

Supreme Court Steps Into Central Vista Library Row

Top court takes suo motu cognisance after report says historic government library's 8.5 lakh books have no adequate home in redevelopment plan

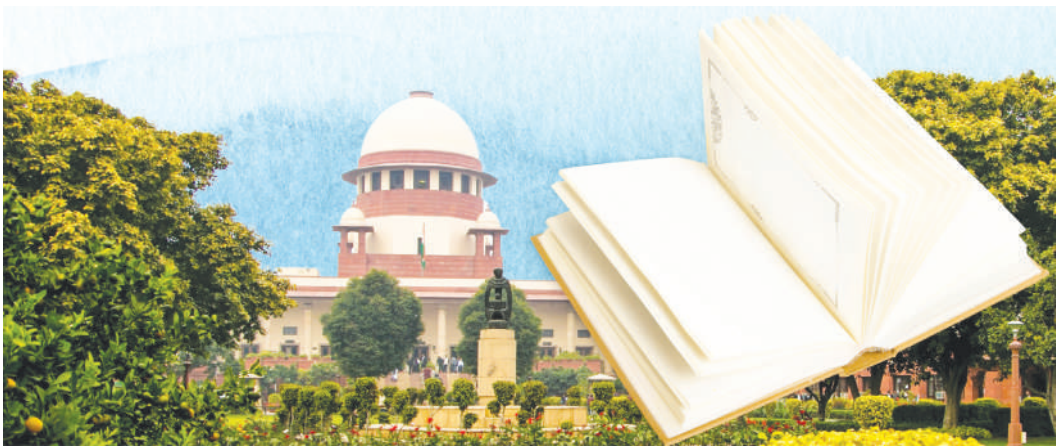
New Delhi : The Supreme Court has taken suo motu cognisance of uncertainty surrounding the future of the Central Secretariat Library, whose vast collection faces relocation as Shastri Bhavan is demolished under the Central Vista redevelopment programme.

The Court has registered the matter on its own motion and will hear it on Monday before a Bench of Justices Sanjay Kumar and Sanjeev Sachdeva.

The library houses approximately 8.5 lakh books and is one of the country's oldest major government libraries.

Concern arose after reports indicated that the redevelopment plan did not provide adequate dedicated space for the collection.

The library currently occupies multiple floors, while the accommodation reportedly identified in



the new complex was considered insufficient for its enormous holdings.

The Supreme Court's intervention does not mean it has reached any conclusion regarding wrongdoing in the Central Vista project.

The hearing will first examine the issue and the government's arrangements for preserving and relocating the collection.

The Central Vista redevelopment is transforming India's central government district, including construction of new office buildings and demolition or repurposing of older structures.

Such redevelopment creates a

parallel responsibility to preserve historically significant collections and institutions affected by the physical changes. The library's importance extends beyond the age of its books.

Government libraries contain administrative publications, historical documents and reference material that can be difficult or impossible to replace.

Storage conditions, cataloguing and public access are therefore central to any relocation plan. The case is unusual because the Supreme Court itself acted after taking note of media reporting rather than waiting for a conventional petition. Monday's hearing could require the government to explain exactly where the collection will go and how its long-term preservation and accessibility will be guaranteed.

Rajasthan Reshuffles Top Police Command

Jaipur : The Rajasthan government has carried out a major police reshuffle, transferring 14 IPS officers and changing key assignments in Jaipur's crime, traffic and law-and-order wings as well as several district police units. Ajay Singh, who was Additional Commissioner of Police for Crime in Jaipur, has been shifted to the Law and Order portfolio, while Rajeev Pachar has been moved to the personnel branch at Police Headquarters. DIG Rameshwar Singh will take charge as Jaipur's Additional Commissioner of Police for Crime. DCP Traffic Yogesh Goyal has been transferred as DCP Crime Branch, while Praveen Nayak Nunavath, who was Sikar SP, will take charge of Jaipur traffic. Sanjeev Nain has been appointed Sikar SP. Changes have also been made in Dausa, Sirohi and Phalodi. Piyush Dixit has been shifted from Dausa to the Anti-Corruption Bureau in Jaipur, while Kundan Kanwariya will take over as Dausa SP. The reshuffle has drawn a political reaction, with Rajasthan Congress president Govind Singh Dotasra questioning the timing of changes involving officers posted in areas where recent civic elections had generated controversy. He alleged that some officials were being targeted over developments during the polls. The reshuffle comes as the Panchayat Raj election process has begun. Maintaining law and order across thousands of villages during the four-phase election will be a major immediate challenge for Rajasthan Police.

Rajasthan Rewrites Rural Land Rules

New online system promises automatic approvals as government replaces two-decade-old conversion framework from November 2

Jaipur : The Rajasthan government has notified sweeping new rules for conversion of agricultural land for non-agricultural purposes in rural areas, replacing the nearly two-decade-old framework with an online and largely automated approval system.

The Rajasthan Land Revenue Rules, 2026 governing such conversions will come into effect from November 2. Under the new mechanism, the Sub-Divisional Officer will act as the prescribed authority and applications will have to be submitted through a unified online portal.

Once an applicant uploads the required documents and proof of payment of the prescribed premium, the permission order can be generated through the system. Application fees have been fixed at Rs 2,000 for residential units and Rs 20,000 for other categories.

The new framework also revises conversion premiums. Residential, public utility and industrial uses will generally attract five per cent of the applicable DLC rate, while commercial, institutional and medical projects will attract higher rates. Food-processing and renewable-energy projects have been given comparatively lower rates.

Tourism units, stadiums, playgrounds, sports

complexes and certain government projects will be eligible for significant exemptions under specified conditions.

However, restrictions will continue on land falling in protected or eco-sensitive zones, water bodies, catchment areas, heritage-regulated areas and certain corridors around defence and other critical installations.

The reform is expected to particularly benefit tourism, industry and rural development projects by reducing physical paperwork and delays in approvals.

For investors, developers and rural landowners, the new system represents one of the state's most significant

land-administration changes in recent years. The rules also aim to bring greater transparency to the conversion process by reducing manual intervention and allowing applicants to track their applications online. Authorities expect the digital system to improve monitoring and reduce delays in issuing permissions.

Officials said the revised framework will also make the process easier for rural landowners seeking to use agricultural plots for approved development activities. However, applicants will still have to meet all applicable land-use, environmental and safety requirements.

Jaipur : Former Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot on Sunday urged the Bhajan Lal Sharma government to immediately prepare a comprehensive contingency plan for drought-affected parts of the state, warning that shortages of drinking water, fodder and employment could become serious problems in the months ahead.

Speaking in Jaipur, the senior Congress leader said the government should treat the emerging drought-like situation as a priority rather than waiting for conditions to worsen. Gehlot's intervention came as Rajasthan completed the monsoon season with a substantial rainfall deficit and several districts reporting severe

Gehlot Sounds Drought Warning

stress. The former Chief Minister also intensified his political attack on Chief Minister Bhajan Lal Sharma over remarks concerning farmers.

Gehlot criticised Sharma's reported observation about the number of days farmers work, arguing that such remarks underestimated the continuous labour involved in agriculture.

He claimed resentment was building among farmers and economically weaker sections and predicted that the impact would become visible during the



forthcoming Panchayat Raj elections.

The Chief Minister and the BJP have maintained that their administration has strengthened farmer welfare through financial assistance, irrigation initiatives, electricity-related measures and other schemes.

The political confrontation is likely to intensify as rural Rajasthan prepares for Panchayat elections.

Unlike urban contests, these elections will be fought directly across agricultural communities where water, crop conditions, electricity, employment and farm income are immediate electoral concerns.

With drought conditions now emerging as a central issue, both BJP and Congress are expected to place farmers at the heart of their campaigns. The battle for Rajasthan's villages could consequently become an important political test for the Bhajan Lal government.

Gehlot also called for advance arrangements for drinking water, cattle care and rural employment so that affected families do not face greater hardship if the dry spell continues. He said timely government intervention would be essential to protect livelihoods and prevent the situation from turning into a wider rural crisis.

Rahul Targets Shah Over Police Allegation

New Delhi : Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi has sought an explanation from Union Home Minister Amit Shah after three women journalists alleged sexual harassment and misconduct by Delhi Police personnel during protests seeking the resignation of Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar.

The complaints were linked to demonstrations at Jantar Mantar over the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls. Delhi Police has transferred the complaints to its Crime Branch for inquiry.

Gandhi questioned Shah as Delhi Police functions under the Union Home Ministry. Protest groups have also accused police of manhandling women protesters, journalists and lawyers, while heavy security

remained at Jantar Mantar.

Around 150 protesters, including activist Yogendra Yadav, senior advocate Prashant Bhushan and student activists, were detained on Saturday while trying to reach the designated protest site for the second consecutive day.

Opposition parties and activists have alleged irregularities in the SIR exercise, while the Election Commission has rejected claims of partisan manipulation and said the revision aims to maintain accurate voter lists.

The Crime Branch inquiry will determine the facts behind the journalists' complaints, adding another dimension to the growing political confrontation over the electoral-roll revision and protests.

Drought Alarm Rings Across Rajasthan

Monsoon exits with 22 per cent rainfall deficit as more than 11 districts stare at serious water and fodder pressure

Jaipur : Rajasthan's monsoon has officially withdrawn, leaving behind a worrying rainfall deficit and increasing fears of a difficult winter and summer for several drought-affected districts.

The state recorded rainfall approximately 22 per cent below normal during the monsoon season, with more than 11 districts facing drought-like conditions. The situation has raised immediate concerns over drinking water, fodder availability, agricultural output and rural employment.

Western Rajasthan remains particularly vulnerable, where low rainfall has affected water reserves and agricultural activity across large areas. The situation is also being closely monitored in several central and eastern districts.

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because Rajasthan depends heavily on the monsoon for replenishing reservoirs, village ponds, groundwater and other sources used by both households and agriculture.

The government has

already begun working on contingency arrangements for affected regions, including drinking-water transportation and measures aimed at ensuring fodder availability.

District administrations are expected to closely monitor reservoirs, groundwater sources and rural water-supply systems as demand increases during the coming months.

Agriculture could face the most immediate impact. Poor rainfall can reduce crop productivity while simultaneously increasing the financial burden on farmers dependent on irrigation.

The shortage of fodder could also become a major concern in livestock-dependent districts if sufficient supplies are not arranged in advance.

With the monsoon now over, Rajasthan can no longer expect substantial seasonal rainfall to correct the deficit.

The focus therefore shifts entirely to water management and relief planning, making the coming months a major administrative test for the state government.

Army Family Tragedy On Expressway

Sultanpur : Four people were killed on Sunday when an ambulance carrying the mortal remains of Subedar Major Satyawar Singh, 50, crashed into a parked truck on the Purvanchal Expressway near Haliyapur in Sultanpur district.

Singh had died during treatment at the Command Hospital in Chandigarh. His body was being taken to his native place when the ambulance met with the accident on Sunday morning.

Police identified the deceased as Singh's brother Ram Samujh, son Gaurav Singh, nephew Rajan Singh and ambulance driver Jaspal. Two of them died at the spot, while the other two succumbed to their injuries in hospital.

The impact crushed the front portion of the ambulance. Rescue teams had to

cut open the wreckage to remove the occupants. Other family members travelling in a separate vehicle behind the ambulance escaped the accident.

Police have launched an investigation into why the ambulance hit the stationary truck and whether the manner in which the heavy vehicle was parked contributed to the crash. The exact cause will be known after the inquiry.

The tragedy struck the family while it was already mourning the Army officer's death. District authorities are coordinating with Army officials and the Deoria administration to complete formalities and return the bodies to the family.

The incident has also raised concerns over the safety of stationary vehicles on busy expressways.

India Ends Asian Games With 85 Medals

Late gold rush lifts country to fourth place with 21 titles; campaign delivers India's second-best overall medal haul at continental Games

New Delhi/Aichi-Nagoya : India concluded its 2026 Asian Games campaign in fourth place with 85 medals, including 21 gold, 27 silver and 37 bronze, after a strong late surge across several disciplines.

The final tally represents India's second-best overall medal haul at an Asian Games and included breakthrough performances across traditional and emerging sporting disciplines.

India's final days featured important results in archery, golf, cricket, wrestling and hockey, helping consolidate fourth position in the overall medal standings.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi congratulated several Indian medal winners on Sunday, including wrestler Antim Panghal and the women's golf team of Aditi Ashok, Pranavi Sharath Urs and Diksha Dagar.

Trap shooter Neeru Dhandu won two gold medals and a silver, carried the Indian flag at the closing ceremony.

The medal count offers an important benchmark as India seeks to translate Asian-level competitiveness into stronger performances at global events, particularly the Olympics.

Asian Games medals do not automatically predict Olympic success because fields, disciplines and qualification systems differ.

They do, however, provide evidence of depth across sports and reveal areas where investment is producing results. India's 21 gold medals also matter because medal-table positions are determined primarily by golds rather than total medals. The campaign included both established athletes and younger competitors likely to form the core of future international teams.

For national sports administrators, the next step will be identifying which Asian Games performances can be converted into world-level results. For athletes, the closing ceremony marks the end of a major continental campaign.

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Monsoon Exit Brings Fresh Rain Threat

IMD alerts multiple states to heavy rain, thunderstorms and winds up to 65 kmph even as southwest monsoon withdraws

New Delhi : The southwest monsoon may be withdrawing, but unstable weather continues to threaten large parts of India, with forecasts warning of heavy rain, thunderstorms and strong winds across several states.

Weather alerts on Sunday covered parts of North, Central, Eastern and Southern India, with winds potentially reaching around 65 kmph in some locations.

Areas under weather watch included Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, West Bengal, Kerala, Jammu and Kashmir, Punjab and Jharkhand.

The latest warning comes after an exceptionally uneven monsoon season in which India recorded an overall rainfall deficit while several regions simultaneously suffered destructive short-duration downpours.

That contrast is important. A below-normal national monsoon does not prevent local flooding, lightning or intense storms.

Farmers are particularly exposed at this time of year because standing crops can be damaged by heavy rain, hail or strong winds close to harvest.

Weather conditions also affect preparations for Rabi sowing. In mountainous states, heavy rainfall can destabilise slopes even after the main monsoon period has ended, increasing the risk of landslides and road closures.

Authorities have also warned fishermen in affected coastal regions to pay attention to marine advisories. The forecasts do not mean every listed state will experience destructive weather.

Rainfall intensity can vary sharply between districts and localities, and residents should follow current official warnings.

The broader significance is that India's transition from monsoon to post-monsoon weather is proving far from quiet. After a season characterised by drought in some areas and deadly floods in others, the final withdrawal phase is still capable of producing disruptive weather.

For disaster-management agencies and farmers, the monsoon calendar may be ending, but the weather risk has not.

