

AKHAND BHARAT SANDESH

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MORNING EDITION PRAYAGRAJ Thursday, 06 November, 2025 UNIQUE GIFT OF KRIYAYOGA ASHRAM AND RESEARCH INSTITUTE TO GIVE IMPETUS TO WORLD BUILDING AND HUMAN DEVELOPMENT.

The five Pandavas have resolved not to let jungle raj return to Bihar: CM Yogi

Sasaram

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Wednesday likened Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, Upendra Kushwaha, Jitan Ram Manjhi and Chirag Paswan to the "five Pandavas," saying the alliance has united with a common resolve to ensure that jungle raj never returns to Bihar. Amid his busy schedule in Uttar Pradesh, CM Yogi campaigned in Bihar for the second phase of

the Assembly elections, addressing a rally in Sasaram in support of NDA candidate Snehlata Kushwaha. Extending greetings on the occasion of Kartik Purnima, he launched a sharp attack on the RJD-Congress alliance, accusing it of dragging Bihar into an era of lawlessness and corruption during its rule from 1990 to 2005. He said, "During the RJD regime, Bihar was plunged into crime, chaos and caste violence. Today, under the NDA government led by Prime Minister Modi



and Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, Bihar is witnessing the light of development and contributing to India emergence as a global

power." Urging voters to support the NDA, CM Yogi called for strengthening good governance and building a prosperous, corruption-free

Bihar. Drawing a parallel with Dev Deepawali celebrations in Varanasi, he said, "The festival benefits the Prajapati community as the money spent on earthen lamps supports farmers, priests, gardeners and pot- ters.

It honors faith while gener- ating employment. "Remembering Maa Janaki and Bihar revered personali- ties the Chief Minister said districts like Sasaram and Rohtas represent Bihar proud legacy—a legacy that the RJD and Congress tarnished

through corruption and mis- rule. He alleged that the Grand Alliance has once again "opened a shop of fraud in the name of elec- tions" and urged people not to let them return to power. CM Yogi also referred to a recent incident involving a daughter from Bihar who had gone to Varanasi for exam preparation and met with tragedy. He assured that the case is being investigated thoroughly, and a Special Investigation Team (SIT) will be formed.

CJI: New Bombay HC building should be temple of justice, not 7-star hotel



MUMBAI: CJI BR Gavai laid the foundation stone for the new high court complex in Bandra (East) on Wednesday and asked authorities to ensure there is no extravagance in its construction. "A court building is a temple of justice and not a seven star-hotel," CJI Gavai said. Addressing a gathering, he emphasised the new build- ing would house a constitu- tional court. He said its archi- tect, Hafeez Contractor, should ensure it depicts democratic values and not imperialist ones. "Judges are no longer feudal lords," the CJI said. "While planning court buildings, we concentrate on the needs of judges, but we should not for- get all of us exist for the needs of litigants, the citizens of the country who come to court to seek justice. Bar and bench are wheels of the golden chariot for the administration of jus- tice." Maharashtra CM Devendra Fadnis said he would request the contractor to ensure the complex encom- passes "democratic grandeur" so that all functional areas convey to citizens that they

will get justice here. Earlier in the day, the CJI inaugurated the project initia- tion ceremony for the city campus of the Maharashtra National Law University (MNLU) in Goregaon. Dilip Ukey, MNLU vice-chan- cellor, said the vision was to make it a hub of world-class legal education. The CJI invoked the contributions of Babasaheb Ambedkar to encourage students to be socially engaged. At the HC complex ceremony, the CJI said it was his last visit to the state before demitting the top judicial post on Nov 24, and noted he was satisfied with the judicial infrastructure in his home state. "I was reluctant to be part of this event. But now I am experi- encing gratitude that, as a judge who once discharged his duties in Bombay HC, I am ending my tenure with laying the foundation stone of the best court building in the entire country. The judiciary, legislature and executive must work under the Constitution to provide justice to society," he said.



Faith shimmered from the embrace of Mother Ganga as the crescent-shaped ghats of Kashi glowed with millions of lamps on the sacred occasion of Dev Deepawali.

Rajnath slams Rahul Gandhi, says don't drag Army into politics



Over Remarks On Army He said NDA support- ed reservation for social equity but "talk- ing about caste in the Army is against national interest". Politics of caste and religion, he added, had already caused great harm to country. Rahul had made the "10%" remark during an INDIA bloc rally in Aurangabad the previ- ous day, alleging that upper castes corner opportunities across institutions. Rajnath accused Rahul

of routinely making baseless allegations against constitutional bodies to mask the opposition's electoral failures. He said Congress and its allies had targeted EC with charges of vote theft without any proof. "They blame EC, which demands evi- dence, but they refuse to provide any. Fearing defeat in Bihar, they have now dropped another hydrogen bomb. The people of Bihar have already made them realise their defeat is

certain. That's why they are taking dips in ponds," he said, refer- ring to Rahul's boat- jump and swim in Begusarai recently. Campaigning in Jamui for the second phase of polling on Nov 11, Rajnath said Rahul's charge that EC influ- enced the Haryana polls to help NDA reflected "insecurity born of incompetence". author About the AuthorJai Narain Pandey The writer has a vast experience of over 30 years in th

NDA banks on reinforced alliance, welfare schemes to do well in opposition

NEW DELHI: NDA is banking on its reinforced alliance and the appeal of its welfare measures in regions going to polls in Bihar on Thursday to turn the tide in its favour in areas where the Mahagathbandhan (MGB) had edged past it in the last assembly election. In 2020, RJD-led opposition had won 61 of the 121 seats that go to polls in the first phase, against NDA's 59, performing strongly in

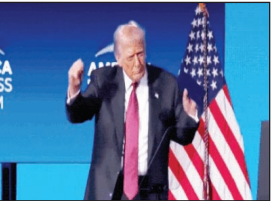


Shahabad region and key districts such as Patna, Bhojpur, Saran and Siwan. 'NDA Will Form Govt Again Under Nitish Kumar's Leadership': Bihar

Dy CM Vijay Sinha Ahead Of Polls Back then, Chirag Paswan's Lok Janshakti Party and Upendra Kushwaha, who headed RLSP, had fought separately, helping MGB gain ground in several con- stituencies, including Begusarai and Buxar. With both Paswan and Kushwaha back in NDA, alliance netas now believe their social coalition has been signifi- cantly strengthened. They

are also counting on the impact of the govt's welfare initiatives - notably the Rs 10,000 cash transfer to over 1.3 crore women - to sway the voters. In 50 seats across Patna, Bhojpur, Buxar, Saran, Siwan and Begusarai, MGB had bagged 35 in 2020. CPI-ML Liberation, with its strong base among the poor across caste lines, had played a crucial role in MGB's success.

After Mamdani's win, Trump says lost 'sovereignty' in New York — then breaks into his dance



decreased and that the United States was admired globally. He also said that Republicans lost support in this week's off-year elections because of messaging issues. He told the audience that communication was key, saying, "we have the greatest economy right now" and "a lot of people don't see that." "These are the things you have to talk about," Trump said to the crowd at Miami's Kaseya Centre.

A special court in Raipur, Chhattisgarh, had issued a non-bailable warrant India-UAE ties hit bump as Mahadev app accused vanishes from Dubai

NEW DELHI: The perplexing manner in which Ravi Uppal, a high-value accused in the Rs 6,000-crore Mahadev app money laundering case, left Dubai despite a pending extradi- tion request, puts a wrinkle on otherwise smooth UAE-India ties. UAE has also not informed New Delhi of where he has travelled to. Uppal was considered a big catch for Indian enforcement agencies, probing the illegal betting syndicate. Multiple agencies, including ED and CBI, were probing alleged payments of kickbacks of more than Rs 500 crore involving former Chhattisgarh CM and Congress leader Bhupesh Baghel. Uppal was recently released from Dubai police's custody despite the extradition request pending since Dec 2023, when he was arrested on an



Interpol Red Corner Notice. India has an extradition treaty with the UAE, and in the past, the latter had extradited high-profile accused, including British national Christian Michel, an arms dealer, held in the AgustaWestland VVIP chopper 'scam'. India had sent the extradition request "duly transmitted through official diplomatic

channels" after Dubai police informed New Delhi of Uppal's arrest in Dec 2023, sources said. "Despite timely submission and verifiable proof of delivery, UAE authorities later claimed that no extradition request had been received and released the accused. This assertion contra- dicts the documentation avail- able with the Indian side," a source said. While Enforcement Directorate (ED) has sought the ministry of external affairs (MEA) help to take up the mat- ter "at the highest diplomatic level" to ensure adherence to treaty commitments by the UAE, officials here are per- plexed by the manner in which such a high-profile accused has been allowed to disappear from custody despite a formal request for extradition pending and the Interpol's Red Corner Notice

still active. UAE authorities have also not informed India about Uppal's destination, which country he has travelled to while leaving the UAE. "MEA guidelines on extradition procedures clearly state that a formal extradition request must be submitted within 45 to 60 days from the date of provision- al arrest, and even if the fugitive is released, it does not preclude re-arrest and extradition once the request is received," a senior official said. Sourabh Chandrakar, who like Ravi Uppal is a promoter of the syn- dicate, is also under detention based on a similar Red Corner Notice. A special court in Raipur, Chhattisgarh, had issued a non-bailable warrant against them, leading to the Interpol notice for their arrest, and sub- sequently, extradition requests.

Stray dogs case: Chief secretaries of states tender apology

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

Bihar polls: Tejashwi Yadav, 2 deputy CMs, 13 mantris in 1st-phase Bihar battle today

PATNA: Ministers, movie and music stars, and a murder accused. The stage is set, the battle lines drawn. Bihar's political elite - CM hopeful Tejashwi Yadav of RJD, two deputy CMs, and 13 cabinet ministers - brace for a verdict from 3.75 crore voters in the first phase of assembly elections in 121 constituencies on Thursday. A total of 1,314 candidates are in the fray, their fate to be sealed in 45,341 polling stations across 18 districts. Nitish Kumar-led NDA has much at stake: of its 15 minis- ters in fray, 10 belong to BJP, including deputy CMs Samrat Choudhary (Tarapur) and Vijay Kumar Sinha (Lakhisarai), and five are from JD(U), including Vijay Kr Choudhary (Sarairanjan)



and education minister Sunil Kumar (Bhore). For INDIA bloc's CM face Tejashwi, the contest in Raghapur, his family's stronghold, is a test of dominance. Seeking a hat-trick, he faces Satish Kumar of BJP, who once humbled RJD patriarch Lalu Prasad's wife and former CM Rabri Devi in 2010 as a JD(U) nominee. Jan Suraj's Prashant Kishor, who had vowed to challenge him, later stepped back. Tej. Anant Singh and

Maithili to face battle for ballots today Tejashwi's elder brother Tej Pratap Yadav is contesting from Mahua in Vaishali district under his new Janshakti Janata Dal ban- ner. Tej Pratap was expelled from RJD earlier this year after contro- versies over his personal life. In Tarapur, BJP's Samrat Choudhary — contesting a direct election after nearly a decade — seeks to prove his mettle against RJD's Arun Kumar Sah, who narrowly lost the last bypolls. In Lakhisarai, deputy CM Vijay Sinha eyes a fourth straight term against Congress's Amresh Kumar and Jan Suraj's Suraj Kumar. The drama peaks in Mokama, where JDU strongman Anant Singh faces RJD's Veena Devi.

Rahul cooking up excuses for impending loss in Bihar: BJP



Bihar poll in-charge Dharmendra Pradhan added, "Rahul Gandhi has become a research centre of lies and false narratives." "Nobody takes him seriously. But he cannot escape the responsi- bility for another failure despite all these ploys," Pradhan said, adding the presser was a gimmick aimed at shielding himself against the opposition's impending Bihar defeat.

