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MONSOON DEATH
TOLL RISES TO 360



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BUILDING AS IT SETS SIGHTS
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ARYNA TO CLASH
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DELHI DROWNS, PUNJAB BREACHES: NORTH INDIA IN SEVERE FLOOD GRIP

From Delhi’s submerged streets to Punjab’s breached embankments, North India reels under relentless flood fury.

BRYAN THOMAS/
TARUNI GANDHI
NEW DELHI/CHANDIGARH

Delhi continued to battle severe flooding on Friday as the Yamuna river swelled to 207.3 metres, far above the danger mark of 205.33 metres, leaving low-lying areas submerged and displacing thousands. The crisis unfolded even as Punjab struggled with a fresh breach of the Sutlej river in Ludhiana district, raising the spectre of further devastation across North India.

An exclusive ground report for NewsX captured the stark reality of Delhi’s worst-hit pockets. From Nigam Bodh Ghat, where waist-deep waters forced residents to abandon homes, to Monastery Market, where boats replaced rickshaws on submerged lanes, his reporting laid bare the scale of disruption. A fully drowned bus near Yamuna Vatika served as a chilling reminder of how public spaces have been swallowed whole. Traffic around Kashmere Gate



People wade through severe waterlogging near Civil Lines, as the Yamuna river still flows above danger mark, in New Delhi on Friday. ANI

PUNJAB FLOOD CRISIS

- Sasrali embankment breach in Ludhiana East threatens 15 villages.
- Thousands of acres of farmland submerged, crops destroyed.
- Deputy Commissioner: “Losses will be assessed and compensated.”
- Bhakra reservoir just below danger level; Pong Dam remains critical.
- Relief centres opened at schools, satsang bhawans, and mandis across Ludhiana.

ISBT, Vasudev Ghat and Nandi Park crawled to a

halt, paralysed by waterlogging.

DELHI FLOOD SNAPSHOT

- Yamuna peaks at 207.3m (danger mark: 205.33m).
- 1,180+ people rescued in Kalindi Kunj by NDRF.
- Monastery Market, Nigam Bodh Ghat, Vasudev Ghat & Yamuna Bazaar under water.
- Traffic snarls near Kashmere Gate ISBT, Nandi Park.
- Relief camps set up in Mayur Vihar Phase-1.

POLITICAL REACTIONS

- Parvesh Verma (BJP): “Not a drop of water in Civil Lines, panic being spread.”
- Arvind Kejriwal (AAP): Relief camps lack food, drinking water, mosquito control. Urges Centre for urgent aid.
- Navjot Singh Sidhu (Congress): Punjab floods a “man-made disaster” caused by mismanagement, illegal mining, and poor desilting.

The National Disaster Relief Force mounted large-scale operations, with four teams deployed at Kalindi Kunj rescuing over 1,180 people. Families were shifted to relief camps in Mayur Vihar Phase-1, though living conditions remained strained. While BJP minister Parvesh Verma downplayed the

crisis, claiming Civil Lines was unaffected and accusing critics of spreading panic, Aam Aadmi Party convenor Arvind Kejriwal painted a bleaker picture. Visiting Shastri Park, he alleged that relief camps were ill-equipped, with inadequate food, poor sanitation, and mosquito

India holds firm as Japan bends to US trade pressure

ABHINANDAN MISHRA/
AGENCIES
NEW DELHI/WASHINGTON DC

New Delhi’s refusal to bow to Washington’s pressure for a sweeping trade deal is beginning to look like foresight. While Prime Minister Narendra Modi stood firm, Japan went ahead—and the fine print of its agreement with the United States reveals just how much Tokyo has conceded.

On Thursday, the White House issued an executive order implementing the United States-Japan Agreement, a framework unveiled in late July and formally enforced from 4 September. Signed by President Donald Trump, it introduces new tariffs, investment commitments and market access rules that U.S. officials describe as “historic and reciprocal.” Yet, as reports say, the deal



U.S. President Donald Trump. ANI

tilts heavily in Washington’s favour.

At its core, the agreement imposes a baseline 15 per cent tariff on nearly all Japanese imports into the U.S., with only a few carve-outs—such as aerospace products, generic pharmaceuticals and key natural resources—cited as security exceptions. In return, Tokyo must pur-

chase an additional \$8 billion of American agricultural produce annually, recognise U.S. safety certifications for cars, buy U.S. aircraft and defence equipment, and invest a staggering \$550 billion directly into the United States, with Washington dictating where that money will flow.

P5

CM Bhajanlal Sharma to flag off 160 new Roadways Buses

BHUPENDRA KUMAR SHARMA
JAIPUR

In a significant development for Rajasthan’s public transport system, 160 new express buses and 12 super luxury buses are set to be inaugurated on September 6. The Rajasthan State Road Transport Corporation (RSRTC) buses will be flagged off by Chief Minister Bhajanlal Sharma at a ceremony held at Amar Jawan Jyoti in Jaipur at 11:30 am.

This inauguration follows a recent report in The Daily Guardian, which highlighted the issue of new buses “rusting due to red tape” in

its Friday edition. The article’s impact was immediate, prompting top officials to conduct inspections and tests throughout Friday, leading to the decision to quickly deploy the buses to their respective depots. The ceremony will be attended by Deputy Chief Minister and Transport Minister Dr. Premchand Bairwa, along with administrative officers, public representatives, and roadways employees. The launch aims to significantly enhance public transportation services across the

P5

CM Bhajanlal Sharma at State level Teacher’s Felicitation program in Jaipur

TDG NETWORK
JAIPUR

Chief Minister Bhajan Lal Sharma said that Teachers’ Day is not just a celebration, but a day of gratitude towards those teachers who shape the future of the society. He said that teachers are the architects of life and nation builders. The state government is with the teachers, so many reforms have been done in the education sector. He said that our government is committed to improving the quality of education, welfare of teachers, respect, better working conditions and building an excellent future for the students.

Sharma was addressing the state level teacher felicitation ceremony organized at Birla Auditorium on Friday. He said that this program is not just a one-day program, it is our policy. Paying tribute to the great educationist Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan, he said that Dr. Radhakrishnan believed that the purpose of education is to gain knowl-



CM Bhajan Lal honors teachers, calling them life’s true architects

edge as well as understand life and incorporate values in it. He said that education is the power that builds man and society and its purpose is to develop personality completely.

Chief Minister Bhajan Lal emphasized the invaluable role of teachers, calling them not

P5

MANOHAR KESARI
NEW DELHI



Bihar Minister and Hindustani Awam Morcha (HAM) chief Santosh Suman. ANI

A political storm erupted in Bihar on Friday after Kerala Congress posted on X equating ‘B’ with both bida and Bihar. The remark triggered sharp reactions, with Bihar Minister and Hindustani Awam Morcha (HAM) chief Santosh Suman accusing the Congress of insulting 14 crore Biharis.

“Congress has not understood Bihar at all. Comparison

P5

Hazratbal emblem defaced; Waqf chief demands arrests

ASHIQ MIR
SRINAGAR

Tensions erupted in the Dargah area of Srinagar on Friday after a video surfaced on social media allegedly showing individuals vandalising the National Emblem engraved on a founda-



Jammu and Kashmir Waqf Board Chairperson Dr Darakhshan Andrabi.

tion stone at a public site.

The viral clip, which has triggered widespread condemnation, shows a group of unidentified persons attempting to deface the emblem installed under a government development

project. Jammu and Kashmir Waqf Board Chairperson Dr Darakhshan Andrabi on Friday strongly denounced the act, describing it as a grave insult to the sanctity of the Hazratbal Shrine and the sentiments of the Muslim community.

Addressing a press conference at the shrine complex, Dr Andrabi said the incident was “nothing short of terrorism.” She remarked: “It felt like a cloudburst had struck me when I saw the

P5

Meghalaya CM urges Shah on key demands



Meghalaya Chief Minister Conrad K Sangma calls on Union Home Minister Amit Shah. Andrabi. ANI

NIBIR DEKA
NEW DELHI

Meghalaya Chief Minister Conrad K. Sangma on Wednesday met Union Home Minister Amit Shah in New Delhi to discuss four key issues concerning the state, ranging from administrative reforms to cultural

recognition.

Sangma reiterated his long-standing demand for a separate All India Services cadre for Meghalaya. At present, the state shares a joint Assam-Meghalaya cadre, a situation unique in the country. He argued that a separate cadre would en-

P5

Punjab CM Mann rushed to hospital

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI



Punjab CM Bhagwant Mann. ANI

Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann was admitted to Fortis Hospital in Mohali on Friday evening after his health worsened, the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) confirmed.

According to party sources, the 51-year-old leader had been unwell for two days and showed no signs of recovery, prompting doctors to recommend hospitalisation. Details on his condition are awaited.

Diwali comes early for Indian traders

SIMRAN BABBAR
NEW DELHI

In a significant turn of events, Brijesh Goyal, Chairman of the Chamber of Trade and Industry (CTI), concluded a formal letter to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, marking what he called a new era of optimism for India’s business community.

For nearly 20 days, traders had witnessed a slowdown in commercial activity as consumers held back purchases of televisions, refrigerators, and automobiles, awaiting the outcome of the GST Council meeting. That period of uncertainty has now given way to renewed confidence.

The announcement of GST



Chairman of the Chamber of Trade and Industry (CTI) Brijesh Goyal. (File Photo)

rate cuts has brought relief to traders, entrepreneurs, and consumers alike. In his letter, Goyal expressed gratitude, calling the reforms a monumental step towards India’s \$5 trillion

economy target. With Navratri and Diwali approaching, the timing could not have been better. Products once taxed at 28% will now attract 18%, while several essentials have been reduced to 5% or even zero. Beyond making goods cheaper, the cuts are expected to inject fresh life into the markets.

Goyal also noted the global dimension, saying the reforms would counter the impact of Trump’s tariffs by boosting domestic demand and empowering local manufacturers.

Across cities, stores that had been subdued are now buzzing with activity. Traders say this Diwali will be truly swadeshi, as CTI general secretary Gurmeet Arora and senior vice president

Deepak Garg urged consumers to prefer Indian-made goods.

CTI has projected a record-breaking festive season, estimating business worth Rs 50 lakh crore nationwide from Navratri to Diwali. The surge is not limited to big-ticket items—local artisans and craftsmen are also set to benefit from demand for diyas, idols, handicrafts, textiles, sweets, and other festive essentials.

As Goyal sealed his letter to the Prime Minister, he described the reforms as more than a tax cut—“a festival of commerce” and a testament to India’s economic resilience. This Diwali, he said, would shine brighter with indigenous products and renewed prosperity.

PM MODI EXPECTED TO VISIT BANSWARA TO LAUNCH NUCLEAR POWER PROJECT

PM is likely to visit Banswara on September 20 to lay the foundation stone for the Mahi Banswara Nuclear Power Project as part of the BJP’s Seva Pakhwada.

TDG NETWORK
JAIPUR

Prime Minister Narendra Modi is tentatively scheduled to visit Banswara on September 20 to lay the foundation stone for the Mahi Banswara Nuclear Power Project. The proposed visit is part of the Seva Pakhwada, a fortnight of public service organized by the BJP to celebrate the Prime Minister’s birthday, which is on September 17.

BJP State President Madan Rathore confirmed that the party has requested the PM’s presence, though official approval from the Prime Minister’s Office is still pending. Rathore expressed confidence that the visit would energize party

SUMMARY

- BJP requested PM Modi’s presence in Banswara on September 20 to lay the foundation stone of the Mahi Banswara Nuclear Power Project; official PMO confirmation is awaited.
- The project near Mapla village is a joint NTPC-NPCIL venture with four 700 MW reactors (total 2800 MW), already approved by the Atomic Energy Regulatory Board.
- Running from September 17 to October 2, it marks the PM’s birthday celebrations with service-oriented initiatives across Rajasthan and beyond.
- Cleanliness drives, blood donation camps, medical check-ups, distribution of aids for the disabled, anti-drug campaigns, and cleaning of memorials of historical figures.

workers and bring a significant development gift to the region.

The Mahi Banswara Nuclear Power Project, located near Mapla village, is a joint venture between NTPC and NPCIL. It will feature four 700 MW reactors, with a

total capacity of 2800 MW. The Atomic Energy Regulatory Board has already approved the site, and pre-project activities are underway.

Rathore also detailed the nationwide Seva Pakhwada, which runs from September 17 to October 2. The event will involve various service initiatives across all districts of Rajasthan, including cleanliness campaigns, blood donation drives, medical camps, and programs to distribute equipment to people with disabilities. The fortnight will also feature campaigns against drug addiction and the cleaning of memorials dedicated to great historical figures.



BJP state president Madan Rathore at BJP headquarter

Rathore stated, “I have worked with Dotasara in the Assembly and once considered him a mature legislator. But now, the language he uses and his conduct toward the Speaker’s chair are completely against parliamentary decorum.”

such behavior undermines democratic institutions. He further criticized Dotasara’s public attack on senior Congress leader Rajendra Pareek, calling it highly inappropriate.

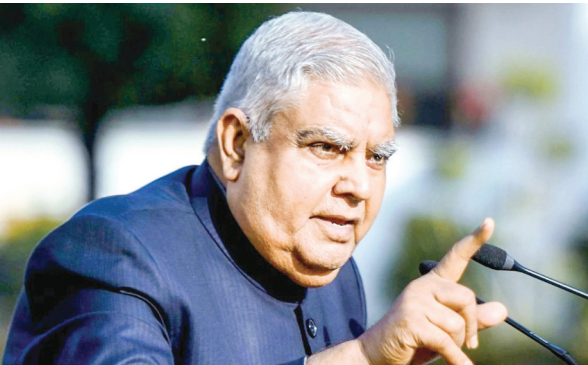
“Pareek is a veteran leader who understands democratic and parliamentary traditions. Publicly humiliating him reflects poorly on Dotasara and worsens internal party conflicts,” Rathore said. Drawing a parallel with the rift between Ashok Gehlot and Sachin Pilot, Rathore warned that Dotasara’s remarks could permanently damage relations within the Congress.

Assembly starts pension of Jagdeep Dhankhar as former MLA

TDG NETWORK
JAIPUR

The Rajasthan Assembly has approved the resumption of pension for former Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar in his capacity as a former MLA. Following his application submitted in the last week of August, the Assembly Secretariat has completed all formalities and started disbursing the pension from the date of his resignation acceptance as Vice President.

Jagdeep Dhankhar will now receive a monthly pen-



Former vice president Jagdeep Dhankhar

sion of approximately Rs 42,000 along with the entitled facilities provided to former MLAs. He was previously receiving this pension as a former Congress MLA from the Kishangarh constituency, where he

However, the pension was discontinued in July 2019 after Dhankhar was appointed as the Governor of West Bengal.

served from 1993 to 1998. However, the pension was discontinued in July 2019 after Dhankhar was appointed as the Governor of West Bengal. Upon assuming the constitutional role, his former MLA pension benefits were suspended, as per the rules. With the completion of his tenure as Vice President of India and no longer holding a constitutional post, Dhankhar’s pension benefits as a former legislator have now been reinstated.

Bear wanders into village from Ranthambore, drinks cold drink

TDG NETWORK
SAWAI MADHOPUR

A surprising incident occurred in Bahravanda Khurd village near the Ranthambore Tiger Reserve, where a wild bear entered the village late Thursday night and roamed the local market for nearly half an hour. The incident took place around 1:30 am, creating panic among the residents.

According to shopkeeper Bunty Jat, the village lies close to the forest area, and such wildlife intrusions have happened before. However, this time the bear’s actions were unusual. It first attempted to break the shutter

of a closed shop, spending nearly two minutes scratching and pushing at the metal door in an effort to enter.

Failing to get in, the bear then approached Bunty’s shop, where a refrigerator stocked with cold drinks was kept outside. In a surprising turn, the bear managed to open the



Image captured from Camera recording

Failing to get in, the bear then approached Bunty’s shop, where a refrigerator stocked with cold drinks was kept outside. In a surprising turn, the bear managed to open the fridge, break a few bottles, and drink the cold beverages inside.

fridge, break a few bottles, and drink the cold beverages inside. The sight of a wild bear casually enjoying cold drinks left locals stunned.

The bear continued to roam the market area for a while before eventually retreating towards the forest. Villagers have demanded increased patrolling in the area, especially during nighttime, to prevent such wildlife encounters and ensure public safety.

Governor calls for 'Nandi Shalas' to protect cow wealth

TDG NETWORK
JAIPUR

Governor Haribhau Bagde emphasized that Indian culture and the economy are deeply intertwined with the cow, stating that “Gau culture” is central to sustainable development. Speaking at the “Gau Maha Kumbh 2025” in Jaipur, he urged for the establishment of “Nandi Shalas” (shelters for bulls)



Governor Haribhau Bagde Gau Maha Kumbh 2025 in Jaipur

alongside traditional “Gaushalas” (cow shelters) to ensure the complete protection of cow wealth.

The Governor highlighted the profound significance of the cow in Indian traditions and economy, referencing ancient texts. He noted that cow products like milk, ghee, and cheese are vital to strengthening the rural economy. Bagde quoted from the Mahabharata, where the cow is revered as a mother and the bull as a father, underscoring their sanctity. He also recounted the story of Lord Krishna, whose name “Govind” symbolizes his divine connection with cows. The Governor concluded by stating that the cow is a representation of the entire universe and urged everyone to collaborate in its protection.

Special AC train with senior citizens flagged off to Rameswaram

TDG NETWORK
JODHPUR

A special AC train carrying senior citizens departed from Jodhpur’s Bhagat Ki Kothi Railway Station for a pilgrimage to Rameswaram and Madurai. The train, part of the Senior Citizen Pilgrimage Scheme-2025, was flagged off by Devasthan Department Minister Zoraram Kumawat. Over 626 senior citizens from Jodhpur, Pali, and Jawai Dam embarked on the seven-day journey, with all



Minister Joraram Kumawat flags off senior citizens train at Jodhpur

expenses for travel, accommodation, food, and medical services covered by the state government.

Minister Kumawat presented kits to the pilgrims and highlighted that this initiative connects senior citizens with faith and culture.

Minister Kumawat presented kits to the pilgrims and highlighted that this initiative connects senior citizens with faith and culture. He noted the government’s commitment to improving the scheme, which now offers AC train travel instead of ordinary coaches. The number of beneficiaries has also been significantly increased from 30,000 to 50,000, with plans to provide air travel for 6,000 senior citizens.

The pilgrims expressed deep gratitude, with some comparing Chief Minister Bhajan Lal Sharma to ‘Shravan Putra’ for his service and respect toward the elderly.

