journey as he bags 'Entrepreneur of the year' award in London. His story starts with him falling in love at the very first sight of Salma Rizvi (Huma Qureshi). Just as when they gear up to get engaged, Salma gets an offer to go to London for office training.

Not the one to act as a villain in his would-be wife's career's progress, like a thorough gentleman, Sikandar allows his would-be wife to go to London. There are times one sees Sikandar slipping into Shah Rukh Khan's selfless character Surinder Sahni's mode from the hit film *Rab Ne Bana Di Jodi*!

During the training session in London, sparks fly between Salma and Meet Singh Sahni (Sunny Singh) - a London based cool dude who believes in open relationships. And by the time Salma gets to scan his nature thoroughly, the inevitable thing happens. Meet lands up falling in love with Salma! So much so that he follows her back to Lucknow and wants to get married to her!

The film starts off with Sikandar Khan (Shreyas Talpade), who, despite his broken English, takes the audience on a nostalgic journey as he bags 'Entrepreneur of the year' award in London. His story starts with him falling in love at the very first sight of Salma Rizvi (Huma Qureshi). Just as when they gear up to get

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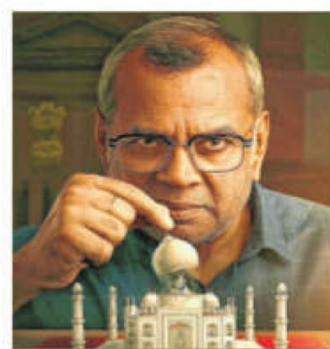


## Missing that gripping narrative

**TITLE:** Single Salma  
**DIRECTOR:** Nachiket Samant  
**CAST:** Huma Qureshi, Sunny Singh and Shreyas Talpade, Kanwaljit Singh  
**WHERE:** In theatres near you  
**RATING:** ★★

engaged, Salma gets an offer to go to London for office training.

Not the one to act as a villain in his would-be wife's career's progress, like a thorough gentleman, Sikandar allows his would-be wife to go to London. There are times one sees Sikandar slipping into Shah Rukh Khan's



## Paresh shines in flat legal drama

**TITLE:** Taj Story  
**DIRECTOR:** Tushar Amrith Goel  
**CAST:** Paresh Rawal, Namit Das, Brijendra Kala, Zakir Hussain and Amrita Khanvilkar  
**WHERE:** In theatres near you  
**RATING:** ★★

exploration or deep character engagement. The first half builds family tension and courtroom anticipation, but the second half plods through dense testimonies and predictable dramatic beats.

Director Tushar Amrith Goel, who co-wrote the screenplay with Saurabh M. Pandey (also the dialogue writer), tries too hard to drive

home the core argument — that the Taj Mahal was built on the ruins of a palace belonging to King Jai Singh and acquired by Shah Jahan. The repeated expositions wear down the audience.

That said, the film effectively captures the personal obsession with truth-seeking. Cinematographer Satyajit Hajarnis frames the Taj Mahal immaculately, playing with shadow and light to highlight its majestic serenity. The film's production values are a plus. Watching the monument on the big screen stirs thoughts on empire building, cultural erasure, and historical appropriation — but the film never truly explores these themes, instead circling back to its central claim too often.

### Actors' performances

Paresh Rawal elevates the thinly written character of Vishnu Das with his trademark humour and gravitas. His ability to convince with performance remains undeniable — whether as Babu Bhैया in *Hera Pheri* or Sardar Patel in *Sardar*. Here too, he lifts the film to a higher standard. Namit Das delivers a solid per-

formance as his son, while Zakir Hussain and Amrita Khanvilkar support the story ably. However, the limited material leaves little scope for nuanced performances.

Samant, who really has to sharpen and fine tune the art of directing before doing his next film. Even though one can find honesty and sincerity in his craft, sadly, the film also needs other aspects for it to shine at the box office. There are many places where the film goes astray. Had those places been taken care of, it would have given the entire film a brand new outlook! But, sadly though, that is just not the case! Nachiket's rushing from one thing to another acts as yet another challenge in the already challenged film's narrative. Even the film's punchlines and one-liners are very limited.

