

AKHAND BHARAT SANDESH

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MORNING EDITION PRAYAGRAJ Wednesday, 19 November, 2025 UNIQUE GIFT OF KRIYAYOGA ASHRAM AND RESEARCH INSTITUTE TO GIVE IMPETUS TO WORLD BUILDING AND HUMAN DEVELOPMENT.

Dhankhar met with the Vice President This was his first formal meeting

New Delhi
Former Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar met with Vice President CP Radhakrishnan today. This is their first formal meeting since Radhakrishnan's swearing-in ceremony. Dhankhar resigned from the post of Vice President on July 21, citing health reasons. His sudden resignation necessitated elections for the post. The two

met at the Vice President's Enclave. Officials said that Jagdeep Dhankhar, the first Vice President to live in the luxurious Vice President's Enclave, met Radhakrishnan this afternoon. This is their first meeting since Radhakrishnan was sworn in as Vice President in September. Dhankhar last met Radhakrishnan at his swearing-in ceremony at



Rashtrapati Bhavan. Dhankhar is the first person to live in the Vice President's Enclave. Vice President CP Radhakrishnan lived in the Vice President's residence on Maulana Azad

Road. Nearly two years ago, the Vice President's Enclave became his new official residence. Former Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar was the first resident of this 13-acre property. Chandrapuram Ponnusamy Radhakrishnan was sworn in as the 15th Vice President of India on September 12. Radhakrishnan won the Vice Presidential election

on Tuesday, defeating joint opposition candidate B. Sudarshan Reddy by a margin of 152 votes. He received a total of 452 votes. The election for the new Vice President was held on September 9. It should be noted that 14 MPs cross-voted in this election. All MPs from the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha are voters in the Vice Presidential election.

Top Naxal commander Hidma killed along with his wife



Andhra Pradesh
Security forces are continuously carrying out anti-Naxal operations to eliminate Naxalism from the country. In this connection, Madvi Hidma, a Naxalite carrying a bounty of Rs 1 crore, was killed in an encounter on the Chhattisgarh-Andhra Pradesh border on Tuesday. A total of six Naxalites, including Hidma and his wife Raje alias Rajakka, were killed in the encounter. Andhra Pradesh's Additional Director General of Police (Intelligence), Mahesh Chandra Laddha, provided information on the matter. He said, "In the last day or two, we received very specific intelligence that some top

Maoist leaders were about to enter Andhra Pradesh." Mahesh Chandra Laddha said, "We learned that these Naxalite leaders were planning to revive their movement in Andhra Pradesh." He added that in this connection, a shootout broke out between Maoists and security forces on Tuesday morning. He said that the bodies of six Maoists were recovered in the encounter. He said that Madvi Hidma, a Central Committee member, 1st Battalion Commandant, and one of the most wanted and dreaded Maoists, was among them. His body has been recovered. He added that the bodies of Hidma's wife, Raje, and four of his gunmen companions.

Terrorist Dr. Umar was preparing suicide bomber

Terrorist Dr. Umar says suicide bombing is a mission to attain martyrdom; video made before Delhi blast



New Delhi
A new video of Dr. Umar, the terrorist who carried out the suicide attack near the Red Fort in Delhi on November 10, has surfaced. According to media reports, the terrorist filmed this video before the blast. In it, he discusses the suicide attack. This suggests he was planning a suicide attack in advance. Dr. Umar Nabi was a resident of Pulwama, Jammu and Kashmir. In the video, Umar speaks in broken English. He said, "One thing that is not understood is that this is a martyrdom operation (a suicide operation), not a suicide attack. There are many contradictions regarding this. In fact,

a martyrdom operation requires that a person sacrifices his life at a specific location at a specific time." In fact, Dr. Umar carried out the suicide bombing using a Hyundai i20 car near Delhi's Red Fort on November 10th. The blast killed 15 people and injured more than 20. Eight people have been arrested so far, six of them doctors. Investigative agencies are working to identify the remaining members of this module and its technical support network. Meanwhile, a major

revelation emerged Monday night during the investigation into the attack. The NIA stated that the White Collar Terror Module initially intended to launch a Hamas-style attack using drones and rockets. The plan was modeled after Hamas's attack on Israel on October 7, 2023. The NIA obtained this information after the arrest of Jasir Bilal Wani, alias Danish, another associate of the suicide bomber, Dr. Omar-un-Nabi. Danish is a resident of Qazigund in Jammu and Kashmir's

Anantnag district. The NIA detained him from Srinagar four days ago and formally arrested him on Monday. According to the NIA, Danish has technical experience in manufacturing and modifying small drone weapons. He provided technical assistance to Dr. Omar and was attempting to prepare drones and rockets for terrorist attacks. The agency stated that Danish was working on a plan to drop drone bombs in crowded areas to cause maximum casualties. November 18: Jalil Bilal Wani, an associate of terrorist Dr. Umar, arrested from Srinagar, was remanded to 10-day Terrorist Custody. November 18: Jalil Bilal Wani, an associate of terrorist Dr. Umar, arrested from Srinagar, was remanded to 10-day.



The President of India, Smt. Droupadi Murmu attends the distribution ceremony of 6th National Water Awards & Jal Sanchay Jan Bhagidiri (JSJB) Awards held at Vigyan Bhawan, in New Delhi on November 18, 2025.

Delhi riots were an attack on the sovereignty of the nation: Delhi Police

New Delhi
The ongoing legal battle over the February 2020 Delhi riots has once again reached a critical juncture in the Supreme Court. The Delhi Police on Tuesday categorically stated in court that the violence was not a simple act of unrest, but an



attack on the nation's sovereignty. The police strongly opposed the bail

applications of activists Umar Khalid, Sharjeel Imam, and other accused, claiming that the incident was part of an organized, well-planned, and premeditated effort. Solicitor General Tushar Mehta argued before a two-judge Supreme Court bench that the 2020 vio-

lence cannot be limited to protests against the Citizenship Amendment Act, merely by describing it as a spontaneous mob reaction. He said that the series of speeches and statements clearly demonstrates an attempt to divide society along communal lines.

Ladakh airbase close to China border activated

NEW DELHI: In a major booster shot for military capabilities in eastern Ladakh, India on Wednesday operationalised its new Nyoma airbase close to the frontier with China, even as a large Army exercise called 'Poorvi Prachand Prahar' is now under way in Arunachal Pradesh on the eastern front. The developments at the opposite ends of the 3,488-km LAC underscore the high military readiness being maintained along the China frontier. "There is ongoing reset in bilateral diplomatic ties. Military CBMs are also being progressively strengthened but the trust deficit on the ground remains high," a sen-

ior officer told TOI. "With no de-escalation along LAC, troops will continue to be forward deployed for 6th successive winter since multiple Chinese incursions into eastern Ladakh in April-May 2020," he said. Nyoma airbase underwent Rs 230cr upgrade. IAF chief Air Chief Marshal A P Singh himself flew a C-130J 'Super Hercules' aircraft from Hindon on the outskirts of Delhi to the Mudh airfield at Nyoma, among the world's highest at an altitude of 13,710 feet, to formally inaugurate the strategically located airbase. He was accompanied by Western Air Command chief Air Marshal Jeetendra Mishra.

Not every Kashmiri is a terrorist': J&K CM reacts to Delhi car blast probe; condemns explosion

NEW DELHI: Jammu and Kashmir chief minister Omar Abdullah on Thursday said that "not every resident of Jammu and Kashmir is a terrorist," as the probe into the Red Fort car blast widened to Kashmir. "Not every resident of Jammu and Kashmir is a terrorist. It is only a handful of people who have always tried to disturb the peace and brotherhood in Kashmir," Abdullah told news agency ANI. DNA Confirms Red Fort Bomber Was J&K



Doctor; Turkey Handler 'Ukasa' Orchestrated Plot The Hyundai i20 car used in the blast near the Red Fort metro station parking was allegedly driven by Mohammad Umar, a Kashmiri doctor suspected to be behind the deadly explosion that killed 13 people and left several

others injured. A Kashmiri cleric who doubled as a paramedic at Srinagar's Government Medical College has been arrested for allegedly driving a "white-collar" terrorist module that targeted medical students and young doctors — some of whom are sus-

pects in the network busted in Faridabad hours before Monday's car blast in New Delhi. Moulvi Irfan Ahmad Wagay, also known as Imam Irfan, from Shopian in south Kashmir allegedly used his access at GMC and his prayer sessions in Srinagar's Nowgam to reach students, identify those seen as susceptible, and push them toward radicalisation, sources said Tuesday. While condemning the alleged terror attack in Delhi, CM Abdullah said.

Capital on alert: Air India's Toronto flight gets bomb threat, days after Red Fort blast

NEW DELHI: An Air India flight from Toronto to Delhi received a bomb threat while mid-air on Thursday, prompting a security alert before landing safely in the national capital, according to sources quoted by PTI. Delhi Police received the threat message concerning flight AI188 in the morning, following which the Bomb Threat Assessment Committee (BTAC) was convened at Delhi airport. After evaluation, the committee deemed the threat to be "non-specific", officials

said. Terrifying CCTV Captures Delhi's Red Fort Blast; Vehicles Erupt in Fireball The message arrived around 11.30 am when the Boeing 777 aircraft was flying over four hours away from Delhi. "A security alert was received on Air India flight AI188 during its cruise from Toronto to Delhi on 13 November. On board crew carried out all the laid down security drills keeping passenger safety & security as top priority. The flight has landed safely at Delhi a.

Authorities can't plan without accurate stray dog data, calculations essential: Experts

New Delhi
Without concrete data on stray dogs in Delhi-NCR, municipal authorities cannot plan shelters or sterilization, making the Animal Birth Control (ABC) program a success, a report states. The program operates under the Animal Birth Control Rules, 2023, guidelines created by the central government to control stray dog



populations and reduce human-to-human conflict through sterilization and vaccination. Citing government

data, experts from the New Delhi-based non-profit think tank, the Asya Centre, said that 126 rabies-related

deaths were recorded nationally during 2022-2025, while no cases were reported in Delhi. The report said that "more clarity is needed" on the number of rabies deaths, as it can be spread by any mammal, including cows and monkeys. He also said that estimates of the number of stray dogs in Delhi-NCR range from 300,000 to 100,000.

Entry of Muslims into the Braj Bhoomi Yatra should be banned

Mathura: In light of the terrorist incident in Delhi, anger against Muslim is growing within the saint community. Today, they wrote a letter to the Chief Minister demanding that no Muslim be allowed to enter Braj Bhoomi during the upcoming Bageshwar Maharaj Yatra. Dinesh Falahari Maharaj, the main petitioner in the Shri Krishna Janmabhoomi Temple case, has even said that if any Muslim is found illegally entering Braj Bhoomi during Bageshwar Maharaj Padyatra, he will be blackened. Considerable anger has also been seen within the saint community regarding Muslims. Let us tell you, this is the same Dinesh Falahari.

