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EC Launches Door-To-Door Voter Drive

Poll panel orders special enrolment campaign across 20 states and UTs after SIR, asking BLOs to trace eligible voters missing from revised rolls

New Delhi : The Election Commission has ordered a special door-to-door drive to identify and enrol eligible voters left out of electoral rolls in states and Union Territories where the Special Intensive Revision has been completed, marking a significant corrective step amid continuing controversy over large-scale deletions.

Booth Level Officers have been instructed to compare current electoral rolls with pre-SIR lists and identify electors whose names appeared earlier but are now missing. They will then visit their homes, verify their status and help eligible citizens submit Form 6 applications for re-enrolment.

The Commission has asked BLOs to cover around 20 to 25 such electors every week, with the exercise expected to be completed in roughly one month.

Lists will also be shared with



booth-level agents of recognised political parties, while Electoral Registration Officers will ultimately decide applications under electoral law.

The move is significant because

SIR has come under intense political scrutiny following substantial reductions between pre-revision and revised voter databases.

According to reported EC data, the second SIR phase covering 12

states and Union Territories saw the number of electors decline from more than 509.9 million to about 458.1 million. Subsequent revision processes have also involved large numbers of exclusions, additions and corrections.

Opposition parties have alleged that legitimate voters were improperly removed. The Election Commission has maintained that revision is intended to remove ineligible entries while protecting every eligible citizen's right to enrol.

The special drive does not establish that previous deletions were unlawful. Its significance is operational: the Commission is now proactively asking its field machinery to find eligible citizens who may have fallen out of the rolls and facilitate their return. The exercise is expected to help address genuine omissions and improve the accuracy and completeness of electoral rolls.



Internet suspended, Metro stations shut and hundreds detained as protesters demand CEC Gyanesh Kumar's resignation over SIR controversy

New Delhi : The continuing confrontation over India's electoral rolls spilled onto the streets of the national capital on Friday, with authorities suspending internet services around Jantar Mantar, restricting Metro access and detaining hundreds of protesters demanding the resignation of Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar.

Telecom operators were directed to suspend internet connectivity between 9 am and 9 pm within approximately 1.5 kilometres of Jantar Mantar, according to people familiar with the restrictions.

Entry and exit at multiple Delhi Metro stations were also closed, although interchange facilities remained available at major stations.

Delhi Police denied permission for the planned protest and imposed security restrictions around Jantar Mantar and adjoining parts of central Delhi.

Police detained hundreds of demonstrators, including activists and political participants. AAP leader Saurabh Bhardwaj was among those removed from the protest area.

The protesters accuse the Election Commission of irregularities in the Special Intensive Revision of electoral rolls and have demanded Kumar's resignation.

Those allegations remain contested and have not been established by a court. The Election Commission has defended the revision exercise and says final institutional decisions were taken collectively.

The protests follow reports that Election Commissioners Sukhbir Singh Sandhu and Vivek Joshi recorded objections or concerns on several issues during internal deliberations.

Separately, the EC has ordered a special drive to trace eligible voters missing after SIR and facilitate their enrolment. Friday's developments show that the controversy has moved beyond political statements and institutional correspondence.

It is now simultaneously unfolding through street protests, Election Commission corrective measures and pending judicial proceedings. The restrictions imposed in the heart of Delhi have consequently transformed the SIR dispute into one of the day's biggest national political stories.

Amit Shah Steps Into Mahanadi Battle

New Delhi : Union Home Minister Amit Shah has intervened in the long-running Mahanadi water dispute between Odisha and Chhattisgarh, bringing the chief ministers of both states together in an effort to find a negotiated solution to one of India's major inter-state river conflicts. Odisha Chief Minister Mohan Charan Mahi and Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai participated in the Centre-led discussions.

The two sides agreed to continue data sharing and consultations for about a month as officials work towards a mutually acceptable framework. The dispute concerns sharing and management of Mahanadi waters, particularly the impact of upstream projects in Chhattisgarh on downstream availability in Odisha. It has persisted for more than a decade and previously went before the Mahanadi Water Disputes Tribunal before the matter moved into further institutional consultation. Chhattisgarh has called for a fair and sustainable settlement based on scientific assessment and transparency,

while Odisha has repeatedly emphasised the need to protect downstream interests. Thursday-Friday's discussions do not amount to a final settlement. Their significance lies in the decision to pursue intensive data exchange and political consultation rather than allowing the disagreement to remain frozen. Shah's involvement brings the Union government directly into the effort to bridge differences.

If the next month's consultations produce common ground, the talks could offer a path towards resolving a dispute that has survived multiple governments. For Odisha and Chhattisgarh, however, any agreement will ultimately be judged by whether it protects water security for farmers and communities in both states.

The upcoming consultations are expected to focus on balancing the water requirements of both states, improving transparency in water management and finding a sustainable framework that addresses the concerns of farmers and communities dependent on the Mahanadi.

Anti-EC Protests Spread Beyond Delhi

Mumbai/New Delhi : Protests demanding the resignation of Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar spread beyond Delhi on Friday, with a large demonstration in Mumbai over the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls.

Demonstrators gathered at Shivaji Park for an October 2 mobilisation. Similar protests in Delhi led to large-scale detentions, Metro restrictions and an internet shutdown around Jantar Mantar.

Protesters alleged improper deletions from electoral rolls and cited objections by

two Election Commissioners. The Election Commission rejected claims of political motivation, saying decisions were taken collectively. The allegations remain contested, with no court ruling that SIR was designed to favour any political party. The EC has removed the additional SIR declaration from Form 6 in states where revision is complete and ordered a door-to-door exercise to identify eligible voters missing from revised rolls. Opposition parties have announced further action, while the Supreme Court is expected to consider legal challenges.

Vishvendra Singh Announces Exit From Congress

Jaipur : Former Rajasthan minister Vishvendra Singh on Friday announced his decision to leave the Congress amid an escalating dispute with the party's state leadership over organisational functioning and the handling of recent local body elections.

Singh, a prominent political figure from Bharatpur, has criticised Rajasthan Congress president Govind Singh Dotasra and sections of the party organisation in Bharatpur and Deeg. He alleged that committed Congress workers were ignored during ticket distribution and had earlier demanded Dotasra's removal as state

party chief.

Announcing his decision, Singh said he was unwilling to continue with policies he disagreed with and wanted to act according to his conscience. However, there was no immediate confirmation that the Congress had formally received or accepted his resignation.

Dotasra rejected suggestions of a major organisational crisis and accused the BJP of trying to portray divisions within the opposition party. Singh, who served as tourism minister in the previous Ashok Gehlot-led government, has represented Rajasthan in both Parliament and the Assembly.

Rajasthan Draws Up Drought Battle Plan

16 districts, thousands of villages face water and fodder pressure as state prepares coordinated relief strategy

Jaipur : The Rajasthan government has begun preparing a comprehensive action plan to deal with drought-like conditions and growing shortages of drinking water and fodder across several parts of the state. Around 16,400 villages and 52 urban centres spread across 16 districts are reported to be facing varying degrees of stress, prompting the administration to step up emergency measures.

Four senior IAS officers have been assigned the task of preparing a detailed

strategy covering drinking water, fodder availability, rural employment and other immediate requirements. The assessment is expected to form the basis of further relief measures, including possible additional financial support for severely affected areas.

Western Rajasthan is among the regions facing substantial pressure. Bikaner, Jodhpur, Nagaur and Jaipur have a large number of affected villages, while Balotra, Jalore, Ajmer, Pali, Phalodi, Jaisalmer, Churu,

Bikaner, Beawar and Sirohi are also under close watch.

The government has already deployed hundreds of vehicles and thousands of personnel to maintain drinking-water supplies. Additional vehicles have been sanctioned for emergency work, including repairs to defunct hand pumps. District administrations have also been given financial powers to make urgent local arrangements.

Chief Secretary V. Srinivas has directed officials to assess available water

reserves against projected requirements in the coming weeks. Special attention is also being given to districts dependent on the Indira Gandhi Canal system.

The emerging situation has placed water security and rural relief high on the government's agenda, with the effectiveness and speed of the proposed action plan likely to be crucial for thousands of affected communities. The government is also monitoring fodder supplies to prevent shortages from worsening.



Railways raises Katra-Banihal speed limit as train crosses world's highest railway arch bridge and India's first cable-stayed rail bridge at record operational speed

New Delhi/Jammu : Indian Railways achieved a major milestone in Jammu and Kashmir on Friday as the Jammu-Srinagar Vande Bharat Express crossed both the Chenab and Anji railway bridges at 100 kmph for the first time.

The breakthrough followed an increase in the maximum permissible speed on the 111-km Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra-Banihal section from 75 kmph to 100 kmph. The upgraded speed was successfully tested with Vande Bharat train numbers 26401/26404.

Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw described the achievement as a historic moment for Jammu and Kashmir's railway network. The Chenab Bridge is the world's highest railway arch bridge and represents one of the most challenging engineering components of the Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Rail Link.

The Anji Bridge is India's first cable-stayed railway bridge. Running trains faster across these structures therefore involves more than simply increasing loco-

motive speed. Track geometry, signalling, bridge performance and other operational parameters must support the higher permissible limit.

The speed enhancement is expected to improve operations and reduce travel time on the Katra-Banihal section. The corridor has strategic and economic significance because it provides railway connectivity between the Kashmir Valley and the wider national network.

Friday also saw the inaugural run of the Surat-Udaipur Vande Bharat Express, further expanding the premium semi-high-speed network. Railways has simultaneously been investing in Kavach train-protection technology, electrification, track expansion and station redevelopment.

For the October 3 edition, however, the Jammu-Srinagar development stands out. For the first time, a Vande Bharat crossed two of India's most celebrated railway engineering structures at 100 kmph — a tangible operational upgrade on one of the country's most difficult railway corridors.

Rs 1,274 Crore Canal Push Gets Green Light

Four major reservoirs planned under Indira Gandhi Canal Project to strengthen Rajasthan's long-term water security

Bikaner : Rajasthan has approved a major investment of Rs 1,274.26 crore for strengthening the Indira Gandhi Canal Project, with four large escape reservoirs forming the centrepiece of the plan. The proposed reservoirs will together have the capacity to store about 8,746 MCFT of water.

The reservoirs are proposed at RD 507, RD 750, RD 1121 and RD 1356. The objective is to conserve additional canal water whenever available and use the stored supply during periods of high agricultural and drinking-water demand.

The decision assumes greater significance as several districts of

Rajasthan are presently facing rainfall deficits and increasing pressure on water resources. The broader programme also includes strengthening and renovation of important parts of the canal network. Works are being undertaken on the Sagarmal Gopa branch, Baba Ramdev sub-branch, Phalodi Lift Canal, sections of the main canal and several distributaries. Renovation of watercourses covering nearly 2.20 lakh hectares is also being taken up under earlier budget announcements. Sprinkler irrigation infrastructure is being expanded across approximately 1.18 lakh hectares to promote more efficient use of available water.

Additional irrigation modernisation works worth about Rs 550 crore have also been announced under the 2026-27 budget. The Indira Gandhi Canal system has enormous strategic importance for Rajasthan. Apart from irrigating vast agricultural areas, it supplies drinking water to numerous settlements and supports defence establishments, industries and energy projects.

The latest investment is therefore expected to strengthen both irrigation capacity and long-term water security, particularly in the drought-prone western districts where dependable water availability remains a major challenge.

The project is also expected to improve the reliability of water supply during peak summer months, when demand for irrigation and drinking water rises sharply. Better storage capacity could help reduce dependence on immediate canal flows and provide greater flexibility in managing water releases.

Officials are also expected to focus on timely completion and efficient maintenance of the upgraded infrastructure. The expanded storage and modernisation measures could help Rajasthan make better use of available canal water and support farmers in areas vulnerable to recurring water shortages.

New Vande Bharat Connects Udaipur With Surat

Udaipur : Rail connectivity between Rajasthan and Gujarat has received a major upgrade with the introduction of a new Vande Bharat Express connecting Udaipur City with Surat.

The inaugural service operated on October 2, while regular passenger operations are scheduled to begin from October 3. The eight-coach train will run six days a week, with Tuesday designated as the weekly non-operating day.

Under the regular timetable, the Udaipur City-Surat service will depart Udaipur at 3.35 pm and reach Surat at 11 pm. The return service from Surat is scheduled to leave at 6.10 am and arrive in Udaipur at 1.40 pm.

The train will stop at several important stations, including Bharuch, Vadodara, Anand, Maninagar, Asarwa, Himmatnagar, Shamlaji Road, Dungarpur and Jawar.

The route is expected to benefit passengers travelling between southern Rajasthan and Gujarat for business, employment, education and tourism. It will also improve premium rail connectivity for areas in Rajasthan's tribal belt.

Passenger interest in the new service is expected to remain strong during the approaching festive travel period.

The introduction of the Surat connection also brings changes to the existing Vande Bharat network serving Udaipur, with the earlier

Udaipur City-Asarwa service being discontinued as part of the revised arrangement.

For Udaipur, one of Rajasthan's most important tourism centres, direct premium connectivity with Surat could provide an additional boost to tourism and commercial travel.

The service also strengthens Rajasthan's rail links with major economic centres in neighbouring Gujarat while reducing dependence on conventional long-distance services for passengers travelling along the corridor.

The new service is expected to offer faster and more convenient travel for passengers across the Udaipur-Gujarat corridor.

Two Intruders Shot Dead At Pakistan Border

Chandigarh : Border Security Force personnel shot dead two suspected Pakistani intruders along the India-Pakistan International Border in Punjab's Tarn Taran district on Friday. The incident took place near the BSF's Rajoke border post in the Khalra sector when the men allegedly attempted to cross into Indian territory.

The identities of the deceased had not been officially established at the time of initial reports. Authorities are expected to examine any documents, communication devices or other material recovered from them to determine their purpose and whether the crossing was linked to any criminal or security activity.

Security agencies maintain heightened surveillance along Punjab's international border due to previous cases involving narcotics, weapons and drones. However, Friday's incident has not been publicly linked to any such network, and the men are being described as suspected intruders pending investigation.

The immediate investigation will focus on identifying the two men, tracing how they reached the border and determining their intended purpose.

The investigation is expected to clarify whether the incident had any wider security implications.

Briefs

Kapasan Honors Gandhi And Shastri

Kapasan: The birth anniversaries of the Father of the Nation Mahatma Gandhi and former prime minister Lal Bahadur Shastri were observed with deep reverence, solemnity, and public enthusiasm.

Elected public representatives, civic officials, and local leaders gathered at the municipal headquarters to pay floral tributes before the portraits and statues of the revered national icons. Dignitaries recalled the immortal contributions of both leaders toward national integration, peace, truth, and unyielding public service. Attendees offered floral garlands and observed moments of silence to honor their enduring legacy.

Staff members, local councilors, and community members participated in the commemorative proceedings, reflecting on the timeless values of simplicity and dedication that continue to inspire generations of citizens across the nation

Grand Welcome For Sewa Sankalp Yatra

Kapasan: A grand reception was accorded by local party workers and town residents to a prominent regional tour procession upon its arrival in town during the afternoon hours. The incoming march drew enthusiastic participation from citizens, featuring a massive vehicle rally that traversed key commercial streets and main thoroughfares before culminating at a prominent central square. Local public representatives and organizational office-bearers showered flowers on the visiting delegation and felicitated the participants amid an atmosphere of deep devotional fervor and patriotic celebrations. Addressing the gathering, a senior public representative emphasized that the statewide yatra serves as a unique symbol of selfless service, dedication, and collective public resolve. The vibrant program witnessed active attendance from numerous local leaders, front-line coordinators, community representatives, and enthusiastic supporters who cheered for national unity and regional progress throughout the celebratory event.

