



Emergency turned nation into prison: Delhi CM

At least 49 killed in Israeli strikes in Gaza as ceasefire prospects inch closer

Abhishek Nayar reveals Rohit wanted him to work with KL Rahul to bring best out of him

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India most ancient living civilisation due to immortal ideas philosophy of seers: PM Modi

PM Modi rings up Shubhanshu Shukla, 1st Indian to reach ISS

With the success of Chandrayaan mission there is renewed interest in science among the children and youth of the country. There is passion to explore space: PM

We have to take Mission Gaganyaan forward, we have to build our own space station and also land Indian astronauts on the Moon: PM

New Delhi
The 'Bharat Mata ki Jai' slogan reverberated on the International Space Station as Prime Minister Narendra Modi told astronaut Shubhanshu Shukla that his space travel marked the beginning of a new era and was the first step towards Mission Gaganyaan, India's own human spaceflight project.



PM interested with Group Captain Shubhanshu Shukla, who is aboard the International Space Station

"Shubhanshu, today you are the farthest from the land of India, but the closest to the hearts of every Indian," the prime minister told Shukla in an interaction through a video link from the International Space Station, which is orbiting the earth at an altitude of 400 km.

Modi said Shukla's name carries the word 'shubh' (auspicious), and that his journey marked the auspicious beginning of a new era.

"Bharat Mata ki Jai" chant filled up the space station as the prime minister raised the slogan towards the end of the 18-minute conversation, which was reciprocated by Shukla.

Shukla told the prime minister that his space journey was "not my journey alone but also our country's", and that he was absorbing these "new experiences like a sponge".

"Everything is different here," the astronaut said, sharing his experience in micro-gravity conditions on the space station.

"We trained for a year and I learnt about different systems... but after coming here, everything

changed...Here, even small things are different because there is no gravity in space... Sleeping here is a big challenge... It takes some time to get used to this environment," he told the prime minister.

The astronaut said that the space station orbits the Earth 16 times a day and that he was privileged to witness 16 sunrises and 16 sunsets every day.

"Right now, we are travelling at a speed of 28,000 kilometres per

hour. This speed reflects how fast our nation is progressing and now, we must go even beyond this," Shukla said.

Shukla reached the International Space Station on Thursday along with three other astronauts as part of the commercial Axiom-4 mission for a 14-day stay during which the crew will be part of a series of science experiments.

"When I saw India for the first time from space it appeared much larger and grander than on

the map," Shukla said in the interaction with the Prime Minister.

"You can truly feel the sense of oneness - there are no borders, no lines. It feels as if this entire Earth is our home and we are all its citizens," Shukla said.

Modi told the Lucknow-born astronaut that his historic journey was not just limited to space, but would add fresh momentum to the march towards Viksit Bharat (developed India).

"We have to take Mission Gaganyaan forward. We must build our own space station. And we must ensure that an Indian astronaut lands on the Moon."

"Your experiences will play a crucial role in all these future missions. I am confident that you are diligently recording every bit of your experience," the prime minister said.

Shukla said his travel to the space station was not just his personal feat but a collective achievement of the entire nation and Agency

At least 17 killed in Himachal Pradesh flash floods



Shimla
The death toll in the flash flood that wreaked havoc in Himachal Pradesh's Kangra and Kullu on Wednesday has gone up to seven after the recovery of another body, officials said.

The body of a minor girl, identified as Murti Devi, was recovered near the river side in Bakshal village in Kullu district, they said.

Murti, her father and aunt were swept away in flash floods caused by cloudburst at Jeeva Nallah in Sainj area on Wednesday. The girl's father and aunt have not been located yet.

Three people including Nand Lal, his daughter and sister were washed away in the deluge while trying to take away valuables from their homes at Rehla Bihal in Kullu district on Wednesday.

With recovery of one more body on Saturday, the death toll in flash floods incidents in Himachal Pradesh has gone up to seven.

Earlier, six bodies were found in a hydro-project site near the Manuni Khad area in Khaniyara village of Kangra district.

The project work was suspended due to rain and the workers were resting in temporary shelters near the site when floodwaters from Manuni Khad and nearby drains rushed towards them, sweeping several of them away, the officials said.

The deceased were identified as Chain Singh, a resident of Jammu and Kashmir, Aditya Thakur from Chamba, Nitin and Sanjay both from Nurpur, Pardeep Verma and Chandan from Uttar Pradesh, Kangra SP Shalini Agnihotri said. Agency

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Delhi to see its first-ever artificial rain to combat air pollution in July

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BSP will not sit quiet 'if any kind of tampering is done with Constitution', says Mayawati



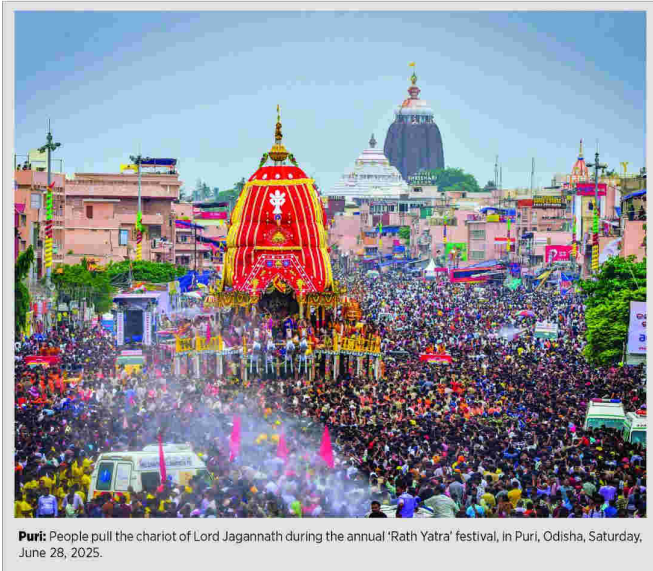
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Neeraj Chopra backs Jasprit Bumrah to excel in javelin throw



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India Energy Stack: Power Ministry Launches Task Force

WEATHER

Sunrise	5:25 AM
Sunset	7:23 PM
Moonrise	9:13 AM
Moonset	10:37 PM
Today's Prediction	
Maximum	34°C
Minimum	27°C
Tomorrow's Prediction	
Maximum	33°C
Minimum	27°C



Puri: People pull the chariot of Lord Jagannath during the annual 'Rath Yatra' festival, in Puri, Odisha, Saturday, June 28, 2025.

Adding 'socialist', 'secular' to Preamble 'sacrilege to spirit of sanatan': V-P Dhankhar

New Delhi/Guwahati
Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar on Saturday said the words inserted in the Preamble of the Constitution through an amendment during the Emergency era were a "festering wound", lending weight to the call by a top RSS leader for a review of the added terms 'secular' and 'socialist'.



Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar

Wading into the political row sparked by RSS general secretary Dattatraya Hosabale's call for a national debate on whether the terms 'secular' and 'socialist' to define India's foundational values should remain in the Preamble, Dhankhar said the Preamble is sacrosanct and "not changeable". He further said the added words were a "sacrilege to the spirit of Sanatan."

Echoing Dhankhar's views, Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma also joined two union ministers—Shivraj

Singh Chouhan and Jitendra Singh—to support the idea mooted by Hosabale.

Sarma claimed that 'socialism' and 'secularism' are Western concepts, and said these words should be struck off the Constitution. "These words have no place in Indian civilisation, he said at a book launch event in Guwahati.

While Chouhan said "there is no need for socialism in India" and that "secularism is not the

core of our culture", Singh said any right-thinking citizen will endorse the call for a review because everybody knows that these words were not part of the original Constitution written by Dr B R Ambedkar. The two ministers made the comments on Friday.

The Congress and other opposition parties have slammed the call made by the second senior-most functionary of the Rashtriya Swamaseva Sangh (RSS) on Thursday, terming it "political opportunism" and a "deliberate assault" on the soul of the Constitution.

Dhankhar said the words inserted in the Preamble in 1976 during the period of Emergency, were a "nasoor" (festering wound) and could cause upheaval. The changes signalled a betrayal of the "wisdom" of the framers of the Constitution, he added.

CONTD ON PAGE-2

IPS officer, who played key role in Op Sindoor, to head RAW

New Delhi
Parag Jain, one of the brains behind the meticulous planning of 'Operation Sindoor', has been appointed as the new Chief of the Research and Analysis Wing (R&AW), according to an official order issued here on Saturday.

The two-year tenure of Jain, an Indian Police Service (IPS) officer from the 1989 batch of the Punjab cadre, officially begins on July 1. He takes over from Ravi Sinha, who retires on June 30.

"The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has approved the ap-



Parag Jain, IPS

pointment of Shri Parag Jain, IPS to the post of Secretary, Research & Analysis Wing (R&AW) under Cabinet Secretariat for a tenure of two years from the date of assumption of the charge of the post until further orders, whichever is earlier..." the order read.

The decision to appoint Jain as chief of the external intelligence agency was made by the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet earlier this week, officials said.

Before this, Jain was the head of the Aviation Research Centre, an organisation that deals with aerial surveillance, SIGINT operations, photo reconnaissance flights (PHOTINT), monitoring of borders and imagery intelligence (IMINT).

CONTD ON PAGE-2

Police forms 5-member SIT to probe Kolkata gangrape

Kolkata
Kolkata Police on Saturday arrested a security guard of a law college here in connection with the alleged gang rape of a first-year student of the institute earlier this week, an officer said.



BJP activists clash with police personnel during their protest against the alleged gang-rape of a girl student of a law college, in Kolkata, West Bengal.

The total number of arrests has now reached four in the crime that took place inside the guard's room on the college premises on June 25.

The city police also formed a five-member special investigation team (SIT) led by an assistant commissioner-rank officer, to probe the case, even as outrage over the incident continued to grow.

Meanwhile, tensions flared up as the police

stopped a BJP protest march to the college and detained the party's West Bengal unit chief Sukanta Majumdar and several other leaders.

The BJP accused the West Bengal government of failing to ensure campus safety and

demanding swift action against the culprits in the alleged gang rape incident.

The college guard, who was detained by the police for questioning, was arrested later, the officer said.

The security guard

was arrested this morning after we found that his replies were incoherent. His presence at the college has been captured in the CCTV installed on the college premises," he said.

The guard failed to carry out his duty, the

officer said, adding that the police were trying to find out whether he was alone on duty at that time or not.

The 24-year-old victim of the South Calcutta Law College was allegedly raped by two senior students and an alumnus of the institution in the guard's room on June 25.

Following her complaint, the police arrested prime accused Manojit Mishra, Promit Mukherjee and Zaid Ahmed.

During the day, the Kolkata Police formed a five-member special investigation team (SIT) to probe into the alleged gang rape of the student, another officer said. Agency

Adding 'socialist', 'secular' to Preamble 'sacrilege to spirit of sanatan': V-P Dhankhar

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"It is nothing but belittling the civilisational wealth and knowledge of this country for thousands of years," the vice president said at a book launch event in Delhi.

Dhankhar described the Preamble as a "seed" on which a Constitution grows. He also underlined that the preamble of no other Constitution has undergone a change except that of India.

"The Preamble of a Constitution is not changeable. But this Preamble was changed by the 42nd Constitution (Amendment) Act of 1976," he said, noting that the words "socialist", "secular", and "integrity" were added.

He said it was a travesty of justice that something that cannot be changed was altered "casually, farcically, and with no sense of propriety" and that too during Emergency when several opposition leaders were in jail.