Sugar production picks up pace: 1.05 million tonnes produced till November

New Delhi
Sugar production in India has gotten off to a better start this year than expected. In the new sugar season, which began on October 1st, 1.05 million tons of sugar has been produced as of November 15th, an increase of 7.1 million tons from the same period last year. Most sugar mills started crushing early this season, and juice recovery was also better, leading to a rise in overall production. Although the crushing season in

Maharashtra started late due to continuous rains, the subsequent strong recovery rate has strengthened export prospects. According to the National Federation of Cooperative Sugar Factories, the ongoing farmers' agitation in Karnataka and Maharashtra over sugarcane prices has slowed down the pace of crushing at mills. This season, 325 sugar mills had started crushing as of November 15th, compared to only 144 mills in operation during the

same period last year. So far, 12.8 million tons of sugarcane has been crushed this year, significantly higher than last year's 9.1 million tons. The average recovery rate, or the rate at which sugar is produced from sugarcane, has been 8.2 percent, which is better than last year's 7.8 percent. Advertisement According to the National Federation of Cooperative Sugar Factories, the number of mills operating last year was lower because the crushing season.

Police arrested and sent nine people to jail for creating a ruckus on NH 927

Bahraich

Nepali citizens working in Indian areas are currently returning home with their families for Diwali. As a result, e-rickshaw drivers, pedal rickshaw drivers and Nepali hotel agents are seen luring them away for commission. However, local police also arrested them under charges of disturbing the peace. On Friday, these people were again creating a ruckus with Nepali passengers near the police station and at the Central Bank intersection. Providing information in this regard, Rupaidiha Inspector-in-Charge R.S. Rawat stated that nine people have been arrested for creating a ruckus on NH 927. Afzal resident of Nauwa village, police station Nawabganj, Ram Barati resident of Rajapur Bardiya, Seraj resident of Nepali village Jamunaha, Khaginder resident of Kalikot Nepal, Guddu Jamunaha Nepal, Vinod Jaispur Nepal, Baldev and Vijay residents of Usda Check Nepal, Wahid resident of Karimganga police station Rupaidiha were arrested and sent to the Court of Nanpara.

Nepali police arrested three with illegal firecrackers Bahraich

Last Tuesday night, three youths riding two bikes in the Janaki village assembly in the Nepali region were arrested with fire-works worth ₹1 lakh. Noise-producing fireworks are banned in Nepal. The arrested youths have been identified as 25-year-old Tishwar Ali, 32-year-old Mohammad Hashim and 30-year-old Yunus Rai, residents of Rupaidiha. Banke District DSP and police spokesperson Deepak Patil stated that the fireworks, bikes and three youths have been sent to the Nepalganj Customs Office. Similarly, a large

Mission Shakti's New Dimension Is Visible: Girls Are Becoming Aware

Akhand Bharat Sandesh

Tharwai / Today, girls are leading in every field, be it education or sports, and are exercising their rights. Keeping this in mind, Tharwai Police Station Mission Shakti Center in-charge Nidhi Patel and her team, including SIs Akanksha and Sudha, organized a campaign in Jaitwardih, Tharwai, under Mission Shakti Phase 5.0, to raise awareness about women's safety, respect, empowerment, and government assistance schemes. The team provided detailed information to women about the Women Power Line 1090, Women Helpline 181, Child Helpline 1098,



Chief Minister Helpline 1076, Police Emergency Service Dial 112, and Cyber Helpline 1930. Additionally, the process for availing benefits under government schemes such as the Sukanya Samridhi Yojana, Kanya

Sumangala Yojana, old age pension, widow pension, Chief Minister's Mass Marriage Scheme, maternity assistance, and ration/housing was also explained. Mission Shakti team member Akanksha also advised women to

report any harassment, abuse, or suspicious situations immediately so that timely action can be taken. During the campaign, Women's Safety Center in-charge Nidhi Patel also provided information about cybersecurity, safe use of social media, and the importance of self-defense. Mission Shakti also emphasized that the government is constantly striving for the safety and empowerment of women. The women present thanked the police team. SI Akanksha, who was part of the Mission Shakti team, explained cybercrime, the difference between good and bad touch, and Sudha provided information about their safety and respect.

At Ekana Media T-20, Dr Rajeshwar announces 5 lakh assistance



Lucknow

Sarojininagar MLA Dr Rajeshwar Singh attended the final match of the 'Ekana Media T-20 Cricket Tournament' held at KD Singh Babu Stadium on Wednesday as the chief guest. On this occasion, he felicitated the winning team—Times of India and the runner-up team—Doordarshan—AIR for their outstanding performance. Dr Singh said, "Journalists are the true custodians of democracy. Especially, sports journalists inspire and guide

thousands of young people through their writings. When journalists are physically fit and mentally alert, only then can the nation and its democracy truly remain protected." He appreciated the dedication, devotion, and decisiveness of the players and said, "Players are not just heroes of the game but also among the finest citizens contributing to nation-building. In the same spirit, the Sarojininagar Sports League has been continuously organised in the constituency for the last three years.

Bageshwar Dham's head priest Dharendra Shastri arrived in Mathura

Mathura A grand Akshat Mahotsav was organised on the holy land of Mathura in the presence of Bageshwar Dham Sarkar Dharendra Krishna Shastri. Thousands of devotees participated in this programme organised at Shriji Baba Saraswati Vidya Mandir, Govardhan Road and filled Braj Bhoomi with devotion.



Dharendra Shastri said in his inspirational message that India does not need any external revolution but a spiritual revolution. When the youth of

India will inculcate religion, culture and service in their lives, only then India will become the spiritual guide of the world. The event was organised by Braj Tirtha Devalaya Trust Regd Mathura. The programme received special support from Shri Ji Baba laya Parivar, Braj Seva Foundation.

Madrassa children should draw inspiration from the life of Missile Man, APJ Abdul Kalam- Danish

Lucknow

A science exhibition/seminar was organized at Madrasa Darul Uloom Warsiya, Gomtinagar Lucknow, under the chairmanship of Danish Azad Ansari, Minister of State for Minority Welfare, Muslim Waqf and Haj, Government of Uttar Pradesh. Approximately 2000 students studying in various madrasas across the district participated in the presence of RP Singh, Joint Director of Minority Welfare, Anjana Sirohi, Registrar, Uttar Pradesh Madrasa Education Council, Balendu Kumar Dwivedi, Deputy Registrar, Uttar Pradesh Madrasa Education Council and Pawan Kumar Singh, District Minority Welfare Officer, Lucknow. The Minister visited the science exhibition and praised the models presented by the madrasa students. In his address, the Minister stated that today, madrasas are



undergoing a transformation. While religious education is being imparted, modern science is also being taught, as a result, madrasa students are achieving success in various fields. He also assured the madrasa students that the government will provide all possible support in whatever field they wish to pursue. At the event, 20 aided and recognized madrasas in the district demonstrated various aspects of science through live models, such as the Agni missile, computer operation, the functioning of the lungs, and the solar system. Of these, the best three madrasas were awarded the first prize: Madrasa Darul Uloom Warsiya, Gomti

Nagar, Lucknow, the second prize, Madrasa Hanafiya Ziaul Quran, Bara Chand Ganj, Lucknow, and Madrasa Iram Model School, Barudkhana, Lucknow. Also, the students of Madrasa gave speeches in Hindi and English on the biography of Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam, out of which the best three students namely Mohammad Shadab Madrasa Jamia Arabia Makhzanul Uloom, Lucknow were given the first prize, Mohammad Yasir Madrasa Darul Uloom Farooqia, Kakori Lucknow was given the second prize and MS Haniya Madrasa Sheikhul Alam Sabiria Chishtia Lucknow was given the third prize.

Protests were held against the Haryana govt. over the arrest of farmer leader Gurnam

Mathura

Workers and officials of the Bharatiya Kisan Union (Sunil) protested in Kota, Mauja Chandan Nagar, Kunjan Nagar, Mathura Block, demanding the release of senior farmer leader Gurnam Singh Chaduni, raising slogans against the Haryana government and demanding his release.



The farmers demonstrated vigorously, raising slogans of "Down with the Haryana government, release Gurnam Singh Chaduni." Pawan

Chaturvedi, National Spokesperson of the Bharatiya Kisan Union (Sunil), and Narottam Lal Parashar, Uttar Pradesh General

Secretary of the Bharatiya Kisan Union (Sunil), said: "Farmer leader Gurnam Singh Chaduni fights for farmers in Haryana. Farmers in Haryana are facing various problems. Farmer leader Gurnam Singh Chaduni fights for farmers in Haryana. The Haryana government has demonstrated its anti-farmer mentality by

arresting Gurnam Singh Chaduni. We demand from the Honorable President of the country: The anti-farmer Haryana government should be dismissed and farmer leader Gurnam Singh Chaduni should be immediately released." Prominently present on this occasion were the Uttar Pradesh General Secretary.

The religious pilgrimage from Badrinath will reach Mathura tomorrow

Mathura

The religious pilgrimage for the liberation of Shri Krishna Janmabhoomi, organised with the support of the Shri Krishna Janmabhoomi Mukti Nyas and under the guidance of Acharya Rajeshwar Maharaj, President of the United Indian Dharma Sansad, is now on its way to Brajbhoomi. The pilgrimage, which began on October 11th from Badrinath Dham, will travel through various pilgrimage

sites and reach Mathura tomorrow (October 16th) at 9 am. Advocate Mahendra Pratap Singh, a Hindu litigant in the Shri Krishna Janmabhoomi-Shahi Eidgah Mosque case and President of the Shri Krishna Janmabhoomi Mukti Nyas, stated that this pilgrimage is being organized to spread the message of the liberation of Shri Krishna Janmabhoomi to the masses. He said, "This is not just a pilgrimage, but a symbol of the unity and religious awakening of the

Sanatan society." Mahendra Pratap Singh stated that all preparations have been completed for the arrival of the Dharam Yatra in Mathura. The Yatra will be given a grand welcome under the banner of the Shri Krishna Janmabhoomi Mukti Nyas. The Dharam Yatra will arrive at KDS International School, Salempur Road (behind the Jai Gurudev Temple) on Thursday, October 16th, at 9 a.m. A meeting will be held there starting at 10:30 a.m.

Police patrolled the town in view of the festival

Bahraich: In order to ensure peace and security during the Diwali festival, Rupaidiha Inspector-in-Charge R.S. Rawat, along with his colleagues and PAC personnel, patrolled the areas adjacent to the Nepal border. The team removed haphazardly parked rickshaws and carts. They also patrolled Parallel Road for security purposes. Patrolling was also carried out in areas including Central Bank Square, Station Road, Bajaja Market, Azad Road and Goods Shed Road. The team included SI Dhanji Singh, Sanjeev Kumar Yadav, Santosh Yadav, Head Constable Ayodhya Prajapati, Shamsher Ahmed.

Dalit man beaten up, case filed under SC/ST Act

Akhand Bharat Sandesh

Mauaima Akhilesh Kumar Saroj, son of Ram Nevaj, a resident of Dharuta village in the Mauaima police station area, alleges that he was returning home after offering a 'Nishan' (flag) at Padila. As he approached the vil-



lage, his opponents, already waiting on two bikes, stopped him and began hurling casteist abuses. Seeing

the police approach, they withdrew. Akhilesh Kumar Saroj alleges that after the police left, they

attacked him again, abusing him, threatening to kill him, and striking him in the face with bricks and stones, leaving him bleeding. Akhilesh has filed a case under the SC/ST Act at the Mauaima police station against Roshan Lal Patel, a resident of Bhawanigarh village, and his friends, whose names are unknown.