Briefs

Highway Crash Sparks Truck Fire

Bhilwara: A massive traffic collision on the national highway near Nanakpura triggered a terrifying fire that engulfed a stationary truck carrying cargo. The intense impact quickly turned the entire vehicle into a massive fireball after catching surrounding materials on fire, creating immediate panic and chaos along the busy roadway. As towering flames threatened to consume the cabin, local police personnel and an emergency ambulance crew rushed forward to display exceptional bravery. Disregarding their personal safety, the responders plunged toward the burning truck and managed to pull the trapped driver and his helper out from the jaws of death through intense effort. Following the rescue, firefighters arrived at the scene to battle the ferocious blaze and eventually brought it under control. The injured men were immediately rushed to the district hospital via an ambulance for urgent medical attention, where doctors started their treatment.

Celebrating Motherhood at Amet School

Amet: Vidya Niketan Secondary School in Amet recently hosted a special mothers conference organized under the guidance of the local educational institution. The gathering took place under the leadership of Mamta Singh, while Sangeeta Pamecha graced the occasion as the chief guest. Several distinguished guests, including Shanta Dak, Nirmala Sharma, Vanita Khamesra, and school management committee head Bhanwar Lal Chandalia, added grace to the event. The keynote speaker, Mohan Das Vaishnav, delivered an insightful speech explaining the true significance of hosting such gatherings for mothers. The event commenced with formal guest introductions and warm welcoming gestures by staff members. To keep the atmosphere lively and engaging, fun activities such as a quiz and a musical chair race were organized exclusively for the participating mothers. Winners of these exciting contests received special prizes during the felicitation segment.

Narendra Sharma Elected Regional President

Gangrar: The election process for the regional unit of the All India Galav Tyagi Brahmin Mahasabha for a two-year tenure successfully concluded in Gangrar with the selection of a new leader. Election officers Ratanlal Purbia and Laxmi Lal Nogiya reported that only one nomination was received for the post of regional president under the name of Narendra Kumar Sharma, son of Bherulal Bodia, ahead of the designated deadline. Consequently, the election officials officially declared Narendra Kumar Sharma as the unopposed winner of the organizational post. Following the announcement, a felicitation ceremony was organized at the prominent Charbhujia Nath Temple, where prominent members and respected citizens of the community honored him by presenting his official election certificate. Addressing the gathering on this occasion, the newly elected president expressed deep gratitude to community members and assured them that he would dedicate his efforts to community welfare and take all possible steps for social advancement. Several notable personalities, including Nandkishore Baria, Kanhaiyalal Farmada, Prahlad Baria, Basanti Lal Panchholi, Mohanlal Baria, and Lokesh Sharma, were present at the venue to witness the ceremony and congratulate the newly appointed office-bearer.

BJP Mandal Focuses On Unity And Upcoming Poll Success

Udaipur: Organizational strength remains the true foundation of success, and every worker must now focus firmly on securing victory in the upcoming panchayat elections, stated Deputy Mayor Dinesh Bhatt while addressing party members.

The monthly executive committee meeting of the Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay Mandal was convened inside the conference hall of the Bharatiya Janata Party office near Patel Circle, following directives from the state and district party leadership. The gathering witnessed the active presence



of senior leaders, district office-bearers, mandal representatives, current and former municipal councilors, election candidates, booth presidents, and dedicated party workers. Mandal President Mahesh Puri Goswami delivered the welcome address, outlining upcoming organizational plans and felicitating newly elected municipal councilors who emerged victorious in the recent urban civic polls. He also led a detailed review session regarding

the specific wards where party nominees faced setbacks, encouraging workers to analyze shortcomings constructively. Several prominent figures, including division co-in-charge Mahesh Sharma, district general secretary Devail Salvi, and mandal in-charge Kiran Tated, shared their strategic perspectives with the audience. The proceedings were skillfully anchored by Jagdish Menaria, while mandal general secretary Shambhu Singh Deora proposed the formal vote of thanks to conclude the productive session.

Instagram Drama Backfires as Jammu Youth Arrested for Fake Suicide Video

Bhilwara: Police authorities took strict action against a young man who uploaded a fabricated suicide video on social media simply to frighten his romantic partner, resulting in his prompt arrest by local law enforcement officers. The incident unfolded when specialized monitoring cells flagged a disturbing Instagram reel depicting self-harm from a specific account, which immediately prompted a high-priority tracking operation. Law enforcement teams quickly traced the mobile signal to an industrial loading and unloading zone where the individual was working on a cargo vehicle. When officers arrived at the workplace to check on his well-being and investigate the alarming post, the situation quickly escalated. Instead of cooperating with the authorities who came to ensure his safety, the young worker became belligerent and argumentative. He openly shouted at the police team, claiming total control over his personal device and questioning their authority to question his online posts. Despite repeated attempts by the officers to counsel and calm him down, he continued to display aggressive behavior and created a public disturbance. Consequently, the police detained him on charges of disrupting public peace, removed the controversial video from his social media account, and initiated formal legal proceedings against him.

BJP Takes Strict Action Against Five Leaders For Anti-Party Activities During Municipal Elections

Fatehnagar: In a major disciplinary move following recent local political developments, the Bharatiya Janata Party Udaipur rural district organization has expelled five prominent local leaders from the primary membership of the party for a period of six years. The stringent action was initiated due to serious violations of organizational discipline and active involvement in anti-party activities during the municipal elections. District BJP President Pushkar Teli issued the formal expulsion orders after thorough consultations with party authorities. According to the official communication released by the district leadership, the targeted individuals faced severe allegations of defying official party directives during the municipal elections. Specifically, they were accused of filing nominations as independent candidates against the official BJP mayoral nominee while seeking support from opposition

political platforms, thereby undermining party unity and discipline at the local level. The list of expelled individuals includes Rajesh Chaplot, who is the nephew of former assembly speaker Shantilal Chaplot, along with Babulal Chopra, former municipal councilor Gajendra Singh Rawat, Fatehnagar-Sanwar municipal chairperson Mamta Chaplot who is also a relative of the former speaker, and Prahlad Singh Ranawat. The disciplinary action was finalized in strict compliance with guidelines issued by the state party leadership, following comprehensive discussions and deliberations involving both the division core committee and the district core committee. The district organizational framework emphasized that maintaining party discipline remains its absolute highest priority, leaving no room for internal dissent or sabotage during crucial electoral battles. Copies of the formal expulsion decree have been dispatched to key

state functionaries, including state BJP president Madan Rathore, state organization general secretary Ajay Bhai, and division organization in-charge Nahar Singh Sodha, for their official information and necessary follow-up actions. This sweeping punitive measure has sent shockwaves through regional political circles, intensifying intense discussions and political debates regarding internal party dynamics and local alignments across the Fatehnagar-Sanwar region in the aftermath of the municipal polls. Political analysts note that this decisive crackdown signals a zero-tolerance policy by the ruling party leadership ahead of upcoming regional political maneuvers. By swiftly penalizing high-profile dissenters—including relatives of veteran party figures—the BJP aims to deter factionalism, reinforce command-and-control structures, and project a unified front to grassroots workers and opposition rivals alike.

Inner Peace and Humility Are the True Pathways to Spiritual Salvation, Declares Muni Arhsagar Maharaj

Udaipur: Religious programs under the auspices of the local Digambar Jain community recently commenced with devotion and spiritual fervor at the Parshvanath Digambar Jain Temple in Ashok Nagar. The sacred events were held under the noble guidance and presence of Muni Arhsagar Maharaj and Muni Suhitasagar Maharaj. The day began early with the traditional Abhishek and Shantiadhara rituals performed for Lord Jinendra Dev, followed by the ceremonial unveiling of a portrait and the lighting of the traditional lamp. Devotees reverently washed the feet of the revered saint, offered coconuts, and sought his holy blessings before his afternoon meal session. Chaturmas committee president Mahendra Taya and vice-president Pramod Tholia announced that the upcoming Sharad Purnima and grand Pichhika Parivartan ceremony would be celebrated on the twenty-fifth and twenty-six of October, featuring special cultural events in



the evening. They warmly invited community members to participate in large numbers with their families to attain spiritual grace. Delivering his profound discourse, Muni Arhsagar Maharaj focused deeply on the significance of humility and inner purity through the practice of sixteen contemplative reflections. He explained that true humility in Jain philosophy goes far beyond mere bowing; it requires the absolute eradication of

ego, pride, and vanity while cultivating sincere devotion and surrender toward deities, scriptures, spiritual teachers, and fellow practitioners. Using the apt analogy of a fruit-laden tree that always remains bent, the saint emphasized that a truly knowledgeable and virtuous person never feels arrogant about their attainments. Ego binds the soul to worldly attachments, whereas humility guides it smoothly toward liberation. True humility brings

gentleness to a person character and fosters absolute inner purification. The event also featured evening devotional singing, scriptural discourses on the Chhahdhala text, and a grand aarti attended by a large gathering of male and female devotees. Prominent community members, committee leaders, and numerous followers actively participated in the devotional proceedings to receive blessings from the revered saints.

Melodic Verses and Poetic Expressions Captivate Audiences at Aishwarya College Auditorium

Udaipur: The Aishwarya College auditorium in Shobhagpura recently resonated with the beauty of literature and music as the Shairana Udaipur family hosted a vibrant cultural gathering. The event brought together passionate artists, poets, and musicians from across Udaipur and neighboring districts to showcase their artistic talents in diverse ways. The ceremony commenced with the presence of account officer Chandra Prakash Badaria as the chief guest, while Dr. Seema Singh, managing director of the institution, presided over the session. Geetanakar Mewari joined as the special guest of honor, adding to the prestige of the literary evening. Program coordinator Divyani Sharma noted that the monthly gathering featured remarkable performances, including powerful singing by Chetna Lohar and emotional poetry recitations by agricultural department official Nilesh Yadav. College education department officer Pankaj Virwal and senior accounts officer Chandra Prakash Badaria mesmerized the



audience with classic melodies. Dr. Seema Singh and advocate Aditi Verma evoked deep emotional responses with soul-stirring renditions, prompting enthusiastic audience members to walk up to the stage and honor the performers with turbans and floral garlands. Senior poet Dr. Rajkumar Raj, Laxmi Aswani, Ashok Parmani, Narayan Lal Lohar,

and several other artists presented captivating verses, couplets, and ghazals. Media advisor Abha Sirsikar shared that the organization has been hosting these free monthly literary gatherings for the past sixteen years to support both veteran and upcoming artists. The evening proceeded with an immersive segment dedicated to contemporary ghazals and nazms, where

emerging voices shared the stage with seasoned literary figures. The seamless blend of rhythm, poetic cadence, and heartfelt expressions created an intimate atmosphere that captivated everyone present, bridging generational gaps through shared artistic appreciation. Reflecting on the legacy of the initiative, organizers highlighted how the platform has continuously nurtured grassroots talent over nearly two decades. By providing a welcoming and unpretentious space for creative expression, Shairana Udaipur has successfully preserved regional poetic traditions while giving fresh momentum to upcoming writers and musicians in the region. The event concluded with a formal vote of thanks delivered by the organizing committee, followed by a collective high-tea session where artists, intellectuals, and literature enthusiasts exchanged thoughts and future collaborative ideas. The gathering ended on a high note, reinforcing Udaipur's enduring reputation as a vibrant hub for cultural heritage and literary arts.

Honoring Saint Ravidas and Promoting Human Values in Amet



Amet: The local block unit of an educational federation celebrated the birth anniversary of Saint Ravidas with great enthusiasm inside a school auditorium in Lava Sardargarh. The celebratory event was presided over by block president Mukesh Chandra Vaishnav, while senior lecturer Dilip Singh Bhati joined as the special guest of honor. The formal proceedings began with the lighting of the ceremonial lamp and the garlanding of the portrait of Saint Ravidas, followed by a collective singing of the

national anthem. Addressing the gathering, the keynote speaker emphasized that individuals attain true greatness through their noble deeds rather than birth. He noted that Saint Ravidas made remarkable contributions during the medieval bhakti era by guiding society toward spiritual awareness and divine connection. His teachings on humanity, purity of mind, and continuous service to others remain deeply relevant today. The special guest urged everyone to spread the inspiring life history

of the saint far and wide. The event concluded with teachers offering floral tributes, led by coordinator Ashok Kumar Khatik and other staff members. The celebration also featured cultural performances and inspirational poetry recitals by participating educators, focusing on Saint Ravidas's enduring message of social equality and harmony. These artistic expressions added a resonant community spirit to the occasion, leaving attendees deeply inspired by the saint's vision of an inclusive and compassionate society.

Vidya Bharti Focuses on Character Building Along with Quality Education: Naveen Kumar

Udaipur: Vidya Bharti Akhil Bharatiya Shiksha Sansthan organized a press conference to brief media personnel regarding its upcoming provincial management committee conference and ongoing educational initiatives across the region. Addressing reporters during the briefing, regional publicity head

Naveen Kumar detailed the organizational journey, academic achievements, and future roadmap of the institution. He highlighted that Vidya Bharti operates as the country largest non-governmental educational network, dedicated to imparting traditional Indian values, cultural heritage, nationalism, and patriotism

to young students. Tracing its origins back to 1952 from Gorakhpur in Uttar Pradesh, the network has expanded significantly, running thousands of formal schools and informal learning centers nationwide. Within the Chittorgarh province covering districts like Udaipur, Banswara, Dungarpur, Rajsamand, Pratapgarh, Chittorgarh,

Bhilwara, and Ajmer, the institution operates numerous primary, upper primary, secondary, and senior secondary schools, successfully extending quality education to remote rural and tribal pockets. The leadership emphasized that special focus is placed on character building, moral values, yoga, and spiritual education to

ensure holistic student development. Furthermore, details regarding recent mega events, including widespread participation in patriotic community programs, were shared with the media. The organization reaffirmed its unwavering commitment to shaping a capable, disciplined, and dedicated young generation

that actively contributes to national growth and societal welfare through value-based education. The upcoming provincial conference will serve as a crucial platform for educators, administrators, and regional leaders to deliberate on modern pedagogical strategies, curriculum enrichment, and the

effective implementation of national education policy frameworks. Discussions will center on bridging the digital divide in rural learning centers while staying firmly rooted in Indian ethos, ensuring that students are well-equipped to meet contemporary academic challenges with integrity and confidence.

Small Industries, Big Role in Nation Building

Jaipur : Chief Minister Bhanlal Sharma said that although small industries may be limited in size, their contribution to nation-building and employment generation is substantial. He said micro and small enterprises play a crucial role in providing jobs close to home to young people, women and needy sections living in villages, hamlets and small towns. The state government, he added, is committed to extending all possible support to small industries to help them grow.

Addressing an entrepreneurs' conference organised by Laghu Udyog Bharati in Pali, Sharma said India has emerged as one of the world's major economies under the visionary leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Campaigns such as Make in India, Vocal for Local and Aatmanirbhar Bharat have given fresh momentum to small entrepreneurs, artisans and traders. As a result, locally produced goods from Rajasthan are increasingly reaching international markets. He urged small entrepreneurs to establish processing units based on local resources and agricultural produce available across the state.