Municipal Board Approves Diwali Fair

Kapasan: The newly constituted municipal board convened its inaugural general meeting to chart out a comprehensive roadmap for regional development and community celebrations. Chaired by the civic head in a prominent municipal auditorium, the meeting began with a warm official welcome extended to all newly elected public representatives. The agenda centered primarily on organizing a grand five-day festival during the upcoming festive season, featuring traditional effigy burnings alongside vibrant cultural programs. Members unanimously approved a substantial estimated budget for the festivities, which will include musical events, poetic symposiums, and local sports competitions. The collaborative session witnessed active participation from council members, administrative officers, and community stakeholders, all pledging their commitment to enhance civic amenities and foster public harmony across the municipal area.

Lotus Blossoms In Panchayati Raj Polls Too Following Urban Wins Says Union Minister

Bhilwara: Amid rising political temperatures across the regional landscape, a senior federal minister has made a confident assertion regarding upcoming rural governance elections. While interacting with journalists and local reporters during his visit, the prominent leader expressed firm confidence that propelled by dedicated grassroots workers and the tangible achievements of the governing administration, the party will sweep the upcoming grassroots polls with an overwhelming majority, securing control over most rural and urban local bodies across the region.

Replying to queries regarding opposition reactions and criticisms concerning electoral processes, the Union minister launched a sharp counterattack against rival factions. He remarked that opposition parties have developed a



predictable habit of blaming electronic voting systems, administrative machinery, and procedural frameworks whenever facing defeat at the ballot box. He noted that since voters have decisively rejected their leadership, the same repetitive complaints are likely to surface again following future electoral outcomes.

Commenting on the dynamics of national alliances, the minister stated that such coalitions represent a collective assembly of entities repeatedly rejected by citizens nationwide. He criticized elements facing corruption allegations for attempting to undermine constitutional norms, making baseless remarks

against defense forces, and engaging in petty politics to mislead the public. Addressing potential plans for regional development, the minister highlighted the vast potential for expanding tourism infrastructure locally, noting that destinations organically grow around key focal points. He affirmed that

Students Take Out Anti-Drug Rally On Gandhi Jayanti In Amet As Officials Administer Pledge

Amet: Commemorating the birth anniversary of the Father of the Nation, students from local premier secondary and senior secondary educational institutions organized a vibrant anti-drug awareness rally passing through prominent commercial and residential zones of the municipal area.

The grand procession was officially flagged off by the sub-divisional administrative officer who encouraged the youth to champion social welfare and healthy lifestyle habits. Students marched enthusiastically through the streets, carrying banners, placards, and shouting slogans against substance abuse to educate local residents about the severe hazards of addiction.

The rally traversed key public squares, including the main bus stand, shopping markets, and prominent financial road intersections, before culminating at a central

historical square. Upon reaching the destination, the sub-divisional officer paid floral tributes to the statue of Mahatma Gandhi and administered a solemn anti-drug pledge to all participating students, teachers, and citizens, urging them never to touch intoxicants in their lives.

Senior education officers and institutional heads also addressed the gathering, emphasizing the duty of the younger generation to keep society clean and free from harmful additions.

Local community leaders and youth club representatives further highlighted that grassroots participation remains essential to eradicate substance abuse completely from rural and urban neighborhoods alike.

The event concluded with expressions of gratitude by local coordinators, marking a memorable observance of the national day.

Farmer Dies of Venomous Bite While Harvesting Peanuts in Bhilwara

Bhilwara: A tragic incident has been reported from the Bilod police station jurisdiction of Bhilwara district, where a thirty-seven-year-old farmer lost his life after being bitten by a venomous creature while harvesting a peanut crop in his agricultural field.

The sudden and unfortunate demise has plunged the grieving family into deep sorrow and sent a wave of mourning throughout the entire village. According to local police officials, the victim was identified as a resident of Dhakadkhedi village who was busy working in his fields when the fatal creature attacked him. Realizing the danger immediately after the venomous bite, the farmer managed to inform his brother about the mishap. Shocked family members rushed to the spot without delay and immediately arranged transport to take him to the nearest medical

facility for emergency treatment. However, the poison spread rapidly through his system, and the victim succumbed to the toxic effects before reaching the hospital. Police reached the scene upon receiving information, completed necessary legal formalities, and handed over the body to the bereaved relatives after conducting a post-mortem examination at the district hospital.

Local medical practitioners and rural health experts noted that prompt administration of anti-venom serum remains critical during agricultural accidents, urging field workers to exercise caution during peak harvesting hours. The sudden loss of the young family member has left relatives shattered, while villagers mourn the tragic end and demand better emergency medical infrastructure in remote farming belts.

Congress Leader Protests With Three Monkeys Over Civic Poll Blunder On Gandhi Jayanti

Bhilwara: Internal discord within the opposition party surfaced openly on the birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, as a local leader staged a unique and aggressive demonstration to protest against severe administrative and organizational lapses. The leader registered his strong resentment by taking out a symbolic foot march accompanied by three props representing the moral figures of Gandhi, holding a staff while walking all the way from a city club to the district organizational headquarters.

The demonstration began when the disgruntled leader paid floral tributes to the statue of the Father of the Nation situated near the starting point. Accompanied by the symbolic figures, he marched through the streets raising slogans before reaching the party office, where he offered another garland to a local bust and offered prayers for better



wisdom to prevail among the top management. Addressing onlookers and reporters during the march, the leader expressed deep frustration over being ignored for weeks after raising serious complaints regarding severe ticket allocation failures. He remarked that the current state of the provincial leadership closely mirrors

the legendary moral figures who refuse to see wrong, hear wrong, or speak out, which inspired his choice of protest props to highlight what he called total administrative apathy and silence.

The controversy stems from a major blunder during recent civic body elections where seventeen official party symbols failed to

reach legitimate candidates, leading to severe setbacks. The protesting leader accused specific unauthorized individuals of hijacking symbols and creating high-voltage drama outside administrative offices, which ultimately prevented seventeen hopeful candidates from entering the electoral contest altogether.

Due to these missing

symbols, the party could not field official contenders for key mayoral and deputy mayoral positions, leaving the rival political outfit to secure both top posts unopposed.

The leader described this outcome as an extremely shameful and unfortunate chapter for the organization, holding local and regional managers directly accountable for the humiliation.

Defending his actions against potential accusations of violating discipline, the leader maintained that he did not breach any organizational rules and that every dedicated worker possesses a fundamental right to voice grievances.

He concluded with a stern warning that if strict disciplinary measures are not initiated against the responsible office-bearers immediately, grassroots workers will escalate their protests more aggressively in the near future.

Congress Leaders And Citizens Pay Tributes To Gandhi And Shastri In Udaipur

Udaipur: Commemorating the birth anniversaries of the Father of the Nation Mahatma Gandhi and former prime minister Lal Bahadur Shastri, a series of commemorative programs were organized under the leadership of prominent public figures and local organizational office-bearers. The solemn observances commenced at a prominent public circle where participants gathered to pay floral tributes at the statue of the former prime minister, forming a human chain and raising patriotic slogans. Speakers addressed the gathering by recalling the inspiring simplicity, dedication to public service, and high moral standards embodied by the late leader.

The commemorative events subsequently moved to a historic public garden



where leaders and citizens paid floral homage before the statue of Mahatma Gandhi and engaged in the collective recitation of inspirational devotional verses. Organizers

highlighted that the timeless ideals of truth, non-violence, peace, cleanliness, self-reliance, and social harmony propagated by Mahatma Gandhi remain deeply relevant for contemporary

society and the nation. Later, a meeting held at a local party media center featured a solemn pledge administered to all attendees to distance themselves from the seven major social evils outlined by the Mahatma, which include politics without principle, wealth without work, pleasure without conscience, knowledge without character, commerce without morality, science without humanity, and worship without sacrifice. Participants resolved to integrate these ethical principles into their daily lives and public conduct. A large number of party functionaries, grassroots workers, and respectable citizens attended the programmes to honor the legacy of both national icons.

CID Intercept Nets Smuggler With 1.5 Kg Opium Near Sangam Culvert in Bhilwara

Bhilwara: Law enforcement authorities in the region have dealt another heavy blow to illegal drug trafficking networks following a precise intelligence input. Acting swiftly on specific operational tips provided by a specialized state-level intelligence unit based in Jaipur, local police successfully apprehended a cunning narcotics peddler in possession of approximately one and a half kilograms of high-grade contraband. The suspect was reportedly waiting near a local bridge structure to deliver the illegal consignment to a prospective buyer when vigilant officers thwarted his plans.

According to department details, officials received concrete

intelligence regarding illicit drug movement within the jurisdiction. The local station house officer mobilized an operational team and rushed directly to the designated spot near the bridge structure. Upon noticing the approaching law enforcement vehicle, a suspicious individual panicked and attempted to flee the scene on foot. Police personnel displayed exceptional alertness by chasing down and overpowering the suspect.

During an initial search of the cloth bag carried by the individual, officers recovered two separate packets containing suspicious granular matter. Official weighing procedures confirmed the seizure of one kilogram and four hundred forty-five grams of high-

grade opium. The accused was immediately placed under formal arrest, and a formal case was registered under the strict provisions of the relevant narcotics legislation.

Recognizing the gravity and broader implications of the drug syndicate, the investigation has been transferred to a senior circle officer for intensive probe.

The accused was presented before a local court and remanded into police custody for thorough interrogation regarding the original source of the contraband and the intended recipients.

Authorities anticipate that further interrogation will expose other prominent members linked to this widespread trafficking network.

Healthy Diet Rajasthan Campaign Set to Roll Out Across State From October 3 to 16

Jaipur: Under the leadership of the state chief executive and senior medical leadership, an extensive statewide public awareness campaign titled Healthy Diet Rajasthan is scheduled to launch to educate citizens about safe, nutritious, and wholesome food habits. Running from October 3 to 16, the comprehensive initiative will feature diverse community outreach events across schools, colleges,

medical facilities, and public spaces, anchored around the core motto of safe eating, healthy living, local consumption, and defeating food adulteration. Guided by senior administrative health officials, the campaign relies on active collaboration among food safety officers, mobile testing squads, academic institutions, and public establishments to spread vital health messages. The opening days

will focus on educational activities in schools where students receive guidance on maintaining balanced tiffin boxes, nutritious breakfast habits, millets consumption, proper handwashing techniques, and reading nutrition labels, alongside creative contests and student ambassador programs.

Subsequent phases will emphasize on-the-spot food testing using mobile laboratory vans to

demonstrate simple ways of detecting common adulterants in milk, ghee, edible oils, spices, and sweets while testing public samples directly. Mid-campaign programs will promote traditional wholesome meal plates featuring reduced salt, sugar, and oil alongside generous portions of seasonal fruits, vegetables, pulses, and locally grown coarse grains.

Citizens will also

receive practical training on verifying regulatory licenses, manufacturing dates, and expiration details before purchasing packaged goods.

Later stages will target institutional campuses such as university dining halls and hospital canteens to evaluate kitchen hygiene, food handler training, safe drinking water, and waste reduction practices.

District administration teams have also arranged

for specialized workshops to be conducted in rural community centers to ensure traditional dietary wisdom and millet-based recipes reach remote households effectively.

Local health educators and nutrition specialists will collaborate with regional self-help groups to demonstrate economical ways of preparing wholesome meals using locally sourced organic produce without

compromising essential nutrient values.

The concluding days will focus intensely on minimizing food waste across commercial hospitality venues, community banquet halls, and street vendor locations, culminating in a collective public pledge to adopt balanced lifestyles, regular physical exercise, and mindful consumption habits.

NWR Intensifies Cleanliness Drive

Jaipur : The North Western Railway (NWR) has undertaken a wide-ranging cleanliness and public awareness campaign under the “Swachhta Hi Seva” fortnight, with a renewed focus on making cleanliness a continuous mission across railway premises and trains. The initiative, which ran from September 17 to October 2, concluded on October 2 with cleanliness pledges and tree plantation programmes marking Swachh Bharat Diwas on the birth anniversaries of Mahatma Gandhi and former Prime Minister Lal Bahadur Shastri. The railway will further strengthen these efforts through the Swachhta Pakhwada and the month-long Special Campaign 6.0. The “Swachhta Hi Seva” campaign-2026 was conducted across North Western Railway under the theme “Swachhta Mein Sahbhagita, Swachh Bharat, Viksit Bharat”. Railway employees expressed their commitment to making cleanliness an integral part of their daily work and personal lives while ensuring that railway premises remain clean, attractive and environmentally friendly.



Throughout the campaign, different cleanliness and awareness activities were organised every day across all four divisions of NWR, workshops, stations, offices, railway colonies and other railway premises. These included “Swachh Pathshala–Youth for Swachhta”, trans-

formation of Cleanliness Target Units (CTUs) and Garbage Vulnerable Points, campaigns for “Swachh Station, Swachh Railgadi and Swachh Public”, public participation initiatives, waste segregation and composting, and the “Say No to Plastics” campaign. Activities also included “Sports for Swachhta” and post-event cleanliness drives, cleaning of tourist and heritage railway sites, “Swachhta Se Samridhhi”, and “Safai Mitra Suraksha Seva Evam Samman” camps. Awareness activities based on the theme “Ek Din, Ek Ghanta, Ek Saath” were also organised to encourage wider public participation in cleanliness efforts. The cooperation and enthusiastic participation of railway employees, passengers and members of the public during the fortnight helped improve cleanliness standards at railway premises and in trains. The campaign also sought to encourage people to treat cleanliness not merely as a campaign activity but as a daily habit and shared responsibility.

Jaipur Mayor Leads Night Cleanliness Inspection

Jaipur : Jaipur Municipal Corporation Mayor Sunil Kothari conducted a detailed inspection of the city’s night-time sanitation arrangements from around 10.30 pm, personally reviewing cleanliness from the Hanuman Temple at Sanganeri Gate to Badi Chaurpar and taking direct charge of the cleaning effort. During the inspection, Kothari closely assessed the sanitation situation along the route and also picked up a broom himself to participate in the cleaning work. Local councillors and MP Manju Sharma were also present during the inspection. The mayor expressed displeasure wherever garbage and unclean areas were found in Johari Bazaar, Badi Chaurpar and other locations along the route. He immediately instructed officials and sanitation workers to ensure that the identified spots were cleaned without delay. Kothari also directed the concerned officials to re-

move illegal hoardings and unauthorised cables installed along the roads. He stressed that such unauthorised installations, along with garbage and other forms of disorder, adversely affect the image of Jaipur. He said that making Jaipur clean and attractive would require coordinated efforts from everyone and called for collective participation in improving the city’s cleanliness and overall appearance. Jaipur Municipal Corporation Mayor Sunil Kothari conducted an extensive, detailed inspection of the city’s night-time sanitation arrangements, starting his direct field review at around 10:30 PM across key historical stretches of the state capital. The late-night drive spanned a high-traffic urban corridor, personally taking the mayor from the iconic Hanuman Temple near Sanganeri Gate all the way up to Badi Chaurpar to evaluate the ground reality of nocturnal municipal operations.