Dotasara’s conduct undemocratic, a good leader has digressed: Madan Rathore

TDG NETWORK
JAIPUR

BJP State President Madan Rathore has strongly criticized Congress State President Govind Singh Dotasara, calling his recent language and conduct a deviation from democratic norms. Rathore said, “A good person has gone bad.” He recalled that Dotasara was once seen as a promising and responsible leader, but his behavior in the Assembly and public platforms has deteriorated significantly while being in the opposition.

Rathore stated, “I have worked with Dotasara in the Assembly and once considered him a mature legislator. But now, the language he uses and his conduct toward the Speaker’s chair are completely against parliamentary decorum.” He also reminded that Dotasara was previously expelled during the tenure of Kailash Meghwal for creating repeated disruptions in the House.

Commenting on Dotasara’s no-confidence talk against the Speaker despite frequently skipping Assembly sessions, Rathore

India is poised to tackle global challenges: Arun Chaturvedi

TDG NETWORK
LALSOT

Chairman of the State Finance Commission, Arun Chaturvedi, addressed the oath-taking ceremony of the newly elected executive of the Industrial Association at Deedwana Industrial Area. Chaturvedi was felicitated at the residence of Shambhu Kuiwala while the ceremony was conducted by Madan Pareek and Abhinav Tripathi. Arun Chaturvedi asserted that India is now the world’s largest market and fully equipped to face global challenges.

Chaturvedi highlighted key reforms introduced under Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s leadership, including GST reforms and tax relief measures aimed at reducing production costs and making essential goods affordable. He noted that changes in the definition of MSMEs and amendments to the Income Tax Act are also spurring industrial growth.

On agriculture, he emphasized the launch of the e-Mandi project, allowing farmers to sell their produce nationwide at competitive prices. He criticized

On agriculture, he emphasized the launch of the e-Mandi project, allowing farmers to sell their produce nationwide at competitive prices.

the Congress for politicizing the ERCP project, while crediting the Bhajanlal Sharma-led government for signing an agreement with Madhya Pradesh to move it forward—benefiting districts like Dausa and Lalsot.

Chaturvedi shared that nearly 70% of MoUs signed at the Rising Rajasthan Summit were in the solar sector, supporting the goal of making Rajasthan self-reliant in electric-

ity by 2027. With Rs 2,500 crore in MoUs, affordable power will reduce production costs. The event was attended by former MLA Mohanlal Gupta, District Industrial Association President Manoharlal Gupta, BJP Mahila Morcha State Vice President Suman Meena, former IAS officer Brajmohan Meena, Sarpanch Deen Dayal Meena, and several other dignitaries.



State Finance Commission Chairman Arun Chaturvedi at Deedwana Industrial Association oath ceremony.

Jaipur rural south BJP executive meets with state president

TDG NETWORK
JAIPUR

The newly formed executive body of the Bharatiya Janata Party’s Jaipur Rural South District met with State President Madan Rathore at the state office. Led by District President Rajesh Gurjar, the team was welcomed by Rathore, who was presented with a turban, a bouquet, and a memento. Gurjar introduced his team as an “innovative, positive, collaborative, and visionary” group, highlighting the diversity of its members. Rathore congratulated

He praised the executive’s inclusive nature, noting that it represents a blend of youth and experience and includes members from various segments of society, such as farmers, businesspeople, women, and youth.

the new executive, stating that energetic and grassroots leadership like Gurjar’s would strengthen the party organization and increase public trust in the BJP.

He praised the executive’s inclusive nature, noting that it represents a blend of youth and experience and includes members from various segments of society, such as farmers, businesspeople, women, and youth. Rathore expressed confidence that this new team would achieve new heights in both organizational work and public service.

RSS COORDINATION MEETING COMMENCES WITH WORSHIP OF BHARAT MATA

Three-day meeting at Adarsh Vidya Mandir, Lalsagar, began with floral tributes to Bharat Mata and recitation of the organization mantra.

TDG NETWORK
JODHPUR

The All India Coordination Meeting of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh began on Friday morning with the offering of flowers in front of the picture of Bharat Mata in the Adarsh Vidya Mandir campus located in Lalsagar. After the offering of flowers by Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh chief Mohan Bhagwat and general secretary Dattatreya Hosbale the meeting formally started with the collective recitation of the organization mantra. The meeting premises have been specially decorated with the symbols of Indian culture. Here, entry into the auditorium was arranged through 'Rani Abbakka Dwar' and 'Haldighati Dwar', the embodiment of the struggle of Indian women against colonialism 500 years ago. Also, the premises were decorated with beautiful rangolis of Bhaktimati Meera Bai and Khejarli's environmental sacrificer Amrita Devi.

KEY POINTS

- Premises were decorated with cultural symbols, rangolis of Meera Bai and Amrita Devi, and entry gates named after Rani Abbakka and Haldighati.
- CM Bhajanlal Sharma and former CM Vasundhara Raje met RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat; BJP president JP Nadda also attended.
- Key discussions focus on social harmony, ideal families (Kutumb Prabodhan), eco-friendly lifestyle, self-reliance, and civic duties.



RSS Chief Mohan Bhagwat and general secretary Dattatreya Hosbale

ated with beautiful rangolis of Bhaktimati Meera Bai and Khejarli's environmental sacrificer Amrita Devi.

On Friday, Chief Minister Bhajanlal Sharma again reached Jodhpur. He met Mohan Bhagwat and BJP national president JP Nadda for

about 20 minutes. Two days ago on September 3, former Chief Minister Vasundhara Raje also met Bhagwat. Chief Minister Bhajanlal Sharma reached the Defense Academy at Lalsagar at 4:30 pm. About 45 minutes later, at 5:15 pm, CM Bhajanlal left

for the airport by car.

All India office bearers of all 32 Sangh-inspired organizations are participating in this three-day meeting.

Prominently all 6 co-Sarkaryavahs along with Vishwa Hindu Parishad President Alok Kumar, Or-

ganization Minister Milind Parande, Rashtriya Sevika Samiti's Chief Sanchalika Shanta Akka, Chief Karya-vahika A. Sita Gayatri, Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad President Dr. Rajsharan Shahi, Organization Minister Ashish Chauhan are included in the meeting.

In the first session of the meeting, information was given about the innovations and experiments done by various organizations in their respective fields.

According to RSS's All India Publicity Chief Sunil Ambekar, in this coordination meeting, mainly the establishment of social harmony, creation of ideal families under Kutumb Prabodhan, environment friendly lifestyle, self-based creation (mother language, mother clothing, self-reliance) and fulfillment of civic duty are being discussed.

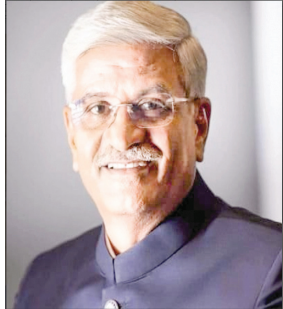
Gajendra Shekhawat and Diya Kumari will be present at IHHA Annual Convention

TDG NETWORK
JAIPUR

The 24th Annual General Meeting and 12th Annual Convention of the Indian Heritage Hotels Association (IHHA) will be held on Saturday and Sunday. On the first day of the Annual Convention on Saturday, the Deputy Chief Minister and Tourism Minister of the state Diya Kumari will inaugurate the exhibition by lighting the lamp. On this occasion, IHHA President Emirates Gaj Singh, Secretary General Captain Gaj Singh Alsisar, Vice President Steve Borgia and state tourism officials will also be present. The theme of this year's IHHA Convention is 'Romantic Heritage'. Captain Gaj Singh Alsisar said



Deputy CM Diya Kumari FILE PHOTO



Union Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat FILE PHOTO

that the Executive Committee meeting will be held on Saturday itself, in which Union Tourism Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat will participate and address the members. Only the members of the Executive Committee will participate in this meeting. He further said that about 150 heritage hoteliers from all over India are expected to participate in

this two-day convention. It is worth mentioning that there are a total of 206 heritage hotels pan India, out of which there are about 140 heritage hotels in Rajasthan. On Sunday, the inaugural ceremony of the 24th Annual General Meeting of IHHA will be held. During this, the meeting and elections of IHHA will also be held.

New sub-health center to boost rural healthcare in Jodhpur

TDG NETWORK
JAIPUR

Parliamentary Affairs, Law, and Legal Affairs Minister Jogaram Patel performed the Bhoomi Pujan for a new sub-health center in Badli, Jodhpur. The project, estimated at Rs 55 lakh, is part of the state government's commitment to providing quality health services to the public under the leadership of Chief Minister Bhajanlal Sharma.

Minister Patel announced that a new health institution, RIMS, is being established in Jaipur, modeled after AIIMS, to provide advanced medical care. He also highlighted local initiatives in his Luni



Minister Jogaram Patel Performing rituals to initiate work for a new sub-health center

constituency, including the establishment of a satellite hospital in Sangaria and a trauma center in Keru, which will bring modern health services closer to the community.

The Minister emphasized that sub-health centers are

a crucial link in building a robust healthcare network in villages. The new center in Badli will ensure that villagers have access to essential primary health services at the local level, improving overall public health in the area.

Teachers' Day celebrated with enthusiasm at Apex University, Acharol

TDG NETWORK
JAIPUR

Apex University, Acharol, celebrated Teachers' Day with great enthusiasm and reverence. The event was graced by Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh's Regional Pracharak Pramukh, Shrivardhan, as the chief guest. He was warmly welcomed by University Director Vedanshu Juniwal with a bouquet and memento. Special guests included Dr. Ashok Acharya, Chairperson of Singhania Law College and Governor-nominated member of Rajasthan Health Sciences University, along with Prof. Amarika Singh, former Vice Chancellor of Mohanlal Sukhadia University, Udaipur. In his address,

Shrivardhan highlighted the significance of Teachers' Day, celebrated since 1966 in honor of Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan's birth anniversary. He emphasized the values of an ideal teacher and the importance of character in education. Director Vedanshu Juniwal reaffirmed the university's commitment to strengthening education quality and policy development, stating that teachers form the foundation of nation-building. The program was anchored by Dr. Ajit Sharma, with a vote of thanks by Dr. Ashok Gupta. Faculty members including Dr. Om Singh, Dr. Kailash Saini, Dr. Priya Mishra, Dr. Pankaj Saini, and many students were present.

Eid Miladunnabi celebrated with enthusiasm and unity

TDG NETWORK
JAIPUR

The festival of Eid Miladunnabi was celebrated with great enthusiasm and devotion in Jaipur, with a large procession organized under the leadership of Leader of Opposition, Tikaram Julie. The procession, which moved through the city's main routes, was met with a warm reception from citizens, reflecting a strong sense of social harmony and brotherhood.

Julie was given a grand wel-



Congress Leaders at the celebration of Eid Miladunnabi in Jaipur

come by the Muslim community at several key locations, including Badi Chaupad, Chhoti Chaupad, Subhash Chowk, and Ramganj. Dur-

ing the event, Julie addressed the gathering, stating that the celebration's message of peace, unity, love, and justice serves as a powerful counter

to the hatred spreading across the country. He spoke about the life of Prophet Muhammad, emphasizing his dedication to serving the poor and helpless. Julie highlighted that the Prophet's teachings centered on humanity, brotherhood, and peace, and that he never abandoned the path of humanity, even in the most difficult circumstances. The procession saw the enthusiastic participation of all age groups, with the city filled with religious flags and decorations.

Manipal University Jaipur rises to 58th rank in NIRF 2025

TDG NETWORK
JAIPUR

Manipal University Jaipur has achieved a significant milestone by securing the 58th rank in the overall university category of the National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF) 2025. This marks a notable improvement from its 64th position in 2024. In the field of architecture, the university climbed from 33rd to 21st rank, while in the management category, it was placed at 81st.

Impressively, it also secured the 32nd position in the national law category. For the first time, NIRF included rankings based on Sustainable Development Goals

(SDGs) and Innovation. Manipal University Jaipur made a strong entry into both, placing in the 11-50 band out of 791 and 777 participating institutions respectively. Additionally, in the overall All India Ranking, the university progressed from the 100-150 band in 2024 to the 98th position in 2025. Vice Chancellor Prof. Neeti Nipun Sharma expressed pride in the achievement, attributing it to the dedication and hard work of students, faculty, and staff. She emphasized the university's unwavering commitment to academic excellence, research, innovation, and sustainable development since its establishment in Rajasthan in 2011.

Education is key to empowerment, not just employment: Dr. Premchand Bairwa

TDG NETWORK
JAIPUR

Deputy Chief Minister Dr. Premchand Bairwa highlighted that education is the foundation of self-reliance and empowerment, not merely a means to employment. Speaking at the state-level Teachers' Day ceremony in Jaipur, he praised teachers as the architects of the future, guiding students from ignorance to enlightenment. Dr. Bairwa stated that the state government, under the Chief Minister's leadership, is bolstering technical institutions and has introduced courses in cutting-edge fields like AI and Robotics. This initia-



Rajasthan Ministers attend State level Teacher's Day Program

tive aims to transform the youth from job seekers into job creators, recognizing that technical advancement is crucial for national progress.

School Education Minister Madan Dilawar also spoke at the event, celebrating the significant strides

made by the School Education Department. He credited the hard work of teachers for elevating Rajasthan from 11th to 3rd place in a national education survey. He asserted that teachers are making Rajasthan a leader in education nationwide.

Jaipuria Conclave explores transformational leadership

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JAIPUR

Jaipuria Institute of Management recently hosted an HR conclave titled "Transformational Leadership: Empowerment of Next Generation Workforce." The event brought together prominent HR leaders to discuss the critical need for purposeful leadership, adaptability, and ethical values in today's workplaces.

Jahangir Sheikh, HRBP Head at Zepto, advised that organizations should adapt to the next generation rather than trying to change them. Debanaray-



HRs of big organizations at Jaipuria Institute of Management

an Deb, HR at DS Group, highlighted the importance of focusing on results over recognition, emphasizing that continuous success comes from tangible outcomes. He stressed the val-

ue of skills, business focus, empathy, and interpersonal effectiveness.

Rahul Jhingan, Business HR Head at Patanjali Foods, encouraged participants to step out of their comfort

zones to achieve great results. A panel discussion, led by Dr. Anvay Bhargava, delved into the growing importance of HR tools and the role of micro-learning in developing future leaders.

BJP leader Shravan Singh Bagdi suffers heart attack, CM visits hospital

TDG NETWORK
JAIPUR

BJP State General Secretary Shravan Singh Bagdi suffered a heart attack on Friday afternoon and was rushed to EHCC Hospital for immediate treatment. Doctors later confirmed blockages in all three major arteries and have recommended bypass surgery. Bagdi is currently under the care of renowned cardiologist Dr. Ajit Bana.

Upon returning to Jaipur from Jodhpur in the evening, Chief Minister Bhajanlal Sharma visited the hospital to inquire about Bagdi's health. He spoke with the

medical team to understand the condition and wished Bagdi a speedy recovery.

The news of Bagdi's health condition led to a stream of party workers and supporters arriving at the hospital to show their concern and solidarity. According to sources, Bagdi experienced sudden chest pain around midday, after which he was swiftly taken for medical attention. His condition is being closely monitored, and further medical decisions will be made based on his response to ongoing treatment. The BJP leadership and cadre across the state have expressed their prayers and support for his recovery.

GST 2.0: A REFORM THAT TOUCHES EVERY INDIAN

OPINION

TUHIN A. SINHA &
NAGENDER PARASHAR



India has entered a new era of economic governance. With the rollout of GST 2.0, the Union Government under the leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has delivered a reform that is not only historic but also deeply people-centric. This bold step reflects a careful balance of fiscal prudence and inclusive growth, bringing relief to households, industries, and entrepreneurs alike.

At the heart of GST 2.0 lies a dramatic simplification. The old 12% and 28% slabs have been scrapped in favour of a streamlined dual-rate system of 5% and 18%, with a 40% levy reserved for luxury and sin goods. For the common man, this means cheap-

er essentials, affordable healthcare, lower costs of education tools and appliances, and more money in hand to spend. For farmers, reduced taxation on agricultural inputs eases costs, increases profitability, and strengthens the rural economy. For the middle class, a simplified structure lowers day-to-day expenses, directly boosting purchasing power. This reform ensures that no group is left behind—it touches every household, every village, and every sector.

India's 63 million Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises—the true engines of job creation—are among the biggest winners of GST 2.0. By lowering input costs, easing compliance, and stimulating consumer demand, this reform pro-

vides a structural push to MSMEs. For too long, these enterprises struggled with complex paperwork, high tax burdens, and cash flow bottlenecks. Today, they stand empowered to compete, expand, and innovate. The ripple effects are clear: stronger MSMEs mean more jobs, higher incomes, and deeper penetration of entrepreneurship in rural and semi-urban India.

Perhaps the most progressive aspect of GST 2.0 is the reduction of GST on medical technology items from 12% to 5%. This single decision has the potential to transform India's healthcare landscape. Affordable access to diagnostics and devices will improve preventive care, consistency across preventive, curative, and rehabilitative healthcare will reduce disparities, and the expansion of early detection mechanisms will lower long-term costs for families. It is a reform with a human face—one that puts Swasth Bharat at the heart of Samridh Bharat.

Equally important is the way GST 2.0 strengthens India's economic foundation. By simplifying rates and processes, it rein-

forces predictability and transparency, which are crucial for attracting investment and driving industrial growth. Domestic consumption will rise as disposable incomes increase, entrepreneurs and investors will gain confidence in a transparent, pro-growth tax regime, supply chains will become more efficient, and fiscal prudence will be preserved even as demand-side expansion is encouraged. This is not a reform driven by populism; it is a strategic recalibration of India's fiscal architecture, carefully designed to balance immediate relief with long-term sustainability.

The brilliance of GST 2.0 lies in its universality. From agriculture to manufacturing, from healthcare to education, from startups to large industries—everyone benefits. Women-led businesses and youth-driven startups stand to gain from lower costs and easier compliance. By breaking down barriers and unlocking growth across sectors, this reform reaffirms India's commitment to inclusive development.

Over the last 11 years,

Prime Minister Modi has consistently delivered reforms that have put India on a stronger footing. GST 2.0 is the latest in this continuum. From the initial rollout in 2017 to today's simplified, futuristic framework, India has transitioned from fragmented taxation to a unified, citizen-friendly system. This is a historic milestone not just in tax reform but in governance itself, demonstrating how cooperative federalism—where the Union and States move together—can achieve transformative results for the nation.

GST 2.0 is more than a set of revised tax rates. It is a reform of lives and livelihoods, a powerful catalyst for national progress. It empowers households, energises industries, revitalises MSMEs, strengthens healthcare, and reinforces investor confidence. Above all, it demonstrates that reforms can be both fiscally responsible and socially progressive. In its vision and execution, GST 2.0 exemplifies the essence of New India: bold, inclusive, and future-ready. It will be remembered as a reform that touched not just balance sheets, but the very lives of ordinary Indians—proving that under PM Modi's leadership, governance is not about numbers, but about people.

