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## Rahul Gandhi Playing into the Hands of Foreign Powers



Agency, New Delhi

Congress leader and Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha, Rahul Gandhi, on Wednesday alleged that 2.5 million fraudulent votes were cast in last year's Haryana elections, amounting to 'vote theft'. Rejecting this, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) termed the allegations baseless. At a press conference held at the BJP headquarters on Wednesday, Union Minister and BJP leader Kiren Rijiju said that Congress leader Rahul Gandhi is making false and illogical claims to hide his failures. He said that voting is taking place in Bihar in two days, but today Rahul Gandhi was narrating a story about Haryana. This clearly shows that there is no issue left in Bihar, so the Haryana issue is being fabricated to divert attention. Rahul Gandhi is saying that the exit polls showed the Congress winning. During the 2004 elections, the exit polls and opinion polls were also predicting a victory for the BJP and NDA, but the

counting results showed the NDA losing. We accepted the result and congratulated the UPA, but we did not abuse the Election Commission. In a democracy, both victory and defeat have to be accepted. He said that when the exit polls are in favor of the Congress, they applaud them, and when they go against them, they abuse the media. He said that when the elections were underway in Haryana, senior Congress leader Kumari Selja herself had said that the Congress would not be able to win there because its own leaders wanted to defeat the party. After this, a former Congress minister resigned and clearly stated that the Congress lost in Haryana because its leaders were not working at the grassroots level. He asked how the Congress could win when the state president, Rao Narendra Singh, himself admitted that there was no coordination at the grassroots level within the Congress party? Their own leaders are saying that the Congress lost because of its

**Rahul Gandhi alleges 2.5 million fake votes stole Congress's victory in Haryana elections, now fears similar conspiracy in Bihar**

New Delhi, Former

Congress president and Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha, Rahul Gandhi, held a press conference titled 'H Files' at Indira Bhawan in New Delhi on Wednesday, leveling serious allegations of large-scale vote rigging in the Haryana elections. He also expressed apprehension that what happened in Haryana could now be repeated in Bihar. This press conference took place just before the first phase of polling for 121 assembly seats in Bihar on Thursday. Rahul Gandhi alleged that approximately 2.5 million fake voters were created in Haryana and that it was a case of organized vote theft. He claimed that this fraud was not carried out at a local level, but at a higher level. He said that there are a total of approximately two crore voters in Haryana, of which every eighth voter is fake. Giving figures, he said that 25,41,144 votes

own shortcomings, so who will believe Rahul Gandhi's claim that they lost due to vote theft? Kiren Rijiju said



are fake in Haryana. These include 5,21,619 duplicate voters, 93,174 invalid addresses, and 19,26,351 bulk voters. In addition, Form-6 (adding names) and Form-7 (removing names) were also misused on a large scale, but the Election Commission has now blocked access to this data. Rahul Gandhi stated that this matter is extremely serious because despite such massive vote theft, the Congress party lost by a margin of only 22,779 votes. He said that the election results were manipulated in a planned manner. The Congress leader showed a picture of a Brazilian model and claimed that the same photo was used to cast votes 22 times at several

that many people within the Congress party are unhappy. Many people in Bihar are saying that Rahul Gandhi

booths in Haryana under different names. He said that this model is registered in the voter list sometimes as 'Seema', sometimes as 'Saraswati', and sometimes as 'Sweeti'. He further stated that the photo of the same woman was repeated 223 times at two booths in Haryana. It is also alleged that a man named Shashank Giri voted 14 times at booths number 431 and 508, while two brothers, Rudrabhishik Jain and Naman Jain, cast 18 votes at booths 130 and 131. Rahul Gandhi stated that the Election Commission could easily identify all the fake voters with similar photos or addresses through a simple process, but it is not doing so. Rahul Gandhi also played a video of Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini at the press conference, in which Saini is seen saying before the results were announced that "the BJP is forming a government with a clear majority."

should not come there to campaign because his presence will ruin even the remaining chances.

## NDA returning to power in Bihar with a two-thirds majority: Rajnath Singh

Agency, Patna/Banks

Defense Minister Rajnath Singh, while addressing an election rally in Banka, Bihar, in support of the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) candidate, claimed that the Nitish Kumar-led NDA is returning to power in the state with a two-thirds majority. He also targeted all the parties included in the Grand Alliance, including the Congress. Targeting the Congress, Rajnath Singh said that the Congress never wanted better roads in the border areas. The Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) also did not want development in Bihar. Rajnath Singh attacked Rahul Gandhi for politicizing the army and said that soldiers only follow one religion, which is "military dharma." Do not drag our army into politics. Whenever this country has faced a crisis, our soldiers have held India's head high by displaying their bravery and valor. During his address, he said that reservation should exist. We (BJP) are also supporters of reservation. We have given reservation to the poor. Rajnath Singh said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi has ended the anti-development



mindset in the country's politics. When Modi ji took power, the Indian economy was in 11th place in the world. Today it is in fourth place and will soon reach third place. Rajnath Singh said that not a single allegation of corruption has been leveled against Nitish Kumar to date, while all the leaders of the RJD, from the bottom to the top, are facing corruption cases. He said that during the RJD rule, Bihar's health budget was only Rs 700 crore, which has now increased to Rs 20,000 crore under the NDA government. This is proof of how serious

the government is about the health of the people. He said that today Bihar's budget is more than Rs 3 lakh crore, which is writing a saga of development. Rajnath Singh said that the NDA never discriminates against people on the basis of caste, creed, and religion. We only talk about development, while the Grand Alliance only works to divide people in the name of caste, religion, and language. The Defence Minister said that Operation Sindoar has not been stopped, and if terrorists try to attack India again, we will give a strong response.