"The truth is he (Rahul) wants to wash his hands of the impending defeat by resorting to such ploys. He knows the Mahagathbandhan is in tat- ters and people are continu- ously rejecting them," Rijiju said several Congress netas, including Kumari Selja, have blamed internal reasons for its defeat in Haryana. Citing Rahul's claim that a woman voted

223 times in two booths, BJP IT department head Amit Malviya said it is "downright laughable" as it amounts to one vote being cast every three minutes, considering polling is con- ducted between 7 am to 6 pm. "And, apparently, no one - not security personnel, not polling officers verify- ing IDs - noticed this super- woman showing up every three minutes across two booths. Never mind the time it takes to queue up, get ver- ified, and hop from one location to another...." Malviya said on X. Rijiju said Rahul Gandhi or Congress never followed due process or went to courts even though every political party and candidate has access to electoral roll, and voting and counting.

Today, girls feel safe and are fearlessly leaving their homes

Phaphamau. Today, girls feel safe and are fearlessly leaving their homes and pursuing their education. Keeping in mind the safety and respect of girls, the Mission Shakti campaign is being run. Mission Shakti centers have been established in every police station, where female police beat officers have been appointed. Currently, the Mission Shakti campaign is proving to be a success. On , a grand program was organized at Ganga Rishikulam School in Phaphamau as part of Mission Shakti Campaign Phase 5.0. In which ACP Tharwai Chandrapal Singh, Block Education Officer Soraon Suman Mishra and all the guests were honored with badges and robes. The program was inaugurated by lighting a lamp. The girl students gave their melodious presentations on Mission Shakti in a grand manner. The children gave presentations in Hindi and English language to empower women regarding their safety and respect under Mission Shakti. During this, the children also recited poems on Mission Shakti. ACP Tharwai Chandrapal Singh, present on the occasion, taught the lesson of women power. He told that education plays an important role in today's time and if one wants to achieve the goal, then hard work and true dedication are required. ACP Tharwai highlighted the importance of education, stating that if anyone obstructs their education in any way, they can report it. She also advised that if daughters and girls leave their homes and are harassed on the streets, they should not panic and use the helpline numbers provided. She also provided information about government-run schemes such as the Kanya Sumangala Yojana, Sukanya Samridhhi Yojana, Destitute Women's Pension Scheme, Chief Minister's Labor and Chief Minister's Mass .

His death caused chaos among his family members

Kaushambi. On morning, in Ramdayalpur village, a hamlet of Kaju village in the Charwa area, a young man who had returned from Delhi after a dispute with his wife shot himself. His death caused chaos among his family members. Hearing the gunshot, villagers rushed to the scene, spreading panic throughout the village. Police arrived after the incident, inspected the scene, took possession of the body, sent it for post-mortem, and have launched an investigation. According to information, Dharampal Singh, a resident of Ramdayalpur village, a hamlet of Kaju village in the Charwa police station area, has five sons who live in Delhi with their families and work in private jobs. His youngest son, Jai Babu, 30, had been in a love relationship with Karishma, daughter of Sanjeet Singh, from Kaju village, his hamlet, for about six years.

The banks of the Saryu River were illuminated with 11,000 lamps on the occasion of the Dwadash Dev Deepawali

Deva Deepawali is a festival marking the beginning of auspicious events: Dr. Anand Gond, MP

Bahraich

On the auspicious occasion of Kartik Purnima, the Pratibha Sanrakshan Seva Trust celebrated the Dwadash Dev Deepawali at the Shri Mari Mata Temple complex on the sacred banks of the Saryu River. The organization's officials and members lit 11,000 lamps and pledged to destroy the darkness of ignorance. The program was inaugurated by MP Dr. Anand Gaur, MLA Subhash Tripathi, Payagpur and MLC Bahraich Shrivasti Dr. Pragya Tripathi, who jointly lit the lamps. The Trust State Patron Ghanshyam Vajpayee and State President Dr. Devendra Kumar Upadhyay presided over the function. Chief Guest Dr. Anand Gaur, addressing the organization officials, said that just as a single lamp cuts through



the dense darkness, it illuminates and enlightens the entire society. Similarly, we should become lamps and dispel the darkness of ignorance that pervades every section of society. The officials of the Pratibha Sanrakshan Seva Trust have demonstrated this by organizing various programs in society and therefore, the organization deserves thanks and congratulations. Special guest MLA Subhash Tripathi said that the trust works in various fields, including

education, health, the environment, spirituality and cow protection. By organizing Dev Deepawali, the organization has given Bahraich district an important festival. Special guest Dr. Pragya Tripathi said that this event has been held since 2014 and continues to be held in a progressive manner.

She said, "As the state patron of this organization, I extend my heartfelt congratulations and best wishes to all the officials of the trust on the

occasion of the 12th Dev Deepawali." State President Dr. Devendra Kumar Upadhyay said that while studying at BHU, after seeing the Dev Deepawali in Kashi, he decided to celebrate Dev Deepawali in Bahraich as well. This initiative was started in 2014 with the support of the organization officials and workers and continues uninterrupted. Dr. Upadhyay explained why Dev Deepawali is celebrated. There is a mythological belief that a demon named Tripurasura, through his penance, appeased Lord Brahma and became the most powerful demon in the three worlds. He inflicted his atrocities on both the heavens and the mortal realms. The earth became drenched in blood. All the gods approached Lord Shiva and requested him to slay this demon. Lord Shiva slew

Tripurasura and protected both gods and humans. From that moment on, the gods began celebrating Dev Deepawali. This tradition has continued in Kashi ever since and is now being implemented in Bahraich. He appealed to the residents of the district to participate in large numbers so that the Dev Deepawali program can be expanded throughout the district. The program was addressed by State Secretary Dhruv Kumar Mishra, State Publicity Chief Amarnath Mishra, Sanjay Singh, Anant Ram Nishad, Suresh Srivastava, DGC Ajay Sharma, Bajrangbali Pathak, Atul Gaur, Ashish Singh, Ekta Jaiswal, Adarsh Shukla, Rakesh Gupta, Suraj Shukla, Pramod Singh, Chauhan, Nitish, Rohit Chaudhary, Pankaj Singh, Rajneesh Gupta, Ayush Jaiswal, Hanuman Gupta,

Uttam Singh, Rishi Chaudhary, Pundrik Pandey, Ravindra Nath Mishra, Shrinath Shukla, Durgesh Pandey, Sandeep Singh Bisen, Chief Kaiserganj, Radheshyam Yadav, Ashok Madheshiya etc. On this occasion, former district president Shyamkaran Tekriwal, Dr. Abhilasha Verma, City Magistrate Rajesh Prasad, ASP Ramanand Kushwaha, Kaushlendra Singh, Umesh Singh, Siddhant Vajpayee, provincial harmony chief Rajkishore, department campaigner Krishna Kumar, district campaigner Ajay, campaign chief Bhupendra Singh, Dharmendra Singh, Tejwarpur block in-charge Abhishek Shukla, Praveen Singh, Shiva Tiwari, Rakesh Singh, Chancharik Pandey, Rakesh Mishra, Manikant Mishra etc. were present.

Major road accident in fog, four tragic deaths

Bahraich

Dense fog on the Bahraich-Fakharpur road on Wednesday morning claimed four lives. Due to poor visibility caused by the fog, a dumper (truck) collided with a roadways bus. A motorcycle was also hit by the dumper, killing four people on the spot. The deceased included a child, a woman and two men. The incident occurred around 6:10 a.m. on Wednesday. Reportedly, the dumper (truck) number UP 78 JN 9855, traveling from Fakharpur to Bahraich, failed to see the roadways bus ahead due to the fog. In an attempt to avoid a collision, the truck driver first swerved left, then right. Meanwhile, the rear of the roadways bus collided



with the truck, causing the truck to lose control. At the same time, a motorcycle, UP 40 BF 9163, coming from the opposite direction, was hit by the truck and dragged into a roadside ditch. All four people on the motorcycle died on the spot in the accident. The deceased were identified as Chandra Kishore, 35, son of Kuware Singh, resident of Manikpur Bhagwanpur,

Police Station Nanpara, Bahraich district, Senu, 28, wife of Karan, Karan, 32, son of Rajkumar; and Vicky, 3, son of Karan, all residents of Lahuhi, Police Station Khairighat, Bahraich district. Upon receiving the information, Fakharpur police arrived at the scene and took possession of the bodies and sent them for post-mortem. The dumper driver was appre-

hended on the spot. Peace and order prevailed in the area. According to locals the accident occurred due to dense fog and high speed. The scene that morning was horrific. Vehicle parts were scattered all over the road. Police have taken the vehicle into custody and initiated further investigation. Additional Superintendent of Police, City Bahraich, stated that a police team arrived at the scene as soon as information about the accident was received. The bodies were taken into custody and sent for post-mortem examination. Traffic is currently running smoothly, and peace and order prevails in the area. The police have registered a case and initiated further investigation.

A woman died tragically during childbirth.

Akhand Bharat Sandesh

Kaushambi. After a woman delivered at a government hospital in Nevada, her condition began to deteriorate. Due to the absence of doctors, the woman was unable to receive treatment at the government hospital, leaving her distressed and admitted to a private hospital. However, when she showed no improvement, her family took her to Allahabad, where she died. The health system has once again raised serious questions about the healthcare system.



The woman's death has left the family in a state of disarray. According to information, Shivlochan, approximately 30 years old, wife of Dhananjay, a resident of Makhupur under the Pipri police station, was admitted to Nevada PHC on the

morning of Tuesday, November 4th, for delivery. Shortly after, she gave birth to a child. A female doctor was not present at the hospital, and hospital staff referred the victim to the district hospital, citing her condition as critical. Seeing her critical condition, the family admitted her to a private hospital near Tilhapur. The woman was treated at the private hospital for approximately an hour, but the doctors failed to control her blood pressure and gave up. The helpless and desperate family members hurriedly took the woman in a

critical condition to Prayagraj and admitted her to a private hospital where she died during treatment. After the death of the woman, there was chaos among the family members. The woman left behind three children Divyanshi (6 years), Ayanshi (4 years), and a newborn baby in her lap. After the death of the woman, big questions have once again been raised on the health system of Kaushambi whether the responsibility of delivery in government hospitals has been left to the health workers.

Bike riders returning from an engagement were crushed by a tractor, killing one

Akhand Bharat Sandesh

Mahewaghat, Kaushambi.

On Wednesday, a tractor collided with two bike riders near Punwar village in the West Sharira police station area, resulting in the tragic death of a young man on the spot. Another young man and a woman were seriously injured. The injured were taken to the hospital for treatment, and the police took the deceased's body into custody and sent it for post-mortem. The joyous atmosphere of the people returning from an engagement ceremony at a relative's house turned into sorrow in a matter of moments. The tractor driver



fled the scene after the accident and the police are searching for him. According to information, Krishna Kori, 30, son of Pappu Kori, a resident of Fatehpur, West Sharira police station, was returning home with his wife, Sunita Devi, and friend, Manoj Kumar, son of Birbali, after attending the engagement cer-

emony. As the three bike riders approached Punwar village, an uncontrolled, speeding tractor suddenly collided with their bike. The impact was so severe that Krishna Kori died tragically on the spot, while his wife, Sunita Devi, and friend, Manoj, fell on the road, suffering serious injuries. After the accident, people from the

vicinity reached the spot and informed the police station about the incident. As soon as the information was received, the police reached the spot and took the bodies into custody and sent them for postmortem. Both the injured were admitted to the district hospital by ambulance, where the condition of both is said to be critical. After the accident, the tractor driver fled leaving the vehicle. The police have started searching for the absconding driver. There is an atmosphere of mourning in the village after the accident. This tragedy that suddenly struck the family returning happily shocked everyone.

