



Hindustan Times

FIRST VOICE. LAST WORD.

MacBook Air
Smart. Speedy. Super light.



Go to IndiaiStore.com to find Apple Authorised stores near you.

Available with benefits up to ₹20000*

₹10000* Instant cashback on credit cards of
ICICI Bank | **IDFC FIRST Bank** | **SBI Card**

+



Exchange bonus up to ₹10000*



*Terms and conditions apply.
Please scan the QR Code for detailed terms and conditions.

INDIA iSTORE
INGRAM | Redington

WATCH SE 3



The temperature sensing feature is not intended for medical use. Straps are shown for illustrative purposes only and are subject to availability. Some straps are sold separately.

Go to IndiaStore.com to find Apple Authorised stores near you.

Starting at an Effective Price of **₹23900***

Inclusive of **₹2000*** instant cashback on credit cards of



*The illustrative Effective price of ₹23900.00 is calculated on the MRP of ₹25900.00 (inclusive of all taxes) of Watch SE 3, GPS, 40mm(1N) and reduced by ₹2000.00 Instant Cashback. Terms and Conditions Apply. Please scan the QR Code for terms and conditions.

 **INDIA iSTORE**
 



42 Indian pilgrims killed in Medinah bus accident

Rezaul H Laskar

letters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: Forty-two Indian pilgrims, including women and children, were among 44 people killed when a fuel tanker collided with a bus near Medinah in Saudi Arabia early on Monday, people familiar with the matter said.

The pilgrims, mostly from the Hyderabad region, were travelling from Mecca to Medinah in the bus when the accident occurred at 11.30pm Saudi time (1.30am IST on Monday), the people said on condition of anonymity. They were part of a group of 54 Indians who had gone to Saudi Arabia to perform Umrah, or the pilgrimage outside the Haj season.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and external affairs minister S Jaishankar expressed sorrow and shock at the loss of lives. "Deeply saddened by the accident in Medinah involving all

Fiery crash

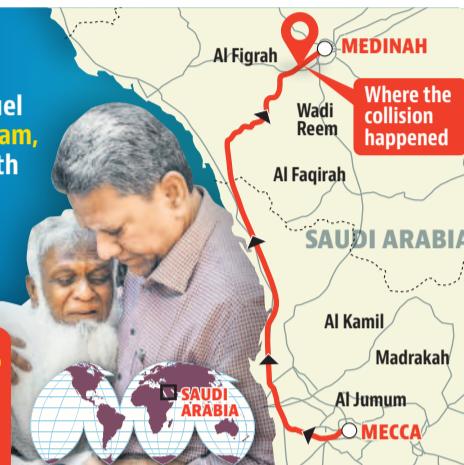
NEW DELHI: The collision between the bus and a fuel tanker triggered a massive fire at 1.30am, and most victims were charred to death

• The pilgrims were travelling from Mecca to Medinah to perform Umrah

• People aware of the matter confirmed 44 deaths, including 42 Indians and two Saudis who were acting as facilitators for the group

LIKELY AMONG THE VICTIMS | 11 women | 10 children

1 survivor
24-year-old
Mohammad Abdul Shoaib



Indian nationals. My thoughts are with the families who have lost their loved ones," Modi said on social media.

"I pray for the swift recovery of all those injured. Our Embassy in Riyadh and Consulate in Jeddah are providing all

possible assistance. Our officials are also in close contact with Saudi Arabian authorities," he said.

There was no official word on the fatalities. The people cited above confirmed 44 deaths, including 42 Indian nationals

continued on →15

MP CANCELS PLAN TO POOL LAND FOR 2028 UJJAIN KUMBH

Shruti Tomar

letters@hindustantimes.com

BHOPAL: Madhya Pradesh chief minister Mohan Yadav on Monday cancelled the proposed land-pooling in Ujjain to create permanent infrastructure for visitors to the Simhastha Kumbh that will be organised in the city in 2028, with the cancellation coming on the eve of a planned protest rally in the city. Bharatiya Kisan Sangh (BKS) and farmers of 17 villages have been staging protests for the last five months.

→P10

AIRLINES BAN ARMY OFFICER WHO BEAT UP SPICEJET STAFF

Neha LM Tripathi

letters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: Major Indian airlines have banned the army officer who allegedly assaulted four members of the SpiceJet staff at Srinagar airport in July, action that came after one of the employees was severely injured, officials said on Monday. Officials said the collective action was necessary to send a strong message about the safety of frontline aviation workers. →P12

Can't bring city to a halt: SC junks plea for major steps to fend off bad air

Utkarsh Anand

letters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court on Monday declined to impose sweeping pollution-control measures such as a year-round construction ban or curbs on vehicular movement in Delhi-NCR, observing that the Capital "cannot be brought to a standstill" in the name of fighting toxic air.

A bench led by Chief Justice of India Bhushan R Gavai said the court could not paralyse economic activity or deprive hundreds of thousands of migrant workers of their daily wages, even as air quality is expected to



Nayab Singh Saini

ZERO-TOLERANCE FOR TERROR ACTS, SAYS HRY CM SAINI

Leena Dhankhar

letters@hindustantimes.com

FARIDABAD: Haryana has zero-tolerance towards activities threatening national security, chief minister Nayab Singh Saini said on Monday, adding that state investigators worked in close coordination with central agencies to track hidden explosives and identify local links allegedly behind the Delhi blast.

In an interview with HT, Saini also said coordination with Delhi had improved since Rekha Gupta took charge of the Capital, dismissed Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's allegations of vote theft in the 2024 assembly elections, and hailed his administration's efforts to curb stubble burning.

"Earlier, under Arvind Kejriwal, communication was often confrontational and driven by political theatrics rather than governance," he said.

→FULL INTERVIEW ON P6

{ SUPREME COURT }

We have to also think of migrants... who are here to work and are daily wagers. The solution proposed can't be worse than the problem



NIA makes 2nd arrest in Red Fort blast case as toll up to 13

Sanjeev K Jha and Karn Pratap Singh

letters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: NIA on Monday arrested another "active co-conspirator" linked to the deadly Red Fort blast.

The arrested man – identified as Jasir Bilal Wani, alias Danish, a 20-year-old resident of Qazigund in south Kashmir's Anantnag district – allegedly provided "critical technical support" to the group, including "modifying drones" and "attempting to fabricate rockets", the NIA said in a statement.

→P5

Module was chalking out attack in India for 3 years, probe reveals

Shishir Gupta

letters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: Interrogation of the accomplices of Red Fort suicide bomber Umar un Nabi has revealed that the Pulwama-Faridabad self-radicalised Islamist terror module was meticulously planning an attack in India

GOVT APPROVES 26% HIKE IN PRINT MEDIA ADS WITH EFFECT FROM DEC 1

Sejal Sharma

letters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: The Union ministry of information and broadcasting (I&B) on Monday said it has approved a 26% increase in the rates paid by the government for advertisements in print media. The revised rates are meant to strengthen the revenue base of newspapers, especially as they face rising costs and growing competition from digital platforms, the government said. The rates are effective from December 1, 2025, an I&B official told HT.

→P10

INDIA SELLS DEAL FOR 2.2 MT LPG SUPPLY FROM US

Shashank Mattoo

letters@hindustantimes.com

WASHINGTON: In a major development for India's energy sector, Indian public sector oil companies have signed their first ever structured deal to import 2.2 million tonnes of LPG from the US Gulf Coast, union minister Hardeep Puri said. The one-year deal would account for roughly 10% of India's total LPG imports, a significant rise from 0.6% of such imports sourced from the US last year. The deal, signed for contract year 2026, follows months of negotiations between Indian and American energy companies, Puri said in a post on X.

→P18

{ 'NO DEADLINE YET' }

Talks on first tranche of US trade deal almost over: Commerce secy

Rajeev Jayaswal

letters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: Commerce secretary Rajesh Agarwal on Monday said the first phase of India-US bilateral trade agreement (BTA) is now "near closure" and the two sides are connected through "virtual" means to initially resolve New Delhi's concern over the 50% tariff on Indian goods, and Washington's ask for greater market access. Negotiating a comprehensive BTA may take time as it could have "multiple tranches", he said.

Exports dip 11.8% in October; trade deficit rises to \$41.68bn

Rajeev Jayaswal

letters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: India's merchandise exports in October 2024 fell by 11.8% to \$34.38 billion as against \$38.98 billion in October 2023 because of a high base effect, the US tariff barrier and a fall in petroleum

exports even as an import surge on the back of high gold and silver demand widened the trade deficit to a record \$41.68 billion.

Surging imports with a fall in exports saw the trade deficit widening from \$26.3 billion in October 2024 to \$41.68 billion in October 2025.

→P18

NUMBER THEORY

Not conspiracy, political economy explains Bihar results

By Roshan Kishore and Abhishek Jha

Election results are not easy to predict, especially in a first-past-the-post (FPTP) system. However, when the difference between the winner and runner-up is as high as 10% of the votes cast, as was the case in Bihar this time, there ought to be some inkling, at least directionally, of what the results could have been. However, the opposition seems to be in denial about why the results are the way they are. Allegations of electoral fraud have started doing the rounds, as has become the pattern after opposition losses in recent elections. Here are three charts that tell us why Bihar results fit perfectly well with the long-term political trajectory of the state.



1 2025 results are primarily explained by a collapse of the fence-sitters

If there is one election statistic which can explain the shock in the opposition camp after the Bihar election results it is the vote share of the Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) led Mahagathbandhan (MGB). It actually went up by 0.7 percentage points between the 2020 and 2025 elections, and yet, the MGB's seat share collapsed from 45.3% to just 14.4%. This is primarily a result of the NDA adding 9.3 percentage points to its vote share

between 2020 and 2025, not at the cost of the MGB votes, but by making a large dent into what was non-NDA and non-MGB vote in the 2020 elections. The collapse of the non-aligned vote in Bihar is nothing short of spectacular: it has fallen from almost 49% in the 2005 February elections -- the first in which Lalu Yadav's RJD could not secure a majority since 1990 -- to just 15.5% in 2025.

Vote share in Bihar assembly elections % of total valid votes

	NDA	Others	RJD/RJD+/MGB
2000	29.3	36.8	33.9
2005-I	25.5	49.4	25.1
2005-II	36.1	32.9	31
2010	39.1	35.4	25.6
2015	34.1	24.1	41.8
2020	37.3	25.5	37.2
2025	46.6	15.5	37.9

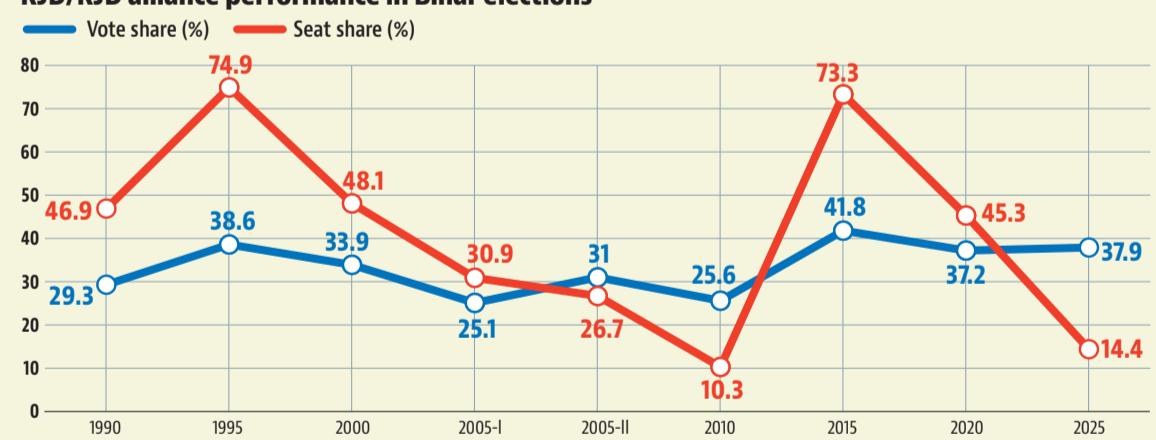
Source: ECI, TCPD-IED

2 Tejashwi has more popular support than his father ever had, but faces huge counter-polarisation thanks to his father's legacy

The instinctive political reaction to the latest Bihar results — and the 2019, 2020 and 2024 results as well — would be to say that Tejashwi Yadav does not have his father's political acumen. The latter won every election in Bihar from the 1990 assembly to the 2004 Lok Sabha. There is a good reason to argue that such a conclusion lacks nuance. The vote share of RJD or its alliances in the last three assembly elections in Bihar (2015, 2020 and 2025) is greater than what it was in 1990, 2000, 2005 February, 2005 October and 2010, and less than one one percentage points below the 1995 vote

share. Lalu Yadav won the three elections from 1990 to 2000, February 2000 produced a hung assembly, and the October 2005 and 2010 elections were won by the NDA. And yet, the RJD and its allies have faced defeat in 2020 and 2025 elections simply because the NDA's vote share has been greater. Instead of introspecting on the reasons behind the counter-polarization against it, the RJD, its allies and the denialist commentariat is crying electoral fraud. The biggest disservice they are doing by such an attitude is to their voters, who are more in number than in Lalu Yadav's political heydays.

RJD/RJD alliance performance in Bihar elections



3 The counter-polarisation against RJD is not just nostalgia — it's a shrewd mix of power and populism

This is what most people do not understand about Bihar's politics today. While the NDA made a very big deal of the so-called 'Jungle-Raj' of Lalu years in its campaign, the material basis of the political appeal was more than just nostalgia. NDA's political appeal worked on a two-pronged approach. First is a consolidation of the elite from upper castes and non-Yadav backward classes (BCs), both of which have a disproportionate share among MLAs compared to their population. However, its popular support in these elections came from the really poor among lower OBCs or EBCs and SCs, which put together have a 55.7% share in the state's population and have an even bigger share in the number of poorer households in the state. A lot of these sub-castes do not have the material wherewithal to

produce leaders who can compete in electoral politics, but some token representation — as was pointed out in these pages yesterday — along with populist benefits for the larger population has been more than enough to bring them decisively in the NDA's fold. Of course, this strategy is not very different from what incumbent parties, including those opposed to the BJP, have been doing to win elections. Obviously, the incumbent has an advantage here. The only indictment of Tejashwi and RJD on this count is that they did have a stint in power with Nitish Kumar twice, 2015-2017 and 2022-23 and could have done what the NDA did in terms of its pre-election cash transfer. Perhaps, this suggests a bigger ideological handicap of the RJD: it still thinks only caste matters in politics and not class.

Social distribution of households by monthly income in Bihar

Chart shows percentage breakup of households by various monthly income categories

	GEN	BC	EBC	SC	ST	Others
Upto Rs 6,000	11.5	26.2	35.2	24.9	2.1	0.1
Rs 6,001-10,000	12.7	26.8	39.3	19.7	1.5	0.1
Rs 10,001-20,000	16.7	27.6	37.2	16.8	1.6	0.1
Rs 20,001-50,000	27	29.3	30.2	11.9	1.4	0.2
Rs 50,001 and more	39.6	29.2	20.9	8.7	1.1	0.5

Source: Bihar government's caste survey, 2023



Hindustan Times

FIRST VOICE. LAST WORD.



INTRODUCING

WORLD
STREET

NEW DELHI

GLOBAL
HIGH-STREET
SHOPPING

DOUBLE & TRIPLE
HEIGHT RETAIL SHOPS

YOU PAY 50%
WE CONSIDER 75%*

FOR PAYMENT OF LOYALTY CHARGES/REBATE @12% P. A.

OFFER CLOSES ON 15TH NOV

www.theomaxestate.com

THE
OMAXE
STATE

HI-STREET | STADIUMS | CLUB & HOTEL
EVENT ARENA | FOOD DISTRICT

9999 999 856

*T&C APPLY

B'desh tribunal hands Hasina death sentence

Dhaka asks India to hand Hasina over a bilateral extradition treaty; Delhi says will 'engage constructively'

Rezaul H Laskar

letters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: A Bangladeshi tribunal on Monday gave the death sentence to former premier Sheikh Hasina after convicting her of crimes against humanity while cracking down on student-led protests last year, prompting the foreign ministry in Dhaka to demand that New Delhi hand her over under a bilateral extradition treaty.

The International Crimes Tribunal (ICT), a domestic war crimes court set up by the current regime, also gave her a separate sentence of imprisonment until death after convicting her of inciting, facilitating, being complicit in, and failing to prevent crimes against civilians by law enforcement and armed cadres of the Awami League

continued on →15

Year after violent stir

SHEIKH HASINA
former prime minister

Sentence:
Death

Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal, ex-interior minister

Sentence:
Death

Chowdhury Abdullah Al-Mamun, ex-police chief

Sentence:
5 yrs in prison

What the court said

"All the... elements constituting crimes against humanity have been fulfilled... We have decided to inflict her with only one sentence – that is, sentence of death." – Judge Golam Mortuza Mozumder

How Hasina responded

"They are biased and politically motivated... They reveal the brazen and murderous intent of extremist figures within the interim govt to remove Bangladesh's last elected PM..."

Rigged trial by unelected govt: Hasina

NEW DELHI: Former Bangladesh premier Sheikh Hasina on Monday described the death sentence given to her by a tribunal for crimes against humanity as the verdict of a "rigged tribunal established and presided over by an unelected government" that was aimed at nullifying her Awami League party as a political force.

Hasina, in a statement issued shortly after the ICT announced its order, described the guilty judgment as a "foregone conclusion".

The ICT's verdicts were "made by a rigged tribunal established and presided over by an unelected government with no democratic mandate", she said.

→P17

Sheikh Hasina

'OP SINDOOR AN 88-HR TRAILER': ARMY CHIEF'S WARNING TO PAK

Rahul Singh

letters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: Army chief General Upendra Dwivedi on Monday likened the four-day military confrontation with Pakistan in May under Operation Sindoar to a trailer, saying the film hadn't even begun, a stern warning to the neighbour of an overwhelming response if it attempted any mischief. "... the trailer ended in 88 hours... and if Pakistan gives us a chance (again), we will educate them on how a responsible nation should behave with its neighbours," Dwivedi said. →P11

AZAM KHAN, SON BACK IN JAIL AFTER FRESH CONVICTION

Deepak Lavania

letters@hindustantimes.com

MEERUT: A special MP/MLA court in Rampur on Monday sentenced Samajwadi Party leader Azam Khan and his son Abdullah Azam Khan to seven years in jail each in a 2019 case related to obtaining two PAN cards using different dates of birth. They have also been fined ₹50,000 each. →P10

Nitish meets guv, prep on for 10th oath as CM

Arun Kumar

letters@hindustantimes.com

PATNA: Bihar chief minister Nitish Kumar met governor Arif Mohammad Khan on Monday to apprise him about the cabinet decision recommending dissolution of the current legislative assembly with effect from November 19, ahead of the oath-taking ceremony likely on November 20.

The developments came on a day the Bharatiya Janata Party convened a meeting of all newly-elected lawmakers to choose

continued on →15

'Family feud internal matter, I am there to deal with it': Lalu

bing in the state elections, was an "internal family matter". It will be "resolved within the family," he said. "I am there to deal with it".

The fight is between Rohini Acharya, 46, Prasad's daughter, who contested (and lost) last year's general election and Prasad's youngest son Tejaswi Yadav, 36. →P11

ECI announces 'special revision' exercise for poll-bound Assam

— individuals whose citizenship status is under adjudication — will be carried forward into the draft rolls without fresh verification unless a Foreigners' Tribunal or court issues an order altering their status.

NEW DELHI: The Election Commission of India has ordered a Special Revision of the electoral rolls in Assam, with the pre-revision process beginning Tuesday. A key feature of the directive is that entries of so-called D-Voters

Under the order, pre-revision work will be carried out from Tuesday to Friday. From November 22 to December 20, BLOs will undertake house-to-house verification, check existing entries, make corrections, identify citizens newly eligible to vote, and distribute and collect enrolment and deletion forms. →P12



A leap that begins with engineering and lands in history.

Leaping to the moon with Chandrayaan-3 was no ordinary feat. It demanded cutting-edge engineering and flawless execution.

From system integration of the launch vehicle, to launch tracking with the C&S Band Radar, to deep-space communication using the 32M DSN Antenna - every step was engineered with precision.

These systems were manufactured and tested to perfection by L&T and delivered ahead of schedule - enabling the Vikram Lander's historic, pinpoint touchdown.

It takes a leap of innovation to push the limits and create history.

JUST LEAP



At the heart of ISRO's Chandrayaan-3, technology powered by L&T

PAGE ONE PLUS

{ MY INDIA } SUPREME COURT SAYS
'Right to religion not attached to a place'



The Supreme Court on Monday dismissed a plea seeking access for civilians to offer prayers inside a mosque located within a military area in Chennai, observing that the ability to practise one's religion is not intrinsically tied to any single place of worship. The bench said that the petitioner could not insist on entry into a restricted defence zone simply because a mosque existed there, stressing that security considerations within military premises must ultimately rest with the armed forces. "Can just one place be said to be connected to the practice of religion? You have so many options available and that is what the high court has also said," the court said. →PIO

{ MY INDIA } AFTER CRIMINAL MISUSE
Iran suspends visa waiver for Indians



The Iranian government has ended visa-free travel for Indian nationals following several instances of Indian citizens being abducted or lured to Iran with false promises of employment. The suspension of the visa waiver facility for ordinary Indian passport holders visiting Iran will become effective from November 22, the external affairs ministry said on Monday. The Iranian government had implemented the visa waiver facility for citizens of more than 30 countries, including India, in February 2024 to boost tourism.

HT@100 | **MY COUNTRY MY LENS**



HT is featuring the best images received for the 'My Country, My Lens' contest in Page One Plus daily. The top three entries in each category will be published separately.

RIVERS OF MY COUNTRY

DEVAHIS ROY
CITY: DELHI

NATURE'S MIRROR

A flock of birds on the banks of the Yamuna create a captivating reflection in the water as the sun begins to rise, in Delhi.

{ MY INDIA } IN UTTAR PRADESH
Sonbhadra quarry collapse toll now 6



The toll in the stone quarry collapse in Uttar Pradesh's Sonbhadra district climbed to six on Monday as five more bodies were recovered from the rubble, even as efforts continued to rescue the remaining trapped workers at the site, officials aware of the details said. "Six bodies have been recovered so far," Uttar Pradesh labour minister Anil Rajbhar said. The quarry, located in the Billi Markundi mining area of Obra police station limits, collapsed around 4.30pm on Saturday, trapping workers operating at the site, officials said. Two NDRF teams are engaged in rescue operations at the site. "Each team comprises 40 NDRF rescuers," an NDRF official. →PIO

Bipartisan US reps may table resolution for better India ties

Shashank Mattoo

letters@hindustantimes.com

WASHINGTON: About two dozen lawmakers from the Democratic and Republican parties in the United States are expected to table a resolution calling for stronger US-India relations in the House of Representatives this week.

The resolution introduced by Indian-American Congressman Ami Bera calls for enhanced cooperation within the Quad, closer defence, technology and trade ties.

Bera told HT the bill is meant as a signal to decision makers in both countries that Congress continues to value the India-US partnership, especially after tensions over trade and India's purchases of Russian energy cast a shadow over the relationship this year.

According to the text of the proposed resolution reviewed by HT, it recognises the India-US strategic partnership as "essential to regional stability, economic growth and global security".

The resolution also "encourages the United States and India to continue and expand cooperation for a free, open, and resilient Indo-Pacific, including through the Quad." It also calls for closer technology cooperation through the bilateral TRUST partnership as well as counterterrorism cooperation.

"When I was in India this past September, leading a delegation, I saw the tensions between the US and India. And certainly, President Trump has made some comments that have created some turbulence in the relationship. I thought it was very important for Congress, in a bipartisan way, to make a statement that the members of Congress, Democrats and Republicans, still see the US-India relationship is one of the most critical," Bera said.

Among the Democrats, Indian

THE RESOLUTION ALSO HIGHLIGHTS CONTRIBUTIONS OF THE ROUGHLY 5 MN INDIAN-AMERICAN COMMUNITY ACROSS FIELDS

American Congressmen Raja Krishnamoorthi, Subas Subramanyam and Shri Thanedar have sponsored the resolution. Key Republican lawmakers, including India Caucus co-chair Rich McCormick, South Asia sub-committee chair Bill Huizinga and Congresswoman Young Kim, who helms the key subcommittee on East Asian and Pacific affairs, are also backing the bill. In total, 24 members of the House of Representatives have agreed to back the bill.

The resolution also highlights the contributions of the roughly 5 million strong Indian-American community in fields such as business, academia, science and technology. A sharp rise in racist rhetoric, aimed at Indians in the United States, has proved worrying to many in the diaspora in recent months.

"I have been attacked personally by some on the far right of American politics. And it's not just the Indian-American community. You're seeing this racist rhetoric against many communities. So I think that's also woken up the diaspora. Part of what I hope is that with this resolution, Indian Americans can take it to their members of Congress, and whether it's Houston, Miami, New York, can ask their members to sign on, show their support in the US-India relationship as well," said Bera, currently the most senior Indian-American politician in the House of Representatives.

Letters to the editor

Finance commission submits report to President: Ministry

Rhik Kundu

letters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: The 16th Finance Commission, chaired by Dr Arvind Panagariya, on Monday submitted its report for 2026-31 to President Droupadi Murmu, the finance ministry said in a statement.

The report, which has not yet been made public, will be tabled in Parliament before its official release. It lays out recommendations that states receive 41% of central taxes, a 1% reduction from the 42% share proposed by its predecessor. The adjustment accounted for the creation of the Union territories of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh, which are no longer classified as states for fiscal devolution purposes. That 1% was reallocated from the central divisible pool to the new Union territories.

Wealthier states, including Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Telangana, and Gujarat, have emphasised their contributions to national growth.

According to the finance ministry, the 16th Finance Commission is tasked under its terms of reference with making recommendations on the distribution of the net proceeds of taxes between the Union and the states, grants-in-aid, financing arrangements for disaster management, and related mat-

Indian students increase US footprint

India in 2024/25 solidified its position as the top source of foreign students in the US, with a nearly 10% increase in enrolment, according to the OpenDoors Report on International Educational Exchange 2025.

— By Sanjay Maurya

India's growth story

Indian student enrollment has surged dramatically from 196,271 in 2017/18 to over 363,000 today – an 85% increase in just eight years. This growth accelerated particularly after the pandemic, with Indian students filling the gap left by declining Chinese enrollment.

The economic impact is substantial:
Indian students contributed \$14 billion to the U.S. economy in 2024, supporting thousands of American jobs and strengthening bilateral ties between the two nations.



Where Indian students study

Academic levels

Nearly half (49%) of Indian students pursue graduate degrees, with 39.6% on Optional Practical Training (OPT) – work authorisation that allows graduates to gain practical experience. OPT participation surged by 47.3%, indicating strong employment prospects for Indian graduates.

Texas the top destination

Texas leads as the top host state, followed by New York, Massachusetts, California, and Illinois. Over 81% of Indians attend doctorate-granting research universities, reflecting their focus on advanced STEM education.

Students by country

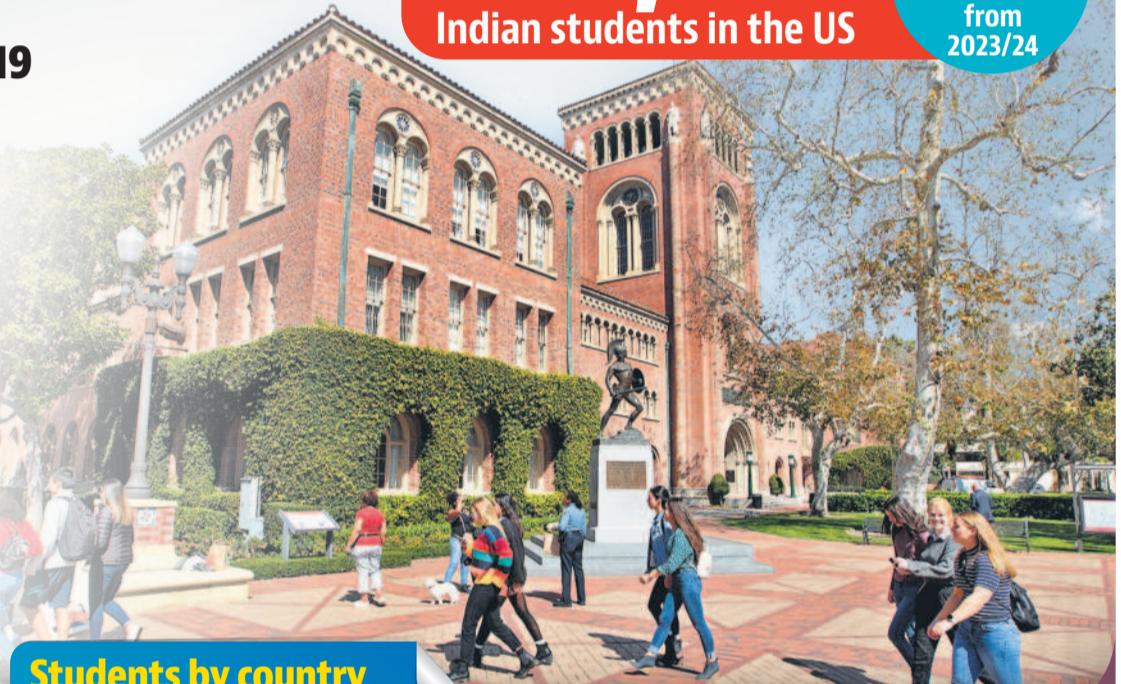
Rank	Place of Origin	23/24	24/25	% chg
1	India	3,31,602	3,63,019	9.5
2	China	2,77,398	2,65,919	-4.1
3	South Korea	43,149	42,293	-2.0
4	Canada	28,998	29,903	3.1
5	Vietnam	22,066	25,584	15.9
6	Nepal	16,742	24,890	48.7
7	Taiwan	23,157	23,263	0.5
8	Nigeria	20,029	21,847	9.1
9	Bangladesh	17,099	20,156	17.9
10	Brazil	16,877	17,277	2.4

363,019

Indian students in the US

9.5%

from
2023/24



1/3rd dip in F-1 student visas

For India, the path forward remains strong, with visa issuances remaining robust despite a 33.2% decline in F-1 student

visas – likely reflecting the shift toward OPT

The US remains the top global destination for higher education around the world, and for Indians, it continues to offer major opportunities for academic and professional growth.

{ IN UDALGURI NEAR BHUTAN }

Alarm in Assam as 4 elephants killed in 20 days

Biswa Kalyan Purkayastha

letters@hindustantimes.com

SILCHAR: A spate of elephant deaths in Assam's Udalguri district, part of a crucial corridor along the Bhutan border, has triggered deep concern among forest officials and wildlife experts.

In just 20 days, four wild elephants have died in the district, three electrocuted and one likely poisoned. Over the past 12 months, at least 14 elephants have been killed, 10 of them by electrocution. Officials say the crisis is escalating rapidly in a landscape already strained by encroachment, shrinking habitats and intensifying human-elephant conflict.

According to Udalguri Divisional Forest Officer (DFO) Mustafa Ali Ahmed, most of the recent deaths occurred in areas near forests where residents cultivate paddy. "They use electric wires, mostly at night, to prevent elephants from entering their paddy fields, and this causes such accidents," he said.

