



# Aryan Age

The Age of Truth

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# India's capital doesn't just grow; it multiplies

## PM Modi at India-Japan Business Forum

**Tokyo/ New Delhi :** Highlighting India's strong economic growth and stability, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said that capital just does not grow in the country, it multiplies, asserting that the country is on track to become the world's third-largest economy in the near future.

In India's journey of development, Japan has always been an important partner. From metros to manufacturing, semiconductors to start-ups, our partnership in every sector has been a symbol of mutual trust.

PM Modi and Japanese PM Shigeru Ishiba of Japan also addressed the India-Japan Economic Forum. The event saw participation from CEOs and business leaders from various fields, MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said in a tweet.

"PM Modi highlighted the significant potential of India-Japan collaboration in cutting edge technologies, manufacturing & investments and human resource exchanges. He also highlighted that Japan's excellence & India's scale together can create a perfect partnership for Make in India & Viksit Bharat," he said.

While addressing prominent figures from the

business world at the India-Japan Business Forum, PM Modi emphasized the significant role Japan has played as a key partner in India's development journey.

"I am happy to begin my trip with the business giants here in Japan, and I am especially grateful to Prime Minister Ishiba for his participation in this forum," said PM Modi. "India and Japan have always shared a strong bond, and our partnership has flourished across various sectors, from manufacturing to semiconductors and start-ups."

Highlighting the growing economic ties, PM Modi noted that Japanese companies have invested over USD 40 billion in India, with USD 13 billion in private investments alone over the past two years. He also cited reports from JBIC (Japan Bank for International Cooperation) and JETRO (Japan External Trade Organization), which highlight India's status as the most promising investment destination.

"India's capital doesn't just grow; it multiplies," PM Modi stated, emphasizing the nation's strong economic growth and stability. "India is currently the world's fastest growing major economy and

is poised to become the third largest economy globally in the near future."

In his address, the Prime Minister outlined key reforms and initiatives that have been driving India's transformation, including the introduction of the "One Nation, One Tax" policy and the recent simplification of the Income Tax Code. He also mentioned significant reforms in sectors like defence, space, and nuclear energy, which have now been opened to the private sector.

PM Modi proposed several key areas where India and Japan could strengthen their partnership, "Manufacturing: Building on successful collaboration in the auto sector", the Prime Minister encouraged further cooperation in areas like batteries, robotics, shipbuilding, and nuclear energy. He also urged Japanese companies to invest in India's

### PM Modi highlights India-Japan economic ties, sees growth potential in key sectors

Prime Minister Narendra Modi praised strong economic ties between India and Japan, highlighting key sectors where bilateral cooperation can be further strengthened. In a social media post following his address at the India-Japan Business Forum, PM Modi emphasized the significance of the presence of Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida, calling it a clear signal of the priority both nations place on enhancing their economic linkages. "Addressed a business event in Tokyo... The presence of Prime Minister Kishida made this even more special, indicating the priority we accord to bilateral economic ties," PM Modi wrote. The Prime Minister outlined specific areas where India and Japan could deepen their collaboration, citing industries like automobiles, robotics, semiconductors, shipbuilding, and nuclear energy. He also spoke of leveraging the synergy between India's talent and Japan's technological excellence. "Spoke about India's deep economic ties with Japan and also listed areas where cooperation can deepen in the years to come: Like we did in automobiles, recreate the same magic in batteries, robotics, semiconductors, shipbuilding, and nuclear energy. Tech-Talent synergy to power this century's technology revolution. Green energy focus for a better future. Next-gen infrastructure, where Japan's excellence and India's scale can do wonders. Skill development and people-to-people ties," PM Modi added. His remarks underscore the

### Vijay Mallya Seeks Bank Records on Loan Recoveries



**Bengaluru :** The Karnataka High Court has scheduled a hearing for September 15 for a petition filed by fugitive liquor baron Vijay Mallya. He is asking the court to direct a group of banks to provide a statement of accounts on the remaining debt he and others owe. The petition, also filed by Daljit Mahal of United Breweries Holdings Limited (UBHL), seeks updated financial details that include accumulating interest and proper credit for all payments and recoveries made since April 10, 2017. Senior counsel Sajjan Poovayya, representing Mallya, told the court that a winding-up order against Kingfisher Airlines and its parent company, UBHL, was already confirmed by the Supreme Court. He argued that despite this, additional recovery actions were still being pursued against Mallya, even though the debt had been recovered "multiple times." Poovayya claimed that while the initial order was for Rs 6,200 crore, a recovery officer has admitted to recovering Rs 10,200 crore. He also cited a statement by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman in Parliament that Rs 14,000 crore had been recovered. The petition also asks for an interim order to halt all further bank actions and seeks details of assets and properties held by the banks that have not been used to pay down the debts.

## SC to hear pleas on Bihar electoral roll revision on September 1

**New Delhi :** The Supreme Court today agreed to hear on September 1 a batch of petitions concerning the Bihar Special Intensive Revision of Electoral Rolls, specifically applications seeking an extension of the deadline for filing claims and objections.

A Bench comprising Justice Surya Kant and Justice Joymalya Bagchi ordered the matter to be listed

on Monday following an urgent mentioning by Advocate Prashant Bhusan.

He submitted that the Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) and several other political parties had approached the Court seeking an extension of the September 1 deadline for filing claims and objections to the draft voters' list.

When the Bench asked why the petitioners could not approach the

Election Commission of India (ECI), Bhusan responded that such representations had already been made.

On August 22, the Court had directed the ECI to permit excluded voters to apply for inclusion through online mode by submitting their Aadhaar details.

At that hearing, the Court had also posted the matter for September

## Punjab Reels under worst floods in decades; 150 villages submerged, crops ravaged

Chandigarh : Punjab is battling one of its worst floods in 37 years, with vast tracts of farmland, villages and security posts under water. Heavy discharge from Ranjit Sagar and Pong dams have left at least seven districts badly affected, submerging nearly 150 villages along the state's border belt.

Officials estimate that around 1.5 lakh acres of standing crops mainly paddy, sugarcane and maize are underwater. Farmers' houses and cattle

sheds have been destroyed, while livestock remain stranded in waist-deep waters. In several areas, water levels range between 5 and 10 feet, leaving communities cut off from relief operations.

In Tarn Taran district, even Border Security Force (BSF) outposts have been inundated, with about 360 personnel trapped. More than 50 border villages have yet to receive relief supplies due to blocked access routes.

Residents compared the calamity to the devastating floods of 1988, though many say the current deluge struck more suddenly. Unlike last year, when waterlogging submerged over 2.5 lakh acres of crops gradually, this year's floodwaters rose rapidly after continuous dam releases.

The Meteorological Department has issued a flash red alert till September 2 for four districts, warning of further heavy downpours. Yellow and red

### Centre transfers over Rs 4.28 lakh crore as tax revenue to states

**New Delhi :** The Central government has received Rs 10,95,209 crore from April to July of the current financial year, which comprises 31.3 per cent of the corresponding budget estimates (BE) for 2025-26, according to data released by the Finance Ministry on Friday.

Of this, a sum of Rs 6,61,812 crore constitutes net tax revenue to the Centre, Rs 4,03,608 crore is non-tax revenue, and Rs 29,789 crore is part of non-debt capital receipts.

The Centre has transferred Rs 4,28,544 crore to state governments as devolution of share of taxes during this period, which is Rs 61,914 crore higher than the previous year, the Finance Ministry said.

## India, Japan outline 10-year roadmap for bilateral partnership, 10 tn yen Japanese investment in India

**Tokyo/New Delhi :** India and Japan today outlined a roadmap of their bilateral partnership for the next decade and also set a target of 10 trillion yen investment from Japan to India during the same period.

This followed talks between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his host, Japanese Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba, at the latter's official residence Kantei in Tokyo, where PM Modi was also accorded a ceremonial welcome and Guard of Honour.

In his media address, following talks with PM Ishiba, PM Modi said: "Today we have laid a strong foundation for a new and golden chapter in our Special Strategic and Global Partnership. We have created a roadmap for the next decade. At the core of our vision are investment, innovation, economic security, environment, technology, health, mobility, people-to-people exchanges, and state-prefecture partnership.

earth minerals will be at the top of our agenda," the PM announced.

"We believe that Japanese technology and Indian talent are a winning combination. While we are working on cooperation in high-speed rail, we also plan to make rapid progress in areas like ports, aviation and shipbuilding under the Next Generation Mobility Partnership," the PM said.

The PM welcomed the agreement reached between ISRO and JAXA (Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency - Japan's national air and space agency) for cooperation in the Chandrayaan-5 mission. "Our active participation will become a symbol of progress of humanity beyond the boundaries of the earth and in space as well," he added.

The PM also announced that under the action plan of human resource exchange, the two sides will encourage the exchange of 500,000 people in different fields in the next five years. "In this, 50,000 skilled Indians will actively contribute to the

## Three Lakh More Names May Be Deleted from Bihar Voter Rolls

**Patna :** According to sources, the Election Commission of India (ECI) may delete an additional three lakh names from Bihar's electoral rolls as part of the ongoing Special Intensive Revision (SIR) process. The names belong to individuals who failed to submit required identity documents despite receiving repeated notices.

This comes after nearly 65 lakh names were already deleted from the draft voter list published on August 1.

The new deletions are reportedly concentrated in the Seemanchal region, including the Purnea, Araria, Kishanganj, Supaul, and Katihar districts. The ECI plans to publish a detailed list of these voters to give them a



final opportunity to verify their status. Official figures show limited participation from political parties in the revision process, with a total of only 117 claims and objections filed by parties between August 1 and 29. In contrast, the commission has received 211,650 individual applications from citizens seeking to be included on the voter lists. Election officials reiterated that the goal of the revision is to ensure that all genuine voters are on the rolls while excluding illegal ones.



# Yogi govt to take feedback on developed UP-2047 through 'QR code'

**Lucknow :** The Uttar Pradesh government has developed a 'QR code' to convey its vision for developing UP-2047 to the people and to get their suggestions on the action plan through which the public will be able to know about the government's proposals and give their feedback.

The UP government is also in the process of constituting a team of about 500 retired bureaucrats, teachers, professors and engineers who will work to introduce the government's schemes to the people across UP and get their feedback.

Principal Secretary of the Planning Department Alok Kumar said the QR code was ready, and it would be launched by the first week of September. "Citizens will have about a month to send their suggestions through it," he said.



He said, "We have almost prepared a portal where we will receive these details and compile them. Our aim is to take this QR code to every block and tehsil and ensure wider public participation in this project. By clicking on the QR code, one

will be able to log in to the portal and see what the initial plans of the government are. The proposed works have been divided into 12 heads and one can give suggestions."

Besides, work has also begun to identify 500 team

members who will interact with various sections of society. After the formation of the team, there will be a one-day orientation programme for them, after which they will be allotted districts and cities.

A senior official said that

a team will include retired bureaucrats, professors, teachers and engineers. They will be given two days to hold meetings where they will make citizens aware of the government's schemes, promote the QR code and seek suggestions. The team will meet associations, institutions, intellectuals and various sections of society, he said.

Kumar said that regular meetings are being held with the potential members of the team. "Our idea is to start the process of engaging with the public by the first week of September and complete it within a month so that the government can start working on these suggestions as soon as possible," he said.

He said these will be integrated with departmental suggestions and an action plan should be ready within the next six months.

## Row in Himachal Assembly over re-employment, HRTC dues

**Shimla:** The Himachal Pradesh Assembly today witnessed uproar as BJP members objected to the state government's decision to re-employ a large number of personnel, while salaries and pensions of Himachal Road Transport Corporation (HRTC) employees continued to face delays. Raising the matter during question hour, BJP legislators Satpal Singh Satti and Vikram Thakur accused the government of withholding details on re-employment. They questioned the rationale behind inducting so many re-employed officials when the state was unable to ensure timely disbursement of dues to HRTC staff and retirees.

Satti alleged that every month pensioners were left waiting anxiously for their payments, which were often delayed.

He said the government's priorities were misplaced, expanding re-employment while failing to



clear regular salaries and pensions.

Thakur also voiced concern, pointing out that even an executive engineer could not be granted an extension after a court intervention.

Replying to queries, Deputy Chief Minister Mukesh Agnihotri, who also holds the transport portfolio, defended the government. He said the information on re-employment was "bulky" and would take time to compile, but assured the House that the details would be made available.

On the issue of HRTC

dues, Agnihotri admitted there had been delays but stressed that the Congress government was committed to ensuring regular payments.

"The matter of delayed pensions is being taken up with the Finance Department and efforts are underway to resolve it soon. I want to inform the House that pensions for all HRTC employees have been released today, August 29," he said.

Agnihotri further clarified that while both issues were serious, they should not be equated.

## Mayawati elevates nephew as BSP national coordinator in major reshuffle

**Lucknow :** In a major organisational reshuffle, Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) supremo Mayawati has elevated her nephew Akash Anand to the key position of National Coordinator, making him the second-most powerful leader in the party after her.

This move signals a renewed trust in Akash, who will now oversee the work of all sector heads, central and state coordinators and state presidents. He will report directly to Mayawati.

Previously serving as the party's chief national coordinator, Akash Anand has now been formally promoted to the crucial post of National Coordinator—a role just below the party president in the BSP hierarchy.

His responsibilities will include reviewing the performance of all key organisational positions across the country.

In addition to Akash's elevation, the BSP has expanded its team of national coordinators from four to six. The newly appointed national coordinators are: Ramji Gautam, Rajaram, Randhir Singh Beniwal, Lalji Medhankar, Atar Singh



Rao and Dharmveer Singh Ashok. All of them will report directly to Akash Anand. Supporting coordinators have also been appointed to work alongside the senior leaders. For instance, Mohan Anand will assist Rajaram, Suresh Arya will support Atar Singh Rao, and Dayachand will assist Dharmveer Singh Ashok.

Ramji Gautam has been given charge of Delhi, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, and Bihar.

In the reshuffle, Vishwanath Pal has been reappointed as the Uttar Pradesh state president. Other major state

presidents include: Rajesh Tanwar (Delhi), Ramakant Pippal (Madhya Pradesh), Shyam Tandon (Chhattisgarh), Shankar Mahto (Bihar), Dr Sunil Dongre (Maharashtra).

New appointments have also been made in other states including: Karnataka: M. Krishna Murthy, Tamil Nadu: P. Anand, Kerala: Joy R. Thomas, Haryana: Krishan Jamarpur, Punjab: Avtar Singh Karipuri and Rajasthan: Prem Barupal.