District Agriculture Officer conducts surprise inspection of fertilizer shops, collects five fertilizer samples

Bahraich

District Agriculture Officer Dr. Subedar Yadav conducted a surprise inspection and raid in the Balha and Mihipurwa areas. During the raid, five fertilizer samples were collected from 10 fertilizer establishments found to be suspicious, and two vendors were issued show-cause notices. Dr. Yadav directed all fertilizer vendors to sell fertilizer at the government-determined price by verifying the land records through POS machines and Aadhaar cards. Along with fertilizer distribution, maintain a stock and distribution register, keeping a daily update of stock and fertilizer purchaser records, and sell fertilizer at the prescribed price. The fertilizer sellers of



the district have been warned that if any seller is found committing irregularities and black marketing fertilizers in the border states, selling fertilizers without license and suspicious fertilizers, then strict action will be taken against the concerned person as per Fertilizer Control Order 1985, Fertilizer Circulation Control Order 1973, Essential Commodities Act

1955. The District Agriculture Officer has suggested to the farmers of the district that if any person in the district sells fertilizers without license or suspicious, then a complaint should be lodged against that shopkeeper in the District Agriculture Officer office so that action can be taken against the concerned person as per the rules.

Border Unrest in Uriamghat: Angry Protesters Chant “Himanta Biswa Sarma Failed, Atul Bora Failed”

Assam

Tension flared again along the Assam-Nagaland border on Tuesday as thousands of residents of Uriamghat in Assam Golaghat district staged a massive protest against the state government, accusing it of inaction over recurring border encroachments and security lapses. The protest site echoed with chants of “Himanta Biswa Sarma ka kaam nahi, Atul Bora ka kaam nahi” (Himanta Biswa Sarma has failed, Atul Bora has failed), as demonstrators expressed anger over what they called the government's “complete neglect” of border villages facing continuous threats from across Nagaland. Men, women and elderly villagers participated in the “Jan Hunkar” demonstration, raising concerns about repeated encroachments, violent clashes and land grabs allegedly carried out by groups from Nagaland. Protesters said these incidents had disrupted not only their livelihood but also their sense of security. “Even children here live in fear. We take night patrols ourselves because no one comes to protect us,” said one elderly villager, tears in his eyes.



Women took center stage in the demonstration, carrying banners and voicing deep frustration with government apathy. One participant said, “Every election brings promises, but when bullets are fired at the border, no leader comes to see us.” Many warned that if the government fails to act, they would march to Guwahati to stage a sit-in protest. Several organizations participated in the agitation, including the All Assam Students' Union (AASU) All Assam Tribal Youth Front, Seemanta Mahila Samiti, and Kisan Parishad. The meeting concluded with a unanimous resolution to continue the movement until a permanent resolution of the border issue is achieved. Five Key Demands Raised by Protesters: Establish permanent military outposts along the border. Provide immediate

compensation and rehabilitation for affected families. Form a joint central-state committee for a lasting resolution of the Assam-Nagaland border dispute. Restore roads, schools, and healthcare facilities in all border villages. Enact a strict legal framework to prevent future encroachments. Following the protest, authorities deployed additional police forces in the region and said the situation was tense but under control. However, locals dismissed the move as a temporary fix, insisting on a lasting security mechanism. Local organizations announced a “Jan Jagaran Rally” in Guwahati next week, expected to draw thousands from border areas. Political observers say the movement has become a serious warning sign for the state government.

UP Board Exam 2026 schedule released, exams will begin on February 18th and continue until March 12th

Prayagraj

The Uttar Pradesh Board of Secondary Education (UP Board) has released the schedule for the 2026 high school and intermediate examinations. According to Board Secretary Bhagwati Singh, the UP Board exams will begin on February 18th, 2026, and conclude on March 12th, 2026. The exams will be conducted in two shifts as before: the first shift will be from 8:30 am to 11:45 am, and the second shift will be from 2:00 pm to 5:15 pm. This time, both UP Board exams will be completed in a total of 15 working days. The high school exams will begin on February 18th with the Hindi subject and conclude on March 12th with the Agriculture subject exam. The Intermediate examination



will begin with General Hindi on February 18th and conclude with the Computer subject examination on March 12th. This time, the Board has decided to give students sufficient preparation time between subjects so that they can prepare well for the examination. The Board has also issued guidelines for conducting practical examinations. Computer and Sewing examinations for high school students will be held on February 19th, while Intermediate students will also have their vocational subject examinations on the same day. English and Sanskrit examinations for Intermediate have been scheduled for the follow-

ing day, i.e., February 20th. According to the Board of Secondary Education, Prayagraj, a total of 52,30,297 students have registered for the UP Board examination this year. These include 27,50,945 students in high school (14,38,682 boys and 13,12,263 girls) and 24,79,352 students in intermediate (13,03,012 boys and 11,76,340 girls). Board Secretary Bhagwati Singh stated that all schools have been instructed to complete preparations on time and ensure necessary arrangements at examination centers. He stated that the UP Board examinations will be conducted fairly and transparently. A detailed plan is also being prepared for the evaluation of answer sheets so that results can be declared within the stipulated timeframe.

Thousands of people were made aware of cyber fraud at the Kartik Purnima fair held under the Mission Shakti program

Bahraich

On the first Wednesday of November, as part of a cyber awareness campaign, in compliance with the orders of the Superintendent of Police, Bahraich, under the able guidance of the Additional Superintendent of Police, Bahraich Rural and the expert supervision of the Circle Officer, City Officer and the Circle Officer/Assistant Nodal Officer, Cyber, the Holiya Ghat, ancient Kartik Purnima fair located in the remote, inaccessible area of the district, near the India-Nepal international border, Nawabganj Police Station, thousands of people who attended the Holiya Ghat, an ancient Kartik Purnima fair, were made aware of the two-step verification of their mobile phone and social media ID, the use of strong passwords for important apps installed on their mobile phones, the need to avoid links and APK files received on their mobile phones and other cyber frauds. They were also made aware of the instructions received from senior officials and urged them to educate themselves and those around them about cyber security. To avoid cyber fraud and in case of cyber fraud, they were told to use the National Crime Reporting Portal helpline number 1930 and the official website cybercrime.gov.in.



The Sangam city was illuminated by the grand and divine light of Dev Deepawali



Akhand Bharat Sandesh

Prayagraj. On the occasion of Kartik Purnima, the district administration and Prayagraj Mela Authority organized a grand and divine celebration of Dev Deepawali in the Sangam area on Wednesday. Approximately 1 million diyas were lit on the occasion at Sangam Nose and other ghats. District Magistrate Manish Kumar Verma welcomed all the honored guests with robes and bouquets.

Sand art, Ganga Aarti, cultural programs, and fireworks were organized on the occasion of Dev Deepawali. On the auspicious occasion of Dev Deepawali, Chief Guests, Justice Manoj Kumar Gupta of the Allahabad High Court, Justice Chandradhari Singh, Justice Neeraj Tiwari, Justice Brij Raj Singh, Justice Anish Kumar Gupta, Justice Nand Prabha Shukla, Justice Swarupama Chaturvedi, Member of the Legislative Council Surendra Chaudhary,

ADG Zone Sanjeev Gupta, Inspector General Ajay Kumar Mishra, Divisional Commissioner Soumya Agarwal, Police Commissioner Jogendra Kumar, Additional Police Commissioner Dr. Ajay Pal Sharma, Municipal Commissioner Seelam Sai Teja, Prayagraj Development Authority Vice Chairman Rishi Raj, and other administrative officials performed a grand aarti of Goddess Triveni with Vedic chanting, followed by the offering of lamps. Responsibilities were assigned to various departments for the successful completion of Dev Deepawali, and arrangements were made accordingly. The venue was attractively decorated, with adequate lighting and other necessary arrangements for the devotees.

A large number of people, along with all the relevant departmental officials, were present on the occasion. The program was conducted by Dr. Ranjana Tripathi



he significance of Dev Diwali is not limited to Kashi alone; it has become a symbol of devotion, virtue

After killing Tripurasura, devotees of Baba Bhole Shankar celebrated Dev Deepawali

Akhand Bharat Sandesh

Kaushambi. Dev Deepawali holds special significance in the district, and people from city to town to village lit lamps on Dev Deepawali. The significance of Dev Diwali is not limited to Kashi alone; it has become a symbol of devotion, virtue, and light throughout India. On this day, people bathe in the holy waters of the Ganga and Yamuna rivers, light lamps in temples, and illuminate the doors of their homes. It is believed that lamps lit on this day not only dispel darkness but also open the path to freedom from sins and happiness and prosperity in life. According to mythological belief, there is an interesting story behind Dev Diwali, which is why this day is also known as Tripurari Purnima. According to the legend recounted in the Shiva Purana, a demon named Tripurasura was extremely

village lit lamps on Dev Deepawali. The significance of Dev Diwali is not limited to Kashi alone; it has become a symbol of devotion, virtue, and light throughout India. On this day, people bathe in the holy waters of the Ganga and Yamuna rivers, light lamps in temples, and illuminate the doors of their homes. It is believed that lamps lit on this day not only dispel darkness but also open the path to freedom from sins and happiness and prosperity in life. According to mythological belief, there is an interesting story behind Dev Diwali, which is why this day is also known as Tripurari Purnima. According to the legend recounted in the Shiva Purana, a demon named Tripurasura was extremely



powerful. It is said that the demon Tarakasura had three sons: Tarakaksha, Kamalaksha, and Vidyumali.

Together, these three sons formed the Tripurasura demon. Due to their extraordinary power and arrogance,

these three became a threat to the gods. When Lord Kartikeya vanquished Tarakasura, his three sons performed penance in the fire of vengeance, pleasing Lord Brahma. Brahma allowed them to ask for any boon, except immortality. Then, the three cleverly asked for a boon that was almost as good as immortality. They stated that their death would only be possible if all three were in a single line, during the Abhijit Nakshatra, and if someone killed them with a single arrow.

Brahma accepted this boon. After this, Tripurasura unleashed terror in all three worlds—gods, sages, and humans alike were afflicted by his atrocities. When his atrocities reached their peak,

the gods sought refuge in Lord Shiva. Baba Bholenath Mahadev resolved to destroy Tripurasura. He made the earth his chariot, the sun and moon its wheels, Mount Meru its bow, and the serpent Vasuki its bowstring. Lord Vishnu himself became the arrow. As soon as the Abhijit Nakshatra arrived, Lord Shiva killed all three Tripurasuras—Tarakaksha, Kamalaksha, and Vidyumali—with a single arrow. It is said that after this victory, the gods celebrated by lighting lamps, and from then on, the tradition of celebrating "Dev Deepawali" on the full moon day of Kartik began. This festival symbolizes the victory of light when Lord Shiva vanquished both darkness and ego.

Father and son injured in land dispute, tension in village

Akhand Bharat Sandesh

Prayagraj. A violent clash broke out between two parties over a land dispute in Nasirpatti village, under the Sarayammarej police station area. A father and son from the same family were seriously injured. According to reports, Anil Kumar Yadav, a resident of the village, has been in a long-standing dispute with his relatives, Shivdhar Yadav, Anil Yadav, and Sushil Yadav, over land division. In the latest dispute, the accused allegedly began abusing Anil Kumar. When he resisted, he was attacked with sticks and kicks. When Anil's father, Harishchandra Yadav, came to intervene, he too was verbally abused and attacked by the accused. Both father and son suffered serious head and body



injuries. Villagers intervened and defused the situation. The Sarayammarej police station was immediately informed of the incident. A police team arrived at the scene and transported the injured to the community health center, where they received first aid. The injured, Anil Kumar, has filed a complaint at the Sarayammarej police station against Shivdhar Yadav, Anil Yadav, and Sushil Yadav for abusing, assaulting, and threatening to kill him. The station in-charge stated that the matter is being investigated and strict action will be taken against the accused based on the evidence.