Tubin A. Sinha, National Spokesperson, BJP
Nagender Parashar, Director, Parashar Future Technologies



Learning without teachers

OPINION

NAVNEET SHARMA

"The destiny of India is being shaped in her classrooms." When the Kothari Commission report began with this truism, it could scarcely have imagined that, even after six decades, India's ever-expanding classroom population would be compelled to write its destiny largely without guidance, or with only negligible support, because of the absence of teachers who were expected to mentor pupils in shaping both their own futures and that of the nation.

A recent press release by the Press Information Bureau (PIB) proudly proclaimed that India has one crore teachers to educate twenty-four crore school-going children. On the surface, this would appear to reflect the attainment of the ideal pupil-teacher ratio (PTR) of 1:24 required for the delivery of quality education. Yet, a closer interrogation of the data reveals a starkly different, and far more troubling, reality. The ten most populous states of India, which are Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, Bihar, West Bengal, Madhya Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Rajasthan, Karnataka, Gujarat, and Andhra Pradesh, collectively home to more than seventy percent of the country's population, present a contrasting narrative.

Data from Uttar Pradesh's Basic Education Department illustrates this paradox. The state manages 1,32,855 schools with 1,03,441 teachers, averaging 4.5 teachers per school. However, official records also indicate that 8,866 of these schools function with only one teacher, accommodating a total enrolment of 6,11,950 students, which translates into a staggering PTR of 1:69. In practice, this means that in schools with five grades (I-V), a single teacher is expected not only to simultaneously teach all classes but also to oversee the PM-POSHAN (mid-day meal scheme) and engage in administrative and managerial tasks. By comparison, private school data from the same state reflects 4,14,144 teachers employed across 74,471 schools, underscoring the significant disparities in access to quality education between govern-

ment and private institutions.

The situation within Uttar Pradesh's districts further accentuates this divide. Hardoi, with the highest number of government schools, hosts 3,446 schools enrolling 4,83,678 students but staffed by only 14,609 teachers, yielding a PTR of 1:33. Conversely, Ghaziabad records 445 government schools against 1,356 private schools, where 2,643 teachers serve 96,993 students, producing a PTR of 1:37.

This crisis extends beyond Uttar Pradesh. Across the ten most populous states, 10,17,660 government schools include 1,10,971 single-teacher schools, enrolling nearly four crore students. These children are effectively denied meaningful access to teachers' time, guidance, and mentorship. Madhya Pradesh alone accounts for the highest number of single-teacher schools, catering to 5,87,208 students with a PTR of 1:44. Bihar has 2,637 such schools with an astonishing PTR of 1:110, while West Bengal reports 6,366 schools with 2,48,696 students and a PTR of 1:39.

By the government's own estimates, India requires an additional ten lakh teachers, with nearly four lakh vacancies at the elementary level alone. Addressing these shortages is not insurmountable; with political will and administrative resolve, such recruitment could be achieved within a year. What is more alarming, however, is the systemic apathy not only toward the teaching profession but also toward the very act of teaching itself, despite India being a signatory to numerous Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) conventions.

Teacher recruitment and teacher education programmes have been mired in neglect over the past decade. The constant experimentation with 1-, 2-, and 4-year teacher education programmes, often dictated by the whims of policymakers, has generated confusion rather than clarity regarding the pathways to becoming a qualified teacher. The frequency and rapidity of these curricular revisions

have blurred the vision of what constitutes a teacher and what professional competencies the role demands.

Equally disquieting are the conditions of service and remuneration. Salaries vary significantly depending on the nature of the appointment and the type of school management. In flagship government programmes such as Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan, contractual teachers receive monthly salaries of Rs 18,000 in Bihar and Rs 25,000 in Tamil Nadu. These figures are less than the government-prescribed minimum daily wage for semi-skilled labourers and, in some contexts, even half the wage of highly skilled labourers. Furthermore, sixty-nine percent of teachers in private schools and fourteen percent in government schools are employed on contractual terms, leaving them devoid of job security and financial stability. Prolonged delays in recruitment processes and the acute infrastructural deficits in rural schools further render teaching an unattractive career choice, dissuading talented individuals from entering the profession.

Unmindful policies exacerbate the crisis. Initiatives such as the National Professional Standards for Teachers (NPST) and the mandatory fifty hours of Continuing Professional Development (CPD) annually risk compounding existing challenges. Rather than strengthening the profession, such measures often add bureaucratic burdens that undermine teacher autonomy and morale.

Before placing blame for policy failures on teachers themselves, it is imperative to reimagine policies that accord dignity, respect, and professional autonomy to the teaching vocation, rather than resorting to the hollow rhetoric of likening teachers to divinities. Without such structural reorientation, teachers will remain relegated to the role of subservient employees, compelled to comply with the ideological dictates of their superiors.

Without investing in human capacity, India risks fostering a nation of classrooms without teachers, and, consequently, a nation without direction.

(Navneet Sharma teaches in Central University of Himachal Pradesh. Views are personal)

The gains and pains of rains

FROWNING PROHIBITED

JAS KOHLI



It is a typical day. My 'to do list' is ever expanding- like

the fiscal deficit of states. Then, I hear my favourite sound- rain drops. I rush to the verandah and get spell-bound by the sight of pearls of aqua. Tasks can wait. The same scenario repeats multiple times every monsoon. However, I don't suffer from the peculiar stomach disorder which affects most Indians on a rainy day. It can only be cured by having pakoda, samosa or vada with

masala tea.

To state that the Indian subcontinent is a gift of the monsoon wouldn't be an exaggeration. Here, with the onset of rains, every creature, whether human or animal, develops euphoria which is equivalent to ingestion of a few measures of alcohol. Since times immemorial, our poets have gone into overdrive during rains. However, in poetic imagination, the beauty with the Kohl lined eyes has the upper hand. She teases the dark clouds, 'Your show is only for a few months. But my black tresses weave their magic throughout the year.' In fact, clouds, rain, winds, moon, rivers, boats, seashore and beautiful women are planning to sue the poets



and the shayars for the unpaid royalty.

During the wet season, if one's beloved is away to another city for a job, that job may be valued as worthless. Even if old lovers have been forgotten, their memories

resurface. This is also the best time to propose because boys and girls are the most receptive in Saawan.

But the romantic notion of rains turns traumatic if one has to make an unavoidable road trip during torrential

rain. With streams of water flowing through the streets, there is a constant prayer on the lips- I hope I don't hit a spine rattling pothole. And if one starts thinking of open manholes, collapse of bridges and sudden ap-

pearance of sinkholes, palpitations are guaranteed. While some reckless drivers splash water and mud on the pedestrians and the incoming vehicles, a lot of mudslinging also happens in the monsoon session of the parliament.

Also, people who live in low lying areas or in colonies with poor drainage, have mixed feelings about the rains. Surprisingly, the drainage problem has remained unresolved for decades in some areas- the authorities will surely find a solution once all the equations about the dark matter in the universe get solved. Another section of population who remain on edge during the monsoon are the government and private

weather forecasters. Their 'plus' forecast often turns out to be 'minus' and vice versa. Even the use of supercomputers in forecasting rain hasn't given super results on a consistent basis.

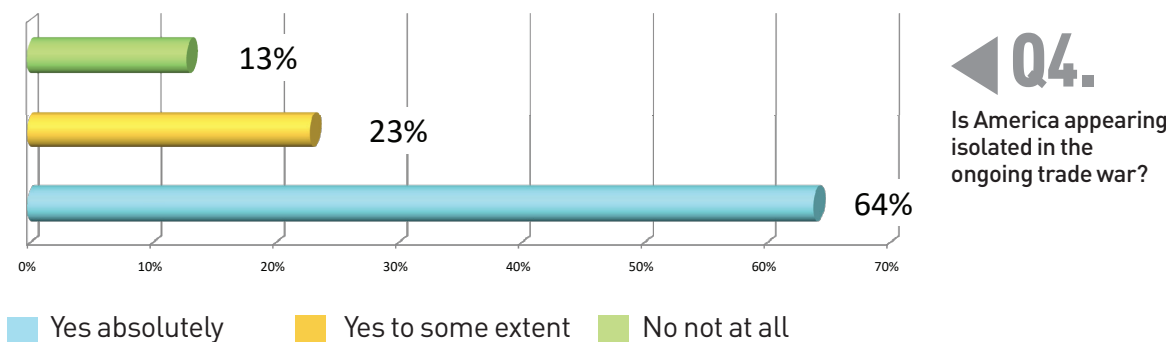
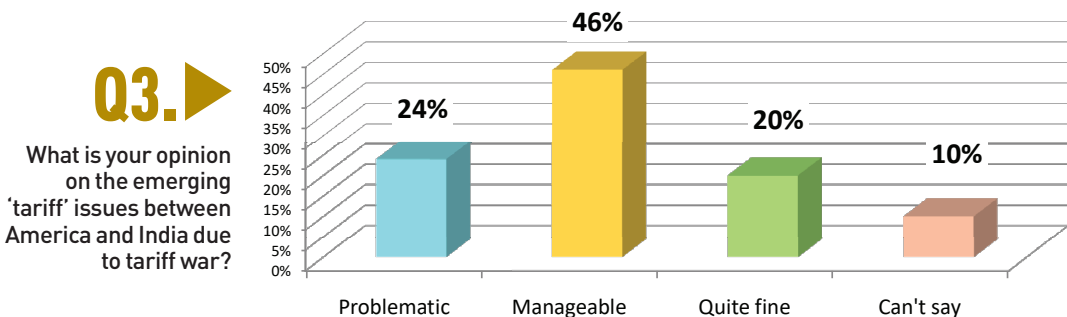
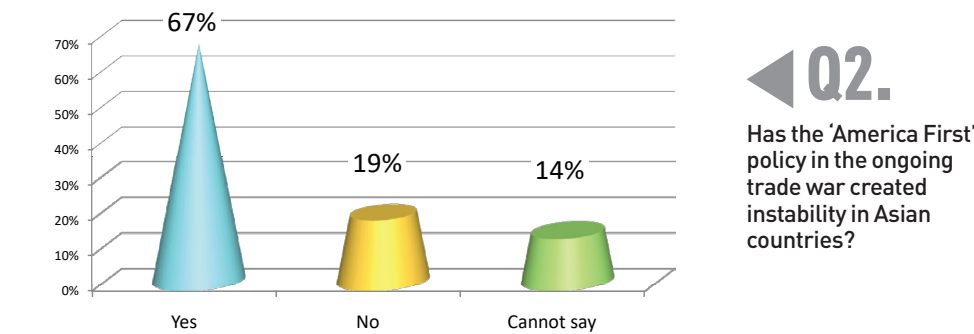
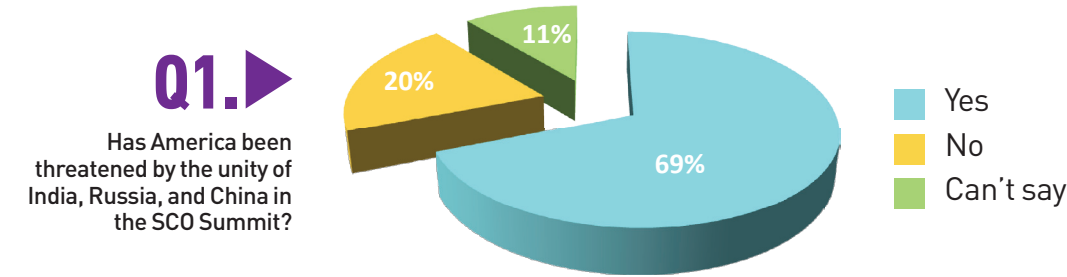
Lately, the monsoon has become quite moody. Sometimes it decides to dump lot of water in a place. On the other hand, it may decide to take an extended break, especially in August and September. The rain Gods must be annoyed. To reciprocate for the benevolence of our amazing planet, our return gifts have included- deforestation, pollution, illegal mining and global warming. The days of romancing under an umbrella are over. Nowadays couples prefer to go on long drives!

THE DAILY GUARDIAN SURVEY ON INDIA-US RELATIONS

64% people believe that US is appearing isolated in the ongoing trade war

India-U.S. ties have soured under Trump, marked by tariffs and insults, pushing India toward strategic autonomy. At the SCO, India deepened ties with Russia and began a reset

with China, reflecting multipolarity's rise. While negotiations with Washington continue, trust has eroded, and India pursues diversified relations to safeguard its interests.



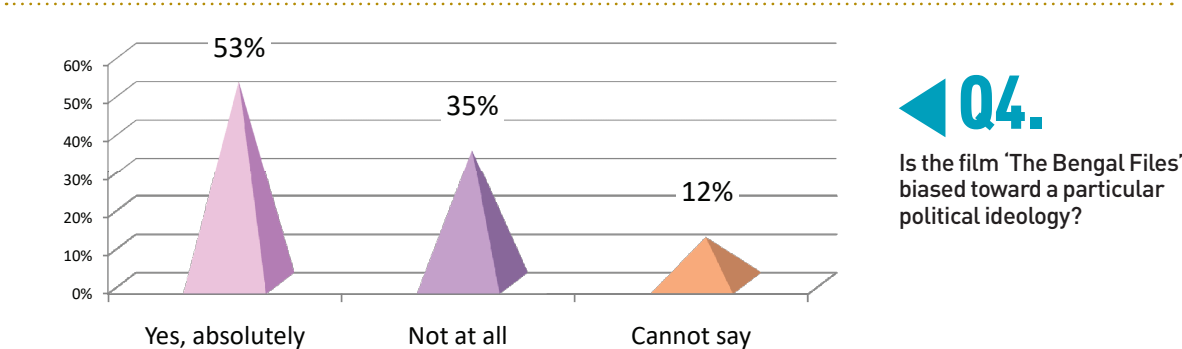
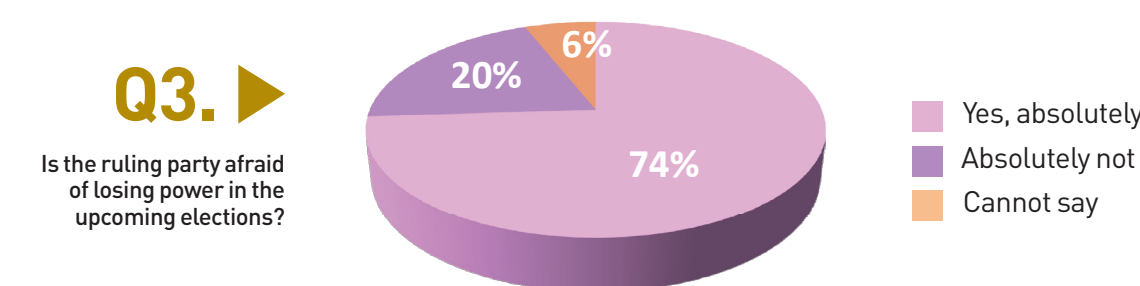
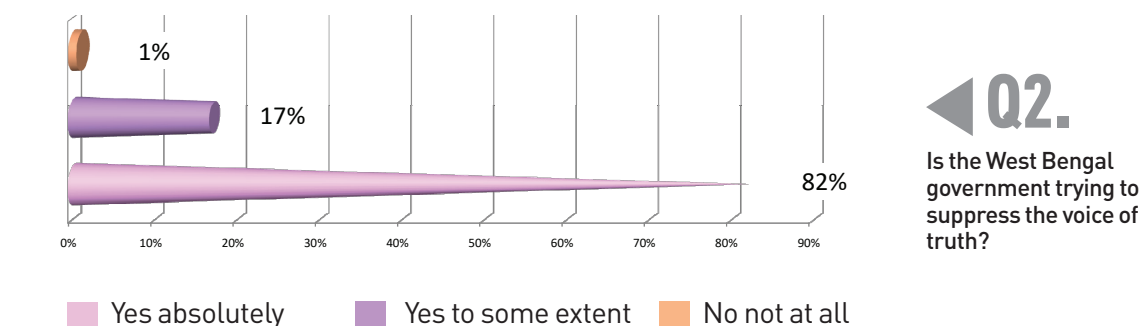
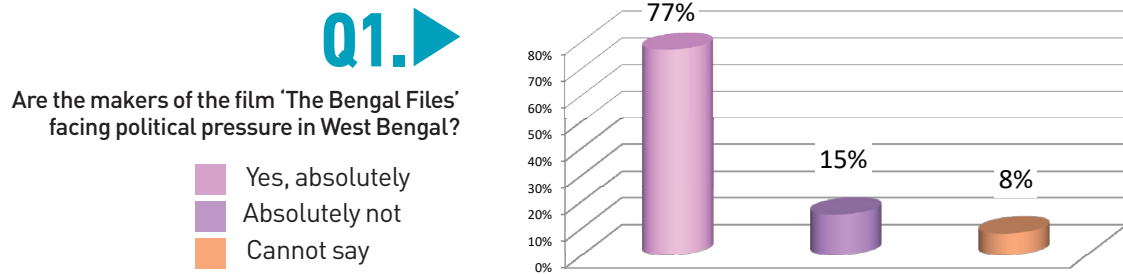
THE DAILY GUARDIAN SURVEY ON BENGAL FILES CONTROVERSY

Voters see pressure, truth suppression, electoral impact

The Daily Guardian Survey on 5 September 2025 polled 243 respondents about the controversy around the film 'The Bengal Files'. The sample skewed

male (95%). A strong majority, 77%, believe the film's makers are facing political pressure in West Bengal. An even larger share, 82%, feel the state

government is trying to suppress the truth. Looking ahead to politics, 74% think the ruling party fears losing power in upcoming elections.



Delhi drowns, Punjab breaches: North India in severe flood grip

CONTINUED FROM P1

infestations. Kejriwal also urged the Union Government to extend urgent support, arguing that "if we can send aid abroad, surely we must help our own flood-hit states."

In neighbouring Punjab, a breach at Sasrali embankment in Ludhiana East had already submerged farmland and endangered 15 villages. Despite round-the-clock efforts by villagers, the army and NDRF to fortify the bundh with sandbags and stones, the Sutej's fury proved overwhelming. Thousands of acres of standing crops now lie destroyed, while residents have been moved into makeshift shelters. Deputy Commissioner Himanshu Jain said assessments of farmers' losses would be carried out once the waters stabilise.

The Bhakra Beas Management Board chairman Manoj Tripathi admitted that an earlier drawdown of reservoir levels "may have provided cushion," but dismissed claims that he had been prevented from releasing water during the Nangal protest.



BBMB Chairman Manoj Tripathi while sharing details of water level in Dam. ANI

His remarks, however, stood in sharp contrast to the Punjab government's position and fuelled political recriminations.