## Brief news

**228 Passengers Stranded in Ulaanbaatar Brought to Delhi by Air India Flight**



New Delhi: 228 passengers stranded in Ulaanbaatar, the capital of Mongolia, were brought to Delhi on Wednesday morning by an Air India flight. These passengers were stranded in the Mongolian capital when their flight from San Francisco to Delhi was diverted to Ulaanbaatar on Monday. The Air India relief flight, Boeing 787 Dreamliner, carrying the passengers from Ulaanbaatar, arrived in Delhi, the national capital, at around 8:24 am on Wednesday. The relief flight AI183 had departed for Ulaanbaatar on Tuesday afternoon. An Air India spokesperson said that the relief flight carrying the passengers and crew of AI174, who were stranded in Ulaanbaatar (Mongolia) after a precautionary diversion, arrived in Delhi this morning. The spokesperson, on behalf of Air India, thanked the local authorities in Ulaanbaatar, the Indian Embassy in Mongolia, the DGCA, the Government of India, and all those who helped ensure the care of the passengers and crew and their safe return to Delhi. The airline spokesperson also thanked its passengers for their patience and understanding during the diversion. The spokesperson added that the safety and well-being of our guests and employees are our highest priority.

**Dr. Mangalam Swaminathan Foundation Announces '8th National Excellence Awards 2025'**

New Delhi. The Dr. Mangalam Swaminathan Foundation announced the winners of the '8th National Excellence Awards 2025' on Wednesday. This award is given annually to honor individuals who have made significant contributions in various fields across the country. Each award includes a cash prize of one lakh rupees, a memento, and a certificate of appreciation. This year, the award for excellence in journalism goes to Liz Mathew, Deputy Editor of The Indian Express. She was selected for her political reporting, unbiased perspective, and impactful interview style. The award for excellence in science reporting goes to Uzmi Athar, Chief Correspondent of PTI, for her impactful reporting on environment, climate change, and science and technology. In the art and culture category, Sagari Chhabra, author and film director, will be honored for her research work on the untold chapters and heroes of the freedom struggle. A special award in the science reporting category will be given to Biju Pankaj, Associate Editor of Mathrubhumi News in Kerala, for his impactful documentary work on environmental conservation and deforestation. V.S. Rajesh, Chief News Editor of Kerala Kaumudi, will receive an award for exposing irregularities in the medical field. His investigative reports exposed the nexus between hospitals and stent suppliers, following which the central government reduced the prices of stents.

## Supreme Court delivers setback to Centre on MNREGA, scheme to resume in Bengal

Agency, New Delhi



issue. This development comes after the Supreme Court dismissed the Centre's special leave petition on October 27. The Centre had challenged the Calcutta High Court's order of June 18, which directed the implementation of the MNREGA scheme in West Bengal from August 1, 2025. Before the Supreme Court, the High Court had given the central government the authority to impose special conditions, restrictions, and rules for the implementation of the scheme in the state to prevent any irregularities in the future. The Centre had challenged this order and filed a petition in the Supreme Court on July 31, a day before the High Court's order was to come into effect.

## Joint Innovation in the Defense Sector is the Strongest Security Shield: Army Chief Upendra Dwivedi

Agency, New Delhi



Army Chief Upendra Dwivedi said that today the world faces many types of threats, and these are changing rapidly. Therefore, no country can remain secure on its own. Now everyone has to work together. He said that joint innovation in the defense sector is the strongest security shield. General Dwivedi said this at an event attended by senior army officers, defense experts, and industry representatives. During the event, the Army Chief said that the Army is now rapidly advancing in areas such as drone warfare, quantum technology, 6G, and space missions. We are working on technologies that are useful in both civilian and military applications. General Dwivedi stated that after Operation Sindoar, the Army has gained financial strength, and now the Army has more freedom and flexibility

in its operations. This has accelerated the process of incorporating new weapons and technologies. The Army Chief said that machines and technology will play a major role in future warfare. The Army is now completely focused on automation and man-unmanned teams. This will allow us to accomplish more

with the same number of soldiers. This will only be possible when the industry collaborates with us to provide new technologies. In the future, warfare will not be limited to a single method or area. Future wars will depend on how quickly we can transform our ideas into real power and capability. Moving from idea to capability means moving from dependence to self-reliance and then from self-reliance to strength. India has developed several modern weapons, such as the Akash air defense system, the ATAGS artillery gun, and the Zoravar light tank. These examples show that India is now becoming strong in the defense sector on its own. Of course, the way of fighting has changed, and conflicts are no longer limited to borders. But no matter what the war is like, in the end, the ground is the real measure of victory; it is what determines true success.

## Six Women Killed After Being Hit by Train in Mirzapur

**Mirzapur.** A tragic accident occurred on Wednesday morning in Mirzapur, Uttar Pradesh, when several pilgrims were hit by the Kalka Express train, resulting in multiple fatalities. Many others were seriously injured. The railway authorities have confirmed the deaths of six women in the accident. The death toll is feared to rise. Following the incident, there was chaos and panic at the station. According to reports, the train accident took place at around 9:30 AM at Chunab railway station. A passenger train from Chopan had arrived at platform number 3 of Chunab railway station. Due to overcrowding, many pilgrims disembarked not onto the platform but onto the train tracks on the other side. At that moment, the Kalka Express arrived on the adjacent track, and before the passengers could react, several were hit by the train. Approximately six women died in the accident. Body parts of many passengers were scattered along the railway tracks. Railway officials stated that the Kalka Express did not have a scheduled stop at Chunab, and therefore, it was traveling at high speed. Eyewitnesses said the accident happened so quickly that no one had time to react.

