

AKHAND BHARAT SANDESH

Title Code - UPENG04488

NATIONAL ENGLISH DAILY

MORNING EDITION PRAYAGRAJ Thursday, 20 November, 2025 UNIQUE GIFT OF KRIYAYOGA ASHRAM AND RESEARCH INSTITUTE TO GIVE IMPETUS TO WORLD BUILDING AND HUMAN DEVELOPMENT.

Chief Minister approves 95 new projects to strengthen the canal network

Lucknow

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Wednesday approved 95 new projects aimed at further strengthening the state canal system during a comprehensive review meeting of the Irrigation and Water Resources Department. He said these projects would significantly boost the agricultural sector by ensuring timely and reli-

able irrigation for farmers. Once completed, the projects, worth ₹39,453.39 lakh will restore irrigation capacity across 36,000 hectares, directly benefiting nearly 9 lakh farmers and rural communities. In addition, 273 hectares of departmental land will be safeguarded. The Chief Minister instructed officials to complete all sanctioned works within the



stipulated timeframe, emphasizing that there must be no compromise on quality. Officials informed the meeting that the 95 canal restoration

projects include closing gaps in the canal network, construction of head and cross regulators, siphons, falls and other concrete structures. The projects

also encompass improvements to internal and external canal sections, lining and filling of reaches, reconstruction of damaged culverts, construction and repair of bridges and culverts along canal tracks and installation of kerbs on canal routes. Renovation of inspection buildings, office structures and watermills, as well as the construction of boundary

walls to protect departmental land, are also planned. These interventions will significantly enhance the irrigation network's capacity and ensure an uninterrupted water supply across various regions. Farmers in Purvanchal, Terai, Bundelkhand and Western Uttar Pradesh are expected to benefit the most.

A Unity March organized on the occasion of Sardar Patel Jayanti in Jaunpur



Lucknow

On the occasion of the birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, Uttar Pradesh Minister of Urban Development and Energy and Minister-in-charge of District Jaunpur, A.K. Sharma, participated in the Unity March organized in the district. This march started from Naupedwa to Mohammadpur in the Malhahi Assembly constituency with a message of enthusiasm, patriotism and social unity. A large number of citizens, youth, public representatives and representatives of various organizations participated in the march, giving it the form of a huge gathering. In his address, Minister A.K. Sharma said that the contribution of the Iron Man Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel to India national integration will always be

remembered. By stringing together 562 princely states into one thread, he built a strong, organized, and powerful India. His life is a living example of patriotism, discipline and strong willpower. He said that the principles and ideas of Sardar Patel are still the foundation of the unity and integrity of the country. The Minister-in-charge further said that the role of youth is extremely important in building a new India. The youth should take inspiration from Sardar Patel working style, dedication and nation-first spirit and play a leading role in the development of society and the nation. Sharma said that the progress of the country is possible only when unity, harmony and mutual respect increase in society. He appealed to the gathered people to make positive efforts at their own level.

Nitish will be the CM, Samrat and Vijay will be the Deputy CMs

Patna

Amidst preparations for the formation of a new government in Bihar, the newly elected Janata Dal United (JDU) MLAs have re-elected party president Nitish Kumar as their leader. A meeting of the JDU legislative party was held at the Chief Minister's residence on Wednesday, where Nitish Kumar was unanimously elected as the leader of the legislative party. The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) also unanimously elected Samrat Chaudhary as its leader. All the JDU MLAs were present at the meeting. The message that emerged loud and clear was that the party has complete confidence in Nitish Kumar's experience and leadership. Senior JDU leaders stated after the meeting that the state needs stable



leadership and that only under Nitish Kumar's leadership can Bihar's development accelerate. Nitish Kumar also indicated that he would utilize the change in power to Bihar's advantage and present a new development roadmap with new schemes and policies in the coming months. Besides the JDU, Samrat Chaudhary was unanimously elected as the leader at the legislative party meeting held on Wednesday in the Atal Auditorium of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) state office. The

meeting began at 11:30 a.m., with all 89 elected BJP MLAs present. BJP MLCs also attended. Special security and order arrangements were made in the auditorium premises since morning. First, the MLAs were welcomed in the traditional manner with a tilak (a mark of the forehead) and a rose. Their attendance was then registered and they were admitted inside after wearing identity cards. BJP leaders were constantly checking names to ensure that all elected representatives attended the meeting. The

meeting was chaired by BJP State President Dilip Jaiswal and Bihar BJP in-charge Vinod Tawde. Several central leaders were also present, making it clear that the party is serious about the form of the government to be formed in Bihar and its future course of action. The meeting witnessed intense political activity since morning, and the political activity related to the meeting will intensify in the evening. Home Minister Amit Shah will hold a separate meeting with BJP leaders in the evening. It is believed that this meeting will discuss important details related to the formation of the cabinet. The swearing-in ceremony of the new government in Bihar will take place at Gandhi Maidan on November 20, 2025. The district administration has established.



Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta on Wednesday visited areas along the Sahibi River. She listened to local residents' concerns and directed officials to immediately address waterlogging, sanitation, and streetlighting.

272 retired judges and officers wrote a letter against Rahul Gandhi

New Delhi

Twenty-two prominent citizens, including 16 former judges, 123 retired bureaucrats (including 14 former ambassadors), and 133 retired military officers, have issued an open letter accusing opposition leader Rahul Gandhi and the



Congress Party of targeting constitutional institutions. These figures stated

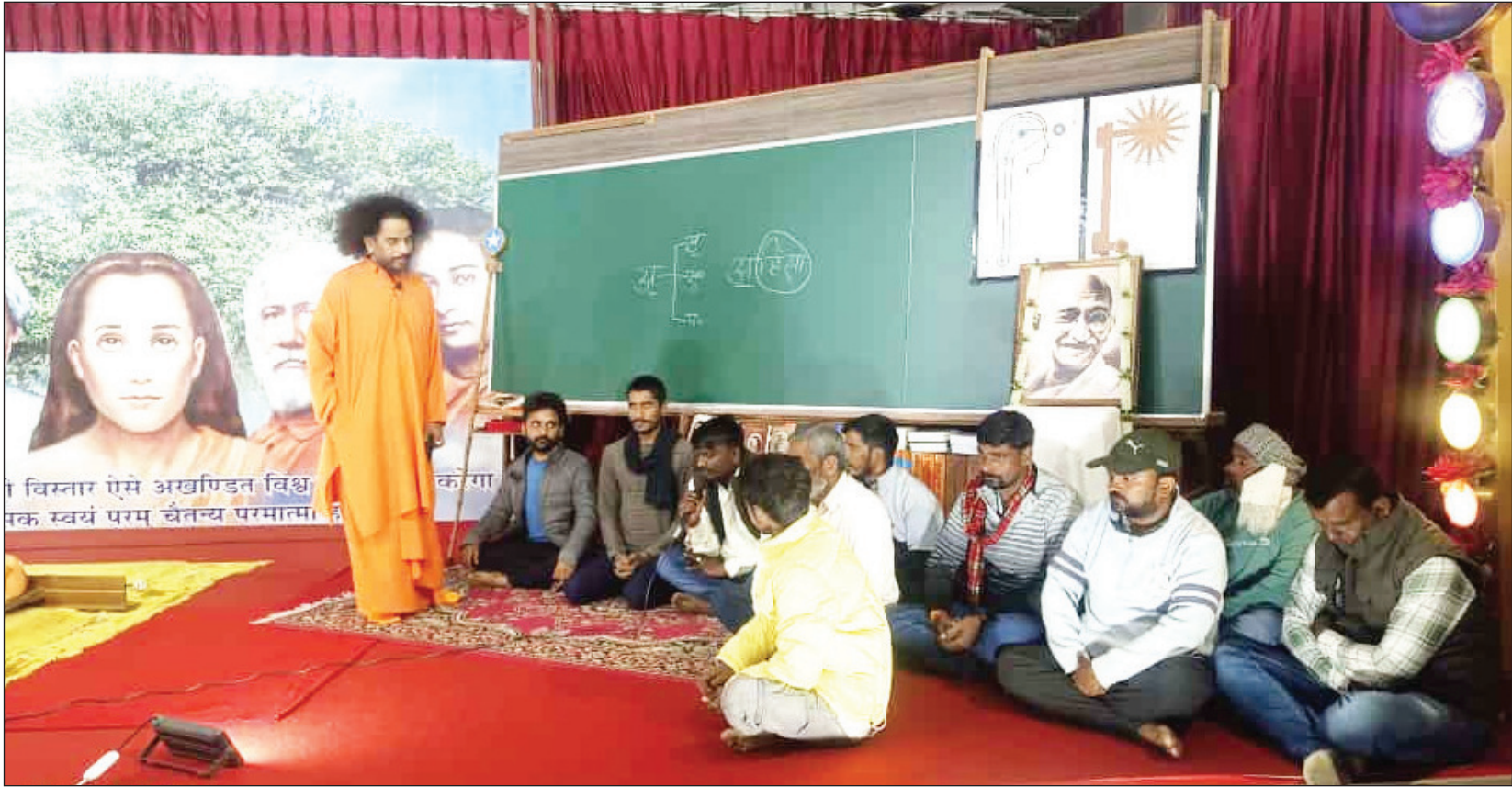
that India's democracy is facing an attack not with weapons, but with toxic rhetoric. Attack on Election Commission Called 'Conspiratorial' The letter alleges that after questioning the armed forces, the judiciary, and Parliament, the Election Commission is now being targeted. The

senior citizens wrote that opposition leader Rahul Gandhi repeatedly accused the Election Commission of being involved in vote theft, used language like "nuclear bomb," and even said the Commission was committing treason, but did not provide any formal complaint or affidavit.

Unruly elements threw bricks and stones at vehicles engaged in work at the Kriya Yoga Ashram

Akhand Bharat Sandesh

Prayagraj. Unruly elements threw bricks and stones at the vehicles of volunteers providing free services at the Kriya Yoga Ashram and Research Institute in Jhansi, damaging them and even manhandling the drivers. A complaint has been reported to the local police station and outpost. Volunteers working there say that at the time of the pelting of bricks and stones, a large number of people in the vehicle were heavily intoxicated. Volunteers say that when they managed to reach the nearby police station and narrate their ordeal, the police officers present there did not intervene in any way and instead began demanding a convenience fee from the vehicles. Concerned about these issues, volunteers working



at the Kriya Yoga Ashram approached Swami Shri Yogi Satyam Ji Maharaj during class to share their concerns. Let us tell you that the Kriya Yoga Ashram and Research Institute is an institution

that does not accept any donations or fees. Instead, it provides free accommodation and food to seekers from India and abroad, and also provides them with morning and evening Kriya Yoga practices to maintain

their health. The Kriya Yoga Institute is an institution that receives a steady flow of seekers from various states of India and even foreign ones. It is a matter of shame that the volunteers working at such

an institution are being abused daily by miscreants living nearby, often for one reason or another. The message of world peace and healthy living is being spread daily at the Kriya Yoga Ashram. The Kriya

Yoga Ashram is an institution that spreads the message of world peace and healthy living. The Kriya Yoga Ashram follows and practices the ideas and principles of Mahatma Gandhi. With all these principles, International Kriya Yoga Guru Swami Shri Yogi Satyam Ji Maharaj is spreading the message of following Mahatma Gandhi's principles along with the teachings of Kriya Yoga all over the world. Every day, through YouTube, all these principles are being broadcast by Kriya Yoga Ashram all over the world so that all the countries live together in harmony. These days, foreign seekers from many countries have come to Kriya Yoga Ashram like United States of America, Russia, Japan, Brazil, Germany, France, Canada and Australia as well as seekers from many big cities of India.

Hindon's IndiGo flights start to four metros and four cities

Delhi: India's largest airline will begin flights from Hindon Civil Terminal at 6.55am as it grows in Delhi-NCR. After Air India Express started flying from Hindon air base's runway in March, Indigo will be the second frontline airline to use it. IndiGo will launch 70 weekly departures to eight new destinations: Bengaluru, Mumbai, Kolkata, Chennai, Patna, Varanasi, Indore, and Ahmedabad. After the maiden Indigo flight from Bengaluru, everyday incoming and outgoing services will include a 12.10pm-1pm flight. Daily operations are scheduled for Patna, Varanasi, Kolkata, and Mumbai. However, return flights to Mumbai would not run.