They often lay these wires after dusk and remove them at daybreak to escape detection. "Most of the elephants died after coming in contact with high-voltage wires laid illegally by villagers and tea-estate workers to protect crops. We try to check them but they remove the wires early in the morning," Ahmed added.

The four deaths were reported on October 25, October 30, November 2 and November 13. The first three, at Majuli Tea Estate, Bhutiachang

Tea Garden and Basugaon village, were confirmed cases of electrocution. The latest incident involved a six-year-old elephant found dead at Amjuli Hathiukhuli near the Indo-Bhutan border, which is believed to have consumed something poisonous.

In the November 2 incident, a tusker was found entangled in live wires allegedly set up by residents living on encroached forest land. A 40-year-old tusker was similarly electrocuted in Bhutiachang Tea Garden on October 30.

Forest officials have arrested two people, Sunil Elka of Nonapara and Ratan Chouhan of Basugaon, in connection with the November 2 killing, and action has been initiated against at least five others linked to the October 30 electrocution.

Despite these arrests, ground staff say the situation is slipping out of control. A range officer in the Khaolingduar Reserve Forest said the department faces an acute shortage of trained personnel, vehicles and weapons. "Our capacity to respond quickly to elephant movements or prevent villagers from installing illegal electric fencing is severely affected. We are stretched beyond limits," he said.

DFO Ahmed said the challenge is compounded by widespread encroachment in and around reserve forests. While many fatalities occur in residential areas, several have been reported from deep inside forest land. "Due to increasing

encroachment, the areas for wild elephant movement are shrinking," he said. "We have requested additional staff, vehicles and firearms. But what is also needed is a major eviction drive to free occupied forest areas."

Assam's Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Wildlife), Vinay Gupta, said eviction drives have reduced conflict in other districts such as Goalpara. "Once we recorded nearly 20 deaths in a year in Goalpara, and now it has come down to five or six. We need to keep wildlife habitats for animals, and when humans illegally encroach these areas, conflict rises," he said.

Age-old elephant corridors now occupied
While forest officials often attribute rising conflict to the paddy harvesting season, senior wildlife conservationist Jay-

anta Kumar Das, who has studied human-elephant interactions in Assam and Bhutan for nearly two decades, said the roots of the crisis lie deeper.

He pointed to a large natural corridor linking Udalguri and the Bhutan foothills, a route elephants have followed for generations. "They are among the smartest creatures, with a social structure more complex than we realise. They follow the same routes their ancestors used 50 to 100 years ago. The areas were different then. Now humans have occupied those spaces. This creates confusion for the elephants and leads to conflict," he said.

Das explained that elephants typically descend from the Bhutan hills in July, August and remain in the plains for several months. Large herds of 100 to 150 often split into smaller groups of around a dozen as they navigate fragmented landscapes. "Their navigational memory is strong. They are guided by the same paths mapped by earlier generations. When these paths are blocked by settlements, tea gardens or farms, they become disoriented," he said.

Herds are usually led by a senior female, known locally as the Dhuri, who maintains order and avoids confrontation with humans. "She sometimes punishes younger members for breaking norms. When a young elephant is expelled, it never gets to return. Out of frustration, such loners may become aggressive and attack humans. But much of what we call conflict is actually behavioural stress caused by habitat loss," Das explained.

He said he has studied elephant behaviour since 2006 and worked with the Indo-Bhutan research initiative on cross-border elephant movement. While conflict began years ago, he added, the proliferation of illegal electric fencing in recent seasons has led to a sharp spike in fatalities. "This is one of the worst behaviours of humans towards nature. We have blocked their natural routes and now we are killing them with brutality. This must be addressed strongly, and if we do not prevent conflict, we will see more deaths," he said.

Das, who worked with the Assam Elephant Foundation (AEF), a trust set up in 2007 for the conservation of wild and captive elephants, said government efforts have fallen short. "We need detailed planning and proper execution. Understanding elephant behaviour, making people aware, preventing encroachments and enforcing strict laws—these are the basics. The elephant population in this area is high, and if we do not prevent conflict, we will see more deaths," he warned.

PCCF (Wildlife) Vinay Gupta said the forest department is now preparing to deploy Gaja Mitra teams in critical zones. Each team will comprise 10 members, including local experts, forest officers and armed guards, equipped to track elephant movement, alert villages and prevent the use of illegal electric fencing.

Udalguri deputy commissioner Pulak Patgiri said the series of deaths has prompted an official inquiry.

"We have deployed teams to address the matter and strict actions will be taken wherever required," he said.



Officials said that the areas for the movement of wild elephants have been shrinking due to increasing encroachments.

GETTY IMAGES

goibibo

PRESENTS



*T&C Apply

Up To
52% OFF* on



Flights



Hotels &
Homestays



Buses &
Trains



Cabs

DEALS KI PARTY SHURU THOKO TAALI GURU!

ASLI GURU OF THE WEEK



Special Bank Partner



HDFC BANK

Exclusive Offers with HDFC Bank Credit Card & EASYEMI on Credit / Debit Cards.

*T&C Apply

HOTEL PARTNERS



HOSTEL & APT. PARTNERS



AIRLINE PARTNERS



MY DELHI

Will trace culprits of blast even from netherworld: Shah

Paras Singh

paras@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: Union home minister Amit Shah on Monday vowed that the perpetrators of the Red Fort bomb blast would be tracked down "even from the depths of the netherworld" and brought before the country's judicial system to face the harshest punishment.

"Eliminating terrorism from its roots under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi is our collective commitment. We will hunt down the culprits of the Delhi bomb blast even from the depths of the netherworld (patal) and ensure they receive the strictest possible punishment," Shah said while speaking at the 32nd meeting of the Northern Zonal Council (NZC) in Faridabad.

The meeting was attended by chief ministers of Delhi, Haryana, Punjab, Himachal Pradesh, Rajasthan, and Jammu and Kashmir, along with chief secretaries, lieutenant governors, and senior officials. According to a PIB statement, Shah stressed that women and children's safety must remain a top priority and urged states to increase the number of fast-track courts handling such cases.

Delhi chief minister Rekha Gupta used the platform to flag the Capital's mounting environmental challenges while presenting the city's position on a range of regional matters. These included increasing Delhi's raw water quota, accelerating the cleaning of the Yamuna, and pushing a time-bound transition to electric buses, taxis, and auto-rickshaws across the National Capital Region (NCR). Gupta also assured that Delhi would clear all pending contributions to the



The Union minister was speaking at the 32nd meeting of the Northern Zonal Council in Faridabad, on Monday.

Regional Rapid Transit System (RRTS) and other interstate infrastructure projects.

Gupta also reiterated that Delhi's air quality continues to be heavily influenced by pollution sources beyond its borders, especially stubble burning. "States like Haryana, Rajasthan, and Uttar Pradesh have shown positive progress in crop-residue management in recent years, but the volume of smoke coming from Punjab remains significantly high," she said, urging neighbouring states to step up mitigation efforts. She also emphasised that NCR cities must accelerate the shift to electric mobility to achieve meaningful reductions in pollution levels.

On the Yamuna's cleaning, Gupta pointed to the need for effective management of major drains entering Delhi from Bahadurgarh, Jhajjar, and Gurugram. She acknowledged Haryana's cooperation on the issue but said both states needed to intensify efforts. Gupta's office later said Delhi was seeking an increased share of raw water from neighbouring states and a

renegotiation of the 1994 water-sharing agreement. Considering Delhi's growing requirements, she reiterated Delhi's request to increase its share of Yamuna water from 980 MGD to 1,250 MGD, and to fast-track the Renuka, Lakhwar, and Kishan dam projects," the statement noted.

She also asked that the maintenance responsibility for the Munak Canal be transferred to Delhi and that water assessment be carried out at the canal's entry point into the city.

According to the Union government's statement, Shah said the Zonal Councils – originally constituted as advisory bodies – had, over the past decade, evolved into "action-oriented platforms" that consistently delivered results. He noted a sharp increase in meeting frequency: while only 25 Zonal Council and Standing Committee meetings were held between 2004 and 2014, the period from 2014 to 2025 has seen 64 such meetings. Of the 1,600 issues discussed across these sessions, 1,303 – or 81.43% – were resolved, the statement said.

125K PROPERTIES BOOKED BY MCD TO NOW GET ELECTRICITY: CM

Paras Singh

paras@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: The Delhi government on Monday announced that the properties booked by the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) for illegal or unauthorised construction will now be provided electricity connection, the chief minister's office said.

Booked properties are the ones on the list for potential action, such as demolition, penalty, or sealing, often due to construction without approval or deviations from a sanctioned plan. These properties were barred from getting electricity supply so far. With the latest decision, around 125,000 families in the city will be benefitted.

"There were complaints regarding electricity being denied to 'booked' properties. In several cases, it was found that even years after demolition orders issued by MCD, no action was taken. Now even booked properties will be eligible for electricity connections," CM Rekha Gupta said on Monday.

TWO TAX OFFICERS AMONG 3 BOOKED FOR 'TAKING' ₹1.4L BRIBE FROM FIRM

Jignasa Sinha

jignasa.sinha@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: The Anti Corruption Branch has filed a case against two officers of the department of trade and taxes and one other individual for allegedly taking a bribe of ₹1.4 lakh from a legal consultancy firm in lieu of approving a few GST refund files, HT has learnt.

An FIR filed in this regard on Friday also allegedly names Gaurav Yadav, a joint commissioner in the trade and taxes department, and claims that Yadav's personal secretary, Vivek Kumar Sharma, demanded bribes from the firm on his behalf. Other than Sharma, Suman Virmani, another officer, and one Manish, have been named as accused.

{ CHANDRAWAL PLANT OVERHAUL } 2.2 MILLION PEOPLE TO BENEFIT

₹2.4K-cr plan cleared to boost water infra

Paras Singh

paras@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: During the last week's cabinet meeting chaired by chief minister Rekha Gupta, the Delhi government cleared a revised ₹2,406-crore plan for the Delhi Water Supply Improvement Project (DWSP), aimed at a complete overhaul of the water supply system within the catchment area of Chandrawal Water Treatment Plant (WTP), senior officials said.

"Expenditure approval and administrative sanction has been granted for the project, assisted by the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA). It covers nine assembly constituencies in Central and North Delhi and will cater to nearly 2.2 million consumers in the area. Under the plan, JICA's assistance of ₹1,704 crore will be received through the Central government, while the Delhi government's share has been

Water supply improvement

In focus: Chandrawal catchment area

Revamp of:

1,000-km water network

21 underground reservoirs

Cost: ₹2,406 crore

Deadline: 3 years

Covers: 9 assembly seats

increased," an official said.

The Chandrawal catchment area has some of the oldest water transmission lines in the city, which leads to contamination and leakages. It caters to areas in constituencies like Patel Nagar, Chandni Chowk, Matia Mahal, Ballimaran, Model Town, Sadar Bazar, Karol Bagh, Rajinder Nagar and RK Puram.

Under the project, an old and decrepit 1,000-km water supply

network in Chandrawal catchment area of more than 96 sqm will be replaced, and 21 underground water reservoirs will be rehabilitated. The project aims at increasing the water treatment capacity of the Chandrawal plant from the existing 90 MGD (million gallons per day) to 115 MGD, while also reducing non-revenue water (unaccounted water) in the area from the current 50% to 15%.

A month after a professor of DU's Dr BR Ambedkar College was allegedly slapped by Delhi University Students' Union (DUSU) joint secretary Deepika Jha and assaulted by members of the ABVP, the university suspended her from the post for two months.

A university notification dated November 14 barred Jha from entering any DU-affiliated college during the suspension.

"However, in the interest of academics, she may continue attending her classes and appear in the examinations," the notification stated. It added that she must write an apology letter to the professor, Sujit Kumar, and submit an undertaking of good conduct. "Her suspension shall be revoked after a review of her conduct," the notification, signed by the DU proctor, said.

Meanwhile, several DU teachers have come forward to criticise the action, calling it "no punishment at all".

DUSU JOINT SECY WHO 'ATTACKED' PROF SUSPENDED FOR TWO MONTHS

Aheli Das

aheli.das@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: A month after a professor of DU's Dr BR Ambedkar College was allegedly slapped by Delhi University Students' Union (DUSU) joint secretary Deepika Jha and assaulted by members of the ABVP, the university suspended her from the post for two months.

A university notification dated November 14 barred Jha from entering any DU-affiliated college during the suspension.

"However, in the interest of academics, she may continue attending her classes and appear in the examinations," the notification stated. It added that she must write an apology letter to the professor, Sujit Kumar, and submit an undertaking of good conduct. "Her suspension shall be revoked after a review of her conduct," the notification, signed by the DU proctor, said.

Meanwhile, several DU teachers have come forward to criticise the action, calling it "no punishment at all".

{ SHRIRAM BHARATIYA KALA KENDRA } SUMITRA CHARAT RAM AWARD FOR LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT

Late theatre legend Ratan Thiyam honoured

Aheli Das

aheli.das@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: The stage at New Delhi's Kamani auditorium lit up on Monday evening with a performance of the stage adaptation of Dharamvir Bharati's acclaimed poem, 'Kanupriya': a version which had been translated, adapted, designed and directed by the late Ratan Thiyam – a leading figure in Indian theatre.

On Monday, the Shriram Bharatiya Kala Kendra's (SBKK) presented the Sumitra Charat Ram Award for Lifetime Achievement. This year, the award was conferred on Ratan Thiyam (1948-2025) – the visionary founder of Chorus Repertory Theatre, Imphal. The award, instituted in 2010,

honours those who embody the spirit of lifelong devotion to art. It comprises a cash prize, a citation, and a plaque. It is presented annually on November 17, birth anniversary of SBKK's founder, Sumitra Charat Ram.

SBKK director Jayant Kastur said: "It was on April 29 that our board of trustees at SBKK decided to present the award to Ratan Thiyam. He is the first theatre personality to receive this award. In fact, he had assured us that he would join us, despite his failing health. Sadly, however, he passed away on 23rd July, 2025."

Ratan Thiyam, right from the beginning of his life, was schooled into this work of experimental productions on stage, rooted in Manipuri traditions, following his father's and



Ratan Thiyam FILE PHOTO

sality," Kastur added.

Thiyam's son, Thawai Thiyam, received the honour on behalf of his late father.

Following the conferment of the award by Padma Shri Shobha Deepak Singh, Chairperson, SBKK; Thiyam's son said: "This is a momentous occasion and I want to express my heartfelt gratitude to SBKK from me and my mother for honouring my father."

He read out a note written by his mother in Hindi, thanking SBKK for recognising Thiyam's contribution and celebrating his memory.

SBKK was formally registered by 1952 by Sumitra Charat Ram, establishing it as a centre of Delhi's performing arts, and Indian classical music, dance, and drama.

प्रदूषण के दिवालाफ़

दिल्ली सरकार की नियन्यिक पहल
हवा होगी साफ़, दिल्ली होगी स्वच्छ

सिफ़ 8 महीने में दिल्ली की सड़कों पर
उतरी 1,350 इलेक्ट्रिक बसें



271 स्प्रिंकलेट लगातार सड़कों पर
धूल को नियन्त्रित कर रहे हैं।



प्रदूषण नियन्त्रण के लिए इस वर्ष 2088
प्रवर्तन टीमें तैनात - पिछले वर्ष से ज्यादा गहन नियन्त्रण



एयर पॉल्यूशन मिटिंगेशन प्लान 2025
और 25 सूत्रीय विंटर एक्शन प्लान लागू



3,000 से अधिक RWAs, फॉरेस्ट गार्ड्स और असंगठित उद्योग
कर्मियों को खुले में आग जलाने से दोकनें के लिए इलेक्ट्रिक हीटर दिए जाएंगे

76 स्वीपर मशीनों से अब धूल
पर प्रभावी नियन्त्रण



तेहरेंड और नंद नगरी में **Automated Testing Station** से कम समय में गाहनों की फिटनेस जांच

निर्माण स्थलों और 13 प्रदूषण हॉटस्पॉट
पर धूल नियन्त्रण पर सख्त कार्रवाई



ग्रीन कर विस्तार- प्रदूषण से लड़ने के लिए
एक ऐड माँ के नाम 2.0 अभियान

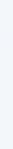


दिल्ली के तीनों लैंडफिल साइट पर ऐजाना 30,000+ ग्रीट्रिक
टन कपरे की बायो-माइनिंग जारी



उज्जला योजना विस्तार- 2,59,213 घरों तक सच्च
ऊर्जा पहुँचने की दिशा में बड़ा कदम

386 एंटी-स्मोग गर्ज से हवा में प्रदूषण
पर लगाम लगाई जा रही है



दिल्ली साथ होगी
तभी दिल्ली साफ़ होगी



NIA arrests 'co-conspirator'; worked on drones, rockets

Sanjeev K Jha and
Karn Pratap Singh

htreporters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: The National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Monday arrested another "active co-conspirator" linked to the deadly November 10 Red Fort blast, tightening its probe into what officials describe as a highly organised "white-collar" terror module active across several states.

The arrested man – identified as Jasir Bilal Wani, alias Danish, a 20-year-old resident of Qazigund in south Kashmir's Anantnag district – allegedly provided "critical technical support" to the group, including "modifying drones" and "attempting to fabricate rockets", the NIA said in a statement.

"Preliminary findings suggest Wani was an active co-conspirator and worked closely with the suicide bomber, Umar un-Nabi, who drove the explosive-laden vehicle that blew up near the Red Fort. Wani's technical skills were leveraged to enhance the module's strike capability," said an NIA official, asking not to be named.

This is NIA's second arrest in the case in as many days. On Sunday, the agency arrested Amir Rashid Ali, a plumber from Kashmir who owned the vehicle that Nabi was driving.

Wani, a Bachelor of Science student at Degree College Lawdora, was initially detained by the Jammu & Kashmir Police for questioning before being handed over to the NIA team stationed in Srinagar. Officials said he lived next to Dr Adeel Ahmad Rather, another doctor arrested earlier for his role in the same module.

According to Delhi Police officials assisting NIA, Wani had met several key members of the module at a mosque in Kulgam and later travelled to a rented accommodation near Al-Falah University in Faridabad, where investigators believe parts of the IED and other weapons were being prepared. His technical skills, they said, "were leveraged to enhance the module's strike

New findings in Red Fort case

JASIR BILAL WANI ALIAS DANISH, 20

Resident of Qazigund in
Anantnag
BSc student at Degree College
Lawdora

He met key members of the
module at a Kulgam mosque,
later travelled to rented house
near Al-Falah University in F'bad

His role in the blast

- Provide "critical technical support" to the group
- Modify drones
- Attempt to fabricate rockets

COPS TRACE UMAR'S IED THROUGH 40+ LOCATIONS ACROSS NCR

On Oct 29, 30 and Nov 10



Key areas crossed
Ashram, DND Flyway, Nizamuddin, India Gate, Safdarjung Hospital, Connaught Place, Turkman Gate, Daryaganj

capability".

Investigations said that Nabi had allegedly brainwashed Wani to become a suicide bomber. The two had been working on carrying out suicide bombings across India for over a year. Wani, however, backed out, citing his family's poor financial condition and that suicide is forbidden in their religion, said officials.

Tight network, movement of arms

NIA officials familiar with the matter said that their probe has uncovered a tightly knit network operating through encrypted platforms, regrouped responsibilities and a steady movement of weapons across Delhi, Haryana and Jammu & Kashmir. "The group communicated primarily through a Signal messaging channel created by Umar nearly three months ago, using a name written in special characters to evade detection... At least four members – Dr Muzammil Shakeel Ganaie, Adeel Ahmad Rather, Muzaffar Rather (Adeel's brother) and Molvi Irfan – were part of this encrypted hub, believed to be the module's central coordina-

tion platform," said an official, asking not to be named.

The investigation, the people cited above said, accelerated after the recovery of a weapons consignment from the vehicle of another suspect, Dr Shaheen Shahid, which included a foreign-made rifle and a pistol. The arms trail, officials said, traced back to 2024, when Umar procured the weapons and handed them to Molvi Irfan, alias Mufti, a cleric suspected to have played a key role in recruiting the men.

Officials say interrogations reveal a clear division of labour. "We have also documented a clear division of roles. Financial support was to be marshalled by the three medical professionals – Muzammil, Shaheen and Adeel – with Muzammil playing a central role. Umar had been attempting to prepare several young men for potential suicide missions," the officer further said.

One such instance dates to October 2023, when Adeel and Umar reportedly visited Irfan at Masjid Ali with a rifle hidden in a bag, the person cited above said. "The two left after cleaning the barrel. A month later, Adeel again visited Irfan's home with

a rifle; Muzammil and Shaheen joined shortly after. The weapon was left under Irfan's custody overnight before Adeel retrieved it the next day," the official said, adding that these repeated transfers point to "distributed responsibilities within a trusted core" designed to avoid detection.

The arrest of Amir Rashid Ali has added further clarity on the network, another official said. "We have evidence that Ali conspired with Umar to execute the suicide attack using a vehicle-borne IED," an NIA officer said.

Ali had also travelled with the module's members to Faridabad and Kashmir on multiple occasions, officials added.

Since taking over the probe, the agency has examined 73 witnesses, including those injured in the blast.

"More arrests are likely in the coming days from across the country," the official said.

"NIA, in coordination with other agencies, is conducting continuous raids in Delhi, Jammu and Kashmir, Haryana and other locations. The focus is on identifying the module's external handlers, financial conduits and potential targets of that plan."

55-YEAR-OLD WOUNDED IN RED FORT BLAST DIES FROM INJURIES

Ridhima Gupta and
Avinash Kumar

htreporters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI/PATNA: A 55-year-old man, injured in the deadly Red Fort blast last week, succumbed to his injuries on Monday while undergoing treatment at the Lok Nayak hospital. The death toll has now increased to atleast 12.

According to officials at the hospital, Vinayak Pathak was brought there in a critical condition on November 10. He had suffered around 60 percent burn injuries and an amputated limb.

The body was handed over to the family on Monday afternoon after the postmortem.

Meanwhile, police have been able to identify one of the deceased people from the day of explosion. Mohammad Lukman, 60, was from Bihar's Begusarai and is among the 11 victims who died on November 10.

Lukman's son, Mohammad Sikandar, 35, said he ran a small imitation jewellery shop Begusarai and had come to Delhi on November 8 to buy supplies for his business.

"Following the news of the blast, we could not find the whereabouts of our father. The police said his name was neither among the injured nor the deceased. So we kept looking for him. Only days later, we found his body at the mortuary of Lok Nayak Hospital," Sikandar added.

Lukman is survived by his wife and two sons, one of them intellectually disabled.

"Two days later, the police again asked us to check with Lok Nayak Hospital. But because of the high VIP movement, we were not allowed inside. Only after several hours of requests, police showed us some pictures of the deceased people at the mortuary. Most were almost unrecognisable, but I had slight doubts about one of them and so I asked the police if we could see the body in person."

They could finally identify Lukman and the body was handed over to the family on November 13.

"His body had sustained severe injuries and was almost not recognisable," Sikandar said, adding that after the postmortem, took the body back to Begusarai.

NIA tells court: Amir Rashid Ali was 'logistical backbone'

Arnabjit Sur

htreporters@hindustantimes.com

The incident...was intended to cause alarm in the minds of the public and instil fear

REMAND NOTE

NIA said the attack was executed "with such intensity and precision" that it "strikes terror in the minds of the general public," adding that the conspiracy was designed to "cause alarm" and "instil fear."

"...the incident carried and coordinated by the accused persons was intended to cause alarm in the minds of the public and instil fear...." the remand note stated.

Mir, a resident of Samboora village in Jammu and Kashmir's Pampore, was arrested at

12.15pm on Sunday. Investigators said he was one of the key conspirators and played a primary role in arranging logistics for Umar. The agency said Mir provided his Hyundai 120 – found to be registered in his name – which was later used in the November 10 blast. He also allegedly arranged weapons and a safe house, which investigators believe served as a base for multiple conspirators.

The car dealer has identified Mir and verified the documents, NIA said. While the agency has not yet disclosed the location of the purported safe house, it told the court that the premises were used not only by Umar but also by other accomplices whose identities they hope to uncover through Mir's interrogation.

During the hearing, Mir was represented by legal aid counsel Smriti Chaturvedi, while public prosecutors Kushdeep Gaur and Anil Dabas appeared for the NIA.

Funding under lens: Documents sought from Al-Falah Uni

Hemani Bhandari and
Jignasa Sinha

htreporters@hindustantimes.com

grants – despite UGC informing investigators that Al-Falah did not hold the approval.

Investigators have also sought details of students and faculty members. Once documents are examined, police will move to trace Al-Falah's funding channels.

The Crime Branch registered two FIRs against the university on Friday, prompting Saturday's visit. Police said chairman Jawad Ahmed Siddiqui, who founded the university and heads its management, has spent 37 months in jail in the past. He faced a money-circulation fraud case in 2000, though he was acquitted in 2005.

In a parallel development, Madhya Pradesh Police arrested Siddiqui's brother, Hamood Siddiqui, 50, on Sunday. Hamood, who worked for a stock market investment firm in Hyderabad, was traced to Mhow after he was found missing from both his Delhi and MP residences following the recent blast.

They could finally identify Lukman and the body was handed over to the family on November 13.

"His body had sustained

J&K STUDENTS ASSN WRITES TO PM MODI OVER 'VILIFICATION'

NEW DELHI: The Jammu and Kashmir Students Association (JKSA) in the city, on Monday, said that several Kashmiri students across northern states are facing eviction and intimidation following the Red Fort blast in Delhi on November 10. The association has written a letter to the Prime Minister, urging intervention against the "vilification" of the community.

Kashmiri students believe in India's democracy and reject terrorism in all forms. Yet, they are being profiled and vilified by authorities and residents. Many landlords have asked Kashmiri tenants to vacate their rooms, forcing students to return," said Nasir Khuehami, national convenor of the association, at a press conference on Monday.

"...the aftermath of the Delhi blast has created heightened fear and anxiety among Kashmiri students. Many students, fearing stigmatization, have returned home, leaving crucial academic responsibilities," the letter, also seen by HT, read.

J&K: FATHER OF ACCUSED DIES AFTER SETTING HIMSELF ABLAZE

HT Correspondent

htreporters@hindustantimes.com

SRINAGAR: A 55-year-old man who set himself ablaze after police detained his son and brother in the ongoing probe into the "white-collar" terror module died of burn injuries at Srinagar's Shri Maharaja Hari Singh Hospital early on Monday, officials said.

HT learns that Nabi along with fellow doctors Muzamil Shakeel and Adeel Ahmad Rather were in touch with a man

Attack preparation in the works for 3 yrs

Shishir Gupta

letters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: Interrogation of the accomplices of Red Fort suicide bomber Dr Umar un-Nabi has revealed that the Pulwama-Faridabad self-radicalised Islamist terror module was meticulously planning an attack in India for at least three years.

HT learns that Nabi along with fellow doctors Muzamil Shakeel and Adeel Ahmad Rather were in touch with a man

NABI AND HIS TWO FELLOW DOCTORS WERE IN TOUCH WITH ONE ABU AQASHA, AND MET TWO ISLAMISTS IN TURKEY IN 2002

ers the kindling temperature of the improvised explosive device fabricated by this terror module. It is perhaps for this reason that the seized explosive exploded in the Nowgam police station during sampling by the forensic experts, the people said. Nine people, including security personnel died in the accidental blast.

The biggest worry of Indian intelligence agencies post-Red Fort blast is that while electronic intelligence can red flag cross-border terror activity, local terror modules with home grown jihadis hardly have any electronic imprint and are hence very difficult to unearth. The arrest of a Hyderabad medical representative by Gujarat ATS this month for trying to cook up Ricin under instructions of Pakistani state deep state, masquerading as Islamic State Khorasan Province (ISK) terrorists, was possible only due to cross-border elec-

tronic intercepts. There were none such in this case.

Although NIA with support of other Indian intelligence agencies is working to unravel the Red Fort bombing conspiracy, the larger security threat is the number of young Muslims being radicalized through social media and targeted propaganda by the pan-Islamic terror groups. The road to radicalization involves pushing a sense of Muslim victimhood using doctored images from conflicts all over the world.

Although the government, enforcement and intelligence agencies have been countering Islamic radicalization, the only sure-fire way of de-radicalization involves fact-checking propaganda by Islamists and ensuring that they do not feel bothered by the majority community.

The Red Fort bombing, officials in the intelligence and security establishment concur, has made it imperative for Indian security agencies to focus their efforts on unearthing and uprooting terror modules all over the country.

The focus will of course remain the Kashmir valley as decades of Islamic radicalization by Pakistan and its proxies has touched many, but it is also important to look at the hinterland.

Traces of ammonium nitrate found in Umar's hostel room

Jignasa Sinha

jignasa.sinha@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: Investigators detected "trace" amounts of ammonium nitrate on the bed, floor, window, and recovered hair strands in the Al-Falah University hostel room of alleged suicide bomber Umar un-Nabi, officials said Monday.

Police believe the module prepared for "serial blasts" based on recovered material. The bomb contained 30-40kg of ammonium nitrate and TATP.

"The traces found in the room match what we got from the blast site," an investigator said.

Meanwhile, Umar's associate Dr Shaheen Shahid disclosed that Umar was the "central planner" and the group used university lab space to study

explosives. Shaheen, who visited Pakistan thrice, had documents and research papers recovered from the lab. Police found three expired passports with different addresses in her possession; she recently applied for a new passport in Lucknow and has seven linked bank accounts.

Investigators said Shaheen, Umar, and Dr Muzammil Shakeel Ganaie traveled to Turkey and Pakistan, meeting Jaish-e-Mohammed handler Dr Uksasha. "We have verified their foreign travel and have proof of meetings with their handler in Turkey," a Special Cell officer said.

UPS
Unified
Pension
Scheme

FOR CENTRAL GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES

SECURE YOUR RETIREMENT.
OPT FOR UPS.

LAST DATE TO APPLY

30th
NOVEMBER, 2025



Unified Pension Scheme (UPS):

A Guaranteed Pension Scheme For All Central Government Employees.

One-time switch back from UPS to NPS available anytime before age 59.

The Unified Pension Scheme (UPS) Offers Assured Monthly Retirement Plan.

Assured Payout @50%
of last 12 months' average basic pay

Minimum Guaranteed
Payout of ₹10,000

Dearness
Relief

One Time
Lumpsum Payment

Withdrawal
upto 60% of corpus

Income Tax Benefits
as available in NPS

To apply physically, download the Forms at <https://www.npscrs.nsdl.co.in/ups.php> and submit to your DDO or apply online at [npscrs.nsdl.co.in/ups.php#RUSU](https://www.npscrs.nsdl.co.in/ups.php#RUSU)

UPS Calculator
<https://npstrust.org.in/ups-calculator>

For more information
Call UPS Help Desk
(Toll-free) : 18005712930

NPS Trust

{ NAYAB SINGH SAINI } HARYANA CHIEF MINISTER

'Terror module bust is an example of alertness and seamless cooperation'

Haryana chief minister Nayab Singh Saini has just completed a year in office. In an interview with HT's LEENA DHANKHAR, he spoke candidly about his government's achievements, anti-terror prerogative, coordination with the Delhi government, and his commitment to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision.

Edited excerpts:

How do you see your govt's biggest achievements?

