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9 DROWN, 12 MISSING DURING GANESH IDOL IMMERSIONS IN MAHARASHTRA



9
JAPAN PM ISHIBA TO RESIGN AMID PRESSURE BY PARTY AFTER DEFEAT



12
SINNER, ALCARAZ MEET AGAIN FOR HISTORIC US OPEN FINAL

PUNJAB FLOODS CLAIM 46 LIVES; PM MODI TO TAKE STOCK

PM Modi will visit Punjab on 9 September to review flood devastation that has claimed 46 lives and displaced thousands.

TARUNI GANDHI/AGENCIES
CHANDIGARH/NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will visit Punjab on 9 September to assess the devastation caused by recent floods, which have claimed at least 46 lives and affected nearly 2,000 villages and more than four lakh people.

According to officials, the Prime Minister will arrive in Punjab from Kangra and conduct an aerial survey of the most severely affected belts along the Sutlej river and adjoining low-lying areas before landing in Pathankot. He is scheduled to review relief and rehabilitation measures with state government officials and is expected to announce further assistance.

Punjab BJP president Sunil Jakhar said Modi had been "deeply concerned" about the floods and had been monitoring developments for weeks. "He is visiting Punjab on 9 September to personally assess conditions, take an aerial view of the affected areas and understand the ground realities so that maximum



People wade through a waterlogged road after a flood, in Fazilka on Sunday. ANI

FLOOD IMPACT IN PUNJAB
46 deaths across 14 districts
Nearly 2,000 villages submerged
Over 4 lakh people affected
2,131 hectares of crops destroyed

assistance can be extended," Jakhar posted on X. He added that the Centre had already deputed Union Agriculture Minister Shivraj Chouhan and two central

SUPPORT & SOLIDARITY
Teachers donate Rs 1.25 lakh to CM Relief Fund
Delhi CM sends Rs 5 crore aid, flags off 52 trucks of essentials
Haryana CM dispatches 25 trucks of relief material
Political sparring intensifies over relief efforts

teams to evaluate damages. Punjab Finance Minister Harpal Singh Cheema confirmed that relief opera-



Delhi CM Rekha Gupta greets Delhi Ministers Parvesh Verma and Delhi Minister of Co-operative, Ravinder Indraj Singh, as they flag off relief material trucks for the flood-affected areas of the city. ANI

RELIEF & RESCUE OPERATIONS
24 NDRF & 2 SDRF teams on ground
144 boats and 1 state helicopter deployed
23 relief camps active in flood-hit villages
Rs 71 crore released by Revenue Dept

tions were underway with 24 teams of the NDRF, two of the SDRF, 144 boats, and a state government helicopter. The Revenue Department has released Rs 71 crore for relief, while camps

have been set up to provide food, medical facilities, and animal fodder.

Floods have submerged large tracts of farmland and destroyed standing crops in Ferozepur, Fazilka, Ludhiana, Rupnagar, and Jalandhar, displacing thousands. Punjab minister Tarunpreet Singh Sond said around 40 villages were inundated, adding that rescue teams, volunteers, and ministers were "among the people". He noted that it would take 8-10 days for water to re-

Russia's biggest drone strike hits Kyiv govt HQ

TDG NETWORK
KYIV

Russia unleashed its heaviest aerial assault of the Ukraine war overnight into Sunday, firing more than 800 drones and multiple missiles that struck several cities and, for the first time, damaged Kyiv's Cabinet of Ministers building.

At least three people, including an infant, were killed and dozens injured after drones and missiles hit residential buildings in the capital. The Ukrainian Air Force said Russia launched 810 drones, four ballistic missiles and nine cruise missiles, of which 54 drones and nine missiles reached their targets despite air defence intercepts.

President Volodymyr Zelenskyy condemned the attack as "vile," calling it a deliberate attempt to prolong the war. "The world can make the Kremlin's criminals stop killing, all we need is political will," he said, urging Western allies to expedite promised air defence systems.

Prime Minister Yulia Svyrydenko described the assault as "massive," confirming that a fire broke out on the upper floors of the Cabinet of Ministers after the strike. "For the



Picture Source X.com@ZelenskyyUa

SCALE	ZELENSKYY
810 drones, 13 missiles fired	Odesa high-rise damaged
54 drones, 9 missiles hit	Zaporizhzhia homes, kindergarten hit
	Warehouses destroyed in Kryvyi Rih
TOLL	
3 dead, incl. infant	
Dozens injured nationwide	
TARGETS	
Kyiv Cabinet building ablaze	
	Calls strikes "vile" crime
	Urges stronger air defence
	Warns war being prolonged

first time, the Government building, its roof, and upper floors were damaged by enemy attacks. Rescuers are extinguishing the fire. I thank them for their work," she said.

Zelenskyy reported widespread damage across the country. In Zaporizhzhia, more than 20 houses and a kindergarten were destroyed, while warehouses were reduced to rubble in

Kryvyi Rih. One person was killed in Safonivka, Sumy region, and another in Chernihiv, while Odesa saw a residential high-rise damaged.

The scale of the assault, surpassing a July barrage that was previously the largest since Russia's full-scale invasion in February 2022, comes as Western nations attempt to broker

VP Election: BJP, Opposition step up preparations

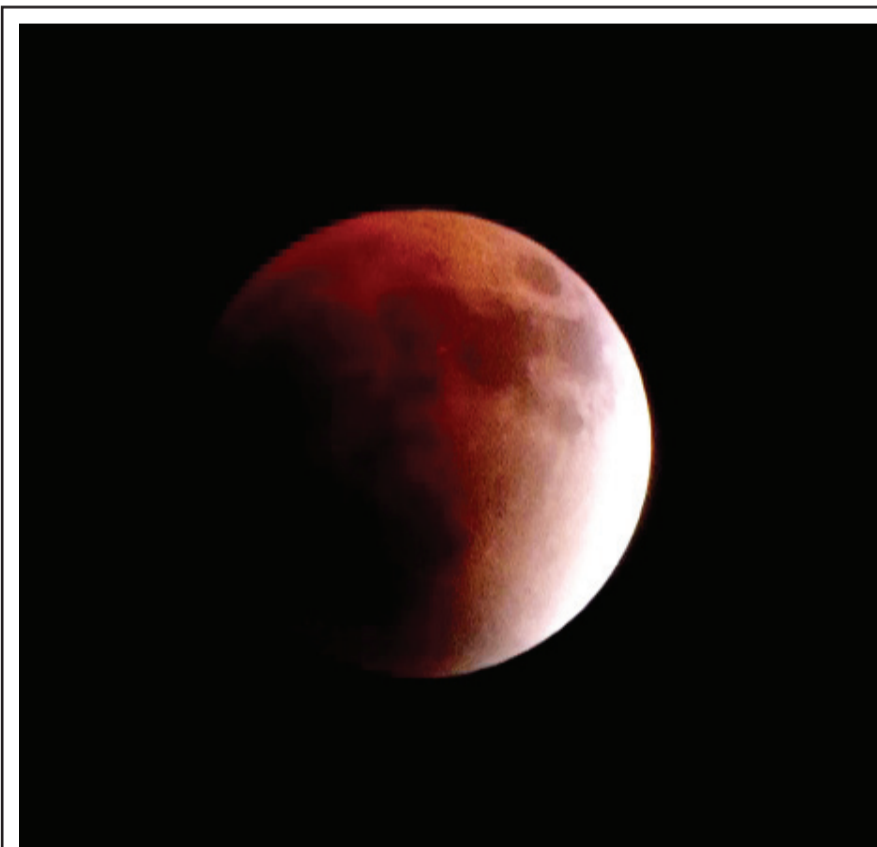


Prime Minister Narendra Modi speaks during the 'Sansad Karyashala', in New Delhi on Sunday. ANI

MANOHAR KESARI
NEW DELHI

In the run-up to the Vice-Presidential election on 9

September, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) convened a two-day workshop for its MPs in Delhi, with



A view of partial phase of Total Lunar Eclipse 'Blood Moon', in Thiruvananthapuram on Sunday. ANI

Hockey glory: India qualify for 2026 World Cup with Asia Cup win

TDG NETWORK
RAJGIR

India defeated defending champions South Korea 4-1 in the Hockey Asia Cup 2025 final on Sunday, lifting the trophy for the fourth time and securing direct qualification for the 2026 World Cup in the Netherlands and Belgium.

Sukhjeet Singh gave India a dream start by scoring in the opening minute, before Dilpreet Singh struck twice—once before



Picture Source X.com@TheHockeyIndia

half-time and again in the third quarter—to extend the lead. Amit Rohidas added a fourth in the final quarter, while Son Dain pulled one back late for Korea.

The title marked India's first Asia Cup triumph in eight years, following previous wins in 2003, 2007 and 2017. Dilpreet Singh, named Player of the Match, said: "It feels great. Our main target was to win this and qualify for the World Cup."

India entered the final in domi-

nant form, thrashing China 7-0 in the Super 4s. Coach Craig Fulton hailed the performance, crediting his players' execution and team spirit. Captain Harmanpreet Singh added that the team had learned from past mistakes and maintained focus from the opening whistle.

This victory continues India's impressive run in recent months and adds fresh momentum ahead of next year's World Cup campaign.

Rajasthan's Health innovations boost access and improve standards

TDG NETWORK
JAIPUR

The state government has launched several groundbreaking health initiatives that are transforming Rajasthan's healthcare landscape. Programs such as Ramashray Ward, Mission Madhuhari, Mission Liver Smile, Breastfeeding Management Units, Hemodialysis Ward, Chief Minister Ayushman Adarsh Gram Panchayat Yojana, Swasth Nari Chetna Abhiyan, Niramay Rajasthan Abhiyan, and Mission Obelos are playing a key role in improving both health infrastructure and outcomes across the state.

With the integration of modern technology and

Russia's cancer vaccine clears preclinical trials

TDG NETWORK
MOSCOW

Russia's cancer vaccine has successfully completed preclinical trials, demonstrating both safety and strong efficacy, Veronika Skvortsova, head of the Federal Medical and Biological Agency (FMBA), announced at the Eastern

Economic Forum (EEF), Tass reported.

"The research spanned several years, with the last three dedicated to mandatory preclinical studies," Skvortsova stated. "The vaccine is now ready for use; we are awaiting official approval," Tass quoted her as saying.

Israel, US slam Western push on Palestine

ADITYA WADHAWAN
NEW DELHI

Israel's Foreign Minister Gideon Sa'ar warned on Sunday that any move by Western countries to recognise Palestine at the UN General Assembly would compel Israel to take unilateral actions.

"It will push Israel to make unilateral decisions, and that would be a grave mistake. We still have time to prevent it. Recogni-



Israel's Foreign Minister Gideon Sa'ar. (File Photo)

tion of Palestine will not bring us closer to peace or

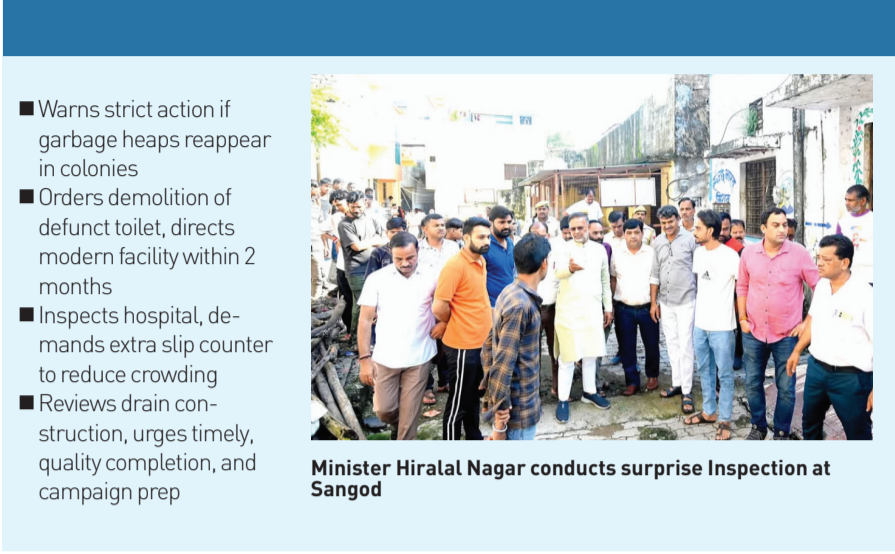
ENERGY MINISTER WARNS OF ACTION OVER GARBAGE, ORDERS CLEANLINESS

Minister Hiralal Nagar warns of action over garbage piles

TDG NETWORK
KOTA

Energy Minister Hiralal Nagar conducted a surprise inspection in various colonies of Sangod city on Sunday morning and expressed strong displeasure after seeing heaps of garbage at several locations. He warned municipal officials that strict action would be taken if garbage piles are seen again.

During his visit to areas including Regar Basti and Ramdev Temple in Srinagar Ward 21, he instructed officials to demolish a community toilet that had been closed for a year and construct a modern facility



Minister Hiralal Nagar conducts surprise Inspection at Sangod

- Warns strict action if garbage heaps reappear in colonies
- Orders demolition of defunct toilet, directs modern facility within 2 months
- Inspects hospital, demands extra slip counter to reduce crowding
- Reviews drain construction, urges timely, quality completion, and campaign prep

within two months. He also visited Sanskrit Vidyalaya and Harijan Basti, where he directed that larger garbage

containers be installed and cleanliness maintained. Empty plots filled with garbage and stray ani-

mals also drew his ire. He ordered that notices be issued to plot owners and that fencing be put

Gehlot calls for comprehensive survey to assess flood damage in Ajmer

TDG NETWORK
AJMER

Former Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot visited the flood-affected Swastik Nagar Colony on Faisagar Road in Ajmer today, where he expressed his dismay at the extensive damage caused by heavy rains. Describing the situation as "very serious and heartbreaking," he emphasized that simply distributing food is not enough to address the magnitude of the loss.

Gehlot, who also met with Aruna Rai and Bunker Rai at the Barefoot College in Tilonia, stated that every house in the affected area has a different story of loss, with residents crying over their ruined belongings. He



Former CM Ashok Gehlot with Aruna Rai and Bunker Rai

stressed the necessity of a detailed, house-to-house survey to accurately assess the damage and provide proper relief.

"Until the government does not conduct a survey of every house and every family, they will not be ben-

efited," Gehlot told the media. He urged the state government to issue immediate orders for a comprehensive survey and to base a relief package on its findings. He also stated his intention to speak with the Ajmer Collector, MLA, and Assembly

Gehlot, who also met with Aruna Rai and Bunker Rai at the Barefoot College in Tilonia, stated that every house in the affected area has a different story of loss, with residents crying over their ruined belongings.

Speaker Vasudev Devnani to brief them on the situation and urge them to take concrete action.

Gehlot assured residents that their suggestions would be taken seriously and conveyed to the government. He mentioned that Dharmendra Rathore, who is actively involved in relief efforts, would visit the area again

Kota in-charge minister directs solutions for waterlogging

TDG NETWORK
KOTA

Kota's district in-charge and Cooperative Minister, Gautam Kumar Dak, visited areas affected by recent heavy rainfall on Sunday to assess the damage and find a permanent solution to waterlogging. Accompanied by local public representatives and officials, Dak inspected damaged roads and discussed long-term strategies.

During his visit to Kautilya Nagar, an area hit hard by flooding, Dak spoke with residents and instructed the District Collector to remove encroachments from a local



Cooperative Minister, Gautam Kumar Dak, speaks to residents of flood hit areas in Kota

drain and increase its width. He also directed officials to find a permanent solution

for water drainage and to ensure the prompt repair of damaged roads. Ladpura

MLA Kalpana Devi suggested diverting water from upper areas to the Alaniya

on Monday. When asked if the situation was similar across Rajasthan, Gehlot responded that the damage in Swastik Nagar appeared to be the most severe he had seen. He underscored the need for the Chief Minister to ensure that similar surveys are conducted in all districts affected by heavy rainfall.

Dam via a diversion channel, a proposal the Minister asked officials to submit soon.

Dak also inspected roads damaged by floodwaters, including the Polytechnic Link Road. He instructed the Kota Development Authority (KDA) and Corporation officials to repair the roads quickly and to construct long-lasting CC roads in areas prone to water accumulation. KDA engineers informed the Minister that patchwork is ongoing and that a tender for a new paver road has been approved, with construction slated to begin after the monsoon season.

Sachin Pilot pledges to fight drug addiction on his Birthday

TDG NETWORK
CHITTORGARH

On his 48th birthday, Congress leader Sachin Pilot visited the Shri Sanwalia Seth ji temple in Chittorgarh to pray for the happiness and prosperity of the country and state. Addressing thousands of supporters gathered there, he expressed deep concern about the rising issue of drug addiction among youth.



Sachin Pilot offers prayers at Shri Sanwalia Seth ji temple in Chittorgarh

Pilot launched the slogan "Today the youth's war is

against drugs", calling for a collective, non-politi-

cal effort to combat this problem. He shared his pain over seeing children as young as 14 becoming addicted to chemical substances, emphasizing that if not addressed, the next generation could be destroyed. He urged for awareness campaigns in schools and colleges and strict action against drug smugglers.

In a gesture of solidarity

with flood victims in Rajasthan and across North India, Pilot announced he is donating his one-month salary. His mother, Rama Pilot, also pledged to donate one month of her pension as a former MLA to the relief efforts. Pilot also paid tribute to his late father, Rajesh Pilot, and urged the public to focus on providing a good education for their children.

Vishwakarma Yuva Udyam Protsahan Yojana: A New Chapter for Youth Empowerment

TDG NETWORK
JAIPUR

In a significant move to strengthen youth self-reliance and entrepreneurship, the Rajasthan state government has launched the Vishwakarma Yuva Udyam Protsahan Yojana. This ambitious scheme, approved during a state cabinet meeting on August 23, 2025, aims to transform young individuals from job seekers into job creators by providing them with the necessary financial support



CM Bhajanlal Sharma FILE PHOTO

and resources to establish or expand their own enterprises.

The government has repeatedly emphasized its commitment to the welfare

and empowerment of the state's youth. This scheme is the latest in a series of initiatives designed to provide young people with ample opportunities to succeed. By promoting a culture of entrepreneurship, the Vishwakarma Yuva Udyam Protsahan Yojana is set to pave a new path for employment generation and economic growth in Rajasthan.

A core component of the scheme is the provision of accessible, low-interest loans. Youth between

the ages of 18 and 45 will be able to secure loans through financial institutions to start a new business or to expand, modernize, or diversify an existing one. To ease the financial burden on young entrepreneurs, the government will provide an 8 percent interest subsidy on loans up to a maximum of Rs 2 crore. This subsidy is designed to remove financial obstacles, allowing young entrepreneurs to focus on innovation, quality, and business expansion.

Parsadi Meena alleges BJP behind vote theft, EVM manipulation

TDG NETWORK
JAIPUR

At a Block Congress Committee meeting in Chandsen, Lalsot, former Health Minister Parsadi Lal Meena accused the BJP of winning elections through systematic vote theft and manipulation of EVMs. Citing cases from Karnataka, Maharashtra, and Bihar, he claimed massive irregularities, including fake votes and mass voter deletions under the so-called "SIR campaign."