Ahmedabad flights will run daily, however return flights will miss Sundays save for one Sunday-only trip. Chennai will fly six days a week, excluding. Daily operations



Coalition to secure TN elections, AIADMK to establish government

Delhi: The AIADMK and the BJP, the two main opposition parties in Tamil Nadu, are still at odds about how the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) would be formed into a government if it were to win the state assembly elections in 2026. The AIADMK's general secretary and opposition leader, Edappadi Palaniswami (EPS), reaffirmed his opposition to the formation of a coalition government by the NDA led by the AIADMK in Tamil Nadu on Wednesday, contra-

dicting what Union home minister Amit Shah had previously indicated. In reaction to Shah's comments, EPS stated, "Our alliance will win but the AIADMK will form the government independently." They went on to say, "It is the AIADMK that leads this alliance."

Thus, I have made up my mind. , the BJP has made it clear that I will be the chief minister. Am I missing anything? According to EPS, Shah only said that the alliance will constitute the government.

However, return flights to Mumbai would not run.

are scheduled for Patna, Varanasi, Kolkata, and Mumbai.

Opposition group to 'collectively decide' VP election: Kharge

Delhi : Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge said the Indian National Developmental Inclusive Alliance (INDIA) will "collectively take a decision" for the vice-president election. Early in the day, the Election Commission of India said it "has already started the preparations relating to the vice-presidential elections, 2025."

After preparations, the Vice-President of India election date would be announced as soon as possible." VP Jagdeep Dhankhar unexpectedly quit , claiming health issues, rocking Parliament for two days.



According to Kharge, "We will call a meeting of the INDIA group parties and take a collective decision on what to do for the VP election." The Congress-led Opposition ran former Union minister Margaret Alva against Dhankhar in the 2022 VP election. Kharge said every party

must be consulted to make a decision and the bloc will work together within and outside Parliament. The INDIA group's choice would rely on numerous circumstances, including the National Democratic Alliance's selection, according to Congress leaders.

Insulting your husband in front of friends is harsh

Delhi : Does it constitute cruelty if a wife refuses to touch her husband, accuses him of an affair, and degrades him in front of his friends? Yes, said Bombay High Court. A division bench of Justices Revati Mohite-Dere and Dr. Neela Gokhale told Live Law that the hus-

band will suffer "mental agony" from his wife humiliating him in front of his friends and mistreating his employees. According to the judges, "The spouse works for his family. The un rebutted evidence of the wife's behavior with his employees will hurt him."

Shaming him in front of his pals is also 'cruelty' Apathy and indifference for his disabled sister would also hurt him and his family, the judge added. The judge added that the wife's refusal to have a physical interaction and claims of extra-marital encounters.

Indian authorities cannot authorize foreign kid adoption: HC

Delhi : The Bombay high court ruled that the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act and adoption regulations do not allow Indian couples to adopt foreign children, even if related. While dismissing a petition by a Pune-based couple, the division bench of justices Revati Mohite Dere and Neela Gokhale stated that the JJ Act and adoption regulations do not allow relatives to adopt a foreign-citizen child unless it is a 'child in need of care and protection' or a 'child in conflict with law'. The 2011-married couple sought to adopt the woman's sister's six-year-old kid in the US. They petitioned the Pune district court to adopt their 'relative'



because Muslims have no adoption statute. While their plea was pending in district court in 2024, the Central Adoption Resource Agency (CARA) refused to register them as prospective adoptive parents or issue a pre-approval letter because the 2022 adoption regulations did not allow American citizen adoption. A couple approached the high court.

Advocate Shirin Merchant, representing the couple, argued that the adoption was an in-country adoption because both the adoptive and biological parents were Indian citizens. The JJ Act defines "in-country" adoption as adoption "by a citizen of India, residing in India" and allows relatives to adopt, Merchant added. However, CARA's position that neither

Bastar villages get 300 phone towers

Delhi: Centre and state have built at least 300 cell phone towers in Chhattisgarh's Bastar region in areas freed from Maoist rule in the last year. Security troops and Maoists fight over cell phone towers. Tower construction is a government priority. Destroying them is equally vital to Maoists. According to sources, at least 32 cell phone towers were built in Abhujmad, a vast forest of 5,000 sq km in Maoist-affected Bastar regions. In recent years, security troops penetrated portions of Abhujmad that had never been mapped and was Maoist-controlled.

A top security officer in

CCTVs compulsory at pharmacies by July-end



Delhi : End of July is the deadline that the Delhi administration has set for the installation of closed-circuit television cameras around the nation's capital. In an effort to reduce the availability of illicitly obtained Schedule H, H1, and X narcotics, a resolution was reached following a conference held under the 11th National Narcotics Coordination portal (NCORD). Reducing the likelihood of dual-use medication abuse is a major goal. The authorities made the decision after receiving complaints

over the intoxicating effects of these substances on both humans and animals, as well as their use in textiles, chemicals, and food products. By working together with the Narcotics Control Bureau and the Delhi government, this action is anticipated to improve surveillance and reduce the distribution of illegal drugs. The letter that was sent

said, "As per provisions of the National Narcotics Coordination Portal, in collaboration with the Narcotics Control Bureau, has been advised to stop, prevent and discourage the sale of dual-use medicines without prescription and an advisory dated first August 2024 on this matter was already issued earlier."

Shah orders a multi-disciplinary central team to visit the Himachal catastrophe zone

Delhi : Union Home Minister Amit Shah has ordered a multi-sectoral central team to visit Himachal Pradesh due to its frequent and intense natural catastrophes. The team would include experts from the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), Central Building Research Institute (CBRI) Roorkee, IITM Pune, a geologist, and IIT Indore, according to officials. According to a senior MHA official, the Union Home Minister was informed in a recent meeting that Himachal Pradesh has seen an increase in cloudbursts, flash floods, landslides, and torrential rainfall, causing widespread loss of life, damage to infrastructure, livelihoods, and environmental degradation. He added that after floods, flash floods, and landslides in various parts of the state



Concerned RWAs urge government action to end stray dog problem

Delhi : Various residents welfare groups (RWAs) of Delhi-NCR gathered at Jantar Mantar to demand prompt action from the federal government in response to the increasing number of stray dogs in the nation's capital. In response to recent comments made by the Supreme Court in a case concerning the alleged harassment of a Noida resident for feeding stray dogs, the protest was spearheaded by former Union minister and senior BJP functionary Vijay Goel. Creating a safe haven in your own home is our recommendation.

The highest court in the land had made the remark, "Feed every dog in the community in your own house," emphasizing the need of protecting both stray animals and the public from harm.

during the South West monsoon 2025, the Centre deputed an Inter-Ministerial Central Team (IMCT)

without waiting for their memorandum for on-the-spot, first-hand damage assessment.

Delhi: The Election Commission of India (ECI) told the Supreme Court that citizenship would not be canceled if an individual is found ineligible for registration in Bihar's Special Intensive Revision (SIR)

Strategic sale of IDBI Bank expected by October

Delhi : Two senior government sources said the long-pending strategic disinvestment of IDBI Bank will be completed in October, and financial bids will be called soon as the sale process nears its close. "IDBI Bank stake sale will be completed by October," a senior government source stated.

The Inter-Ministerial Group (IMG) on disinvestment met on July 9 to examine the draft Share Purchase Agreement, a key step before seeking higher authority approvals.

Poll body rejects Aadhaar in Bihar roll modification, clarifies citizenship

voting registers. The poll watchdog defended the exercise in poll-bound Bihar in an 88-page affidavit, claiming it may request proof of citizenship for "enabling the constitutional right to vote". "No par-

liamentary law can oust this jurisdiction of the ECI," stated. The opposition claimed that SIR was a "citizenship screening" effort that would disenfranchise the masses. The ECI responded. The top court

refused to suspend Bihar's electoral roll renovation, but questioned its timing months before the Assembly elections. It further requested that the ECI verify Aadhaar, voter ID, and ration cards.

NH-148A section between DND Flyway, Sohna to finish in Sept



being built.

Officials stated that an arch bridge across the Agra Canal in southeast Delhi's Kalindi Kunj is being built. NHAI said in

June that the project will boost connection with Noida's planned international airport. The NH-148A project, which connects the

DND Flyover to Sohna and Noida's Jewar International Airport, is 93% complete and on track to fulfill its amended September 2025 deadline. An NHAI official said the multi-phase infrastructure project will reduce traffic in Delhi, especially from north and east Delhi, and improve connectivity with neighboring areas like the upcoming Noida International Airport in Jewar, Ghaziabad, Jaipur, Faridabad, Mumbai, and Kolkata.

A meeting was held jointly chaired by the Additional Director General of Police and the Divisional Commissioner to discuss the traffic management plan for the Magh Mela

Akhand Bharat Sandesh

Prayagraj. To ensure smooth and safe travel for pilgrims attending the Magh Mela 2026, a meeting was held in the I Triple C auditorium at the Mela Authority office under the joint chairmanship of Additional Director General of Police, Prayagraj, Dr. Sanjeev Gupta, and Divisional Commissioner, Soumya Agarwal. The traffic management plan, parking arrangements, signage, and other contingency plans related to the Magh Mela were discussed in detail. At the meeting, the fair officials first briefed all senior officials present about the fair's layout, the land available after this year's floodwaters receded, and the traffic management plans adopted for previous fairs. Furthermore, detailed discussions were held on proposed parking spaces on the main roads leading to the fair area from various districts, and the routes that would transport devotees to the fair area during major bathing festivals and other holidays. For the safety of the bathers, an agreement was reached to number all the ghats and integrate their maps with Google, for which the fair administration will now consult with Google officials. Balloons will



also be used to mark the bathing ghats and other key landmarks. To further improve the signage system, a joint team of the fair and police administration will conduct a joint inspection of various locations in the district and fair area to finalize the design and strategic location of the signboards. The meeting was attended by IG Prayagraj Ajay Kumar Mishra, Police Commissioner Prayagraj Joginder Kumar, Additional Commissioner of Police Dr. Ajay Pal, Fair Officer Rishiraj, Municipal Commissioner Seelam Sai Teja, Additional

Fair Officer Dayanand Prasad, and all other officials. Joint Inspection by Administrative and Police Officers Following the meeting, all administrative and police officers conducted a joint inspection of the fair and surrounding areas to further improve traffic management. First, they went from the fair office to Jhansi Railway Station to discuss the necessary arrangements for the expected crowds. Then, they proceeded to Andawaan, past the Tikar Mafi Ashram, and then to Chhatnag Ghat to discuss the traffic management plan.

A student from Beni Madhav Singh PG College created history again at the Indira Marathon



Akhand Bharat Sandesh

Tharvai. Today, daughters are also raising the flag and moving ahead. It is said that if you want to achieve something in life, change your methods, not your intentions. Today, two students from Beni Madhav Singh PG College, Bighiya, Prayagraj, a renowned college in Prayagraj, Shipra Kumari, daughter of Bablu, resident of Chandpur Salori, Prayagraj, completed the 42.195 km race in three hours and 22 minutes, securing seventh place in the women's category and winning a prize of ten thousand rupees. Another student from

the same college, Resham, daughter of Dinesh Patel, also completed the 42.195 km race in four hours and 10 minutes, securing 18th place. Both students are third-year BA students. Shipra Kumari expressed her joy at this victory, saying that her teachers provided immense guidance and that achieving her goals requires true hard work and dedication. Celebrating this grand victory, Dr. Devendra Vikram Singh, Principal of Beni Madhav Singh PG College, commended both students for their hard work. Secretary Madhuri Singh also expressed her happiness and gave many heartfelt congratulations.

Saptashakti Sangam Program Concluded



Akhand Bharat Sandesh

Prayagraj. On Wednesday, the Saptashakti Sangam program was organized at Saraswati Vidya Mandir Higher Secondary School, Shastri Nagar, Prayagraj, with the aim of awakening women and preserving values. The program began with the lighting of a lamp and offering of flowers to the image of Goddess Saraswati by Chief Guest Usha Mishra, President Rajlakshmi, and special guests Neelam Prasad and Dr. Rashmi Singh. The presence of women activist Manjusha Singh, social workers Meeta Mishra and Manju Pandey, and self-defense coordinator Rajni Singh added a special grandeur to the program. All guests

were introduced by the school's Principal, Dinesh Kumar Dubey. The Class 11 students presented a welcome song and heartily welcomed the guests. Over 250 women activists, social workers, and teachers attended the program. The program was successfully conducted under the guidance of Principal Dinesh Kumar Dubey and the successful conduct of Reena Mishra. Under the program, the presentation of drama and melodious songs by the students captivated everyone. On this occasion, dignitaries like Shradha Pandey, Archana Malviya, Nisha Malviya, Priyanka Shukla, Rashmi Srivastava, Bhavna Pal, Hima Dwivedi, Swami Tandon, Prachi Shukla etc. were present.