Cultural Showcase "Echoes of Tradition" Celebrates Indian Dance and Indo-Russian Friendship at Russian House

Delhi

The Russian House in New Delhi hosted a captivating cultural evening titled "Echoes of Tradition: Indian Cultural Dance Evening", celebrating the beauty of Indian classical and traditional dance forms. The event was graced by a distinguished audience that included the High Commissioner of Guyana and diplomats



from the Embassies of Iraq, Madagascar, Russia, Somalia, Uzbekistan and Vietnam, reflecting the spirit of cultural harmo-

ny and international friendship. The evening commenced with warm opening remarks by Ms. Elena Remizova, Head

of the Russian House, who highlighted the enduring cultural bond between India and Russia, and the role of such events in strengthening people-to-people ties and marked the occasion of 60 years of Russian Science & Cultural Centre in India. A mesmerizing series of performances followed, presented by artists from the Rajasthani Academy, who enthralled

the audience with their graceful depictions of India's vibrant dance traditions. Dr Rashmi Saluja, Chairperson, GTTCI and Dr. Gaurav Gupta, Founder President, GTTCI, felicitated the performers along with Ms. Olga Krushkina and appreciated the collaborative efforts of the Russian House and the Rajasthani Academy in showcasing India's artistic heritage.

A woman was beaten and injured, and a case was filed under the SC/ST Act

Akhand Bharat Sandesh

Mauaima

Maya Devi, wife of Jwala Prasad, a resident of Chhata Deeh village in the Mauaima police station area, says her husband lives in Noida for livelihood, and she lives at home with her family. Maya Devi alleges that opponents cut a branch from her mango tree. When she objected, they hurled casteist abuses



and threatened to kill her. They then climbed into her house, grabbed her by the arm, dragged her, and beat her, breaking her bangles. They threatened to kill her if she went to the police station. Maya Devi has filed a case

under the SC/ST Act at the Mauaima police station against Vilash Chandra Soni, Vishkesh Soni, Vineeti Soni, Geeta Soni, and four unidentified individuals. The police are investigating the matter.

Vigilance arrests clerk in Irrigation Department for accepting 11,000 rupees bribe

Akhand Bharat Sandesh

Prayagraj. A vigilance team arrested a clerk in the Irrigation Department's Executive Engineer's office red-handed while accepting a bribe of 11,000 rupees. Jitendra Kumar, clerk in the Irrigation Division I Executive Engineer's office, was demanding a bribe from contractor Gufran. Gufran had applied for a contract. Despite having all the necessary documents, his file was stuck in the Executive Engineer's office. He made sev-



eral trips but received no hearing. Clerk Jitendra demanded money to get the contract issued. The deal was settled for 11,000 rupees. Gufran complained to the Anti-Corruption Branch. A vigilance team was deployed to apprehend the accused. Clerk Jitendra Kumar had called Gufran to the office in Mehandori, Shivkuti area, to give him the money.

Upon arriving at the scene, the vigilance team caught him red-handed as soon as the Executive Engineer accepted the money.

Middle-aged woman dies after being hit by a bus: A case has been filed against the bus driver based on her son's complaint

Akhand Bharat Sandesh

Prayagraj: A middle-aged woman riding a bike died on the spot after being hit by a private bus on the Manda Khas-Lalganj main road in the police station area late Monday night. The bus driver, driving at high speed and negligently, cut off the bike, causing the woman to fall onto the road and be hit by the bus.

The incident occurred near Dhari, under the jurisdiction of the Manda police station. An uncontrolled private bus (number UP 70 GT 0437) hit a bike. 51-year-old Nanki Devi, who was riding pillion, was seriously injured and died on the spot. The deceased's son, Akhilesh Kumar (resident of village Pura Kashi Nath, Dubar Kala, Lalganj police station, Mirzapur district), was driving the bike and narrowly escaped the accident.

Upon receiving information, the Manda police immediately arrived at the scene. The police took possession of the body and sent it to the mortuary for post-mortem.



Akhilesh Kumar filed a complaint with the police. He alleged that the private bus driver, driving at high speed and negligently, cut off his bike, causing his mother, Nanki Devi, to fall under the bus's wheels. He was traveling with his mother on the bike to their home in Manda, Lalganj, while the private bus was coming from Lalganj to Manda, Prayagraj. Based on the complaint, the police have filed a case against the driver of the private bus (number UP 70 GT 0437). The bus has been taken into custody and parked at the Manda police station. Manda Sub-Inspector Nihal Gupta stated that a case has been registered based on the complaint of the deceased's son, and the body has been sent for post-mortem.

The DPRO is backing away from taking action against the village head accused of financial irregularities

Akhand Bharat Sandesh

Kaushambi

In action against the village head and secretary found guilty of financial irregularities and violating the Kaushambi DM's orders, the secretary has been suspended. However, the DPRO is backing away from taking action against the village head. Law and order is being handled arbitrarily in the Panchayati Raj Department, and corruption is on the rise. The government treasury is not safe due to the actions of the District Panchayat Raj Officer. It has been reported that in such cases, the village head incurs thousands of rupees from his own pocket for each court appearance. This money is not reimbursed from the government treasury. Therefore, action cannot be taken against the village head. Former DM Madhusudan Hulgi had ordered action against the village head and secretary for non-compliance with orders from higher officials and financial irregularities in the Raipur Gram Panchayat of the Sarsawa block area. Following this, DDO Shailen Vyas suspended Secretary Manoj Kumar

Soni, Village Development Officer, on October 25th. The District Magistrate (DM) also issued a show-cause notice under Section 95G of the Panchayati Raj Act on October 28th, removing the Pradhan from his post. Meanwhile, former DM Madhusudan Hulgi was transferred. Since then, efforts are being made to cover up the matter and protect the Pradhan. DPRO Anil Kumar Singh stated that, since the Secretary is a government employee, taking action against him is easy, but taking action against the Pradhan is not. After the proceedings, if the Pradhan goes to court, he has to spend ten thousand rupees from his own pocket for each hearing. This money is not available from the government treasury. Therefore, suspending the Pradhan is not easy. The then DM Madhusudan Hulgi also issued a show-cause notice to Raipur Pradhan Anup Kumar on May 25, 2025. The second notice was issued on October 28, 2025. Meanwhile, after the transfer of DM Madhusudan Hulgi, DPRO Anil Kumar Singh, in collusion with the village head, is working to cover up the matter.

SDM Distressed Over Farmer Registration, Held Meeting, Issued Strict Instructions

Akhand Bharat Sandesh

Prayagraj. The district administration is regularly reviewing the Farmer Registration process through meetings with officials from the tehsil administration, agriculture department, block development officers, and other relevant departments. Despite this, the CSC operators in Bara tehsil are showing no interest. Displeased by this, SDM Bara issued strict instructions to the relevant departments and operators

on Tuesday. Farmer registration is currently considered one of the most important tasks for the government. Farmers have been made aware of this through various means, yet only 56 percent of farmers in Bara tehsil have completed their farmer registration. Consequently, SDM Bara Prerna Gautam has issued strict instructions to the officials of the relevant departments. SDM Bara stated that all departments have been informed that strict action will be taken if negligence is

observed. Action has been ordered upon receiving complaints. CSC operators are not taking interest. The government has also assigned CSCs (Public Service Centers) the responsibility for farmer registration, but according to departmental information, CSC operators are not taking any interest. Currently, approximately 415 CSCs are operating in the Shankargarh and Jasra development blocks of Bara tehsil.

Their oper-

ators have been ordered to educate nearby farmers about farmer registration, but very few are taking any interest. Jasra Seed Warehouse Incharge Kamal Ahmed stated that a center was set up to assist at the seed warehouse, but it closed after only three days of operation. Bara SDM Prerna Gautam stated that no written complaint has been received yet. A fresh order was issued on Tuesday. Action will be taken immediately upon receipt of a complaint.

A case has been filed under various sections on the orders of the CM against seven people, including a former BJP MLA from Chail

Kokhraj

On the orders of Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, a case has been registered in Kokhraj police station under various sections against 7 people including 2 former chairmen of Bharwari and former BJP MLA Chail on the charges of forcibly occupying a house in Bharwari town of Kokhraj police station area of Kaushambi district and getting the names registered in the Khasra register of the Municipality through forged documents. According to the case, the victim Rajdulari wife of Umashankar has alleged that after the death of her husband, former BJP chairman and former BJP MLA Chail Sanjay Gupta, former chairman Kailash Chandra Kesarwani, his wife former chairman Sunita Kesarwani, due to their political and administrative influence, pressurized the executive

officer of the Municipality and got the names of the opponents registered on her house and forcibly got the house occupied by the opponents. It was alleged that despite complaining to higher officials, Nagar Palika EO Ram Singh and Nagar Palika administration is not giving her reply to the RTI, which was complained to the government and the Chief Minister, but no hearing took place, after which the victim complained to Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath. After the order of the Chief Minister, Kokhraj police station late night registered a case against former Chairman of Bharwari Kailash Chandra Kesarwani, his wife former Chairman Sunita Kesarwani, former Chairman Bharwari and former MLA Chail Sanjay Gupta Dilip Ajay Vijay Sanjay under various sections and has started investigation.

Osa residents are saddened by the deaths of four people in two days

Municipal Council member Gamla Devi and her husband Aryaveer visited the families of the deceased to express their condolences

Akhand Bharat Sandesh

Kaushambi

Four people have died in the past two days in Sant Kabir Nagar, Osa, Ward No. 24 of the Manjhanpur Municipal Council area, the district headquarters. An atmosphere of grief has gripped the village. Upon receiving the information, Municipal

Council member Gamla Devi and her husband Aryaveer visited the family to offer condolences. According to reports, Ramnarayan Ravidas, son of Ram Sajeevan, a resident of Osa village, has passed away. His last rites were performed in the presence of hundreds of people. Similarly, Ram Sumer Vishwakarma, son of

Ram Sajeevan Vishwakarma, also from Osa village, has died suddenly. Upon receiving the news of his death, mourning spread among the people and his last rites were performed. Surjeet, wife of Osa village resident Vikas Sen, has also died suddenly. Vikas Sen was married six months ago and his sudden death just days after the wed-

ding has shocked people. It is reported that Vikas's wife Surjeet had been suffering from fever for some days and died in the hospital during treatment.

Sonu Saroj, son of the village resident, Mool Saroj also died due to illness. After the death of one woman and three men in the village within two days, a wave of

mourning has spread in the entire village. Councilor of Nagar Palika Parishad Manjhanpur, Gamla Devi and her husband Aryaveer reached the homes of the deceased families and expressed condolences and consoled them and assured them of getting all possible financial help from the government.