"And in the process, if you deeply reflect, we are giving wings to existential challenges. These words have been added as masoor (festering wound), Special Protection Group (SPG), National Security Guard (NSG), Delhi International Airport Limited (DIAL), and major airlines such as Air India Express and IndiGo.

Senior CISF officials and security heads from 69 airports across the country participated in the workshop, which focused on strengthening security systems while also ensuring a smoother, more efficient experience for travellers.

One of the major themes of the workshop was the integration of cutting-edge technologies to streamline airport security checks. Deliberations highlighted the use of facial recognition technology for biometric airport entry passes (AEPs), Automated Number Plate Recognition (ANPR), and Fast Tag integration for vehicular movement. These innovations are expected to drastically cut down on entry wait times and improve processing speed at security checkpoints.

Digitized standard operating procedures (SOPs) are also set to make the security response faster and more precise. Unified training across all airport stakeholders emerged as another crucial priority. From security personnel to airline

India most ancient living civilisation due to immortal ideas philosophy of seers: PM Modi

New Delhi
Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Saturday India is the most ancient living civilisation of the world due to the immortal ideas and philosophies of its sages and seers.

Speaking at the centenary celebrations of Jain spiritual figure Acharya Vidyanand Maharaj Ji's birth anniversary here, PM Modi paid rich tributes to his contribution in different fields and asserted that his ideas have inspired the government's welfare schemes.

Be it providing house, drinking water or health insurance, the government is ensuring saturation coverage of its welfare measures so that no one is left behind, he said.

PM Modi also referred to the preceding speech of a Jain seer, noting that he was apparently blessing Operation Sindoor.

"The prime minister's mere mention of 'Jo humein chhedega' brought massive cheers from the audience but he did not dwell any further on the issue.

PM Modi asserted that India is a country where service and humanity is central to its ethos.

"When for ages, efforts were being made to quell violence with violence, then India introduced to



Prime Minister Narendra Modi

the world the power of 'ahimsa' (non-violence)," he said.

"We have kept the sentiment of serving humanity supreme. Our ethos for serving is unconditional and beyond selfishness, and inspired by 'paramarth' (the Supreme Being)," the PM said.

In his address, he added that his government is working by taking inspiration from those ideals.

Whether it is PM Awas Yojana, Jal Jiban Mission, Ayushman Bharat Yojana, and other such welfare schemes, they signify the "sense of ser-

vice" towards the last person in the social hierarchy, he said.

All should walk together and grow together - this is the inspiration of Acharya Vidyanand Maharaj Ji, and "this is our resolve," PM Modi said.

The event was held at the Vigyan Bhawan and hosted by the Ministry of Culture in collaboration with the Bhagwan Mahaveer Ahimsa Bharti Trust, Delhi, to honour the 100th birth anniversary of one of India's most revered Jain spiritual leaders, scholars, and social reformers.

The revered saint was born on April 22, 1925 in

Sheelbal, Belagavi (now in Karnataka).

"He received his initiation at a young age and went on to become one of the most prolific Jain scholars of modern times, having memorised over 8,000 Jain Agamic verses," the ministry said.

He authored more than 50 works on Jain philosophy and ethics, including Jain Darshan, Anekantvad and Moksh-marg Darshan.

Modi extolled Acharya Vidyanand Maharaj Ji's legacy and his contribution to revival of the Prakrit language, restoration of many old

PM Modi, at Acharya Vidyanand Maharaj Ji's birth centenary, said India is the world's oldest living civilisation due to its seers' immortal ideas. He praised the Jain saint's role in reviving Prakrit and inspiring welfare schemes, reaffirming the government's commitment to service and cultural pride.

temples and his contribution in the fields of literature and music.

His life was an unparalleled confluence of 'vidya' (knowledge) and 'anand' (bliss), the PM said.

"Our India is the oldest living civilisation in the world, we are immortal for thousands of years, because our thoughts are immortal, our philosophy is immortal," he said.

And, the source of this philosophy is "our saints, seers, mahants and acharyas".

He asserted that voices of Indian Tirthankars, saints and seers, their teachings, are equally contextual in different eras.

Hailing the Jain seer being celebrated as a "Yug Purush" and "Yug Drashta", Modi under-

lined that through his literature and music, he had endeavoured to revive the ancient Prakrit language.

Prakrit is one of the oldest languages of the world. It is the language of sermons of Bhagwan Mahaveer. Ancient texts of Jainism are scripted in this language, he said.

Because of those who "neglected their own culture", this language was going out of vogue, the PM said.

"We made his efforts, the effort of the government, and last year in October, our government accorded it the status of a Classical Language," he added.

Prakrit, representing a spectrum of Middle Indo-Aryan languages, is integral to understanding India's rich linguistic and cultural heritage.

"In our mission to digitise ancient manuscripts, a large section of it includes religious texts related to Jainism and manuscripts associated with acharyas," Modi said.

"We want to go further on this subject," he said, adding that mother tongues are being promoted in higher education as well.

At his address, he again emphasised that his government has vowed to rid the country of "slavery mindset". He also reiterated his

IPS officer, who played key role in Op Sindoor, to head RAW

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Jain is known for his exceptional expertise in integrating both human intelligence (HUMINT) and technical intelligence (TECHINT) and is widely credited as the mastermind behind the planning of 'Operation Sindoor', providing intelligence support that enabled the armed forces to execute precise strikes on terror infrastructure in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK).

India hit nine terror camps across the border and Line of Control, including the headquarters of banned terror outfits Jaish-e-Mohammed and Lashkar-e-Taiba on May 7.

The missile strikes were guided by pinpointed intelligence gathered by a team led by Jain, officials said.

Agency

AESL celebrates NEET & JEE Advanced 2025 Toppers

New Delhi

Aakash Educational Services Limited (AESL), the national leader in test preparatory services, has once again exhibited its academic excellence by empowering students to rise above challenges and emerge as true problem solvers. Despite the increased difficulty level and changes in the NEET UG 2025 examination pattern and format as well as the difficulty level of JEE Mains and Advanced 2025, AESL students across the country and the state showcased yet again stellar performances, guided by the institute's focused problem-solving approach.

Aakashians have bagged 5 ranks in Top 10 of NEET UG 2025 namely AIR 2, 3, 5, 9 and 10. There are 35 rankers from Aakash in Top 100 and 11 Aakashians have become State Toppers in Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Haryana, West Bengal, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Dadra and Nagar Haveli, Jammu and Kashmir, Chhattisgarh, Goa and Chhatisgarh in JEE Advanced 2025.

AESL students once again stood tall with 7 achievers in the Top 100 and 14 in the Top 200, reaffirming AESL's legacy of excellence across engineering and medical streams.

Sayak Deshpande, Mehrotra, MD and CEO of Aakash Educational Services Limited (AESL), "At Aakash, we teach our problem solvers how to adapt to new situations. That's why we have so many rankers this year too. NEET 2025 format was not just different, it was tough too. But be it new formats or new challenges, Aakashians have proven yet again, that when you learn the skill of problem solving you can ace any test."

A few shining examples from Aakash Institute in NEET UG 2025 include Utkarsh Yadav with AIR 2, Krishan Joshi with AIR 3, Avika Aggarwal with AIR 5, Harsh Kedawat with AIR 9, Arav Aggrawal with AIR 10, Anshu Gandhi with AIR 11. Other outstanding achievers are Rachit Sinha Chaudhuri with AIR 16, Rupayan Pal with AIR 20, Gourav Yadav with AIR 23, Abhijeet Kulhari with AIR 25, Tanisha with AIR 29 amongst others in NEET UG 2025.

Airport security in India set for major overhaul after high-level CISF workshop

New Delhi

In a decisive move towards bolstering aviation security and enhancing passenger convenience, the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) hosted a high-level "Functional Workshop of Airport Sector" on June 27 at its Airport Sector Headquarters. The event brought together top brass from India's civil aviation ecosystem, including key stakeholders from the Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA), Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA), Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS), Airport Authority of India (AAI), Delhi Police, Bureau of Immigration (BOI), Special Protection Group (SPG), National Security Guard (NSG), Delhi International Airport Limited (DIAL), and major airlines such as Air India Express and IndiGo.

Senior CISF officials and security heads from 69 airports across the country participated in the workshop, which focused on strengthening security systems while also ensuring a smoother, more efficient experience for travellers.

One of the major themes of the workshop



was the integration of cutting-edge technologies to streamline airport security checks. Deliberations highlighted the use of facial recognition technology for biometric airport entry passes (AEPs), Automated Number Plate Recognition (ANPR), and Fast Tag integration for vehicular movement. These innovations are expected to drastically cut down on entry wait times and improve processing speed at security checkpoints.

Digitized standard operating procedures (SOPs) are also set to make the security response faster and more precise. Unified training across all airport stakeholders emerged as another crucial priority. From security personnel to airline

staff, the emphasis on consistent training and joint exercises aims to create a more seamless and predictable experience for both frequent flyers and first-time travellers. Plans were also announced to establish more Aviation Security Training Institutes (ASTIs) in smaller cities to cater to the growing demand for skilled aviation security professionals.

Enhancing security for VIPs and high-profile individuals was also discussed extensively. The CISF introduced new layered protection protocols, incorporating anti-drone measures and insider threat checks, designed to maintain robust safety standards without disrupting overall airport operations.

to begin at 4 PM, was delayed by over an hour and eventually halted entirely by evening. The atmosphere turned tense as lakhs of devotees watched in disbelief. Senior officials and temple authorities struggled to clear the security cordon, but the influx of pass holders continued unabated, making it impossible to proceed with the yatra.

Police sources confirmed that the crowd inside the cordon was far beyond manageable levels. Despite efforts to evacuate people from the restricted area, as numbers kept increasing as individuals entered

freely, flashing various VIP passes and volunteer ID cards—some even bearing images of national leaders like the Prime Minister and central ministers. Volunteers reported that youths used fake IDs to breach the cordon, worsening the congestion.

This is the first time in over 50 years that such a disruption has marred the Rath Yatra, according to Jagannath devotee Kshover. The Dwarkadhish Rath of Ma Subhadra managed to reach Marichikot Chowk, but the Nandighosha Rath remained nearly stationary until nightfall. Eventually, af-



ter persistent efforts, the chariot moved only a single step before operations were called off for the day.

The Shrimandir Chief Administrator Arvind Padhi informed the Chief Minister and the Governor of the situation, stating that chariot pulling would resume the following day at 9 AM. Padhi acknowledged that the scale of pass distribution this year far exceeded previous years. Two influential cabinet ministers from Khurda and Puri districts reportedly distributed between 6,000 and 7,000 passes each, while others added 4,000 to

YWCA of Delhi's "Manch for Change" Nukkad Natak Festival Concludes, Sparking Conversations on Social Change

New Delhi

The YWCA of Delhi successfully hosted its "Manch for Change" Nukkad Natak (street theatre) festival and competition today, June 28, 2025. The event brought together groups from diverse communities, working women hostels, and amateur independent theatre groups to ignite conversations and raise awareness about critical social issues of diversity, inclusion, youth leadership and sustainability.

"At YWCA of Delhi, we are very happy to bring together children, youth and people to celebrate the resilience of human spirit and women's empowerment," says Ms. Rhiya Varghese, President, YWCA of Delhi.

"Manch for Change, is an initiative by YWCA of Delhi to spark conversations and celebrate the power of collective action for a more equitable world," says Ms. Samantha Fernandes, Chairperson, Public Affairs and Social Issues Committee, YWCA of Delhi.