Jharkhand: Shiv Pujan Mehta, West Bengal: Manoj Hawaldar, Odisha: Saroj Kumar Nayak, Andhra Pradesh:

Bandela Gautam, Telangana: Ibram Shekhar, Gujarat: Bhagubhai Parmar, Himachal Pradesh: Vikram Singh Nayar, Jammu & Kashmir: Darshan Rana, Chandigarh: Brijpal, and Uttarakhand: Amarjeet Singh.

This development comes months after Mayawati expelled Akash Anand from all party posts in March, citing continued influence by his father-in-law and former BSP leader Ashok Siddharth, who was removed for alleged anti-party activities. Mayawati had then stated that Akash needed to show maturity and remorse.

However, in April, Akash was reinstated as the Chief National Coordinator, and now in August, he has been officially promoted to the top leadership role. The decision marks a significant comeback for the young leader and suggests Mayawati is grooming him again as her political heir.

This sweeping reorganisation appears to be a strategic move ahead of upcoming elections, signaling BSP's intent to rejuvenate the party with a new generation of leadership under Akash Anand's guidance.

## Legislators across party lines want HP' calamity declared a national disaster

**Shimla:** Cutting across party lines, legislators in the Himachal Pradesh Vidhan Sabha on Thursday unanimously voiced concern over the devastation caused by incessant monsoon rains and urged the Centre to declare the calamity in the state as a national disaster.

Moving a resolution under Rule 102, Parliamentary Affairs Minister Harshwardhan Chauhan said Himachal Pradesh has suffered unprecedented destruction, and the Assembly must appeal to the Centre for urgent financial assistance.

"This is a disaster of such magnitude that it must be declared a national calamity," Chauhan said. The resolution was passed by voice vote, with even the Opposition supporting it.

Revenue Minister Jagat Singh Negi, replying to the debate, accused the BJP of trying to politicise the tragedy. He said that 38 people had been evacuated from Chamba and in Saloon village,

where all houses were washed away, there was no loss of life.

Negi alleged that the Centre had not released any additional aid beyond routine funding despite repeated pleas.

Leader of Opposition Jai Ram Thakur, while extending support to the resolution, urged the government to requisition IAF helicopters for rescue and relief in cut-off regions like Lahaul-Spiti.

"The situation is extremely critical, especially in Chamba and Mandi, where roads and communication lines have been snapped. Immediate air rescue and ration drops are the need of the hour," he said.

Several legislators, including Barsar MLA ID Lakhnpal, Banjar MLA Surinder Shourie, Churah MLA Hans Raj, Bhammour MLA Janak Raj, and Lahaul-Spiti MLA Anuradha Rana, highlighted ground-level distress.

Public Works Minister Vikramad-

itya Singh stressed the need for a new, sustainable development model, while Rural Development Minister Anirudh Singh held NHA responsible for triggering landslides through faulty road construction.

The Opposition, however, also targeted Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu for his absence from the state during the crisis.

"At such a critical juncture, the CM should have been here rather than attending a political event in Bihar," LoP Thakur said, drawing sharp rebuttals from Deputy Chief Minister Mukesh Agnihotri, who asserted that the government was working round the clock.

As tempers ran high, the Speaker adjourned the House amidst slogan-shouting. Still, there was near unanimity on one point: Himachal Pradesh is facing an extraordinary situation, and the Centre must step in with immediate special assistance.

## 53.87pc of pending files cleared under 'File Adalat' in Kerala

**Thiruvananthapuram:** More than half of the pending files across government departments in Kerala have been cleared under the ongoing 'File Adalat' initiative, launched on July 1, with the overall disposal rate reported at 53.87 per cent. As per the latest official data, 46.63 per cent of files were cleared in the Secretariat, 55.7 per cent in Directorates, and 73.03 per cent in Public Utility and Regulatory institutions.

Of the 304,960 files pending in the Secretariat, 142,201 have been disposed of. In the Directorates, 506,718 files were cleared from a total of 909,678, while 20,668 of the 28,301 pending files were settled in other institutions.

Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan, in a message, said that 11 Secretariat departments have cleared more than 60 per cent of their backlog, while 30 departments recorded progress between 40 and 50 per cent. Eight de-

partments managed to dispose of only 20-40 per cent of pending files. In the Directorates, 48 departments achieved over 60 per cent progress, while 36 others cleared at least 40 per cent. The Chief Minister pointed out that the initiative, aimed at disposing of at least 60 per cent of pending files before the Adalat concludes on August 31, had made notable progress with the active cooperation of government employees. He added that the performance of lagging departments, especially those directly dealing with the public, would be reviewed in detail.

Progress under the scheme will continue to be monitored in monthly review meetings chaired by the Chief Secretary. The dedicated portal created for the Adalat will be retained as a permanent mechanism, and a fresh review will be undertaken after three months, the Chief Minister added

## Pensioners Convention in Shimla demands early implementation of 8th pay commission, repeal of Pension Validation Bill

**Shimla:** The Joint Forum of Pensioners Association, Shimla, today organized a state-level convention at Kali Badi Hall where retired employees of the Central Government, including pensioners from the Department of Posts, Labour Bureau, Indian Telecommunications, Accountant General of India, Himachal Pradesh MES and other departments, participated in large numbers.

The convention expressed deep concern over the delay in the constitution of the 8th Pay Commission. Although the Government of India announced the commission in January 2025 and notified its establishment in April, the chairman and members have not yet been appointed. Speakers feared that the delay would make it impossible to implement financial benefits from January 1, 2026, as

announced earlier, and the report may not be finalised before 2028. The convention also strongly opposed the Pension Validation Amendment Bill, 2025, passed along with the union Budget, which allows classification of pensioners into separate categories—those retired before 2025 and after 2026. The forum termed this move unconstitutional, citing the Supreme Court's landmark D.S. Nakara judgment which held that any discrimination among pensioners violates Articles 14 and 16. A resolution was unanimously passed demanding the repeal of the Bill and early notification of the Pay Commission members. Speakers also raised the issue of pending Dearness Allowance (DA/DR). The forum demanded restoration of the 11p c DA/DR frozen during the Covid period.

## Punjab Reels under worst floods in decades; 150 villages submerged, crops ravaged

**Chandigarh:** Punjab is battling one of its worst floods in 37 years, with vast tracts of farmland, villages and security posts under water. Heavy discharge from Ranjit Sagar and Pong dams have left at least seven districts badly affected, submerging nearly 150 villages along the state's border belt.

Officials estimate that around 1.5 lakh acres of standing crops mainly paddy, sugarcane and maize are underwater. Farmers' houses and cattle sheds have been destroyed, while livestock remain stranded in waist-deep waters. In several areas, water levels range between 5 and 10 feet, leaving communities cut off from relief operations.

In Tarn Taran district, even Border Security Force (BSF) outposts have been inundated, with about 360 personnel trapped. More than 50 border villages have yet to receive relief supplies due to

blocked access routes.

Residents compared the calamity to the devastating floods of 1988, though many say the current deluge struck more suddenly. Unlike last year, when waterlogging submerged over 2.5 lakh acres of crops gradually, this year's floodwaters rose rapidly after continuous dam releases.

The Meteorological Department has issued a flash red alert till September 2 for four districts, warning of further heavy downpours. Yellow and red alerts are also in place across Pathankot, Hoshiarpur, Ropar, Mohali and Shaheed Bhagat Singh Nagar. Officials cautioned that intense rainfall in Jammu & Kashmir and Himachal Pradesh both under weather alerts could further raise water levels downstream in Punjab.

Tragedy struck in Tarn Taran when two young brothers, aged 9 and 11,

drowned in rain-filled pits near a brick kiln after taking horses for grazing. In Pathankot, the body of a young girl was recovered while three others remain missing. Rising rivers in Madhopur and Gurdaspur claimed at least three lives.

State authorities said all district administrations have been placed on high alert. Senior officials are inspecting flood-hit regions and rescue operations are underway, though access remains difficult in several pockets. "The government stands with the people in this crisis. Breaches in embankments will be investigated and accountability fixed," a minister stated.

According to records, the 1988 floods inundated nearly 10% of Punjab's landmass, affecting over 4,000 villages. In 2023, about 2.2 lakh hectares around 8% of the state's area went underwater.

## Forest encroachment undermined, Meet on 'Human-Wildlife Conflict' in Kerala on Aug 30

**Thiruvananthapuram:** With forest encroachment emerging as a major yet under-discussed trigger for human-wildlife conflict in Kerala, a high-level regional conference on 'Human-Wildlife Conflict and Coexistence: Legal and Policy Perspectives' will begin at the Kerala Legislative Assembly complex here on August 30.

The two-day deliberation, jointly organised by the National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) and the Kerala State Legal Services Authority (KeLSA), will bring together members of the judiciary, policymakers, legal experts, farmers' representatives and students to address the escalating human-animal conflict across the southern region.

The event will be inaugurated by Justice Surya Kant, Judge of the Supreme



Court of India and Executive Chairman of NALSA. Dignitaries addressing the inaugural session include Justice Nitin Madhukar Jamdar, Chief Justice of the Kerala High Court and Patron-in-Chief of KeLSA; Supreme Court Judges Justice M. M.

Sundares and Justice B. V. Nagarathna; Justice Vikram Nath, Chairman of the Supreme Court Legal Services Committee; Justice A. Mohamed Mustaque, Senior Judge of the Kerala High Court and Executive Chairman of KeLSA; Justice C. S.

Dias, Judge of the Kerala High Court; Attorney General R. Venkataramani; and Kerala Law Minister P. Rajeev.

Delegates from six southern states and two union Territories will participate, including Chief Jus-

tices and Judges of the High Courts of Madras, Kerala, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka.

Member secretaries of state legal services authorities, district judges, DLSA secretaries, practising lawyers, law students and farmer representatives will also take part. As part of the programme, NALSA will roll out several initiatives under its "Legal Services for Human-Wildlife Conflict Victims 2025" scheme. These include a permanent Lok Adalat portal on district websites, e-filing and video-conferencing facilities for litigants, and "Samanvaya", a coordination project to ensure easier access to justice for conflict-affected communities. The valedictory session on August 31 will feature a keynote address by Chief Justice Nitin Madhukar Jamdar.





Briefs :

**Rs 25L extortion in gangster Bishnoi's name: 3 nabbed**

**New Delhi :**Three persons have been arrested from Punjab for allegedly demanding Rs 25 lakh from a jeweller in East Delhi's Kalyanpuri area by threatening him in the name of gangster Lawrence Bishnoi, the police said on Wednesday.The accused have been identified as Rohit Bhullar (23), a resident of Tarn Taran, Arshdeep Singh, alias Karan (21), and Gurjinder Singh, alias Gagan (21), from Gurdaspur.Gurjinder has a criminal record and is previously involved in three cases, the police said. The matter came to light on August 12 when the director of Giri Zever Mahal in Kalyanpuri received a WhatsApp call demanding Rs 25 lakh in Bishnoi's name, along with life threats if he failed to comply, Deputy Commissioner of Police (East) Abhishek Dhania said. The officer said a case was registered at the Kalyanpuri police station and a probe was launched. Following an investigation, Bhullar and Arshdeep were arrested from Punjab. The mobile phone used for extortion was recovered, the DCP said.

**Cong seeks CBI probe into Rs 100-cr scam in vehicle scrapping project**

**New Delhi :** (DPCC) president Devender Yadav on Wednesday lodged a complaint with the (CVC), demanding a CBI probe into an alleged Rs 100-crore scam in the scrapping of end-of-life vehicles in the Capital. In his complaint, Yadav alleged large-scale corruption involving enforcement agencies, the Delhi Transport Department, (MCD), Delhi Traffic Police, and other private Registered Vehicle Scrapping Facilities (RVSFS). He claimed that forged and fabricated Certificates of Deposit were issued against seized vehicles by enforcement agencies, even though such certificates are meant to be issued only by the Central Transport Department. According to Yadav, the Delhi Traffic Police disposed of seized vehicles without any tendering or auction process, resulting in a loss of crores to the government exchequer. "Vehicles were sold illegally to scrapping companies at throwaway prices, with no official record of how many were handed over or how much money was received," he alleged. Raising another concern, the DPCC chief said the Transport Department wrongly gave away 10,919 seized e-rickshaws to scrap companies under the garb of the end-of-life vehicle policy, even though e-rickshaws are exempt from the category and could have been reclaimed by owners after paying penalties.

**At Delhi Zoo, only 2 doctors for around 1,300 animals**

**New Delhi:** The death of five tiger cubs has raised fresh concerns about the glaring gaps in medical infrastructure at Delhi Zoo, the country's only centrally administered zoological park. Officials told The Tribune that the zoo suffers from a lack of modern veterinary facilities. Five out of the six cubs, born to tigress Aditi earlier this month, reportedly died due to infection, with zoo officials admitting that delayed diagnosis and lack of critical care facilities hampered their survival chances. Zoo director Sanjeet Kumar admitted that the hospital inside the 1959-established facility is far from adequate to deal with modern wildlife health challenges. "The operation theatre is just a 48-sq m room without even a hydraulic table or a proper hanging light system," he said.

# Key road stretches in Delhi witness traffic snarls after rains



time to reach office," said a commuter from Faridabad.

The Delhi Traffic Police said multiple teams were deployed at choke points to regulate the flow of vehicles. Officers were seen diverting traffic and assisting school buses and office commuters to ensure smoother passage.

"Due to rain and waterlogging in some pockets, traffic movement was slow. Our personnel have been deployed to streamline the situation and assist commuters," an officer said, adding that updates were also being shared through social media to help people plan their routes.

The downpour coincided with peak morning hours, intensifying the problem. Roads like Mathura Road and Vikas Marg, which connect central and east Delhi, saw particularly sluggish movement with long snarls

stretching for several kilometres. The situation was not limited to central and east Delhi alone. Waterlogging was also reported in low-lying areas of north and south Delhi, further slowing traffic. Commuters from Ghaziabad and Noida, too, experienced delays while entering Delhi due to congestion at border points.

For many, the traffic woes also meant late arrivals at schools and offices. Parents accompanying their children in school buses said the delays caused significant inconvenience, with buses stuck for nearly an hour in certain stretches.

Despite traffic police presence, several motorists noted that poor drainage and recurring waterlogging remain the root cause of such disruptions after even short spells of rain. "Every year we face the same problem.

The drainage system is just not prepared for monsoon," said another commuter from East Delhi.

The Delhi Traffic Police urged commuters to remain patient, avoid unnecessary travel during peak hours in case of rain, and rely on real-time updates shared by their control room.

Authorities said efforts are underway to clear waterlogged stretches with the help of PWD and municipal agencies. However, officials admitted that persistent infrastructure gaps continue to pose a challenge during the rainy season.