Congress leader Navjot Singh Sidhu went further, calling the Punjab floods a "man-made disaster, not destiny."

He accused both the Centre and the state of systemic failures — from illegal sand mining that weakened embankments to the absence of long-term desilting strategies and poor coordination of

dam releases. "The five rivers of Punjab, once a boon, have become a curse through sustained mismanagement," Sidhu declared.

As both the Yamuna and Sutej rivers continue to rage, North India remains on high alert. With heavy rainfall still forecast, the immediate challenge for governments lies in relief and rescue, but the longer-term questions of accountability and preparedness remain unanswered.

'B for Bidi, B for Bihar' remark...

CONTINUED FROM P1

ing Bihar with bidi is an insult that cannot be erased by simply saying sorry. Every Bihari feels disrespected," Suman told India News. He warned that voters would ensure the Congress is "wiped out from Bihar" in the coming elections.

Calling Bihar the "land of knowledge and Emperor Ashoka," Suman said, "Biharis will not tolerate this.

We are the best in every field and will give a fitting reply."

He further alleged that Congress has always been dismissive of Bihar's people. "They pushed Bihar back by 25-30 years and now dream of reviving jungle raj. Rahul Gandhi comes here for show while his party compares Bihar to bidi. This is a grave insult," he said. On the issue of smoking, Suman remarked, "Smoking bidi

is an individual's personal matter, you cannot associate it with any state or country." He also attacked RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav, calling him "a leader of goons," and claimed Bihar has moved far ahead from the days of jungle raj.

As the backlash intensified, Congress maintained that the account which posted the remark had been hacked.

CM Bhajanlal Sharma to flag off 160 new Roadways Buses

CONTINUED FROM P1

state. Roadways employees, led by Executive Director (Mechanical) Ravi Soni, worked tirelessly to prepare 160 new buses for today's flag-off ceremony. Despite Friday's rain, the team worked day and night to ensure all vehicles were ready for the event.

The newly prepared fleet includes a maximum of 40 buses for Vaishalinar depot. The remaining buses have been allocated to various other depots across the state, with 22 each for Vidy-anagar and Shahpura, 20 each for Jaipur and Dausa, and 21 for the Ajmer-Sawaimadhopur-Bhilwara

circuit. Additionally, 5 buses each have been assigned to the Kotputli, Hindaun, and Dholpur depots.

The state government had announced the inclusion of these new buses in the public transport system in the budget for the year 2025-26 with the aim of providing affordable, safe and modern transport facilities to the general public. Now, implementing this budget announcement, these buses are being officially introduced in the roadways fleet. The buses received by the corporation so far include 160 Blue Line Express buses, which are equipped with modern technologies with 3x2 seating arrange-

ment. These have modern features like GPS tracking system, CCTV cameras, panic button and e-ticketing facility. Apart from this, 12 new super luxury buses have also been received by the corporation, which will be used for long routes and special services.

The Roadways administration said that under the inauguration program, the first bus will be dispatched from Jaipur to Kainchidham, Uttarakhand. It was said that immediately after the inauguration, these buses will be sent to the respective depots and regular operations will be started on various districts and routes of the state.

India holds firm as Japan bends to US...

CONTINUED FROM P1

Critics argue Japan has been left with little in exchange, while enforcement remains entirely under U.S. control. Trump invoked emergency powers under the International Emergency Economic Powers Act to justify the measures, insisting persistent trade deficits threaten America's security.

The sharp imbalance in the U.S.-Japan pact comes as India has itself been dragged into Washington's tariff battles. Trump recently claimed New Delhi offered him a "no tariff" deal—remarks dismissed by the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) as misleading. The U.S. has imposed a 50 per cent levy on Indian goods, including a 25 per cent penalty over its purchases of Russian crude.

Tensions escalated further when Trump, days after the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) summit in Tianjin, posted on Truth Social: "Looks like we've lost India and Russia to deepest, darkest China. May they have a long and prosperous fu-

SITHARAMAN STANDS FIRM ON RUSSIAN OIL

India will continue purchasing Russian crude, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said, stressing that decisions will be driven solely by national interest, rates and logistics.

ture together!" He shared an old photograph of Modi with Vladimir Putin and Xi Jinping, while separately accusing Chinese President Xi of "conspiring against" America during a military parade in Beijing attended by Putin and Kim Jong Un.

India has brushed off these remarks. MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal underlined that the India-U.S. partnership remains "comprehensive, strategic and resilient," citing ongoing military exercises in Alaska and continued engagement on trade and mobility issues. He also rejected comments from former White House trade adviser Peter Navarro that India was "feeding Russia's war machine," calling them "inaccurate and misleading."

Meghalaya CM urges Shah...

CONTINUED FROM P1

sure dedicated officials for Meghalaya, strengthening governance and administration.

He also pressed for the inclusion of Khasi and Garo languages in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution. Sangma reminded Shah that the Meghalaya Assembly had already passed a resolution to this effect and that several memoranda had been submitted to the Centre. Recog-

nition of these languages, he said, would provide a major boost to cultural identity and preservation. On the Inner Line Permit (ILP), the Chief Minister once again urged the Union Government to implement the system in Meghalaya.

He cited the Assembly resolution supporting ILP and flagged concerns over illegal immigration and infiltration, particularly given the state's international borders. He stressed that ILP

remained the most effective legal safeguard for Meghalaya's interests.

Sangma also proposed naming a road in New Delhi after the late P.A. Sangma, former Lok Sabha Speaker and one of the tallest leaders from the Northeast. Describing him as a national figure who consistently championed the rights of tribals, minorities, and the people of the region, he said the gesture would be a fitting tribute.

Hazratbal emblem defaced; Waqf chief demands arrests

CONTINUED FROM P1

emblem damaged. Those who did this are not just miscreants, they are terrorists."

She urged Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Home Minister Amit Shah, and senior security officials to ensure swift arrests of those responsible.

Alleging political motives behind the incident, Dr Andrabi said, "This disruption appears to have been deliberately orchestrated by political elements and their supporters. I had already warned about the possibility of

such provocations."

She added that an FIR would be filed against all involved, including a legislator whose recent social media remarks allegedly inflamed tensions.

Reaffirming the Waqf Board's commitment to safeguarding religious sites, Dr Andrabi said the ongoing renovation of Hazratbal aims to enhance both sanctity and accessibility. "We will not allow anyone to politicise places of worship. These are sacred spaces meant for prayer and unity," she concluded

CM Bhajanlal Sharma at State level Teacher's

CONTINUED FROM P1

only storehouses of knowledge but also awakeners of dreams. He referenced Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam's belief that a good book equals a thousand friends, but a good friend equals a library. The CM added that, in his view, a good teacher is equal to a thousand libraries. Teachers inspire hope in strugg-

gling students and serve as role models who impart life values. Beyond academic knowledge, they instill important social values such as truth, non-violence, compassion, service, and patriotism. According to the CM, teachers also teach crucial life lessons like humility, honesty, and the idea that serving others is the highest form of worship.

HIMACHAL: MONSOON DEATH TOLL RISES TO 360

Over 1,087 roads, 2,838 power supply lines, and 509 water supply schemes disrupted

TDG NETWORK
SHIMLA

Himachal Pradesh continues to reel under the impact of the ongoing monsoon season, with 1,087 roads, 2,838 power supply lines, and 509 water supply schemes disrupted across the state as of Friday evening, according to the State Disaster Management Authority (SDMA).

According to SDMA, the disaster toll has climbed to 360 deaths since June 20, 2025, of which 197 fatalities were caused by rain-related incidents such as landslides, flash floods, cloudbursts, drowning, lightning strikes, and other weather-triggered mishaps. Another 163 people have lost their lives in road accidents during the same period.

The SDMA's cumulative report shows that monsoon-triggered disasters have left 426 people injured and caused the death of 1,440 animals, while 47 persons remain missing. The total economic loss has been estimated at over Rs 3,979.52 crores, with severe damage reported to both public and private infrastructures.



Weather clears in Mandi after incessant rainfall in several parts of the state, in Mandi. IMD has issued a Red Alert for Chamba, Kangra and Mandi for two days. (ANI)

Mandi district reported the highest number of rain-related fatalities (36), followed by Kangra (31), Kullu (20), Chamba (21), and Shimla (21). Landslides have claimed 37 lives, flash floods 9, cloudbursts 17, drowning incidents 33, electrocution and falls 15 each, and other causes 28 deaths, the SDMA noted.

“Restoration work on blocked roads, damaged water supply schemes, and disrupted power lines is being carried out on a war footing,” an SDMA spokesperson said, adding that the scale of damage to agricul-

ture, horticulture, and livestock this season has been unprecedented.

Earlier in the day, the Indian Air Force began the rescue operation of the devotees stranded in the Manimahesh Yatra.

Fifty pilgrims reached Chamba safely from Bharmour in the first flight of the Air Force's Chinook helicopter. The rescue operations are being conducted under the supervision of Himachal Pradesh minister Jagat Singh Negi. All devotees will be evacuated safely on Friday and will then be sent to their destinations.

Border dispute with China biggest security challenge: CDS General

TDG NETWORK
GORAKHPUR

Chief of Defence Staff General Anil Chauhan said on Friday that the border dispute with China is the biggest security challenge for India, and the second major challenge is Pakistan's proxy war.

Speaking at an event in Gorakhpur, the CDS referred to the security challenges being faced by India and those it will face in the future.

“One of the first challenges is regarding the boundary dispute...I consider the dispute with China as the biggest challenge. The second major challenge is Pakistan's proxy war with a strategy to 'bleed India by a thousand cuts'," he said.

“Another challenge is regarding the type of war to



CDS Gen Anil Chauhan – File photo

be fought. Everyone knows that war is changing. It is not just Navy, Army, and Air Force, but also space, cyber, electro-magnetic domain has been included too," he said.

The CDS said that people associate self-reliance only with defence production, but it should also be associated with defence research

“When we talk about national security, an important aspect of it is also self-reli-

ance. Most people associate self-reliance only with defence production, but it should also be associated with defence research and we should be self-reliant in it," he said.

The CDS said India and Pakistan learned different lessons after the Balakot operation, which was carried out by India in response to the Pulwama terror attack.

“India focused on long-range precision strike weapons and post-strike damage assessment, and Pakistan might have focused on its air defence...During the surgical strikes after the 2016 Uri terror attack, the Indian Army entered Pakistan by land and destroyed the terrorist camps. We conducted airstrikes in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa region after Pulwama attack.

India supports early end to Ukraine conflict: MEA

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

India on Friday said it supports an early end to the Ukraine conflict and return of an enduring peace in the region.

The comments by the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) came amid renewed push by Washington to end the war in Ukraine.

“As far as the conflict in Ukraine is concerned, we welcome all the recent efforts towards establishing peace in Ukraine,” MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said.

“We hope that all parties will proceed ahead constructively. India supports an early end of the conflict and the establishment of an enduring peace,” he said at his weekly media briefing. External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on Thursday discussed the Ukraine conflict with his

Beas River damages Kullu's Tibetan Colony security wall

Kullu : In the Kullu district of Himachal Pradesh, the security barriers safeguarding the Tibetan colony within the Municipal Council have sustained significant damage as a result of flooding from the Beas River.

The damage in Ward No. 7 has been affected due to the flood situation, residents said.

Local residents report that heavy rainfall triggered the floods, breaching the security wall and raising concerns about potential damage to the entire region. Pema, a local woman from the Tibetan community, shared that the relentless rains in the Kullu district caused a massive flood in the Beas River, which damaged the security wall near Tripti School in the Tibetan colony.

No one will be able to save BJP in UP in 2027: Akhilesh Yadav

TDG NETWORK
LUCKNOW

Samajwadi Party president Akhilesh Yadav on Wednesday accused the BJP of failing to deliver on its election promises and said removing it from power in Uttar Pradesh is essential to end injustice against the people.

“The BJP has lost the trust of the people. No one believes them anymore... In 2027, no one will be able to save the BJP government,” the former chief minister said while addressing party leaders and workers from various districts at the SP headquarters.

Yadav, according to a party statement, accused the BJP government of misusing power, suppressing the Constitution and failing on key fronts like employment, education and healthcare.

“Under the BJP government, innocents are being framed in false cases. The Constitution is being toyed with. Inflation, unemployment and corruption are at their peak, and the administration is being misused,” he alleged.

Yadav claimed that education and health systems have been destroyed.

“Removing the BJP from power in the state is essential to establish the rule of social justice and end injustice against the people,” he said.Criticising the Centre, Yadav questioned what people had gained during the BJP-led government's third term.

“What was achieved through demonetisation? Why has there been no development even in the Prime Minister's constituency? Everyone saw the horrific floods in Varanasi. BJP misled people with false dreams and pushed them to the brink of ruin,” he said.

Accusing the BJP of being an “exploitative party”, Yadav said it uses people and then discards them.

“By making GST complicated, the BJP has trapped trade and traders. Business has become difficult. The tax process should be simplified. This government has no solution for unemployment or inflation. Its



Samajwadi Party president Akhilesh Yadav. File Photo

‘Jugaad Aayog’: Akhilesh’s latest dig at Election Commission

Lucknow: Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav on Friday said that the BJP got 77 per cent of the votes polled in Kundarki bypoll, while the party's vote bank is only 26-36 per cent, as he insinuated a hand of the Election Commission behind the alleged discrepancy.

The bypoll results for the Kundarki Assembly Constituency were announced in November 2024. “If the data of Kundarki are considered, 77 per cent of the vote was bagged by them [BJP], while their vote bank is 26 per cent to 36 per cent.

They have some officials who are experts,” he told reporters here. “They have an electoral ‘tikdi’ [troika] -- officials, government, and the commission. It is being said that the commission is a ‘Jugaad Aayog’. If the ‘Jugaad Aayog’ is not co-operating, which is impartial, and should remain impartial, whom should we complain?” he said in a veiled attack on the Election Commission.

In November 2024, BJP's Ramveer Singh won the Kundarki Assembly Seat defeating Mohammad Rizwan, his nearest rival from the Samajwadi Party, by a margin of 1,44,791 votes, the Election Commission had said.

According to the EC, Ramveer Singh got 1,70,371 votes [76.71 per cent], while SP's Mohammad Rizwan stood a distant second, bagging 25,580 votes.

Chand Babu of Aazad Samaj Party (Kanshi Ram) came third, followed by AIMIM's Mohammad Varish. The SP chief said that his party workers are making continuous efforts to prevent any vote cutting.

“The BJP has given numerous work [to us] -- increase our votes, making efforts to see that [our] votes are not cut, casting of votes, safeguarding of votes, and then counting of votes. Our party is continuously working on this,” Yadav said.

agenda does not include jobs or employment. Outsourcing cannot provide a permanent solution to joblessness,” he said.

The SP leader also alleged that the BJP has not increased power production in nine years and has failed to deliver on promises.

“The BJP has lost the trust of the people. No one believes them anymore. People trust the Samajwadi

Party's policies and programmes. In our government, decisions were taken in the interest of farmers, youth and all sections of society. In 2027, no one will be able to save the BJP government,” he said.

Yadav said that the SP government would ensure justice, respect and development for every section of society, bringing prosperity to Uttar Pradesh.

Agreements signed with Kuki-Zo groups will be honoured: Manipur chief secretary

TDG NETWORK
IMPHA

Manipur Chief Secretary Puneet Kumar Goel on Friday said that agreements signed with Kuki-Zo groups will be honoured, while asserting that the government was making all efforts to restore normalcy in the ethnic strife-torn state.

Two prominent Kuki-Zo armed groups on Thursday signed a suspension of operations (SoO) agreement with the government on renegotiated terms and conditions under which they agreed on maintaining territorial integrity of Manipur, relocating designated camps



Manipur Chief Secretary Puneet Kumar Goel. File Photo

away from vulnerable areas and working for a solution to bring lasting peace and stability in the state. Besides, civil society group Kuki-Zo Council (KZC), following a series of meetings in New Delhi between its representatives and

officials of the Ministry of Home Affairs, decided to “re-open” the Dimapur-Imphal National Highway-2 for free movement of commuters and essential goods. It also gave a commitment to cooperate with central security forces to maintain peace along the road, officials said.

Meitei body COCOMI protested the signing of the SoO agreement, while Kuki-Zo organisations condemned the KZC for taking the decision to reopen the highway “unilaterally” without consulting other stakeholders. Speaking to reporters on the sidelines of a Teachers' Day function in Imphal, Goel said, “The government

is making all efforts to bring back normalcy in Manipur. Everything is on the paper... whatever agreement has been signed will be honoured.”

KZC's decision, however, has been condemned by several Kuki civil rights and armed organisations that iterated that “Meiteis will not be allowed to enter Kuki-majority areas”.

The Village Volunteers Coordination Committee (Eastern, Southern and Western Zone) condemned the “unilateral decision” of KZC and claimed it was taken “without any consultation with the general public or the primary stakeholders directly affected by the ongoing conflict”.

SC raps Allahabad HC for ‘cyclostyled’ orders on bail cancellation pleas

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

In a scathing order, the Supreme Court chastised the Allahabad High Court for passing “cyclostyled template orders” for last two years in at least 40 pleas for cancellation of bail by asking complainants to seek remedy under the Witness Protection Scheme, 2018.

“We have come across a catena of orders from the Allahabad High Court proceeding on an incorrect assumption of the law, more particularly that the Witness Protection Scheme is a substitute for cancellation of bail. According to the High



Court it is an alternative remedy,” a bench comprising Justices J B Pardiwala and Sandeep Mehta said.

The bench went on, “We are at pains to note that we came across at least 40 recent orders, that have been passed in the last one year alone, as per the records available from the official website of the Allahabad High Court.”

Interestingly, it was Justice Pardiwala-led which criticised Allahabad High Court judge Prashant Kumar for allowing criminal proceedings in a civil dispute case, and stripped him of criminal matters till retirement.

This contentious order was later modified apparently at the behest of Chief Justice B R Gavai.

In the case at hand, Justice Pardiwala passed a strongly-worded judgment and set aside an order of the High Court that refused to cancel the bail of an accused facing trial for a murder, and instead relegated the complainant to seek recourse under the Witness Protec-

tion Scheme.

Phirreram, the original complainant, sought the cancellation of bail of the accused on the ground that he breached the bail riders by threatening the witnesses of a murder case.

The high court declined to cancel the bail and instead directed the complainant to apply under the Witness Protection Scheme.

“We take notice of the fact that the High Court has passed a very curious order...The High Court says that the remedy with the appellant as an aggrieved person being the original first informant is under the Witness Protection Scheme.