Youth Pledge for a Drug-Free Rajasthan

Jaipur : A large-scale anti-drug awareness programme was organised by the Anti-Narcotics Task Force (ANTF) at Bhawani Niketan College in Vidyadhar Nagar on Gandhi Jayanti, where Chief Minister Bhajanlal Sharma interacted with young people and encouraged them to stay away from narcotics. Held under the theme “Sapnon Ki Udaan–Sashakt Yuva Samvad”, the programme included an anti-drug exhibition and several awareness activities aimed at strengthening the resolve for a drug-free Rajasthan. ANTF Inspector General of Police Vikas Kumar said the awareness initiative was conducted under the guidance and direction of Additional Director General of Police Dinesh M.N.

Around 7,000 people were informed about the harmful effects of drug abuse during the programme, while nearly 1,300 young participants signed pledge forms and took an oath to remain away from narcotics. The programme included an observation of a human chain formed with the message of a drug-free youth. A short film titled “Nayi Kiran”, focusing on the harmful consequences of drug abuse, was also screened for the participants. A street play and other awareness activities were organised to explain the adverse impact of narcotics to young people. The anti-drug selfie point also emerged as a major attraction, with numerous youngsters taking photographs and using them

to convey messages against drug abuse. Young participants also helped extend the campaign through social media. Carrying messages such as “I am aware about staying drug-free”, they shared their commitment to the anti-drug cause and encouraged others to remain conscious of the dangers associated with narcotics. ANTF Inspector General Vikas Kumar appealed to members of the public to share any significant information concerning narcotics trafficking or persons involved in such offences with the ANTF control room at 0141-2502877 or through WhatsApp at 9261225056. He said the identity of people providing such information would be kept strictly confidential. A large-scale anti-drug

awareness programme was organized by the Anti-Narcotics Task Force (ANTF) at Bhawani Niketan College in Vidyadhar Nagar, Jaipur, on the occasion of Gandhi Jayanti to promote a healthy and substance-free lifestyle among the youth. The state-level event served as a major platform for direct engagement, where Chief Minister Bhajanlal Sharma interacted with hundreds of young students and encouraged them to steer clear of narcotics and build a bright, productive future. Held under the inspiring theme “Sapnon Ki Udaan–Sashakt Yuva Samvad,” the initiative aimed to empower the younger generation through constructive dialogue, education, and institutional support toward building a drug-free state.

SBI Launches Cleanliness Drive Across Rajasthan

Jaipur : The Jaipur Circle of the State Bank of India (SBI) has launched a series of initiatives focused on cleanliness, environmental protection and public awareness across Rajasthan to mark the birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi and reinforce the message of a Clean India. The campaign was inaugurated at Nehru Garden in Jaipur by SBI Jaipur Circle Chief General Manager (CGM) Omkar Nath Chaudhary, who personally participated in the cleanliness drive and encouraged officers and employees to contribute actively. He also called for cleanliness to be transformed into a sustained public movement rather than being treated as a one-time activity. During the programme, SBI officials and employees jointly undertook cleaning work across the Nehru Gar-



den premises. Tree plantation was also carried out to underline the importance of environmental conservation and the need to promote a greener future. As part of the campaign, the message of “No Plastic, Go Green” was promoted among visitors to the park. Cloth bags were distributed to citizens to encourage alternatives to plastic, while participants were administered a pledge to remain conscious of cleanliness and environmental protection. The programme was attended by GM Manish Singhal, Kumar Rohit, Rajneesh Kumar, DGM (CDO) Rita Rajora, along with other senior officials, DGMS and SBI officers and employees. Addressing the gathering, CGM Omkar Nath Chaudhary said cleanliness should not be viewed merely as an activity associated with a particular day or campaign. He stressed that it should become a regular habit and a shared responsibility in everyday life.

₹60,000 Rewarded Smack Accused Held

Jaipur : Chittorgarh police have arrested Rahul Dayama alias Rahul Banjara, a Top-10 wanted accused who had been evading arrest for a long time in connection with the alleged illegal manufacture and trafficking of smack. A reward of Rs 60,000 had been announced for information leading to his arrest by the Rajasthan Police’s Additional Director General of Police, ATS, AGTF and ANTF. The arrest was made by Gangrar police as part of the ongoing campaign against illegal narcotics. Chittorgarh Superintendent of Police Dharmendra Singh said a special team was constituted to trace wanted offenders under the supervision of Additional Superintendent of Police Gajendra Singh Jodha and



Gangrar Circle Officer Uday Singh Chundawat. The police team repeatedly searched the accused’s residence and other suspected locations. According to police, the 31-year-old accused, a resident of Jeeva

Nayak Ka Kheda in Gangrar police station area, would frequently change locations after learning about police raids. Following sustained intelligence gathering and surveillance, the team eventually traced and arrested

Rahul Dayama alias Rahul Banjara. The case dates back to January 16, 2026, when Gangrar police raided the accused’s residential premises at Jeeva Nayak Ka Kheda. During the operation, police claimed to have

recovered illegal smack powder, chemicals allegedly used in the manufacture of smack and country-made liquor. The search also resulted in the seizure of around Rs 15 lakh in cash, 13 Android mobile phones, 21 keypad phones, four laptops and other electronic equipment, including rods used for marking engine and chassis numbers. The recoveries led police to investigate the suspected network connected with the illegal manufacture and trade of smack. A case was registered at Gangrar police station under provisions of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act and the Excise Act. The accused had remained absconding since the case was registered while allegedly attempting to avoid arrest.

Rathore Targets Congress Over Internal Differences

Jaipur : BJP Rajasthan president Madan Rathore, during his visit to Rajsamand on October 2, 2026, criticised the Congress and said the party had faced internal disunity in the past, was expiring in the present and, in his view, would continue to face such differences in the future. He said the public had become disenchanted with Congress because, according to him, the party lacked a clear policy and a coherent vision for taking the country forward. His remarks were reported during his Rajsamand visit. Rathore said political groupings formed without a clear ideology, policy or objective were unlikely to remain cohesive. Referring to what he described as an in-

compatible alliance, he used the Hindi expression “kahin ki eent, kahin ka roda, Bhanumati ne kunba joda” to argue that a political organisation could not be strengthened merely by bringing together disparate elements. During his visit, Rathore also held a meeting with BJP workers on organisational matters. He described party workers as the BJP’s biggest strength and said they had an important role in the organisation and elections. Rathore said the BJP was keeping track of its capable and active workers and that those who had not yet received organisational responsibilities for any reason would be given opportunities and recognition at an appropriate time. He also said that if any individual or section of society had a grievance on a particular issue, the party would engage in dialogue and listen to their concerns. He said the BJP’s doors remained open to people who believed in the principle of “nation first”, possessed a commitment to national character and were motivated by patriotism. Rathore called upon party workers to remain united and work with full strength for the forthcoming Panchayati Raj elections, following the organisation’s preparations for local-body polls. He said the BJP had a large pool of capable and dedicated workers, describing this as a sign of organisational strength.

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BJP Marks Gandhi, Shastri Birth Anniversaries

Jaipur : The Rajasthan BJP marked the birth anniversaries of Mahatma Gandhi and former Prime Minister Lal Bahadur Shastri at its state headquarters on October 2 by offering floral tributes and organising a cleanliness drive. State vice-president Mukesh Dadhich, state general secretary Shrawan Singh Bagri and other office-bearers and members of the BJP organisation paid their respects by placing flowers before portraits of the two leaders. Under the leadership of state general secretary Shrawan Singh Bagri, party office-bearers and members of the BJP family also undertook cleaning work across the party headquarters premises. BJP state secretary Ekta Agrawal, office in-charge Mukesh Pareek, media in-

charge Pramod Vashishtha, Mocha president Mahendra Kumawat, state spokespersons, panellists and other workers participated in the cleanliness campaign and took a pledge for cleanliness as part of the Seva Sankalp Abhiyan. Bagri said cleanliness activities were organised across Rajasthan on October 2 under the Seva Sankalp Abhiyan, which began on Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s birthday. He said state organisation general secretary Ajay Kumar, state president Madan Rathore and other state office-bearers were travelling in different areas and participating in cleanliness programmes at various locations. He said cleanliness was not merely a symbolic activity for the BJP but part

of continuous efforts aimed at bringing positive change in society. According to Bagri, a large number of BJP workers also conducted cleanliness drives at their homes, colonies and surrounding areas and shared photographs from before and after the activities. Bagri said party workers were continuing to work actively to turn cleanliness into a mass movement and encourage greater public participation in maintaining clean surroundings. The Rajasthan Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) solemnly commemorated the birth anniversaries of Father of the Nation Mahatma Gandhi and former Prime Minister Lal Bahadur Shastri at its state headquarters in Jaipur on October 2 through commemorative events and voluntary service. Top state

party leaders gathered early in the morning at the central headquarters premises to pay rich floral tributes and offer their respects before decorated portraits of the two iconic national leaders. The commemorative program was led by key organizational heads, including BJP State Vice-President Mukesh Dadhich and State General Secretary Shrawan Singh Bagri, alongside a broad assembly of state office-bearers and primary party members. Following the ceremonial floral tributes, party office-bearers and dedicated cadre actively mobilized across the headquarters compound to launch a comprehensive cleanliness and sanitation drive under the leadership of State General Secretary Shrawan Singh Bagri.

North-East Culture Explored at RIC Seminar

Jaipur : The concluding day of a two-day seminar on the culture and heritage of Northeast India, organised by the West Zone Cultural Centre, Udaipur in association with the Rajasthan International Centre (RIC), Jaipur, featured detailed discussions across two sessions on Friday. Experts from different northeastern states spoke about folk beliefs, traditional art, cuisine, faith, folklore and the region’s evolving cultural identity. In the first session, Dr Taro Sindik of Arunachal Pradesh spoke on “Folk Beliefs Prevalent in Northeast India with Reference to Arunachal Pradesh”. He explained the narratives and traditions that have shaped folk beliefs in the region. Referring particularly to the Tagin community of

Arunachal Pradesh, he narrated traditional accounts concerning the origin and development of creation, including stories associated with Kuriyum-Kulu, followed by Riyumchizering and Riyumsi and the emergence of the earth, sky and other elements. Through these narratives, he highlighted various aspects of Arunachal Pradesh’s cultural traditions. Dr Parmeet Parna Paul of Tripura spoke in the same session on “Royal Court Painting of Tripura and the Artistic Heritage of the Northeast”. He explained how painting received patronage during the royal period in Tripura and described the gradual stages through which the art form developed over subsequent periods. The session was moderated by Dr

Dileep Kumar Kalita. The second and final session featured Assam expert Dileep Kumar Kalita, who spoke on “Cuisine and Food Habits: A Distinctive Identity of the Northeast”. He discussed the region’s diverse culinary traditions and food practices in detail, highlighting their role in its distinctive cultural identity. Alfred Jonathan, an art scholar from Mizoram, also addressed the topic “The Echoes of the Northeast: Faith, Folklore and the Digital Future of Cultural Identity in Mizoram”. Drawing on various references, he discussed the relationship between faith, traditional narratives and cultural identity and examined how these aspects could find a place in the digital future. The session was moderated by Dr

Taro Sindik. Addressing the concluding programme, West Zone Cultural Centre Director Dr Devendra Kumar Dhodawat said Octave 2026 was a remarkable example of the “Ek Bharat, Shreshtha Bharat” concept. He said programmes of this nature could also make an important contribution towards achieving Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s vision of a developed India by 2047. Earlier, seminar coordinator Dr Santosh Kumar of Sikkim presented an overview of all five sessions held over the two days. For their contribution to the seminar, stage presenter Pranay Bhardwaj and coordinator Dr Akanksha Joshi were honoured with mementoes by West Zone Cultural Centre, Udaipur Director Dr Ashwin Dalvi.

Editorial

A Rumor Sparks Violence

A message arrives, gets forwarded, outrage erupts, and within minutes, the streets are filled with stones, fire, and a mob! By the time the truth is realized, vehicles have been torched, windows smashed, and suspicions from social media have begun circulating as 'fact.' Violent incidents at two universities in Punjab, occurring within a span of just 27 hours, have once again highlighted the severity of this danger. In the past, it took days for a rumor to spread across a village; now, mere minutes suffice for it to sweep across the entire country. An even more dangerous shift is that, whereas rumors used to be verified before reaction, today outrage is expressed first followed by protests, shattered glass, and burning vehicles and only then does someone ask: did the incident actually happen? The violent agitations at these two Punjab universities, occurring just 27 hours apart, have exposed the terrifying nature of this new crisis. When the mobile phone in one's hand replaces actual evidence, and the act of forwarding a message is equated with verification, a rumor ceases to be merely false news; it transforms into a burning matchstick in the hands of a mob. There is a distance of approximately 140 kilometers between Chitkara University in Patiala district and Lovely Professional University in Phagwara. Yet, the sequence of events at both locations was strikingly similar. The incident at Chitkara University serves almost as a textbook case study on how rumors originate. Talk of a 'ghost' began following a frightening prank played in the girls' hostel. This narrative was compounded by the sight of an ambulance arriving on campus and speculation regarding a student's father who had come to visit her. These elements coalesced into rumors that two female students had gone missing. Subsequently, rumors spread that she had died and that the university administration was covering it up. Both the police and the university administration clarified that no female student was missing and that no death or suicide had occurred in the girls' hostel. The investigation revealed that the ambulance had actually arrived for a student returning from the hospital. However, by then, the rumors had already taken their toll; a crowd of students gathered, clashes with the police ensued, and two police vehicles as well as university property were damaged. Even more serious was the second outbreak of unrest just 27 hours later at Lovely Professional University in Phagwara. Unverified claims circulated on social media alleging that a female student had been sexually assaulted in the hostel and had subsequently died. This sparked student protests, leading to vandalism, arson in some areas, and the blockade of the Jalandhar-Phagwara National Highway. However, no final conclusion can yet be drawn regarding whether the alleged sexual assault actually took place. While the university administration has dismissed the allegations as baseless, the police have registered a case of sexual assault against an unknown person and formed a Special Investigation Team (SIT). The Punjab and Haryana High Court has also sought a detailed status report from the Punjab Police; ultimately, the truth must emerge through the investigation. Society, too, must observe this line of reason. If an incident has occurred, the guilty party no matter how influential must face severe punishment. If the university attempted to cover up the incident, that too must be investigated. However, no one has the right to torch vehicles simply by accepting social media messages as the final verdict before the incident is actually proven. Notably, initially, no criminal cases were registered against the students involved in the Chitkara incident. However, following further investigation, the police have arrested two former students on charges of inciting students by spreading misleading information and have named ten others in the case. Five individuals comprising three students and two outsiders have also been arrested in connection with the violence at Lovely Professional University; approximately 20 people have been implicated in the offenses. This action sends a crucial message: there is a right to protest, but not to arson; a right to ask questions, but not to spread rumors; and a right to express anger, but not to destroy the property of others. It is crucial for the younger generation to understand this boundary. If the youth do not raise their voices against injustice, democracy will become lifeless. Students have been at the heart of many social and political transformations throughout history; therefore, viewing student protests with suspicion is wrong. However, the moral strength of a protest depends on the truth underlying it. Without truth, no matter how genuine the outrage, it cannot lead to justice. At the same time, it would be equally wrong for the university administration and the police to wash their hands of the matter by shifting the entire responsibility onto the students. If serious rumors spread within a university at night, the administration should provide official information immediately rather than maintaining silence for hours. The available facts should be presented to student representatives, parents, and the police. If necessary, video footage from the area should be shown, an independent inquiry announced, and regular updates provided. Today, every major university needs not only a fire safety system but also a mechanism to control rumors during emergencies. It has become essential to train students at the time of admission in social media literacy, information verification, legal responsibilities, and emergency communication. One must exercise great caution when introducing politics into these incidents. While each of these perspectives can be investigated, drawing a conclusion without evidence that a political party incited the students or orchestrated a major conspiracy would itself amount to nothing more than another rumor. The Punjab Police have initiated an investigation to determine if there was any link between the incidents at the two universities, the role played by outsiders, and the source of the social media messages. Action must be taken based on evidence, regardless of whether the guilty party is a student, an outsider, or anyone else. Democracy needs young people who ask questions, not a mob that accepts every message it receives as the absolute truth. Youth that rises up against injustice is the nation's strength; youth that flares up over rumors can become its weakness. Today, it takes mere minutes to shatter glass or moments to torch a vehicle following a false message, yet it takes years to rebuild the trust that is broken in the process. So, the next time an infuriating news item flashes on your mobile screen, ask yourself just one question before picking up a stone: "Is this true?" We used to say that rumors have no legs; today, however, they hold a mobile phone, ride the speed of social media, and are ignited by our own outrage. A rumor does not turn into a wildfire on its own we are the ones who strike the match!