As for the film's music (Sohail Sen, Jassi Sidhu), except for the title track, there is hardly any hum-worthy track. Even the film's background music fails to lift up the film or its characters. Amid all this, the film's cinematography (Andrew Boulter) gets to earn brownie points.

The film's editing (Ashish Tripathi, Abhishek Anand) could have been more on-point and watertight. Trimming a bunch of scenes from the film just could have helped the film... in a big way.

**FPJ verdict**  
Given the fact that the film 'Single Salma' does not have an extremely strong narrative or chartbuster music, it will find it tough to sustain itself at the box-office. Even the word of mouth is seemingly difficult. Added to that, the film's promotions have been very lowkey and limited, which also add to the roadblocks in making the film roar at the box office!

**Music**  
A song by Kailash Kher, *Dum Dhadhak*, is catchy, and composer Rahul Dev Nath's background score serves the film efficiently.

### FPJ verdict

As *The Taj Story* releases in theatres, its makers have also unveiled a poster featuring a Shiva linga emerging from within the monument — an image that has already stirred controversy. The ongoing trend of finding "Shiva lingas" under almost every Mughal-era or Muslim-ruled structure is becoming tiresome, even for the media. Perhaps if *The Taj Story* had evolved into a nuanced, historically grounded exploration of empire, conquest, and cultural dominance, it could have attracted a wider audience and sparked genuine curiosity. As it stands, the film seems aligned with those who already subscribe to this line of thought.



## Google under CCI investigation over gaming firm complaint

**Delhi:** India's Google regulatory issues are growing. In 2022, the Competition Commission of India (CCI) fined the US tech giant for abuse of dominant position in its Play Store and Android mobile device ecosystem. Now, the fairplay regulator is investigating a complaint filed by gaming company WinZO. CCI directed its investigation arm to investigate and report within 60 days after finding a prima facie case. "Based on the facts and circumstances of the case, the commission believes Google is in violation and justifies further inquiry. The CCI bench, chaired by Ravneet Kaur and three members, ordered the director general to investigate. A Google spokesman declined to comment. WinZO, an online gaming company, claimed that Google's Play Store prohibits Real Money Game hosting. "Due to Google's unreasonable and



restrictive policy, all apps offering real money games of skill are only available for download from their website (a process called sideloading)," it told CCI. On Android devices, using this process to reach WinZO displays a disclaimer/warning, tarnishing its image. WinZO stated warnings are without validity and "completely illegal" and cost the company. It also claimed Google displays another "baseless warning" when users pay for skill-based games. "Such payment warnings are arbitrary as Google has not set any criteria for displaying them," WinZO complained to CCI.

### US retailers utilize Trump tariff threats to boost sales

**Delhi:** Local media stated that many US businesses are advising clients to buy now before President-elect Donald Trump's proposed tariffs hike prices. Trump threatened 60% tariffs on all Chinese goods and 10% to 20% tariffs on other goods during his campaign. He announced plans to impose 25% tariffs on Mexican and Canadian imports and 10% on Chinese imports. According to Xinhua,

## The Union government wants 100% FDI in insurance

**Delhi:** The Union Finance Ministry proposed raising the insurance sector's FDI ceiling from 74% to 100% in a consultation paper. The insurance FDI limit was raised from 49% to 74% in February 2021. The government said the proposal to alter insurance legislation will make insurance more affordable, grow the insurance industry, and streamline corporate operations.

An office memorandum dated November 26 proposed lifting the FDI ceiling in Indian insurance businesses from 74% to 100% and



allowing insurers to conduct one or more kinds of insurance business and associated or incidental operations. The suggestion also cut foreign reinsurers' Net Owned Funds from Rs 5,000 crore to Rs 1,000 crore. IRDAI can also set lesser entry capital (Rs 50 crore) for underserved or unserved regions on

a case-by-case basis. The sector regulator is trying to increase capital in this capital-intensive industry. The Chairman of IRDAI suggests that the insurance market requires 50,000 crore yearly to double penetration in the country. Insurance penetration is the ratio of annual premiums issued to GDP.