## No More Arbitrary Pension Cuts Government Takes Big Decision Regarding Central Government Employees and Pensioners

Agency, New Delhi

The central government has provided relief to millions of central government employees and pensioners by clarifying that once a pension/family pension has been authorized (finalized), it will not be subject to deductions unless a clear clerical or calculation error is proven. This order has been issued by the Department of Pension and Pensioners' Welfare under the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions. According to the new system, if any error is found in a pension or family pension more than two years after it has been sanctioned, it will be mandatory to obtain approval from the Department of Pension

and Pensioners' Welfare before making any deductions. The department further stated, 'This applies if such an error is found more than two years after the date the pension was fixed or revised.' This step is significant because previously, departments often reduced pensions or sent recovery notices citing erroneous calculations, even many years after retirement. This practice will now be stopped. What if excess pension is received due to an error? It has also been clarified that if a pensioner has received an overpayment due to an error, and it was not due to their fault or incorrect information, the concerned ministry will have to decide whether the amount should be recovered or waived.

## Train Accident: Parents of the Child Found Alive in the Wreckage Still Untraceable, Death Toll Rises to 11

Agency, Bilaspur



A horrific train accident occurred in Bilaspur, Chhattisgarh, on Tuesday evening. A passenger train (MEMU) traveling from Gevra Road to Bilaspur collided with a stationary goods train. The death toll in this accident has risen to 11, while 20 passengers were injured. The South East Central Railway has attributed the cause of the accident to a signal overshoot. The injured have been admitted to hospitals in Bilaspur, and rescue operations are underway. Amidst the screams and chaos in the wreckage, a young child's life was saved. The parents of this child, who was injured in the accident, have not yet been found. The railway administration has appealed that anyone who has any information about the child's parents or relatives should immediately contact the railway hospital or the Bilaspur railway control

## Plot to destabilize Punjab foiled, cache of weapons including 245 live cartridges recovered

**Chandigarh:** Acting on the directions of Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann, the Punjab Police has achieved a major success during its campaign to make Punjab safe and crime-free. Amritsar Rural Police recovered a large cache of weapons and ammunition from Gonwah village (on the banks of the Ravi River) near the Indo-Pak border. The recovered weapons include two AK series assault rifles, eight magazines, one .30 bore pistol, two magazines, 50 live cartridges of .30 bore and 245 live cartridges of 7.62 mm. DGP Punjab Gaurav Yadav informed on Tuesday that a major incident has been averted due to the swift and vigilant action of the Punjab Police. He said that this action was taken in view of recent inputs regarding increased Pakistan-sponsored terrorist activities and movement of gangster gangs in the border area. The DGP stated that this recovery is proof that the Punjab Police is keeping a close watch on arms smuggling from across the border.

## Cold Intensifies in Delhi-NCR, Temperatures Continue to Drop; Strong Winds Improve Conditions, AQI in Orange Zone

**Noida.** Delhi-NCR is witnessing a significant change in weather patterns this week. Both day and night temperatures have started falling rapidly, giving people the first clear feeling of winter in November. According to the India Meteorological Department (IMD) report, the minimum night temperature may drop to 14 degrees Celsius in the coming days, while the maximum temperature will remain around 27 degrees. A continuous drop in temperature is expected in the forecast from November 5 to November 10. The week started with a minimum temperature of 16 degrees and a maximum of 29 degrees, but the minimum temperature is expected to reach 14 degrees on November 9 and 10. There will be mild sunshine during the day, but the morning and evening chill will be more pronounced. The wind speed increased in Noida, Ghaziabad, Gurugram, and Delhi after Sunday night, which has also improved the air quality. The AQI, which had been continuously in the 'very poor' category for the past three days, has now reached the 'orange zone' or 'poor' category.

## Pakistan in Panic After Operation Sindoar, Monitoring Every Activity Closely

Agency, New Delhi



The neighboring country, a haven for terrorists, is constantly apprehensive about what kind of trouble India might unleash next. Since Operation Sindoar, Pakistan has been closely monitoring every Indian military activity. The Indian Army, Navy, and Air Force are conducting joint exercises, which has caused considerable unease in Pakistan, especially within the army. Islamabad is currently reeling from a two-pronged attack. On one hand, the Tehrik-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) is continuously carrying out attacks, while on the other hand, Baloch insurgents are inflicting constant blows. The Pakistani army and police are issuing a flurry of NOTAMs (Notice to Airmen). Intelligence and media analysts suggest that internal pressure and strategic vulnerability are behind this statement. Pakistan is facing challenges such as internal law and order issues, TTP activity, and attacks in Balochistan, making it necessary to project a message of national unity. The ISPR statement is considered a step in this direction. As a sign of security preparedness, Pakistan has issued a NOTAM closing large parts of its southern airspace, along with coastal areas, from November 1st to November 30th. According to analysts, this move may be related to potential sea-based live-fire or missile tests during the Trishul exercise. Pakistan is also facing widespread conflict on its border with Afghanistan.

## Kartik Purnima Witnesses Massive Devotional Gathering in Kolhan; Thousands Take Holy Dip at Swarnrekha, Kharkai, and Karo River Ghats

Correspondent

**Jamshedpur:** On the auspicious occasion of Kartik Purnima on Wednesday, Kolhan saw an extraordinary confluence of devotion and faith. From early morning, thousands of devotees thronged the ghats of rivers across East Singhbhum, West Singhbhum, and Seraikela-Kharsawan districts to perform sacred rituals. Before sunrise, pilgrims immersed themselves in the cool waters and worshiped Lord Vishnu, Lord Shiva, and Mother Ganga with utmost reverence. At the Domuhani Sangam in Jamshedpur, where the Swarnrekha and Kharkai rivers meet, devotees lined up from the Brahma Muhurta (early dawn hours) for a holy dip. Men, women, and children in traditional attire performed prayers, offered til, rice, fruits, clothes, and food, earning spiritual merit. It is believed that bathing in the sacred rivers on Kartik