Cardholders are falling victim to adulteration, with the Supply Department acting as a mere spectator

The recovery started 40 years ago and still hasn't stopped. Extortion from ration dealers has become a tradition within the department, When will the Anti-Corruption Organization investigate the Supply Office officials who have become wealthy after extorting from ration dealers

Akhand Bharat Sandesh

Kaushambi: With the involvement of department officials, ration dealers are looting the government rations provided to the poor by the government. The practice of adulteration is openly taking place in ration shops throughout the district. Despite complaints, officials are merely watching the spectacle, preventing the poor and vulnerable from receiving their full rations. The

ration dealers are profiting by black-marketing the surplus ration, from which the Supply Department officials are collecting monthly collections. It is reported that the Supply Department officials have been collecting 5,000 from each ration dealer every month for the past several years. When will this recovery be stopped and when will the adulteration of rations distributed from ration dealers' shops be stopped To find out the

truth, visit Balipur Tata village in the Chail tehsil area. The team of Akhand Bharat Sandesh newspaper saw the truth of the ration dealer's shop, where the ration dealer was openly giving less ration at the time of distribution. He was cheating the card holders in weighing the ration. Card holders are getting less government ration. People say that no hearing is being held on the complaints, which gives the impression that the district supply

office is involved in recovery. Due to recovery from ration dealers of the entire district, there is arbitrariness in the ration distribution system of the district. Thousands of card holders are troubled. Instead of the villagers getting the benefits of the scheme, the officers of the supply office are getting rich by taking advantage of the scheme. The recovery which started 40 years ago has not stopped yet. Recovery from ration

dealers has become a tradition of the department. When will the recovery of crores of rupees per month by the supply office be stopped The officers of the supply office who became rich after collecting from ration dealers on the ration meant for the poor will be investigated by the Anti-Corruption Organization. The people of the district want answers from the government regarding improving the faulty system of the supply department.

Security at Rupaidiha Border Questioned: Foreigners Arrested

Bahraich

On November 14th, security agencies intercepted a luxury Nepali vehicle at the Indo-Nepal border in Rupaidiha and detained two foreign nationals: Sumitra Shakeel Olivia, 61, a native of Britain and Pakistan and Hassan Amman Salim, 35. During interrogation, it was revealed that the two had come to Nepal for a medical camp and were attempting to enter the Indian border without valid documents. Documents related to British and Pakistani citizenship were also found on them. **Questions about SSB Action** Security agency sources revealed that the SSB



released the suspicious vehicle and the luxury vehicle with Nepali registration number accompanying the foreign nationals, its driver and vehicle owner were released by SSB personnel without any paperwork. However the vehicle is not mentioned anywhere in the police report, further fueling the agencies suspicions. **Police Statement** Police officials say that the SSB report only mentions foreign nationals, not any

vehicle. Questions are also being raised as to how the suspicious Nepalese vehicle reached the sensitive BOP area of the checkpoint and how it was released without any documentation during the inspection. The vehicle, Bagmati Pradesh 04-028-7400, is registered in Nepal in the name of Asim Kidwai. According to sources, Sana Kidwai (wife of Asim Kidwai) was also in the vehicle with the foreign nationals.

A joint meeting of four blocks was held to increase the income of village panchayats

Akhand Bharat Sandesh

Ghazipur. Aiming to give a new direction to rural development and strengthen the economic self-reliance of the panchayats, a joint meeting of four development blocks was successfully held in the auditorium of the local Block Development Office on Wednesday, November 19th. Village heads and village secretaries from Muhammadabad, Bhavarkol, Barachwar, and Kasimabad blocks participated in large numbers. The meeting was inaugurated with the lighting of a lamp by Block Development Officer (Muhammadabad) Yashwant Rao and ADO (Panchayat) Ashok Kumar. The public representatives and Panchayat offi-



cials present welcomed both officials with garlands. Block Development Officer Yashwant Rao was the chief guest at the meeting, while ADO (Panchayat) Ashok Kumar presided over the meeting. Expert trainers from the district, Shashi Kumar and Kalpana Sharma, provided detailed training on "Self-Resources," highlighting the various revenue sources available to gram panchayats, government policies, and practical income generation measures. Block Development Officer Yashwant Rao,

in his address, stated that if panchayats are to accelerate development, they must make serious efforts to increase their own income. He emphasized the need for better management and utilization of various community resources, including panchayat buildings, public spaces, markets, fairs, ponds, and pastures. The trainers illustrated through examples that effective implementation of schemes and proper utilization of local resources can accelerate rural development by strengthening panchayats economically.

Those who filed the case against two former chairmen and a former MLA are themselves entangled in the web they themselves wove

If an impartial investigation is conducted, the plaintiffs will be arrested and the plaintiff will be prosecuted

Akhand Bharat Sandesh

Kaushambi Following a complaint to the Chief Minister regarding the occupation of a house in the Municipal Council of Bharwari, located in the Kokhraj police station area, a case was filed on Monday night at the Kokhraj police station under serious charges for house occupation against seven individuals, including former Chairman Kailash Kesarwani, former Chairman Sunita Kesarwani, and former MLA Sanjay Gupta. This case, however, lacks substance. A conspiracy has been hatched to exert undue pressure on the former MLA and former Chairman by submitting a false complaint to Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath and forcibly occupying the house of her family members. The woman who filed the case intends to take over a house in which she has no share by applying legal pressure. With this intention, she has filed a case against two former Chairmen and a former MLA, along with four of her brothers-in-law, which is being investigated by the Kokhraj police station. The incident involves the family of

Motilal Kesarwani Nehru, who lives at the bus stop in Bharwari market. Motilal Kesarwani Nehru had five sons. He separated his eldest surviving son, Umashankar Kesarwani, from himself, allocating two of his three houses to him. Umashankar sold both the houses he had inherited from his father. After Umashankar's death, his wife, Raj Dulari, began demanding a share in the remaining property of her father-in-law, Motilal Kesarwani Nehru. Motilal Kesarwani Nehru had given the remaining house to his wife, who later gave it to his four sons, who still occupy it. The house was registered in the Nagar Panchayat in the names of those four sons. Kailash Kesarwani was the Chairman of the Nagar Panchayat at that time, but his wife, Sunita Kesarwani, has been forcibly implicated in this case, along with former MLA Sanjay Gupta. However, the Chairman of the Nagar Panchayat has no role in the transfer of a house, nor does the MLA have any role. The entire process of transfer is completed by the Executive Officer. The Executive Officer at the time of the transfer was not included in the lawsuit; instead, the current Executive

Officer has been mentioned in the FIR. Moti Lal Kesarwani Alias Nehru ji had five sons, Uma Shankar, Dilip, Ajay, Vijay, Sanjay. Motilal Nehru had given two houses to his elder son Uma Shankar about 45 years ago, one behind Ramesh Agharhari's house and the other in the bus stop lane. Uma Shankar sold both these houses inherited from his father. Motilal Nehru gave a house located at the bus stop to his wife. The wife gave a share to her four surviving sons, Dilip, Ajay, Vijay, Sanjay and submitted an application to the Nagar Panchayat for registering their names. During the tenure of Chairman Kailash Kesarwani, the house was transferred in the names of the four sons about 22 years ago and all four sons, Dilip, Ajay, Vijay, Sanjay, are occupying the house. Uma Shankar sold both his houses after which Uma Shankar died. After his death, Uma Shankar's widow, wife and son and daughter started claiming the one house left by their grandfather Motilal Nehru. Whereas, Uma Shankar had sold two houses of his father Motilal Nehru after getting them in the partition and the four sons of Motilal Nehru got a share in

the remaining one house. Regarding this matter, the wife and daughter of the deceased Uma Shankar complained to Yogi Adityanath in the Janta Darbar that SP leader Kailash Kesarwani, Sunita Kesarwani and former MLA Sanjay Gupta occupied his house while Nehru's four sons are still occupying their father Motilal Nehru's house located at the bus stop. The former MLA and former chairman are not in possession of any of Motilal Nehru's houses. With the intention of illegally occupying Motilal Nehru's property, Motilal Nehru's daughter-in-law and granddaughter, after misleading the Yogi Adityanath government, filed a complaint and filed a case against two former chairmen Kailash Kesarwani and Sunita Kesarwani and former MLA Sanjay Gupta in Kokhraj police station on the instructions of Yogi Adityanath. However, Bureau Chief of Akhand Bharat Sandesh newspaper, Sushil Kesarwani, is not praising the works of the former MLA and former chairman, rather no legal intervention of the former chairman and former MLA is visible in this matter. These leaders have been made mere pawns.

Editorial

Shashi Tharoor has always disliked ‘statist Congress’

Power is in the words. Language has mystical powers. I enjoy playing with words. Those words are hot. You can be moved to tears by words. You can find humor in words. Moreover, there are few things that can convey the planet and all its inhabitants as vividly and comprehensively as words. During the 2009 austerity drive of the Congress-led UPA administration, Tharoor was embroiled in controversy for his response to a query regarding flying ‘cattle class’ to Kerala. His statement, “Absolutely, in cattle class out of solidarity with all our holy cows!” caused a political storm following his response. Tharoor, an accomplished writer of numerous best-selling books on Indian society and politics, was forced to clarify that he did not want to offend economy class passengers after the Congress party swiftly censured him. After 16 years, Tharoor is now again in trouble for comments he made in an interview. In response to a Malayalam report that he had claimed, “We have many leaders, but many feel that there are no ordinary workers,” Tharoor clarified that he had really said, “several workers feel there is an absence of a leader in Kerala’s Congress.” “You should not think that I have no option to spend my time. I have options,” Tharoor added earlier in the interview. I have speeches, books, and invitations to speak all around the globe. Some saw his comments as a covert signal to the highest levels of Congress that he was thinking about other political paths. Amidst the upcoming Assembly elections in the state next year, Tharoor is now facing accusations of “crossing the line” from the top leaders of the Congress’s faction-ridden Kerala unit, putting him in the center of a maelstrom. Because of this, Shashi Tharoor has been named this week’s ThePrint Newsmaker. Actually, Tharoor’s essay praising the new industrial policies of the Left-led Kerala government had already been a hot topic before the interview controversy erupted. Tharoor had stated that, during the course of 18 months last year, Kerala’s startup ecosystem was valued at an astounding \$1.7 billion, which is five times higher than the worldwide average for the same time period. While the fact that this change has started happening under an LDF government run by communists is shocking, it is not totally unexpected. “The path to growth and prosperity for their people lies in capitalism, entrepreneurship, and initiative, not in red flags, strikes, and agitations,” he said in the post, comparing the Communists in Kerala to their West Bengali counterparts at the turn of the century. While he disagrees that the state’s industrial climate has changed generally, Tharoor defended himself by saying that “when something good emerges, even if only in one area, it is petty not to acknowledge it” in response to attacks from Kerala Congress officials over the piece. Tharoor, a former UN diplomat, has had a tumultuous political career with the Congress since his 2009 victory in the Lok Sabha elections from the Thiruvananthapuram constituency. Mostly because he had a habit of saying things that went against the party line. However, he consistently gets himself into problems by more than simply his words. In 2009, as the UPA was implementing its austerity measures, Tharoor and then-External Affairs Minister SM Krishna came under fire from the government for allegedly residing in a five-star hotel in Delhi while their official quarters were still being prepared. Tharoor lost his position in the Manmohan Singh government’s council of ministers in 2010 due to the scandal surrounding the sweat equity provided to Sunanda Pushkar, his then-girlfriend and later-wife, by a consortium that owned the Kochi club of the Indian Premier League. His ordination as a junior minister was renewed in 2012. Tharoor was thrust into his gravest professional crisis in January 2014, when Pushkar was discovered dead in a luxurious Delhi hotel room—months prior to the Lok Sabha elections.