## Gold loans rise 50% in seven months

**Delhi:** Bank loans against gold jewelry rose 50.4% in the first seven months of the year. Despite single-digit growth in every other personal loan area, credit rose sharply. RBI issued sectoral deployment of bank credit Gold loans totaled Rs 1,02,562 crore in March 2024. Growth was 56% year-over-year, up from

13% in October 2023. NBFCs' move and a preference for secured loans over unsecured ones contributed to the first-seven-month gold loan surge, bankers said. Bank loans to NBFCs fell 0.7% to Rs 1.5 lakh crore in the first seven months. Bankers also said that rising gold prices allow borrowers to repay previous loans

and get higher new ones. Analysts see rising gold loan demand as an indication of financial instability. RBI ordered banks and financial companies to review and fix their gold loan rules and procedures within three months last month. After an examination, evergreening was found to hide bad loans.

## Commercial LPG hike by Rs 16.5 per cylinder, jet fuel up 1.45%; household cooking gas remains unchanged

**NEW DELHI:** The cost of commercial LPG and aviation fuel prices surged on Sunday following the monthly revision aimed at aligning with trends in international oil prices. State-owned oil firms raised commercial LPG rates, used in hotels and restaurants by Rs 16.5 per to Rs 1818.50 per 19 kg cylinder. Aviation turbine fuel (ATF) prices in Delhi, which hosts one of India's most active airports, saw an increase of Rs 1,318.12 per kilo litre, marking a 1.45 per cent increment. The new rate stands at Rs 91,856.84 per kl, according to state-owned fuel retailers. The prices of ATF and LPG vary from state to state, depending on local taxes, including VAT. This marks the second consecutive monthly increase in jet fuel prices, which were previously raised by Rs 2,941.5 per kl, or 3.3 per cent, on November 1. ATF prices were reduced by 6.3 per cent (Rs 5,883 per kl) on October 1 and by Rs 4,495.5 per kl, or 4.58 per cent, on September 1. In Mumbai, the ATF price increased to Rs 85,861.02 per kl on Sunday from Rs 84,642.91 previously. The price of commercial LPG have also increased for the seventh consecutive month. In the most recent review on November 1, commercial LPG prices were raised by Rs 62 per 19-kg cylinder. Over the course of five price hikes, commercial LPG prices have increased by Rs 172.5 per 19-kg cylinder, reaching their peak this year. Four monthly price reductions before the current cycle began in August were offset by the recent hikes. Prices for 19-kg cylinders were reduced by Rs 148 across the four rounds. Currently, commercial LPG costs Rs 1,980 in Chennai, Rs 1,927 in Kolkata, and Rs 1,771 in Mumbai for a 19-kg cylinder. However, the rate of cooking gas used in domestic households, however, remained unchanged at Rs 803 per 14.2-kg cylinder. State-owned Indian Oil Corporation (IOC), Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd (BPCL), and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd (HPCL) revise the prices of ATF and cooking gas on the first of each month.

## TRAI deadline may prevent Jio, Vi, and Airtel subscribers from receiving OTPs

**Delhi:** As Airtel, Vodafone-Idea, and Reliance Jio struggle to reach a crucial Telecom Regulatory Authority of India deadline, Indian mobile subscribers may experience OTP delays. The telecom watchdog extended the deadline for spam and phishing traceability requirements to December 1, 2024. Telecom companies must now track all commercial messages, including OTPs, to combat fraud. Telecom companies can block scams by identifying message sources. However, missing this deadline could delay or prohibit OTPs, harming banking, e-commerce, and social networking. The TRAI imple-



**"The TRAI implementation timeframe is phased. Operators will notify chain declaration violators daily until November 30. All non-compliant messages will be prohibited starting December 1"**

mentation timeframe is phased. Operators will notify chain declaration violators daily until November 30. All non-compliant messages will be prohibited starting December 1.