Meena said faith in EVMs has collapsed and the public now demands a return to ballot paper voting. He criticized the removal of the Chief Justice of India from the Election Commission appointment panel, calling it an attack on democracy.

To protest these developments, Congress announced a "Save the Constitution Rally" in Lalsot on September 16, with state Congress chief Govind Singh Dotasra and Leader of Opposition Tikaram Jolly attending.

Local issues were also raised, including misman-



Former minister Parsadi Lal Meena addressing meeting T Lalsot

To protest these developments, Congress announced a "Save the Constitution Rally" in Lalsot on September 16, with state Congress chief Govind Singh Dotasra and Leader of Opposition Tikaram Jolly attending.

agement of health services, illegal sand mining, land mafia exploitation under 90-A, and rising corruption.

The event concluded with Congress workers celebrat-

ing Sachin Pilot's birthday. Prominent leaders like Dinesh Mishra, Sitaram Meena, and Deepak Purohit were in attendance, along with hundreds of party workers.

Marwari Mahasangh urges inclusion of Rajasthani in Constitution's eighth schedule

NTI GOPENDRA BHATT
NEW DELHI/JAIPUR

The All India Marwari Mahasangh has passed several key resolutions during its national convention in New Delhi, chief among them a request to the central government to include the Rajasthani language in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution. Citing its rich vocabulary of over 7 lakh words and its use by 10 crore people, the Mahasangh emphasized the need to preserve the language from extinction.

The organization also resolved to encourage its community members to list Rajasthani as their mother tongue and "Mar-

Additionally, the community passed resolutions to boycott social gatherings that serve alcohol and to promote daytime wedding ceremonies to reduce financial burden and wasteful spending.

wari" as their caste in the upcoming census. To combat rising divorce rates, the Mahasangh will appoint marriage counselors, including Supreme Court-trained psychologists, to help couples resolve issues and uphold the tradition of joint families.

Additionally, the community passed resolu-

tions to boycott social gatherings that serve alcohol and to promote daytime wedding ceremonies to reduce financial burden and wasteful spending. Aligning with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision, the Mahasangh also pledged to contribute to making India a developed nation by 2047.

CM Sharma calls high-level review on rain damage

TDG NETWORK
JAIPUR

In response to the extensive damage caused by recent heavy rains, Chief Minister Bhajanlal Sharma will hold a high-level review meeting on Monday at the Chief Minister's Office. He will meet with all district in-charge ministers and secretaries to receive direct feedback on the ground situation in affected areas.

The purpose of this crucial meeting is to assess the current state of rain-affected districts and to finalize a comprehensive action plan for providing immediate relief to the victims. The Chief Minister has emphasized that ensuring relief for every citizen is the government's top priority.

Over the past three days,

The purpose of this crucial meeting is to assess the current state of rain-affected districts and to finalize a comprehensive action plan for providing immediate relief to the victims.

all district in-charge ministers and secretaries have been on the ground, following the Chief Minister's directives. They have visited the districts under their charge, personally assessing the situation, and interacting with affected citizens. Their reports, which include firsthand observations and detailed assessments of the damage, will be presented to the Chief Minister during tomorrow's meeting.

The government is taking concrete steps to address

the immediate needs of the affected population. Efforts are focused on the rapid repair of damaged infrastructure and medical facilities. Additionally, the process of assessing crop damage for farmers is being prioritized to ensure they receive timely compensation. The review meeting will be a critical step in coordinating these relief efforts and ensuring that resources are effectively deployed to help all those impacted by the severe weather.

Additionally, enterprises established in rural areas will also qualify for this extra subsidy, promoting balanced development across the state.

To further support aspiring business owners, the scheme includes a provision for a margin money grant of 25 percent of the loan amount or a maximum of Rs 5 lakh. This grant will be provided on the loan secured from a financial institution, reducing the initial capital requirement for young entrepreneurs and

making it easier for them to start their ventures.

The Vishwakarma Yuva Udyam Protsahan Yojana is not a standalone initiative but part of a comprehensive and visionary policy framework aimed at a brighter future for Rajasthan's youth. Chief Minister Bhajanlal Sharma's government has consistently prioritized youth-centric development, evident in other key programs like the Rajasthan Skill Policy, Yuva Rojgar Protsahan Yojana, and Yuva Niti 2025.

FAMILIES URGE CM SHARMA TO PROTECT HONEST SI CANDIDATES


TDG NETWORK
JAIPUR

The families of candidates selected in the 2021 Sub-Inspector (SI) recruitment exam held a press conference on Sunday to express their displeasure with the High Court's decision to cancel the results. They argued that it is unjust to penalize innocent, hardworking candidates alongside those who cheated.

Satyendra Singh Rao, speaking on behalf of the families, stated that it is unfortunate that honest young people are being unfairly labeled as corrupt. He appealed to Chief Minister Bhajanlal Sharma, known for his commitment to justice, to intervene and ensure the government supports the legitimate trainee SIs.

INJUSTICE

- Candidates' kin call decision unfair to honest aspirants
- Appeal to CM Bhajanlal Sharma for justice and support
- Question SOG's contradictory stance on identifying culprits
- Warn of major protest if government fails to act



The families of candidates selected in the 2021 Sub-Inspector (SI) recruitment exam held a press conference

Rao also questioned the Special Operations Group (SOG), highlighting a contradiction in their statements. He noted that while SOG claims to have identified the culprits, its own officers have reportedly stated that it's impossible to separate the guilty from the innocent. The families have warned

they will launch a major protest if justice is not served soon. They have hope in the upcoming court hearing on Monday, where their lawyers will present a strong case. They are urging the state government to appeal the High Court's decision in the double bench. Rao pointed out that if the government's own affidavit states that 90% of the selected candidates are honest, it is their responsibility to ensure justice for them. He criticized political statements by figures like Kirori Lal Meena and Hanuman Beniwal, demanding a fair inquiry instead of decisions based on political rhetoric.

CM Bhajanlal Sharma sends 5 Cr aid to flood-hit Uttarakhand

TDG NETWORK
JAIPUR



CM Bhajanlal Sharma FILE PHOTO

Rajasthan Chief Minister Bhajanlal Sharma has extended financial assistance of Rs 5 crore to the state of Uttarakhand in response to the severe floods that have caused significant damage and loss of life. The amount was sent from the Chief Minister's Relief Fund through demand draft to Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami on Sunday, to support immediate relief and rehabilitation efforts for disaster-affected families. In a telephonic conversation with CM Dhami, Sharma expressed solidarity with the people of Uttarakhand, stating that

Rajasthan stands firmly with them in this hour of crisis. He assured all possible cooperation from Rajasthan in relief and recovery efforts. In an official letter addressed to CM Dhami, Sharma conveyed deep

sorrow over the devastation caused by the floods and expressed condolences to the bereaved families. He also prayed for a swift return to normalcy in the affected areas and wished strength and patience to the victims.

Minister Jogaram Patel assesses rain damage in Padsoli

TDG NETWORK
JAIPUR

Jaipur's District In-charge Minister, Jogaram Patel, visited Padsoli on Sunday to survey areas affected by recent heavy rainfall. He engaged directly with villagers, listening to their problems and needs. Patel assured the public that the state government is fully committed to providing immediate relief. He issued stern instructions to officials, stating that no negligence would be tolerated in the relief work and that affected families must receive prompt assistance. He specifically ordered that food, water, and other essential facilities be provided at temporary shelters for families whose homes are flooded. The minister also directed officials



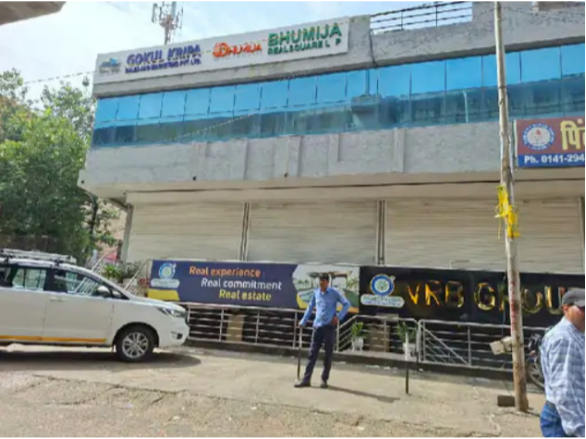
District In-charge Minister, Jogaram Patel, visits Padsoli to survey Rain affected areas

to use pump sets to drain water from waterlogged areas and to conduct regular fogging and spraying of disinfectants to prevent the spread of diseases. He promised that a thorough survey would be conducted to assess damage to crops, homes, and livestock, and the state government would provide maximum possible compensation based on the survey report. Patel emphasized that under the leadership of Chief Minister Bhajanlal Sharma, the government stands with every affected citizen and will work with a team spirit to ensure timely relief for all those in need. He was accompanied by several senior officials, including District Collector Dr. Jitendra Kumar Soni and Superintendent of Police Rashi Dogra.

Massive tax evasion racket busted in Jaipur

TDG NETWORK
JAIPUR

In a major crackdown on financial irregularities, the Income Tax Department has exposed a massive tax evasion racket involving real estate and pan masala companies in Jaipur and Kota. Raids conducted on more than 18 locations since September 2 have disclosed cash transactions worth a staggering Rs 1250 crore. During the ongoing operation, officials have seized Rs 9.5 crore in cash and jewelry valued at Rs 10.5 crore. A significant breakthrough was the discovery of an illegal pan masala warehouse in Bhankrota, Jaipur, located using a GPS device. The warehouse, filled with



Headquarters of Gokul Kripa Group in Jaipur.

goods worth crores, has been handed over to the CGST department. The raids targeted operators of prominent groups like Gokul Kripa, High Fly Real Estate, and others, following complaints of black

market transactions. This is a rare instance where the Income Tax Department has seized such a large quantity of illegal goods and referred the matter to the CGST department, underscoring the severity of

A significant breakthrough was the discovery of an illegal pan masala warehouse in Bhankrota, Jaipur, located using a GPS device. The warehouse, filled with goods worth crores, has been handed over to the CGST department.

the offenses. Tax evasion above Rs 5 crore can lead to imprisonment.

IHHA Convention highlights sector's growth potential

TDG NETWORK
JAIPUR

At the 12th Annual Convention of the Indian Heritage Hotels Association (IHHA), Jaipur, former RPSC Chairman Lalit K. Panwar revealed that 82% of Indian travelers prefer heritage and festival tourism. Highlighting its economic potential, he stated that increasing tourism's contribution to GDP from 5% to 10% could generate 4 crore jobs. The two-day event focused on heritage tourism, rural engagement, and sustainable practices. The first Thakur Randhir Vikram Singh Mandawa Memorial Award was presented to Aman Nath of Neemrana Hotels. Key sessions included discussions on the future of tourism, revival of dying arts



12th Annual Convention of the Indian Heritage Hotels Association (IHHA), Jaipur

and crafts, GST's impact on hospitality, and rural tourism via horse safaris. Experts stressed the importance of digital tools, word-of-mouth, and influencers in modern tourism marketing. The role of Rajasthan culture, Marwari horses, and storytelling in attracting visitors was also emphasized. The convention concluded with remarks by IHHA Joint Secretary, Prithvi Thavi Singh.

Application process for 70 new fair price shops to start today

TDG NETWORK
JAIPUR

The Jaipur district administration is set to begin the application process for 70 new fair price shops on Monday. The application window is open for 11 shops under District Logistics Officer Jaipur I and 59 shops under Jaipur II. Prospective applicants can obtain forms from the respective District Logistics Officer's office from September 8 to September 30. Filled forms, costing Rs 100 via demand draft or Indian postal order, must be submitted between September 15 and October 10. Forms from any other source will not be accepted. Eligibility criteria include a minimum age of 21 and a maximum of 45 years. Ap-

Prospective applicants can obtain forms from the respective District Logistics Officer's office from September 8 to September 30.

plicants must be a resident of the same ward or Gram Panchayat as the proposed shop. Educational requirements are a minimum of a bachelor's degree with a three-month computer training certificate. If no graduates apply, candidates who have completed 12th grade will be considered. Further details are available on the departmental website.

Sheetal wins Gold at District Wrestling Competition

TDG NETWORK
DEEG

Sheetal from Bartai School clinched the gold medal in the 53 kg girls' category at the 69th District Level Wrestling and Boxing Competition held at Anardevi Government Senior Secondary School. The event was conducted under the direction of Kesari Singh, with former district sports officer Satyaprakash Luhach as the chief guest and District PTI Association President Chandrabhan Singh presiding. Wrestling coaches Yadunath Singh and Tinku Khan praised the outstanding performances by several girls: Sonam (57 kg), Sanjana (61 kg), Diya (43 kg), Nahna (49 kg), Nidhi Kumari (65 kg), and Sarita (40 kg) – all gold medalists in their respective categories.



Winners with their Coaches at the 69th District Level Wrestling and Boxing Competition

In the 19-year-old boys' freestyle category, wrestlers like Mohit Yadav (57 kg), Vikas, Akhil, Amit, Pawan Singh, and others secured gold. Similarly, in the 17-year-old group, Manish Saini, Shivam, Sumit,

and more also emerged victors. Officials highlighted the importance of sports alongside academics and assured the event followed all Education Department guidelines.

Poster of Karni Katha Navratri Festival launched in Jaipur

TDG NETWORK
JAIPUR

The poster of the upcoming Karni Katha Navratri Festival was launched on Sunday at Ganesh Mandir, Jhotwara, Jaipur, amid chants of "Maa" by enthusiastic devotees. The festival, guided by Mahant Dr. Karni Pratap Ji Maharaj, will be held from 21 to 25 Sept. Each day will feature 700 mantra Yagya and 1,000-flower offerings. Dr. Karni Pratap Ji, the only MBBS doctor to narrate Devi Katha, emphasized



Poster Launch of Karni Katha Navratri Festival

sized that Shakti worship begins with respect for women. The festival aims to build character in youth and revive cultural values. Bhajans by Kinnu Banana added to the spiritual ambiance. Many dignitaries were present.

BJP Protests against abusive remarks on PM Modi's mother

TDG NETWORK
JAIPUR

In a protest organized by the Malviya Nagar Mandal of the BJP, local MLA Kalicharan Saraf, along with hundreds of party workers, burnt an effigy of Rahul Gandhi outside the GT Center today. The protest was held to condemn the use of abusive language against Prime Minister Narendra Modi's mother from the platforms of the Congress and RJD. Program coordinator Chandra Prakash stated that the effigy was burnt to



BJP protest against Abusive Remarks on PM Modi's Mother in Jaipur

voice the workers' strong disapproval of the comments. The event saw the participation of numerous BJP functionaries, includ-

ing former Women's Commission President Suman Sharma, Jaipur City Vice President Brahma Kumar Saini, and Mandal President

Program coordinator Chandra Prakash stated that the effigy was burnt to voice the workers' strong disapproval of the comments.

Harish Khadia, among others. The protest highlighted the party's outrage over what they considered to be a highly disrespectful and personal attack.

A TRIBUTE TO BHUPEN DA

OPINION

NARENDRA MODI



Today, 8th September, is a very special day for all those who are passionate about Indian culture and music. It is particularly more special for my sisters and brothers of Assam. After all, it is the birth anniversary of Dr. Bhupen Hazarika, one of the most extraordinary voices India has ever known. As you are all aware, this year marks the beginning of his birth centenary celebrations. It is an occasion to revisit his monumental contributions to Indian artistic expression and public consciousness. What Bhupen Da gave us

extends far beyond music. His works embodied emotions that transcended melody. More than just a voice, he was the heartbeat of the people. Generations have grown up listening to his songs, each word resonating with themes of kindness, social justice, unity and deep-rooted belonging. From Assam emerged a voice that flowed like a timeless river, crossing borders and cultures, carrying with it the spirit of humanity. Bhupen Da travelled the globe, rubbed shoulders with the who's who across all spectrums of society, but he remained deeply connected to his roots in Assam. The rich oral traditions, folk melodies and community storytelling practices of Assam deeply shaped his early childhood. These experiences formed the bedrock of his artistic vocabulary. He always carried the spirit of Assam's indigenous identity and the ethos of its people. Brilliance came to Bhupen

Da at a very young age. At the age of just five, he sang at a public event and quickly caught the attention of none other than Lakshminath Bezbaruah, the pioneering figure of Assamese literature. By the time he was a teenager, he had recorded his first song. But music was only one part of his personality. Bhupen Da was as much an intellectual at heart...curious, articulate and driven by an insatiable desire to understand the world. Cultural legends like Jyoti Prasad Agarwala and Bishnu Prasad Rabha left a deep impression on his mind and also deepened his spirit of enquiry. It was also this desire to learn that made him excel at Cotton College, Banaras Hindu University and took him to the United States, where he interacted with leading academics, thinkers and musicians of those times. He met Paul Robeson, the legendary artist and civil rights leader. Robeson's song "Ol' Man River" became the inspiration for Bhupen Da's iconic composition "Bistritno Parore." The much-admired former American First Lady, Eleanor Roosevelt, awarded him a Gold Medal for his performances of Indian folk music. Bhupen Da had the option of remaining in the US, but



Bhupen Hazarika

he returned to India and immersed himself in music. From radio to theatre, films to educational documentaries, he was well-versed in each of these media. Wherever he went, he emphasised supporting young talent. His works combined lyrical flair and also gave social messages, touching upon justice for the poor, rural development, strength of common citizens, to name a few. Through his music, he gave voice to the aspirations of boatmen, tea garden workers, women, farmers, etc. In addition to being nos-

talgie, Bhupen Da's works also became a powerful lens to view modernity. A lot of people, especially from the socially backward classes like him, derived strength and hope from his music. The spirit of 'Ek Bharat, Shreshtha Bharat' found powerful expression in Bhupen Hazarika's life journey. His works transcended linguistic and regional boundaries to unite people across the country. He composed for films in Assamese, Bengali and Hindi. He made Assam visible and audible to the rest of India. It is no

exaggeration to say that he helped shape the cultural identity of modern Assam, both for those within the state and for the Assamese diaspora across the globe. Bhupen Da, although not really a political person, did remain connected to the world of public service as well. In 1967, he was elected as an independent MLA from Nauboicha constituency in Assam, demonstrating how deeply his public persona was rooted in the people's trust. Though he never became a career politician, his passion for serving oth-

ers was highly impactful. The people and Government of India have recognised his enormous contributions over the years. He was conferred with several awards, including the Padma Shri, Padma Bhushan, Padma Vibhushan, Dadasaheb Phalke Award and more. In 2019, it was an honour for me personally and for the NDA government that the Bharat Ratna was conferred upon him during our tenure. People from across the world, especially those from Assam and the Northeast, expressed joy that this honour was conferred upon him. This honour celebrated the principles that Bhupen Da held dear to his heart- that music, when grounded in truth, can transcend all barriers. That a song can carry the weight of a people's dreams and move hearts across the world. I remember the time Bhupen Da passed away in 2011. I had seen on television how lakhs of people attended his funeral. Every eye was moist that time. Even in death, like in his illustrious life, he brought people together. It was thus fitting that he was cremated at the Jalukbari hillock overlooking the Brahmaputra, the very river that had been the lifeline of his music, meta-

phors and memories. It is gladdening that the Assam Government has supported the work of the Bhupen Hazarika Cultural Trust, which is working to popularise his life journey among youngsters. Bhupen Hazarika's life teaches us the power of empathy, of listening to people and of staying rooted. His songs continue to be sung by young and old alike. His music teaches us to be compassionate and courageous. It asks us to remember our rivers, our labourers, our tea workers, our Nari Shakti and our Yuva Shakti. It encourages us to believe in unity in diversity. Bharat is blessed to have Bhupen Hazarika. As we celebrate the beginning of his centenary year, let us reiterate our commitment to spreading his message far and wide. May it also inspire us to keep working to support music, art and culture, to encourage young talent and make India a nurturing ground for creativity and artistic excellence. It is only fitting that one of India's most significant infrastructure projects, the bridge connecting Dhola and Sadiya, bears the name of Bhupen Hazarika. Just as his songs connected hearts across regions, this bridge connects lands and people.