Upon opening the shop on Tuesday morning, he discovered the theft, finding the goods scattered

Thieves removed the tin shed from the shop's roof and stole cash and other goods

Akhand Bharat Sandesh

Naini. Late Monday night, thieves broke into a gram and bean shop in Hanuman Nagar, Naini. The thieves entered the shop by removing the tin shed from the shop's roof and stole cash and other goods from the cash box. The shop owner discovered the incident



in the morning, and

then informed the

police. According to

reports, Ramesh Kesharwani, a resident of Kazipur in the Naini Kotwali area, owns a gram and bean shop in Hanuman Nagar. Ramesh Kesharwani stated that he had closed the shop as usual that night and gone home. Upon opening the shop on Tuesday morning, he discovered the theft, finding the goods scattered.

According to Ramesh, the thieves took approximately five thousand rupees in cash, including notes and coins, from the cash box. A speaker kept in the shop was also stolen. The thieves had entered by removing the tin shed from the shop's roof. The victim has filed a written complaint with the Naini Kotwali police station.

Complainants are reaching the Superintendent of Police's office after failing to receive justice from the police station

Akhand Bharat Sandesh

Kaushambi

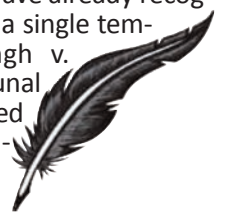
At the Superintendent of Police's office in Kaushambi, Superintendent of Police Rajesh Kumar listens to the problems of the general public and attempts to resolve them every day from 10:00 am. After not getting justice from the police station office and the Circle Officer's office, many complainants reach the Superintendent of Police and narrate their grievances. In this sequence, on Tuesday also, many complainants reached the Superintendent of Police's office and after not getting

justice from the police station, they submitted a complaint letter to the Superintendent of Police and demanded justice. While hearing the complaint application of the complainants, Superintendent of Police Rajesh Kumar directed the concerned station in-charge to investigate the matter and resolve the problem immediately with quality. Due to the poor system of the station in-charges, the complainants have to reach the Superintendent of Police's office. During the public hearing in the police office by the Superintendent of Police, dozens of complainants narrated their grievances.

Editorial

Tax terror and India's same-sex couples

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



Our initiatives are deeply rooted

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



Bihar from a state of challenges to one of opportunities, with land and water reforms serving as critical pillars. Our initiatives in the Revenue and Land Reforms Department align seamlessly with PM Modi's call for a developed India and Nitish Kumar's focus on equitable growth, ensuring Bihar contributes significantly to the Viksit Bharat mission. Under the state government's digital-first approach, championed by Nitish Kumar, we have accelerated the Bihar Bhumi portal, a flagship platform that reflects PM Modi's Digital India vision and Bihar's commitment to ease of living. This portal enables landowners to access, verify, and update records remotely, streamlining processes like mutation and ownership verification. In February 2025, we extended the self-declaration window for plot details until February 2026, allowing citizens to provide their ownership details, plot numbers and areas to update Khatian (record of rights) and online land record. This has allowed the processing of thousands of applications while reducing corruption and backlog, mirroring the state government's focus on transparency and PM Modi's success with national schemes like Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT). Bihar's pioneer-

ing Integrated Land Record Management System with Spatial Mutation portal, the first in India to automatically update land maps with property transactions, enhances transparency and reduces disputes, contributing to the Viksit Bharat goal of efficient governance. A statewide toll free helpline — 18003456215 — for land related issues has also been launched, facilitating information and complaint redressal and bringing government close to masses. The Rajaswa Maha Abhiyan, launched on 16 August and running until 20 September, is a testament to Nitish Kumar's emphasis on grassroots governance. This door-to-door campaign, which has seen the distribution of over 23 lakh Jamabandi (land register) copies and correction forms so far, leverages GIS mapping and drone surveys for precision. Panchayat-level camps with laptops ensure real-time data entry, making services accessible in remote areas and embodying PM Modi's last-mile connectivity ethos and Bihar's inclusive development model. Integrated with the Bihar Bhumi portal, the campaign allows citizens to track applications, fostering trust and participation, which are the key tenets of both Viksit

Bharat and Nitish Kumar's citizen-led governance. To amplify outreach, we engaged PR professionals to leverage social media platforms like X and Meta aligning with PM Modi's innovative communication strategies and Nitish Kumar's focus on public engagement. This has educated Biharis on land rights, driving transparency and participation, much like the state's successful awareness campaigns for schemes like Saat Nishchay. On 7 May this year, Bihar, under Nitish Kumar's visionary Jal-Jeevan-Hariyali Mission, became the first Indian state to launch the Gazetteer-cum-Atlas of Water Bodies, mapping over 550 rivers, 4,500 wetlands, and 1.06 lakh ponds with Unique Identification Numbers (UIDs). This initiative, inspired by water body depletion in Darbhanga, supports PM Modi's Jal Jeevan Mission and Viksit Bharat's sustainability goals, as well as Nitish Kumar's environmental agenda. Enriched with historical, socio-economic, and environmental data, the atlas aids anti-encroachment efforts, plans new ponds in water-scarce areas, and strengthens water conservation.

It aligns with PM Modi's praise for the Jal Jeevan Mission's success in providing tap water to about 15.7 crore rural households and Nitish Kumar's focus on sustainable rural development, positioning Bihar as a model for water resource management. Beyond digitalisation, the state government has prioritised structural reforms to support PM Modi's vision of a streamlined, self-reliant governance framework and Nitish Kumar's goal of administrative efficiency. The Bihar Amin Cadre Rules, 2025, enforced in August, reorganise amins' cadres with seniority lists and performance-

based promotions, ensuring a skilled workforce for land surveys. This supports the statewide survey, extended to December 2026, covering 661 villages with GPS and drone technology to update cadastral maps and resolve disputes. These efforts echo PM Modi's push for institutional reforms, as seen in his Task Force for Next-Generation Economic Reforms, and Nitish Kumar's focus on disciplined governance. Our district-wise ranking system, introduced in April 2025, evaluates performance on mutation efficiency and revenue collection, with Sheikhpura leading the state. This fosters competition and efficiency, aligning with PM Modi's call for accountability and Nitish Kumar's emphasis on performance-driven administration. We have also addressed disruptions like the recent survey workers' strike, reflecting the state government's resolve for uninterrupted progress, a principle shared with Viksit Bharat. These reforms — digital platforms, water atlas, and structural changes — have reduced litigation, improved revenue collection, and enhanced economic opportunities, particularly for farmers. Accurate land records and mapped water bodies facilitate access to loans, subsidies, and irrigation, supporting PM Modi's vision of empowering small farmers (85 per cent of India's agrarian population) and Nitish Kumar's agricultural development goals. The PM Dhan-Dhaanya Krishi Yojana, targeting 100 backward farming districts, finds synergy in our efforts to strengthen Bihar's agrarian backbone, contributing to India's global food security leadership and Bihar's economic resilience. Our initiatives are deeply rooted in PM Modi's Viksit Bharat

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Dual Degrees Granted Prior to 2022 by UGC

Delhi: Students can breathe a sigh of relief as the University Grants Commission (UGC) has revised its provisions regarding dual degrees. Acquired degrees prior to 2022 will now be recognized as valid, as long as they were earned in accordance with UGC requirements. Starting from that day forward, students were able to pursue two degrees simultaneously according to a notification issued by the UGC. All degrees earned at the same time prior to April 13, 2022, were null and void. Those UGC guidelines state that a student cannot claim benefits based on two degrees earned concurrently before 13 April 2022, and they also state that these degrees will not be recognized. The UGC resolved to revise this previous regulation during its



meeting on April 3, 2025. Guidelines were subsequently updated and released on June 5, 2025. New regulations make it possible to recognise a student's dual degree completion provided both degrees were earned in accordance with UGC requirements. If you want to get two degrees at once, you have to meet the requirements set out by the UGC. Both classes should not have conflicting schedules. Both courses can be taken in physical mode, however the class times need to be different.

No Kashmir, Palestine in DU psychology syllabus

Delhi: The Standing Committee on Academic Matters reportedly eliminated the Israel-Palestine conflict, Kashmir crisis, and dating app suicides from DU's psychology syllabus proposal. The study discussed Mahabharata, Bhagavad Gita, and Israel-Palestine and Kashmir wars. He claimed "Kashmir is resolved" and "we don't need to teach Israel-Palestine". The committee head rejected another proposal to integrate dating app psychology.

Indian medical students in Iran face uncertainty amid Iran-Israel rivalry

Delhi: The Indian government began Operation Sindhu to evacuate its residents, including over 6,000 students, from war-torn Iran amid rising tensions with Israel.

New Delhi received 110 Indians, mostly students, on the inaugural flight from Yerevan, Armenia. Due to instability in Ukraine and Russia, most MBBS students chose Iran. However, the Iran-Israel war has placed their careers on hold indefinitely, worrying these youngsters. Hasan Zaidi from Agra, Uttar Pradesh, who studied



MBBS in Iran in 2024 at Arak University of Medical Sciences, Arak, told Education Times he only wants to return.

He to India after his first year of study. We initially thought the war would finish shortly and we wouldn't need

to return. I chose Iran because the war in Russia and Ukraine made schooling dangerous. A similar issue has occurred in Iran unexpectedly. Safety is why I selected this country, adds Hasan. Tehran is dangerous. Iranians are moving to safer locations.

DU'S 4th-yr plan raises concern over teaching load and staff gaps

Delhi: Teachers at Delhi University are raising concerns about increasing workload and lack of assistance as the university prepares to welcome its first group of undergraduates in their fourth year. According to 202 faculty members, the university is moving forward without doing a

realistic assessment of teaching capacity or infrastructure needs, since the seventh and eighth semesters are set to start in late July and early August under the Undergraduate Curriculum Framework (UGCF). The increasing disparity between sanctioned teaching hours

and the number of hours presently needed as a result of the extra academic year is a big worry, they claimed. "In some of our department meetings, we realised there's a huge shortfall," remarked a faculty member from the geography department.

DU's Decline to Publish Articles on Islam, Pakistan, and China Sets Off

Delhi : An alleged set of political science graduate papers focusing on Islam, Pakistan, and China were recently rejected by a tribunal at Delhi University. Many members were opposed to the plan. People felt strongly about it; some thought it was an example of ideological censorship, while others saw it as a way to make the curriculum more "India-centric and bias-free." The Standing Committee for Academic Matters at DU met and decided to eliminate four elective courses: Islam and International Relations, Pakistan and the



World, China's Role in the Contemporary World, and State and Society in Pakistan. When the group reconvenes on July 1, they will finally get down to reading and discussing paper number five: Religious Nationalism and Political Violence. Professor

Monami Sinha, who was on the committee, disagreed with the decision and claimed that the changes show an effort to water down content that is controversial but still relevant to academia. We contended that thorough research on China and Pakistan.

750 books in 22 languages to be added in curriculum

Delhi: Twenty-two Indian languages classified under phase I and phase II of the Bharatiya Bhasha initiative - have now been integrated into the academic framework of universities. Under the Bharatiya Bhasha Pustak Scheme (BBPS) -headed by the University Grants Commission and the Bharatiya Bhasha Samiti over 1,000 authors have been mobilised to - produce foundational textbooks in these languages, with 23 universities as nodal agencies.