### A former employee being sued by Google India for disclosing Pixel secrets

**Delhi:** Google and its subsidiary in India filed a lawsuit in the US against former Bengaluru office employee Harshit Roy for revealing trade secrets that were considered confidential. In order to prevent Roy from further disseminating the stolen trade secrets that had irreparably harmed Google, Google hired an outside investigator to find him. Among the information that was revealed were comprehensive specifications of proprietary hardware.

## New Honda Amaze Variants and Top Features



**Delhi:** India will launch the third-generation Amaze on December 4, 2024, and unofficial bookings have begun. The car is arriving at dealer yards nationwide ahead of its much-anticipated launch. It will rival the new Maruti Suzuki Dzire, Tata Tigor, and Hyundai Aura. The 2025 Honda Amaze will come in three variants—V, VX, and ZX—with many interior and exterior changes. Since its inception in India over a decade ago, the Amaze has been a popular sedan. Several new features and technolo-

gies will be added. The top model will have a floating touchscreen infotainment system with wireless Apple CarPlay and Android Auto connectivity, automatic climate control, ADAS technology, six airbags, reversing camera, wireless smartphone charger, multi-functional steering wheel with mount-

ed controls, rear AC vents, dual cup holders, type-c charging ports, and more. However, an electric sunroof, motorized seats, and 360-degree camera will be missing. It will keep its 1.2L four-cylinder VTEC naturally aspirated petrol engine, which produces 90 PS, and no major mechanical alterations.

## French energy giant Total puts Adani Gp investments on hold

**Delhi:** Total Energies, a French oil company, has suspended investments in Adani Group entities pending the conclusion of US bribery allegations against its founder. The Paris-based company, which owns key investments in Adani Group's renewable energy and gas distribution operations, said it was unaware of the US solar power corruption inquiry. "Total Energies rejects corruption in any form," it declared. "This indictment does not target Adani Green Energy (AGEL) itself, nor any AGEL-related companies." Total Energies claimed it learned about Gautam Adani's and others' indictment from US public pronouncements. Gautam Adani, his nephew



and Adani Green Energy executive director Sagar Adani, and others are accused of a \$265m bribery scam. Total Energies bought 19.7% of Adani Green Energy in January 2021. It invested \$444 million in an equal joint venture with the Indian company to acquire three 1,150MW operational renewable assets in September. Additionally, it owns 37.4% of Adani Total Gas, which supplies CNG to cars and natural gas to homes.

### NBCC India will buy sick PSUs and redevelop land banks

**Delhi:** Two sources say NBCC India Ltd. wants to buy defunct public sector undertakings (PSUs) to redevelop and monetize their land. The state-run construction company wants to leverage its success in developing land for government-owned companies. Developer is in talks to acquire non-operational PSUs through a new entity to monetize their land banks. Details are not yet

**Delhi:** Government sources claimed the Union Cabinet has agreed in principle to waive bank guarantee requirements for telecom companies' deferred spectrum payments, but with strict conditions. The waiver will require telcos to pay three months' instalments in addition to their annual fees. Sources said the government will give up its right to collect Rs 30,000 crore in bank guarantees upfront. The Cabinet waived the requirement for telcos to buy spectrum in six auctions between 2012 and 2022. Spectrum auction regulations from 2022 and 2024 removed the necessity. Airtel and Jio would guarantee Rs 2,300 crore and Rs 4,000 crore. Vodafone Idea (Vi) spectrum auction moratorium ends in October 2025. Current



**"Vi was accused of not paying its second bank guarantee of Rs 350 crore for spectrum purchased in a 2012 auction. November 1 was the payment deadline"**

rules required the corporation to file bank guarantees 13 months before the next payment due date. The DoT requested bank guarantees from Vi for the September 2025 spectrum payment of Rs 24,747 crore. The DoT also asked the finance ministry to exempt operators from bank guarantees for spectrum payments. The waiver should help Vi. Telco shares

increased 7.8% intraday to Rs 7.53. After opening higher, Airtel shares fell 0.1% to Rs 1,577. Vi was accused of not paying its second bank guarantee of Rs 350 crore for spectrum purchased in a 2012 auction. November 1 was the payment deadline. Vi skipped the payment of about Rs 4,600 crore in 2016 auction guarantees two months earlier.