Air India flight hit by technical snag makes priority landing at Indore

TDG NETWORK
INDORE

Air India Express flight 1028 operating from Delhi to Indore on Friday morning had to make a priority landing at Indore Airport after the pilot identified a technical snag, Air India Spokesperson confirmed.

“Due to a suspected oil filter issue during descent into Indore, following standard operating procedures,

the crew landed safely. Our pilots are well trained to carry out such precautionary measures.” An Air India Express Spokesperson said in a statement.

Earlier today, Odisha Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi's flight was diverted to Kolkata after it failed to land at Bhubaneswar airport due to inclement weather on Friday morning, according to Bhubaneswar

Airport Director Prasanna Pradhan.

Bhubaneswar Airport Director said, “Due to bad weather, the plane carrying Odisha CM Mohan Charan Majhi was diverted to Kolkata.”

He further said that the CM boarded the Air India flight (AI 473), which took off from Kolkata airport and landed at Bhubaneswar airport at 1:00 pm.



Earlier on Wednesday, an Air India Express flight

from Tiruchirappalli was delayed after it developed

a technical issue. An alternative aircraft was later arranged, and the flight departed for its destination.

“One of our flights from Tiruchirappalli could not operate due to a technical issue. An alternative aircraft was arranged, and the flight has since departed. Guests have been provided with meals and offered the choice of a full refund on cancellation or compli-

mentary rescheduling. We regret the inconvenience,” the spokesperson added.

On September 2, the Delhi-Indore Air India flight had returned to Delhi shortly after take-off. “Flight AI2913, operating from Delhi to Indore on 31 August, had air returned to Delhi shortly after take-off, as the cockpit crew had received a fire indication for the right engine. Following standard proce-

ture, the cockpit crew had shut down the engine and returned to Delhi, where the flight landed safely,” an Air India spokesperson said in a statement. “The crew had initially made a MAYDAY call to the air traffic control, but later downgraded it to PAN-PAN to indicate urgency rather than an emergency. We confirm that the flight had not made an emergency landing at Delhi.

MUMBAI ON ALERT AS POLICE GET THREAT OF '34 HUMAN BOMBS' ON ANANT CHATURDASHI

Mumbai Police received threat claiming bombs in 34 vehicles

TDG NETWORK
MUMBAI

Mumbai Police received a threatening message on the occasion of Anant Chaturdashi, sent to the official WhatsApp number of the city's traffic police. The message claimed that 34 vehicles in Mumbai had been planted with human bombs and that the city would shake after the blasts. The sender, identifying himself as a member of an organisation calling itself "Lashkar-e-Jihadi," further alleged that 14 Pakistani terrorists had already infiltrated India.

Mumbai Police said, "Traffic Police in Mumbai received threats over their official WhatsApp number. In the threat, a claim has been made that 34 'human bombs' have been planted in 34 vehicles across the city, and the blast

THREAT

Mumbai Traffic Police got a WhatsApp message from a group calling itself *Lashkar-e-Jihadi*, claiming 34 vehicles were planted with "human bombs" and 14 Pakistani terrorists had infiltrated India.

- The message also warned of 400 kg of RDX being used in blasts to cause massive destruction.
- Mumbai Police heightened security across the city and launched a thorough investigation, checking all possible angles.
- The threat coincides with Anant Chaturdashi (Sept 6, 2025), the concluding day of Ganeshotsav, when idols are immersed in grand processions.



Mumbai Police on high alert after WhatsApp bomb threat ahead of Anant Chaturdashi (Photo courtesy X)

will shake the entire Mumbai. The organisation, claiming to be 'Lashkar-e-Jihadi', says that 14 Pakistani terrorists have entered India". The threat also warned

that 400 kilograms of RDX would be used in the explosion, which could take many lives.

Following the message, Mumbai Police have height-

ened security across the city and launched an investigation into the threat from all possible angles.

Police said, "The threat message further states that

400 kgs of RDX will be used in the blast. Mumbai Police is alert, and security across the state has been enhanced. All angles of the threat are being investigated."

The 10-day Ganeshotsav festival begins on Ganesh Chaturthi, which falls in the Bhadrpada month of the Hindu calendar, and concludes with elaborate immersion processions on Anant Chaturdashi.

On the day of Anant Chaturdashi, the idol is carried in a public procession accompanied by music and group chanting, and then immersed in a nearby body of water, such as a river or sea, during the Ganesh Visarjan ceremony, marking the end of the grand celebration.

This year, the festival of Anant Chaturdashi will be celebrated on Saturday, September 6, 2025.

Telangana seeks Rs 16,000 crore aid after heavy rains



Telangana CM Revanth Reddy (File Photo/ANI)

In view of the recent heavy rains that caused loss of crops, property, and human life in Telangana, a delegation from the Telangana Government urged the Union Government on Thursday to extend immediate financial assistance of Rs 16,000 crore, stated a release.

The delegation, led by Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka, included the state Agriculture Minister Thumala Nageswar Rao, Special Representative of the Telangana Government in New Delhi A.P. Jithender Reddy, and senior officials. They met Union Home Minister Amit Shah at his official residence in New Delhi and submitted a detailed memorandum.

Explaining the unprecedented rainfall in the state from August 25 to 28, the

ministers highlighted the large-scale devastation and damage to infrastructure.

Rainfall recorded so far in the monsoon season has been 25 per cent above normal, with eight districts recording excess rainfall ranging between 65 per cent and 95 per cent. Continuous rains have caused heavy losses to government and private property, crops, livestock, and human lives.

The ministers also informed that the State Government has mobilised all available resources to carry out relief measures.

Seven NDRF teams, fifteen SDRF teams, and around 100 Army personnel are actively engaged in rescue and relief operations. Field-level monitoring helped in minimising the loss of human lives.

However, over the past 72 hours, the intense rains have severely damaged roads, railway tracks, culverts, electric poles, transformers, and other infrastructure, disrupting everyday life across the state. The delegation appealed to the Union Home Minister to declare this a national disaster.

They also requested that a Central Government team be deputed to visit the flood-affected areas and assess the damage firsthand.

According to preliminary estimates, 22 people have lost their lives so far. Loss of livestock, crop damage, and house damage are still being assessed.

Bad decision being corrected: Aaditya Thackeray over GST rationalisation hype

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

Shiv Sena (UBT) leader Aaditya Thackeray on Friday slammed the Modi government, saying that GST rationalisation was a "bad decision being corrected" and instead of being apologetic, it is "arrogantly being marketed as a gift".

The GST rationalisation and simplification was announced by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on September 3. Aaditya Thackeray said that the government had imposed wrong GST structure and had sought to correct it. He said that rationalisation is not a reform and hoped the states will get their dues "without political bias".

"A wrongly imposed GST pattern, the entire making and mistake of the BJP Union Government, now when corrected... The government spends



ANI Photo | Aaditya Thackeray accuses government of marketing GST rationalization "as gift"

crores on marketing as a "gift" to the citizens! A bad decision being corrected after making a dent, not being apologised for, but arrogantly being marketed as a gift is as absurd as it can get!"

"It isn't a reform, it is wrong deci-

sion making and bad governance seeing a tiny correction without apology! At least now I hope that the Union Government will give back the States their dues in time, without political bias!" he added.

The 56th GST Council meeting decided to rationalise GST rates largely to two slabs of 5 per cent and 18 per cent by merging 2 per cent and 28 per cent rates.

Earlier in the day, Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said that the foremost priority of the government is to ensure that the benefits of the GST tax reforms reach all the people of the country.

Union Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal addressed a press conference at the BJP headquarters and termed the GST reforms as a "streamlined taxation", crediting Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership over the decision.

Karnataka Dy CM questions BJP's worry over ballot paper use in local body polls

TDG NETWORK
BENGALURU

Karnataka Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar on Friday questioned the BJP for expressing reservations about the use of ballot papers in local body elections. Speaking to reporters at his Sadashivanagar residence, he said, "To use ballot papers in local body elections is the decision of the government of Karnataka. Why is the BJP worried about it? The state government is empowered to conduct local body elections. Why is the BJP getting jittery about this?"

Reacting to the use of ballot papers in the BBMP elec-



Karnataka Dy CM DK Shivakumar (File Photo / ANI)

tions by the government, he said that the government has taken this decision for the local body elections.

In the wake of farmers protesting against land acquisition for the Greater Bengaluru Integrated Township, he said that 82 per cent of farmers have given consent

to land acquisition.

He said, "They are my people. They are our farmers. I have the right to talk to them. I also know which party some of the farmers belonged to. As many as 82 percent of farmers have consented to land acquisition, and only 18 percent are opposing it. We have given very good compensation to our farmers."

"We have to keep the entire state in mind while deciding the compensation and hence we can't give more compensation. If the project was not needed, Yediyurappa or Kumaraswamy could have cancelled it. I did not notify this project and moreover we can't de-

notify the project until the Supreme Court gives its final orders. They can get it done from the court," he added.

He further said that the cabinet had approved the withdrawal of several cases against those who were fighting for the language, farmers and the state.

"We have also closed cases against supporters of the BJP and the Congress. We have also closed glass cases filed against my followers. BJP had also filed cases against me and the CM during Covid. We have withdrawn cases filed against those who were fighting for the language, farmers and the state," he said.

Tamil Nadu will never accept 3-language policy: Udhayanidhi

TDG NETWORK
CHENNAI

Tamil Nadu Deputy Chief Minister Udhayanidhi Stalin on Friday reiterated that the State will never accept the three-language policy. He was delivering the presidential address and presenting the Dr. Radhakrishnan Award at a government function organized by the School Education Department in the Anna Centenary Library Auditorium here.

"Tamil Nadu will never accept the three-language policy. The two-language system is more than sufficient," Udhayanidhi Stalin said.

The three-language row has created a stalemate between the centre and the Tamil Nadu government over the implementation of the National Education Policy (NEP) of 2020, with the DMK government labelling the three-language policy as a "safronise pol-



ANI Photo | Tamil Nadu will never accept three-language policy: Udhayanidhi Stalin

icy" aimed at promoting Hindi rather than developing India.

Centre withheld funds worth of crores under the Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) to Tamil Nadu over the State's refusal to implement key aspects of NEP 2020, particularly the three-language formula.

In May this year, Tamil Nadu government filed an original suit in the Supreme Court accusing the Centre of stopping its annual share of crucial education funds to the tune of over 2000-

crore under the Samagra Shiksha Scheme.

Tamil Nadu's refusal to implement key aspects of NEP 2020, particularly the three-language formula, has resulted in the Centre withholding Rs 573 crore in central education assistance under the Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA).

Udhayanidhi Stalin emphasized the transformative role of education in rural areas.

"Earlier, when we visited villages, people would point out a house saying, 'this is the teacher's house.' Today, they proudly say, 'this is the doctor's house, this is the judge's house.' That shows how far education has spread into rural communities," he said.

Highlighting the crucial contribution of teachers, Udhayanidhi said, "From the mid-day meal scheme to all special welfare programs, the credit goes to teachers."

AIADMK workers should to unite to defeat DMK: Sasikala

TDG NETWORK
CHENNAI

V.K. Sasikala, a close aide of Tamil Nadu's late former Chief Minister Jayalalithaa, on Friday said that AIADMK leader K A Sengottaiyan's call for unity in the party is "now the voice of every single party worker."

Earlier in the day, Sengottaiyan called for the induction of the expelled leaders, including V K Sasikala, O Panneerselvam, and T T V Dhinakaran, into the party, arguing that it is necessary for the party to win election.

"Our senior leader and party legislator, beloved brother Sengottaiyan, has proven that the AIADMK is an indestructible force that no power can erase. He has stood firmly with the party through many testing times. He has shown that what runs through

his veins is nothing but the blood of the AIADMK. His call for unity is now the voice of every single party worker and indeed, the voice of the people of Tamil Nadu. I too strongly emphasize this," Sasikala, former interim general secretary of the AIADMK, said in a statement.

She said that to defeat the "conspiracies of the DMK", every AIADMK party worker must come together in unity.

"As long as there are true loyalists like our beloved brother Sengottaiyan, no matter what evil forces like the DMK attempt, their sinister designs will never succeed. To defeat the conspiracies of the DMK, every party worker must come together in unity. This movement, built by our two great leaders, is like a mighty flood no dam can ever hold it back," she said.

Daman MP urges SC for probe into secretariat renovation

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

Daman and Diu's Lok Sabha MP approached the Supreme Court seeking a Special Investigating Team (SIT) probe into the allegations of financial irregularities in the handling of funds for the Daman Secretariat building by the officials of the Union Territory.

Lok Sabha MP Umeshbhai Babubhai Patel urged the apex court to monitor the SIT investigation and also sought to direct the Centre to register an FIR regarding the allegations. The petition, filed on Thursday, claimed that financial irregularities were committed by the official of the Administration of Daman and Diu in the renovation, demolition and restoration of the Union Territory Secretariat Building at Daman.

The plea said that a tender was floated in October 2020 for the renovation of the Daman Secretariat with an esti-



Representative Image

mated cost of Rs 23.34 crores. A subsequent tender was issued in September 2022 to demolish the front side of the same building for around 3.80 lakh. In 2023, another tender was issued for the restoration and renovation of the same building, with an estimated cost of Rs 12.58 crores.

The petitioner filed a complaint with the Lokpal of India for the misuse of public money allegedly by Praful Khoda Patel, Administrator of the UT, Gaurav Singh Rajawat, Finance Secretary

of UT and Saurabh Mishra, Collector, Daman.

The Lokpal ordered the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) to conduct a preliminary inquiry regarding allegations of financial irregularities in the handling of said funds.

After the CBI submitted the report, the Lokpal, on August 21, 2025, dropped the action against the public servant named in the complaint but agreed that there had been a financial loss suffered by the public exchequer in the process, according to the plea.

BRS strongly condemns irrational allegations made by Kavitha: MLC Sravan

TDG NETWORK
HYDERABAD

Bharat Rashtia Samithi (BRS) MLC Dasoju Sravan strongly condemned the irrational and baseless allegations made by K Kavitha against BRS leaders Harish Rao, Satish Rao, and the party.

On September 1, K Kavitha, while reacting to the Telangana government's decision

to order a CBI probe into the Kaleshwaram project, alleged that any taint on KCR's image regarding the Kaleshwaram issue is due to BRS leaders Harish Rao and Santosh Rao, accusing them of conspiring against her and KCR. Kavitha was suspended from the party after her remarks against Harish Rao and Santosh Rao. She has also resigned from the MLC position.

While speaking to ANI,



MLC Dasoju Sravan (File Photo)

BRS MLC Dasoju Sravan said, "BRS strongly condemns the irrational, baseless allegations made by K Kavitha against our leader Harish Rao and the party. We failed to understand what was going on in the mind of Kavitha. Not sure if she is able to think deeply and make these statements, or succumbed to somebody's pressure to talk like this."

Sravan further said that Ka-

vitha must realise that every word she speaks is targeting "supremo KCR". "If Kavitha says that Harish Rao has done some kind of conspiracies or some kind of backdoor activities, you are indirectly saying that K. Chandrashekar Rao is not recognising and evaluating what Harish Rao is doing, but on the contrary, Kavitha is also aware that Harish is the backbone of the party and the only asset of the

party," he added.

Sravan, praising Harish Rao's work in the recently held assembly meeting, said, "He defended the role of KCR in the Kaleshwaram project and exposed the misdeeds of Revanth Reddy's government, particularly the pitfalls of the Ghose committee report. He has done a fabulous job."

He further said that in the time when the BJP and

Congress are targeting BRS and K. Chandrashekar Rao, her duty should have been to be there and to protect the party. "Instead of that, you joined the wagon to attack the BRS party. Kavitha thinks she is attacking Harish Rao, but she is actually weakening KCR," he added. Moreover, Sravan said that KCR is the father of K Kavitha, who gave her everything, including a politi-

cal career, name, fame, and everything.

On the press conference that Kavitha held yesterday, he said, "In the press conferences that she has held, all the issues that she raised have nothing to do with people...they appear to be only personal issues or any kind of internal power-related issues that are not related to the people of Telangana."

FROM VILLAGE SCHOLAR TO PHILOSOPHER-PRESIDENT

After assuming the presidency in 1962, Radhakrishnan was asked to celebrate his birthday on 5 September; he declined and replied that it would be his “proud privilege” if that date were observed as Teachers’ Day instead.

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan (born Sept 5, 1888, Thirutani) grew up in a modest Telugu Brahmin family; his father hoped he'd be a temple priest, but scholarships carried him to Madras Christian College at sixteen, graduating with honors in 1907. A cousin's discarded philosophy textbooks diverted him from mathematics “by chance rather than choice,” sparking a thesis on Vedantic ethics at twenty and a lifelong defense of Indian thought. By his early thirties he was publishing widely, from *The Philosophy of Rabindranath Tagore* (1918) to the two-volume *Indian Philosophy* (1923–27), establishing him internationally. In 1936 he became the first Indian to hold an Oxford chair—the Spalding Professorship of Eastern Religions and Ethics—while also lecturing abroad (e.g., the 1930 Haskell Lectures at Chicago). For all the eminence, he remained approachable, famed for quick, clarifying wit. As a teacher he inspired unusual devotion: on leaving the University of Mysore, students pulled his carriage to the railway station—a farewell of pure affection.

FAMILY AND PERSONAL LIFE

While Radhakrishnan's public life as a scholar and leader is well documented, his personal life was more private and is less widely discussed. In 1903, at the very young age of 15, he was married to Sivakamu, a distant cousin (she was only ten at the time, in keeping with the customs of that era). Despite the marriage's early start, it proved enduring and supportive. Sivakamu was a steady presence by Radhakrishnan's side for over five decades, until her death in 1956. The couple had five daughters and one son. Their son, Sarvepalli Gopal, would later become a prominent historian in his own right, indicating the scholarly atmosphere of the family. Radhakrishnan's family life was not without difficulties and complexities. He came from humble origins and, as he rose in stat-



Vice President of India Dr Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan with his family members on his 66th birthday, in New Delhi on September 5, 1954. Wikimedia Commons

ure, he carried the weight of supporting an extended family. There is evidence that he faced some personal estrangements: for instance, he maintained a formal distance from his mother for much of his adult life, a decision rooted in complicated family circumstances. He also endured the loss of his wife in his later years, which he poignantly described as “*the end of a long chapter*.” A close bond with his son Gopal helped sustain him through those trials. Gopal, who wrote a candid biography of his father, remarked that Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan “*throughout a long life had never been guilty of a mean deed; and it is unlikely that he ever had a mean thought*.” This loving tribute from his son suggests that, whatever personal shortcomings he may have had, Radhakrishnan was fundamentally a man of integrity and good heart.