Muslims want waqf reforms too. It’s not an issue for political acrimony

When the Waqf Amendment Bill 2024 was first tabled in the Lok Sabha on 8 August last year, it triggered fears within the Muslim community, as it was perceived to have been introduced without adequate consultation with stakeholders. After all, the issue of waqfs— Muslim institutions through which property is bequeathed for religious or charitable purposes—is sensitive because it involves socio-religious spaces such as qabristans, masjids, idgahs, and madrasas. As such, the government and Parliament were exhorted to adopt procedures that allayed rather than stoked the fears of

Muslims. In this backdrop, the decision to refer the bill to a joint committee of both Houses of Parliament was welcome. The 31-member committee, drawn from across party lines, received 97,27,772 memoranda overall. There were representations from various ministries and departments—including Minority Affairs, Law and Justice, Railways, Housing and Urban Affairs, Road Transport, and Culture (Archaeological Survey of India)—as well as state waqf boards and experts, ensuring a diversity of opinions. As such, the government and Parliament were exhorted to adopt pro-

cedures that allayed rather than stoked the fears of Muslims. In this backdrop, the decision to refer the bill to a joint committee of both Houses of Parliament was welcome. The 31-member committee, drawn from across party lines, received 97,27,772 memoranda overall. There were representations from various ministries and departments—including Minority Affairs, Law and Justice, Railways, Housing and Urban Affairs, Road Transport, and Culture (Archaeological Survey of India)—as well as state waqf boards and experts, ensuring a diversity of opinions. It is not entirely

correct to state that waqf reforms are being externally foisted. Rather, to a large extent, the demand for waqf reforms has emerged from within the Muslim community also. The Ministry of Minority Affairs received numerous complaints from Muslims on the maladministration of waqf properties, which manifested in voluminous litigations. The ministry’s analysis of grievances received from April 2023 found that 148 complaints pertained mostly to encroachments, illegal sales of waqf land, delays in surveys and registration, and complaints against waqf boards and mutawallis.

Has Trump Abandoned Ukraine In Favour Of Russia?

Donald Trump has spent only a month in his second term as the US President. However, he has disrupted the international order, weakened the Western alliance and created a sense of insecurity and uncertainty among its members, surprising even some of his supporters. There has been a paradigm shift in US foreign policy under Trump. He is now closer to Moscow than Washington’s traditional allies. He has embraced the Kremlin’s narrative on Ukraine and has sidelined US allies. Although senior members of the Trump administration have denied that the US has abandoned Kyiv and ignored its European allies, Trump himself has not made any serious attempts to pacify Ukrainians and Europeans. His closeness to Russia has been on display since he talked for 90 minutes on the phone with Russian leader Vladimir Putin, in which they agreed to start negotiations to end the Ukraine war, which will mark its third anniversary on Monday. Trump did speak to Zelenskyy soon after that call with Putin, but a nervous Ukrainian President warned that excluding his country from the talks would be “very dangerous”. Events after that only made Ukrainians feel sidelined. Trump’s Vice President, JD Vance, met European leaders in Munich two days later. But his comment that Europe will not be included in the peace talks only helped fuelled the speculation that they were being left out of the future of Ukraine, which is closer to their homes and in which they have invested a lot of money and effort since



the Russian invasion. Vance’s meeting with Zelenskyy did not go well either as the Ukrainian leader refused to give access to the country’s vast reserves of critical minerals unless he was given security guarantees. That angered Washington. Ending the Russia-Ukraine war was Trump’s major campaign promise. But hardly anyone expected him to brazenly take Russia’s side and even blame Ukraine for the conflict, which he did. Last Tuesday, a US delegation led by Secretary of State Marco Rubio met the Russian delegation headed by Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov in Saudi Arabia, to discuss peace. Ukraine was not invited. Putin—who had been shunned by the US and its allies since the invasion of Ukraine—was delighted. A frustrated Zelenskyy dismissed the Riyadh talks as worthless. Trump did not like those comments and called the Ukraine President a dictator, even accusing him of starting the war. Zelenskyy said the US President was living in a Russian-made “disinformation space”. This infuriated Trump, who does not take kindly to any criticism. He described Zelenskyy as “a modestly successful comedian” who “talked the United

States of America into spending \$350 Billion, to go into a War that couldn’t be won, that never had to start, but a War that he, without the U.S. and ‘TRUMP,’ will never be able to settle.” Trump’s behaviour towards Zelenskyy is in stark contrast to Biden’s, who had backed Ukraine against Russia with all the possible military and financial aid. President Biden travelled to Ukraine many times since the Russian invasion in February 2022 to display his administration’s full support. He also promised NATO membership to Ukraine at a future date. Russia was severely punished for invading Ukraine. The US joined hands with its allies to isolate Moscow. Russia faced tough sanctions and its assets in the West were seized. The International Criminal Court issued an arrest warrant against Putin for alleged war crimes in Ukraine. There were even plans to put Putin and his close allies on Nuremberg-style trials. Until a year ago, Ukraine’s leader was talking about even liberating all its territory, including Crimea, which Russia annexed in 2014, with the help of Western military equipment. Ukraine even succeeded in occupying the

Russian territory of Kursk, which it had thought would be used as a bargaining chip during negotiations with Moscow. But all that now looks like a distant dream. With Trump back in the White House, Ukraine fears that Russia will be allowed to keep all the occupied territory as part of the deal to end the war. Kyiv is now likely to be denied NATO membership. That could be a promise to Russia to end the war. The US under Trump has now even opposed calling Russia an aggressor in a G-7 statement being prepared to mark the third anniversary of the war. The US team removed the phrase from the first draft, which was prepared by Canada, the current holder of the group’s presidency. It is not just Ukraine, America’s European allies are also now nervous about the intent of Trump. Since the Second World War, they enjoyed the US security umbrella under NATO. But now they are unsure if the US under Trump will honour Article 5 of the NATO, which is triggered when a member state comes under attack. It implies that an attack on one member is an attack on all. There is even fear in Europe that Donald Trump may sign a deal with the Russian leader Vladimir Putin that will lead to the withdrawal of US forces from Baltic states and effectively kill the NATO alliance. That could be similar to the non-aggression treaty signed by the Soviet Union and Nazi Germany on August 23, 1939, sending shockwaves to other European countries and prompting Hitler and Stalin to annex neighbouring countries. It is another matter

that Hitler invaded the Soviet Union two years later, putting an end to the treaty. European members of NATO may call themselves major powers, but they can’t match Russia’s military might without US support. Even after losing more than a hundred thousand men and lots of military equipment in the Ukraine conflict, Moscow remains a strong power, mainly because of its nuclear arsenal. So Why Has Trump Changed The Narrative? Trump has always been an admirer of strongmen like Putin. Even during his first term, he developed a rapport with him. He also dislikes Zelenskyy, whom he sees as more of a roadblock in ending the Ukraine conflict. As a former businessman, Trump sees things from the perspective of profitable deals. Western sanctions have hit Russia, but American companies have also suffered business losses, running into billions of dollars. He would like to reverse that. And despite Ukraine’s resistance, Trump believes Zelenskyy will have to give access to critical minerals in return for any future US support. Some in the Trump administration suggest Kyiv should provide Americans with those minerals in return for the US military and financial aid already received by Ukraine. Trump has blamed European leaders for not doing enough to end the Ukraine war. He has also complained for a long time that Europe has lived off the US for too long and it must pay for its security. Europeans have increased their defence budgets but not enough to survive without US support.

The Hindutva Pitch of the BJP: Will Bihar Pay Attention This Time?

Prime Minister Narendra Modi attacked the opposition, calling members of the party who support “jungle raj” anti-Indian and anti-faith. Furthermore, he said that the state’s citizens would hold anybody who insults Maha Kumbh in contempt forever. Political circles were captivated by his attention on Maha Kumbh, which he displayed barely two days before Maha Shivratri, as the event was coming to a close. For what reason did Modi bring up the holy event, which has been going on for almost two months, Was all he was doing was addressing the Opposition’s strong criticism of what they saw as poor administration during the world’s largest religious gathering, the Maha Kumbh, and the two stampedes that occurred there. Did he want Maha Kumbh to be a part of the National Democratic Alliance’s Bihar election platform? It is quite probable that Modi, who had begun the NDA’s Bihar election campaign with Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, purposefully

brought up the controversy surrounding Maha Kumbh in order to strengthen the Hindu support among the OBC. Many also saw it as an effort to win over religiously inclined female voters. Meanwhile, political scientists claimed Modi didn’t really need to mention Maha Kumbh. In contrast to Uttar Pradesh, religious and communal appeals do not have the same impact on elections in Bihar. A transformative governance agenda has traditionally had a greater impact on the state. Rather than a rising embrace of the Hindutva ideology of the BJP, observers pointed out that Bihar was shifting away from the Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) led by Lalu Yadav owing to fears of his previous misrule. North Bihar is still firmly under the control of the NDA, and yatras, which were once used to communalize politics, have not been very successful. The Hindu Swabhiman Yatra, which Union Minister Giriraj Singh attempted last year but was unable to launch, is a prime example.

Government of India has condemned and refuted the findings of the US

In a strongly worded statement, Government of India has condemned and refuted the findings of the US Commission on International Religious Freedom report as “biased and politically motivated, and continuation of persistent attempts to misrepresent isolated incidents and cast aspersions on India’s vibrant multicultural society which reflects USCIRF’s deliberate agenda rather than a genuine concern for religious freedom”. Though this is not the first time such reports have painted India as a country highly intolerant of its religious minorities, the March 2025 report is the first time a recommendation has been made for India to be designated as “country of particular concern”. It alleges that minorities in India are facing ‘deteriorating treatment’. Fifteen other countries, including Afghanistan, Russia, China, Pakistan, and Saudi Arabia, have been found to be treating their respective minorities badly. Three aspects of this report should be of concern to New Delhi, and it should be brought to the attention of those the report is supposedly submitted to. The first is the report’s mention of the assassination of separatist Sikh elements in Canada posing as members of the Sikh religious community and the alleged attempt on the life of another Khalistani separatist. “The Indian government also continued to expand its repressive tactics to target religious minorities abroad, specifically members of the Sikh community and their advocates... International reporting and intelligence from the Canadian government corroborated allegations linking an official in India’s Research and Analysis Wing (RAW) and six diplomats to the 2023 assassination attempt of an American Sikh activist in New York,” the report has said. It’s important to note that these radical elements do not represent the Sikh community. While the Government

of India has categorically rejected the allegation, the Canadian government and the prosecuting authorities in the then Biden dispensation initiated legal actions against Indian officials.

While the earlier dispensations in both countries, Canada and America, have been shown the door, notoriously anti-India elements and outfits are probably yet to be identified and booted out. New Delhi should follow up with the present political establishments in both countries and set the record straight. The fourth meeting of the national level officials responsible for national security, intelligence gathering and overall supervision of strategic and security aspects of their respective countries, euphemistically called ‘spy chiefs’, was held in New Delhi recently. The chiefs of the Five Eyes countries, comprising Australia, Canada, New Zealand, the United Kingdom, and the US, as well as the Director of the Canadian Security and Intelligence Service (CSIS) Daniel Rogers who till recently served as Deputy National Security and Intelligence Advisor (NSIA) to the Prime Minister, attended the meeting. The Five Eyes, an Anglosphere intelligence agency, played a significant and notorious role in alleging New Delhi’s hand in the elimination of individuals inimical to India’s security interests through extra-territorial operations, allegedly assisted by the external intelligence agency of India, the Research and Analysis Wing (R&AW). Hopefully, some of the thorny issues were ironed out in this meeting, but more needs to be done. The Five Eyes, an Anglosphere intelligence agency, played a significant and notorious role in alleging New Delhi’s hand in the elimination of individuals inimical to India’s security interests through extra-territorial operations, allegedly assisted by the external intelligence agency of India.

Prasar Bharati distributes free high-quality news content

Delhi : Prasar Bharati has invited newspapers, periodicals, and television channels nationwide to register on its newswire platform, PB-SHABD, to improve access to high-quality news and multimedia content. This extensive content-sharing effort, launched in March 2024, provides over 800 daily news pieces in several Indian languages to support media businesses. More than 40 categories of stories cover current events, economy, society, and science. The portal also broadcasts major national and international events, has a large visual archive, and publishes explanatory and research-based pieces. PB-SHABD's free, media-friendly content is easily accessible and used for traditional and digital content makers. All legitimate media organizations must be on the platform, officials said at a recent high-level conference convened by



Information & Broadcasting Secretary Sanjay Jaju. The goal is to spread accurate, authentic, and understandable information through trusted means. PB-SHABD, India's first government-backed digital newswire, launched in March 2024 and offers over 800 multimedia news pieces daily in multiple Indian languages. This platform covers over 40 topics, including politics, health, economy, foreign affairs, ecology, and more. Built to enable a robust and inclusive media ecosystem, PB-SHABD offers: Registered media partners get free, copyright-cleared content.