## Tgana rejects Adani's 100-cr contribution

**Delhi:** Telangana chief minister A Revanth Reddy announced that the state government will not accept the ₹100 crore CSR donation from the Adani Group for the Young India Skills University in Ranga Reddy district, citing current circumstances and controversies. We thank you for committing 100 crore to Young India Skills University on behalf of your Foundation via letter. We have not sought donors for physical transfers of monies since the university did not acquire the IT exemption under section 80G, Ranjan wrote. The official added that he was "instructed by the chief minister not to seek the transfer of funds in view of the present circumstances and arising controversies". According to the US Department of Justice indictment, Adani executives and Azure Power executives bribed Indian government officials in five states to win solar energy supply contracts worth over \$2 billion over 20 years between 2020 and 2024. The scam purportedly started in Odisha and spread to Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Chhattisgarh, and Jammu & Kashmir. The Telangana chief minister said everyone may lawfully invest, despite accusations that the state government accepted Adani Group funding. Reddy said Congress leader Rahul Gandhi has stated that the company that wins the bids according to the regulations will invest.





## Briefs

NEW DELHI

## Women prize money can match men's



The Indian women's cricket team is on the cusp of history as they take on South Africa in the final of the Women's ODI World Cup and the BCCI is fully prepared to honour the Harmanpreet Kaur-led side with a cash windfall if they happen to win the silverware in Navi Mumbai on Sunday. It is believed that following the "equal pay" policy advocated by former BCCI secretary and now ICC chairman Jay Shah, the top brass is mulling on rewarding the squad with same amount that was given to the Rohit Sharma-led team after winning the T20 World Cup in the Americas last year. The entire squad -- players and support staff was rewarded with a whopping Rs 125 crore for their performance in the men's T20 World Cup, where they defeated South Africa in the final.

NEW DELHI

## Shreyas Iyer discharged from hospital



Shreyas Iyer has been discharged from a Sydney hospital after undergoing a minor procedure following a spleen and rib cage injury while successfully attempting a catch in the third ODI against Australia. "He (Iyer) is now stable and recovering well. The BCCI Medical Team, along with specialists in Sydney and India, are pleased with his recovery, and he has been discharged from the hospital today," BCCI said in a statement on Saturday. The 30-year-old had sustained injury while attempting a running catch to dismiss Alex Carey off Harshit Rana's bowling. Iyer is expected to return to India when he is fit to fly but will be out of action for at least next two months.

WELLINGTON

## England lose series 0-3 against Kiwis



England will head to the five-test Ashes series in Australia low on form and confidence after being bowled out for 222

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## WOMEN'S WORLD CUP | Harmanpreet Kaur's side have golden opportunity to clinch maiden World Cup trophy on home soil

## Ind, SA on cusp of history

NAVI MUMBAI

India and South Africa are on the cusp of creating Women's World Cup history by becoming first-time ODI World Champions and an engrossing battle is expected at what is likely to be a teeming DY Patil Stadium in Navi Mumbai on Sunday.

For India, it is a golden opportunity to clinch their maiden World Cup on home soil in front of an almost full-house expected at the DY Patil with every run and wicket expected to be cheered by Indian fans with tremendous enthusiasm and gusto.

Harmanpreet Kaur's side has come a long way in this tournament and in the past decade with World Cup wins eluding them after coming perilously close in the 2017 ODI WC and the 2020 T20 World Cup.

What the sensational epoch-making win against the mighty Australian team on Thursday has done is to instill an immense amount of self-belief in the side that they possess the X-factor in the all-important knock out stages of a global title.

