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PM MODI TURNS 75, LEADERS EXTEND WISHES

At a public meeting in Madhya Pradesh, Modi hails rise of new India as Indian President, Vice President, BJP and Opposition leaders greet him

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi turned 75 on Wednesday with a host of prominent personalities, including world leaders, lauding his leadership, while the ruling BJP organised welfare initiatives under the fortnight-long "Sewa Pakhwada" to mark the birthday of its preeminent leader.

Keeping with his practice of unveiling development programmes from different states on his birthday, Modi travelled to Dhar in Madhya Pradesh to launch a nationwide campaign focusing on the health and nutrition of women and children.

He made a strong pitch for "swadeshi" goods and also launched "Swasth Nari Sashakt Parivar" and the eighth annual National Nutrition Month campaigns.

He urged people to buy made-in-India goods. "Shops



Students of Gyan Ganga Vidyalaya celebrate the birthday of Prime Minister Narendra Modi by offering a cake to the PM's portrait, in Surat on Wednesday. ANI

selling 'made in India' goods should have 'Garv se kaho yeh swadeshi hai' boards," he said.

BJP governments in states and the party's organisation in different places started or have lined up an array of outreach, welfare and awareness programmes covering health camps to cleanliness drives, get-togethers of intellectuals and fairs to promote indigenous products. The

exercise will continue till October 2, the birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi.

Birthday wishes for Modi, who was born in a poor family in Gujarat's Vadnagar and has led the BJP to unprecedented geographical expansion and electoral successes since 2014, poured in.

President Droupadi Murmu praised him for instilling a culture of achieving great

P5



"You've instilled a culture of achieving great goals in country"
- Droupadi Murmu, President



"You are making a great personal contribution to boost strategic partnership between our countries"

- Vladimir Putin, Russian President



"Just had a wonderful phone call with my friend, Prime Minister Narendra Modi. I wished him a very Happy Birthday!"

- Donald Trump, President of USA



"Best wishes to Prime Minister Narendra Modi ji on his birthday. May he be blessed with good health and long life."

- Mallikarjun Kharge, Congress chief

TDG NETWORK
DHAR

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday praised the Indian armed forces for the success of Operation Sindoor, which, he said, brought Pakistan "to its knees within the blink of an eye."

"The nation gives utmost priority to the security of Maa Bharti (Mother India). Pakistani terrorists desecrated the honor of our sisters and daughters by wiping away their sindoor. In response, we launched Operation Sindoor and destroyed terror camps. Our brave armed forces brought Pakistan to its knees in the blink of an eye," PM Modi said during a rally in Dhar, Madhya Pradesh.

"Just yesterday, the country and the world witnessed a Pakistani terrorist tearfully recounting his ordeal. This



Prime Minister Narendra Modi addresses a public rally during the foundation stone laying and inauguration of various development projects, in Dhar on Wednesday. ANI

is the New India—one that fears no nuclear threats. It enters the enemy's house and strikes," Modi added, referring to India's decisive action following the Pahalgam terror attack on April 22.

Though Modi did not name the terrorist organization, a viral video of a Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM)

commander reportedly confirmed that Indian forces had devastated the family of terror mastermind Masood Azhar during strikes on the group's headquarters in Bahawalpur, Pakistan, on May 7.

On the occasion of his 75th birthday, the Prime Minister launched the

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Cong to contest 60-62 seats as seat talks to end by October 7

Weights dropping sitting MLAs, to exchange seats with alliance partners in Bihar

ANAND SINGH
NEW DELHI

Even as the Mahagatbandhan or Grand Alliance partners have held multiple rounds of talks to finalise the seat sharing formula in Bihar, the sources indicated that the final tally of seat sharing will be completed by the first week of October ahead of the crucial assembly polls.

The Congress, which con-



Lok Sabha LoP and Congress MP Rahul Gandhi with Lok Sabha and Congress MP Rahul Gandhi during the Voter Adhikar Yatra. ANI

tested 70 assembly seats in the last Bihar elections, is expected to reduce its tally this time to accommodate Mukesh Sahni and Pashupatinath Paras-led LJP. The

party is likely to contest around 60-62 seats and will also exchange seats with its alliance partners.

The source said that, the Congress is likely to contest around 60-62 seats and will also be exchanging seats with alliance partners in the state.

The Congress Bihar in-charge Krishna Allavaru had expressed openly that all the alliance partners to get many weak seats as well as strong seats, as the party had claimed that it had in last polls were given the weak seats which led to victory in only 19 seats.

A top source said that it is expected that seat sharing agreement will happen by

P5

Rahul 'siropa' row: SGPC suspends 2 staff members, transfers 1

TDG NETWORK
CHANDIGARH

The Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee (SGPC) has acted in the controversy over Congress MP Rahul Gandhi being honoured with a 'siropa' at Baba Budha Sahib Gurdwara in Amritsar. The deputy manager has been transferred, while the *kathavachak* (scripture reader) and a *sewadar* have been suspended. Their names have not yet been revealed.

The action follows protests from several Sikh organisations after Rahul Gandhi was presented with a *siropa* during his visit to



LoP in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi offers prayers at Gurudwara Shri Samadhi Baba Budha Sahib, in Amritsar on Monday. ANI

flood-affected areas on September 15.

An inquiry committee has submitted its report to SGPC president Advocate Har-

P5

CM Bhajanlal Sharma launches Birajpura rural camp

TDG NETWORK
JAIPUR

Chief Minister Bhajanlal Sharma inaugurated the Rural Service Camp in Birajpura, Gram Panchayat Todabhata, Bassi, on Wednesday. CM Sharma highlighted the Prime Minister's guiding motto, "Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas, Sabka Prayas," as the inspiration behind organizing rural service camps aimed at extending welfare benefits to the last person in need.

CM Sharma praised PM Modi's leadership since 2014, stating how initiatives like the Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana have con-



CM Sharma at Rural Service Camp at Birajpura (File Photo)

nected over 55 crore bank accounts directly to beneficiaries, ensuring subsidies reach people without leakage. He also pointed out key schemes such as the Swachh Bharat campaign, Ujjwala Yojana which frees women from cooking smoke, and

Ayushman Bharat providing free medical care. Insurance schemes like the Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima and Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana were also credited with supporting millions of families.

P5

CM inaugurates 'NaMo Exhibition' on PM's birthday



CM Bhajanlal Sharma at 'NaMo Exhibition' in Jaipur (File Photo)

TDG NETWORK
JAIPUR

As part of the statewide celebrations for Prime Minister Narendra Modi's birthday, Chief Minister Bhajanlal Sharma on Wednesday inaugurated the 'NaMo Exhibition' at the Jawahar Kala Kendra in Jaipur. The exhibition is a tribute to the Prime Minister's life story, his key

decisions, and his innovative initiatives.

The Chief Minister toured the various stalls, which vividly showcased the Prime Minister's vision for a new India. Displays highlighted major government programs such as Make in India, Digital India, Vocal for Local, and Atmanirbhar Bharat, illustrating

P5

Highway closure: 2,000 tons of apples sent by rail as freight charges soar

ASHIQ MIR
SRINAGAR

Amid the continued closure of the Srinagar-Jammu National Highway (NH-44), authorities have confirmed that around 2,000 tonnes of apples have been transported to outside mandis via rail from the Kashmir Valley so far this season.

Officials said that since last week, a total of 1,25,376 apple boxes have been dis-



patched, with the majority heading to Delhi. From Anantnag Railway Station alone, 87,137 boxes were

shipped, while 38,239 boxes were dispatched from Budgam.

P5

Vaishnaw hails PM Modi's transformative leadership

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

In an exclusive interview with News X, Union Minister for Information and Broadcasting and Railways, Ashwini Vaishnaw, lauded Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership and vision on the occasion of the PM's 75th birthday.

Vaishnaw said the Prime

Minister Modi has "fundamentally changed the way politics is conducted in this country." He said, "First time we see a political leader for whom politics is a means for serving the people. Politics is a means for bringing about a fundamental change in people's lives. Politics is a means for setting that foundation which will take us to be a developed nation. That's



Ashwini Vaishnaw very, very, we are really lucky to have a leadership like this. And on this very pious oc-

TDG EXCLUSIVE

casion, I would say, I would pray to the almighty that may he lead us always."

On PM Modi's impact in nation building, Vaishnaw underlined the PM's guiding principle: "Sabse Pehle Desh. He has always put 'Rashtra Pratham', 'Sadhyha Pratham'

as the mantra. He has always put the welfare of the common citizen, the benefit, the change that we bring in the life of the common citizen as the primary outcome of any policy."

Speaking on global recognition of PM Modi's leadership, Vaishnaw said, "The world today recognizes India for the good work that has

P5

Inclusion into ST list Centre's call, state only recommends: Siddaramaiah

TDG NETWORK
KALABURAGI

Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Wednesday said the decision to include any community under the Scheduled Tribes (ST) list will be decided by the Centre and the state government will only send the recommendation.

Amid opposition from some ST communities against the proposal to include Kurubas under the Scheduled Tribes list, he said, there is no need for anyone to oppose, and if the community is eligible they will be included.

The Karnataka government is currently mulling inclusion of the Kurubas, the community to which Siddaramaiah belongs, under the ST list.

CM BHAJANLAL SHARMA LAUNCHES CLEANLINESS DRIVE, JOINS PUBLIC IN SERVICE

Extending his birthday greetings on behalf of Rajasthan’s people, CM praised PM Modi’s leadership

TDG NETWORK
JAIPUR

On Wednesday, Chief Minister Bhajanlal Sharma marked Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s birthday by launching the ‘Swachhata Hi Seva Abhiyan-2025’ at City Park in Jaipur. Extending his birthday greetings on behalf of Rajasthan’s 8 crore people, the Chief Minister praised PM Modi’s transformative leadership, which he said has led to India’s unprecedented progress over the last 11 years.

CM Sharma highlighted that under the Prime Minister’s vision, India has risen to become the world’s fourth-largest economy. He credited PM Modi’s initiatives like the Jan Dhan Yojana and Ayushman Bharat for taking the country to new heights

LEADERSHIP

- CM Sharma credited PM Modi’s initiatives like Jan Dhan Yojana, Ayushman Bharat, Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, and Beti Bachao Beti Padhao for elevating India’s global stature, strengthening credibility, and prioritizing welfare of the poor and fight against terrorism.
- Toilet coverage in India rose from 38% in 2014 to nearly 100% in 11 years, with over 11 crore toilets built. Jaipur Greater and Jaipur Heritage ranked in the top 20 nationally, with Dungarpur winning a national award.



CM Bhajanlal Sharma, Urban Development Minister Jhabar Singh Kharra participating in ‘Swachhata Hi Seva Abhiyan-2025’ in Jaipur

in various fields. The Chief Minister emphasized that the Prime Minister has always prioritized cleanliness, with the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan serving as a prime

example of his commitment. He further added that PM Modi’s effective and efficient leadership has not only enhanced India’s global prestige but also brought about

positive change through social campaigns such as Beti Bachao Beti Padhao and Ek Ped Maa Naam. CM Sharma concluded that the Prime Minister’s focus on

‘Healthy Women, Strong Families’ campaign vital:CM

AGENCIES
JAIPUR

Chief Minister Bhajanlal Sharma virtually participated in the nationwide launch of the Swasth Nari, Sashakt Parivar Abhiyaan from the RUHS Hospital campus in Jaipur. The campaign was initiated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi from Dhar, Madhya Pradesh, on the occasion of his birthday. The initiative aims to strengthen women’s health and family welfare through various healthcare services and awareness programs.

Chief Minister Sharma emphasized that the health of women directly contributes to the health of the family, village, and nation. He lauded PM Modi for pioneering several key schemes for women, including Beti Bachao Beti Padhao, Ujjwala Yojana, Sukanya Samriddhi, and Matru Vandana Yojana. He said the landmark 33% reservation for women in the Lok Sabha and Legislative Assemblies is a testimony to Modi’s vision.

Sharma said that under the Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana, over Rs 19,000 crore has been distributed to more than 4 crore mothers. Crores of women have benefited from free treatment under Ayushman Bharat. He called upon the public to ensure health



CM Bhajanlal Sharma, Health Minister Gajendra Singh Khinvsar virtually join launch of ‘Swasth Nari , Sashakt Parivar Abhiyaan’

services reach every woman and that daughters receive equal care and opportunities.

The Chief Minister reported significant progress in maternal healthcare, with the maternal mortality rate in the state dropping to 86 per 100,000 live births — better than the national average. The institutional delivery rate has reached 95%. He added that 95 labor rooms and 44 OTs in the state are certified by the

Government of India. Under the Ma Voucher Yojana, over 2 lakh QR-code-based sonography coupons have been issued, benefitting 1.5 lakh pregnant women, especially in rural and remote areas.

During the event, CM Sharma launched the Thalassemia Kutumb Yojana, where organizations will adopt thalassemic children by ensuring regular blood donations.

CM joins blood donation drive, organized by Terapanth Yuvak Parishad



CM at Blood donation camp

TDG NETWORK
JAIPUR

Chief Minister Bhajanlal Sharma participated in a blood donation drive organized by the All India Terapanth Yuvak Parishad, marking Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s birthday.

The Chief Minister emphasized that donating blood is a noble act that saves the life of someone in need. CM urged the public to support Swadeshi products to help

build a strong, prosperous, and developed nation, reinforcing the Prime Minister’s Vocal for Local campaign. He assured that the government is fully committed to ensuring the benefits of Central and State Government schemes reach every eligible citizen. The event was attended by Member of Parliament Manju Sharma, MLA Kailash Verma, Deputy Mayor Puneet Karnavat, along with numerous youth and council officials.

CM Sharma tastes tea, pushes Svanidhi schemes for vendors

TDG NETWORK
JAIPUR

Chief Minister Bhajanlal Sharma visited a tea stall on Shiprapath in Mansarovar in Jaipur on Wednesday, where he prepared and tasted tea. In a friendly interaction with the public and vendor Rakesh Meena, the Chief Minister made a digital payment using UPI.

CM directed local officials to ensure that eligible street vendors, including tea vendors, are linked to the Prime Minister’s Svanidhi Scheme and the newly launched

CM directed local officials to ensure that eligible street vendors, including tea vendors

Chief Minister’s Svanidhi Scheme. He said these schemes provide easy access to financial assistance, enabling vendors to expand their businesses, improve their standard of living, and uplift needy families in urban areas.



CM making tea at a tea stall in Mansarovar area Jaipur

the welfare of the poor and the elimination of terrorism has strengthened India’s credibility worldwide.

Chief Minister Bhajanlal Sharma highlighted that the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, launched in 2014, has become a massive public movement. In just 11 years, toilet coverage in India has surged from a mere 38% to nearly 100%, with the construction of over 11 crore toilets. The initiative has also been crucial in promoting waste management, water conservation, and environmental protection across the country.

CM stated that Rajasthan has achieved historic achievements in the Swachh Survey. Both Jaipur Municipal Corporations (Jaipur Greater and Jaipur Heritage) have ranked in the top 20 nationally.

Congress holds farmers’ rally in Chittorgarh, leaders address gathering

TDG NETWORK
JAIPUR

The Congress Party today organized a farmers’ public meeting in Borav village, Begun, Chittorgarh. The event saw a large gathering of party leaders and workers, including Rajasthan Pradesh Congress Committee President Govind Singh Dotasara and Leader of the Opposition Shri Tikaram Jolly. Addressing the gathering, Dotasara emphasized the need to strengthen the Congress, stating that the party’s legacy of securing independence and building a strong India makes it essential for the nation’s future. He said the rally was held to ensure the voices of farmers, laborers, and youth are heard by the

Urban camps to reflect PM Modi’s vision of public service: CM

TDG NETWORK
JAIPUR

Chief Minister Bhajanlal Sharma inaugurated the Urban Service Camp in Malviya Nagar, Jaipur on Wednesday as part of the ongoing celebrations to mark Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s birthday. Speaking at the event, the Chief Minister praised the Prime Minister’s visionary leadership, tireless dedication, and commitment to public service, saying it has brought happiness and prosperity to millions across the country.

Sharma said the state government, inspired by PM Modi’s spirit of public service, has launched a Seva Pakhwada (Service Fortnight), starting with the Urban Service Camp to provide relief to the most underserved citizens. He emphasized that these camps would significantly improve the quality of life of the common people by offering es-



CM Bhajanlal Sharma, MLA Kalicharan Saraf District Collector Dr. Jitendra Soni at Urban Service Camp inauguration

sential services in a single location.

CM Sharma highlighted the transformative work done by PM Modi over the past 11 years. He noted that India has become the fourth-largest economy in the world and is on its way to becoming the third-largest. He also mentioned historic milestones like the consecration of the Ram Mandir in Ayodhya and the

abrogation of Article 370 in Jammu and Kashmir, as well as Operation Sindoor, which he said defended the dignity of Indian women.

Chief Minister Sharma explained that the Urban Service Camps are being run with the core principles of “Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas, Sabka Prayas” and will function as one-stop solutions for various public needs.



Congress Leaders at farmers’ public meeting in Borav village, Begun, Chittorgarh.

current government. In a sharp critique, Dotasara accused Prime Minister Narendra Modi of failing to deliver on major promises over his 11-year tenure, including creating 20 million jobs and doubling farmers’ income. He stated that farmers are today “crying tears of blood” with no government

support. Dotasara contrasted this with the Congress’s past actions, citing Dr. Manmohan Singh’s Rs 72,000 crore loan waiver and the Rajasthan Congress government’s Rs14,000 crore waiver. He further derided the current state government as a “slip government,” claiming its ministers are unknown to

the public and have done nothing for the people.