"We are very happy to see that Manch for Change inspired reflection to dismantle stereotypes, question norms, and encourage fresh



perspectives on issues affecting women and girls such as child marriage, child labour, and voices of young women from dalit communities and the challenges that young people face such as mental health," states Ms. Amelia Andrews, Co-Chairperson, Public Affairs and Social Issues Committee, YWCA of Delhi.

New Delhi YWCA Community Development Centre, Savda Ghevra won the first prize, YWCA of Delhi-Community Development Program, Najafgarh came second and New Delhi YWCA of Delhi Community Development Centre, Sunlight Colony won third prize in children and youth category. Team Pink and

of YWCA of Delhi presented a lively play on the ill-effects of cutting trees and promoting environmental sustainability.

The event was graced by the presence of Poonam Aggarwal, an investigative journalist, whose inspiring words about self-expression resonated with the audience and set the tone for the day's performances.

The judging panel comprised of seasoned theatre professionals, Anjali from the prestigious National School of Drama (NSD) and Imran Sheikh with an extensive background in theatre arts along with Purnima Jindal, a development professional specialising in working with young people. Their expertise ensured insightful and constructive evaluations of each team's performance.

Rev. Asir Ebenezer, General Secretary of the National Council of Churches in India, attended the event. Co-organisers included Ms. Tripti Christina, Chairperson of CDP, Rev. Dheera Bhola, Chairperson of the Shelter Home for Women, and Ms. Jyotsna Batra, Co-Chairperson of CDP.

Amidst the chaos, over 700 devotees fell unconscious due to the crush of the crowd, and stamped-like conditions prevailed. Ambulance staff rushed to rescue the affected, admitting 79 to the district headquarters hospital. Nine individuals are reported to be in critical condition.

Adding to the controversy, a journalist was allegedly assaulted by the police despite holding a valid cordon pass. This incident has further angered the public and media.

5,000 more—resulting in an estimated 15,000 to 20,000 people flooding the cordoned area.

Amidst the chaos, over 700 devotees fell unconscious due to the crush of the crowd, and stamped-like conditions prevailed. Ambulance staff rushed to rescue the affected, admitting 79 to the district headquarters hospital. Nine individuals are reported to be in critical condition.

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Delhi Assembly reflects on 50 Years of Emergency

■ The event, titled "Na Bhoolein, Na Shama Karen", called for renewed national introspection and a commitment to safeguarding democratic values

New Delhi
A symposium held at the Delhi Legislative Assembly on Saturday to mark 50 years of the Emergency saw leaders, journalists and civil society members reflect on the period as one of the darkest chapters in India's democratic history.



The event, titled "Na Bhoolein, Na Shama Karen", called for renewed national introspection and a commitment to safeguarding democratic values, an official statement said.
Addressing the gathering, Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh said that the Emergency was imposed due to a "self-righteous and authoritarian mindset, combined with opportunism and a lack of democratic ethos," and added that such tendencies still exist in the country's political landscape.

Gupta also questioned the controversial inclusion of the words 'socialist' and 'secular' in the Preamble of the Constitution through the 42nd Amendment during the Emergency.

"Such changes should be made through national consensus, not under the cover of authoritarianism," he said.
Former Union Cabinet Minister Satyanarayan Jaitiya said the Preamble reflects the core values of the Constitution, and its sanctity must be preserved.

"No single leader can alter its structure based on personal ambition," he said, accusing the then government of acting in a manner similar to the colonial regime.

Delhi Assembly Speaker Vijender Gupta called for the formation of a new commission to investigate the full scale of excesses committed during the Emergency.

He said the 1978 Shah Commission Report was unable to fully document the extent of constitutional violations, human rights abuses, and administrative overreach.
"Those responsible have still not been brought to justice," he added.

50-year-old student activist during the Emergency.

"We were detained for protesting and raising slogans. On the first night itself, censorship silenced the press. Despite this, my friend Vijay Gool and I secretly distributed a pamphlet called 'Mashall' to spread awareness. I was beaten by the police for speaking out," he said.

The event also featured participation from Deputy Speaker Mohan Singh Bisht, Chief Whip Ashay Varma, former MP Ramesh Bidhuri, MLAs, journalists, scholars, constitutional experts, and citizens who were directly affected by the Emergency.

The speaker also distributed copies of The Emergency Diaries, a book recounting personal stories and accounts from the period.

Delhi to see its first-ever artificial rain to combat air pollution in July

New Delhi
In a first for the national capital, Delhi is set to witness artificial rain aimed at reducing air pollution, with cloud seeding scheduled between July 4 and 11, subject to weather conditions, Delhi Environment Minister Manjinder Singh Sirsa said on Saturday.



The flight plan for the seeding operation has been submitted by IIT Kanpur to IMD Pune for technical coordination, Sirsa said.
"Our aim is to give Delhi clean air," he emphasised, asserting that it's the most basic right of every resident, and the government is exploring every possible solution to achieve it.

"That's why we're taking this bold step of artificial rain. We are hopeful it will bring meaningful change," he added. In response to the accusations from AAP Delhi chief Saurabh Bhardwaj on Friday, who claimed that the BJP and the Centre hindered the city's pollution-control efforts and mocked the proposal for artificial rain during peak winter pollution, Sirsa clarified, "We were the ones who signed the MoU first, made all the payments to IIT Kanpur, and applied for the necessary approvals because we want to take real action."
"They didn't do anything except talk about artificial rain. We, on the other hand, have worked sincerely. That's why, within just four months of forming the government, we are at the stage of finalising the date for Delhi's first artificial rain," he added.

Parts of Delhi receive rain city under 'orange' alert IMD

New Delhi
Parts of the national capital received rain on Saturday with the Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) forecasting light to moderate showers and placing the city under an 'orange' alert.
According to the weather office, areas in east, west, south, and south-east Delhi have recorded rainfall.
In its latest forecast, the IMD said light to moderate rainfall accompanied with thunderstorms and gusty winds at speeds of 30 to "50 kilometre per hour is likely in Delhi over the next few hours.

Emergency turned nation into prison, says Delhi CM

New Delhi
Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta on Saturday said the Emergency had turned the entire country into a prison, where civil liberties were suspended and opposition leaders jailed without trial.
Her remarks came during a week-long event organised by the BJP's Mahila Morcha to mark 50 years of the Emergency.
"Taking a swipe at the Congress on the occasion, the chief minister said, "Those who carry the Constitution in their pockets should recall that it was under their government that it was murdered. Under Indira Gandhi's rule, all rights were taken away just to protect one seat of power."
She also cited the Shah Bano case as an example of how constitutional principles were compromised for political gain.
The contentious issue of Muslim women getting maintenance under the secular provision of section 125 of CrPC had taken centre stage of political discourse in 1985 when a Constitution bench in Mohd Ahmed Khan versus Shah Bano Begum case in a unanimous decision had ruled that Muslim

women were also entitled to maintenance.
"There was a time when the whole country was made a big prison. Anyone could be arrested at any time. All opposition leaders were behind bars," Gupta said referring to the Emergency days (1975-77).
"Some ask why we recall the Emergency every June 25. It's like 'Ramleela', that is performed every year to remind us not to become Ravana. We remember the Emergency to ensure no leader or government ever dares to repeat it," she added.

Two arrested with over 1 100 rolls of banned Chinese manjha in Delhi

New Delhi
Police has arrested two men and seized more than 1,100 rolls of banned Chinese manjha, a nylon-based string used for kite-flying, from their possession in separate cases, an official said on Saturday.
Chinese manjha is considered dangerous for humans and animals as it is made of glass and plastic.
The accused -- Raju Chaurasia (51) and Areeb Khan (22) -- were arrested in two separate operations in Kamla Market and Uttam Nagar, he said.
In the first operation

ior police officer said.
During interrogation he confessed to selling the banned string both online and offline. He told police that he used to sell it to local shopkeepers and through social media platforms to maximise profits, the officer said.
He had previously been booked under similar charges in 2022, police said.
In another case, police apprehended Khan from Kamla market area near Ramliya ground on June 27. He was caught with four large cartons containing 248 rolls of the banned manjha, according to the officer.
Khan from Daryaganj had previously worked at a clothing shop and turned to the illegal manjha trade after being lured by its high profit margins.
Both the cases have been registered against the two accused under Section 223(B) (disobedience to order duly promulgated by public servant) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita and relevant provisions of the Environment Protection Act, 1986.



Delhi man killed in scuffle over scooter brushing past juvenile among 3 held

New Delhi
A man was stabbed to death following a scuffle over his scooter allegedly brushing past a minor in the Geeta Colony area here, leading to three persons, including the juvenile, being nabbed, an official said on Saturday.
Yash (20), a resident of Rani Garden, was declared dead at a Laxmi Nagar hospital around 9.41 pm on Friday, police said.
Md Amaan and Lucky were arrested while the third accused, the minor, was taken into custody, Deputy Commissioner of Police (Shahdara) Prashant Gautam said.
Yash was on his way home on a scooter when the two-wheeler allegedly brushed

past the juvenile, sparking a heated argument. The minor's two associates -- Amaan and Lucky -- got involved as well.
According to police sources, Yash was driving in a narrow lane when his scooter grazed the minor.
"An argument broke out between the two groups. In the heat of the moment, Yash's cousin slapped Amaan. Since Amaan is a local criminal in the area, he sought revenge, which led to the three chasing Yash and his cousin," the source added.
The three accused pursued Yash towards the Geeta Colony Pusta Byover. During the chase, Amaan allegedly stabbed Yash in the

lower back, a senior police officer said.
Locals quickly took Yash to the hospital, but he succumbed to his injuries.
A murder case was registered, and an investigation is underway, the police said.
Speaking to the media, Yash's cousin Aman Sharma said, "There were about four to five of them. The first one who attacked us initially fled but quickly returned with a group of others; it felt like a planned attack."
He expressed that it seemed intentional when the accused allegedly brushed against their scooter.
"After they stabbed my brother, I tried to catch them. My brother urged me to run away, but I could not. I

18 illegal Bangladeshi nationals held 5 disguised as transgenders

New Delhi
Eighteen Bangladeshi nationals staying illegally in Delhi have been apprehended. Five of those detained had been living in the national capital disguised as transgenders, police said on Saturday.
The police found a banned messaging app installed in seven mobile phones of the accused, using which they communicated with their families in Bangladesh, they said.
During the first operation, police cordoned off nearly 100 juggis and 150 lanes in the locality and conducted verification drives, a senior police officer said.
One person, initially evasive during questioning, later confessed to being a Bangladeshi national, the officer said.
Following further inquiry, his family members were also traced. A total of 13 Bangladeshi nationals -- 10 adults and three children -- were found residing without valid travel documents or permits, including provisions of the Foreigners Act, 1946, the police said.
The arrested people include residents of various districts in Bangladesh, including Dhaka, Khulna, Gazipur, and Ashrafabad.

stopped and held him, and we both tried to escape," Aman said.
Mamta, a neighbour, expressed frustration with the legal consequences for juveniles, saying, "Why is it that even when someone commits such a heinous crime, they can be released just because they are juveniles? They should be apprehended, and the punishment needs to be severe."
She further mentioned that they were unfamiliar with the accused before the incident but later discovered that they owned a store on another street.
"We went there last night to see who they were, but there was heavy police presence."
Following further inquiry, his family members were also traced. A total of 13 Bangladeshi nationals -- 10 adults and three children -- were found residing without valid travel documents or permits, including provisions of the Foreigners Act, 1946, the police said.
In the second operation, the team apprehended five individuals, who had disguised themselves as transgender persons to evade detection, they said.
"These people had adopted the attire, used wigs, makeup, and even undergone minor surgeries and hormonal treatment to alter their appearance and to blend into society popu-