And it can't get any bigger than the World Cup final for India to prove their naysayers and detractors wrong on the grandest of stages with the whole world watching.

Jemimah Rodrigues' incredible performance on the unforgettable night of October 30th has lit the fire of seeking potential World Cup glory in the Indian team.

The likes of Shafali Verma, who was not even part of the original squad, would look to make their presence felt on the huge occasion with a World Cup title on



Indian women's players during a practice session ahead of the ODI WC final. PTI

the line.

India would have less turn-around time compared to South Africa, who vanquished England in the first semifinal, but Harmanpreet and Co would give it everything and more they have to lay their hands on the elusive Cup.

Smriti Mandhana would be itching to make a match-winning impact in the final after early dismissal in the semifinal while the bowlers led by Renuka Singh would aim to put up a tidy effort. Fielding also needs to tighten up.

The South Africans, on the other hand, are coming to the DY Patil Stadium with little experience of having experienced the conditions.

However, the likes of Laura Wolvaardt and Marizanne Kapp are X-Factor players for

South Africa and could be potential trouble-makers for India in the batting and bowling departments. On the stats front, South Africa

## Teams

**India (possible):** 1. Smriti Mandhana, 2. Shafali Verma, 3. Jemimah Rodrigues, 4. Harmanpreet Kaur (capt), 5. Deepti Sharma, 6. Richa Ghosh (wk), 7. Amanjot Kaur, 8. Radha Yadav/Sneh Rana, 9. Kranti Gaud, 10. Shree Charani, 11. Renuka Singh

**South Africa (possible):** 1. Laura Wolvaardt (capt), 2. Tazmin Brits, 3. Anneke Bosch/Masabata Klaas, 4. Sune Luus, 5. Marizanne Kapp, 6. Sinalo Jafta (wk), 7. Annerie Derksen, 8. Chloe Tryon, 9. Nadine de Klerk, 10. Ayabonga Khaka, 11. Nonkululeko Mlaba

have beaten India in each of their last three World Cup contests and are also the side

## Wolvaardt feels India will be under pressure

NAVI MUMBAI

South Africa captain Laura Wolvaardt felt the Women's World Cup final on Sunday will see India under a lot of pressure of winning in front of a boisterous home crowd.

"Yes, it's going to be a tough game with the whole crowd behind India, it's going to be an exciting opportunity and it is going to put a lot of pressure on them as well. With the whole country behind them and expecting them to win. We are very excited for the game. They are a very good side and we are going to have to play some very good cricket to beat them," she said.

Wolvaardt stated that South Africa will see the final as a new game without the baggage of history which is in their favour having beaten India in their last three World Cup contests.

"We are not going to think too much about the past tomorrow. Like I said every cricket game starts at zero and we don't want to bring any other history into this whether its finals we've lost or games that we have won against India. We want to erase all that stuff and start completely fresh again."

"There's going to be pressure on both teams and whoever stays the calmest is going to most likely come out as the winner."

The star SA batter explained that knockout stages of a World Cup is completely different from the league games.

"I think knock out cricket is completely different to league cricket and people are able to do some really special things in knock out games as you saw from Jemi (Jemimah Rodrigues) the other day."

## Proud moment for India: Kaur

Skipper Harmanpreet feels huge occasion for women's cricket

NAVI MUMBAI

India skipper Harmanpreet Kaur stated it was a proud moment for Indian women's cricket ahead of their home Women's World Cup final against South Africa at the DY Patil Stadium, on Sunday.

Harmanpreet was in a relaxed frame of mind as she addressed the media on the eve of the World Cup final.

"It's obviously a proud moment for Indian cricket and we have always said that whenever we enjoy the game and give our 100 percent, the result takes care of itself. We will look to enjoy the game and give our best, no matter what the situation," she said.

When asked about her first ODI World Cup final as skipper and the emotions she was feeling, Harmanpreet did not underplay the moment.