The PM SHRI Institute

Delhi: The Government of India is a major backer of SHRI School. Every student should feel welcomed and cared for in more than 14,500 PM SHRI Schools managed by the Central Government, State Government, UT Government, and local bodies like KVS and NVS. These schools should also provide a safe and stimulating learning environment, a variety of learning opportunities, and adequate physical infrastructure and resources that help students learn.

Digital wallet payments must cross boundaries

Delhi : PayPal CEO Alex Chriss told us in an exclusive interview that digital wallets and rapid payment systems must integrate into a global, interoperable network to scale. Chriss lauded local payment rails like UPI, Venmo, and WeChat Pay. The next wave of digital commerce growth depends on making these technologies function together, he said. He believes travelers should be able to pay retailers or send money using their preferred apps, regardless of location. On PayPal World: PayPal has created PayPal World, a global



network connecting TenPay Global (China), UPI International (India), Mercado Pago (Mexico), PayPal, and Venmo. UPI apps will let Indians shop at European stores. Tourists in India might scan UPI QR codes with

their home wallets. Chriss also supported cryptocurrency as the next payment revolution. PayPal wants merchants to accept bitcoin by providing rails for such transactions as part of its worldwide ambition.

Sweden's Electrolux sells Kelvinator to Reliance

Delhi : Reliance Industries (RELI.NS), opens new tab and announces that its retail unit bought Kelvinator's Indian brand from Sweden's Electrolux (ELUXB.ST), opens new tab, expanding its foothold in the fast-growing consumer durables industry. Reliance Retail is devel-

oping its private-label portfolio and home electronics and appliances business due to increased incomes, urbanization, and competition. It runs Reliance Digital stores that offer smartphones, laptops, washing machines, and refrigerators. Since 2019, Kelvinator-brand refrigerators, air con-

ditioners, and washing machines have been sold through smaller appliance retailers in general trade under a license agreement with Electrolux. In India's 1970s and 80s, Kelvinator's "the coolest one," refrigerators became a symbol of middle-class aspiration.

For UPI's long-term success, a sustainable financial strategy is essential



Delhi : In order to sustain the fast expansion of UPI and guarantee the digital payments infrastructure's long-term viability, RBI governor Sanjay Malhotra has raised the need for a sustainable financial model. "The daily volume of UPI transactions was around 31 crore approximately two years ago. "In just two years, it has doubled to over 60 crore a day," Malhotra said, adding that it is vital to fund operational expenses due to the rising volumes.

Someone will have to pay the price; expenses are inevitable. "It is an important infrastructure," he stated at a Financial Express-hosted event. At the moment, the expenses are being covered by the government. The future handling of those charges is crucial. We will do whatever is necessary to guarantee that our nation has a reliable, strong, secure, and easily accessible payment system. He claimed that the move to subsidize UPI transactions by the government had contributed to the increase in adoption. The government is subsidizing it because they believe it should be offered for free.

Microsoft investigating 'internal leak' after hackers exploit SharePoint hole

Delhi : A leak in Microsoft Active Protections Program (MAPP), an early alert system for cybersecurity organizations, may have allowed Chinese state-backed hackers to attack SharePoint vulnerabilities before updates were publicly accessible. Following a security fix provided by the IT giant earlier this month that failed to adequately address a crucial server software flaw, cyber espionage attempts increased. As part of our usual procedure, we'll analyze this incident, determine ways to improve, and apply them broadly, "a Microsoft representative told Bloomberg. Microsoft told Reuters that it evaluates "the efficacy and security of all of our partner



programs and makes the necessary improvements as needed." Microsoft said last week that "Linen Typhoon" and "Violet Typhoon," two Chinese hacking groups, and a third were exploiting these vulnerabilities. At the Pwn2Own cybersecurity conference in Berlin in May,

Viettel researcher Dinh Ho Anh Khoa revealed the vulnerability. Microsoft released an initial patch in July after Khoa received \$100,000 for his findings. Dustin Childs, head of threat awareness for Trend Micro's Zero Day Initiative, which organizes Pwn2Own, said MAPP program members

YES Bank Stole Rs 2,850 Crore From Reliance MF

Delhi : Reliance Mutual Fund of Anil Ambani invested Rs 2,850 crore in YES Bank AT-1 bonds for alleged quid pro quo, Enforcement Directorate sources said. Additional Tier-1 or AT-1 bonds have no maturity date and investors never get their principal, but they do receive a higher interest rate forever. If necessary, the bank might convert them to equity or write them off. Reliance Mutual Fund's bonds were written off and the money was siphoned off, ED sources stated.

Delhi : American solar panel makers have resorted to submitting trade complaints against Laos, India, and Indonesia, claiming that businesses in those nations, which are dominated by Chinese ownership, are engaging in unfair trade practices. The Alliance for American Solar Manufacturing and Trade has just filed additional claims against dumping and countervailing duties. This group comprises First Solar, Mission Solar Energy, and Qcells. Chinese goods manufactured in these



three Asian countries are allegedly flooding the market at unjustly low prices, according to the trade association. U.S. solar companies are already feeling the effects of tariffs and Trump administration efforts to slow the expansion of renew-

able energy sources, and the most recent trade case just adds to their woes. This follows the United States' imposition of additional tariffs on machinery and tools produced in Cambodia, Vietnam, Thailand, and Malaysia.

Tesla sets foot in India with Rs 61 lakh Model Y

Delhi: Tesla is finally here. The electric car giant run by Elon Musk opened its first India showroom in Mumbai's BKC . Musk had set his eyes on India since at least 2015, but high tariffs, limited flexibility, and charging infrastructure challenges, kept Tesla away from the country, which the company had described as a hard market. While bookings opened, deliveries of Model Y SUVs, prices for which start at Rs 61-lakh on-road (500km range), will begin in Oct. A 'long-range' (622km) Model Y variant will be available from Jan 2026 with an on-road price tag of just over Rs 69 lakh. For context, BMW iX1 LWB electric SUV is priced at about Rs 51 lakh on-road, and Mercedes-Benz EQA electric SUV costs just over Rs 70 lakh. Users will have a simple 'plug and charge



59 countries waive the visa requirement for Indian citizens

Delhi : According to the Henley Passport Index-2025, the Indian passport has become more valuable, rising eight spots to the 77th spot. The number of countries that allow Indian passport holders to enter visa-free or with a visa upon arrival has increased to 59. In this measure, which rates 199 nations according to the amount of destinations their people can visit without a visa beforehand, this year's surge follows a five-place decline in 2024 compared to the previous year. India jumped from 85th place in 2024 to 77th place this year due to two new tourist destinations—Sri Lanka and the Philippines. India ranked 80th in 2023.

experience' with up to 267km range in superchargers adding 15 minutes.

Trump warns trade partners will face 15%–50% tariffs

Delhi : President Trump said retaliatory tariffs on US trading partners will range from 15% to 50%, with tough countries receiving a higher amount. "We'll have a straight, simple tariff of anywhere between 15% and 50%," the president stated at an AI meeting in Washington, D.C. "We have 50 because we haven't been getting along with those countries too well." Trump had said tariffs would stay around 10% or 15%. Multiple sources indicated that the US and EU are close to a trade and tariff deal, even as the EU prepares a possible retaliatory package on over \$100 billion in US goods. US taxes on EU imports to 15% from 30%, as President Trump warned on Aug. 1. Bloomberg stated the 15% tariff will apply to "most



Samsung may make India a US hub amid rising tariffs

Delhi: Samsung may move some smartphone production from Vietnam if US tariffs drop in India. The world's largest smartphone maker would follow Apple in making India a top US smartphone manufacturing base. Samsung manufactures in various countries. Due to heightened US uncertainty, we are ready for several possibilities.

products." Trump's plan with Japan, which includes a 15% tariff on imported goods and \$550 billion in US investment, is comparable. Trump

also announced the US had reached a trade deal with the Philippines that would impose a 19% tariff on Philippine goods.

Adani gets Rs 11,000cr for 30% JV share

Delhi : Adani Enterprises will sell its remaining 30.4% ownership in AWL Agri commercial to Wilmar International of Singapore and institutional investors for Rs 11,080 crore, exiting one of its first commercial endeavors from the turn of the millennium. In January, it sold 14% of AWL Agri Business (formerly Adani Wilmar) for Rs 4,856 crore through the offer for sale (OFS), signaling its exit from non-core infrastructure operations. The Ahmedabad-based Adani Group sold Adani Capital, Adani Housing, and the Myanmar port project. AWL stated on Thursday that Wilmar will buy Adani Enterprises' 20% interest in Fortune edible oil and Kohinoor basmati rice manufacturer for Rs 7,148 crore, increasing its ownership to 64% from 45%. In another transaction, institutional investors would buy Adani Enterprises' remaining 10.42% interest for Rs 3,934 crore. Wilmar and institutional investors pay Rs 275 per share for share transfer, compared to Rs 276.5 for Jan OFS. AWL shares on BSE rose over 8% to Rs 284 intraday on Thursday, ending at Rs 278, up 6.1%. AWL will no longer be an Adani Enterprises associate after these transactions, pending Wilmar anti-trust approvals. Adani Enterprises, the group's flagship company, plans to invest AWL divestiture revenues in airports, green hydrogen, roads, and copper activities, where it sees growth potential. The corporation has indicated airports will be a "full-blown consumer story" rather than FMCG.

Dhurandhar hits hard

Directed by Aditya Dhar, *Dhurandhar* is set to arrive in theatres on December 5



Director Aditya Dhar



Arjun Rampal



R. Madhavan

Ranveer Singh-starrer *Dhurandhar*, featuring an ensemble cast including Arjun Rampal, Akshaye Khanna, Sanjay Dutt, R. Madhavan, Rakesh Bedi, and Sara Arjun, unveiled its trailer on Friday at a grand launch event in Mumbai, attended by *The Free Press Journal*. During the event, Ranveer stated that they have tried to push the envelope and created something on an international level. He said, "It is India's moment on the world stage, and we want to be at the centre of it and represent Indian cinema on the global stage. *Aapke hosh udd jayenge*. It's massy, without even trying to be."

Praising 20-year-old Sara Arjun, Singh said, "Sara here is a prodigy. *Kuch log hote hain naa, matlab bachpan se hi aapko pata hai ki they are just like a child prodigy*. Like, *ek baar Dakota Fanning aayi thi Hollywood mein*. I think so, Sara. *Aise lagta hai yeh 50 film karke aayi hain*. She's so precocious as a person, as a performer. She is one of the finest actors that I have shared the screen with. You make me look better, and my heartfelt gratitude for that."

Sara Arjun also expressed gratitude to the makers for choosing her from among the 1300 participants who had auditioned for the part.

R. Madhavan, who features in the role of National Security Advisor Ajit Doval, said, "I remember Aditya came to me one day while I was shooting for something else to narrate the script of *Dhurandhar*. I listened to him, I listened to the research he had done, and I wondered, 'Where has this man been all this time? This is national-level research, but where was he?' *Sabse itti-haask film yeh hone wali hai. Jab main look test kar raha*

tha, hum kaafi der, 3-4 ghante, lage the uss look mein aane. Aur jab main apne aap ko dekh raha tha, lag raha tha ki ek cheez missing hai. Aditya aake bolte hain, 'Maddy, apne hoonth patle karo...' Toh poori film mein maine hoonth patle karke hi kiya hai. It was an honour, and a shitting-in-my-pants moment."

Arjun Rampal shared that when he heard the script of *Dhurandhar*, he knew it was an ambitious film. "*Aditya ne humein is film mein itna ugly dikhaya hai ki log humein pehchaan bhi nahi paaye*, because he wanted to look the most handsome on set.

But the process we all had to go through... everybody had to bring their triple-A game to this film. And Ranveer, what he did, for two years...

two years! I have seen this man. I mean, wow. I've seen him, and I am so proud of him because it's not easy. I did not see Ranveer even once in the frame; it was always Hamza. And, you know, that was incredible."