Those who knew Radhakrishnan personally often commented on his simple lifestyle and self-discipline. Even at the height of his fame, he was austere in his habits. He cared little for luxury or leisure travel. In fact, friends joked that he never took time to sightsee even when abroad – after numerous trips through Egypt, he never bothered to visit the Pyramids, for example. He preferred to spend free hours quietly at home with a book, finding joy in intellectual pursuits and the company of family. He once half-jestly described his home as a “*caravanserai*,” a mere waystation, reflecting his philosophical view that in the grand scheme of things all of us are but

travelers in the world. This blend of humility and subtle humor in his private outlook meshed perfectly with his public persona.

PHILOSOPHER-STATESMAN: POLITICAL CONNECTIONS AND IDEOLOGY

Radhakrishnan was an academic by background and temperament, yet he became an influential figure in Indian public life during a crucial period of the nation's history. In 1947, as India gained independence, he was drawn into service by leaders who trusted his wisdom and non-partisan stature. Although he had not been active in the freedom struggle or a member of the dominant Congress Party, Radhakrishnan's reputation led to his inclusion in the Constituent Assembly of India – the body that drafted independent India's constitution. Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru in particular saw great value in Radhakrishnan. As Nehru once put it, Dr. Radhakrishnan was “*the symbol of India*” – a scholar-statesman embodying the country's civilization and its hopes.

In 1949, Nehru persuaded Radhakrishnan to accept a crucial diplomatic posting as India's Ambassador to the Soviet Union. It was a surprising choice to many – sending a philosopher to handle one of India's most delicate foreign relationships – but Radhakrishnan excelled. He had an astute grasp of world affairs and a talent for communication that transcended cultural barriers. In Moscow, he patiently worked to dispel Soviet skepticism about India's independence. Fluent in the language of idealism and pragmatism alike, he engaged the Soviet leadership in discussions not only of politics but also of culture and philosophy. His efforts helped lay the groundwork for a friendly Indo-Soviet relationship in the decades to come. After completing this mission, Radhakrishnan returned home in 1952 to be elected as India's first Vice-President. For ten years he presided over the Rajya Sabha (the upper house of Parliament), bringing dignity and wisdom to parliamentary debates. Colleagues recall how he used his wit and erudition to diffuse tense moments in the chamber. When Radhakrishnan was elevated to the presidency in 1962, Nehru bade him farewell from the legislature by saying that under

Dr. Radhakrishnan's guidance “*you have made this a rather unique place and converted it into a family... Henceforth you will preside over the nation itself*.”

As the second President of India (1962–1967), Radhakrishnan continued to apply his philosophical outlook to matters of state. He saw his role as being above daily politics – a guide and conscience-keeper for the nation. By all accounts, he was a respected, non-controversial head of state, known for his intellect and moral standing. He acted as a mentor to statesmen of all parties. Lal Bahadur Shastri, who became Prime Minister in 1964, and Indira Gandhi, who succeeded Shastri in 1966, both benefited from Radhakrishnan's grandfatherly counsel. Indira Gandhi later reflected on

for all faiths. As chairman of the first Indian Education Commission in 1948, he argued that education in a secular state must still teach moral and spiritual values drawn from all the great world religions. “*To be secular is not to be religiously illiterate*,” Radhakrishnan wrote, “*It is to be deeply spiritual and not narrowly religious*.” In his view, India's pluralistic society could be a beacon to the world by affirming unity in diversity. He also believed in balancing tradition with progress: Radhakrishnan saw no contradiction between scientific, economic development and the inner development of the human spirit. “*We have to provide the material conditions of life... food, clothing and shelter – we believe in control and planning*,” he said, “*So far as the art of living is concerned... we*



Photograph of Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan presented to First Lady Jacqueline Kennedy in 1962. Wikimedia Commons.

Radhakrishnan's contribution, saying it was “*our good fortune to have him as Vice-President for ten years and as President for five years. As a statesman, he had a developed understanding of all the practical problems of nation-building, and contributed significantly to the consolidation of our political traditions*.” Coming from the usually skeptical Indira, this was high praise indeed, indicating the regard he earned across the political spectrum.

Despite his elevation to high office, Radhakrishnan's core convictions remained those of a philosopher and humanist. He strongly advocated for a secular but spiritually informed ethos in India. Importantly, he interpreted “*secularism*” not as a rejection of religion, but as a stance of equal respect

believe in absolute freedom.” This synthesis of planning with personal freedom was reflective of his broader philosophy that sought harmony between opposites.

On the international stage, President Radhakrishnan was an eloquent spokesman for peace and cooperation. He traveled widely and addressed forums like the United Nations, where his speeches drew on both Western democratic ideals and Eastern philosophical wisdom. During a visit to the United States, he charmed audiences with his depth of knowledge of Jefferson and Lincoln, even as he gently reminded Americans that political freedom must lead to social justice. Likewise, he urged Soviet leaders to grant more intellectual and spiritual freedoms, fa-



President John F Kennedy with then Indian President Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan, in the Oval Office. This public-domain photograph comes from an official government record. Wikimedia Commons.



Gamal Abdel Nasser Hussein, an Egyptian military officer receiving the Radhakrishnan. Wikimedia Commons.

mously toasting to a “new emphasis on intellectual and spiritual values” during a 1964 visit to Moscow. His global stature as a philosopher-statesman was such that Bertrand Russell – the renowned British mathematician and philosopher – remarked upon Radhakrishnan's rise to the presidency as “*an honor to*

ed with an impromptu parable: God, he said, first undercooked the human “pancake,” yielding underdone, pale Europeans – and on the second try he overcooked it into the darker Africans – but on the third try he got it just right, producing the nicely browned Indians. Such stories circulated widely, exemplifying

deprecating jokes. One of his college friends, a man named Usman, had a career that oddly kept crossing Radhakrishnan's path. Years later, Radhakrishnan recounted their trajectory with a chuckle: “*Usman was my senior in college, then became my classmate, and later my junior. When I was a professor, he was my Vice-Chancellor. When I became Vice-Chancellor, Usman was my Chancellor*.” Without directly saying so, the amusing chronology pointed out how titles and positions can sometimes tell a misleading story about merit – a subtle dig at how some less capable people manage to end up in high posts above their betters. In private and public, Radhakrishnan's humor was most often directed not to hurt but to enlighten. He believed that great people need not scold; they could convey truths “*delicately*,” as he did even when critiquing India's own shortcomings. For example, after a less-than-successful eye surgery in India left him half-blind in one eye, Radhakrishnan joked that he would go to Britain for the second eye's operation because “*here I was made Shukracharya (the one-eyed guru); if they operate on my other eye as poorly, I fear becoming Dhritarashtra (the blind king)*!”. Through a witty reference to Indian mythology, he conveyed a pointed criticism of medical standards without any rancor.

Radhakrishnan's legacy spans scholarship and statecraft: a pioneering comparativist (*Indian Philosophy, The Idealist View of Life*) and a secular, education-first President. He turned his birthday into India's Teachers' Day. Despite occasional controversy, honors—from the Bharat Ratna to the Templeton Prize, which he donated to Oxford—affirmed his stature. Above all, colleagues remembered a humane teacher whose wit and integrity continue to inspire.

Beyond his scholarly and political accomplishments, many of the most charming and instructive stories about Radhakrishnan come from recollections of his wit and quirky sense of humor.

philosophy... I, as a philosopher, take special pleasure in this.” It was indeed remarkable that a lifelong teacher and thinker had become the titular leader of the world's largest democracy. Radhakrishnan's presidency symbolized the value India placed on knowledge and wisdom.

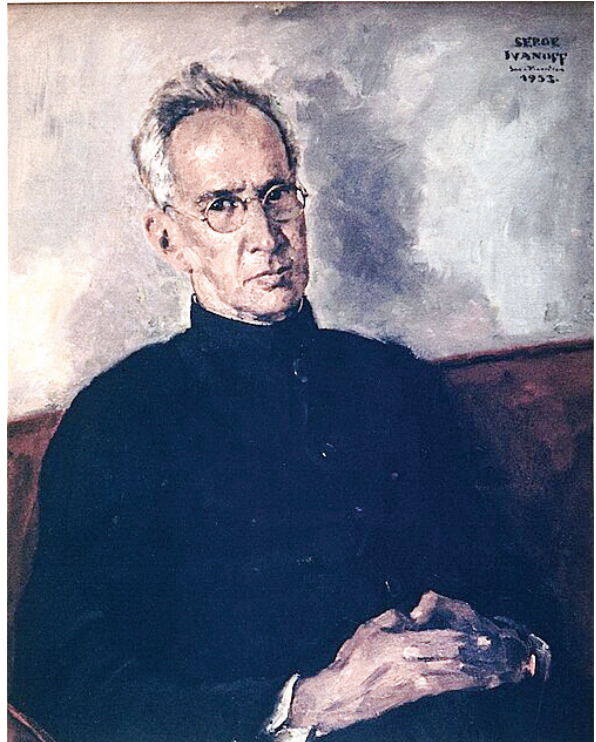
LEGACY

Beyond his scholarly and political accomplishments, many of the most charming and instructive stories about Radhakrishnan come from recollections of his wit and quirky sense of humor. He had an endless supply of anecdotes and a sharp, playful way of making a point. For instance, when the King of Greece paid a state visit to India in 1962, President Radhakrishnan welcomed him by cheerfully observing, “*Your Majesty, you are the first King of Greece to come to India as our guest; Alexander came uninvited!*”. The gentle barb broke the ice in the room with laughter, while also slyly alluding to Alexander the Great's ancient invasion of India. On another occasion, during a friendly banter, a British official made a patronizing remark that God gave white people a superior place. Radhakrishnan chuckled and respond-

how Radhakrishnan could counter bigotry with quick wit and a smile.

Even Mahatma Gandhi, who was two decades Radhakrishnan's senior, felt the sting of the younger man's logical ripostes in a friendly exchange. When they first met around 1915, Gandhi was espousing his early views on diet and medicine. Gandhi implored Radhakrishnan not to drink cow's milk, calling it “the essence of beef.” The ever-rational professor quipped, “*In that case we are all cannibals – for we drink our mother's milk, which is the essence of human flesh!*”. Gandhi, taken aback by the clever argument, soon countered with another point about nature healing without doctors, to which Radhakrishnan replied that many creatures still die without medical care. Observing this lively back-and-forth, their mutual friend wryly reminded Gandhi, “*Don't you know he is a professor of logic?*”. The story shows Radhakrishnan's combination of respect and irreverence – even as a young man he did not hesitate to debate the Mahatma with facts and reason, yet it was done in a spirit of good humor.

Those close to Radhakrishnan also remember his penchant for self-



A 1953 painted portrait of a distinguished scholar and statesman by artist Serge Ivanoff, created while he served in high office. Wikimedia Commons.

ISRAEL STRIKES HIGH-RISE BUILDING AS IT SETS SIGHTS ON TAKING OVER GAZA CITY

AGENCIES
DEIR AL-BALAH

Israel struck a high-rise building in Gaza City on Friday after warning residents to evacuate, as the military stepped up operations aimed at seizing control of the city of some 1 million Palestinians that experts say is experiencing famine.

The military accused Hamas militants of using other high-rises in the city for surveillance and planned ambushes, and said it would carry out “precise, targeted strikes” on militant infrastructure in the coming days.

Israel has begun mobilizing tens of thousands of reservists and repeating evacuation warnings as part of its plan to widen its offensive, which has sparked opposition domestically and condemnation abroad.

Palestinians said Friday’s strike targeted the Mushtaha tower in Rimal, an upscale neighborhood before the war. Gaza City resident Ahmed al-Boari



Israel strikes high-rise building as it sets sights on taking over Gaza City

Pope Leo XIV, Israel’s president meet

ROME: Pope Leo XIV and his top diplomats told Israel’s president Thursday that a two-state solution was the “only way out of the war,” as the Vatican called for a permanent ceasefire in Gaza, the release of all hostages and entry of humanitarian aid to famine-stricken Palestinians there. The Vatican issued an



unusually detailed statement following Leo’s meeting with Israeli President Isaac Herzog, who also met with the Vatican secretary of state

Cardinal Pietro Parolin and foreign minister, Archbishop Paul Gallagher. Herzog, for his part, said he had asked Leo to meet with families of the hostages, and called for intensified international efforts to secure their release. The audience marked the first by history’s first American pope with the Israeli head of state.

said people fleeing Israeli operations elsewhere in

the city had sought shelter in and around the building.

Satellite imagery showed a large number of tents

nearby.

It was not immediately clear if anyone was wounded or killed in the strike.

Israel said it struck the building because it was used by Hamas for surveillance. Photos of the building taken before Friday’s strike showed that its roof was already heavily damaged from earlier raids.

Israel has declared Gaza City, in the north of the territory, to be a combat zone. Parts of the city are already considered “red zones” where Palestinians have been ordered to evacuate ahead of expected heavy fighting.

That has left residents on edge, including many who returned after fleeing the city in the initial stages of the war, which has already displaced around 90% of the territory’s population.

The offensive has also sparked widespread protests among Israelis who fear it will endanger hostages still held in Gaza, some of whom are believed to be in Gaza City.

There are 48 hostages still held in Gaza, 20 of

NASA



47 Tucanae: Globular Star Cluster. NASA

Kim assures Xi of North Korea’s support for China’s sovereignty

AGENCIES
BEIJING

North Korean leader Kim Jong Un has assured Chinese President Xi Jinping that Pyongyang will back Beijing in defending its sovereignty, territorial integrity and development interests, Al Jazeera reported.

The bilateral meeting between Xi and Kim on Thursday came just a day after the North Korean leader joined Russian President Vladimir Putin and Xi at a massive military parade in Beijing marking 80 years since the end of World War II.

The parade showcased China’s latest stealth fighters, tanks and ballistic missiles in a highly choreographed display, according to Al Jazeera.

In an article published on Friday by North Korea’s state-run Korean Central News Agency (KCNA), Kim was quoted as saying, “No matter how the international situation changes, the feeling of friendship cannot change” between Pyongyang and Beijing.

“The DPRK [Democratic People’s Republic of Korea] will as ever invariably support and encourage the stand and efforts of the Communist Party of China and the government of the People’s Republic of China to defend the sovereignty, territorial integrity and development interests of the state,” Kim told Xi, according to KCNA.

Xi, in turn, said China



North Korean leader Kim Jong meet Chinese President Xi Jinping

and North Korea are “good neighbours, good friends and good comrades” that share “one destiny,” adding he was willing to “defend, consolidate and develop” the countries’ ties, Al Jazeera reported. KCNA confirmed that Kim departed Beijing on Thursday, concluding his first trip outside North Korea since meeting Putin in Russia in 2023. Top-ranking Chinese Communist Party officials - including Cai Qi and Foreign Minister Wang Yi - attended a send-off ceremony for the North Korean leader. The meeting came against the backdrop of deepening coordination among Beijing, Moscow and Pyongyang. On Wednesday, Kim, Putin and Xi held two-and-a-half hours of discussions on “long-term” cooperation plans, Al Jazeera said. Putin and Kim also met separately, with both praising their growing military partnership. Seemingly unsettled by the gathering, United States President Donald Trump

posted on Truth Social: “Please give my warmest regards to Vladimir Putin, and Kim Jong Un, as you conspire against The United States of America.” A Kremlin aide dismissed the remarks, saying “no one even had this in their thoughts.” Putin later sent Kim a congratulatory message for North Korea’s foundation day, writing: “Your combat force’s heroic involvement in liberating the Kursk territories from the invaders is a distinct symbol of friendship and mutual aid between Russia and North Korea.” He added, “I am confident that we will continue to work together to consolidate the comprehensive strategic partnership between our two countries,” according to KCNA. North Korea has controversially dispatched thousands of soldiers to the Russian region of Kursk and supplied artillery ammunition and missiles to Moscow in support of its war against Ukraine, Al Jazeera reported.

New Ebola outbreak in Congo suspected of causing 15 deaths

AGENCIES
DAKAR

A new Ebola outbreak in Congo is suspected of causing 15 deaths among 28 people with symptoms, the health ministry in the central African country said Thursday.

It’s the 16th outbreak of Ebola in Congo, and Health Minister Samuel-Roger Kamba said the fatality rate, estimated at 53.6%, showed the gravity of the situation.

The confirmed case was of a 34-year-old pregnant woman in the locality of Boulapé, in southern Kasai province. Research on the suspected cases was ongoing. “To date, the provisional report shows 28 suspected cases and 15 deaths, including 14 in Boulapé and 1 in Mweka, as well as four



health care workers,” Kamba said. The suspected cases and deaths presented symptoms such as fever, vomiting, diarrhea and heavy bleeding.

The World Health Organization said it dispatched its experts alongside Congo’s Rapid Response Team to Kasai province to strengthen disease surveillance, treatment and infection prevention and control in health

facilities. It is also delivering supplies including personal protective equipment, mobile laboratory equipment and medical supplies. Congo has a stockpile of treatments and of the Ervebo Ebola vaccine, WHO said. “We’re acting with determination to rapidly halt the spread of the virus and protect communities,” said Dr. Mohamed Janabi, WHO regional director for Africa.

Sri Lanka bus crash leaves 15 dead

AGENCIES
COLOMBO

At least 15 people were killed and another 15 injured in a road mishap in the Badulla District of Uva Province, southern



15 people were killed and another 15 injured in Badulla District of Uva Province

Sri Lanka, police said on Friday.

A group of over 30 people were on a pleasure trip from the southern town of

Tangalle when their bus went down a precipice over 1000 feet around in the Ella town around 9 pm local time on Thursday.

The bus had collided with an oncoming jeep before hitting the road railing and

going down.

The dead include nine women. They all were employees of the Tangalle Urban Council.

WHO chief says the mpox in Africa is no longer a health emergency

AGENCIES
GENEVA

The World Health Organization no longer considers the mpox outbreak in Africa to be an international health emergency, the U.N. agency’s director said Friday.

The new form of mpox emerged in early 2024 in Congo and neighboring African countries, spread through close contact in-



cluding sex. WHO declared it a global health emergency in August of last year.

WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus told reporters Friday

that an emergency panel created after the outbreak has advised that the situation is no longer an international emergency, and “I have accepted that advice.”

WHO’s international emergency declaration, the agency’s highest level of warning about threatening health issues, triggers the release of resources and enhanced public awareness campaigns among other measures.

Pakistan PM signs \$8.5 billion in investment deals with China

AGENCIES
ISLAMABAD

Pakistan signed \$8.5 billion in new investment agreements with China during a visit to Beijing by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, Pakistan’s state media reported Friday.

The accords finalized Thursday in the Chinese capital city include \$7 billion in a memoranda of understanding and \$1.5 bil-



lion in joint ventures covering agriculture, renewable energy, electric vehicles,

health, steel and other sectors.

Sharif travelled to Beijing this week for the annual summit of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization and met with Chinese leaders on the sidelines.