Friday's incident serves as another reminder of how a short spell of rain can paralyse the city's roads, underscoring the urgent need for better stormwater management and long-term solutions to Delhi's traffic congestion.

## Delhi Tops Global List for Life Expectancy Loss from Pollution

**New Delhi :** Delhi's toxic air is cutting short the lives of millions of its residents, with the latest report from the Air Quality Life Index (AQLI) estimating a reduction of 8.2 years in life expectancy. The report, compiled by researchers at the University of Chicago, has once again highlighted the alarming scale of India's pollution crisis. According to the study, if Delhi were able to meet the World Health Organisation's (WHO) guideline for p (PM2.5) — capped at just 5µg/m³ — the average citizen would gain more than eight years of life. This figure represents the largest potential improvement worldwide, placing India's capital at the top of the global pollution impact chart. The AQLI is a tool created by economist Michael Greenstone and his colleagues at the Energy Policy Institute, University of Chicago. It works by translating particulate pollution levels into their direct effect on human life expectancy, offering a clear and tangible measure of how air quality affects health. The study found that particulate air pollution (PM2.5) is one of the gravest threats to health in India, shortening life expectancy by an average of 3.5 years compared to a scenario where WHO standards are met. For Delhi residents, the impact is even more pronounced due to persistently high levels

of toxic air. In 2023, the country recorded an average PM2.5 concentration of 41µg/m³,

which is more than eight times higher than the global safety benchmark set by WHO.

## CJI administers oath to two new judges; SC regains full strength of 34 judges

**New Delhi :** (CJI) BR Gavai on Friday administered the oath of office to Bombay High Court Chief Justice Alok Aradhe and Patna High Court Chief Justice Vipul Manubhai Pancholi as judges of the Supreme Court. The ceremony marked an important development for the apex court, restoring its sanctioned strength of 34 judges, including the CJI.

With their elevation, the Supreme Court has regained its full working capacity after a period of vacancies.

This comes at a crucial time when the top court continues to handle an overwhelming number of cases of national significance. Justice Vipul Pancholi, who hails from Gujarat, is now in the line of succession to become the Chief Justice of India in October 2031. His tenure as CJI, if the line of seniority is maintained, would extend for nearly one-and-a-half years. The swearing-in ceremony, attended by Supreme Court judges, lawyers, and members of the top court's Registry staff, was brief but significant. The event lasted just about 10 minutes, in line with the tradition of solemn simplicity followed during such appointments. The Centre had officially notified the appointments of Justices Aradhe and Pancholi on Wednesday. This notification came only two days after the Supreme Court Collegium, headed by CJI Gavai, recommended their elevation. The five-member Collegium that approved the names included Justice Surya Kant, Justice Vikram Nath, Justice JK Maheshwari, and Justice BV Nagarathna alongside the CJI. The speed with which the appointments were processed reflects the urgency to restore the court's full strength.

However, the decision was not free from controversy. Justice BV Nagarathna, the only woman judge in

the Collegium, reportedly opposed Justice Pancholi's elevation. She is said to have expressed concern that his

appointment would be "counterproductive" to the administration of justice and could harm the credibility of the

Collegium system itself. The (CJAR), along with senior advocate Indira Jaising, also questioned the Collegium's

recommendation, further highlighting the debate over transparency and merit in judicial appointments.



Editorial

'GST 2.0': The Rise of a New Era

GST brought about a historic change in the taxation system of the Indian economy. The concept of 'One Nation, One Tax', implemented in 2017, provided ease of trade, transparency and revenue stability. However, practical difficulties, frequent rate changes and burden on small industries have raised some questions. Against this backdrop, a new era, 'GST 2.0', is starting in 2025. This reform, based on the principles of low tax rates, ease of doing business and stability, is going to give new strength to the Indian market. An easy, efficient and productive taxation system is very important for the economic progress of any country. Although the tax structure adopted by India after independence was based on socialist objectives, it turned out to be oppressive for production growth. Income tax had increased to 97 percent, which encouraged tax evasion and tax evasion. 'Goods and Services Tax' or GST came into existence to bring about radical reforms in this old, complex taxation system. After ten years of long discussions, GST was implemented on July 1, 2017 with the ambitious goal of 'One Nation, One Tax'. This change abolished more than 30 taxes and cesses at the central and state levels. Initially applicable to only 6 items, GST has now been implemented on almost all goods and services. While 'one rate' was expected, four tax brackets of 5, 12, 18 and 28 were actually fixed. To change these rates, the GST Council was set up, which includes the Union Finance Minister and the Finance Ministers of the states. In the last eight years, this council has played a significant role in changing the entire tax system.

In the last eight years, GST has had a positive impact on the Indian economy. It is also called 'Good and Simple Tax'. The government has been getting a steady and large amount of revenue from this tax. Last year, it collected a tax revenue of Rs 22 lakh crore, which is about Rs 2 lakh crore every month. In 2020-21, the same figure was 11.37 lakh crore. According to a report published by Deloitte in June 2025, only 15 percent of taxpayers are dissatisfied with the system. About 1.5 crore GST paying businesses faced some practical difficulties, including frequent changes in rates, technical issues with the portal, classification of goods, delays in refunds and tax burden on small businesses. Since GST is consumption-based and not product-based, some states initially lost revenue, but were promised to compensate for it for five years, which was extended due to the Corona crisis. Avoiding double taxation, making the entire country a single market and facilitating transactions through the use of technology, all these were positive results of GST and gave impetus to the economy. On August 15, 2025, Prime Minister Narendra Modi made a very important announcement regarding GST. This new era of 'GST 2.0' is not only to reduce the impact of US tariffs, but also to make the entire economy more dynamic. These much-awaited reforms have created a happy and hopeful atmosphere in the country, and many are waiting for the details of these changes. It is important to understand these changes as they affect everyone, including consumers, manufacturers and distributors.

The changes in GST 2.0 are multifaceted. They include not only changes in rates, but also structural reforms and changes to increase ease of doing business. These changes will awaken India's latent potential and increase market depth. In this new structure, GST rates are going to be reduced significantly. Now, by abolishing the 12% and 28% brackets, there will be two main brackets of 5% and 18%. GST on many goods and services will be reduced by 7 to 10 percent, which will bring a big positive change in the economy. Along with the changes in GST rates, some structural changes are also expected. 'Input tax refund' will now be easier. There will be less confusion in the classification of goods, which will make the tax payment process easier. One of the important changes is the stability in tax rates, which will also increase stability in businesses. The third important change in GST 2.0 is 'ease of doing business'. The real beneficiaries of this change will be small traders and manufacturers in the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) sector. This class was suffering from the difficulties of GST and was eagerly waiting for these changes. The method of filing GST returns will be simplified and the return period will also be reduced.

The new phase of GST will be a big gift for all consumers this Diwali. Many goods and services will now attract 5 percent GST instead of 12 percent, while luxury goods will be taxed at 18 percent instead of 28 percent, i.e. a direct 10 percent tax cut. This will further expand the market for essential and convenience goods. The list of goods that will become cheaper is very large. Health and other insurance will become cheaper. At the same time, items with a packet of Rs 10, two-wheelers, four-wheelers, TVs, mobiles, ACs and cement will become cheaper. The prices of small cars less than four meters long will be reduced by Rs 50,000 to Rs 1 lakh. The impact of this tax cut will also help the agriculture sector, as the tools and fertilizers required for farming will become cheaper. The automobile industry, textile industry and small traders will be able to grow due to these changes. There is a possibility of imposing a 40 percent 'sin tax' on goods that are harmful to health and social well-being. The new tax rates will reduce government revenue by Rs 20,000 to 40,000 crore, which will increase the revenue shortfall. But the government is confident that this deficit will be filled through increased business and trade. It is on this belief that the government has taken this big step. There is an important condition for this success: all manufacturers should pass on the benefit of the tax cut 100 percent to the consumers without increasing the profit margin and the government should keep a close eye on this. GST 2.0 is not just an economic reform, it is a social and economic transformation that will take India to new heights of progress.

GST 2.0 is not just a change in tax rates, but a new phase in India's economic policy. Reduced rates, simplified procedures and a stable structure will strengthen industries, provide relief to consumers and revitalize the economy. The government is confident that despite the revenue challenges, they can be overcome with increased production, trade and investment.

Highway network expanded from 91,000 km in 2014 to 1.46 lakh km in 2024



Union Minister of State for Road, Transport and Highways & Corporate Affairs, Shri Harsh Malhotra, today laid the foundation stone for 4 new flyovers at Panchgaon Chowk, Rathiwas, near Hero Company, and Sahlawas, Foot Over Bridges (FOBs) at 9 strategic locations along the Gurgaon-Kotputli-Jaipur section of NH-48—Shikhopur, Manesar, Binola, Rathiwas, Malpura, Jaisinghpurkhera, Sidhrawali, Kharkhara, and Khijuri — and other engineering works, at an estimated cost of Rs. 282 crore, along with the Minister of

Shri Malhotra stated that he is grateful to contribute to the vision of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and Union Minister Shri Nitin Gadkari —a vision of a Viksit Bharat, where world-class infrastructure is not a dream but a reality.

Shri Malhotra stated that over the past 11 years, under the visionary leadership of PM Shri Narendra Modi and guidance of Shri Nitin Gadkari, the government has undertaken a massive and coordinated push to strengthen connectivity across India, completing

road network globally with high-speed corridors growing from just 93 km to 2,474 km, and highways with four lanes and above increasing by 2.5 times in the last decade.

Shri Malhotra stated that it is a matter of pride that India now builds roads at a record pace of 34 km per day, supported by a 6.4x increase in Ministry spending and a 570% rise in budget allocation since 2014. National Highway stretches with four or more lanes grew 2.6 times from 18,371 km in 2014 to 48,422 km in 2024, while the National Highway construction pace rose by 2.8 times from 12.1 km/day in 2014-15 to 33.8 km/day in 2023-24.

The minister stated that over the past 11 years, the government has played a transformative role in reshaping Gurugram into a dynamic urban and economic powerhouse. Landmark infrastructure projects such as the Dwarka Expressway, Urban Extension Road-II (UER-II), Metro Rail exten-

the development of Gurgaon who has been a pivotal force in the transformation of Gurugram into a modern urban hub and elevating Gurgaon's status as a leading economic and technological center.

Shri Malhotra stated

cated lighting systems, which would, in turn, significantly reduce pedestrian-related accidents and fatalities while improving overall highway safety and connectivity.

The Minister highlighted that these projects would

further said that public infrastructure is the backbone of economic development, enhancing connectivity, trade, and overall quality of life. India, the world's fourth-largest economy, has made remarkable progress in infrastructure development



that the projects whose foundation stone are being laid today would ensure a safer and smoother travel experience for the residents and commuters of Gurugram, Rewari, and adjoining regions, especially service professional and would address the long-standing challenges of traffic congestion, waterlogging, and road safety along the NH-48 corridor from Kherki Dhula to the Haryana-Rajasthan border. The 4 flyover projects at Panchgaon Chowk, Rathiwas, near Hero Company, and Sahlawas are aimed for eliminating at-grade conflicts and address accident-prone blackspots.

The Minister further highlighted that Foot Over Bridges (FOBs) at nine strategic locations along the Gurgaon-Kotputli-Jaipur section of NH-48 will be equipped with ramps and stairways to ensure accessibility for all, including two-wheelers where necessary. Also, to enhance safety and usability during night hours, the bridges will feature dedi-

be a stepping stone for prosperity in the region, which would not only ensure road safety but would also significantly contribute to the region and propel social and economic well-being.

Shri Malhotra stated that strategic decongestion of Delhi-NCR, where projects worth ₹80,545 crore, covering 1,679 km, have been completed, and an additional ₹7,084 crore worth of infrastructure is under implementation, and ₹23,850 crore worth of projects are in the planning stage, including extensions of the Delhi-Amritsar-Katra and Delhi-Dehradun Expressways via UER-II, the eastern extension of UER-II to Noida, Ghaziabad, and Faridabad, a 5 km road tunnel from Dwarka Expressway to Nelson Mandela Marg, a 20 km elevated corridor from AIIMS to Mahipalpur Bypass extending to Gurgaon-Faridabad Road, and a 0.5 km interchange at Kalindi Kunj near Okhla Barrage.

Shri Harsh Malhotra

over the past decade, and every rupee spent on infrastructure has a multiplier effect of 3.2 times in the GDP of the nation.

The minister further stated that this infrastructural transformation is about integrated development, economic empowerment, and regional balance and under the Pradhan Mantri Gati Shakti Master Plan, infrastructure is being developed in synergy with logistics, railways, ports, and urban planning to create seamless mobility and unlock economic potential. Shri Malhotra further directed the officials to expedite the projects in stipulated time so that it could be opened for the general public as per the schedule.

Minister Shri Harsh Malhotra at the end said that the infrastructure development is not just about building roads but would lay the foundation for transformation of India into an economic powerhouse and subsequently be a key parameter towards Viksit Bharat.

Aatmanirbharta is no longer just a slogan, it is becoming a ground reality

As a testimony to India's growing shipbuilding prowess and its march towards self-reliance, two multi-mission stealth frigates of Project 17A – INS Udaygiri and INS Himgiri - were commissioned into the Indian Navy in the presence of Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh at the Naval Base, Visakhapatnam on August 26, 2025. It was for the first time that two frontline surface combatants indigenously constructed by two different shipyards - Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL), Mumbai [INS Udaygiri] and Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers Limited (GRSE), Kolkata [INS Himgiri] - were commissioned simultaneously. In his address, Raksha Mantri exuded confidence that these warships will not only strengthen the security system and safeguard maritime interests, but will also assist in Humanitarian Assistance & Disaster Relief missions. He stated that the commissioning bolsters India's policy of Neighbourhood First and MAHASAGAR (Mutual and Holistic Advancement for Security & Growth for All in the Region). These frigates, which will enhance the capability of the Indian Navy, send a message that India is fully capable of protecting its maritime borders and is ready to respond immediately to any situation," he added.

Aatmanirbhar Navy INS Udaygiri and INS Himgiri follow INS Nilgiri, the lead ship of the successor class to Project 17 (Shivalik class). They incorporate improved stealth features, reduced radar signatures, advanced surveillance radars and electronic warfare suites, supersonic surface-to-surface missiles, surface-to-air missiles and rapid-fire gun systems. Both ships feature Combined Diesel or Gas propulsion plants and a state-of-the-art Integrated Platform Management System, enabling higher speeds and improved fuel efficiency. These are the 100th and 101st warships designed in-house by the Warship Design Bureau of the Indian Navy, and built in India, reflecting the Navy's continuous ef-

fort to enhance indigenous content and self-reliance. High indigenous content — exceeding 75% — has been achieved through the participation of numerous MSMEs and the procurement of major weapons and sensors from Indian Original Equipment Manufacturers.