The Chief Minister said the state government is working seriously to ensure the availability of land, water and electricity, which are essential for industrial activity. During the last two-and-a-half

years, historic progress has been made towards improving water availability through major initiatives and agreements including the Ramjal Setu Link Project, Yamuna Water Agreement, Narmada Water Agreement and the Kishau Multipurpose Project. Irrigation and drinking water infrastructure is also being strengthened through projects such as Gang Canal and Som-Kamla-Amba. Rajasthan has simultaneously made significant progress towards becoming self-reliant in power generation, with a target of ensuring daytime electricity supply to farmers in every district by 2027.

Sharma said the industrial sector advances not merely through capital but through the hard work, talent and unwavering determination of entrepreneurs. The BJP-led double-engine government is creating a favourable ecosystem for investment, business and employment in Rajasthan. Of the MoUs worth Rs 35 lakh crore signed during the Rising Rajasthan Global Investment Summit, projects involving investment of more than Rs 9 lakh crore have already moved to the implementation stage.

Newly Elected Councillor Honoured

Jaipur : October 4, 2026 : Newly elected Ward No. 16 councillor Mahesh Kumar Sanghi, Jaipur city BJP president Amit Goyal and Bharatiya Janata Party office in-charge Mukesh Pareek were felicitated at Manav Kalyan Jyotish Kendra in Krishna Colony, Naya Khera.

The felicitation programme was organised by Acharya Pandit Satyanarayan, Parth Sharma, Govind Jhalani, All India Natani Family Committee national general secretary Govind Natani, Suresh Jain, Shyam Sokhiya, Ramratan, Yadav and other residents of the colony.

The organisers and local residents congratulated the newly elected councillor and other BJP representatives and expressed their good wishes for their continued public service and work for the area.

A grand felicitation event took place in Jaipur, where community members gathered to honor key local political figures following recent municipal election achievements. The gathering brought together residents and prominent party leaders to express gratitude and show solidarity for ongoing public service initiatives across the city.

The primary guest of honor at the felicitation program was Mahesh Kumar Sanghi, who was recently elected as the councillor for Ward No. 16. His victory in the local ward election was highlighted as a significant milestone for local representation and community development.

Joining the newly elected ward councillor at the honor ceremony was Amit Goyal, who serves as the Bharatiya Janata Party city president for Jaipur. His presence reflected the political organization's commitment to supporting local civic representatives at the grassroots level.

Also in attendance as a key honoree was Mukesh Pareek, the office in-charge for the Bharatiya Janata Party. He was formally recognized during the proceedings alongside other senior leaders for his organizational contributions to the party's local initiatives.

The felicitation program was hosted at the Manav Kalyan Jyotish Kendra, a prominent local venue situated in Krishna Colony within the Naya Khera locality of Jaipur. The venue provided a central gathering spot for neighbors, religious leaders, and political supporters.

ANTF Hits Century Before First Anniversary

Jaipur : Rajasthan Police's Anti-Narcotics Task Force (ANTF) has achieved a major milestone just days before completing its first year, arresting its 100th wanted and reward-listed fugitive. In a special operation named Operation Maraman, the force apprehended notorious drug trafficker Nimbaaram alias Nimaram, who carried a reward of Rs 25,000 announced by Chittorgarh Police and had been on the run for nearly three years. The ANTF will complete one year of its establishment on

October 7, 2026.

ANTF Inspector General of Police Vikas Kumar said sustained action is being taken against drug traffickers and illegal narcotics networks under the guidance and direction of Director General of Police Rajiv Kumar Sharma and Additional Director General of Police Dinesh M.N. Alongside action against drug trafficking networks, the force has maintained a special focus on tracing and arresting long-absconding criminals carrying rewards. Kumar said the ANTF

received reliable information that Nimbaaram was staying at Joganiya Resort in the Joganiya Mata area of Chittorgarh and was meeting associates to plan the supply of a large consignment of doda poppy from Madhya Pradesh to the Marwar region. Acting swiftly on the intelligence, an ANTF team surrounded the resort.

When the accused spotted the police Bolero vehicle, he jumped over a hotel wall and fled towards nearby fields. The team pursued him on foot for nearly



one to two kilometres. Realising that he was being surrounded, Nimbaaram entered the crowd gathered at the Joganiya Mata temple square, where a traditional Gavari dance was taking place, and attempted to conceal himself among the devotees. The pursuing officers displayed alertness and tactical judgement and

managed to surround and capture him from within the crowd. Kumar said Nimbaaram Jat, son of Kishanaram and a resident of Pashchimi Dhani Jatavas in Lohawat police station area of Phalodi district, left school after Class 8 and initially worked as a truck driver. He later came into contact with major drug traffickers while serving time in jail in connection with a fight-related case, where he learned the methods used in narcotics trafficking. In 2024, when police had set up a checkpoint

near Bagunda Balaji in the Parsoli police station area of Chittorgarh, Nimbaaram abandoned his Fortuner vehicle loaded with doda chura and escaped into the forest. In another incident, while transporting a Harrier loaded with 3 quintals and 16 kg of doda chura from the Jawda-Rawatbhata area, he again fled after abandoning the vehicle when police surrounded him in Kota's R.K. Puram police station area. Despite remaining absconding, he continued to remain involved in the illegal narcotics trade.

Police records show that 26 serious criminal cases were registered against Nimbaaram between 2017 and 2026 in different districts of Rajasthan. The cases registered at Lohawat, Banar, Mathania, Mandore, Osian, Rohat and Chittorgarh, among other police station areas, include offences under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, Arms Act and Excise Act, as well as attempted murder, assault, robbery, criminal conspiracy and other serious offences.

Three Major Engineering Works Completed in Four Days

Jodhpur : The Engineering Department of North Western Railway's Jodhpur Division has completed three major infrastructure projects within four days, aimed at making train operations safer, smoother and more efficient. The works included launching a 17-box Road Under Bridge (RUB) at Kuchaman Yard, launching 17 girders for a 12-metre-wide Foot Over Bridge (FOB) at Degana Yard and strengthening a railway bridge between Kuchaman City and Naya Kharadia by replacing its old steel girders.

At Kuchaman Yard on the Phulera-Jodhpur rail section, an RUB was constructed beneath four running lines at kilometre 51/3-4 using the cut-and-cover method. A total of 17 boxes,



having an overall barrel length of around 26 metres, were launched as part of the project. The work was executed in two stages. On October 1, nine boxes were launched beneath the Up Main and Loop lines after an 11.5-hour traffic block was taken from 4.30 am to 4 pm. The remaining eight boxes were launched beneath the Down Main and Loop lines on October 3 during a nine-hour block from 8.30 am to 5.30 pm.

Divisional Railway

Manager Anurag Tripathi said safety and quality were accorded the highest priority throughout the operation. All necessary approvals, construction material and machinery had been arranged in advance. Sandbags were placed along the edges of the boxes, while the joints were sealed with concrete canvas and MS sheets to ensure proper protection.

Significant progress was also recorded in the construction of a 12-metre-wide Foot Over Bridge at Degana Yard.

As many as 17 girders were successfully launched. These included six box girders across a 32-metre span between platforms 3 and 4, along with 11 I-Leaf girders across a 22-metre span between platforms 1 and 2.

Jaipur Cup Cricket Tournament Poster Unveiled

Jaipur : October 4, 2026 : Rajasthan Pradesh Congress Committee secretary Imran Qureshi unveiled the poster of the 'Jaipur Cup Sarva Samaj Cricket Tournament 2026' at his private office on Sansar Chandra Road. The tournament is scheduled to be held at Chaugan Stadium from October 6 to 11.

A large number of young people from Shaheed Abdul Hamid Nagar in Panch Batti were present on the occasion. Qureshi called upon all participating young cricketers to uphold the true spirit of the game and focus on clean, healthy and fair competition while moving ahead in the sporting arena.

He also congratulated and extended his best wishes to all the organisers for putting together the tournament and expressed hope that the event would provide an encouraging platform for

young players.

In a significant local sports development, Rajasthan Pradesh Congress Committee secretary Imran Qureshi formally unveiled the official poster for the upcoming Jaipur Cup Sarva Samaj Cricket Tournament 2026. The unveiling ceremony took place at his private office located on the prominent Sansar Chandra Road in Jaipur, marking the official promotional kickoff for the high-profile regional sporting event.

The tournament is scheduled to take place at the historic Chaugan Stadium from October 6 to October 11, bringing together local talent for six days of competitive cricket.

The choice of Chaugan Stadium as the venue adds traditional importance to the tournament, as the ground has long served as a key hub for athletic gatherings and

city-level sports competitions in Jaipur.

The promotional unveiling gathering drew a large number of enthusiasm-driven young people and sports enthusiasts from Shaheed Abdul Hamid Nagar in the Panch Batti area. Their substantial turnout highlighted the strong grassroots excitement surrounding the upcoming tournament and reflected the deep community interest in local youth sports initiatives.

Addressing the assembled crowd and aspiring athletes during the ceremony, Imran Qureshi called upon all participating young cricketers to uphold the true spirit of sportsmanship throughout the six-day event. He emphasized that maintaining discipline, mutual respect, and sportsmanship on the field is just as crucial as securing victory in competitive matches.

ANTF Reaches 100 Fugitive Arrests Ahead of First Anniversary

Jaipur : Rajasthan Police's Anti-Narcotics Task Force (ANTF) has reached a significant milestone just days before completing its first year, with the arrest of its 100th fugitive carrying a reward. Under Operation Maraman, the special force arrested Nimbaaram alias Nimaram, a wanted drug trafficker carrying a reward of Rs 25,000 announced by Chittorgarh Police. He had been absconding for nearly three years and was wanted in 26 serious criminal cases. The ANTF will complete one year of its establishment on October 7, 2026.

ANTF Inspector General Vikas Kumar said continuous action is being taken against drug traffickers and illegal narcotics networks

under the guidance of Director General of Police Rajiv Kumar Sharma and Additional Director General of Police Dinesh M.N. He said the force has also placed particular emphasis on locating and arresting reward-listed criminals who have remained absconding for long periods.

The breakthrough came after the ANTF received specific information that Nimbaaram was at Joganiya Resort in the Joganiya Mata area of Chittorgarh.

According to the information, he was meeting his associates to plan the transportation of a large consignment of doda poppy from Madhya Pradesh to the Marwar region.

Acting on the informa-

tion, the ANTF team immediately surrounded the resort. On seeing a police Bolero vehicle, the accused jumped over the hotel wall and fled towards the fields. The team pursued him on foot for around one to two kilometres.

As he realised that the officers were closing in, Nimbaaram entered the crowded square of the Joganiya Mata temple, where a traditional Gavari dance was being performed, and attempted to hide among the devotees.

The pursuing officers acted swiftly and surrounded him within the crowd before taking him into custody.

According to IG Vikas Kumar, Nimbaaram Jat, son of Kishanaram and a res-

ident of Pashchimi Dhani Jatavas under Lohawat police station in Phalodi district, left his studies after Class 8 and began working as a truck driver.

He later came into contact with major drug traffickers while serving a jail term in connection with a fight-related case and subsequently learned the methods of narcotics trafficking.

In 2024, Nimbaaram reportedly abandoned his Fortuner vehicle loaded with doda chura and escaped into a forest after noticing a police checkpoint near Bagunda Balaji in the Parsoli police station area of Chittorgarh.

In another case, he was transporting a Harrier carrying 3 quintals and 16 kg of

doda chura from the Jawda-Rawatbhata area when police surrounded him in Kota's R.K. Puram police station area.

He again abandoned the vehicle and fled. Police said that even while remaining absconding, he continued to be involved in illegal narcotics trafficking.

Police records show that 26 serious criminal cases were registered against Nimbaaram between 2017 and 2026 in different districts of Rajasthan.

The cases registered in areas including Lohawat, Banar, Mathania, Mandore, Osian, Rohat and Chittorgarh include offences under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, Arms Act and Excise Act.

The cases also include allegations relating to attempted murder, assault, robbery, criminal conspiracy and other serious offences.

IG Vikas Kumar said the entire ANTF team involved in the successful operation would be specially honoured at police headquarters during the programme organised to mark the force's first anniversary.

He appealed to members of the public to share confidential information concerning drug trafficking or wanted criminals with the ANTF control room at 0141-2502877 or through WhatsApp at 9261225056. He said the identity of anyone providing information would be kept completely confidential.

BJP Urges Workers to Highlight Government Work

Jaipur : Rajasthan BJP state co-in-charge Kuljeet Singh Chahal held a meeting with spokespersons, panelists and members of the media, social media and IT teams on Sunday to review preparations for the upcoming Panchayat elections. He urged party workers to take the achievements of the BJP government to every household and counter what he described as the opposition's negative political campaign.

Chahal said the BJP government had undertaken several significant initiatives for the welfare and prosperity of villages, the poor and farmers. He said party workers had the responsibility of communicating these achievements to people and remained prepared as the party's frontline team. He cited projects such as the Eastern Rajasthan Canal Project (ERCP) and the Yamuna water agreement as major steps towards taking water to farmers' fields and agricultural areas. He also said the Jal Jeevan Mission had delivered the important benefit of providing tap water to households in remote villages and hamlets, generating considerable public enthusiasm for the BJP.

He said measures including ensuring irrigation water, timely availability of seeds and fertilisers, crop insurance, access to treatment through the Ayushman scheme and direct financial assistance through the PM-Kisan Samman Nidhi were important components of farmer welfare.

 Editorial

Where Will History Go?

New government offices worth thousands of crores of rupees can be erected in the national capital; however, if the government struggles to find space to house 8.5 lakh books, the issue transcends mere space it becomes a question of our priorities. Buildings can be demolished and rebuilt, and halls can be redecorated; but a legacy of knowledge accumulated over 135 years, once disrupted, cannot simply be bought back with money. The fact that the Supreme Court had to take suo motu cognizance of the future of Delhi's Central Secretariat Library signifies that this is not merely the story of a single library; it raises an unsettling question about exactly how much space remains for books in the development of modern India. The Central Secretariat Library is no ordinary government reading room. It was established in 1891 in Calcutta as the 'Imperial Secretariat Library.' When the capital shifted from Calcutta to Delhi, the library moved as well, and it has been functioning from Shastri Bhawan since 1969. Today, it operates under the Union Ministry of Culture and stands as one of the central government's largest libraries, second only to the National Library in Kolkata. The library houses approximately 8.5 lakh printed and non-printed documents. Its collection includes rare books, government reports, gazettes, reference works, and numerous significant documents chronicling India's administrative journey. Much of this material is not merely for reading; it constitutes a vital part of the collective memory of the Indian state. This collection serves as a crucial reference resource for various ministries, government officials, scholars, and researchers. Now, Shastri Bhawan is slated for demolition as part of the redevelopment of the central administrative complex. Consequently, relocating the library has become inevitable. There is no reason to oppose development. Modernizing aging government buildings in the capital, providing enhanced office facilities for various ministries, and boosting administrative efficiency are indeed essential. The question is not whether redevelopment should take place; rather, the issue is whether the redevelopment plan gave due and serious consideration right from the outset to an institution of knowledge spanning 135 years. Currently, the library is spread across four floors, covering an area of approximately 5,500 square meters. The Ministry of Culture had indicated a requirement of about 5,466 square meters for the library in the new Central Secretariat. However, reports emerged at one stage suggesting that only two rooms, totalling around 300 square meters, were being proposed in the new building. The Ministry of Culture clarified that this space was woefully inadequate for housing the entire collection and accommodating the library's operations. Allocating just two rooms for 8.5 lakh books is not merely a farcical calculation of space; it reveals a serious disconnect in the planning process. Following the ensuing controversy, the Union Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs clarified that space has been allocated for the library within the Kartavya Path redevelopment scheme and that the necessary construction work is underway. This is a welcome development. Consequently, it would be premature to conclude that the library is destined to be left permanently homeless.