Delhi: A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) has been signed between the Universities of Leeds (UoL) in the United Kingdom and Delhi (DU) in India, formally establishing a strategic academic relationship between the two institutions. The two institutions hope to strengthen their capacity-building efforts, exchange teachers and students more easily, and increase their collaborative research through this arrangement. The institution has released a state-



ment stating that the MoU lays the groundwork for a lasting academic partnership that will include collaborative research, academic events, co-teaching, and shared learning platforms. In order to facilitate international cooperation and the generation of new

information, the two schools intend to forge closer relationships with one another. The social science faculty at the University of Leeds spearheaded the development of the friendship that would eventually blossom into the cooperation.

3rd-gen IITs struggle with low enrollment and placements

Delhi: Five third-generation Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) founded between 2015 and 2016 are falling short of their intake targets, with fewer masters and PhD enrolments than available seats, declining placements, and faculty vacancies. The government announced six new IITs in Palakkad, Bhilai, Jammu, Dharwad, Tirupati, and Goa in 2015, with a "initial intake of 180 students in the first year from temporary campuses, increasing to 450 in the second year and to 928 (including 840 undergraduates) in the third year". In 2017, the Union Cabinet changed the intake



estimates. According to 2017 Cabinet-approved figures shared by IIT Tirupati, by 2023-24, IIT Tirupati and IIT Palakkad would have 2,550 students (900 undergraduates) and the remaining IITs 2,540 students (1,170 undergraduates) across all courses. Right to Information (RTI) Act data and open source data suggest that many of these institutes are still falling short of the predicted figure.

At present, IIT Tirupati has 1,700 students, which is expected to rise by 2021-22. IIT Tirupati director K.N. Satyanarayana said "The Cabinet approval for construction of a permanent campus for 1,200 students was given only in November 2017 as part of Phase A. COVID years delayed targets. The Cabinet recently approved Phase B construction to accommodate 1,300 more students (2500) by 2029.

Class 10 CBSE final two board exam policy: first option mandatory, second optional

Delhi: The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) announced its final policy for two board exams for Class 10 students in 2026, making the first mandatory and the second optional. The Board produced a policy draft in February and solicited stakeholder input. CBSE Controller of Examinations Sanjay Bhardwaj reported that 65% of pupils supported twice-assigned tests. To ensure pupils take the first exam seriously, teachers and principals advised making it mandatory. The 2023 National Curriculum Framework, modified to reflect the National Education Policy (NEP), 2020,



" Exams are between February and May. The CBSE has ruled that students who are missing in three or more courses during the first board exam, which would be the major exam, cannot sit the second (optional) exam. According to the final policy, such students would be placed in the 'Essential Repeat' category "

allows students two attempts each year—one main exam and one optional improvement exam—to minimize the high-stakes character of board exams. Exams are between February and May. The CBSE has ruled that students who are missing in three or more courses during the

first board exam, which would be the major exam, cannot sit the second (optional) exam. According to the final policy, such students would be placed in the 'Essential Repeat' category and can only retake the major tests in February the following year.

Iranian medical students from India face an uncertain future

Delhi: With tensions rising between Iran and Israel, the Indian government has initiated Operation Sindhu to remove its nationals, including more than 6,000 students, from Iran, which is currently experiencing the effects of a civil war. The inaugural aircraft touched down in New Delhi from Yerevan, Armenia, with 110 Indian nationals on board, the majority of them were students. Because of the unpredictability in Russia and Ukraine, the majority of these



MBBS candidates choose to study medicine in Iran. The students' careers have been put on indefinite hold due to the ongoing Iran-Israel conflict, and they are worried about it. Hasan Zaidi, an MBBS student from Agra, Uttar Pradesh, who went to Iran in 2024 to attend the Arak University of Medical Sciences in Arak, is only considering going back. He felt compelled to go back to India after this, his first year of college. At first, we thought the war would be over soon and that we wouldn't have to come back. I opted for Iran since my schooling appeared safer than in Russia or Ukraine due to the ongoing conflict. Quite unexpectedly, a comparable scenario has just surfaced in Iran. Tehran is in a very precarious position. Iranians are fleeing to more secure regions. According to Hasan, the Indian embassy in Tehran is providing assistance to students who are attempting to evacuate through neighboring countries such as Turkmenistan and Armenia.

Farhan Akhtar reveals the real reason behind making *Lakshya*

Farhan's response left the entire studio silent and moved

This weekend on Indian Idol, the celebration of 25 glorious years of Farhan Akhtar took an emotional turn when contestant Shreenidhi performed a stirring song from Farhan's film *Lakshya*. The performance opened a heartfelt moment on stage, prompting Farhan to share the true inspiration behind creating one of his most impactful films.

As the applause faded, Badshah turned to Farhan with a thoughtful question: "Did you make this film only because of its entertainment value? Or was it also driven by the feeling that you wanted to do something for the?"

Farhan's response left the entire studio silent and moved. He began, "There are two aspects to this question. Patriotism is something we are all born with. When you watch your parents — the work they do, the way they love their country — it becomes a part of you. And I believe patriotism is something you don't need to shout about. It's a feeling with which you live your life honestly and with hard work — for your country." He then shared an important piece



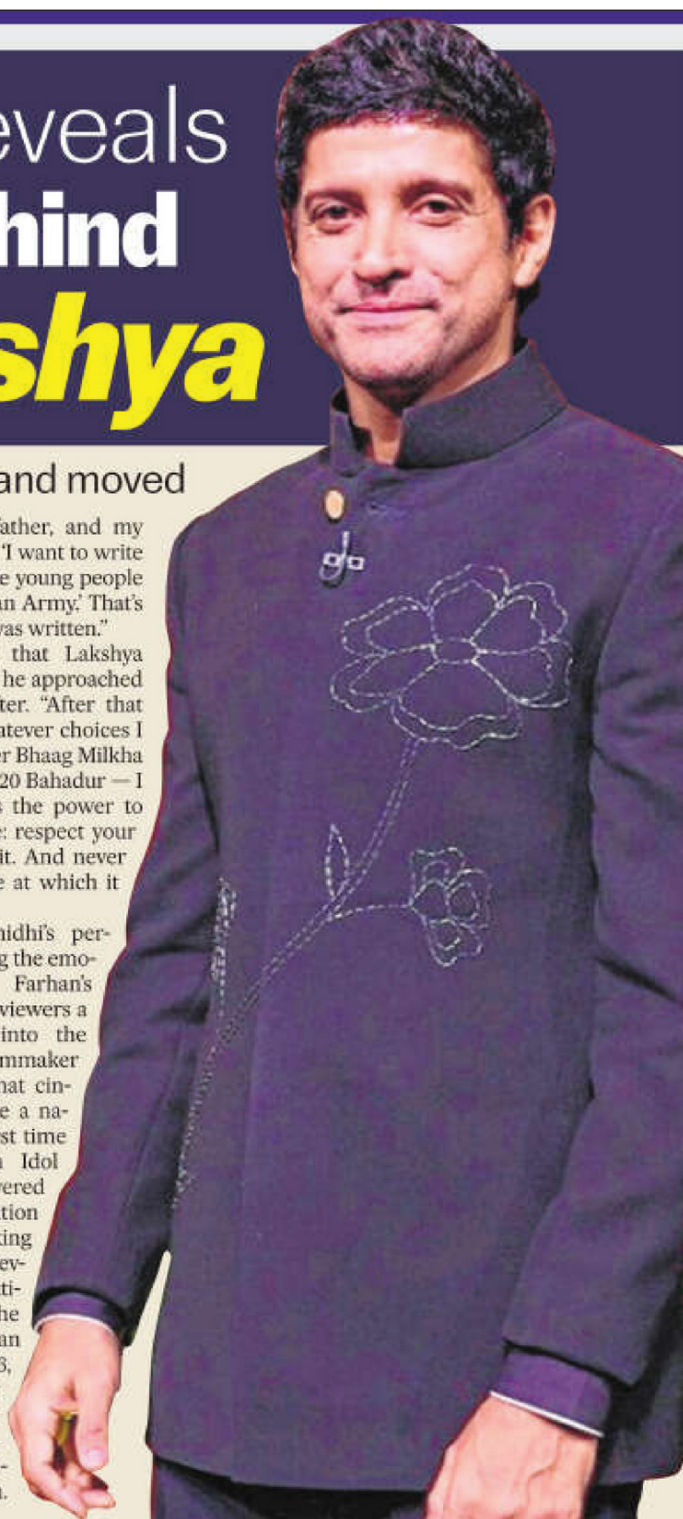
of history that shaped the film. "This film was made around the time Operation Vijay happened in 1999. My father went to Kargil in 2001. There is a memorial there for the soldiers. An officer told him, 'People are praising the Indian Army for achieving the impossible in these mountains.' And it's true — very few armies in the world can do what they did."

But what followed is what sparked the story of *Lakshya*. "The officer also said something sad: 'Every year, fewer young people apply to become officers. It no longer feels like a viable career option to them.' He shared

this with my father, and my father told him, 'I want to write a story to inspire young people to join the Indian Army.' That's how this story was written."

Farhan said that *Lakshya* shaped the way he approached cinema thereafter. "After that experience, whatever choices I made — whether *Bhaag Milkha Bhaag*, or now *120 Bahadur* — I felt cinema has the power to send a message: respect your freedom. Love it. And never forget the price at which it came."

With Shreenidhi's performance setting the emotional stage, Farhan's revelation gave viewers a rare glimpse into the heart of a filmmaker who believes that cinema can inspire a nation. For the first time on the Indian Idol stage, we discovered the true inspiration behind the making of this film — a revelation that beautifully echoes the spirit of Indian Idol Season 16, where every voice carries a journey, a purpose, and an unshakable junoon.



Ajay Devgn recalls horrifying skydiving incident

Actor Ajay Devgn, known for his iconic high-risk stunts since *Phool Aur Kaante* (1991), recently recalled a terrifying skydiving incident

Bollywood actor Ajay Devgn, who made his debut with his iconic leg-split entry on two bikes in *Phool Aur Kaante* (1991), has been associated with high-risk stunts ever since, following in the footsteps of his father, action director Veeru Devgn. Recently, while promoting *De De Pyaar De 2*, he recalled a horrifying skydiving experience where he witnessed a man die right in front of him.

In a candid conversation with *Book My Show*, Madhavan praised

Ajay's fearlessness, revealing how he once jumped out of a plane for a skydiving scene without any prior practice. Responding to this, Devgn recalled an incident from his training in the US and said, "As soon as I reached, I saw someone fall because his parachute didn't open, and he died, right in front of me. And it was me next."

Further, Ajay

added, "Something similar happened with Leonardo DiCaprio, but his instructor jumped after him and saved his life. You will even find a message from him there that reads: 'Thanks for saving my life.'"

On the work front, Ajay was recently seen in *De De Pyaar De 2*, the sequel to the 2019 film *De De Pyaar De*. While Rakul Preet Singh and Jaaved Jaferi reprised their roles, the new cast included R. Madhavan, Gautami Kapoor, Meezaan Jafri, and Ishita Dutta, among others.

De De Pyaar De 2 is directed by Anshul Sharma and written by Luv Ranjan and Tarun Jain. After its theatrical run, *De De Pyaar De 2* is reportedly expected to release on Netflix in January 2026.