Leader of the Opposition Tikaram Jolly also addressed the rally, accusing both the central and state governments of “harassing farmers with oppressive policies.” He stated that the Modi government’s three “black agricultural laws” remain unresolved. Jolly criticized the state’s BJP government for waiting for a “slip from Delhi” while farmers face critical issues like high fertilizer prices, urea shortages, power cuts, and water problems. He said the government, which made grand promises during elections, has completely lost the trust of the farmers and pledged that the Congress would continue to fight for their rights.

Bhupendra Yadav lauds GST, launches service fortnight in Alwar



Union Forest Minister Bhupendra Yadav addressed media on GST in Alwar

TDG NETWORK
ALWAR

Union Forest Minister and Alwar MP Bhupendra Yadav stated that the Goods and Services Tax (GST) has become a strong foundation for India’s economic prog-

ress, praising its role in creating a unified tax system. Speaking at a press conference on Wednesday, he said that while the tax reform has provided relief to businesses and consumers alike, the Congress party had boycotted its implementation. He noted that

Yadav also announced that Prime Minister Modi has fulfilled his promise of a “double dhamaka” for Diwali by reforming GST slabs, with benefits beginning on Navratri, September 22.

despite Congress’s opposition, the NDA government, led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, was re-elected twice.

Yadav also announced that Prime Minister Modi has fulfilled his promise of a “double dhamaka” for Diwali by reforming GST slabs, with benefits beginning on Navratri, September 22.

Marking the start of the “Seva Pakhwada,” or service fortnight,

to celebrate the Prime Minister’s birthday, Union Minister Yadav personally donated blood at a camp and planted 500 saplings in Mungasaka. He also launched the “Swasth Nari-Sashakt Parivar” campaign, emphasizing that only healthy women can build strong families. He further stated that Alwar’s improved cleanliness ranking from 364th to 54th requires continued public participation.

India to become global hub for millets, mustard: Bhagirath Choudhary

TDG NETWORK
JAIPUR

The Rajasthan Millet & Mustard Conclave 2025, organized by FICCI Rajasthan and the Department of Agriculture, was held on Wednesday in Jaipur, focusing on “Resilient Crops with Innovative Technologies.”

Addressing the event via video conference, Union Minister of State for Agriculture, Bhagirath Choudhary, stated the goal is to make India a global hub

Additional Director of Agriculture, S.S. Shekhawat, highlighted Rajasthan’s leadership in rapeseed-mustard production and its contribution to oilseed output.

for millets and mustard by blending traditional farming with technological innovation. He praised India’s global leadership in millet production, with Rajasthan as the top contributor.

Additional Director of Agriculture, S.S. Shekha-

wat, highlighted Rajasthan’s leadership in rapeseed-mustard production and its contribution to oilseed output. He also announced that the Global Rajasthan Agritech Meet (GRAM) will be held from January 10–12, 2026, at JECC, Sitapura.

Officials emphasized that both millets and mustard are well-suited to Rajasthan’s climate, requiring less water. They are crucial for nutritional and edible oil security. Speakers stressed the importance of sustainable practices, modern technologies, and a farmer-centric approach to increase productivity and reduce India’s dependence on edible oil imports. The conclave featured sessions on unlocking the potential of millets and innovations in mustard cultivation.

JAIPUR FINALIZES 150 WARD BOUNDARIES, GAZETTE NOTIFICATION SOON

TDG NETWORK
JAIPUR

The Rajasthan government has finalized the new ward boundaries for the unified Jaipur Municipal Corporation, bringing an end to the delimitation process. A total of 150 wards have been created in the newly merged Jaipur Municipal Corporation, combining the previously separate Greater and Heritage bodies. The final notification is expected to be issued soon.

The reorganization comes six months after the state government announced the merger of the two municipal bodies. A draft proposal was prepared, and public objections were invited. After addressing the objections, the final ward boundaries have now been approved and submitted for gazette notification.

UNIFICATION

- Jaipur Municipal Corporation finalized with 150 wards, merging Greater and Heritage bodies; final notification awaited.
- Draft proposal revised after public objections; Ward 135 largest (32,272), Ward 31 smallest (13,499) in final plan.
- District Election Branch to soon determine SC/ST reserved wards, with OBC and women's reservation allotted via lottery.
- Terms of existing corporations end in November; under One State, One Election, municipal polls likely early next year.



Delimitation of JMC Greater and Heritage finalized

In terms of population size, Ward No. 135 is the largest, with 32,272 residents, while Ward No. 31 is the smallest, housing 13,499 people. Earlier drafts had proposed Ward 19 as the largest with 37,711 people and Ward 132 as the smallest with 10,371, but these figures were revised in



the final plan.

With the delimitation complete, the District Election

Branch will soon begin the process of determining reserved wards for Scheduled

Rajasthan finalizes new ward boundaries for Jaipur Municipal Corporation

Castes (SC) and Scheduled Tribes (ST), based on the concentration of these communities in each ward.

After this, a lottery system will be used to allocate OBC and women's reservation across wards.

The term of both Jaipur Municipal Corporations—Greater and Heritage—is set to end in November. In line with the state government's "One State, One Election" initiative, it is likely that municipal elections across all urban bodies in Rajasthan will be conducted simultaneously, possibly early next year.

Dy CM Diya Kumari marks PM's Birthday with blood donation

TDG NETWORK
JAIPUR

The Service Fortnight (Seva Pakhwada) began on Wednesday, marking Prime Minister Narendra Modi's birthday with a series of initiatives aimed at community service. A significant blood donation and medical camp was organized in the Vidyadhar Nagar area of Jaipur, where Deputy Chief Minister Diya Kumari actively participated by donating blood.

In her address, Diya Kumari stressed that "positive change in society can only be brought about through the spirit of service." She encouraged the public and activists to actively engage in awareness programs throughout the fortnight and emphasized the need for collective action. She called for the recognition of individuals who



Deputy CM Diya Kumari launch of Seva Pakhwada on PM Modi's Birthday

are doing commendable work in social welfare and urged the organization of medical camps, sanitation drives, and cleanliness activities, especially in slum areas.

The Deputy Chief Minister also highlighted the benefits of various central and state government schemes and appealed to people to contribute to blood donation efforts, showcasing a united spirit

of service.

In a separate event, Diya Kumari extended her best wishes to Prime Minister Modi during the Cultural Creation Fortnight at Jawahar Kala Kendra, a cultural celebration running from September 17 to October 2. The event features a photo exhibition depicting Modi's political journey, celebrating India's cultural diversity and heritage.

Bus erupts in flames; passengers escape unharmed

TDG NETWORK
JAIPUR

A dramatic incident unfolded on Wednesday morning when a Rajasthan Roadways bus, traveling from Jaipur to Niwai, was engulfed in fire near the Chainpura railway crossing. The blaze, suspected to have been caused by a short circuit, spread rapidly, turning the vehicle into a charred skeleton within minutes.

More than 30 passengers were onboard when the fire began. According to police, smoke started billowing from the engine, prompting the driver to quickly stop the bus. This created immediate panic, and as flames consumed the bus, terrified passengers were forced to jump out of windows and doors to save their lives. While some sustained minor injuries in the rush, everyone managed to escape the inferno.



Rajasthan Roadways bus, engulfed in flames with passengers onboard

In a desperate attempt to douse the flames, the driver, conductor, and local residents began pouring soil, but their efforts were futile against the strong winds. A fire engine arrived on the scene and firefighters battled the blaze for over an hour.

By the time the fire was extinguished, the bus was completely destroyed, along with the passengers' belongings. The roadways administration arranged an alternative bus to transport the passengers to their destination.

Ministry of AYUSH's 'Swasth Naari' campaign marks PM birthday at NIA

TDG NETWORK
JAIPUR

The National Institute of Ayurveda (NIA), Jaipur, organized a series of programs under the "Swasth Naari, Sashakt Parivar" campaign to mark Prime Minister Narendra Modi's birthday. The initiative, launched by the Ministry of AYUSH, Government of India, focused on promoting better health and empowerment of women through Ayurveda.

All departments of the Institute actively participated in the events, which were centered around women's health, family welfare, and empowerment. Speaking on the occasion, NIA



Participants of 'Swasth Naari, Sashakt Parivar' program at NIA Jaipur

Director Prof. Sanjeev Sharma emphasized the importance of Ayurveda in holistic well-being. He stated that Ayurveda not only addresses physical health but also promotes mental wellness, and that women can enhance their

role in families and society through proper diet, lifestyle, and home remedies.

Workshops were conducted on Ayurvedic medicine, nutrition, yoga, and meditation, along with expert-led sessions on mental health and stress management.

Special health camps and awareness programs were held across departments. A large number of female doctors, faculty members, students, and staff actively participated and engaged with the campaign's activities.

DGP visits International border, strengthens police-BSF coordination

TDG NETWORK
JAIPUR

Director General of Police (DGP) Rajiv Kumar Sharma, currently on a tour to enhance policing and law and order in the Jodhpur division, visited key locations along the international border in Barmer district. His tour included stops at the Gadra Road Police Station and the Munabao Border Outpost.

At the Gadra Road Police Station, just 5 kilometers from the India-Pakistan border, the DGP conducted a thorough inspection of records and police operations. He also provided essential guidelines to the officers. Later, in a gesture that boosted morale, he shared a meal with the personnel and listened to their concerns and expectations.

Following this, DGP Sharma proceeded to the Munabao Outpost, where he



DGP Rajiv Kumar Sharma on his Jodhpur Visit

At the Gadra Road Police Station, just 5 kilometers from the India-Pakistan border, the DGP conducted a thorough inspection of records and police operations.

met with BSF officers and jawans. During his interaction, he praised the discipline and courage of the border security personnel, specifically commending their valor during "Operation Sindoor."

The DGP affirmed that the Rajasthan Police is always prepared to provide support to the BSF. This visit has significantly strengthened the coordination between the state police and the BSF.

Mines dept ramps up revenue collection

TDG NETWORK
JAIPUR

In a clear message from Chief Minister Bhajanlal Sharma to make Rajasthan a leading state in mining, Principal Secretary T. Ravikant directed the Mines and Geology Department to intensify its revenue collection efforts. During a review meeting in Udaipur, he emphasized that concrete results must be achieved, stating that no negligence will be tolerated.

Ravikant urged officials to ensure the timely recovery of outstanding dues and leverage the government's amnesty scheme to encourage defaulters to settle their accounts. He also stressed the importance of 100% recovery of monthly contract installments, fines, and past dues. He congratulated the department for Rajasthan's first-place ranking in the auction of major mineral blocks, urging them to

Ravikant urged officials to ensure the timely recovery of outstanding dues and leverage the government's amnesty scheme to encourage defaulters to settle their accounts.

maintain the momentum and accelerate the auction of minor mineral plots.

Highlighting the Chief Minister's vision, Ravikant said the department must make concerted efforts to achieve 100% of the increased revenue targets for the current financial year. He also called for the department's DMGOMS system to be made more effective for paperless operations.

Chief Secretary reviews preparations for Pravasi Rajasthani Diwas

TDG NETWORK
JAIPUR

Chief Secretary Sudhanshu Pant chaired a review meeting on Wednesday to assess the preparations for the inaugural Pravasi Rajasthani Diwas, scheduled for December 10 in Jaipur. Pant directed officials to monitor progress closely and resolve any pending issues to ensure smooth coordination of the event.

The Pravasi Rajasthani Diwas will include the Pravasi Rajasthani Samman Awards, honoring diaspora achievers in social, economic, and industrial sectors. The event will also host sectoral sessions focusing on Education, Tourism, Industry, Health, and Water, led by experts and distinguished diaspora members. Emphasizing the need for close coordination and active outreach, Pant stressed effective planning by all departments to maximize diaspora participation.



CS Sudhanshu Pant at Pravasi Rajasthani Diwas preparations review meeting

The Pravasi Rajasthani Diwas will include the Pravasi Rajasthani Samman Awards, honoring diaspora achievers in social, economic, and industrial sectors.

He also updated attendees on upcoming pre-event meetings in Hyderabad, Surat, and Kolkata, aimed at boosting diaspora engagement and strengthening socio-economic ties.

The meeting included senior officials such as Abhay Kumar (ACS Water Resource), Kuldeep Ranka

(ACS Higher Education), Sandeep Verma (ACS Skill Development), Rajesh Yadav (Tourism Secretary), Gayatri Rathore (Medical Secretary), Dr. Joga Ram (Industries Secretary), Dr. Manisha Arora (Rajasthan Foundation Commissioner), and others from BIP and RF.

JK Lon hospital opens State's first pediatric heart surgery unit

TDG NETWORK
JAIPUR

In a major step for child healthcare the Health Minister inaugurated the newly constructed Cardiothoracic and Vascular Surgery (CTVS) Unit at JK Lon Hospital on Wednesday. Following the inauguration, Health Minister Gajendra Singh Khinvsar inspected the facility,

which is the first of its kind in Rajasthan.

Khinvsar said the new unit will provide advanced, life-saving treatment for children with congenital and acquired heart diseases. He highlighted that this achievement reflects the state government's commitment to providing quality healthcare to every child, eliminating the need for families to travel

to other states for specialized treatment.

Principal Secretary Gayatri Rathore stated that the unit was developed at a cost of approximately Rs20 crore under the National Health Mission's National Child Health Program. The state-of-the-art facility features a cath lab, an operation theater, and a total bed capacity of 80, including a high-



Health Minister Gajendra Singh Khinvsar and officials at inauguration of CTVS Unit at JK Lon Hospital Jaipur.

Principal Secretary Gayatri Rathore stated that the unit was developed at a cost of approximately Rs20 crore under the National Health Mission's National Child Health Program.

dependency unit and an intensive care unit. Medical Education Secretary Ambrish Kumar added that the government is en-

suring the availability of specialist doctors and human resources, with plans for the unit to become a future training center.

WHEN TWEETS BECOME TREATIES: SOCIAL MEDIA AND THE NEW DIPLOMACY

OPINION

ANINDITA MAHAPATRA



Diplomacy since the olden days had always been discussed in closed and elite meetings and sealed with handshakes hidden from public view. But today, it often unfolds 280 characters at a time. Social media has transformed international politics into a double-edged sword. While it promotes transparency and connection, it also accelerates crises, and drags fragile diplomatic relationships into the volatile court of online opinion.

LEADERS IN THE TIMELINE

During the Russia-Ukraine War, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy was noted to address Ukraine's state of internal security through viral video messages filmed in war-torn Kyiv, instead of using formal press releases. This decision did pan out to carry more diplomatic weight than many formal methods. By framing the conflict as a moral tussle and using graphic visuals to portray a

realistic image, foreign governments were compelled to act.

Furthermore, Donald Trump's recent usage of social media added a new dimension to the popularity of social media in the new age of diplomacy. By making 'Truth Social' his primary channel for foreign policy, Trump often bypasses traditional diplomatic channels entirely. His recent bombardment of posts targeting India and Russia demonstrates the disruptive potential of this approach.

On July 31, 2025, Trump wrote: "I don't care what India does with Russia. They can take their dead economies down together, for all I care."

He followed that up by accusing India of maintaining some of "the highest tariffs in the world" and complained that "we have done very little business with India". He proceeded to criticise India's trade relations with Russia and its role as one of Moscow's top energy customers. These posts got viral across all media platforms, creating global sensationalism, which eventually rattled New Delhi, straining a partnership that had steadily deepened over two decades.

By transforming social media into a platform for personal feuds and impulsive policy declarations, Trump illustrates the dangers of leader-driven digital diplomacy. Unlike official

press releases, his posts arrive unfiltered, emotional, and with immediate global consequences.

PUBLICS AS PLAYERS

However, social media diplomacy is not limited to Presidents and Foreign Ministers. Ordinary citizens, mobilised through posts, hashtags, leaks, or trends, can now influence international relations in ways once unimaginable.

An example is the 2024 India-Maldives row, when some derogatory comments against India's prime minister by Maldivian cabinet ministers triggered the viral #BoycottMaldives campaign. Under this campaign, thousands of Indian tourists cancelled their trips, which hampered the tourism sector which amounts to almost 50% of the country's revenue. What began as online outrage quickly escalated into a diplomatic headache, showing how citizen-driven social media movements can generate economic and diplomatic consequences.

An even more striking illustration of online publics moving into the realm of practical politics can be drawn from the recent developments in Nepal. When the government attempted to ban major platforms including different social media platforms, the government faced intense backlash entirely led by Gen-Z activists which quickly escalated into violent processions, shutdown of parliament and, ultimately, the Prime Minister's resignation.

Nepal's political situation became more intriguing and worth noticing during the vacuum that followed. The New York Times reported that more than 1,00,000 Gen-Z Nepalese



Charred remains of a vehicle after the protest against the Government over alleged corruption, at the Bhatbhateni Supermarket, in Kathmandu. File photo

Nepal's political situation became more intriguing and worth noticing during the vacuum that followed. The New York Times reported that more than 1,00,000 Gen-Z Nepalese gathered in a Discord server, debated through voice and video channels, held discussions in group chats just to draft a plan for the next steps.

gathered in a Discord server, debated through voice and video channels, held discussions in group chats just to draft a plan for the next steps. After prolonged discussions and polling, the online assembly arrived at a consensus for the new leader of their country.

These instances show two things. First, social media amplifies grievances

into international pressure campaigns that can have immediate economic and diplomatic effects. Second, digital publics can perform quasi-institutional functions, like deliberation, evaluating candidates, and rapid consensus-building, which turns these platforms into virtual town halls and sometimes even as a device for crisis man-

agement and governance.

Beyond boycotts and protests, netizens also shape global perception of war and peace. Images and videos from Gaza or Ukraine, shared across TikTok, Instagram, and Facebook, influence parliamentarians, diplomacy, aid flows, and foreign policy debates in countries which are not even close to the battlefields.