The Supreme Court, too, has not yet reached any adverse conclusion against the government; the Court has taken *suo motu* cognizance of the reports, and the government's precise plan will become clear during the hearings. However, the mere assurance of space allocation does not resolve the entire issue. Relocating books is not the same as simply moving office chairs and cabinets from one building to another. Each aspect the accurate inventory and sequencing of 8.5 lakh books, secure packing, transportation, control of temperature and humidity, preservation of rare materials, protection against fire and water, pest control, re-classification at the new location, and, most importantly, uninterrupted access for readers requires dedicated planning.

This debate raises another fundamental question: why has our definition of development become so focused on buildings? A grand building is visible, allowing for an inauguration ceremony; a new road is visible, leading to published photographs. Yet, its value to the nation's collective memory is no less than that of a magnificent building. One might ask why space is needed for so many books when everything is available in digital format today. While this argument appears attractive on the surface, it is misleading. Not every rare book or document has been fully digitized; even if one has been, the historical value of the original document remains undiminished. The correct approach is to safeguard the original copy while simultaneously making a digital version accessible to everyone. Instead, this relocation process should be leveraged to catalog and digitize the entire collection using modern methods. There should be a public record detailing the location and condition of each book, the availability of a digital copy, and the procedure for researchers to access it. Furthermore, the collection should be verified by independent experts both before and after the relocation. This would minimize the risk of a rare document going missing amidst the chaos of the move. The Court has neither halted the redevelopment project nor ruled that the government is at fault. Consequently, there is no reason to view this intervention through the lens of a conflict between the government and the judiciary. Instead, this should be viewed as a necessary constitutional safeguard a measure to ensure that a historic institution is not overlooked amidst a massive public project. The government now has the opportunity to turn this controversy into a positive example.

It should provide adequate, permanent premises for the library, make the relocation plan public, appoint an expert committee to oversee the safety of the books, expedite the digitization of the collection, and ensure that researchers retain access as much as possible during the transition.

If these steps are taken, judicial intervention will prove to be an opportunity to improve planning rather than an obstacle for the government. A new Parliament, new offices, new roads, and modern government complexes will indeed symbolize a new India; yet, if the knowledge preserved by the India of the past is not safeguarded within them, that modernity loses its meaning. The 8.5 lakh books require more than just a roof over their heads; they need safety, dignity, and readers. After all, a nation's stature is defined not merely by the grandeur of its buildings, but by how well it preserves its history and knowledge within them. By all means, demolish an old building for the sake of development, but take care to ensure that the nation's collective memory is not buried beneath the rubble. Otherwise, a new complex will rise, but history will keep asking: there was space for buildings, so why wasn't there space for books?

ICAR Institutes Promote Cleanliness and Sustainable Waste Management

As part of the nationwide Swachhata Hi Seva activities, the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) organised a series of awareness and cleanliness initiatives aimed at promoting responsible waste management and environmental protection following Ganesh Visarjan. The programmes were conducted at ICAR institutions with a focus on maintaining clean public spaces, protecting water resources and encouraging community participation in sanitation and cleanliness efforts.

The initiatives were designed to spread awareness about the environmental impact of waste generated during Ganesh Visarjan and to encourage people to adopt safer and more sustainable practices. Through these activities, ICAR emphasised that cleanliness should not be limited to the period leading up to festivals but should also remain a priority after religious and community events. The programmes encouraged citizens and participating communities to take collective responsibility for keeping their surroundings clean.

One of the major activities was an awareness programme on post-Ganesh Visarjan cleanliness organised at a local Ganesh pandal. Participants were sensitised about the importance of choosing environmentally friendly materials for religious celebrations. Special emphasis was placed on the use of eco-friendly clay idols, which can help reduce the environmental burden associated with idol immersion.

During the awareness programme, participants were advised against immersing Plaster of Paris idols and idols containing harmful chemical colours in drinking water tanks. Such practices can adversely affect water quality and create additional challenges for maintaining clean and safe water resources. The programme therefore encouraged devotees and organisers to follow environmentally responsible immersion practices.

Participants were also encouraged to use designated immersion sites instead of immersing idols directly in natural water bodies. The initiative highlighted the need to protect rivers, lakes, ponds and other water resources from pollution caused by idols and materials used during religious ceremonies. People were



advised to avoid immersing idols and Puja Samagri in natural water bodies and to follow the arrangements made by local authorities for safe immersion.

The programme further focused on the proper collection and disposal of flowers and other Puja Samagri generated during Ganesh celebrations. Participants were made aware that religious offerings should not simply be discarded in public places or water bodies. Instead, such materials should be collected separately and processed through appropriate waste-management systems wherever facilities are available.

Plastic, thermocol and other decorative materials used during the celebrations were also highlighted as important components of post-festival waste. Participants were encouraged to ensure that these materials were collected and segregated rather than being left at immersion points or surrounding public areas. Proper segregation at the source can make waste management more efficient and also reduce the quantity of material reaching landfills and water bodies.

The awareness activities also stressed the importance of maintaining cleanliness at Ganesh immersion sites. Festival-related gatherings can generate significant quantities of waste, particularly when large numbers of devotees visit immersion locations. Keeping these areas clean requires cooperation from or-

ganisers, participants, volunteers and local authorities, and the ICAR initiative underlined the importance of collective action.

Safety precautions near water bodies were another important aspect of the programme. Participants were encouraged to follow designated routes and immersion arrangements and to avoid unsafe practices around water bodies. The focus on safety was linked with the broader objective of ensuring that religious celebrations and their concluding activities take place in a clean, organised and environmentally responsible manner.

Following the awareness programme, the areas surrounding the local Ganesh pandal were cleaned as part of the Swachhata Hi Seva activities. Garbage generated in and around the area was collected and segregated to facilitate safe and responsible disposal. The cleanliness drive demonstrated how awareness programmes can be combined with practical action to create cleaner public spaces.

The initiative also highlighted the importance of community participation in maintaining cleanliness after major public and religious events. While government institutions and local authorities can provide infrastructure and waste-management systems, sustained cleanliness depends significantly on the participation of citizens. The programme

encouraged people to consider waste management as a shared responsibility rather than an activity that can be left entirely to sanitation workers.

As part of the activities, biodegradable offerings such as flowers and other Puja Samagri were collected and segregated at ICAR-NISA, Ranchi, Jharkhand, and ICAR-CIRCOT, Mumbai, Maharashtra. The collection and segregation of biodegradable material demonstrated an effort to ensure that religious waste could be handled through environmentally responsible methods instead of being disposed of indiscriminately.

The compostable material collected during the activities was processed at composting facilities for the preparation of organic manure. Through this process, biodegradable waste generated during Ganesh Visarjan was converted into a useful resource. The initiative therefore demonstrated the potential of composting as a sustainable method of managing organic waste generated during festivals and community events.

The activities at the ICAR institutions resulted in the cleaning and segregation of biodegradable waste associated with Ganesh Visarjan. By separating compostable materials from other forms of waste, the initiative helped promote the principle of waste segregation and resource recovery. The conversion of suitable organic material into manure also reinforced the message that waste can be treated as a resource when it is collected and processed appropriately.

Overall, the Swachhata Hi Seva initiatives undertaken by ICAR contributed to raising awareness about cleanliness, sanitation, environmental protection and responsible waste management during and after Ganesh Visarjan. The programmes combined public awareness with on-ground cleanliness and waste-segregation activities, while encouraging people to adopt safer and more environmentally responsible practices. The initiative also underlined the importance of collective participation in protecting water resources, maintaining clean public spaces and ensuring that festive celebrations are followed by equally responsible efforts to restore and preserve the surrounding environment.

ICAR-CIRB Organises Swachhata Samvad to Promote Cleanliness and Jan Bhagidari

As part of the ongoing Swachhata Hi Seva 2026 campaign being organised under the theme "Swachhata Mein Sahbhag – Swachh Bharat, Viksit Bharat," the Indian Council of Agricultural Research–Central Institute for Research on Buffaloes (ICAR-CIRB), Hisar, organised a Swachhata Samvad on September 24, 2026. The initiative focused on creating greater awareness about cleanliness and hygiene while encouraging active participation among contractual staff and Young Professionals (YPs) at the institute.

The Swachhata Samvad was organised with the objective of strengthening the culture of cleanliness at the workplace and encouraging employees and young professionals to adopt responsible and sustainable practices in their daily lives. The programme sought to move beyond routine cleanliness activities by creating an opportunity for participants to discuss practical challenges and identify simple solutions that could be followed consistently.

The activity was conducted in accordance with the Day-VIII action plan under the Swachhata Hi Seva campaign. The action plan envisages Swachhata Samvad as a platform for dialogue, discussion and exchange of ideas on cleanliness-related issues. Such interactions are intended to increase participation in sanitation initiatives and create greater awareness about hygiene, waste management and environmentally sustainable practices.

Around 20 participants took part in the interactive programme organised at ICAR-CIRB, Hisar. The participation of contractual staff and Young Professionals provided an opportunity to bring together people from different roles and responsibilities and encourage them to discuss cleanliness from their own experiences. The programme was designed to ensure that every participant could contribute to the conversation.

Unlike a conventional lecture-based awareness programme, the Swachhata Samvad adopted an interactive approach. Participants were en-



couraged to openly share their experiences, observations and suggestions regarding cleanliness in their homes, workplaces and surrounding areas. This approach allowed the discussion to focus on practical issues that people encounter in their everyday lives.

During the interaction, participants discussed the problem of littering and the need to develop responsible habits to prevent waste from accumulating in public and workplace areas. They emphasised that maintaining cleanliness requires regular individual effort and cannot depend only on sanitation personnel. Avoiding littering at the source was identified as one of the simplest measures that individuals can adopt to keep their surroundings clean.

Responsible disposal of waste was another important issue discussed during the Samvad. Participants exchanged views on the need to dispose of different types of waste through appropriate channels and avoid throwing garbage in open spaces. Proper disposal, they noted, can help prevent unhygienic conditions, reduce pollution and contribute to healthier surroundings.

The participants also discussed the need to reduce unnecessary use of plastic. The interaction highlighted how excessive dependence on single-use and disposable plastic items can increase the volume of waste and create difficulties in disposal. Participants were encouraged to make more responsible choices, reduce avoidable

plastic consumption and use alternatives wherever practical.

Waste segregation was also highlighted as an important component of sustainable cleanliness. Participants discussed the importance of separating different categories of waste at the point of generation so that recyclable, biodegradable and other materials can be handled appropriately. Effective segregation can improve waste processing and reduce the quantity of waste that ultimately requires disposal.

The discussions also focused on the importance of adopting sustainable cleanliness practices as a regular part of everyday life. Participants were encouraged to ensure that the principles discussed during the programme were not confined to the workplace but were also followed in their homes, neighbourhoods and communities. The interaction stressed that cleanliness should be viewed as a continuous responsibility rather than an occasional activity undertaken only during special campaigns or cleanliness drives.

Participants highlighted that small and consistent changes in daily habits can make a meaningful difference to the cleanliness and hygiene of the surrounding environment. Practices such as keeping personal and common areas clean, avoiding unnecessary waste generation and disposing of garbage responsibly were discussed as simple measures that can gradually become part of routine behaviour. The participants also emphasised the im-

portance of setting positive examples for others, particularly within their families and local communities.

The interaction reinforced the message that cleanliness is not merely a sanitation-related responsibility but a shared social responsibility involving individuals, institutions and communities. Maintaining clean surroundings requires cooperation and participation at every level. Participants discussed how individual actions, when adopted collectively by a larger group, can contribute significantly to improving overall cleanliness, hygiene and environmental conditions.

The programme placed particular emphasis on Jan Bhagidari, or public participation, as an important element of the Swachh Bharat initiative. The discussions highlighted that government programmes and institutional cleanliness campaigns can achieve greater and more sustainable results when citizens actively participate in them. Public involvement also helps create a stronger sense of ownership, encouraging people to take responsibility for the cleanliness of the areas in which they live and work.

Participants further discussed the importance of behavioural change in achieving sustainable cleanliness. They identified several simple practices, including avoiding littering, reducing unnecessary use of plastic, segregating waste at the source and ensuring its proper disposal.

Such measures may appear

small at the individual level, but their consistent adoption by communities can help reduce waste generation, improve sanitation and contribute to healthier surroundings.

The discussion also highlighted the need to develop a responsible approach towards the use and disposal of plastic. Participants were encouraged to avoid unnecessary consumption of plastic products and to consider reusable alternatives wherever possible. Proper segregation and disposal of plastic waste were also discussed as important steps towards preventing waste from accumulating in public spaces and causing environmental problems.

Waste segregation emerged as another important aspect of the interaction. Participants discussed the benefits of separating biodegradable, recyclable and other forms of waste at the point where waste is generated. Proper segregation can make subsequent collection, processing and disposal more effective while also increasing the possibility of recycling and recovery of useful materials.

The interactive nature of the Swachhata Samvad provided participants with an opportunity to reflect on their own cleanliness practices and identify areas where improvements could be made. Rather than simply receiving instructions, participants were encouraged to share their personal observations and experiences. This open exchange of views helped create a more participatory atmosphere and encouraged individuals to think about practical steps that could be implemented in their daily lives.

The dialogue-based format also helped underline the importance of collective responsibility. Participants discussed how cleanliness initiatives can become more effective when people work together rather than treating them as the responsibility of a particular department, institution or group of workers. The interaction encouraged participants to recognise that every individual has a role to play in maintaining clean, hygienic and environmentally responsible surroundings.