Pitron ke paksh mein

OPINION

PRIYA S. TANDON



We believe that if we are comfortably placed in our present life, our ancestors surely did good karma and we are reaping the benefits. A time period has been set aside for everything in Indian culture. Just as there are fixed dates in the Lunar calendar for festivals like Janmashtami, Diwali, Navratri ... there are fixed dates for offering gratitude to our ancestors. The Pitri-Paksh or the Shraadh period starts on Poonnima 7 September, 2025. The first Shraadh is on Pratipada, 8 September, 2025. The time or date in the lunar month, when a person leaves the body, determines the day on which his Shraadh can be performed by his progeny in times to come. Parents are the progenitors who give us the gift of the human body. It is said that human birth is a rare gem, it is not easy to get it. When a child is born he brings with him the invisible chain of past-life karma. The prayers of his progeny from the past life, can still pray for the peace of his soul. So it is important to perform Shraadh with Shraddha. No school shall teach this to our chil-

dren. We have to teach by example. It is said that one day in Pitri-Lok is equal to one year on the Earth. While in Pitri-Lok, our Pitrs (ancestors), come down to the earth to have a meal once in their day, which amounts to once in a year for us. The 15 day period that is allocated for Shraadh falls at this time. The day on which they are allowed to come on the earth and accept a meal from their progeny is designated and fixed. It is believed that if the progeny of the deceased, offer food to Brahmins and do Pitri-Tarpan, the ancestors go back satisfied. The simplest way to do Shraadh-Tarpan is to put some milk, black til, jau and rice in a pot of water. You can add some flowers and kusha (grass) and offer it to the ancestors while facing towards the South. Offering it respectfully, while taking the name of the deceased, amounts to Shraadh Tarpan. The water should preferably fall on a Tulsi plant or near a Peepal tree or on the grass; not on the floor. No wastage! Anything that is offered in the memory of the ancestors with Shraddha or reverence, amounts to Shraadh. During Shraadh, food is also offered to cows, crows and dogs. Praying for our ancestors is a small way of repaying the Pitri-rinn or the debt of life that we owe to them. No one can ever repay all that our parents have done for us. It is prescribed that we should do Shraadh for three generations upwards. So we should do Shraadh for

our parents, grandparents and great grandparents. If one does not have time or if they do not know the dates, when their ancestors passed on, they can do Shraadh for all ancestors on the last day of the Pitri-Paksh. This day is called Sarva-Pitri-Amavasya; it falls on September 21, 2025. Interestingly, on this day one can do tarpan for anyone known or unknown to them. We believe that the souls for whom no one does Shraadh, remain in the cosmos in an unhappy and grieving state. But if somebody does Shraadh for them, they move on, to their onwards journey. Whatever we offer to God is called Arpan. Whatever we offer to our ancestors is called Tarpan. Pitri Paksha being the time dedicated to ancestors, we do not do certain things in this period. These include performing weddings, buying new clothes, doing Mundan ceremony or starting anything new. Anything that is said to be an auspicious beginning, is not done during Shraadh. It may not be improper to mention here that it is important to respect our parents and grandparents while they are alive. After they are gone, we can do Shraadh Tarpan for them, but if we have not treated them well during their lifetime, would we be able to do Shraadh Tarpan with respect? Recently, someone narrated that he had gone to the old-age home in sector 15 Chandigarh, where he met an old lady who was known to him. He was quite surprised to see her there. She belonged to a well-known family of Chandigarh. He asked her, why she was there. She said, "Don't ever tell anyone in the old age home or outside of it, who I am and that I am here." This got the man even more enraged, and he said, "Why should



Praying for our ancestors is a small way of repaying the Pitri-rinn or the debt of life that we owe to them. No one can ever repay all that our parents have done for us. It is prescribed that we should do Shraadh for three generations upwards. So we should do Shraadh for our parents, grandparents and great grandparents. If one does not have time or if they do not know the dates, when their ancestors passed on, they can do Shraadh for all ancestors on the last day of the Pitri-Paksh. This day is called Sarva-Pitri-Amavasya; it falls on September 21, 2025. Interestingly, on this day one can do tarpan for anyone known or unknown to them. We believe that the souls for whom no one does Shraadh, remain in the cosmos in an unhappy and grieving state.

the world not know that your son, who is known to be a philanthropist, put his own mother in an old age home? The world should know of this! But she said, "Nabi, aisa karne se, mere bete ki chavi kharab ho jaaegi." (If that happens, the respect of my son in the eyes of the world, shall go down.) Such is the love of a mother ... however shabbily, her son had treated her, she was still willing to give

her all, for her son. The best interpretation of the word 'parent' has been given by Shri Sathya Sai Baba. He said that 'parent' denotes pay-rent. Pay rent to your parents. After parents pass on, we get a share in their property, jewels, etc. But what can we give them? We can pay the rent of Respect, Empathy, Niceness and Time. Let us remember that after our parents are gone ... our siblings

are still there. They are the living embodiments of the flesh and blood of our parents. If we maintain good relations with them, that too shall make the departed souls of our parents and grandparents, happy. Brahmins advise us to put kheer under a Banyan or Peepal tree during Shraadh. When we put kheer under a Peepal or Banyan tree, crows eat it along with the fruits of the

Peepal and Banyan trees. The undigested seeds would get transferred to wherever the crow poops. This would result in propagation of the seeds of Peepal and Banyan. The only tree that emits oxygen even at night is Peepal. The medicinal properties of Banyan are endless. This was an intelligent way crafted by the Rishis, for the propagation of these valuable trees. I recently saw a reel in

which our Hon'ble President, Smt. Droupadi Murmu, narrated a childhood memory of watching her father bring dried wood of trees from the jungles. Before chopping them and using them to light the fire at their hearth, he would bow and offer respect and ask for forgiveness from the dried wood. The President remembers asking her father why he was doing so. Her father replied, "All their life these trees have given us fresh air, greenery, flowers, foliage and fruits. Now they have become old. Even now, they are of use to us, as firewood! I am asking for forgiveness for cutting and burning them, because we have no other option for cooking our food!" Listening to this in the reel, gave me goosebumps. He was offering obeisance to the aged trees! That is Shraddha, real obeisance! Food for thought ...

THE DAILY GUARDIAN SURVEY ON INDIA-U.S. PARTNERSHIP

43% of respondents said that the US-India alliance is important for the global community.

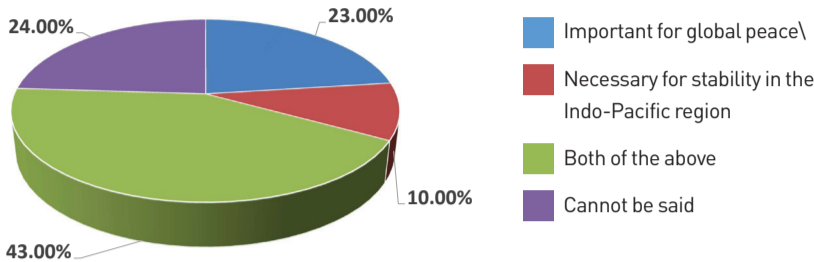
A survey conducted on September 6, 2025, with 204 participants, revealed strong support for India-U.S. ties. About 76% believe America’s “pivot”

strengthens India’s global role, while 80% see harm from Trump-era tensions. Moreover, 63% approve of recent U.S. policy toward India, high-

lighting the strategic importance and challenges shaping the evolving bilateral partnership.

Q1.▶

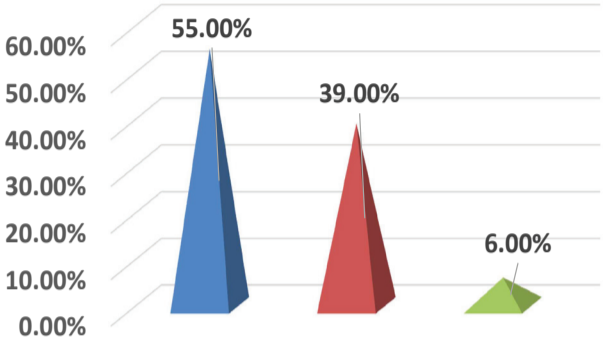
How important is the India-US partnership for the world?



Important for global peace
Necessary for stability in the Indo-Pacific region
Both of the above
Cannot be said

◀Q2.

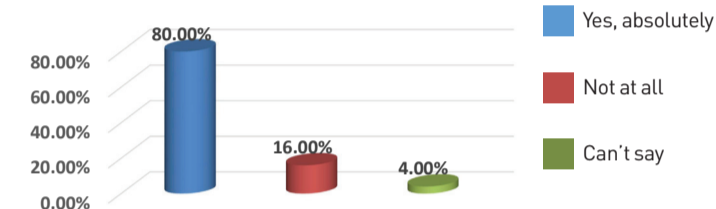
Is India-US partnership a strong alliance against global challenges?



Yes, absolutely
Not at all
Can't say

Q3.▶

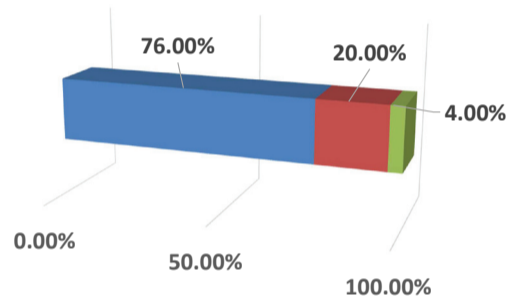
Has Trump realized the damage that could be caused by the recent escalation of tensions with India?



Yes, absolutely
Not at all
Can't say

◀Q4.

Does 'America's U-turn' reflect India's strong global diplomacy?



Yes, absolutely
Not at all
Can't say

THE DAILY GUARDIAN SURVEY ON HAZRATBAL DARGAH CONTROVERSY

Public sees political motive, demands strict legal action.

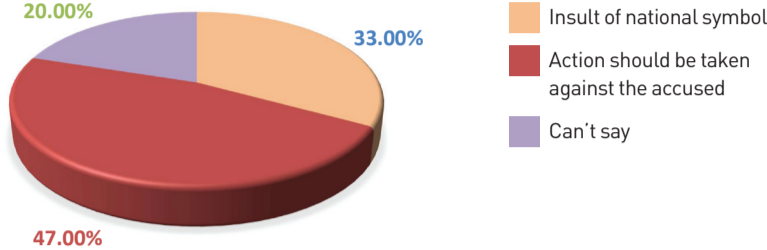
The Daily Guardian Survey captures public sentiment on the Hazratbal Dargah controversy after the Ashoka emblem was damaged. A 47% plural-

ity wants prompt action against the accused, while 33% frame the act as an insult to the national emblem; 20% are undecided. An overwhelm-

ing 73% perceive the incident as politically motivated, with only 22% rejecting the claim.

Q1.▶

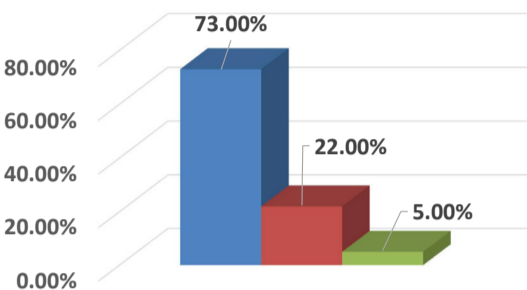
What is your opinion on the breaking of the Ashoka emblem at Srinagar's Hazratbal Dargah?



Insult of national symbol
Action should be taken against the accused
Can't say

◀Q2.

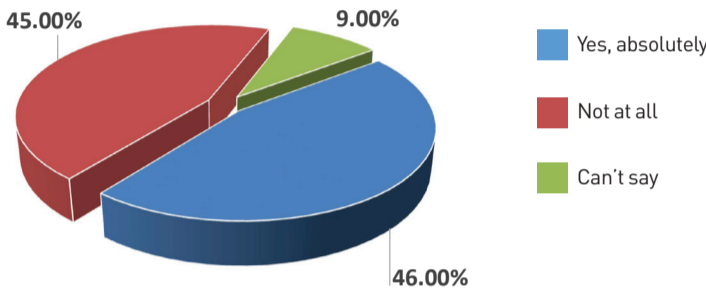
Is the incident of breaking the Ashoka emblem at Srinagar's Hazratbal Dargah politically motivated?



Yes, absolutely
Not at all
Can't say

Q3.▶

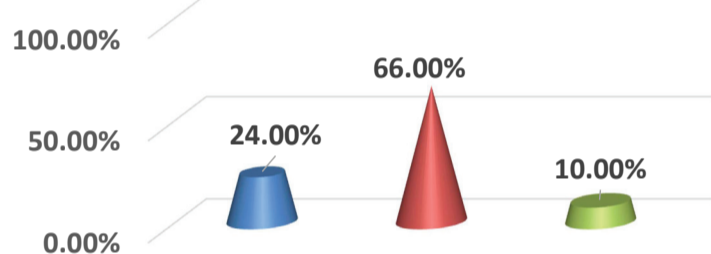
Are depictions of animals at Muslim religious places against the Islamic concept of monotheism?



Yes, absolutely
Not at all
Can't say

◀Q4.

Former CM Mehbooba Mufti said the reason behind the incident is the growing pressure of anti-national ideas. Your view?



Agree
Disagree
Can't say

Punjab floods claim 46 lives

CONTINUED FROM P1

cede from Fazilka.

Meanwhile, Education Minister Harjot Singh Bains received a cheque of Rs 1.25 lakh for the Chief Minister's Relief Fund from the National Awardee Teachers' Association Punjab, marking Teachers' Day with their contribution. "They are the pride of the Education Department," Bains said, commending the teachers' support.

Relief efforts have also poured in from neighbouring states. Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta flagged off 52 trucks of essentials from the Delhi BJP office

and announced Rs 5 crore for Punjab's relief fund, while Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini dispatched 15 trucks of aid to Punjab and 10 to Himachal Pradesh.

The floods have also triggered political sparring. Delhi BJP chief Virendra Sachdeva accused AAP convenor Arvind Kejriwal of being absent and on a "political tour" in Gujarat, a charge rebutted by AAP's Saurabh Bharadwaj, who said BJP should instead appreciate the party's volunteers helping flood-hit families.

Punjab Revenue Minister Hardeep Singh Mundian said the floods continue to

expand, with 48 more villages and over 2,600 hectares of crops affected in the past 24 hours. He added that three more deaths were reported, raising the toll to 46, with three people still missing in Pathankot.

The Prime Minister's visit, the first since the crisis began, carries both administrative and political weight, with the state government pressing for greater central support. Modi's review in Pathankot is expected to focus not just on immediate relief but also on long-term flood-prevention strategies such as strengthening embankments and drainage systems.

Russia's biggest drone strike hits Kyiv govt HQ

CONTINUED FROM P1

peace and consider a potential multinational peacekeeping force. Moscow, how-

ever, has warned that any Western troops in Ukraine would be deemed "legitimate targets."

VP Election: BJP, Opposition step up preparations

CONTINUED FROM P1

Prime Minister Narendra Modi making a striking gesture by sitting in the last row "like a common worker."

The workshop, which began on Sunday, opened with registration, lighting of lamps, Vande Mataram and a cultural programme. Discussions centred on "Developed India by 2027" and the "Effective use of social media." In the afternoon, MPs broke into committees to deliberate on agriculture, defence, energy, railways and transport, while also receiving training on parliamentary rules, time management, and preparations for the upcoming session.

The second day will focus exclusively on the Vice-Presidential election

process, including voting procedure, use of ink and related rules. BJP MPs also felicitated Prime Minister Modi and lauded his government's GST reforms during the session.

The contest pits NDA nominee CP Radhakrishnan, the Governor of Maharashtra and a two-time MP from Coimbatore, against INDIA bloc candidate Justice (Retd.) B Sudarshan Reddy, a former Supreme Court judge from Telangana known for landmark rulings, including the Salwa Judum verdict and criticism of the government's inaction on black money. Both hail from southern India.

Meanwhile, Opposition Leader Mallikarjun Kharge will host a dinner for INDIA bloc MPs on Monday

evening at the Parliament annexe to cement support for Justice Reddy. AIMIM chief Asaduddin Owaisi has also pledged backing, calling him a "respected jurist and fellow Hyderabadite."

The Vice-Presidential post fell vacant after Jagdeep Dhankhar resigned on 21 July citing health reasons. The VP is elected by an electoral college of both Houses of Parliament, under proportional representation through a single transferable vote by secret ballot. Ahead of polling, BJP president JP Nadda has summoned MPs to Delhi for strategy sessions and hosted a dinner on 6 September. Prime Minister Modi will also host an NDA dinner at his residence on 8 September.

Donald Trump's tariff threat misfires, says ex-diplomat

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

Former Indian diplomat KP Fabian on Sunday said US President Donald Trump is beginning to recognise that his aggressive trade tactics towards India, particularly the threat of an additional 25 per cent tariff over New Delhi's purchase of Russian oil, have failed to yield results. Fabian's remarks came

after Trump softened his tone on bilateral ties, calling India-US relations "very special" and reaffirming his friendship with Prime Minister Narendra Modi. "It is reasonably clear that President Donald Trump has started to realise that his original expectation—that India would surrender when he threatened an additional 25 per cent—was wrong," Fabian told ANI.

Israel, US slam Western push on Palestine

CONTINUED FROM P1

security; it will destabilise the region," Sa'ar said at a press conference.

Several Western nations, including France, the UK, Australia, Canada and Belgium, have announced plans to recognise Palestine. Israel and the United States, however, have strongly criticised the move.

Sa'ar declined to confirm whether Israel intends to apply sovereignty over

parts of the West Bank but acknowledged that discussions are underway. "We are having discussions on this issue with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. There will be a decision. I think I do not have to elaborate," he stated.

Meanwhile, US Ambassador to Israel Mike Huckabee suggested that Washington has not ruled out the possibility of Israel applying sovereignty in the West Bank.

Rajasthan Spices Conclave-2025 today in Jaipur

CONTINUED FROM P1

ers, and other key players in the state's spice industry.

Chief Minister Bhajanlal Sharma will inaugurate the conclave. During the event, he will virtually inaugurate 143 construction projects, including new buildings, roads, food parks, and incubation

centers, with a total value of Rs 226 crore. The Chief Minister will also lay the virtual foundation stone for upcoming projects and release the Spices Scheme Folder and the new Raj-Spice App.