Open-source news gathering communities on social media platforms now track troop movements and report about war crimes, and acts of terrorism, narrowing the space for governments to deny. In effect, diplomacy is no longer solely the business of officials; it is co-produced by global audiences in real time.

PLATFORMS AS

POWER BROKERS

If leaders and publics are the referees of this new diplomatic sport. The perceptions they generate and rules they frame shape international politics as much as treaties or summits.

The European Union's Digital Services Act (DSA), for instance, is not just a regulatory measure; it is a geopolitical tool. When Brussels launches formal measures against platforms like X or TikTok for spreading misinformation or hampering election integrity, it is not just regulating tech companies, rather it is regulating how foreign narratives circulate within Europe.

Nepal's failed attempt to ban 26 platforms provides an exemplary tale. The government's act was meant to curtail digital influence by

removing those apps from the country's cyberspace but rather it inflamed the influence of social media, showing that platform regulation itself can become a flashpoint of legitimacy.

The United States' tussle over TikTok's ownership divestment underscores the same point. The fate of a single app has become a bargaining chip in U.S.-China relations, which has entangled the digital culture with the geopolitics of the world's two largest economies.

A NEW DIPLOMATIC PLAYBOOK

The burning question of whether social media should shape international politics is null and void, since it already does. The world is now introduced to a challenge to witness how governments adapt. Leaders must refrain from using social media channels for their subjective opinions or treat them as strategic instruments. States must anticipate online backlash and prepare a rapid engagement plan to de-escalate before the hashtags lead to a complete economic and diplomatic collapse.

Long gone are the days when social media was considered the hub for digital chatter. It has transformed into a central axis of world politics. Tweets, videos, and hashtags might not replace treaties, but they do reshape the conditions under which they are negotiated. In this era, diplomacy is no longer whispered, it is live-streamed.

Anindita Mahapatra currently works as the Research and Program Coordinator at Kalinga Institute of Indo-Pacific Studies and is a post-graduate in Journalism and Mass Communication.

PM Modi at 75: Manipur visit heralds peace, progress in state

OPINION

M. ASNIKUMAR SINGH

On his 75th birthday, the people of Manipur remember the recent visit of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to Manipur marks not just a political gesture but a profound message of peace, reconciliation, and development. On behalf of the people of the state, I wish to express deep gratitude to our Prime Minister for his visit and, above all, for paying tribute to the Manipuri BSF jawan who laid down his life in Operation Sindoor. His recognition of our rich cultural heritage and thousands of years of history is equally significant.

In my view, the acknowledgment of our identity and heritage is a far greater achievement than merely building roads and physical infrastructure. Roads can be rebuilt, buildings can be raised again, but the preservation of our culture and history is what gives strength, dignity, and pride to generations. This recognition and acknowledge-

ment is something we, the people of Manipur, have yearned for over decades. By honouring this, the Prime Minister and the BJP have reaffirmed Manipur's rightful place in the larger story of India.

PM Modi's visit signals that Manipur has entered a crucial stage in its journey. We have already witnessed the containment of violence (Phase 1). Now, we are moving into reconciliation (Phase 2), which will ultimately pave the way for rehabilitation and long-term progress (Phase 3). His presence is a strong assurance that the Centre stands firmly with the people of Manipur on this difficult but hopeful path.

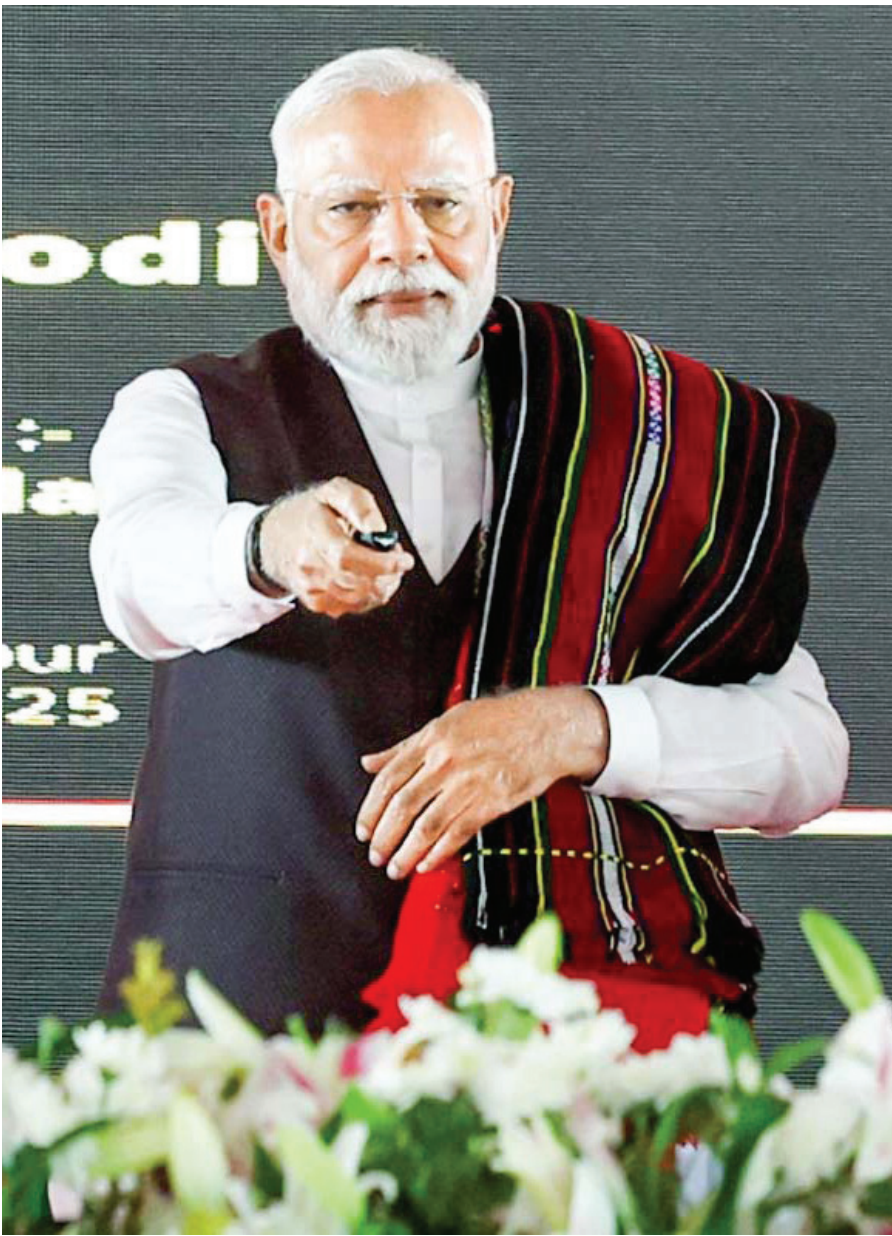
Critics have been quick to dismiss the visit as a mere "pit stop" or "stopover." They conveniently ignore the fact that the Prime Minister also visited Mizoram, Assam, West Bengal, and Bihar as part of a broader outreach to the Northeast

and beyond. Reducing his visit to Manipur to a casual halt is nothing but an attempt to push divisive narratives that serve political interests rather than people's welfare.

We must also recognise that in every conflict there will always be agenda-driven voices and vested interests who seek to exploit the situation for their own gain. The "stopover" narrative being peddled around is one such example - crafted not to build peace but to undermine hope. At such a sensitive juncture, Manipur must take cautious steps forward. We cannot afford to repeat past mistakes; rather, we must ensure that every move we make is towards reconciliation, peace, and progress.

Let us also be clear: the roots of the current conflict in Manipur were sown long before the BJP came to power in the state. To blame the present leadership while ignoring decades of neglect and mismanagement is neither honest nor constructive. What is needed now is collective resolve and ideas to strengthen the peace process - not endless criticism under the guise of "people's demands."

I have been following the public discourse on social media closely in recent



Prime Minister Narendra Modi launches various development projects, in Churachandpur on Saturday. ANI

days. What troubles me is not healthy debate, but the growing noise of divisiveness, driven by those who appear more interested in scoring political points than in helping Manipur heal. Instead of uniting for solutions, too many voices are busy taking sides and making snide remarks.

If one were to borrow from set theory, we could

have been the BJP that has spoken of inclusiveness, of recognising identity, and of bringing real development to a state that was for too long left behind.

For these reasons, I firmly believe that PM Modi's visit heralds a new era of peace and progress for Manipur. This is not a one-time gesture, but the beginning of continued support. I am

PM Modi's visit signals that Manipur has entered a crucial stage in its journey. We have already witnessed the containment of violence (Phase 1). Now, we are moving into reconciliation (Phase 2), which will ultimately pave the way for rehabilitation and long-term progress (Phase 3).

say there are different sets of people: those who want to contribute to peace and progress, those who sit on the fence, and those who actively spread negativity. The question is simple: which set do we wish to belong to?

The BJP, under the leadership of PM Modi, has consistently recognised Manipur's sacrifices in the freedom struggle, its remarkable achievements in sports, and its contributions to the nation. It

confident that he will return to our state, time and again, to walk with us on the road to reconciliation, unity, and prosperity.

The writer is a columnist and environmentalist and has previously served as State General Secretary and Vice President of BJP Manipur Pradesh and is currently the State Spokesperson of BJP Manipur Pradesh.

THE DAILY GUARDIAN SURVEY ON INDIA-US RELATIONS

Strong support for ties, superpower ambitions rising fast.

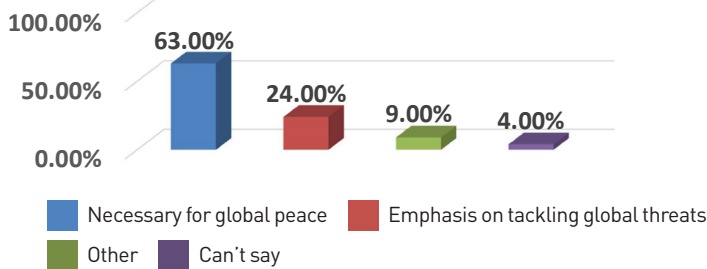
Based on a sample of 146 respondents, the survey captures a confident, pragmatic mood on India-US ties. A clear majority, 63%, say trade and global partnership with the

United States is necessary for global peace, while another 24% prioritise confronting shared threats; only 9% chose "other" and 4% couldn't say. On the recent strain and subsequent

reset, 45% believe pushback already showed costs for Washington, and 43% think the U.S. recognises India's global strength; 12% are undecided.

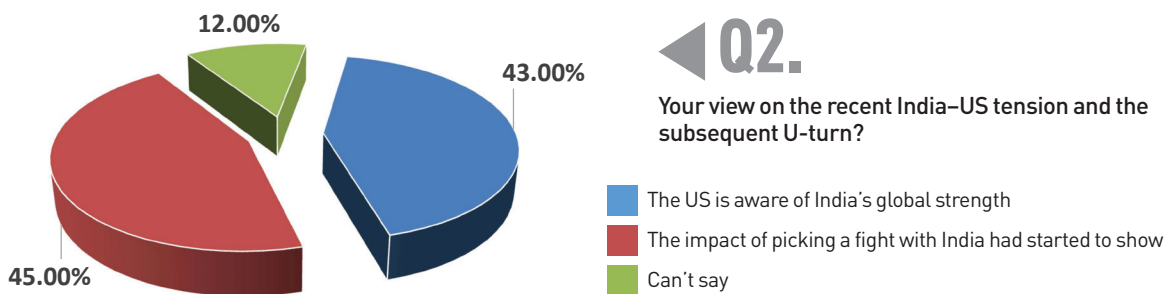
Q1.▶

What is your opinion on India-US trade and global partnership?



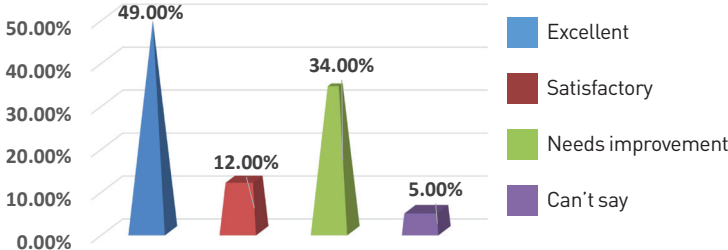
Q2.◀

Your view on the recent India-US tension and the subsequent U-turn?



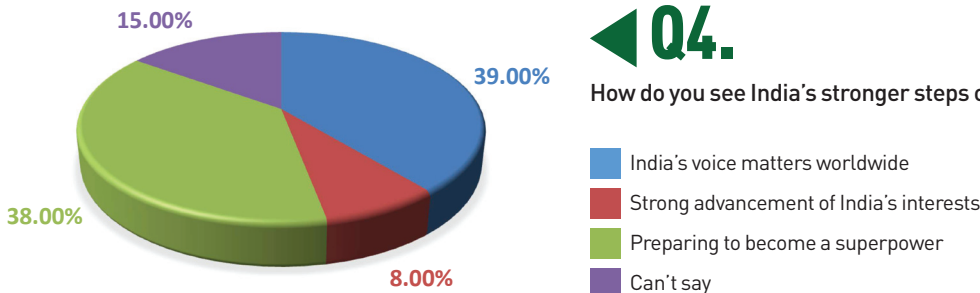
Q3.▶

In the last decade, what is your view on India's foreign policy?



Q4.◀

How do you see India's stronger steps on the global map?



THE DAILY GUARDIAN SURVEY ON PM MODI BIRTHDAY SPECIAL

78% people believe that India moving forward rapidly on every front under PM Modi.

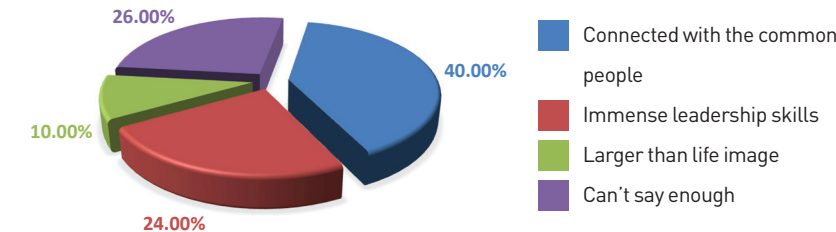
PM Modi is admired for his strong leadership, connection with common people, and vision for a devel-

oped India. Many rate his governance as excellent, acknowledge significant progress in the last decade, and be-

lieve the nation is advancing rapidly toward becoming a developed country under his guidance.

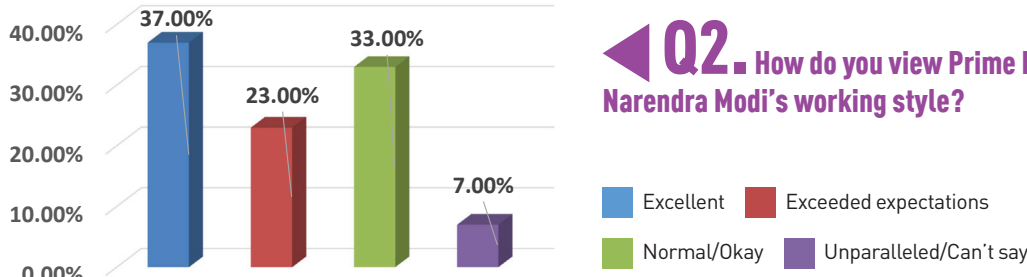
Q1.▶

According to you, what is the main reason behind Prime Minister Narendra Modi's growing popularity?



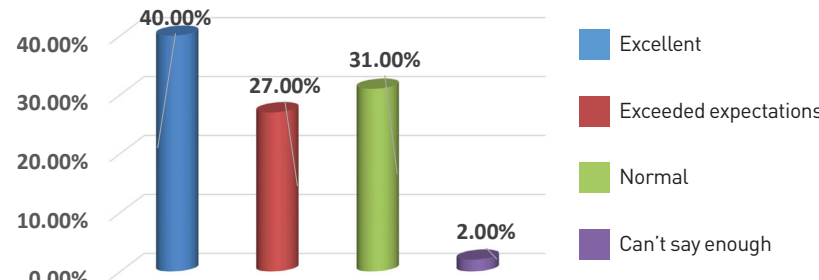
Q2.◀

How do you view Prime Minister Narendra Modi's working style?



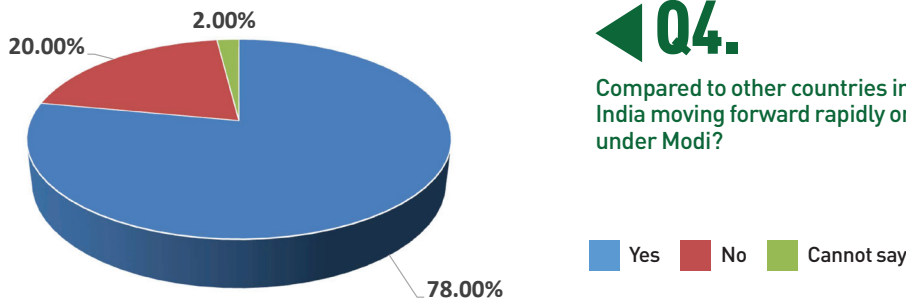
Q3.▶

In your opinion, how has India's overall development been in the last decade under Modi?



Q4.◀

Compared to other countries in the world, is India moving forward rapidly on every front under Modi?



World saw Pak terrorist crying:

CONTINUED FROM P1

'Swasth Nari Shashakt Parivar Abhiyaan' and inaugurated multiple development projects in Dhar. He also launched Madhya Pradesh's 8th Rashtriya Poshan Maah campaign, inaugurated the 'Aadi Seva Parv,' and laid the foundation stone for the PM Mitra Park in Bhainsola village. This textile park is

expected to boost the state's textile industry and create employment opportunities for youth.