Raksha Mantri described the commissioning as a giant stride towards the realisation of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's dream of Aatmanirbhar Bharat, and a proof of the Government's vision & commitment. "INS Udaygiri & INS Himgiri are the shining examples of the Government's firm resolve towards self-reliance, symbols of a transformative movement, and testament to the vision that the nation will touch greater heights & obtain the goal of self-reliance with concerted efforts of all stakeholders," he said, commending the seamless collaboration between MDL and GRSE in constructing and delivering the two potent warships. Blue Water Navy The multi-mission frigates are crucial operational enablers that will enhance the Navy's ability to safeguard national interests across the full spectrum of maritime missions. They are equipped with next-generation weapons, sensors and integrated platform management systems, are ready to perform anti-air, anti-surface and anti-submarine warfare, sea-control and humanitarian operations. Shri Rajnath Singh asserted that the commissioning of INS Udaygiri and INS Himgiri not only strengthens the Navy's combat potential but reinforces its role as a "First Responder" and "Preferred Security Partner" in the Indian Ocean Region. "From combating piracy, fighting against smuggling and illegal trafficking, curbing maritime terrorism, or providing relief after a natural disaster, these warships will prove to be a game-changer in complex and risky operations," he said. Raksha Mantri dubbed the Indian Navy as a symbol of India's maritime power as it is safeguarding the country's interests amidst the Naval activities being witnessed from Arabian Sea to Middle East and eastern African sea-

board. "The geo-strategic condition is such that it has the capability to directly impact our economic development. Our energy requirements, oil and natural gas depend to a large extent on the security of this region. Our Navy has emerged as a major pillar of our national economic security," he said.

Ever-ready Nav Appreciating the prompt planning and execution of the Indian Navy during Operation Sindoor, Shri Rajnath Singh stated that "the adversary realises the strength and capability of our Navy and what it can do". He termed the seamless synergy among the three Services and other security agencies/departments during the operation as a proof that the nation stands united in every challenge and tackles it effectively "India does not believe in aggressive expansionism. We never attack any country or provoke anyone. But, this doesn't mean we bow before those who mean to harm us. When our security is threatened, we know how to give a befitting reply. Innocent civilians were killed in Pahalgam. We gave an effective, measured and precise response through Operation Sindoor. We pledged to destroy terrorist hideouts and successfully achieved our goals. I want to reiterate that the operation is not over, it is merely a pause. Today, the entire nation is united against terrorism under the leadership of PM Modi, and this national unity, discipline, sacrifice & dedication are our real strength," added Raksha Mantri.

Future-ready Navy On the rapidly-evolving nature of warfare, Shri Rajnath Singh stated that new technologies, strategies and equipment are being witnessed in every conflict, and it has become necessary to not only keep updating oneself, but also explore the unexplored and achieve the unexpected. "Old thinking won't work in today's era. We need to anticipate new threats and keep finding solutions, which is why our government is giving priority to research and development in the defence sector. Earlier, only a few countries were

manufacturing high-tech equipment, which now India is producing on its own soil," he said.

Raksha Mantri voiced the Government's unwavering resolve to strengthen the Armed Forces under a futuristic vision, terming it as a big achievement of the Aatmanirbhar Bharat campaign. "Today, we are protecting not only land, sea and sky, but also space, cyberspace, economic space and social space. Self-reliance is no longer just a slogan; it is becoming a ground reality. And this is due to the hard work of our scientists, officers of the Armed Forces and every person who works diligently day and night," he stated.

Speaking on the occasion, Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Dinesh K Tripathi described the double-commissioning as a clear testimony to the continued progress and dynamic expansion of India's maritime power. He also highlighted the Indian Navy's ability to deliver overwhelming force from the sea in the present age of uncertainties and competition, terming it as a credible deterrence against the nation's enemies. "We demonstrated this brilliantly during Operation Sindoor when swift deployment and aggressive posturing of our units, effectively constrained the Pakistan Navy, and forced them to request a cease of kinetic actions," he said. Recalling PM Modi's call for manufacturing indigenous equipment to generate uniqueness and a surprise element in the security apparatus of the country, the Chief of the Naval Staff stated that INS Himgiri and INS Udaygiri, with over 75% indigenous content, are milestones on the road to achieving self-reliance in defence production. Admiral Dinesh K Tripathi congratulated the Commanding Officers of INS Udaygiri and INS Himgiri, and the Commissioning Crew, who have worked tirelessly shoulder to shoulder with all the stakeholders to achieve this important milestone. Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Eastern Naval Command Vice Admiral Rajesh Pendharkar, other senior officers

of the Navy and naval veterans were among the dignitaries present on the occasion.

More about INS Udaygiri & INS Himgiri

In keeping with the Navy's tradition of rechristening new ships after their illustrious predecessors, the new Udaygiri and Himgiri carry forward the proud names of earlier frigates that served the nation for decades. The modern Udaygiri pays tribute to the erstwhile INS Udaygiri, which was in commission from 1976 to 2007, while Himgiri honours the erstwhile Himgiri that served from 1974 to 2005. The commissioning of the new ships thus links India's rich maritime heritage with promising future aspirations.

The simultaneous induction of two major combatants highlights the Navy's growing operational focus on the Eastern Seaboard. Both frigates will join the Eastern Fleet under the Eastern Naval Command, significantly enhancing India's ability to respond rapidly to maritime contingencies and to secure sea lanes in the Bay of Bengal and beyond. The event underscored India's growing confidence in its indigenous shipbuilding capabilities and reaffirmed its resolve to build and operate complex platforms at par with global standards. With the induction of INS Udaygiri and INS Himgiri, the Indian Navy has added two potent multi-mission frigates to its order of battle, further strengthening the nation's maritime posture and capability to project power and provide security across the Indian Ocean Region. INS Udaygiri's keel was laid on May 07, 2019 and the ship was launched on December 14, 2020. Both ships underwent a comprehensive schedule of trials in harbour and at sea prior to delivery to the Indian Navy on July 01, 2025 and July 31, 2025 respectively. The balance four ships of the Class are at various stages of construction at MDL & GRSE and would be delivered to the Indian Navy by mid-2026.





Briefs :

BJP's Hisar District Unit Secretary Booked for Selling Spurious Fertiliser

**Hisar** : police have registered a case against Kuldeep Delu, sarpanch of Chaudhariwali village and secretary of the BJP district unit, along with his brother Sunil Delu, for selling fake fertilisers. The FIR was filed under Section 19 of the Fertilizer Control Order-1985 following a recommendation from Dr Priyanka, Quality Control Inspector of the Agriculture Department. On July 17, a truck carrying about 436 bags of DAP fertiliser arrived at Kuldeep Delu's Maruti Kisan Seva Kendra Petrol Pump. Farmers alleged that the bags, sold at Rs 1,500 each through black marketing, had uneven weights, sparking doubts about their authenticity. After complaints to local authorities on July 20, samples of the fertiliser collected from Adampur were sent to a laboratory in Karnal, which confirmed the bags contained no DAP content, indicating that soil was being sold as fertiliser. Adampur police station in-charge Harish Chandra confirmed the case was registered based on the Agriculture Department's report and lab findings. Kuldeep Delu denied wrongdoing, stating he only distributed the fertiliser after receiving a call and refunded money to farmers who complained about the bags being underweight and suspected to be fake.

Three Die After Car Falls into Drain in Faridabad

**Gurugram** : Tragically struck in Faridabad on Thursday night when a car plunged into the Gauchi drain near the fish market, resulting in the deaths of three individuals. The incident occurred around 10:40 pm as the vehicle was traveling from the fish market towards Sanjay Colony. According to police reports, the driver lost control of the car, causing it to skid and fall into the drain. Immediately after the accident, bystanders raised an alarm, and people from Sanjay Colony and nearby areas rushed to the scene to assist. A police team arrived shortly thereafter, launching a rescue operation that lasted for about an hour. Using ropes, rescuers managed to pull the trapped passengers out of the water and rushed them to Badshah Khan Hospital for emergency treatment. Despite the quick response and efforts by hospital staff, the three victims were declared dead upon arrival. The deceased were later identified as Pawan Maurya, Amit Jha, and Gaurav Rawat, all approximately 40 years old. Their bodies were sent to the mortuary for postmortem examinations. Inspector Samer Singh, SHO of Mujesar police station, confirmed that the car was registered in the name of Amit Jha, a resident of Sanjay Enclave, Sector 22, Faridabad. Authorities have informed the families of the deceased and have launched a full investigation to determine the circumstances leading to the accident. The local police are exploring all angles, including mechanical failure or possible negligence, while appealing to witnesses for any information that may help with the probe.

Haryana CM Saini Pays Obeisance at Nada Sahib Gurdwara, Announces Jobs for 1984 Riot Victim Families

**Gurugram**: Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini visited the revered Shri Nada Sahib Gurdwara in Panchkula, where he offered prayers and reaffirmed his government's commitment to the spiritual and ethical teachings of the Sikh Gurus. The visit was marked not only by religious reverence but also by a major policy announcement aimed at riot-affected Sikh families.

Speaking to the media after paying obeisance, CM Saini underscored the inspiration drawn by the current administration from Sikh ideals. He said the state and central governments, operating under the "double-engine" model, are motivated by the Sikh values of service, sacrifice, and justice. Saini noted that the teachings of Guru Nanak Dev Ji and other Sikh Gurus had always emphasized compassion and equality, values which he said the BJP government aimed to reflect in governance and policymaking.

He said the government was not merely inspired by religious principles, but was actively working to turn those values into action for the public good. "We are determined to carry forward the legacy of service and jus-



tice that the Sikh Gurus stood for," Saini stated.

In a significant humanitarian gesture, the Chief Minister announced a relief measure for Sikh families who suffered during the 1984 anti-Sikh riots. He declared that one eligible member from each affected family in Haryana would be given a government job.

This employment relief would be provided to families that lost the head of the household during the riots,

which were among the darkest episodes in India's recent history. Saini said this was an effort to bring some sense of justice and closure to those still reeling from that tragedy.

He invited affected families to apply for this benefit by submitting requests through their respective Deputy Commissioners. The district administration would verify and process the applications to ensure timely support.

Saini expressed hope that this move would not only provide economic security to those families but also send a message of accountability and empathy from the government's side.

The CM added that the Sikh community had made immense contributions to the state and the nation, and any step taken for their welfare was a step toward strengthening the social fabric of the country.

He praised the Gurdwara

management for maintaining the sanctity of Shri Nada Sahib, a spiritual site of great historical significance for Sikhs and others alike.

Saini's visit was seen as a blend of religious respect and political outreach, especially at a time when regional dynamics are increasingly sensitive ahead of upcoming elections. The Chief Minister also spoke about the broader commitment of his government to minority communities and promised that the administration would continue to take inclusive steps for all sections of society. He highlighted the BJP government's various welfare schemes aimed at uplifting underprivileged communities and providing targeted benefits to those most in need.

Saini stressed that the state government was committed to ensuring that no citizen was left behind in Haryana's growth journey. He said welfare and justice were not seasonal promises but constant obligations.

He also addressed queries on other matters, reiterating the administration's zero-tolerance approach to corruption, discrimination, and administrative delay in delivering justice.

Pollution Board Seals 30 Illegal Bleaching Units in Panipat, Acts on NGT Orders

Panipat: In a decisive move to tackle rampant environmental violations, the Haryana State Pollution Control Board (HSPCB) has sealed 30 illegal bleaching units operating across the Panipat district. The regulatory body has also recommended closure action against two more units, intensifying its crackdown on unregulated industrial activity that threatens local ecosystems.

In a coordinated effort, the Haryana Water Resource Authority (HWRA) simultaneously sealed borewell connections used by these units for unauthorized groundwater extraction. This step aims to halt further exploitation of critical water resources, often used in high quantities by dyeing and bleaching industries.

The enforcement action follows a directive from the National Green Tribunal (NGT), which took suo motu cognisance of a news report published by The Tribune titled "Panipat's illegal bleaching units pollute land, waterways". The Principal Bench of the NGT, led by Justice Prakash Shrivastava, promptly issued notices to the HSPCB, HWRA, and Panipat Deputy Commissioner, seeking detailed affidavits outlining the situation and the authorities' responses.

Acting upon the NGT's order dated May 23, Bhupender Singh Chahal, the Regional Officer of HSPCB, led a comprehensive ground

survey across Panipat with his enforcement team. The aim was to identify industries operating in violation of environmental norms, particularly those lacking required licenses and clearances. The inspection revealed a total of 31 industrial units functioning without mandatory environmental permissions. Out of these, 30 were engaged in textile dyeing and bleaching—activities categorized under the "red category" due to their high pollution potential. The remaining unit was involved in plastic waste recycling, categorized under the "orange" level of pollution risk.

Shockingly, none of the identified units possessed valid Consent to Establish (CTE) or Consent to Operate (CTO) certificates. These clearances are legally required under India's environmental protection framework to ensure industries do not pose a hazard to public health or the environment.

In addition to lacking environmental clearance, the units were also found to be extracting groundwater illegally, without obtaining the necessary permissions from the HWRA. This illegal usage of water raised serious concerns amid Haryana's growing water scarcity issues and the country's wider groundwater depletion crisis.

Many of the offending units were located on agricultural land in rural and

semi-urban pockets of Panipat. These setups blatantly violated land-use zoning norms, converting farmlands into industrial hotspots without legal conversion or regulatory oversight. The discharge of untreated effluents in pollution-prone sectors like textiles. Enforcement teams reported that they faced resistance from some unit operators and local supporters during the sealing operations. However, with police protection on hand, officials were able to complete the process without any major disruptions.

Legal notices have also been served to the proprietors of the illegal units. These notices warn of potential fines, criminal prosecution, and permanent closure if the units fail to comply with environmental laws and rectify violations.

The HSPCB emphasized that no unit will be allowed to resume operations unless they secure all required environmental permissions. This includes the installation of effluent treatment plants (ETPs), regulated water consumption plans, and certified waste disposal mechanisms.

Environmental activists and local residents have welcomed the crackdown, calling it a necessary and long-overdue step. They argue that years of inaction had allowed pollution levels to rise unchecked, putting public health and ecosystems at severe risk.

This latest crackdown is being seen as a landmark moment in the state's fight against industrial pollution. It reflects a broader effort by authorities to impose stricter environmental governance across Haryana, especially in pollution-prone sectors like textiles. Enforcement teams reported that they faced resistance from some unit operators and local supporters during the sealing operations. However, with police protection on hand, officials were able to complete the process without any major disruptions.