Across India, organic waste is finding a second life as fuel, electricity and valuable manure. Under the Swachh Bharat Mission, launched in October 2014, scientific management of municipal solid waste has re-

cooks for more than 500 people a day without depending on LPG cylinders. A gaushala in Gwalior turns cow dung into compressed biogas. Different feedstocks, different scales, but the same underlying shift. These initiatives

fields. The gas meets the campus's entire cooking-fuel requirement, without which 30 LPG cylinders would have been required every month. The institution demonstrates how innovative and

tonnes of bio-CNG. Its multi-feedstock model uses wet waste, paddy straw, cattle dung and poultry litter, creating productive uses for agricultural residues while helping address stubble burning.

The facility operates under a public-private partnership model and absorbs bulk organic waste from hotels, restaurants and apartment complexes. Daily wet-waste supply has increased from just 7-8 tonnes initially to around 125 tonnes, strengthening waste utilisation in the city. The bio-CNG produced is sold under the Compressed Bio-Gas (CBG) - City Gas Distribution (CGD) Synchronisation Scheme, reaching users through the fuel cascade route, and currently supports city transport. The process also produces 28 tonnes of high-quality compost daily, which is made available to local farmers, supporting regenerative farming. Looking ahead, the project is expected to extend clean energy access to around 45,000 households through piped gas and reduce carbon emissions by approximately 57,000 tonnes annually.

At Adarsh Gaushala in Laltipara, Gwalior's largest cowshed, more than 10,000 cattle call it home. In October 2024, the gaushala gave its daily dung a new purpose with the inauguration of a 100-tonnes-per-day (TPD) Compressed Bio-Gas (CBG) plant.

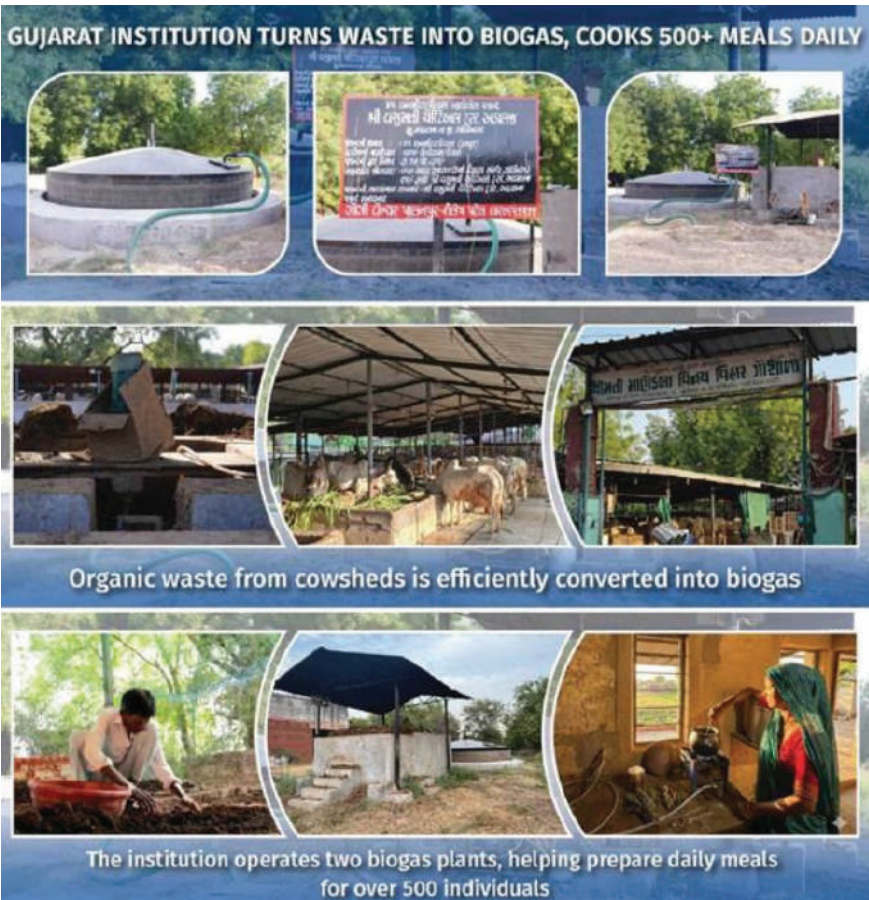
The facility made Adarsh Gaushala India's first modern, self-sufficient

100 tonnes of cattle dung into two tonnes of compressed biogas. It also produces 10-15 tonnes of dry bio-manure daily, providing an affordable input for farmers in nearby districts and encouraging organic farming.

The benefits extend beyond the gaushala. The CBG provides a cleaner, eco-friendly alternative to fossil fuels, while converting dung into energy helps reduce carbon emissions and contributes to climate change mitigation. The project has also created local employment opportunities, promoting skills in green energy and sustainable practices and contributing to the local economy.

The CBG plant is more than an industrial facility. It represents collaboration between society and government and demonstrates how waste can be converted into useful resources.

Among these four stories, the vegetable market story at Bowenpally tells about one of the most innovative waste management systems. At Hyderabad's Bowenpally Vegetable Market, roughly 10 tons of vegetable and fruit waste are collected every day. This waste previously went to landfills. Since a biogas plant was set up on-site, nearly all the waste collected from the market is put to use. It generates around 400-500 units of electricity and 30 kg of bio-fuel a day. The electricity generated is used to run the market's streetlights, stalls, administration building and



maintained a core objective. As the Mission evolved, organic waste has been recognised as a valuable resource to produce clean energy. Biogas, produced through the anaerobic decomposition of organic waste, is among the most viable, economical and environmentally friendly cooking fuels available. The by-product slurry is rich in nitrogen and serves as an effective organic fertilizer. It reduces dependence on chemical inputs, lowers costs and helps maintain soil fertility. This delivers a dual benefit from a single initiative.

Waste-to-energy, under Swachh Bharat Mission-Urban 2.0, takes different forms across India, depending on the available waste and community needs.

A vegetable market in Hyderabad lights its own streetlights with rotten vegetables. In Prayagraj, a multi-feedstock bio-CNG plant converts different types of organic waste into clean fuel and compost. An educational institution in Gandhinagar

showcase how cities and institutions are emerging as frontrunners in the journey towards sustainability. By adopting innovative, circular approaches to waste management, they are reducing environmental impact and unlocking the value of waste as a resource.

At the Shrimati Manekba Vinay Vihar Educational Complex, near Adalaj in Gandhinagar, Gujarat, the kitchen cooks for more than 500 people every day. Around 250 hostel students receive two meals daily, alongside 15 staff families living on campus. The kitchen, however, has eliminated its dependence on LPG and transitioned to a biogas-based cooking system. The Vasumati Charitable Trust, which manages the campus, operates two biogas plants with a combined capacity of 90 cubic metres per day. The feedstock includes dung from 222 cows housed in the trust's cowshed.

It is supplemented by kitchen waste and agricultural residue from nearby

scientific waste management can drive energy self-reliance and sustainability. The institutional mechanisms such as the Gujarat government's Institutional Biogas Plant Scheme and Gujarat Energy Development Agency (GEDA) provided the policy and financial support to make this transition.

Gujarat continues to advance alternative energy and sustainable development, reducing pollution and achieving energy self-sufficiency. It also enables the scientific disposal of organic waste from gaushalas and educational institutions alike.

With the launch of the plant, Uttar Pradesh has established a significant milestone in green energy and waste management. The project represents a forward-looking step towards environmental conservation while advancing the mission of turning waste into a valuable resource.

The plant can process 343 tonnes of organic waste a day and produce around 21



gaushala built around a state-of-the-art CBG plant.

The plant's design goes beyond cattle dung alone. It is Madhya Pradesh's first CBG plant built to also process vegetable and fruit waste collected from markets and homes. Spread over 5 acres, the ₹31-crore project was developed in collaboration with Indian Oil Corporation. Every day, it converts

water-supply network. The biofuel is supplied to the market's commercial kitchen, helping keep the marketplace clean and pollution-free.

Inside the biogas plant, vegetables are chopped, shredded and ground into slurry. The slurry then feeds into anaerobic digesters, while the resulting gas is stored in balloons until fur-

Exercise Tarang Shakti 2026 Begins at Jodhpur Under 'Power in Partnership' Theme

The Indian Air Force has commenced the operational phase of Exercise Tarang Shakti 2026 at Air Force Station Jodhpur, bringing together air forces from India and seven friendly foreign countries for a major multilateral air exercise. The exercise is being conducted from September 26 to October 12, 2026, under the theme "Power in Partnership", highlighting the importance of cooperation, shared expertise, interoperability and mutual trust among participating air forces.

The operational phase follows the inaugural ceremony held on September 26 and marks the second edition of Tarang Shakti after the first edition was conducted in 2024. The exercise has been designed to provide participating forces with opportunities for advanced joint training and to enable them to gain practical experience of operating alongside different air forces in a coordinated environment.

Seven Friendly Foreign Countries are participating in the 2026 edition. These countries are Australia, the United States, the United Arab Emirates, France, Germany, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh. Several other friendly foreign countries are also participating in the exercise as observers, adding to the international character of the air drill.

The participation of different countries gives Tarang Shakti 2026 a diverse operational dimension. Foreign aircraft involved in the exercise include the F-35 Lightning II, Rafale,



F-16, A400M, MRTT, C-130, C-130J and KC-30A. The aircraft represent a wide range of capabilities, including frontline combat operations, tactical and strategic airlift and air-to-air refuelling.

The presence of these different platforms is expected to provide participating aircrew and operational teams with valuable exposure to different aircraft, procedures and methods of conducting air operations. Operating together allows the forces to understand the strengths and limitations of different platforms while developing procedures that can support coordinated missions.

A major focus of Exercise Tarang Shakti 2026 is interoperability, or the ability of different

military forces and their systems to work together effectively. The exercise brings together aircrew, mission planners and operational support personnel, allowing them to interact professionally and develop a better understanding of each other's operational procedures and working methods.

The exercise will also place emphasis on mutual learning and aerospace safety. Participating personnel will have opportunities to exchange operational experiences and understand the approaches followed by different air forces. Such interactions can help improve coordination and familiarity when forces from different countries operate together in complex air environments.

The Indian Air Force is also using the exercise as an opportunity to demonstrate its operational capabilities and professional standards. Alongside flying operations, the exercise provides an international platform for the IAF to showcase aspects of India's expanding aerospace and defence ecosystem and its growing indigenous capabilities.

Tarang Shakti 2026 is not limited to combat flying and operational training. The exercise has been planned with a broader programme of professional, cultural and outreach activities. These activities are intended to create opportunities for personnel from participating countries to interact beyond their operational duties and develop greater

familiarity with each other's professional and cultural backgrounds.

A dedicated seminar is among the activities planned during the exercise. Such professional engagements provide a forum for participants to exchange views and experiences on issues connected with air operations, aviation and defence cooperation. The programme also includes an industrial tour for foreign contingents, giving participating personnel an opportunity to gain exposure to India's aerospace and industrial capabilities.

The Sekhon Marathon is another part of the broader programme associated with the exercise. Heritage tours and yoga sessions have also been planned, adding cultural and wellness elements to the operational engagement. These activities are aimed at promoting interaction and camaraderie among personnel from the participating countries.

The wider programme reflects the view that military cooperation is built not only through operational exercises but also through sustained professional interaction. By bringing aircrew, planners, support personnel and other members of participating contingents together, Tarang Shakti creates opportunities for developing professional relationships that can extend beyond the duration of the exercise.

The theme "Power in Partnership" captures the central objective of the 2026 edition.

Akhilesh Names Muslim Face as Uttarakhand SP Chief

Lucknow : Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav has made a significant organisational change in Uttarakhand by appointing Abdul Mateen Siddiqui as the new president of the party's state unit. Siddiqui, a senior leader from Haldwani in Nainital district, has replaced Mahant Shubham Giri, who was appointed the party's working president in January this year. The change comes ahead of the 2027 Uttarakhand Assembly elections and has drawn attention because Siddiqui is the first Muslim leader to be appointed as the president of the SP's Uttarakhand unit. The organisational reshuffle comes at a time when political parties in Uttarakhand are preparing for the next Assembly election. Uttarakhand is scheduled to vote in 2027 along with Uttar Pradesh and several other states. While the SP's organisational presence in Uttarakhand has traditionally been limited compared with its position in neighbouring Uttar Pradesh, the appointment of Siddiqui gives the party a senior leader with an established organisational background in the state.



Siddiqui, 66, is from the Haldwani area of Nainital district and has held several responsibilities within the Samajwadi Party. He has served as the party's state general secretary and was also handling the responsibility of state in-charge before being elevated to the top organisational post. His appointment therefore comes after years of association with the party and its political activities in Uttarakhand. The new state president has also had electoral experience. He contested the Haldwani Assembly seat on an SP ticket in 2007 and 2012, though he was unsuccessful on both occasions. His political journey has also included a period outside the SP. According to reports, Siddiqui left the party in 2016 and

joined the Congress, where he was made chairman of the Uttarakhand Minority Hunar Council. He later contested the Haldwani Assembly election in 2022 on an AIMIM ticket before returning to the Samajwadi Party. Siddiqui's appointment is particularly notable because the SP has never before appointed a Muslim leader as the president of its Uttarakhand unit. The decision consequently has a clear organisational as well as representational significance. It comes after the party had earlier placed Mahant Shubham Giri, a religious figure from Haridwar, in charge as its working president. Giri's appointment in January had itself followed the dissolution of the state party executive.