2 killed, van torched over cattle theft suspicion near Bengal's Siliguri

Kolkata : Two men were killed and three others injured after a mob allegedly attacked a group of men suspected of cattle theft near Siliguri in West Bengal during the early hours of Friday. The incident took place in the Matigara and Bagdogra areas and involved a violent chase that ended with the suspected victims being surrounded and assaulted, police said. According to police, the incident occurred between around 2.30 am and 3 am when a crowd began chasing four to five men who were allegedly suspected of stealing cattle. The chase reportedly continued across areas falling under Matigara and Bagdogra police stations before the men were cornered near Dhimlal Basti in Bagdogra. The pursuit began around Tarabari in the Matigara area and continued towards Dhimlal Basti. During the chase, the group was allegedly intercepted by the mob near the Balason River in the Tarabari area. Police said a pickup van carrying some of the men was stopped and subsequently set on fire. The driver of the pickup van was identified as 45-year-old Md Shahid Akhtar, a resident of Chopra in West Bengal. According to the police, the mob allegedly dragged Akhtar out of the vehicle and assaulted him. He sustained severe injuries and died at the spot. A second man, identified as 28-year-old Shad Mohammad, also known as



Police personnel reached the area after receiving information about the attack and rescued three injured men from the scene. The injured victims were taken to the North Bengal Medical College and Hospital, where they were provided medical treatment. Their condition and the extent of their injuries are part of the ongoing investigation. One person from the group managed to escape the mob during the attack. According to police, he ran to a nearby police station and sought shelter there. His account is expected to be important to investigators as they attempt to reconstruct the sequence of events and identify the people involved in the assault. The police have registered a case based on a complaint filed by the wife of the deceased Shahid Akhtar. Siliguri Police Commissioner Syed Waqar Raza said investigators were working to identify the ac-

cused persons. He said that no arrest had been made so far. "We are trying to trace the accused. So far, no one has been arrested. The case has been filed based on a complaint filed by the dead person's wife," Raza told The Indian Express. Police are now examining evidence and gathering information about the people who were allegedly part of the mob.

The FIR contains several serious charges in connection with the violence. These include murder by mob, voluntarily causing grievous hurt, mischief causing property damage and mischief by fire or explosive substance. The charges reflect both the deaths and injuries as well as the alleged burning of the pickup vehicle. The circumstances leading to the confrontation are also being investigated. Police said the men were allegedly suspected of cattle theft or smuggling in the area. According to investigators, a family member of one of the victims acknowledged that the men had allegedly been involved in cattle smuggling and had visited the area on earlier occasions. However, the alleged involvement of the victims in cattle smuggling does not determine responsibility for the subsequent violence. The police investigation is focused on identifying the people who allegedly attacked the men, caused their injuries and set the vehicle on fire.

CPM-backed lawyers attacked, Mamata slams BJP

Garbata : A team of lawyers associated with the CPM was allegedly attacked while visiting violence-affected areas of West Midnapore's Garbata, triggering a strong reaction from former West Bengal chief minister Mamata Banerjee. Among those allegedly targeted was Calcutta High Court advocate Shamim Ahmed, who was leading the delegation. Banerjee condemned the incident and called for the administration to ensure the safety of lawyers.

The incident took place as a group of around 12 lawyers from the Calcutta High Court and the Midnapore court visited several villages in Garbata 1 block. The delegation was reportedly conducting an inspection following allegations that CPM workers and supporters had been affected by political clashes in the region.

The lawyers were also visiting areas where families were reported to have been displaced from their homes. The delegation went to the residence of CPM Garbata area committee secretary Samed Gayen as part of efforts connected with facilitating the return of displaced villagers to their homes.

It was during this visit and the subsequent journey that the lawyers allegedly came under attack.

According to reports, the lawyers' vehicles were allegedly intercepted in the area and attacked. The lawyers claimed that sticks, bamboo poles and other objects were used during the incident, while several vehicles were reportedly damaged. The allegations have added to concerns over the political tensions surround-



ing the Garbata region.

Shamim Ahmed was among those allegedly assaulted during the incident. Reports said that the group faced attacks at more than one location while attempting to leave the area. The lawyers were subsequently escorted by West Midnapore police for their safety, but another alleged attack took place near the Salboni police station area.

Some reports said that three male lawyers and two female lawyers were injured in the incidents. There were also allegations that women members of the delegation were harassed during the attack. The lawyers claimed that their vehicles were vandalised, adding another dimension to the incident.

The allegations have led to competing political claims. CPM district secretary Bijoy Pal accused BJP supporters of carrying out attacks on party workers and alleged that the lawyers were targeted because they were visiting people affected by po-

litical violence.

The BJP, however, has denied involvement in the incident. Garbata MLA Pradeep Lodha maintained that his party had no role in the alleged attack. The competing claims mean that responsibility for the incident remains disputed between the political parties.

Mamata Banerjee strongly reacted to the incident through a post on X. She condemned what she described as repeated attacks on lawyers and accused BJP workers of creating a "culture of intimidation and jungle raj". She also urged the administration to take firm and impartial action against those responsible.

Banerjee specifically referred to Shamim Ahmed in her post and said she was shocked by the allegation that he had been pressured to alter his complaint after the incident. She further claimed that Ahmed was able to return home safely only after the intervention of the Chief Justice of the Calcutta High Court.

The former chief minister also stressed that lawyers should be able to perform their professional duties without fear, regardless of their political affiliation or ideology. She said the rule of law should prevail over political violence and called for the administration to ensure the safety and security of advocates.

Banerjee also referred to recent alleged incidents involving lawyers at Bankshall Court and Baruipur Court. She said such incidents were unacceptable and argued that West Bengal should not allow a climate of intimidation to develop.

The incident has gained attention because the lawyers were visiting areas affected by political tensions and were reportedly seeking information about displaced families. Their visit was connected to efforts to assess the situation on the ground and assist in the process of enabling affected people to return to their homes.

The allegations have also brought the safety of lawyers working in politically sensitive areas into focus. Lawyers involved in such visits can come into contact with competing groups and conflicting claims, making security arrangements an important concern during field inspections.

For now, the incident has become another point of political confrontation in West Bengal, with the CPM alleging attacks by BJP supporters and the BJP denying any involvement. The allegations concerning the assault, damage to vehicles and pressure over the complaint will need to be established through the appropriate investigation.

3 years after Umesh Pal murder, UP Police trace wanted accused to Bihar jail

Lucknow : Three years after the killing of advocate Umesh Pal and his two police security personnel in Prayagraj, Uttar Pradesh Police have traced one of the wanted accused to a jail in Bihar.

Mohammad Arman, who was carrying a reward of Rs 5 lakh on information leading to his arrest, has been found lodged in a jail in Bihar's Gaya district in connection with an older criminal case.

Police said Arman allegedly had links with the gang of slain Prayagraj mafia figure Atiq Ahmed. His alleged involvement in the murder of Umesh Pal and the two police personnel emerged during the investigation into the February 24, 2023 attack. Since then, Uttar Pradesh Police had been searching for him and had declared a reward of Rs 5 lakh for information leading to his arrest.

Umesh Pal, an advocate and key

witness in a murder case, was attacked in Prayagraj's Dhoomanganj area on February 24, 2023.

The attack took place when he was getting out of his car near the entrance to his residence. The assailants opened fire and allegedly hurled bombs at him and his two police security personnel before escaping from the spot.

The attack shocked Prayagraj and triggered a major police investigation. The case involved several accused persons and was investigated as part of the wider probe into the criminal network allegedly associated with Atiq Ahmed. Police subsequently identified several individuals who were allegedly involved in different roles in planning, executing or facilitating the attack.

According to the Uttar Pradesh Police, Arman was allegedly riding the motorcycle used by another wanted accused, Guddu Muslim, who was travelling as a pillion rider.

His alleged presence in the attack and association with other accused made him one of the persons being actively searched for by investigators.

A senior police officer said investigators received information about a week ago that Arman was already lodged in a jail in Gaya district. Police then contacted their counterparts in Bihar and verified the information. The discovery brought an end to the three-year search for Arman, although he remains in custody in connection with the older case.

The Uttar Pradesh Police now plan to formally bring Arman to Prayagraj so that he can be questioned and proceed against in the Umesh Pal murder case. A senior officer said the police would approach the Prayagraj court on Monday seeking a B-warrant for his production in connection with the murder of Umesh Pal and his two security personnel.

Newborn girl strangled at hospital in MP's Ashok Nagar; cops suspect family's role

Bhopal : A newborn girl was allegedly strangled to death inside the Special Newborn Care Unit (SNCU) of a hospital in Madhya Pradesh's Ashoknagar district, police said on Sunday. Investigators suspect that someone from the baby's family may have been involved in the death, with police particularly focusing on the child's mother and grandmother, who were present at the hospital unit.

According to police, the newborn was born at around

11.50 pm on Friday and was admitted to the SNCU shortly after birth. The baby was being treated in the specialised unit when she was found dead between 3 pm and 4 pm on Saturday. The circumstances of her death led hospital authorities and police to suspect that she may have been strangled.

Kotwali police station house officer Ravipratap Singh Chauhan told PTI that an investigation was underway into the death. He said the police were examining

the circumstances inside the SNCU and questioning people who were present around the time the baby died. The exact sequence of events leading to the newborn's death is still being investigated. The baby belonged to a joint family from Sakra village in the Chanderi area of Ashoknagar district. Police said the newborn was a female child and that her death had brought attention to the circumstances surrounding the birth and the family's background. Inves-

tigators are now trying to establish what happened inside the hospital between the time the child was admitted and when she was found dead.

The police officer said the baby's mother and grandmother were present at the SNCU. Their presence has led investigators to focus their initial inquiry on the two women. Police have not said that either woman has been arrested or formally charged in connection with the death, and the investigation is continuing.

Abhishek Banerjee objects to rebel TMC MP's parliamentary panel chair post

Kolkata : Trinamool Congress national general secretary and Lok Sabha MP Abhishek Banerjee has objected to the appointment of party rebel Kakoli Ghosh Dastidar as chairperson of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Chemicals and Fertilisers. Banerjee has written to Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla, questioning the decision and seeking clarity over the basis on which Dastidar was appointed to head the important parliamentary panel. The objection comes after a major reshuffle of several department-related Parliamentary Standing Committees. Under the changes announced on Saturday, Dastidar replaced former TMC MP Kirti Azad as chairperson of the Chemicals and Fertilisers Committee. At the same time, the TMC lost another committee chairpersonship, with BJP MP Sudhanshu Trivedi replacing TMC Rajya Sabha MP Dola Sen as chairperson of the Commerce Committee. Banerjee's main objection is linked to the pending disqualification proceedings against



Dastidar and 19 other Lok Sabha members belonging to the rebel TMC faction. The petitions have been filed under the Tenth Schedule of the Constitution, which contains the anti-defection provisions. The status of the 20 MPs remains under consideration before the Lok Sabha Speaker. In his letter, Banerjee referred to his earlier communications to the Speaker dated September 23. He said he had specifically requested that the MPs facing disqualification proceedings should not be considered for appointments to Department-Related Standing Committees until the petitions against them were decided. Banerjee

also said that the TMC had formally requested that it retain the chairmanship of one of the Standing Committees in the Lok Sabha. According to him, the party had also submitted the name of its existing chairperson for continuation in the post. He argued that the latest appointment disregarded both the party's objection and its official nomination. The TMC leader has also questioned the parliamentary status under which Dastidar was appointed. The dispute has its roots in the decision of 20 TMC MPs to break away from the party following the West Bengal Assembly elections and claim a merger with the Nationalist Citizens Party of India or NCPI. The rebel MPs have sought recognition as a separate parliamentary group, but the matter remains pending before the Speaker. Banerjee pointed to what he described as an anomaly in the parliamentary records. He said the Digital Sansad website continued to show 28 Lok Sabha members as belonging to the All India Trinamool Congress.

UCC in 6 months, law against love jihad: Suvendu Adhikari's Bengal promise

Kolkata : West Bengal Chief Minister Suvendu Adhikari has announced that his government will implement the Uniform Civil Code (UCC) in the state within the next six months, following the examples of Uttarakhand and Gujarat.

He also promised to introduce stringent laws against what he described as "love jihad", "land jihad" and religious conversions after the implementation of the UCC. Adhikari made the announcements while addressing an event organised by the Vishwa Hindu Parishad



(VHP) in Kolkata on Sunday.

Speaking at the gathering, Adhikari gave a six-month timeline for the proposed UCC, saying that West

Bengal would follow the model of states that have already moved towards a common civil law framework. "After Uttarakhand and Gujarat, UCC will be imple-

mented in West Bengal. Give me six more months," he said, according to reports. He presented the proposed move as one of the major commitments of his government and said the administration would work towards fulfilling the promises made to voters.

Adhikari further said that the proposed legislation on "love jihad", "land jihad" and religious conversion would be taken up after the UCC.

He said the government would bring strict and tough laws to address these issues.

'If We've To Bend A Little, We Will': Congress Says It's 'As Flexible As Constitution' On Seat Sharing With SP

Lucknow : Congress on Sunday invoked the Constitution of India to signal its flexibility on seat sharing for the upcoming Uttar Pradesh Assembly elections. Uttar Pradesh Congress in-charge Rajendra Pal Gautam said the party was ready to bend "a little" if required as it negotiates seat sharing with the Samajwadi Party.

Seat sharing between the Congress and the Samajwadi Party is a key issue between the two INDIA bloc alliance partners ahead of the 2027 Uttar Pradesh elections. Both parties have stressed the need to work together against the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, but differences over the distribution of seats remain an important issue as preparations for the polls gather pace. "The share and respect should be equal. I have been saying this from the beginning... When it comes to seat sharing, we are as



flexible as the Constitution of India. If we have to bend a little, we will bend," Gautam told reporters.

Gautam also said the seat-sharing arrangement should be finalised in October itself, arguing that candidates need sufficient time to prepare and work in their respective constituencies.

The Congress and the SP have,

meanwhile, traded barbs in recent weeks, underscoring the tensions between the two allies ahead of the polls. The latest friction followed Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav's launch of the 'PDA Rath Yatra' from Raebareli on September 24, marking the beginning of his party's campaign for the 2027 Uttar Pradesh Assembly elections.

Akhilesh's visit to the Congress stronghold triggered a war of words between the allies, with Uttar Pradesh Congress chief Ajai Rai announcing that the grand old party would also visit SP strongholds. "Anyone is free to visit any part of the country. He (Akhilesh) visited Raebareli, and there is nothing wrong with it. We, too, will surely visit places like Varanasi or, for that matter, Etawah, Kannauj and Mainpuri," Rai told PTI on Friday. The places cited by Rai are all associated with the Samajwadi Party. Akhilesh Yadav represents Kannauj in the Lok Sabha, while his wife Dimple Yadav is the MP from Mainpuri and his uncle Shivalpal Yadav is the MLA from Jaswantnagar. Reacting to Rai's remarks, Shivalpal Yadav, a six-term MLA from Jaswantnagar, said the Congress would not gain votes even if it tried to make inroads into SP strongholds.

Jharkhand woman still in detention centre despite court order

Ranchi : A woman from Jamtara in Jharkhand has remained at the centre of a legal controversy after spending years in custody even though the prison sentence imposed on her in an earlier criminal case was completed in 2020.

The Jharkhand High Court has now questioned the legal basis for her continued detention at the Foreigners' Holding Centre in Hazaribag, asking the authorities to explain under what law she is still being kept in custody.

The woman, who is now around 30 years old, was in her early 20s when she was arrested in 2018 in connection with an alleged child kidnapping case. She was subsequently sentenced to two years in prison. Her sentence was due to end in 2020, after which she was expected to be re-

leased. Instead, authorities continued to keep her in custody and eventually placed her at the Foreigners' Holding Centre located within the Hazaribag prison complex.

The woman was reportedly the first detainee at the facility and, for a period, remained its only occupant.