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After Chandigarh, Haryana Has the Costliest School Education in the Country: NSS Data

**Chandigarh** : According to the Comprehensive Modular Survey: Education, 2025, part of the 80th round of the National Sample Survey (NSS), Haryana ranks second only to Chandigarh in terms of average spending per student on school education during an academic year. The average expenditure in Haryana stands at Rs 25,720, which is more than double the national average of Rs 12,616. Chandigarh leads with a staggering Rs 49,711 spent per student annually. In comparison, neighboring states like Punjab and Himachal Pradesh report significantly lower costs at Rs 22,692 and Rs 18,305 respectively.

The survey also highlights a gender disparity in educational spending within Haryana, with annual costs for male students at Rs 27,697, while female students incur Rs 23,465 on average. The type of school plays a crucial role in the expenditure pattern. In government schools, the cost is much lower, averaging Rs 4,479 per year. However, the expenses rise sharply in private institutions, with private-aided schools costing Rs 48,636 and private-unaided schools at Rs 39,015.

Haryana's student distribution across school types further reflects this spending pattern. Only 41.2 percent of students are enrolled in government schools, while 11.9 percent attend private-aided schools and a significant 45.7 percent are in private unaided schools that are recognized by the authorities. This large presence in private schools contributes to the high average spending.



Breaking down the expenditure on a per-student basis reveals that Rs 16,405, which is nearly 64 percent of the total spending, goes toward course fees. Transportation costs amount to Rs 3,633, or 14.2 percent of the expenditure. Uniforms account for Rs 1,966, textbooks and stationery cost Rs 2,852, and other miscellaneous expenses total Rs 865.

Despite the high education costs, Haryana shows a lower inclination towards private coaching compared to the national average. Only 11 percent of students in Haryana have taken or are taking private coaching during the current academic year, in contrast to 27 percent nationwide. Chandigarh sees a much higher rate of 32.9 percent, while Punjab stands at 26.8 percent. Himachal Pradesh has an even lower coaching participation rate of 7.7 percent.

The financial aspect of private coaching in Haryana is also relatively modest. Students spend an average of Rs 1,366 annually on coaching, which is lower than the all-India average

of Rs 2,409. Himachal Pradesh reports an even lower figure at Rs 437, while Chandigarh and Punjab show higher averages at Rs 5,650 and Rs 1,732 respectively.

At the higher secondary level, urban students in Haryana spend around Rs 7,857 per year on private coaching. This is below the national urban average of Rs 9,950. Chandigarh tops this list with an average expenditure of Rs 20,688, whereas Punjab's average stands at Rs 2,307, and Himachal Pradesh records a minimal Rs 1,135 annually.

These figures collectively indicate that Haryana's school education system is notably expensive, driven largely by a high number of students attending private schools and significant expenditure on tuition fees. Despite this, the lower participation in private coaching suggests different education priorities or access issues compared to other states. The data also points to potential gender-based disparities in educational investment that could impact long-term outcomes.

Controversy Erupts Over Detention of Rohtak Zila Parishad Vice-Chairman

**Rohtak** : A major row has erupted in Rohtak following the detention of Anil Hooda, Vice-Chairman of the Zila Parishad, by local police. Hooda was picked up from the parishad office and taken to Arya Nagar police station without a clear explanation, prompting strong objections from fellow parishad members who termed the action illegal and high-handed.

The incident occurred on Wednesday evening when a police team arrived at the Zila Parishad office and escorted Hooda to the station. News of his detention spread quickly, leading several Zila Parishad members to reach the station in protest. Hooda was released after a couple of hours, but the situation has since escalated into a political and administrative standoff.

Speaking to the media post-release, Hooda stated that he and other members would approach higher state authorities to demand action

against those responsible for the "unlawful" detention. He



received widespread support from his colleagues.

"The police failed to provide any concrete or logical reason for detaining the Vice-Chairman. It was clearly an illegal act and we condemn it," said Dheeraj Malik, a parishad member. Another member, Jagbir Khatri, also criticized the police's handling of the situation, calling it both unjustified and unacceptable.

Sources indicate that the

conflict stems from a dispute over office space. The former

CEO of the Zila Parishad was recently transferred, with the role now assigned to the local Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC). Parishad members reportedly began using the former CEO's office, which led to objections from administrative officials and ultimately prompted the police intervention.

Despite the dramatic events, police have not filed any formal complaint or FIR related to the incident.

Delhi, Faridabad, Srinagar Among Least Safe Cities for Women: NARI 2025 Report

**Gurugram**: Delhi, Faridabad, and Srinagar have been ranked among the least safe cities for women in India, according to the National Annual Report & Index on Women's Safety (NARI 2025) released by the National Commission for Women (NCW). The report is based on a comprehensive survey of 12,770 women across 31 cities, conducted by data science agency P-value Analytics.

Other cities receiving similarly poor safety ratings include Ranchi, Kolkata, and Jaipur. In contrast, cities such as Kohima, Visakhapatnam, Bhubaneswar, Aizawl, Gangtok, Itanagar, and Mumbai have been rated as the safest for women.

The findings present a worrying picture of women's safety, with nearly 40 percent of surveyed women describing their cities as either "unsafe" or "not so safe."



The report highlights the stark gap between women's lived experiences and official statistics on crime.

One of the most alarming insights from the survey was the widespread lack of trust in law enforcement and institutional response mechanisms. Only one in four women surveyed said they believed proper action would be taken if they reported an unsafe or violent incident.

Even when incidents were reported, only a third of

cases led to formal complaints being filed, and action was taken in just 16 percent of those cases. This indicates a deep-seated perception that reporting is either ineffective or may even lead to further hardship for victims.

The data also revealed that harassment remains a major concern. Seven percent of respondents reported experiencing harassment in 2024—a figure that stands in stark contrast to the official data from the National Crime

Records Bureau (NCRB), which reported a much lower figure of 0.07 percent in 2022.

Younger women, especially those aged between 18 and 24, emerged as the most vulnerable demographic in the report. Researchers attributed this to increased exposure to public spaces, use of digital platforms, and lower institutional protections in educational or early career environments.

Workplace safety also showed troubling gaps. More than half the women surveyed—around 53 percent—were unaware of whether their organization had an Internal Complaints Committee (ICC) or a sexual harassment prevention policy in place. This lack of awareness underscores ongoing failures in compliance and education under the Prevention of Sexual Harassment (POSH) Act.



# Punjab’s Women Have Lost Faith in AAP, Looking Towards Haryana Model: CM Saini

**Chandigarh** : Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini has launched a scathing attack on the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) government in Punjab, claiming that the state's women have lost confidence in AAP's governance and are now looking towards Haryana for inspiration, particularly in terms of welfare schemes.

Speaking to the media after the Cabinet approved the implementation of the Deendayal Laado Laxmi Yojana, Saini alleged that AAP is following in the footsteps of the Congress by failing to fulfil pre-election promises, especially those made to women. "The Congress hollowed out Punjab earlier, and now AAP is walking the same path," he said.

Saini highlighted how Haryana, under BJP rule, is steadily delivering on its promises. "Unlike the Congress, which dumps its manifesto after elections, we treat our sankalp patra as a roadmap," he asserted.

He praised Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership, calling it a model for welfare delivery. "Wherever BJP is in power—be it Haryana, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, or Rajasthan—people are witnessing the fulfilment of promises," he said, contrasting it with Congress' "Chinese goods-like guarantees—flashy but unreliable." On opposition criticism in the Assembly over the "Beti Bachao" campaign, Saini dismissed Congress MLAs' protests as "political drama," accusing them of lacking real issues and merely creating noise with placards.

The Chief Minister also accused Congress and AAP of being "two sides of the same coin," claiming their



alliance of convenience has cost them public trust. He cited Congress' failure to implement welfare schemes for women in Karnataka, Telangana, and Himachal Pradesh as proof of their "false guarantees."

With his remarks, Saini positioned the BJP's governance in Haryana as a contrast to the perceived failures of opposition-led states, particularly focusing on women's welfare and accountability in governance. Chandigarh: Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini has launched a sharp critique of the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) government in Punjab, asserting that the women of Punjab have lost trust in AAP's leadership and are now turning their attention toward Haryana's model of governance and welfare delivery.

Speaking to media after his Cabinet approved the implementation of the Deendayal Laado Laxmi Yojana, a women-centric welfare scheme, Saini claimed that AAP is following the same failed path as the Congress party by making pre-election promises

and not fulfilling them. He accused both parties of playing with the hopes of the people, especially women, and failing to deliver on commitments made during electoral campaigns.

"The Congress hollowed out Punjab, and now AAP is doing the same," Saini said, characterising the political transition in Punjab as merely a change in name, not in governance quality. He added that people, especially women, are now seeing through these "false guarantees" and are beginning to appreciate the reliability of the BJP's promises. Highlighting his party's track record, the Chief Minister said that Haryana under BJP rule has maintained a commitment to its sankalp patra (manifesto), treating it not as an election gimmick but as a governance blueprint. "We don't forget our promises once in power. The Congress, on the other hand, uses manifestos as mere publicity tools," he remarked.

Saini further praised Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership at the national level, saying it has be-

come synonymous with delivery and accountability. "In BJP-ruled states like Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, and Haryana, people are witnessing real change. Unlike Congress, which gives guarantees that are like Chinese goods—attractive but unreliable—BJP brings real, lasting results," he said.

He used the occasion to respond to opposition criticism during the recent Assembly session, particularly over the "Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao" campaign. Congress MLAs had accused the BJP of symbolic gestures without real impact, but Saini dismissed their actions as "political drama" and "a display of frustration."

He also accused Congress MLAs of lacking genuine issues to raise, resorting instead to slogan-shouting and waving placards in the House. "This shows their disconnect from the people," he said.

Taking a broader political swipe, the Chief Minister claimed that both Congress and AAP are essentially "two sides of the same coin," accusing them of forming

tactical alliances that undermine governance. He said their recent actions have only deepened public disillusionment with both parties. He specifically pointed to Congress-ruled states such as Karnataka, Telangana, and Himachal Pradesh, alleging that their governments have also failed to implement key welfare schemes, particularly for women. He said this failure across multiple states has eroded people's faith in Congress and, by extension, in AAP, which had positioned itself as a fresh alternative. Saini's remarks also seemed designed to reinforce BJP's image as a party of performance rather than promises. By contrasting Haryana's policy implementation with Punjab's political turmoil, he sought to elevate BJP's governance narrative ahead of upcoming electoral battles in the region. He reiterated that the new Deendayal Laado Laxmi Yojana would further empower women in Haryana and set a benchmark for other states to follow. The scheme is aimed at incentivising the birth and education of daughters, and is positioned as a flagship welfare initiative of the state government. As the political temperature rises in the region, Saini's positioning of Haryana as a "model state" and his attacks on opposition parties signal the BJP's readiness to make women's welfare a key battleground in its campaign strategy.

By placing Haryana's performance next to the perceived failures of Punjab and other opposition-ruled states, Saini has drawn a clear contrast, aiming to frame the debate around accountability, delivery, and trust.

## Drinking Water to Reach 33 Dhanis, Sewerage for 12 New Villages under AMRUT 2.0

**Chandigarh** : Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini chaired a meeting of the Water Supply and Sewerage Board, during which he directed officials to strengthen the infrastructure for drinking water and sewerage in both urban and rural areas of Haryana. A major decision taken at the meeting was to provide drinking water supply to 33 dhanis (hamlets) and sewerage facilities in 12 new villages under the AMRUT 2.0 scheme.

The Chief Minister emphasized that all necessary measures must be taken to ensure the timely delivery of clean drinking water to every household, especially in hamlets with more than 20 houses. He also instructed the officials to fast-track the implementation of the Mahagram Yojana and re-

solve complaints regarding the sewerage works under AMRUT 2.0 to prevent inconvenience to residents.

Public Health and Engineering Minister Ranbir Gangwa was also present in the meeting, where a detailed review was conducted on the department's ongoing and planned projects for the current financial year. Discussions focused on accelerating the execution of flagship water and sanitation schemes across the state.

The list of identified dhanis includes two in Ambala, five in Faridabad, two in Hisar, three in Karnal, five in Kurukshetra, seven in Mewat (Nuh), two in Palwal, three in Panipat, and four in Sirsa. CM Saini ordered that the projects in these hamlets be treated as high-priority tasks and

completed without delay.

Officials raised concerns about challenges in setting up sewage treatment plants (STPs) in rural areas where sewerage lines are being laid under AMRUT 2.0.

The board resolved that no village should be selected under this scheme unless there is a viable plan to establish an STP in the area, ensuring a complete and functional sewerage system.

It was also reported during the meeting that 17 water and sewerage-related projects had already been completed, reflecting progress under various government initiatives. The state aims to bring long-term improvements in public health and sanitation infrastructure, especially in underserved and remote areas.

## HC Orders HVPNL to Provide Equal Transfer Options to Specially Abled Employees

**Chandigarh** : The Punjab and Haryana High Court has criticized Haryana Vidyut Prasaran Nigam Limited (HVPNL) for its insensitive approach in denying equal transfer opportunities to specially-abled employees.

Justice Harpreet Singh Brar ordered HVPNL to amend its transfer policies to ensure that employees with disabilities receive the same number of transfer options as their able-bodied colleagues.

The court also directed necessary changes to make office locations accessible and recommended posting such employees in their home districts or at preferred locations whenever possible.

The court's directive came following a writ petition filed by two engineers with locomotor disabilities.

Justice Brar emphasized that the offices where employees with disabilities are posted must have adequate assistance available and that the distance between residence and workplace should be considered during transfer decisions. HVPNL was given two months to implement these changes and submit a compliance report.

The petitioners challenged a communication from HVPNL that offered employees with benchmark disabilities fewer transfer options than able-bodied employees.

For example, the first petitioner, a Junior Engineer at Rohtak with 40% locomotor disability, was given only 15 transfer options compared to 392 options for able-bodied staff. The second petitioner, an Assistant Executive Engineer at Daulatabad with 80% locomotor disability, had just six options, whereas his able-bodied peers had 127. Both petitioners fall under the 'Protected Category' as per the Model Online Transfer Policy notified by the state on May 23, which HVPNL had fully adopted.

The court's intervention aims to ensure fair treatment and equal opportunities for specially-abled staff within the organization.