The Raj-Spice App, developed by the Rajasthan Agricultural Marketing Board, will serve as a single digital platform to con-

nect all spice stakeholders and promote transparent trade. The conclave will feature exhibitions and stalls from spice cooperatives, FPOs, and processors. Experts will guide attendees on a range of topics, including quality spice production, post-harvest management, marketing, export procedures, and organic farming techniques.

Rajasthan's Health innovations boost access and improve standards

CONTINUED FROM P1

these innovative schemes, Rajasthan has made healthcare more accessible to the general public. From rural villages and tribal belts to desert and urban regions, medical services are reaching every corner of the state. The focus is not only on treatment but also on promoting preventive healthcare and awareness. As a result, Rajasthan is

now performing above the national average on several key health indicators, marking a significant step forward in public health and well-being.

Niramay Rajasthan Abhiyan, launched by Chief Minister Bhajanlal Sharma on April 7, 2025, aims to provide accessible, affordable, and quality healthcare to every citizen. This statewide campaign focuses on both curative

and preventive health services, while also raising awareness about healthy lifestyles. Each month features a new health theme to promote habits such as cleanliness, balanced nutrition, use of Shri Anna, early disease screening, yoga, and regular exercise. The initiative is strengthening healthcare infrastructure across rural and urban areas, ensuring equitable access.

She emphasised that preclinical results confirmed the vaccine's safety, even with repeated administration, and highlighted its significant effectiveness. Researchers recorded reductions in tumour size and slowed progression ranging from 60% to 80%, depending on disease characteristics. Studies also indicated improved survival rates attributable to the vaccine.

The vaccine's initial target will be colorectal cancer. Promising progress has also been made in developing vaccines for glioblastoma and certain melanomas, including ocular melanoma, which are now



Representative image.

at advanced stages of development.

The 10th Eastern Economic Forum was held in Vladivostok from September 3-6 under the theme "The Far East: Cooperation for Peace and Prosperity." The pro-

gramme featured more than 100 thematic sessions across seven tracks and brought together over 8,400 participants from more than 75 countries and territories.

Most people are familiar with

vaccines used to prevent infections such as measles and chickenpox, which work by training the immune system to recognise and respond to harmful germs. However, some vaccines can also be designed to help the immune system identify and attack cancer cells. Cancer vaccines already exist for certain prostate and bladder cancers, with more under development, according to the American Cancer Society. Cancer vaccines are laboratory-made substances that strengthen the body's natural defences. Depending on their type, they may be used to prevent cancers (such as the HPV vaccine) or as part of cancer treatment.

SC TO HEAR PLEAS ON BIHAR SIR TODAY

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court is scheduled to hear on Monday a batch of pleas, including those of political parties, challenging the June 24 decision of the Election Commission to conduct Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in poll-bound Bihar. A bench of Justices Surya Kant and Joymalya Bagchi will consider the response of political parties like the Rashtriya Janta Dal (RJD), AIMIM and other petitioners on the poll panel's note where it has submitted that 99.5 per cent of the 7.24 crore electors in the draft electoral roll had filed their eligibility documents in the SIR exercise.

The top court will resume hearing on the batch of pleas including those filed by NGO, activists and political parties since August 22, when it had directed the Election Commission to allow excluded voters from the draft roll to submit their claims through the online mode, besides making physical submissions in the SIR exercise in Bihar.

On September 1, the top



court, while hearing some applications filed by political parties for extension of deadlines, was told by the poll panel that claims, objections and corrections in the draft electoral roll prepared in Bihar under the SIR exercise can be filed beyond September 1 but these would be considered once the electoral roll is finalised. It had said claims and objections in the draft roll can be filed till the last date of nomination forms in each assembly constituency.

The top court also termed the confusion over the Bihar SIR as "largely a trust issue" and directed the state legal

service authority to deploy paralegal volunteers to assist individual voters and political parties in filing claims and objections to the draft roll, which was published on August 1.

The poll panel, which had opposed any extension of the September 1 deadline for filing of claims and objections as per the SIR schedule, had submitted that post the top court's August 22 order, till August 30, only 22,723 claims had been filed for inclusion and 1,34,738 objections had been filed for exclusion.

According to the June 24 schedule of the poll panel

for the Bihar SIR, the deadline for filing claims and objections to the draft roll ended on September 1, and the final electoral roll will be published on September 30.

The top court had asked the political parties to submit their replies in response to the EC's note.

The top court had said the paralegal volunteers would submit a confidential report to the district judges concerned and the collated data of the state would be considered on September 8.

It had said the EC has to follow the procedure prescribed in the June 24 order related to Bihar SIR and

expressed concern over the high rate of objections filed for exclusion of names from the draft roll.

"Political parties need to activate themselves," it had said and posted the matter for September 8.

The RJD's plea filed through advocate Fauzia Shakil and the AIMIM's through advocate Nizam Pasha have sought extension of the deadline to file claims and objections in the poll revision exercise in poll-bound Bihar.

The special intensive revision of the voter list in Bihar -- the first since 2003 -- sparked a huge political row, with the opposition parties alleging that the exercise is aimed at depriving people of their right to vote. The EC has maintained that SIR is being conducted to clean the voter list by deleting names of people who are dead, have duplicate voter cards or are illegal immigrants.

The SIR's findings reduced the total number of registered voters in Bihar, from 7.9 crore before the exercise to 7.24 crore after conducting it.

J'khand BJP to hold protests to press demand for CBI probe into 'encounter death' of Surya Hansda

TDG NETWORK
RANCHI

Jharkhand BJP chief Babul Marandi on Sunday said the party would stage demonstrations across 216 blocks of the state on September 11, demanding a CBI probe into the death of Surya Hansda in an alleged encounter.

Marandi, also the leader of the opposition in the state assembly, said the BJP would also raise demand for returning the land "forcibly" acquired from tribal farmers in Ranchi's Nagri for a hospital project.

The project is about the extension of the Rajendra Institute of Medical Sciences (RIMS) here.

"We will also submit a memorandum to the governor after the event on September 11," Marandi said in a press conference here.

"The BJP has taken seriously the murder of social-political activist Surya Hansda by the police and the land forcibly acquired

Marandi, also the leader of the opposition in the state assembly, said the BJP would also raise demand for returning the land "forcibly" acquired from tribal farmers in Ranchi's Nagri for a hospital project.

by the government from the tribal farmers of Nagri in the name of the RIMS 2 project. The party has raised its voice on these issues from the assembly to the streets," he claimed.

Hansda, who contested multiple assembly polls and was also wanted in several criminal cases, was arrested from Nawadih village in Deoghar on August 10, the police said.

According to the police, he died in the alleged encounter that took place when he was being taken to Rahadbadia Hills to recover hidden weapons.

Hansda had allegedly snatched a weapon from police personnel and fired at them while attempting to

flee the spot. The policemen retaliated, which resulted in his death, according to the Godda police.

Meanwhile, the ruling JMM on Sunday alleged that the BJP was trying to mislead people on the issue of Surya Hansda and Nagri land.

"The way the BJP is trying to gain political advantage in the Surya Hansda case is an insult to the tribal community. Senior JMM leader and MLA Hemlal Murmu has already made public the details of Surya's criminal life. The tribal community does not accept criminals," JMM general secretary and spokesperson Vinod Pandey said in a press statement.

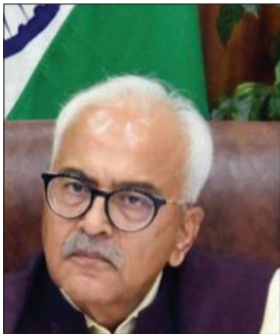
Manipur Guv meets top officials, BJP MLAs ahead of PM's likely visit

TDG NETWORK
IMPHAL

Manipur Governor Ajay Kumar Bhalla on Sunday held a high-level meeting with top bureaucrats and several BJP MLAs, including former chief minister N Biren Singh, at Raj Bhavan, officials said.

The meeting gains significance ahead of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's likely visit to Manipur in the second week of this month. If it materialises, it would be the PM's first visit to the northeastern state since ethnic violence broke out in May 2023.

Chief Secretary Puneet Kumar Goel, Security Advisor Kuldeep Singh and Director General of Police Rajiv Singh were among those who attended the meeting, the officials



Manipur Governor Ajay Kumar Bhalla

said.

Although the agenda of the meeting was not officially disclosed, a BJP leader told PTI, "The meeting, which was also attended by our party's state unit president A Sharda Devi, deliberated on multiple issues, including matters related to the likely visit of Prime Minister Narendra Modi."

Hazratbal row: Over 50 detained for plaque vandalism incident

TDG NETWORK
SRINAGAR

More than 50 persons have been detained for questioning in connection with the vandalism of a plaque with the Ashoka emblem in the Hazratbal shrine here as police intensified searches for those involved in the incident, officials said on Sunday. The police checked the videos and CCTV footage of the incident that occurred after the Friday congregational prayers, following which these people were detained, they said.

"No one has been formally arrested so far but some people are being questioned," a senior police official said.

The official said action "as per law will also be taken against women who vandalised the plaque but any minor found involved in



A stone plaque on the reconstruction and redevelopment of the Assari Sharief Hazratbal Shrine by the Jammu & Kashmir Waqf Board, vandalised.

the incident will not be proceeded against".

A huge controversy erupted in Kashmir after the plaque with the Ashoka emblem was vandalised in the Hazratbal shrine on Friday, with political parties accusing Waqf Board chief Darakshan Andrabi of hurting religious sentiments by using the national emblem in the mosque.

They demanded registration of a criminal case and her immediate removal.

Farooq Abdullah criticises Waqf Board

TDG NETWORK
SRINAGAR

National Conference president Farooq Abdullah on Sunday said the controversy at the Hazratbal shrine could have been avoided had the current Jammu and Kashmir Waqf Board not installed the plaque with the Ashoka emblem at the shrine dedicated to Prophet Muhammad. "There was no need to install the plaque. They put it up and people did not like

it," Abdullah told reporters in Anantnag, where he attended a condolence meeting.

Calling the installation a mistake that should not have occurred, the former chief minister emphasised that Hazratbal and other shrines were built through the contributions of the people, not as favours from anyone.

"When Sher-e-Kashmir (Sheikh Muhammad Abdullah) oversaw the

construction, he did not put any board on the shrine because it was dedicated to Allah and His Prophet," he said. When asked about the FIR registered over the vandalism of the emblem, Abdullah stated, "They need to understand that what they did was wrong, and the people will not tolerate such actions. We are a peace-loving community, and they should know that they made a mistake," he added.

attempt to revive terrorism and separatism in the Valley.

The plaque was placed inside the Hazratbal shrine, which houses a relic of Prophet Muhammad, on Thursday, sparking outrage among devotees who

maintained that placing any figure or symbol inside a mosque is against the Islamic principle of monotheism.

The plaque was subsequently vandalised and removed by unidentified individuals after Friday prayers, prompting police to register a case.

"I have never seen an emblem being used in this way in any religious place. Mosques, shrines, temples and gurdwaras are not government institutions. These are religious institutions and government emblems are not used in religious institutions," Abdullah said.

Andrabi, a BJP appointee, called for legal action, including booking the "hooligans" under the stringent Public Safety Act (PSA), for vandalising the emblem.

Over 91% of 3.19 lakh take WB SSC teacher exam after SC scrapped jobs

TDG NETWORK
KOLKATA

Around 91 per cent of the 3.19 lakh candidates appeared for the West Bengal SSC School Level Selection Test (SLST) on Sunday, the first teacher recruitment exam since the Supreme Court scrapped over 26,000 jobs in government-run schools in April.

The exam, which began at noon, was held amidst tight security across 636 centres statewide.

WBSSC chairman Sidhartha Majumdar said in a statement: "Around 91 per cent of the 3.19 lakh candidates wrote the papers. I thank the entire state ad-



Representative image

ministration for its fullest support to enable us to conduct the exams in a smooth manner." The exam was held for recruitment to assistant teacher posts for classes 9 and 10. Notably, several candidates from Bihar and Uttar Pradesh also participated. Majum-

dar said the number of total outstation candidates was more than 31,000. Umesh Yadav, a candidate from Uttar Pradesh, said he had secured masters in science and was trying his luck in West Bengal.

A three-tier security system was in place at exam

centres, including naka checking 100 metres from the venue, and multiple checks at the gates and on the premises.

Considering the security measures, candidates were asked to turn up at the centres from 10 am onwards, two hours before the start of the exam. Barcode scanners were used to check admit cards at entrances, and only pens -- also made available at centres -- were permitted inside.

No electronic devices or mobile phones were allowed, and even venue supervisors and SSC officials were barred from carrying phones into exam halls.

TDG NETWORK
GUWAHATI

Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on Sunday expressed deep condolences over the devastating floods in Himachal Pradesh and announced a contribution of Rs 5 crore from the people of Assam to the state's Chief Minister's Relief Fund to aid relief and rehabilitation efforts.

In a post on X, Sarma said, "The devastating floods in Himachal Pradesh have caused immense loss of lives and property. My heartfelt condolences to the bereaved families and prayers for the speedy recovery of the affected. On behalf of



the people of Assam, we are contributing 5 crore to the Chief Minister's Relief Fund of Himachal Pradesh to support relief and rehabilitation efforts."

Himachal Pradesh, grappling with the relentless monsoon, continues to face significant disruptions to public utilities, with hundreds of roads, power transformers, and water schemes affected.

The State Emergency Operation Centre (SEOC) of the Himachal Pradesh State Disaster Management Authority (HPSDMA) reported a high number of disruptions as of 10:00 a.m. on September 7, 2025.

The cumulative death toll, since the start of the monsoon season, has reached 366, with fatalities from rain-related incidents and road accidents reported separately. Of the total deaths, 203 were due to rain-related incidents, while 163 were a result of road accidents.

According to the latest status report from the SEOC, a total of 866 roads were blocked across the state as of the morning of September

7, 2025. This includes three National Highways: NH-03, NH-05, and NH-305.

Kullu is the worst-hit district of the state in terms of roads blocked, followed by Mandi and Shimla.

The maximum number of road blockages was reported in the Kullu district, with 225 roads affected, followed by Mandi with 191 and Shimla with 154. The primary cause for these blockages is heavy rainfall.

The number of road blockages in other districts was reported as: Chamba (116), Sirmour (45), Kangra (42), Una (33), Solan (22), Bilaspur (18), Lahaul & Spiti (11), Kinnaur (6) and Hamirpur (3).

Maoist commander with 10 lakh bounty killed during gunfight in Jharkhand

TDG NETWORK
CHAIBASA (JHARKHAND)

A prominent leader of the banned Communist Party of India (Maoist), Aaptan, was killed in Jharkhand's Chaibasa area during a joint operation carried out by the district police and the COBRA 209 battalion in the state, officials confirmed on Sunday.

The Maoist zonal commander, also known by the name Amit Hansda, had a Rs 10 lakh reward on him, had over 95 cases registered

against him, and was allegedly involved in the murder of multiple police officials and civilians, Superintendent of Police (SP) Rakesh Ranjan said.

The Maoists had opened fire at the security forces after spotting them, leading to a gunfight, during which the maoist commander was killed. His identity was confirmed after security forces searched the area, while they also recovered weapons and cartridges.

According to Jharkhand

police, the encounter began around 5:45 am on September 7 in the Panchaltaburu forest and hilly area of Rela Paral under the Goikera police station. Officials said that the Maoists opened fire on the security forces, who retaliated in self-defence. Several Maoists managed to escape using the cover of dense forests and mountains.

Police said the operation was launched after intelligence on September 6 indicated that top Maoists,



including Mochhu, Ashwin, Ravi Sardar, Jaikat, Uptan,

Sanat, Amit Munda, and Bhuneshwar alias Saluka

Kayam, were roaming in the Kolhan area under the

Goikera police station.

They were reportedly planning major attacks, including planting IEDs to target security forces and recruiting new cadres. The joint team was led by Paras Rana, IPS, Additional Superintendent of Police (Operation), Chaibasa, and Deepak Kumar, Assistant Commandant, Cobra 209 BN.

Police records revealed that Hansda, also known as Apatan, was involved in multiple brutal killings and

attacks in the Kolhan region. He was accused of the murder of Pratap Hembram in January 2023, the shooting of Charo Purti in May 2023, and the killing of Rodo Surin, alias Dryber, in August 2023 by slitting his throat and the murder of Vaich Supaya Mutkan in August 2023.

He was also reported to have been involved in planning multiple attacks under the guidance of senior Maoist leaders like Misir Basas, alias Sagar Da.

9 DROWN, 12 MISSING DURING GANESH IDOL IMMERSIONS IN MAHARASHTRA

TDG NETWORK
MUMBAI

Ganapati festivities culminated on Sunday with lakhs of devotees bidding farewell to the adorable elephant-headed god they consecrated and worshipped for ten days, while at least nine persons drowned and 12 were missing in various incidents related to immersion of idols in Maharashtra. These incidents were reported from Thane, Pune, Nanded, Nashik, Jalgaon, Washim, Palghar and Amravati districts, officials said on Sunday.

In Pune district, five persons were swept away in different water bodies in three separate incidents, an official said.

“Two men were swept away in Bhama river at Waki Khurd and one at Shell Pimpalgaon. Another person slipped into a well at Birwadi in the rural part of the district. A 45-year-old man was swept away at Khed,” the Pune official said. Bodies of three persons were recovered, he added.

Three persons were swept



People immerse an idol of Lord Ganesha during the Ganesh Chaturthi festival at Girgaon Chowpatty in Mumbai.

away in a river in Gandegaoon in Nanded district, one of whom was rescued some time later, a local official said. Search was on for the other two, Nanded police said.

Similar incidents took place in Sinnar and Kalwan areas of Nashik district.

“Five persons were swept away in Nashik. The bodies of two persons have been recovered, while efforts are on to trace the others,” the official said.

Three persons were swept away in Jalgaon in separate incidents, the official said.

Three persons from Mundewadi in Thane’s Shahapur taluka were swept away in the strong currents of the Bhargavi river near a dam. They were returning after immersing a Ganapati idol, Shahapur Tehsildar Parmeshwar Kasule said.

He identified the persons as Datta Lote, Pratip Munde and Kuldeep Jakare.

“The bodies of Lote and

Munde have been retrieved. The search for Jakare is underway,” the tehsildar said.

In Palghar district, three men who were swept away in a creek during Ganapati idol immersion were saved with the help of a Ro-Ro boat after a quick alert from maritime authorities, officials said on Sunday.

The incident took place at around 3 pm on Saturday at Narangi jetty in Virar (West), they said.

Two persons drowned in

Washim district, a local official said, adding the body of one of them has been recovered.

One man drowned in Amravati, as per police. His body was retrieved by the disaster management team.

In Mumbai city, where immersion processions extend several hours, a man died of electrocution and five other individuals sustained injuries, civic officials said.

The incident occurred on Khairani Road in the Sakinaka area on Sunday morning when a Ganesh idol came into contact with a hanging electric wire.

Amid continuous rainfall in Maharashtra, state disaster response teams and National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) personnel have been deployed, officials said.

In neighbouring Madhya Pradesh, two teenage boys drowned after falling into a stream during the immersion of an idol of Lord Ganesha in Raisen district.