'PDA' for votes, family and capitalists for tickets: Mayawati attacks Samajwadi Party

Lucknow : Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) chief Mayawati on Friday criticised the Samajwadi Party (SP) over its Rajya Sabha nominations from Uttar Pradesh, arguing that the choices were inconsistent with SP chief Akhilesh Yadav's emphasis on the PDA — Pichhda, Dalit and Alp-sankhyak — political formulation. Her remarks came after the SP named veteran leader Ram Gopal Yadav and Reliance Industries executive Dhanraj Parimal Nathwani as its candidates for the upcoming Rajya Sabha elections from Uttar Pradesh. The SP announced the two nominations on September 30, with both candidates subsequently filing their papers in Lucknow in the presence of Akhilesh Yadav and other party leaders. Ram Gopal Yadav is a senior SP leader and the uncle of Akhilesh Yadav, while Nathwani comes from the corporate and sports administration sphere and is associated with Reliance Industries. The nominations have attracted political attention because of the contrasting backgrounds of the two candidates. Mayawati used the nominations to question the relationship between the SP's candidate selection and its public emphasis on PDA politics. In a post on X, she contrasted the SP's choices with the BSP's stated approach of giving electoral opportunities to "hardworking Ambedkarite" workers belonging to poor, middle-class and weaker sections. Her com-



ments were framed as a criticism of the SP's political messaging and candidate-selection process. The BSP chief particularly focused on the nomination of Dhanraj Nathwani. She pointed out that the SP had chosen an individual associated with a prominent industrial house while simultaneously seeking to project itself as a party representing backward classes, Dalits and minorities through its PDA formulation. Nathwani is a senior corporate executive associated with Reliance Industries and has also held positions in sports administration. Mayawati also referred to Ram Gopal Yadav's nomination while highlighting his family relationship with Akhilesh Yadav. She described him as a close relative of the SP chief and contrasted that choice with the BSP's stated prefer-

ence for workers from economically weaker and socially disadvantaged sections. Her remarks were part of a wider criticism in which she questioned the SP's approach to selecting candidates for the Upper House. The BSP chief said the SP had fielded Ram Gopal Yadav for the biennial Rajya Sabha election from Uttar Pradesh and named Dhanraj Nathwani as its second candidate. She argued that the two selections raised questions about the SP's PDA narrative, particularly because one candidate is a senior member of the Yadav family and the other has a corporate background. Mayawati also highlighted what she described as a difference between the BSP's ticket-distribution policy and the SP's current nominations. She said the BSP gives opportunities to dedicated Ambed-

karite workers from poor, middle-class and weaker sections. The comparison formed a central part of her criticism as she sought to draw a distinction between the two parties' approaches to candidate selection. The comments come in the run-up to the Rajya Sabha elections in Uttar Pradesh, where 10 seats are scheduled to go to polls on October 16. The SP's announcement of Ram Gopal Yadav and Nathwani has added another political dimension to the contest, particularly because the party's second nomination came as a surprise and drew attention beyond its traditional political circle. Nathwani's selection has received particular attention because of his professional background. He is associated with Reliance Industries and has experience in corporate affairs and sports administration. His nomination represents a candidate profile different from the traditional political figures usually associated with the SP's state-level electoral politics. Ram Gopal Yadav, meanwhile, is a long-standing figure in the Samajwadi Party and has represented the party in the Rajya Sabha. His nomination was viewed as a continuation of his parliamentary role and organisational association with the party. The decision to retain him alongside Nathwani therefore brought together two distinctly different profiles in the SP's Rajya Sabha nominations.

Ahmedabad Division Sets Cleanliness Record with 'Swachh Track Mega Drive', Cleans 3,000 km of Track in Single Day

Aryan Age Correspondent

Ahmedabad: Celebrating the birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi under the ongoing Swachhata Pakhwada 2026, Western Railway's Ahmedabad Division achieved a historic milestone by successfully cleaning nearly 3,000 kilometers of railway track in a single day. Led personally by Divisional Railway Manager Shri Ved Prakash, the colossal 'Swachh Track Mega Drive' mobilized thousands of railway personnel, officers, sanitation workers, and volunteers to execute a track-cleaning effort equivalent to the distance from Kashmir to Kanyakumari. The landmark campaign commenced at Sabarmati

Railway Station, where DRM Shri Ved Prakash administered the Swachhata Pledge to railway staff,

sonnel. Demonstrating remarkable synergy, station masters, supervisors, and maintenance teams system-

adjacent stops. Comprehensive voluntary labor was conducted simultaneously across stations, yards, health



cleaning crews, Bharat Scouts and Guides, and Railway Protection Force per-

sonnel. Demonstrating remarkable synergy, station masters, supervisors, and maintenance teams system-

adjacent stops. Comprehensive voluntary labor was conducted simultaneously across stations, yards, health

Mahesana, Palanpur, Bhuj, Gandhidham, Asarva, and Himmatnagar. All cleaning operations were executed strictly adhering to safety protocols near operational running lines without disrupting train movements. The initiative forms the opening chapter of the fortnight-long Swachhata Pakhwada running from October 1 to October 15, 2026, which will feature upcoming drives targeting deep cleaning, legacy waste removal, poster clearance, and solid waste management. Through this record-setting campaign, Ahmedabad Division has reaffirmed its dedication to pristine rail infrastructure while inspiring active public participation in national cleanliness movements.

SC grants eight weeks to Bihar to remove encroachments from Ganga flood plains in Patna

Patna : The Supreme Court has granted the Bihar government an additional eight weeks to comply with its directions to remove all unauthorised structures and encroachments from the flood plains of the Ganga between Nauzar Ghat and Nurpur Ghat in Patna. The court made it clear that the extension was being granted for the last time and warned that failure to comply could result in the appearance of senior state officials, including the chief secretary, before the court.

A bench comprising Justices J B Pardiwala and K V Viswanathan was hearing the matter concerning the removal of unauthorised structures and encroachments from the Ganga flood plains in the Patna area. The court

had previously issued directions to the Bihar government to ensure that the entire stretch between Nauzar Ghat and Nurpur Ghat was cleared of structures and encroachments that were not authorised. The Supreme Court had earlier granted the state government six weeks to implement its directions. On July 21, the bench had directed the Bihar authorities to ensure that each and every unauthorised structure and encroachment standing on the Ganga flood plains between the two ghats was removed. The direction placed the responsibility on the state authorities to undertake the necessary action within the time granted by the court. The matter came up again before the bench on

September 28, when Bihar Advocate General S D Sanjay appeared before the Supreme Court and informed the judges about the progress made by the state authorities. According to the Advocate General, the directions issued by the apex court had been partially complied with, but the authorities had not been able to complete the entire exercise. The state government cited difficult conditions caused by a recent natural calamity in Nepal as one of the reasons for the delay. The Advocate General told the bench that the situation in Nepal had resulted in a rise in the level of the River Ganga. As a consequence, the entire portion of the floodplain covered by the court's directions was submerged.

Centre Moves To Secure NEET's Digital Future

New Delhi: The Union Education Ministry has reviewed examination security and India's capacity to conduct large-scale Computer-Based Tests as preparations continue for a possible future shift of NEET-UG from pen-and-paper testing to digital mode. The review comes as the government develops a national CBT infrastructure strategy capable of handling examinations involving extremely large numbers of candidates. NEET-UG is one of India's biggest entrance examinations and determines admission to undergraduate medical courses. Moving such an examination online would require far more than converting a printed question paper into a computer screen. Authorities would need enough secure terminals across India, reliable

electricity and connectivity, strong cybersecurity, candidate authentication and contingency arrangements for technical failures. The government is examining how testing capacity can be expanded while maintaining uniform standards between large cities and remote districts. Exam security has become a particularly sensitive issue following controversies over alleged leaks and irregularities in major recruitment and entrance examinations. Digital delivery could reduce risks associated with printing, transporting and storing physical question papers. It creates other risks, however, including cyberattacks and unequal infrastructure. No final announcement has yet established that the next NEET-UG examination will definitely be conducted

online. The current exercise is about building capacity and assessing the model. That distinction matters for students preparing for future examinations. A digital transition would also require adequate familiarisation so candidates with limited computer access are not disadvantaged. The Education Ministry therefore faces two objectives that must be balanced: improving examination security while preserving equal opportunity. If the transition eventually proceeds, it would represent one of the largest changes in India's medical entrance-testing system. For millions of aspirants, how and when the government implements that shift will be nearly as important as the examination syllabus itself.

Three Government Officials Die In Gorge Crash

PIB Officer, DD News Director Among Aizawl Crash Victims

Aizawl: Three government media officials were killed and two people injured after their vehicle plunged down a steep roadside slope near Aizawl in Mizoram, prompting condolences from senior authorities and an investigation into the cause of the crash. The victims included Dr Engam Pame, Additional Director General of the Press Information Bureau and Central Bureau of Communication Regional Office in Imphal, and Nampibou Marinmai, Director (News) at Doordarshan Kendra

Aizawl. H Lianvela, a Multi-Tasking Staff member with the Central Bureau of Communication's Aizawl field office, was also killed. The accident occurred near Sateek, about 30 kilometres south of Aizawl, while the group was returning from an official trip. Their vehicle reportedly veered off the road and plunged into difficult terrain below. The driver and another occupant survived with injuries and were taken for medical treatment. Rescue operations were complicated by the steep slope.

Local police and members of the Young Mizo Association joined recovery efforts. Pame was in Mizoram for official meetings and work connected with PIB activities, while Marinmai had also previously served as a Defence public-relations officer. The Defence Ministry and Mizoram authorities expressed condolences. The cause of the crash had not been formally established at the time of reporting. Investigators will need to examine the vehicle, road conditions and other evi-

dence before determining responsibility. Mountain roads across the Northeast can present significant safety challenges because of steep gradients, sharp bends, landslides and changing weather conditions, but no specific factor should be assumed to have caused this accident. The deaths have particularly affected India's government-media establishment because two senior information-service officials were among those lost. The immediate focus is now on the investigation and treatment of the survivors.

India Takes Tawang Diplomacy To Global Stage

Arunachal border town chosen for international tourism meeting, with China among invited countries despite Beijing's territorial claims

New Delhi : India has selected Tawang in Arunachal Pradesh as the venue for an international tourism meeting and invited delegates from several countries, including China, placing one of India's most strategically sensitive border regions on a global diplomatic platform. The annual tourism event rotates among Northeastern states and will now be hosted in Tawang, a region Beijing claims as part of what it calls "South Tibet". India rejects that claim and maintains that Arunachal Pradesh is an integral and inalienable part of the country. Inviting Chinese representatives to an international event in Tawang therefore carries diplomatic symbolism beyond tourism. India has repeatedly objected to Chinese attempts to rename places in Arunachal Pradesh and has maintained civilian, infrastructure and ad-



ministrative activity across the state. Tawang is also important culturally because of its historic Buddhist monastery and geographically because of its proximity to the Line of Actual Control. India and China have gradually

attempted to stabilise relations following years of military tension along the LAC. That process has included diplomatic and military talks while both sides continue major infrastructure development in border regions.

The tourism meeting should not be interpreted as resolution of the territorial dispute. Nor does an invitation guarantee Chinese participation. Its significance lies in India's decision to host an international gathering in a location over which its sovereignty has repeatedly been challenged. The event also supports New Delhi's broader effort to expand tourism and economic activity across the Northeast. Better roads, airports and other infrastructure are increasingly connecting previously remote border areas with the rest of India. For Tawang, the meeting therefore has two dimensions: promoting one of the Northeast's most important tourism destinations and demonstrating normal Indian administration in a strategically contested region.

India Turns To AI To Track Space Assets

New Delhi : India's space-surveillance capability is set for a significant boost with a new facility in Guwahati designed to strengthen tracking of satellites and other objects in orbit as the country's dependence on space-based infrastructure continues to grow. The development forms part of India's expanding effort to improve Space Situational Awareness — the ability to identify, track and assess objects that could threaten operational spacecraft. Modern economies increasingly depend on satellites for communications, navigation, weather forecasting, disaster management, broadcasting and defence.

At the same time, Earth's orbit is becoming more crowded with active satellites, spent rocket stages and debris. Even relatively small pieces of debris can damage a satellite because objects in orbit travel at extremely high speeds. Tracking networks allow operators to calculate trajectories and determine whether spacecraft may need collision-avoidance manoeuvres. For India, the requirement is becoming more important as ISRO expands

the number and sophistication of national space assets. The country is also developing human-spaceflight capability and preparing more ambitious planetary missions. Space surveillance therefore has both civilian and strategic significance. Modern tracking increasingly combines radar, optical observations, data processing and automated analysis to identify potential conjunctions between orbiting objects. Artificial intelligence can help process the enormous volume of tracking data and identify patterns or risks more rapidly, though human verification remains important for critical decisions.



3 Monkeys: Mustafa Burmawala drops the first look poster of the Abbas–Mustan thriller also starring Arjun Rampal

Aryan Age Correspondent

Mumbai :Mustafa Burmawala, who made his Bollywood debut with Machine alongside Kiara Advani, is set to return to the big screen with 3 Monkeys. Directed by filmmaker duo Abbas-Mustan, the upcoming thriller recently began its promotional campaign with the release of its first poster and teaser, offering a glimpse into the world of its central characters. Mustafa has been introduced as Akbar in the film, while Vishal Jethwa plays Amar and Tenzin Dalha portrays Anthony. Arjun Rampal is also part of the cast and will be seen as Sanjay. While the promotional material introduces the key characters, details about their motivations and the larger storyline have largely been kept under wraps.For Mustafa, the opportunity to work with Abbas-Mustan forms an important part of his association with the project. Speaking about 3 Monkeys, the actor said, “I’m really excited to be a part of 3 Monkeys, especially because it is



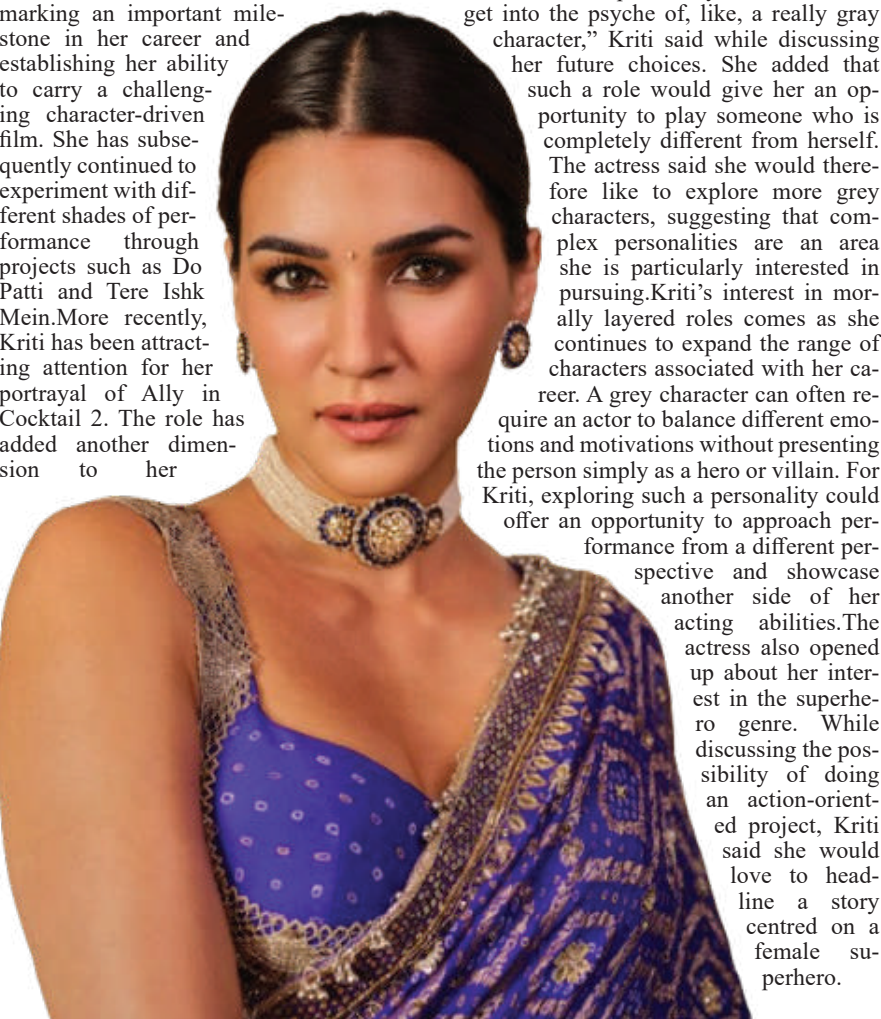
an Abbas-Mustan film. They have created some of the most memorable thrillers, so getting an opportunity to work with them is very special for me. This film has a very interesting and different thriller story, and I’m sure audiences are going to enjoy the twists and turns. I’m really looking forward to seeing how viewers react to it.”The teaser opens with the familiar imagery of the Three Wise Monkeys before introducing Amar, Akbar and Anthony as three masked men. The footage suggests that the characters are involved in a potentially dangerous situation, while also presenting moments that indicate a more playful side to the trio. The film’s central concept draws from

the familiar philosophy of “Bura Mat Dekho, Bura Mat Suno, Bura Mat Bolo,” while giving it a contemporary interpretation through the line, “Sab Dekho. Apni Suno. Bekhauf Bolo.” Abbas and Mustan, speaking exclusively to us about the film, said, “There is much more happening behind those masks, and that is the mystery we want audiences to discover in cinemas.”At this stage, the makers have not disclosed the complete premise of 3 Monkeys. The promotional material leaves open questions about what Amar, Akbar and Anthony are involved in, with the possibility of a robbery, heist or a larger conflict remaining part of the mystery surrounding the film.