Modi said, "On the day of Vishwakarma Jayanti, a significant industrial beginning is taking place with the foundation stone of the country's largest integrated textile park being laid here. This park will energize India's textile sector, ensure farmers get fair value for

their produce, and provide employment to many young men and women. I congratulate all fellow countrymen on these initiatives."

Meanwhile, celebrations for Prime Minister Modi's 75th birthday continue nationwide, with the Bharatiya Janata Party organizing a two-week-long Sewa Pakhwada filled with various welfare and awareness events.

PM turns 75, leaders extend wishes

CONTINUED FROM P1

goals in the country. "Today, the global community is also expressing its faith in your guidance," she said.

Vice President C P Radhakrishnan said India is making a mark on the global stage and moving steadily towards the goal of a developed nation under his visionary leadership.

BJP leaders and members of other parties extended birthday wishes to Modi.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said Modi, with his visionary leadership, dedication to the nation and untiring hardwork, has given the country new energy and

shown it a new direction.

He has enhanced India's capability and respect globally, and his commitment to people's and the poor's welfare is exemplary, Singh said.

Home Minister Amit Shah said Modi has been working tirelessly for people's welfare for more than five decades, and he is a living inspiration of the 'nation first' motto for every citizen.

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge and Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha wished him good health in their greetings.

In posts on X, Shah described the prime minister as a symbol of sacrifice and dedication, and inspiration

for crores of countrymen.

The home minister said from the RSS to the party and the government, Modi's journey in life shows the possibility of extensive transformations when resolve is as unwavering as the Himalayas and vision is as vast as the ocean.

"Workers like me are fortunate to have had the chance to work with him in every role he has undertaken," he said.

BJP president J P Nadda said PM Modi has taken many transformative steps to build an "aatmanirbhar and Viksit Bharat" with the goal of progress of every section of society.

Highway closure

CONTINUED FROM P1

Chief Area Manager, Northern Railways (Kashmir), Saqib Yousuf, stated that multiple consignments were dispatched from Anantnag — including loads of 350 tonnes, 650 tonnes, and 376 tonnes. From Budgam,

an estimated 600 tonnes of apples have already left the station for outside markets.

Kashmir accounts for over 70 per cent of India's total apple production, with last year's yield recorded at 20.4 lakh metric tonnes. However, the region's apple industry continues to suffer.

Vaishnaw hails PM Modi's transformative leadership

CONTINUED FROM P1

happened in the last 11 years and the foundation which has been built for a developed nation. Our Prime Minister has set us on a path which will make us as prosperous as we were throughout the history and the Sashakti Bharat which we always were... That Bharat is what he is building and that Bharat is what he is bringing everybody together in his sabka saath, sabka vikas, sabka vishwas and sabka prayas. It's very important to see that last part sabka prayas. Everybody has to work towards that same goal to achieve that viksit bharat ka goal, right?"

The minister also pointed out the shift in political culture under PM Modi. "Earlier we used to see political leaders celebrate their birthdays by cutting cakes and

having parties. Now seva hi sankalp, this is the message sent by the political party that the Prime Minister belongs to. So from the 15 days that we celebrate as seva pakwada is the time when we must make sure that we look at cleanliness, we look at serving the people, we look at what is the change we are bringing in people's lives... We change our orientation from a problem-oriented mind to a solution-oriented mindset."

Highlighting economic reforms, Vaishnaw referred to the GST announcement made during Independence Day: "Two major things, one is every household, each of us 140 crore citizens living in our country, all of us will have the benefit of GST coming to our budgets. Practically everything that we use in our day-to-day life

will get cheaper. Second, the economic impact is going to be profound... greater consumption, higher investment, more employment and that cycle goes on." The Minister also spoke about India's technological ambitions, especially semiconductors. "Our Prime Minister is very deeply invested in technology and we all understand that for a nation like us... we must have mastery over certain technologies. Technologies like telecom technology, defence, semiconductors, AI, quantum, biotech."

Vaishnaw recalled how PM Modi pushed for a broader ecosystem: "We must manufacture chips. But we must also make the machines which are used in manufacturing chips. And we must also make the materials which go into manufacturing chips.

Cong to contest 60-62 seats in Bihar

CONTINUED FROM P1

the first week of October. A detailed discussion is being done to finalise the seats. More than quantity, quality of seats will be Congress's priority during seat-sharing talks.

A senior Congress leader wishing not to be named said that party has got over 3,500 applications so far for contesting elections for over 90 seats.

The source also said that a section of Congress leader want that some of the sitting MLAs need to be dropped, as they have got unsatisfactory reports during the survey that the party had carried in past few months.

While, some leaders feel that if the sitting MLAs are dropped from the elections by the party might lead to rebellion and many rebel candidates can pop up across the state, thus damaging electoral prospects.

Therefore, final decision will be taken during Congress election committee

meeting, the leaders added.

The party leaders also pointed out that this time, the party is only looking for the winnability factor to improve its tally in the state.

The party leader also pointed out that it is buoyed by the recent Voter Adhikar Yatra undertaken by Rahul Gandhi for 16 days covering almost 25 districts and over 120 as-

Some leaders feel that if the sitting MLAs are dropped from the elections

sembly seats in the state and thus it is planning to keep the momentum going by ensuring presence of top brass in the election season.

Election for Bihar is all set to take place later this year in the month of October and November.

The Mahagatbandhan is eyeing o wrest power from the ruling NDA led by Nitish Kumar's Janata Dal United.

CM Bhajanlal Sharma launches Birajpura rural camp

CONTINUED FROM P1

The Chief Minister explained that rural service camps would bring various welfare schemes closer to people, including Jan Dhan accounts, pension schemes, maternal and child health services, and TB eradication efforts. Camps will facilitate ownership leases under the SVAMITVA scheme, resolve revenue issues, distribute seed minikits to farmers, and repair damaged schools, Anganwadi

Sharma emphasized the government's focus on supporting women, farmers, and the poor.

centers, and roads. Local development projects will also receive a boost.

Sharma emphasized the government's focus on supporting women, farmers, and the poor. Subsidized LPG cylinders at Rs 450, increased pensions for

vulnerable groups, higher Kisan Samman Nidhi payments, and interest-free co-operative loans for farmers were among the key benefits mentioned. He encouraged citizens and public representatives to actively participate and make use of the camps for maximum impact.

During the event, the Chief Minister inspected various departmental stalls and officially launched the Rural Service Camp 2025.

CM inaugurates 'NaMo Exhibition' on PM's birthday

CONTINUED FROM P1

their impact on the country's progress. The exhibition also featured tributes to pivotal decisions, including Operation Sindoor and the construction of the Ram Temple in Ayodhya. During his visit, CM Sharma

was also the subject of an artistic portrait painted by an artist at the venue.

Engaging with the public, the Chief Minister met and interacted with a large number of veterans, young entrepreneurs, and social activists. The event also included a special segment

titled 'Modi Story,' a short film sharing the inspiring experiences of various public representatives with the Prime Minister. The inauguration was well-attended, with local public representatives and a large crowd of citizens present to commemorate the occasion.

Earlier this month, BJP spokesperson Gaurav Bhatia criticized Congress, saying the party blames EVMs for its defeats instead of accepting responsibility. He praised Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership and reforms, including the abrogation of Article 370.

Bhatia said, "The BJP performs well in elections and thanks the people, while Congress fails and blames the EVMs."

SHAH HAILS PM MODI, CITES ECONOMY, ARTICLE 370, WELFARE AS ACHIEVEMENTS

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Wednesday hailed Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership and vision, highlighting his achievements and his decisive actions and works aimed towards the development of the country.

Addressing a gathering on inauguration and foundation laying ceremony of various projects on the occasion of Prime Minister Modi's birthday in Delhi, Union Minister Shah highlighted Prime Minister's decisive actions in securing the country's borders, conducting surgical strikes, and abrogating Article 370.

He also took a jibe at the Congress MP Rahul Gandhi for mocking BJP on long-standing issue of Ram Mandir and said the temple has been built and people all over the world are rejoicing it today.

Shah said, "Be it securing the country's borders, surgical strikes, air strikes, and finally giving a befitting reply to Pakistan through Operation Sindoor, PM Modi



Union Home Minister Amit Shah and Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta during the inauguration of development projects on the occasion of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's 75th birthday at Thyagaraj Stadium, in New Delhi.

has done it all. For years, we all wanted a Ram Mandir to be built in Ayodhya... Rahul Baba used to mock the BJP, saying, 'Mandir vahi banayenge lekin tithi nahi batayenge'. The temple has been built, Ram Lalla has been installed, and people all over the world are rejoicing today. Be it building the Kashi Vishwanath corridor, or starting the work of rebuilding the Somnath temple with gold, every such issue that was stuck for years, PM Modi solved it in a jiffy and increased the confidence of the people of the country."

The Union Minister also hailed PM Modi for abrogation of Article 370 from the Constitution which provided temporary provisions to the state of Jammu and Kashmir, granting it special autonomy.

Praising Prime Minister Modi for not taking any leave, Shah noted India has achieved accelerating economic growth and became 4th largest global economy from the rank of 11th.

He stated, "For years, the workers of the BJP had desired the removal of Article 370. While our voices were loud, we also wondered how

this would be possible. The country elected Modi ji as Prime Minister for the second time and abolished Article 370. Working under Modi's leadership for years, I have seen that he is the only person in the country who has never taken a vacation... Because of this, the 11th-ranked economy that Manmohan Singh left behind has now reached the fourth position. People of Delhi, be prepared; by 2027, we will have become the third-largest economy in the world..."

Shah further highlighted PM Modi's efforts in improving the lives of the poor, citing initiatives such as providing houses, electricity, pure water, toilets, gas cylinders, and free health facilities to millions of people.

The Union Minister further claimed that Prime Minister Modi lifted 25 crore people from poverty through several welfare programs.

He asserted, "Today, every citizen of the country, and Indians spread across the world, are heartily praying to God for PM Modi's long life, good health, and for his long-term service to the nation... It

was decided to celebrate the birthday of the man whose life's glory and every fibre of his being is dedicated to the service of Mother India, as 'Seva Pakhwada'. For 11 years, all of India has been observing this 'Seva Pakhwada' from September 17th to October 2nd..."

"The person whose resolve for India gives energy to the entire country, whose resolve for the welfare of the poor has given more than 7000 poor people of the country houses, electricity, pure water, toilets, gas cylinders, 5 kg of grains per person free of cost, and free health facilities worth up to Rs 5 lakh, for that person, the BJP has started a new tradition of caring for the welfare of each person during 'Seva Pakhwada'. In the last 11 years, Modiji not only provided services to 60 crore poor people, but also removed 25 crore of them out of poverty... This is a huge effort and resolve," he added.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, born on September 17 1950, officially joined the RSS in 1971, but he was introduced to the Sangh at a much younger age.

Priyank attacks PM over jobs, demonetisation, foreign policy

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

Congress leader Priyank Kharge on Wednesday took a jibe at Prime Minister Narendra Modi on his 75th birthday.

He critiqued PM Modi's governance, highlighting several contentious issues like demonetisation, unemployment, weakening institutions, farmers betrayal, crony capitalism, electoral bonds, godi media, etc.

In a post shared on X, Priyank Kharge wished "Happy Birthday Hon'ble PM Modiji", and shared "My Modi Story", adding "Demonetization, unemployment, Weakening Institutions, Farmers Betrayal, Crony Capitalism, Electoral Bonds, Godi Media, Manipur, Casteism, Communalism, Failed Foreign Policy, and Terror Attacks."

The 2016 demonetisation move invalidated Rs 500 and Rs 1000 notes, aimed at combating black money and corruption, but faced criticism for economic disruption and cash shortages.

The Opposition has criticised the PM Modi government for concerns about job creation and economic



Congress leader Priyank Kharge

opportunities, erosion of democratic institutions and checks on power, as well as protests and dissatisfaction among farmers regarding agricultural policies and support, and allegations of favouritism towards certain business groups, over transparency and potential influence on political funding, biased media narratives and influence on public discourse, ethnic violence and unrest in Manipur, social divisions and political rhetoric, etc. Notably, Prime Minister Modi's government has implemented various initiatives like Aatma Nirbhar Bharat (self-reliant India), Digital India, and Swachh Bharat (clean India mission), aiming for economic

growth and development.

Meanwhile, Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge and party leader Rahul Gandhi also extended birthday wishes to PM Modi on his 75th birthday.

"Best wishes to Prime Minister Narendra Modi Ji on his birthday. May he be blessed with good health and long life," Kharge posted on X.

Rahul Gandhi also conveyed wishes, writing, "Wishing Prime Minister Narendra Modi ji a happy birthday and good health."

Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) national convener Arvind Kejriwal also extended greetings on the occasion. "Birthday greetings to Hon'ble PM Narendra Modi Ji. Wishing you good health and a long life," he wrote in a post on X. Congress leader Manickam Tagore also extended wishes, writing in a post on X, "Wishing Prime Minister Narendra Modi ji a happy 75th birthday and good health."

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh shared his 'Modi Story', highlighting the first time he met PM Modi in Jhansi, and saw the 'brilliance of future leadership.

SC seeks Centre's reply on PIL over organised tiger poaching

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Wednesday sought responses from the Centre, the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) and others on a PIL seeking a CBI probe into an alleged organised tiger-poaching and illegal wildlife-trade racket operating in states like Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh.

A bench comprising Chief Justice of India (CJI) B R Gavai and Justice K Vinod Chandran was hearing a plea filed by lawyer Gaurav Kumar Bansal, highlighting the grave threat posed to the tiger population by organised poaching syndicates operating across state and national boundaries.

At the outset, Bansal said at least 30 per cent tigers are outside designated tiger reserves and referred to news reports of the large-scale poaching of the big cat.

"Issue notice," the bench said and asked Additional

Solicitor General Aishwarya Bhati, who appeared in the court on behalf of the Centre and other authorities, to take instructions on the petition.

The plea has referred to recent and continuing revelations of an organised transnational syndicate engaged in systematic poaching of tigers in Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra, and the smuggling of the animals' body parts across state and international borders.

"The arrest of several accused persons, the seizure of tiger skins, bones, weapons and financial records, as well as the constitution of a Special Investigation Team (SIT), have clearly established that the menace is not confined to an isolated incident but reflects the existence of a deep-rooted criminal network that undermines the rule of law..." it has said.

The cause of action is further strengthened by the glaring vulnerabilities in non-protected territorial forest

areas adjoining notified tiger reserves, which have repeatedly become the soft targets of poachers, the plea has added.

"Unless this court intervenes and directs a comprehensive, independent and coordinated investigation, the ecological security of the nation and the survival of the national animal will be gravely compromised," it has said, seeking a CBI probe.

"Direct the respondents (the Centre and others) to immediately implement the recommendations of the SIT and extend effective protection, surveillance and patrolling to tiger corridors and territorial forest divisions adjoining tiger reserves, treating them at par with core areas," the plea has said.

The petition has made the Union ministries of home affairs, environment, forest and climate change, the Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT), the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) and the NTCA parties to it.

Patna HC directs Cong to take off AI-generated video of PM, his late mother

TDG NETWORK
PATNA

The Patna High Court on Wednesday directed the Congress to take off from its social media handles an AI-generated video depicting Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his late mother.

Acting Chief Justice P B Banjathri passed the order on a petition filed by advocate Vivekanand Singh and others, who had called the video a "defamatory publication" and violative of restraints placed on political parties under the Representation of the People Act.

Additional Solicitor General of India K N Singh, who appeared for the Union government, told PTI "the court has made it clear that the video shall remain withdrawn till the next date of hearing".

In the petition, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, the Union government and the Election Commission were also named as respondents.

EC's counsel Siddharth Prasad said "the court has also issued notices to Facebook, Twitter and Google, directing them to file their reply by the next date of hearing".

The high court is likely to mention the next date in the order sheet, which would be uploaded on its website.

Seeking to target the prime minister, the Bihar Congress had last week posted the video on its X handle, with a prompt in Hindi, "Sahab ke sapno mein aayi maa. Dekhiye rochak samvaad. (Mother came in sahab's dream. Watch an interesting interaction between them.) The video portrayed Modi's mother criticising him for his politics. The BJP and its allies had lashed out at the Congress over the video, while protests erupted across the country. The Congress maintained that no disrespect was shown to the PM or his mother. "What is their objection? Just because a mother is trying to educate the son to do something right

Rain fury: 2,500 tourists stuck in Uttarakhand, CM vows swift services restoration

TDG NETWORK
DEHRADUN

Around 2,500 tourists were stranded in Uttarakhand's Mussoorie on Wednesday as the road from Dehradun to the popular hill station remained closed for the second consecutive day following cloudbursts and heavy rain in the capital. Meanwhile, Delhi witnessed a cloudy sky on Wednesday, with parts of the city receiving showers. The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has issued a yellow alert, advising that the situation be monitored and updated in line with its colour-coded guidelines.

Heavy showers ravaged the Himalayan states of Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh, already bruised by a string of deadly natural calamities over the past couple of months, on Tuesday.

The cloudbursts and heavy rains left 15 people dead, 16 missing, and more than 900 stranded in Uttarakhand, while in Himachal Pradesh, three members of a family were killed as rains triggered



Shops are damage by debris and floodwater due to a cloudburst rainfall at Majhada village, in Dehradun. (File photo)

massive landslides and flash floods.

As rehabilitation work picked up pace on Wednesday, Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami said that focus was on the swift restoration of essential services, while his Himachal Pradesh counterpart Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu said people still residing in unsafe buildings would be relocated to secure places to ensure their safety. The cloudbursts and heavy rains in Dehradun on Tuesday severely damaged the route to Mussoorie. It was breached at several

points, prompting police to appeal to tourists and visitors to stay wherever they were -- whether in hotels, homes or homestays -- till the road was restored. According to officials, the number of stranded tourists was much higher on Tuesday, but several of them have left Mussoorie via Vikasnagar, a longer route blocked by landslides that was opened for traffic on Wednesday. Meanwhile, an alternative Bailey bridge is being erected at Kolhukhet, and it is likely to become operational for light vehicles by Wednesday night, a senior official said.