Our governance model has focused on clarity, good administration and delivery. Under PM Modi's guidance, we executed our commitments: 47 manifesto promises completed and 158 in progress. We gave 24,000 youth jobs on Day One, and 34,000 in a year, taking the 11-year total to 180,000 transparent, merit-based government jobs. Women gained major support through the Lado Lakshmi and Har Ghar-Har Grahini schemes, while Scheduled Castes and Other Backward Classes-B communities received long-pending rights. Farmers benefited from minimum support price procurement on 24 crops, ₹5,627 crore in compensation, and a monsoon bonus.

How is Haryana strengthening internal security following the recent terror-linked arrests?

We operate on a zero-tolerance policy towards crime. Mod-

ern policing, technology-enabled investigation and fast-tracking judicial processes form our backbone. Major crimes have steadily declined—a strong sign of public trust. Crimes against women grew 16.8% annually under the previous Congress regime. Under us, there is a 1.36% reduction. Murders have dropped. Robbery and dacoity have also reduced. Central agencies are diligently handling terror-related cases, and our state police fully support them.

Do you think Haryana, Delhi and J&K need stronger institutionalised interstate policing and coordination?

We already maintain strong coordination. The recent terror module bust is an example of alertness and seamless cooperation. A joint inter-state coordination cell enables real-time data sharing and unified operations. Since narcotics fuel terrorism, we established an interstate secretariat in Panchkula where seven northern states share intelligence on drug networks.

What lessons do the recent incidents in Faridabad and Nuh offer?

Haryana is a tough state for criminals. We have used technology, surveillance and interstate coordination to ensure faster and firmer action. We will continue strengthening policing and enhancing safety in all high-



density districts.

Ahead of Delhi assembly polls, AAP chief Arvind Kejriwal alleged that Haryana had "mixed poison" in Yamuna. What do you say to that?

These allegations were politically motivated and completely baseless. The AAP tried to mislead the people by calling the Yamuna water 'poisonous'. To tell the truth, I went to Palla Ghat, took achman (ritualistic sipping or touching of holy water) and publicly drank the water myself. Haryana supplies clean, treated water to Delhi, and

no government should play politics over something as essential as drinking water.

Rahul Gandhi alleges the BJP "stole votes" in the 2024 polls. How do you respond?

These allegations are nothing but lies. Rahul Gandhi is misleading the nation. His family has ruled this country for four generations, yet today he has to depend on false claims to stay politically relevant. The Congress has no real issues left, so they are trying to create confusion by alleging "vote chori (theft)" in Haryana. Let me be

clear, elections were free, fair and transparent. Congress has a habit of crying foul after every loss—unko pata hi nahi chalega aur bolenge Congress chor hi ho gayi ("They won't even realise it, and then they will say: Congress has been stolen.") Even their statements on the Constitution are meant to scare people.

Since Rekha Gupta took over as Delhi chief minister, has the coordination between Haryana and Delhi improved?

The coordination has become far smoother and more constructive after Rekha Gupta assumed charge. Earlier, under Arvind Kejriwal, communication was often confrontational and driven by political theatrics rather than governance. Now, instead of blame games, we are seeing quicker resolution of interstate issues—whether it is water sharing, infrastructure planning or law-and-order coordination. With Rekha Gupta, discussions are professional, timely and focused on solutions, which has significantly improved relations between the two states.

What is your roadmap to tackle Gurugram's waterlogging and traffic mess?

We have planned a roadmap for the district and these problems stem from the earlier Congress government's poor planning. We identified 90 waterlogging hotspots in 2019; today only 30 remain. Gurugram and

Panchkula are being developed as AI hubs. GMDA was set up for planned development, and similar metropolitan authorities are now being created in Faridabad, Sonipat and Panchkula.

What will be the key focus areas in the next phase of economic development?

Balanced development—Ek Haryana, Ek Haryanvi (One Haryana, One Haryanvi)—has guided us since 2014. AI hubs in Gurugram and Panchkula, centres of horticulture excellence in Ambala, Yamunanagar, Hisar and Palwal, aqua parks in Sirsa and Bhiwani, logistics hubs across NCR, and 10 new industrial townships are in progress. We will expand land banks by 10,000 acres through e-Bhoomi and accelerate the Narnaul integrated logistic hub, the Ambala Integrated Textile Park, and the Karnal Pharma Park.

Realty prices in NCR have made housing unaffordable for the middle class. What is your solution?

Under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (rural and urban), we have delivered over 156,000 houses. Over 12,000 plots under CM Gramin Awas Yojana and over 15,700 under the urban scheme have been allotted. We have approved 180 affordable colonies, enabling 165,000 housing units. EWS allotments include nearly 36,000 plots and 68,000 flats.



Thick layers of white froth have resurfaced on the river Yamuna, near Kalindi Kunj, on Monday. SUNILGHOSH/HT PHOTO

Fresh row as froth returns in Yamuna

Jasjeev Gandhiok

jasjeev.gandhiok@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: Nearly a month after political parties sparred over the condition of the Yamuna ahead of Chhath Puja, thick layers of white froth have resurfaced near Kalindi Kunj—reviving a political flashpoint and prompting fresh allegations that the BJP-led Delhi government has failed to keep its promises on cleaning the river.

As visit by HT found thick layers of foam downstream of the Okhla barrage. Environmental experts said froth formation—caused by surfactants and untreated wastewater churning at the barrage—has persisted since before Chhath and is now intensifying with winter setting in and the river flow dipping.

Bhim Singh Rawat of SANDRP said, "Earlier, we used to see more froth in winter months, but with absence of adequate flow, we see it till monsoon nowadays."

AQI 40! Gzb tops India's most polluted

GAZIABAD: Ghaziabad on Monday became the most polluted city in the country, the only one to record a "severe" Air Quality Index (AQI), CPCB data showed.

The city's AQI stood at 401, following Sunday's 419. Three of four monitoring stations logged "very poor" to "severe" levels, with PM2.5 the primary pollutant. Officials blamed road dust,

AT 8.7°C, CHILL TIGHTENS GRIP ON DELHI, AIR STILL VERY POOR

Jasjeev Gandhiok

jasjeev.gandhiok@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: The capital continued to reel under a sharp morning chill on Monday as the minimum temperature dipped to 8.7°C—4°C below normal and the lowest November reading since 2022, when it touched 8.3°C. The India Meteorological Department (IMD) said the minimum is likely to hover between 9°C and 11°C till Thursday.

Despite the drop in temperature, no "cold wave" was declared as none of the city's stations met the criteria—a minimum below 10°C with a departure of 4.5°C or more from normal at least at two stations for two days in a row.

Mahesh Palawat, vice president at Skymet, attributed the cold to northwesterly winds and clear skies. "There will be a gradual dip in the coming days, but a cold wave is unlikely," he said. Even as low temperatures typically worsen air quality, Delhi saw slight relief due to stronger winds and a shift in wind direction. The city recorded "very poor" air for the fourth straight day, with an AQI of 351. Data showed farm fire contribution fell slightly, while three of Delhi's 39 stations—Wazirpur, Bawana and Alipur—slipped into "severe" zone. Experts said fewer farm fires, and delayed harvesting have helped prevent further decline.

SC declines blanket bans on pollution: 'City can't be shut'

Utkarsh Anand

letters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court on Monday declined to impose sweeping pollution-control measures such as a year-round construction ban or blanket curbs on vehicular movement in Delhi-NCR, saying the Capital cannot be brought to a standstill in the fight against toxic air. A bench led by Chief Justice of India Bhushan R Gavai said the court could not halt economic activity or deprive thousands of migrant workers of their daily wages, even as forecasts indicated that air quality would worsen in the coming days.

Responding to senior advocate Gopal Sankaranarayanan, who described Delhi as a gas chamber and urged the court to impose stringent year-round restrictions, the CJI said governance decisions must balance environmental concerns with livelihood realities. The bench, also comprising justices K Vinod Chandran and NV Anjaria, observed that daily wage labourers from states such as Bihar and Uttar Pradesh depend on continuous economic activity and that any measure that abruptly stops their work could inflict disproportionate harm. "The solution proposed cannot be worse than the problem," the court remarked, adding that extreme ideas such as permanent construction bans or blanket mobility restrictions were never contemplated under existing law.

The court noted that Delhi's air quality had again slipped into the "very poor" category and was projected to breach the "severe" mark later this week. Restrictions under the Graded Response Action Plan (Grap) have remained at Stage 3 since November 11, triggering bans on non-essential construction, limitations on polluting activities and enhanced enforcement at multiple sites. The bench stressed that the framework was created by domain experts who routinely model Air Quality Index (AQI) trends, and that courts cannot replace specialised regulatory mechanisms.

"We do not possess expertise in this field," the CJI said, adding that interventions must remain consistent with scientific guidance and constitutional boundaries.

Rejecting Sankaranarayanan's plea that the court should "take a bold decision" and suspend all activities permitted even under the lowest stage of Grap for the entire year, the bench said such actions would not be sustainable. When the senior counsel suggested that courts should also move fully online if harsh restrictions were imposed, the CJI replied that such logic would require all

Region. She said mechanised equipment supplied to farmers was not always used effectively or consistently and that continuing fires may be undermining progress. The bench said what was needed was a coordinated long-term strategy rather than short-term responses, and asked the Union government to bring stakeholders together to frame durable measures.

SC BENCH, on Delhi's pollution

institutions to stop functioning.

Sankaranarayanan argued that India's air-quality thresholds were lenient compared to international standards and urged compulsory carpooling, punitive cess on private cars and a blanket construction freeze. "A PM2.5 part will remain my child's lungs forever," he said, calling for urgent action. Additional solicitor general Aishwarya Bhati, appearing for the Centre, opposed indefinite curbs, warning that such steps would severely affect daily wage workers. She said the government had implemented measures under the highest permissible stage of Grap and would return with further steps if necessary.

Amicus curiae Aparajita Singh highlighted the gap between reduced stubble-burn numbers reported by Punjab and the persistent pollution levels in the National Capital as under scrutiny. The amicus said several devices were outdated or unsuitable for the Capital's complex pollution mix, while the Centre maintained that Delhi used high-quality monitors. The bench directed the Union government to file a detailed note explaining the technical specifications and adequacy of the monitoring systems.

As the hearing proceeded, Delhi recorded another dip in air quality. The city's Air Quality Index stood at 359 at 8am, firmly in the "very poor" zone. Forecasts from the Early Warning System indicated a likely return to "severe" levels between November 17 and 19.

Last week, in a separate proceeding, Justice PS Narasimha described the Capital's air crisis as "very serious" and urged lawyers to avoid physical appearances as prolonged exposure to the city's toxic air could cause irreversible harm.

HT Homage

IN LOVING MEMORY OF



PAMELA CHATRATH
1938 - 2025

Please join the family for a prayer meeting held in remembrance of our beloved Mother, Sister, Aunt & Grandmother.

Wednesday, 19th Nov
3 pm - 4 pm
At our residence at Sainik Farms

In Grief,
Arvind & Monisha Chatrath
Arjun & Carmen Chatrath
Aditya & Kabin
The Khanna Family

IN THE MEMORY OF



ARUN KUMAR GUPTA (KISHAN JI)
1960 - 2020

Five years have passed, yet the memory of our father shines brightly in our lives. What an extraordinary life he led—full of strength, compassion, and tireless hard work. Known and respected in the society and steel industry, his kindness touched countless lives. Without him, our world feels a little colder, but we continue to cherish his legacy, feeling his presence in every memory. We love and miss him every day.

GUPTA FAMILY
CONTACT: 9810006195

In loving memory of



Late Smt. Mamta Soota (Wife)
14-07-1945 to 18-11-2021

4th Death Anniversary

Late BIKRAM SOOT (Son)
18-11-1976 to 03-07-1999

49th Heavenly Birthday

Your life was a blessing, your memory a treasure. You are loved beyond words and missed beyond measure.

IN REMEMBRANCE

Sh. Rajesh Kumar Soota, Advocate
S/o Late Dr. Jai Dayal Soota & Late Smt. Shanti Soota

Mr. Abhishek Khetarpal (Son & Brother in Law)
Mrs. Pooja Khetarpal (Daughter & Sister)
Mr. Parv Khetarpal (Grand Son & Nephew)

Advocate Rajesh Kumar Soota & Associates
House of Taxman
Income Tax, VAT & GST Experts

11. Matre Chhaya New Colony, Gurugram (HR)-122001
Mob: 9810035638

We are with you in your difficult times.

To place an obituary announcement/remembrance with **Hindustan Times** call on:

MOHIT BERRY: 9810978969
ABHISHEK JHA: 9910545466
HT Direct No: 011-66561139
Tele Booking: 1800-103-1800

Rates Effective April 23, 2024

Publications	Rates per sq.cms.
HT Delhi (Metro Run)	₹ 775/-
HT Delhi (Full Run)	₹ 900/-
HH Delhi	₹ 265/-
HT Delhi (Metro Run) + HH - Delhi	₹ 880/-
HT Delhi (Metro Run) + HT Chd. + HH Delhi	₹ 970/- <small>New</small>
Mint Delhi	₹ 250/-
HT (Metro Run) + Mint Delhi	₹ 800/-
HT Del (Metro Run) + HT Chd. + HH Del + Mint Del	₹ 1000/- <small>New</small>
HT Del (Metro Run) + HT Chd. + HT Mum + HT Pune	₹ 1100/- <small>New</small>
HT - Hindustan Times, HH - Hindustan Hindi	*GST as applicable

The above rates are applicable for advertisement sizes of up to 320 sq. cm. Placement of these advertisements will be on specified pages only. Width of obituary ad will be 4 cm. and thereafter in multiples of 1 cm.*

Conditions Apply*GST as applicable

Unforgettable

In Loving Memory of S. Surjit Singh Bimbra

You have always been our inspiration yesterday, today, tomorrow, forever. Fondly remembered by Family friends and admirers. Bimbra Industries, 306, Udyog Vihar, Ph-IV, Gurgaon, Mob. 9310014489, 9810014489, Devinder Singh (Dubai), Bimbra 4x4

We are here for you

To place an obituary or remembrance advertisement with **Hindustan Times**

Scan the code:

1800-103-1800 (9 AM to 9 PM everyday)
Email at: counterclassifieds@hindustantimes.com

UD minister blames AAP for civic mess

NEW DELHI: Mahendra Park police arrested a 31-year-old man for murdering his wife after accusing her of an affair. Officers found the woman's body near a drain on November 14 following a PCR call. Her husband, Vishnu Sharma, later confessed, saying a quarrel had led him to kill her and dump the body. CCTV footage showed him carrying her towards the drain. Investigation is ongoing.

Assembly marks Birsia Munda Day

NEW DELHI: The Delhi Assembly on Monday marked the 150th birth anniversary of Birsia Munda, with 200 youth and officers from eight Naxal-affected districts attending. Speaker Vijender Gupta called Munda a "timeless symbol of courage" and urged commitment to equality and environmental harmony. The visitors shared experiences from their Delhi tour under the MY Bharat initiative.



दिल्ली सरकार

द्वारा

दिल्ली सिक्ख गुरुद्वारा प्रबंधक कमेटी
के सहयोग से आयोजित

श्री गुरु तेग बहादुर साहिब जी

और उनके साथ शहीद हुए अनिन गुरुसिक्खों भाई मर्ती दास जी, भाई सती दास जी एवं भाई दयाला जी की
पवित्र शहादत के 350वें वर्ष की स्मृति में

विशेष गुरुमत समागम

23 से 25 नवम्बर 2025
लाल किला मैदान दिल्ली

समागम के मुख्य बिंदु

» विशाल कीर्तन दरबार » श्री गुरु तेग बहादुर जी की जीवनी पर लाइट एंड साउंड शो »
» श्री गुरु तेग बहादुर जी संग्रहालय » संगतों के लिए टेंट स्थिरी एवं लंगर सेवा »



नरेंद्र मोदी

माननीय प्रधानमंत्री

गुरु घर के सेवक

रेखा गुप्ता

माननीय मुख्यमंत्री, दिल्ली

कपिल मिश्रा

माननीय कैविनेट मंत्री, दिल्ली सरकार

मनजिंदर सिंह सिरसा

माननीय कैविनेट मंत्री, दिल्ली सरकार

हरमीत सिंह कालका

अध्यक्ष, DSGMC

जगदीप सिंह काहलों

महासचिव, DSGMC



रेखा गुप्ता

माननीय मुख्यमंत्री, दिल्ली

रविवार, 23 नवम्बर 2025

कार्यक्रम (शाम)

5:45 से 6:25 बजे	पाठ	श्री रहरासि साहिब	5:45 से 6:25 बजे	पाठ	श्री रहरासि साहिब	4:15 से 4:45 बजे	कथा	भाई सुखनीत सिंह जी कन्हैया
6:25 से 7:30 बजे	कीर्तन	भाई कुलविंदर सिंह जी लरड़	6:25 से 7:00 बजे	कीर्तन	350 विद्यार्थी समस्त गुरु हरिकृष्ण पब्लिक स्कूल	4:45 से 5:45 बजे	संपूर्णता	महान पाठ साहिब
7:30 से 8:00 बजे	कीर्तन	भाई पर्यामिंदर सिंह जी अंड्रेलिया	7:00 से 7:40 बजे	कीर्तन	भाई कारज सिंह जी हजूरी कीर्तनेए, श्री हरिमंदिर साहिब	5:45 से 6:25 बजे	पाठ	श्री रहरासि साहिब
8:00 से 8:45 बजे	कीर्तन	भाई चमनजीत सिंह जी दिल्ली	7:40 से 8:20 बजे	कीर्तन	भाई तरनवीर सिंह जी रबी	6:25 से 7:00 बजे	कीर्तन	350 वीरीयां समस्त सत्री सतिसंग सभा
8:45 से 9:30 बजे	कीर्तन	भाई शुभदीप सिंह जी हजूरी कीर्तनेए, श्री हरिमंदिर साहिब	8:20 से 9:00 बजे	कीर्तन	भाई औंकार सिंह जी हजूरी कीर्तनेए, श्री हरिमंदिर साहिब	7:00 से 7:40 बजे	कीर्तन	भाई गुरमीत सिंह जी शांत हजूरी कीर्तनेए, श्री हरिमंदिर साहिब
9:30 से 10:30 बजे	कीर्तन	भाई कारण सिंह जी हजूरी कीर्तनेए, श्री हरिमंदिर साहिब	9:00 से 9:40 बजे	कीर्तन	भाई सरबजीत सिंह जी पठना साहिब	7:40 से 8:20 बजे	कीर्तन	भाई शुभदीप सिंह जी हजूरी कीर्तनेए, श्री हरिमंदिर साहिब
10:30 से 11:30 बजे	कीर्तन	भाई अनंतवीर सिंह जी यू.एस.ए	9:40 से 10:10 बजे		पंथक विचारां	8:20 से 9:00 बजे	कीर्तन	भाई मनिदर सिंह जी हजूरी कीर्तनेए, श्री हरिमंदिर साहिब
			10:10 से 10:50 बजे	कीर्तन	भाई हरजिंदर सिंह जी श्रीनगर	9:00 से 9:30 बजे		पंथक विचारां
			10:50 से 11:30 बजे	कीर्तन	भाई अनंतवीर सिंह जी यू.एस.ए.	9:30 से 10:30 बजे	कीर्तन	भाई हरजिंदर सिंह जी श्रीनगर
						10:30 से 11:30 बजे	कीर्तन	भाई सरबजीत सिंह जी पठना साहिब

उपरांत अरदास एवं समापन

उपरांत अरदास एवं समापन

उपरांत अरदास एवं समापन

HAVE FUN WITH FACTS ON SUNDAYS

Catch the latest column of



THE WEEK THAT WAS

A quiz on the week's development.



FIRST VOICE. LAST WORD.

hindustantimes htTweets www.hindustantimes.com

HT Classifieds {Tuesday}

SCAN THE CODE
TO BOOK YOUR
ADS ONLINE→

www.htclassifieds.com

EMPLOYMENT/ ACADEMIC

Walk-In-Interview at
SACHDEVA PUBLIC SCHOOL
SECTOR-13, ROHINI, DELHI-85
TELE - 011-5616 6766, 2756 1025
email: info@spsohni.com

Inviting FEMALE candidates, Trained Post Graduate with excellent academic record and experience in the subject for the post of P.G.T. ECONOMICS

Note : Salary & Age as per Rules.

Interested candidates who can join immediately should come for interview along with CV, original testimonials, certificates and latest photograph on Thursday, the 20th November, 2025 at 11.00 A.M.

BAL VIKAS Public School A-3 Paschim Vihar West Delhi, Requires Following Female Staff I. TGT Eng 2, TGT Maths 3, TGT Eng 5. Receptionist. Contact - 971844220

MOUNT ABU Public School, Pkt-H, Sector-18, Rohini, Req. Headmistress, Admin-Curriculum, Nurse/Cook, PRT-Maths, EVS, Games, Art, Tchr, Recpnt. Attd Intw 14.17.19 Nov, 1pm

CHOWGULE School D-4, Paschim Vihar, Sector-10, Senior Secondary School, Affiliated to CBSE Tel- 011-4790245 /Email- cpc.mmm@rediffmail.com Candidates for following Posts:-Principal (knowledge of Marathi Language essential), TGT Maths (01), PRT Drawing Teacher-(01), Special Educator-01 Qualification and Experience as per CBSE Norms (Apply Immediately with a Recent Photo and C.V. Salary Negotiable)

MRV INTERNATIONAL JR. PRESCHOOL

36, Krishna Park Extn., New Mahavir Nagar, N.D-18

REQUIRES 6 PRE PRIMARY

TEACHERS WITH GOOD

COMMUNICATION SKILLS

ATTRACTIVE SALARIES

WALK - IN - INTERVIEW ON

19th, 21st & 22nd Nov'25

Between 2 PM and 4 PM

9250900573

9971390224

careermrv1@gmail.com

M.M. Public School

Yasudha Enclave, Pitampura, Delhi-34.

Ph: 47506758, 41572587

www.mmpublicschool.com

Requires experienced FEMALE

candidates with pleasing

personality having proficiency

in spoken & written English:-

PGT : Physical Edu.

TGT : Social Studies

PRT : General

Office Assistant /Executive

Accountant (M/F)

Receptionist

Walk-In-interview :

19 & 22 Nov 2025

Between 9 am - 1 pm

with latest CV & Passport Size Photo

NEO CONVENT SR. SEC. SCHOOL

Require the following

staff immediately

(Only candidates who are fluent

in English need to apply.

Preference will be given to

C.T.E.T. Qualified Candidates.)

G-17 Area, Opp. GH-2

Block, Paschim Vihar,

New Delhi - 110063

Tel.: 25264343, 49097900

Primary Teacher :

English / Maths / Science / SS/

Hindi and Computer. (B.Ed.

Candidates are also eligible)

TGT : English, S.S.T., Maths,

Science, Hindi.

P.T. : Male/Female

Candidates with proven

ability and having computer

knowledge to work in a fast

paced environment and result

oriented will be preferred.

Do not attach certificates.

Apply to School office

immediately in your own

hand-writing clearly stating

the post with photograph.

(Application received by

Speed Post / Registered Post

will not be accepted)

Applications without hand-

written covering letters

will be rejected. Mention

qualification 10% onwards.

THE INDIAN SCHOOL

Josip Broz Tito Marg

(Near Moolchand Flyover)

New Delhi - 110049

Ph: 999908152 and

262659567

Requires

• PGT- Economics

• PGT- Maths

• PGT- English

• PGT- Physical Education

Post Graduate with B.Ed.

• TGT- Social Science

• TGT- Hindi

Graduate with B.Ed.

• TGT- Science

Graduate in Physics

with B.Ed.

• PRT - Maths

• PRT- Hindi

Graduate with B.Ed. and

Diploma in Elementary

Education / B.Ed.

• Assistant Teacher

(Primary)

XII / Graduate with NTT

• Special Educator

Degree / Diploma in

Special Education

• Lab Assistant (Chemistry)

XII / Graduate with Science

Apply to:

contactus@theindianschool.in

THE INDIAN SCHOOL

Josip Broz Tito Marg

(Near Moolchand

Flyover)

New Delhi - 110049

Ph: 999908152 and

262659567

Requires

• PGT- Economics

• PGT- Maths

• PGT- English

• PGT- Physical Education

Post Graduate with B.Ed.

• TGT- Social Science

• TGT- Hindi

Graduate with B.Ed.

• TGT- Science

Graduate in Physics

with B.Ed.

• PRT - Maths

• PRT- Hindi

Graduate with B.Ed. and

Diploma in Elementary

Education / B.Ed.

• Assistant Teacher

(Primary)

XII / Graduate with NTT

• Special Educator

Degree / Diploma in

Special Education

• Lab Assistant (Chemistry)

XII / Graduate with Science

Apply to:

contactus@theindianschool.in

THE INDIAN SCHOOL

Josip Broz Tito Marg

(Near Moolchand

Flyover)

New Delhi - 110049

Ph: 999908152 and

262659567

Requires

• Part Time French Teacher

Graduate with Dip. /

Degree in French

• Leave Vacancy Special Educator

Degree / Diploma in Special Education

• Lab Assistant (Chemistry)

XII / Graduate with Science

Apply to:

contactus@theindianschool.in

THE INDIAN SCHOOL

Josip Broz Tito Marg

(Near Moolchand

Flyover)

New Delhi - 110049

Ph: 999908152 and

262659567

Requires

• General Multiple Vacancies

FEMALE OFFICE Asstt. Exp. 3 yrs. to

10 yrs on computer @ 18000 at

GK-1 South Delhi Resident Preferred

WhatsApp 8448663970. E-mail:

vinodtgy@gmail.com

COMPUTER SAFFY Office assistant

needed. Proficient in MS Office,

letter-writing and file management,

Excellent English skills required.

Email: mridula1946@gmail.com

MEDICAL

TARAK HOSPITAL Dwarka More Rtd.

(i) Marketing Executive - Experienced.

(ii) Pharmacist - Experienced. Cont.

M. Vishal Arora: 9999938960.

Ms. Varsha Saxena: 8588996959.

Degree / Diploma in Special Education

• Lab Assistant (Chemistry)

XII / Graduate with Science

Apply to:

contactus@theindianschool.in

THE INDIAN SCHOOL

Josip Broz Tito Marg

(Near Moolchand

Flyover)

New Delhi - 110049

Delhiwale

EXPERIENCE YOUR CITY LIKE NEVER BEFORE



Mayank
Austen Soofi



Sore throat in Vikaspuri

Citizen's poem in the time of pollution

PRIVATE CAPITAL Sore throat? You have it too! Must be the city's bad air. Whatever, early in the month, as Delhi was beset by extreme pollution, customer relations manager Jasbir Chatterjee was forced to take three days' leave due to "respiratory problems." It was deeply frustrating, because she is very careful of saving her office leaves, to utilise them for truly important family occasions. Thankfully, she has recovered, resuming her long commutes to work at a commercial vehicles showroom in Sanjay Gandhi Transport Nagar. This weekend afternoon, at her residence in Vikas Puri, over a tasty fish curry prepared by husband, Sukhangshu, she reads aloud a poem she wrote on the disruption caused to her health, which, she feels, might have been the doing of the season's pollution. She agrees to share the poem with us, and also agrees to be snapped with her husband, as well as with her daughter and son-in-law, who make fleeting appearances in the poem. Meanwhile, the apartment's sole air purifier is lying inert in an inner room; the household not yet having picked up the habit of using the appliance as compulsively as it does its AC or water pump.

November of 2025
It started with just a slight sore throat, I smiled and said, "There I go again." Some sneezes, some coughs, the body aches, Kadhu and ginger tea, steam and medicine—the usual game. Saving my office leaves, I worked through pain, Thinking, "Soon I'll be okay." But this time the ache refused to go, The throat grew worse, my chest felt tight, Each breath was sharp, each moment long, I cried, "Take me to the hospital!" My family stayed calm; "Don't panic, Mom," they said, Their steady words, a soothing balm. Anubhav brought the Salbutamol pump, And eased my breath in his gentle way, and somehow I felt lighter. Not only because of the medicine, But because of the love behind it, The love of a son I never had before. Suroshri's phone propped on a pile of pillows lay, And soon, there was a doctor on the screen in front of me! Tongue-tied I was, yet happy, To see his face and hear that sound. Then came medicines, the Vicks, the hot water bottle, Khichdi and care. Without my hands, all things were done, By my dear Suroshri, my shining sun. Doctor said, "You'll be fine in five days," By day four, I was back in the office. But what lies ahead, Will November of 2026 treat me well?

READ: For more stories by Mayank Austen Soofi, scan the QR code



ग्रामपुर विकास प्राधिकरण, ग्रामपुर

क्रांतिकारी निविदा आवेदन सं. 23/2025-26/15567 दिनांक - 13/11/2025

राजस्थान के रायपुर महोदय की ओर से भरतपुर विकास प्राधिकरण, में उपरुक्त श्रेणी एवं विभिन्न विवाहों में E1/EWSD-1 श्रेणी में पंजीकृत संसदों से नियमित प्रत्र में ई-प्रक्षेपणमें प्रक्रिया से कुल 02 कार्यों देते अंतिमान्तर निविदाएं आमंत्रित की जाती हैं।

उत्तर कार्यों का विस्तृत विवरण, निविदा एवं अनुमानित लागत राशि, निविदा बेचने, प्राप्त करने एवं छाते लाने के दिनांक आदि सम्पूर्ण विवरण वे वसाइंट

<http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in>, www.urban.rajasthan.gov.in/uitbhartapur एवं <http://sppp.raj.nic.in> पोर्टल पर देखा जा सकता है।

निविदा से संबंधित किसी भी प्रकार का संराजन <http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in> एवं <http://sppp.raj.nic.in> पोर्टल का अवशोकन करें।

UBN विवरण :- WAQ2526WSOB00256, WAQ2526WSOB00257

अधिकारी अधिकारी (विद्युत)

दस्तावेज़/संीकृत दस्तावेज़ (विद्युत)

क्रांतिकारी निविदा आवेदन सं. 23/2025-26/15567

क्रांतिकारी निविदा आवेद

'I am here to deal with it': Lalu amid family tensions

Subhash Pathak

letters@hindustantimes.com

PATNA: Lalu Prasad, the ailing patriarch of the Yadav family that ruled Bihar between 1990 and 2005, and shared power with Nitish Kumar's Janata Dal (United) between 2015 and 2017 and 2022 and 2024, said the fight between his children, playing out across headlines soon after his Rashtriya Janata Dal's drubbing in the state elections, was an "internal family matter". It would be "resolved within the family," he said. "I am there to deal with it".

The fight is between Rohini Acharya, 46, Prasad's daughter, who was based in Singapore, but contested (and lost) last year's general election and Prasad's youngest son Tejashwi Yadav, 36. But Prasad's other children have taken sides too. Three of Acharya's sisters (she has six in all) and one of her brothers, Tej Pratap, appear to be backing her. The eldest of Prasad's children Misa Bharti, 48, appears to be backing Tejashwi.

The RJD-led Grand Alliance won only 35 seats in this year's state election, to the rival NDA's 202. And the party itself could win only 25 seats, down from 75 in 2020. On Monday, Tejashwi was chosen legislative party leader (unanimously), and Prasad seemed to suggest all would be well soon. He asked party leaders to focus on the party.

Patliputra MP Misa Bharti, also present at the meeting, told reporters that they should focus more on covering the NDA promises such as 10 million jobs, ₹2 lakh each assistance to Jeevika Didis and Bihar's industrial growth instead of family issues. "These things happen in families and get settled through talks," she said. She rubbed the talks about Acharya's hankering for the family's assets, adding Prasad's properties are under scrutiny due to ongoing ED and CBI probe. "At this hour, we are looking at how to strengthen the party."