Purnima absolves all sins and grants the blessings of a year-long holy bath. Similarly, at the Karo River ghat near Guwa Bazaar in West Singhbhum, devotees began gathering from 3 AM onwards. Women floated small lamps in banana leaves and paper boats, praying for the well-being of their families, society, and the nation. After bathing, devotees proceeded to the Shiv Temple at Kusum Ghat to offer milk, betel leaves, and Ganga water to Lord

Shiva. The temple resonated with chants of "Har Har Mahadev" and "Jai Shri Hari" throughout the day. According to Pandit R.K. Mishra, as per the Vishnu Purana, Lord Vishnu awakens from Yog Nidra in the month of Kartik, making bathing, prayers, and charitable deeds especially auspicious during this time, bringing peace, prosperity, and spiritual upliftment to devotees. Kartik Purnima, also known as Tripurari Purnima, commemorates the

victory of the gods over the demon Tripurasura, when Lord Shiva destroyed the demon, symbolizing the triumph of good over evil. This year, it was observed on 5th November 2025. For safety and smooth conduct, the administration made special arrangements at the river ghats. Police personnel and volunteers guided devotees, managed traffic, and ensured cleanliness. Several social organizations facilitated prasad distribution, drinking water, and first aid. As evening descended, the riverbanks were illuminated with the golden glow of floating lamps. Devotional chants and bhajans filled the air, creating a spiritually vibrant atmosphere. Kartik Purnima this year once again showcased the deep-rooted faith, spirituality, and cultural tradition of Kolhan, lighting up the region with divine devotion. Issued By: [Local Administration / Cultural Committee]

## XLRI Announces 'XSET 2026' for Fellow & Executive Fellow Programs in Management

Correspondent

**Jamshedpur:** In a significant move to nurture the next generation of management thinkers and leaders, XLRI – Xavier School of Management has announced the Xavier Scholar Entrance Test (XSET) 2026. This national-level examination will serve as the gateway for admission into Fellow Program in Management (FPM) and Executive Fellow Program in Management (EFPM). These programs aim to develop scholars who can become future policymakers, thought leaders, and influencers in academia, industry, and research institutions. For the past 75 years, XLRI has been renowned for its academic rigor and commitment to social responsibility. Its doctoral programs are designed not just for theoretical mastery but also



to foster practical leadership and innovative thinking. The FPM and EFPM programs offer specialization across nine domains: Economics, Finance, General Management, Human Resources, Information Systems, Marketing, Production & Operations, Organizational Behavior, and Strategy. Candidates will also benefit from international faculty exposure, research projects, seminars, and thesis guidance. Full-time scholars are provided financial support

and access to free residential facilities within XLRI's lush Jamshedpur campus. Dr. J. Ajit Kumar, Associate Dean of FPM & Research at XLRI, emphasized that the programs encourage interaction among scholars from diverse backgrounds, fostering knowledge exchange and development of new research paradigms. The XSET 2026 will be conducted on Sunday, 4th January 2026, in a computer-based format across 12 cities nationwide.

## Chhota Bakau Gram Sabha Highlights Local Issues; Villagers Demand Concrete Action from Administration



Correspondent

**Chhota Bakau:** In Chhota Bakau village of Pandavir Panchayat, Sadar Block, West Singhbhum, villagers raised their local issues and concerns during a Gram Sabha held on Wednesday. The meeting was presided over by Munda Budhay Singh Savai and Munda Jitru Savai, with Panchayat head Motai Boypai also in attendance. Residents highlighted several pressing issues, including the poor condition of the village

road, which makes commuting difficult. They expressed dissatisfaction over the incomplete bridge construction over a hill stream, stating that survey work was conducted but construction remains stalled, disrupting connectivity with surrounding areas. Mobile network problems were also discussed, as villagers reported that despite a tower being installed, connectivity remains poor, making communication during emergencies challenging. Additionally, due to the



absence of a selected Sahiya (health worker) for the past two months, pregnant women have been deprived of essential health services. While a health sub-center building has been constructed in Peta PT village, it has not yet become operational. Social worker Ramesh Balmuchi and advocate Mahendra Jamuda attended the meeting, listening to villagers' concerns. Advocate Jamuda assured that these issues would be raised with the Deputy Commissioner, and action

would be taken to operationalize the health sub-center, complete road and bridge construction, and restore mobile network connectivity. Other notable attendees included Pradhan Tamasoy, Govind Tibud, Harish Tamasoy, and Arjun Boypai, along with numerous villagers. The villagers expressed hope that the administration would address their issues promptly to remove obstacles hindering local development. Issued by: Local Authorities, Chhota Bakau, Chaibasa

## Suspicious Death of Married Woman in Shastrinagar, Husband Absconding, Police Investigation Underway

Correspondent

**Jamshedpur:** In Shastrinagar area under Kadma Police Station, a married woman allegedly committed suicide under suspicious circumstances on Tuesday afternoon. The deceased has been identified as Geeta Sona. At the time of the incident, only her two young children were at home, while her husband Sonu Singh was out for daily wage work. According to reports, when Sonu Singh returned home in the afternoon, he found Geeta hanging. He immediately informed her maternal relatives. After removing the body, Sonu Singh left the house stating he would call a tempo and has been missing since then. Her relatives stated that about seven years ago, Geeta had a romantic relationship with Sonu Singh, and the couple had moved to Delhi for marriage. They returned to Jamshedpur with their children around eight months ago. Geeta's mother, Krishna Bag, said that the couple had a dispute the previous night, which may have led to this tragic incident. The family suspects foul play and has demanded a thorough investigation into the husband's role. Kadma Police reached the spot after being informed and sent the body



for post-mortem examination. Police have confirmed that the investigation is ongoing to determine the exact reasons behind the suicide. The case is being investigated seriously in coordination with the family and local authorities. Issued by: Kadma Police Station, Jamshedpur