Next, the 56-year-old actor has *Drishyam 3* in his pipeline.



Rubina Dilaik, Abhinav Shukla win *Pati Patni Aur Panga*

Television couple Rubina Dilaik and Abhinav Shukla have emerged as the winners of the reality show *Pati Patni Aur Panga* — Jodiyan Ka Reality Check, being crowned the Sarvagun Sampann jodi, the ultimate champions. Throughout the show, the couples tested their chemistry and compatibility through various games, with Rubina and Abhinav emerging as the most loved and compatible jodi.

On winning the show, Rubina and Abhinav said, "Dhamaal With Pati Patni Aur Panga was a superb way for us to spend time together without life rushing by us. As a couple, we're far from perfect, and we, along with other couples, were very candid about our blind spots, and that was super liberating. Winning this trophy is extremely special; it's the result of all the love we've received from the viewers and the supportive spirit of every couple who made this journey so much fun. If there's one thing we hope our journey reminds people of, it's this: Love is not about being flawless. It is about choosing each other over everything else, even on the days it feels hardest."

The show was hosted by Sonali Bendre and Munawar Faruqui, featuring contestants such as Hina Khan, Rocky Jaiswal, Swara Bhasker, Fahad Ahmed,

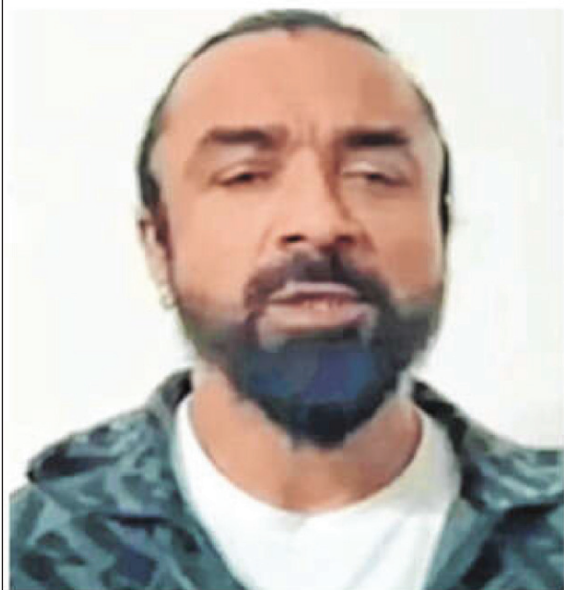
Gurmeet Choudhary-Debina Bonnerjee, Geeta Phogat-Pawan Kumar, Avika Gor-Milind Chandwani, and Isha Malviya-Abhishek Kumar.

Rubina Dilaik and Abhinav Shukla tied the knot in June 2018 in Shimla.

The couple, who were also seen on *Bigg Boss 14*, had entered the show to give their marriage another chance, as they were considering divorce. During a task, Rubina revealed they had given each other six months before finalising the split.

However, their relationship improved on the show, and they decided to stay together. Rubina also emerged as the winner of *Bigg Boss 14*.

In 2023, the couple welcomed their twin daughters, Jeeva and Edha.



Ajaz Khan apologises over objectionable video

Actor Ajaz Khan, booked for posting an objectionable video after gangster Salman Lala's death, appeared before Additional DCP Rajesh Dandotiya in Indore and apologised

Actor Ajaz Khan, who was booked for posting an objectionable video on social media following the death of gangster Salman Lala, appeared before Additional DCP (Crime) Rajesh Dandotiya on Saturday in Indore and apologised for the post. He stated that he was unaware of the facts and had been misled. In the video, Khan alleged that Lala could not have drowned as he was an experienced swimmer and claimed he was targeted because of his religion, allegations denied by police.

In the apology video, Ajaz said in Hindi, "Mujhe galat fehmi ho gayi thi. Jab mujhe sahi cheez ka pata chala, toh maine turant Instagram par maafi nama daal diya tha aur sab jagah clear kar diya tha. Maine video bhi delete kar diya tha. Main kanoon ka samman karta hoon, aur aaj yahan aaya hoon, maine apna mobile bhi jama kar diya, aur baaki saari details jo maangi gayi thi, woh saari

de di thi. Mujhe bilkul jaankari nahi thi. Kuch influencers ke messages aaye... toh it was a mistake. Main Salman Lala ko nahi jaanta hoon."

(I had a misunderstanding. When I learned the truth, I immediately posted an apology on Instagram and clarified everything everywhere. I also deleted the video. I respect the law, and today I came here, submitted my mobile, and provided all the details that were asked. I had no knowledge at all. Some messages from influencers came... so it was a mistake. I do not know Salman Lala.)

According to officials, Ajaz's viral video had the potential to incite hatred and disturb public peace. After reviewing the complaint, video evidence, and screenshots, police concluded that Khan had violated the law. A case has been registered against him under Sections 223, 196, and 353(1)(b)(g) of the BNS.

Salman Lala had died of drowning during a police chase in Indore in August this year.

'Bade logon ke saath...'

Bollywood megastar Amitabh Bachchan has once again shown why he remains one of the most humble stars in the industry



Bollywood megastar Amitabh Bachchan has yet again proved why he is one of the most humble stars in the industry, and his latest post is proof. On Sunday morning, November 16, Big B took to his official X handle (Twitter) and shared a couple of photos of billboards featuring his son Abhishek Bachchan, along with Akshay Kumar and Shah Rukh Khan, from the Filmfare Awards promotions.

Big B captioned the photos, "T 5566 - Bade bade logon ke saath poster pe apun ka bhi photo chhaptai hai!! Maloom hai na?!" as he expressed his excitement.

Soon after Big B's post, several netizens reacted. One X user commented, "Hey



@SrBachchan, looks like the Filmfare billboard decided to give you a front-row seat to your own stardom! Those posters are so big, even the traffic lights are jealous. Bade bade logon ke saath indeed—hope you're signing autographs for the buildings next! (sic)"

Another comment read, "Legendary vibes! When the

biggest names come together, it's not just a poster—it's history being made. Absolutely iconic! #Respect."

Recently, Amitabh Bachchan flaunted his, Jaya Bachchan and son Abhishek's Filmfare trophies, expressing gratitude.

Big B posted a video on X (formerly Twitter), proudly holding the three trophies. Along with the clip, he shared a message in Hindi: "One family... three members in the same profession... three awards on the same day. 70 years of Filmfare honouring Jaya... Best Actor 2025 for Abhishek... and mine for the 70-year celebration. Jaya, Abhishek, and I feel deep gratitude toward the public. Many, many thanks."

EPSTEIN FILES: US President backs disclosure as Republican rebellion grows

TRUMP U-TURN: Urges release of Epstein files

WASHINGTON DC

In a dramatic reversal, President Donald Trump on Sunday night urged House Republicans to vote in favour of releasing the Jeffrey Epstein case files an unexpected climbdown that comes amid mounting support for the measure within his own party.

After returning to Joint Base Andrews from a weekend in Florida, Trump posted a fiery message on social media, declaring,

"We have nothing to hide, and it's time to move on from this Democrat Hoax perpetrated by Radical Left Lunatics in order to deflect from the Great Success of the Republican Party."

The shift follows days of intense infighting among Republicans and a deepening public clash between Trump and Georgia Representative



Marjorie Taylor Greene, once one of his most loyal defenders.

The president's reversal also signals that he recognises supporters of the disclosure bill may have the numbers to push it through the House, even as its fate in the Senate remains uncertain.

It marks a rare instance of Trump backtracking in the face of internal party opposition. Since returning to office for his second term, Trump has largely exercised firm con-

US lawmakers fears spy tech

A bipartisan group of 23 US lawmakers has urged Commerce Secretary Howard Lutnick to investigate TP-Link over fears its devices could enable Chinese Communist Party surveillance near military bases. Led by Sen Joni Ernst and Reps Raja Krishnamoorthi and Ashley Hinson, the group warned that TP-Link cameras sold through Army, Air Force and Navy exchanges may pose a security threat. Lawmakers say Chinese laws could force companies to share data, endangering US personnel.

trol over GOP ranks.

"I don't care! All I do care about is that Republicans get back on point," Trump wrote, as several lawmakers predicted a "deluge" of Republican votes in favour of the measure this week—possibly defying both GOP leadership and the president's earlier stance.

Before his U-turn, Trump had personally contacted at least two Republican lawmakers who supported the bill. Colorado Representative

Lauren Boebert even met with administration officials in the White House Situation Room last week to discuss concerns.

The legislation, if passed, would direct the Justice Department to release all files and communications connected to the Epstein case, including documents related to the federal investigation into his death in custody.

Sensitive information involving victims or ongoing federal probes would be subject to redaction.

China warns Seoul & Washington

BEIJING

China on Monday cautioned that its view of the US-South Korea alliance would "change" if the partnership shifts toward containing Beijing, following Seoul's agreement with Washington to jointly build nuclear-powered submarines.

The warning came after US Admiral Daryl Caudle said the submarines would naturally be used to counter China and that South Korea should evolve from a regional to a global navy.Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Mao Ning urged both allies to "prudently handle" the matter, while Chinese Ambassador to South Korea Dai Bing said expanding the alliance into an anti-China framework would divert it from its stated goal of addressing North Korean threats.

The submarine deal, approved by the US and backed with American fuel cooperation, marks a major step in Seoul-Washington ties. Analysts say the move aims to reassure South Korean voters.



Volcano erupts in Japan

A volcano on Sakurajima in Kagoshima Prefecture, southwestern Japan, erupted early Sunday morning, sending a plume of ash and smoke up to 4,400 meters into the atmosphere, Kyodo News reported the weather agency as saying. The eruption continued after the initial event, prompting the agency to issue an ashfall forecast for parts of Kagoshima, Kumamoto and Miyazaki prefectures. No injuries or damage to buildings have been reported. An explosive eruption around 12:57 am (local time) on Sunday at the Minamidake crater sent a plume rising above 4,000 meters for the first time since October 18 last year, according to the local meteorological observatory.

Israel attacks UN team

ISRAEL

UN peacekeepers in southern Lebanon accused Israel on Sunday of firing at one of their patrols, condemning what they described as "aggressive behavior" by the Israel Defense Forces (IDF). The UN Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) said a Merkava tank fired on its personnel, calling the incident a "serious violation" of the 2006 ceasefire agreement and noting it was not the first such case.Israel acknowledged the incident but insisted it was accidental.

The IDF said troops had identified "two suspects" in the El Hamames area and fired warning shots, later discovering the individuals were UN peacekeepers misidentified due to poor weather conditions.

"No deliberate fire was directed toward UNIFIL soldiers,"

Lebanon to plead against Israel

Lebanon's president asked the country's foreign minister on Saturday to work on filing a complaint against Israel for building a wall inside Lebanese territory. A statement released by President Joseph Aoun's office said he has asked the foreign minister to include in the complaint statement issued by the United Nations peacekeeping force known as UNIFIL that is deployed along the border with Israel.

the military said.Lebanon denounced the episode as another violation of its sovereignty and an obstacle to restoring stability in the south. The border region has remained volatile, especially since the 2023 Israel-Hamas war.