Delhi BJP chief urges provident fund commissioner to look into complaints of employees of hospital

New Delhi
Delhi BJP president Virendra Sachdeva has written a letter to the central provident fund commissioner urging him to look into the provident fund related complaints of employees of a hospital.
No immediate reaction was available from hospital over the issue.
Sachdeva recently met with a delegation of the Institute of Liver and Biliary Sciences (ILBS) employees who raised their grievances with him. "I met the ILBS employees and forwarded their complaints to the officer concerned," he said.
ILBS is a Delhi-based



hospital for liver and biliary diseases.
In his letter to central provident fund commissioner Ramesh Krishnamurthy, the Delhi BJP president, said that "serious concerns" have been conveyed to employees of ILBS which is an autonomous institution under the Delhi government.
It has been alleged that there are "serious violations" of labour laws and provident fund (PF)

regulations being systematically carried out, he said in the letter.
"The specific issue relates to the PF contributions being made by the institute, which, as per information received, are not in compliance with statutory requirements," he said.
He further wrote that the employer's contribution towards the provident fund is reportedly limited to only 8 per cent of the employees' salaries, in contravention of the statutory requirement of 12 per cent. The salary figures submitted to the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) are

shown to be lower than the actual amounts, thereby misrepresenting the contribution as compliant, Sachdeva wrote in the letter.
"Given the seriousness of the issue and the statutory obligations involved, I earnestly request that an immediate inquiry be ordered into these allegations," he demanded.
Most of the ILBS employees are on contractual appointments and reportedly refrain from raising these issues formally due to fear of termination and other reprisals, he claimed and added appropriate action is essential to protect their rights.

PUBLIC NOTICE

General public is hereby informed that Mrs. Ganga w/o Mr. Fatte is the owner of Residential Plot no. 45, area 43.65 sq. mtr. & 43.65 sq. mtr., part of Kharsa No. 997/2, at Waka Masaj Kosikalan, Tehsil Chhata and District Mathura, U.P. Regd. Vide Doc. no. 4456, BK. 1, 15.03.2014 doc. No. 4157 executed by Mrs. Jyoti Sikha S/o Mr. Deenadayal Sharma who was lost and FIR already lodged vide LR No. 2917221/2025 and to be financed by Ashraf Banking Finance Ltd. and if anybody has any charge/interest/title in the said property or any kind of dispute kindly inform the undersigned in writing on the below mentioned address within 07 days of the present, failing which I am aware that in case default with the mortgage property that borrower (Mrs. Ganga and Mr. Fatte) is / are responsible.

Advocate Lalit Koushik
2nd Floor, SCF No. 57 Sector-9
HUDA Market Near Casara Park,
Faridabad, Haryana.

NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY

No. DRMC/Agria/Catg./e-auction/25 Date: 27.06.2025

E-Auction Notice

On behalf of the President of India, The Sr. Divisional Commercial Manager, North Central Railway, Agria invites E-Auction for 01 Catering Stall area of MPS at Platform of various Railway Stations over Agria Division for a period of Five Years.

Category	Auction Catalogue No.	Name of Station	Area	Total No. of Lots	Auction Starting Time
Catering	AGRA-CATG-25-1	Dholpur Jn.	DHO	01	Date 17.07.2025 Time 12.00 Hrs.
MPS	AGRA-MPS-25-01	Dholpur Jn.	DHO	01	Date 17.07.2025 Time 15.00 Hrs.

Category: B

Note: Prospective bidders are requested to visit e-Auction Leasing Module on IRPS website (www.irps.gov.in) for more details. The Lot-wise details are available in Annexure under the above mentioned Catalogue Number.

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Why India's First-Generation Youth Are Reluctant to Become Doctors

Are new-age professions replacing medicine in prestige and potential?

The shortage of doctors in India is a widely acknowledged issue. A common explanation is India's massive population — more people means more patients, and therefore, a perpetual shortage of doctors. However, a more worrying trend is emerging: children from first-generation families — those with no doctors in the family — are increasingly hesitant to pursue medicine. This could worsen India's healthcare crisis in the years to come.

Before understanding why this hesitation exists, it is important to look at the current state of the doctor-patient ratio in India.

1 Doctor for 834 Patients – A Questionable Statistic

The popular saying "Ek anar sau bimaar" (One pomegranate for a hundred sick people) seems apt for India. According to data presented by then Union Health Minister Dr. Mansukh Mandavida in the Lok Sabha in February 2024, India has one doctor for every 834 people. This is better than the World Health Organization's (WHO) recommended ratio of one doctor per 1,000 individuals.

However, ground reality tells a different story. Long waiting lists in government hospitals and persistent doctor shortages indicate that this ratio is likely bolstered by doctors working in the private sector. Without them, the public healthcare system would be under even greater strain.

Why First-Generation Students Are Not Choosing Medicine

In India, career paths often follow family legacy. Children of IAS officers aim for UPSC; engineers raise future engineers. But when it comes to medicine, the path is far more demanding. For students without any familial background in medicine, the challenges are amplified.

The Tough Road: Competitive Exams and Years of Study

The journey starts with the highly competitive NEET-UG exam after class 12. In 2025, over 22 lakh students appeared for NEET to pursue MBBS, but only 12.3 lakh passed. This means nearly half the aspirants couldn't even clear the first hurdle.

Even those who pass face years of rigorous education. An MBBS degree takes 5.5 years. Then comes NEET-PG and another three years for MD or MS. Super-specialization can add 2–3 more years. This means it can take 12 to 14 years after school before a student becomes a fully qualified specialist doctor.

The Uncertain Career Path

Despite such long and arduous training, career success is not guaranteed. Those with family-run clinics or connections may land good placements, but for



By Pooja Makkar



The writer is a former journalist and health expert



others, initial years may mean long work hours, low pay, and limited opportunities.

Opening a clinic involves risks — if it doesn't attract patients, there's no fallback. Compared to professions like IT or MBA where a job is usually secured by age 25, doctors may still be figuring out their careers at 30.

Why Indian Doctors Are Moving Abroad

Each year, around 7% of doctors registered with the National Medical Council migrate to OECD countries — mainly the US, Canada, Australia, and parts of Europe. The reason is clear: better pay and better working conditions.

In India's premier institutions like AIIMS Delhi, junior and senior resident doctors often work 24 to 76-hour shifts. Similar conditions exist in many gov-

ernment hospitals. In smaller towns and rural areas, the lack of proper equipment and hygienic facilities adds to the struggle. Personal safety is another concern for doctors posted in remote or volatile areas.

In the private sector, entry-level jobs are not only hard to find but also offer lower salaries. While senior residents in government hospitals may earn between ₹80,000 to ₹1.25 lakh per month, private hospitals often pay less in the beginning. For someone without a family medical setup, setting up a practice from scratch is both time-consuming and expensive.

What the Experts Say

Dr. Ashok Seth, a senior cardiologist and former member of the National Medical Council, believes the "mission" aspect of medicine is fading. In purely financial terms, medicine may not offer lucrative returns in the early years compared to other professions.

Still, Dr. Seth, who is also the chairman of Fortis Escorts Hospital in Delhi, points out that no other profession gives as many blessings and emotional rewards as medicine.

New-Age Careers Are Gaining Ground

According to Analytics India Magazine (2024), India's top career options today are:

1. Banking and Financial Services
2. Management
3. Engineering
4. Data Science and Artificial Intelligence
5. Healthcare

Among these, data science and AI are rapidly climbing the ranks and are projected to surpass even engineering and medicine in popularity.

This clearly reflects a shift in mindset among India's youth — success is no longer synonymous with being a doctor or an engineer. Instead, newer fields that offer faster returns and less academic pressure are more appealing.

What the Future Holds

Will the doctor-patient ratio worsen in the coming years? Will the burden on government hospitals increase? Will India's healthcare system be run predominantly by private doctors?

There is still a ray of hope. Despite all odds, the number of students appearing for NEET increases every year. Currently, India has 706 medical colleges offering over 100,000 MBBS seats. The government is also aggressively pushing to open new medical colleges and increase existing seat capacity.

If working conditions improve and if private sector salaries become more competitive, it may be possible to reduce the number of doctors leaving India for better opportunities abroad. This, in turn, could help stabilize India's healthcare system.

Medicine is no longer the default "dream profession" for India's aspiring youth — especially those from non-medical families. Long years of study, uncertain job prospects, and tough working conditions are pushing them towards alternative careers that promise quicker and more certain rewards.

Unless systemic reforms address these challenges — by making medical education more accessible, job opportunities more equitable, and working environments more humane — India may continue to face a shortage of doctors for years to come.

New flight to space: Axiom-4 and India's global recognition

When an Indian representative went to the International Space Station (ISS) after a long gap of 41 years, it was not just a mission but a rebirth of India's space science, global diplomacy and scientific reputation. The participation of Group Captain Shubhanshu Shukla of the Indian Air Force in the Axiom-4 mission made it clear that India is no longer seen as just a participant in the space race but as a potential leader.

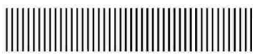
Through this mission, India achieved success at many levels simultaneously. First of all, from a scientific point of view, India sent seven major scientific experiments to space under this mission. All these experiments were based on microgravity and their aim was to understand various aspects of life. The study done on seeds like fenugreek and moong took the uniqueness of Indian agricultural techniques to space. This proves that India's traditional farming is also relevant and modern for scientific research.

Additionally, experiments based on microorganisms, microalgae and muscle regeneration proved India's utility in the development of life support systems for long-term space travel. This makes it clear that India has come not only to establish its presence in space but also to contribute to it at the level of innovation and research.

Shubhanshu Shukla's successful docking and training of SpaceX's Crew Dragon spacecraft and working in emergency situations in space is an invaluable experience for the upcoming Gaganyaan mission. It will serve as a strong foundation for India's first human space mission.

Axiom-4 also showed that India has now entered commercial space flights as well. The agreement between Axiom-4 Space and Indian startup Skyroot Aerospace shows that India no longer wants to rely only on government resources, but is moving towards developing cheap and innovative solutions in collaboration with the private sector. This is a success story of self-reliance of Indian space policy and startup culture.

From a strategic point of view, AXIOM-4 is a symbol of growing cooperation between India and the US, especially under arrangements like ICET and Artemis Accords. Through this mission, India strengthened the spirit of cooperation not only with the US but also with the global South-North. Along with India, astronauts from countries like Poland and Hungary also participated in this mission. It was a symbol



By Priyanka Saurabh



A freelance columnist, poet and outspoken writer on social issues. She particularly focuses on women's rights, education and the voice of rural India in her writing.)



The Axiom-4 mission is a historic moment in India's space history. With the participation of Air Force Group Captain Shubhanshu Shukla, this mission has become not just a technological achievement but a symbol of India's presence on the global stage. This mission, in collaboration with America's Axiom-4 Space and NASA, has taken India to new heights in the field of human space travel. At the level of scientific experiments, international cooperation and strategic partnerships, this mission strengthens the foundation for the upcoming Gaganyaan and Indian Space Station.

of global inclusiveness and partnership.

This mission also boosts India's "soft power". When India's name was associated with human space travel on news channels around the world, it was not just a

technological victory but also a diplomatic one. India demonstrated that it has become a country not just sending satellites, but sending and cooperating humans into space.