The centre was meant for people treated by the authorities as foreign nationals pending further action regarding their status. The woman's detention there followed an allegation by the police that she was a Bangladeshi national, a claim that later became an important issue in the legal proceedings concerning her continued custody.

According to the petition filed before the High Court, the woman remained at the Hazaribag facility for several

years despite having completed the sentence imposed in her original criminal case. Her continued detention became the subject of renewed legal scrutiny after she was later prosecuted in connection with an escape from the holding centre.

In June 2025, the woman escaped from the facility along with two other detainees.

The three were later apprehended, and a fresh criminal case was registered in connection with the escape. The prosecution also invoked provisions of the Foreigners Act, based on the allegation that the women were foreign nationals.

The circumstances surrounding the escape, however, later became an important part of the High Court proceedings.

R Madhavan, Disha Patani and Shriya Saran join Akshay Kumar-Sajid Khan’s next comedy

Aryan Age Correspondent

Mumbai :R Madhavan, Disha Patani and Shriya Saran have joined the cast of Akshay Kumar and Sajid Khan’s upcoming untitled comedy. The film is being produced by Ektaa R Kapoor and is planned as an out-and-out entertainer built around comedy, misunderstandings and a large ensemble of actors.

The project will bring together Akshay Kumar, R Madhavan, Disha Patani and Shriya Saran in what is expected to be a fresh combination on screen. The addition of the three actors has expanded the cast considerably and added another layer of interest to Sajid Khan’s next directorial venture.

Madhavan’s casting is particularly notable because he will reunite with Akshay Kumar after their appearance in Kesari Chapter 2: The Untold Story of Jallianwala Bagh, which released in 2025. The two actors played rivals in the courtroom drama, sharing a very different



dynamic from the one they are expected to explore in their upcoming comedy.

Their next collaboration will see the actors move away from the serious and dramatic world of Kesari Chapter 2 and enter the comedy genre. The contrast

between their previous roles and their upcoming characters is expected to be one of the interesting aspects of the new project.

The pairing of Akshay and Madhavan is also being seen as one of the key elements of the film. Both

actors have demonstrated their ability to handle different genres, and bringing them together in a comedy is expected to create opportunities for humour based on their contrasting personalities and performances.

Disha Patani and Shriya

Saran have also officially come on board the project. The two actresses are expected to play the romantic leads and will be an important part of the film’s central storyline. Their inclusion further strengthens the ensemble nature of the comedy.

The film is said to revolve around middle-aged men and will follow a comedy-of-errors format. The story is expected to build its humour around a series of misunderstandings, situations and complications involving the central characters, allowing the actors to explore comic situations throughout the narrative.

The makers are also planning to mount the project on a large scale. Rather than keeping the comedy restricted to a limited setting, the production is expected to involve an extensive shooting schedule and multiple locations, giving the film a broader visual canvas.

London is expected to be one of the major locations for the production.

Yami Gautam urges no alteration or enhancement of her photos using AI: ‘Should not be done’

Aryan Age Correspondent

Mumbai :Actor Yami Gautam, who recently received the National Award for Best Actress, has made a special request to members of the media regarding the use of artificial intelligence in photographs. The actor took to social media on Sunday to ask media organisations and photographers to avoid using AI tools to alter or enhance pictures of her that are published publicly.

Yami shared her request through her official X account, where she spoke about the growing use of artificial intelligence in creating and modifying images. Her appeal focused specifically on photographs taken during her public appearances and subsequently used by the media. The actor requested that her original appearance be retained in photographs published by media platforms. With AI-powered image editing becoming increasingly common, Yami expressed her preference for pictures that represent her as she actually appeared at an event or public engagement.



The request comes shortly after Yami received major recognition for her performance, having recently won the National Award for Best Actress. The honour has brought renewed attention to her work and has also increased media interest in her public appearances. Yami has been part of the Hindi film industry for several years and has built a reputation through performances across different genres. Her recent National Award win has marked an important milestone in her career and has placed her work under even greater public and media attention.

In her social media appeal, the actor highlighted an issue that has become increasingly relevant in the entertainment industry. AI-based tools can now modify photographs in ways that can change facial features, skin texture, expressions and other aspects of a person’s appearance.

For celebrities, such alterations can become particularly significant because photographs published by media outlets often become part of their public image. Yami’s request therefore centres on maintaining authenticity in photographs that are used to represent her.

Rakhi Sawant Reacts to Govinda’s Marriage Controversy

Aryan Age Correspondent

Mumbai :Bollywood actor Govinda and his wife Sunita Ahuja have been at the centre of discussions surrounding their marriage, with the couple openly speaking about difficulties in their relationship. Their comments have attracted considerable attention, with several celebrities and personalities also sharing their views on the ongoing situation.

Amid the discussion, actress and entertainer Rakhi Sawant has reacted to the controversy involving the veteran actor.

Rakhi, known for her outspoken personality and direct comments on matters related to the entertainment industry, questioned Govinda over reports surrounding his rumoured relationship with Komal Rani Swarnkar.

The development comes at a time when Govinda and Sunita’s relationship has once again become a subject of public interest.

The couple, who have been married for several years, have previously spoken about their relationship, but recent comments and



reports have renewed discussions about their personal life.

Rakhi’s reaction has added another layer to the ongoing conversation. She raised questions about the reports involving Govinda and Komal Rani Swarnkar and appeared to seek clarity from the actor over the controversy that has emerged around his personal life.

Govinda and Sunita Ahuja have shared a long journey together, both personally and professionally. Their marriage has often

been discussed in the media, while their public appearances and comments about each other have also attracted attention from fans over the years.

The recent developments have once again brought their relationship into the spotlight.

While the couple has spoken openly about challenges in their marriage, speculation and reports surrounding Govinda’s alleged association with another woman have further fuelled public interest in the matter.

Avika Gor Becomes First Indian to Partner with Kazakhstan’s Sen Sulu Cosmetics Brand

Aryan Age Correspondent

Mumbai :Actress Avika Gor is expanding her international work with a new association in Kazakhstan, where she is currently shooting a campaign for Sen Sulu, a Kazakhstan-based cosmetics brand. The collaboration marks another step in the actress’s growing journey across international markets and brings her together with a homegrown brand that is looking to strengthen its presence beyond Kazakhstan.

Sen Sulu describes itself as a Kazakhstani decorative cosmetics label with an expanding international presence. Through the new campaign, Avika has become the face of a project that aims to connect the brand with audiences across different regions. The association is also being positioned as the first time an Indian artiste has partnered with the cosmetics brand.

For Avika, the collaboration represents an opportunity to take Indian beauty and representation to a new audience. The actress is currently in Kazakhstan for the campaign shoot, where she is working closely with the brand and its creative team. The project gives her an opportunity to experience a new market while also representing Indian talent on an international platform.

Speaking about the association, Avika said that she was excited to represent Indian beauty glob-

ally. She described Kazakhstan as a completely different space for her and said that being associated with a homegrown cosmetics brand made the experience even more special. According to the actress, the collaboration reflects the idea that beauty can connect people across geographical and cultural boundaries.

Avika said, “It is such an exciting feeling to represent Indian beauty on a global platform. Kazakhstan is a completely different space for me, and getting the opportunity to be associated with a homegrown cosmetics brand like Sen Sulu makes this experience even more special.”

The actress also spoke about her belief that beauty can transcend borders. For her, the campaign is not only a professional assignment but also an opportunity to bring together two different cultures through beauty and creativity. The association with a Kazakhstan-based brand gives the project an international character while allowing Avika to carry an element of Indian representation into the campaign.

The collaboration comes at a time when Indian artistes are increasingly finding opportunities to work with brands and creative teams outside the country. International campaigns can give performers and entertainers a platform to reach audiences who may not be familiar with their work in India. Avika’s latest association adds to this growing

exchange between Indian talent and international creative markets.

The campaign with Sen Sulu is expected to showcase a different side of Avika as she steps into an international beauty project. Her presence at the centre of the campaign also highlights the brand’s interest in connecting with talent from outside Kazakhstan as it continues to explore opportunities for a wider audience.

Sharing her thoughts on the campaign, Avika said she was looking forward to audiences seeing the final result. “I am genuinely excited for people to see what we have created. I hope this collaboration allows audiences in Kazakhstan and beyond to see another side of Indian beauty and representation,” she said.

The actress added that the project holds a special meaning for her because of the opportunity to represent India in a new part of the world. She described the experience as more than simply an international campaign and

said it was a moment of pride to carry a little bit of India with her to Kazakhstan.

Avika’s current Kazakhstan visit is therefore combining professional work with a new cultural experience. Working with a local cosmetics brand allows her to be part of a cre-

ative project rooted in Kazakhstan while bringing her own identity and Indian background into the association.

The campaign also reflects how beauty and entertainment collaborations are increasingly becoming global in nature.



Janhvi Kapoor Brings Indian Craft to Paris Fashion Week

Aryan Age Correspondent

Mumbai :Janhvi Kapoor brought Indian craftsmanship to the international fashion spotlight as she attended the prestigious BoF 500 Gala in Paris during Paris Fashion Week. For the high-profile occasion, the actor chose a custom creation by Pankaj S Heritage, styled by Rhea Kapoor, presenting a look that combined traditional Indian design with a contemporary fashion aesthetic.

The outfit drew inspiration from the classic six-yard Indian silhouette but was presented in a distinctly modern form. Instead of following a conventional drape, the ensemble featured a low-slung style that gave the traditional silhouette a more relaxed and contemporary appearance. The bare-shoulder design further added a modern touch to the otherwise classic Indian-inspired look. One of the most striking elements of the ensemble was its floor-skimming pallu. The long drape added movement and elegance to the outfit while maintaining the visual identity of a traditional Indian garment. The styling allowed the familiar six-yard form to be recognised while giving it a fashion-forward interpretation suited to an international red-carpet event. The ensemble was crafted from 460-count Bengal Muslin, placing Indian textile

craftsmanship at the heart of Kapoor’s appearance. The lightweight and finely woven fabric helped create the fluid shape of the outfit, while its natural texture added character to the understated colour palette.

The choice of Bengal Muslin also gave the look a strong Indian textile identity. Rather than relying on an elaborate colour scheme, and texture of the fabric to become one of its main visual features.

The fabric’s delicate appearance worked with the flowing silhouette to create an elegant and refined overall effect. Kapoor wore the ensemble in an off-white and ivory-toned palette, keeping the base of the outfit minimal. This balance between simplicity and detailed craftsmanship became a defining feature of the look. The ivory base was complemented by elaborate handcrafted adornments featuring a mix of gold beads, pearls, shells, emeralds, polkis and tassels. The combination brought together different elements of Indian jewellery traditions and added richness to the otherwise understated outfit. The jewellery detailing was arranged in an unusual manner, beginning around the shoulder and extending towards the arm. Instead of functioning only as conventional accessories, the adornments became an integral

part of the outfit itself. The placement created a distinctive visual element against the clean ivory fabric.

The contrast between the minimal-toned garment and the elaborate jewellery helped draw attention to the craftsmanship. The embellishments added texture, colour and movement while allowing the Bengal Muslin base to remain visible. This ensured that both the textile and handcrafted details received equal attention. Rhea Kapoor’s styling brought together the traditional references of the outfit with a contemporary silhouette. The overall approach avoided making the ensemble look overly conventional, instead presenting familiar Indian elements in a form that suited a global fashion setting. The low-slung drape and bare shoulders gave the traditional silhouette a modern character, while the long pallu retained its connection to Indian dressing. This combination allowed Kapoor’s appearance to bridge two different fashion languages — the heritage of Indian clothing and the contemporary aesthetics often seen at international fashion events. The handcrafted jewellery further strengthened the Indian identity of the ensemble. Gold beads, pearls, shells, emeralds and polkis

created a layered look that celebrated traditional craftsmanship while working with the modern structure of the outfit.



Rishab Shetty and Hombale Films look back at the film’s journey

Aryan Age Correspondent

Mumbai :A Legend Chapter 1 has completed one year since its global theatrical release, marking an important milestone for the film and its team. Hombale Films and actor-filmmaker Rishab Shetty reflected on the journey of the film as they celebrated its first anniversary and acknowledged the response it received from audiences across the world.

The film serves as a prequel to the 2022 blockbuster Kantara and expanded the mythology and folklore introduced in the original film. Instead of continuing the story directly, Kantara: A Legend Chapter 1 explored the origins of the world, traditions and beliefs that form the foundation of the franchise.

The first film had established a strong connection with audiences through its portrayal of local culture, folklore, spirituality and traditions. The prequel took that world further by going deeper into its historical and mythological background. This allowed the makers to build a larger narrative around the cultur-



al elements that had become central to the Kantara universe.

On the completion of one year, Hombale Films took to social media to mark the occasion. The production house shared a special note celebrating the film and thanking audiences for their support. The message highlighted the importance of the audience response in making the latest chapter a memorable part of the franchise.

“1 Year Of Divine Blockbuster #KantaraChapter1 A divine journey celebrating our roots, culture and traditions, made truly special by audiences across the world. Your unwavering love made this chapter an unforgettable part of our #Kantara journey,” Hombale Films wrote.

The anniversary message focused on the film’s connection with Indian roots, culture and traditions. The makers described the journey as a celebration of these elements and credited audiences around the world for making the film’s first year especially significant.

Kantara: A Legend Chapter 1 was built around the mythology and folklore that had played an important role in the original film. Rishab Shetty once again led the project, bringing together filmmaking and performance as he expanded the fictional world created through the franchise.

The prequel format also gave the makers an opportunity to explore aspects of the Kantara universe that had remained in the background of the original story. By looking at the origins of its mythology, the film attempted to provide audiences with a deeper understanding of the traditions and beliefs that shaped the larger narrative.

The film’s cultural setting remained one of its defining features.

Shubman Gill Backs Virat Kohli, Rohit Sharma, Rules Out Resting Veterans

New Delhi : India ODI captain Shubman Gill has strongly backed veteran batters Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma following their impressive performances against the West Indies, stressing that the two senior players remain important to the team's plans. Gill's comments came after India concluded the three-match ODI series in New Chandigarh on Saturday.

Kohli and Rohit were among India's standout performers during the series, once again drawing attention to their continued contribution in the 50-over format. Kohli scored an unbeaten century in the first ODI, while Rohit produced a hundred in the second match. The former India captain then came close to another century in the third ODI before being dismissed for 92.

Rohit's performance in the series was particularly notable as he continued to demonstrate his ability to score heavily despite being one of India's oldest active players in the format. Kohli, meanwhile, also showed his consistency by producing a match-winning hundred in the opening game and anchoring India's batting effort.

Despite their strong performances, questions continue to surround the future of both players in ODI cricket because of their age. Kohli is 37, while Rohit is 39, and there has been discussion about whether India should



gradually provide opportunities to younger players ahead of future assignments.