"It's a great moment for me and the team and the entire country is eager to see us win the World Cup. It's a big day and big game and at the same time we just want to be very focused and be in the moment. Not think too ahead," the veteran added.

Harmanpreet revealed the biggest motivation ahead of the game was the occasion itself and nothing else was needed.

"When you are at a stage like the World Cup final, you don't need a bigger and better motivation than just the occasion itself. The entire team is absolutely charged and are giving each other a lot of wishes and prayers. It's all about giving your best and we have been doing this since the last few years."

Having experienced the lows and setbacks of losing two World Cup finals in the



Harmanpreet Kaur scored 89 vs Australia in the semifinal. PTI

past in ODI and T20I formats, Harmanpreet felt they new that emotion but winning a WC final is still an unknown space to be in.

"We know exactly what it feels like after losing World Cup finals but we still don't know what it feels like after winning a World Cup final. Tomorrow will be a special game and we have worked very hard to be in this position and want to make it count," she added.

With no Australia and England in the World Cup final for the first time ever, Harmanpreet was happy about a new World Cup winner coming to the fore.

"It's nice that two different teams have made it to the Women's World Cup final. Australia have dominated women's cricket for so many years now and England have been doing the same as well, so obviously it's more exciting that there are different teams in the final. And India reaching the final is all the more special," Harmanpreet added.

## Pant's fifty keeps India A together in chase of 275

BENGALURU

Skipper **Rishabh Pant's** unbeaten fifty laced with impudence, patience and fortune held India A together, taking them to 119 for four against South Africa A on the penultimate day of the four-day match here on Saturday.

India still need 166 runs to scale down the target of 275, after South Africa, overnight 30 for no loss, were bundled out for 199 in their second innings.

Pant (64 batting, 81 balls, 8x4, 2x6) and Ayush Badoni (0) were at the crease at stumps, and the former will have to play a vital role in getting India A closer home on Sunday.

The wicketkeeper-batter joined Rajat Patidar (28) in the middle when the South Africans were bowling like wind, troubling the batters with pace and bounce.

At one stage, India were 32 for three, having lost Ayush Mhatre, Sai Sudharsan and Devdutt Padikkal.

Mhatre chopped Tshepo Moreki onto his stumps,



Sudharsan's 38-ball struggle ended when he fell leg before to the same bowler before Okuhle Cele found a tiny gap between the bat and pads of Devdutt.

But Pant, who added 77 runs for a gritty fourth-wicket stand, faced the situation with characteristic gusto, pulling Cele and then carting off-spinner Prenelan Subrayen for a six over covers.

He was not merely looking to hang on but wanted to stamp his authority to bring his side back into contention.

Pant did that with some style and Cele dropped a sitter at fine leg off left-arm pacer Tiaan Van Vuuren when he attempted that no-look loop shot. Pant was on 46 then.

## Arshdeep is second choice if Bumrah is playing: Ash

NEW DELHI

Former India off-spinner Ravichandran Ashwin expressed his surprised at the Indian team management's decision to leave out Arshdeep Singh from the T20 playing eleven, saying going by his records the left-arm pacer should be the second choice fast bowler after Jasprit Bumrah.

Ashwin feels ignoring a consistent performer like Arshdeep cannot be justified.

Ashwin's remarks came on the heels of India's four-wicket loss to Australia in the second T20I in Melbourne.

"Arshdeep Singh's name should be the second name on your fast bowlers' list if Bumrah is playing," Ashwin said on the Ash ki Baat show on his YouTube channel.

"If Bumrah is not playing, Arshdeep becomes your first bowler on that team list. I just cannot understand how Arshdeep Singh keeps missing out from the eleven in this side. I don't really get it"

Ashwin feels Arshdeep's non-selection shouldn't be mixed with Harshit Rana's batting prowess.

## Indian batters can breath easy

Australia pacer Hazlewood, who was unplayable in Melbourne, has been given a break to rejuvenate before the gruelling five-Test Ashes series

HOBART

The Indian batters will breathe a little easier in the absence of Josh Hazlewood as they look to put up an improved performance, but the baffling omission of left-arm seamer Arshdeep Singh continues to raise eyebrows ahead of the third T20 International against Australia on Sunday.