## Haryana Irrigation Department on High Alert After Heavy Rainfall in Hills

**Karnal** : In response to recent heavy rainfall in the hilly regions, the Haryana Irrigation Department has been placed on high alert, especially along the Yamuna river, which has seen a fluctuating and high discharge over the past two months. Although the river is currently flowing below the danger mark, officials are taking all necessary precautions to prevent any possible flooding or damage.

Superintending Engineer Sanjay Rahar stated that the discharge in the Yamuna at present is between 40,000 and 50,000 cusecs and is changing almost every hour. Despite the water level being under control for now, the department is closely monitoring the situation due to the unpredictable nature of water flow from upstream regions.

As a precautionary measure, the department has cancelled all leaves for its staff, including Executive Engineers, SDOs, Junior Engineers, and ground-level field teams. These personnel have been instructed to work round-the-clock to observe water levels and ensure the stability of embankments across vulnerable stretches of the river.

Temporary flood protection activities are currently underway, with officials particularly focusing on areas that have shown signs of erosion or previous vulnerability. Embankments are being reinforced and weak spots identified to minimise any potential damage in case of a sudden rise in the water level.

The seriousness of the situation became evident on August 18, when the Yamuna's discharge in Karnal surged to nearly one lakh cusecs. Although the river's flow receded after that, it caused damage at certain banks, prompting heightened vigilance and a proactive approach by the department.

Teams have been de-



ployed along sensitive sections of the river to ensure swift response if needed. Monitoring is constant, and all critical points are under close watch to detect any breaches or abnormal water movement.

SE Rahar confirmed that while the current water levels are manageable, the situation remains fluid due to the ongoing monsoon activity in the hills. The department's first priority is public safety and flood prevention, and it is working to ensure that any escalation in discharge is immediately dealt with.

Local residents living near the Yamuna riverbanks have been advised to remain alert and follow any advisories issued by authorities. The department has urged communities in low-lying and flood-prone areas to cooperate and be prepared in case evacuation or emergency action becomes necessary.

Preventive strengthening of riverbanks is being done not only in Karnal but across various stretches where previous high water levels had exposed weaknesses. The department is making efforts to avoid a repeat of damage similar to what occurred earlier this monsoon.

Given the dynamic nature of river discharge during peak monsoon periods, officials stressed that the alert status would remain in effect until the water flow stabilises consistently below threat levels. Teams

will stay stationed across embankments until that time.

The current strategy involves both immediate containment of risks and long-term planning for riverbank fortification. These steps, officials say, will build resilience for future monsoon seasons as well.

So far, no major breaches or flooding have been reported, and the situation remains under control. However, the department is not taking any chances and is coordinating with local administrations to stay ahead of any potential crises.

As part of broader safety measures, the department is also preparing temporary relief shelters and resources in case of evacuation, though they hope these will not be needed if current conditions persist.

The consistent monitoring and coordination with weather agencies and upstream control bodies are being maintained to receive real-time updates and respond accordingly.

The alert is part of the state's monsoon contingency plan, which activates a high-alert mechanism in vulnerable zones when rainfall patterns intensify in hilly catchments that feed into Haryana's rivers.

Officials reassured the public that they are fully prepared for any eventuality and urged everyone to stay informed and cooperate with any instructions issued over the next few days.

## Flood Alert Issued Near Tangri River as Water Levels Threaten to Breach Danger Mark

**Ambala** : A flood alert has been issued for colonies situated along the Tangri riverbed and nearby low-lying areas in Ambala, as water levels in the seasonal river are expected to rise sharply. According to the district administration, the Tangri is likely to receive over 30,000 cusecs of water—double its official danger mark of 15,400 cusecs.

The river, which swells rapidly following intense rainfall in the Shivalik hills, is being closely monitored. Recent heavy rains have caused concern among authorities, prompting preemptive safety measures to avoid the kind of damage seen in previous years.

As a precautionary step, the administration has ordered the closure of a school located near the river for the day. Teams from the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) and State Disaster Response Force (SDRF) have been placed on alert and are ready for immediate deployment should the situation worsen.

Residents in vulnerable low-lying areas have been advised to move to safer lo-



cations. Authorities have also appealed to the public to remain vigilant and follow any instructions issued by the local administration. Several families have already begun relocating valuable belongings to higher ground in anticipation of possible flooding.

This warning comes just days after the river last swelled to around 24,000 cusecs, causing water to spill into the streets. At that time, though there was no major damage or loss of life, the rising water forced many to

temporarily evacuate their homes. Fortunately, the water receded without inflicting serious harm.

However, memories of last year's devastating flood in 2023 remain fresh in the minds of residents. At that time, the Tangri river overflowed and wreaked havoc on surrounding areas. Entire neighbourhoods were submerged, furniture and electronics were destroyed, and mud and debris were left behind. The industrial zone and nearby colonies experienced significant economic losses,

with many residents returning to find their homes uninhabitable.

Given the current forecast and the river's unpredictable behaviour, the administration is not taking any chances this year. Emergency shelters are being readied, and rescue teams have been instructed to stay on standby for quick action.

Local officials are also inspecting embankments and drainage systems to ensure they can withstand any overflow. Road access to certain river-adjacent areas may

be restricted if water levels continue to rise.

The administration has requested the cooperation of the public in reporting any signs of waterlogging or breach risks. Special attention is being given to elderly residents and those with mobility issues, ensuring evacuation plans are in place. With the river expected to receive an exceptionally high inflow, there is a real concern that even a brief delay in action could lead to widespread damage. Communication lines have been opened between various emergency services to coordinate efforts seamlessly if the situation escalates. Officials have also urged residents not to venture near the riverbanks and to avoid non-essential travel through affected zones. Police have been deployed to ensure public safety and help maintain order in potentially impacted areas. While some residents remain hopeful that the situation will stabilise, many have already started preparing for the worst. Local shops have reported a spike in demand for plastic sheets, sandbags, and waterproof containers.

## Selja Cites CAG Report, Accuses Govt of Corruption and Mismanagement

**Sirsa** : MP and former Union minister Kumari Selja has sharply criticized the state government, citing the latest Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) report that exposes serious negligence, corruption, and mismanagement in multiple departments.

According to the report, 64.86 lakh tonnes of solid waste were dumped without treatment, nearly 80,000 metric tonnes of wheat were damaged, and male beneficiaries

fraudulently claimed funds meant for women-centric welfare schemes, which Selja called a "complete governance failure"

under the BJP-led government.

Selja noted that the Congress had repeatedly demanded investigations into alleged scams related to waste management, the Smart City, and AMRUT schemes.

The CAG report revealed that between 2017 and 2022, 63% of solid waste across 18 urban local bodies was dumped untreated, with a 15-month delay in finalizing the waste management policy.

It also flagged a Rs 108.93-crore loss due to project delays in Gurugram and Faridabad, where the Gurugram Municipal Corporation was

fined Rs 100 crore by the National Green Tribunal for failing to treat legacy waste at the Bandhwari site.

Cities including Gurugram, Faridabad, Sirsa, Hisar, Rohtak, Ambala, and Yamunanagar continue to face severe waste and waterlogging issues.

The report also highlighted major lapses in wheat procurement caused by poor storage, inadequate mandi facilities, and inflated interest payments, leading to substantial losses. Additionally, the CAG identified a Rs 15.54-crore overpayment in the "Aapki Beti, Hamari Beti" scheme.

## Firm Ordered to Disburse ₹85 Crore Crop Insurance Claims to Farmers

**Hisar** : The Central Technical Advisory Committee (CTAC) under the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare has dismissed an appeal filed by an insurance company, directing it to release crop insurance claims worth approximately ₹85.5 crore to farmers in Haryana's Bhiwani, Charkhi Dadri, and Nuh districts for the Rabi 2023-24 season. The insurer had challenged a decision made by the State Level Technical Advisory Committee (STAC) in January 2025, alleging irregularities in crop cutting experiments (CCEs) conducted across 231 insurance units. The company claimed that standard proto-

cols were violated and its objections were ignored. However, CTAC found that the insurer co-witnessed most of the CCEs and failed to raise timely objections. It also ruled that the company's delayed technical report lacked sufficient evidence and could not override ground-based assessments. The committee emphasized that semi-physical models used by the insurer could not replace actual CCEs. Despite noting that the appeal was filed beyond the prescribed timeline and without proper provision in the MoU, CTAC still reviewed the matter on merit and ultimately upheld STAC's decision.





# Indian Men's Hockey Team gears up for Men's Asia Cup with World Cup qualification at stake

**Rajgir** : The Indian Men's Hockey Team is gearing up to begin their campaign at the Men's Asia Cup 2025 on home soil here in Bihar from August 29 to September 7.

After last winning the tournament in 2017, India will look to reclaim the continental crown and also secure direct qualification for the 2026 FIH Hockey World Cup.

The Men's Asia Cup has been one of the most prestigious events in Asian hockey with defending champions South Korea being the most successful team with five titles, while India runs second with three.

In the last edition India finished third as it drew its Semi-Final game against South Korea who went ahead on a better goal difference.

India are drawn in Pool A alongside China, Japan and Kazakhstan.

The team will open their campaign against China on August 29, followed by a clash against Japan on August 31 before concluding the group stage against Kazakhstan on September 1.

Pool B consists of South Ko-



rea, Malaysia, Bangladesh and Indonesia. The top two teams from each pool will advance to the Super 4s and the winner will earn automatic World Cup qualification.

India is coming into the tournament after a disappointing FIH Hockey Pro League European Leg, however, being the highest ranked

Asian country (7th) in the world and playing in front of home crowd, India are a serious contender for the title.

Speaking about the team's preparations, Coach Craig Fulton said, "Our preparation has been thorough. The camp in Perth gave us the right intensity, with tough

training sessions and competitive matches that sharpened both our physical and tactical readiness. The group is training and playing with real purpose and we feel ready for the challenge ahead."

When asked about the team's expectations, he responded, "Our expectation is very clear, to win the

Asia Cup and secure qualification for the World Cup. That is our main goal. We know it will be a tough competition with quality opposition, but we believe in the work we've done and in the strength of this squad. If we play to our standards, stay consistent, and execute well, we can achieve what we set out to do."

Captain Harmanpreet Singh spoke on similar lines and stated, "The preparations have been good. We achieved a lot in the camp and have done a lot of work as a team. Even our recent tour in Australia has been very useful for us because Asian teams too play man-to-man in a similar way to the Aussies."

"Any opponent we play, we view them as a strong team and I believe all the teams participating are good. Our mindset is to make sure that we play smartly, maintain our structure and do our best. This is the energy in the dressing room and this is our plan," he concluded.

Matches will be live on Sony Sports Network. Hockey fans in USA, UK, Netherlands, Europe and North America can watch the Hero Asia Cup Rajgir Bihar 2025 live on Watch.Hockey.

## Altmaier stuns Tsitsipas to reach third round of US Open

**New York** : Germany's Daniel Altmaier produced the upset of the day at the US Open today IST saving a match point before toppling 26th seed Stefanos Tsitsipas of Greece 7-6(5), 1-6, 4-6, 6-3, 7-5 to book his maiden third-round berth at Flushing Meadows. Altmaier, playing his fourth US Open, fought through four hours and 21 minutes on Grandstand Court to secure the biggest win of his career. The 26-year-old German stared down defeat at 4-5, 30-40 in the deciding set, but blasted a fearless forehand winner to stay alive and then surged to victory as Tsitsipas faltered with two double faults and an untimely forehand error.

For Tsitsipas, once ranked world No. 3, the disappointment continued in New York, the only Grand Slam where he has never advanced to the Round of 16. The 27-year-old had looked in control after levelling the match and edging ahead, but could not close out the contest.

Despite coming off the longest match of the tourna-



ment — a gruelling four-hour, 46-minute win over Serbia's Hamad Medjedovic in round one — Altmaier appeared fresh and resolute, firing 15 aces and showing great composure under pressure.

The German will next face eighth seed Alex de Minaur of Australia, who cruised past Japanese qualifier Shintaro Mochizuki 6-2, 6-4, 6-2.

Tsitsipas, meanwhile, was bidding for consecutive match wins for the first time since April and for back-to-back victories at a Slam since Roland Garros 2024, but his wait goes on.

## Andrey Rublev survives Tristan Boyer scare

**New York** : World No.15

Andrey Rublev was made to sweat before quelling a spirited fightback from American qualifier Tristan Boyer 6-3, 6-3, 5-7, 7-6(4) in a gripping second-round encounter at the US Open here today. Rublev, who appeared in cruise control after pocketing the first two sets with ease, was pushed to the brink by the 23-year-old Boyer, a former Stanford University player who had only four tour-level victories to his name prior to his New York campaign. Backed by a raucous Grandstand crowd, Boyer stunned Rublev by stealing the third set with aggressive shot-making, capped by a forehand winner down the line.



The American, smiling gleefully on the changeover, had the momentum as Rublev left for a bathroom break. In the fourth set, Rublev broke early but Boyer roared back with an immediate reply. The set went into a tense tiebreak where the Russian finally pulled through with an ace on match point.

Statistics told the story of Boyer's fearless tennis as

he actually out-hit Rublev on forehand winners in the latter stages, forcing the seeded player to dig deep. "He had nothing to lose and started playing really well," Rublev admitted after the match, acknowledging Boyer's surge.

For Rublev, who has been a fixture in the year-end Top 10 since 2020 but has yet to go beyond a Grand Slam quarterfinal, the road ahead remains steep.

## Water sports: National-level contests at Gobind Sagar Lake, Kol Dam from Oct 10

**Bilaspur**: To give a new identity to tourism and promote water adventure, a three-day water sports festival will be organized in Himachal's Bilaspur this year. The festival will be held from October 10 to 12 and will witness participation from renowned athletes and tourists from across the country.

A preparatory meeting was convened at the Savings Bhawan under the chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner Rahul Kumar. Detailed discussions were held on the structure of the festival, venues, budget allocation, and the formation of different committees to ensure smooth execution.

The Deputy Commissioner said that the event will be organized under the aegis of the society for Tourism, Sports, Trade and Employment Generation.



The main attractions will include national-level Dragon Boat Racing, Kayaking, and Canoeing competitions, along with other engaging water adventure

activities. These events aim to create a memorable experience for the visitors and establish Bilaspur as a hub of water sports in the years to come.

He added that Kayaking and Canoeing events will be held at Kol Dam, while Dragon Boat Racing will take place in Gobind Sagar

lake, covering the stretch between Luhnu ground and Mandi Bharari bridge.

The competitions are expected to provide an exhilarating experience for both the participants and spectators, further enhancing the district's image as a centre of water adventure sports.

Highlighting the natural charm of Gobind Sagar Lake and the vast expanse of Kol Dam, the Deputy Commissioner said these water bodies will lend a unique identity to the festival. He stressed that the district administration is committed to promoting tourism and linking such events with employment opportunities for the local community.