Gill, however, showed little interest in entertaining speculation about dropping or resting the two veterans. Instead, he highlighted their current form and the importance of having experienced players in India's ODI setup as the team looks towards the next World Cup. Speaking at the post-match press conference after India's defeat in the third ODI, Gill said he was impressed with the way both Kohli and Rohit had batted during the series. He also pointed out that when the senior batters were unable to deliver, another experienced player, KL Rahul, had stepped up for the team.

"They've been batting really well," Gill said while discussing the performances of the senior players. He not-

ed that Rohit had been in particularly good form, while also praising Kohli for his contribution. Gill also highlighted Rahul's performances whenever he had been given an opportunity.

Gill's comments underline the confidence that the current ODI captain has in India's experienced batting core. Rather than viewing the veterans simply in terms of their age, the captain appears focused on their recent performances and their ability to contribute to the team's objectives. Rohit's run of form has been especially encouraging for India. Gill pointed out that the veteran opener had scored his third hundred in his last four innings, underlining the consistency he has shown in recent matches. Although Rohit missed out on a century in the third ODI, his score

of 92 once again demonstrated his ability to make a major contribution. Kohli also continued to provide India with the experience and stability expected from one of the team's most accomplished ODI batters. His unbeaten century in the first match of the series was another reminder of his ability to influence games in the format. Gill also made it clear that the discussion cannot be limited to Kohli and Rohit alone. He praised KL Rahul for stepping up whenever he received an opportunity and contributing with the bat. The captain's comments suggested that India's experienced players continue to have an important role within the team's overall batting combination. There had been suggestions that India could use the upcoming ODI matches to experiment with

different combinations and potentially rest Kohli and Rohit. Such a strategy could give younger players greater exposure, particularly with the next generation of Indian cricketers being considered for long-term roles.

Gill, however, ruled out the idea of extensive experimentation, pointing to the limited number of ODI matches available to India. According to the captain, the team does not have unlimited opportunities to test combinations before major tournaments. "I honestly think there is not that much time to experiment," Gill said. He explained that India would ideally want all available players to be part of the team from the next series onwards so that the preferred combination can begin playing together regularly. The captain's comments indicate that India wants to use its upcoming ODI assignments to build continuity rather than constantly rotate its key players. With a World Cup in the team's long-term plans, Gill believes it is important to establish the desired combination well in advance. The Indian team will now have a break of roughly a month before returning to ODI cricket. India's next ODI assignment will be against New Zealand, giving the team an opportunity to continue developing its preferred combination and assess players ahead of future commitments.

Dhoni Advice Helps Shai Hope Guide West Indies to Historic Chase

New Delhi : West Indies captain Shai Hope revealed that advice from former India captain MS Dhoni came to his mind during a difficult 352-run chase against India in the third and final ODI in Mullanpur. Hope said Dhoni had once told him, "You always have more time than you think," and those words helped him remain patient during a tense run chase. Hope eventually produced one of the finest ODI innings of his career, scoring an unbeaten 162 off 143 balls to guide West Indies to a memorable five-wicket victory.

The West Indies had entered the final match with the ODI series already lost after India won the first two games. However, the visitors were determined to finish the series on a positive note and produced a remarkable performance in the final match. Chasing 352, the Men in Maroon completed the target in 48.2 overs to register their highest successful chase in ODI cricket.

Hope was at the centre of the historic victory. The West Indies captain opened the innings and remained at the crease until the winning runs were scored. He also kept wickets for the entire Indian innings, meaning he had already spent 50 overs behind the stumps before taking responsibility for the demanding chase. Despite physical discomfort during his innings, Hope continued to fight and guided his team



over the line. India had posted a massive 351 for seven after being asked to bat first. KL Rahul produced a superb unbeaten 129, while Rohit Sharma contributed a valuable 92. Ruturaj Gaikwad also played an important role with a quick 57. Their combined efforts gave India a strong total and appeared to put the hosts in a commanding position.

The West Indies, however, refused to allow the required run rate or the size of the target to affect their approach. Hope took responsibility at the top of the order and focused on building the innings gradually. Rather than attempting to score all the required runs quickly, he concentrated on partnerships and ensured that wickets were preserved for the later stages of the chase.

Hope said the advice he received from Dhoni played an important role in his approach. According to the West Indies captain, the former India wicketkeeper-batter had told him that a batter often has more time

than he initially believes. Hope remembered those words when the pressure increased and used the advice to break the chase into smaller targets instead of focusing on the enormous total of 352.

The situation became even more challenging for West Indies as they were not at full strength during the chase. Hope pointed out that his team was already a batter down and felt they were potentially two batters short. Despite those difficulties, the West Indies captain stayed calm and continued to build the innings alongside his teammates.

Hope also paid attention to India's over-rate situation, which eventually became another factor in the chase. He knew India would have to bring additional fielders inside the circle if they received an over-rate penalty. Instead of rushing his shots, Hope waited for opportunities and remained patient. His approach allowed him to take advantage of the changing field and keep the required rate under control.

Akmal Slams Saim Ayub Over Sooryavanshi Sendoff

New Delhi : Former Pakistan wicketkeeper-batter Kamran Akmal has strongly criticised all-rounder Saim Ayub for his controversial celebration during the Asian Games 2026 gold medal match against India. Ayub's send-off to 15-year-old Indian opener Vaibhav Sooryavanshi became one of the most discussed moments of the high-profile contest and attracted criticism from fans and former players.

The incident took place during the third over of the match when Ayub dismissed Sooryavanshi for 15 runs off just nine deliveries. After completing the dismissal, Ayub did not settle for a conventional celebration. Instead, he performed a "baby in the cradle" gesture, appearing to mock the young Indian batter because of his age. Sooryavanshi, who is only 15, quietly walked back towards the dugout after losing his wicket. The contrast between the teenager's reaction and Ayub's celebration quickly caught the attention of viewers. Videos and pictures of the incident spread widely across social media, turning a moment in the match into a major talking point.

The celebration attracted criticism because of Sooryavanshi's young age. Although international and high-level



cricket can involve intense competition and emotional celebrations, the gesture was viewed by several fans as unnecessary. The incident also became particularly noticeable because it happened during a major India-Pakistan contest, where every moment tends to receive significant attention. Akmal was among those who expressed disappointment over what happened. The former Pakistan international questioned why Ayub felt the need to make such a gesture after dismissing the young Indian batter. According to Akmal, players representing Pakistan at the international level should concentrate more on their cricket and performances rather than actions that can generate attention on social media.

Speaking on a sports discussion show, Akmal said that such incidents had been happening for a long time. He argued that Pakistan's recent perfor-

mances had not been good enough and suggested that players should focus on improving their cricket rather than creating moments specifically for online attention.

"These things have been happening for a long time. Our performance hasn't been great, but we are doing things for social media," Akmal said. His comments reflected his frustration with what he believes is a growing focus on social media reactions rather than performances on the field.

Akmal also directed his criticism towards the team management. He said the management should think carefully about such incidents because the players are representing Pakistan in international cricket. In his view, the standard expected from international players should remain high regardless of the opponent or the age of the player involved.

The former wicketkeeper-batter specifically pointed out that Sooryavanshi's age should not be used as a reason to treat him differently as a cricketer. Once a young player steps onto the international stage, he is competing as a professional cricketer. Akmal therefore believed that Ayub should have maintained the same level of respect expected in international cricket.

Gavaskar Sets Century Target for Rohit

New Delhi : India batting great Sunil Gavaskar has revealed a personal target he wants Rohit Sharma to achieve before the veteran batter eventually brings his international career to an end.

Gavaskar said he was disappointed when Rohit missed a century against the West Indies in the third ODI, despite scoring a valuable 92. According to Gavaskar, Rohit should ideally finish his ODI career with more centuries than his age at retirement.

Rohit played an important innings for India in the third ODI in New Chandigarh, scoring 92 runs. However, his dismissal just eight runs short of a century left Gavaskar frustrated. India eventually lost the match, although the senior opener had once again shown his ability to produce a substantial contribution at the top of the order.

Gavaskar's disappointment was not because Rohit's 92 was a poor score. Instead, it was connected to a bigger milestone that the

former India captain believes would perfectly reflect Rohit's remarkable ODI career. Rohit currently has 35

such an achievement would be a fitting reflection of the consistency and quality Rohit has maintained over a



ODI centuries, and Gavaskar wants that number to be higher than Rohit's age when he eventually retires.

By the time the 2027 ODI World Cup concludes, Rohit is expected to be 40 years old.

If he continues playing international cricket until that tournament, Gavaskar would like him to have at least 41 ODI hundreds. The former India opener believes

long career.

Rohit had an opportunity to move to 36 ODI centuries in the third match against the West Indies. He reached 92 and appeared well placed to convert his innings into another hundred, but he was dismissed before reaching the landmark. Gavaskar admitted that the missed opportunity was particularly frustrating because every century brings Rohit closer

to the target he has in mind.

"The reason I was disappointed with Rohit getting out on 92 is because he didn't get a hundred," Gavaskar said while speaking on Jio-Star's 'Haier Cricket Live'. He explained that Rohit could possibly retire from international cricket after the 2027 World Cup, making the remaining period of his career especially important.

Gavaskar said he personally likes the idea of a player having more international centuries than his age at retirement.

He believes such a statistic represents the level a batter has maintained over many years. For Rohit, achieving that mark would provide another memorable achievement at the end of an already highly successful career.

"For me, it's a special thing when a player's hundreds outnumber his age at retirement," Gavaskar said. He explained that such a milestone shows the kind of career the player has had and the standard he has maintained over a long period.

Pant Reveals Secret Behind Irani Cup Win

New Delhi : Rest of India captain Rishabh Pant revealed that a simple but important bowling adjustment played a major role in his team's 167-run victory over Jammu and Kashmir in the Irani Cup on Sunday. After falling 41 runs behind in the first innings, Rest of India made a tactical correction in the second innings by asking their bowlers to pitch the ball fuller. The change produced immediate results as the Ranji Trophy champions were bowled out for just 111 while chasing 279.

Rest of India had faced a difficult situation after Jammu and Kashmir took a first-innings lead.

Their bowlers had not been able to execute the original plan consistently and often bowled too far back of a length. That allowed the J&K batters to build their innings and establish an advantage in the match.

Pant admitted that the team was disappointed with the way the first innings had gone. The original plan had been to attack the stumps and bowl a fuller length, but the bowlers moved away from



that strategy during the innings. The captain and his team management recognised the problem and decided that the approach needed to change when they got another opportunity.

The tactical correction became the turning point of the contest. In the second innings, Rest of India's bowlers repeatedly targeted a fuller length and challenged the batters closer to their stumps.

Instead of allowing Jammu and Kashmir's batters to settle, the bowlers created regular opportunities and eventually completed a stunning collapse.

Pacer Mukesh Kumar led the attack in spectacular fashion. He returned figures

of 6 for 33 and dismantled the Jammu and Kashmir batting order during their chase. His spell was central to Rest of India's victory and ensured that the target of 279 became far beyond the reach of the Ranji Trophy champions.

The victory was particularly satisfying for Pant because the team had been forced to recover after conceding the first-innings deficit.

The Rest of India captain said that winning at the end of such a demanding match made the fatigue and difficulties disappear. He highlighted the satisfaction of seeing a tactical plan work after the team had corrected its mistakes.

Yamal Stars as Spain Beat Czech Republic

New Delhi : Lamine Yamal continued his remarkable goalscoring run as Spain defeated the Czech Republic 3-1 in the Nations League on Saturday. The victory strengthened Spain's position at the top of Group A3, with the world champions moving three points clear of England. Spain have now won all three of their group matches and are unbeaten in 41 consecutive games.

Spain made a strong start in Oviedo and quickly established control of the match. Yamal opened the scoring before captain Rodri Hernandez doubled the advantage, putting Spain in a comfortable position. However, the Czech Republic fought back in the second half and reduced the deficit, creating a nervous final period for the hosts. The visitors' hopes of completing a comeback were eventually ended when Mikel Merino scored late in the match. The Czech Republic were also reduced to 10 players after Ladislav Krejci received a second yellow card and was sent off. Spain took advantage of the situation and secured another important victory. The result extended Spain's unbeaten

run to 41 matches, a sequence that includes their World Cup final victory over Argentina in July. Their latest success also maintained their perfect start to the Nations League campaign and increased the pressure on the teams chasing them at the top of the group. Rodri, who captained Spain, acknowledged that the Czech Republic had made life difficult for the world champions. "They are well drilled, I thought it would be one of the hardest games and that's how it was," Rodri told Spanish broadcaster TVE after the match. The midfielder said Spain had struggled at times to create the same number of opportunities they normally generate, but he was pleased with how the team managed the contest. "It was tricky but we got some chances. There are some matches in which you can't generate that much, but the team was able to manage the match," he said. Rodri also had a personal reason to celebrate after finding the net. The former Manchester City midfielder scored his first goal for Spain in more than two years, adding an important second goal for the hosts before half-time.

Mohun Bagan Face Punjab FC in IFA Shield Semi-Final

New Delhi : Defending champions Mohun Bagan will take on Punjab FC in a highly anticipated semi-final of the IFA Shield 2026 in Kolkata on Sunday. The two sides have already shown strong form in the group stage, setting up an exciting contest with a place in the final at stake. Both teams will be determined to take the next step towards lifting the historic trophy.

Mohun Bagan enter the semi-final as the 21-time champions and defending holders of the IFA Shield. The Kolkata giants have enjoyed a strong campaign so far and finished at the top of Group A. Their performances have given them confidence as they prepare to face a Punjab FC side that has also impressed during the tournament.

The defending champions began their group-stage campaign with a dominant 6-0 victory over Sreenidi Deccan. The emphatic result immediately underlined their attacking strength and gave them a strong start in their attempt to retain the title.

Mohun Bagan then



faced a more difficult challenge against NorthEast United. The match ended in a hard-fought draw, but the result was enough for the Kolkata club to finish top of Group A and secure their place in the knockout stage.

The defending champions will also have the advantage of playing in familiar surroundings in Kolkata. Home support could play an important role as Mohun Bagan attempt to reach the final for the second consecutive year. Their experience in the competition will also be an important factor going into the semi-final.

Punjab FC, however, have arrived at this stage with an equally impressive record. They topped Group B after winning both of their

matches. Their perfect group-stage record has given them plenty of confidence ahead of their biggest challenge of the tournament so far.

One of Punjab FC's most notable victories came against record champions East Bengal. Defeating such an experienced side provided an important statement of their ambitions and showed that Punjab FC are capable of competing with some of the biggest names in Indian football. The semi-final therefore brings together two group winners who have taken different routes to the last four. Mohun Bagan combined a big opening victory with a difficult draw, while Punjab FC won both of their group matches.

FPIs Pull Out Rs 35,861 Crore From Indian Equities in September

New Delhi : Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPIs) turned heavy sellers in Indian equity markets in September, withdrawing Rs 35,861 crore on a net basis, as a combination of global and domestic concerns weighed on investor sentiment. The sharp outflow came after two consecutive months of strong FPI investments and marked a significant reversal in foreign investor activity in the Indian stock market.

The selling pressure continued into October, with FPIs beginning the new month on a negative note. Foreign investors sold Indian equities worth Rs 9,232 crore on a net basis in October so far, indicating that the cautious approach seen in September has carried forward into the new month.