Acharya's outburst against Tejashwi may have come on November 15, but it was brew-

Fissures in RJD's first family

After a debacle in the Bihar polls, RJD patriarch Lalu Prasad's family fissures are out in the open. A look at his family tree and what each had to say on the ongoing feud.

Lalu Prasad

The ailing RJD supremo, who served as Bihar's chief minister from 1990 to 1997, has appealed for unity in the family. "This is an internal family matter and will be resolved within the family. I am there to deal with it."

Rabri Devi

The former Bihar chief minister (1997-2005) has remained silent while trying to keep the family and party united.

Misa Bharti

Lalu's eldest daughter holds an MBBS degree. On the ongoing feud, the RJD's Patliputra MP said:

"These things happen in families and get settled through talks."

Rohini Acharya

The second eldest daughter had donated a kidney to her father.

After the RJD's poll rout, she "disowned" her family and quit politics, attributing it to Tejashwi's aides Sanjay Yadav and Rameez Khan.

Chanda Yadav

A law graduate, she is married to pilot Vikram Singh. She left Patna along with sisters Ragini and Hema on Sunday.

Tej Pratap Yadav

The eldest son of Lalu founded his own party, the JJD, after his expulsion from the RJD.

He has backed Rohini's claims, saying:

"Disrespecting Rohini like this will ruin our heritage."

DAUGHTERS

SONS

DAUGHTERS

SC issues norms to conserve tigers and regulate reserves

Abraham Thomas

letters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: In a significant ruling, the Supreme Court on Monday directed state governments to notify eco-sensitive zones (ESZ) around all tiger reserves, including buffer and fringe areas, not less than one kilometre from their outer boundaries, and formulate a policy to declare the entire tiger reserve as silence zone while prohibiting use of mobile phones or night tourism in the core or critical tiger habitat.

The court's comprehensive pan-India guidelines, aimed at conservation of tigers and regulation of protected areas, placed strict timelines on states, directing them to notify the buffer and core areas of tiger reserves within six months, come out with a tiger conservation plan (TCP) also within six months, and prescribe ESZ within one year.

"We direct the ministry of environment, forests and climate change (MoEFCC) as well as the various state governments to take necessary steps by notifying rules and/or by issuing memorandums or circulars for implementing the directions and recommendations issued hereinabove within a period of six months from the date of this judgment," a bench headed by Chief Justice of India (CJI) Bhushan R Gavai said.

To bolster the defence of forests and wildlife in protected zones, the court issued a slew of directions in regards with the employment, service conditions and other benefits for forest staffers, who are the persons on the frontline. In a first, the

Key guidelines for tiger reserves

WHAT THE SUPREME COURT SAID

- All tiger reserves must have eco sensitive zones (ESZ) within one year
- States to prepare tiger conservation plan within six months
- Entire reserve area, including ESZ, to be notified as "silence zone"
- Centre to create a policy on funding of tiger reserves

WHAT'S FOR STAFFERS?

- Directions for employment, service conditions and other benefits for forest staffers
- Another policy on staffing pattern and cadre requirement
- Medals for commendable work to be displayed on uniforms
- Ex-gratia to be provided in case of death in the line of duty



bench directed the Centre to create separate policies on funding of tiger reserves, and staffing and cadre requirements. It also prohibited outsourcing of forest staff and directed that in no circumstance, the post of field director — in charge of the reserve — be kept vacant.

The guidelines were based on recommendations made by an expert committee constituted by the MoEFCC on the court's order in March 2024 to examine the ecological violations, quantify damage, recommend restoration measures, and identify officers responsible for the destruction inside the Corbett Tiger Reserve in Uttarakhand.

The bench, also comprising justices Augustine George Mash and AS Chandrakar, also proposed a host of innovative measures to boost the morale of forest staff by allowing medals to be displayed

on their uniform for commendable work similar to any uniformed service, and an ex-gratia amount in case of an unfortunate death in the line of duty on par with para-military forces.

The court also directed a policy on funding for tiger reserves along with religious tourism, and a mechanism to prevent man-animal conflict.

On tiger safari, the court reiterated that its March 6, 2024 judgment shall hold the field that required tiger safari to be established on "non-forest land" or "degraded forest land" in buffer area provided that it is not part of a tiger corridor.

The court also directed the Uttarakhand government to undertake comprehensive restoration measures, demolish unauthorised constructions, and remedy the destruction caused by illegal tree felling and construction

works inside the Corbett Tiger Reserve. It, however, did not quantify costs to be paid by erring officials as the trial is pending.

While sanctuaries and national parks have ESZ as per a 2011 central notification, the court observed that in 2018, the MoEFCC wrote to all the chief wildlife wardens (CWW) for submitting proposals for notifying ESZ of tiger reserves, which at the minimum must include the buffer and fringe areas.

"We are of the firm belief that ESZs cannot only be restricted to sanctuaries or national parks, and must include buffer and peripheral areas of tiger reserves as well. Therefore, all State Governments are hereby directed to notify ESZs around all tiger reserves, no later than 1 year from the date of this judgment," the bench said in its order.

The court said that activities that are permitted, prohibited or restricted for national parks and sanctuaries will apply for tiger reserves as well with a complete ban on mining activities within the ESZ, which is either 1 km from a tiger habitat or buffer area, or the notified ESZ (whichever is larger).

Senior advocate K Parmeshwar, assisting the court as amicus curiae, had pointed out only 23 of the 58 tiger reserves in the country have a tiger conservation plan (TCP) — mandated for all tiger reserves under Section 38V of the Wildlife Protection Act — in place.

This, Parmeshwar said, despite the top court mandating it in its 2012 Ajay Dubey judgment.

CJI Gavai, writing the judgment said, "TCP should clearly delineate

the entire area of the reserve (including ESZ) to be notified as "silence zone" under the Noise Pollution (Regulation and Control) Rules, 2000, within three months and asked the Centre and states to replicate this decision for all protected areas notified as forests as well.

Both the MoEFCC and central empowered committee (CEC) were directed to jointly set up a special cell to review and assess staffing patterns and cadre requirements in all tiger reserves within a year. "There shall be strict prohibition on outsourcing of forest staff officers in performance of core functions," it said, proposing clean camps, insurance cover, health facilities for forest guards with all basic amenities and separate toilet for women guards.

ECI officials gave the reasoning behind the special type of revision for Assam (neither SIR nor SSR) and said, "There are special provisions for citizenship in the State of Assam. The verification of citizenship is already being done under the supervision of Hon'ble Supreme Court and is at the final stages. Therefore, special revision (SR) is being ordered in place of Special Intensive Revision (SIR)."

Under the order, pre-revision work will be carried out from Tuesday until Friday. Election officials will print required documents, train personnel, and prepare field-level materials. From 22 November to 20 December, Booth Level Officers (BLOs) will undertake house-to-house verification. They will check existing entries, make corrections, identify citizens newly eligible to vote, and distribute and collect relevant enrolment and deletion forms. BLOs are required to revisit locked or closed households at least three times. They will also review photographs in the electoral database and replace unclear or non-human images using Form 8 for fresh photo collection.

The Commission has also outlined procedures for deletions. For

'Spl revision' exercise to be held in Assam: ECI

Vrinda Tulsian

letters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: The Election Commission of India (ECI) has ordered a Special Revision (SR) of the electoral rolls in Assam, with the pre-revision process beginning Tuesday. A key feature of the directive is that entries of so-called D-Voters — individuals whose citizenship status is under adjudication — will be carried forward into the draft rolls without fresh verification unless a Foreigners' Tribunal or court issues an order altering their status. The qualifying date for the revision is 1 January 2026, and the final electoral roll will be published on 10 February.

Assam chief minister Himanta Biswa Sharma took to X to welcome the decision. "This will help ensure clean, updated and accurate electoral rolls for all eligible citizens," he said, adding that the state will "extend full cooperation" to ECI to "complete the revision in a transparent and time-bound manner."

The decision to opt for a Special Revision — positioned between a Special Intensive Revision (SIR) and a Special Summary Revision (SSR) — follows several rounds of discussions between the Commission, the state government, and other stakeholders. The Commission considered the specific context of Assam, including issues related to the National Register of Citizens (NRC) and the category of D-Voters, before finalising the method to be adopted.

ECI officials gave the reasoning behind the special type of revision for Assam (neither SIR nor SSR) and said, "There are special provisions for citizenship in the State of Assam. The verification of citizenship is already being done under the supervision of Hon'ble Supreme Court and is at the final stages. Therefore, special revision (SR) is being ordered in place of Special Intensive Revision (SIR)."

Under the order, pre-revision work will be carried out from Tuesday until Friday. Election officials will print required documents, train personnel, and prepare field-level materials. From 22 November to 20 December, Booth Level Officers (BLOs) will undertake house-to-house verification. They will check existing entries, make corrections, identify citizens newly eligible to vote, and distribute and collect relevant enrolment and deletion forms. BLOs are required to revisit locked or closed households at least three times. They will also review photographs in the electoral database and replace unclear or non-human images using Form 8 for fresh photo collection.

The Commission has also outlined procedures for deletions. For

Protests across Kerala day after BLO's suicide

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM: Thousands of booth-level officers (BLOs) across Kerala came out in protest on Monday, a day after the suicide of a 44-year-old BLO, who was found dead at his residence in Kannur district, purportedly due to heavy workload associated with the Special Intensive Revision (SIR). The state-wide boycott demands training for all officials, appointment of additional booth level officers (BLOs) among others citing severe workload, insufficient training, and lack of manpower.

"It is extremely difficult to complete such a huge exercise within a short period of time which we are doing besides our everyday workload and responsibilities," said a BLO from an assembly constituency in Chennai on anonymity. CEO, Patnaik did not respond to HT on the issue. **DIYNA CHANDRABABU**

deletions based on death, valid documentation must be provided. For deletions due to a change of residence, Form 8 is necessary, along with field verification. Electoral Registration Officials or EROs must conduct random checks covering at least 10% of the deletions. If deletions at any polling station exceed 2% of the total electors, or if more than five objections are filed by a single individual, the ERO must personally review the cases. Citizens may appeal deletion decisions under Section 24 of the Representation of the People Act, first to the District Magistrate and subsequently to the Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) of Assam.

To assess the condition of the electoral roll, EROs will compile statistical formats — Formats 1 to 8 — both before and after the revision. These include data on gender ratio, the number of electors aged 18-19, EPIC (Voter ID) coverage, and image quality. Before granting approval for the final publication of the roll, the Commission requires the CEO to submit these analyses along with a certificate confirming that duplicate entries have been removed and cases involving deceased or relocated electors have been resolved.

The Commission has clarified the distinctions between the SR and other revision types such as SIR and SSR. Under SIR, election authorities distribute printed enumeration forms to every elector for fresh documentation and verification, including submission of identity and citizenship-related documents such as passport, caste cer-

All revenue staff in TN to boycott work from today

CHENNAI: The Federation of Revenue Associations (FERA) has announced that all revenue staff across Tamil Nadu will boycott work from Tuesday, in protest against the ongoing exercise of Special Intensive Revision (SIR). The state-wide boycott demands training for all officials, appointment of additional booth level officers (BLOs) among others citing severe workload, insufficient training, and lack of manpower.

"It is extremely difficult to complete such a huge exercise within a short period of time which we are doing besides our everyday workload and responsibilities," said a BLO from an assembly constituency in Chennai on anonymity. CEO, Patnaik did not respond to HT on the issue. **DIYNA CHANDRABABU**

Centre approves new leopard sterilisation programme in Maha

Gayatri Vajpeyyee

letters@hindustantimes.com



The pilot will begin in Junnar, where several human-leopard conflicts have taken place.

The big cats in Pune district is estimated to be around 1300.

Naik, who had recently announced a shoot-at-sight directive in the face of increasing attacks in the villages, said on Monday that the "effectiveness of the programme will be evident in six months". If the results are encouraging, similar birth control interventions will be proposed for Nashik and Ahilyanagar districts, where the conflicts have intensified.

Maharashtra has been experiencing a steep rise in cases of conflict for nearly a decade, the last five years being particularly severe. Encounters between leopards and humans have resulted in repeated attacks in encircled villages, large scale livestock losses and a surge in rescue and relocation operations. At least five people have been killed in leopard attacks in Pune district since April 2025, officials said.

"...Another thing that stood out was that nobody can overlook the increasing participation of people in democracy. There was the highest voter turnout in the history of elections in Bihar. Women turnout was about 9% more than the male turnout. This also is the victory of democracy," the PM said.

Urging all state governments, irrespective of their ideology or position to focus on development, the PM said, the result in Bihar has shown how vast the aspirations of Indians are.

Bihar poll verdict is a victory of democracy: Modi attacks Oppn

HT Correspondent

letters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: People vote for parties that fulfil their aspirations and the recent Bihar assembly polls have shown that when governments prioritise development, voters put their faith in them, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Monday.

Delivering the Ramnath Goenka lecture, the PM said the outcome of the Bihar polls, which saw the Bharatiya Janata Party led National Democratic Alliance win a sweeping mandate, was a historic result. The NDA won 202 of the 243 seats to retain power in the state. He said the opposition Rashtriya Janata Dal had "betrayed" the people. Instead of focussing on development, he said, it opted for the misrule of "Jungle Raj", using a term used by critics for the law and order record of the previous RJD-led government.

"...Another thing that stood out was that nobody can overlook the increasing participation of people in democracy. There was the highest voter turnout in the history of elections in Bihar. Women turnout was about 9% more than the male turnout. This also is the victory of democracy," the PM said.

Pointing out that India is moving towards development, he said the country is not only an emerging market but an emerging model as well. "Today the world considers the Indian growth model as the model of hope," he said. Urging state governments to create a better environment for investment and ease of doing business, the PM said they should compete to move ahead in development



Narendra Modi

parameters and then see how people put their faith in them.

He said to win elections one should not be in an "election mode but emotional mode", putting people's interests first.

The PM said it is important that benefits of development should reach everybody, especially the poor, the marginalised and the deprived so that social justice is ensured.

Criticising previous governments for prioritising their own interests, he said the NDA government is not only working for social justice but towards saturation of schemes so that no one is left out.

The PM said Urban Naxals had already entrenched themselves within the opposition, and today, they have transformed the Congress party into what he termed the "Muslim League-Maoist Congress" (MMC) that has abandoned national interest for its own selfish motives and is increasingly becoming a threat to the unity of the country.

"Naxalism across country is shrinking fast but during the Congress rule it was becoming much more prevalent. In last five decades almost every big state was affected by naxalism. It is unfortunate that the Congress kept nurturing those people who rejected India's Constitution...The Muslim League-Maoist Congress sacrificed the country's interest...This Congress has become a big danger to country's unity," he said.

Pointing out that India is moving towards development, he said the country is not only an emerging market but an emerging model as well. "Today the world considers the Indian growth model as the model of hope," he said. Urging state governments to create a better environment for investment and ease of doing business, the PM said they should compete to move ahead in development

violence and grievous hurt when the passenger slapped, punched and kicked them in the back, face and abdomen," a second official aware of the details said on Monday.

"The acts and conduct of the unruly passenger in the video clearly showed that he was the first one to react, assault and/or hit the complainants, and not vice versa. There was no provocation or humiliation to the passenger since what was being sought from him to comply (payment for extra baggage) is a norm that is followed by all airlines. Hence, such grave physical assault is absolutely unacceptable in any scenario," he added.

Officials said the collective action was necessary to send a strong message about the safety of frontline aviation workers, who often face aggressive behaviour while enforcing basic rules.

"This level of violence cannot be normalised," a senior official said, also on anonymity, adding that the ban reflects a zero tolerance approach across the sector.

A video of the incident, showing the officer hitting staff with a queue stand, was widely circulated on August 3.

"The airline employees were subjected to grave physical abuse as well as life-threatening

Anil Ambani skips ED summons in FMEA case for second time

NEW DELHI: Reliance Group chairman Anil Ambani refused to appear before the enforcement directorate (ED) in a foreign exchange management act (FMEA) case for the second time on Monday. The investigation pertains to the Jaipur-Reengus highway project. In a statement, Ambani's spokesperson said, "Mr Anil D. Ambani has offered to make himself available for the recording of his statement, at any date and time suitable to ED, via virtual appearance."

Scenes are satirical in nature, Red Chillies tells Delhi high court

PARADIP: The Odisha government on Monday demolished a house built "illegally on government land" in which "some suspected Bangladeshis were staying". Two people were also held, an official said. The action came a day after two police personnel were attacked allegedly by the occupants during a raid at the house. "The house is built on the encroached government land and it was suspected that Bangladeshi nationals were staying in it," said a senior magistrate.

State BJP president Ravindra Chavan issued the directive after Choudhary's induction into the party at an event in Palghar, invited criticism from various quarters. The party, in a statement, said that according to official investigation records, Choudhary's name does not appear in any FIR or charge sheet related to the case.

"However, given the seriousness of the matter, the decision regarding his induction has been temporarily halted at the state level," it said.

Chavan said that the matter will be reviewed further before any final decision is taken.

On April 16, 2020, two sadhus, aged 70 and 35 and their 30-year-old driver, were stoned to death by a mob in Gadchinchale village, fuelled by rumours about child abductions during the Covid lockdown.

Man kills wife, uses her blood to stage suicide

HT Correspondent

letters@hindustantimes.com

PRAYAGRAJ: A 35-year-old man allegedly stabbed his wife to death at their residence in Prayagraj before writing "mai pagal thi, mera pati nirdosh hai" (I am mentally ill, my husband is innocent) on the floor with his blood to disguise the murder as a suicide, police said on Monday.

The body of the woman, identified as Sushma Dwivedi (28), was found on the afternoon of November 14 at the couple's rented accommodation in Lohgara Bazaar area of Prayagraj. Police said that the deceased's husband, identified as Rohit Dwivedi, a security guard by profession, claimed he was on duty at the time of the incident and that his wife had died by suicide.

According to DCP (Trans Yatra) Vivek Kumar Yadav, the police found the body with the blood-written "suicide note" on the floor.

However, the deceased

India-Russia finalising deals ahead of Putin's visit: EAM

Rezaul H Laskar

letters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: India and Russia are working to finalise several bilateral agreements, initiatives and projects ahead of Russian President Vladimir Putin's visit to New Delhi next month for a bilateral summit, external affairs minister S Jaishankar said on Monday.

Jaishankar made the remarks during his talks with Russian counterpart Sergey Lavrov in Moscow on the sidelines of a Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) meeting. Putin is expected to visit India in the first week of December for the annual summit with Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

The meeting with Lavrov is "more important" as the two sides are preparing for Putin's visit to India for the 23rd annual summit, Jaishankar said in televised remarks.

"A number of bilateral agreements, initiatives and projects are under discussion in various fields. We look forward to their finalisation in the coming days," Jaishankar said, adding that these will add "more substance and texture" to



EAM S Jaishankar with Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov. @MFA_Russia

the bilateral special and privileged strategic partnership.

Jaishankar is attending a meeting of SCO's Council of the Heads of Government at a time when India is facing renewed pressure from the US to reduce purchases of Russian energy and military hardware as part of President Donald Trump's efforts to end the war in Ukraine.

India's purchases of Russian crude have reportedly fallen in recent weeks and India announced on Monday that its state-run companies had concluded a one-year structured contract to import 2.2 MTPA of LPG from the US.

However, Jaishankar said

India-Russia ties "have long been a factor of stability in international relations" and the growth and evolution of the relationship is "not only in our mutual interest but also in that of the world".

Jaishankar and Lavrov also discussed the "complex global situation with the openness that has always characterised" India-Russia ties. This included the Ukraine conflict, and the situation in the Middle East and Afghanistan.

"India supports recent efforts towards establishing peace. We hope that all parties approach that goal constructively," Jaishankar said in the context of the conflict in Ukraine. "An early cessation of the conflict and the ensuring of an enduring peace is in the interest of the entire international community," he added.

Lavrov described the partnership with India as a top priority for Russia's and said Moscow is putting in place measures for economic cooperation with New Delhi. The two sides are also building up mechanisms to ensure trade is not hindered by the impact of illegitimate measures. Lavrov said in a reference to Western sanctions on Russia.

PUTIN AIDE HOLDS TALKS WITH DOVAL AHEAD OF VISIT

NEW DELHI: Russian President Vladimir Putin's aide Nikolay Patrushev on Monday held talks with national security advisor Ajit Doval, covering various aspects of bilateral ties. The talks focused on President Putin's visit to India early next month, it is learnt.

Patrushev also met India's national maritime security coordinator vice admiral Biswajit Dasgupta.

The Russian President is expected to visit India around December 5 to hold annual summit talks with Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The summit is expected to produce significant outcomes to further solidify bilateral strategic ties.

At the India-Russia annual summit, Modi and Putin are expected to deliberate on expanding the "Special and Privileged Strategic Partnership" between the two countries. India and Russia have a mechanism under which India's Prime Minister and the Russian president hold a summit meeting annually to review the entire gamut of ties.

So far, 22 annual summit meetings have taken place alternatively in India and Russia. In July last year, Modi travelled to Moscow for the annual summit.

CHINESE WOMAN HELD FOR ILLEGAL ENTRY GETS 8 YRS

BAHRAICH: A local court in Uttar Pradesh's Bahraich on Monday sentenced a Chinese woman, arrested two years ago on charges of illegally entering India while disguised as a Buddhist monk, to eight years of imprisonment and a fine of ₹50,000.

According to the prosecution, on December 2, 2023, personnel of the 42nd Battalion of the Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB) intercepted 45-year-old Li Ximai at the Rupadeha border outpost along the India-Nepal frontier. She was attempting to cross into Nepal dressed as a Buddhist monk when she was stopped for verification, they said.

Delivering the judgment, Additional District and Sessions Judge Kavita Nigam held Li guilty of illegal infiltration into India without a valid visa and awarded her eight years of rigorous imprisonment along with a fine.

HC to hear Moitra's plea against Lokpal nod for CBI charge sheet

Shruti Kakkar

letters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: The Delhi high court is set to hear on Tuesday Trinamool Congress (TMC) lawmaker Mahua Moitra's plea challenging the Lokpal of India's order granting sanction to the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) to file a charge sheet against her in the alleged cash-for-query case.

The petition, set to be heard by a bench of justices Anil Kshetrapal and Harish Vaidyanathan Shankar, challenges the November 12 order where Lokpal had invoked its powers under Section 20(7)(a) read with Section 23(l) of the Lokpal Act, and allowed CBI to file a charge sheet within four weeks, and mandated that a copy be submitted to Lokpal.

Moitra's petition challenges the order on the ground that it was passed without considering the detailed written and oral submissions of the petitioner, contrary to the scheme of the Lokpal Act, 2013.

"The impugned Sanction Order is erroneous, as it goes against the provisions of the Lokpal Act and a gross violation of principles of natural justice, whereby arguments/ submissions / filings were invited from the Petitioner and then completely ignored before issuing an order granting sanction under Section 20(7)(a) of the Lokpal Act," the petition said.

Moitra has also asserted that

the order reduces Lokpal's role to merely rubber-stamping of the investigation report without considering any defence whatsoever being offered by her and granting sanction to file a charge sheet.

Moitra is accused of giving access to her official MP ID to Dubai-based businessman Darshan Hiranandani to post questions on the Lok Sabha portal on her behalf and receiving expensive gifts from the businessman and funding her trips abroad. While Hiranandani has corroborated the charges, Moitra has denied the allegations that she received gifts.

Moitra was expelled from the Lok Sabha in December 2023, based on a recommendation by the ethics committee. However, she won the 2024 general elections, retaining her Krishnanagar seat in 18th Lok Sabha.

With inputs from HT in Delhi



Mahua Moitra

"I laud all those working at the grassroots to eliminate the menace of drugs from our society. Every such effort to save lives is vital. After all, drugs bring with it darkness, destruction and devastation."

- Narendra Modi, Prime Minister



Nasha Mukt Bharat, Khushhaal Bharat

Nasha Mukt Bharat Abhiyaan

Join the Abhiyaan in large number to make it a Jan Andolan and spread the noble message of Nasha Mukt to save lives

Be a part of
Nasha Mukt Bharat Abhiyaan
and Take an E-Pledge
by scanning the QR code today!



Call 14446 today and get help with Drug De-addiction

August Presence
Dr. Virendra Kumar
Hon'ble Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment, Government of India

18th November 2025 | 11:30 Am

Venue: Guru Nanak Dev University, Amritsar, Punjab

Call us on 14446 and get assistance
from trained counsellors (24X7)

To know more, log on to
<https://socialjustice.gov.in/>
<https://nmbsa.dosje.gov.in/>

Follow on Social Media



/ Department of Social Justice and Empowerment

STATEHOOD, AMNESTY DEMANDS

Ladakh bodies submit draft proposal to MHA

Mir Ehsan

letters@hindustantimes.com

SRINAGAR: The Leh Apex Body (LAB) and Kargil Democratic Alliance (KDA) on Monday submitted a 29-page draft proposal to the ministry of home affairs, which included demands of statehood, Sixth Schedule status for Ladakh and amnesty to people arrested after the September 24 protest, LAB co-chairman Chering Dorjay Lakrook said.

"One of the demands is that all people arrested after September 24, including climate activist Sonam Wangchuk, be released under general amnesty," added Lakrook.

Leaders of LAB and KDA have been holding talks with officials of the Union home ministry regarding their demands. The Ladakh bodies agreed for talks after the government ordered a judicial probe by a former Supreme Court judge into the Leh violence.

THE LADAKH BODIES AGREED FOR TALKS AFTER THE GOVERNMENT ORDERED A JUDICIAL PROBE INTO THE LEH VIOLENCE

Apart from four deaths, nearly 100 others, including police and paramilitary personnel, were injured on September 24 when the protesters went on rampage, vandalising buildings and setting a BJP office and a police vehicle on fire. The clashes had erupted over the demands of statehood and sixth schedule on the 15th day of the hunger strike led by climate activist Sonam Wangchuk, who has been booked under NSA and incarcerated in Jodhpur jail. The Centre has blamed Wangchuk for instigating the violence.

Centre plans regulatory body to curb job scams

Zia Haq

letters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: The Union government will set up a regulatory authority for recruitment agencies through a proposed bill that aims to shield jobseekers from scams, including in foreign placements, ensure social-security benefits and help tone up collection of employment data in the country, two officials said.

A draft seen by HT provides for government registration of all private placement agencies, creating a national registry, along with a three-tiered regulatory authority at the federal, state and local levels.

Without sufficient guardrails,

India has witnessed a proliferation of job scams and network illegal migration that prey on desperate jobseekers.

"The proposed central law aims to establish uniform national standards to regulate the currently fragmented placement ecosystem, bringing transparency and accountability to

both domestic and overseas recruitment," an official said.

Union labour minister Mansukh Mandaviya recently met representatives of labour and industry departments from states, where he presented and held preliminary discussions on a draft Private Placement Agency (Regulation) Act, 2025.

The draft states that private hiring agencies operating within a state will have to obtain registration from a state-level placement support authority. Agencies with multi-state operations will have to register with a central placement support authority by paying nominal fees.

"The core objective is to establish and build a trusted, safe and transparent placement ecosystem for every worker," a second official said.

For placements outside India, hiring agencies will have to obtain prior authorisation from the Union external affairs ministry, the draft says. The bill prohibits agencies from charging "unfair fees from job seekers".

HT PowerJobs

RECRUITMENT FOR LARGE CORPORATE

Post: Manager: E.Q.: M. Sc. (Ag.) in Entomology and Pathology; Exp.: 8-10 years in Pesticide Company & having strong communication, interpersonal, negotiation, presentation and leadership skills.

Age not exceeding > 50 years.

Post: Chemist: E.Q.: B. Sc. / M. Sc. Chemistry; Exp.: 5-7 years in formulation plant or in pesticide business.

Age not exceeding > 45 years.

**Remuneration: At par with industry.
Send resume at departmentheadhr@gmail.com within 7 days.**

DELHI PUBLIC SCHOOL Dwarka, New Delhi

Requires candidates with good academic record, excellent communication skills, experience in the relevant field and sound knowledge of computers for the following posts:

- PGT : English, Sociology**
- TGT : English, Economics, Biology, Fine Arts, Indian Instrumental Music, Special Educator**
- PRT : English, Maths, Hindi, General, P.E., Art & Craft, Dance, Vocal Music (Indian & Western)**
- Administrative Posts : Head Assistant, Transport Incharge**

For detailed information, please visit the school website : www.dpsdawarka.com

Salary as per VII CPC & DPS Society rules.

Principal

Indian Institute of Management Udaipur

Special Recruitment Drive for Faculty Positions (SC/ST/NC-OBC/EWS/PwD)
Indian Institute of Management Udaipur (IIMU), established in 2011 in Rajasthan, is one of India's leading and fastest-growing management schools. IIMU invites online applications for faculty positions specifically from candidates belonging to SC/ST/NC-OBC/EWS/PwD categories who demonstrate a commitment to institution-building, excellence in teaching, and potential to conduct outstanding research. Candidates should have an excellent academic record throughout their education and must have completed a PhD in Management or a related discipline from a recognized institution. Additionally, they must exhibit proven potential for research excellence, as evidenced by ongoing or completed research projects, conference presentations, working papers, or papers under review in reputed academic journals listed on the IIMU website. Applications must be submitted exclusively through the prescribed online format on or before the specified deadline. Applications received via other modes will not be considered.

Application Deadline: 11.12.2025

For pay scales, application procedures, and general instructions, please visit the institute website: <https://www.iimu.ac.in/jobs>

Indian Institute of Management Udaipur, Balicha, Udaipur-313001, Rajasthan, India.

SBI State Bank of India

Central Recruitment & Promotion Department

Corporate Centre, Mumbai

Phone: 022-22820427

Scan QR to Apply

Recruitment of Specialist Cadre Officers on Regular / contract Basis

Applications are invited from eligible Indian citizens for the following post on Regular / Contract basis:

Advertisement No.: CRPD/SCO/2025-26/13 (Regular Position)

Name of Post **Grade** **Vacancy** **Age (As on 1.11.2025)**

Manager (Risk Specialist – Model Risk Management) **MMGS-III** **5** **28** **40**

Deputy Manager (Risk Specialist – Model Risk Management) **MMGS-II** **5** **25** **35**

Advertisement No.: CRPD/SCO/2025-26/13 (Contractual position)

Name of Post **Vacancy** **Age (As on 1.11.2025)**

Relationship Manager (Mutual Fund) **1** **35** **45**

Relationship Manager (Insurance Sector) **1** **35** **45**

Relationship Manager (Stock Brokering & FII/FPI) **3** **35** **45**

For eligibility criteria (age, qualification, experience, job profile etc.), vacancy details, requisite fees, other details and for online submission of application as well as online payment of application fees log on to Bank's website <https://sbi.bank.in/web/careers/current-openings>. Refer detailed advertisement to ensure eligibility and other details before applying and remitting fees. For any query, please write to us through link "CONTACT US" → "Post Your Query" which is available on Bank's official website (<https://bank.sbi/web/careers/post-your-query>).

DATE FOR FILING ONLINE APPLICATION & PAYMENT OF FEES: FROM 11.11.2025 TO

Have fun with facts on Sundays

Catch the latest column of
TWTW
THE WEEK THAT WAS
A quiz on the week's development.