Hazlewood's pinpoint accuracy when it comes to hitting the right length, coupled with disconcerting bounce that he always generates around the corridor of uncertainty did become a bit of a nightmare for the Indian batters.

With the Ashes Test starting at the end of this month, Hazlewood has been given a break to rejuvenate before the gruelling five-Test series. He won't be part of the remainder of the series.

"It would obviously be a relief. I have never faced such bowling," star opener Abhishek Sharma had said after the Melbourne game.

And his absence would also mean that Indian batters, who have serious technical flaws in dealing with bounce and



Abhishek Sharma was the only top order Indian batter to do well against Australia in the second T20I. AP

seam movement, will feel a bit more assured while facing the likes of Xavier Bartlett, Nathan Ellis or Sean Abbott.

Both skipper Suryakumar Yadav and skipper-in-waiting Shubman Gill have had problems negotiating deliveries with extra

bounce and good degree of seam movement. Surya and Gill would like to revisit their opening game's playbook when they looked in ominous touch at Canberra.

The Bellerive Oval at the Hobart is one ground where the side boundaries

## Squads:

**India:** Suryakumar Yadav (captain), Abhishek Sharma, Shubman Gill, Tilak Varma, Sanju Samson (wk), Shivam Dube, Axar Patel, Harshit Rana, Kuldeep Yadav, Jasprit Bumrah, Varun Chakravarthy, Jitesh Sharma, Arshdeep Singh, Rinku Singh, Washington Sundar.

**Australia:** Mitchell Marsh (c), Sean Abbott (games 1-3), Xavier Bartlett, Mahli Beardman (games 3-5), Tim David, Ben Dwarshuis (games 4-5), Nathan Ellis, Glenn Maxwell (games 3-5), Travis Head, Josh Inglis, Matthew Kuhnemann, Mitchell Owen, Josh Philippe, Tanveer Sangha, Matthew Short, and Marcus Stoinis.

are smaller in size and hence the length would be paramount considering anything short would be flying on either side of the fence.

## torchbearers

## Nutan recalls women cricketers stay at NRI homes

NEW DELHI

There was no money, sponsors didn't make a beeline and foreign tours were an ordeal, but there were women of steel who believed in the old adage that "the show must go on." And Nutan Gavaskar was the first among equals, one of the torchbearers of the women's cricket movement in India back then in 1973.

Women then played for the love of the game and for

the pride of wearing the jersey with 'India' inscribed on it. There were women like Nutan, who were ready to go the extra mile when the journey was arduous and no one knew if there was light at the end of the tunnel.

"The Women's Cricket Association of India (WCAI) was formed in 1973 and it selected the national team till 2006 when BCCI finally took the women's game under its wings. But when I look back, those were the days when there was no money but all

those women fought on for the passion and love of the game," Nutan, younger sister of legendary Sunil Gavaskar, told PTI.

She recalled the days of hardship, which remain a badge of honour for the Women's Cricket Association of India (WCAI), where she served as the long-standing secretary.

"When we had WCAI, we were under International Women's Cricket Council (IWCC) and we were straightaway told that

women's cricket wasn't a professional sport. There was no money since we were not considered professionals," she recalled.

Arranging funds for international tours was an ordeal at times and she along with other well-intentioned pro-bono workers of Indian cricket would run from pillar to post to arrange funds.

"There was one tour of New Zealand where we didn't have funds to arrange for hotel stay for the girls. No one would believe that our

team stayed at multiple homes of NRI families, who were kind enough to act as hosts. On another occasion, we had Mandira Bedi, who shot a commercial for a famous diamond brand. The entire endorsement money that she got, she gave it to the WCAI and we arranged for air tickets for India's tour of England," Nutan recalled.

She said, Air India would be magnanimous enough to sponsor the air-tickets those times since players were on national duty.