Rahul writes to PM, says floods ravaged Punjab, seeks relief package

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi has written to Prime Minister Narendra Modi seeking a comprehensive relief package for Punjab, stating that the state has suffered an estimated loss of at least Rs 20,000 crore due to floods and Rs 1,600 crore initial relief announced by the union government "does grave injustice" to the people of the state.

Recalling his visit to the



Rahul Gandhi (File photo) state, Rahul Gandhi, who is Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha, said he witnessed shocking devastation and its human cost. He said over four lakh acres of

paddy crop have destroyed, and over 10 lakh animals have perished.

The Congress leader said that in this hour of need of Punjab, the Centre and people of the country must reassure every farmer, every soldier, and every family in Punjab that India stands with them.

"I write to you regarding the catastrophic floods that have devastated Punjab. During my recent visit, I witnessed the shocking dev-

astation and its human cost. Over 4 lakh acres of paddy crop have destroyed, and over 10 lakh animals have perished. Lakhs of people, mostly from marginalised communities have lost their homes.

The flood has also rendered vast tracts of land uncultivable in the near future. Even today, thousands of acres are submerged and villages remain cut off," Rahul Gandhi said in his letter written on Tuesday.

TDG NETWORK
GORAKHPUR

In a breakthrough in the murder of a 20-year-old NEET aspirant allegedly by cattle smugglers here, police arrested one of the accused following an encounter on Wednesday, officials said. In a joint operation, police teams from Pipraich and Kushinagar nabbed a "smuggler" identified as Rahim in Kushinagar after an exchange of fire, they said. Two other suspects, iden-



tified as Chotu and Raju, have been detained, while a reward has been announced for the arrest of the two absconding accused.

The development comes a day after Deepak Gupta was killed in the early hours during a confrontation with the cattle smug-

glers. Locals had attacked and overpowered one of the accused, Ajab Hussain, who is currently undergoing treatment at BRD Medical College after sustaining serious injuries. A case was registered against six people after the youth's body was found with a serious head injury. "All those involved in the incident will be arrested and sent to jail soon," Senior Superintendent of Police Raj Karan Nayyar said, as he confirmed the arrest in the case after the encounter.

IIMs Bangalore, Ahmedabad, Calcutta among world's top 100 B-schools: QS Rankings

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

Three Indian Institutes of Management (IIMs)-- Bangalore, Ahmedabad and Calcutta-- have figured in world's top 100 B-schools, according to QS Global MBA, Online MBA and Business Master's Rankings 2026.

"In India, 14 institutions appear in the ranking this

year. Of these, three feature in the global top 100," London-based QS said in a statement.

"Indian Institute of Management Bangalore climbs one place to rank 52nd, IIM Ahmedabad is up two places to 58th and IIM Calcutta clocks in at 64th, one place higher than last year. This success is driven by strong scores in employability,

return on investment and thought leadership indicators," it said.

The QS Global MBA and Business Master's Rankings spans 80 countries and territories, analysing the world's over 390 best global MBAs and a series of specialised high-demand Business Master's Rankings, including Master's in Management, Finance, Market-



IIM Bangalore moved up one place from last year while retaining its top position nationally

ing, Business Analytics and Supply Chain Management. Woxsen School of Business, which debuts this year, is top ranked for Diversity in Asia, appearing at joint 26th globally.

The United States continues to dominate the upper echelon of the MBA table, with all four top spots occupied by US business schools. The Wharton School has

been crowned the world's best for the first time since 2020 and ranked top in the world for Employability.

Last year's leader Stanford GSB's MBA drops down to fourth with declines in indicators including Employability and Diversity. Harvard Business School is in second place and MIT (Sloan) rises one place to third.

"India's business schools are making significant strides, echoing the improvements we have seen across its universities in recent QS rankings. All four of India's entries in the QS Global MBA Ranking 2026 have risen in position this year -- a distinction unmatched by any other country," said QS President Nunzio Quacquarelli.

RAJNATH SINGH SAYS OP SINDOOR PROVES INDIA’S UNCHALLENGED SOVEREIGNTY

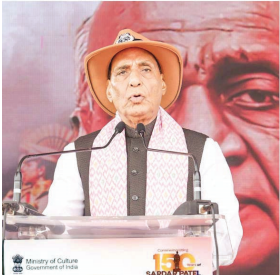
Rajnath Singh hails Armed Forces, says India’s sovereignty unchallenged under PM Modi.

TDG NETWORK
HYDERABAD

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Wednesday hailed the bravery and courage of the Indian armed forces during Operation Sindoor, highlighting how under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, no power can “dare to challenge India’s sovereignty”.

The Defence Minister noted how a Jaish-e-Mohammed commander had admitted that the family of the terrorist Masood Azhar was “destroyed” during the May 7 operation by India, taken out in response to the April 22 Pahalgam terror attack.

“The commander of the terrorist organisation Jaish-e-Mohammed has admitted that during the Bahawal-



ANI Photo | “India chooses path of hard power when negotiations fail”: Rajnath Singh

pur attack during Operation Sindoor, the family of dreaded terrorist Masood Azhar was destroyed. This was the bravery and courage of our Indian Army soldiers. A video of this was also released yesterday. Under the leadership of our Prime Minister Modi, India’s strength has grown even further. Therefore, no power can dare to challenge India’s sovereignty,” the Unon Minister said in Hyderabad.

SOVEREIGNTY

- A JeM commander admitted Masood Azhar’s family was destroyed in the Bahawalpur strike, showcasing the Indian Army’s bravery.
- Rajnath Singh declared under PM Modi’s leadership, no power can challenge India’s sovereignty, linking it to armed forces’ strength.
- Singh unveiled Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel’s statue and highlighted his role in India’s post-Independence integration through Operation Polo.
- Singh dismissed claims of third-party mediation; India attributed the ceasefire to direct DGM0-level military talks, not external pressure.

Singh was addressing an event to mark the 78th anniversary of Hyderabad Liberation Day, which marks Hyderabad merging with the Indian Union after Operation Polo liberated the city from the Nizam’s rule.

The Defence Minister unveiled the statue of Bharat Ratna Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, former Union Home Minister of India, who played a major role in integrating various territories and princely states with the Indian Union after Independence.

Singh further dismissed any claims of a third party being involved between an agreement of cessation of

hostilities between India and Pakistan.

He said that Operation Sindoor will resume if any other terror incident occurs.

“There are some people who say that this ceasefire between India and Pakistan came to be put in place due to someone’s interference. I want to make this clear: our action against the terrorists was not postponed because of anyone’s interference. Operation Sindoor has been postponed.

If any terrorist incident occurs, Operation Sindoor will resume.

I want to tell this with confidence to the people of the entire country that regarding stopping this ongoing operation between India and Pakistan, some people claim that we have stopped it, but no one has stopped it,” he said.

Kerala: Health Minister assures action in hospital negligence case

TDG NETWORK
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Kerala Health Minister Veena George on Wednesday assured that strict action will be taken following the shocking incident at Thiruvananthapuram General Hospital, where a guide wire was reportedly left inside a patient’s body during surgery.

Responding to a submission by the Leader of the Opposition in the Kerala Assembly, VD Satheeshan, the minister said an expert committee has been constituted to investigate the case and submit a report.

“Treatment lapses are taken with utmost seriousness.

In cases of medical negligence, strict action will follow. Based on the expert committee’s report, a decision will be taken on further measures, including



Kerala Health Minister Veena George (File photo)

the removal of the guide wire. Free expert treatment for the patient will be ensured. Once the report is received, strong action will be initiated against those responsible,” she said.

VD Satheeshan criticised the government’s response, stating that “no one has taken responsibility. Except for appointing a committee, no action has been taken. Compensation should be provided to the victim,

and accountability must be fixed. Moreover, revealing the complainant’s identity in the minister’s reply is a serious mistake, and the Speaker should examine it.”

The case dates back to March 22, 2024, when Sumayya, a young woman who underwent thyroid gland removal surgery at the General Hospital, later experienced severe health issues. Examinations at Sree Chitra Hospital revealed that a guide wire had been left inside her chest during the procedure.

Following her complaint, police registered a case against the operating surgeon, Dr Rajeev Kumar, under IPC Sections 336 (act endangering life or personal safety of others) and 338 (causing grievous hurt by act endangering life or personal safety).

Eknath Shinde hails PM Modi’s 11-year leadership progress

TDG NETWORK
MUMBAI

Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Eknath Shinde on Wednesday extended greetings to Prime Minister Narendra Modi on his 75th birthday, praising his leadership over the past 11 years.

Shinde also lauded the launch of the Swasth Nari, Sashakt Parivar Abhiyan.

Speaking to the reporters, Eknath Shinde said, “Today is the birthday of PM Modi, and I extend greetings to the Prime Minister. PM Modi is celebrating his 75th birthday by launching the ‘Swasth Nari, Sashakt Parivar Abhiyan’... In the last 11 years, PM Modi has taken the nation forward... Today the nation is becoming ‘Atmanirbhar’...”

Prime Minister Narendra Modi was born on September 17, 1950.

The PM officially joined the RSS



Eknath Shinde extends birthday wishes to PM Modi (ANI Photo)

in 1971, but he was introduced to the Sangh at a much younger age.

In 1985, he was assigned to join the Bharatiya Janata Party and quickly rose through the party’s ranks, becoming its General Secretary in 1998. Three years later, in 2001, he became the Chief

Minister of Gujarat. And 13 years after that, in 2014, Narendra Modi took oath as the Prime Minister of India for the first time.

Celebrations for Prime Minister Modi’s 75th birthday are underway across the country, with the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) organising a fortnight-long sewa pakhwada with various events.

A 15-day nationwide campaign named Seva Pakhwada has been organised to mark PM Modi’s birthday. Under this campaign, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) plans to conduct blood donation camps, cleanliness drives, and exhibitions across the country to showcase the achievements of the central government. Meanwhile, Shinde also said that Shiv Sena is fully prepared for the upcoming local body elections and expressed confidence that the Mahayuti alliance will secure a big victory.

Maharashtra: Two women Naxalites killed in police encounter in Gadchiroli

AGENCIES
GADCHIROLI

Two women Naxalites were killed in an encounter with police in Gadchiroli district, police said on Wednesday.

Police said that the information was received that a few members of Gatta LOS are camping in the forest adjoining Modaske Village under Police Station Gatta Jambhiya in Etapalli Taluka.

“An Ops under Addnl SP Aheri Satya Sai Karthik, along with 5 C60 units, was launched from Aheri. Gatta Jambhiya Post party and CRPF E Coy 191 Bn



Representative Image

assisted the Ops team in laying the outer cordon. When the C60 contingent was searching the jungle area, they were fired at indiscriminately by Maoists, and they retaliated effectively against the SFs,” Neelotpal, Superintendent of Police, Gadchiroli.

The area search of the jungle has led to the recovery of two female Maoist bodies with an automatic AK-47 rifle, a sophisticated pistol, live ammunition, a large amount of literature and belongings as of now.

Further operations are continuing in the area.

Earlier in September, two Naxalites, each carrying a bounty of Rs 8 lakh, were killed in an encounter with security forces in Chhattisgarh’s Bijapur district on Friday morning, police said.

According to officials, acting on credible intelligence inputs about the presence of Maoists in the southwestern region of Bijapur, a search operation was launched by a team of the District Reserve Guard (DRG). The operation led to an exchange of fire on the morning of September 12, during which two Maoists were killed.

Seven killed in horrific road accident near Nellore

TDG NETWORK
NELLORE

The menace of sand and gravel tipper lorries endangering lives with reckless overspeeding has once again come to light. A fatal road accident occurred near Peramana in Sangam Mandal on the Nellore–Mumbai National Highway due to the negligence of a tipper driver.

According to police, a sand-laden tipper coming from Atmakur towards Nellore, driving on the wrong side at high speed, rammed into a car (registration number AP 40HG 0758) traveling from Nellore towards Kadapa. The impact was so severe that all seven occupants of the car were killed on the spot.

Based on the car’s registration details, police identified five of the deceased as T. Radha, Shesham Se-

ramma, Shesham Teja, T. Srinivasulu, and Nallagondla Lakshmi, all residents of Gurra Madugu Sangam area near Mutukur Gate Center in Nellore city. The identities of the remaining two victims are yet to be ascertained.

Police from Sangam, in coordination with Balaji Nagar Police, have initiated efforts to inform the bereaved families.

The shocking incident has drawn immediate responses from political leaders. Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu, Minister Anam Ramanarayana Reddy, Transport Minister Ramprasad Reddy, and several local legislators expressed deep shock and grief over the tragedy. Minister Anam Ramanarayana Reddy directed officials to take urgent steps to prevent recurrence of such incidents.

CM Siddaramaiah recalls Razakar atrocities during Kalyana Utsav

TDG NETWORK
KALABURGI

Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah recalled the atrocities committed by Razakars during his address at the Kalyana Karnataka Utsav Day celebrations in Kalaburgi on wednesday.

He said that while the rest of India celebrated its independence on August 15, 1947, Kalaburgi was still not free. The atrocities committed by the Razakars had become intolerable. It was thanks to the unwavering determination of the exceptional freedom fighters that the Hyderabad Karnataka region ultimately gained its independence.

“While the rest of India was celebrating independence on August 15, 1947, this region was still not free. The atrocities of the Razakars had reached unbearable limits. It was due to the unwavering resolve of the unparalleled freedom fighters from this



CM Siddaramaiah File Photo/ Facebook

land of sacrifice, coupled with the firm determination of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru and Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, that this region was integrated into the Indian Union,” Siddaramaiah said.

He later expressed gratitude to the countless freedom fighters who played a crucial role in making the region of Hyderabad-Karnataka independent.

“The sacrifices made by the countless heroes of the

Hyderabad-Karnataka Liberation struggle are unforgettable. I extend my heartfelt gratitude to all the fighters, including Shri Shanaragouda Inamdar, Shri Raja Venkatappa Nayak, Shri Dattatreya Avaradi, Shri Shivamurthy Swamy Alavandi, Shri Matamari Nagappa, Shri Narayanrao Kanihal, Shri Hakeekat Rao Chitraguppar, Shri Chandrashekhar Patil, Shri Ramachar, Dr. Churchihal

Telangana Education Policy being designed to suit ground reality: CM

TDG NETWORK
HYDERABAD

Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy on Wednesday emphasised that the new Telangana Education Policy (TEP), which is being designed to suit the ground reality, studies, and future needs, should be a beacon of the country’s education in the future.

Observing that the current education system was not providing the three important elements of language, basic knowledge and skills, the Chief Minister asserted that the new education policy should deliver all three basic requirements to the students to compete with the world.

Speaking at a meeting on the formulation of the Telangana Education Policy report, the CM said that the government has

decided to overhaul the entire education sector in the state. The Chief Minister stated that the only effective way to eradicate poverty is to provide quality education to the needy.

Recalling that the first Prime Minister of India, Jawaharlal Nehru, “recognised the importance of education and established higher educational institutions like universities and IITs in the country”, CM Revanth Reddy expressed concern that the existing education system was not generating talented persons to grab the opportunities created in the country and across the world after the introduction of the economic liberalisation policies. The CM noted that a large number of our youth are excelling in the software sector due to the advent of engineering colleges.

Power Ministry to launch Special Campaign 5.0

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

In line with the Government’s initiative to institutionalise Swachhata and minimise pendency in government offices, the Ministry of Power (MoP), along with its Subordinate Offices, Attached Offices, Autonomous Bodies and CPSUs, have been actively participating in the Special

Campaigns since the year 2021.

According to a release from the Ministry of Power, from December 2024 to August 2025, MoP reviewed 24,370 files and weeded out 20,404 files. In addition, 4,881 public grievances and associated 436 appeals, 324 MP and State Government References were disposed off.

A total of 200 cleanli-



ness campaigns were also conducted, leading to the disposal of scrap material worth Rs 483.63 lakh and

43,579 square feet of space freed. These efforts have created a healthier workplace environment, better

Preparatory Phase of ‘Special Campaign 5.0’ has started from September 15, 2025 and will continue till 30th September, 2025.

record management and contributed to better space management and revenue generation.

Preparatory Phase of ‘Special Campaign 5.0’ has started from September 15, 2025 and will continue till 30th September, 2025. During the preparatory phase, MoP will identify the pendency in selected parameters, mobilise the ground functionaries, finalise cleanli-

ness campaign sites, review records, undertake space management planning and identify scrap material for disposal.

Nodal Officers in the CP-SUs and other Organisations of MoP have been nominated. Guidelines of Special Campaign 5.0 along with google sheet have been circulated for uploading the targets in Preparatory phase.

MoP will make relentless efforts to achieve the objectives of ‘Special Campaign 5.0’ during the Implementation Phase, starting from October 2 to 31, 2025, with a special focus on the disposal of e-waste.

The Special Campaign 5.0 will continue to enhance cleanliness, boost morale, and optimise the working environment across its offices.

THE DECCAN COSMOPOLIS: WHEN THE SOUTH WROTE THE MUGHAL WORLD BACK

Muslim kingdoms in the Deccan relied heavily on local Brahmins: Ibrahim Adil Shah II of Bijapur appointed Brahmins to run the revenue system, and in Golconda Telugu-speaking Niyogi Brahmins became ministers.