## Cleanliness Drive Conducted at Birsa Munda Shaheed Smarak; Preparations Begin for Birsa Munda Jayanti

Correspondent

**Chaibasa:** On Wednesday, a cleanliness drive was organized at the Birsa Munda Shaheed Smarak located at Geetipil College Mod Chowk in West Singhbhum district. The campaign was led by Sona Savaiya, President of the organizing committee. This initiative marks the beginning of preparations for the upcoming Birsa Munda Jayanti and Jharkhand Foundation Day on 15th November, which will feature social and cultural programs organized by Bonga Buru as in previous years. Speaking on the occasion, Sona Savaiya urged the residents of Kolhan to participate in large numbers in the events. He emphasized the importance of the younger generation drawing inspiration from Birsa Munda's ideals to raise their voice against injustice. Reacting to recent incidents, Savaiya expressed concern over



ongoing oppressive policies affecting several innocent families and highlighted the need for societal awareness and action. The cleanliness drive saw enthusiastic participation from community members, including Revayans Samad, Ajay Parti, Harish Chandra Samad, Chotu Gop, Adam Munduiya, Balakrishna Munduiya, Satya Munduiya, Birbal Savaiya, Aman Munda, Karan Savaiya, Gangasagar Sinki, Laxman Savaiya, Narayan Tamadia, and

## Body Found in Dimna Lake Identified as Son of Chaibasa Police Officer

Correspondent



identified the body as Hansh after viewing photographs. Following the completion of the post-mortem on Wednesday, the body was handed over to the family. Sources say Hansh was a religiously inclined young man and often expressed a desire to visit Vrindavan. The police are currently investigating the circumstances of his death. Issued by: Boram Police Station, East Singhbhum

## Blood Donation Camp Organized to Address Blood Shortage at Chaibasa Blood Bank

Correspondent

**Chaibasa:** In an effort to combat the shortage of blood at the district blood bank, the Jharkhand Pradesh Paan Tanti Swasi Kalyan Samiti organized a one-day blood donation camp today at the Sadar Hospital, Chaibasa. The camp was conducted under the leadership of the District President, Ismail Singh Das, and saw participation from over 15 enthusiastic young members who voluntarily donated blood to support patients in need. Health authorities have repeatedly appealed to social organizations and citizens to organize blood donation drives, considering the difficulties faced by patients due to the unavailability of blood. Responding to this need, the committee acted promptly to conduct the camp. Speaking on the occasion, Ismail Singh



Das said, "Our committee has been actively engaged in social service for several years. Upon receiving information from

the Health Department about the shortage of blood, we immediately decided to organize this camp. We will continue to hold regular blood donation drives so that no patient faces difficulty due to lack of blood." The State Working Committee President, Chandrashekhar Das, also attended the camp and appreciated the donors for their noble act. He said, "Blood donation is the greatest human duty, as it has no substitute. By donating blood, we can give hope and save lives." The successful execution of the camp was made possible by the active participation of the committee members and the hospital's medical staff. Participants also pledged to regularly donate blood and promote awareness about its importance within the community. Issued by: Jharkhand Pradesh Paan Tanti Swasi Kalyan Samiti, Chaibasa

## Prakash Utsav Celebrated with Devotion and Joy at Gurudwara Nanak Darbar, Chaibasa

Correspondent

**Chaibasa:** On the auspicious occasion of Kartik Purnima, the birth anniversary of the first Sikh Guru, Shri Guru Nanak Dev Ji, was celebrated with great devotion and enthusiasm at Gurudwara Nanak Darbar, Chaibasa. It is believed that Guru Nanak Dev Ji was born on Kartik Purnima in 1469, and his birthday is observed nationwide as Prakash Gurupurab. The Gurudwara premises witnessed a large gathering of devotees from early morning. Devotees paid their respects by bowing at the Guru's Darbar and participated in the Kirtan Darbar, listening to the teachings of Guru Nanak Dev Ji. Throughout the event, the air resonated with chants of "Wahe Guru Ji Ka Khalsa, Wahe Guru Ji Ki Fatch." As every year, the Langar was



organized on a grand scale, and thousands of devotees, regardless of community, caste, or economic background, sat together and partook in the meal. The occasion reflected the true spirit of equality and brotherhood. Gurmukh Singh Khokhar, President of Shri Guru Singh Sabha, Chaibasa, said, "Guru Nanak Dev Ji's life teaches humanity, love, and equality. Every year, we organize such events at the

Gurudwara. Devotees willingly come, bow before the Guru, and participate in Langar service. It is a symbol of unity and brotherhood, which represents the true teachings of our Guru." The Gurudwara remained lively throughout the day with continuous arrival of devotees. Kirtan, Ardas, and the Guru's teachings filled the atmosphere with devotion. The successful organization of the event was made possible by the dedicated efforts of the Gurudwara Management Committee and volunteers. On this auspicious occasion, devotees from various parts of Chaibasa resolved to embrace Guru Nanak Dev Ji's teachings — "Ek Onkar Satnam, Sab Mein Ek Jyot" — in their lives. Issued by: Gurudwara Nanak Darbar Management Committee, Chaibasa

## BRIEF NEWS

## Jharkhand Governor, Chief Minister, and Leader of the Opposition Extend Greetings on Guru Nanak Dev Ji's Prakash Parv and Kartik Purnima