UK plans to drastically tighten asylum rules: Home Secretary

LONDON

The United Kingdom announced a drastic reduction in the protections for asylum seekers and refugees under a new plan aimed at slashing irregular immigration and countering the far right, as per Al Jazeera.

The measures, modelled on Denmark's strict asylum system, were announced late on Saturday (local time) as Prime Minister Keir Starmer comes under pressure from surging popularity for the anti-immigrant Reform UK party.

"I'll end UK's golden ticket for asylum seekers," Interior Minister Shabana Mahmood declared in a statement, with the Home Office, as her ministry is known, calling the new proposals the "largest overhaul of asylum policy in modern times," Al Jazeera reported.

Mahmood is due to lay out the policy in parliament on Monday.

Meanwhile, the head of the UK's Refugee Council warned the government that the measures would not deter people from trying to reach the country and urged a rethink.

EAM Jaishankar arrives in Russia on three-day visit

MOSCOW

External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar arrived in Moscow on Monday for a significant three-day visit aimed at strengthening India-Russia ties and participating in key multilateral engagements.

He was received at the airport by Indian Ambassador Vinay Kumar and Alexei Pavlovsky, Director of the Second Asian Department of the Russian Foreign Ministry.

Jaishankar's visit comes at a time of evolving geopolitical shifts, with both nations seeking to reinforce cooperation across strategic, economic and multilateral platforms.

Later in the day, he will meet Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov for comprehensive discussions on bilateral relations and global issues.

According to state-run TASS, the talks will cover collaboration within the SCO, BRICS, the UN and the G20, along with regional security concerns. The two leaders are

also expected to review preparations for President Vladimir Putin's upcoming visit to New Delhi, likely around December 5, for the annual India-Russia summit.

Putin last visited India in 2021.On Tuesday, Jaishankar will represent Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the SCO Council of Heads of Government meeting, where President Putin is expected to address member states. India views the SCO platform as crucial for strengthening regional security, connectivity and counterterrorism coordination.

The minister will conclude his visit on Wednesday by virtually inaugurating two new Indian consulates in Kazan and Ekaterinburg, expanding India's diplomatic footprint in Russia.

With existing consulates in St. Petersburg and Vladivostok, the additions reflect New Delhi's intention to boost trade, mobility and cultural engagement across Russia's major regions.

Ousting Maduro will tie US down for yrs: CNN

WASHINGTON DC

A US-supported regime change operation in Venezuela could destabilise the country and drag Washington into a prolonged, costly commitment, CNN reported on Sunday.

The assessment comes amid heightened tensions as the Pentagon deploys warships to the Caribbean and conducts strikes on boats it claims are tied to Venezuelan drug smuggling. The White House continues to label President Nicolas Maduro as an illegitimate, cartel-linked leader, fuelling speculation that direct military action may

Trump open to talks

US President Donald Trump said he is willing to hold discussions with Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro to ease rising tensions. Speaking in Florida, Trump reiterated his accusation that Maduro's government aids "narcoterrorist" drug cartels, a claim Caracas denies. He added that the US could target Venezuelan groups designated as foreign terrorists but has not committed to doing so.

be under consideration.

According to CNN, any attempt by President Donald Trump to forcibly remove Maduro would confront a host of complications, including fragmented Venezuelan opposition groups and a military prepared for insurgency-style resistance.

Such a move could also trigger significant domestic

political backlash, contradicting Trump's repeated promises to avoid new foreign conflicts.

Foreign policy hawks, however, insist that US credibility is on the line. Elliott Abrams, a longtime Republican official known for backing US-aligned Latin American regimes, argued that Trump's threats cannot be walked back.

Pakistani Army bombs mosque in North Waziristan village

KHYBER PAKHTUNKHWA

ment released by Pashtun Tahafuz Movement (PTM) Holland.

The attack triggered widespread outrage, with residents reportedly gripped by fear as communication lines in the area continued to be disrupted.

PTM Holland condemned

the strike as a direct assault on religious sanctity and human dignity. The group termed it "a fresh example of decades-long Pakistani state oppression," alleging that Pashtun regions have repeatedly been turned into "a testing ground for war." "Places of worship, homes, schools, villages, nothing has

been kept safe," the statement said, demanding that the state clarify "under which law, which war, and under which humanity the bombing of the mosque was carried out." The organisation also claimed that the attack reflects a pattern of systemic violence against Pashtun communities, warn-

ing that the ongoing militarisation has left residents living in daily fear and isolation.

The Pashtun Tahafuz Movement - United States (PTM-US) announced a major diplomatic initiative to bring global attention to what it describes as long-standing abuses in Pakistan's Pashtun regions.



Saree showcased at Times Square

Deputy Commissioner of International Affairs Dilip Chauhan, Consul Head of Chancery at the Consulate General of India in New York Pragya Singh and others during the 'Saree Goes Global' event held in Times Square, New York, USA. Diverse hues and styles of sarees inundated the popular Times Square as women from the Indian diaspora and other nations celebrated the elegance.

Vrindavani Vastra will be back home, says Assam CM

LONDON

Chief Minister of Assam, Himanta Biswa Sarma, will sign a Memorandum of Understanding with the British Museum to bring the sacred Vrindavani Vastra back to Assam and stated that "Vikas" and "Virasat" continue to be pillars of their governance. On his first day in London, Assam CM visited the city's waterfront.

CM Himanta Biswa stated that Vrindavani Vastra is a "timeless masterpiece", woven with devotion and the spirit of Mahapurush Srimanta Sankardev, a "sacred textile that brings Vaishnava culture alive through its divine craftsmanship".

"Our Government has

begun the process to bring this historic treasure back to Assam, where it truly belongs," he said.

In a post on X, he said, "Tomorrow is a big day for Assam & Bharat. We are signing a MoU with the British Museum so that the sacred Vrindavani Vastra can be brought back home under a loaning arrangement. Vikas and Virasat continue to be pillar of our governance agenda."

Giving the details of his London visit, CM Himanta Biswa said in another separate post, "On my first day in London I visited the city's waterfront. We are transforming Guwahati's riverfront and are in the process of borrowing some of the global best practices.

Ukraine keen to buy Rafale from France

PARIS

Ukraine has signed a letter of intent to purchase up to 100 French Rafale fighter jets, the Ukrainian Embassy and the French president's office confirmed on Monday.

The document, signed by President Volodymyr Zelenskyy and French President Emmanuel Macron, outlines Ukraine's interest in acquiring Rafale warplanes and other French defence equipment, though no further details were released.

Zelenskyy's visit — his ninth to Paris since Russia's 2022 invasion — aims to boost Ukraine's defences as it braces for another winter of Russian strikes on energy and civilian infrastructure.

Rly line explosion act of terror, claims Poland PM Tusk



Donald Tusk (brown jacket, hands in pocket) visits the site of the damage

WARSAW

A railway line linking Warsaw to southeastern Poland was damaged by a weekend explosion that the prime minister on Monday called an act of sabotage.

Prime Minister Donald Tusk, who visited the site, said that the line is "crucially important for delivering aid to Ukraine." "Unfortunately, the worst fears have been confirmed," Tusk said in a statement. "An act of sabotage has occurred on the Warsaw-Lublin route (in the village of Mika). An explosion has destroyed the railway track." A train driver on the line between the capital, Warsaw and Lublin, reported track irregularities around 7:40 am Sunday. Further inspection determined there was damage to a section of track near the village of Mika, about 100 kilo-

metres southeast of Warsaw, officials said. It wasn't immediately clear whether the explosion and damage occurred late Saturday or early Sunday. Two passengers and several staff members were on the train, but no injuries were reported, officials said.

Defense Minister Wladyslaw Kosiniak-Kamysz said Monday that the army plans to examine 120 kilometres (about 75 miles) of the Warsaw-Lublin-Hrubieszów line, which links the capital to Ukraine by rail and road.

A second train was damaged separately Sunday and the incident is under investigation, Interior Minister Marcin Kierwinski said. A train on the Swinoujscie-Rzeszów route was forced to stop Sunday night about 50 kilometres (31 miles) from Lublin after the overhead electrical cables that powered the train were damaged.

Singapore min warns of increased AI use

SINGAPORE

Extremist groups use AI to amplify the reach and sophistication of radical content, making it difficult for young minds to distinguish truth from manipulation, a Singapore minister said on Monday.

Speaking at a seminar, acting minister-in-charge of

Muslim Affairs Faishal Ibrahim said that Artificial Intelligence (AI) has also featured in several youth self-radicalisation cases in the multi-racial city-state.

Extremist groups now use AI to create persuasive propaganda and even impersonate trusted voices, Faishal was quoted as saying by The Straits Times newspaper. He said that the reach

and sophistication of racial content can be enhanced with AI, making it more difficult for younger people to distinguish truth from manipulation.

For instance, a 17-year-old youth arrested in August 2024 had used an AI chatbot to generate a pledge of allegiance to the terror group ISIS, as well as a declaration of armed jihad against non-

Muslims, Faishal said.

The youth was arrested just weeks before he could carry out his plan to kill non-Muslims in Tampines, a major public housing estate on the east coast of the state.

He had planned to release his AI-generated declaration before his attack, in the hope of inspiring other Muslims to engage in armed violence.

"These are not distant stories. These are our own young people, often bright and caring, who became radicalised after exposure to extremist content online," the newspaper quoted Faishal as saying.

A trend of radicalised detainees under Singapore's Internal Security Act (ISA) getting younger in recent years is also "deeply con-

cerning", said Faishal, who is also Senior Minister of State for Home Affairs.

There have been more than a dozen self-radicalised Singaporeans under the age of 21 since 2015. They highlight the "escalation" of online radicalisation, and this challenge must now be met with even greater awareness, technical skill and collaboration, he said.

Briefs

NEW DELHI

Pujara feels something else is wrong



Former India Test batter Cheteshwar Pujara has strongly rejected the notion that India's crushing defeat to South Africa in the first Test at Eden Gardens can be blamed to a transition phase. "I don't agree with the view that India's defeat at home can be attributed to a transitional phase. While it's understandable to face setbacks abroad during a transition period, the current Indian side possesses ample talent and strong first-class records -- players like Yashasvi Jaiswal, KL Rahul, Washington Sundar, and Shubman Gill have all proven themselves," Pujara told Jio Hotstar. "If the team is losing in home conditions despite this, it suggests that something else is wrong. Had this match been played on a good pitch, India's chances of winning would've been much higher."

NEW DELHI

Mukund: Split captaincy is a smart move



Former India opener Abhinav Mukund believes the pressure on Shubman Gill has reached a critical point as he called for split captaincy in the wake of India's opening Test defeat to South Africa. "At home, everyone expects India to win -- no questions asked," Mukund said on The Great Indian Cricket Show on Doordarshan. "I think Shubman has it in him to become an all-format captain, but I don't think India should have an all-format captain anymore," said Mukund, who has played seven Tests. "Split captaincy is a smart move. Shubman Gill has been given the responsibility to take on the mantle in Tests and he will be under big pressure." "This is a crucial series," he noted.