Rampal further praised Madhavan, recalling how on the first day of the *Dhurandhar* shoot in Bangkok, it was raining and Madhavan was filming a scene. While watching him perform, Rampal wondered, "*Kaun hai yeh actor yaar? Kamal ka actor hai. Bade acche se dialogue de raha hai*." Only later did he realise that it was Madhavan himself, as he hadn't recognised him in that look, and he called his performance phenomenal.



Ranveer Singh

Pics: Varinder Chawla



Pic: X @CMO Maharashtra

'Grateful, proud'

Bollywood actor Tiger reacts after being named brand ambassador for Maharashtra govt's football programme

The Maharashtra government on Monday announced Bollywood actor Tiger Shroff as the brand ambassador for its '*Maha-Deva*' football programme, which is designed to provide international exposure to football players from rural and tribal areas. The programme is also reportedly in discussions to

bring global football star Lionel Messi on board with an aim to further raise its profile and attract attention to emerging talent from less-represented regions. Chief Minister Devendra Fadnis, after the signing of a five-year agreement, said the initiative will give players from rural areas a platform to showcase their skills at an international level.

"The '*Maha-Deva*' football initiative will provide an in-

ternational platform to players from rural areas," he said. Tiger, who will participate in awareness campaigns, promotional events, and digital campaigns for the programme, said he is "grateful for the opportunity to contribute in whatever way I can to the growth of sports in our state." He added that young players have passion and potential but need the right support to succeed.

4 times Tom missed out on an Oscar

After four nominations and no competitive Oscar wins, Tom Cruise finally receives an honorary Academy Award for lifetime achievement

Tom Cruise, one of Hollywood's most iconic stars, has never won a competitive Oscar, despite being nominated four times. He received nods for *Born on the Fourth of July*, *Jerry Maguire*, *Magnolia*, and—as a producer—*Top Gun: Maverick*. But in November 2025, he was honoured with an Honorary Oscar at the Governors Awards, recognising his decades-long contribution to cinema. The award reflects his influence, dedication to filmmaking, his support for the theatrical experience and his reputation for performing daring stunts, awarding him in a deeply meaningful yet non-competitive way.



Born on the Fourth of July (1989)



Jerry Maguire (1996)



Magnolia (1999)



Top Gun: Maverick (2022)

Ghar premieres at 56th IFFI

Konkani short film *Ghar*, produced by Sahit Studios LLP, has been selected for the Goa – Premiere Section at this year's International Film Festival of India (IFFI). The film is written and directed by journalist Kishore Arjun and is presented by Zero Milestone Films, Srujan Theatres, and Vikas Productions. This marks the fifth consecutive year that Sahit Studios has secured a place in IFFI's Goa Section. Over the past five years, the production house has brought a range of fresh and socially relevant subjects to the screen.

At the recently concluded Goa State Film Festival, its short film '*Kupancho Daryeo*' swept all six awards in the non-feature category. Several of Sahit's Konkani short films have also earned recognition at national and international festivals during this period.

Speaking to The Goan, writer-director Kishore Arjun said, "The various experiments we continue to pursue in literature, cinema, and art have always found encouragement from our audience. The selection of *Ghar* at IFFI is a major motivation for us, and it energises our commitment to contribute meaningfully to Konkani cinema. We are grateful to the jury of ESG and IFFI for this honour."

Through *Ghar*, we are presenting an important subject, and we hope viewers will appreciate our effort."

Ghar features noted actors Raavi Kishor, Gauri Kamat, Rohit Khandekar, Vikas Kasliwal, along with child artist Shardul Borkar. The story is written by Madhuri Ashirgade and Kishore Arjun, and cinematography done by Ravindra Yempada and background score by Sindhuraj Kamat.

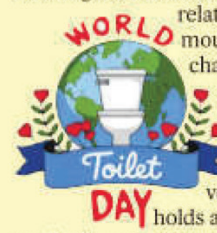
A still from short film *Ghar*

Of Bollywood films and toilets

Pics: IMDb

On World Toilet Day, Bollywood films remind audiences about hygiene, dignity and the everyday importance of access to safe sanitation facilities

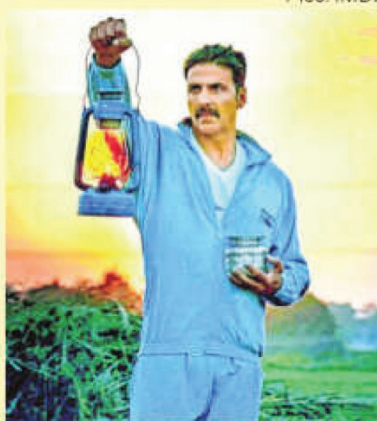
World Toilet Day highlights the basic yet urgent need for clean and accessible sanitation, something many still lack. Bollywood, known for its entertainment value, has also used storytelling to bring attention to this serious issue in simple, relatable ways. Through humour, emotion and real-life challenges, these films encouraged people to think differently about toilets, hygiene and dignity. They helped spark conversations across households and communities, making sanitation a topic worth discussing openly. As we observe this day, here are three Bollywood films that kept the message straightforward, meaningful and rooted in everyday life.



Piku (2015)
Amitabh Bachchan and Deepika Padukone use everyday bathroom struggles to bring humour and honesty to hygiene and health conversations.



Pad Man (2018)
Akshay Kumar highlights menstrual hygiene, showing how better sanitation and awareness can change lives for women in simple, practical ways.



Toilet: Ek Prem Katha (2017)

Akshay Kumar and Bhumi Pednekar show how a missing toilet creates conflict, leading to a fight for dignity and basic hygiene.



Celebrating everyday men

On International Men's Day, Bollywood films remind us of men's emotions, pressures and journeys often hidden behind strength and responsibility

International Men's Day celebrates the men who shape our lives—fathers, brothers, friends, colleagues—while also recognising the emotional and social pressures they face. Beyond stereotypes, men deal with stress, expectations and vulnerabilities that often go unspoken. Bollywood, in its own simple and heartfelt way, has highlighted these themes through films that explore friendship, mental health, responsibility and personal struggles. These stories remind us that men, too, need support, understanding and space to express themselves. On this day, we revisit three Hindi films that portray men with honesty, warmth and humanity, encouraging conversations around well-being and emotional balance.



Chhichhore (2019)

Sushant Singh Rajput highlights pressures on young men, showing how support, friendship and openness can ease emotional struggles and expectations.



3 Idiots (2009)

Aamir Khan, R. Madhavan and Sharman Joshi explore academic pressure on men, stressing the importance of passion, friendship, mental well-being.

RAISING HOPES Security Council approves stabilisation force and Board of Peace despite Russian and Chinese abstentions

UNSC endorses Trump's Gaza peace blueprint

Also authorises stabilisation force

UNITED NATIONS

The UN Security Council adopted a draft resolution backing US President Donald Trump's Gaza peace plan and authorising creation of an international stabilisation force, a move Trump hailed as a "moment of true historic proportion".

The US-drafted resolution passed on Monday with 13 votes in favour, while China and Russia abstained. It endorses Trump's Comprehensive Plan to End the Gaza Conflict, unveiled on September 29, which envisions Gaza as a "deradicalised, terror-free zone" focused on redevelopment and long-term stability.

The resolution also welcomes the creation of a 'Board of Peace' (BoP), described as a transitional administration with international legal status to coordinate reconstruction and funding under the plan. Trump said he would chair the board, which would include "the most powerful and respected leaders throughout the world".

In a social media message, Trump said the vote would be remembered as "one of the biggest approvals in the history of

Netanyahu applauds, Hamas rejects UN adoption

ISRAELI Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Tuesday applauded the United Nations' approval of the Trump administration's blueprint to secure and govern Gaza, while Hamas rejected the plan as a foreign instrument of control. "We believe that President Trump's plan will lead to peace and prosperity because it insists upon full demilitarisation, disarmament and the deradicalisation of

Gaza," Netanyahu's office wrote on X on Tuesday.

HAMAS said that force's mandate, including disarmament, "strips it of its neutrality, and turns it into a party to the conflict in favour of the occupation." It said the resolution did not "meet the level of our Palestinian people's political and humanitarian demands and rights." Hamas demanded that any international force

be under UN supervision, deploy only at Gaza's borders to monitor the ceasefire and operate exclusively with Palestinian institutions.

PALESTINIAN AUTHORITY welcomed the resolution and said it was ready to immediately implement it on the ground. It said it would cooperate with the US, the UN, and other Arab and European states.

the United Nations" and would "lead to further peace all over the world". The vote comes ahead of his meeting with Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman at the White House.

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres called the Council decision an "important step" in consolidating the ceasefire and urged all parties to comply. He praised the continued mediation efforts of Egypt, Qatar, Türkiye, the US and regional nations, stressing the need to advance towards a political process aimed

at a two-state solution.

US Secretary of State Marco Rubio called the resolution a "historic milestone" in building a peaceful Gaza governed by Palestinians "not Hamas". US Ambassador Mike Waltz said the BoP would coordinate humanitarian aid, development and support a technocratic Palestinian administration, while the Palestinian Authority undertakes reforms.

The resolution also outlines frameworks for troop contributors to the International Stabil-

isation Force and mechanisms for global financial institutions to support reconstruction.

Russia's envoy Vasily Nebenzya criticised the plan as "yet another pig in a poke", warning it could become a "smokescreen for unbridled experiments" and undermine the two-state solution. Under the plan, hostilities would halt immediately if accepted by both sides, with staged Israeli withdrawal, a hostage release, and a development blueprint to rebuild Gaza, including a special economic zone.

1 Israeli killed, 3 wounded in West Bank attack

An Israeli man was killed and three others wounded in a ramming and stabbing attack at the Gush Etzion junction in the West Bank, Israeli authorities said. The assault follows escalating settler violence, including attacks on the Palestinian village of al-Jab'a. Israeli leaders condemned the unrest as police and soldiers moved in and arrested several suspects.

'Chinese spies trying to reach UK lawmakers via LinkedIn'

LONDON

Britain's domestic intelligence agency on Tuesday warned lawmakers that Chinese spies were "actively" reaching out to them via recruitment headhunters.

Writing to lawmakers, House of Commons Speaker Lindsay Hoyle said a new MI5 "espionage alert" warned that Chinese nationals were "using LinkedIn profiles to conduct outreach at scale" on behalf of the Chinese Ministry of State Security.

"Their aim is to collect information and lay the groundwork for long-term relationships, using profes-

sional networking sites, recruitment agents and consultants acting on their behalf," he said.

MI5 issued the alert because the activity was "targeted and widespread," he added.

The alert named two women, Amanda Qiu and Shirley Shen, and said other similar recruiters' profiles were acting as fronts for espionage.

British intelligence officials have steadily ramped up their warnings about espionage threats from China.

MI5 Director-General Ken McCallum told reporters last month that Chinese state actors present a national security threat to the UK "every day."

McCallum said Beijing-backed meddling has included cyberespionage, stealing technology secrets and "efforts to interfere covertly in UK public life." In January 2022, the Security Service issued a similar security alert to all lawmakers, warning that a London-based lawyer was knowingly engaged in "political interference activities in the UK" in coordination with the Chinese Communist Party's United Front Work Department, an organisation known to exert Chinese influence abroad.

The lawyer, Christine Lee, was accused of facilitating covert donations to British parties and legislators "on behalf of foreign nationals."

Iran suspends visa waiver for Indians after misuse

NEW DELHI

Iran has suspended the visa waiver facility for ordinary Indian passport holders in the wake of several reported incidents of Indians being lured to that country on false promises of employment or with assurances of onward transit to other countries, according to the MEA.

The Ministry of External Affairs on Monday said the government's attention has been drawn to several incidents of Indian nationals being lured to Iran on false promises of employment or with assurances of onward transit to third countries.

The government of Iran has accordingly "suspended the visa waiver facility" available to ordinary Indian passport holders visiting Iran with effect from November 22. This measure is intended to prevent further misuse of the facility by criminal elements, the MEA said in a statement.

Ex-US Treasury Secy, Harvard head hit by disclosures in Epstein files

NEW YORK

As Congress readies to vote on Tuesday on the release of all the files on convicted sex offender Jeffrey Epstein, once a high-flying billionaire social figure, preliminary leaks have hit Larry Summers, a former Treasury Secretary and Harvard University head.

After disclosures in emails between them that Summers sought advice from Epstein about seducing a woman, Summers said that he was "deeply ashamed" and would withdraw from public engagements.