The Axiom-4 mission has also given new confidence to India's private space startups. Companies like Skyroot and Agnikul Cosmos are now moving towards global collaboration. This can prove to be an opening of new doors for investment, technical collaboration and scientific innovation for India.

Additionally, this mission has provided India with the necessary experience for Gaganyaan. Axiom-4 has been termed by experts as an "insurance policy", which means that this mission gave India an opportunity to understand and control the risks that may arise in complex missions like Gaganyaan. Also, this experience will be helpful in building India's future space station "Indian Space Station".

It is also important that Shubhanshu Shukla received eight months of rigorous training at NASA, which has now given India a new standard in terms of astronaut training capabilities. In future, Indian astronauts can be trained at this level.

The Axiom-4 mission has given India a more effective voice in global forums such as the United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space. When a country undertakes human space flight, it begins to play a new role not only in science but also in global policy making.

The entire mission has proven that India is no longer just an observer, but a participant. The mission has proven to be a "lift-off moment" for India — a moment when a nation takes flight not just in the field of technology, but also in confidence, strategy and global leadership.

It is now necessary that India builds on this achievement by integrating it with upcoming missions like Gaganyaan and long-term strategies in the space sector. From policy making to budget allocations and from space education to international collaborations — missions like Axiom-4 must be made part of India's long-term space strategy.

Ultimately, Axiom-4 was not just a flight, it was a declaration of India's scientific prowess, global participation and potential to become a future space superpower. India is no longer lagging behind in the space race, but is at the forefront.

BSP will not sit quiet 'if any kind of tampering is done with Constitution', says Mayawati

Lucknow
Bhupendra Samaj Party (BSP) chief Mayawati on Saturday accused the ruling BJP-led NDA government and the earlier Congress regime of carrying out unnecessary changes in the Constitution.

Responding to a question on demands to remove the words 'socialist' and 'secular' from the preamble, Mayawati said, "In this regard, I have said that the basic spirit and objectives of the Constitution, whatever has been written or shown in the preamble, there should not be any tampering with it."



"Now what the RSS people say, what the BJP people say, what the Congress people say, I have nothing to say about that. But if any kind of tampering is done with the Indian Constitution, with the objectives of the Indian Constitution, then our party will not sit quiet, our party will definitely come out on the streets to protest against it. Right now we are all keeping a close watch," she told reporters in Lucknow.

The former Uttar Pradesh chief minister said that "Dr Bhimrao Ambedkar, on the basis of his lifelong experiences of tireless struggles, gave India a very humanitarian Constitution in every aspect."

"But the Congress party when it was in power at the Centre and now the people of the NDA government led by the BJP, which has been in power for the last few years, have never implemented it with full honesty and integrity in the interest of the crores of countrymen," said Mayawati.

"Both these parties and their supporters have made many unnecessary changes in the Constitution from time to time as per their party's ideology and political interests," she added.

S sharpening her attack, the BSP chief said that these parties should rise above their 'narrow thinking' and 'political selfishness' and "should not tamper with the Constitution and its humanitarian objectives" in the interest of common people and the country so that the "sanctity of our Constitution" remains intact forever.

"But the nature and activities of these two parties and their allies also clearly show that all these parties want to change the egalitarian and extremely welfare-oriented Constitution created by Dr Bhimrao Ambedkar and turn it into the old caste structure, which the Indian public and our party will not tolerate at all," said Mayawati.

"The words used in the Constitution and its preamble satisfy the soul of the country and have been implemented in the country only after a lot of thought and deliberation. Now, any kind of tampering with them is not right, rather it would be extremely inappropriate. This is also the BSP's advice to these parties," she added.

Mayawati further said it is very sad that the country has to face such unpleasant

situations again and again in the matter of the Constitution.

She added "the BSP feels that now we will have to raise our voice against these parties across the country" provided they do not change their anti-Constitutional face soon and if this trend continues then the downtrodden, people of the weaker section of this country, especially those who have got an opportunity to move ahead under the Constitution, will have to come forward.

Mayawati's remarks assume significance as the RSS on Thursday called for reviewing the words 'socialist' and 'secular' in the preamble of the Constitution, saying they were included during the Emergency and were never part of the Constitution drafted by Dr Ambedkar.

Addressing an event organised in the national capital on 50 years of the Emergency, RSS general secretary Dattatreya Hosabale said, "The preamble of the Constitution Baba Saheb Ambedkar made never had these words. During the Emergency, when fundamental rights were suspended, Parliament did not work, the judiciary became lame, then these words were added."

Referring to the situation in West Bengal, Mayawati said, "Our women are not completely safe anywhere in the entire country, including Bengal. This is also a matter of great concern. The Centre and all state governments should definitely pay attention to this matter."

The BSP chief said that along with this, the Central government should always be alert and fully prepared to stop the terrorist activities happening in the country from time to time so that no terrorist organization can succeed in any of its aims.

"Apart from this, the Central government should keep a close eye on whatever is going on in the whole world at this time and before taking any decision in this matter, if the Central government also takes the opposition in good faith, then it would be better," she added.

The BSP chief also said that the Election Commission of India must clarify its position on various misleading things being said about the correction in the voter list.

This task should be completed by taking all the political parties into confidence so that the main objective of this campaign can be achieved, she added.

Railways Minister Flags Off train from Purulia to Howrah

New Delhi/Kolkata
 Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw on Saturday flagged off the inaugural Purulia-Bankura-Howrah MEMU train via Masagram and said the Centre's focus is to expand railway coverage besides modernising the sector.



The minister highlighted that investment in railways in West Bengal increased from around Rs 4,380 crore in 2009-14 to around Rs 14,000 crore currently.

He flagged off the train through video conferencing from Santragachhi railway station in West Bengal.

Vaishnaw said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi's focus is to expand railway coverage, modernise railways with technology, infrastructure and amenities and improve passenger experience.

Around 12 lakh railway staffers are tirelessly working towards realising this dream, he said.

The Purulia-Bankura-Howrah MEMU train via Masagram would boost rural, local and regional rail connectivity and passenger convenience, he said.

The service is set to improve daily commute options for thousands of passengers across Purba and Paschim Bardhaman, Purulia, Bankura and surrounding districts.

By connecting key junctions in West Bengal, the

train will not only ensure faster travel but also facilitate economic activity, he said.

During the 2014-25 period, Kolkata Metro added 41 km to its network, compared to only 28 km between 1972, when the project started, and 2014.

Underlining challenges related to land acquisition and traffic permission for Kolkata Metro and other railway projects, Vaishnaw urged the state government "to rise above other things for the benefit of people."

He referred to such challenges on the Kolkata Metro route at Kidderpore, Chingrighata and Belegata area and also to the Bishmupur-Taraksheshwar rail route.

Vaishnaw lauded the ongoing development of the Santragachhi railway station as an Amrit Bharat station, especially the progress of work in the last one and a half years.

The Amrit Bharat Station Scheme is a long-term plan to improve railway stations across India in a step-by-step manner.

Shailendra Kumar Singh Leads Key Meeting at Agra Mental Health Institute

Akash Jain
Agra
 The Management Committee of the Institute of Mental Health and Hospital, Agra, convened a crucial meeting on the institute premises under the chairmanship of Divisional Commissioner Mr. Shailendra Kumar Singh. The meeting, held at the Administrative Building, focused on key administrative and academic issues aimed at strengthening the institute's operations and educational offerings.



The session commenced with a review of the minutes and the compliance report from the previous committee meeting. This was followed by a series of in-depth discussions on the proposals submitted for consideration. One of the major issues brought forward was a proposal addressing salary discrepancies in the sanctioned posts within the institute. Commissioner Singh, after a detailed examination of the issue, instructed officials to conduct a comparative study of the rules and service conditions governing similar posts in institutions such as Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar University, Atal Bihari Vajpayee Medical University, and other relevant medical universities. He further advised that for other salary-related matters, reference should be made to the resolution mechanisms adopted at the university level.

A notable academic development discussed during the meeting was a proposal to confer the title of 'Professor of Practice' upon Dr.

Sumitra Mishra, who currently serves as Senior Clinical Psychologist at the institute. The committee approved the proposal, aligning with the existing service conditions and institutional guidelines.

In a significant move to bolster faculty strength, a proposal concerning contractual appointments in the Department of Psychiatry was also brought forward. The committee gave its approval for the appointment of six Associate Professors and ten Assistant Professors. These appointments are expected to enhance the department's teaching and clinical capacities, addressing both the current demands and future expansion of mental health education.

Recognizing the growing interest among students and the need for broader academic offerings in the field of mental health, the Divisional Commissioner instructed the institute to prepare a proposal for the introduction of new courses. The proposal, once drafted, is to be submitted to the state government for necessary approvals, signifying the administration's commitment to advancing mental health education in Uttar Pradesh.

The meeting was attended by a number of senior officials and experts, including Acting District Magistrate and Chief Development Officer Mrs. Pratibha Singh, Director of the Institute Prof. Dinesh Rathore, Additional Director of Medical Health and Family Welfare Dr. Jyotsna Bhatia, Joint Director of the Directorate of Health in Lucknow Dr. (Major) Chandrashekhar Vajpayee, and Dr. Rati, among others. Their active participation underscored the importance of the committee's deliberations in shaping the future trajectory of the institute.

The meeting concluded with an emphasis on timely implementation of the approved proposals and the need for coordinated efforts to enhance the institute's service delivery, academic excellence, and contribution to mental health care and research in the region.

Tree Plantation Campaign 2025 - Dedicated Meeting Held for "Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam 2.0"

Akash Jain
Agra
 A dedicated meeting for the planning and implementation of the Tree Plantation Campaign 2025 - "Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam 2.0" was held at the Palash Auditorium in Agra under the chairmanship of Divisional Forest Officer (DFO) Shri Rajesh Kumar. The meeting brought together officials, environmentalists, NGOs, and citizens committed to driving a large-scale plantation initiative with public participation at its core.



Addressing the gathering, DFO Shri Rajesh Kumar emphasized the emotional and moral duty of planting trees. "Tree plantation is both an emotional and moral duty. This campaign is dedicated to our motherland and motherhood. Together, we will turn this into a mass movement," he stated.

City Range Officer Smt. Punita Yadav announced that monitoring teams would be deployed at all plantation sites to ensure the care and protection of saplings.

Research Assistant Ms. Surbhi Jain shared that scientific research is being conducted to study the survival rate of various plant species, which will guide future plantation efforts. District Project Officer - Namami Gange, Shri Shubham Saxena, highlighted the significance of plantation along riverbanks, adding that it would support ecological balance and contribute to the cleanliness of the Ganga River.

Industrial participation

was also discussed during the meeting. Shri Gopal Khandewal from the National Chamber of Industries revealed that his organization has set a target of planting thousands of saplings in collaboration with local industrial units. Retired Navy Officer Shri O.P. Singh Dhakre announced the creation of a "Shanyu Van" (Forest of Valor), dedicated to honoring the sacrifices of military personnel.

The India Rising team

reaffirmed their commitment to plant at least one tree daily and promote tree plantation on birthdays as a symbolic gesture. Ms. Jyotika Baghel from Sanskriti Youth Foundation spoke about their ongoing weekly clean-up drives along the Yamuna River and their awareness campaign encouraging mass plantation.

Environmental experts also contributed to the discussions. Dr. Rahul Tiwari from the World Resources Institute (WRI) presented

an overview of their air pollution control campaigns. Veteran environmentalist Shri K.C. Jain presented his latest book on environmental concerns, while Dr. Shrikant Kulshrestha gifted an environmental magazine to the Forest Department as a gesture of support.