Ranchi. Jharkhand Governor Santosh Kumar Gangwar, Chief Minister Hemant Soren, and Leader of the Opposition Babul Marandi extended heartfelt greetings and best wishes to all citizens of the state and nation on Tuesday on the occasion of Guru Nanak Dev Ji's Prakash Parv and Kartik Purnima. The Governor wrote on social media on Wednesday, "Heartiest greetings to everyone on the occasion of Shri Guru Nanak Dev Ji's Prakash Parv." He also extended greetings to all citizens of the country and Jharkhand on the auspicious occasion of Dev Deepawali and Kartik Purnima. Chief Minister Hemant Soren extended his heartfelt greetings to everyone on the auspicious occasion of Shri Guru Nanak Dev Ji's Prakash Parv, who preached the principles of service, truth, humanity, equality, and compassion. He also extended his heartfelt greetings and best wishes to everyone on the auspicious occasion of Kartik Purnima and Dev Deepawali. The Chief Minister wrote on social media that he wishes everyone a prosperous, healthy, and happy life. Babul Marandi, State President of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and Leader of the Opposition in the Legislative Assembly, extended warm greetings on the occasion of the birth anniversary of Sri Guru Nanak Dev Ji, the founder and first Guru of Sikhism. He also extended warm greetings and best wishes to all the countrymen and people of the state on the occasion of Dev Deepawali and Kartik Purnima.

## RSA Cricket Academy and Vivekananda Vidya Mandir registered victories

Ranchi. The Sarala Devi Birla Under-14 Cricket Tournament (2025-26), organized by the Ranchi District Cricket Association, was inaugurated on Wednesday at the Roundabout Ground in Dhurwa. Ranchi District Cricket Association Secretary Shailendra Kumar introduced the players and opened the tournament. In the matches played on the opening day, RSA Cricket Academy defeated Birsa Cricket Academy, while Vivekananda Vidya Mandir defeated Loyola Convent. The players were enthusiastic throughout the tournament. District Cricket Association Treasurer Soumitra Patnaik, Executive Members Chanchal Bhattacharya, Muzaffar Ali, Munna, Assistant Secretary Sunil Pal, Nandji Pandey, Muktesh Singh, and Himanshu, along with several other dignitaries, were present at the inaugural event.

## Guru Nanak Dev Ji gave the message of truth, compassion, service, equality, and harmony to the entire human society: Governor

Ranchi. Jharkhand Governor Santosh Kumar Gangwar visited Guru Nanak Higher Secondary School, PP Compound, Ranchi on Wednesday to pay obeisance on the occasion of Guru Nanak Dev Ji's birth anniversary. He participated in a kirtan program, listened to Gurbanji, met with devotees, and partook of prasad at a langar (a langar). On this occasion, the Governor said that Guru Nanak Dev Ji gave the entire human society the great message of truth, compassion, service, equality, and harmony. His teachings inspire us to follow the path of humanity and strengthen mutual love and brotherhood. He called upon the people of the state to incorporate Guru Nanak Dev Ji's teachings into their thoughts and behavior.

## XLRI announces Xavier Scholar Entrance Test

East Singhbhum. XLRI-Xavier School of Management has announced the Xavier Scholar Entrance Test, a national-level entrance exam for admission to the doctoral programs Fellow Program in Management (FPM) and Executive Fellow Program in Management (EFPM). The exam will be conducted on January 4, 2026, in computer-based mode in 12 cities across the country. The institute management stated that India has a sufficient number of managers, but now is the time for thought leaders who make decisions with research-based insights, challenge dogmas, and provide intellectual leadership in shaping policies, business models, and organizational direction. To further this objective, XLRI has designed its doctoral programs to be research-driven, enabling scholars to make significant contributions not only to academia but also to industry roles such as research, consulting, and corporate training.

## Unidentified youth's body identified

East Singhbhum. The body of an unidentified youth found on November 1st in Dimna Lake, located in the Bodam police station area of East Singhbhum district, has finally been identified. The deceased has been identified as 18-year-old Hans Kumar, a resident of Shanksai Road No. 5, near JP School, in the Ulidih police station area. Hans was a Plus Two student at Karim City College. His father, Mithilesh Sharma, works as a police officer at the Neemdihi police station in Chaibasa district. According to reports, Hans had been missing from home since the afternoon of October 30th. His family had been searching for him. On Tuesday, when they reached Dimna Lake while searching, local fishermen informed them about the body found in the lake. The family then went to the Bodam police station, where they identified the body as Hans's by looking at a photograph. After the postmortem was completed on Wednesday, the body was handed over to the family.

## A special diwan was held to mark the birth anniversary of Guru Nanak Dev Ji, and the Deputy Commissioner of Police (DC) and Superintendent of Police (SP) paid obeisance

AGENCIES

Ramgarh. A special diwan was held at Sri Guru Nanak Public School to commemorate the 557th birth anniversary of Guru Nanak Dev Ji, the founder of Sikhism. A kirtan gathering and prayer service were held from 10:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. The morning diwan was conducted by Bhai Sarabjit Singh and Lovepreet Singh. At the evening diwan at Gurudwara Sahib, Bhai Lovepreet Singh enthralled the devotees with a kirtan performance. Baba Bhai Gurjeet Singh, the head granthi of the Gurudwara, highlighted Sikh history in the kirtan darbar. Following this, langar was distributed, with many people participating and