The meeting also resolved to give the festival an attractive name and logo. Budgetary provisions will be made, and multiple committees will be set up. Civil society groups, traders' associations, and voluntary organizations will also be involved to make the festival a people's movement.

The meeting was attended by Additional Deputy Commissioner Omkant Thakur, officials from various departments, Hemraj Thakur, President of the Gobind Sagar Water Sports Association, and Ishan Akhtar, State General Secretary of the Himachal Water Sports Society, along with all committee members.

## Musetti storms past Goffin into US Open Round 3

**New York** : Italian No. 10

seed Lorenzo Musetti produced a sparkling display of flair and authority to dispatch Belgian veteran David Goffin 6-4, 6-0, 6-2 and book his place in the third round of the US Open here today.

On a bright afternoon inside Louis Armstrong Stadium, the 22-year-old Italian mixed artistry with power, dictating rallies with his trademark one-handed backhand and variety of strokes. Musetti, who entered the contest with a winning head-to-head record over Goffin, did not allow the Belgian to settle after a competitive opening set.

The opening set saw Goffin stretch Musetti's service games to over five minutes on average, even breaking back once to level at 4-all. But serving at 4-5, the Belgian double-faulted twice and then fell victim to a brilliant Musetti backhand passing shot, which handed



the Italian the decisive break. That moment set the tone for the rest of the encounter.

From there, Musetti took complete control. He raced through the second set in just 33 minutes, producing a flurry of winners and tactical lobs and drop shots that left Goffin scrambling. Even when the Belgian briefly found rhythm at the start of the third set, breaking Musetti to go 2-0 up, the Italian reeled off six games in a row to seal a straight-

sets victory. Statistically, Musetti dominated: he struck 27 winners against just 16 unforced errors, while Goffin committed 11 errors in the third set alone. The Italian's composure and creativity shone through, marking a return to form after disappointing early exits at Wimbledon, Toronto and Cincinnati. The win carries special significance for Musetti, who had been hampered by injuries following his French Open semifinal run earlier this year. It is also

his third appearance in the US Open third round, reinforcing his growing maturity on hard courts.

Looking ahead, Musetti will face either fellow Italian Flavio Cobolli, a Wimbledon quarterfinalist this year, or home favourite Jenson Brooksby in the third round. Should he advance, a mouth-watering Round of 16 clash with compatriot Jannik Sinner could await, offering fans an all-Italian blockbuster. Musetti's triumph over Goffin adds to his head-to-head dominance, having beaten the Belgian in their two previous Grand Slam meetings — at Roland Garros in 2021 and at the US Open in 2022, where he rallied from 2-5 down in the final set to win in a tiebreak.

For Goffin, a seasoned campaigner and former Top-10 player, the loss was another setback as he struggled to cope with Musetti's flair and consistency after a promising start.

## Iga Swiatek survives Suzan Lamens scare

**New York**: World No. 2 Iga Swiatek was made to dig deep before overcoming Dutch qualifier Suzan Lamens 6-1, 4-6, 6-4 to reach the third round of the US Open here today.

The 24-year-old Pole, who won the title at Flushing Meadows in 2022, looked untouchable early on, racing through the opening set in just over half an hour with sharp returns and relentless baseline play. Lamens, despite landing nearly 70 per cent of her first serves, struggled to win points on them

and conceded seven double faults as Swiatek stamped her authority.

But the Dutchwoman, ranked 66, fought back admirably in the second set, taking advantage of Swiatek's dip in rhythm. She broke the Pole twice, including on a double fault at set point, to level the contest 6-4. According to WTA statistics, this was the first set Swiatek has dropped since her Montreal defeat earlier this summer. The decider saw Swiatek restore control with two early breaks to lead

4-1, only for Lamens to claw one back and threaten another twist. Swiatek, however, held her nerve, closing out the match after two hours and six minutes. Tennis-WorldUSA described the victory as "a near catastrophe averted" for the world No. 2, while The Guardian highlighted the Pole's "mental resilience" in responding to the pressure. The win extended Swiatek's unbeaten streak to seven matches and continued her remarkable run of 16 victories in her last 17 outings, including Wim-

bledon and Cincinnati titles.

Lamens, who arrived in New York with her first WTA title from last year, earned widespread praise for her composure and fighting spirit against one of the game's most formidable competitors. Swiatek will next face Russia's Anna Kalinskaya, seeded 29th, who defeated Yulia Putintseva in straight sets. The pair share a recent rivalry, with Kalinskaya beating Swiatek in Dubai last year before the Pole avenged that result earlier this month in Cincinnati.

## Osaka storms into US Open third round

**New York**: Two-time US Open champion Naomi Osaka produced a commanding display to defeat American Hailey Baptiste 6-3, 6-1 in the second round of the women's singles here today.

The No. 23 seed Osaka, returning to form after a break from the tour for maternity, combined her trademark power

with measured control to outclass Baptiste, who struggled with nerves and double faults despite flashes of aggressive shotmaking.

The 27-year-old Japanese star, who had beaten Baptiste in two previous three-setters earlier this season, ensured there was no repeat of those long duels. She quickly wrested control of the con-

test, capitalising on the American's early service woes to pocket the opening set 6-3.

Baptiste, playing at a career-high ranking of 47 and buoyed by her recent runs at the French Open and Wimbledon, tried to force the pace with her heavy forehand and adventurous net approaches.

## National Sports Day: Celebrating Dhyan Chand's legacy and the rhythm of play

**Bengaluru** : Every year on this date, India pauses, only to move again, this time to the rhythm of sport. August 29 belongs to a man who turned hockey into poetry on grass: Major Dhyan Chand, born in 1905, whose stick wrote history under Olympic skies.

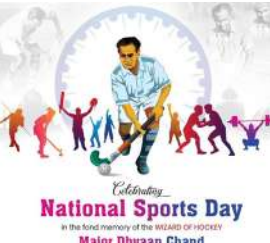
From Amsterdam in 1928 to Berlin in 1936, he delivered three consecutive Olympic gold medals. His name was whispered in Europe, feared in Asia, and adored back home. Even when the whistle fell silent, his magic lingered—echoing in India's later Olympic triumphs of 1948, 1952, 1956, and 1964.

National Sports Day, stitched into the national calendar in 2012, is not just remembrance but revival. In

2025, the celebration arrives with a call to action: 'Ek Ghanta, Khel ke Maidan Main,' an hour of play for every Indian. From August 29 to 31, the Fit India Mission urges citizens to sweat not for medals, but for life itself. Sixty minutes of movement, the ministry reminds, is the cheapest insurance against lifestyle diseases.

Across the nation, eminent athletes are stepping out of their fame and into dusty playgrounds—from state capitals to village fields. Public representatives join them, lending politics the freshness of sport. The message is unmistakable: sport is not a spectacle alone, it is survival, discipline, and joy.

For Dhyan Chand, it was magic. His stick once had to



be broken to check if it contained a hidden magnet, so inseparable was the ball from it. At the Berlin Olympics of 1936, even Adolf Hitler, awestruck, offered him a high military post in Germany, an offer politely declined. He left the field but never the nation's memory. Nearly fifty years after his passing in 1979, his aura still defines Indian hockey and inspires this celebration.

Yet National Sports Day is not confined to hockey

alone. It embraces India's entire sporting canvas—kabaddi, kho-kho, gilli-danda, badminton, tennis, football, and of course, the religion of cricket. Ironically, India has no official national game, though hockey has reclaimed glory with Olympic bronze and World Cup resurgence, while kabaddi has found new heroes through professional leagues.

When sports thrive, so do sportspersons. Cricket has given us Sachin Tendulkar and Virat Kohli; football, Bhiauchung Bhutia and Sunil Chhetri; hockey, Dhanraj Pillay and PR Sreejesh. Badminton scaled global peaks with PV Sindhu and Saina Nehwal, while tennis found glory through Leander Paes and Sania Mir-

za. Mary Kom's fists and Viswanathan Anand's mind showed that India breeds champions in every corner.

Since 2012, National Sports Day has been a time for schools, colleges and communities to honour not only a legend but the larger movement of fitness and unity through play. It is more than a ritual, it is a revolution in spirit.

So the day stands as both homage and horizon. Homage to a man whose stick was sharper than a sword, and horizon for a nation where play is not luxury but way of life. On August 29, India celebrates sport not as pastime but as pulse. And if Dhyan Chand's spirit watches, somewhere between memory and myth, it must smile, because the game goes on.

## Assam triumphs over West Bengal to win 64th Subroto Cup Junior Girls title

**New Delhi** : In a thrilling conclusion to the Junior Girls category of the 64th edition

of Subroto Cup International Football Tournament, Team Betkuchi High School, Assam emerged victorious by 3-1 over Team Nandajhar Adibashi Pashili High School, West Bengal to claim the prestigious title.

The final match, held at the historic Ambedkar Stadium, showcased the best of youth football and was attended by an enthusiastic crowd.

For Assam, Milina Brahma (24'), Sayasree Sangma (12'), Mari Meech (29') scored the goals, while Neha Baroi (21') remained the single goal scorer from West Bengal.

The final was graced by Air Marshal Narmadeshwar Tiwari, VM Vice Chief of the



Air Staff, who was the Chief Guest. Arjuna Awardee and Olympic Gold Medalist Navdeep Singh Para athlete (Javelin thrower) was the Guest of Honour for the occasion.

The day's events commenced with a grand performance by the Air Warrior Drill Team (AWDT), which was followed by a vibrant

cultural performance by students from the Air Force Golden Jubilee Institute.

The winners received Rs. 5,00,000 while the runner-up received Rs. 3,00,000.

With the conclusion of the Junior Girls final, the 64th Subroto Cup action will now shift to Bengaluru for the Sub-Junior Boys (U-15) tournament, scheduled for September 2 to 11.



| BSE Sensex     |                |  | Nifty 50       |                |  | Nifty 500      |                |  | Nifty Next 50  |                |  | Nifty 100      |                |  | Nifty Bank     |                |  | Nifty Midcap 100 |                |  |
|----------------|----------------|--|----------------|----------------|--|----------------|----------------|--|----------------|----------------|--|----------------|----------------|--|----------------|----------------|--|------------------|----------------|--|
| Close          | Percent change |  | Close          | Percent change |  | Close          | Percent change |  | Close          | Percent change |  | Close          | Percent change |  | Close          | Percent change |  | Close            | Percent change |  |
| 79,809.65      | -0.34%         |  | 24,426.85      | -0.30%         |  | 22,462.95      | -0.35%         |  | 65,745.75      | -0.30%         |  | 25,003.05      | -0.30%         |  | 53,655.65      | -0.31%         |  | 55,727.40        | -0.57%         |  |
| Previous close | Open           |  | Previous close | Open           |  | Previous close | Open           |  | Previous close | Open           |  | Previous close | Open           |  | Previous close | Open           |  | Previous close   | Open           |  |
| 80,080.57      | 80,010.83      |  | 24,500.90      | 24,466.70      |  | 22,541.65      | 22,524.15      |  | 65,940.30      | 65,960.75      |  | 25,078.50      | 25,050.80      |  | 53,820.35      | 53,660.35      |  | 56,047.50        | 56,012.00      |  |
| High           | Low            |  | High           | Low            |  | High           | Low            |  | High           | Low            |  | High           | Low            |  | High           | Low            |  | High             | Low            |  |
| 80,310.74      | 79,741.76      |  | 24,572.45      | 24,404.70      |  | 22,624.70      | 22,443.80      |  | 66,305.95      | 65,544.85      |  | 25,161.10      | 24,979.80      |  | 54,086.00      | 53,606.45      |  | 56,348.35        | 55,660.35      |  |

Top Gainers

| Company         | Current  | % Gain |
|-----------------|----------|--------|
| ITC             | 409.50   | 2.15   |
| Shriram Finance | 580.25   | 1.50   |
| Bharat Elec     | 369.00   | 1.42   |
| Trent           | 5,301.00 | 1.25   |
| Asian Paints    | 2,516.80 | 1.12   |

Top Losers

| Company         | Current  | %Loss |
|-----------------|----------|-------|
| M&M             | 3,195.30 | -3.03 |
| Infosys         | 1,469.30 | -2.05 |
| Reliance        | 1,359.70 | -1.89 |
| Apollo Hospital | 7,609.00 | -1.54 |
| Adani Enterpris | 2,243.00 | -1.42 |

Commodities

| Commodity         | Price      | Change (%)     |
|-------------------|------------|----------------|
| Gold Oct 03       | 102,720.00 | 620.00<br>0.61 |
| Silver Sep 05     | 117,496.00 | 322.00<br>0.27 |
| Crudeoil Sep 19   | 5,684.00   | 65.00<br>1.16  |
| Naturalgas Sep 25 | 264.10     | 2.70<br>1.03   |

UNIQLO opens first store in Bengaluru, Rahul Dravid joins launch

**Bengaluru:** Global apparel retailer UNIQLO today opened its first-ever store in Bengaluru at Orion Mall, Brigade Gateway, with former India cricket captain Rahul Dravid joining the launch celebrations.

Spread over 9,012 sq ft, the outlet marks UNIQLO’s 17th store in India and its first in South India. Dravid, a local Bengalurean, participated in the ribbon-cutting ceremony, drawing a crowd of fans and customers.

“Today marks a significant milestone as we enter South India with the launch of our first store in Bengaluru,” Kenji Inoue, Chief Operating Officer & Chief Financial Officer, UNIQLO India, said. “This debut has been long awaited, and we are truly encouraged by the warm and positive response from our customers in Bengaluru.”

Dravid said he admired UNIQLO for its “timeless style, functionality and simplicity” and expressed confidence that the city would

embrace the brand’s LifeWear philosophy.

The first 100 shoppers received exclusive offers, including gift vouchers, UNIQLO’s signature round mini bag, tote bags, and discounts on purchases.

Nirupa Shankar, Joint Managing Director, Brigade Group, said the arrival of UNIQLO enhances Orion Mall’s lineup of international fashion brands and strengthens its position as a “preferred shopping destination”.

The store houses UNIQLO’s LifeWear range for men, women, children, and babies, including its Fall/Winter 2025 collections with technologies such as HEATTECH, PUFFTECH, and AIRism, along with premium fabrics like denim, fleece, and cashmere.

Founded in Japan, UNIQLO is part of Fast Retailing Co. Ltd, one of the world’s largest apparel companies, with more than 2,500 stores globally.

Air India Express launches ‘PayDay Sale’, bookings open till Sep 1

**Kochi :** Air India Express, India’s first international value carrier, has announced the launch of a limited-period ‘PayDay Sale’ across its domestic and international network, with bookings open until September 1, 2025.