Editorial

18 And King: Gukesh's
Stunning Chess Victory

India, became the undisputed king of the chess world on December 12 after defeating the defending champion, Ding Liren of China. He triumphed in a thrilling endgame—the final match of a 14-game series—in a dramatic turn of events. The endgame, which extended beyond five hours and was widely expected to end in a draw, saw Gukesh prevail with a masterful performance. Prior to the 2024 edition, there had been 50 editions of the World Chess Championship since its inception in 1886, when Wilhelm Steinitz won the first title. Over the years, the championship has been won by 17 individuals. Gukesh now becomes the 51st World Chess Champion and only the eighteenth person to achieve this pinnacle of success. And he has done it in style, defeating Ding Liren 7½–6½ at the conclusion of the 14-game match. “Historic and exemplary! Congratulations to Gukesh D on his remarkable accomplishment. This is the result of his unparalleled talent, hard work, and unwavering determination. His triumph has not only etched his name in the annals of chess history but has also inspired millions of young minds to dream big and pursue excellence.” Viswanathan Anand, the only other Indian to hold the title of World Chess Champion and mentor to Gukesh, tweeted on X: “Congratulations! It’s a proud moment for chess, a proud moment for India, a proud moment for WACA, and for me, a very personal moment of pride. Ding played a very exciting match and showed the champion he is.” More significantly, among the eighteen World Chess Champions in history, the blossoming Gukesh has stunned the world by becoming the youngest-ever king of the 64 squares at the age of 18 years, 6 months, and 14 days. Before Gukesh, the youngest player to win the World Chess Championship was Garry Kasparov, often regarded as the greatest chess player in history. Kasparov became World Chess Champion at the age of 22 years and 210 days, defeating Anatoly Karpov in 1985. Between 1985 and 2000, Kasparov won the championship a record six times (1985, 1986, 1987, 1990, 1993, 1995), thereby equalling the record of the first World Champion, Wilhelm Steinitz, who held the crown six times between 1886 and 1921. A prodigy, Gukesh started playing chess at the age of six, and as he himself says after becoming World Champion, he harboured this audacious dream for the last ten years, since he was eight years old. Unsurprisingly, winning young soon became the way of life for Gukesh. His first international win was at the Asian School Junior Championship in the Under-9 category in 2015, followed by winning the World Youth Chess Championship in the Under-12 category. Gukesh continued his impressive run by pocketing five gold medals at the 2018 Asian Youth Championship in the Under-12 category — in individual rapid, blitz, team rapid, team blitz, and individual classical formats. Gukesh completed the requirements for the title of International Master in March 2017 at the age of ten, at the 34th Cappelle-la-Grande Open. His rise thereafter has been meteoric, making “winning young” synonymous with being Gukesh. On January 15, 2019, he became the world’s third youngest Grandmaster at the age of 12 years, 7 months, and 17 days. Apart from becoming the third youngest Grandmaster, Gukesh also became the third youngest player to reach a chess rating of 2700 and the youngest to reach a rating of 2750. Gukesh becoming World Chess Champion is a moment of triple delight. Here is the story Bharat is the birthplace of chess — a game first discovered during the Gupta period. Undoubtedly, chess is a gift from Bharat to the world, but it was later relegated to the backdrop.

of Munshi Premchand’s story “Shatranj Ke Khiladi.” Even



It delivered two Ming-class submarines to Bangladesh in 2017, gifted a P625 frigate to Sri Lanka in 2019, and committed to exporting Yuan-class submarines to Thailand. Although the Thai deal encountered difficulties when Germany refused to supply key propulsion components. Thailand decided to proceed with the acquisition, underscoring China’s persistence in maintaining its naval export commitments.

Additionally, Pakistan is set to acquire at least eight Hangor-class submarines and other naval equipment from Beijing, further enhancing China’s presence in the region. India has increasingly aligned itself with Western naval powers to address maritime challenges through collaborative efforts. France was among its earliest Western partners, and the countries’ cooperation has grown stronger over time. India also participates in joint maritime missions with European nations and European Union Naval Force (EUNAVFOR) initiatives such as Operation Atlanta and Aspides. Furthermore, India contributes to significant maritime security dialogues such as the Coordinated Maritime Presence (CMP) and Enhancing Security Cooperation In And With Asia (ESIWA). India’s 2023 inclusion in the Combined Maritime Forces (CMF), led by the US Central Command, underscores its dedication to enhancing collaborative security in the western Indian Ocean. The



IFC-IOR exemplifies India’s commitment to collective security, even though it remains a preliminary step toward a more robust maritime security framework. Advancing to the next level will require India to engage in the technically complex task of real-time information sharing through secure legal frameworks beyond Open-Source Intelligence (OSINT). The Quad’s Indo-Pacific Maritime Domain Awareness (IPMDA) initiative highlights the challenges in achieving seamless data-sharing capabilities. To counter hybrid threats and protect critical infrastructure, India must prioritise sharing vital intelligence and deploying unmanned systems for coordinated surveillance. Strengthening such partnerships will bolster India’s naval capabilities and contribute to broader maritime security across the Indian Ocean Region. The commissioning of new naval platforms marks a significant milestone for India but also highlights persistent

challenges, particularly in achieving technological self-reliance in engine manufacturing. Although the INS Surat, INS Nilgiri, and INS Vagsheer were designed by India’s Warship Design Bureau and built by Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited, their engines were procured from foreign manufacturers, exposing a critical dependence on external sources. INS Surat, the fourth and final ship of the P15B Guided Missile Destroyer Project, employs a Combined Gas Turbine and Gas Turbine (COGAG) propulsion system. This system uses Me6E and DT-59 reversible engines sourced from Ukraine’s Zorya Mashproekt, a key supplier for India’s frontline warships. Despite the ongoing war in Ukraine, India has continued to rely on Zorya, underscoring the critical nature of this dependence. To secure the supply chain, Bharat Forge acquired a 51 per cent stake in Zorya’s India arm in 2023. Similarly, INS Nilgiri, the first ship of

the P17A Stealth Frigate Project, launched in 2019, uses a Combined Diesel and Gas (CODAG) propulsion system. This system incorporates LM2500 engines from General Electric in the US and MAN diesel engines from Germany, further emphasising India’s reliance on imported technology despite its strong indigenous design capabilities. INS Vagsheer, the sixth and final submarine of the P75 Scorpene project developed in collaboration with France, also depends on imported MTU diesel engines from Germany. However, the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) plans to integrate an Air-Independent Propulsion (AIP) system during its mid-life refit, aiming to modernise India’s aging underwater fleet and bridge existing capability gaps. This reliance on foreign propulsion systems exposes a significant vulnerability in India’s defence ecosystem. Achieving indigenous engine development remains a long-term aspiration, potentially requiring two to three decades to realise. The evolving threat environment underscores the necessity for advancements in underwater drones and other crewless systems. India’s recent acquisitions take the story forward but until complemented by Unmanned Underwater Vehicles (UUVs), remain at risk. It is important to note that modern naval warfare is increasingly influenced by hybrid strategies, including anti-

access/area-denial (A2/AD) tactics, electronic warfare, and the deployment of autonomous platforms. Hybrid warfare tactics, such as seabed operations and cyber warfare, have further expanded the threat landscape. Naval drones are capable of reconnaissance, surveillance, and precision strikes. They offer cost-effective solutions and reduce the risks to human life. These platforms, equipped with sensors and explosives, offer a versatile and cost-effective alternative to traditional naval forces. The rise of Ukrainian Magura V5 in 2023 is a testament to the potential of these technologies in the battle for Black Sea. Sea drones have proven to serve as a first line of defence in hostile maritime environments. For India, investing and embracing these technologies is crucial for enhancing its power projection capabilities as a blue-water navy and remaining competitive. As Modi prepares to visit France in February 2025, the talks will likely focus on finalising deals for additional Scorpene submarines and exploring advancements in underwater drones. France’s offer of advanced UUVs presents a critical opportunity for India to bolster its maritime capabilities and balance high-tech Chinese UUVs such as the HSU-001. However, this must be accompanied by strategic investments in research and development to achieve long-term self-reliance.

Why Syrians Are Between A
Rock And A Hard Place

The replacement of the much-reviled Bashar al-Assad regime in Syria by a so-called “rebel force” that is actually just an Islamist offshoot of al-Qaeda and ISIS—which, remember, was headquartered in the Syrian city of Raqqa from 2014 to 2017—once again underlines how the turbulent history of that region is painted in countless shades of grey. As if the ongoing war between Israel and the equally Islamist Hamas left you in any doubt about that, of course. The Assads had ruled Syria with a mix of fear and murderous brutality for over 50 years. But that family, their Ba’ath Party and that general cohort were not religious fanatics. In fact, they professed the sort of secular socialism which evolved into the crony socialism-cum-authoritarianism seen in many countries ruled by similarly inclined people and parties. Even India and the Congress Party of the mid-1970s were not unlike Syria during that same period. The difference, of course, is that the

Emergency in India marked the apogee and also the end of authoritarianism. India never degenerated into a single-party rule—which appears to be the main cause of the rise of the Islamist factions all over West Asia today. Ironically, authoritarian secularism (and in Syria’s case, also minority rule by the Shia Alawite tribe of the Assads) has led to the ascent of doctrinaire Sunni Islam and power being captured by its adherents.

As the news channels broke the news of the fall of Assad’s government in Syria, I saw London’s Oxford Street become an impromptu victory procession of cars with young men honking, shouting and hanging out of windows brandishing their homeland’s distinctive opposition flag. It continued for well over an hour without any of London’s uniformed finest visible. Maybe the Metropolitan Police were just relieved it was not yet another fraught pro-Gaza demonstration.

The Khalil Haqqani assassination
shows a power struggle in Afghanistan

Gunfire erupted from the back window of a car driving past the fairground in Karachi’s Liaquatabad: The blood of the dead was soaked up by posters and buntings calling for support of the jihad in Kashmir. Few people, an American diplomat reported in a secret cable on the February 1995 massacre, had heard of the group that had organised the fundraising event: Harkat-ul-Ansar. The Harkat, he wrote, was made up of Afghan jihad veterans who had served under Islamist warlord Jalaluddin Haqqani. The organisation promised “permanent jihad against Governments which they accuse of persecuting Muslims.” Four years later, months after their country had bombed his camps in Afghanistan, American diplomats came face-to-face with Jalaluddin, hoping to persuade him to hand over Osama Bin Laden. The warlord was exquisitely polite: It was, he said, “good to meet someone from the country which had destroyed my base, my madrasa, and killed 25 of my mujahideen.” He declined the request to hand over al-Qaeda’s chief. Earlier this week, Khalil-ur-Rehman Haqqani—brother to Jalaluddin, uncle to his heir Sirajuddin, and a key figure in the network responsible for over 1,000 suicide bombings in Afghanistan—was killed in a suicide attack claimed by the Islamic State. There’s more to the story, though, than mere irony. Less than a week before his uncle’s assassination, Sirajuddin, the Islamic Emirate’s deputy chief, had lashed out at its Emir, Hibatullah Akhundzada, for labelling the Taliban’s opponents “infidels or apostates.” Tensions also flared over the imposition of taxes in Haqqani-ruled territories, which had been exempted for over a century. Likely, the gushing praise of his errant second-in-command in the Western press further stoked Hibatullah’s rage. Most importantly, Islamabad has grown increasingly concerned about the Haqqanis’

failure to enforce the ceasefire they negotiated with Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) terrorists, who are regularly striking across the border. Once described by a senior American intelligence officer as a “veritable arm” of Pakistan’s Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI), the Haqqanis now appear to be slipping out of Islamabad’s control. “I do not know who carried out this act,” Sirajuddin proclaimed at his uncle’s funeral—a statement of obvious significance, coming hours after the Islamic State claimed responsibility. Emir Hibatullah chose not to attend the last rites. From their strongholds in the remote Shah-i Kot mountains, Haqqani wireless operators once relayed news of the trials of war to the ISI. “Brother Jan, you are very waek writer by English [sic.]” one irate message from 1989 reads, perhaps protesting delays in supplies. Following 9/11, the once-powerful jihadist citadel seemed to crumble. Late in 2007, with peace on the horizon, the United States funded the construction of an all-weather asphalt road cutting north-west from Khost to Gardez along paths Haqqani forces had once used to assault Soviet and Afghan troops. The Indian subcontractors hired for the \$176 million project came under relentless terrorist attacks, halting construction.