Kriti Sanon says, “I also want to play a superwoman”; reveals she wants to explore female superhero roles

Aryan Age Correspondent

Mumbai :Kriti Sanon has expressed her interest in taking on a female superhero character, revealing that she would like to explore action and larger-than-life roles in the next phase of her acting career. The actress, who has steadily experimented with different genres and characters since entering the film industry, said she is keen to move further away from conventional roles and explore parts that challenge her as a performer. Along with superhero stories, Kriti also wants to portray morally complex and darker characters.Over the years, Kriti has built a diverse filmography by taking on roles across comedy, romance, drama and more intense subjects. Her performance in Mimi earned her a National Award, marking an important milestone in her career and establishing her ability to carry a challenging character-driven film. She has subsequently continued to experiment with different shades of performance through projects such as Do Patni and Tere Ishk Mein.More recently, Kriti has been attracting attention for her portrayal of Ally in Cocktail 2. The role has added another dimension to her



recent body of work and comes at a time when the actress appears interested in choosing characters that offer her greater opportunities as a performer. Rather than limiting herself to one particular genre, Kriti has indicated that she wants to continue testing herself through different kinds of stories and characters.Speaking about the roles she would like to take up in the future, Kriti specifically expressed an interest in playing a character with shades of grey. She explained that portraying a morally ambiguous person would allow her to step away from her own personality and explore a completely different psychological space. For an actor, such roles can provide the opportunity to portray conflicting emotions and behaviour that may not necessarily be familiar to them personally.“I would love to get into the psyche of, like, a really gray character,” Kriti said while discussing her future choices. She added that such a role would give her an opportunity to play someone who is completely different from herself. The actress said she would therefore like to explore more grey characters, suggesting that complex personalities are an area she is particularly interested in pursuing.Kriti’s interest in morally layered roles comes as she continues to expand the range of characters associated with her career. A grey character can often require an actor to balance different emotions and motivations without presenting the person simply as a hero or villain. For Kriti, exploring such a personality could offer an opportunity to approach performance from a different perspective and showcase another side of her acting abilities.The actress also opened up about her interest in the superhero genre. While discussing the possibility of doing an action-oriented project, Kriti said she would love to headline a story centred on a female superhero.

Aryan Age Correspondent

Mumbai :Drishyam The Conclusion has arrived in cinemas, marking the latest and concluding chapter in the popular Drishyam franchise and bringing the story of Vijay Salgaonkar, portrayed by Ajay Devgn, to its much-awaited finale. Directed by Abhishek Pathak, the film returns to the world of the Salgaonkar family and continues the narrative established through the earlier instalments. With a combination of familiar faces, new additions to the cast and an established storyline that has built a strong audience following over the years, the film has generated considerable interest among moviegoers.

The arrival of Drishyam The Conclusion marks an important moment for a franchise that has gradually developed beyond the success of an individual film. The Drishyam series has created a distinctive world around Vijay Salgaonkar and his family, with the character becoming closely associated with Ajay Devgn’s screen persona. The latest film seeks to bring this long-running story to its concluding chapter while retaining several of the characters and actors who have been part of the franchise’s journey.

Ajay Devgn once again leads the film as Vijay Salgaonkar, the central character whose resourcefulness, family commitment and ability to remain several steps ahead have been at the



heart of the series. His portrayal of Vijay has played a major role in establishing the character as one of the franchise’s most recognisable figures. With Drishyam The Conclusion, audiences now get to see how the story surrounding Vijay and his family develops as the franchise moves towards its final chapter.

The film also brings back several prominent members of the earlier cast. Tabu returns as Meera Deshmukh, while Shriya Saran reprises her role as Nandini Salgaonkar. Rajat Kapoor and Kamlesh Sawant are also part of the returning ensemble. Their presence allows the new film to continue the relationships, conflicts and narrative threads that audiences have followed across the previous chapters.

At the same time, Drishyam The Conclusion expands its cast with actors Jaideep Ahlawat and

Prakash Raj. Their inclusion adds new performers to an already established ensemble and introduces additional elements to the concluding chapter. The film also features Ishita Dutta and Mrunal Jadhav, along with other members of the cast, further bringing together characters connected to the world of the franchise.

Ahead of its theatrical release, Drishyam The Conclusion also recorded significant pre-release ticket sales, reflecting the anticipation surrounding the final instalment. Advance bookings gave audiences an opportunity to reserve seats ahead of the film’s arrival, with interest building around the conclusion of Vijay Salgaonkar’s story. The pre-release response also underlined the continued attention that the franchise has been able to generate after multiple instalments.

The film’s release also represents the continuation

of Star Studio18’s association with the Drishyam franchise. The studio has been involved in the journey of the property and has described how the series evolved from an individual film into a continuing film franchise. According to Alok Jain, Head – Hindi & English Entertainment (Streaming, TV & Studios), JioStar, the potential of Drishyam was recognised from the very first film.

Jain said that at Star Studio18, the team believed the story had the ability to connect strongly with Hindi-speaking audiences. The studio supported that belief through creative, marketing and distribution efforts aimed at building the property into a franchise. He reflected on the journey of the series, noting that more than a decade and three films later, Drishyam has developed into a widely loved franchise and an enduring intellectual property.

According to Jain, one of the significant aspects of the franchise’s journey has been the manner in which audiences have embraced its characters and world. He said the studio was proud to have been part of the journey and to see the world created through the films become deeply embedded in popular culture. His comments highlight how the franchise has moved beyond being viewed simply as a series of individual releases and has developed a recognisable identity of its own.

Jain also spoke about the responsibility that comes with continuing a successful franchise. A returning franchise comes with an established audience that already knows its characters and has expectations about the direction of the story. However, he pointed out that simply repeating elements that worked in earlier films would not be enough to sustain the series. The challenge, therefore, has been to introduce something fresh while preserving the emotional connection audiences have developed with the characters.

He explained that with every Drishyam film, the creative focus has been on giving audiences something new, exciting and unpredictable while remaining faithful to the emotions and characters that they have come to know. According to Jain, keeping the audience at the centre of the franchise has been an important guiding principle throughout its development.

The Ayushmann Khurrana genre is BACK: Udda Teer sees Bollywood’s king of crazy concepts return to his sweet spot

Aryan Age Correspondent

Mumbai :There are actors who become synonymous with action, actors who build their identity around romance, and stars whose names immediately evoke spectacle. And then there is Ayushmann Khurrana, who over the years has almost created a genre of his own: films built around ideas that sound outrageous when reduced to a single sentence, but somehow become warm, funny, relatable mainstream entertainers once he steps into them. That is precisely why Udda Teer feels interesting even before its release.

Ayushmann plays a Pakistani spy who loses his memory and finds himself caught in a situation where his identity, loyalties and understanding of who he really is are thrown into complete chaos. On paper, it is a premise that could easily have become a dark espionage thriller or an intense geopolitical drama. Instead, Udda Teer turns the situation into a patriotic comedy-filled caper, combining action, confusion and absurdity.

And suddenly, you find yourself thinking: isn’t this exactly the kind of film Ayushmann Khurrana was born to headline?

In fact, there was a period when describing an upcoming Ayushmann



film to somebody almost became an entertaining exercise in itself. A young man is a sperm donor, but the film is actually a love story.

A soon-to-be-married man suffers from erectile dysfunction, but the film is a family comedy. A young man’s middle-aged parents unexpectedly become pregnant, but their embarrassment becomes one of Hindi cinema’s most endearing family entertainers.

A prematurely balding man desperately tries to hold on to his confidence and his idea of attractiveness. A small-town performer

discovers that his ability to speak in a woman’s voice can become a profession, and eventually, a recipe for complete chaos.

Now add another sentence to that list: A Pakistani spy loses his memory and begins navigating an entirely different sense of identity.

What made films such as Vicky Donor, Shubb Mangal Saavdhan, Badhaai Ho, Bala and Dream Girl connect was not merely that their concepts were unusual. Hindi cinema has never suffered from a shortage of unusual ideas.

The more difficult achievement

was making those ideas accessible to audiences that might otherwise have kept their distance from the subjects.

Ayushmann became one of the industry’s most reliable bridges between the unconventional and the mainstream.

His characters rarely enter the screen as superheroes. More often, they are men with insecurities, embarrassments and problems that they would rather nobody knew about.

He has repeatedly allowed circumstances to overwhelm his characters, and that vulnerability has been crucial to his appeal. Instead of asking audiences to admire his characters from a distance, his films usually invite viewers to laugh with them, laugh at them and eventually root for them. Udda Teer appears to tap into exactly that quality.

More significantly, Ayushmann himself recently described Udda Teer as a return to the kind of content-driven cinema associated with the phase that first brought him widespread popularity. Speaking at FICCI Frames 2026, the actor argued for films that connect strongly with audiences without necessarily depending on inflated budgets or scale.

In that context, his excitement about Udda Teer acquires greater significance.

Keerthy Suresh shares a heartfelt note as she looks back at her journey with Dorothy: “The film took a little piece of my heart”

Aryan Age Correspondent

Mumbai :National Award winner Keerthy Suresh has shared an emotional glimpse into her journey with Dorothy, taking to social media to post a series of behind-the-scenes pictures from the film. Through the images and a heartfelt note, the actress reflected on her experience of bringing the character to life and expressed gratitude to the people who were part of the project. Her post offered fans a closer look at moments from the making of the film while also highlighting the personal connections she developed during the shoot.At the centre of Keerthy’s post was her character Dorothy, whom she described in deeply personal terms. Looking back at the experience, the actress said that Dorothy had taken

“a little piece” of her heart and hoped that she had left a part of herself with the char-



acter and the film as well. Her words reflected the emotional investment she made in the role and the lasting memories she has carried with her after completing the project.Keerthy also expressed her gratitude towards director Karthik Sub-

baraj for trusting her with Dorothy. She thanked the filmmaker for giving her an

opportunity to become part of his vision and described the project as something that was close to his heart. For the actress, being included in a project that was so personal to the director made the experience particularly meaningful.Sharing the

BTS photographs, Keerthy wrote, “Dorothy took a little piece of my heart, and I hope I left a little piece of mine with you all.”

She went on to thank Karthik Subbaraj for trusting her with the character and for making her part of his vision. The actress said that being part of his dream project truly felt like a dream of her own.Her note also carried special words for music legend Ilaiyaraaja.

Keerthy expressed her admiration for the veteran composer and said that she had never imagined she would one day have the opportunity to be part of the magic he creates. She described the experience as something she would treasure for the rest of her life, making her appreciation for the celebrated musician one of the most emotional parts of the post.

Nikki Tamboli on playing two contrasting leads in Ex vs Wife: “There’s a different energy to vertical stories”

Aryan Age Correspondent

Mumbai :Nikki Tamboli is set to enter the world of vertical storytelling with her upcoming series Ex vs Wife, marking her debut in a format that has been steadily becoming part of the digital entertainment space. The project will see Nikki share the screen with actor Vishal Aditya Singh, while also giving her the opportunity to take on two contrasting lead characters. Having previously worked across television and reality entertainment, Nikki is now exploring a different style of storytelling that relies on shorter episodes, faster developments and mobile-first viewing.For the actor, stepping into the vertical format has been a new experience that required her to adapt to a different pace of performance. Unlike conventional television and longer-form digital projects, vertical series are generally designed around quick storytelling and episodes that are structured

to hold the audience’s attention within a shorter duration. Nikki has described the experience of adjusting to this rhythm as an interesting part of working on Ex vs Wife.Speaking about her experience, Nikki said, “There’s a very different energy to vertical stories because everything moves at a faster pace.” She explained that she enjoyed adapting to the rhythm of the format and discovering how performances work within a storytelling style that moves quickly. For the actor, the change in pace became one of the distinctive aspects of her latest project.What makes Ex vs Wife particularly significant for Nikki is not only the format but also the nature of her role. The actor will portray two contrasting lead characters in the series, allowing her to explore two different sides of the story. She will reportedly move between a positive and a negative lead, giving her an opportunity to showcase contrasting emotions and personalities within

the same project.

Nikki said that getting the chance to play two contrasting characters made the project especially meaningful for her.



Shubman Gill's Massive Revelation On India Captaincy: "Not Really My Dream"

New Delhi : Indian captain Shubman Gill has reflected on reaching the top spot in the ICC ODI batting rankings, describing the achievement as a satisfying milestone but insisting that individual rankings are not his primary focus. Gill said his attention is now firmly on contributing to India's success, delivering performances when the team needs them and playing a match-winning role.

Speaking to JioStar ahead of India's third and final ODI against the West Indies, Gill recalled that becoming the world's No. 1-ranked ODI batter had been a goal he had set for himself while growing up. He said that as a young cricketer, he used to look at international rankings and dream of eventually reaching the top position.

Gill said his first experience of becoming the No. 1-ranked ODI batter came during the 2023 World Cup. He described the moment as a fulfilling achievement because it represented the completion of a personal target that he had carried since his younger days.

The Indian skipper, however, made it clear that his priorities have changed with experience. While being ranked No. 1 remains an achievement he values, Gill said the ranking itself does not hold the same importance for him now as it once did.

He explained that his bigger priority is understanding what he can do when he walks out to bat in a match. For Gill, the key question is how his batting can contribute to India's chances of winning rather than where



he stands in the individual rankings.

Gill said the satisfaction of an individual milestone is important, but the responsibility of representing India brings a larger objective. His comments underline his focus on converting personal form into performances that directly benefit the team.

The Indian captain is currently enjoying a remarkable run of form with the bat. In the ongoing three-match ODI series against the West Indies, Gill has scored 333 runs in two matches, including a century and a double century.