/FIRST VOICE LAST WORD

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR GENERAL MEDICAL EDUCATION & TRAINING, UTTAR PRADESH

6th FLOOR, JAWAHAR BHAWAN, LUCKNOW

No. ME-3/2025/2773

Lucknow : Dated 17/11/2025

REVISED TIME SCHEDULE FOR "FIRST ROUND" OF UP NEET PG COUNSELING 2025 (M.D./M.S./DIPLOMA & D.N.B.)

In accordance with the REVISED schedule issued by the Medical Counseling Committee (MCC), New Delhi for the NEET PG course, the REVISED time schedule for the first round of online counseling for admission to state quota seats in undergraduate courses (M.D./M.S./DIPLOMA & D.N.B.) in government/private medical colleges/institutions/medical universities is as follows:-

Sr.	Description	Dates	Total Days
1.	Date of online registration	From 06-11-2025 (11:00 AM) To 14-11-2025 (05:00 PM).	09 Days
2.	Date of depositing registration and security money	From 06-11-2025 (11:00 AM) To 14-11-2025 (05:00 PM).	09 Days
3.	Date of Merit List Declaration	On 14-11-2025	01 Day
4.	Date of On-line Choice filling	From 15-11-2025 (11:00 AM) To 24-11-2025 (11:00 AM).	10 Days
5.	Date of Allotment Result Declaration	On 26-11-2025	01 Day
6.	Date for downloading the allotment letters & Admission	From 27-11-2025 To 29-11-2025 & From 01-12-2025 To 05-12-2025	08 Days

➤ As per the instructions contained in the government order/brochure of UP NEET PG 2025, candidates should assess their eligibility themselves.
➤ Only those candidates will be eligible for choice filling who have completed the online registration process and who have deposited the required security amount.
➤ The UP NEET PG 2025 information booklet (brochure) and important instructions are available on the websites www.upneet.in and www.dgme.up.gov.in. Keep checking websites regularly for updated information.

Helpline Numbers: 8189011696, 8189011697, 8189011698, 8189011699, 8189011700
DGME

Office of Superintending Engineer, Rampur Circle, P.W.D. Rampur

E-Procurement Notice Inviting Tenders

Ref. No. 6474/E-Nvida-RampurCr/25-26

Dated - 06-11-2024

1. On behalf of the Governor of UP, tenders for following work on item rates invited by the Superintending Engineer, Rampur Circle, PWD Rampur online on website <http://etender.up.nic.in> from registered contractors/Category as per column No.10 from date 25.11.2025 at 10.00 am to 05.12.2025 at 12.00 pm. Technical bid /Prequalification of tenders shall be opened on 05.12.2025 at 12.30 pm in office of undersigned by tender committee in presence of authorised representatives/bidders who wish to be present. Financial bid of the tenders who qualify in technical bid shall be opened on date and time as specified by a notice in the office of undersigned. In case of Government holiday the required process shall be carried out on next working day.

2. Details of the works are following:

S. No.	DISTRICT	Name of Work	Estimated Cost Excl. GST (Rs.in Lakh)	Total Cost Excl. GST (Rs. In Lakh)	Bid Security (Rs.in Lakh)	Cost of Bid Document	Time of Completion	Category of road contractor eligible	Address of Executive Engineer of the executing the work	Address of Superintendent Engineer	Address of Chief Engineer	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1	Rampur	Widening and Strengthening of NH-24 Dhaneli Poorvi to Patia via Bhopatpur Road (ODR) from Ch. 10.30 To 19.600 in District Rampur (including 5 years maintenance).	1302.00	32.08	1334.08	26.04 (Tender Cost be accepted only by Net banking accepted only by Net banking)	2354.40 (Tender Cost be accepted only by Net banking accepted only by Net banking)	12 Months including rainy season	'A' Road Category	Construction Division, P.W.D. Rampur	Rampur Circle, P.W.D. Rampur	Moradabad Zone P.W.D.

➤ All work including 5 years maintenance period after completion of work.

➤ The Rates adopted in the BOP are including all other taxes but excluding GST.

➤ The Bid Security and tender cost should be deposited online through Net Banking as per Column 7&8 in the table.

All terms & conditions can be seen on website <http://etender.up.nic.in> The bidder have to login on Prahari URL <http://wms.upwd.gov.in/Prahari> to upload required documents as per Government order no. 14/2020/879/रेस्य-7-2020-176(राजो) /06 लोक निर्माण अनुभाग-7 दिनांक 25.08.2020, Government order 879(1)/रेस्य-7-2020-176(राजो) /06 लोक निर्माण अनुभाग-7 दिनांक 25.08.2020&E.N.C./H.O.D.'s upwd letter No.417/1303एनएसेंटो/20 दिनांक 28.08.2020

(Er. Sanjay Jayant)
Executive Engineer
C.D. PWD, Rampur
Ph. 0595-2359184
Email: cdrampr@gmail.com

Superintending Engineer
Rampur Circle, PWD, Rampur
Ph. 0595-2351163
Email: pwdrampur@gmail.com

UP 240626 Dt. 17.11.2025
Website: www.upgov.nic.in

GOVERNMENT OF MEGHALAYA OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF HEALTH SERVICES MEDICAL EDUCATION & RESEARCH (DME), MEGHALAYA PASTEUR HILLS, SHILLONG

Email ID: pasteurinstituteshil@gmail.com Tel No.: 0364-2591510/ 94851 06663

No. DHSME&R/USTM/BAMS/2025/9644 Dated: Shillong, the 17th November, 2025

NOTICE

Online Application for Stray/Mop up Round counseling for Admission to 1st Year BAMS for the session 2025-26 at IA Ayurvedic Medical College (IAMC), USTM, Meghalaya against State Quota and Management Quota is hereby invited with effect from 18th November 2025.

For details visit website: www.meghealth.gov.in

• Date for commencement of online application: 18th November 2025 (10:00 A.M.)

• Last Date of online application: 20th November 2025 (5:00 P.M.)

The list of selected candidates for counseling will be uploaded in the Government website www.meghealth.gov.in on 21st November 2025 at 3:00 P.M. and counseling will be done on 24th November 2025 from 9:00 AM onwards at the Directorate of Health Services Medical Education & Research (DME), Lawmali, Shillong.

Sd/- Director of Health Services
Medical Education & Research (DME)
Pasteur Hills, Meghalaya, Shillong

GOVERNMENT OF ASSAM FLOOD AND RIVER EROSION MANAGEMENT AGENCY OF ASSAM, (FREMAA)

Address: 4th Floor, Assam Water Centre Basistha Chariali, NH 27 Guwahati, Assam-781029.

Phone/Fax: (0361)2309896, Email: ceo-fremaa@assam.gov.in, Website: www.fremaa.assam.gov.in

No. E-572865/1765

REQUEST FOR BID (RFB)

National Competitive Bidding

(Two-Envelope Bidding Process with e-Procurement)

The Government of Assam has received financing through Government of India from the World Bank towards the cost of Assam Integrated River Basin Management Program (AIRBMP) Project. Under the project, the Chief Executive Officer, Flood & River Erosion Management Agency of Assam (FREMAA) invites Request for Bid (RFB) under National Competitive Bidding from reputed firms/company/registered contractors having experience in construction of buildings as follows:

Name of Work	Approximate Value
Construction of Annex Building of Assam Water Centre under Assam Integrated River Basin Management Program (AIRBMP) Project, adjacent to new ASDMA Headquarters	INR 89.5 Crores

Complete RFB documents shall be available on website <http://fremaa.assam.gov.in> and www.assamtenders.gov.in from 11.2025. A pre-bid meeting for the aforementioned work is scheduled to be held on 03.12.2025 at 3 PM (15:00 HRS) in the Conference Hall of FREMAA.

Intending bidders are required to register in the e-tender portal of the Assam Govt. www.assamtenders.gov.in and participate through e-tender portal only. The last date and time of submission of bid is on 19.12.2025 at 2PM (14:00HRS).

Sd/-
Chief Executive Officer, FREMAA

AIR FORCE SCHOOL BAREILLY

WALK-IN-INTERVIEW

1. Walk in interview for the under mentioned contractual posts will be conducted on 26 Nov 25 at 09:00 am in Air Force School Bareilly. The details of posts are as follows:-

Ser No	Name of the Post	No of Vacancies	Pay Scale
1	PGT(Economics)	01 on contractual basis	35000 (consolidated)
2	TGT(English)	01 on contractual basis	33000 (consolidated)
3	Accts Asst	01 on contractual basis	18500 (consolidated)

The interested applicants may visit our school website www.afsbareilly.in to check the QRS and other eligibility criteria (as per Education Code for Administration of AF Schools 2020) for the above-mentioned vacancies. The eligible candidates are to come with all original documents. School Management Committee reserves the right of cancelling the interview at any stage even after the advertisement without any notice or assigning any reason. Candidates may contact school office staff for any query, if any on Mob No. School Manager-6306280716/ Office superintendent-8650504800.

Executive Director
Air Force School Bareilly

DELHI CANTONMENT BOARD

TENDER NOTICE

Delhi Cantonment Board invites tenders from the Govt. approved contractors in appropriate category through e-tendering for the following works as detailed below:-

Date of release of tender through e-procurement	: 21.11.2025 at 1700 hrs
Last date & time for downloading of tender documents	: 18.12.2025 upto 1300 hrs
Last date and time submission of e-tenders	: 18.12.2025 upto 1300 hrs
Date and time for opening of e-tenders	: 19.12.2025 at 1330 hrs

Details of work:

Sl. No.	Name of work	Amount of Contract	Earliest Money Deposit Amount
1.	Term Contract for repair to CF buildings & boundary walls including internal water supply and electrification in all 8 wards, Delhi Cantt	Rs.6,00,00,000/-	Rs.6,25,000/-

The bidder may download the "Tender Document" and other terms & conditions as applicable including detailed NIT, terms & conditions, particular specifications, special conditions, signing of Integrity Pact, adherence to GFR 2017 provisions, applicability of Public Procurement (Preference to Make in India), Order 2017 etc as provided in the technical bid from website of <http://defproc.gov.in> & www.delhi.cantt.gov.in.

Please note that any amendment, clarification, errata to tender documents shall be uploaded on website <http://defproc.gov.in> & Cantt Board website www.delhi.cantt.gov.in. All intending bidders are required to visit aforementioned websites to check for amendments, clarifications, errata etc prior to quoting their rates & no compensation whatsoever shall be admissible to the bidders for failure to register the same.

Telephone No.25695450
No. DCB/8/C/TN/2025-26/7
OFFICE OF THE CANTONMENT BOARD
Website : www.delhi.cantt.gov.in

Sd/-
Chief Executive Officer
Delhi Cantonment

CENTRAL RAILWAY

REPAIR AND MAINTENANCE WORKS

{ FROM PAGE 1 }

HASINA SENTENCED

Hasina was tried along with two of her top aides – former home minister Kamal and former police chief Chowdhury Abdulla Al-Mamun – for crimes against humanity for their role in handling the protests last year. Kamal too fled Bangladesh and was tried in absentia.

Bangladesh chief adviser Muhammad Yunus in a statement said the conviction underscored that "no one, regardless of power, is above the law".

Hours after the verdict, Bangladesh's foreign ministry demanded that Hasina and former home minister Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal, who too was given the death sentence, should be immediately handed over by India under a bilateral extradition treaty. The Indian side, in its first formal response, was non-committal on the demand for handing over Hasina and said New Delhi will engage with all stakeholders in Dhaka for peace, democracy and stability in Bangladesh.

The chairman of the ICT, Justice Mohammad Golam Mortuza Mozumder, read out the verdicts against 78-year-old Hasina, who has lived in exile in India since she fled Dhaka in August last year, at the conclusion of proceedings that lasted more than two hours. People gathered in the court applauded the sentence before judges asked them to maintain decorum.

"We call on the Indian government to immediately hand over these two convicted individuals to the Bangladeshi authorities," Bangladesh's foreign ministry said in a statement in Bengali. "This is also a duty for India, as per the extradition treaty existing between the two countries."

The ministry added, "It would be an extremely unfriendly act and a contempt for justice if any other country were to grant asylum to these individuals convicted of crimes against humanity."

Soon after, the external affairs ministry noted the ICT's verdict concerning Hasina and said: "As a close neighbour, India remains committed to the best interests of the people of Bangladesh, including in peace, democracy, inclusion and stability in that country. We will always engage constructively with all stakeholders to that end."

Kamal, who fled Bangladesh after the fall of Hasina's government, is believed to be in Kolkata.

Hasina and the two others

were charged on five counts – abetting, inciting, being complicit in and failing to prevent crimes against civilians by law enforcement and armed cadres of the Awami League; ordering the use of lethal weapons, helicopters and drones to subdue protesters; the murder of Begum Rokeya University student Abu Sayed on July 16; orchestrating the murder of six protesters at Chankharpur in Dhaka on August 5, 2024 by direct order and incitement; and the shooting dead of five protesters at another location on the same day.

"The crimes at issue – the ordering of lethal force against young people and children whose only weapons were their voices – violated both our laws and the basic bond between government and citizens," Yunus said in his statement.

"The path ahead requires not just legal accountability but rebuilding trust between institutions and citizens."

NITISH MEETS GUV

the legislature party leader on Tuesday; ally Janata Dal (United) is set to hold its legislature party meeting on Wednesday.

"Chief minister Nitish Kumar met the governor after cabinet authorised him to recommend dissolution of assembly from November 19. A resolution to this effect was unanimously passed in the meeting chaired by Kumar, which lasted for 10 minutes," said Janata Dal United (JDU) minister in outgoing cabinet Vijay Kumar Chowdhury.

"On November 19, Kumar will submit his resignation to the governor as head of the outgoing government," said the JD (U) leader.

The development came days after the National Democratic Alliance won a crushing majority in the assembly elections, defeating the Opposition's Grand Alliance and setting the stage for Kumar to take oath for a record 10th time.

Preparations are underway for the swearing-in ceremony on November 20 at the Gandhi Maidan.

"It will be a big event matching the big victory in the election to take on the big challenge of next generation development of the people have given to the NDA government under Nitish Kumar. Prime Minister Narendra Modi and senior central BJP leaders will also attend the

function," JD-U working president Sanjay Kumar Jha said.

According to senior NDA leaders aware of the developments, the broad structure of the new government has been decided according to the number of legislators each constituency has won.

The parties are considering allocating roughly one ministerial post for every six MLAs to ensure balanced representation within the alliance, which consists of the BJP, JD(U), Lok Janashakti Party (Ram Vilas), Rashtriya Lok Morcha (RLM), and Hindustani Awam Morcha (Secular) or HAM (S).

"It is the prerogative of the chief minister who he wants in his cabinet. In a coalition, all parties have expressed their desire to be part of the cabinet. The bigger parties will get more berths. NDA has a long history of running coalitions and that is not an issue. I cannot even say at this stage how many berths will be filled," said Chowdhury.

One slot each will likely go to the RLM and HAM(S), three to the LJP(RV), and the remaining 30-31 will be divided between the BJP and the JD(U), said a senior NDA leader. "However, there may be some adjustments, and changes to the two deputy chief minister posts are also possible," a senior BJP leader said on condition of anonymity.

The maximum number of cabinet berths is constitutionally capped at 15% of an assembly's strength. Bihar, which has 243 assembly seats, can have up to 36 ministers, including the chief minister. The NDA swept to power last week by winning 202 seats, with the BJP bagging 89 seats, JD(U) 85, LJP(RV) 19, HAM(S) and RLM 4.

The development came days after the National Democratic Alliance won a crushing majority in the assembly elections, defeating the Opposition's Grand Alliance and setting the stage for Kumar to take oath for a record 10th time.

"Tomorrow (Tuesday) morning at 10 am, there will be a meeting of the BJP legislature party at the BJP's Atal Sabha-ghar, where it will choose its leader. Our observers from the Centre will also come, and then there will be an NDA meeting, and then the work of government formation will be completed. By the 21st, the work of

Gulf News cited its sources as saying that 11 women and 10 children could be among the victims.

Indian authorities are working for the swift handling of the remains of the dead according to the desires of their families. "Families will have the option after mortal remains are identified for their repatriation to

government formation will be completed," BJP state president Dilip Jaiswal stated.

Leaders of the HAM-S and RLM met Union minister and BJP Bihar election in-charge Dharmendra Pradhan in New Delhi on Sunday.

"In a democracy, the leadership of Narendra Modi ji and Nitish Kumar ji, the double-engine government, has been acknowledged by the people of Bihar, especially women and youth. We have secured a landslide victory. It was already decided that once the government is formed after the win, Nitish Kumar will be our leader. The oath ceremony will take place on the 20th, with a final decision expected on the 18th or 19th," said Manjhi on Monday.

Manjhi, however, denied that any discussion on ministerial posts took place. "We have never pressured ourselves or our party to seek a Cabinet post or department. We have remained patient with whatever responsibilities were given to us. Today, our legislative party meeting convened, and we made it clear that there is no need to request a ministerial position; we will be content with whatever is offered. In our 46 years in politics, we have never demanded any position," he said on Cabinet representation.

After meeting Pradhan, Kushwaha said on X, "I met Union education minister and in-charge of Bharatiya Janata Party in Bihar elections, Dharmendra Pradhan, and congratulated him on the grand victory of the NDA." The RLM chief also posted a picture of his meeting with the senior BJP leader.

MEDINAH BUS ACCIDENT

pital in Medina.

Saudi authorities said one

Indian national survived the accident. Officials from the Indian consulate in Jeddah met the lone survivor, 24-year-old Mohammad Abdul Shoeb, and are coordinating with the hospital to ensure adequate medical treatment, the people said.

Gulf News cited its sources as saying that 11 women and 10 children could be among the victims.

Indian authorities are working for the swift handling of the remains of the dead according to the desires of their families. "Families will have the option after mortal remains are identified for their repatriation to

India or burial at the Jannatul Baqi cemetery in Madinah," one of the people said.

Jasihankar expressed shock at the incident and said Indian officials in Saudi Arabia were providing support to the families of the affected Indian nationals.

"Our Embassy in Riyadh and Consulate in Jeddah are giving fullest support to Indian nationals and families affected by this accident," he said on social media. "Sincere condolences to the bereaved families. Pray for the speedy recovery of those injured."

The fuel tanker collided with the bus, which had stopped on the side of the highway at a spot nearly 40 km from Madinah, resulting in an explosion. Saudi authorities are investigating the circumstances that led to the accident.

With the nominations for the polls to the zila parishads, panchayat samitis and the municipalities set to begin from Tuesday, the court posted the matter on Wednesday.

"For the moment, do not allow reservation to extend beyond 50%. We will not allow the elections if they go against our Constitution bench decision. The decision of the Constitution bench (in Indira Sawhney judgment of 1992) is clear. Reservation cannot exceed 50%...," a bench of justices Surya Kant and Bagchi said.

Solicitor general Tushar Mehta, appearing for the state, informed the court that the state had relied on the report prepared by Banthia commission, submitted to the state in July 2022, which recommended 27% reservation for OBCs in local bodies.

He said that in any case, the outcome of the polls will be subject to the court's order.

The bench told Mehta, "It seems either our order has been misconstrued or somebody has taken advantage of our order." The court referred to its earlier orders passed on May 6 and September 16 giving a "one-time concession" for the state election commission to complete the local body polls by January 31, 2026 as per the law prevailing in the state prior to the submission of the Banthia panel report.

"Your data is based on the Banthia commission. That report is yet to be examined by us. We were clear about holding the elections. But how could reservations exceed 50%? We did not say 27% to OBCs across the board. We meant 27% wherever it is fitting into the 50% threshold to the extent it reaches 50%. Or else our order will go against the grain of previous orders passed by this court," the bench said.

Senior advocate Vikas Singh who appeared for a petitioner who challenged the present election in the state as being held in violation of court's order, pointed out that in 40% seats in the state, the reservation exceeds 50%.

Total reservation in Maha local polls can't exceed 50%, says SC**Abraham Thomas**

letters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court

on Monday held that total reservation across the local bodies going to polls in Maharashtra cannot exceed 50% as it scoffed at the state for "misconstruing" its earlier order and warned of even staying the elections.

The fuel tanker collided with the bus, which had stopped on the side of the highway at a spot nearly 40 km from Madinah, resulting in an explosion. Saudi authorities are investigating the circumstances that led to the accident.

With the nominations for the polls to the zila parishads, panchayat samitis and the municipalities set to begin from Tuesday, the court posted the matter on Wednesday.

"For the moment, do not allow reservation to extend beyond 50%. We will not allow the elections if they go against our Constitution bench decision. The decision of the Constitution bench (in Indira Sawhney judgment of 1992) is clear. Reservation cannot exceed 50%...," a bench of justices Surya Kant and Bagchi said.

Solicitor general Tushar Mehta, appearing for the state, informed the court that the state had relied on the report prepared by Banthia commission, submitted to the state in July 2022, which recommended 27% reservation for OBCs in local bodies.

As soon as the Indian consulate in Jeddah learnt of the accident, a team of officers rushed to the site and to hospitals where the victims were taken. The officers are in touch with the families of victims and liaising with Saudi authorities.

AIMIM

leader Asaduddin Owaisi, the MP for Hyderabad, appealed to the government to ensure the speedy repatriation of the bodies and treatment of the injured.

Telangana chief minister A Revanth Reddy expressed shock at the incident and directed civilian and police officials to ascertain how many residents of the state were involved in the accident. He also directed them to liaise with the external affairs ministry and the Saudi Arabian embassy in New Delhi.

The Indian consulate in Jeddah said a 24x7 control room has been set up for the relatives of the victims. The numbers for the control room are 8002440003 (toll free), 0122614093, 0126614276, and +966556122301 (WhatsApp).

S. E. RAILWAY – TENDER**TENDER NOTICE NO.: DRMENGRNC-121-2025, Dated: 14.11.2025**

Divisional Railway Manager (Engg), South Eastern Railway, Ranchi-834003 for & on behalf of President of India, invites Tender for the following work: **Name of work:** Mutation of Railway land for station yard, Railway colony along with entire jurisdiction of Ranchi Division falling under Ranchi District of Jharkhand. **Tender Value:** ₹ 9,09,79,913.44. **EMD Value:** ₹ 6,04,900. **Tender closing date & time:** 05.12.2025 at 15.00 hrs. Tenderers can visit the website www.reps.gov.in for online tendering. (PR-842)

NORTHERN RAILWAY TENDER INFORMATION	
Name of work	Provision of mandatory facility of pre-cooling cum battery charging (PCBC) points for electrical coaching over Delhi division in connection with station redevelopment of NDLs.
Tender No.	30-Elect-4T-Chg-2025-26
Approx. cost of the work in (Rs.)	Rs. 1,48,03,998/-
Cost of tender form	Rs. 0.00
Address of the Office	Sr. Divl. Elect. Engineer/Chg/Northern Railway, New Delhi.
Earnest Money	Rs. 2,24,000/-
Period of completion of work	06 Months
Last date & time of submission of tender	09.12.2025 up to 15.00 hrs.
And opening of tender	09.12.2025 at 15.01 hrs.
Website & notice board	www.reps.gov.in & Sr.DEE/Chg/DLI

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE 3565/2025

AUCTION NOTICE**OFFICE OF THE COMPETENT AUTHORITY & ADMINISTRATOR****SAFEM (FOP) ACT, 1976 & NDPS ACT, 1985, DELHI,****GROUND & FIRST FLOOR, ZONAL SERVICE CENTRE (NDMC),****FIRE BRIGADE LANE, BARAKHAMBA, NEW DELHI 110001.****THROUGH SEALED TENDER ONLY**

The Competent Authority & Administrator, SAFEM(FOP) Act, 1976 & NDPS Act, 1985 Delhi proposes to sell the following immovable property through sealed tender at the date, time and venue mentioned below on **"AS IS WHERE IS BASIS and AS IS WHAT IS BASIS"**. The said property has been forfeited to the Central Government free from all encumbrances under the provisions of SAFEM (FOP) Act, 1976. The property would be sold to the highest bidder among the bids received through **SEALED TENDER** provided the highest bid is more than the reserve price. The present possession of the property is with the respective authority of the state government.

DESCRIPTION OF AUCTION PROCESS

Code	Details of the Property	Measurement of Property	Time and date of inspection	Date of Submission of Sealed Tender	Date/Time/Venue for Opening of Sealed Tender	Reserve Price (Rs.)	EMD (Rs.)	Incremental Value (Rs.)
1	Residential Flat D-5/1003, Kingsbury, TDI City, Kundli, Sonipat Road, Haryana	1625 sq.ft	27.11.2025 (Thursday) From 11:00 A.M. to 03:00 P.M.	02.12.2025 (Tuesday) upto 5:00 P.M. at the office of the Competent Authority & Administrator Delhi	04.12.2025 (Thursday) at 12:30 PM at the office of the Competent Authority & Administrator Delhi	33,42,625/-	1,00,000/-

TERMS & CONDITIONS:

- It shall be the responsibility of the bidders to inspect and satisfy themselves about the property details and specifications before submitting their bids. The inspection of property put on auction will be permitted to interested bidders at site as mentioned against property description.
- Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) as mentioned above is to be paid by demand draft or crossed Bankers Pay Order payable at Delhi and drawn in favour of COMPETENT AUTHORITY & ADMINISTRATOR SAFEM (FOPA) AND NDPSA, NEW DELHI by the bidders by attaching it with their quotation/tender form to be submitted on the date mentioned in column 5 above in respect of respective properties in the office of COMPETENT AUTHORITY AND ADMINISTRATOR, NDPSA & SAFEMA, GROUND & FIRST FLOOR ZONAL SERVICE CENTRE (NDMC), FIRE BRIGADE LANE, BARAKHAMBA NEW DELHI-110001.
- For any property related query may contact Authorised Officer of this office: Shri Mahavir Singh, Assistant Commissioner, Phone : 011- 40453383, e-mail ID: ca-delhi@gov.in during working hours.
- The bidders intending to participate in auction are allowed, subject to the conditions laid in the detailed auction notice.
- The bidders can download the detailed notice for auction

{ OUR TAKE }

Vendetta politics in Bangladesh

New Delhi must brace for another disruptive spell in ties with Dhaka

The death sentence given to former Bangladesh premier Sheikh Hasina by a domestic war crimes court for ordering the use of lethal force against student-led protests that led to the ouster of her government last year is unlikely to reduce the political instability in the country. Hasina, who has been in self-exile in India since she left Bangladesh in August 2024, and her former home minister were tried in absentia by the International Crimes Tribunal set up by the current regime and both sentenced to death for their complicity in the death of protesters during the tumultuous movement that rocked the country for weeks. The tribunal cited Hasina's remarks in recent interviews to the Indian media, acknowledging "supreme command responsibilities" for the handling of the protests, as proof of her complicity in the killings. According to a United Nations report, 1,400 people were killed during the protests.

The verdicts, in a way, reflect the vendetta politics that have harmed India's neighbourhood for a long time. In the past, Hasina's Awami League and its main opponent, the Bangladesh Nationalist Party, resorted to similar measures against each other whenever they were in power. Events of recent days, including two nationwide lockdowns called since last week by the Awami League, have shown that it remains a political force in Bangladesh, though its capabilities may have been diminished. The decision of the caretaker government led by Muhammad Yunus to ban the activities of the Awami League certainly does not bode well for its promise of holding free and fair elections. It is in this context that the Indian side has maintained that Bangladesh's general election, scheduled for February, must be free, fair and inclusive.

Following Hasina's conviction and sentencing, Bangladesh's interim government has doubled down on its demand for the extradition of the former premier — a request that New Delhi has not acted upon since it was received late last year. This will further strain India-Bangladesh relations that have been on the downturn since the Yunus-led regime assumed office. For the Indian side, any further chaos and instability in Bangladesh comes with the potential for affecting the security and economic progress of the country's sensitive northeastern states, which have already been affected by the curtailing of connectivity and trade ties with Dhaka. India will do well to prepare for what is likely to be another disruptive spell in relations with Bangladesh.

RJD family drama has lessons for all parties

The first family of the Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) was already unravelling after ill-health forced the patriarch, Lalu Prasad, to anoint his younger son, Tejashwi Yadav, as his political heir. This time, after assembly poll results that were disastrous for the RJD, daughter Rohini Acharya went public against her younger brother. This political soap opera is not unique. Every family-run political enterprise in India has undergone this spectacle at some point in its history, the script of which emerges from the structural flaws of these party organisations.

The business of politics is like in any family-run enterprise: Transition in the leadership of a political family can be tortuous unless talent, drawn from the ranks, is privileged over blood ties. That's been rare in Indian politics. Parties as different as the Congress, DMK, NCP, Shiromani Akali Dal, BSP, and the Mandal outfits (SP, LJP, and now, RJD) have undergone splits and consequently, lost their ideological sheen, and seen their influence shrinking over the transfer of leadership. Most of these parties, born out of mass movements, were usurped by one family and turned into private fiefs. This transformation has worked when the successor developed the skills to negotiate the initial hiccups and reshape the party as per their vision and needs (examples include Indira Gandhi, MK Stalin, and Naveen Patnaik). If the successor could win or retain office, he or she was accepted as leader; others struggled to establish control over the outfit and lost influence. Parties lose their mass movement character when turned into family enterprises, which, in turn, stunts their growth (the Congress and BSP are examples). Meritocracy within a party is not a sufficient condition for a political outfit to flourish (it worked for the BJP but not for communist parties). However, it does enrich the outfit, and democracy.

Different threads in Red Fort bomb blast

It points to a new phase in Kashmiri militancy and indicates the limits of a force-alone counter-terrorism policy

Three alarming signals are coming from the recent Red Fort bomb blast. First, the doctor's module comprised mostly Kashmiris from the Valley. Second, what functioned in Jammu and Kashmir as an underground network of supporters and sympathisers, who provided shelter and finance to the militancy, have now graduated to become active terrorists. And third, the ongoing investigations are revealing much deeper and sustained support for the militancy in the region.

Since 1990, Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) has been hit by a separatist militancy that has led to thousands of people dying through acts of violence. But this violence, which has featured many acts of terrorism, has been confined to the state. Acts, such as the Delhi blast of November 10, have been rare.

It would seem that the doctor-terrorist module has been radicalised by Maulvi Irfan Ahmad Wagay, a Srinagar-based cleric. The alleged perpetrator of the Delhi blast, Umar un-Nabi, a doctor, was from Government Medical College (GMC), Srinagar, and Adeel Ahmad Rather, another doctor and the first person to

be arrested, from whose locker an AK-47 was recovered, worked at GMC Anantnag. Though there have been a lot of source-based reports on the Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM) connection of Wagay as well as Shaeen Shahid, another doctor, there is no clear picture yet of the ideological journey of those involved. Additional arrests and interrogation should provide a fuller picture.

The initial target of the Kashmiri militancy was the Pandit community; several terrorist attacks forced their migration out of the Kashmir Valley. Thereafter, besides the security forces, Kashmiri Muslims have suffered substantial casualties from gunfights, assassinations, bombings and so on. Kashmiris have ended up both as perpetrators and victims of the militancy.

There have been just two other major terror incidents directly involving Kashmiris in other parts of the country in the past 35 years. These were two bomb blasts in 1996, on two consecutive days. The first one on May 21, 1996, in New Delhi's Lajpat Nagar market that killed 13 persons and injured 40, and the second occurred in a bus near the town of Dausa, Rajasthan, which claimed 14 lives. Both were attributed to the Jammu and Kashmir Islamic Front (JKIF), an Islamist faction of the Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front, led by Bilal Ahmed Baig, now a designated terrorist living somewhere in Pakistan. This outfit had carried

suicide attack carried out by the JeM. An explosive-laden Tata Sumo blew up, killing 38 people, including three terrorists. There were IED attacks, mainly on the highways leading out of Srinagar, in 2002 and 2004.