## Gurudwara Nanak Darbar Celebrates Prakash Parv with Devotion and Joy

AGENCIES

West Singhbhum: On the auspicious occasion of Kartik Purnima, Gurudwara Nanak Darbar celebrated the Prakash Parv of the first Sikh Guru, Sri Guru Nanak Dev Ji, with great devotion and enthusiasm. It is believed that Guru Nanak Dev Ji was born on Kartik Purnima in 1469. His birthday is celebrated nationwide as Prakash Gurpurab. Crowds of devotees thronged the Gurudwara premises from early morning. Together, they bowed their heads in Guru Nanak Dev Ji's Darbar and participated in the Kirtan Darbar, listening to the Guru's teachings. During this time, chants of "Wahe Guru Ji Ka Khalsa, Wahe Guru Ji Ki Fateh" echoed throughout the premises. Like every year, this year too, the langar was organized in a grand manner. Thousands of devotees, regardless of their community, class, or economic status, sat together to partake of the langar. This sacred occasion presented a remarkable display of equality and brotherhood. Gurmukh Singh Khokhar, President of Shri Guru Singh Sabha, Chaibasa, stated



that Guru Nanak Dev Ji's life message is that Guru Nanak Dev Ji's life message is based on humanity, love, and equality. He added that similar events are held at the Gurudwara every year. Responding to our simple appeal, people voluntarily come, pay obeisance, and participate in the langar service. This symbolizes brotherhood and unity, and this is the true teaching of our Guru. Devotees continued to visit the Gurudwara premises from morning until late evening. Kirtan, Ardaas,

and the Guru's teachings maintained a devotional atmosphere. The members of the Gurudwara Management Committee and volunteers played a commendable role in the successful conduct of the event. On the occasion of Prakash Parv, devotees from various areas of Chaibasa pledged to embrace Guru Nanak Dev Ji's teachings: "Ek Omkar Satnam, Sab Mein Ek Jyoti" (One Omkar, One Light in All) in their lives.

## Hemant Soren government fails on all fronts, betrays people: AJSU

AGENCIES



Ranchi. The All Jharkhand Students' Union (AJSU) in Jharkhand has accused the Hemant Soren government of betraying the state's people and failing on all fronts. AJSU General Secretary Sanjay Mehta issued a press release on Wednesday, stating that the state government has lost the moral ground to seek votes due to its failures. He said that the government has completely failed on crucial issues such as jobs, employment, displacement, rehabilitation, education, law and order, and social justice. He said that the people of Jharkhand had elected this government with a huge majority and hoped that it would protect their interests, but the government has disappointed them at every step. The government has ignored major promises such as job creation, local policy, and reservation in the private sector. Furthermore, no concrete steps have been taken on issues such as teacher recruitment, prevention of migration, failure to stop paper leaks, and regularization of contract workers. Mehta asked why the government has remained silent on crucial issues such as implementing the PESA Act, recognizing the Sarna Code, and implementing OBC reservations. The government is not taking initiative on these aspects.

## The vision of building a strong society will only be realized by following the path shown by Guru Nanak Dev Ji: Chief Minister

AGENCIES



Ranchi. Jharkhand Chief Minister Hemant Soren, along with his MLA wife Kalpana Soren, attended the 556th "Prakash Utsav" organized on the occasion of Guru Nanak Jayanti at Guru Nanak School in PP Compound, Ranchi on Wednesday. On this occasion, the Chief Minister bowed before the Guru Granth Sahib and prayed for the happiness, prosperity, progress, and well-being of all the people of Jharkhand. Chief Minister Hemant Soren also extended his heartfelt greetings and best wishes to the entire Sikh community and the people of the state on the occasion of Guru Nanak Dev Ji's Prakash Parv and Kartik Purnima. The Chief Minister said that today is a very auspicious day. Guru Nanak Jayanti is an important day for the entire Sikh

community. On this day, people draw inspiration to follow the path shown by their first Guru. The Chief Minister said, "I myself come here for a short while every year on this day. I feel very happy to participate in the 'Prakash Utsav' organized on the occasion of Guru Nanak Jayanti. This event gives the message of community unity.

Guru Nanak Dev Ji's thoughts and sayings emphasize social unity." Chief Minister Soren said that Guru Nanak Dev Ji is a source of inspiration not only for the Sikh community but for the entire society. Only by following his visionary thinking, the path he showed, and his ideals can the vision of building a strong society be realized. He

## Jharkhand's minimum temperature reaches 13 degrees



AGENCIES

Ranchi. Cold and chilly temperatures are increasing in other districts of the state, including the capital Ranchi. The minimum temperature in Khunti district has dropped to 13.4 degrees. The mercury is expected to drop further in the coming days, the Meteorological Department announced on Wednesday. According to the department, fog will prevail in the mornings in many districts, including the capital Ranchi, in the coming days, followed by clear weather.

The department predicts that the minimum temperature will remain unchanged in the next 24 hours, with a rise of two to three degrees in the next two to three days. Temperatures may decrease by another two to three degrees later. On Wednesday, the weather in Ranchi and surrounding areas remained clear, with moderate winds blowing. The maximum temperature in Ranchi was 26.8 degrees, Jamshedpur 31.1, Daltonganj 31.6, Bokaro 27.1, and Chaibasa recorded a maximum temperature of 32 degrees Celsius.

## Public issues resonated in the Gram Sabha, demanding action from the administration

AGENCIES



West Singhbhum. At a Gram Sabha held on Wednesday in Chhota Bakau village of Pandaveer Panchayat in West Singhbhum Sadar block, villagers discussed various local issues and expressed their displeasure with the administration. The meeting was chaired by village headman Budhay Singh Sawaiya and headman Jitra Sawaiya. Panchayat headman Motaye Boypai was also present. Villagers reported that the road leading to the village is in a dilapidated condition, causing significant difficulties in commuting. They also expressed dissatisfaction with the construction of a bridge over a mountain stream that has been pending for years. Villagers stated that work has been halted after merely conducting a survey, while without a bridge, the village's connection to the outside world remains disrupted. They also expressed concern about mobile network issues. They reported that a tower has been installed in the village, but the lack of network makes it difficult to communicate in case of an emergency.