Key issues discussed in the meeting included the selection and safeguarding of plantation sites, youth and community involvement, the promotion of the "Green Commitment", and raising awareness through social media platforms. The overarching goal remains to transform "Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam 2.0" into a dynamic, people-driven environmental movement.

In his concluding remarks, DFO Shri Rajesh Kumar expressed heartfelt gratitude to all participants. "Your dedication will make this campaign a historic success. Nature is our heritage, and it is our responsibility to protect it," he said, echoing the spirit of collective responsibility and environmental stewardship.

MRM Meeting adopts pledge for peace, green India, de-addiction and democratic Integrity

New Delhi
 In a significant move towards social reform, environmental action, and national unity, the Muslim Receptive Movement (MRM) held a landmark meeting on Saturday at its central office in Paharganj, New Delhi. Far from being a routine organizational affair, the meeting laid the foundation for transformative resolutions that addressed key issues ranging from climate change and substance abuse to global peace and the



preservation of democratic values. Presided over by MRM Patron Indresh Kumar, the meeting drew participation

from national conveners, state coordinators, and department heads from across India. Speaking at the event, National Convener Shahid

Sayed called it the beginning of a new direction for the nation. "We aim to build a more responsible, clean, and united India," he said, adding that the MRM is not only a Muslim platform but a national voice advocating for peace, unity, harmony, and progress.

One of the most emotional highlights of the meeting was the launch of the "Green India - A Tree in Mother's Name" campaign, which links ecological responsibility

with the sentiment of honoring one's mother. Under this initiative, citizens are encouraged to plant a tree every year in their mother's name. Speakers emphasized that this campaign is both a tribute to motherhood and a commitment to environmental sustainability. Plans are underway to promote this initiative nationwide through schools, madrasas, mosques, and local communities.

Equally urgent was the

discussion on the rising menace of drug abuse among youth. The MRM launched a national campaign titled "Quit Drugs. Unite the Nation," emphasizing that substance abuse is a threat not only to individuals but to the societal fabric at large. The campaign will be carried out through awareness drives in mosques, educational institutions, panchayats, and on digital platforms. A volunteer task force is being formed to offer counseling and helpline

services, aiming for a pan-India impact that begins within the community and expands to include all youth.

The meeting also issued a heartfelt appeal for global peace amid ongoing conflicts in countries such as Russia, Ukraine, Palestine, Israel, Syria, Iran, and Sudan. Denouncing war as futile and destructive, MRM leaders advocated for India's ancient ethos of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam—the world is one family.

Himachal Flash floods Death toll climbs to 7 as another body recovered from Kullu

Shimla
 The death toll in the flash flood that wreaked havoc in Himachal Pradesh's Kangra and Kullu on Wednesday has gone up to seven after the recovery of another body, officials said.

The body of a minor girl, identified as Murti Devi, was recovered near the river side in Bakshahal village in Kullu district, they said.

Murti, her father and aunt were swept away in flash floods caused by cloudburst at Jeva Nallah in Saini area on Wednesday. The girl's father and aunt have not been located yet.

Three people including Nand Lal, his daughter and sister were washed away in the deluge while trying to take away valuables from their homes at Rehla Bihal in Kullu district on Wednesday.

Ayush Shetty, Tanvi Sharma cruise into semi-finals of US Open

Towa:

Indian shuttlers Ayush Shetty and Tanvi Sharma advanced into the semi-finals of the ongoing US Open 2025 badminton competition as they registered victories in their quarter-final encounters of the competition here on Friday.

Fourth seed Ayush Shetty, 34th in the men's singles badminton rankings, progressed to the semi-finals of the BWF Super 300 tournament after beating former junior world champion Kuo Kuan-lin of Chinese Taipei 22-20, 21-9 in the quarter-finals.

Down 19-16 in the first game, Ayush Shetty rallied from behind to clinch the opener in a tie-break before wrapping up the second comfortably to win the match in 38 minutes, as per Olympics.com.

Ayush Shetty will face top seed and world No. 6 Zhou Tien-chen of Chinese Taipei in the semi-finals. The last time the two squared off, Zhou Tien-chen beat Ayush Shetty in straight games in the semi-finals of the Taipei Open earlier this year.

Saturday's encounter will mark Ayush Shetty's third semi-final appearance of the year, following his run to the last four at the Orleans Masters in March.

Meanwhile, world No. 6 Tanvi Sharma also progressed to the semi-finals after beating Malaysia's Letshanaa Karupathevan, 50th in the badminton rankings, 21-13, 21-16 in the quarters. Tanvi will face world No. 40 You Yuxuan of China in the semi-finals.

Elsewhere, India's challenge in the men's doubles ended after third seeds Hariharan Amsakarunan and Ruban Kumar Rethinasabapathi lost 21-9, 21-19 to Chiang Chien-Wei and Wu Hsuan-yi of Chinese Taipei in the quarter-finals.

Earlier, Priya Konjengbam and Shruti Mishra's run in women's doubles concluded with a 21-10, 21-14 loss to the USA's Laura Lam and Allison Lee, ending India's challenge in the event.

Dhruv Kapila and Tanisha Crasto, who led India in the mixed doubles, suffered an opening-round exit on Wednesday.

Abhishek Nayar reveals Rohit wanted him to work with KL Rahul to bring best out of him

New Delhi: Former India assistant coach Abhishek Nayar revealed that ODI captain Rohit Sharma wanted him to work with KL Rahul and bring out a more "aggressive" outlook as well as the best out of him.

Rahul has flummoxed everyone with his technical prowess and impressive artillery. The most recent reminder that Rahul delivered was in the second innings of the opening Test against England at Headingley. Rahul dazzled on the crease with a composed 137 from 247 deliveries, a knock that was a sight for sore eyes.

Nayar, who was named in head coach Gautam Gambhir's initial regime, reminisced about the time when former Test captain Rohit asked him to work with Rahul, as the 'Hitman' had a strong belief in the 33-year-old's capability to play a significant role in India.

"When I first picked up that role, I remember I had a conversation with Rohit, and he said



that one of the things he was really keen on me doing was working with KL and bringing out a more aggressive outlook to how KL played the game, and bringing the best out of him. Because he believed strongly that KL would play a major role in the Champions Trophy, World Cup and everything going forward, including the BGT [Border-Gavaskar Trophy] with Rohit, and he said

Nayar, who was removed from the position after a BCCI review following the 3-1 series loss in Australia, told ESPNcricinfo. Before the BGT series, India squared off against New Zealand in a three-match Test series on home soil. In the series opener, Rahul got out while tickling the delivery that went towards the leg side. In the second, he got out on a peach of a delivery and then witnessed

Rishabh Pant and Sarfaraz Khan boss the Kiwis with their flamboyant approach. Eventually, India collapsed and lost the opening Test. Rahul didn't play in the next two Tests as India fell to a historic 3-0 series whitewash. "I think that was sort of the inception [of our relationship]. Australia was going to be critical for him because it was almost like, what if you didn't get

runs there, then where is his career going? Because he was out of the T20 [squad]. Then this could also very well have been his last series," Nayar said.

"I told him, listen, we've got 15 days to prepare before we go to Australia, and take those ten days there, we have got almost a month to prepare - what do you want to do? How do you want to approach this? What is your mindset?" he continued.

"He spoke about what he's been doing and what worked for him in the past. And then I had a certain thought process, which was very different from his. Over hours and hours of conversation and trying to make him understand where I came from, eventually, I got him to a place where he sort of trusted me to do certain things with him in regards to how he practises, in regards to trusting certain changes in his tactics, in regards to his stance, where he stands in the crease, what guard he takes," Nayar added.

Will Joe Root continue his fine run at Edgbaston?



Edgbaston: As England aims to solidify their chances of winning the five-match series during the second Test against India at Edgbaston, all eyes will be on their premier batter Joe Root, who has a fantastic record at the venue.

The second test will start from July 2 onwards. England is leading the five-match series 1-0. At the venue, Root is England's and overall all-time highest run-getter, with 920 runs in nine Tests and 16 innings at an average of 70.76. This includes three centuries and five fifties. His best score is 142.

Root needs another 80 runs to become the first-ever batter to score 1,000 runs at this venue in Test cricket.

Root is also England's all-time highest run-getter against India, and 73 more runs will make him the first English batter

to score 3,000 Test runs against India. Currently in 31 Tests and 57 innings, he has scored 2,927 runs at an average of 58.54, with 10 centuries and 21 fifties. His best score is 218.

During his last three Tests at Birmingham, Root has made 424 runs in five innings at an average of 141.33, with two centuries and a fifty. His best score is 142.

Will Root continue his fine run against India and keep his pursuit of Sachin Tendulkar's all-time high tally of 15,921 Test runs in the right direction following a match-winning fifty at Leeds?

England Men's Test squad for 2nd Test: Ben Stokes (capt), Jofa Archer, Shoaib Bashir, Jacob Bethell, Harry Brook, Brydon Carse, Sam Cook, Zak Crawley, Ben Duckett, Jamie Overton, Ollie Pope, Joe Root, Jamie Smith, Josh Tongue, Chris Woakes.

Neeraj Chopra backs Jasprit Bumrah to excel in javelin throw



New Delhi: India's world champion and Olympic gold medalist javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra feels that Indian fast bowler Jasprit Bumrah can excel in his discipline.

Neeraj will be in action during the Neeraj Chopra Classic at Bengaluru on July 5. Ahead of the event, he was quoted as saying by Olympics.com to Star Sports. "I think it would be a fast bowler [A good javelin thrower from other sports], or sure. So, I think a fully fit Jasprit Bumrah, in his prime, will be good at it."

Fast bowlers and javelin throwers both require a strong, steady run-up to build momentum. Good speed and timing are extremely important, so are powerful legs, core and shoulders for an explosive finish.

Bumrah is currently the top-ranked Test bowler in the world and a massive part of India's pace attack. In the recent Leeds Test against England, he took a five-wicket haul in the first innings and went wicketless while defending 371 runs for the team.

On the other hand, Chopra reclaimed his number one spot in men's javelin throw



world rankings from Anderson Peters of Grenada following a string of brilliant performances on the international stage. World Athletics updated the rankings earlier this week, increasing Neeraj's points to 1,445 compared to Peters' tally of 1,431, according to Olympics.com. Also, Pakistan's Olympic champion Arshad Nadeem sits at number four with 1,370 points to his name.

Neeraj lost his top spot to Peters back in September 2024, just shortly after the Paris Olympics, where he attained a silver medal with a throw of 89.45, and Peters took home the bronze.

The year 2025 has been incredible for Neeraj, as he kicked-started with a win at the Potch Invitational in Potchefstroom, South Africa, in April and followed it up with a very special second-place finish at Doha Diamond League, where he crossed the 90-metre mark for the first time ever with a throw of 90.23 m.

He also went on to secure a second spot in the Janusz Kusinski Memorial in Poland later that month and resumed his winning ways with back-to-back titles at Paris Diamond League and Ostrova Golden Spike this month, with best efforts of 88.16 m and 85.29 m.

Breaking Time Sudoku

What to do

Fill in the grid so that every row, every column, and every 3x3 box contains the digit 1 to 9. Every puzzle has only correct solution.