Sharif unveiled the next phase of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor at the conference, vowing to cut bureaucratic hurdles to speed up projects. In tele-

vised remarks, he assured Chinese investors that his government would enhance security for their workers.

CPEC includes building and improving roads and rail systems to link western China’s Xinjiang region to Pakistan’s Gwadar port on the Arabian sea. It is part of Xi’s Belt and Road Initiative to increase trade by building infrastructure around the world.

Imran Khan’s nephew Shershah Khan gets bail in May 9 riots case in Pakistan

AGENCIES
LAHORE

An anti-terrorism court (ATC) in Lahore on Thursday granted bail to Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder Imran Khan’s nephew, Shershah Khan, in a case linked to the May 9, 2023, Jinnah House attack, Dawn reported.

Shershah, son of Imran’s sister Aleema Khan, was arrested by Lahore Police on August 22 outside his home. He was placed on a five-day physical remand and later sent to jail for 14 days on August 28, Dawn added.

The development comes a day after Shershah’s triath-

lete brother, Shahrez Khan, was also granted bail in a similar case. Shahrez was taken into custody on August 21, handed over to police for eight days, and later released on bail from Kot Lakpat Jail, Dawn reported.

During Thursday’s hearing, Advocate Rana Mudassar Umer, representing Shershah, argued that the prosecution had yet to present the case record.

“No one knows when the trial will begin. Therefore, the suspect cannot be kept in jail for an unlimited period,” Umer told the court, asserting that “no evidence” had been produced against



his client.

“The suspect was not involved in any riots,” he added. “Someone cannot

be implicated [in a case] just based on one suspect’s identification of him.”

Pointing out that Shershah

was arrested 28 months after the May 9 incidents, Umer alleged, “Vindictive actions are being taken be-

cause of being a part of the PTI founder’s family.”

He also claimed that the cane allegedly recovered from Shershah was “planted” and cited the discharge of PTI’s Dr Yasmin Rashid by the same ATC based on a co-suspect’s statement.

Subsequently, ATC Judge Manzer Ali Gill approved Shershah’s post-arrest bail against a surety bond of Rs100,000 and ordered his release, if not required in any other case, Dawn reported.

Umer, on X, described the bail as a “result of teamwork” of the lawyers, while Shershah’s lawyer, Barrister

Taimur Malik, confirmed the approval on the platform.

Referring to the bail of both brothers, their cousin Qasim Zaman Khan alleged, “These arrests were nothing but political victimisation.”

Amnesty International and the Human Rights Commission of Pakistan had earlier expressed concern over the arrests, with the former calling it a “political witch-hunt.”

However, Minister of State for Interior Talal Chaudhry defended the arrests, saying they could not be dismissed as “fake, fabricated [or] po-

litically motivated,” Dawn reported.

On May 9, 2023, PTI supporters staged violent protests across Pakistan, vandalising military installations, state-owned buildings, and attacking the Lahore corps commander’s residence following Imran Khan’s arrest.

The state subsequently launched a crackdown on the PTI, arresting thousands of protesters and top party leaders.

Several PTI figures have recently been convicted in riot-related cases and disqualified from parliamentary roles, Dawn added.

LOOKOUT CIRCULAR ISSUED AGAINST RAJ KUNDRA IN CHEATING CASE

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI

The Mumbai police have issued a Lookout Circular (LOC) against Bollywood actor Shilpa Shetty and her businessman husband Raj Kundra in connection with a Rs 60 crore cheating case, officials said on Friday (September 5, 2025).

The LOC was issued by the Economic Offences Wing of the city police as the couple makes frequent international trips, an official said.

A case was registered against the actor and her husband at Juhu police station on August 14 for allegedly



duping a businessman of nearly Rs 60 crore in a loan-cum-investment deal, he said.

A Lookout Circular is a mechanism used to prevent a person from leaving the country or to track their movements, typically by issuing an alert to immigration and border control points.

Aditya Narayan new 'Rise & Fall' contestant

AGENCIES
MUMBAI

Amazon MX Player just raised the stakes in Rise & Fall with a reveal that has fans talking. The latest promo introduces Aditya Narayan — the multi-talented singer, performer, and host who has entertained millions across stage, TV, and films. This time, though, Aditya steps into an arena where nothing is scripted, and every move could decide whether you rise to luxury or fall into struggle.

The promo captures Aditya in a lavish suit, walking in with effortless confidence and star power. But behind the glam is a player ready to face the unpredictable twists of reality. Known for his charm, wit, and sharp



instincts, Aditya's entry signals that the game won't just be about strategy and survival, it will also have its share of flair, music, and drama.

For fans, this is a big moment: Aditya, who has ruled the stage and screen for years, is now ready to put himself on the line in one of the most cutthroat reality formats. If his promo is anything to go by, audiences can expect him to be more than just an entertainer, he's here to compete, stir the pot, and maybe even change the course of the game.

Speaking about joining the show, Aditya Narayan said, "I've spent my life entertaining people on screen and on stage — but Rise & Fall is a completely different ballgame. Here, there are no scripts, no rehearsals, just raw reality. Stepping into this world of luxury in a suit feels great, but I know tables can turn any second. I'm here to enjoy, compete, and maybe surprise a few people along the way."

Hosted by Ashneer Grover, the series throws 15 celebrity contestants into two extreme realities — the luxury penthouse of the Rulers and the bare-basics basement of the Workers. But in this game, power is fragile, alliances are fleeting, and every day could change everything. With Aditya Narayan now in the mix, Rise & Fall just got an extra dose of star power and unpredictability.



Sonam Kapoor poses for her social media. (Instagram)

Cambodia submits horror thriller 'Tenement' for Oscar entry

AGENCIES
PHNOM PENH

Cambodia has submitted the psychological horror thriller "Tenement", co-directed by Inrasothythep Neth and Sokyou Chea, as its contender for best international feature at the 98th Academy Awards, reported Variety.

According to the outlet, the film is set within a decaying Khmer Rouge-era tenement in Phnom Penh. It follows Soriya (Thorn Thanet), a Cambodian-Japanese manga artist who returns home after her mother's death and becomes trapped in a

series of terrifying visions that blur the boundaries between the past and present.

"Tenement" world premiered in the Big Screen Competition at the International Film Festival Rotterdam in 2024 and has since screened at the Osaka Asian Film Festival, the Ho Chi Minh City International Film Festival, Seattle International Film Festival, the Sitges International Fantastic Film Festival, the Kaohsiung Film Festival, Luxembourg City Film Festival, Motel X and Horrorant's Fright Nights, among others, reported Variety.

Shot across Tokyo and Phnom Penh, production began in 2020 but was delayed for two years by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The film employed Dolby Atmos sound design, a first for Cambodian cinema, and went on to win best production design at the 2024 Ho Chi Minh City International Film Festival, reported Variety.

The film is produced by Westec Media Limited and Kongchak Pictures.

The horror thriller "Tenement" marks Cambodia's latest attempt at the international feature Oscar.



BRAIN PICKING



I believe one doesn't have to shed clothes to look sexy!

— SONAKSHI SINHA
(Indian Actress)

Anupam, Mithun attend screening of 'The Bengal Files'

AGENCIES
MUMBAI

A special screening of the film "The Bengal Files" was organised on Thursday in Mumbai.

From Anupam Kher, Mithun Chakraborty to Darshan Kumar, many came together for the screening of Vivek Agnihotri's directorial "The Bengal Files".

The film, directed by Vivek Agnihotri and produced by Pallavi Joshi and Abhishek Agarwal, is set to release on Friday. However, it is facing

problems with the release in West Bengal.

Prior to the screening, the makers held a press conference, claiming that theatre owners in Bengal were being "threatened by the police".

Earlier in the day, Pallavi Joshi penned a letter to President Droupadi Murmu and "requested her to intervene in this matter" for the uninterrupted release of the film, "The Bengal Files".



Malaika Arora gives a sneak peek into her Onam celebrations

AGENCIES
MUMBAI

Every Onam, Malaika Arora and her sister Amrita make it a point to visit their mother Joyce's home and relish the sumptuous sadhya she lovingly prepares.

This time too, the sisters paid a visit to their mother and celebrated Onam with her. On Friday, Malaika took to Instagram to share an adorable collage featuring

"Happy Onam @joyce-arora," Malaika captioned the post.

Amrita, too, shared pictures from her fam-jam Onam celebrations.

Onam, a festival associated with harvest and the homecoming of King Mahabali in Kerala, is celebrated through various rituals. People thronged temples since early morning for prayers to mark the occasion.

REVIEW: THE BENGAL FILES ★★★★★

THE BENGAL FILES



PRAVEEN NAGDA

The "Files" Trilogy is now complete with The Bengal Files, directed by Vivek Agnihotri, known for making films on national issues that are also politically sensitive and controversial. His earlier films, The Tashkent Files (2019) and The Kashmir Files (2022), positioned them-

selves as cinematic interventions into contested history, and this latest installment attempts to do the same with Bengal, covering a vast timespan from pre-independence to the contemporary era. What emerges is a darkly ambitious narrative, but one that frequently collapses under its own excesses.

Agnihotri has chosen to dramatize Bengal's turbulent socio-political history through a merciless display of violence, including body-chopping, head-slicing, and mob fury, occupying a substantial amount of the screen time. While this brutality is meant to reflect the horrific

side of communal tension and ideological conflict that was inflicted on humanity in the region, the overdose of gore leaves little room for reflection or nuance. Instead of evoking empathy and thought, the audience is too often dumped with violence. The line between history and fiction is blurred in a way that doesn't necessarily deepen understanding but rather reinforces a narrative already familiar from the director's previous works.

Performances, however, elevate what might otherwise feel like an exercise in provocation. Mithun Chakraborty (as Madman Chatur) lends great credibility and emotional heaviness to his role. Pallavi Joshi (as Maa Bharti) delivers a brilliant per-

formance with a layered and controlled intensity. Simratt Kaur Randhawa (as a younger version of Bharti) dominates the screen time through the film as it moves into flashbacks repeatedly. She delivers great emotions, fits into her character brilliantly and lives through the film.

There are multiple moments of genuine emotional engagement amidst the chaos, with great performance undoubtedly from the lead actors. Darshan Kumar (as Shiva Pandit) shines in the role of a CBI officer deployed to handle the Murshidabad riots. His grit, anger, ferocity, and frustration in fighting the system is apparent in taking on the rich and powerful while investigating a case of kidnapping of a female journalist. Saswata Chatterjee (as Sardar

Husseini), a local politician, mafia, and landgrabber under the guise of prawn exporting business, with his coldness adds power to his soft and sophisticated villain role. Namashi Chakraborty (as Ghulam) is cruel, ruthless, and brutal, where his limping walk only adds to his devilish character.

The Bengal Files attempts to create a provocative effect on the audience, leaving them overwhelmed rather than contemplative. One redeeming feature, surprisingly, is the soundtrack, where there are a few songs sung in Bengali to anchor the story in its cultural soil. The film also highlights the Bengal renaissance — culturally, politically, socially, and artistically, for that matter.

Those who like Agnihotri's movies may appreciate his storytelling and its boldness, though, on the contrary, when you look at the wider audiences, they may find it exhausting, even alienating. In the film, the director had trusted the power of storytelling and music as much as he trusted violence, and that somewhat balances the overall excesses of gore. The juxtaposition of soulful music with savage visuals underscores the tragedy of Bengal's past and present, though it would have been better if the film had bent more towards the music's healing power instead of ruthless blood-shedding.

Praveen Nagda is Festival Director of KidzCINEMA and CultureCinema Film Festivals



COLLECTOR JITENDRA KUMAR SONI: ONE-YEAR TENURE FULL OF INNOVATIONS

ARVIND PALAWAT

Under the visionary leadership of Chief Minister Bhajanlal Sharma, Rajasthan continues to set new benchmarks in good governance, rooted in the principles of Antyodaya and inclusive development. Reflecting this vision on the ground, Jaipur District Collector Dr. Jitendra Kumar Soni has led a remarkable transformation since assuming charge on September 5 last year. Known for his innovative work across Jalore, Jhalawar, Nagaur, and Alwar, Dr. Soni has redefined the role of a District Collector in the state capital.

Whether leading from the front with a broom during the Swachh Bharat Mission or wading through floodwaters to support disaster relief efforts, Dr. Soni's hands-on, compassionate leadership has earned widespread public trust and admiration.

His tenure has seen impactful initiatives like Raasta Kholo Abhiyan, NREGA Akhar, Ladesar, Bitiya Gaurav Peti, Saksham Jaipur Abhiyan, and Nasha Mukta Jaipur Abhiyan, each tailored to address real community needs. These programs have turned Jaipur into a dynamic model of governance that is visible, accessible, and people-centric.

More than an administrator, Dr. Soni has emerged

as a guide, motivator, and friend to the public. His governance approach blends empathy, strategic thinking, and a commitment to long-term solutions. His reputation as the "Collector of the People" is built on transparency, fairness, and field-oriented action.

By ensuring the effective ground-level implementation of welfare schemes, especially for the marginalized, and focusing on education, social justice, and sustainable development, Dr. Soni has aligned Jaipur's progress with the Chief Minister's vision. His efforts have not only elevated service delivery but also deepened public confidence in the administration—making governance in Jaipur truly participatory and transformative.

'RAASTA KHOLO ABHIYAN' BECAME A BOON FOR THE VILLAGERS

In line with the directives of Chief Minister Bhajanlal Sharma, the Raasta Kholo Abhiyan, launched in Jaipur district on November 15, 2025, has become a symbol of relief for villagers and farmers. More than just an anti-encroachment drive, this initiative reflects the government's deep understanding of grassroots problems and its commitment to permanent solutions. Driven by the Chief Minister's vision and sensitivity,



the campaign has resolved long-standing land access issues that had troubled rural communities for generations.

In less than ten months, the Jaipur District Administration has opened 1,414 roads—clear evidence of how responsive leadership can transform lives. The visible sense of relief on villagers' faces says more than words ever could. To ensure these roads remain accessible, the administration has also constructed over 266 km of gravel roads and more than 10 km of in-

terlocking roads. This initiative stands as a powerful example of sustainable governance rooted in empathy and action.

NREGA AKHAR ABHIYAN

The NREGA Akhar Abhiyan run by the Jaipur district administration is proving to be a milestone in the direction of empowerment through education. NREGA work sites are no longer just places for labour, but they are now emerging as centres of knowledge and empowerment. The condition and direction of the lives of



hundreds of rural workers seems to be changing with the initiative of the Jaipur district administration. This campaign not only teaches literacy, but also gives self-confidence, understanding of rights and the strength to keep pace with the technological age.

LADESAR ABHIYAN: WAR AGAINST MALNUTRITION

The Ladesar Abhiyan was started to fight malnutrition. With the help of donors, Ladesar kits containing natural proteins,

carbohydrates, vitamins, fats, iron and other nutrients were distributed to 5,300 malnourished and 883 severely malnourished children. Under the campaign, the health and nutrition of children was intensively monitored and it proved to be a milestone against malnutrition.

BITIYA GAURAV PETI: A BOX FULL OF CONFIDENCE

Following the success of the 'Bitiya Gaurav Dashboard', the Jaipur district administration launched the 'Bitiya

Gaurav Peti' initiative to empower schoolgirls. Aimed at boosting their confidence and ensuring convenience, thousands of kits have been distributed in PM schools, girls' schools, and hostels, helping girls safely store essential clothing and daily-use items. CM honored in Statistics Day celebration

DR. JITENDRA KUMAR SONI HONORED WITH PROF. P.C. MAHALANOBIS AWARD

Dr. Soni was conferred the prestigious Prof. P.C. Mahalanobis Award by Chief

Minister Bhajanlal Sharma during the 19th State Level Statistics Day celebration. He received this recognition for his logical and analytical evaluation of state welfare schemes, effective use of statistics in economic planning, and rigorous monitoring and implementation of developmental programs.

CONFLUENCE OF RELIEF AND RIGHTS IN ANTYODAYA SAMBAL CAMP

Under Chief Minister Bhajanlal Sharma's sensitive initiative, Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya Antyodaya Sambal Camps are being held across Jaipur to ensure last-mile delivery of government schemes. Personally monitored by Dr. Soni, over 350 camps under the Pakhwada Abhiyan have delivered 30 lakhs+ services across 63 categories from 16 departments, empowering the most vulnerable.

INNOVATIONS WILL CONTINUE IN THE FUTURE TOO

Dr. Jitendra Kumar Soni's one-year tenure proves that a Collector can be more than an administrator—he can be a community guide and a catalyst for change. With a focus on real issues, field-based action, and lasting solutions, he has strengthened his image as the "People's Collector." The public now looks forward to Jaipur reaching new heights under his leadership.

Protect Culture and Religion: No Interference in Milk Imports



AVINASH RAI KHANNA

India is basically a spiritual and cultural nation based on agriculture. This nation is a complete civilization in itself. In fact, this civilization proves sufficient for the creation of a complete human life, which includes the complete physical, mental and spiritual development of man. This civilization is not limited to geographical boundaries like a country. At the international level, the philosophy of 'Va-sudhaiva Kutumbakam' emerged from this Vedic civilization nation, which called upon the whole world to unite like a family. This civilization tried to explain to the whole world the concept of salvation along with free medicine for complete health of humans through 'International Yoga Day'. In the last decade or more, Honorable Shri Narendra Modi ji has presented many more such dimensions, which are enough to prove that India itself is not a part of any dispute, but is ready to give every possible cooperation to end the disputes. India is not only a trading country, but also a cultural country, in which exchange of good values is more important than exchange of goods. On the other hand, India has opened its economy to the entire world at the international level, but this does not mean that India will make any agreement against its geographical boundaries and cultural values.