The problem was resolved only when \$1 million a month was arranged for the Haqqani network. The warlord whom Texas Congressman Charlie Wilson once called “goodness personified” was now being financed by the very country that had come to Afghanistan to destroy jihad. Ever since the 1970s, Jalaluddin waged war against Afghanistan’s socialist rulers, providing northeastern access through his Loya Paktia stronghold to ISI-backed Islamists. The network’s leadership was drawn from seminars linked to the Dar-ul-Ulum Haqqaniyya in Akora Khattak, south-east of Peshawar, where Jalaluddin had been a student. The insurrection

How Noida's Jewar Airport Will Transform India's Aviation Sector

Noida International Airport Ltd (NIAL) at Jewar, in the Gautam Buddha Nagar district of Uttar Pradesh, conducted its first flight validation test on 9 December. According to NIAL officials, the first commercial flight from Noida International Airport is scheduled to take off on 17 April 2025. Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi had inaugurated the construction of NIAL during a well-attended foundation stone-laying ceremony on 25 November 2021. An IndiGo test flight travelled from Delhi’s Indira Gandhi International Airport (IGIA) to NIAL, completing the final security-related analysis for the facility. Officials stated that



the flight was conducted under close coordination between the pilots and the air traffic controllers (ATC). There were no passengers on board when the flight landed on the 3.9-kilometre runway shortly after noon. Earlier, the Directorate General of Civil

Aviation (DGCA) had granted flight and security approvals. Technically, the airport will now be readied for commercial operations. The Airports Authority of India (AAI) oversaw the exercise, and all data collected will be submitted to the DGCA for review.

Supervising personnel included officials from the DGCA, the Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA), NIAL, and the Uttar Pradesh Civil Aviation Department. The test assessed systems such as airspace coordination, communication protocols, emergency response readiness, and runway performance. Previous milestones included the successful calibration of the Instrument Landing System (ILS) and the Precision Approach Path Indicator (PAPI) in October 2024. “With the validation flight completed, we are committed to finishing the airport project before the end of April”, said Union Minister.

Prabuddhjan Sammelan organized in Gram Panchayat Saraiya- MLA honors meritorious students with laptops and bicycles

Lucknow

Sarojini Nagar
MLA Dr. Rajeshwar Singh attended the Prabuddhjan Sammelan and Meritorious Students Felicitation Ceremony organized in Gram Panchayat Saraiya on Tuesday. During the event, he interacted with intellectuals, teachers and villagers. The program was organized by Block Pramukh Sunil Rawat and Patron Rajesh Singh Chauhan. Honoring Meritorious Students & Key Announcements for Saraiya Village: On this occasion, the MLA of Sarojini Nagar honored 6 meritorious students with laptops and 10 talented daughters with bicycles. Along with promoting education, Dr. Singh also made several key announcements regarding the development of the village. He announced a grant of ₹50,000 for the beautification of the Shiv Temple in Saraiya, installation of 20 solar lights, and responding to the villagers' request, committed to sending three buses to Ayodhya under the Ramrath Shriyatra Yatra initiative. **MLA Address:** While addressing the gathering, Dr. Singh said, "It always gives me immense happiness to honor meritorious students, for these children are the future of our society, our Sarojini Nagar and our nation." He informed that more than 1500 meritorious students have been honored with laptops and bicycles across the Sarojini Nagar con-



stituency so far. He further stated that computer centers and smart panels have been set up in over 60 schools to ensure rural students get direct access to modern technical education. Dr. Singh emphasized that Sarojini Nagar is emerging as a leading region in the field of education. He mentioned that significant educational institutions such as a degree college for girls in Latifnagar, an ITI in Niwan, a Lucknow University agriculture campus and the Foreign Language University have been established, marking the beginning of a new era in education. He added that in the near future, computer literacy will become essential for all employment sectors and his vision is that jobs should reach the youth in their villages, rather than students being forced to migrate to cities in search of opportunities. **Public Welfare Achievements:** Highlighting various welfare initiatives, Dr. Singh shared that 350 hand-pumps and 1500 solar lights have been installed across the rural areas of Sarojini Nagar—a record achievement. So far,

over ₹22 crore has been provided as financial assistance to 1200 needy citizens through the Chief Minister Relief Fund. He also mentioned that through the 'Tara Shakti Rasoi' initiative, around 4,000 people are provided free meals daily and under the Bal Seva Yojana, economically weak families are being supported on a priority basis. Dr. Singh stated that these efforts are not merely acts of service, but symbols of social responsibility upheld by the Sarojini Nagar family. Speaking about the government achievements, he said, "Under the leadership of Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, criminals have fled the state and under Prime Minister Narendra Modi, every welfare scheme, from housing and toilets to Ayushman Bharat and public welfare—has reached every village." He concluded by saying that this transformation in Sarojini Nagar has been made possible through the participation of every citizen. **Dignitaries Present:** The event was attended by Former Block Pramukh Ram Vilas Rawat, Pradhan of Bibipur Dinanath Rawat, Former Pradhan Pawan Singh, Sonu Mali, Sarvesh Rawat, Gaurav Mali, Harish Chandra Gautam, Rajendra Yadav, Raghuvir Yadav, Medilal, Ashish Rawat, Rahul Rawat, Deepak Rawat, Santosh Rawat, Vikas Kumar Verma and many other distinguished citizens of the area.

Workshop on Examination Stress Management: "Campus Toolkit for Resilient Minds" Empowers BHU Students

Varanasi

The Well-Being Services Cell, Banaras Hindu University, successfully conducted a transformative workshop titled "Campus Toolkit for Resilient Minds: Strategies to Stay Calm and Excel in Exams", aimed at equipping students with practical tools to manage examination stress and foster emotional resilience. Held on campus, the workshop offered a compact, evidence-based program designed to: Build psychological resilience; Teach immediate calming techniques; Embed sustainable study habits. All with the goal of helping students approach exams with clarity, confidence and composure. A Call to Action for Mental Well-Being: The workshop was inaugurated by Program Coordinator & Student Counsellor Nityanand Tiwari, who introduced the theme as more than a slogan—a campus-wide call to action. "In a world of rising academic pressure, we gather here to explore strategies that help us stay calm, focused and emotionally grounded," he said. "This workshop is a step toward building a campus culture where mental health is prioritized, and every student feels empowered to thrive." He also spotlighted the Examination Stress Management Clinic, which offers confidential support and resources to help students navigate challenges like anxiety, burnout, and exam fear. "Whether it's anxiety, burnout, or exam fear—you are not alone. Reach out, reflect, and rebuild." **Expert Insights:** Dean of Students, Professor Anupam Kumar Nema, felicitated Guest Speaker

Rajveer Yadav, commending the Well-Being Services Cell for its compassionate efforts in fostering an empathetic and emotionally supportive campus environment. Rajveer Yadav addressed the psychological roots of exam stress and shared actionable strategies to transform stress into motivation. His session covered: Mindfulness and breathing exercises to calm the nervous system; Pomodoro-based study plans for structured preparation; Positive self-talk and visualization to build confidence; Sleep, hydration and digital hygiene as pillars of mental clarity; Concept-focused preparation and smart answering strategies; Reframing exams as opportunities for growth rather than threats. "Exams don't define your worth—they reflect your preparation. Stay calm, stay curious, and trust your journey," Yadav encouraged. **Student Engagement and Impact:** The session evolved into a dynamic dialogue, with students posing thoughtful questions and receiving empathetic, insightful responses. Many attendees expressed heartfelt appreciation for the speaker's relatable approach and practical tools with several planning to integrate these techniques into their daily routines. Nityanand with a warm vote of thanks, reaffirming the Cell's commitment to nurturing a compassionate and resilient campus. Exam is not a battle to survive—it is a journey to understand, evolve and express your best self."

Attempt to Encroach Upon Temple Property in Kotwali Nagar, Allegations of Vandalism, Assault and Abuse



Etah

An alleged attempt to encroach upon the property of Warahsaini Temple in the Kotwali Nagar area, along with vandalism and assault, has come to light. In this regard, an application has been submitted by an office-bearer of the temple management committee at Kotwali Nagar police station, seeking strict action. According to information received, the President of the Warahsaini Temple Management Committee (Registered), Purani Basti, Etah, Virendra Varshney has accused Surendra Kumar Jain alias Munnalal, his son Sagar alias Mohit Jain and 5-6 others of forcibly entering and damaging parts of the temple premises with the alleged intent of illegal possession. As per the complaint, the accused individuals allegedly climbed down into the temple premises from the roof of their house at around 6:00 a.m. on Tuesday and began demolishing the toilet, bathroom and verandah attached to the kitchen located inside the temple campus. On receiving information the committee president reached the spot along with local residents to stop the act. It is alleged that the accused hurled abuses, issued threats and attacked them with sticks, attempting to cause serious harm. The situation was brought under control only after the intervention of local people. The incident has triggered resentment among the community. The affected party has demanded immediate filing of a case and strict action against the accused. Police have confirmed receipt of the complaint and stated that an investigation is underway.

Student Council Elected at G.D. International School, Enthusiasm Reflects Among Students

Etah

A grand ceremony was organised at G.D. International School, Aliganj for the selection of the new Student Council, where students showcased remarkable enthusiasm and leadership spirit. School Founder, Sultan Singh Yadav, graced the occasion as the Chief Guest and encouraged students to develop leadership qualities with discipline, sincerity and a sense of responsibility. During the event, the newly elected council members took their oath, and badges were presented to them as they assumed their respective posts. Principal Dr. Tripuresh Kumar Pandey addressed the gathering and said that leadership



is not merely authority, but a significant responsibility and every student must remain committed towards fulfilling their duties with dedication. In the newly elected council, Mangleshwar Pratap Singh and Ruchi were appointed as Head Boy and Head Girl respectively, while Abhay Mishra and Ishita took charge as Deputy Head Boy and Deputy Head Girl. The responsibility of Sports

Captain was handed over to Abhay Pratap and Yashi Chauhan and Alka along with Ayush Gautam were assigned the role of Discipline Heads. The Cultural Committee will now be led by Sanchit Gupta and Niharika. Apart from them, several students including Swayam, Aditi Mishra, Jatin, Riya Verma, Sivia, Anjali, Aditya, Aradhya, Arish Khan, Riddhi and others were given the

roles of House Captains and Vice-Captains. All the selected candidates pledged to perform their duties with enthusiasm, confidence and dedication. School Deputy Director Yash Kumar appreciated the efforts of the students and said that such events play a crucial role in enhancing leadership ability, communication skills and confidence among children, which are essential for shaping their future. The programme was attended by Vice Principal S.P. Singh, Pradeep Singh, Primary Wing In-charge Neelam Rathore, along with the entire teaching staff. The ceremony concluded with an atmosphere of discipline, team spirit and motivation among the students.

Varanasi

Preparations have begun for Prime Minister Narendra Modi two-day visit. The route from Babatpur to Bareka is being repaired. Officials are continuously inspecting and visiting the grounds. Work has begun on building three helipads on the sports grounds of the Banaras Rail Engine Factory. Hundreds of workers, along with three or four tractor loads of bricks are busy leveling the ground. There was a lot of debris lying in the underpass of Bareka earlier, after removing it, painting work has been started. Under the supervision of the Public Works Department (PWD), a helipad is being constructed here. Painting of the road dividers is progressing rapidly. The roads are being painted white. Workers have been deployed for cleaning and road construction. The grass of the Bareta playground is being cut, along with tree branches. Cleaning of the roads from Babatpur to Bareka, as well as the Shri Kashi Vishwanath Temple and Shri Kaal Bhairav Temple, is underway at a war footing. The new cement road on the FCI road in front of



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Banaras Station has been constructed, while half of the old road is of poor quality. Both roads are uneven, causing difficulties for passing vehicles. Tricolor lighting is being installed on the street poles of the Kakaramta ROB. All street poles are being inspected. Brighter lighting is being installed where lighting work is underway. High masts have also been installed at several locations. The room where the Prime Minister will stay is being decorated. (Varanasi) Rooms 12 and 13 of the guest house are being decorated in view of PM Modi overnight stay. On Monday night, the DRM along with the SPG remained present. The X-ray machine installed at the second entrance of Varanasi station has been removed.