	3	9				1		6
8		4						
			8	7			5	
9		6			1		9	4
	8			6	3			
						6		1
1	3					8	2	

Solution, Sudoku

2	7	4	3	5	1	6	9	8
8	1	5	2	6	9	3	4	7
6	9	3	8	4	7	1	2	5
1	5	2	7	9	4	8	6	3
4	3	6	1	2	8	5	7	9
7	8	9	6	3	5	2	1	4
3	2	8	9	7	6	4	5	1
9	4	1	5	8	2	7	3	6
5	6	7	4	1	3	9	8	2

THE WISDOM TREE

BY SUVEEN KUMAR

If you are not willing to share your time with people, you should not expect them share their happiness with you. You have some spiritual existence when you give sometime to yourself and you have some social existence when you give some time to people, not having time, not using time and not giving time are three different things however for may of us it is a same thing, share your time to someone who needs it the most and sometimes it is you and sometimes it other, you are not wealthy of time if you have a lot of it, you are wealthy of time when you use it best of it, if you have time then give it, use it else it will be lost, we all are made of time but only a few of us are made by time, time is the only medium to share anything and everything no matter how small or how big it is, no matter how long or how quick it is, the longevity of the relation-

ship depends upon the amount of time we share and the intensity of the relationship depends upon the amount of attention we share. time is most important and absolutely free thing to share, all it cost is some life, sharing time is sharing your life, if your life is important, your time is important but if your life is important, you time important, people who spend most of their time to build their career and expect welcome in the relationship is mistaken, you can't have both worlds if you don't live in there equally. the reason we don't value time even after listening its importance, finding its importance and realizing its importance because we get it for free. Time is a blank paper, before you sell it make sure it is precious.



Moral: Save relationship and spend time, don't spend relationship and save time.

Hetmyer's last-ball six secures Seattle Orcas thrilling win over MI New York

Grand Prairie:

When Shimron Hetmyer steered Kieron Pollard over square leg for a maximum off the very last delivery in the 20th over, the explosive left-hander sealed not only one of the finest knocks in Major League Cricket (MLC) history but also the league's highest successful chase-powering the Seattle Orcas to their first win of the season.

On Friday, the 475-run thriller against MI New York featured stand-out performances from Nicholas Pooran and Tanujinder Singh in a first-innings batting blitz, as per an MLC press release.

Set an improbable target of 237, Hetmyer's fireworks came after brisk, timely cameo laid the foundation-Kyle Mayers struck 37 off 40 (four boundaries and two sixes), Heinrich Klaassen



added 26 off 13 (two fours and two sixes), and new skipper Sikandar Raza blasted a rapid 30 off just 9 deliveries (six fours and a six). Mayers and Raza counter-attacked the New York line-up in the first six overs as the Orcas smashed 86 off the powerplay-the highest

this season-in pursuit of the tournament's best run chase ever.

Although a stable run-flow kept the Orcas on top of the required rate, wickets continued to tumble at frequent intervals. When Klaassen departed in the 11th, the Seattle Orcas had lost

half of their side while still needing 100 off 58 deliveries.

However, with the scoreboard pressure increasing and tailenders exposed, Shimron Hetmyer's confidence and bat started to peak just in time for the Seattle Orcas, as the Caribbean dynamite smashed the New York bowlers to all parts in a brutal display of power-hitting that included nine clean-hit maximums and five fours.

Hetmyer's heroics eclipsed an earlier century par excellence from his West India teammate Nicholas Pooran, whose return to form after a brief rough patch concluded with a stellar 108 off just 60 deliveries, including seven fours and eight sixes-the most by an MI New York batter.

Najmul Hossain Shanto steps down as Bangladesh Test skipper

Colombo:

Najmul Hossain Shanto announced his decision to step down as Bangladesh Test captain after his side endured a 1-0 series defeat against Sri Lanka in Colombo on Saturday.

After the opening Test ended in a draw, Bangladesh arrived in Colombo looking to add crucial points in the World Test Championship (WTC) 2025-27 cycle. Compared to the series opener, Bangladesh batters failed to put up a robust performance and surrendered an emphatic defeat by an innings and 78 runs.

In the aftermath of Bangladesh's heart-breaking defeat, Shanto decided to step down from the Test captaincy role and said, as quoted from ESPNcricinfo, "I don't want to continue [as captain] in the Test format an-

ymore. This is not personal. I have taken the decision for the betterment of the team. I think this will help the team. I have been a part of the dressing room for the past few years.

"I think three captains [for the three international formats] is not sensible. I don't know what the board will feel about this, and I will support their decision. But this is my personal decision. I think three separate captains will be difficult for the team to deal with. I would want that no one feels this decision is emotional, or that I am disappointed by something. I want to make this clear. This is for the betterment of the team," he added.

Shanto tried to explain that his decision wasn't personal, considering the timing of it. Earlier this year, he stepped down as T20I captain.

TOP STORY

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Putin accuses West of encouraging separatism in Russia

Moscow: President Vladimir Putin has accused the Western nations of encouraging separatism in Russia.

Putin's criticisms of the West came amid Russia's ongoing tensions with the Western nations over the conflict in Ukraine.

"No one has wished to pay attention to the Islamic State, as long as it operates against Russia. Explosions in Moscow, and all that. This is still happening today," Putin told journalists at the Belarus capital Minsk on Friday.

"No one wants to pay attention to this. Everything is fine, as long as it is against Russia," he said on the sidelines of the summit of the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU).

"The same happened when the collective West encouraged separatism in our country, and such an instrument of the fight against Russia as terrorism," the Russian president said.

Russia Today, the state-run television, quoted Putin as saying that Moscow will no longer play "one-sided" games with the West.

"Western nations have repeatedly betrayed Russia by not fulfilling their promises related to NATO expansion and resolving the Ukraine conflict, he said.

At least 49 killed in Israeli strikes in Gaza as ceasefire prospects inch closer

Deir al-Balah: At least 49 people were killed across Gaza by Israeli strikes, health staff say, as Palestinians face a growing humanitarian crisis in Gaza and ceasefire prospects inch closer.

The strikes began late Friday and continued into Saturday morning, among others killing 12 people near the Palestine Stadium in Gaza City, which was sheltering displaced people, and eight more living in apartments, according to staff at Shifa hospital where the bodies were brought. More than 20 bodies were taken to Nasser hospital, according to health officials.

The strikes come as US President Donald Trump says there could be a ceasefire agreement within the next week. Taking questions from reporters in the Oval Office Friday, the president said, "We're working on Gaza and trying to get it



taken care of."

An official with knowledge of the situation told The Associated Press that Israel's Minister for Strategic Affairs, Ron Dermer, will arrive in Washington next week for talks on Gaza's ceasefire, Iran and other subjects.

The official spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorised to speak to the media.

Talks have been on

again off again since Israel broke the latest ceasefire in March, continuing its military campaign in Gaza and furthering the Strip's dire humanitarian crisis. Some 50 hostages remain in Gaza, fewer than half of them believed to still be alive. They were part of some 250 hostages taken when Hamas attacked Israel on Oct 7, 2023, sparking the 21-month-long war.

The war has killed over

56,000 Palestinians, according to Gaza's Health Ministry, which does not distinguish between civilians and combatants. It says more than half of the dead were women and children.

There is hope among hostage families that Trump's involvement in securing the recent ceasefire between Israel and Iran might exert more pressure for a deal in Gaza. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Net-

anyahu is riding a wave of public support for the Iran war and its achievements, and he could feel he has more space to move toward ending the war in Gaza, something his far-right governing partners oppose.

Hamas has repeatedly said it is prepared to free all the hostages in exchange for an end to the war in Gaza. Netanyahu says he will only end the war once Hamas is disarmed and exiled, something the group has rejected.

Meanwhile hungry Palestinians are enduring a catastrophic situation in Gaza. After blocking all food for 2 1/2 months, Israel has allowed only a trickle of supplies into the territory since mid-May.

Efforts by the United Nations to distribute the food have been plagued by armed gangs looting trucks and by crowds of desperate people off-loading supplies from convoys.

15 killed in suicide attack in Pak's Khyber Pakhtunkhwa



Lahore:

At least 15 persons, including children, were killed and 40 others injured in rain-related incidents in the last three days as the first spell of pre-monsoon hit Pakistan's Punjab province, officials said on Saturday.

According to the Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA), the pre-monsoon spell across Punjab has begun.

"At least 15 people, including eight children, died, and 40 others were injured in rain-related incidents across Punjab during the last three days," it said in a statement.

Most of the cases in which people lost their lives involved wall and

roof collapses in Lahore, Okara, Bahawalnagar, Jhelum, Gujrat, Faisalabad, Mandi Bahauddin, Sahiwal, Chiniot, Multan, Sheikhupura, and Nankana districts of Punjab.

After a long spell of extreme summer heat, the pre-monsoon has provided a much-needed relief to citizens. Rains are also reportedly vital for agriculture and food security during this time.

The PDMA has requested citizens to avoid non-essential travel during inclement weather conditions.

"Do not live in dilapidated houses. Take care of the children and do not let them go near the rainwater drains, electric wires, and poles,"

Pakistan welcomes Court of Arbitration's ruling on J K hydroelectric projects

Islamabad:

Pakistan on Saturday welcomed the ruling by the Permanent Court of Arbitration in The Hague over two hydroelectric projects in Jammu and Kashmir and indicated its readiness for talks with India on issues relating to Indus Waters Treaty.

The "high priority," at this point, is that "India and Pakistan find a way back to a meaningful dialogue, including on the application of the Indus Waters Treaty (IWT),"



Pakistan said in a statement released early on

Saturday.

India on Friday

strongly rejected the ruling saying it has never

recognised the so-called framework for dispute resolution with Pakistan.

India rejects this so-called "supplemental award," the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said, referring to the ruling in the case related to Pakistan's objections to Kishenganga and Ratle hydropower projects.

In its ruling, the Court of Arbitration said India's decision in April to keep the Indus Waters Treaty in abeyance "does not limit" its competence over the dis-

pute and that its ruling is binding on the parties.

However, India has never recognised the proceedings at the Permanent Court of Arbitration after Pakistan raised objections to certain design elements of the two projects under the provisions of the Indus Waters Treaty.

On the other hand, Pakistan called the ruling a "major legal win" emphasising that it is a "clear message that India does not unilaterally suspend or sideline the

treaty."

The MEA called out Pakistan by saying that "this latest charade at Pakistan's behest is yet another desperate attempt by it to escape accountability for its role as the global epicentre of terrorism."

"Pakistan's resort to this fabricated arbitration mechanism is consistent with its decades-long pattern of deception and manipulation of international forums," it said in a statement.

BUSINESS

Tata Steel's 20% Diversity Goal by 2028

Jamshedpur:

Commemorating a decade of MOSAIC, the diversity and inclusion initiative, private steel major Tata Steel on Saturday said it aimed to have 20 per cent diversity in its workforce across the group by 2028.

For Tata Steel, the commitment to diversity goes beyond policy implementation. It actively seeks to redefine norms in typically male-dominated sectors, the company said in a statement.

Tata Steel's progressive HR policies offer equal benefits for LGBTQIA+ partners, gender-neutral parental leaves, support for gender transition, and inclusive relocation and travel benefits, it said.

About MOSAIC, the company said it started in 2015 with the vision of making inclusion a lived experience across the organisation. This year, the company is marking a decade of

MOSAIC alongside pride month, reinforcing its continued commitment to building a more inclusive workplace.

MOSAIC, which is anchored in five strategic pillars - recruitment, sensitisation, retention & development, infrastructure, and celebration, addresses the unique needs of diverse communities, including women, persons with disabilities, the LGBTQIA+ community, and affirmative action groups.