But by and large, these attacks tapered off after 2005. Thereafter, the ISI and its minions shifted focus to other Indian cities, including Mumbai, Delhi, Surat, Patna, Bangalore, Ahmedabad, Varanasi, Pune, and Hyderabad. Here, they used a variety of instruments, the primary being a

suicide attack carried out by the JeM. An explosive-laden Tata Sumo blew up, killing 38 people, including three terrorists. There were IED attacks, mainly on the highways leading out of Srinagar, in 2002 and 2004.

It was only in 2019 that bomb blasts returned to J&K when a JeM suicide bomber blew up a bus ferrying Indian paramilitary personnel near Pulwama, killing 46 jawans. As can be seen, this was the biggest casualty of its kind in the state, and it elicited a tough Indian reaction, which has served as a template subsequently in dealing with terror strikes traced to Pakistan.

But, the unfolding conspiracy allegedly involving doctors indicates that even tough actions like Operation Sardar are not having the kind of impact intended. Indeed, had the terror plan not been detected early, it could have had horrific consequences across the country. The incident has upended the Union government's belief that following the abrogation of Article 370, the demolition of the state Union Territory, and the subsequent crackdown, has fatally wounded the terror ecosystem and that Kashmir would soon return to normal.

A force-alone counter-terrorism policy has not worked anywhere in the world. Besides an extensive campaign of de-radicalisation in the educational institutions of the Valley, there is also a need to reach out to the mainstream political class in the Valley, which has currently been sidelined.

J&K is not foreign territory like Gaza, where the Israelis do what they want. It is very much a part of the country and will always remain so.

Manoj Joshi is a distinguished fellow, the Observer Research Foundation, New Delhi. The views expressed are personal



Manoj Joshi



After 2005, it was only in 2019 that bomb blasts returned to J&K when a JeM suicide bomber blew up a bus near Pulwama.

HT ARCHIVE

Mamdani moment and the ideological churn in the US

The Mamdani moment is saturated with symbolism: A young progressive American with Indian and African roots has victoriously asserted his social democratic politics in the world's financial capital. It is too early to tell if the election of Zohran Mamdani as mayor of New York portends a larger, fundamental shift in American politics. However, it does afford an opportunity to get a glimpse of an exciting ideological churn in America.

In India, we have taken interest in Mamdani's victory because of his India connection. But we should take an interest in American politics regardless of an India angle because the profound battle for the country's soul is a once-in-a-lifetime story.

The defining feature of America's national politics is nearly a decade old. On the surface, it has looked like a fierce ideological contest between conservative and liberal politics.

But in substantive terms, it has been about the rise of Donald Trump and his control of the Republican Party and the disarray of the Democratic Party in terms of both ideology and leadership after the Obama presidency. However, recent developments have set off a genuine ideological churn on both ends of the political spectrum, which has the potential to produce a real contest of ideas and policies.

On the right, there is growing concern that Trump has been co-opted — or compromised — by America's deep State establishment, a force that ensures status quo in the power structure regardless of the party or person in office. His comfort with America's super rich billionaires, his unqualified support for Israel, and reports of his family businesses benefiting from the presidency are seen to be a betrayal of the Make America Great Again (MAGA) movement.

The group that is voicing this unease is a small number of ideologues, podcasters and at least two lawmakers, but it has a massive and influential voice, especially amongst the youth. The likes of Tucker Carlson, Steve Bannon, Megyn Kelly, Candace Owens, Marjorie Taylor Greene, and the late Charlie Kirk — not to mention the more extreme voices to their Right — want the US to follow an "America First" line.

This means an end to America's support for Israel's militarism in West Asia, focus on creating a "real" economy based on manu-

facturing, end to illegal immigration, free speech, and revival of America as a Christian country in which White people do not feel as if they are "strangers in their own land".

Some amongst this group are beginning to doubt Trump's sincerity or ability to deliver on this agenda. Trump has retaliated by withdrawing support from Greene, who is a Congresswoman from Georgia. On the other side, a genuinely Left-leaning social democratic politics has made a fresh start with Mamdani's victory, although its veterans include senators Elizabeth Warren and Bernie Sanders. This politics breaks ranks with the showy and vacuous progressivism on the liberal-Left, which began with the Obama presidency.

Through its focus on the economic pinch for the ordinary New Yorker — access to a decent quality of life in terms of housing, transport, and child care — Mamdani's social democratic politics has taken on an

issue that has mass appeal going beyond the city. The crisis of affordability in New York draws a stark contrast with the extraordinary concentration of wealth in the city, which resonates with the perception that even the national economy is polarised between oligarchy and economic despondency.

This is also an issue for the renegade Right. Thus, both sides are concerned about the toll that unaffordability is taking on ordinary people, including their ability to raise families, though their conceptions of family differ: The Right prefers the conventional heterosexual one; the Left is fine with a familial *laissez faire*. The two sides also share discomfort over the influence of lobbies and donors on politics and policy.

The renegade Right has become openly critical of the influence of lobbyists and wealthy Americans who they claim have captured America's foreign policy, particularly on Israel and West Asia. Curiously, the same class of people also funded the campaign of Andrew Cuomo, a Democratic Party politician and former New York state governor, who ran as an independent against Mamdani after losing the Democratic ticket.

That Trump endorsed Cuomo while calling him a "bad Democrat" because he wanted to keep the "Communist" Mamdani out of office brought to light, to the renegade Right, the grand nexus of lobbies and oligarchs who insidiously capture political power for their special, self-serving interests.

It is also worth noting that during the mayoral campaign, while other contestants expressed their commitment towards Israel, Mamdani said his focus was on the city. In other words, he stood for "New York First", quite like the renegade right's America First. This ideological churn faces two prospects. Each can be undone by status quo forces within. Or the two can develop into distinct ideological poles of American politics.

The second development will spawn a genuine ideological contestation on whether America will continue on its trajectory of becoming an immigrant, multi-racial, multi-confessional country, or stare at something unclear and restless, as anxiety over the loss of an America that was once White, Christian and western deepens.

Atul Mishra teaches international politics at Shiv Nadar University, Delhi-NCR. The views expressed are personal

fact that has mass appeal going beyond the city. The crisis of affordability in New York draws a stark contrast with the extraordinary concentration of wealth in the city, which resonates with the perception that even the national economy is polarised between oligarchy and economic despondency.

This is also an issue for the renegade Right. Thus, both sides are concerned about the toll that unaffordability is taking on ordinary people, including their ability to raise families, though their conceptions of family differ: The Right prefers the conventional heterosexual one; the Left is fine with a familial *laissez faire*. The two sides also share discomfort over the influence of lobbies and donors on politics and policy.

The renegade Right has become openly critical of the influence of lobbyists and wealthy Americans who they claim have captured America's foreign policy, particularly on Israel and West Asia. Curiously, the same class of people also funded the campaign of Andrew Cuomo, a Democratic Party politician and former New York state governor, who ran as an independent against Mamdani after losing the Democratic ticket.

That Trump endorsed Cuomo while calling him a "bad Democrat" because he wanted to keep the "Communist" Mamdani out of office brought to light, to the renegade Right, the grand nexus of lobbies and oligarchs who insidiously capture political power for their special, self-serving interests.

It is also worth noting that during the mayoral campaign, while other contestants expressed their commitment towards Israel, Mamdani said his focus was on the city. In other words, he stood for "New York First", quite like the renegade right's America First.

This ideological churn faces two prospects. Each can be undone by status quo forces within. Or the two can develop into distinct ideological poles of American politics.

The second development will spawn a genuine ideological contestation on whether America will continue on its trajectory of becoming an immigrant, multi-racial, multi-confessional country, or stare at something unclear and restless, as anxiety over the loss of an America that was once White, Christian and western deepens.

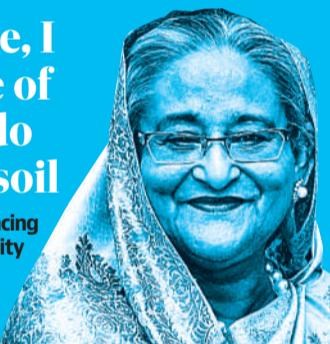
Atul Mishra teaches international politics at Shiv Nadar University, Delhi-NCR. The views expressed are personal

{ SHEIKH HASINA } FORMER PRIME MINISTER, BANGLADESH



I am alive, I will stay alive, I will work for the welfare of people again, and I will do justice on Bangladesh's soil

Reacting to Bangladesh Supreme Court pronouncing her guilty of crimes against humanity



What pollution in Delhi means for senior citizens

There was a time when Delhi's winter sun signalled a change in the rhythm of the city. The elderly would be the first to don their woolen and their caps as they went about their morning walks — their group of friends growing in direct correlation with the sun's trajectory in the sky. Some would be seated on park benches, others in their courtyards or even by the wayside, lost in animated discussions over steaming cups of tea. It was a ritual of community — of warmth, movement, and laughter.

Over the past few years, that familiar scene has practically vanished in the smog. For the elderly, the shared commons — the parks, the pavements, the markets — are now places to avoid. Once free and open spaces now feel unsafe, even hostile. Pollution has "privatised" Delhi's winter, confining the elderly to their rooms, robbing them of the small, everyday freedoms.

A Lancet Planetary Health study estimates that PM 2.5 pollution was responsible for more than 17 lakh deaths in India in 2022 — up by 38% since 2010. And, for those aged 60 and above, every short-term spike in PM2.5 raises the risk of daily mortality by about 1.5%. The wheezing and raucous coughs, the nebulisers and inhalers, the spiraling medication costs, and for some, emergency hospitalisations, have become a recurring nightmare for many families in the city.

The crisis runs deeper than mortality statistics. Each year, the smog silently strains the city's already stretched public health system. Older adults, many of whom are struggling to manage hypertension, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), or diabetes, are the first to turn up in outpatient clinics and emergency rooms when pollution spikes. Hospital admissions for respiratory illness in Delhi surge by over 20% during severe smog episodes, according to studies by AIIMS and ICMR. The Council on Energy, Environment and Water (CEEW) has estimated that air pollution-related health costs drain 3% of India's GDP annually. The price of inaction is paid first in hospital bills and lost productivity, and then, tragically, in lives that could have been saved.

The Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP), Delhi's main defence against air pollution, sets out actions that need to be taken by various actors responsible for these noxious fumes. But little seems to change on the ground. If we don't even acknowledge the seriousness of the crisis, actively warn or protect vulnerable groups like

older adults, then we are failing them as a society. Why can't we run targeted awareness campaigns through the communication channels that the elderly use — WhatsApp groups, RWA bulletins, or neighbourhood clinics? Why don't we learn from other countries that issue age-specific health alerts, limit outdoor activities, and activate local health support systems when pollution spikes? Clean air is a collective responsibility that can't be outsourced to expensive personal air purifiers and private hospitals.

When the elderly lose access to the commons — to the parks, pavements and markets that anchor their daily lives — it is not just their lungs that suffer: it is our social contract that begins to fray. The right to breathe clean air, to move, to take part in public life, are unstated promises every city makes to its citizens. Delhi breaks these promises, year after year, government after government.

The city's air crisis, like many of its other problems, has persisted because of fragmented accountability — divided between municipal, state, and central agencies — and limited political appetite for long-term, unpopular reform. Yet, this is precisely where leadership comes in.

The ruling party, both at the Centre and in Delhi, must use its sizable political capital to take the tough calls needed to restrict vehicular emissions, create an effective public transport system, accelerate clean fuel transitions, and enforce construction controls, among other measures. These are public health imperatives that have growing bipartisan support, and political leaders across party lines must work together to address the crisis. Else, as any politician knows, political capital can also depreciate when governments let preventable crises metastasise into permanent and extremely serious public costs.

Finally, this seasonal crisis also presents an opportunity. If Delhi can show that it is possible to reverse this problem by combining strong political resolve and efficient solutions, it could become a model for cities across India — be it Ghaziabad or Bhiwadi, and across the world. A cleaner, healthier national capital would signal that India is serious about resolving complex urban challenges that acutely affect the elderly. Delhi's citizens are watching. With bated breath.

Barkha Deva is an independent policy consultant. The views expressed are personal

Mamdani's social democratic politics has taken on an issue that has mass appeal going beyond New York.

REUTERS

Chronicling the rise and fall of Hasina

Reuters

letters@hindustantimes.com

DHAKA: Bangladesh's Sheikh Hasina, sentenced to death in absentia on Monday for her deadly crackdown on student protesters last year, has been a dominant figure in the South Asian nation for half a century, a career rooted in bloodshed.

Thrust into prominence with the assassination of her father, independence leader Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, and much of her family in a military coup, Hasina early on fought for democracy, but her long reign as prime minister became marked by arrests of opposition leaders, crackdowns on free speech and suppression of dissent.

She was found guilty of ordering lethal force by a tribunal in the capital Dhaka 15 months after resigning and fleeing to India in the face of a student-led uprising that killed hundreds or more.

Credited with turning around the economy

Despite criticism of her years in power, Hasina, 78, was credited with turning around the economy and the massive garment industry of the Muslim-majority nation of 170 million, while winning international praise for sheltering Rohingya Muslims fleeing persecution in neighbouring Myanmar.

But her downfall — she was ousted less than seven months after winning a fifth term as leader — was the protests that began over job quotas and swelled into a movement demanding her removal.

A UN report in February said up to 1,400 people may have been killed during the protests, most from gunfire by security forces, and cited evidence that it was official policy to attack and violently repress anti-government protesters and sympathisers.

The verdict by the International Crimes Tribunal — a court Hasina set up to try war crimes from Bangladesh's 1971 war for independence from Pakistan — marks a dramatic turn for a political career that began when she avoided death during the 1975 coup because she happened to be in Europe.

Born in 1947 in the southwest of the country, which was then East Pakistan, Hasina was the eldest of five children. After getting a degree in Bengali literature from Dhaka University in 1973, she gained political experience as a go-between for her father and his student followers.

Exiled to India after the coup, she returned in 1981 and was

elected head of the Awami League, Bangladesh's oldest political party and a force in the struggle for independence.

Hasina joined political foe Khaleda Zia, chief of the rival Bangladesh Nationalist Party, to lead a popular uprising for democracy that toppled military ruler Hossein Mohammad Ershad in 1990.

But the alliance did not last. The bitter rivalry between the two — called the "battling begums", using an Urdu honorific for prominent women — went on to dominate Bangladeshi politics for decades.

Hasina first led the Awami League to victory in 1996, serving a five-year term, then regained power in 2009, never to lose it again.

Rule marked by mass arrests of opponents

As time went on, critics said, she became increasingly autocratic and her rule was marked by mass arrests of political opponents and activists, forced disappearances and extrajudicial killings.

Rights groups warned of a virtual one-party rule by the Awami League. Hasina defended her tenure as a period of stability and development, arguing that strong, uninterrupted leadership was needed to keep Bangladesh on track.

Khaleda — herself a former prime minister and the widow of an assassinated former president — was jailed in 2018 on graft charges that her party said had been trumped up. She was freed after Hasina's ouster.

Hasina and Khaleda accused each other of trying to create chaos and violence to jeopardise a democracy that had yet to take firm root in Bangladesh.

The once-racing economy has slowed sharply since Russia's 2022 invasion of Ukraine pushed up prices of imported fuel and food, forcing Bangladesh to turn last year to the International Monetary Fund for a \$4.7 billion bailout.

After Hasina fled the uprising in August last year with her sister on a military helicopter, jubilant crowds stormed unopposed into the opulent presidential residence, carrying out looted furniture and televisions.

Since then, Bangladesh has been governed by an interim administration headed by Nobel Peace laureate Muhammad Yunus — a figure Hasina had attacked for years, who was convicted of graft under her government. Her Awami League is barred from contesting parliamentary elections to be held in early February.

From uprising to verdict: How the Hasina trial unfolded

The fall of then prime minister Sheikh Hasina began with a student-led uprising in July last year, that would ultimately lead to her conviction and death sentence in absentia

2024

JULY-AUG: Sheikh Hasina is ousted as prime minister after a mass student-led uprising. She flees to India. An interim government led by Muhammad Yunus is formed. The interim government said it would try those involved in the killings during the student movement in the International Crimes Tribunal-Bangladesh (ICT-BD)

OCT-NOV: ICT-BD issues arrest warrants against deposed PM and 45 others, including top Awami League leaders, in connection with alleged crimes against humanity. The three-member ICT-BD led by Golam Mortaza Majumdar ordered investigators to complete their probe by December 2024

2025

FEB 2025: UN fact-finding report estimates around 1,400 killed during the protests

JUNE 1-19: The trial officially opens. ICT appoints former Supreme Court judge AY Moshiuzzaman as amicus curiae for Hasina's defence

JULY 2-10: Hasina is sentenced in absentia to six months of imprisonment for contempt of court. ICT formally indicted Hasina, former home minister Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal, and former police chief Chowdhury Abdullab Ali Mamun on five counts of crimes against humanity

AUG 3: The tribunal commences the trial of Hasina in absentia and her two aides

OCT 23: Hearing concludes

NOV 13: The tribunal sets Nov 17 to announce the verdict

NOV 17: ICT-BD convicts and sentences Hasina, former home minister Kamal to death in absentia, while Mamun, who became a state witness, was sentenced to five years of imprisonment in the case



'Rigged tribunal': Ex-PM Hasina slams ICT judgment

HT Correspondent

letters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: Former Bangladesh premier Sheikh Hasina on Monday described the death sentence given to her by a tribunal for crimes against humanity as the verdict of a "rigged tribunal established and presided over by an unelected government" that was aimed at nullifying her Awami League party as a political force.

The International Crimes Tribunal (ICT), a domestic war crimes court in Dhaka, sentenced Hasina to death for ordering the use of lethal force against protesters last year. It gave her a separate sentence of imprisonment until death for inciting and being complicit in crimes

against civilians by law enforcement and armed cadres of the Awami League.

Describing the guilty verdict as a "foregone conclusion", Hasina said in a statement shortly after the ICT announced its verdict: "Millions of Bangladeshis toiling under the chaotic, violent and socially regressive administration of Dr Muhammad Yunus will not be fooled by this attempt to short-change them of their democratic rights."

The 78-year-old former premier, who has lived in self-exile in India since she fled Dhaka after the ouster of her government in August 2024, added, "They are biased and politically motivated. In their distasteful call for the death penalty, they reveal the brazen and murderous intent of extremist figures within the interim government to remove Bangladesh's last elected prime minister, and to nullify the Awami League as a political force," she added.

Hasina and her two top aides were tried by the ICT for their role in handling the student-led protests last year that led to the fall of the Awami League govern-

ment after 15 years in power. Bangladesh's foreign ministry reiterated a request made last year to India for handing over Hasina under a bilateral extradition treaty. Hasina also attacked Yunus, saying public services had fallen apart under the interim government and police have "retreated from the country's crime-ridden streets and judicial fairness has been subverted, with attacks on Awami League adherents going unpunished".

She said: "Hindus and other religious minorities are assaulted, and women's rights suppressed. Islamic extremists inside the administration, including figures from Hizb-ut-Tahrir, seek to undermine Bangladesh's long tradition of secular government."

Hasina alleged that Bangladesh's economic growth has stalled and Yunus has "delayed elections and then banned the country's most longstanding party (the Awami League) from participating in those elections". She also said not a single Bangladeshi citizen has cast a vote for Yunus and Bangladesh's future "belongs to its people, and the election next year must be free, fair and inclusive".

Yunus has said that the general elections will be held in February, along with a referendum to amend the Constitution. He has also said Hasina's continued presence in India, and her engagement with the Indian media, has strained bilateral relations.

Hasina said she mourned "all of the deaths that occurred in

July and August of last year, on both sides of the political divide" but denied that she or other political leaders had ordered the killing of protesters. She said she was also given "no fair chance to defend myself in court", or even to have lawyers of her choice to represent her in absentia.

Any senior judges or advocates who expressed sympathy for the previous government have been "removed or intimidated into silence", and the ICT has "exclusively prosecuted" Awami League members, she said. "It has done precisely nothing to prosecute or even investigate perpetrators from the other parties of documented violence against religious minorities, indigenous people, journalists and others," she added.

COP30 presidency issues note on addressing four unresolved issues

Jayashree Nandi

letters@hindustantimes.com

BELEM, BRAZIL: The COP30 Presidency issued a summary note on addressing four unresolved issues that were part of Presidency consultations, early Monday.

HT had reported on Sunday that a summary of rich and developing countries' views will be published on four of the most debated issues. These include article 9.1, which mandates that developed country parties provide financial resources to assist developing country parties for mitigation and adaptation, and concerns over climate-related trade-restrictive unilateral measures — both being pushed by developing countries led by India.

The other two are: responding to the status report on nationally determined contributions (NDCs)

and addressing the 1.5°C emissions and implementation gap, and reporting and review pursuant to article 13 of the Paris Agreement, including synthesis of biennial transparency reports — priorities for small island nations and developed countries such as EU members.

Some of these options, especially on article 9.1 — which mandates that developed country parties shall provide financial resources to assist developing country parties with both mitigation and adaptation efforts — will be an important issue of negotiation for India during the week.

This summary will further form the basis for a package out of Belem, the Presidency has said. But divergences have started emerging, observers said.

There were consultations on the Presidency's summary docu-

ment on Monday. During the consultations, deep divisions on these four issues again came to the fore.

According to observers, the European Union and other rich countries have said they cannot link ambition to support everywhere in reference to article 9. Some of them have also said they do not support 9.1 or reference to adaptation finance.

On article 9.1, the summary provides three options: a three-year Belem work programme and Action Plan on the implementation of article 9.1, tripling adaptation finance and establishing fair burden-sharing arrangements; achievement of \$100 billion in 2022, New Collective Quantified Goal, fully covering commitment of developed countries to provide support to developing countries, welcoming efforts to reform the international financial architecture in all Parties.

ture, including reform of multilateral development banks; and reaffirming New Collective Quantified Goal (NCQG) and resolving to accelerate implementation, with developed countries taking the lead in delivery and noting "Baku to Belem Roadmap to \$1.3T".

On the issue of unilateral trade measures, another concerning issue for India which it has been raising in the past few COPs also, option 1 is to implement and operationalise Article 3.5 of the Convention, including through an annual dialogue on climate change-related trade restrictive unilateral trade measures. Article 3.5 of the UNFCCC states that parties should cooperate to promote a supportive and open international economic system that would lead to sustainable economic growth and development in all Parties.

ISRAEL SAYS GOVT TO OVERSEE OCT 7 ATTACK PROBE

TEL AVIV: After repeated delays, Israel's government has agreed to launch an investigation into the government failures that led to the Hamas-led attack on October 7, 2023, that triggered war in Gaza.

In Sunday's decision, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said the ceasefire that went into effect on October 10 allows the government to start the investigation.

His Cabinet approved the formation of a watered-down "government committee."

Netanyahu will oversee the makeup of the team governing the inquiry, in effect putting him in charge of the probe. More details about the inquiry are to be announced in 45 days. AP

Trump now backs House vote to release Epstein files

Agence France-Presse

letters@hindustantimes.com



A demonstrator carries sign in support of the victims of sex offender Jeffrey Epstein in Washington, DC. AFP

The 79-year-old Republican has accused Democrats of pushing an "Epstein hoax" after emails emerged in which the disgraced financier suggested Trump "knew about the girls".

Some critics have accused Trump of trying to conceal details about his own alleged wrongdoing — something the president denies — by looking to the vote.

The issue has divided his typically loyal Republican party and driven a rift between Trump and some of his closest allies within his Make America Great Again

After the longest-ever US gov-

ernment shutdown ended last week, lawmakers in the US House of Representatives released a trove of emails obtained from Epstein's estate.

In one, Epstein wrote that Trump "spent hours" with one of the victims at his house, and another referred to the president as "dirty".

Democrats on the House Oversight Committee said the messages "raise serious questions about Donald Trump and his knowledge of Epstein's horrific crimes."

After the email trove's release, Trump demanded Attorney General Pam Bondi and the FBI investigate links between Epstein and ex-president Bill Clinton, a Democrat, along with former Harvard president Larry Summers, who served as Clinton's treasury secretary. With the help of Ghislaine Maxwell, who acted as a recruiter, Epstein brought underage girls to his residences — notably in New York and Florida — where they were sexually abused.

After the longest-ever US gov-

ernment shutdown ended last week, lawmakers in the US House of Representatives released a trove of emails obtained from Epstein's estate.

In one, Epstein wrote that Trump "spent hours" with one of the victims at his house, and another referred to the president as "dirty".

Democrats on the House Oversight Committee said the messages "raise serious questions about Donald Trump and his knowledge of Epstein's horrific crimes."

After the email trove's release, Trump demanded Attorney General Pam Bondi and the FBI investigate links between Epstein and ex-president Bill Clinton, a Democrat, along with former Harvard president Larry Summers, who served as Clinton's treasury secretary. With the help of Ghislaine Maxwell, who acted as a recruiter, Epstein brought underage girls to his residences — notably in New York and Florida — where they were sexually abused.

The study has been published in the journal Communications Earth & Environment.

They suspect these particles were once part of a marine organism, though its identity remains mysterious. Scientists have recovered a number of these fossils dating back as far as 97 million years ago. There has been a debate as to whether or not they were biological in origin.

A new study employed three-dimensional imaging to determine the magnetic structure of one of the fossils, a magnetite particle shaped like a tiny ice cream cone that dates to 56 million years ago. The researchers identified

features optimised to detect the strength and direction of Earth's magnetic field, a dynamic force generated by the motion of molten iron in our planet's core and extending out into space.

The fossil's interior harboured a closed loop of magnetization resembling a vortex. The particle could have been used to create a magnetoreception sense in an animal useful for guiding navigation, the researchers said.

The study has been published in the journal Communications Earth & Environment.

They suspect these particles were once part of a marine organism, though its identity remains mysterious. Scientists have recovered a number of these fossils dating back as far as 97 million years ago. There has been a debate as to whether or not they were biological in origin.

A new study employed three-dimensional imaging to determine the magnetic structure of one of the fossils, a magnetite particle shaped like a tiny ice cream cone that dates to 56 million years ago. The researchers identified

Magnetic fossils may have internal GPS system to travel long distances

Reuters

letters@hindustantimes.com

London: Microscopic magnetic fossils found in North Atlantic seafloor sediments may represent components of an internal "GPS system" for an ancient marine creature that used Earth's magnetic field to navigate long distances, according to scientists.

The researchers said the fossils — about 50 times smaller than the width of a human hair — are made of a strongly magnetic iron-bearing mineral called magnetite.

Japan seeks to calm escalating dispute with China

TOKYO/BEIJING: Japan sent a foreign ministry official to Beijing on Monday to tamp down an escalating dispute with China over Taiwan. The dispute erupted after PM Sanae Takaichi told Japanese lawmakers this month that a Chinese attack on Taiwan threatening Japan's survival could trigger a military response.

REUTERS

TOKYO/BEIJING: Japan sent a foreign ministry official to Beijing on Monday to tamp down an escalating dispute with China over Taiwan. The dispute erupted after PM Sanae Takaichi told Japanese lawmakers this month that a Chinese attack on Taiwan threatening Japan's survival could trigger a military response.

REUTERS

Govt clears 17 projects to boost production of electronic goods

The approved projects will set up mfg units across nine states and UTs

Sejal Sharma

letters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: The ministry of electronics and information technology (MeitY) on Monday cleared 17 projects, with a cumulative investment of ₹7,172 crore, in the second tranche of approvals under a scheme that aims to boost the production of electronic goods within the country.

The 17 projects approved under the Electronics Component Manufacturing Scheme (ECMS) will set up manufacturing units across nine states and union territories—five in Karnataka, three each in Tamil Nadu and Maharashtra, and one each in Jammu, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, Andhra Pradesh and Goa.

An IT ministry official had told HT that the government plans to announce new projects under ECMS every fortnight. The first tranche with seven projects was announced on October 27, with an investment of ₹5,532 crore. With this second set of announcements, the government has cleared projects worth ₹12,704 crore out of a total ₹15 lakh crore of total expected



The first tranche with 7 projects was announced on October 27. AFP

investments under the scheme, with 24 out of 249 projects cleared so far.

At the event organised by India Cellular & Electronics Association (ICEA) in New Delhi, IT minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said that early scepticism about India's electronics ambitions had been dispelled. "There were many naysayers, and those naysayers are now proven wrong. You have shown the way how this country will become a major electronics manufacturing hub," he said, addressing the industry.

Vaishnaw noted that the government first pushed for large-scale assembly of finished products to build domestic volumes, which in turn created demand for components. He added that the next step was to "focus on a set of components which are very critical for a long-term growth of the electronics manu-

facturing ecosystem." This approach, he said, led to the conception and rollout of the ECMS.

Also showcased at the event was a prototype of India's "first energy-efficient edge silicon chip" developed together by Cient Semiconductors and Azimut AI. The platform-on-chip, called ARKA-GKTI, is said to offer up to ten times higher performance for applications such as smart utilities, smart cities, battery systems and industrial Internet of Things.

Notably, two of the projects mark the first-ever manufacturing units for optical transceivers, by Jabil Circuit India in Gujarat and Zetchem Supply Chain Services in Tamil Nadu. Optical transceivers convert electrical signals from a computer or network device into light signals that travel through optical fibre, and back into an electrical sig-

nal, and are widely used in data centres. With more data centres coming up in India, this capability will be important, the minister said. The two projects will meet 237-250% of domestic demand and position India for export leadership, the government said in a press note.

Under the second tranche, approvals will also target production for camera modules, connectors, oscillators, enclosures, with the biggest chunk going to multi-layer Printed Circuit Boards (PCBs) at ₹3,183 crore.

The government said that this marks the largest ever expansion in PCB manufacturing, with factories approved under the scheme producing PCBs worth ₹6,463 crore every year once operational. After adding the new capacity, India's overall PCB manufacturing output will rise to ₹12,534 crore per year, covering 32-33% domestic demand, as per a press note. The multi-layer PCB facility coming up in Jammu, to be run by Meena Electrotech, is the first such project approved in the territory under ECMS.

The basic objective of the scheme is to deepen the value chain in India, said IT secretary S. Krishnan, calling for innate and in-built competitiveness. "It (ECMS) also is to be a crucible based on which we would be able to look at other parts of electronics and not just mobile

phones, which are now about 45% of the overall industry. So various other elements of electronics—auto, vehicle or other consumer electronics—will benefit. And who knows, there might be newer devices like how the mobile phone devices were about 20 years ago to us, which would need the support," added secretary Krishnan.

The projects approved Monday are expected to contribute to ₹65,111 crore worth of production, and are expected to generate jobs for 11,808 people. With an expected production output of ₹44,406 crore from the first tranche, this takes the total projected production value created so far to ₹1,09,517 crore.

Vaishnaw outlined three priorities for the industry: development of in-house design teams as a "non-negotiable," maintenance of six-sigma production standards, and using *swadeshi* (home-grown) services and products across their factories, plants and labs.

The minister said the government is developing a new electronics manufacturing skilling framework under Skill India, in partnership with social-sector organisations. With more projects coming up, the talent pool must grow, he said, adding that the programme will focus on tier-2 and tier-3 cities to provide hands-on training and make youth directly employable.