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

For much of Indian history, the Deccan plateau – the great landmass of peninsular India – was treated as a far-flung frontier, a footnote to the grand narratives of North India’s empires. But imagination skips at our peril. In reality, the sultanates of Bijapur and Golconda (Hyderabad) were cultural powerhouses whose impact reverberated far beyond the South. Their courts were vibrant cosmopolitan hubs, drawing Persian nobles, Hindu Brahmins, Abyssinian slaves, and local Muslim elites into a shared space. In an era of Mughal dominance up north, these Deccan rulers were writing back, shaping pan-Indian art, architecture and literature on their own terms.

From the early 16th century until the late 1600s, Bijapur and Golconda stood as independent sultanates, carved out of the former Bahmani kingdom. Seven Qutb Shahi sultans reigned from Golconda (1518–1687) and Adil Shahis ruled from Bijapur (1489–1686), resisting Mughal conquests longer than any other regional power. Golconda’s kings built the fortified hill city and royal necropolis of Hyderabad, while Bijapur’s sovereigns left behind dazzling monuments like the Gol Gumbaz. These capitals were not backwaters but magnets for talent and trade. As one observer noted, the Deccan “was once a cultural and economic melting pot,” with Persian officials rubbing elbows with Maratha cavalry, Telugu warriors (nayakwaris), and even African Habshi generals like the legendary Malik Ambar. Chand Bibi,

the warrior princess of Ahmednagar (a neighbour), and Malik Ambar himself are now finally celebrated in popular histories – testimony to how previously these remarkable figures had been sidelined.

SULTANATES OF GOLCONDA AND BIJAPUR

Bijapur and Golconda sprang up after the decline of Delhi’s Bahmani Sultanate (1518 A.D.). Each boasted a vigorous economy – Bijapur with its trade links to the Arabian Sea, Golconda as the legendary diamond emporium – and a pluralistic population. Persian served as the official court language, but regional tongues thrived under royal patronage. Marathi, Kannada and Telugu were heard in administration and literature. Remarkably, Muslim kingdoms in the Deccan relied heavily on local Brahmins: Ibrahim Adil Shah II of Bijapur appointed Brahmins to run the revenue system, and in Golconda Telugu-speaking Niyogi Brahmins became ministers. This integration confounds any simple Hindu-vs-Muslim narrative.

At court one encountered a dazzling mix of faiths and peoples: Persianate scribes shared the day with local poets and South Indian artisans. Vijayanagara temple pillars were even engraved with Arabic texts, and Adil Shah II of Bijapur proudly styled himself an heir of Hindu mythology – calling himself a son of Saraswati and Ganesha. In brief, these sultanates were cosmopolitan societies. An event on Deccan history recently described them as “multi-racial, multi-ethnic and multi-religious,” whose bazaars drew traders from

Europe, China, Persia and Africa. In this context, language became a bridge.

TONGUES OF THE DECCAN: DAKHNI, PERSIAN, AND MORE

One of the Deccan’s greatest contributions was linguistics. The courts of Bijapur and Golconda spoke in three major languages. Persian was the courtly lingua franca, linking them to a pan-Asian Muslim world. But alongside it flourished Dakhni (Deccani), an early form of what we now call Urdu. This Indo-Aryan tongue arrived when Sultan Muhammad bin Tughlaq moved Delhi’s court south to Daulatabad in 1327 – effectively planting North Indian Hindavi in the Deccan. Over centuries, Dakhni absorbed words from Marathi, Telugu and Kannada, giving it a distinctive flavor. Unlike Delhi Urdu, it retained a local identity: one Qutb Shahi verse proudly noted “Whether Turk or Brahmin, our tongues differ but our feelings are the same... the fortunate is he on whom Saraswati smiles,” blending Persian and Hindu imagery.

At the same time Marathi grew in importance. The Qutb Shahi and Adil Shahi armies employed tens of thousands of Marathi cavalry, while Brahmin scribes transcribed documents in Marathi for regional administration. In short, the Deccan court was truly multilingual: scholars and poets turned out works in Persian, Dakhni Urdu, and even Telugu or Marathi. The Sultanate elites took pride in this mix. When an Adil Shahi ruler wrote of “Saraswati and the guru,” he acknowledged the Sanskrit-Hindu tradition even as he used Persianized language. These rulers showed that knowing multiple tongues was a source of power and legitimacy.

This linguistic interplay comes through in the po-

etry of Deccan sultans, especially Muhammad Quli Qutb Shah (r. 1580–1612) of Golconda. He was a remarkable polyglot: composing lyric gazals in Persian, devotionals in Telugu and, most famously, verses in Dakhni. In fact, literary historians regard him as one of the first poets of the Urdu language. His kulliyat (collected works) spanned over 1,800 pages, mostly couplets (ghazals) on themes of love and praise. He even translated lines of the great Persian poet Hafez into Dakhni, making him arguably the first poet-translator of Hafiz in India. Muhammad Quli famously built the city of Hyderabad and its landmark Charminar. The very stone on which he placed the Charminar’s foundation bears an inscription (in Persian) beseeching God: “Fill this city with people as Thou hast filled the river with fishes, O Lord,” a prayer for growth and prosperity. This couplet – one of the earliest urban mottoes of modern India – hints at a ruler who thought in both Persianate and vernacular terms.

The Deccan’s literary riches survive in ornate manuscripts as well. Shown above is a page from Phulban, a Persian romance translated into Dakhni (Deccani Urdu) at the Golconda court. Composed by the poet Ibn Nishati in the 17th century, the illustration depicts Sultan Abdullah Qutb Shah enthroned, surrounded by courtiers. The text above (in Nastaliq script) is in Dakhni Urdu, celebrating a “Persian love story” given new life in the Deccan. Manuscripts like this were read aloud in royal mehflis (salons), sung with music or performed. Poetry flowed out of the sultans’ pens as naturally as orders from their thrones; indeed, many of the Qutb Shahi and Adil Shahi kings were themselves accomplished poets.



A partial view of the huge Gol Gumbaz and one of the four dome-capped octagonal tower seven stories high with a staircase inside. Vijayapura (Bijapur), Karnataka

SPLENDOR IN STONE: MONUMENTS AND INSCRIPTIONS

The Deccan sultans also inscribed their legacy in stone. From Golconda to Bijapur their architects developed a distinctive Indo-Islamic style. Take the Gol Gumbaz (left): this is the mausoleum of Sultan Mohammed Adil Shah (r. 1627–1656) in Bijapur, with its enormous hemispherical dome and ornate minarets. Its interior “whispering gallery” still astonishes visitors. (The massive dome remains one of the largest in the world.) In Golconda, the Qutb Shahis built the grand Golconda Fort and a cluster of royal tombs south of Hyderabad. These tombs (such as Sultan Abdullah Qutb Shah’s at right) are square two-storied monuments topped by onion domes and flanked by slender turrets – combining local granite carving with Persian-influenced ornament. Together, the Qutb Shahi tomb complex amounts to “the most exten-

sive and best-documented Muslim dynastic necropolis in India”. In every pillar and arch one sees this cultural synthesis: lotus motifs and Hindu geometry coexist with pointed arches and geometric arabesques, a visual echo of the mixed society beneath them.

The Deccani style left its mark on later Indian art and architecture. Charminar in Hyderabad (1591), for example, established the “chaubara” or four-fold design – a monumental gatehouse with four grand arches – that would influence city planning for centuries. The Charminar’s very founding was steeped in Mughal symbolism (it commemorated the dawn of the second Islamic millennium), yet its form was drawn from Persian and Shia ideas (the four spires echoing a cosmic structure). In Bijapur, the huge cisterns and aqueducts like the Baoli (step-wells) reflected Islamic and Hindu elements alike. Even Mughal painters

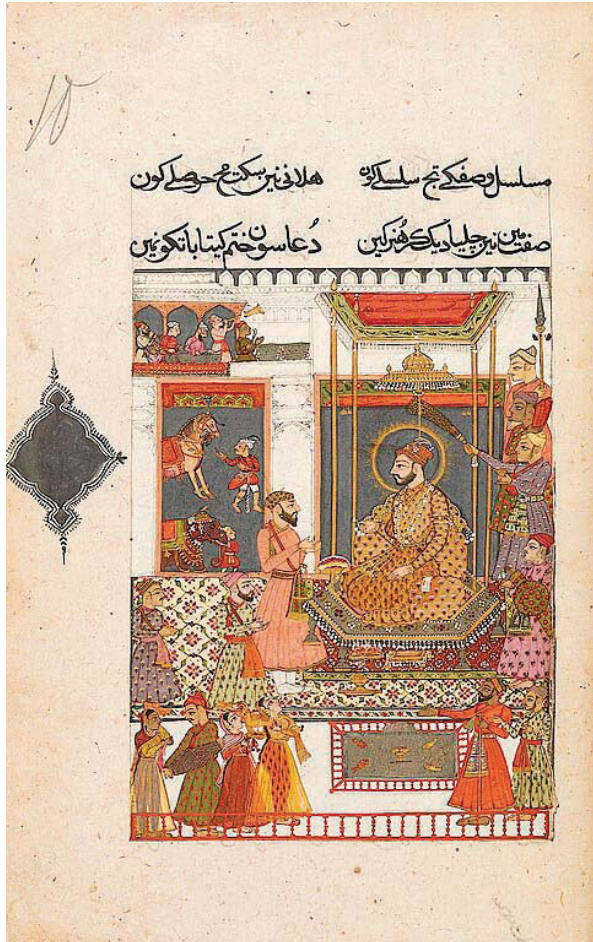
in Delhi would later adopt a touch of “Deccani” flair in the early 17th century, copying the Bijapur royals’ taste for vivid color and intimate court scenes.

Epigraphic evidence further shows this blending of worlds. Many forts and gateways bear dated Persian inscriptions, from Golconda’s marble Makka Darwaza (1559) to Bijapur’s tombs (dated 1543–1672). The Qutb Shahi tombs even have Persian foundation plaques for each ruler. Surprisingly, however, some religious sites feature Dakhni text – the local tongue – instead of the expected Persian. In Bijapur, a 17th-century dargah (Sufi shrine) entrance is flanked by 15 couplets of poetry written in Dakhni. The Archaeological Survey of India called it “perhaps the largest single inscription to be found on a Muslim tomb in India,” and it is the oldest known Urdu inscription on any building. In short, the very stones of the Deccan speak in many voices.

Lords of the Deccan spotlight these southern dynasties. Documentaries like A Tongue United tell the story of Dakhni’s roots. Even in academic circles, the Deccan has re-emerged as a subject of global interest, seen as a crucial crossroads in the “Persianate” world.

Despite this progress, common misconceptions persist. Deccan sultanates are still too often painted as intolerant or backwaters – yet the evidence contradicts such stereotypes. As Richard Eaton notes, Brahmins held high office in Golconda and Bijapur, and temples were adorned with Quranic verses just as mosques were decorated with Hindu motifs. The truth is a mosaic, not a simple division. Today’s historians emphasize decency and plurality: the Deccan courts gave voice to local languages and customs without abandoning broader Islamic traditions. They remind us that Mughal influence did not flow only from north to south; the southern rulers absorbed ideas from the heartland and then re-exported new syntheses back out into the subcontinent.

In that light, “writing about the Mughal world” is a two-way street. The sultans of Bijapur and Golconda were not passive recipients of northern culture, but active participants in a pan-Indian conversation. Their multilingual poetry, Persian chronicles, and monumental buildings challenge us to redraw India’s historical map. For history and literature lovers today, the Deccan cosmopolis offers a treasure trove: a world where emperors wrote verses in their mother tongues, and where great halls echoed with Muslim prayers and Hindu chants alike. To ignore it is to miss the fullest picture of India’s rich, interconnected past.



In his prologue to Phulban, Ibn Nishati eulogises his patron Abd Allah Qutb Shah of Golconda, who is depicted in the manuscript seated sumptuously on his throne. Wikipedia



3. Charminar in Hyderabad, Char Kaman and Gulzar Houz, photographed by Lala Deen Dayal in the 1880s. Wikipedia

ISRAEL OPENS NEW ROUTE OUT OF GAZA CITY FOR 48 HOURS AS TANKS ADVANCE

AGENCIES
CAIRO

The Israeli military said on Wednesday it was opening an additional route for 48 hours that Palestinians could use to leave Gaza City as it stepped up efforts to empty the city of civilians and confront thousands of Hamas combatants.

Hundreds of thousands of people are sheltering in the city and many are reluctant to follow Israel's orders to move south because of the dangers along the way, dire conditions, a lack of food in the southern area, and fear of permanent displacement.

"Even if we want to leave Gaza City, is there any guarantee we would be able to come back? Will the war ever end? That's why I prefer to die here, in Sabra, my neighbourhood," Ahmed, a school teacher, said by phone.

At least 30 people were killed across the Gaza Strip on Wednesday in Israel's latest strikes, including 19 in Gaza City, local health authorities said.



Israeli soldiers, tanks and armoured personnel carriers near the Israel-Gaza border.

An Israeli official said military operations were focused on getting civilians to head south and that fighting would intensify over the next month or two.

The official said Israel expected around 100,000 civilians to remain in the city, which would take months to capture, and the operation could be suspended if a ceasefire was reached with the Hamas militant group.

The prospects of a ceasefire appear remote after

Israel attacked Hamas political leaders in Doha last week, infuriating Qatar, a co-mediator in ceasefire talks.

Defying global criticism of the attack, including a rebuke by Israel's stalwart ally, the United States, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has said Israel will strike Hamas leaders anywhere.

Visiting Doha on Tuesday, U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio said there was "a

very short window of time" in which a ceasefire could happen, apparently referring to Israel's stated plans to crush Hamas by force in Gaza.

In leaflets dropped over Gaza City, the military said Palestinians could use the newly reopened Salahudin Road to escape towards the south and that they had until lunchtime on Friday to do so.

"Movement must only take place via the streets marked

in yellow on the map as the route for southward transit. Follow the instructions of the security forces and traffic signs," they said.

But the situation remained chaotic and dangerous for civilians, who have been streaming away on foot, by donkey cart or in vehicles in recent days.

Much of Gaza City was laid to waste early in the war in 2023, but around 1 million Palestinians had returned there to homes among the ruins. Forcing them out would mean confining most of Gaza's population to overcrowded encampments in the south where a hunger crisis is unfolding.

A day after Israel announced the launch of a ground offensive to seize control of Gaza's main urban centre, tanks had moved short distances towards the city's central and western areas from three directions, but no major advance was reported.

The United Nations, aid groups and foreign governments have condemned Israel's offensive and the proposed mass displacement.

EU lays out new tariffs and sanctions on Israel over war in Gaza

AGENCIES
BRUSSELS

The European Union laid out Wednesday its toughest plan yet to pressure Israel to end the war in Gaza as Palestinians fled en masse from Israeli tanks, drones and troops pushing deeper into the coastal enclave ravaged by 23 months of war.

Kaja Kallas, the EU's foreign policy chief, urged the 27 member nations to increase tariffs on some Israeli goods and impose sanctions on 10 Hamas leaders, Israeli settlers, and two members of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's Cabinet: National Security Minister Itamar Ben-Gvir and Finance Minister Bezalel Smotrich.

"We are proposing these measures not to punish Israel or Israeli people, but to really try to pressure Israeli government to change course and to end the human suffering in Gaza," Kallas said. "The war needs to end, the suffering must stop, and all hostages must be released."

The sanctions would freeze any of the individuals' European assets and ban travel within the EU.

The EU is Israel's largest trading partner, so the tariffs might have far-reaching effects on Israel's economy, which is already rattled by the cost of a long war. Roughly 32 million euros (\$37.5 million) in bilateral funds controlled by the European Commission would be immediately suspended. The commission also gives support to the Palestinian Authority.

Israel denies there is starvation in Gaza and says it allows in enough humanitarian aid.

Israeli Foreign Minister Gideon Saar sent a letter to European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen vowing that Israel will buck the European campaign.

"Pressure through sanctions will not work. The



European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen

Germany still considering EU proposals on Israel sanctions

BERLIN: Germany's government has not yet formed a final view on EU proposals to impose sanctions on Israel over its war on Gaza, a government spokesperson said on Wednesday.

"We are aware of the plans for sanctions. The (European) Commission has been discussing them for several days. They will be presented today and the German government has not yet formed a final opinion on them," govern-

ment spokesperson Stefan Kornelius said when asked about the plans at a press conference.

Commission President Ursula von der Leyen said last week that the EU would propose sanctions on "extremist ministers and on violent settlers," as well as a partial freeze on trade ties. However, she admitted that there was a lack of unity on the issue from member states, hindering the possibility of passing the measures.

China accuses New Zealand over airport 'harassment'

AGENCIES
BEIJING

China's embassy in New Zealand said it has complained to Wellington over the "harassment" of its citizens at the country's airports, including electronic devices being seized.

"A Chinese citizen, when transiting at a New Zealand airport, was subjected to harassment and interrogation without cause by NZ security and intelligence agency personnel," the embassy said late Tuesday.

"His personal digital devices were confiscated, and some of them have not been returned," it added.

The embassy also listed "several reported cases of Chinese citizens experi-



Representative image encing similar harassment during entry or transit in New Zealand."

Beijing "deplores the unwarranted conduct and harassment", it said, demanding that "such wrongful acts cease immediately".

The embassy has issued a complaint to New Zea-

land's foreign ministry and "reserves the right to make further responses", it warned.

Wellington in response insisted all people entering the country had to abide by laws and regulations -- specifically "national security and border security".

Saudi Arabia condemns Israeli ground ops in Gaza City 'in strongest terms'

AGENCIES
DUBAI

Saudi Arabia on Wednesday condemned "in the strongest terms" the Israeli ground operation in Gaza City, a day after Israel unleashed a long-threatened ground assault on the enclave.

The kingdom also urged members of the U.N. Security Council to act to halt what it described as Israel's killing, starvation and forced displacement of Palestinians, the Foreign Ministry said in a statement.