The boys drowned after falling into a stream in Gatkhed village on Saturday night, police said.

Shiv Sena MPs to meet today ahead of VP poll

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

Shiv Sena parliamentary group leader Dr. Shrikant Shinde has convened a crucial meeting of the party’s Members of Parliament in Delhi on Monday, a day before the Vice-Presidential election.

The meeting will be held at his residence on September 8 at 12:30 pm.

Maharashtra Governor C.P. Radhakrishnan is the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) candidate for the Vice-Presidential post. Shiv Sena chief Eknath Shinde had already announced support for Dr. Radhakrishnan.

Shrikant Shinde has directed all Shiv Sena MPs to be present in Delhi by Sunday night itself.

The meeting aims to ensure the victory of Dr. Radhakrishnan with maximum votes. Dr. Shrikant Shinde is closely monitoring the election and has already briefed Shiv Sena MPs on the voting process and necessary precautions.

The election, scheduled

Shrikant Shinde has directed all Shiv Sena MPs to be present in Delhi by Sunday night itself.

for September 9, will witness a direct contest between Justice (Retd.) B Sudershan Reddy, backed by the INDIA bloc, and the NDA’s nominee, CP Radhakrishnan.

Earlier in the day, Union Minister of State for Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying SP Singh Baghel on Sunday said that a mock drill should be held ahead of the upcoming Vice-Presidential election to familiarise first-time Members of Parliament with the voting process and minimise the chances of invalid ballots.

Speaking to ANI, SP Singh Baghel said, “Before the Vice-Presidential election, a mock drill should be conducted to understand the entire process. Many people who have become MPs for the first time do not know

whether the election will be held through a ballot, a machine, or other means. Therefore, this should be known, as it reduces the possibility of votes being invalidated.”

The Vice Presidential post fell vacant after Jagdeep Dhankhar resigned on the first day of the Monsoon Session of Parliament on July 21, citing health reasons.

The VP is elected through an electoral college, which consists of MPs from both houses of Parliament.

The election of the Vice President is governed by the provisions under Articles 64 and 68 of the Constitution. The Election Commission notifies the VP polls by the Presidential and Vice-Presidential Elections Act, 1952.

As per Article 66(1) of the Constitution of India, the election of the Vice President shall be held by the system of proportional representation by means of single transferable vote, and the voting at such election shall be by secret ballot.

Urea shortage, healthcare sell-off, Vizag steel row expose govt failures: Botsa

RAJ KIRAN BATHULA
HYDERABAD

Former minister and Legislative Council Opposition leader Botsa Satyanarayana launched a scathing attack on the state administration, alleging “gross incompetence” across farming, health and industry.

Botsa condemned the move to privatize government-built medical colleges, branding it “corrupt, exploitative and anti-people.”

“No government earlier surrendered the health sector to private players. Chandrababu Naidu continues to favour corporates over public welfare,” he said.

He contrasted this with the YSRCP regime, which sanctioned 17 new colleges and completed five during



Botsa Slams Govt: Hits Out at Health Privatization, Farmer Distress & Vizag Steel Uncertainty

the COVID period, ensuring timely admissions. Weakening Aarogyasri and starving network hospitals of funds has left poor patients without treatment, he alleged, adding that despite borrowing Rs 2 lakh crore, the government “cannot spare even Rs 6,000 crore for public health.”

On the fertiliser crisis, Botsa accused the government of creating an artificial shortage that is pushing farmers into distress.

“Ministers mock cultivators by likening them to buffet queues. Instead of silencing critics, the Chief Minister must explain why scarcity exists only in Andhra Pradesh, not in BJP-ruled states,” he charged.

The YSRCP will stage statewide protests at all RDO offices on September 9, demanding immediate supply of urea. Reiterating opposition to privatization of the Vizag Steel Plant, Botsa sought a categorical assurance from the Prime Minister or Union Steel Minister and confirmed participation in the September 12 Round Table.

Over 500 Cong workers, farmers detained in MP fertiliser protest

RAJ KIRAN BATHULA
HYDERABAD

More than 500 Congress workers and farmers staged a protest in Madhya Pradesh’s Mauganj on Sunday, alleging fertiliser shortage and other issues, breaching a barricade erected by the police to prevent them from meeting Chief Minister Mohan Yadav.

Protesters in vehicles led by former Congress MLA Sukhendra Singh Bana clashed with the police, climbing over barricades to reach the chief minister, who was at a function in the Deotalab area 16 km away. The police erected barricades at the Bahuti bypass near Mauganj police station,

and the protesters were not allowed to move ahead.

“We detained more than 500 protesters for a while, and freed them after the chief minister’s function got over. The situation is peaceful,” Mauganj additional superintendent of police Vikram Singh said. During the protest, former MLA Singh Bana alleged that they were raising serious issues affecting farmers and poor people. He claimed that farmers were not getting fertilisers and were being unduly harassed and lathi-charged. A few days ago, the police had lathi-charged farmers protesting the unavailability of fertilisers at a government distribution centre in Rewa.

TDG NETWORK
BENGALURU

Karnataka Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar on Sunday gave a clarion call to party cadres to work in tandem so that Congress emerges victorious in 2028 assembly election.

Shivakumar, who is also party state president, advised young Congress leaders to strengthen the organisation at the grassroots and emerge as independent leaders.

“If all party wings worked together, Congress would return to power in 2028,” he said while addressing the Youth Congress state executive meeting held at the Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee (KPCC) office.

The Deputy CM recalled his own political journey and stressed that organisa-



tional ability mattered more than money in elections.

He urged the youth to instill discipline, honesty and integrity in them. Without these values, growth in politics was impossible.

Shivakumar pointed out that many senior leaders, including himself, had risen through local bodies

and said the creation of new municipal corporations in Bengaluru would throw up more leaders.

He underlined the Congress’ legacy of shaping India’s democracy, from the Constitution to landmark programmes like NREGA, RTI and the Food Security Act.

Heavy rain triggers waterlogging, sewage overflow in TN’s Madurai

TDG NETWORK
MADURAI

Heavy downpour in Madurai on Sunday led to waterlogging of the main road leading from Avaniyapuram to the airport. The clogged drains in the area turned the road into a pool, causing inconvenience to pedestrians and passengers.

This has resulted in rainwater mixed with sewage entering the Avaniyapuram bus stand and the municipal office, leaving water stagnated up to knee level, causing inconvenience to passengers at the bus stand.



A couple with carrying an infant wades through a waterlogged road amid rains (File photo)

Visuals showed sewage overflowing, leaving barely any space for people to walk.

Earlier this week, several parts of Tamil Nadu received light to moderate rainfall in the 24-hour pe-

riod ending at 5.30 am on Tuesday, with Namakkal district receiving the highest rainfall. According to data from observatories, Erode recorded 33 mm of rain by 5:30 pm on Monday, while

Valparai (3 mm), Ooty (0.6 mm), and Madurai City (0.4 mm) reported light showers. Trace amounts of rainfall were noted in Coonoor, Dharmapuri, Madurai Airport, and Tiruchirappalli Airport. In the Automatic Weather Stations (AWS) network, Namakkal AMFU registered the highest rainfall at 48.5 mm, followed by Perambalur with 16 mm and Aduthurai (Thanjavur) with 12.5 mm. Karaikal received 6 mm, while Hosur, Kallakurichi, Nagapattinam, and Yercaud reported lesser amounts.

TDG NETWORK
BENGALURU

The BJP criticised Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge for insulting a farmer while interacting with him in flood-affected Kalaburagi in Karnataka on Sunday.

A video of Kharge’s interaction with the farmer went viral.

In the video, Kharge is heard asking the farmer, “How many acres have you sown?” When the farmer replies “four acres,” Kharge responds, “Mine is



40 acres”.

“Mine is worse than yours. You are coming and telling me. You can tell me,

but mine is worse than yours,” Kharge continues. “Don’t come here for publicity. I know about it. Green

gram, black gram and pigeon peas all the crops have been destroyed. You can’t at least sustain it. We can’t sustain it because my losses are huge. Go and ask Modi and Shah,” he says.

BJP spokesperson Pradeep Bhandari took to ‘X’ to slam Kharge.

“Congress insults farmers! Farmers who went to Mr Kharge, were asked to leave and said: ‘Stop coming to me for publicity’. Why does Congress & Rahul Gandhi hate our farmers so much?” Bhandari asked.

‘Gujarat records 102.89% rainfall this monsoon; South region highest at 107.99%’

TDG NETWORK
GANDHINAGAR

The current monsoon season’s average rainfall in Gujarat has been recorded at 102.89 per cent, with the southern region receiving the highest at 107.99 per cent, according to the State Emergency Operation Centre (SEOC).

According to reports received by the SEOC, “The average rainfall of the current season in the state has been recorded at 102.89 per cent. In which 106.50 per cent rainfall has been re-

corded in the North Gujarat region, 107.34 per cent in the East Central Gujarat region, 91.29 per cent in the Saurashtra region and 107.99 per cent in the South region.”

In the last 24 hours, Kaprada recorded 10 inches of rainfall, while Poshina and Dharampur received 6 inches each. More than 4 inches of rain were reported in Radhanpur, Umargam, Bhachau, Lakhni, Talod and Palanpur.

The SEOC said, “During the 24 hours ending at 6 a.m. on September 7, a to-

tal of 15 talukas, including Sanand, Kadi, Botad, Santrampur, Satlasana, Danta, Paddhari, Vav, Dhanera, Patan, Pardi, Bhiloda, Khedbrahma, Prantij, Umarpada, and Modasa, have recorded about three inches of rainfall.”

It added, “Apart from this, a total of 38 talukas, including Mehsana, Tankara, Bayad, Siddhpur, Rapar, Jamkandorana, Dhanpur Khergam, Idar, Vapi, Sagbara, Jhalod, Kheralu, Visnagar, Balasinor, Tilkawada, Maliya, Daskroi, Halol, Jam-



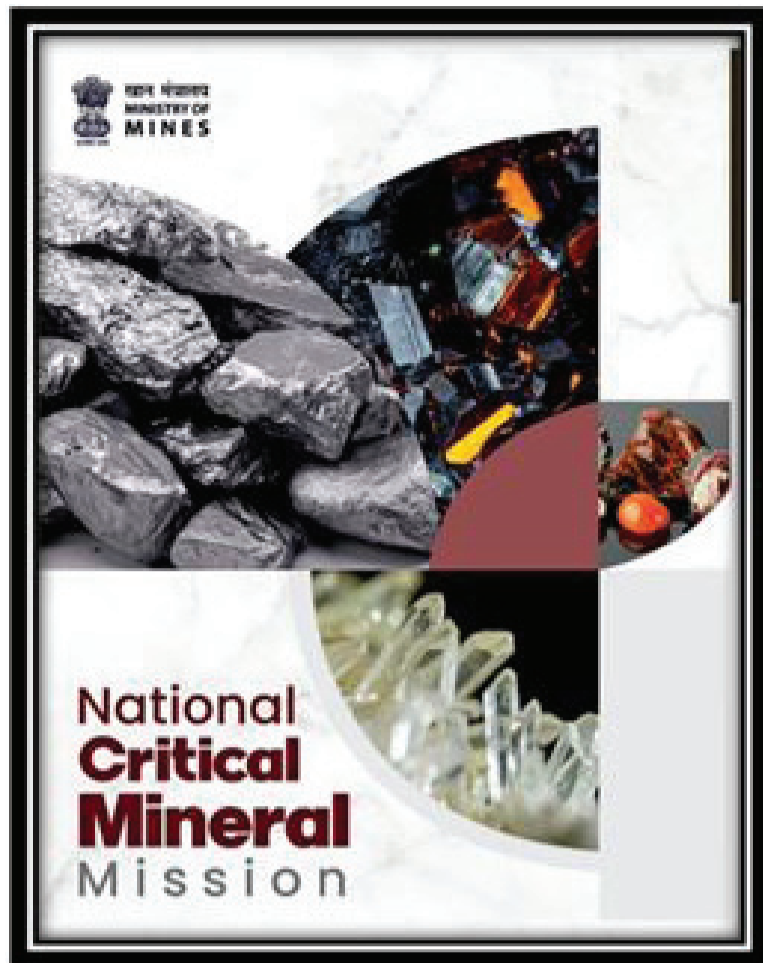
A couple with carrying an infant wades through a waterlogged road amid rains (File photo)

According to reports received by the SEOC, “The average rainfall of the current season in the state has been recorded at 102.89 per cent.

budhoda, Dasada, Sankheda, Dahod, Virangam, Dhoreji, Jodiya, Jotana, Valsad, Kadana, Halvad, Suigam, Unjha, Rajkot, Tharad, Bodeli, Dhrol and Vadnagar,

have received two inches of rain. While reports of one to half an inch of rain have been received in the other 75 talukas of the state.”

Overall, significant rainfall was reported in 139 talukas across Gujarat in the past day. Meanwhile, states in North India continue to be affected by flooding due to heavy rainfall. In Punjab, rising river levels have submerged several villages and left thousands struggling for essential supplies. Officials said the death toll in the state has risen to 46.



Representative image

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI
**CRITICAL MINERALS:
THE NEW CURRENCY
OF PROGRESS**

As the world pivots to clean energy and advanced technologies, control over critical minerals has become the new frontier of geopolitics. In January 2025, India responded with the National Critical Mineral Mission (NCMM), launched for a period of seven years from 2024-25 to 2030-31, with a proposed expenditure of Rs.16,300 crore and an expected investment of Rs.18,000 crore by Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) and other stakeholders. It is not merely a mining programme, but a strategic blueprint to secure energy security, drive industrial growth, and cement technological independence. From the lithium that powers electric vehicles to the rare earths vital for defense systems, the National Critical Minerals

INDIA'S CRITICAL MINERAL MISSION: SECURING SECURITY, ENERGY, GROWTH

Critical minerals power clean energy, advanced tech, and national security. With rising global demand and fragile supply chains, India is moving strategically to secure these resources, reduce import dependence, and support its low-carbon future.

Mission casts its net wide.

WHAT ARE CRITICAL MINERALS

Critical minerals are those minerals that are essential for economic development and national security. They are indispensable for clean energy technologies, high-tech electronics, transport, telecommunications and defence. They are vital to power the global transition to a low carbon emissions economy. These are also minerals fraught with supply chain vulnerabilities, hence the

necessity for governments to secure their supply chains for such minerals.

Countries identify minerals critical for them based on their national priorities. In 2023, the Ministry of Mines, released a list of 30 critical minerals for India. These minerals are Antimony, Beryllium, Bismuth, Cobalt, Copper, Gallium, Germanium, Graphite, Hafnium, Indium, Lithium, Molybdenum, Niobium, Nickel, PGE, Phosphorous, Potash, REE, Rhenium, Silicon, Strontium, Tantalum, Tellurium, Tin,

Titanium, Tungsten, Vanadium, Zirconium, Selenium and Cadmium.

WHY CRITICAL MINERALS MATTER FOR INDIA'S CLEAN ENERGY FUTURE

Critical minerals sit at the heart of India's energy transition, powering technologies from solar panels to electric vehicles. Their role cuts across key sectors. As demand surges, these resources are emerging as the foundation of a stronger strategic future.

that make turbines spin efficiently. With India aiming to expand its wind power from 42 GW to 140 GW by 2030, demand for these critical minerals will soar, making them essential for the clean energy revolution.

ELECTRIC VEHICLES (EVs)

At the heart of every electric car lies a battery fueled by lithium, nickel, and cobalt. These minerals make clean mobility possible, storing energy that powers EVs on the road. With the govern-

The National Critical Mineral Mission aims to secure a place for India as a global player in the emerging green economy. The legal and policy framework for NCMM is grounded in the amendment of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act (MMDR Act), under which the central government has the exclusive power to auction 24 out of the 30 identified critical minerals.

The NCMM has been designed with the primary objectives of securing domestic and international supply sources and strengthening mineral value chains covering exploration, mining, processing, recycling, research and development, and human resource development.

As part of the National Critical Minerals Mission, the government has set aside ₹100 crore for pilot projects that look beyond traditional mines. The focus is on tapping unconventional sources like overburden, mine tailings, fly ash, and even red mud to recover valuable minerals that would otherwise go to waste. This push turns industrial by-products into strategic assets. It's one of the many ambitious steps that tie into NCMM's larger targets, spanning patents, recycling, research, and global partnerships to secure India's mineral future.

The Union Cabinet approved a ₹1,500 crore Incentive Scheme under the National Critical Mineral Mission (NCMM) to boost India's recycling capacity for critical minerals from secondary sources such as e-waste, lithium-ion battery scrap, and end-of-life vehicle parts. By fostering both new and existing recyclers, the initiative aims to build 270 kilo ton annual recycling capacity, produce 40 kilo ton of critical

minerals, attract around ₹8,000 crore in investments, and generate nearly 70,000 jobs—a strategic step to strengthen supply chain resilience and reduce import dependency.

The road to mineral independence is paved with clear targets. Through these targets, the NCMM plans to turn vision into reality. India plans to launch over a thousand projects to uncover new reserves of critical minerals within its own borders. Both public sector enterprises and private players are encouraged to acquire assets by securing stakes in critical mineral projects abroad, strengthening India's global footprint. Development of patents, processing parks for minerals, centres of excellence, incentives for recycling, upskilling workforce and maintaining strategic reserves like mineral stockpiles to ensure uninterrupted supply of critical minerals plan to turn the vision of NCMM to reality.

MINES OF INNOVATION

A central target of the National Critical Minerals Mission (NCMM) is to catalyze innovation by supporting and monitoring the filing of 1,000 patents across the critical minerals value chain by FY 2030-31. The aim is clear: accelerate the development and commercialization of homegrown technologies vital for India's energy transition and strategic industries. That momentum is already visible. In a parallel move, the guidelines for setting up a dedicated Centre of Excellence (CoE) under the Mission were cleared on April 6, 2025, marking a key step in advancing India's critical minerals strategy.

range from ytterbium-doped metal oxide nanoparticles and nickel vanadate thin films to breakthroughs in tungsten-polymer composite molds, tantalum-doped NASICON solid-state electrolytes for sodium-ion batteries, and advanced anode materials for secondary batteries.

Together, these innovations span critical resources such as lithium, nickel, titanium, tungsten, vanadium, ytterbium, and tantalum, minerals at the heart of clean energy technologies, next-gen electronics, and defense applications.

CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE IN MINING

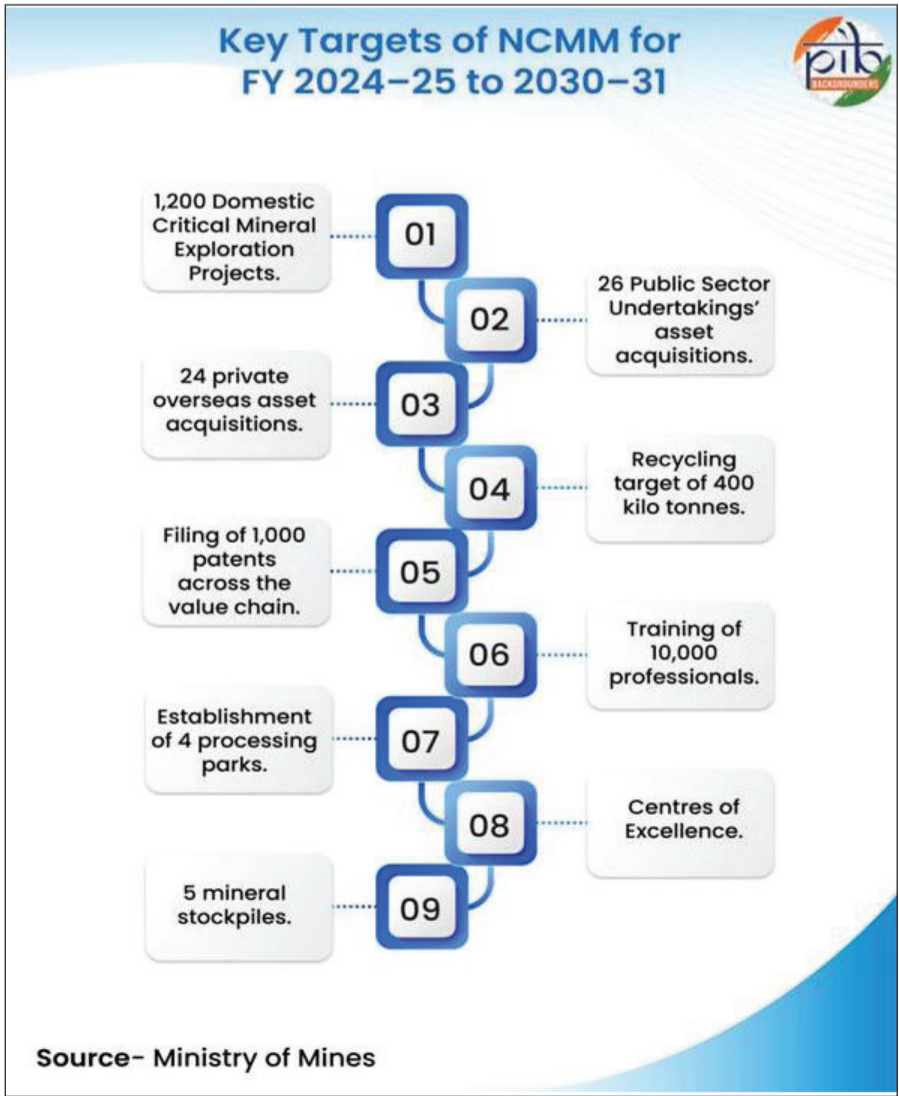
The Ministry of Mines has designated 7 premier institutions—4 IITs and 3 research laboratories, as Centres of Excellence (CoEs) under the National Critical Minerals Mission (NCMM). These CoEs will drive cutting-edge research and innovation to bolster India's scientific and technological capabilities in the critical minerals sector. Funding for the centres will come on a project basis through government R&D schemes, industry collaborations, and venture capital support. The institutes recognized as CoEs include IIT Bombay, IIT Hyderabad, IIT (ISM) Dhanbad, IIT Roorkee, CSIR-IMMT Bhubaneswar, CSIR-NML Jamshedpur, and NIFTDC Hyderabad.

CONCLUSION

Critical minerals are fast becoming the oil of the 21st century, scarce, strategic, and fiercely contested. They are the building blocks of a modern economy. India has set major climate milestones like cutting the emissions intensity of its GDP by 45% by 2030 (from 2005 levels), sourcing half of its power capacity from non-fossil fuels by the same year, and achieving net-zero emissions by 2070. Central to meeting these targets is the National Critical Mineral Mission (NCMM) to secure long-term supplies of lithium, cobalt, nickel, and rare earths. Beyond ensuring clean energy and electric mobility, the mission is designed to attract investments, foster innovation, and place India at the centre of global supply chains for the industries of tomorrow.



Representative image



SOLAR ENERGY

Photovoltaic cells, the heart of solar panels, depend on elements like silicon, tellurium, indium, and gallium to turn sunlight into electricity. India's solar power capacity, now at 64 GW, leans heavily on these critical minerals, driving the nation's solar dreams.

WIND POWER

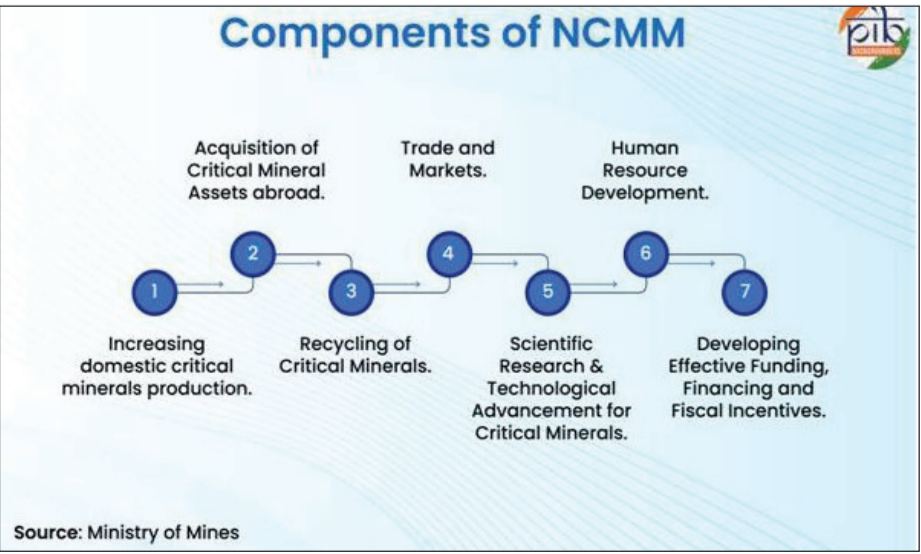
Wind turbines are powered by neodymium and dysprosium. These elements drive the high-performance magnets

ment pushing for 30% EV penetration by 2030, the hunger for these resources is set to multiply.

ENERGY STORAGE

Lithium-ion systems are vital for renewable integration, depending once again on lithium, cobalt, and nickel. These minerals make it possible to store surplus power and provide backup when demand peaks.

CHARTING INDIA'S CRITICAL MINERAL ROADMAP



PATENT PUSH: HOW NCMM IS SHAPING INDIA'S CRITICAL MINERALS FUTURE

In May 2025, 21 patents were filed in India within the critical mineral's ecosystem, followed by 41 more in June. Patent grants have also picked up pace — two in May and eight in June, reflecting the growing push in R&D focused on exploration, extraction, processing, and advanced applications. The newly granted patents highlight the diversity of research underway. They

JAPAN PM ISHIBA TO RESIGN AMID PRESSURE BY PARTY AFTER DEFEAT

AGENCIES
TOKYO

Japan's Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba announced Sunday that he will resign, following growing calls from within his party to take responsibility for a historic defeat in July's parliamentary election.

Ishiba, who took office in October, said he was stepping down as prime minister and as the head of his conservative Liberal Democratic Party.

Ishiba, a 68-year-old centrist, had resisted demands from opponents further to the right within his own party to resign. He argued that he wanted to avoid a political vacuum at a time when Japan faces key domestic and international challenges, including U.S. tariffs, rising prices and growing tensions in the Asia-Pacific.

Ishiba explained at a news conference Sunday night that he had intended for some time to take responsibility for his party's summer election loss, but was first determined to make progress in tariff negotiations with the United States. He described it as matter of the national interest.

"Who would seriously negotiate with a government whose leader says he is stepping down?" Ishiba said.

He said the moment had arrived with an order by



Japanese Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba speaks during a press conference at the prime minister's office in Tokyo, Japan, Agencies

U.S. President Donald Trump on Friday to lower tariffs on Japanese cars and other products from 25% to 15%.

"Having reached a milestone in the U.S. tariff negotiations, I decided now is the time to make way for a successor," Ishiba said.

The resignation came one day before Ishiba's party was to decide whether to hold an early leadership election, which would have amounted to a virtual no-confidence motion against him if approved.

He said he made the "painful decision to resign" to avert that step because "it would cause a critical division within the party, and that is absolutely not my intention."

Ishiba said he would instead start a process to hold a party leadership vote to choose his replacement,

which is expected to be held in October. He is to remain as prime minister until a new leader is elected and endorsed by the parliament.

Ishiba's leadership that lasted only one year underscores the instability of Japan's minority government.

A maverick who won the leadership in his fifth attempts, Ishiba said he regrets he could not live up to voters' expectations for change. "As a result, I failed to go my own way, and I wonder how I could have done better," he said.

He said he is not going to run in the next leadership race, even though he regrets leaving behind unfinished business, such as measures for salary increases, agricultural reforms and further strengthening Japan's security. He asked his future successor to tackle the issues he cherished.

In July, Ishiba's ruling coalition failed to secure a majority in the 248-seat upper house in a crucial parliamentary election, weakening his government. The loss followed a defeat in the more powerful lower house, where the party-led coalition lost its majority in October, only two weeks after Ishiba took over.

Liberal Democratic lawmakers who support the prime minister said those who lost seats were largely ultra-conservatives who were linked to corruption scandals before Ishiba took office. Public polling showed that pressure on Ishiba to resign had the reverse effect and caused his support to grow.

Calls for Ishiba to step down grew after the Liberal Democratic Party last week called for a "complete overhaul" of the party following its losses.

Taro Aso, a conservative heavyweight known for his anti-Ishiba stance, and a minister and several deputy ministers in the Ishiba Cabinet requested an early vote, prompting others to follow suit. Former Health Minister Norihisa Tamura said on a talk show of the public broadcaster NHK earlier Sunday that the best way to heal party divisions and move forward is for Ishiba "to settle" the dispute before Monday's vote.

The party has already been distracted from necessary work on economic measures and on figuring out ways to gain opposition support in the next parliamentary session, Tamura said.

Possible candidates to replace Ishiba include Agriculture Minister Shinjiro Koizumi, as well as ultra-conservative former economic security minister Sanae Takaichi and Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshimasa Hayashi, a moderate and the protégé of former Prime Minister Fumio Kishida.

Lacking a majority in both houses, the next party leader will have to work with the main opposition parties to get bills passed, experts say, or else face constant risks of no-confidence motions.

The opposition parties, however, are too splintered to form a coalition to topple the government.

Voters say they want to see the party move forward and get down to work but they worry about uncertainty.

Office worker Takahiro Uchi welcomed Ishiba's resignation, as he hopes for change, "but at the same time, there is also uncertainty and concern about who will take over next." Masataka Nishioka, who works for a dental equipment company, said, "I really hope for a kind of politics that makes life easier for everyone."

How will Japan pick its next leader?

AGENCIES
TOKYO

With Japanese Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba about to resign, according to a source close to the premier, attention turns to who will next steer the world's fourth-largest economy.

The process to pick Japan's next leader is more complicated than before as Ishiba's Liberal Democratic Party, which has ruled Japan for most of the post-war period, and its junior coalition partner lost their majorities in both houses of parliament during his tenure.

PARTY LEADERSHIP RACE

First, the LDP must pick a new president to replace Ishiba.

In the last party leadership race in September 2024, candidates needed to secure 20 nominations from the party's lawmakers to be eligible to run.

Candidates will embark on a period of debates and campaigns across Japan culminating in a vote by lawmakers and rank-and-file party members. In the last race, there were nine contenders, and Ishiba won in a run-off.

LDP VOTE

Based on the last leadership race, each lawmaker has a vote with an equal number distributed among the rank-and-file members in the first round of voting.

A candidate securing a simple majority in that poll becomes party leader. If



A general view shows the lower house of the parliament as Japan's Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba delivers his policy speech in Tokyo, Japan

no one secures a majority, a run-off vote follows between the two candidates with the most votes.

In the second round, each lawmaker again gets one vote, but the share of the rank-and-file drops to 47 votes, one for each of Japan's prefectures.

In the unlikely event of a tie, the winner will be decided by lot. That has never happened in a leadership contest, but was used in 2010 to decide who would chair the LDP's upper house caucus.

PARLIAMENT VOTES

Since the party does not have a majority in either house, it is not guaranteed that the LDP president will become prime minister.

In 1994, the LDP formed a three-way alliance with its arch rival, the Japan Socialist Party and a smaller startup party to regain power, having socialist leader Tomiichi Murayama elected as prime minister.

Based on historical prec-

edent, the more-powerful lower house will first vote on their choice for prime minister. Lawmakers can nominate any candidates from the chamber, and historically the leaders of opposition parties have been put forward for the vote.

Any candidate who secures a simple majority in the first round wins approval. If no one secures a majority, a run-off poll follows, between the two candidates with the most votes.

Voting then passes to the upper house, where a similar process begins, although only members of the lower house are eligible to be prime minister.

If there is a disagreement between the houses, the choice of the lower house prevails. This happened in 2008 when the lower house chose the LDP candidate and the upper house picked an opposition candidate.

The new prime minister may also call a snap general election to seek a national mandate.

Anutin becomes Thailand's new PM after royal endorsement

AGENCIES
BANGKOK

Anutin Charnvirakul, a veteran politician best known for successfully lobbying to decriminalise cannabis in Thailand, became the country's Prime Minister after receiving a royal endorsement on Sunday (September 7, 2025), two days after he was chosen by Parliament following a court order that removed his predecessor.

Mr. Anutin, 58, succeeds Ms. Paetongtarn Shinawatra of the Pheu Thai Party, dismissed last week after being found guilty of ethics violations over a politically compromising phone call with neighbouring Cambodia's Senate President Hun Sen before a border dispute between the two nations turned into a deadly five-day armed conflict in July that raised fears of a full-blown war in the region.

Thailand's new Prime Minister had served in Paetongtarn's Cabinet as a deputy Prime Minister and an Interior Minister, but resigned his positions and withdrew his party from



Thailand's Prime Minister Anutin Charnvirakul attends a press conference at the Bhumjaithai party headquarters after a royal endorsement ceremony in Bangkok

her coalition government after news of the leaked phone call caused public uproar.

Mr. Anutin received the letter of appointment in a ceremony at his party Bhumjaithai's headquarters in Bangkok, attended by senior members of parties expected to join his coalition government. They wore white civil servants' uniforms used for royal and state ceremonies.

"I'd like to take an oath that I determine to perform my duties to my fullest capabilities, with honesty and

Who could replace Shigeru Ishiba as Japan's Prime Minister

AGENCIES
TOKYO

Japanese Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba said on Sunday (September 7, 2025) he would resign, caving into ruling party pressure on him to take responsibility for a series of election losses, most recently in July's upper house.

Mr. Ishiba's resignation will trigger a leadership race in his Liberal Democratic Party, with the winner facing a parliament vote to become Prime Minister.

Since the ruling coalition has lost its majorities in both chambers of parliament, the LDP president is no longer guaranteed to become premier. There is a slim possibility an Opposition party leader takes the helm of the world's fourth-largest economy.

Here is a list of lawmakers who might throw their hats in the ring:

Ruling - Liberal Democratic Party (LDP)

SANAE TAKAICHI, 64:

If chosen, Ms. Takaichi would be Japan's first female prime minister.

A party veteran who has held a variety of roles, including economic security and internal affairs minister, she lost to Ishiba in the LDP



File photo of Sanae Takaichi



File photo of Yoshihiko Noda.

leadership race in a run-off vote last year.

Known for conservative positions such as revising the pacifist postwar constitution, Takaichi is a regular visitor to the Yasukuni shrine to honour Japan's war dead, viewed by some Asian neighbours as a symbol of past militarism.

Takaichi stands out for her



File photo of Shinjiro Koizumi



File photo of Yuichiro Tamaki

vocal opposition to the Bank of Japan's interest rate hikes and her calls to ramp up spending to boost the fragile economy.

SHINJIRO KOIZUMI, 44:

Heir to a political dynasty with a hand in governing Japan for more than a century, Koizumi would become its



File photo of Yoshimasa Hayashi

youngest prime minister in the modern era.

Koizumi ran in the last year's party leadership race, presenting himself as a reformer able to restore public trust in a scandal-hit party.

Unlike Takaichi, who left government after her defeat in that contest, the Columbia University-educated Koizumi stayed close to Ishiba as his agriculture minister, overseeing a widely publicised attempt to curb soaring rice prices.

In his only other cabinet post, as environment minister, Koizumi called for Japan to get rid of nuclear reactors in 2019. He faced ridicule that year for remarks that climate policy needed to be "cool" and "sexy". Little is known about his views on economic policy, including on the BOJ.

Irfaan Ali reelected as Guyana's president

AGENCIES
LEONORA

Guyana's President Irfaan Ali was reelected for a second term, electoral authorities declared Saturday, after a vote that gave his party a mandate to manage the nation's newfound oil riches amid a territorial dispute with Venezuela.

The elections commission said in a statement released at midnight that Ali's People's Progressive Party/Civic (PPP/C) had won Monday's general election, securing 55 percent of the vote.

Ali had already claimed victory in the elections in statements to AFP on

Wednesday.

Ali, a 45-year-old center-left leader, now faces the challenge of ensuring the benefits of Guyana's vast oil wealth -- which has fueled the world's fastest-growing economy -- reach its 850,000 people, more than half of whom still live in poverty despite the nation's soaring GDP.

Ali's main rival, multi-millionaire populist Azrudin Mohamed, nicknamed the "Guyanese Trump", and his newly formed We Invest in Nationhood (WIN) party finished second with 24.8 percent of the vote.

The opposition, A Part-



President Irfaan Ali waves after voting during general elections in Leonora, Guyana. Agencies

nership for National Unity (APNU), which represents much of the country's Afro-Guyanese population, came

third with 17.7 percent.

Ali, whose party draws much of its support from the Indo-Guyanese community,

will assume a second five-year term at a time of rising tensions with the government of Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro, who claims sovereignty over the oil-rich Essequibo region and appointed authorities for that area in controversial elections held in May.

Ali has the support of the United States, which is also experiencing tensions with Venezuela following the deployment of warships in the Caribbean for anti-drug operations. The dispute over the Essequibo region is centuries old, but it intensified in 2015 after the discovery of enormous oil resources.

Israel calls for Hamas' surrender as military pounds Gaza shelters

AGENCIES
JERUSALEM

Israel again called on Hamas to surrender on Sunday, as the military carried out strikes on Gaza's largest urban centre where hundreds of thousands of Palestinians are seeking shelter.

Foreign Minister Gideon Saar told reporters in Jerusalem that the war could end immediately if Hamas released the remaining hostages being held in Gaza and laid down its weapons.

"We will be more than happy to reach this objective with political means," he said.

In response, senior Hamas



Gideon Saar (File photo) official Basem Naim told Reuters it would not lay down its arms but would release all of the hostages if Israel agreed to end the war and withdraw its

forces from Gaza, a stance that has long been the Palestinian militant group's position.

Israel last month launched an assault on Gaza City, the major urban centre, and its forces are now just a few kilometres from the city centre. Overnight, strikes killed 14 people across the city, local health officials said, including a strike on a school in southern Gaza City sheltering displaced Palestinians. In response to Reuters questions about the strike on the school, the military said it had struck a Hamas militant and that civilians had been warned before the strike was carried out.

AKSHAY KUMAR JOINS JUHU BEACH CLEAN-UP POST GANESH VISARJAN

AGENCIES
MUMBAI

Maharashtra's Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis' wife, Amruta Fadnavis, hosted a beach clean-up drive at Juhu Beach post the celebrations of the Ganpati Visarjan on Sunday.