Illegal Mining Flourishes in Broad Daylight in Jalesar, Tehsildar Seizes Reaper and Tractor-Trolley

Etah

Illegal mining in the Jalesar tehsil area has been thriving openly for the past several months, raising serious questions over administrative vigilance and action. What was once carried out under the cover of darkness is now being executed fearlessly even in broad daylight, highlighting the emboldened attitude of the mining mafia. On Tuesday, newly-appointed Tehsildar Sandeep Singh took decisive action against the illegal mining network. Acting on a tip-off, the Tehsildar rushed to the spot with his team and seized a reaper machine and a tractor-trolley loaded with soil, which were being used in unlawful excavation. The seized vehicles were handed over to Awagarh Police for further action.



However, the accused managed to flee upon sensing the arrival of the administrative team. The brazenness of the mining mafia—operating without fear of law even during the day—has sparked concerns and raised the question: Under whose protection is such illegal mining flourishing? Although the Tehsildar's swift operation has certainly sent shockwaves among operators, completely curbing the well-rooted illegal mining trade in the region remains a major challenge.

Following the complaint, Tehsildar Sandeep Singh, Naib Tehsildar Shashwat Agrawal, along with the Revenue Department team and Awagarh Police, reached the Awagarh Dehat area and took the machinery involved into custody. Local residents expressed anger over the damage caused to rural pathways and agricultural land due to unchecked mining. Villagers have demanded strict and permanent action against the mining mafia to put a complete halt to the illegal activity.

Special Intensive Revision of Electoral Roll Begins in Etah: Door-to-Door Distribution of Forms Underway

Etah

The Election Commission of India crucial Special Intensive Revision Programme of the electoral roll commenced in Etah on Monday. On the instructions of District Election Officer/District Magistrate Premranjan Singh, the first day of the campaign saw active field outreach to ensure accurate voter listing. In the 103-Aliganj Assembly Constituency, Electoral Registration Officer Jagmohan Gupta personally visited various localities and distributed voter information forms to residents. He informed that Assistant Officers and Booth Level Officers (BLO) are conducting door-to-door visits to record details of eligible vot-



ers, ensuring the addition of genuine names and removal of ineligible entries from the voter list. The campaign is being carried out based on the eligibility date of 1 January 2026. Across all four assembly constituencies of the district, BLO are collecting voter information from households as per the guidelines of the Election Commission. The District Election Officer stressed the significance of the programme, stating

that it plays a key role in preparing an accurate, transparent, and updated electoral roll. He urged all trained officials to discharge their duties with utmost dedication, transparency, and accountability. An accurate voter list is the cornerstone of a free, fair and credible election. Therefore all officials and staff must participate actively in this campaign to further strengthen and enhance transparency in the electoral process in the district.

Administration Tightens Grip on Stubble Burning: Farmer Fined 5000 in Etah

Etah

Acting strictly on the directives of District Magistrate Premranjan Singh and in compliance with the National Green Tribunal (NGT) norms, the district administration has intensified surveillance on incidents of stubble burning across Etah. In a prompt action on Monday, a farmer was penalised ₹5000 for burning crop residue. Providing details, the Deputy Director of Agriculture informed that on 2 November 2025, a case of stubble burning was detected through satellite monitoring. Following the alert, a joint team of the Revenue and Agriculture Departments conducted an on-site inspection, where stubble burning was confirmed on agricultural land belonging to Ajay Pratap Singh, son of Rajendra Pratap Singh, a resident of village Narau Veernagar under the Awagarh development block. Consequently, a monetary penalty was imposed as per prescribed rules. The official stressed that burning stubble in fields is a punishable offence and attracts an environmental compensation fine. No exemption is granted even for the first violation and repeat offenders will face harsher legal action. He added that satellite monitoring records such incidents automatically, making it impossible to escape detection. Appealing to farmers, the Deputy Director urged them to refrain from burning stubble and instead adopt eco-friendly management methods. He advised incorporating crop residue into the soil using a reversible plough to enhance soil fertility or supplying it to cowsheds for productive use. The Agriculture Department is also providing farmers with various alternatives and machinery support for stubble management. He further clarified that if any combine harvester is found operating without a Super Straw Management System (SMS) during paddy harvesting, it will be seized on the spot and handed over to the police station. Environmental conservation requires collective responsibility. Stubble burning not only pollutes the air but also harms soil fertility, crop yield and public health," he added. The district administration and Agriculture Department are continuously spreading awareness to encourage farmers to adopt sustainable and beneficial stubble management practices.





AGE IS JUST A NUMBER

At 59, Salman Khan stuns fans with his ripped physique, proving age is just a number in new shirtless photos

Bollywood superstar Salman Khan continues to prove that he is an inspiration when it comes to fitness, even at 59, as the actor dropped new photos on his social media handle, flaunting his ripped body and abs while setting major fitness goals as he prepares for his upcoming film *Battle of Galwan*.

On Monday, Salman shared photos, with a cheeky caption that read, "Kuch haasil karne ke liye kuch chhodna padta hai.. Yeh bina chhode hai." (To achieve something one needs to let go of some things... this is without letting go) Soon after he dropped the shirtless photos, fans couldn't stop admiring his dedication and

flooded the comments section with praise, as the superstar set the internet ablaze.

Salman Khan, during his appearance on Kajol and Twinkle Khanna's talk show *Too Much With Kajol And Twinkle*, opened up about his years-long battle with trigeminal neuralgia, a nerve disorder that causes severe facial pain.

He also revealed that he underwent surgery for the condition back in 2011. The actor also shared how he used to take 750 mg of painkillers daily to deal with the pain. The actor shared that he first experienced excruciating pain in 2007 on the sets of his film *Partner* with co-star Lara Dutta, when she removed a strand of hair from his face and he felt a sudden, intense pain.



Celina Jaitley's brother gets HC relief

Former Bollywood actress Celina Jaitley shared an emotional update on social media on Monday after the Delhi High Court took cognisance of her petition concerning her brother, Major (Retd.) Vikrant Kumar Jaitley, who has reportedly been missing and subsequently detained for several months.

Reportedly, Celina had approached the Delhi High Court with a petition alleging that her brother was unlawfully abducted and detained in the UAE on September 6, 2024. Celina stated that despite repeated

Celina Jaitley expresses relief as Delhi High Court asks Centre to provide legal aid to her brother detained in UAE for 14 months

welfare or legal status for a year.

According to a report in Indian Express, during Monday's hearing, the Centre informed the Delhi HC that Vikrant was arrested in the UAE in a national security-related case and has been given consular access. However, Celina's counsel clarified that he is estranged from his wife. Vikrant has lived in the UAE since 2016, working with the Matiti Group.

Writing from the gates of the Delhi HC, Celina expressed "immense gratitude" after what she described as an "arduous 14-month" legal battle. Her post, titled "Standing for a Soldier: A Ray of Hope from the Delhi High Court," detailed the court's

response to her writ petition filed in connection with her brother's disappearance.

According to Celina, Justice Sachin Datta issued a notice to the Government of India, directing it to file a status report on the case.

The court also appointed a nodal officer to coordinate all assistance and facilitate contact regarding Major Vikrant.



Prithvi Theatre Festival marks 47 glorious years

Prithvi Theatre Festival marks 47 years, celebrating Mumbai's rich stage heritage with performances, workshops and vibrant cultural gatherings



The 47th edition of the Prithvi Theatre Festival is currently underway at Juhu's iconic Prithvi Theatre, celebrating nearly five decades of live storytelling. The 17-day festival, which began on November 1, has brought together a vibrant mix of actors, directors, and theatre lovers.

The opening night saw the presence of Kunal Kapoor, trustee of Prithvi Theatre, along with Sanjana Kapoor, Zahan Ka-

poor, and Shaira Kapoor. Bollywood and theatre personalities including Saif Ali Khan, Naseeruddin Shah, Ratna Pathak Shah, Vishal and Rekha Bhardwaj, Zoya Akhtar, Makarand Deshpande, Pratik Gandhi, Neena Gupta, Pooja Bhatt, and Divya Dutta attended the celebration.

This year's line-up features acclaimed productions such as *A Fish Ate My Cat* by Yuki Ellias, *Eden Creek* by Poor Box Productions, and *The Queen* written by

Aditya Rawal. The festival also includes StageTalk@Prithvi sessions and workshops led by artists like Shernaz Patel.

Running till November 17, the festival continues to be a melting pot of creativity and collaboration, drawing audiences from across the city. Prithvi Theatre remains a cherished symbol of Mumbai's thriving stage culture and its enduring love for the performing arts.

Diane Ladd passes away

Hollywood actress Diane Ladd, three-time Oscar nominee known for iconic roles and a remarkable career, dies at age 89

Diane Ladd, a three-time Academy Award nominee and actor of rare timing and intensity whose roles ranged from the brash waitress in *Alice Doesn't Live Here Anymore* to the scheming parent in *Wild at Heart*, has died at 89.

Ladd's death was announced on Monday by daughter Laura Dern, who issued a statement saying her mother and occasional co-star died at her home in Ojai, California, with Dern at her side.

Dern, who called Ladd her "amazing hero" and "profound gift of a mother", did not immediately cite a cause of death.

"She was the greatest daughter, mother, grandmother, actress, artist and empathetic spirit that only dreams could have seemingly created," Dern wrote.

"We were blessed to have her. She is flying with her angels now." A gifted comic and dramatic performer, Ladd had a long career in television and on stage before breaking through as a film performer in Martin Scorsese's 1974 release *Alice Doesn't Live Here Anymore*.

She earned an Oscar nomination for supporting actor for her turn as the acerbic, straight-talking Flo, and went on to appear in dozens of movies over the following decades.

Her many credits included *Chinatown*, *Primary Colors* and two other movies for which she received best supporting nods, *Wild at Heart* and *Rambling Rose*, both of which co-starred her daughter.

Sara Arfeen Khan hits back at mom-shamers



Actor and life coach Sara Arfeen Khan is known for being outspoken and unapologetically real. In an exclusive chat with

opened up about the trolling she faces as a mother, how she handles people attacking her twins and more

Talking about facing constant trolling, Sara said she has learned to find humour in it. "Of course, I do face that. I face it every time. Even if the paps are regularly clicking us, you will see the comments down. It's very funny. Recently Arfeen and I were papped, and I read the comments for fun.

It's like, 'These two are not power couple, they are power idiots.'

You don't know anything about somebody. You don't know the lives we have changed, especially during COVID, the amount of work we've done to improve people's mindset and relationships. And then you talk this? How shallow are you? Mostly women comment, and that's what makes it

Actor and life coach opens up about the trolling she faces as a mother, how she handles people attacking her twins and more



their reality. Because your comment and perception of people is what you feel inside for yourself."

The actress admits that she avoids reading negative comments, but sometimes can't resist checking them. "The worst thing is when they target kids. I am like, what losers are they? I have moments when I feel low, and at that point, when I read those messages, I sometimes reply. Otherwise, I just laugh. I write things like, 'Is this what you've been taught by your parents?' Because if you talk about someone's wife, child or daughter, it reflects on your family teachings."

Sara, who is a mother to six-year-old twins, revealed that her kids haven't been to a traditional school yet — a decision that often invites judgment. "Believe it or not, my kids don't go to school. They

haven't seen an institute yet. They go for maths and language classes, but that's it. The reason we haven't sent them is we don't believe in the concept of pass and fail. Kids are trained to follow instructions without questioning. Why? We're not raising robots. When you're bringing an intellectual human being into the world, you have to give them the power to question. Conscious parenting is not outsourcing your values and beliefs. It starts from home and has to be strong at home. We're outsourcing everything today — parenting, values and beliefs. Then why bring kids into this world?"