His performances have provided India with a strong start to the series and further highlighted his consistency in the ODI format. The two-match tally has also come while Gill has been carrying the additional responsibility of leading the side.

The third ODI will therefore provide Gill with another opportunity to combine his batting role with his responsibilities as captain. India and

the West Indies will meet in the series decider on Saturday at the PCA International Cricket Stadium in New Chandigarh.

Ahead of the match, Gill also spoke about his experience of captaining India in two formats. Rather than describing the leadership role as a childhood dream, he said he views it primarily as a responsibility entrusted to him by the team and the country.

Gill explained that becoming India's captain was not something he had specifically dreamed about while growing up. His ambition as a young cricketer was much simpler: to represent the country and help India win matches.

According to Gill, that mindset has helped him deal with the pressures that accompany leadership. He said that receiving the opportunity to captain India was a major honour as well as a significant responsibility, and he approaches the role from that

perspective.

The Indian captain also said that focusing on responsibility rather than personal expectations helps him remain composed. He believes that maintaining the right intent in his actions allows other aspects of the game and leadership to fall into place naturally.

Gill's comments offer an insight into how he views the relationship between individual achievement and leadership. While rankings and milestones provide recognition, he considers his contribution to the team's performance to be more important when he steps onto the field.

His current form has also placed him at the centre of India's batting plans for the West Indies series. Scoring 333 runs in the opening two matches, including a hundred and a double hundred, has given him significant momentum going into the final game.

The third ODI will bring both aspects of Gill's role into focus as India look to complete the series. Alongside his responsibility as captain, he will once again be expected to provide a substantial contribution with the bat.

For Gill, however, the larger objective remains unchanged. Whether he is No. 1 in the rankings or not, he wants his performances to help India win matches. As he prepares for the final ODI against the West Indies, the Indian captain has made it clear that team success and meaningful contributions remain ahead of individual recognition.

Ronaldo's Portugal Rift Raises Fresh Questions Over His Legacy

New Delhi :Cristiano Ronaldo's latest tensions involving Portugal and head coach Jorge Jesus have brought renewed attention to the difficult final chapters of his international and club career. Once the undisputed centre of Portugal's football project, Ronaldo now finds himself at the heart of another controversy, raising comparisons with some of the troubled moments that marked his time at Manchester United.

The situation has added another layer to a career that has otherwise been defined by extraordinary achievements. Ronaldo has spent more than two decades at the highest level, winning major domestic and European trophies, collecting individual awards and becoming one of the most prolific goalscorers in international football. Yet his later years have also been accompanied by disputes with managers, teammates and clubs. His relationship with Portugal has traditionally been one of the strongest parts of his career. Ronaldo helped the national team win Euro 2016 and the 2019 Nations League, while also becoming Portugal's most recognised football figure. However, as he approaches the closing stages of his international career, questions over his role and influence



have become increasingly prominent. The involvement of Jorge Jesus has made the situation particularly significant. Jesus is a manager with his own strong reputation and an established tactical identity, meaning any disagreement over Ronaldo's role could quickly become a major talking point. The relationship between a veteran superstar and a coach with authority over team selection is always sensitive, particularly when the player has been the face of the national side for so long. Ronaldo's supporters have long argued that his extraordinary record gives him a unique position within Portugal. His goals, experience and leadership have repeatedly made him an important option even as successive generations of Portuguese players have emerged. At the same time, managers have increasingly had to balance his influence with the tactical and physical

demands of modern international football.

That debate became familiar during his final period at Manchester United. Ronaldo returned to Old Trafford in 2021 amid enormous excitement, but his second spell eventually ended in bitter circumstances. Disagreements over his role, playing time and relationship with manager Erik ten Hag eventually dominated the headlines. The Manchester United episode culminated in Ronaldo leaving the club by mutual agreement in November 2022. His explosive interview with Piers Morgan exposed the depth of his dissatisfaction and criticised several aspects of the club. The episode became one of the most controversial moments of his career and demonstrated how quickly tensions surrounding Ronaldo can escalate when he feels his status is being challenged.

Harbhajan Singh Picks India Star, Says He Is 'Only Growing in Stature With Time'

New Delhi :Former Indian cricketer Harbhajan Singh heaped praise on Indian skipper Shubman Gill after his record-breaking double century during India's historic 406-run chase against the West Indies in the second ODI of the three-match series on Thursday. During the second ODI, Gill put together a massive 255-run opening stand with Rohit Sharma to set the tempo for a humongous run chase.

After his knock of 208 in 149 balls against New Zealand in 2023, the Indian skipper smashed the fastest ODI double century in history, reaching the milestone in just 117 balls, laced with 24 fours and seven sixes.

Gill remained unbeaten on 223 off 133 balls during the record-breaking chase of 406, hitting 26 fours and eight sixes at a strike rate of over 167. It was the third-highest ODI score by a batter, behind Rohit Sharma (264) and New Zealand's Martin Guptill (237*).

The star batter overtook Ishan Kishan's record of a 126-ball double century against Bangladesh in 2022. Now, Gill, with two double centuries, is the second batter after Rohit Sharma (three) to score multiple ODI double centuries.

Speaking to ANI, Harbhajan Singh praised Shubman Gill's growth as a player and captain, saying his game has



improved with experience. He credited Gill's hard work and his father's contribution to his journey, while lauding his record-breaking double century and congratulating both Gill and his father.

"Shubman Gill is only growing in stature with time. He is the captain now, and I have been seeing him play tremendously well continuously since the Under-19 days. As he has become a more experienced player, his game has got better and better. So it's a very proud moment for me to say that Shubman Gill has come up from where he started, and his father's contribution is huge," he said.

"And the hard work he has put in,

the results he is delivering for the team, it's outstanding. Brilliant knock. I mean, no one has ever made 200 that fast. So many congratulations to Shubman, and my congratulations to his father, because I know if anyone will be the happiest about these runs Shubman has made, it won't be Shubman; it will be his father," Harbhajan Singh added.

Gill's feat also made him only the second batter after Glenn Maxwell to score an ODI double century while chasing.

Maxwell had produced his remarkable 201 not out against Afghanistan at the Wankhede Stadium in Mumbai during the 2023 ODI World Cup.

Manchester City File Comprehensive Appeal After Explosive Premier League Findings

New Delhi :Manchester City has lodged a "comprehensive" appeal, the club confirmed Friday, following the publication of a report by an independent commission detailing large-scale financial rule-breaking by the Premier League giant. "The club's firm position," read a short statement from City, "is that, on multiple grounds, the opinion contains clear material errors, of law, principle and fact and is unsafe." City has protested its innocence throughout the long-running case, which dates back to 2018, and reached a milestone Tuesday when the Premier League published a verdict saying the Abu Dhabi-controlled club was "guilty of all charges related to serious breaches" of the competition's financial rules from 2009-18.

Officials said they would lodge an appeal and that was filed on Thursday evening, the club said, ahead of Friday's deadline.

"The club is innocent of the accusations made by the



Premier League and a comprehensive body of irrefutable evidence exists in support of all of its positions, relating to this case," City said, using language from previous statements on the case.

According to the Premier League handbook, the chair of the three-person disciplinary commission that found against City now has to appoint a new appeal board. That also will consist of three people, one of whom "shall have held judicial office," the league's rules state.

The appeal board will then schedule a hearing that should finish within 12

weeks after the appeal is filed, and cannot exceed five consecutive days.

City has yet to receive a punishment for the violations found. That will be addressed in a separate, confidential hearing with the commission and there has been no word whether sanctions can be imposed before the decision of the appeal is reached. The Premier League has only said its intention is that the process is concluded "as soon as possible."

According to the Premier League, potential sanctions against City could be a reprimand, a fine, a suspension, points deduction or, in

the worst case, expulsion from the competition. No team has ever been expelled from English soccer's top flight.

City was found to have systematically broken the Premier League's financial rules for nearly a decade in what the competition's chief executive, Richard Masters, described as the most significant disciplinary case in the league's history.

The investigatory panel found that City artificially inflated its revenue — using what the league has called "sham" commercial deals — by more than \$1 billion from 2009-18 to circumvent financial fair-play rules that restricted rival clubs, and allowing City to buy some of the best players in the world.

That was the foundation of a long and unprecedented period of success in which City changed the landscape of the world's most popular soccer league, with the northwest club winning eight league titles from 2012-24.

Historic gold in women's hockey after Lovlina, Parveen, Sujeet's brilliance

New Delhi : India enjoyed a memorable day at the Asian Games as the women's recurve archery team created history by defeating South Korea in the final to secure the country's first-ever gold medal in the event. The historic victory added another major achievement to India's campaign and underlined the country's growing strength in archery.

The Indian women's recurve team produced a composed performance in the final against South Korea, one of the strongest nations in

international archery. The victory gave India its maiden Asian Games gold in the women's recurve team event and marked a significant moment for the country's archery programme.

The historic archery triumph was followed by another major achievement in boxing, with Lovlina Borgohain winning her first Asian Games gold medal. The Indian boxer delivered a strong performance to claim the top prize and add another gold to India's growing medal tally.

For Lovlina, the victory represented an important milestone in her international career. Having already established herself as one of India's leading boxers, she added an Asian Games gold medal to her list of major achievements.

India's success in archery continued beyond the women's team event. The Indian mixed recurve team also secured a silver medal, further strengthening the country's medal haul in the discipline. The men's recurve archery team also added an-

other silver medal to India's tally. The performances across the different recurve events demonstrated the depth of India's challenge in the sport and ensured that archery remained one of the country's important medal-producing disciplines at the Games.

India also added two bronze medals in sailing during the day's competition. The medals provided another boost to the country's overall campaign and demonstrated India's presence across a wider range of sporting disciplines.

Brazil Manager Carlo Ancelotti Opens Up Before India Showdown

New Delhi :Brazil head coach Carlo Ancelotti said on Friday that his side "respects" India and is looking forward to an entertaining contest when the two teams meet on Saturday. The celebrated Italian manager, a five-time Champions League winner, said the match against India should be viewed as an opportunity rather than a test for his players. Ancelotti, who was appointed Brazil head coach in May 2025 ahead of the 2026 World Cup, said he was happy to be in India and hoped the game would provide his team with a chance to showcase its quality.

"I hope it will be an entertaining game. We're happy to be here and to show our quality," Ancelotti said.

Asked about his calm demeanour, the 67-year-old Italian said patience was an important quality for a manager.

"It's part of my character. I'm usually patient in football, and as a manager, I think patience is an important quality," he said.

On whether the match would serve as a test for his squad, he said: "For the squad and all the players, it's not a test or an opportunity to prove themselves. We are still defining the final squad

for the match. It's not a test, but an opportunity."



Ancelotti said Brazil had "full respect" for India, who recently played out a 1-1 draw against Panama.

"We have respect for the quality of the Indian team. They played a good draw

against Panama. We have full respect for our opponents," he said.

The veteran manager also spoke about Brazil's preparations for the new cycle and the need to bring together a squad featuring several new players. "It's a pleasure to work with all of the new members. Not only them, but the whole squad. It has been a great moment, bringing them together, creating synergy and feeling the energy in the squad," he said. Asked to name his starting XI, Ancelotti simply replied: "No." The Italian also explained the difference between working with a club

and managing a national team.

"Coaching a club and managing a national team are very different. You have to select the right players. At a club, you have more time to do the right things. It is special to coach the national team of Brazil," he said.

Ancelotti said there were certain qualities he wanted to remain central to Brazil's identity.

"Commitment, quality and happiness to play football. Quality is part of our culture. I would like the players to enjoy themselves, to play with happiness in every game.

Yuzvendra Chahal Announces Retirement From Red-Ball Cricket, Vows To Fight For International Future: "Not Done Yet"

New Delhi :Veteran Indian leg-spinner Yuzvendra Chahal on Friday announced his retirement from first-class cricket, acknowledging that his long-cherished dream of earning a Test cap was no longer within reach, while adding that he remains committed to competing in white-ball formats. Chahal, who has represented India in 72 ODIs and 80 T20Is, never got the opportunity to don the Test whites despite a 17-year career in domestic and county circuits. His last international appearance came during a T20I against the West Indies in August 2023.

"The first cricket ball I ever held was a red ball. I was 10 years old, and I had no idea then how deeply I would fall in love with this game. For me, red-ball cricket was never just another format. It was where I learned the meaning of patience, character, resilience and the pure joy of being out there for hours, fighting for every run and every wicket.

"I played my last First-Class match at Lords, saying these words is emotional as a Test cap was always a dream, one that I carried with me for many years. It may not have happened, but I am genuinely content with the journey I have had and incredibly grateful for every opportunity that came my way in this format. The red ball gave me



some of the most beautiful memories of my life, and nothing will ever take that away," wrote Chahal in a post on his Instagram account on Friday.

Having made his first-class debut for Haryana back in 2009, Chahal finishes his red-ball career with 148 wickets in 49 matches at an average of 32.27. At the same time, Chahal, a member of India winning the 2024 Men's T20 World Cup, made it clear that he has no intention of hanging up his boots in limited-overs cricket, declaring that, "But I AM NOT DONE YET." "The hunger to play for my country is still very much alive. I believe I have the cricket left in me, and I will give everything I have to earn another opportunity in the One-Day and T20 formats.

"A special thank you to the Haryana Cricket Association, Mr. Ranbir Singh Mahindra Sir and Mr. Anirudh Singh Chaudhary Sir for

their continuous support, trust and belief throughout my journey. From a 10-year-old holding his first red ball to playing his final First-Class game, it has been one hell of a journey," added Chahal.

While Chahal was rarely a red-ball regular for Haryana, his standout Ranji Trophy season came way back in the 2016/17 season with 33 wickets in seven outings, his final first-class stint saw him shine for Northamptonshire in Division Two of the 2026 County Championship.

He picked up 21 wickets at an average of 16.14, the second-best average for any bowler with 20-plus wickets. Chahal's final first-class match ended in a seven-wicket loss to Middlesex, which ended Northamptonshire's promotion bid. Though sidelined from national selection in recent times, Chahal, IPL's leading wicket-taker, has maintained his white-ball pedigree.

Cost accountants' institute unveils governance framework for insurance sector

New Delhi : The Institute of Cost Accountants of India (ICMAI) has unveiled the first edition of its INSCOST – Cost Management, Cost Governance, Cost Disclosure and Cost Assurance Framework for the Indian Insurance Sector, aimed at strengthening cost discipline, transparency, governance and assurance across the insurance industry.

The sector-specific framework covers life, general, health and reinsurance businesses, and public sector insurance entities. It provides guidance on cost records, cost management, cost governance, cost disclosure and cost assurance, besides areas such as strategic cost management and product profitability.

CMA Chittaranjan Chatopadhyay, President, ICMAI, said the framework comes at an important stage

in the evolution of the Indian insurance sector, as the country works towards the vision of ‘Insurance for All by 2047’ and the broader objective of Viksit Bharat.