Amruta Fadnavis hosted the beach clean-up drive from her foundation, Divyaj Foundation, in association with the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC). It was also attended by the Bollywood actor Akshay Kumar.

In the visuals, Akshay Kumar was seen cleaning the Juhu beach by putting huge flower garlands in a bag along with other junk, including bottles, dirty clothes and others.



The BMC Commissioner Bhushan Gagrani also participated in the clean-up drive on Sunday.

Amruta Fadnavis said, "We have organised a beach cleanup at Juhu Beach today. We are very pleased with the participation of people from all walks of

life in this clean-up drive. A lot of organisations helped us, including BMC, in this initiative because it is our responsibility to keep the beaches clean. As celebrating festivals is our right, so is the cleanup."

While sending a message to the youth, Amruta said,

"I just want to tell the youth that there is only one earth. Its growth and nourishment is our responsibility and no alien will come down to do it for us. We have to do it by ourselves."

Devendra Fadnavis' daughter Divija Fadnavis also participated in the cleanup drive. While narrating her experience, Divija called for the eco-friendly Ganesha idols.

"I felt really good that I got the permission to come and clean our beautiful beach. I saw that there are small pieces of plaster of Paris left from the idol of Lord Ganesha. I was very sad to see this. That's why I want to say, please take an eco-friendly Ganesha as our Lord should not be insulted like this," said Divija.

Allu Arjun bags Best Actor award for 'Pushpa 2'

AGENCIES
MUMBAI

Actor Allu Arjun took home the Best Actor award at the 2025 edition of the South Indian International Movie Awards (SIIMA). He received the honour for his performance in Sukumar's 'Pushpa 2: The Rule.'

Allu Arjun was present at the event along with his director and co-star Rashmika Mandanna, who won her fourth SIIMA trophy this year. Taking to his Instagram handle, Allu Arjun extended his gratitude for the honour.

"Thank you SIIMA for the constant love & recognition. Winning 3 back-to-back SIIMA Awards is truly a humbling moment. Congratulations to all the winners & nominees. This credit goes to my Director @aryasukku garu for making this happen, my



artists, my technicians, my producers and the entire crew of Pushpa," he wrote in the post.



The actor further dedicated the award to his fans as he thanked them for their unwavering love

and support. "I love you my army, Humbled," he wrote.

In the post, Allu Arjun also added pictures of himself from the event, holding up the winner's trophy.

Sonu Sood to join relief efforts to flood-hit Punjab cities

AGENCIES
AMRITSAR

Amritsar Actor Sonu Sood has stepped forward to support relief efforts for the flood-affected communities in Punjab. On Saturday, Punjab Rural Development Minister Tarunpreet Singh Sood noted that about 24,930 people have been affected by floods in the state, with 40 villages inundated.

Fazilka district is among the worst hit, with 22,652 people impacted, particularly in the Jalalabad and Fazilka constituencies. Sonu Sood stated that he will be participating in relief efforts across various flood-affected cities in Punjab, including Baghpur, Sultanpur Lodhi, Firozpur, Fazilka, and Ajnala.

The 'Fateh' actor said that his relief efforts will be centred around reviving the livelihood of the flood-affected communities in Punjab. Sonu Sood said, "I am going to Baghpur, Sultanpur Lodhi, Firozpur, Fazilka, Ajnala, and I will try to go around and find out the situation. I feel that in the coming time, since it is still raining in Punjab, many houses have been de-



stroyed, the livelihood of the people has been ruined, so I will try to give all the help and take a list of their needs from the local administration."

As per the flood situation in the state, Sonu Sood predicted that Punjab will take "a few months" to get back to normal. He urged the people to come together for the relief efforts in Punjab. "This is not a work of a week or ten days. It will take at least a few months to get Punjab back on its feet. I think everyone is coming forward. But still, we need many hands to join so that Punjab can be revived as soon as possible. For those whose houses have been destroyed, we will try together to build some houses. I will

try to reach the most affected villages," said Sonu Sood.

Punjabi singer-actor Guru Randhawa has reached ground zero to support relief efforts as Punjab battles a flood crisis. He met with the victims and extended support. Randhawa has set up a help camp in Dera Baba Nanak and near his village, Dharowali.

A few days ago, he also set up a relief fund to help the flood victims.

"Prayers for Punjab and all other states suffering from floods. Let's help in whatever ways we can. Setting up help camp in my area Dera Baba Nanak and near my village Dharowali. For any help pls contact - +91 77196 54739," Guru said in a social media post. Earlier, on Saturday, in flood-affected Punjab, the Indian Army also conducted a relief operation in the Fazilka district.

As a part of the operation, the army continues to provide relief materials and rescue people from the impacted areas. Furthermore, the Indian Army has also established medical camps to treat patients affected by the flood.

BRAIN PICKING



Our craft is all we have. So, we should keep it challenging and exciting. Else, there's no actual growth.
— JACQUELINE FERNANDEZ
(Indian Actress)

Kerala CM Vijayan calls Mammooty 'cultural icon' on 74th birthday

AGENCIES
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

The Chief Minister of Kerala, Pinarayi Vijayan, extended his birthday wishes for Mammooty as the actor turns 74 today. Taking to his X handle, Kerala CM Pinarayi Vijayan called Mammooty a "cultural icon" of India while extending his birthday wishes for the actor.

"Warm birthday wishes to @mammukka. As an artist and cultural icon, he holds a special place in our hearts. Wishing him good health and long life to continue enthraling us with his stellar performances," wrote Pinarayi Vijayan.

Along with the Kerala CM, the Malayalam film fraternity also poured their heartfelt wishes for the actor as he turned 74 years old today. Prior to all birthday wishes, the actor Mammooty took to his Instagram handle to express his gratitude for the love received from his fans and the Almighty.



He shared a photo in which he was seen standing beside a car at the riverside. Wearing a shirt and a lungi, the actor seems to be enjoying the scenic view, as seen in the photo.

While sharing the picture, the actor wrote, "Love and Thanks to All and The Almighty."

From one superstar to another, Mohanlal also shared a heartfelt wish to Mammooty on his 74th birthday. The actor shared a photo with Mammooty, which features the duo sitting on a couch, signifying their brotherhood. "Happy Birthday Dear Ichakka," wrote Mohanlal on his X handle.

Anuparna Roy wins Best Director at Venice Film Festival

AGENCIES
VENICE

Debutant filmmaker Anuparna Roy has scripted history by winning the Orizzonti Award for Best Director at the prestigious 82nd Venice Film Festival for her feature film 'Songs of Forgotten Trees'.

The movie was presented by Anurag Kashyap. 'Songs



of Forgotten Trees', the only Indian film selected in the Orizzonti section of the Venice Film Festival this year and winner, saw the emotional and teary-eyed director Anuparna Roy accepting the award on Saturday.

Starring Naaz Shaikh and Sumi Baghel, 'Songs of Forgotten Trees' is produced by Bibhanshu Rai, Romil Modi and Ranjan Singh and fol-

lows the story of two women and how their lives get intertwined in Mumbai.

Reacting to the huge win, director Anuparna Roy dedicated her win to all the women who have been "underestimated", "overlooked", or "silenced" in their lives. "This film is a tribute to every woman who's ever been silenced, overlooked, or underesti-

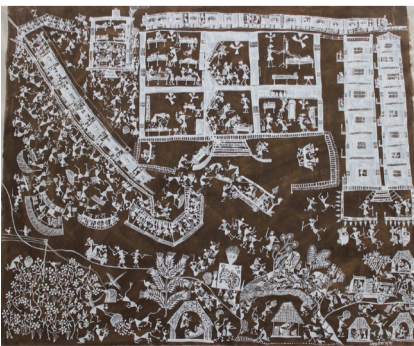
mated. May this win inspire more voices, more stories, and more power for women in cinema and beyond," said Anuparna Roy as quoted in a press note shared by her team. Beaming with pride over the honour, producer Bibhanshu Rai said, "Making this film was never easy. We went through challenges, tough days, and moments of doubt.

Galerie Nifa presents 'Soulmate' featuring masterpieces by 20 artists curated by Renu Kherra

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

"Soulmate" features over 20 artists, bringing together masterpieces by legendary Indian modernists, works by celebrated contemporary figures, and fresh expressions from emerging talents. Each artwork in this showcase has been handpicked by Renu Kherra over her extensive career, reflecting her unwavering passion for nurturing and celebrating creativity.

Among the luminaries featured are M.F. Husain,



S.H. Raza, Ram Kumar, B. Prabha, A. Ramachandran, Krishen Khanna, G.R. Iranna, Manu Parekh, and Shanti Dave. The exhibition also includes a special focus on Balu Jivya Mashe, son of



the late Padma Shri award-ee Jivya Sona Mashe, who brought Warli art to international recognition. Balu's works continue this vibrant legacy, weaving rural life, nature, and spirituality into

compelling visual narratives.

Galerie Nifa's "Soulmate" Highlights Contemporary Voices and Indigenous Narratives Through Its Distinguished Artists G.R.

Iranna, one of India's most prominent contemporary artists, is known for his contemplative works that blend spiritual and philosophical inquiry with powerful visual symbolism. His canvas in Soulmate reflects his signature meditative minimalism, evoking both fragility and resilience—an artistic dialogue between materiality and transcendence. Iranna's work juxtaposes the fragility of a blossoming tree with the quiet presence of a sacred Nandi, evoking a meditative balance between nature and spirituality.

Bobby Deol represents Dharmendra at 'Sholay' 4K TIFF Gala

AGENCIES
TORONTO

The restored 4K version of the Bollywood classic Sholay, starring Amitabh Bachchan and Dharmendra in the lead roles, had a gala premiere at the 50th edition of the Toronto International Film Festival on Saturday.

Bollywood star Bobby Deol attended the premiere, representing Dharmendra in the film festival. Taking to their Instagram handle, the Film Heritage Foundation



(FHF) shared the photos from the premiere.

Along with Bobby Deol, the restored 4K version gala premiere of Sholay was also

attended by director Ramesh Sippy and producer Shezad Sippy, and FHF Director Shivendra Singh Dungarpur.

SACRED VERSES: THE SPIRITUAL POWER OF SANSKRIT SHLOKAS



DR. LAXMI SHARMA

Sanskrit, often referred to as the “language of the gods” (Devabhāṣā), is deeply rooted in the spiritual and philosophical heritage of India. At the heart of its literary and spiritual traditions lie shlokas—short, metrical verses imbued with profound meaning. These Sanskrit shlokas are not merely poetic compositions; they are carriers of timeless wisdom, spiritual insight, and the vibrational essence of the cosmos.

The Power of Shlokas

The term shloka derives from the root word *sloka*, meaning “to praise” or “to proclaim.” Traditionally, shlokas are composed in specific meters like Anuṣṭubh, Gayatri, or Trisṭubh, which not only aid memorization but also harness the power of sound vibration. In spiritual traditions, the *nada* or sound is believed to be a primal force—*Nada Brahma*—meaning God as Sound. When a shloka is chanted with correct pronunciation and intention, it resonates with spiritual power and brings transformation in the consciousness of the chanter and listener alike.

Sacred Texts and Timeless Verses

Sanskrit shlokas are foundational to almost all sacred texts in Indian spiritual traditions. The Vedas, Upanishads, Bhagavad Gita, and Puranas are composed primarily in shlokas. Each verse contains multiple layers of meaning—literal, symbolic, ethical, and mystical.

Take, for instance, the famous verse from the Bhagavad Gita:

“Karmāṇye vadhikaraste, Ma phaleṣhu kadachana”
You have a right to perform your prescribed duty, but you are not entitled to the fruits of action. (Gita 2.47)

This shloka is often seen as the cornerstone of karma yoga, or the path of selfless action. It teaches detachment, surrender, and focus on righteous conduct rather than outcome—a profoundly spiritual message in just a few lines.

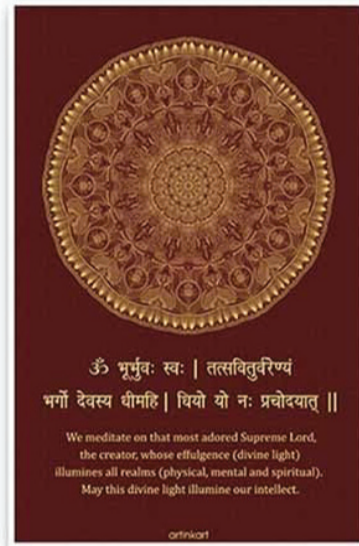
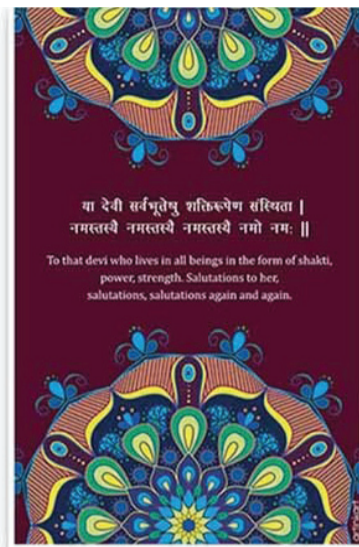
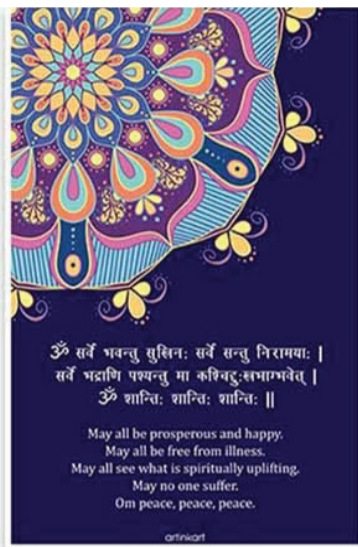
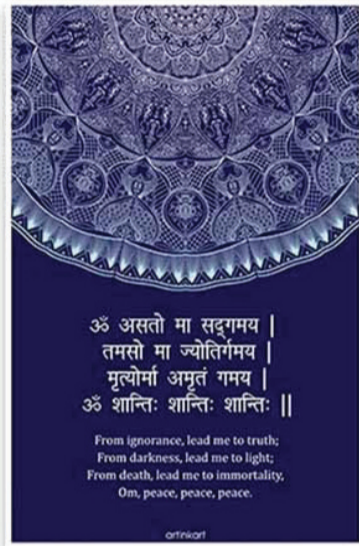
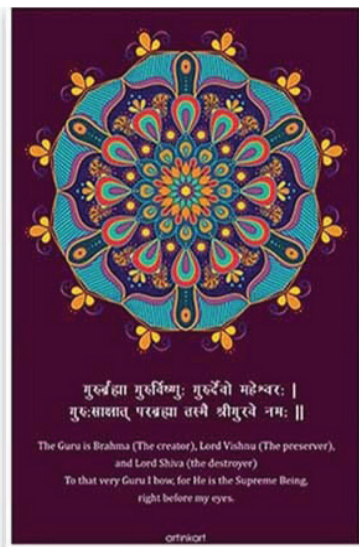
Similarly, the Gayatri Mantra, one of the most ancient and revered Sanskrit mantras, encapsulates a universal prayer for enlightenment: “Om bhur bhuvaḥ svah, tat savitur varenyam...”

We meditate on the divine light of the Creator; may it inspire our minds.

This shloka not only seeks intellectual clarity but spiritual illumination—a connection to the higher Self and cosmic intelligence.

Spirituality Through Sound and Silence

The chanting of Sanskrit shlokas is central to many spiritual practices, including meditation, rituals, and daily worship. The rhythmic recitation induces a meditative state and harmonizes the breath, mind, and spirit. Many seekers testify to the calming, healing, and uplifting effect of regular chanting.



ing. It is believed that the vibrational quality of Sanskrit syllables affects the subtle energy centers (chakras) in the body, aligning the practitioner with higher states of consciousness.

But beyond sound, Sanskrit shlokas also point toward silence—the space from which they emerge. The essence of true spirituality is not just in recitation but in contemplation. A single verse, meditated

upon deeply, can reveal truths that transform one's inner world. For example, consider this line from the Isha Upanishad:

“Isha vasyam idam sarvam...”

All this—whatever exists in this changing universe—is pervaded by the Lord.

This shloka challenges the practitioner to see divinity not as something outside, but as the essence of everything—material

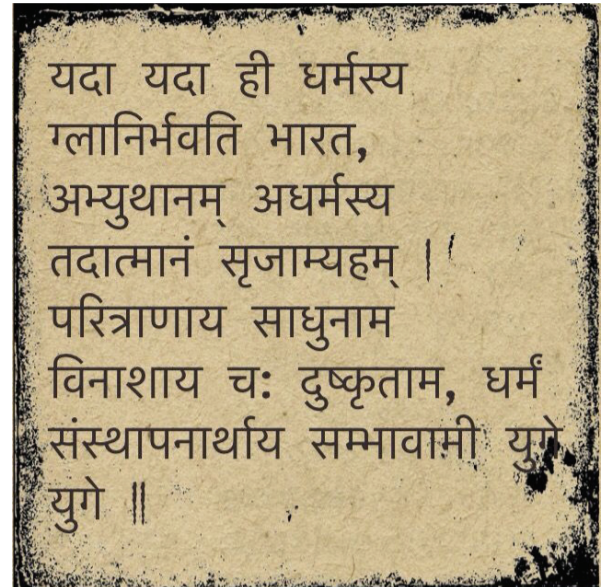
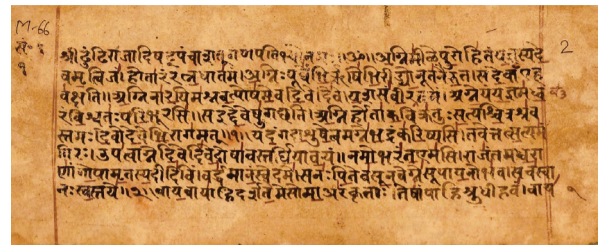
and immaterial. Such verses bridge the gap between the finite self and the infinite spirit, fostering an inner shift from ego to soul.

Universal Appeal and Modern Relevance

Though rooted in ancient Indian culture, Sanskrit shlokas have a universal appeal. Their themes—love, truth, duty, compassion, unity, and liberation—resonate across religions,

cultures, and times. In today's fast-paced, materialistic world, these verses offer a doorway to peace, mindfulness, and inner clarity.

Modern seekers, both in India and globally, are turning to Sanskrit shlokas as tools for spiritual practice. Yoga studios echo with verses from the Bhagavad Gita, temples resound with Vedic chants, and even scientific studies explore



the neurological effects of mantra chanting. The resurgence of interest in Sanskrit is a sign of humanity's deeper yearning for connection with the sacred.

Shlokas as a Way of Life

Sanskrit shlokas are not just for scholars or priests. They are meant to be lived. A single line can serve as a daily reminder, a guide, or a prayer. They instill discipline, devotion, and discernment. Reciting a shloka at dawn, before meals, or at bedtime creates sacred rhythms in daily life.

As Swami Vivekananda once said, “Each soul is potentially divine.” Sanskrit shlokas, in their crystalline brevity, point toward

that divinity within. They are not just words—but spiritual tools, illuminating the path from ignorance to wisdom, from restlessness to peace.