On the domestic sector, logged-in members can avail Xpress Lite fares starting from Rs 1,299 (with zero check-in baggage) and Xpress Value fares from Rs 1,349.

For international routes, the PayDay Sale fares begin from Rs 4,876 for Xpress Lite and Rs 5,403 for Xpress Value. These discounted fares are valid for travel until March 31, 2026, the airline said in a release here on Friday.

Bookings can be made through the airline’s website airindiaexpress.com and its mobile app. Xpress Lite bookings made on the mobile app carry Zero Convenience Fees.

This fare option also provides access to discounted check-in baggage rates — Rs 1,000 for 15 kg on domestic flights and Rs 1,300 for 20 kg on international flights, a release said.

The airline has rolled out additional loyalty benefits, including 25 per cent off on Xpress Biz fares and 20 per cent off on Biz Upgrades for domestic bookings. Xpress Biz, the business-class equivalent, offers enhanced legroom, complimentary Gourmair hot meals, higher baggage allowance (25 kg on domestic and 40 kg on international routes), and Xpress Ahead priority services. Biz seating is currently available on more than 40 newly-inducted Boeing 737-8 aircraft.

Logged-in members also enjoy 20 per cent discounts on Gourmair meals, standard and prime seat selection, Xpress Ahead priority services, 10 kg excess check-in baggage, 3 kg extra carry-on baggage, and the opportunity to earn up to 8 per cent NeuCoins on every purchase.

In addition, Air India Express continues to extend concessions to students, senior citizens, armed forces personnel and their dependents.

The airline also offers flexible payment options on its website, including EMI and Buy Now, Pay Later plans, ensuring added convenience for travellers.

Sensex, Nifty slip as heavyweights drag stock markets amid tariff concerns

**Mumbai:** The Indian equity indices ended the session lower on Friday amid selling in heavyweights led by Reliance. The investors remained cautious amid US tariff concerns, adopting a mixed approach.

Sensex ended the session at 79,809.65, down 270.92 points or 0.34 per cent. The 30-share index opened flat at 80,010.83 against the last session’s closing of 80,080.57. The Index traded flat most of the time before falling over 0.3 per cent in the closing hour, touching an intra-day low at 79,741.76.

Nifty closed at 24,426.85, down 74.05 points or 0.30 per cent. "Investor sentiment remained cautious as markets attempted to digest the full impact of the US tariff. The persistence of this issue is likely to heighten the future competitiveness of India's exports in some areas," said Vinod



Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Investments Limited.

While generally the pressure is also likely to weigh on Indian currency, driving it to depreciation. Equity benchmarks underperformed, with mid- and small-cap segments particularly affected by risk aversion and stretched valuations. In contrast, FMCG stocks sustained their upward momentum, supported by expectations of GST rate rationalisation and stronger consumer demand, he added.

Mahindra and Mahindra,

Reliance, Infosys, Tata Motors, NTPC, Tech Mahindra, HDFC Bank, Titan, and Axis Bank settled in negative territory from the Sensex basket. ITC, BEL, L&T, Tata Steel, PowerGrid, SunPharma, and HCL Tech were the top gainers. The majority of sectoral indices settled in negative territory amid a mixed approach. Nifty Fin Services fell 72.60 points or 0.28 per cent, Nifty Bank slipped 164 points or 0.31 per cent, Nifty Auto dipped 222 points or 0.88 per cent, and Nifty IT closed the ses-

sion 307 points or 0.87 per cent down. Nifty FMCG soared 528 points or 0.95 per cent.

Broader Indices followed suit as well. Nifty Smallcap 100 ended the session 67 points or 0.39 per cent lower, Nifty Midcap 100 dipped 320 points or 0.57 per cent, and Nifty 100 ended the session 75 points or 0.30 per cent lower. "The rupee hit an all-time low of 88.20, falling by another 0.60 (0.70 per cent), as pressure mounted after the US implemented tariffs on Indian products, raising concerns over a widening fiscal deficit." While the upcoming GST council decision is expected to lend some support, markets are awaiting clarity on the final GST changes before taking a decisive view. Sentiment remains weak, and the rupee is expected to trade within a range of 87.65-88.45," said Jateen Trivedi of LKP Securities.

Equity mutual funds witness surge in inflows: ICRA Analytics

**Kolkata :** Market volatility notwithstanding, equity mutual funds continue to maintain their sheen with retail investors steadily investing in these schemes with an aim towards long-term wealth creation. The net AUM (Asset under Management) of equity mutual funds surged by 335.31 per cent at Rs 33.32 lakh crore in July 2025, up from Rs 7.65 lakh crore in July 2020.

SIPs have become a popular tool for managing volatility, allowing investors to invest a fixed amount regu-

larly, benefiting from rupee cost averaging like buying more units when prices are low and fewer when prices are high, ICRA Analytics said today.

Inflows into equity mutual funds have witnessed a steady rise growing from an outflow of (Rs 3,845 crore) in July 2020 to an inflow of Rs 42,673 crore in July 2025. On a year-on-year basis, inflows have increased by 15.08 per cent from Rs 37,082 crore in July 2024, while month-on-month, it has gone up by nearly 81.06



per cent as compared with Rs 23,568 crore in June 2025.

Commenting on the AMFI data for the month of July 2025, Ashwini Kumar, senior vice president and head market data, ICRA Analytics, said, "Inflows into equity mutual funds has wit-

nessed a sharp rise in the last few years as investors are increasingly adopting a long-term perspective, recognizing that short-term market fluctuations are part of the journey toward wealth creation". Historical data shows that markets tend to

recover and reward patient investors over time. Sectoral/thematic funds drew the highest inflows at Rs 9,426.03 crore as investors, particularly in the retail segment, continue to seek new growth opportunities and explore avenues to generate alpha or higher returns. This was followed by flexi cap funds and small cap funds which attracted inflows to the tune of Rs 7,654.33 crore and Rs 6,484.43 crore respectively as investors prefer diversified allocation and higher returns, said Kumar.

Tesla’s Europe problem just got even worse

**London :** Auto maker Tesla reported a drop in its sales again in Europe in July as car buyers continued their migration to Chinese rival BYD.

Elon Musk’s carmaker sold 6,600 models in the EU in July, a 42.4 percent fell from the same month last year, according to data from the European Automobile Manufacturers’ Association (ACEA).

In the first seven months of 2025, Tesla sold around 77,000 cars in the EU, down from 137,000 in the same period in 2024, reports CNN.

Meanwhile, BYD, the burgeoning, ultra-cheap Chinese electric and plug-in hybrid carmaker, continues

to put its stamp on Europe.

Its sales jumped 206.4 pc in July against 2024 figures. The 9,698 models BYD sold in July means it is now out-selling Tesla.

Musk’s foray into politics didn’t just anger American liberals; his support of far-right parties in Germany and the UK also prompted protests outside Europe.

And in Europe and China, Tesla has faced competition from lower-priced offerings from BYD, competition it doesn’t have to worry about in the US market.

Wider analysis that includes the UK and countries from the European Free Trade Association, like Norway, Denmark and Sweden,

shows a similar sales drop for Tesla (TSLA) alongside a 225% increase for BYD in July.

Through all of 2025, Tesla has still outsold BYD by just under 35,000 models across the EU, the UK and the EFTA.

Sales of Chinese-branded cars are soaring across Europe. BYD in particular has increased its foothold, despite EV imports to the EU facing 27 pc tariffs following an anti-subsidy investigation by the bloc last year.

BYD still holds a price advantage over rivals including Tesla. Meanwhile, its technological advancements are also helping it pull

The group revealed a

breakthrough to its battery charging technology in March that it said added 250 miles of range in five minutes, outpacing Tesla’s 200 miles in 15 minutes.

BYD’s “God’s Eye,” a rival to Tesla’s full-self driving technology, was launched at no extra cost for most of its cars in February.

BYD also holds an advantage over Tesla in its diverse offering of EVs and hybrid vehicles, whereas Tesla only produces EVs. This has helped shield BYD from shifting consumer preferences in Europe.

Research firm Jato Dynamics first reported that BYD had overtaken Tesla’s European sales in April.

Tesla is now one of the worst-selling car groups across Europe, ahead of only Honda (HND) and Mitsubishi. The company’s struggles on the continent reflect economic, structural and even political shifts that are changing car buyers’ preferences.

Electric car sales growth has slowed across Europe in recent years owing to a reduction in incentives to switch to EVs, concerns over battery life and a lack of charging infrastructure.

European buyers are showing a preference for hybrid electric cars, which control more than one-third of Europe’s new car market.

GST reforms to benefit common man, offset US import duty hike: Bank of Baroda Economist

**Chennai :** The Indian government’s decision to rationalise the Goods and Services Tax (GST) will not only put more money into the common man’s purse but also negate the effects of import duty hike by the US, states Dipanwita Mazumdar, Economist, Bank of Baroda.

In a report, Mazumdar said one can clearly see that the current reforms of reduction in tax rates have been targeted towards sectors whose share of exports to the US is higher in India’s overall export profile.

“Textile, chemical products, poultry and dairy items, especially condensed milk, butter, ghee etc. would receive significant benefit from a lower tax rate,” the report notes.

The sectors affected by the US import duty hike will benefit from the GST reduction as they migrate from a higher tax bracket to a lower one.

According to the report readymade garments (33.4 percent of exports to the US),

chemicals and related products (24.3 percent), poultry and dairy products (23.1%), and miscellaneous processed items (15 percent) will move from a 12 percent GST to 5 percent. Additionally, the GST on machinery and instruments (19.6 percent) will decrease from 18 percent to 5 percent.

Mazumdar mentioned that Indian consumers are likely to benefit further from the recently announced GST reforms, which focus on rationalizing and simplifying the existing tax structure.

One of the major reliefs for consumers will be the shift from the current four-tier structure to a two-tier system.

Most notably, the higher 12 percent rate will be reduced to 5 percent, and the 28 percent rate will be brought down to 18 percent.

Thus, the majority of consumer goods which lie within this bracket, especially FMCG and durable goods, are likely to benefit under the baseline scenario.

ISRO’s 119 earth observation satellite- Rs.40,000-70,000 crore opportunity

**Chennai:** A business opportunity valued between Rs.40,000 and Rs.70,000 for the Indian space sector over the next 15 years was put out in the open by a senior official of the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) at the recently held National Meet 2.0.

Speaking at the conference, Nilesh M Desai, Director, ISRO’s Space Applications Centre said India plans to orbit 103 earth observation and 19 technology demonstration satellites over the next 15 years or by 2040.

Desai also said plans to launch about 160 communication satellites including a constellation of 140 satellites in the Low Earth Orbit (LEO) and Medium Earth Orbit (MEO) to provide broadband connectivity like Starlink, OneWeb and others.

Desai said the 20 communication satellites will be placed in geosynchronous orbit (GEO) and will be made through ISRO/ NewSpace India Ltd (NSIL) and private players.

According to Desai, the earth observation satellites will also be realised by ISRO and private players.

The distribution of earth observation satellites based on weight will be as follows: one satellite weighing less

than 100kg; 9 satellites ranging between 100-200 kg; 66 satellites – 200-500 kg; 38 satellites-500-1,000 kg and 5 satellites- over 1,000 kg.

“For the list above, the total business value should be around Rs.40,000-50,000 crore. Considering the present value it should escalate with time at least by five percent,” Dr.S.Somanath, former Chairman, ISRO told this writer.

“India is on steroids. We see unprecedented growth. We are at a tipping point. One can expect approximately 100 launches in the coming 5-6 years. Depending on the payload it will be a combination of launch vehicles being used,” reacted Jagat S Parikh, President, Strategy & Growth, Walchandnagar Industries Ltd to this writer.

The company is into heavy engineering catering to India’s strategic sectors like defence, nuclear, aerospace and several other industrial products.

When queried as to what the 119 earth observation satellites would translate into value satellite, rockets and ground equipment- industry experts gave varied estimates.

Even the lower estimate is lucrative enough for the sector as a whole to

salivate.

“The blended cost per satellite will be about Rs.300 crore. So the 119 earth observation satellite business value will be about Rs.35,700 crore. As regards the rockets, the average cost per vehicle will be about Rs.350 crore. A total of 90 rockets will be needed, assuming 60 rockets with a single satellite and 30 rockets with two satellites. So the total business value of satellites plus rockets will be about Rs.71,700

crore,” Tapan Misra, Founder Sisir Radar and former Director of Space Applications Centre, ISRO told this writer.

It should be noted that the opportunity is not only for satellite manufacturers but also for the makers of rockets and ground equipment.



crore. The rocket cost will also average to Rs.350 crore per vehicle as the orbit will be a mix of GEO/MEO/LEO.

On the other hand, space sector consultant Mukund K Rao’s estimate matches that of Somanath.

A former Deputy Director (Technology and Systems) at ISRO Rao told this writer that to put into orbit the 119 earth observation satellites, one may need about 50 rockets-a ballpark figure- as many satellites could get launched as piggyback or as a cluster.

“So we are talking of almost 170 space systems (satellites and rockets) in 15 years,” Rao said.

Stating ISRO must have worked out the cost model for the 119 earth observation satellites, Rao said the maximum weight of the total satellites as mentioned in Desai’s presentation-may be about 80,000 kg or could be lesser too. “Globally the best launch cost today is less than USD 3,000/kg or maybe we can look at USD 5,000-6,000/kg in future. Indian launch systems can be very competitive in costs. This could mean, at a ballpark, a cost of around Rs.3,000-4000 crore for launching these 80,000 kg/ 119 satellites if our launch systems can be at comparable

world costs and tremendous innovations built in to scale. Over 15 years it may average at Rs. 300 crore per year,” Rao remarked.

As regards the satellite cost, Rao said the recent Resourcesat cost was around Rs.100 crore.

“A global high class, high resolution PAN (panchromatic imaging) satellite in the US would cost about 100 million USD (about Rs.850 crore),” Rao said. Stating that Indian costs have been proven to be much competitive based on the past earth observation missions, the cost of the proposed 119 satellites which are of varying weight and imaging capability class Rao guesses it is all about Rs.20,000-30,000 crore over 15 years at an average of Rs.2,000 crore per year. There would be additional costs of ground systems, operations, insurance (if at all), applications/user segment development, business and marketing and others- mostly one time costs- and it would be about Rs.2,000-5,000 crore over 15 years, Rao added. “We are talking of about Rs.40,000-50,000 crore over 15 years for this Plan that has been presented in the National Space meet. Not a great deal for India today,” Rao said.