"Sound cost management and cost governance will be increasingly important for efficiency, sustainability and policyholder value," he said. The framework adapts ICMAI's Cost Accounting Standards, Cost Auditing Standards and Generally Accepted Cost Accounting Principles to the economics of insurance and aligns them with the regulatory architecture of the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI). It provides guidance on cost allocation, Expenses of Management, claims and distribution costs, bancassurance, government-sponsored schemes, strategic cost analytics and prod-

uct profitability. According to the institute, the framework seeks to help insurers assess acquisition, procurement and operational costs, improve process efficiency and strengthen underwriting discipline. It introduces a Cost Maturity Model and a phased Implementation Roadmap, allowing insurers to strengthen their cost management and assurance practices based on their size and readiness. It also outlines an expanded role for Cost and Management Accountants in product-level profitability, claims cost analysis, distribution cost management, budgeting, process optimisation and strategic decision-making. The initiative comes against the backdrop of the IRDAI's Public Consultation Paper on 'Reforms for Recalibrating Economics of Insurance Distribution', issued on September 23.

Govt absorbing up to Rs 2,700 per urea bag as global costs rise to Rs 3,000: Sitharaman

Madanapalle : The Centre has been absorbing a subsidy of around Rs 2,700 on every bag of urea when global costs have risen as high as Rs 3,000, keeping the price paid by farmers at around Rs 300, Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said on Friday. Addressing a gathering at Madanapalle in Andhra Pradesh, Sitharaman said the government had sought to shield farmers from the sharp rise in fertiliser costs caused by global disruptions, including the pandemic and geopolitical tensions in West Asia.

"Despite severe global headwinds, the pandemic and geopolitical strife in West Asia driving import costs up to Rs 3,000 per bag of urea, PM ensured our farmers continued to receive it at just Rs 300, providing a subsidy of Rs 2,700 per bag, directly absorbing the global burden," Sitharaman said, according to posts by the Finance Minister's Office on X. Fertiliser subsidies are used by the government to



keep farm input prices below their delivered cost.

Under the Urea Subsidy Scheme, the difference between the delivered cost of urea and the amount realised from its sale is reimbursed by the government to fer-

tiliser manufacturers and importers.

The government-notified maximum retail price of a 45-kg bag of urea currently stands at Rs 242, excluding neem-coating charges and applicable taxes.

Sitharaman's remarks referred

to the farmer price in rounded terms while highlighting the extent to which the Centre has absorbed higher global costs. The Finance Minister said ensuring adequate availability of essential farm inputs remained a government priority alongside income support and access to institutional credit.

"Under Narendra Modi's leadership, farmer welfare has been at the centre of every step, from direct benefit transfers through PM-Kisan Samman Nidhi to timely institutional credit via Kisan Credit Cards. Ensuring zero shortage of essential inputs has been our utmost priority," she said.

Sitharaman was speaking at an event in Madanapalle where initiatives aimed at developing horticulture and agriculture in Andhra Pradesh were announced.

She said the Centre and the state government were working together to expand investment and support for agriculture and allied sectors.

HDFC Bank names Anup Bagchi as CEO; to take charge from October 27

Aryan Age Correspondent

Mumbai : The board of HDFC Bank, India's largest private sector bank, has appointed Anup Bagchi as its new Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer after receiving approval from the Reserve Bank of India for his appointment. Bagchi, who is currently serving as MD and CEO of ICICI Prudential Life Insurance, will take charge of HDFC Bank on October 27, 2026.

Bagchi's appointment marks an important leadership transition for HDFC Bank as the lender prepares for a change at the top of its management.

His appointment follows the decision of incumbent MD and CEO Sashidhar Jagdishan not to seek another term at the bank.

Jagdishan's current tenure as MD and CEO will end on October 26, 2026. Following the completion of his term, he will retire from the services of HDFC Bank, bringing his tenure as the lender's chief executive to an end.

HDFC Bank disclosed Bagchi's appointment in a regulatory filing following the RBI's approval.

The bank said the central bank had approved both Bagchi's appointment and the remuneration payable to him under the applicable provisions of the Banking Regulation Act.

"Pursuant to an application made by the bank, the RBI vide its communication dated October 1 has approved appointment of Anup Bagchi MD & CEO of the bank and the remuneration payable to him," HDFC Bank said in its exchange filing.

According to the bank, the RBI approval has been granted under Section 35B of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949.

Bagchi will serve as MD and CEO of HDFC Bank for a period of three years, beginning October 27, 2026. Bagchi will move to HDFC Bank from ICICI Prudential Life Insurance, where he currently serves as Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer.

Factory wages rose 5% in FY25, Jharkhand only state to see a fall

New Delhi : Jharkhand was the only state in India to record a decline in the average wages of factory workers during 2024-25, according to government data released on Wednesday. The latest figures from the Annual Survey of Industries showed that the average wage per factory worker in the eastern state fell by 5.2% compared with the previous financial year.

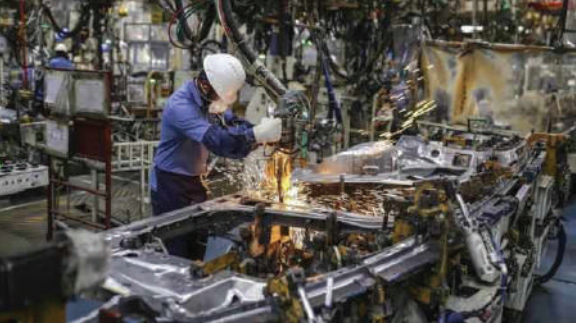
The decline in Jharkhand stood out against the broader national trend, with average factory wages increasing across the country during the year.

At the national level, factory workers saw their average annual wage rise by 5.3% in 2024-25, taking it to Rs 2.28 lakh from Rs 2.16 lakh in 2023-24.

Despite the fall recorded during the year, factory workers in Jharkhand continued to earn considerably more than the national average. Calculations based on the Annual Survey of Indus-

tries data showed that the average wage of a factory worker in Jharkhand stood at around Rs 3.04 lakh in 2024-25.

Jharkhand's average factory wage was the third highest among states during the



year. It was behind Sikkim, where the average stood at Rs 4.06 lakh, and Goa, where factory workers earned an average of Rs 3.14 lakh. Thus, the decline in Jharkhand's average wage came from a relatively high base.

The figures provide an interesting picture of the

country's industrial workforce, with wage trends differing considerably across states. While Jharkhand recorded a decline, the national average moved higher, reflecting an overall increase in factory-sector earnings during 2024-25.

The latest Annual Survey of Industries also showed that India's industrial workforce expanded significantly during the year. The number of factory workers increased by 7.3% nationally to 1.67 crore, highlighting the continued expansion of organised fac-

tory employment across the country.

The number of factories also increased during 2024-25. The total number of factories rose by 2.6% to around 2.7 lakh, indicating that industrial capacity and employment continued to expand during the period covered by the survey.

The increase in the number of factories was particularly significant because it marked the first time in more than a decade that India recorded factory growth of more than 2% in two consecutive years. The trend points to a sustained expansion in the country's registered factory sector.

Tamil Nadu continued to occupy the leading position in terms of the number of factories and factory workers. The southern state remained a major centre of India's manufacturing activity, with its large industrial base supporting substantial employment across different sectors.

Inflation in Europe jumps to 3.8% in September, energy inflation at 18.8%

Brussels : Inflation in the Euro area is estimated to have risen to 3.8 per cent in September 2026, up from 3.2 per cent in August, according to a flash estimate from Eurostat, the statistical office of the European Union.

The rise in inflation was largely driven by a sharp increase in energy prices, with energy recording the highest annual inflation rate among the main components in September.

Energy inflation is estimated at 18.8 per cent in September, compared with 14.3 per cent in August, marking a significant acceleration and making it the biggest contributor among the major components shown in the Eurostat data.

The data also highlighted that services inflation increased during the month, rising to 3.2 per cent in September from 3.0 per cent in August.

Meanwhile, inflation in food, alcohol and tobacco increased to 1.4 per cent from 1.1 per cent in August. The official estimates also

highlighted that the non-energy industrial goods were the only major component to see a moderation in annual inflation.

Inflation in this category stood at 1.1 per cent in September, compared with 1.2 per cent in August.

The overall inflation rate of 3.8 per cent represents a 0.6 percentage point increase from August, according to the flash estimate.

The data showed that the latest acceleration in euro area inflation is being led by energy.

Where the annual rate of price growth is substantially higher than in other major components.

Services remain the second-highest category at 3.2 per cent, while food, alcohol and tobacco and non-energy industrial goods recorded much lower rates of 1.4 per cent and 1.1 per cent, respectively.

The September figures are based on Eurostat's flash estimate and provide an early indication of the inflation trend in the euro area.

Oil prices jump 2% as China halts fuel exports amid US-Iran war: Brent crude tops \$100

New Delhi : Oil prices climbed by around 2% on Thursday as markets reacted to China's decision to suspend exports of oil products to most destinations, raising concerns about tighter fuel supplies in international markets. The development added fresh pressure to global oil prices as traders assessed the potential impact of reduced Chinese exports on fuel availability. China is a major player in global energy markets, and any significant change in its refined oil product exports can influence supply conditions and market expectations. Brent crude, the international benchmark for oil prices, moved above the psychologically important level of \$100 per barrel during Thursday's trading session. The rise reflected growing concerns that restrictions on Chinese oil product exports could tighten supplies at a time when markets are al-

ready closely watching geopolitical developments. The December Brent crude futures contract, which became the new front-month



contract, was trading at \$100.09 per barrel at 8:29 GMT on Thursday, according to Reuters. The price represented an increase of \$2.06, or 2.1%, from Wednesday's closing level. The move above \$100 a bar-

rel marked a significant development for energy markets, as investors continued to assess the balance between global oil demand, was a key factor behind Thursday's price increase. Reduced exports from one of the world's major energy markets can alter regional fuel balances and encourage traders to anticipate tighter supplies elsewhere. The impact is particularly important for refined petroleum products because countries and companies rely on international trade to meet shortages and balance domestic demand. A reduction in Chinese exports could therefore force buyers in some markets to seek supplies from alternative sources. Traders were also monitoring developments surrounding the US-Iran war, with fresh diplomatic efforts aimed at finding a way to end the conflict. Any progress in diplomatic negotiations could influence expectations about future oil supplies and the wider geopolitical risk premium built into crude prices.

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Centre tightens sugar stock limits for dealers amid festive demand

New Delhi : The Centre has further tightened stockholding limits for sugar dealers as the new sugar season begins and India enters the peak festive period. The government said the measure is aimed at ensuring adequate availability of sugar in the domestic market and preventing excessive stock accumulation that could affect prices during the festive season.

The decision comes after sugar prices witnessed a significant rise earlier this year, prompting the government to take additional steps to closely monitor supplies and market conditions. With demand for sugar generally increasing during festivals, authorities are seeking to ensure that consumers do not face shortages or sharp price increases.

According to a statement issued by the Ministry of Food on Thursday, the new restrictions will come into effect from October 15. Under the revised rules, sugar dealers will not be permitted to hold stocks for more than 15 days.

In addition to the time limit, dealers will also be restricted from holding more than 1,000 quintals of sugar at any single location. The government has set both limits with the stated objective of

preventing excessive stockholding and ensuring that sugar remains available in the market.

The restrictions will remain in force until November 30, covering a crucial period of the festive season when household and commercial demand for sugar tends to increase. The government will continue to monitor market conditions during this period and assess supply and price movements.

The timing of the decision is significant because October marks the beginning of a new sugar season in India. The start of the season generally brings fresh supplies into the market, but demand also rises as major festivals take place across the country.

Sugar is widely used in the preparation of sweets and other festive food products, making the period particularly important for the domestic sugar market. Increased household consumption as well as higher demand from sweet manufacturers and other food businesses can place additional pressure on supplies.

The Centre's latest move is therefore focused on maintaining a steady flow of sugar through the distribution

chain. By limiting the quantity that dealers can hold and restricting the duration for which stocks can be retained, the government wants to discourage practices that could contribute to artificial scarcity or price volatility.

Under the new arrangement, a dealer cannot retain sugar stocks beyond the prescribed 15-day period, while the quantity stored at any one location must remain within the 1,000-quintal ceiling. The restrictions apply during the specified period ending November 30.

The government has said that the measure is intended to ensure that consumers receive adequate supplies at reasonable prices during the festive season. The move also reflects the Centre's efforts to closely monitor essential food commodities when changes in demand and supply can have a direct impact on retail prices.

The restrictions come against the backdrop of the government's broader efforts to manage the sugar market. Sugar is an important agricultural commodity, and its prices are influenced by factors including production, availability, consumption, exports, weather conditions and stock levels.

Our Central Mission Must Be Patient-Centric Innovation: JP Nadda

New Delhi : Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare and Chemicals and Fertilizers Jagat Prakash Nadda has called upon India's life sciences industry to place patient-centric innovation at the heart of its research, development and commercial efforts. Addressing the inaugural Bharat Life Sciences Awards (BSA), organised by FICCI and powered by Eli Lilly and Company (India), Nadda said scientific achievements would have their greatest value when they ultimately improve healthcare access and outcomes for patients.

The first edition of the Bharat Life Sciences Awards recognised leading contributions to the country's life sciences ecosystem at an event held at Vigyan Bhawan on

Thursday. The awards brought together representatives from the pharmaceutical, biotechnology, healthcare and scientific communities, providing a platform to recognise innovation and research with the potential to create a wider impact on Indian healthcare.

In a video address at the event, Nadda emphasised that innovation should not remain confined to laboratories and research institutions. He said the real measure of scientific success was the ability to translate discoveries into meaningful healthcare solutions that could reach patients. According to the minister, the journey from scientific discovery to actual treatment must remain focused on quality, affordability

and accessibility.

"True success is not just inventing in the lab, but taking discoveries from bench to bedside, ensuring high-quality care is accessible, timely and affordable for the last person in the queue," Nadda said in his address. His remarks highlighted the need for India's growing scientific and industrial capabilities to remain closely connected with the practical healthcare needs of the population.

The minister pointed to India's expanding healthcare and life sciences ecosystem as evidence of what can be achieved when scientific capability is combined with a clearly defined public purpose. He cited the country's bioeconomy, pharmaceutical

manufacturing capabilities and leadership in vaccine production as areas where India has developed significant strengths over the years.

Nadda also highlighted the role of government healthcare programmes in expanding access to medical treatment. Referring to Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana, he noted that the scheme provides



health cover of up to Rs. 5 lakh annually and has now been extended to all citizens aged 70 years and above. He said such initiatives demonstrate the importance of connecting innovation and industrial capacity with broader healthcare objectives.

The minister said India's growing bioeconomy provides an important foundation for the country's future in life sciences. Developments in biotechnology, pharmaceuticals, vaccines and related fields have created opportunities for India to strengthen both domestic healthcare and its position in the global life sciences sector. Nadda also referred to flagship government initiatives such as Biopharma Shakti, saying that such programmes were help-

ing guide the sector towards greater innovation and stronger capabilities. The initiative is part of the broader effort to strengthen India's biopharmaceutical ecosystem and encourage the development of advanced healthcare technologies and products.

The Bharat Life Sciences Awards were launched with the objective of recognising scientific excellence and innovation within India's life sciences sector. The inaugural edition attracted more than 500 applications, indicating the breadth of research, innovation and enterprise taking place across the country's life sciences ecosystem.

The awards were designed to identify work that combines scientific merit with relevance to In-

dia's healthcare requirements. The evaluation process considered several parameters, including scientific excellence, innovation, evidence, relevance to India and potential impact. This approach was intended to ensure that recognition was based not only on the novelty of an idea but also on its potential to generate meaningful outcomes.

The selection process was conducted through an independent evaluation framework, with Grant Thornton Bharat serving as the process advisor. The independent assessment was aimed at maintaining a structured and transparent process for evaluating the large number of applications received for the first edition of the awards.