The latest figures stand in contrast to the strong investment recorded by FPIs during July and August. Foreign investors had made net investments of around Rs 20,200 crore in July and another Rs 29,631 crore in August, reflecting renewed optimism towards Indian equities during those two months.

The reversal in September has raised questions over the sustainability of foreign flows into Indian markets, particularly amid changes in global economic conditions. Analysts have pointed to several factors behind the latest selling, including developments in West Asia, movements in crude oil prices, weakness in the Indian currency and elevated US bond yields.

The energy shock arising from the West Asia war has emerged as an important concern for global investors. Any sustained disruption or uncertainty in energy markets can influence crude oil prices and increase concerns about inflation, corporate costs and the broader economic outlook. For an oil-importing economy such as India, higher energy prices can also have implications for the country's external position.

Another factor influencing in-



vestor sentiment has been the weakness of the Indian rupee. A weaker domestic currency can affect foreign investors because returns generated from Indian assets may be reduced when converted back into their home currencies. Currency volatility can therefore become an additional consideration for global funds when deciding how much capital to allocate to emerging markets.

The rise in US long-term bond yields has also added pressure to emerging-market assets. The 30-year US Treasury yield touched a multi-decadal high of around 5.4 per cent, making US fixed-income assets relatively more attractive to international investors. Higher US yields can encourage global investors to reassess their exposure to riskier assets, including equities in emerging economies. The combination of these factors has contributed to a more cautious approach among foreign portfolio investors. Analysts, however, have added another factor to the list of reasons behind the September selloff—portfolio rotation. This suggests that some of the selling may not necessarily represent a complete withdrawal of foreign investors from

Indian assets but could also reflect a shift in allocation across sectors, markets and asset classes.

According to V K Vijayakumar, Chief Investment Strategist at Geojit Investments, FPIs turned heavy sellers in September after remaining strong buyers in the preceding two months. He noted that the positive FPI flows recorded in July and August were linked partly to expectations of a decline in crude oil prices.

Vijayakumar said the investment trend seen during July and August eventually proved to be a temporary phenomenon. The change in expectations surrounding crude prices, combined with broader global uncertainties, contributed to the reversal in foreign portfolio flows during September. The shift in FPI behaviour is significant because foreign institutional flows have traditionally played an important role in determining liquidity and sentiment in Indian equity markets. Large-scale buying by overseas investors can provide support to stock prices, while sustained selling can increase market volatility and put pressure on major indices. The September outflow also came against a backdrop of heightened

volatility in Indian equities. With global investors monitoring developments in energy markets, currency movements and US interest-rate conditions, domestic markets have remained sensitive to changes in international capital flows.

Portfolio rotation could further complicate the interpretation of the FPI numbers. Foreign investors may reduce holdings in some segments while increasing exposure to others depending on valuations, earnings expectations and global risk conditions. Consequently, net selling does not necessarily mean that overseas investors have abandoned Indian equities altogether.

Nevertheless, the scale of the September withdrawal highlights the changing external environment facing Indian markets. The Rs 35,861-crore net outflow represents a substantial reversal from the combined Rs 49,831 crore invested by FPIs in July and August. The additional Rs 9,232 crore of selling recorded in October indicates that foreign investor sentiment remains cautious at the beginning of the new month.

Market participants will now closely monitor crude oil prices, movements in the rupee, US Treasury yields and developments in West Asia for indications of how FPI flows could evolve. Changes in these factors could influence the relative attractiveness of Indian equities for global investors and determine whether the recent selling trend continues or begins to moderate.

The developments also underline the growing importance of domestic institutional and retail investors in providing stability to Indian markets during periods of heavy foreign selling. While FPIs remain an important source of market liquidity, the ability of domestic investors to absorb overseas selling can influence the extent to which global developments translate into sustained pressure on Indian equities.

FSSAI Recalls Everest Cumin Powder Over Excessive Pesticide Residues

New Delhi :The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) has ordered the recall of a batch of Everest brand cumin powder after a regulatory food analysis detected pesticide residues at levels exceeding the prescribed safety limits. The product was declared “Unsafe” under the provisions of the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006, according to a notification issued by the food safety regulator on Sunday.

The action follows a regulatory sampling and laboratory analysis of pre-packed cumin powder. The sample was collected from the premises of M/s Riverside Resorts & Holiday Homes Pvt. Ltd., Goa, during an inspection carried out as part of the food safety monitoring process.

According to the FSSAI notification, the food analyst detected the presence of pesticide residues in the sampled cumin powder at levels higher than the maximum limits prescribed under food safety regulations. The findings prompted the regulator to classify the product as unsafe and initiate action concerning the affected product.

The laboratory report specifically identified residues of Azoxystrobin and Thiamethoxam in the cumin powder.

The FSSAI stated that both substances were found at concentrations exceeding the prescribed maximum residue limits. The detection of residues beyond regulatory limits was the key reason behind the safety action.

Pesticide residue limits are established to ensure that food products remain within scientifically determined safety parameters. These limits are intended to control



the amount of pesticide residues that consumers may be exposed to through food. When residues exceed the prescribed limits, regulatory authorities can take action to protect public health.

The latest action was based on a sample of pre-packed cumin powder, rather than loose or unpackaged spice. The sampling was undertaken from the premises of the Goa-based establishment as part of the regulatory mechanism used by food safety authorities to monitor products available for consumption.

The FSSAI's notification said that the food analyst's report provided evidence of pesticide residues exceeding the permitted levels.

Based on the laboratory findings, the product was treated as unsafe under the applicable provisions of the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006.

The recall highlights the role of food safety surveillance in identifying products that do not comply with prescribed standards. Regulatory sampling allows authorities to obtain products from establishments and have them tested for parameters including contaminants, adulterants and chemical residues.

Cumin powder is widely used as a spice in Indian households, restaurants and

food establishments. Because spices are consumed regularly and can be used across a wide range of food preparations, maintaining quality and safety standards for packaged spice products remains an important part of food regulation.

The detection of Azoxystrobin and Thiamethoxam in the sampled product has therefore led to regulatory intervention. The FSSAI's action is based on the results of the food analyst's examination, which found the residues above the maximum levels permitted under the relevant standards.

The case also underlines the importance of compliance with pesticide-use regulations throughout the agricultural and food supply chain.

Pesticide residues can enter food products when chemicals used during cultivation or crop protection remain on agricultural commodities and subsequently appear in processed food items.

The FSSAI's monitoring mechanism is intended to ensure that food businesses comply with the standards prescribed under the country's food safety framework. Regulatory sampling and laboratory testing are among the measures used to identify products that may fail to meet those requirements.

GST arrest powers on way out amid concerns over taxmen’s overreach

New Delhi :The upcoming GST Council meeting on October 7 is expected to consider a proposal to decriminalise certain offences under the indirect tax regime, a move aimed at improving investor sentiment and addressing concerns among businesses over what they describe as excessive intervention by tax authorities.

According to two people aware of the development, the proposal is likely to be discussed at the meeting as the Centre and states seek to build a broader consensus on changes to the enforcement framework under the Goods and Services Tax system.

The proposed changes come after several months of discussions between the Centre and state governments. Sources said that multiple meetings

have been held over the past eight to nine months to examine the issue and work towards an agreement on reducing or removing provisions that allow arrests under the GST framework.

The discussions have reportedly involved senior levels of the Union government, reflecting the importance being attached to the issue. The Centre and states have been examining concerns raised by traders, businesses and industry representatives over the manner in which criminal provisions under GST are being applied.

One of the key issues under consideration is the arrest provision under GST, which has increasingly become a point of concern among businesses. Industry representatives have argued that the possibility of arrest can create uncer-

tainty for companies and their senior executives, particularly in cases involving disputes over tax liability or alleged violations. The proposed decriminalisation is therefore being viewed as an effort to create a more predictable tax environment while retaining the ability of authorities to take action in cases of serious violations. The exact scope of the proposed changes, however, will depend on the discussions and decisions taken by the GST Council.

The issue has assumed greater significance following several recent arrests under GST provisions. Some of the individuals arrested were senior functionaries of companies, leading industry leaders to question whether the enforcement mechanism was being used disproportionately.

Primary Market Set for Quiet Week as One SME IPO Opens, Six Mainboard Listings Scheduled

New Delhi :The Indian primary market is expected to witness relatively limited activity this week, with only one new small and medium enterprise (SME) initial public offering (IPO) scheduled to open for subscription. At the same time, investors will track the listing of six mainboard companies on the stock exchanges, making the week more focused on new listings than fresh large-scale IPO fundraising.

R.K. Fashion Accessories is set to open its IPO for subscription on October 5.

The issue will remain open for investors until October 7, giving eligible investors a three-day window to participate in the public offering.

The opening of the R.K. Fashion Accessories issue will mark the week's only new SME IPO, making it the key fresh issue in the primary market during the period. SME IPOs have continued to attract investor attention, particularly among investors looking for opportunities in smaller companies entering the public markets.

While fresh IPO activity is expected to remain sub-

dued, the secondary market will see several new entrants. As many as six mainboard companies are scheduled to make their stock market debut during the week, providing investors with multiple opportunities to assess the performance of recently concluded public offerings.

The six companies scheduled for listing are AceVector, Runwal Enterprises, Orient Cables (India), German Green Steel & Power, SRIT India and Shah Investor's Home.

Their market debuts

will be closely watched as investors assess the response received during their respective IPOs and the valuation levels at which the stocks begin trading.

The listing of AceVector will be among the notable events on the primary-market calendar. Investors will monitor the company's opening price in comparison with its IPO price to gauge the level of demand that has carried forward from the subscription period.

Runwal Enterprises is also scheduled to make its debut during the week.

G7, EU Agree to Release 100 Million Barrels of Diesel Stocks Amid Hormuz Energy Shock

New Delhi :The Group of Seven (G7) nations and the European Union have agreed to release 100 million barrels of diesel stocks into the market in an effort to address surging commodity prices triggered by the energy shock linked to disruptions around the Strait of Hormuz. The decision comes as global energy markets

face increased pressure following the disruption to supplies and trade routes through the strategically important Hormuz region. The move is aimed at increasing the availability of diesel and easing pressure on markets that have experienced sharp price increases.

The G7 decision follows sustained pressure from the

Trump administration for countries to release diesel reserves as an alternative to Washington considering an export ban. The United States has been pushing for additional supplies to reach the international market as governments seek measures to contain the impact of the energy shock.

Under the agreement,

the release of diesel stocks will begin immediately and will continue for a period of four months. The participating countries have agreed to coordinate the release in order to maximise its impact on global fuel markets.

A substantial portion of the stocks will be released at the beginning of the programme.

US Natural Gas Production Hits Record High in July 2026, EIA Says

New Delhi :US natural gas production reached an all-time monthly high in July 2026, driven primarily by increased output from new wells in the prolific Permian Basin, according to the latest data released by the US Energy Information Administration (EIA).

The EIA said in its latest Natural Gas Monthly report that gross natural gas withdrawals, which represent the total volume of gas extracted at the wellhead, reached a record 137 billion cubic feet per day (Bcf/d) in July. The latest figure marked a new monthly production record for the United States.

The July record was the first new monthly production high recorded in 2026, following a strong production trend during the previous year. According to the EIA, US natural gas production had reached five monthly records during 2025, highlighting the continued expansion of output across major producing regions.

The latest increase was driven largely by new wells coming online in



Texas and New Mexico, two of the country's most important oil and gas-producing states. The two states together account for a significant share of production from the Permian Basin, one of the world's most prolific hydrocarbon-producing regions.

The Permian Basin, which extends across parts of western Texas and eastern New Mexico, has become a major source of US oil and natural gas production. Continued drilling activity and improvements in well productivity have allowed producers in the region to increase output even as companies focus

on improving operational efficiency.

The EIA reported that gross natural gas withdrawals in Texas and New Mexico increased by a combined 1.7 Bcf/d, or around 3.2 per cent, between June and July 2026. The increase in production from the two states was a major contributor to the national record recorded during the month.

Natural gas production also increased in several other major producing states during July. The EIA said gross withdrawals rose in Louisiana, Oklahoma and North Dakota, with production in each of these states increasing by more than 0.1 Bcf/d during the month.

The rise in production from the Permian region was also linked to increasing gas-to-oil ratios. The EIA said producers in the basin have been experiencing higher gas-to-oil ratios, which means that more natural gas is being produced alongside oil output. This has contributed to the increase in overall US natural gas production.

Meta Reportedly Uses AI Data Centres to Cut Billions From US Tax Bill

New Delhi :Meta has reportedly adopted an aggressive interpretation of a US federal research tax credit to reduce its tax liability by billions of dollars by classifying some of its artificial intelligence data centres as experimental facilities, according to an investigation by The New York Times. The report said Meta has described certain AI data centres as “pilot models” for tax purposes. This classification has reportedly enabled the technology company to claim the federal research and experimentation tax credit for some of the equip-

ment used at the facilities.

The tax strategy is significant because AI data centres require enormous investments in specialised infrastructure and computing equipment. Among the equipment reportedly covered by Meta's interpretation are expensive artificial intelligence chips purchased from companies including Nvidia, according to the newspaper's investigation. Under the reported approach, Meta has treated certain investments associated with developing and testing its AI infrastructure as qualifying research and experi-

mentation expenses. This has potentially allowed the company to receive tax benefits that would otherwise not be available for conventional data-centre equipment. The report comes as Meta continues to invest heavily in artificial intelligence infrastructure. The company has been expanding its computing capacity to support the development and deployment of increasingly sophisticated AI systems, requiring large-scale data centres equipped with specialised processors and other advanced technology. The classification of AI data cen-



tres as experimental facilities is at the centre of the reported tax strategy. According to The New York Times, Meta's description of the facilities as pilot models has enabled it to argue that

certain expenditures qualify for the research and experimentation credit. The federal research tax credit is designed to encourage companies to invest in eligible research and development

activities in the United States. Companies can reduce their tax liability when qualifying expenditures meet the requirements established under federal tax rules. However, determining whether particular spending qualifies for such a credit can involve complex tax and accounting considerations. The treatment of specialised infrastructure and equipment associated with emerging technologies can become particularly significant as companies invest heavily in new forms of computing.

Meta's reported use of the tax provision illustrates

the growing importance of artificial intelligence investments in corporate tax planning. As technology companies spend billions of dollars on AI chips, data centres and computing infrastructure, the question of how such expenditure is classified can have substantial financial consequences. The reported strategy is also notable because AI data centres typically involve massive investments in physical infrastructure. Facilities require specialised computing systems, cooling equipment, power infrastructure and high-performance chips ca-

pable of handling demanding AI workloads. According to the newspaper, the investigation was based on a review of Meta's securities filings as well as interviews with four people familiar with the company's operations. The findings provide insight into how the company has reportedly approached the tax treatment of its AI-related infrastructure. The report described Meta's interpretation as aggressive, suggesting that the company has taken a broad view of which investments can qualify for the federal research and experimentation tax credit.