Democrat Representative Ro Khanna, who spearheaded the effort for the legislation to release the documents, told a TV interviewer that he wanted the elite involved to be exposed. After months of opposing the release of all the Epstein documents to the government, President Donald

Trump retreated on Sunday and said his party's members of the House of Representatives can vote for legislation to open the trove of files.

He backtracked because it appeared that a large number of Republicans would defy him and vote for it, which could be interpreted as the first sign that his control was slipping. "It's a Democrats' problem. Democrats were Epstein's friends, all of them", Trump asserted.

Summers is a Democrat who was in former President Barack Obama's cabinet.

Like Summers, former President Bill Clinton was a guest of Epstein and flew on his private planes, which Trump mentioned and asked the Justice Department to investigate them and financial institutions with links to the billionaire. Democrats pushed for the files' release, and some Republicans joined them because of the anti-elite sentiments of their base.

US lawmakers back India-US partnership

NEW YORK/WASHINGTON

Two US lawmakers have introduced a bipartisan resolution recognising the strategic partnership between the United States and India and calling for deeper cooperation across key sectors, including defence, technology and counterterrorism.

Democratic Congressman Ami Bera of California, the longest-serving Indian American in Congress, and Republican Joe Wilson of South Carolina introduced the resolution titled "Recognising the strategic value of the historical partnership between the United States and India."

The measure highlights decades of growing ties between the two democracies

and stresses India's role in promoting regional stability and a free and open Indo-Pacific. It notes that successive US administrations from Clinton to Biden have prioritised strengthening ties with India owing to shared interests in security, democratic values and economic growth.

The resolution applauds India for increasing purchases of American energy

resources, calling it vital to mutual energy security and prosperity.

It also emphasises continued cooperation on counterterrorism, citing the 26/11 Mumbai attacks and the recent Pahalgaon attack. The document notes the US designation of the Lashkar-e-Taiba proxy, as a foreign terrorist organisation.

Zelenskyy, US envoy to visit Turkiye in bid to end war

KYIV

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said on Tuesday that he will travel to Türkiye this week in an attempt to jump-start negotiations on ending Russia's invasion, which began nearly four years ago.

US special envoy Steve Witkoff will join Zelenskyy in Türkiye, a senior Turkish official told The Associated Press, but the Kremlin said that Russia won't be sending anyone.

Türkiye provided a setting for low-level talks between Ukraine and Russia earlier this year, though the only significant progress in Istanbul was on exchanging prisoners of war. US-led international peace efforts have brought no breakthrough, either.

Zelenskyy said that he would be in Türkiye on Wednesday, a day after visiting Spain, where he hoped for pledges of new support on Tuesday.

"We are preparing to reinvigorate negotiations, and we have developed solutions that we will propose to our partners," Zelenskyy said on social media, without providing details. "Doing everything possible to bring the end of the war closer is Ukraine's top priority." US President Donald Trump has expressed frustration with Russian President Vladimir Putin's refusal to

Calm but tense B'desh under tight security

Awami League calls shutdown after Hasina verdict



NEW DELHI/DHAKA

Bangladesh on Tuesday remained calm but tense as security forces kept a tight grip on the streets across major cities, following the Awami League's call for a "nationwide total shutdown" to protest the death sentence handed down to its chief and former prime minister Sheikh Hasina.

No incident of violence was reported, while traffic in Dhaka and other major cities stayed thin and public movement was limited amid fears of possible unrest following Monday's high-profile verdict. "The transport flow is thin as the people preferred to stay indoors," a transport operator in Dhaka said.

Many offices and educational institutions recorded low attendance as people chose to stay indoors amid uncertainty.

Heavily armed police, Rapid Action Battalion personnel and paramilitary units continued round-the-clock patrols, especially around government buildings, party offices and key intersections. Authorities kept security cordons in parts of the capital, while checkpoints and barricades remained in place.

Hasina's Awami League party, in a statement posted on social media on Monday, called for a "nationwide total shutdown" on Tuesday in protest against Hasina's verdict. It has also called for "nationwide demonstrations, protests, and resistance" from Nov 19-21.

"Our systematic democratic movement will continue until the fall of the illegal, unconstitutional government of killer-fascist (Muhammad) Yunus and the restoration of a democratic state system," the statement said.

MBS to get warm embrace from Trump

WASHINGTON

President Donald Trump is set to fete Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman on Tuesday when the de facto leader of Saudi Arabia makes his first White House visit since the 2018 killing of Washington Post journalist Jamal Khashoggi by Saudi agents.

The US-Saudi relationship



had been sent into a tailspin by the operation targeting Khashoggi, a fierce critic of the kingdom, that US intelligence agencies later determined Prince Mohammed likely directed the agents to carry out.

But seven years later, the

dark clouds over the relationship have been cleared away. And Trump has tightened his embrace of the 40-year-old crown prince he views as an indispensable player in shaping the Middle East in the decades to come. Prince Mohammed, for his part, denies involvement in the killing of Khashoggi, a Saudi citizen and Virginia resident. Khashoggi will likely be an

afterthought as the two leaders unveil billions of dollars in deals and huddle with aides to discuss the tricky path ahead in a volatile Middle East. They'll end their day with an evening White House soiree, organised by first lady Melania Trump, to honour the prince.

"They have been a great ally," Trump said of the Saudis on the eve of the visit.

Ukrainians blew up Polish rail line: Tusk

WARSAW

Two Ukrainians have been identified as the suspected perpetrators behind two acts of sabotage targeting a railway line between Warsaw and Lublin on Monday, Polish Prime Minister Donald Tusk told the parliament on Tuesday. According to him, the suspects sought to provoke a train crash.

The prime minister accused the suspects of working "with the Russian intelligence for a long time." According to Tusk, both alleged perpetrators fled to Belarus after the incidents. A military-grade C4 explosive charge was used in at least one incident, he said.

Pak court to cops: Stop harassing Sikh woman who married local Muslim

LAHORE

A high court in Pakistan on Tuesday ordered the police to stop harassing an Indian Sikh woman, who converted to Islam and married a local Muslim man whom she had met on social media.

Sarabjeet Kaur, 48, was among 2,000 Sikh pilgrims who had entered Pakistan via Wagah border from India early this month to attend the festivities related to the birth anniversary of Guru Nanak.

The pilgrims returned home on November 13, but Kaur was found missing. A senior police officer in Lahore later said that Kaur contracted marriage with Nasir Hussain of Sheikhupura district, some 50 kms from La-



hore, a day after she arrived in Pakistan on November 4.

When the pilgrims went to Nankana Sahib the same day, Kaur skipped the gathering and reached Sheikhupura along with Hussain. On Tuesday, Kaur and Hussain filed a petition in the Lahore High Court complaining that the police had conducted an illegal raid at their house in Farooqabad, Sheikhupura, and pressured them to end the marriage. LHC Justice Farooq Haider

ordered the police to stop harassing the petitioners.

In the petition, Kaur said a police officer caused undue harassment towards the couple and forced them to dissolve the marriage. She said her husband is a citizen of Pakistan, and she has approached the Indian mission to extend her visa and obtain Pakistani nationality.

In a video clip circulating on social media, she said she had known Hussain for the last nine years through Facebook.

"I am a divorcee and wanted to marry Hussain; therefore, I came here for the purpose," she said, adding that she and her husband were being harassed by police and unknown people.

Kaur is given a Muslim name, Noor, before the nikah ceremony.

UN COP30 host Brazil urges nations to find solutions to global warming

BELEM (BRAZIL)

With a direct letter sent to nations, host country Brazil is shifting the UN climate conference into a higher gear.

The letter sent late Monday comes during the final week of what has been billed as a historic climate summit, the first ever in the Amazon rainforest, a key regulator of climate because trees absorb carbon dioxide, a greenhouse gas that warms the planet.

The letter comes ahead of the speeches of high-level ministers on Tuesday. Headliners include representatives from influential European countries like Ed Miliband, energy secretary of the United Kingdom, and Deputy Prime Minister Sophie Hermans of the Netherlands. More leaders will also speak from small island states and developing countries like Barbados and Bangladesh, both facing loss of land as seas rise because of climate change. The letter asks leaders to

Climate change real, India to declare NDC by Dec: Yadav

India will submit its revised Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) for the 2035 period by December, Environment Minister Bhopendra Yadav said on Monday, while calling on developed nations to achieve net-zero targets well ahead of their current deadlines. Addressing the high-level segment of the COP30 climate summit here, Yadav said climate change was "real and imminent", driven by unsustainable patterns of growth and development.

'Protecting big cats ensures human future'

India has urged global leaders to step up efforts to protect big cats, saying that securing the future of these species will ensure a safe, long-lasting life for mankind. Addressing the high-level Ministerial Segment on the International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA), Environment Minister Bhopendra Yadav warned that a decline in big cat populations will destabilise the entire ecosystem. "Where big cats thrive, forests are healthier, grasslands regenerate, water systems function, and carbon is stored efficiently in living landscapes," Yadav said.

hash out many aspects of a potential agreement by Tuesday night so that much is out of the way before the final set of decisions on Friday, when the conference is scheduled to end. Climate summits routinely go

past their last day, as all nations come to the negotiating table trying to balance domestic concerns with major shifts needed around the world to protect the environment and cut greenhouse gas emissions.

Mamdani hates Indian population: Trump's son

AGENCIES/WASHINGTON

Eric Trump, the second son of US President Donald Trump, has intensified his criticism of New York City's incoming mayor, Zohran Mamdani, asserting that the mayor-elect "hates the Indian population."

Trump made the remark during a conversation with Fox News commentator Sean Hannity, where he argued that major American cities are being reshaped by what he described as an aggressive far-left agenda. According to him, this ideological swing has left large corporations struggling under policies aligned with socialism.

While speaking to Hannity, Trump lamented what he sees as the decline of New York, insisting that the city was once the "greatest city in the world" but no longer holds that title "because of politics."

Briefs

NEW DELHI

India-Bangla home series postponed



The Indian women's cricket team's white-ball home series against Bangladesh next month has been postponed by the BCCI, which is aiming to work out an alternate assignment for the world champion side in the same window. The three ODIs and as many T20s against the neighbours were a part of the ICC Future Tours Programme and expected to be played in Kolkata and Cuttack. "We will try to arrange an alternate series in December but details are still being worked out. As far as the series against Bangladesh is concerned, we didn't get a go ahead for it," a BCCI source told PTI without divulging any details. Though it was not revealed in as many words, the currently tense diplomatic relations between the two nations might have played a part in rescheduling the series.

SYDNEY

Sat-Chi pair advances to second round



Star Indian shuttlers Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty entered the men's doubles second round with a tough straight-game win over Chinese Taipei's Chang Ko-Chi and Po Li-Wei at the Australian Open Super 500 tournament here on Tuesday. The world No. 3 Indian pair, who reached back-to-back finals at the Hong Kong Super 500 and China Masters Super 750, prevailed 25-23, 21-16 in a fighting 48-minute opening-round clash against Ko-Chi and Po Li-Wei. In women's doubles, however, Treena Jolly and Gayatri Gopichand suffered a 10-21, 14-21 defeat to Indonesia's F Kusuma and M Puspitastari. India's singles players will start their campaign on Wednesday.

BENGALURU

WTL makes its India debut this December



A clutch of top international stars, including former US Open champion Daniil Medvedev and 2022 Wimbledon winner Elena Rybakina, are set to enthrall fans in India when the World

RANJI TROPHY | Visitors batters fight on Day 3 but still trail by 267 runs as they look to avoid an innings defeat against Mumbai

Puducherry holds fort

MUMBAI

Puducherry put up a stiff resistance in the second innings thanks to half-centuries from Aman Khan and Sidhaant Addhatrao as they pushed the Ranji Trophy Elite Group D match to the fourth day at the Wankhede Stadium on Tuesday.

The sixth-wicket partnership of 137 runs off 191 balls between Aman and Sidhaant was the saving grace for Puducherry in a match where the visitors were only delaying the inevitable after conceding a gargantuan first-innings lead of 498 runs.

Aman Khan's 86 off 44 balls was the highlight of the Puducherry innings and he was well supported by sidhaantwho scored 51 off 54 balls. Puducherry ended the day at 231/6 in 45 overs.

Come the second innings following on, it seemed Puducherry were going down the same track as their first innings performance.