Indian oil cos sign deal to import LPG from US

Shashank Mattoo

letters@hindustantimes.com

WASHINGTON: In a major development for India's energy sector, Indian public sector oil companies have signed their first ever structured deal to import 2.2 million tonnes of Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) from the US Gulf Coast, union minister Hardeep Singh Puri said.



Union minister Hardeep Singh Puri. PTI

cargoes a month under the term contract, while Chevron and TotalEnergies will supply one each, Bloomberg reported.

"There are three imperatives behind signing the deal. The first is the India-US trade deal and achieving more balanced trade between the two countries. We are a huge LPG importer so we can buy. The second is diversifying India's purchases of LPG. In that sense, it plays into our energy security. Thirdly, LPG prices are down so that gives you elbow room to buy from more distant producers like the United States," said Prashant Vashish, senior vice president at ICRA, a credit ratings agency.

According to the Petroleum Planning and Analysis Cell of India's Petroleum and Natural Gas ministry, India purchased roughly 20.67 million tonnes of

Phillips 66 will supply two

LPG last year.

Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates were India's top suppliers, according to an analysis from the Observer Research Foundation.

Vashish said he views the LPG deal as "pathbreaking" and a shakeup of India's energy imports.

"We buy a lot of LPG from the Middle East because of the natural geographic proximity. This deal does diversify our energy sources. We're talking about significant quantities of energy and not just a one-off deal," said Vashish, who expects the United States to remain a key supplier if LPG prices globally stay low. Further energy purchase deals, particularly for Liquefied Natural Gas, could also be seen.

Increasing US energy exports to India is also a key imperative for the Trump administration. US President Donald Trump told reporters that deepening bilateral energy ties will be a top priority for Sergio Gómez, his new ambassador to India.

Analysts expect that the LPG deal sets the stage for New Delhi and Washington to sign a broader trade agreement, which President Trump assured reporters was close at hand.

Trump also stated that the 50% tariff imposed on India would be reduced as New Delhi has substantially reduced purchases of energy from Russia.

India's merchandise exports in October fall 11.8% to \$34 billion

Rajeev Jayaswal

letters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: India's merchandise exports in October fell 11.8% to \$34.38 billion against \$38.98 billion in October 2024 because of a high base effect, the US tariff barrier and a fall in petroleum exports even as an import surge on the back of high gold and silver demand widened the trade deficit to a record \$41.68 billion.

While gold imports jumped over 199% to \$14.72 billion in October this year as compared to \$4.92 billion in October last year, silver imports surged 529% to \$2.72 billion in the month from \$433 million in the same month last year, ostensibly because of festive demand, commerce ministry officials said.

The government has already restricted imports of certain silver jewellery until March 31, 2026 to check imports of silver in the name of unstudded jewellery from Thailand, misusing India's free trade agreement (FTA) with the 10-nation bloc—the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN). The restriction requires an importer to obtain a licence from the government. On Monday, the government also imposed import curbs on certain types of platinum jewellery till April next year for the same reason. India's FTA with ASEAN allows duty-free imports of precious metals.

India's merchandise imports during October 2025 were \$76.06 billion compared with \$65.21 billion a year ago, an about 17% jump. Surging imports with a fall in exports saw the trade gap widening from \$26.3 billion in October 2024 to \$41.68 billion in October 2025.

Releasing the trade data on Monday, commerce secretary Rajesh Agrawal pointed to three key reasons for the export contraction in October. "One, look at the last year, October, it was the month when we had the highest exports, \$38.98 billion... So, the



India's merchandise imports were at \$76.06 billion. AFP

'First phase of India-US trade deal near closure'

Rajeev Jayaswal

letters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: Commerce secretary Rajesh Agrawal on Monday said the first phase of India-US bilateral trade agreement (BTA) is now "near closure" and the two sides are connected through "virtual" means to initially resolve New Delhi's concern over 50% reciprocal tariff on Indian goods, and Washington's ask for greater market access.

Negotiating a comprehensive BTA may take time as it could have "multiple tranches", and both sides are making endeavours to finalise the first tranche, which will involve reciprocal tariff, he said.



The US is India's largest trading partner. HT

He, however, declined to give any timeline. "We don't have a deadline," he said. India and the US have so far completed six

rounds of talks.

According to a joint statement issued in February, the two sides wished to finalise the first tranche of the deal by November 2025.

The proposed BTA aims to more than double the bilateral trade to \$500 billion by 2030.

While India and the US were intensely engaged on BTA negotiations since March, the US levied country-specific reciprocal tariffs on multiple nations in August citing trade deficit and oil purchase from Russia.

The unexpected development enlarged the scope of talks—resolving issues pertaining to reciprocal tariff while negotiating a mutually-beneficial BTA, another official said, requesting

Jobless rate steady as rural gains offset urban strain

Rhik Kundu

rhik.kundu@livemint.com

NEW DELHI: India's unemployment rate for people aged 15 and above held steady at 5.2% in October, unchanged from September, according to the latest government data released on Monday.

An easing in rural joblessness, down from 4.6% to 4.4%, was off-

set by a modest uptick in urban unemployment, which inched up from 6.8% to 7%, leaving the overall unemployment rate broadly stable from the previous month, showed the periodic labour force survey (PLFS) data released by the ministry of statistics & programme implementation (MoSPI).

The unemployment rate measures the share of people in

the labour force who are without work, actively seeking a job, and available to take up employment.

To be sure, September marks the peak harvest season for kharif crops such as rice, maize, and cotton, a period when farm activity absorbs much of the rural workforce. As a result, fewer people in the rural areas typically seek employment dur-

ing the following month.

Meanwhile, women remained disproportionately affected in terms of unemployment, albeit for different reasons in urban and rural India, with the trend declining from the previous month.

Unemployment among women edged down to 5.4% in October from 5.5% in September, driven largely by a decline in rural joblessness.

Male unemployment held steady at 5.1%, as a slight improvement in rural areas, down from 4.7% to 4.6%, was offset by a marginal rise in urban unemployment.

Estimates of the unemployed in current weekly status (CWS) give an average picture of unemployment in a short period of seven days during the survey period, the MoSPI survey said.

Airbus eyes potential larger version of A350

Reuters

feedback@livemint.com

DUBAI: Airbus is studying a potential larger version of its A350 jet family, Christian Scherer, chief executive officer (CEO) of its commercial plane-making business, said on Monday as Dubai's Emirates ignited a fresh debate about larger and more capable twin-engine jets.

The comments to Reuters came shortly after Boeing said it would study a potential stretched version of its delayed 777X aircraft family after selling 65 of its current largest model to host carrier Emirates on day one of the Dubai Airshow.

Airbus has considered a larger version of its A350 series before in order to counter Boeing's 400-seat 777-9, which is an upgraded version of its long-standing 777 mini-jumbo. Both planes have replaced the industry's iconic four-engine jumbos.

Industry executives say Airbus' idea could be a formidable solution for us as we grow, and that is what we are looking at.

The drive overlaps with

efforts to improve the A350-1000 for Gulf conditions where engines show wear and tear more quickly.

Airbus failed to win sales of the A350-1000 to Emirates at the previous Dubai Airshow in 2023, when the airline took issue with the maintenance performance of its Rolls-Royce Trent XWB-97 engine and opted for the smaller, more widely used A350-900.

Airbus is investing in improvements to that engine, leaving room to both address Emirates' concerns and create space for potential growth, said Scherer.

Asked whether Airbus was

studying this again, Scherer said "yes" and added: "A number of our customers are telling

not to be named.

The US in early August imposed 25% reciprocal tariffs on Indian goods in its market to mitigate its trade deficit with India, and from August 27, it imposed another 25% tariff on Indian products for buying Russian crude oil.

While Indian refiners have significantly reduced Russian crude purchase, India's state-run oil companies have signed the first long-term contract with the US to import 2.2 million tonnes of liquefied petroleum gas (LPG), one of the ways to address the trade deficit issue.

Speaking about the LPG contract, the official said that while the deal is not part of the BTA negotiation, it would certainly

THE CROSSWORDS

CRYPTIC CLUES

ACROSS

- It could be great as a means of riot control (4,3)
- Plead for one trodden underfoot (5)
- One with a place for a catalogue of successes (9)
- Set and match (3)
- They look round for bears without fear (4)
- Isn't love the sort of subject he'd write about? (8)
- Reach a swirling river (6)
- Throws away useless bits? (6)
- Not a friendly visit made by a bugler? (4,4)
- Olympian returns the port (4)
- She has good reason to renounce the world (3)
- Annoyed girl having tried awkwardly to embrace her (9)
- Not a crime to be coolly carried out (5)
- Revolutionary means of power on board (7)

DOWN

- Bitter and sour (7)
- Excessive hurry (5)
- Weekly (4,1,4)
- Having a tendency (3)
- Crevice (6)
- Regular (8)
- Whipping-boy (9)
- Short passage from book etc. (7)
- Person used in an experiment (6,3)
- Impartial (8)
- Fast sailing ship (7)
- Unruffled (6)
- Noisy and disorderly (5)
- Minus (4)
- Young lion (3)

YESTERDAY'S SOLUTIONS (17332)



QUICK CLUES

ACROSS

- Complained, built (10)
- Threw tropics (8)
- Joint concern (9)
- Wise, seam (8)
- Step, smears (8)
- After thought (8)
- Sprites, illiad (10)
- Lost, ssos (8)
- Need, teetotal (8)
- Exchange, calf (10)
- Grill, in habit (8)
- Area, aal (8)
- On, ane, keel (8)
- St, dek, i (8)
- Thirst, effort (8)
- A, ou, un, y (8)
- Let, on, sel, fgo (8)
- Admirer, elite (8)
- R, yes, n, n (8)
- Tidy, eyesight (8)

DOWN

- Bitter and sour (7)
- Excessive hurry (5)
- Weekly (4,

SPORT

Sinner hits Alcaraz-aimed change button, gets key win

This season-ending triumph is significant for the Italian in the context of this rivalry between two stars

Rutwick Mehta

rutwick.mehta@htlive.com

MUMBAI: Jannik Sinner slumped on the bright blue court after the final point and lay flat on his back for a good few seconds. The last time he did that was after the final point of the 2024 Australian Open, to become a Grand Slam champion for the first time. In his three major triumphs after that, he simply lifted his arms in celebration.

This reaction was not typical of Sinner. This stage too was not the theatre called Grand Slams.

What then, could explain the gush of emotion from an otherwise mild-mannered Italian on winning the season-ending ATP Finals? Sinner, after all, had also gone all the way last year, equally ruthlessly without dropping a set, and in front of his home fans in Turin. Been there, done that.

Perhaps, therefore, it had something to do with the guy he beat in the final, Carlos Alcaraz had Sinner's number in seven of their eight previous clashes before Sunday. In Turin, after a humbling defeat in New York for the US Open title, Sinner pulled one back with a closely-fought 7-6(4), 7-5 victory.

This "W" is significant for Sinner not only in the context of this fascinating rivalry between two young stars eclipsing everyone else in men's tennis currently, but also on the back of the Italian's words at the US Open.

In a refreshingly frank assessment after that four-set final where the Spaniard sparkled with his all-round craft, a gloomy-looking Italian spoke about the need to change things, not be predictable (with his



HEAD-TO-HEAD IN 2025

WINNER ■ Jannik Sinner ■ Carlos Alcaraz

ATP Masters, Rome	Roland Garros	Wimbledon	ATP Masters, Cincinnati	US Open	ATP Finals
Final	Final	Final	Final	Final	Final
Outdoor Clay	Outdoor Clay	Outdoor Grass	Outdoor Hard	Outdoor Hard	INDOOR HARD
7-6(5), 6-1	4-6, 6-7(4), 6-4, 7-6(3), 7-6(2)	4-6, 6-4, 6-4, 6-4	5-0 Retd	6-2, 3-6, 6-1, 6-4	7-6(4), 7-5

shots) and move out of his comfort zone (of the baseline).

This, lest we forget, came from a player who made the final of every Slam this year, won two of them, and spent 65 consecutive weeks as the world No.1. All great things and yet, in his mind, status quo wasn't good enough specifically against the one opponent that pushed him the most.

"Now it's going to be on me if I want to make changes or not," Sinner said in New York.

A little over two months on, it's evident that he has. Glimpses of that were on show on the

indoor hard courts of Turin.

Two things stood out in Sinner's shake-up work: the serve and the variety in play.

Two points to highlight the latter: Down 0-2, 30-15 in the second set, Sinner, standing just behind the baseline to Alcaraz's return, dished out a drop shot that even Alcaraz couldn't get to. Then at the break, back opportunity at 2-3, Sinner, after shanking the return, came up with a sliced forehand volley drop from well above his shoulder that Alcaraz didn't even bother chasing.

To go with his baseline sturdiness, Sinner won 88% (7/8) of the net points to Alcaraz's 50% (6/12).

"From the back of the court, it's (about) being a bit more unpredictable," Sinner said after the final. "It worked well, or at least better."

What worked even better, as both the protagonist and his rival concurred, was the serve.

"I felt the improvements of Jannik...especially in the serves," said Alcaraz, who was affected a bit by a hamstring issue mid-match.

In the New York final, Alcaraz won 83% points on the first serve

to Sinner's 69% and 57% on the second to Sinner's 48%. In the Turin final, the first serve numbers flipped (Sinner won 84% points to Alcaraz's 73%). While on the second, Sinner got a lot better (54% to Alcaraz's 57%), in terms of efficiency and potency.

"Second set I was returning pretty well, but he came out with a 185-190 (kmph) second serve. That surprised me, to be honest," said Alcaraz.

Sinner was prepared to be

bolder in his first strike at the cost of more errors (5 double faults). Work on changing that

mindset, and the motion of the serve, as revealed by Simone Vagozzi, was done soon after the US Open by his coaching team of Vagozzi and Darren Cahill.

"It is not just about the first serve percentage," Cahill told ATP. "If we were really concerned about the first-serve percentage, we would let him slow the serve down to let him get more first serves in. He's actually pumped up the miles per hour, and he is getting the ball closer to the line, which means he gets a lot more free points."

Something similar was done by Team Alcaraz in the off-season last year when they tweaked the Spaniard's service motion and movement. Alcaraz served as good as ever at the US Open.

That's the thing about these modern-day giants and their classic rivalry—they may be collectively a cut above the rest, but either will spot, accept and get down to work towards erasing the chink almost exclusively with regards to the other.

Sinner is already looking forward to a "very important" December for the continued change-in-process work. And Alcaraz is already looking forward to their next battle to strike back.

"Hope you're going to be ready for next year," Alcaraz told Sinner on court, "because I will be ready."

Sreejesh, the coach, plots India's Jr World Cup high

Sandip Sikdar

sandip.sikdar@htlive.com

NEW DELHI: With an Olympic bronze hanging from his neck, PR Sreejesh retired on a high as a player after the 2024 Paris Games. Now in his second innings as head coach of the India U-21 team, the former keeper wants to touch fresh heights, at the Jr World Cup. It's been more than a year since the 37-year-old took charge, guiding India colts to the 2024 Junior Asia Cup gold and 2025 Sultan of Johor Cup silver, but the Junior World Cup in Tamil Nadu from Nov 28 to Dec 10 will be Sreejesh's test as tactician.

It won't be easy. For starters, the field has been expanded from 16 to 24 teams, meaning there will be many unknown entities lurking with potential to cause an upset.

"The matches in the initial stages are going to be tricky because some teams are really low ranked. You can expect a huge number of goals in the league round. But with European teams and Australia, we can always predict that matches will be of high level," said Sreejesh, who was awarded the Padma Bhushan—India's third highest civilian honour—in April.

"It's really important that we use these three matches to prepare for the quarters. They have to be on their toes. Maybe the lower-ranked teams may not come and attack, they may stay back and defend. That's where you allow your players to just go and play their game, use their skill, penetrate, or try to attack," said the double Olympic bronze medallist.

"Sometimes, some teams want you to attack. That's when we may



try the Korean or Indian style of hockey; just stay back and get the counters and then go for it. Some teams love to play zonal so we'll try to play man-to-man against them, or vice-versa. It totally depends on our opposition."

India have got enough number of games under their belt of late going into the tournament. Apart from playing in the Hockey India League (HIL) in January, some players have also played for the senior India team while some were part of the previous Junior World Cup campaign.

"After the HIL, we went to Europe to play a couple of exposure events with Holland, France and Belgium. We also played a four-nation tournament in Germany. We picked around 24-25 players and travelled with them to make sure everyone has some experience playing internationally," said Sreejesh.

Sreejesh took his team to Rajbir during the Asia Cup in August-September to play preparatory matches against Indian Navy and Japan. "That was a great experience for the youngsters because playing against seniors is a bit tough. The team played well. The results were positive," said Sreejesh, three-time winner of the FIH Goalkeeper of the Year award.

The team's latest outing was the Sultan of Johor Cup where India had a creditable runners-up finish, losing to Australia in the final.

Arjun gets a quick draw versus Wei

HT Correspondent

sportsdesk@hindustantimes.com

MUMBAI: Arjun Erigaisi, the only Indian left in the FIDE World Cup in Goa, had a no-sweat, stress-free day as he played out a quick draw with China's Wei Yi in the first classical game of their quarter-final.

Five-nine minutes and 31 moves was all it took for the second-seeded Indian to walk away with a draw, while using black pieces, after it was clear that the Chinese Grandmaster wasn't in the mood either to be adventurous

with white. So sure and swift was Erigaisi with his preparation and execution that he gained over five minutes on the clock, which stopped at 01:35:03, to what he started with.

With a spot in the semi-final that will also bring him within touching distance to being part of the Candidates next year, Erigaisi will turn up with white on Tuesday looking for a decisive result. The clinical Indian has finished the job in classical in three of his four wins so far, needing the faster tie-breaks only in his fourth-round win over

Hungary's Peter Leko.

Wei (Elo 2754), though, is a slightly stiffer test for Erigaisi (2773). The Indian and Chinese GMs had played each other twice at the 2025 Norway Chess, with both those games ending in draws

in classical. Erigaisi got the Armattock wins and the extra half points. The Indian finished fifth in that high-quality six-man field while the Chinese was last.

In the only decisive result of the day, Uzbek GM Nodirbek Yakubov (2689) defeated German GM Alexander Donchenko (2641).

Uttarakhand Infrastructure & Investment Development Board

Dept of Planning, Govt of Uttarakhand

4th Floor, Kapoor Tower, Opposite Gandhi Park, Dehradun-248001

E-mail- uiidbuk@gmail.com

Ref No.: 843/59/S.B.R/ UIIDB/2025-26 Dated: 17 November, 2025

Notice: Invitation for Request for Proposal

Uttarakhand Infrastructure & Investment Development Board (UIIDB), Dehradun, Uttarakhand, invites proposals from reputed Firms/ Institutions for Selection of Technical Consultant for Structural Engineering of Suspension Bridge & 300 meter Bungee Jumping at Rishikesh, Uttarakhand.

Kindly refer to www.uktenders.gov.in for detailed terms and conditions of the RFP's.

Proposal Due Date: 09-12-2025 till 15:00 Hrs IST.

Managing Director, UIIDB Dehradun

GOVT. OF MAHARASHTRA

Public Work Division Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar

E-Tender No. 305 - 2025-2026

Online tender (e-tenders) for following works are invited by the Executive Engineer Public Works Division Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar (Ph-0240-2331174) in "B-1" Tender (online) for (09) works in Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar Dist, The contractor Registered with the Public work department /company/ form/ in appropriate class shall be issued by the Executive Engineer public Works Division Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar

1. All the details regarding e-tenders procedure and tender documents are available on e-tenders portal of PWD department of Government of Maharashtra <https://mahatenders.gov.in> and <https://pwd.maharashtra.gov.in>
2. In case any changes in the Tenders /Tenders Notice, the same shall be informed through the above mentioned web Portals.
3. All the right accept or reject the tenders are reserved with Executive Engineer public Works Division Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar Conditional tenders tenders shall be summarily rejected

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
Public Work Division
Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar

DGIPR/2025-26/ROC 4028

Government of Punjab

OFFICE OF MANAGING DIRECTOR-CUM-DIRECTOR STATE TRANSPORT, PUNBUS, PUNJAB

(JEEVANDEEP BUILDING, SECTOR17-A, CHANDIGARH

PH: 0172-2704606

Date: 17.11.2025

E-NOTICE INVITING BID

Punjab State Bus Stand Management Company (PUNBUS) online e-tender is invited from the established, reputed and experienced bidders in two bid system (Technical & Commercial) for "Selection of Bidder for Implementation of Online Passenger Reservation System (OPRS) & Online Reservation System (ORS) in PUNBUS/PUNJAB ROADWAYS and PRTC on "Design, Develop, Build, Own, Operate and Transfer (BOOT) Model". Please contact helpdesk No. 0172-2704606

1. Tender Document uploading date: 18.11.2025 at 12.00 PM
2. Payment mode: Online through NEFT/RTGS/PG/Net Banking
3. Pre-bid meeting: 26.11.2025 at 11.30 AM in the office of MD, PUNBUS
4. Last date and time of queries: 28.11.2025 at 03.00 PM IST (email id: editpunbus@gmail.com)
5. Date of Technical Bid opening: date: 16.12.2025 at 04.00 PM
6. Last date of downloading/uploading (submission) of documents: 16.12.2025 at 02.00 PM

For participating in the above e-tender, the Bidder shall have to get themselves registered with <http://eproc.punjab.gov.in> and get ID & password. Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) is mandatory to participate in the e-tendering process.

Sd/- Executive Director (IT), PUNBUS

MUNICIPAL CORPORATION MATHURA-VRINDAVAN

NIIT No. 138/NNMV/2025-26

E-Procurement Tender Notice

Municipal Corporation, Mathura-Vrindavan invites E-Tender from registered/eligible contractors/firms for various works under Chief Minister Green Road Infrastructure Development Scheme (CM-GRIDS). Unregistered contractor/firms may also participate in the E-Tender as per Government order no. 3890/नौ-5-149सा/2019, नार विकास अनुभाग-05 उ.प्र. शासन लखनऊ, दिनांक 20 सिसम्बर 2019. Lowest selected bidder will have to register in the Municipal Corporation after fulfilling the necessary conditions. The details of registration can be also seen on the e-tendering portal of Government of Uttar Pradesh. The bidders will have to deposit the tender fee and Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) for the <http://etender.up.nic.in> site. The bidder has to necessarily upload the scanned copy of the deposit receipt for the tender fee and EMD along with tender document on the e-tendering portal. The critical dates for E-Tender are as follows-

Sl. No.	Nagar Nigam	Package No.	Included Roads	Length of Road (km)	Estimated Cost Excluding
---------	-------------	-------------	----------------	---------------------	--------------------------

A game of graft: Time India learn the art of survival in Test cricket

93 all out at home didn't happen overnight and introspection is the need of the hour

Somshuvra Laha

somshuvra.laha@htlive.com

KOLKATA: Every cricket pundit has had something to say about India's batting implosion at Eden Gardens but let's go with Kevin Pietersen, one of the earliest innovators of Test batting who also averaged a cool 43 in India. "Just hear me out here: Seeing the wicket first and then the scores and then the result in Kolkata, it can only be put down to batters' modern day techniques," Pietersen wrote on X. "Batters grow up now to hit sixes and play switch-hits. They don't grow up to build an innings and learn the art of survival. This is fact, as I know what's being taught and I'm a part of player discussions."

This matter-of-fact commentary shouldn't come as a shock. Ranji Trophy excellence doesn't merit selection these days, and Test specialists aren't fashionable anymore. 93 all out at home, thus, didn't exactly happen overnight.

It's an unavoidable response to bad habits and its compulsive continuation under the veil of denial and ignorance. And it's not as if India weren't alerted to its possibility. Graeme Swann and Monty Panesar bowling England to a 2-1 victory in 2012 wasn't as much a series win as it was a guiding beacon to other teams seeking a way to breach India's defences.

Pune 2017 (vs Australia), Chennai 2021 (England), Indore 2023 (Australia) and Hyderabad 2024 (England) may have been isolated defeats but it was only a matter of time before a visiting team could string them in succession.

Enter New Zealand last October, reaffirming India's worst nightmare as their finest stood united in their inability to prevent the 3-0 whipping. This defeat at Eden Gardens feels like an early, eerie reminder of that ignominy. The transition may have been partly responsible for this. What else would India do in the first Test they played against a quality opposition at home without Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma other than crash and burn to 93 all out?

That kind of experience and awareness can't be garnered overnight. But the fundamentals of playing the turning ball didn't change overnight, as affirmed by KL Rahul in the first innings. Washington Sundar in both innings, and Temba Bavuma who scored the only fifty of the Test.

"I think my game is simple. I try to play around my defence,"

Bavuma said after the game. "When it turns, you don't have much time to adjust. My message to the guys was to just try to play what's in front of you. Try not to have preconceived ideas."

Simple and effective, Bavuma's advice triggered a turnaround that cost India 60 runs on Sunday morning. More than the runs scored, it was the time South Africa spent on a tricky pitch that was instructive of how one must approach batting in the subcontinent. Bavuma alone batted 183 minutes in the second innings, a minute less than India's top four put together later in the day. Wearing out a spinner, building partnerships—the basic things that make scoring easier with time—didn't seem to be the priority even though the pitch wasn't as vicious compared to the second day.

Every batter has a different coping mechanism when the going gets tough. But lately, the compulsion to cope with jailbreak shots without putting in the necessary time has become too widespread. Gautam Gambhir was scathing of that mentality. "It was a wicket where your technique can be judged. There is a mental toughness challenge. And more important than that is, do you have the temperament?" he asked. "If you are looking to grind, if you are looking to bat long, then you can make runs. If your defence is solid, then it's not a wicket where you can't make runs."

Truth be told, it didn't seem India were prepared for this pitch at all even though Gambhir claimed to have asked for it. Only Washington Sundar faced more balls across two innings (174) than anyone on either side.

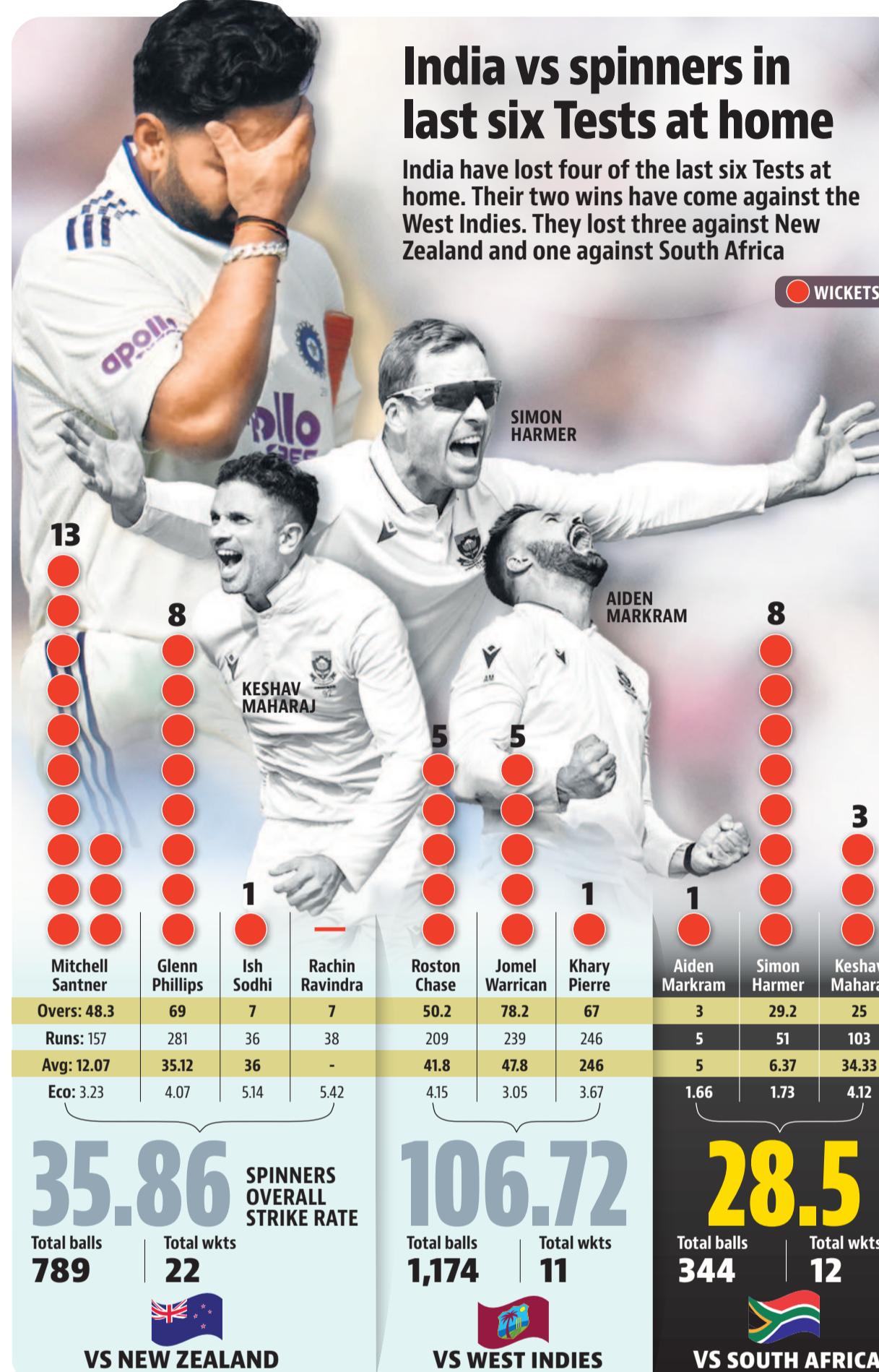
Barring Washington and Ravinder Jadeja, all three middle order batters fell to shots that weren't the need of the hour. Dhruv Jurel was caught at square leg when India were just coming out of the woods with a 32-run stand, his choice of shot not as much the issue as his failure to read the field set up.

Rishabh Pant's dismissal, given he had been at the crease for only 12 balls, was typical but he should have played the match situation. Even more perplexing was how Axar Patel failed to rein in his aggression despite taking 16 runs off Keshav Maharaj in four balls.

Attacking Maharaj was no doubt a bold initiative, one that could have ultimately forced Bavuma to pull him out of the attack. But Patel was also the last recognised batter standing between South Africa and their first win in India in 15 years. Game awareness should have dictated better judgment.

But Patel, as highlighted by Pietersen, belongs to a generation that just doesn't know how to win by grafting runs against spin.

"I think my game is simple. I try to play around my defence,"



Karnataka's R Suman celebrates after scoring a double ton. PTI

India vs spinners in last six Tests at home

India have lost four of the last six Tests at home. Their two wins have come against the West Indies. They lost three against New Zealand and one against South Africa

WICKETS

Rajasthan pile on Delhi's misery with tons of runs

HTC/Agencies

sportsdesk@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: Hosts Rajasthan added to Delhi's miserable season by piling up 570/7 declared in Rajsamand. Sachin Yadav's 130 and KS Rathore's 102 were followed by Mahipal Lomor's unbeaten 128 and Kartik Sharma's 120 as Rajasthan ran Delhi bowlers to the ground by batting for 161 overs and two full days. Delhi were 8 for no loss.

Mumbai rode on Siddhesh Lad's career-best 170 an Akash Anand's 107 not out to piled up 630/5 declared on Day 2 of their Ranji Trophy Elite Group D clash against Pondicherry in Mumbai on Monday. Skipper Shardul Thakur's triple strikes then reduced Pondicherry to 43/4.