In essence, Sanskrit shlokas are bridges between the human and the divine. They preserve the spiritual legacy of ancient sages while remaining ever-relevant for contemporary seekers. To chant or contemplate a shloka is to partake in an eternal conversation between the soul and the cosmos—a dance of sound and silence, wisdom and wonder, self and the Self.

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Pitru Paksha: A fortnight dedicated to the ancestors



PRANJAL JOSHI

Since time immemorial, every year in India, ancestors are given offerings and are prayed to during a certain time of the year known as Shraddha Paksha or Pitru Paksha. This period occurs in the months of September and October every year. This year Shraddha Paksha started from 7th September (Purnima or full moon day) and will last till 21st September (Amavasya or no moon day), for a period of 15 days.

After birth, every man is indebted in so many ways. He is indebted to ancestors as well. This period of 15 days gives a chance to pay back that debt in the form of food offerings to the ancestors. Offerings can be made as per likings of a particular ancestor, and it is offered on a particular date (as per Vedic calendar) on which that ancestor passed away. Sarva Pitru Amavasya or Mahalaya Amavasya marks the culmination of the Pitru Paksha period and the beginning of the Devi Paksha. Sarva Pitru Amavasya is dedicated to honouring all ancestors, including those who died on different lunar days, and those who died prematurely. The Shraddha performed on this day pleases the souls of all the

ancestors of the family. Therefore, Shraddha should be performed for all the ancestors on this day. On this day, there is a provision of Shraddha of all known and unknown ancestors. Ancestors come down to earth on this day to accept offerings and bless their descendants. The day following this marks the beginning of the Navratri season which is dedicated to Maa Durga.

Shraddha is prasada offered to the forefathers on a certain day. The shraddha -patra or plate offered to the forefathers is then offered to the best of brahmins in the society. It is the duty of all householders to offer food grains to all their departed forefathers. According to the Markandeya Purana, if ancestors are satisfied with the Shraddha, they will bestow health, wealth, knowledge, longevity, heaven, and salvation on the performer. The Garuda Purana says that after death, a soul suffers in the afterlife, and Shraddha rituals provide peace and comfort to these souls.

From time immemorial in India, the son of a man who passed away goes to Gaya and, at a Vishnu temple there offers oblations for the benefit of his ancestors. Even if an ancestor had become a ghost, he will be favoured with a gross body. During the performance of shraddha, food is offered to ancestors with faith and devotion. If one offers oblations with faith and devotion—either the lotus feet of Lord Vishnu or to His representative in Pitraloka (planet of ancestors), ‘Aryama’—one's forefathers



will attain material bodies to enjoy whatever material enjoyment is due to them. Because the Lord is pleased with the devotional service of the descendants, by His Grace He liberates the condemned souls of the forefathers who do not have gross bodies, and He favours them to again receive a gross body for development of spiritual advancement.

The inhabitants of Pitraloka (planet of ancestors) are generally men of fruitive activities category, who have been transferred there because of their pious activities. However, they return to Earth after the effects of their pious acts are exhausted.

‘Pind-Daan’ is a ritual performed to pay homage and offer prayers to the departed ancestors. The term ‘pind’ refers to the rounded heap of cooked rice and other sacred materials offered during the ceremony. Pindas are offered to both maternal and paternal lineages. Pind



Daan is a must, and if not done the souls of ancestors don't get peace. Afternoon (time of offerings depends on place) is the appropriate time of the daan. The pinddaan is performed for three generations from both, maternal and paternal sides. Generally, shraddha rituals for ancestors are performed by men only (it can be done by daughters as well), but the daughters-in-law also take part in the rituals.

In scriptures, crows

are seen as vehicles or messengers of Yama, who rules over death and the afterlife. It is believed that when a crow eats the food offered, it is received by ancestors. Crows act as the bridge between the world of the living and world of the dead. Tarpan refers to offerings made to Divine Beings or ancestors. These rituals can be performed at home, holy places or a temple. It is a tradition during this period to invite brahmins into one's home



to offer them sattvik food and clothing. Donation is considered very virtuous in scriptures, the tradition of which has been going on for centuries. According to beliefs, donating for the peace of the soul of ancestors during Pitru Paksha is considered very auspicious. It is said that by donating during this auspicious period, ancestors are pleased, and the seeker and his family members receive the blessings of ancestors.



In the Mahabharata, Karna's soul is said to have reached heaven after he passed away, but he suffered from hunger. He and his father Sun God went to Lord Indra to seek a solution. Indra told Karna that his ancestors cursed him because he never donated food during shraddha. To clear his conscience, Karna was allowed to return to Earth for 15 days to perform shraddha in the name of his ancestors.

This period of honouring ancestors is deeply rooted in the belief system, concept of afterlife and connection with ancestors. Ancestor worship and rituals pertaining to them have been a part of many ancient countries and civilizations. Priests can also facilitate these rituals, along with mantra chanting. This is a wonderful opportunity to provide solace to the departed loved ones and ensure their spiritual journey is peaceful.

SINNER, ALCARAZ MEET AGAIN FOR HISTORIC US OPEN FINAL

AGENCIES
NEW YORK

Jannik Sinner and Carlos Alcaraz have played so often, and with so much at stake lately, that they both know the other's game so well.

So is the No. 1-seeded Sinner, a 24-year-old from Italy, happy to be facing No. 2 Alcaraz, a 22-year-old from Spain, on Sunday at the U.S. Open for the championship, the first time in tennis history the same two men will meet in three consecutive Grand Slam finals within one season?

"We are aware of maybe more things, because him or me, we try to prepare the match tactically and in different ways," said Sinner, who dismissed any concern about an abdominal muscle issue that arose in his semifinal win over Felix Auger-Aliassime. "But sometimes, it's also nice to not play against him."

President Donald Trump planned to attend the final; no White House occupant has been at Flushing Meadows since Bill Clinton in 2000.

This hard-court showdown — with the winner also tak-



Jannik Sinner and Carlos Alcaraz (File Photo)

ing the top ranking — follows Alcaraz's victory over Sinner erasing a trio of match points on the French Open's red clay in June for his fifth Grand Slam title and Sinner's victory over Alcaraz on Wimbledon's grass in July for his fourth.

"It's great for the sport having rivalries," said Sinner, trying to become the first man to repeat as the champ in New York since 2008, when Roger Federer won his fifth U.S.

Open in a row. "I'm someone who loves these challenges, and I love to put myself in these positions."

Jannik Sinner has been nearly unbeatable — except against Carlos Alcaraz Sinner has been close to unbeatable the last two seasons — except against Alcaraz, who leads their head-to-head series 9-5. Sinner is into a fifth straight Slam final, dating to his title at the U.S. Open a year ago, and

he's 33-1 at majors in that span, the lone blemish against Alcaraz in Paris. Since the start of 2024, at all events, Sinner is 1-6 against Alcaraz and 109-4 against all other opponents.

Since the start of this May, Alcaraz is 36-1, with the loss coming against Sinner at the All England Club — also Alcaraz's first defeat in a Slam final. Alcaraz leads the tour in wins (60) and titles (six) in 2025 and has reached the

finals at his past eight tournaments.

"It's something that I'm working on, just the consistency on the matches, on the tournaments, on the year, in general. Just not having up-and-downs in the match. Just the level that I start the match, just wanted to keep that level really high during the whole match," Alcaraz said Friday after beating Novak Djokovic.

"So I'm thinking I'm doing that in this tournament, which I'm really proud about," added Alcaraz, who hasn't dropped a set over these two weeks, thanks in part to an ever-improving serve. "Probably, I'm just getting mature."

No. 1 Sinner and No. 2 Alcaraz expect adjustments in the US Open final

Knowing each other so well means that Alcaraz and Sinner figure they will make — and see — some tweaks in Arthur Ashe Stadium, where they first faced off in the 2022 quarterfinals, a victory for Alcaraz in a match that ended at 2:50 a.m. on his way to his first Grand Slam title. (Of note: Federer and Rafael Nadal never met once at the U.S. Open.)

Indian shooters eye glory at ISSF World Cup in China

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI

A 24-member Indian team comprising shooters ranked primarily between four-six in the national rankings, are all set to take on the world's best, as the international shooting season's fourth and final International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF) World Cup Rifle/Pistol stage, got underway in Ningbo, China.

Over six competition days beginning Tuesday, a total of 320 shooting athletes from as many as 42 nations, will take aim for a shot at the 10 medal sets up for grabs, as per a release from NRAI. Some of the world's top shooters including at least four reigning Olympic champions will be seen in action in Ningbo, where many will look to gain confidence ahead of the world championships in Cairo in November. Some shooters will also be looking to book their spot in the season-ending ISSF World Cup Finals in Doha in December, with a top performance.

The 10m air rifle and air



Representative Image

pistol mixed team events are the first two finals on schedule on Tuesday and India will field new combinations in both events. While Olympians Ramita and Divyansh Singh Panwar partner Umamahesh Maddenenini and Meghana Sajjanar in mixed air rifle, yet another Olympian Rhythm Sangwan pairs with Nishant Rawat in the men's air pistol. Surbhi Rao and Amit Sharma will be the second Indian pair in the mixed air pistol.

Almost all top Shooting nations in the disciplines have fielded strong sides including hosts China who have among their ranks

Olympic Champion and world record holder Sheng Lihao, among others.

Switzerland's Chiara Leone, the women's 50m rifle 3 positions (3P) Olympic champion and the two Korean women pistol champions in Paris, Oh Yejin and Yang Jiin, will also be seen in action in Ningbo.

Other top nations to have fielded strong squads include the likes of France (20), Italy (18), Germany (15), Czechia (14) and Japan (13). Top shooters from Australia, Iran, Serbia, Slovakia, Hungary, Romania and Vietnam, will make the Ningbo stage even more competitive

Indian Men's compound Archery Team clinches historic World Gold

AGENCIES
GWANGJU

The Indian men's compound team of Rishabh Yadav, Aman Saini and Prathamesh Fuge bagged a gold medal at the World Archery Championships 2025 in Gwangju on Sunday.

India secured their first-ever gold medal in the men's compound archery team event, while Rishabh Yadav and Jyothi Surekha Vennam won silver in the compound mixed team event, which will make its Olympic debut at Los Angeles 2028, according to Olympics.com.

The second-seeded Indian men's team showed remarkable grit to overturn a first-set deficit of 59-57 and beat the fifth-seeded French team of Nicolas Girard, Jean Philippe Boulch and Francois Dubois 235-233 in the



Indian men's compound archery team (Photo Courtesy ANI X) final.

The victory capped a remarkable run in which the Indian men's team came from behind in all four archery matches.

After a first-round bye, they edged past Australia in a shoot-off 232(30)-232(28), beat the USA 234-233 in the quarter-finals, and then overcame third seeds Turkiye 234-232 in the semi-finals. Top seeds South Korea, meanwhile, were

stunned by Slovenia in the last eight.

Rishabh Yadav, making his World Championships debut at just 23, was India's standout performer in qualification, finishing eighth with 709 points and carried that form into the mixed event.

In the mixed team event, Rishabh partnered with Jyothi, India's top-ranked compound woman archer and the No. 3 qualifier.

Shreyas Iyer calls Asia Cup snub truly frustrating

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI

Indian batter Shreyas Iyer broke his silence following his omission from the Asia Cup squad, saying that while being left out is frustrating at times, one should support if some other player is doing well and contributing to the team's wins while putting in work "ethically, even when no one is watching".

Iyer was left out of the Asia Cup squad announced a few days back, raising debates among fans and experts alike, as he was expected to play a part in the tournament after a brilliant Indian Premier League (IPL) season for Punjab Kings (PBKS) as a captain and a



Indian batting star Shreyas Iyer. File Photo

batter and a recent uptick in T20 performances.

Speaking on a podcast on IQOO India's Youtube Channel, Iyer spoke on how his thought process is whenever he is not being selected, "It is only frustrating when you know that you deserve to be in the team, in the playing XI. At that time, it is frustrating.

CPL: Pretorius' 26 Seals Warriors' thrilling win

AGENCIES
TAROUBA

Game 23 of the Caribbean Premier League (CPL) saw Guyana Amazon Warriors beat Trinbago Knight Riders by three wickets with one ball remaining, as per the CPL website.

It was another last-over thriller in Providence as both sides looked to secure qualification for the play-offs. In the end, the teams could barely be separated, but Dwaine Pretorius and Gudakesh Motie scored the nine runs needed off the final over to secure the win for the Warriors in front of their home crowd. Pretorius was named the player of the match for his unbeaten 26 that included a towering and crucial six off Kieron Pollard in the final



over after slamming consecutive maximums off Andre Russell at the end of the 18th over to tilt the match towards the Warriors. The all-rounder also claimed 1/26 with the ball to cap off a clutch performance. Imran Tahir won the toss and elected to field first, the Warriors using a total of seven bowlers in their twenty overs as they sought to restrict the Knight Riders' firepower. Kieron Pollard could not be

contained, though, blasting 54 off 18 deliveries with five fours and five sixes. Critical runs that saw a total of 167/5 to set up a tantalising Warriors chase. Shai Hope (53) notched another fifty in a fruitful partnership with Shimron Hetmyer (49) before Sunil Narine removed both in quick succession to keep the Knight Riders' hopes alive, but Pretorius' cameo with the bat proved the difference in the end.

Duleep Trophy: Saransh Jain's brilliance guides Central Zone reach final

AGENCIES
BENGALURU

Central Zone made it to the finals of the ongoing Duleep Trophy, securing the fifth-highest score by a side in first-class cricket without a century, during their semifinal match against West Zone at Bengaluru on Sunday.

The final will be between the Central Zone and the South Zone. Central Zone secured a place in the finals on the basis of a massive first innings lead.

West Zone elected to bat first after winning the toss. While the top Indian talent Yashasvi



Saransh Jain took seven wickets in the game (Image source: X/@ICC)

Jaiswal (4) and Shreyas Iyer (25) failed, Ruturaj Gaikwad, playing his first competitive

game ever since an injury cut short his Indian Premier League (IPL) for Chennai Super Kings (CSK), made his eighth first-class ton, scoring 184 in 206 balls, with 25 fours and a six. In the lower-middle-order, half-centuries came from Tanush Kotian (76 in 166 balls, with six fours) and Shardul Thakur (64 in 98 balls, with seven fours) as West pushed to 438 in 108 overs.

Harsh Dubey (3/118) and Saransh Jain (3/121) were the top bowlers for Central Zone.

Central Zone delivered a strong reply with Danish Malewar (76 in 136 balls, with

12 fours and a six), Shubham Sharma (96 in 241 balls, with 11 fours) and skipper Rajat Patidar (77 in 84 balls, with 12 fours) impressing with fifties contrasting in styles and tempos at the top of the order.

Later in the middle and lower-middle-order, wicketkeeper-batter Upendra Yadav (87 in 181 balls, with eight fours and two sixes), Harsh Dubey (75 in 93 balls, with 13 fours) and Saransh Jain (63* in 108 balls, with four boundaries and three sixes) scored fifties in tandem, the result was CZ scoring 600 in 164.3 overs, without a century.

Pakistan to host Sri Lanka, Afghanistan in Tri-Series

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI

Pakistan is all set to host its first-ever T20I tri-series with Sri Lanka and Afghanistan, from November 17-29, with the tournament being an important stepping point for the three sides ahead of next year's ICC Men's T20 World Cup in India and Sri Lanka, as per the official website of the International Cricket Council (ICC).

The first game of the tri-series will begin on November 17 with Pakistan taking on Afghanistan at the Rawalpindi Cricket Stadium. While Afghanistan have featured in five ODIs



Team Afghanistan and Pakistan: Photo X/@ACBOfficials

in the country, the last of which came in this year's ICC Men's Champions Trophy, it will be their first-ever T20I in Pakistan.

On November 19, Sri Lanka will take on Afghanistan, also in Rawalpindi, while the remaining fixtures of the series, including the

finals, will be played in Lahore.

It follows Pakistan's recent announcement that they will host South Africa across the three formats in October-November.

PCB Chief Operating Officer Sumair Ahmed Syed was excited about the up-

coming tri-series. "We look forward to hosting Sri Lanka and Afghanistan for Pakistan's maiden T20I tri-series.

This event will not only offer excellent preparation for next year's ICC Men's T20 World Cup, but also present fans with exciting cricket across venues," said Sumair, as quoted from the official website of ICC.

Pakistan will start their ICC World Test Championship (WTC) 2025-27 campaign with a two-match home series against defending champions South Africa, beginning on October 12. The two teams will later play six white ball games.

PCI Chief Jhajarhia hails massive Global Participation at Championships

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI

With the World Para Athletics Championships in New Delhi starting from September 27, the Paralympic Committee of India (PCI) president Devendra Jhajarhia has said that the Indian contingent is hoping to win a rich haul of medals and is preparing for the event.

The newly inaugurated Mondotrack at the Jawaharlal Nehru (JLN) Stadium will host the upcoming World

Para Athletics Championships in New Delhi from September 27 to October 5.

"There are 107 countries participating and it is massive. We will keep our players' spirits up. I came later in the administrative team. I was a player before. I check the rankings of my players daily, check the performance of my players...we are preparing to back our players. My players are physically fit. But you have to make them mentally fit during the competition. I focus a lot on



Paralympic Committee of India (PCI) President Devendra Jhajarhia (Credits - XI)

mental fitness," Jhajarhia told. "At Paris, a lot of our players with fourth or fifth rank

ended up winning medals and I felt for the first time that our players have a really great level of mental strength. We have to keep increasing that. At Paris, no athlete was made to feel alone as they had their coach, manager and a whole team. We gave out India flags to the Indians who lived there and came to watch the event. Players did not feel alone. We will do something similar and keep that home advantage intact for us," he added.

Jhajarhia recalled India's performance in 2024 Paris Paralympics (29 medals, seven golds, nine silver and 13 bronze medals) and the great atmosphere for para sports in the country.

"I want to tell you a little bit about how we won this world championship. How did India get the invitation for such a big event? The reason behind this was that the performance we gave in the Paris Paralympics, we won 29 medals in the Paralympics. In Tokyo, we won 19

medals and then 29 medals in Paris," he said.

"So, somewhere the IPC, the International Paralympic Committee, believed that India is growing very well in Para sports. We had a meeting with the IPC, the International Paralympic Committee, and World Para Athletics. So, we had said that there is a great atmosphere of Para sports in India. And we hoped that we will hold the best Para World Athletics Championships in the world. So, the IPC also

believed that India can hold this event because our performance was the good in the Paralympics," he added.

Jhajarhia said India wants to host 2036 Olympics and Paralympics.

"The biggest thing for me and the country is that so far, the entry of 107 countries has come, the highest ever for this event. This is a very big event and about 2,500 athletes and officials will be a part out it," he said.

For accomodating, training and acclimatisation of

athletes, Jhajarhia said that preparations have been made right from the time athletes land at the airport till the time they land to the stadium for their matches.

"Because we are training volunteers. We will have about 600 volunteers for this work. Then, the National Technical Officials of NTO will be around 150 of us. And the International Technical Officials, who bring IPC, WPF, World Para Athletics, will also be there," he said.