Recently, America has sent a proposal to India to buy milk of American cows and other products made from it like ghee, cheese etc. India imposed tariff system on that proposal, due to which the American milk got spoiled even before reaching India because due to tariff system, America will not be able to export milk to India. There are many cultural and economic reasons behind this strict step of India. American cows are fed meat and blood products in their feed, thus the non-vegetarian influence in the milk of American cows is natural. On the other hand, in India milk is not just a food item which is drunk, used to make tea or to consume by making ghee, paneer etc., but milk is also used by many people in India in religious and cultural activities. Milk is used directly or indirectly in all the sixteen rites from the birth of a child to his death. From the ghee lamp to the process of havan and from the anointment of Shivaling to the rituals of ancestors etc. and flowing it in rivers, milk becomes a part of all our spiritual activities. In view of all these activities, not even a drop of non-vegetarian milk can be accepted in our country. According to America's milk sale proposal, there were talks of trade worth more than one lakh crore rupees per year with India. Spending such a huge amount by India means harming the business interests of crores of people involved in the milk system of India. India's own milk production is so huge that its share in the entire world is considered to be more than 20 percent. In such a situation, India does not need to import milk from outside. On studying the dairy business of America, it is found that there are thousands of dairy cattle rearing industries running

there, the number of these business houses is less, though their production is more with the help of machinery. On the other hand, in India, milk production is considered less important as a business and more important as cow rearing. Milk production in India is not limited to a few business houses, rather there are a large number of farmers or other families, who contribute to milk production in India with the help of at least two-three cows. The milk import agreement with America will not be beneficial for the crores of people in India. Import of milk from America will also be harmful for many of our dairy institutions like Verka, Amul, Nandini, Paras, Mother Dairy, etc. India has told America in clear terms that the belief of vegetarian cows cannot be the subject of any discussion for our trade, i.e. our belief should be considered as a red line for any such trade. In short, India has put its feet in the ground to stop the import of milk from America. American rulers and businessmen must understand that entering India's market requires respect for its religious and cultural values, without interference disguised as business. French companies have successfully invested in Indian milk brands like Tirumala, Anik, Prabhat, and Britannia, boosting domestic milk production while respecting cultural sensitivities. American businesses should follow this example—invest in India rather than importing milk—and contribute to India's growth without compromising its traditions. True partnership means supporting local industry and honoring India's cultural heritage.

(The author is a former MP and state in-charge of Rajasthan BJP.)

Why I Chose the Classroom Over the Courtroom



RITIKA GOSWAMI

When I tell people I am a law professor, the first thing they ask me is usually the same: "Why did you not opt for the courtroom?" In a nation where the lawyer's image is linked so closely with compelling arguments, dramatic trials, and high-stakes cases, opting for the classroom instead of the courtroom can appear mystifying. But to me, the answer has always been simple: I found my calling not in arguing before judges, but in engaging with curious minds. Law, as it happens, is more than about verdicts and legislation. It is about inquiry, analysis, and comprehending the world we inhabit. And I discovered early part of my career that where these questions are most intensely brought to life is not in the courtroom, but in the classroom. For most who practice law, the professional route is litigation or practice. The courtroom offers adrenaline, prestige, and the visible outcome of cases won or lost. But there is another road, one that extends to the profession of teaching. It may appear quieter, less glamorous, yet it carries its own profound impact. The classroom, as opposed to the courtroom, is not about one client or one verdict; it's about influencing the thinking of generations.

THE ROAD LESS TAKEN

Like most law school graduates, I had chances to enter litigation. The courtroom has its undeniable excitement, the buzz of argu-

ments, the suspense of cross-examinations, the swift clarity of a verdict. But I felt its limitations as well. Litigation focuses attention on one client, one case, one decision.

By contrast, the classroom presented a very different horizon. Here, the questions were broader, the views more nuanced, and the stakes—albeit less direct—higher in many respects. A lecture may not determine a case, but it might determine how a generation of lawyers, judges, or policymakers thought about justice. That obligation, to direct minds to perceive the law, seemed greater than a single court victory.

Choosing the classroom was not about rejecting the courtroom, it was about embracing another form of advocacy: advocacy for ideas, thinking critically, and the potential of knowledge to change lives.

A DIALOGUE, NOT A MONOLOGUE

When I stepped into the classroom as a budding young professor, I arrived armed with notes, case law, and research. But I soon realised something: students were not seeking a monologue. They desired a dialogue.

The classroom life is one of exchange such as the tentative question from the back of the room, the out-and-out challenge from a bold student, the reflection after a hard concept. These moments revealed that teaching was never about delivering knowledge but about discovering it together.

Some of my most memorable classes have concluded not with answers, but with more questions. "Is justice the same as law? What if morality and legality collide?" These are not questions with easy answers. But they challenge us, students and teachers both, to grapple with nuance and in doing so, bring the law to life.

THE JOY OF UNANSWERED QUESTIONS

If the courtroom is about certainty, the classroom is about curiosity.

In court, clarity is prized: judges expect definitive arguments, clients want decisive advice, and verdicts demand closure. But in the classroom, ambiguity has a place. Here, it is acceptable, even necessary, to sit with

statutes and theories. It is about creating people who one day will bear the weight of justice. Some will argue major cases, others will craft policy, and some will counsel corporations or sit on the bench. But all of them will bear the patterns of thought they developed in the classroom.

And maybe, many years down the road, when they

judges hand down verdicts, teachers train upcoming advocates how to pose better questions.

Teaching isn't about authority—it's about curiosity. And every time, I'm reminded: while the courtroom can hand down verdicts, the classroom has something as strong to impart—the power of thinking, questioning, imagining.



uncertainty, to say, "I don't know yet, but let's explore this together."

This embracing of the unknown is not weakness. It is the basis for growth. Students who learn to exist with questions also learn humility, patience, and creativity. They understand that knowledge is not about leaping to conclusions, but about exploring complexity with bravery. To me, these unresolved questions are the excitement of teaching. Each one keeps me intellectually vibrant, pushing me to learn, unlearn, and relearn along with my students.

WHY THE CLASSROOM MATTERS

The reach of teaching goes far beyond grades. Teaching law is not merely about

appear in a courtroom or are writing legislation, a piece of our classroom discussion will resound within their brains. That, to me, is legacy, not some one case recalled in legal briefs, but many conversations enduring in my students.

WHY I AM A PROFESSOR

Ultimately, I chose this path because I am drawn to questions that do not have easy answers. The law is full of them, and so is life. Choosing teaching over practice is not a rejection of the courtroom but an embrace of a different type of service. Where the courtroom settles disputes, the classroom educates the minds that will eventually walk into those very courts. Where

CLOSING THOUGHT

Both the courtroom and the classroom are essential to the life of law. One dispenses justice in the moment; the other instructs for justice to come. In many ways, the choice between them is not about prestige or ambition, but about where one finds meaning.

For those who are more attracted to questions than answers, to dialogue more than speeches, and to the gradual but enduring power of moulding minds, the classroom will forever be the higher calling. If the courtroom is a matter of winning a case, the classroom is a matter of cultivating curiosity. And in my years as a professor, I have come to believe that curiosity, above all else, is what makes both law and life vitally alive.

U.S. OPEN

ARYNA TO CLASH WITH AMANDA IN FINAL

AGENCIES
NEW YORK

On Aryna Sabalenka's first chance to end her U.S. Open semi-final against Jessica Pegula and earn the chance to play for a second consecutive trophy at Flushing Meadows, the defending champion dumped what should have been an easy overhead into the net, then stared at the ground.

On Sabalenka's second chance, she missed a clumsy volley — and later acknowledged she shouldn't have ventured forward, because she went just 15 for 27 when up at the net. Uh, oh.

So good at important moments in the high-stakes, high-tension final set, Sabalenka held it together there and held on, converting her third match point Thursday night for a 4-6, 6-3, 6-4 victory over Pegula in a rematch of last year's final.

"I was super emotional. I was just like, 'Oh, my gosh, no way it's happening. Please, just close this match,'" Sabalenka explained afterward. "The



Aryna Sabalenka, of Belarus, reacts after defeating Jessica Pegula, of the United States, during the women's singles semifinals of the U.S. Open tennis championships in New York. (Agency)

whole match, I just keep telling myself: (Onto) the next one, just one step at a time, don't worry about the past. Just try better in the next point."

When it was over, Sabalenka rocked back on her heels, spread her arms and screamed.

On Saturday, when she faces No. 8 Amanda Anisimova in the final, the No. 1-seeded Sabalenka will be

trying to become the first woman to claim consecutive championships at Flushing Meadows since Serena Williams got three in a row from 2012 to 2014.

Anisimova eliminated No. 23 Naomi Osaka 6-7 (4), 7-6 (3), 6-3 in a match that ended at nearly 1 a.m. to reach her second straight major final. At Wimbledon in July, Anisimova was the runner-up to Iga Swiatek, who beat her

6-0, 6-0 in the title match.

But Anisimova recovered from that well enough, and quickly enough, to get past Swiatek in two sets in the U.S. Open quarterfinals.

Now Anisimova, a 24-year-old who was born in New Jersey and grew up in Florida, gets another shot at winning her first Grand Slam trophy.

She is the first opponent to beat Osaka this late in a

Amanda Anisimova defeats Naomi Osaka

NEW YORK : Amanda Anisimova eliminated four-time Grand Slam champion Naomi Osaka 6-7 (4), 7-6 (3), 6-3 in a U.S. Open semifinal that ended at nearly 1 a.m. Friday and featured two of the most powerful first-strike hitters in women's tennis.

The No. 8-seeded Anisimova, a 24-year-old who was born in New Jersey and grew up in Florida, reached her second straight major final by coming through after 2 hours, 56 minutes.

"I wasn't sure I would make it past the finish line and I tried to dig deep," said Anisimova, who needed three match points to get the job done. "It was a huge fight out there today." When it was over, Anisimova yelled, "Let's go!"

Grand Slam tournament. Before this loss, Osaka had been a combined 13-0 over her career in major quarter-

and enjoyed the moment by kneeling on the court and leaning forward.

She will face defending champion and current No. 1 Aryna Sabalenka on Saturday for the title. Sabalenka beat Jessica Pegula in three sets on Thursday. Sabalenka owns three major trophies, all on hard courts.

This is the fifth consecutive women's final at a Slam involving an American woman.

At Wimbledon in July, Anisimova had a Grand Slam breakthrough, upsetting Sabalenka in the semifinals — a result that increased the American's edge in their head-to-head series to 6-3 — and making it all the way to the title match before losing 6-0, 6-0 to Iga Swiatek.

finals, semifinals and finals.

Like Osaka vs. Anisimova, Thursday's first semifinal was quite close — closer

Bhambri bows out of US Open

AGENCIES
NEW YORK

The 33-year-old Delhi player became only the fourth Indian man in the Open era to reach a Grand Slam doubles semifinals, after Leander Paes, Mahesh Bhupathi and Roban Bopanna.

India's Yuki Bhambri ended a semifinalist at the US Open men's doubles event with partner Michael Venus, marking his deepest run at a Grand Slam tournament.

Bhambri went down 7-6 (2) 6-7(5) 4-6 in a thrilling contest against the experienced sixth seed British pair of Neal Skupski and Joe Salisbury, but not before scripting history of his own.

The 33-year-old Delhi player became only the fourth Indian man in the Open era to reach a Grand Slam doubles semifinals, after Leander Paes, Mahesh Bhupathi and Rohan Bopanna. The Indian-New Zealand duo had stitched together an impressive campaign at Flushing Meadows, toppling higher seeded combinations en route to the last four. Their run included victories over fourth seeds Germans Tim Putz/Kevin Krawietz apart from knocking out 11th seeds Rajeev Ram and Nikola Mektic, underlining Bhambri's growing stature on the doubles circuit after injuries

curtailed his singles ambitions. "This has been a special week for me. To be playing at this level and in the semifinals of a Slam is a big moment," Bhambri said after the loss.

Bhambri's showing continues a strong season for Indian tennis, coming close on the heels of Bopanna's consistent success on the doubles tour. For the Delhiite, who has endured multiple injury layoffs in the past decade, the semifinal finish represents a breakthrough and a potential turning point in the latter half of his career.

World Boxing: Sakshi wins in 54 kg category in opening round

AGENCIES
LIVERPOOL

Sakshi continued India's fine start to the World Boxing Championships, outclassing her Ukrainian opponent in the women's 54 kg category in the opening round in Liverpool on Thursday.

Sakshi secured a win over her Ukrainian opponent by 5-0 via RSC (Referee Stopped Contest), as per the Boxing Federation of India (BFI).

Earlier, Pawan Bartwal provided India a winning start to their World Boxing Championships campaign as he got the better of Brazil's Michael Douglas Trindade, a Paris Olympian, in a close men's 55kg bout in Liverpool, UK, on Thursday.

Bartwal displayed his boxing acumen under pressure in the third and final round



Sakshi continued India's fine start to the World Boxing Championships

to keep his Brazilian opponent at bay and still impress the judges with his punches to win the first round bout 3:2. The two boxers were deadlocked after the first two rounds, with Trindade nullifying Bartwal's advantage in the second round, as per a press release from the Boxing Federation of India (BFI).

India has fielded a 20-member contingent at

the inaugural World Championships being held under the aegis of the World Boxing, a recently formed international governing body for boxing, and is looking to underline their growing stature in world boxing.

Two other Indians, Sanamacha Chanu (women's 70kg) and Harsh Choudhary (men's 90kg) will in action in the evening session.

Sumit, Neeraj register contrasting wins at World Boxing C'ships

AGENCIES
LIVERPOOL

Sumit Kundu (men's 75kg) and Neeraj Phogat (women's 65kg) registered contrasting victories to advance to the



Sumit Kundu (men's 75kg) and Neeraj Phogat (women's 65kg) registered contrasting victories to advance to the pre-quarterfinals

pre-quarterfinals of their respective weight categories as Indian boxers continued to impress at the World Box-

ing Championship in Liverpool, UK, on Friday. Sumit was rarely in any trouble throughout the three rounds against Jordan's Mohammad Alhussien in the men's 75kg first round to win 5:0, while

Neeraj had to dig deep into her reserves to outlast Finland's Krista Kovalainen and eke out a 3:2 verdict.

India thrash Thailand 11-0 in Women's Asia Cup opener

AGENCIES
HANGZHOU

The Indian hockey team kicked off their Women's Asia Cup 2025 journey on a stellar note by defeating Thailand with a commanding scoreline of 11-0 in their Pool B fixture.

Mumtaz Khan (7', 49'), Udit (30', 52') and Beauty Dung Dung (45', 54') scored two goals apiece for India while Sangita Kumari (10'), Navneet Kaur (16'), Lalremsiami (18'), Sharmila Devi (57') and Rutuja Dadaso Pisal (60') also featured on the scoresheet.

India asserted their dominance early on with two field goals from Mumtaz Khan (7') and Sangita Kumari (10') in the first quarter. The second quarter saw India further increase their attacking intensity with three more goals to expand their advantage.



Indian hockey team kicked off their Women's Asia Cup 2025 journey on a stellar note by defeating Thailand.

Experienced forward Navneet Kaur (16') and midfielder Lalremsiami (18') scored two back-to-back field goals, followed by a penalty corner conversion from Udit (30') to end the first half on a strong note. The second half followed a similar trend with India's constant attacks inside Thailand's circle as they won four penalty corners in the third quarter, through

which Beauty Dung Dung (45') scored her first goal in the 45th minute. The final quarter of the match saw India score five goals on the trot to seal a big win in their opening encounter. Mumtaz Khan (49'), Udit (52') and Sharmila Devi (57') scored through penalty corners while Beauty Dung Dung (54') and Rutuja Dadaso Pisal (60') scored field goals for their side.

Formula 1 to race on streets of Monaco through 2035

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI

Formula 1 has today announced an extension of the Monaco Grand Prix until 2035, inclusive, building on the existing agreement with the Automobile Club of Monaco that runs through the 2031 season, as per a release from F1.

The Monaco Grand Prix, which is one of the sport's most enduring races, having featured on the World Championship calendar in Formula 1's inaugural year in 1950, has



McLaren driver Lando Norris of Britain steers his car in front of Ferrari driver Charles Leclerc of Monaco during the Formula One Monaco Grand Prix race at the Monaco racetrack in Monaco, Sunday, May 25, 2025. (Agencies)

given the sport iconic memories and incredible triumphs and heartbreak.

Since those early days, the

Circuit de Monaco has demanded the ultimate skill and concentration from the drivers. Combined with its

glamour and unique setting, the race in Monte Carlo is recognised as one of the most famous sporting events in the world. In 2024, hometown hero Charles Leclerc created history when he became the first Monegasque in Formula 1 history to win the Grand Prix, and this year, Lando Norris secured his first-ever win in the Principality. From the rest of the current line-up of drivers, Fernando Alonso, Lewis Hamilton, and Max Verstappen have all won multiple times on the streets of Monaco, too.

Zimbabwe, Namibia seal spots in Women's T20 World Cup Global Qualifier

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI

Zimbabwe and Namibia have secured their spots in the upcoming ICC Women's T20 World Cup Global Qualifier in Nepal, where ten teams will battle for four coveted places in the 2026 Women's T20 World Cup in England.

Neither Zimbabwe nor Namibia have ever qualified for a women's World Cup in any format in the past, as per



ESPNcricinfo.

They are set to join Bangladesh, Scotland, Ireland,

the Netherlands, Thailand, Nepal and the USA, who have already made it to the

global qualifying tournament.

Zimbabwe sealed their spot by edging out Uganda in the first semi-final of the ICC Women's T20 World Cup Africa Region Division One Qualifier, while Namibia emerged victorious against Tanzania in the second semi-final to complete the duo. They will contest the final of the Africa regional qualifier on September 6.

Mandaviya launches mascot Jalveer and logo for Asian Aquatics C'ship

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI

Mansukh Mandaviya, Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports (MYAS), along with officials from the Swimming Federation of India (SFI), on Friday launched mascot Jalveer and logo in New Delhi for the forthcoming 11th Asian Aquatics Championship, Ahmedabad 2025, a release said.

According to the release, the event was held at the Hon'ble Minister's residence in New Delhi with Monal Chokshi, Secretary General of SFI, Virendra Nanavati, Senior Vice President of SFI, and VPs Anil Vyas, Rajkumar Gupta, and



Mandaviya unveiled the logo and mascot 'Jalveer' for the 11th Asian Aquatics Championships today.

Anil Khatri in attendance, according to a press release from MYAS.

The 11th edition of the prestigious event will be held from September 28 to October 11, 2025, in Ahmedabad, Gujarat, marking the first time the event will be held in India. The event

will take place at the newly constructed Veer Savarkar Sports Complex, built to Olympic specifications, and will host over 30 participating nations across multiple disciplines. Speaking on the occasion, Shri Mansukh Mandaviya, Hon'ble Minister of Youth Affairs, said,

"It was a pleasure to launch the logo and mascot Jalveer for the 11th Asian Aquatics Championships. This championship marks a historic milestone for Indian aquatics, offering our athletes the opportunity to showcase their talent against the finest in Asia. I extend my heart-

felt congratulations to the Swimming Federation of India and the Government of Gujarat for their joint efforts in bringing this prestigious event to our nation."

With over 1000 participants expected to arrive in Gujarat for the Championships later this month, the showcase event will provide Indian swimmers a huge opportunity to shine in front of the home crowd.

Expressing his gratitude to the Sports Authority of Gujarat (SAG) and MYAS, RN Jayaprakash, President of SFI, said, "We are grateful for the unparalleled support provided by the SAG and MYAS in hosting this mega event.



250 international caps and still going strong! Skipper Harmanpreet Singh on completing 250 international matches.

MILE STONE