Sara recalled being trolled for her parenting after a recent airport spotting. "I recently got trolled when people said, 'Her kids don't go to school,' or 'For once we're seeing her with her kids.' I've given up on my TV shows to be available for my kids. Even today, I get offers, but I'll only do a short cameo or a two-to-three-month project. I won't do a year-long show without knowing how my kids are being raised."

Despite constant scrutiny, Sara stands by her choices as she admits she never has any 'mom guilt'. "I don't have mom guilt. And I always tell all mothers, please don't have mom guilt. You will only do what's in your capacity. You don't have to justify yourself to anyone. I've faced a lot of women who have taunted me about my children. Some actors come and ask my nanny if I ever spend time with my kids. I tell my nanny, 'This is their reality. They're not able to do anything, so they can't stand that I'm doing everything.' It's very funny."



Singer Armaan Malik mesmerised his fans with his chart-topping hits during a concert held at the Dome SVP Stadium in Mumbai.

Pics: Varinder Chawla
CAUGHT ON CAM

Celebs were snapped as they were out and about in Mumbai



Triptii Dimri strikes a pose as she is spotted in the suburbs



Sonal Chauhan steps out of a temple in Andheri



Vivek Oberoi, Aftab Shivdasani, and Riteish Deshmukh pose for the paps during the *Masti 4* promotions

Over 1,000 crypto heists have netted hackers \$12.7 billion.

Delhi: Data indicated that cyber thieves have stolen over \$1.71 billion this year, bringing total losses to \$12.7 billion spanning more than 1,000 heists. Cryptocurrencies' great value and anonymity attract criminals, driving the value of criminal crypto transactions to alarming highs, according to CryptoPresales.com. According to Comparitech data, hackers stole over \$1 billion in five of the past 10 years, including 2024, demonstrating the continued battle for law enforcement and regulators to manage these crimes. Crypto heists increased 15 times in the past decade, from 12 in 2014 to 176 this year. The disparity is even greater than the 283 crypto heists reported in 2023, the most ever. A decade of crypto heists is disturbing, even though the annual number has fallen. Research has found 1,008 crypto heists since 2014, costing the sector over \$12.7 billion.



Data shows that almost 75% of these losses occurred in the last four years, with 2022 and 2023 leading the way. Exploits, hacks, and flash loan attacks account for approximately 65% of crypto heists, according to statistics. "So far, there have been 395 exploits, 271 hacks targeting systems or networks, and 220 flash loan attacks, which exploit smart contract bugs or manipulate crypto prices," the research stated. Despite fears about North Korea-linked hackers stealing bitcoin, South Korea and the US are researching ways to protect against them. Bitcoin's price rose to \$100,000.

Honda and Nissan merge to form auto powerhouse

Delhi: Honda, Nissan, and Mitsubishi Motors plan to unite, producing the world's third-largest carmaker by sales. The merger addresses industrial difficulties caused by increased electrification and developing technology. Smaller alliance member Mitsubishi Motors joined discussions on a strategic cooperation after signing an MOU. Mitsubishi plans to decide on its integration role by January 2025. The

Xbox, sales, and other businesses face worst layoff

Delhi:

Microsoft is cutting off 9,000 workers, its second huge layoff in months and largest in over two years. Microsoft announced layoffs in its Xbox video game business and other departments. A memo to state officials listed 830 Redmond, Washington-based Microsoft employees as laid off. Microsoft called the layoffs "organizational changes" needed to operate in a "dynamic marketplace" and will affect numerous



teams worldwide, including its sales business. The corporation won't specify how many layoffs it had, but it was approximately 4% of its personnel a year earlier. Xbox CEO Phil Spencer wrote to gaming division staff Wednesday that the changes will position the company "for enduring success

and allow us to focus on strategic growth areas." Xbox would "follow Microsoft's lead in removing layers of management to increase agility and effectiveness," Spencer stated. MS had 228,000 full-time employees in June 2024, its last annual report. According to Microsoft.

Adani Defence & Aerospace buys Air Works for Rs 400 crore

Delhi: Adani Defence & Aerospace said that it had reached a formal agreement to acquire Air Works, India's largest private-sector MRO provider, for Rs 400 crore. "Adani Defence Systems & Technologies Ltd (ADSTL) has signed a

share purchase agreement to acquire 85.8 per cent shareholding in Air Works India (Engineering) Private Ltd," a press release said. Air Works maintains narrow-body, turboprop, and rotary aircraft in Hosur, Mumbai, and Kochi

with regulatory permits from over 20 countries. The statement stated Air Works, a civil aviation industry leader, has deep defence MRO capabilities, executing projects for major Indian Navy and Air Force aircraft.

Over 1.6 crore Jio subscribers leave in four months

Delhi: At Reliance Jio Infocomm Ltd., India's largest telecom operator, approximately 1.65 crore subscribers have dropped in the past four months. Reliance Jio lost 37.6 lakh mobile users in October, 79 lakh in September, 40 lakh in August, and 7.58 lakh in July. Airtel, India's second-largest telecom carrier, gained roughly 24 lakh members in October after losing 14.3 lakh in September, according to TRAI data. In August and July 2024, Airtel lost 24 lakh and 16 lakh users. In October, Vodafone Idea lost 19 lakh mobile subscribers, up from 15.5 lakh in September.

Redeveloping railway stations opens Rs 30,000 cr in business opportunities

Delhi: EPC companies are expecting Rs 30,000 crore in business from contracts to redevelop/revamp railway stations in the next two years. The Railways have sanctioned 1,318 station redevelopment/revamps, which Icri Ratings estimates will provide Rs 30,000 crore in commercial potential for EPC firms over the next two years. The government previously planned most station renovation projects as public-private partnerships, accounting for 12% of the national asset monetisation pipeline target. However, due to pricing restrictions, real estate development market risks, and a lack of PPP experience in railways, the government reallocated station redevelopment work to the EPC mode in December 2022 and increased the budgetary allocation by more than seven times from Rs 2,159 crore in FY23 to Rs 15,511 crore in FY25. Railway station rehabilitation offers EPC businesses Rs 30,000 crore in business potential due to intense competition in traditional segments like roads and buildings, according to Vinay Kumar G of the agency. In the past two years, station redevelopment project awards have seen modest competition, with maximum discounts of up to 18% and a median discount of up to 4%, similar to other railway EPC projects with a median discount of up to 5%.

Modern electric vehicle lenders ramp up battery loans

Delhi: When early indicators of scale appear in an industry that was previously considered too specialized or hazardous for institutional investors, a slew of new companies and financiers are changing the way electric commercial vehicles (EVs) are financed in India. Financing arrangements are being adjusted by lenders to accommodate the economics of electric vehicles and the credit realities of small business operators. This includes models such as first-loss guarantee partnerships, flexible EMIS, and battery subscription models. Modern methods are now able to meet the unique requirements of EVs. Battery subscriptions are offered by some lenders. Instead of paying for the entire cost of the



For driver-owners whose wages are unpredictable, there are options that offer adjustable EMIs that change depending on how much the car is used

battery up front, purchasers pay for it as they use it, similar to fuel. For driver-owners whose wages are unpredictable, there are options that offer adjustable EMIs that

change depending on how much the car is used. Another way that startups are collaborating with NBFCs is through first-loss guarantee (FLDG) structures.

Indian gold demand is dampened by price fluctuations

Delhi: This week, unpredictable pricing in India delayed gold purchases, while rising rates in China may balance seasonal demand. A Chennai jeweller claimed buyers are waiting for gold prices to fall after two weeks of volatility. After climbing to Rs 79,120 last week, Indian 10 grams prices dipped to Rs 75,459 (\$887.28) this week. Indian dealers offered a discount of up to \$8 an ounce over official domestic pricing, including 6% import and 3% sales levies, down from \$9 last week. "This week, jewellers awaited the Fed's interest rate cut. "The rupee's record low surprised them," said a Mumbai-based private bullion importing bank trader. India's gold imports are expected to drop sharply in December



as gold prices rise and families choose lighter, lower-carat jewelry. Swiss gold exports surged in November due to increased supplies to India and China and Hong Kong compared to October. According to an independent analyst, high gold prices also lowered demand in other Asian countries, notably top customer China, which gave \$5 per ounce reductions to the international price. A trader said gold was sold at a \$2.00 premium in Hong Kong.

Honda proposes CAFE compliant EVs and hybrids

Delhi: A top Honda Cars India executive said the next stage-3 of the Corporate Average Fuel Efficiency (CAFE) regulations will tighten pollution standards, therefore the company will sell hybrid and electric cars in the future years. It wants to launch three new electric vehicles by 2026-27 to align its India portfolio with its global electrification aspirations. "We are currently

Delhi: Provisional government statistics revealed that India's completed steel imports from China reached an all-time high in the first eight months of the fiscal year to March 2025, raising fears among domestic mills over cheap Chinese supplies. With India, the world's second-largest crude steel producer, a net importer, finished steel imports reached an eight-year high. Data revealed India shipped 6.5 million metric tons of completed steel, up 26.6% year-over-year. Data indicated China shipped 1.96 million metric tons of steel to India in April-November, rising 22.8% year-over-year. Beijing exported mostly stainless steel, hot-rolled coil, plates, electrical sheets, galvanized plain or corrugated sheets, pipes, bars,



"New Delhi is investigating whether to levy a 25% safeguard duty to control unbridled steel imports. India began importing steel in the financial year ending March 2024"

and rods. The report showed that Japanese finished steel imports more than doubled to 1.4 million metric tons in April-November, a six-year high. India imported 79% of finished steel from China, Japan, and South Korea. After hot-rolled coils, bars and rods were the most imported non-flat steel products.

New Delhi is investigating whether

to levy a 25% safeguard duty to control unbridled steel imports. India began importing steel in the financial year ending March 2024, and imports have gradually climbed. New Delhi joins a growing list of countries considering import restrictions as cheap Chinese steel has forced India's smaller factories to reduce operations and jobs.

Canon targets chip companies opening India operations

Delhi: Japanese image and optical products giant Canon India President and CEO Toshiaki Nomura feels its semiconductor lithography equipment for chip production has a bright promise in India and is in negotiations with firms putting up facilities here. Canon did not identify names but said there is huge potential since several chip manufacturers are considering India for semiconductor manufacturing. Many chipmakers are considering India as a new manufacturing location.

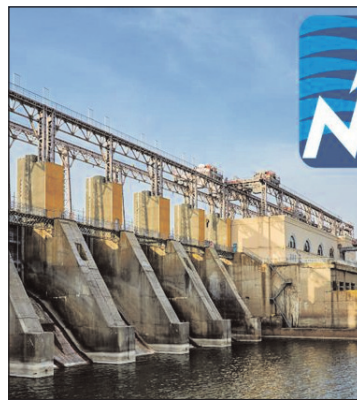


Nomura informed us that they are discussing our product and service with all chip manufacturers. He said this is a "good opportunity for us" for the Tokyo-based business to contribute its technology, goods, and services to this Indian market area. "We install equipment to make chips using our technology and goods.

We help chipmakers create strong India facilities. Once the chip manufacturer builds the facility in India, we will install our equipment and contribute to the Indian semiconductor industry with our good product and service. "Nomura stated. Negotiations are underway.

NHPC invests 25,500 cr in Bihar 1,000 MW solar project

Delhi: NHPC Ltd.'s chairman and managing director Raj Kumar Chaudhary announced that the country's largest hydropower company will invest Rs 5,500 crore in a 1,000-megawatt solar power project in Bihar. At the Bihar Business Connect 2024 investor forum, the business and state government signed an investment MoU. "We have proposed to invest Rs 5,500 crore in setting up a 1,000 MW solar power project," stated. The project might be launched in 1.5-2 years after land purchase. Land is essential for solar



projects. He urged the state government to help acquire land so we could finish the project on schedule. The company's website says it has roughly 7 gigawatts of active hydropower projects and 9.3 under construction. Chaudhary said NHPC plans to build a modest solar plant to create green hydrogen. "The green hydrogen produced will be used to power passenger buses," stated. When burned, green hydrogen creates no carbon and just water, making it the cleanest energy source. He stated NHPC will fund the green hydrogen bus. The state government will administer it as part of the government's sustainable energy plan.