Ajay Rohera was caught at first slip by Sarfaraz Khan off Tushar Deshpande for no score as Mumbai began the demolition job.

Shardul Thakur then bagged the second wicket of Paras Ratnaparkhe for 1 by Akash Anand as the Mumbai pacers got into the groove.

Then Mohit Kale and Neyan Kangayan put on a semblance of a resistance as they stitched together a partnership of 35 odd runs.

Kale was the more aggressive of the two as he was going at a strike rate of 88 reaching 22 off 25 balls with four boundaries. Puducherry were 40/2 after the completion of 11 overs in their second innings.

They reached 53/2 in 14 overs as Kale and Kangayan brought up their 50-run part-



Puducherry's Mohit Kale celebrates his half century against Mumbai at Wankhede Stadium on Tuesday. PTI

Brief scores:

In Mumbai: Mumbai: 630/5 (Siddhesh Lad 170, Akash Anand 107*, A Hewadkar 86, M Khan 84) declared vs Puducherry: 132 (Mohit Kale 53; Shardul Thakur 3/22, Tanush Kotian 3/33, Shams Mulani 2/23, Tushar Deshpande 2/26) and 231/6 (Aman Khan 86, Siddhant Addhatrao 51*; Shams Mulani 2/67).

In Mullanpur: Maharashtra: 350 all out beat Punjab: 151 all out in 58.4 overs (Anmol Malhotra 35; Rajvardhan Hangargkekar 5/44, Rajneesh Gurbani 4/39) and 107 all out in 40.5 overs (Vicky Ostwal 6/26) by an innings and 92 runs.

In Hubballi: TAT Hubballi: Karnataka: 547/8 declared in 160 overs beat Chandigarh: 222 all out in 63.2 overs (Manan Vohra 106 not out, Shreyas Gopal 7/73, Shikhar Shetty 2/43) and 143 all out in 33.5 overs (Shivam Bhambri 43; Shikhar Shetty 5/61, Shreyas Gopal 3/45) by an innings and 185 runs.

nership in 69 balls with former on 36 and the latter on 17. Puducherry went to tea at 66/2 in 17 overs with Kangayan on 31 off 51 balls while Kale was on 34 off 39 deliveries faced.

Mulani broke the 66-run partnership between Kale and Kangayan as he sent the former packing caught by substitute Sairaj Patil for 35.

The fifth-wicket partnership between Kangayan and Anand Singh Bais lasted for just 16 runs as Kotian trapped

the former leg before for 42 as Puducherry were reduced to 85/4 in 25.2 overs.

Anand Singh didn't last long himself as he holed out to Tushar Deshpande off Mulani's bowling and was dismissed for just eight. Puducherry slipped to 91/5 at that stage and were staring at a huge innings defeat.

Thereafter, Aman Khan and Sidhaant used the long handle to good effect as they built a 81-run partnership as Puducherry reached 172/5 in

37 overs. Aman brought up his fifty as well as he got to 55 off 29 balls with four hits to the fence and five over it at a strike rate of 189.

The duo brought up the 100-run partnership in 72 balls and 53 minutes as Puducherry reached 200/5 in 39 overs. Sidhaant struck his fifty in 49 balls. Earlier, Puducherry were all out for 132 in their first innings in 47.2 overs with Shardul Thakur and Tanush Kotian scalping three wickets apiece.

Mulani hopes to wrap things up in first session

MUMBAI

Mumbai spinner Shams Mulani stated the team wanted to finish off the game today (Tuesday) itself but will try and wrap things up in the first session on Wednesday.

"We tried to finish off today only but hopefully we will try and finish off the game in the first session tomorrow with a disciplined line and length," he added.

The spinner also said Mumbai's plan was to go all out in the second innings against Puducherry.

"Our plan in the second innings was to attack as much as possible. We had a good first innings total but we wanted to contain them for as less as possible as it would be good for our future games as well.

In the second innings, we were attacking and initially we got the wickets and we wanted to use the momentum. They had also an aggressive gameplan in their mind and they had an aggressive approach and that paid off well for them with certain shots that he played which was quite unbelievable," he added.

Mulani also heaped praise on Aman Khan for his aggressive half-century.

"Those are the kind of shots that sometimes can get you out but it worked out for him today. He played really well. We didn't mind how many boundaries are going as long as we are able to get the wickets," he added.

"The shots that he played against the spinners with the turn, full credit to him. Normally, fielders are not there in those positions and certain areas the bounce is variable and finally we got his wicket," he added.

Deja vu moment for Aman Khan

Life comes full circle for Mumbaikar, playing against former team-mates

MUMBAI

Having played for Mumbai in the past and with stints with Delhi Capitals under the tutelage of Ricky Ponting, Aman Khan is no muck with the bat.

The 28-year-old from Mumbai, who plays for DY Patil Club, was on song against his former team-mates in their Ranji Trophy Elite Group D match at the Wankhede Stadium slamming a fantastic 86 that will be remembered as the standout innings for Puducherry in what was otherwise a listless display.

Talking about his mindset while he was playing the fine knock, Aman was forthright with his views.

"It's not like I came up with this mindset today. But yes, I had this mindset that if there is nothing left in the match, I can play more freely.

He also dwelt a bit on his IPL stint with Delhi Capitals and how that helped him evolve as a batter and what he learnt from Ponting.

"From Ponting, actually I have said this in previous interviews also. There is one thing in my batting technique-wise that he changed for me. It's a slight change, which has helped me a lot."

The Puducherry batter was effusive in his praise for the Mumbai team and their work ethic. "I feel the quality of the Mumbai side is really good. Obviously, I have been a part of it. I know the in and out of the team. I know what their work ethics are and how they prepare for the game. They play like champions. That is what we saw today.

It was an amazing challenge for me to play against them. How do you help the



I feel the quality of the Mumbai side is really good. Obviously, I have been a part of it. I know the in and out of the team.

Aman Khan
Puducherry batter

Pondicherry team with the kind of experience of playing for Mumbai? How do you do that? Obviously, I feel every player who plays in the IPL or for India or domestic, everyone has good skill. That is why they are playing over there."

Aman elaborated on his approach and explained that he tries to keep things simple when it comes to his batting.

"No, as I said, I don't have anything in my mind. I enjoy playing this style of cricket. I always try to play like this.

You can see my previous innings, which were mostly runner ball. I enjoy doing this. What is it like playing against a team that you have already played for in the white ball format? Obviously, it's a good challenge.

I have played with everyone in club cricket. Throughout the year, whenever I am free from domestic season, I come and play club cricket. It's fun, it's challenging."

Bigger IPL window needed, says Wadia

NEW DELHI

Punjab Kings co-owner Ness Wadia is all for the revival of the Champions League but first he would like to see more games added to the Indian Premier League window.

During the previous edition, IPL chairman Arun Dhimal had spoken about the possibility of increasing the number of games from the existing 74 to 94 from 2028 when the next media rights cycle starts.

Wadia said more games would be prudent for the IPL while the return of the Champions League T20 would reduce the long gap between the IPL and the auction. He also welcomed the trend of holding the auction overseas. The IPL is usually held in the March-May window while the auction is held in December.

"The BCCI and everyone involved, all the franchises, all of us together, we should look back and be very proud of what has been achieved. Going forward, it would be good to have more matches, we can start with two extra games (for every team)," said Wadia.



Going forward, it would be good to have more matches, we can start with two extra games.

Ness Wadia
Punjab Kings co-owner

"Also, at some point, we need to look at reviving the Champions League to shorten the gap between the end of the IPL and the auction and keep that excitement alive. And bringing in the international exposure by having auctions in Jeddah, Dubai, and Abu Dhabi (next month), that only brings more eyeballs and gets a better connect for IPL as a brand."

'No one raised the question when India were winning'

NEW DELHI

India pacer Bhuvneshwar Kumar feels the debate over preparing a spin-friendly track at the Eden Gardens for the opening Test against South Africa is pointless as the country has been laying out such wickets for ages.

India suffered a 30-run defeat inside at the hands of the Proteas inside three days, failing to chase a miniscule 124-run target.

The loss to South Africa in Kolkata had shades of the 0-3 drubbing at the hand of New Zealand last year where the Blackcaps spinners played a pivotal role. However, Bhuvneshwar didn't read too much into the defeat.

"This is not the first time a spin-friendly track has been prepared. No one raised this question (before) because India was winning. And, winning and losing is part of the game. It's not that the team has not lost before or it has lost for the first time. I don't think it's (defeat) a big worry for me," said the 35-year-old pacer, who announced the launch of 'CricGiri' app, of which he is the co-founder.

Sudharsan, Jurel bat against spinners wearing single pad at Eden Gardens nets

After collapse against SA in first Test, Indian batters want to use bat more

KOLKATA

Staying true to batters' quirks and routines during net sessions, India's Sai Sudharsan and Dhruv Jurel on Monday faced spinners while wearing only one pad to counter the turning deliveries, a method that comes with an element of risk.

As is the case with most unorthodox practices, there was a method to the madness during this nearly three-hour optional session at the Eden Gardens.

For left-hander Sudharsan, the decision to remove his right pad was aimed at ensuring a big front-foot stride without any protection on that leg.

Sudharsan did not play the Eden Test, and there is no guarantee he will get a start in Guwahati either.

Batting against left-arm spinners and off-spinners without a front pad meant he had to be especially cautious about avoiding blows on the shin bone or any exposed area that could lead to a fracture.

This is a very old-school training method, where



India's Sai Sudharsan (L) during a training session at Eden Gardens in Kolkata on Tuesday. PTI

coaches insist batters use their bat more than their front pad to block the deliveries.

With pads on, batters tend to fall back on conditioned reflexes, bringing the front pad across as the first line of defence and often ending up in front-foot leg-before positions.

Removing the front pad in nets forces the batter to rely on the bat instead.

strips. For a right-hander, the execution of the stroke demands a big stride forward with the right leg.

This again is an exercise designed to ensure correct movement while minimising the risk of injury.

During the optional session, head coach Gautam Gambhir kept a close watch on Sudharsan, one of the contenders to replace Shubman Gill, who may have to sit out the second Test due to neck spasm. All-rounder Nitish Reddy has been taken out of the ongoing India A series against South Africa A in Rajkot.

Ambidextrous spinner

In a match simulation designed to help Indian batters counter the threat of off-spinner Simon Harmer and left-arm spinner Keshav Maharaj, an unlikely figure stepped into the spotlight.

Little-known ambidextrous Bengal spinner Kaushik Maity seamlessly doubled up for both roles during the optional practice session. The 26-year-old Maity, who has represented Bengal in the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy.

flight chaos

Medal-winning archers endure night-long ordeal in Dhaka

KOLKATA

Indian archers endured a night of chaos when their return to the country from Dhaka after the Asian Championships was delayed by a day due to a cancelled flight, forcing them to stay at a "substandard shelter" after navigating through the violence-hit Bangladeshi capital without security.

Eleven members of the 23-strong squad, including two minors, were left stranded

for nearly 10 hours at the airport amid repeated flight delays and a "complete absence of support" from the airline on which they were booked.

The group, which included senior pros Abhishek Verma, Jyoti Surekha and Olympian Dhiraj Bommadevara, had reached the Dhaka airport on Saturday for their 9.30pm flight to Delhi, only to be told after boarding that the aircraft had developed a technical snag and would not take off.

It was at a time when Dhaka witnessed violence on the streets as it awaited a special tribunal's verdict against deposed Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in a case of alleged crimes against humanity.

The archers, seven of them women, remained inside the terminal till 2am with no clarity. When the cancellation was finally announced, passengers were informed that no alternate flight would be arranged that night.

The moment the team

stepped out of the airport, their ordeal escalated.

They were herded into a "window-less local bus" and taken nearly half an hour away to a makeshift lodge which was like a "Dharamshala", the country's most decorated compound male archer Verma alleged.

The 36-year-old said the place where the team was taken "was not even a proper hotel", but a cramped dormitory with six beds in one room for the women and only one filthy toilet.

"The 'dharamshala' that was given in the name of the guest house was very pathetic. In one room there were six double beds... There was only one toilet and the condition of the toilet was very bad," he told PTI.

"It was such that I don't think anyone could have taken a bath there," Verma, who has consecutive Asian Games silver medals (2018 and 2022), alleged.

Their attempts to make alternative arrangements also could not work out.



Indian Archery team won 10 medals, including 6 Golds at the Asian Archery Championships 2025. ANI