In Hubli, Ravichandran Smarans unbeaten 227 guided Karnataka to 547/8 against Chandigarh in Group B. Resuming on their overnight 298/5, Smarans 141-run sixth wicket partnership with Shreyas Gopal (62) and other stands down the order boosted the innings. Gopal's three wickets then reduced Chandigarh to 72/4 at stumps.

In Rajkot, Saurashtra batters Prerak Mankad (155) and Sammar Gajjar (116) helped pile up 587/7 declared against Goa. The visiting side was 125/2 in reply with Abhinav Tejwana on 75. In Indore, former champions Madhya Pradesh were struggling at 155/6 in reply to Kerala's 281 all out at stumps.

In Jammu, hosts Jammu and Kashmir, second in Group D behind Mumbai, took command against third-placed Hyderabad. After being dismissed for 170 in the first innings, J&K bowlers, led by in-form pacer Aqib Nabi (4/39) and Sunil Kumar (5/29) routed Hyderabad for 121. J&K extended the 49-run lead by

reaching 275/4 at stumps with Abdul Samad (77*) and Kanhaiya Wadhwan (82*) together.

In Kalyani, hosts Bengal were on top against Assam. Bengal were 267/4 in reply to Assam's 200 all out. Allrounder Shahbaz Ahmed was batting on 61 off 67 balls.

Brief scores: In Rajsamand: Rajasthan 570/7 dec (Sachin Yadav 130, KS Rathore 102, Mahipal Lomor 128*, Kartik 120, Simarjeet Singh 3/81); Delhi 8/0.

In Jammu: J&K 170 & 275/4 (Abdul Samad 77*, Kanhaiya Wadhwan 82*); Hyderabadi 121 (Aqib Nabi 4/39, Sunil Kumar 5/29). In Mumbai: Mumbai 630/5 dec (Siddhesh Lad 170, Sarfaraz Khan 67, Akash Anand 107*); Pondicherry 43/4 (Shardul Thakur 3/17). In Lahli: Services 205 & 124/4; Haryana 111 (Amit Shukla 8/27). In Dehradun: Gujarat 324/8 dec 4/50; Uttarakhand 272 (Kunal Chandra 116, SA Desai 3/64, Vishal Jayswal 3/29). In Vasad: Tripura 136 Railways 446/9 (Mohammed Saif 158, BH Merai 160, AK Sarkar 4/69). In

Hubli: Karnataka 547/8 (R Smarans 227*, Shreyas Gopal 62); Chandigarh 72/4 (Shreyas Gopal 3/18). In Indore: Kerala 281 (B Aparajith 86, Saransh Jain 3/40, Mohd Arshad Khan 4/54); Madhya Pradesh 155/6 (Nidheesh MD 2/39, Eden Apple Tom 2/40). In Rajkot: Saurashtra 585/7 dec (Prerak Mankad 155, Gajjar Sammar 116); Goa 125/2. In New Chandigarh: Maharashtra 350; Punjab 125/4.

In Nagpur: Vidarbha 169 & 126/3 Baroda 166. In

Coimbatore: Tamil Nadu 455 (B Indrajit 149, A Siddharth 121, G Ajitesh 86, Kartik Yadav 5/103); Uttarakhand 87/1 (A Goswami 54*). In Kalyani: Assam 200 (M Shami 3/64, SS Jaiswal 3/24); Bengal 267/4 (A Fashwanur 66, Shahbaz Ahmed 61*).

AFTER MEN, INDIA VS BANGLADESH WOMEN'S SERIES SET TO BE PUT OFF

Rakesh Mandani

rakesh.mandani@htlive.com

MUMBAI: The Bangladesh women's tour of India comprising three ODIs and three T20Is, slated for December and part of the ICC Future Tour Programme is set to be postponed. The prevailing diplomatic tensions between the two governments are known to be the reason, although it is not clear if the two cricket boards will take this position publicly.

"The series hasn't received the clearance," a BCCI official told HT.

The exact dates and venues of the series were not announced. It is learnt that the series was on choppy waters even before the events of Monday when a Bangladesh tribunal court sentenced to death the country's former prime minister Sheikh Hasina.

In August, the Indian men's white-ball series in Bangladesh was also deferred to September 2026.

At the time, a BCCI statement had cited "international cricketing commitments and scheduling convenience of both teams" as the reason behind the postponement.

BCCI officials are looking to make alternate arrangements for a home series, sometime in the third week of December. This series will be the first assignment for India's women cricketers after winning the ODI World Cup.

If it materialises, it will only be a short series as the Women's Premier League is due to start in January first week. Following that, India will go for an all-format tour of Australia, which will be keenly followed after the hosts pulled off an epic World Cup semi-final win over the seven-time champions.



Pawan upsets WC champion, in semis

Avishek Roy

avishek.roy@htlive.com

GREATER NOIDA: Indian boxers put on a dominant show with all five in the men's section entering the semi-finals in the Boxing World Cup Finals at Shaheed Vijay Singh Pathik Sports Complex.

Pawan Bartwal (55kg) out-

classed Kazakhstan's Altybek Nursultan 5-0 before experienced middleweight Sumit Kundu, who has returned to the national team this year after two injury-ridden seasons, followed up with an aggressive display to outpunch Korea's Kim Hyeon-tae. Naveen (90kg) faced strong resistance from Kazakhstan's Bekzat Tangtar but still secured a 5-0 win.

With these results, Indian boxers remain unbeaten across nine bouts (men and women) after two days of competition. The tournament features a draw of eight boxers per weight category.

While the women's team recently returned from the World Championships with four medals, the men need to raise their game ahead of a packed calendar next year that includes the Commonwealth and Asian Games.

The World Cup Finals offer them a valuable opportunity to gain exposure at home and collect crucial ranking points.

Bartwal credited the home crowd for lifting his spirits. "My opponent was a good boxer. He won stage one of the World Cup in Brazil. I was nervous at the start, but the home support pushed me forward. The first round was a bit tough, and in the second round he began attacking, but I was prepared and used my counters well," said the 26-year-old.

More to Norway football than the fantastic Erling Haaland

Dhiman Sarkar

dhiman@htlive.com

KOLKATA: Two comments sum up Norway's first successful World Cup qualifying campaign of the century. Only one of them is from football. "The game was a birthday gift for my 10-year-old son. He was happy to watch Italy, though he was more thrilled to see (Erling) Haaland," 57-year-old Italian journalist Andrea Sarroni was quoted as saying by Reuters after Norway beat Italy 4-1 in Milan on Sunday.

The second came from Kagiso Rabada. "Everybody chipped in... We find ways to win... We believe that any player can do the job for us," said the South Africa pace ace. Ruled out of the first Test against India at Eden Gardens with a rib injury, Rabada was the first to rush on to the ground after Sunday's 30-run win.

With a record-equalling 16 goals in the qualifying campaign, five of them in the 11-wins against Moldova and a hattrick in a 5-0 victory against Israel, Haaland has headed this qualifying campaign. The next best is eight goals.

Including two at San Siro against the four-time world champions, Haaland, 25, has scored in all eight matches of the qualifiers. He has 55 goals in 48 matches for Norway and is only the sixth in the history of the men's game to score 50 goals in fewer than 50 matches.

In the last 25 years only one player, Robert Lewandowski, has scored 16 goals in a World Cup qualifying cycle in Europe. The Pole star did it on the way to the 2018 finals but had needed 10 matches. "He (Haaland) takes a lot of responsibility up front. They have to put at least two defenders on him which makes room for me and (Antonio) Nusa and (Oscar)

Those who have booked WC spots

32 OUT OF 48 TEAMS (qualified so far)

CO-HOSTS

CANADA MEXICO USA

TEAMS TO HAVE QUALIFIED

ASIA Australia, Iran, Japan, Jordan, South Korea, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Uzbekistan

AFRICA Algeria, Cape Verde, Ivory Coast, Egypt, Ghana, Morocco, Senegal, South Africa, Tunisia

SOUTH AMERICA Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Paraguay, Uruguay

OCEANIA New Zealand

EUROPE England, France, Croatia, Norway, Portugal

PLAY-OFF TOURNAMENT QUALIFIERS



Bolivia, New Caledonia (2 of 6 teams)

goals for Atletico last term and with Sevilla's goalie Orjan Nyland was from La Liga.

The team that lined up against Italy had only one player, defensive midfielder Patrick Berg, from the domestic league but, including substitutes, five from the Premier League. The twinkle-toed Nusa (RB Leipzig) and Dortmund's Ryerson represented Bundesliga. Torbjørn Heggem (central defender) is with Bologna, Leo Ostigard (central defender) and Morten Thorsby (defensive midfielder) are with Genoa and along with Sassuolo's Kristian Thorsvedt (wide right) completed those from Serie A used by coach Stale Solbakken. Ryerson got the most

after playing in France under coach Egil Olsen, Solbakken is Norway's strongest connection between 1998 and now. (Sorloth and Haaland's father Goran and Alf-Inge played in the 1994 finals). Solbakken's Norway usually adopt a 4-2-3-1 or 4-3-3 formation and, as ESPN showed, had the most take-ons, one-on-ones and progressive runs before Sunday.

After 12 successive disappointing qualifying campaigns, including European championships, Norway will be in the finals of a major for the first time since the 2000 Euros.



Cummins to lead SRH; Sanga RR head coach

HYDERABAD: Pat Cummins was named captain of SRH for third consecutive IPL season. SRH confirmed Cummins' role on its X' handle. Rajasthan Royals named Kumar Sangakkara as their head coach following the exit of Rahul Dravid, who left in August.

Gurpreet bags silver in centrefire pistol

CAIRO: Gurpreet Singh came agonisingly close to becoming the world champion in men's 25m centrefire pistol. This was Gurpreet's second medal in the Worlds, the first a silver in 2018 in 25m Standard Pistol.

EB women beat Bam Khatoon 3-1

WUHAN: East Bengal, riding on goals from Shikly Hemant, Fazila Ikwatup



Pankaj-Supriya enchant Delhi's theatre lovers

It was a dreamy affair for Delhi as thespian actors Pankaj Kapur and Supriya Pathak took the stage together, captivating a packed NCU Auditorium. The real-life husband-wife duo performed their play *Dreamz* over the weekend as part of the Delhi Theatre Festival, drawing theatre lovers from across the Capital.

Pankaj opened the evening with an introduction that instantly set the tone. With his effortless storytelling, evocative lighting and the soft rumble of a train in the

background, he transported the audience straight to Kasauli. He then slipped into the role of Professor Saheb, who arrives in the quiet hill town for a peaceful weekend, only to meet a nurse, played beautifully by Supriya, where the lines between dreams and reality begin to blur. The audience remained glued to their seats, as if under a spell, completely absorbed in the duo's masterful performances and the world they created on stage.

HTC

ILLUSTRATION: ADOBE STOCK



Noah Schnapp on starting his career as a child with *Stranger Things*

Akash Bhatnagar

akash.bhatnagar@partner.hindustantimes.com

Noah Schnapp has spent nearly a decade growing up on the sets of *Stranger Things*, as the Netflix blockbuster became a global cultural phenomenon. With the fifth and final season set to release this month, the actor says he feels emotional about leaving behind the world of Hawkins, but most grateful for the lifelong friendship he gained with co-star Millie Bobby Brown.

Drawing parallels between their real-life bond and the relationship between their characters, Will and Eleven, Noah says, "Their loyalty to each other is commendable. On the show, we got to play siblings, and now we say we're triplets. I would consider her an on-screen and off-screen sibling at this point."

He adds that Millie has been his biggest grounding force. "My friendship with Millie is different. When other people give me advice, I wonder what their ulterior motive is. But when Millie says something, I'm like, 'Oh shit, there's nothing but the truth.' She helps keep my spark. It's easy to get jaded in this industry, but she always brings me back to that wide-eyed kid within."

Having been in the spotlight since childhood, Noah says navigating public scrutiny hasn't been easy, especially as conversations about his sexuality began long before he came out. "It was definitely challenging," he says, adding, "Instead of growing up in a small town where only your friends make fun of you, it's the whole world watching. There's a lot of pressure and an expectation to know it all and be an adult right away."

What made it bearable, he says, was having peers going through the same experience. "It was tough, but it was also positive to have that support system. While some things tore down my confidence, my co-stars built it back up. I'm thankful for the journey."



PHOTO: X

NOTE TO READERS: Some of the coverage that appears on our pages is paid for by the concerned brands. No sponsored content does or shall appear in any part of HT without it being declared as such to our valued readers.

My friendship with Millie is different. It's easy to get jaded in this industry, but she always brings me back to that wide-eyed kid within.

NOAH SCHNAPP, Actor



Scan to catch the whole conversation with Noah Schnapp

STOP PRESS

Tom Cruise is an Oscar winner! The 63-year-old actor received an Academy Honorary Award at the Governors Awards on November 16, presented by filmmaker Alejandro G. Iñárritu, who will direct him in his next project. An emotional Cruise reflected, "Making films is not what I do, it is who I am." He spoke about how movies shaped his life, recalling being "a little kid in a darkened theatre" whose world suddenly expanded. "Cinema takes me around the world," he said.

PHOTO: MARIO ANZUONI/REUTERS

THE APPROVAL COMES NEARLY TWO MONTHS AFTER ARMED ASSAILANTS OPENED FIRE AT THE PATANI FAMILY'S RESIDENCE DURING THE EARLY HOURS OF SEPTEMBER 12.



Disha Patani; (inset) father, Jagdish Patani

PHOTO: INSTAGRAM AND X

2 months after firing incident, Disha's dad gets gun licence

Actor Disha Patani's father, Jagdish Patani, a retired deputy superintendent of police, has been granted a weapons licence by the Bareilly district administration, officials confirmed on Sunday. The approval comes nearly two months after armed assailants opened fire at the Patani family's residence during the early hours of September 12.

According to officials, multiple rounds were fired at the house, and the attack was later claimed by gangsters Golay Bar and Rohit Godara. The incident triggered an immediate investigation, following which UP CM Yogi Adityanath assured strict action against the culprits. A case was registered the same day, and a coordinated operation by the UP Special Task Force, Haryana STF and Delhi Police led to the killing of the two suspects, identified as Ravindra and Arun, in Ghaziabad on September 17. Bareilly District Magistrate Avinash Singh told PTI that Jagdish applied for a licence in the aftermath of the attack and was issued one after all legal checks and verifications. The licence permits him to possess a revolver or pistol for personal security.



The controversy reportedly stemmed from allegations that Disha's sister, Khushboo Patani, an ex-army officer, had made comments perceived as insulting towards Premand Maharaj and Aniruddhacharya Maharaj. The claim, widely circulated online, is believed to have escalated tensions leading up to the attack.



Bharti Singh gets surprise baby shower from co-stars

Comedian Bharti Singh, who announced her second pregnancy in October, was given a surprise "pink-themed" baby shower by the team of her ongoing reality show in Mumbai on Sunday. The celebration, attended by friends from the TV industry, including Tejaswi Prakash, Arjun Bijlani, Krushna Abhishek, Jannat Zubair, Aly Goni and others, left Bharti overwhelmed and emotional, as seen in videos she shared on Instagram. Earlier, Bharti had expressed her wish to have a daughter this time around.

Bharti and husband writer-host Haarsh Limbachiyaa welcomed their firstborn, son Laksh Singh Limbachiyaa, also nicknamed Gola, in 2022.

HTC

Bharti Singh with Tejaswi Prakash and Jannat Zubair, along with other TV stars



PHOTOS: INSTAGRAM/JANNATZUBAIR29

Thrills and triumphs at this nail-biting polo match

Sanchita Kalra

sanchita.kalra@hindustantimes.com

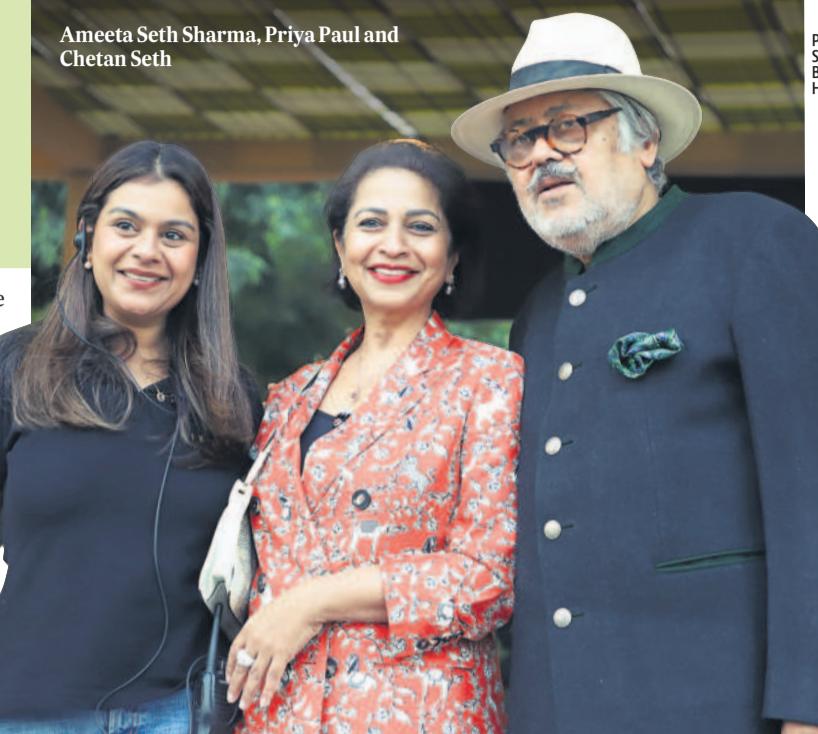
The Jaipur Polo Ground was buzzing this Sunday as the Habanos Cavalry Gold Cup 2025 final drew a stylish crowd. With perfect weather and a packed audience, the atmosphere turned electric as Chief of Army Staff (COAS) and IPA President General Upendra Dwivedi watched Optimus Achievers take on Jindal Panthers in a nail-biting match.

The teams ended regular

time locked at 7-7, pushing the game into a tense extra chukker. The crowd erupted when Optimus Achievers clinched the winning goal.

Organiser and cigar baron Chetan Seth summed up the day: "This cup is the backbone of polo.

The energy, both on the field and in the stands, was captivating. The cheering didn't stop for a second."



PHOTOS:
SHANTANU
BHATTACHARYA/
HT



Alexandra Cristea and Tassilo Schmid

Nandini Sibal and Anupam Sibal

my city



Seoul searching in Aerocity



Air India crew members Silvia Athokpam, Saknaiib Chungkham and Priyanka Akoijam soaked in the K-joy

The city got a slice of Seoul as Worldmark, Aerocity transformed into bustling Korean streets for the K-Vibe Korea Street Fair 2025. From K-pop dance-offs to dalgona challenges, youngsters soaked in the K-culture with full enthusiasm. Here's a glimpse of the weekend

Aalokita Basu



College students Udit Pradhan and Aryan Afik said they felt like they had "crash-landed in Seoul". Aryan added, "This was the place for every Korean out there. For a moment, it didn't even feel like Delhi. It's been years since I watched K-dramas, but this fair is bringing me back."

PHOTOS: AALOKITA BASU



When in Korea... dress like the Koreans! Visitors flaunt their colourful Hanbok looks



Naman Jain @JainNaman2... · 1d Hello Singapore, my lungs are definitely not ready for this 400 -> 40 AQI transition



Naman Jain @JainNaman267 · 2d Byeee Delhi



UNDERSTANDING AQI LEVELS

According to the Central Pollution Control Board, an AQI reading between 0 and 50 is considered good, 51 to 100 satisfactory, 101 to 200 moderate, 201 to 300 poor, 301 to 400 very poor, and 401 to 500 severe.

400 to 40: Viral X post contrasts Delhi smog with global skies

As Delhi continued to battle hazardous air over the weekend, a social media post went viral for capturing the stark contrast between the Capital's smog and cleaner global skylines. An X user, Naman Jain, shared a photograph of his aircraft at the Delhi airport with the caption, "Byeee Delhi".

Moments later, he posted a picture of Singapore's skyline, writing, "Hello Singapore, my lungs are definitely not ready for this 400 -> 40 AQI transition." The comparison struck a chord with users, many of whom echoed similar struggles.

Jain continued documenting his travel, posting next from Sydney:

"Hello Sydney, this has to be one of the best views so far," alongside a stunning shot of the Opera House.

Meanwhile, Delhi's AQI remained alarming. On Sunday morning, the city recorded an average AQI of 385 ("very poor").

Several pockets fared far worse, Anand Vihar (412), Chandni Chowk (418), ITO (417) and Bawana (436), all in the severe category.

This followed a week of hazardous readings, with Delhi clocking 428 on Tuesday, 418 on Wednesday and 404 on Thursday.

According to the Central Pollution Control Board, AQI between 401-500 falls under the 'severe' category.

HTC

#gramit



PHOTO: ANI

#dilse

My Sunflower, I have been missing you and wanted my love to stay somewhere forever, which is why I decided to write it here. You inspire me daily and I am so

proud of you.

Hey Motu Lieu, I luv u a lot thanx for be in my life... You are my golden treasure.

Your Patlu Hubby

Dost, Fiza ke naam likhi hai ye dua khaas, Har khushi mile tujhe, na ho koi uadaas... Tere chehre ki muskaan kabhi na ho kam, Har din tera ho sweet jaise tera nam.

Priyam Gupta

DISCLAIMER: Dil Se is a compilation of fun messages from our readers. The views expressed belong entirely to the senders and are not to be construed as an endorsement by the publication. Send your messages to meandmycity@gmail.com.

raymond upto 60% off
Extra fine Wool, Silk, Linen & Cotton Fabrics
FESTIVAL & WEDDING COLLECTION
SHIRTS • TROUSERS • BLAZERS
SUITS & ETHNIC WEAR
Extended till 30th Nov.
GIFT PACKS AVAILABLE
BY ECONOMY SALES
(M): 9212758425

raymond | PARK AVENUE | ColorPlus | parx | ARROW
• PUNCHKUIAN ROAD, Garwal Bhawan, (Near Jhandewalan, Gole Chkr.)
• GURUGRAM 306, City Center, Sector 29 (Near Hotel Pillazio)
• WAZIRPUR A-5, Near Richi Rich Banquet (Opp. Shalimar Bagh)
• NOIDA, Nirula's Sec-2, Near Metro Station, Sec-15, Noida, UP
• LAJPAT NAGAR, 49, Main Ring Road, Adj. Haldi Ram, Near Moolchand Crossing

The actor
opens up on
filming
Mirzapur:
The Film

MEETING GOLU AGAIN FELT LIKE DESTINY: SHWETA TRIPATHI

Akash Bhatnagar

akash.bhatnagar
@partner.hindustantimes.com

The world of *Mirzapur* is expanding, and this time, to the big screen. After wrapping its Varanasi schedule in late October, the team has now moved to Jaisalmer for the next leg of shooting, which will continue till mid-December.

As the excitement builds around *Mirzapur: The Film*, actor Shweta Tripathi reflects on returning to the

character and a city that has defined her journey, both personally and professionally.

"*Mirzapur* is home. Going back to Varanasi, having chaat and becoming Golu again, was just amazing. When the look test was done, I realised, 'Oh my God! I am going to meet Golu again', and I love Golu. She has been with me for nine years now. So, to meet her again was awesome," she says.

Reflecting on her bond with the city, the 40-year-old says, "Varanasi feels like a full circle moment in my life. My first film *Masaan* (2015) was shot here, and it changed everything for me. Now, returning here felt like destiny. This city has such a powerful energy; it grounds me and reminds me of where it all began."

She adds, "It almost feels like the universe keeps finding ways to bring Varanasi back into my life."

Ask about the team's excitement in bringing *Mirzapur* to the big screen, and Shweta says, "This is a new chapter and everybody has butterflies. It

AFTER WRAPPING ITS VARANASI SCHEDULE IN LATE OCTOBER, THE TEAM HAS NOW MOVED TO JAISALMER FOR THE NEXT LEG OF SHOOTING

sank in gradually for everyone. You want it to do well, for each other, more than for yourself."

She goes on, "That's the best thing about the *Mirzapur* team; whatever batting is done, it's for the team. It goes beyond recognition and popularity. It's how it makes you feel."

Aqua, Tyga, Diplo lead high-octane Cherry Blossom Festival in Shillong



The Cherry Blossom Festival in Shillong, Meghalaya, lit up the city over Friday and Saturday with high-powered performances by Jason Derulo, The Script, Aqua, Tyga and Diplo. Thousands gathered at Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium as global artists shared the stage with homegrown talent.

Meghalaya CM Conrad K Sangma inaugurated the event, calling it a "complete cultural package". Nora Fatehi and The Script dominated Day 1 before Derulo closed with hits like *Swalla*. On Day 2, Aqua brought *Barbie Girl* nostalgia, Tyga hyped the crowd and Diplo wrapped up with a blazing electronic finale.

Tyga

Diplo

Jason Derulo

Script's frontman Danny O'Donoghue

Aqua

Nora Fatehi

NISHAANCHI 2
Direction: Anurag Kashyap
Cast: Aishwary Thackeray, Monica Panwar, Vedica Pinto, Kumud Mishra, Zeeshan Ayyub
Rating: ★★★

Mishra) and Inspector Kamal Ajeeb (Mohammad Zeeshan Ayyub) have other plans. The lingering tension revolves around whether the brothers will learn the truth about Ambika's role in their father's death.

The first instalment ended on a cliffhanger, and audiences weren't particularly kind. That lukewarm response pushed the makers toward a direct-to-OTT release for the sequel. And so *Nishaanchi 2* arrives with barely a whisper.

The story picks up with Dabloo walking out of jail after ten years, only to discover that Rinku (Vedica Pinto), the woman he loved, is now with his brother Babloo. Both brothers are played by Aishwary Thackeray, and while the emotional terrain is familiar, it remains engaging. Dabloo promises his mother, Manjari (Monica Panwar), that he'll set things right, but Ambika Prasad (Kumud

Mishra) and Inspector Kamal Ajeeb (Mohammad Zeeshan Ayyub) have other plans. The lingering tension revolves around whether the brothers will learn the truth about Ambika's role in their father's death.

Directed by Anurag Kashyap, the film runs two and a half hours. What works is the textured world Kashyap builds, something he has always excelled at, whether in *Gangs of Wasseypur*, *Mukkabaaz* or *Manmarziyaan*. The first half hooks you, the pacing is steady, and the second half delivers the real punch, just the right amount of bang for the OTT buck. Kashyap's strength lies in building tension without overplaying it, and the shifting character dynamics keep the ride



engaging. Writers Ranjan Chandel, Omjit Sahu and Kashyap stitch the narrative into a finale that feels satisfying. It's clear the makers imagined this film unfolding in a packed hall, the kind where audiences cheer at high points. *Nishaanchi* flips the old trope of a woman waiting for vengeance, this is no *Karan Arjun* scenario where a mother waits years for reincarnated sons to settle scores.

The music complements the plot, though it leaves you wondering if every major beat needed a song. Still, in the bigger canvas, it settles in.

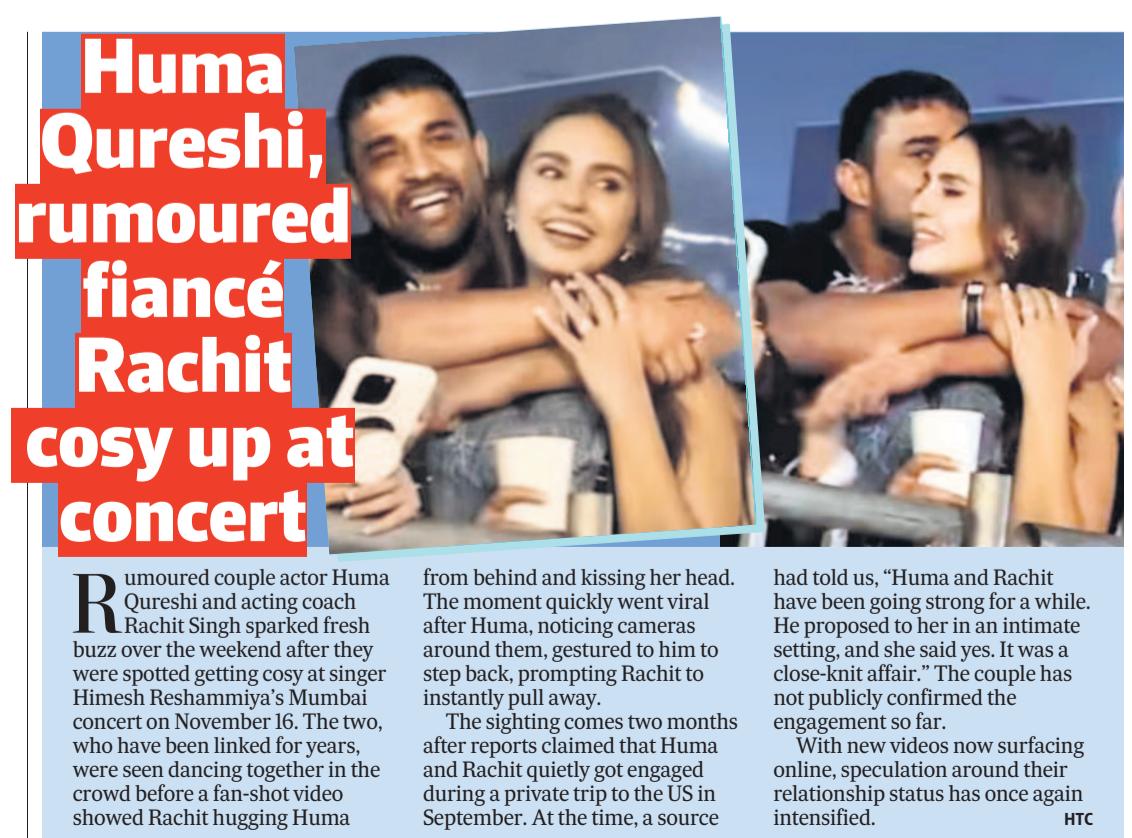
Aishwary has an easy

screen presence and plays both Babloo and Dabloo with confidence and sincerity. Monika Panwar is compelling as the matriarch, carrying the emotional heft of the climax. Vedica Pinto brings in the story's pivotal twist. Zeeshan is effectively annoying, exactly as his character demands.

By the time the dust settles in yet another heartland world crafted by Kashyap, *Nishaanchi 2* delivers a smoother ride than expected. It may arrive with modest expectations but leaves you with the sense of a story finally told the way it always wanted to be.

Rishabh Suri

Huma Qureshi, rumoured fiancé Rachit cosy up at concert



Rumoured couple actor Huma Qureshi and acting coach Rachit Singh sparked fresh buzz over the weekend after they were spotted getting cosy at singer Himesh Reshammiya's Mumbai concert on November 16. The two, who have been linked for years, were seen dancing together in the crowd before a fan-shot video showed Rachit hugging Huma

from behind and kissing her head. The moment quickly went viral after Huma, noticing cameras around them, gestured to him to step back, prompting Rachit to instantly pull away.

The sighting comes two months after reports claimed that Huma and Rachit quietly got engaged during a private trip to the US in September. At the time, a source

had told us, "Huma and Rachit have been going strong for a while. He proposed to her in an intimate setting, and she said yes. It was a close-knit affair." The couple has not publicly confirmed the engagement so far.

With new videos now surfacing online, speculation around their relationship status has once again intensified.