Briefs

NEW DELHI

Joshi to be India 'A' coach for Asia Cup



Former India left-arm spinner and Centre of Excellence's (CoE) head of spin department **Sunil Joshi** will be the chief coach of the India A team led by Jitesh Sharma, which will take part in the Rising Stars Asia Cup in Doha from November 14. The India A team comprises IPL stars like Vaibhav Suryavanshi, Priyansh Arya, Naman Dhir, Nehal Wadhwa, and Ramandeep Singh to name a few. The convention in BCCI is to appoint COE's in-house coaches for India's A, Emerging (Rising Stars), India U-19s assignments and rotate them. Joshi, who recently joined the CoE, also was a part of India A team's recent assignment against Australia A. Along with Joshi as the head coach for the assignment, the other two members of the coaching staff will be Apurva Desai (batting) and Pallav Vohra (fielding).

KARACHI

Mohd Wasim sacked as Pak Women coach



Pakistan Cricket Board has removed the head coach of the national women's team, **Muhammad Wasim** in the wake of the side's disastrous campaign in the ICC Women's ODI World Cup recently. Though Pakistan qualified for the showpiece event in April by topping the qualifiers held in Lahore, they finished last in the eight-team tournament co-hosted by India and Sri Lanka. Pakistan played all its matches in Colombo. The team, led by Fatima Sana, lost four matches while three games were abandoned due to rain. PCB said that Wasim's contract had ended with the World Cup and the board had decided not to extend it, and instead appoint a new head coach.

LUCKNOW

Moody appointed LSG global director



Indian Premier League (IPL) side Lucknow Super Giants on Tuesday appointed former Australia all-rounder

Jaiswal gears up for SA Test with big ton

Mumbai get only one point after conceding the first-innings lead

JAIPUR

Opener **Yashasvi Jaiswal** warmed up nicely for the upcoming Test series against South Africa with his 16th first-class hundred that earned Mumbai a solitary point in their drawn group D Ranji Trophy match against Rajasthan.

Rajasthan got three points courtesy their massive first innings lead of 363 runs after scoring 617 in their first essay riding on Deepak Hooda's magnificent 248.

Having scored only 254 in their first innings, Mumbai ended the third day's play at 89 for no loss in 22 overs.

They had to bat out the final day to save themselves from a humiliating innings defeat and Jaiswal, with a stylish 156 off 174 balls, ensured that players shook hands after the first two sessions.

Mumbai were 269 for 3 in 82 overs and it was virtually impossible for Rajasthan to get seven wickets on a placid track.

On the final day, Rajasthan sent down 60 overs.

Jaiswal's innings had 18 fours and a six, and he added 149 runs for the opening wicket with Musheer Khan (63 off 115 balls). He was also associated in a 67-run stand for the third wicket with veteran Siddhesh Lad (19 not out).

Former skipper Ajinkya Rahane



16
Jaiswal's FC hundreds

was stumped trying to hit left-arm spinner Kukna Ajay Singh.

Delhi get 1 point despite Rana, Sangwan tons in triple-century opening stand Delhi's left-handed opening duo of Arpit Rana and Sanat Sangwan hit centuries and added a whopping 321 runs.

Brief Scores

In Jaipur: Mumbai 254 and 269/3 (Yashasvi Jaiswal 156, Musheer Khan 63, Kukna Ajay Singh 2/61). Rajasthan 617. Points Rajasthan 3. Mumbai 1.

In New Delhi: Delhi 294 and 321/0 (Arpit Rana 170 no, Sanat Sangwan 122 no). Puducherry 481. Points Delhi 1. Puducherry 3.

In Raipur: Jammu and Kashmir 394. Chattisgarh 505/9 (Amandeep Khare 156, Aditya Sarwate 79, Vanshak Sharma 3/110). Points: Chattisgarh 3. J&K 1.

In Nadaun: Himachal Pradesh 318 and 303. Hyderabad 278 and (target 344) 347/6 (Abhirath Reddy 175 not out, Rahul Radesh 66).

Hyderabad won by 4 wickets. **Points:** HP 0. Hyderabad 6.

WOMEN'S WC | India skipper recalls picking up father's bat

Never stop dreaming, says Harmanpreet

NEW DELHI

Still quite overwhelmed by emotions, India's newest World Cup-winning captain Harmanpreet Kaur has recalled how picking up her sports tragic father's "big" cricket bat as a kid ignited the dream that is now a reality.

After leading India to a 52-run win over South Africa in the women's World Cup summit clash in Navi Mumbai on Sunday, Harmanpreet, in a video posted by the BCCI, recalled her childhood and also had one advice for aspiring young players -- "Never stop dreaming. You never know where your destiny will take you."

"Ever since, I was a kid, I've always had a bat in my hand. I still remember we used to play with a bat from my dad's kit bag. The bat was very big. One day, my dad carved a small bat for me out of one of his old bats. We used to play with it."

"Whenever we used to watch a match on TV, or watch India play, or watch the World Cup, I used to think, I need an opportunity like this. At that time, I didn't even know about women's cricket," Harmanpreet said as she father Harmandar Singh Bhullar dabbled in cricket and football before settling for a clerk's job at a local judicial court in Punjab's Moga, the city where she was born and brought up.

With the firm support of her father, the journey which began as a child culminated into a World Cup trophy for Harmanpreet on Sunday.

None of it came easy but Harmanpreet said she wasn't the one to get bogged down



India's captain Harmanpreet Kaur (centre), lifts the trophy as team members and others celebrate after winning ICC Women's World Cup 2025, at the DY Patil Stadium, in Navi Mumbai. PTI

Ever since, I was a kid, I've always had a bat in my hand. I still remember we used to play with a bat from my dad's kit bag. The bat was very big. One day, my dad carved a small bat for me out of one of his old bats. We used to play with it

Harmanpreet Kaur, India's World Cup winning captain

by the challenges that were integral to women's cricket.

"I was dreaming, when will I wear this blue jersey? So I think this means a lot to me, a young girl who didn't know about women's cricket, but still dreamt, that one day, I want to bring that change in our country.

"And I think, it all shows that you should never stop dreaming. You never know where your destiny will take you. You never think, when will it happen, how will it happen. You only think, this will happen.

"So, I think, that was my self-belief, that this can be possible. And that is exactly what happened."

The 36-year-old stalwart said she is feeling relaxed and humbled after realising her childhood dream.

"Personally, it's a very emotional moment. Because, it was my dream since childhood. Ever since I started playing, it was my dream to win the World Cup one day. If I get an opportunity to lead my team, I don't want to miss this opportunity," she said, emotions still heavy in her

voice.

"So, I said all these things from the bottom of my heart. And God heard everything one by one. It's like magic. I don't understand how come suddenly everything is falling in place. Everything kept happening one by one.

"Finally, we are world champions. I am feeling very relaxed, very humble, so grateful to God, for giving this team, which we have been dreaming of for so many years, and we are living this moment," the Indian captain added.

Kuhnemann all praise for Abhishek Sharma's talent

Aus spinner feels aim should be to get him out early

CARRARA (AUSTRALIA)

Australia spinner Matt Kuhnemann termed India opener **Abhishek Sharma** a serious batting talent and hoped the home team bowlers would get him out cheaply to thwart the visitors' chances of clinching the T20I series.

Following his exploits in the Asia Cup in the UAE, where he emerged player of the tournament, Abhishek showed true grit in the second game at Melbourne where he crafted a 37-ball 68 at a time when Indian wickets fell like ninepins.

The five-match series is keenly poised at 1-1 with a lot hinging on Abhishek in the remaining two games.

"Well, hopefully Xavier Bartlett or one of the quicks, Benny (Benjamin) Dwarshuis can take his (Abhishek's) wicket in the first couple of overs. He's a serious talent and just goes so hard from ball one. It's going to be a great spectacle on Thursday, but hopefully the boys can get him cheaply," left-arm



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Matt Kuhnemann, Australia spinner

spinner Kuhnemann, who could get to play his fifth T20I on Thursday, told cricket.com.au.

Kuhnemann, 29, said he found a remarkable similarity in how Australia and India

play their cricket.

"Yeah, I think the way they're playing is sort of similar to how we're playing as well. So yeah, very explosive. I think from ball one now, the game's changing rapidly.

Naqvi unlikely to attend ICC meeting

KARACHI

"Domestic political issues" might prevent Pakistan Cricket Board Chairman Mohsin Naqvi from attending the ICC's Executive Board meeting in Dubai where the BCCI is set to raise the issue of the Asia Cup trophy not being presented to India.

The four-day meeting began on Tuesday and Naqvi, who is also the chairman of the Asian Cricket Council, was to face the BCCI's ire for not handing the trophy after the winning players refused to accept it from him due to his anti-India statements.

The PCB source did not specify the exact political issues that would come in the way of his attendance. Naqvi also holds the interior minister's position in his country and has not attended ICC meetings after Jay Shah was elected Chairman.

A source in the PCB said that the Board's Chief Operating Officer Sumair Syed will attend the chief executives meeting and in case Naqvi is unable to travel to Dubai, he could attend the board meeting on Nov 7.

Ashwin ruled out of Big Bash League 15 due to knee injury

Ace spinner had retired from international cricket late last year and from the IPL in August 2025

CHENNAI

Former India cricketer **Ravichandran Ashwin**'s much-anticipated foray into Australian Big Bash League has been stalled by a knee injury with the off-spinner ruled out of the entire season with Sydney Thunder.

Ashwin had retired from international cricket late last year and from the IPL in August 2025 to focus on playing in T20 leagues across the world, including BBL, The Hundred and SA20.

"While training in Chennai to prepare for the upcoming season, I hurt my knee. I've had a procedure, and the outcome means I'll miss BBL15. That is tough to say. I was genuinely excited to be part of this group," wrote Ashwin on Instagram.

BBL 15 will commence on December 14.

The injury means the legendary cricketer will also miss the Hong Kong Sixes from November 7-9. He has been replaced by Robin Uthappa in



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R Ashwin, former India spinner

HK Sixes. Ashwin said that following the medical procedure, he will now focus on rehabilitation. "For now it is rehab, recovery and doing the work to come back stronger.

From my first chat with the club, I have felt only warmth. Trent (Copeland, the Thunder general manager), the staff, the players and so many of you.

sanctions

Rauf gets 2-match ban; Surya fined, Bumrah demerited

DUBAI

India's T20 captain **Suryakumar Yadav** and Pakistan pacer Haris Rauf were on Tuesday fined for "bringing the game into disrepute" during the Asia Cup in September with the latter also copping a two-ODI suspension for accumulating four demerit points during the tournament.

Rauf was handed financial penalties of 30 per cent of his match fee for two incidents

in two separate games against India, leading to a two-match ban in the ODI series against South Africa that began on Tuesday.

The next game is on November 6 and he will sit out of that as well.

Rauf accumulated four demerit points for the two incidents which were converted into two suspension points as per ICC rules.

Suryakumar was penalised 30 per cent of his match fee for his comments supporting the Indian armed forces and

showing solidarity with victims of the Pahalgam terror attack after the September 14 game between the two sides.

Indian pace spearhead Jasprit Bumrah was also handed one demerit point for making a "plane down" gesture after yorking Rauf in the final.

That Suryakumar will be fined 30 per cent for his comments was first reported by PTI on September 26.

In the September 14 game, Rauf was found guilty of offensive gestures depicting a

Suryakumar Yadav (India) was found guilty of a breach of Article 2.21 of the ICC Code of Conduct, which relates to conduct that brings the game into disrepute.

ICC

plane crash, mocking the Indian military action under Operation Sindoor and alluding to the Pakistani claims that six Indian fighter jets were downed by it during the showdown.

He repeated the same gesture on September 28 while fielding near the boundary line trying to instigate a group of Indian fans. Pakistan batter Sahibzada Farhan was also handed a demerit point but Indian pacer Arshdeep Singh was let off without a fine.