NEW DELHI

Sangakkara reappointed as Royals' coach



Rajasthan Royals on Monday announced the appointment of Sri Lanka legend Kumar Sangakkara as their head coach for the 2026 IPL season, following

PITCH QUALITY | The collapse on dry Eden Gardens wicket raises question that are the coach, captain on same page on what construes ideal home conditions

Do Gill and Gambhir think alike?

KOLKATA

The pitch row triggered by India's embarrassing 30-run loss to South Africa while chasing a modest 124 has also opened up a larger question -- are young skipper Shubman Gill and coach Gautam Gambhir on the same page on what construes ideal home conditions?

The collapse, India's lowest failed chase at home, has left behind deeper fault lines than a dry Eden Gardens wicket can conceal. Just a month ago, on the eve of the West Indies Test series in Ahmedabad, Gill had been emphatic that the team has moved away from the philosophy of preferring "rank turners".

"...we would be looking to play on wickets that offer both to the batsmen and to the bowlers," Gill had said, outlining a vision of balanced surfaces.

Yet India walked into the series against the reigning World Test champions on a pitch that was the exact opposite of what their captain advocated.

The Eden strip was left unwatered for more than a week and was kept under cover in the evening. The result was a dry, flaky surface that disintegrated from



South Africa's Keshav Maharaj celebrates with teammates after the first Test against India. PTI

session one in a match that lasted barely eight sessions, producing 38 wickets, with spinners taking 22 and pacers 16. If the team had moved away from rank turners, Eden suggested the opposite. Gambhir was unapologetic and had no qualms declaring that the pitch was exactly what the team management wanted.

"If you don't play well this is what happens. There were no demons in the wicket," he asserted.

Ask Aiden Markram, who was undone by a ball from Jasprit Bumrah that leapt from the off-stump line in the first hour of the opening day, or KL Rahul, who was bamboozled by a Marco Jansen delivery that reared up sharply in the fourth innings -

- and they would disagree.

Gambhir insisted seamers were the ones doing the damage. "Ultimately, if we had won this Test match, you wouldn't even be talking about this pitch," he said in his usual combative style.

The messaging gap, however, is evident. Gill had asked for balance. The coach wanted exactly what transpired.

Gill doubtful

Gill is unlikely to feature in the second Test against South Africa, with Cricket Association of Bengal sources confirming that he is not travelling to Guwahati with the team on Wednesday.

The team will have an optional training session on Tuesday.

They have completely destroyed Test cricket: Harbhajan Singh

NEW DELHI

Calling it "the destruction of Test cricket", former India spinner Harbhajan Singh says under-prepared and excessively bowler-friendly surfaces like the one used at Eden Gardens, prevent the genuine development of players.

"They have completely destroyed Test cricket. Rest in peace Test cricket," Singh, said on his YouTube channel. "The kind of work they have done, the kind of pitches that have been made for so many years now, I

have been seeing it. No one talks about it because it is fine, the team is winning, someone is taking wickets, someone is becoming great by taking those wickets.

"So everyone feels everything is going well. But I feel that this practice has not started today. It has been going on for many years, and I feel it is the wrong way of playing," added Singh who had taken 13 wickets at same venue in India's 2001 win over Australia.

Singh said it was time to reflect on the issue as such pitches do not contribute to the development of players.

South African pacer lauds his team's grit

No matter who sits out, Proteas find a way to win, says Kagiso Rabada

KOLKATA

South African pacer Kagiso Rabada, who missed the first Test against India here due to a rib injury, is in awe of his team's ability to rebound from setbacks and "find a way to win" no matter who is left out.

The reigning World Test Championship winners completed a 30-run win inside three days over India in the opening Test here defending a modest 123 on Sunday. The win, which was their first on Indian soil in 15 years, gave them an unassailable 1-0 lead in the two-match series.

"No matter who sits out, we can still find a way to win. Temba (Bavuma) has been crucial for us, but he hasn't played every game. I haven't played this game," Rabada said in a video shared by Cricket South Africa.

Bavuma returned to the playing XI after missing their preceding two Tests in Pakistan, where South Africa bounced back to draw the series 1-1.

"That doesn't matter. Whoever is gonna get out on the field, we believe that they

can do the job," Rabada said.

The visitors outplayed the hosts on a dry wicket here with variable bounce and turn. Rabada hailed South Africa's individual performances, including skipper Bavuma's match-winning 55 in the second innings that gave the travelling bowlers something to fight for.

"We had a good start in the first innings with Aiden (Markram) and (Ryan) Rickelton. They set the tone. Marco (Jansen) stood up, Bosch (Corbin Bosch) stood up at crucial times. Everyone chipped in and really, that's the hallmark of what this team is made of," Rabada said.

It remains to be seen if Rabada, who had to undergo multiple scans in the lead-up to the first Test, would be available for the second Test to be played in Guwahati from November 22-26.

Rabada said the victory in a low-scoring thriller at Kolkata would rank among the top three wins for South Africa this season.

"(The victory is) definitely right up there. With the types of wins that we've had this season, it's hard to say, because we've had some pretty epic wins, but this one is definitely (in the) top three," he said.

"That was typical Test cricket (contest). I mean, just the ebbs and flows of the game. We found ourselves on the back foot, and then somehow managed to finish on the front foot.

"It was quite nerve-wracking on the side, and I'm just itching to want to get out. I don't know what to say. It's just... it's just, like, an emotional roller coaster, and I'm glad that we finished on the right side," he added.



India needs good football coaches, says Matthaus

KOLKATA

Only best coaches can produce good football players and India will need to bring in legends and former players of the game to train their coaches, says German football legend Lothar Matthaus.

Matthaus said India, the world's most populated country, cannot be in a situation where it does not play in the football World Cup while smaller countries like Cape Verde qualify.

"You get good footballers only when they learn from the best coaches. India needs good coaches to produce better footballers," Matthaus, a member of Germany's 1990 World Cup-winning team, told the media on Sunday.

"A good teacher makes a good student. And when you have a bad teacher, or a bad professor, you don't get good students. To start, you bring the legends, ex-players and reputed coaches to India to teach your coaches. Then these coaches can help the new generation of players. You have to start this at the school level."

Sinner outclasses Alcaraz to retain ATP Finals title

The second-ranked Italian beat top-ranked Spaniard 7-6 (4), 7-5

TURIN

The final installment of the "Sincaraz" rivalry for 2025 went to Jannik Sinner.

The second-ranked Sinner beat top-ranked Carlos Alcaraz 7-6 (4), 7-5 for the ATP Finals trophy on Sunday in the sixth meeting this year between the two players who are dominating men's tennis.

Sinner defended the title before his home Italian fans for only his second victory over Alcaraz this year after also beating the Spaniard in the Wimbledon final.

"It was an incredible season," Sinner said. "To finish it this way, before my Italian fans, is very special for me."

Alcaraz had already secured the year-ending No. 1 ranking and was contesting his first final at the event for the year's top eight players.

Alcaraz still leads his career meetings with Sinner, 10-6.

Sinner and Alcaraz have met in the last three Grand Slam finals. Alcaraz beat Sinner in a fifth-set tiebreaker to win the French Open;



It was an incredible season. To finish it this way, before my Italian fans, is very special for me

Jannik Sinner
Italian tennis player

Sinner gained a measure of revenge at Wimbledon; then Alcaraz again came out on top at the U.S. Open.

They also clashed this year in the Italian Open final (won by Alcaraz) and the Cincinnati Open final (won by Alcaraz when Sinner retired due to illness).

"I hope you are going to be ready for next year because I will be ready to hopefully play more finals against you," Alcaraz said.

To which Sinner added that he hopes they have "great, great battles ahead of us."

Sinner also won the Australian Open.



Spain's Carlos Alcaraz (L) and winner Italy's Jannik Sinner after the ATP Finals in Turin on Sunday. AP

Pakistan sweeps SL 3-0 in ODI series

RAWALPINDI

Pakistan completed a 3-0 series sweep of Sri Lanka with a clinical six-wicket victory in their third and final ODI with 32 balls remaining.

Mohammad Rizwan (61 not out) and Fakhar Zaman (55) scored second successive half centuries and eased Pakistan to 215-4 in 44.4 overs on Sunday.

Sri Lanka earlier wasted a brisk start before it was bowled out for 211 in 45.2 overs. Pakistan beat Sri Lanka by six runs in a thrilling first ODI and Babar Azam's first international century in over two years anchored Pakistan to a thumping eight-wicket victory in the second game at Pindi Cricket Stadium.

Pakistan captain Shaheen Shah Afridi returned to lead the side after missing the second game with fever.

Zaman followed his 78 in the second game with a fluent half century after co-opener Haseebullah Khan, one of the four changes Pakistan made, fell for a 12-ball duck in his first game of the series.

Zaman and Babar (34) then controlled the chase with a 76-run stand as Sri Lanka pace bowlers struggled.



Sarfaraz was more interested to work with the young talent and coaches and accepted the new role.

Sarfaraz to oversee Shaheens, U-19 setup

Former Pakistan captain Sarfaraz Ahmed has been handed full responsibility for overseeing the Pakistan Shaheens and Under-19 teams, marking a significant restructuring move by the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB).

Sarfaraz, who has been associated with the board since last year, will now head all operations concerning both squads. According to the source, coaches, selectors, support staff members of the Shaheens and under-19 sides will all now report to Sarfaraz.

Bombay Ladies Open

Bharati wins Kazi Cup at the 80th amateur golf event

MUMBAI

The Bombay Ladies Open Week which is western India's biggest and most prestigious Amateur Ladies Golf Tournament took place at the Willingdon Sports Club, Mumbai on November 10-14, 2025.

It was the 80th year of the tournament, established pre-Independence in 1945 to foster healthy competition in between Willingdon and BPGC in its earlier years, the

first in western India to follow the All India Format.

Over 107 ladies participated in it from 10 cities across India with 7 European countries represented across the event. The tournament which consisted of multiple formats played consecutively over five days of golf including a knockout putting contest to engage a larger golfing audience.

Multiple corporates were on board as sponsors for this prestigious five-day event. Bharati Purker won the

elite Kazi Cup which was the gross knockout championship, in a grueling yet thrilling 36 hole knockout match played over 8 hours on the same day to end with a stunning birdie finish on the 33rd hole coming back from the 31 down on the front 18. Sonal Chaudhri, one of the finest lady golfers from the DGC took the silver making it to the final after a week of knockouts off no strokes.

The Abercrombie Rose Bowl for the best gross score was won comfortably by

Willingdon's very own Malvika Miskita who carded a stunning 8 over par round in category A and the Shinohara Trophy by Khushboo Bhasme also of Willingdon, a new entrant in category B.

In the highly competitive Mahindra Salver (net knockout championship), Sangeeta Katariya of the USS club emerged victorious, with Jyoti Shah coming runner up after a gruelling 5 day run.

The Flag competition in a medal format with lightening

green speeds was won by Poornima of the services and runners up to Willingdon's very own Shilpa Singhal.

In the net stableford tournament, Geeta Kushwaha from the North emerged victorious, followed closely by Bhakti Thorat from Pune Golf Club who came runner up.

The Pitamber Foursomes was won by Jayana Raval and Nishi Kumar by a 5-point margin of the USS Club. The tournament was refereed by Coach Mita Gowande.