Israel on Tuesday started a ground offensive to seize control of Gaza's

main urban centre.

There has been a wave of criticism from countries around the region including Qatar, which has been hosting and mediating ceasefire talks.

Qatar described the Israeli ground offensive as a continuation of its 'war of genocide' against the Palestinians.

After a U.N. Commission of Inquiry concluded on Tuesday that Israel had committed genocide in Gaza, Israel's ambassador in Geneva, Daniel Meron, called the report "scandalous" and "fake", saying it had been authored by "Hamas proxies".

Sri Lanka resumes key highway project with \$500 million new Chinese funding

AGENCIES
COLOMBO

Sri Lanka resumed construction of a stalled highway project with a new \$500 million Chinese loan on Wednesday, the first funding from its largest bilateral creditor since the island nation defaulted on its foreign debt three years ago.

The construction of the 38-km (24-mile) highway stretch of the Central Expressway that links the hub of Colombo with Kandy city in the central highlands was launched in 2016 but suspended in 2023 when the project ran out of funds and building materials in the



Representative image aftermath of the country's worst financial crisis.

The highway aims to provide faster connectivity between two major cities in the South Asian nation and support economic activity. About one-third of it had been built before work came to a halt.

The Sri Lankan govern-

ment now aims to complete the project by April 2028, highways minister Bimal Rathnayake said on Wednesday.

The \$500 million loan from China EXIM Bank was extended to Sri Lanka on concessionary terms, Sri Lankan President Anura Kumara Dissanayake said during a ceremony to restart the project.

"Typically, when a country goes through a financial crisis, experts say that the country loses a decade of development. But I'm confident that we can reduce this time by half," Dissanayake said.



Taiwan shows off first missile to be jointly manufactured with US arms maker

AGENCIES
TAIPEI

Taiwan unveiled its first missile to be jointly manufactured with a U.S. company on Wednesday, marking a major step in the fast-growing defence cooperation between Taipei and Washington to counter China's military threat.

Democratically-governed Taiwan is racing to bolster its armed forces as China, which views the island as its own territory, steps up its military pressure, including staging war games and regu-

larly sending warplanes and warships into nearby skies and waters.

Taiwan President Lai Ching-te said in June he would deepen security cooperation with the U.S. and the island would jointly develop and manufacture weapons. The U.S. is the island's most important international backer and arms supplier, despite the absence of formal diplomatic ties.

Ahead of the Taipei Aerospace and Defence Technology Exhibition, the military-owned National Chung-Shan Institute of Science and



The Barracuda-500 on display at the Australian International Airshow in Avalon in March.

Technology (NCSIST) put on display Barracuda-500, an autonomous, low-cost cruise missile designed by U.S. defence technology startup An-

duril Industries.

The NCSIST said that through technology transfer, it plans to mass produce in Taiwan the missile, designed

for group attacks on warships and similar to exploding drones.

The NCSIST declined to offer details such as a timeline for production, or expected volume. "This is a new endeavour. We aim to build our own defence capabilities more swiftly and efficiently, incorporating the latest technologies," NCSIST president Li Shih-chiang told Reuters.

Anduril Industries did not respond to a request for comment sent outside of U.S. business hours. Taiwan's goal is to build the entire production line locally and to keep

the cost per missile below T\$6.5 million (\$216,493), Li said.

"Should hostilities break out, should we face blockade, we are not like Ukraine -- which still has the European continent to provide a steady, uninterrupted flow of reinforcements," he said. "All our resilience must be built upon this island." Li said the NCSIST will sign two contracts and six Memorandums of Understanding with six unspecified U.S. and Canadian companies during the three-day trade show that opens on Thursday.

Torn away from families, over 29,000 Afghan children deported from Iran, Pakistan

AGENCIES
KABUL

Thousands of Afghan children deported from Iran and Pakistan are struggling to reunite with their families who remain outside the country, according to a report by Tolo News.

The High Commission for Refugee Affairs has assured that efforts are underway to bring the children back together with their families, Tolo News reported on Monday.

One child deported from Iran described his experience, saying, "They told a few people: when you return to Afghanistan, take this boy with you and at the border claim he is your son. Once you reach Afghanistan, release him so he can live on his own."

Another child deported from Pakistan said, "I miss my parents. If I return home again, I will live with my father, mother, and sisters."

Ahmadullah Wasiq, spokesperson for the Commission of Refugee Affairs, told Tolo News, "Some children have been reunited with their families, while the rest are under care in orphanages." Samiullah Ebrahimi, spokesperson for

the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs, said, "The Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs, in cooperation with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, has worked to locate the families of these children and hand them over to their relatives."

The deported Afghan children carry painful stories of migration and forced return from Iran and Pakistan.

Previously, Save the Children reported that in June of this year alone, 80,000 Afghan children were deported from Iran to Afghanistan, of whom nearly 6,700 were unaccompanied.

In light of recent events, the United Nations also reported on Tuesday that more than three million people in Afghanistan are displaced by conflict and instability, warning urgent international aid is needed to address the humanitarian emergency. Khaama Press reported. Further, as per the Khaama Press report, calling on donor governments and international partners, UNHCR urged the global community to deliver immediate humanitarian assistance to Afghanistan's most vulnerable groups, particularly women and children.

UNNI MUKUNDAN TO PLAY PM MODI IN BIOPIC ‘MAA VANDE’

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI

Malayalam actor Unni Mukundan is set to play Prime Minister Narendra Modi in the biopic titled 'Maa Vande', directed by Kranthi Kumar CH, the actor said on Wednesday on the occasion of the PM's 75th birthday. The film is produced by Veer Reddy M.

Announcing the film, Mukundan posted on Instagram, "I'm humbled to share that I will be portraying the Honourable Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Damodardas Modi ji, in the upcoming film Maa Vande, directed by @kranthikumarch and produced by @maavande-



movie. Having grown up in Ahmedabad, I first knew him as my Chief Minister during my childhood. Years later, in April 2023, I had the privilege of meeting him in person, a moment that left

an indelible mark on me." "As an actor, stepping into this role is overwhelming yet deeply inspiring. His political journey has been nothing short of extraordinary,

but in this film, we aim to explore the man beyond the statesman, especially his profound bond with his mother, who shaped his character and spirit" Mukundan said.

Manoj Bajpayee urges support for Bihar flood relief

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI

As devastating floods continue to wreak havoc across Bihar, displacing thousands of families and submerging villages, Bollywood actor Manoj Bajpayee has stepped forward to amplify relief efforts. Taking to his official Instagram and Twitter handles, the actor urged people to extend urgent help for those affected by the calamity.

In his post, Bajpayee highlighted the scale of destruction, noting how families have been left homeless and dependent



on relief centers for survival. Sharing details of the Aahwahan Foundation's on-ground efforts, he wrote that the NGO has

already distributed over 50,000 relief kits and set up 53 relief centres in the worst-hit districts. The actor appealed to his fans

and the public to contribute generously, stressing that "every effort counts in saving lives."

Bajpayee, who hails from Bihar's Belwa village in West Champaran, has often spoken about his deep connection with the state. His plea carried a personal touch as he expressed concern for the plight of flood victims, saying that solidarity and collective action are the only ways to overcome such a tragedy.

"I urge everyone to come forward and support. Bihar needs us right now," he wrote, tagging the foundation's official links for donations and assistance.

Arjun, Aahana fall in shocking 'Rise and Fall' twist

AGENCIES
MUMBAI

This week's Rise and Fall task was nothing short of a rollercoaster, a mix of strategy, shocks, and betrayal. With Arjun Bijlani, Aahana Kumra, and Aditya Narayan nominated for the fall, the pressure was sky-high. Each ruler had to put their fate in the hands of a female worker- Aditya chose Kubbra, Aahana picked Akriti, and Arjun got Anaya.

The arena was set for an intense water basketball match, but with a twist: the two players with the most baskets would lose. Bali and Aarush kept the heat on as commentators and refer-



ees, while the game quickly turned into a spectacle. Anaya stormed through the first round, leaving everyone stunned. But the drama peaked in the second when Akriti and Kubbra shockingly joined forces, not just to bring Anaya down, but to sabotage Arjun's basket directly.

The unexpected betrayal left Arjun reeling, and the

scoreboard sealed the fate as Aahana and Arjun, with the most baskets, lost the match. Aditya and Kubbra emerged as the winning duo, securing Aditya's safety in the penthouse. Meanwhile, Arjun and Aahana's dramatic fall sent them straight to the basement, a blow that's bound to shake alliances and ignite fresh rivalries in the tower.

BRAIN PICKING



Glamour in a woman is to be celebrated, and we women must celebrate ourselves.

—TAMANNAH BHATIA

(Indian Actress)

B-Town sends birthday wishes to PM Modi

AGENCIES
MUMBAI

Bollywood star couple Saif Ali Khan and Kareena Kapoor have extended their heartfelt greetings to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, marking his 75th birthday on Wednesday.

In a special video message, Saif Ali Khan recalled visiting PM Modi with his family in the national capital, further sharing his warm wishes for the leader.

Saif shared how PM Modi expressed a lot of love and affection for his kids, Taimur and Jeh, before signing autographs for them. "Such things touch your heart and stay with you as a memorable moment. It was a wonderful afternoon. I would like to wish him all the best and hope to

continue to support him in working so hard in making our country even greater," he concluded.

Likewise, Kareena Kapoor also dedicated a birthday post for the Prime Minister and wrote, "Janamdin ki hardik shubhkamnaye Shri @narendramodi Ji! (A very happy birthday @narendramodi Ji!) Wishing you a very long, happy and

healthy life... Best wishes, - Saif and Kareena."

Actor Karisma Kapoor joined the list with her share of heartwarming wishes for PM Modi. "Honourable Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi Ji, I pray for your long, healthy, and happy life. With utmost respect, wishing you a very happy 75th birthday. Jai Hind," she said in a video message.



WHEN BLIND ‘SAW’ THE TAJ MAHAL

ANJALI SINGH
NEW DELHI

The bus pulled out of Delhi just as the morning light began to stretch across the city of dreams. Inside, the air was filled with small talk, laughter, gigglings and the rustle of snacks being passed around. Meanwhile, a quiet yet striking conversation unfolded between two friends sitting side by side took all my attention.

Meenakshi, a visually impaired herself, shared something she often heard from her relatives "People often suggest to me that I should have a child," she said and took a pause then continued "They say the child will grow up to become my support." Then added softly, almost as if speaking to herself, "But why should my child carry that burden? I want them to live their own life. To be their own person." Meenakshi was not a mother.

But, she was sharing her perspective about motherhood not as a duty or obligation, but as a choice. In her words lay a quiet defiance against the unspoken rule society often imposes on people with disabilities: that children are meant to be caretakers rather than individuals with dreams of their own.

Her conviction set the tone for the day. Around her, the bus carried a group of men and women, all blind, heading to Agra to visit the Taj Mahal. Their journey was not just about seeing a monument; it was about experiencing freedom. Freedom to be free, freedom to be themselves, freedom to not care about anything else but just living at the movement.

This one-day tour was organised by Rising Star: Khilte Chehre, an NGO empowering persons with disabilities through inclusive travel experiences. Launched in 2019, the initiative has completed twelve editions of accessible

tours, each designed to foster independence, confidence, and community.

Over the years, Rising Star has taken groups to Lansdowne, Goa, Vaishno Devi, Mussoorie, Thailand, Jaipur, Rishikesh, and even Dubai. Each trip involves a small registration fee, but the real reward lies in the freedom to explore the world with minimal barriers and the joy of discovering it with friends.

It all began in 2018, when founder Amit Jain met a group of visually impaired students. Most of them shared a wistful, unfulfilled wish: to travel, to experience places they had only heard about. Moved by their words, Jain organised the first outing to Rishikesh later that year. Since then, each journey has widened horizons, one destination at a time.

On the Road to the Taj By 7:30 a.m., the bus rolled south from Mayur Vihar. The mood was light, filled with



jokes, songs, and casual talk. In Mathura, the group stopped for tea, turning a quick break into long conversations. One man teased about always losing his way to the washroom at railway stations; another lit up while describing his love for cricket commentary on the radio. There was laughter, easy and unforced, the kind that turns strangers into friends.

The comfort of the Zingbus carrying them made the ride smooth and easy, turning the irritation of the heat outside into something bearable — almost worth it. Inside, the bus felt less like transport and more like a moving living room, filled with warmth

and camaraderie. By early afternoon, the bus pulled into Agra. The sun bore down fiercely, the temperature climbing past 40 degrees. Yet as the Taj Mahal drew near, their excitement overshadowed the heat.

"Is this the Shahi Darwaza?" one voice asked. "Where are the four minarets?" another followed quickly. "What's on my left? What's on my right? Is there a market? A poster? A wall?" Every detail mattered. The monument was being assembled in their minds like a puzzle, piece by piece, question by question. To help, a miniature model

of the Taj was passed around. Fingers traced the smooth dome, the symmetry of the minarets, the arches shaped like frozen waves. For the first time, the Taj Mahal became something tangible.

"The marble feels different," one of them whispered, his hand resting on the monument itself. "The touch of the Taj Mahal is different. It feels alive."

What astonished many was their sense of direction. Even in the sprawling courtyards and under the towering gates, they knew instinctively which way they had turned, where the Yamuna river flowed, how far the walls extended. Their internal compass was sharper than sight, built from sound, memory, and touch.

Inside a tunnel filled with digital posters, their curiosity deepened. "What's on this wall? What picture is on my right? What's written there?" Every description added another brushstroke to their mental canvas.

This was not sightseeing in the conventional sense. It was story-weaving — a monument translated into imagination.

Togetherness in Small Gestures The day, however, was not only about the Taj. It was also about each other.

At lunch, no one wanted to sit randomly. They wanted to be close to friends, so voices familiar to them could flow easily across the table. Food was shared, jokes exchanged, and the meal became a gathering rather than a formality.

Outside the washroom, men waited patiently for their friends, unwilling to move ahead alone. These small gestures spoke volumes: here was companionship anchored in loyalty and care, not convenience.

By late afternoon, most tourists wilted under the sun, searching for shade. But this group brimmed with energy. They asked more questions, reached for more details, and

laughed more freely. For them, the day wasn't just about seeing a monument. It was about experiencing the world without limits.

The Taj Mahal, for them, wasn't merely a symbol of love. It was a place of resilience, imagination, and joy. They had "seen" it in a way many sighted visitors never do.

For centuries, the Taj has been celebrated as a marble poem, a testament to eternal love. Tourists come for photographs, for the postcard-perfect image at sunrise or sunset. But that day, in the company of those who could not see, the monument revealed another truth.

Beauty is not confined to vision. It lives in the coolness of marble under fingertips, in the laughter shared around a dinner table, in the patience of waiting for a friend, in the wisdom of a woman like Meenakshi, who refuses to accept that her worth depends on someone else's support.

PICTURE PERFECT



Diana Penty poses for her social media. (Instagram)

MANDAWA THROUGH THE AGES: A TIMELESS JOURNEY IN RAJASTHAN'S PAINTED TOWN

TDG NETWORK
JAIPUR

Mandawa, located in Rajasthan's Shekhawati region, is a town where history comes alive through vibrant wall paintings. Time seems to pause here, as every haveli and street tells a colorful story of the past through its art. Often called the "Open-Air Art Gallery of Rajasthan," this small town is not just a destination; it's a historical timeline spread across dusty lanes, centuries-old havelis, and intricately frescoed walls that whisper stories of merchants, kings, culture, and change. Traveling through Mandawa is like stepping into a vibrant time capsule — each corner holds a brushstroke from the past, inviting modern travelers to witness the layered grandeur of Rajasthan's trading and artistic legacy. Here's a journey through time in the lanes of Mandawa.

18TH CENTURY: THE BIRTH OF MANDAWA'S GRANDEUR

Mandawa was founded in the mid-18th century by Thakur Nawal Singh, a descendant of the Shekhawat Rajputs. At the time, the region was a burgeoning hub along the old silk route, attracting wealthy merchants from across the country. Recognizing its potential, Nawal Singh constructed the majestic Mandawa Fort — a focal point for defense, governance, and the rising prosperity of the town. This era marked the beginning of Mandawa's transfor-

mation into a cultural and commercial epicenter. The construction of elaborate havelis began, as prosperous merchants sought to exhibit their wealth and status not just through trade but also through architecture and art.

19TH CENTURY: THE GOLDEN AGE OF FRESCO ART

The 1800s were Mandawa's most artistically prolific years. With trade flourishing, Shekhawati's merchants poured their fortunes into building palatial homes decorated with vivid frescoes. These were not merely decorative; they told stories — of mythology, daily life, colonial encounters, and technological marvels of the time. A walk through Mandawa's narrow, cobbled streets reveals haveli after haveli, each covered wall to ceiling in richly colored murals. Look closely, and you'll find scenes of Lord Krishna serenading Radha next to steam locomotives, European men with gramophones, and even Wright brothers-like flying machines — all coexisting in perfect harmony.

NOTABLE HAVELIS FROM THIS PERIOD INCLUDE:

Jhunjhunwala Haveli – Famous for its intricate mirror work and vibrant murals. Gulab Rai Ladia Haveli – Known for its unusual depictions of both Indian and British colonial subjects. Murmuria Haveli – Featuring paintings of Nehru on a horse and British soldiers — showcasing Mandawa's unique perspective on changing times.



EARLY 20TH CENTURY: SHIFTING SANDS AND DEPARTURES

As trade routes evolved and ports like Bombay gained prominence, many Shekhawati merchants migrated to urban centers in search of better opportunities. Though the havelis were left behind, their legacy endured.

The early 1900s saw Mandawa's artistic energy slow down, but its architectural heritage remained untouched. The town became quieter, a beautiful relic awaiting rediscovery.