Atravee Sanyal, Chief People Officer, Tata Steel, said: "For over a century, Tata Steel has been a pioneer in people-centric HR policies, consistently evolving with the times to stay not only relevant but also purpose-driven. Our commitment has always been to foster a more equitable and inclusive workplace - one where individuals are valued for who they are and empowered to contribute meaningfully."

India Energy Stack: Power Ministry Launches Task Force

New Delhi:

The Ministry of Power on Saturday announced the launch of a task force to conceive the India Energy Stack (IES), an initiative aimed at creating a unified, secure, and interoperable digital public infrastructure (DPI) for the energy sector.

The IES will play a vital role in integrating renewable energy, enhancing DISCOM efficiency, and delivering transparent, reliable, and future-ready power services, an official statement quoted Power Minister Manohar Lal Khattar as saying.

"There is an urgent need for developing robust DPI in the power sector to manage the country's rising demand, ensure grid stability, and empower consumers. What Aadhaar did for identity and UPI achieved for digital payments,



the India Energy Stack will accomplish for the power sector - unlocking seamless, secure, and consumer-centric energy services for every citizen," he added.

As India charts its path to becoming a USD 5 trillion economy and advances towards

its net-zero commitments, the power sector faces both unprecedented opportunities and complex challenges, the statement said.

Rapid growth in renewable energy, electric vehicles, and consumer participation in energy markets is transforming the sector, but fragmented

systems and a lack of seamless digital integration remain key barriers, it pointed out.

To address these issues, the ministry is reimagining the sector's digital foundation through the IES - a DPI that will provide a standardised, secure, and open platform to

Unruly Passenger on Air India Flight Handed to Security

New Delhi:

A male passenger on-board an Air India flight from Amritsar to the national capital on Saturday behaved in an unruly manner, engaged in verbal altercation with a co-passenger and was handed over to the airport security after landing at the Delhi airport.

The incident happened in flight AI454.

"During cabin preparations for landing, a member of our cabin crew noticed a passenger standing in the aisle, engaged in a verbal altercation with another passenger."

"The second passenger reported to the crew that the individual was being abusive," the airline said in a statement.

According to Air India, the cabin crew immediately de-escalated the situation by relocating the second passenger to a business class seat for the duration of the landing.

The second passenger made a complaint, following which the pilot-in-command notified the airline's security team on the ground about the situation.

The security team was present when the flight landed at the Delhi airport.

"The disruptive passenger was handed over to the airport security for further investigation," Air India said and added that it will fully cooperate with the relevant authorities.

Dehi-NCR Housing Sales to Rise 16% in Q2

New Delhi:

Housing sales in Delhi-NCR are estimated to rise 16 per cent to more than 11,700 units during the current April-June quarter on high demand for luxury homes and new launches, according to PropEquity.

According to real estate data analytic firm PropEquity, housing sales in Delhi-NCR are projected at 11,703 units in April-June 2025, up from 10,114 units in the year-ago period.

New supply is estimated at 13,823 units in the second quarter of this



year, up 37 per cent from 10,084 units in the year-ago period.

"Delhi-NCR has witnessed the maximum

growth in this quarter owing to a rise in supply in Ghaziabad and Gurgaon."

Jasuja said.

During the current quarter, India's largest realty firm DLF

launched and comple-

ted sold out 1,164 units for Rs 11,000 crore in its new luxury housing project DLF Privana North in Gurugram.

Bengaluru-based Prestige Group launched the first phase of its township project 'Prestige City, Indrapuram' in April, comprising more than 3,400 units with a sales value of Rs 9,000 crore.

Signature Global, Smartworld Developers, Sobha Ltd and Shapoorji Pallonji Real Estate have also launched projects this quarter, among others.

Commenting on strong sales and launches in Delhi-NCR, Mohit Agarwal, Business Head, Consient Infrastructure, said,

"Luxury homes are becoming the new normal for young buyers in Gurugram, driven by a blend of aspirational, investment acumen, and lifestyle expectations."

Rajat Khandelwal, Group CEO, Tribeca Developers, said "Homebuyers are clearly showing a strong preference for newly launched projects."

"At Tribeca, we launched three projects across Mumbai and Gurgaon this quarter and saw exceptional response, with Trump Residences Gurgaon selling out in under five hours. For quality developments in the right locations, buyer conviction continues to be very high," he said.

In May, Smartworld Developers and Tribeca Developers sold all 298 units in the 'Trump' branded ultra-luxury residential project in Gurugram for Rs 3,250 crore.



Organic products of Uttarakhand are now the first choice of the world



Under the bold and visionary leadership of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, we are committed to the idea of inclusive development while harnessing our nation's natural beauty, rich cultural heritage, and immense potential. Our foremost aim is to make Uttarakhand a model of progress, where every individual can contribute meaningfully to national prosperity and welfare.

The construction of a developed India for the 21st century rests primarily on two pillars: firstly, pride in our heritage, and second, every possible effort that is being made towards development. Today, both these pillars are being strengthened by the state of Uttarakhand. This decade surely will be the decade of Uttarakhand.

Pushkar Singh Dhami
Chief Minister, Uttarakhand

Narendra Modi
Prime Minister



VIKSHIT BHARAT SHASHAKT UTTARAKHAND

House of Himalayas Provides global market to local products

Inspired by the vision of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the Uttarakhand government under the leadership of Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami is promoting the advanced products of the hilly areas. Along with this, many initiatives have also been started for their marketing. The launch of 'House of Himalayas' is an important step in this direction. Under this, high quality products of Uttarakhand have been prepared according to the markets of the country and the world. These have emerged as a major brand of products from the hilly region of Uttarakhand.

During the Uttarakhand Global Investors Summit 2023, Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the 'umbrella brand' named 'House of Himalayas' along with other multimillion projects. Now, products manufactured by local groups will be marketed under the unified name 'House of Himalayas', focusing on quality and packaging. This innovative initiative aims to promote Uttarakhand's local products globally. Known previously as Himadri, Hilans, and Gramya-Shri, these products will now collectively shine under the brand 'House of Himalayas', showcasing the wonders of the region to the world. This step is a significant move to make

Uttarakhand's products vocal for local and take them from local markets to the global stage. Inspired by the vision of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the Uttarakhand government under the leadership of Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami is promoting the advanced products of the hilly areas. Along with this, many initiatives have also been started for their marketing. The launch of 'House of Himalayas' is an important step in this direction. Under this, high quality products of Uttarakhand have been prepared according to the markets of the country and the world. These have emerged as a major brand of products from the hilly region of Uttarakhand.

Why is the House of Himalayas so special?

The Assurance of Authenticity: Products created under this initiative truly honour an array of traditional methods and authentic experiences. They reach consumers only after going through high-quality standards. Further, certificates are also issued to confirm their premium quality.

A Commitment Towards The Community: Choosing the House of Himalayas means supporting local communities through truly meaningful social initiatives. With every product you purchase, you contribute socially and economically.

The Idea of Open Sourcing: This initiative emphasizes complete transparency in the sourcing of materials and production processes, maintaining consumer trust.

Emphasizing on Ethical Priority: The brand embraces ethical sourcing and improved production practices that are widely appreciated for their integrity.

Enhanced Brand Experience: By including comprehensive product information, attention to every detail, and delivering superior products, the brand ensures a memorable experience for every customer.



House of Himalayas Superior Quality

The product line-up at the House of Himalayas are truly exceptional, known for their unmatched quality and superior effectiveness. This exceptional distinction sets them apart from mass-produced alternatives available in the market.

BHOITIYA DAAN OF UTTARAKHAND



It is a traditional handwoven carpet made by the Bhoitiya community in Uttarakhand. These carpets are known for their warmth, durability, and intricate designs.

Uttarakhand Thulma



Thulma blanket are handwoven by the Bhoitiya community in Uttarakhand using sheep or yak wool. These blankets are known for their warmth & durability.

UTTARAKHAND LIKHAI (WOOD CARVING)



Uttarakhand is famous for its exquisite wood carvings seen in architectural elements, furniture, and decorative items. Skilled artisans intricately carve wood to create beautiful designs and motifs.

UTTARAKHAND BITUCHU BUTTI



Nettle fibre is used to create a range of products, including fabrics, bags, and ropes. The nettle plant is abundant in the region, and its fibre is valued for its strength and eco-friendliness.

Traditional Products of Devbhoomi awarded with special GI tag

Geographical Indication (GI) Crafts Products

A Geographical Indication (GI) is a sign used on products that have a specific geographical origin and possess qualities or a reputation that are due to that origin. In other words, it is a certification that identifies a product as originating from a particular region, where a given quality, reputation or other characteristic of the product is essentially attributable to its geographic origin.

The following craft products of Uttarakhand have been awarded GI tag by the Office of the Controller General of Patents, Designs and Trademarks, Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), Government of India:

NAINITAL MOOMBATTI (CANDLE)



Uttarakhand is known for its artistic candles crafted in various shapes, sizes, and colors. These candles often reflect the region's cultural motifs and symbols.

RANGWALI PICHORA OF KUMAON



Rangwali Pichora is a traditional craft involving the creation of colorful hand printed/handwoven cotton/silk/woolen shawls. The designs and patterns showcase the rich cultural heritage of the Kumaon region.

UTTARAKHAND AIPAN



Aipan is a traditional folk art form involving the creation of intricate geometric patterns using rice paste or chalk. It's usually seen on floors, walls, or courtyards during religious and cultural ceremonies.

UTTARAKHAND TAMTA PRODUCTS



Artisans in Uttarakhand craft various items like utensils, decorative pieces, and religious artifacts using copper. These items are known for their intricate designs and durability.

CHAMOLI WOODEN RAMAAN MASK



Ramaan masks are carved from wood and used in traditional folk dances and cultural performances. These masks often represent deities, animals, or

UTTARAKHAND RINGAAL CRAFT



Ringaal products are crafted from a type of local grass called 'Ringaal'. Artisans use it to create items like mats, baskets, and ropes due to its strength and flexibility.



With the One District-Two Product Scheme, Uttarakhand's products are attracting the world

District	Product-1	Product-2
Almora	Baill Mithai	Tweed
Bageshwar	Copper Products	Kiwi Products
Chamoli	Handloom Products	Rose Water
Haridwar	Jaggery	Honey
Champawat	Iron Based Products	Honey
Dehradun	Bakery Products	Mushroom
Rudraprayag	Temple Imitation	Cholai Products
Nainital	Aipan Craft	Fruit Processing
Pauri	Wooden Craft	Herbal Products
Udhamsingh Nagar	Mentha Oil	Moonj Grass Products
Uttarkashi	Red Rice	Apple Products
Pithoragarh	Woolen Carpets	Munsiyari Rajma
Tehri	Paneer	Tehri Nath

Uttarakhand's Crafts & Organic Products from Local to Global

Tourists should spend 5% of their travel spending on local products: Prime Minister

To achieve the goal of self-reliant country Prime Minister Narendra Modi has spoken of Vocal for local. With the aim of promoting local products, One District-One Product Scheme has been started by the Government of India.

Uttarakhand Government has taken this scheme forward as 'One District Two Products' under the leadership of Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami. Programme done in Mana Village near Badrinath Dhamam Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has appealed to the people of the country to spend 5% of their travelled spending on Local Products. Due to this tremendous step, a big change will be seen



in local economy. Any region is identified by its local language & products. Efforts should be made to promote them.