LATE 20TH CENTURY:

DISCOVERY AND TOURISM

By the late 20th century, Mandawa's faded grandeur caught the attention of heritage lovers and travelers. Writers, photographers, and historians began to flock to this forgotten gem, lured by the mystery of its crumbling yet exquisite havelis.

The Mandawa Fort, once a seat of power, was converted into a heritage hotel, allowing visitors a regal stay experience. This period saw a renewed interest in the preservation of frescoes and architecture. Many local families began restor-



ing parts of their ancestral homes, opening them up to the world.

Mandawa also began to appear on the radar of filmmakers. Its raw, timeless beauty made it a favorite for shooting historical and cultural scenes, notably in movies like PK, Love Aaj Kal, and Bajrangi Bhaijaan.

21st Century: Mandawa Today Modern Mandawa strikes a delicate balance between heritage and hospitality. While the town retains its old-world charm, it now offers a range of accommodations — from homestays in

restored havelis to luxury heritage hotels.

Art walks, camel rides, and cultural performances now bring Mandawa's frescoes and stories alive for the curious traveler. Efforts are ongoing to preserve and digitize the fresco art, with NGOs and government bodies recognizing the global importance of this open-air art gallery.

A stroll through Mandawa today is a living history lesson. As you sip chai by a haveli courtyard or admire a mural depicting a king alongside a steam engine, time collapses — past and



present exist side by side.

TIPS FOR TIME TRAVELERS IN MANDAWA

Plan your visit between October and March for the most pleasant weather. Spend 1-2 days exploring the town's ornate frescoed havelis, especially Gulab Rai Ladia Haveli, and enjoy the sunrise from Mandawa Fort. Located just 170 km from Jaipur, Mandawa is easily reachable by road. Don't leave without tasting local Rajasthani dishes like dal baati churma, ker sangri, and gatte ki sabzi,

often served with rich desi ghee and traditional sweets like ghewar and mohanthal. The slow pace and heritage charm make it unforgettable.

A LIVING FRESCO

Mandawa isn't just a place — it's a narrative, painted and preserved across walls, whispered through the corridors of silent havelis, and echoed in the dusty breeze of the Thar. To visit Mandawa is to travel through time — and come back enriched, inspired, and a little more in love with Rajasthan's soul.

Kota Travel Guide: Temples, Palaces & Timeless Charm

TDG NETWORK
JAIPUR

Kota, in Rajasthan's Hadoti region, offers a rich blend of royal heritage, natural beauty, spiritual depth, and modern attractions. Whether you love history, nature, or local culture, Kota has something to offer. Here's a guide to must-see places, hidden gems, and tips to make your trip unforgettable.

GARH PALACE & RAO MADHO SINGH MUSEUM

Dominating Kota's skyline, Garh Palace was once the residence of the ruling dynasty. Its architecture spans various eras, with fortified walls, elegant chambers, and detailed murals. Inside the palace, the Rao Madho Singh Museum displays royal artifacts—miniature paintings, historical arms, ancient manuscripts—that tell the story of Kota's regal past.

KISHORE SAGAR LAKE & JAGMANDIR PALACE

Set in the middle of Kishore Sagar Lake is the serene Jagmandir Palace, built in the 18th century. The lake and palace are especially beautiful at sunrise and sunset. Boat rides, gentle walks along the lakeshore, and scenic views make this spot perfect for relaxing and photography.

CHAMBAL RIVERFRONT & CHAMBAL GARDEN

The Chambal Riverfront is a relatively recent addition to Kota's attractions. It stretches along the riverbanks with themed ghats,



landscaped gardens, and promenades. Nearby, Chambal Garden offers boating, a suspension bridge, and a quiet spot for birdwatching and enjoying nature.

TEMPLES & SPIRITUAL SITES

Kansua Temple showcases ancient architecture and exquisite stone craftsmanship. Mathuradheesh Mandir, devoted to Lord Krishna, is lively during festivals. Godawari Dham, a white

marble Hanuman temple by the river, offers peace and serenity.

Karneshwar Temple draws visitors with its scenic setting, especially during the monsoon.

Garadia Mahadev, perched near cliffs and valleys, becomes especially enchanting in rainy season.

WILDLIFE & NATURE ESCAPES

Mukundara Hills Tiger Reserve, approximately 50 km from Kota, is home to tigers, leopards, wild

boar, birds, and forest landscapes that invite exploration.

Darrah Wildlife Sanctuary protects dry deciduous forests with diverse flora and fauna. It's ideal for nature walks and observing wildlife.

Alnia Dam is a calm retreat; the dam's banks have rock paintings and peaceful surroundings that make it very contemplative.

GARDENS, PARKS & LEISURE SPOTS

City Park (Garden of Joy)

has green lawns, paths, cafes, and spaces for families.

Riverfront Promenade along the Chambal River is especially beautiful at dusk, with soothing views and sometimes light-and-music displays.

Seven Wonders Park & Kishore Sagar Lake area are also favorites for evening walks and photography.

OFFBEAT & LOCAL EXPERIENCES

Kaithoon Village is famous for Kota Doria sarees. A visit gives insight into local



weaving and traditional textiles.

Charan Chauki, en route to Dad Devi Temple, offers scenic vistas and stories from local life.

Dad Devi Temple and the surrounding forests are perfect for those seeking calm away from the bustle of city life.

When planning a trip to Kota, the best time to visit is between October and March, when the weather is cool and pleasant—perfect for sightseeing. Summers can be extremely hot

and are best avoided. Kota is well-connected by both road and rail, making travel convenient. Within the city, auto-rickshaws and cycle rickshaws are useful for getting around local attractions. A stay of 2 to 3 days is ideal to explore the city's historic palaces, temples, scenic riverfronts, and nature spots. If you have more time, you can venture off the beaten path and enjoy Kota's slower pace. Don't miss trying local Rajasthani cuisine—especially the hearty thalis, regional

sweets, and savory snacks available near markets and lakeside stalls. For photography lovers, early mornings and golden sunsets offer the best natural lighting to capture the charm of Kota's landscapes and heritage sites.

Kota isn't just a stopover on way to somewhere else—it's a destination in its own right. With palaces, temples, rivers, and wildlife, you'll discover many layers of Rajasthan's culture and beauty in every moment of your stay.

WORLD ATHLETICS C'SHIP: NEERAJ STORMS INTO FINAL

TDG NETWORK
TOKYO

India's two-time Olympic medallist Neeraj Chopra qualified for the final of the men's javelin throw event at the World Athletics Championships 2025 in Tokyo on Wednesday, in his first attempt without breaking much of a sweat.

Neeraj, who is also the defending champion, eclipsed the qualification mark of 84.50m by sending his javelin to a distance of 84.85m and



Olympic medallist Neeraj Chopra

finished third in Group A. His arch-rival, Julian Weber, became the second player to earn a seat in the final with a

towering effort of 87.21m. Poland's Dawid Wegner finished in the second spot with his personal best attempt of 85.67m and confirmed his seat in the final. Jakub Vadlejch, a strong contender for the gold, missed the automatic qualification mark by a whisker, finishing fourth with a season-best attempt of 84.11m.

Sachin Yadav, another Indian, vying for a spot in the final in Group A, improved his initial attempt of 80.16m to 83.67m in his second try

and remained in touching distance of reaching the final. He managed 82.63m in his last try and finished sixth in the group.

Neeraj, 27, became the first Indian to secure a World Championships gold medal with a throw of 88.17m in Budapest in 2023. While his Pakistan counterpart, Arshad Nadeem, settled for a silver with a throw of 87.82m.

He is currently ranked world number two and is chasing a hat-trick of medals at the showpiece event.

Lionel Messi has goal and assist for Inter Miami in 3-1 MLS win

TDG NETWORK
FORT LAUDERDALE

Lionel Messi had a goal and an assist as Inter Miami beat Seattle 3-1 on Tuesday night just over two weeks after losing to the Sounders in the Leagues Cup final.

The Sounders beat Inter Miami 3-0 in the Leagues Cup on Aug. 31, but Messi assisted a wide open Jordi Alba with an outside-of-the-foot pass in the 12th minute to give the Herons early command on Tuesday.

Messi nearly doubled the score in the 28th minute when he received a ball over the top and once again tried to execute using the outside of



Lionel Messi had a goal and an assist as Inter Miami beat Seattle 3-1 on Tuesday night just over two weeks after losing to the Sounders in the Leagues Cup final.

Alba returned the favor in the 41st minute, assisting a darting Messi who got just enough of a touch to make it 2-0.

"I'm always looking for him (Messi), he's always looking for me. We've created a lot of goals and we hope it's like that until the end of our careers," Alba said.

Ian Fray headed home Rodrigo De Paul's corner in the opening minutes of the second half to extended the Herons' lead to 3-0.

Injured Yamal to miss Barcelona's Champions League opener

AGENCIES
BARCELONA

Lamine Yamal will not play in Barcelona's Champions League opener at Newcastle on Thursday because of an injury.

The Catalan club said Wednesday that Yamal was not in its squad for the trip to England in the league phase of the Champions League. The star forward had already missed the Spanish league game against Valencia on Sunday.

Yamal was nursing "discomfort in the pubic area" after playing with Spain's national team during the international break.

Barcelona coach Hansi Flick had said he was upset with Spain for having played Yamal for what he considered unnecessary



Lamine Yamal

minutes during big wins in two World Cup qualifiers. Flick accused Spain of being aware that Yamal was feeling discomfort and playing him anyway.

The federation said in response to Flick's statements that it had not received any notification from Barcelona that Yamal was injured.

Madrid will have midfielder Frenkie de Jong available. He had also missed the game against

Valencia after getting injured with the Netherlands national team during the international break.

Barcelona reached the semifinals of last season's Champions League, being eliminated by Inter Milan.

Eight Indians qualify for ISSF World Cup Final in Doha

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI

Eight Indian shooters, including double Olympic medalist Manu Bhaker, have secured their places in the season-ending ISSF World Cup Final scheduled to be held in Doha, Qatar, from December 4 to 9. Bhaker is the only Indian shooter to have made the cut in two events -- the women's 10m air pistol and the women's 25m pistol -- for the ISSF showpiece which determines the season's best shooter in each of the 12 individual Olympic events. India will have representation in five of those 12 events.

Teenager Suruchi Singh, who dominated the women's 10m air pistol with three back-to-back gold medals in Buenos Aires, Lima, and Munich, not only qualified for Doha but also secured the No 1 rank in the world in women's air pistol. Olympian Esha Singh also qualified in the women's 10m air pistol event, with her gold medal winning performance in the fourth and final ISSF World Cup in Ningbo, China. Others who have qualified include former



Eight Indian shooters, including Manu Bhaker qualify for ISSF World Cup

world champion Rudranksh Balasheeb Patil, who booked his spot in the men's 10m air rifle with a gold medal in Buenos Aires, while Olympian Arjun Babuta ensured his presence in the same event with a silver in Lima.

Reigning Asian Champion and world-record holder Sift Kaur Samra has also qualified in the women's 50m rifle three positions (3P) event aided by her gold in Buenos Aires, while fellow Olympian Vijayveer Sidhu secured his berth in the men's 25m rapid-fire pistol with a gold winning effort at the same venue. Rounding off India's list of qualifiers is Simranpreet Kaur Brar, who gained entry in the women's 25m pistol with her

silver in Lima, given China's Sun Yujie had already secured her berth through a gold in Buenos Aires. The ISSF has also confirmed prize money for the medalists at the World Cup Final with gold medal winners receiving 5,000 Euros, silver medalists earning 4,000 Euros and bronze medalists taking home 2,000 Euros.

Indian athletes still have a chance to qualify for the Finals through medal winning performances at the upcoming ISSF World Championship Shotgun in Athens, Greece, and the World Championship Rifle/Pistol in Cairo, Egypt, in October and November, respectively. India's overall campaign at the four World Cup stages for Rifle/Pistol in 2025, held in Buenos Aires, Lima, Munich, and Ningbo, with separate shotgun world cup stages also being held in Nicosia and Lonato, was one of their strongest yet. India enjoyed one of its best World Cup seasons in 2025, collecting a total of 22 medals, including 9 golds, 6 silver and 7 bronze across rifle, pistol, and shotgun disciplines, to finish second overall.

Antim to fight for bronze; Jyoti, Radhika eliminated



Antim Panghal

TDG NETWORK
ZAGREB

Young wrestler Antim Panghal was left to fight for a bronze medal after being outwitted by Paris Olympics silver medallist Lucia Yepez Guzman in the women's 53kg semifinals, while Manisha Bhanwala (62kg) stayed in the medal race via repechage route at the World Championships, here Wednesday.

Young Antim, targeting her second World Championship medal, had an easy start to her campaign when she knocked out Spaniard Carla Jaume Soner in mere 23 seconds but found a tough rival in Zhang, who she edged past 9-8. Antim got on board with a two-pointer when she off-balanced Zhang for a double-leg take-down. The Indian doubled her lead with a head-lock move which she converted into a take-down even as Zhang resisted with all her might. Another two-pointer on the edge of the circle from a body-lock position put

Antim ahead 6-0. Zhang reduced the margin to 2-6 with her first scoring move and could have caused more damage but the Chinese could not get a proper grip to employ leg lace. In the second period, Zhang kept Antim in check with head lock. She further reduced the margin with a right leg move and equalled the score when she rolled Antim. Zhang attempted a pin but Antim wriggled out, yet the Chinese earned two more points for her effort, moving ahead 8-6. Antim pushed out Zhang to add one more point to her tally. With less than 20 seconds to go, Antim needed one good move and she got it with just three seconds left in the bout. Antim is now up against Paris Olympics silver medallist Lucia Yepez Guzman of Ecuador. Manisha Bhanwala was outplayed 0-8 by North Korea's Ok ju Kim in the quarterfinals. If Kim makes the final, Manisha will get a repechage round. Radhika (68kg) and Jyoti (72kg), however, didn't progress.

Mandhana's second-fastest ton for India shatters records during second ODI

TDG NETWORK
MULLANPUR

A handful of records toppled when vice-captain Smriti Mandhana notched the fastest ton in ODIs for India at the Maharaja Yadavindra Singh International Cricket Stadium during the second fixture against Australia on Wednesday.

Barely a day after becoming the number one Women's ODI batter, Mandhana put her prolific form on exhibition in Mullanpur after being sent to bat first. With a swash-buckling performance, Mandhana cantered to her 12th ODI ton to level England's Tammy Beaumont's tally of centuries in the format. Mandhana needed just 106 innings to carve her name in history, while Beaumont achieved the same in 130.

On the first delivery of the 29th over, she thumped



vice-captain Smriti Mandhana

the ball for a four and celebrated her hundred in just 77 deliveries, the second-fastest against Australia Women in the format. Mandhana's 77-ball effort is also the second-fastest century for India in ODIs, behind her rollicking 70-ball ton against Ireland in Rajkot earlier this year.

She is the first player in women's ODIs history to register three or more centuries in two different calendar years, having previously conjured four centuries in 2024. The 29-year-old southpaw's exploits came to a bitter end in the 33rd over. She picked out Ashleigh Gardner in the deep after heaving it off the thick inside half off Tahlia McGrath and returned with a score of 117(91). Mandhana, a stylish opener, on the eve of the contest, added another feather to her cap. She moved to the summit of the ODI batting rankings, a position she first reached in January 2019 and most recently held in July this year. This is her fourth stint at the top.

In the first ODI, with

Barely a day after becoming the number one Women's ODI batter, Mandhana put her prolific form on exhibition in Mullanpur after being sent to bat first.

her flamboyant style, she hammered 58 off 63 balls, courtesy of six fours and two sixes. Mandhana overtook New Zealand's Amy Satterthwaite to become the seventh-highest run-getter in ODIs.

After Australia punched Mandhana's return ticket to the dressing room, Deepti Sharma chipped in with 40(53), Richa Ghosh (29 off 33) and Sneha Rana (24 off 18) buoyed India to 292 with their impactful cameos towards the end.

Champions League: Mbappe brace powers Real Madrid to 2-1 against Marseille

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI

Kylian Mbappe scored twice from the penalty spot as Real Madrid launched their latest Champions League campaign with a hard-fought 2-1 comeback victory over Marseille at the Santiago Bernabeu, as per Sky Sports.

Real, aiming for a record 16th European crown, were stunned early on when Timothy Weah struck for the visitors. Mbappe, however, quickly equalised from the spot before sealing the win with a second penalty.



Kylian Mbappe

Elsewhere on the opening night of the league phase, Juventus and Borussia Dortmund produced a thrilling 4-4 draw, while Benfica collapsed against Qarabag FK despite holding a two-goal

lead through Karim Adeyemi. Kenan Yildiz equalised, but Felix Nmecha put Dortmund back ahead. Vlahovic pulled Juve level again before Yan Couto and Ramy Bensebaini gave the German side what looked like an unassailable 4-2 lead. Yet, in a late twist, Vlahovic and Kelly scored to salvage the draw.

Qarabag stunned Benfica with a remarkable 3-2 victory. The Portuguese side appeared to be cruising after early goals from Enzo Barrenechea and Vangelis Pavlidis put them 2-0 up inside 16 minutes, but the visitors mounted a spirited

fightback, with Leandro Andrade, Camilo Duran and Oleksii Kashchuk all on target to complete a famous win.

There was also a dream debut in the competition for Belgian champions Union Saint-Gilloise, who shocked PSV Eindhoven 3-1. Promise Akinpelu converted an early penalty, and Anouar Ait El Hadj produced a brilliant solo effort, running half the length of the pitch to double the lead. Kevin Mac Allister bundled in a late third. Ruben van Bommel grabbed a consolation for PSV in stoppage time.



Sarvesh Anil Kushare clears a Personal Best of 2.28m, finishing 6th in Men's High Jump final. X