Furthermore, pregnant women have been deprived of health services due to the lack of a health sub-center for the past two months. Villagers reported that a health sub-center building has been constructed in the village, but it has not been operational to date. Social worker Ramesh Balmuchu and advocate Mahendra Jamuda, who were present at the meeting, listened carefully to the villagers' concerns. Mahendra Jamuda stated that he would raise all these issues with the Deputy Commissioner and demand immediate action. He assured that the villagers' voices would be conveyed to the administration to ensure the health sub-center is operational, the road and bridge construction work is completed, and network services are restored. A large number of villagers, including Pradhan Tamsoy, Govind Tubid, Harish Tamsoy, and Arjun Boypai, were present at the meeting.

## State-Level Football and Cricket Open Selection Process to be Held on November 6th and 12th

AGENCIES

the state can participate in this open selection process. Participants will be required to bring their birth certificate, final exam mark sheet, photocopy of Aadhaar card, school bonafide certificate, and Khelo Jharkhand eligibility form at the time of reporting.



Ranchi. Under the aegis of the Jharkhand Education Project Council, Ranchi, under the Department of School Education and Literacy, Government of Jharkhand, an open selection process will be held for state-level football (under-14 boys) and cricket (under-19 boys and girls). The state-level open selection process for football will be held on November 6th at the practice ground in

Khelgaon, Ranchi, starting at 7:00 AM. Similarly, the state-level open selection process for cricket will be held on November 12th at the South Railway Ground, Chutia, with reporting beginning at 7:00 AM on the same day. Students studying in all schools across

Players selected through this open selection process will represent the state of Jharkhand in the upcoming National School Games (ISSGF). The Council has appealed to all eligible players to appear on time and participate in this selection process.

## On Kartik Purnima, devotees took a holy dip in the Swarnarekha River and donated money

AGENCIES



Ranchi. On the occasion of Kartik Purnima, a flood of devotees thronged the banks of the Swarnarekha River and other lakes in Ranchi, the capital of Jharkhand. From early morning, women, men, and children arrived at the Swarnarekha River, bathed, and then offered prayers to Lord Bhaskar. On the auspicious occasion of Kartik Purnima, devotees began bathing and worshipping at the temple at 21 Mahadev Dham, on the banks of the Swarnarekha River, from 4 a.m. Many devotees were seen listening to the story of Lord Satyanarayan from pundits with their families, while a large number of devotees

bathed in the Swarnarekha River and donated money. Locals reported that a fair has been held on the banks of the Swarnarekha River for years. Devotees from various areas, including Kokar, Namkum, Chutia, Doranda, Jagarnathpur, Nagdi, Beddo, RAMPUR, BUNDU, Tamar, KHUNTI, SILLI, and ORMANJHI, have come to this fair. Pandit Manoj Pandey said that fests, festivals and bathing have special significance in Hinduism. On Kartik Purnima, people reach the Ganga Ghats

to attain virtue by bathing in the Ganga and the lake. On Kartik Purnima, donating lamps along with bathing has special significance. On the auspicious occasion of Kartik Purnima, a fair was organised around the river and the temple. There were many shops selling chaat, phuchka, sugarcane, children's toys and puja materials in the fair. The puja material shops were crowded with women and the chaat-phuchka shops were crowded with young men and women and children. During this, a police team was also seen deployed. People were seen worshipping since morning in all the temples including Sankat Mochan Temple, Kali Temple, Pahadi Temple located on the main road of the capital Ranchi.

# Key Delhi air monitor went dark in peak farm fire week

**NEW DELHI, Agency:** The government model that tracks pollution sources in Delhi went quiet for four days during the first week of November—historically, some of the period when smoke from agricultural burning contributes most heavily to the capital's toxic air—and was updated only after HT asked authorities about the missing data.

The Decision Support System (DSS), which estimates how much different sources contribute to Delhi's PM 2.5 levels, last provided data on Friday. When the system finally updated late on Tuesday evening, it revealed no stubble burning contribution data for November 1 and 2.

Past data shows stubble burning's contribution to Delhi's air has historically surged above 35% during the first week of November, reaching as high as 48% on a single day in 2021. This year's readings show just 4.06% on Monday and 1.74% on

Tuesday.

Last year on November 1, farm fires accounted for 35.1% of Delhi's PM 2.5 pollution. The contribution remained at 35% till November 3 in both 2023 and 2022, according to DSS records.

The Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology in Pune, which operates the model, and the Commission for Air Quality Management did not respond to queries on Tuesday about the data gap.

Harvesting and farm fires are likely delayed this year following widespread floods in Punjab, but burning has been rising in recent days. Punjab recorded 256 fires on Sunday while Haryana logged a season-high 23 fires the same day.

To be sure, the region appears to have mostly been spared of an air pollution crisis also due to more active weather conditions that usual.

"We have seen wind speeds remain high so far—the speed is enough for dispersion. At the same time, Diwali was earlier



than usual this year and farm fires are low, so we are not seeing the kind of emissions we usually see in early November," said Dipankar Saha, former head of CPCB's air laboratory. But he warned that if wind speeds drop again, it will eventually lead to accumulation of pollutants over time.

The DSS typically provides daily source contribution estimates along with a two-day forecast. It calculates pollution contributions from Delhi's own emissions and 19 neighbouring NCR towns, with stubble burning

percentages updated later based on actual fire counts.

The system showed Delhi's transport sector contributed 19.91% to Tuesday's PM 2.5 levels, followed by emissions from Jhajjar at 6.54% and Gautam Buddha Nagar at 6.15%.

The DSS blackout is part of a broader pattern of monitoring failures this year. On Diwali night, nine of Delhi's 39 air quality monitoring stations stopped recording data entirely during critical hours between 11 p.m. and 4 a.m. —

the second-highest number of such failures since 2021.

"Transparency is important when we talk about fighting pollution," said Sunil Dahiya, founder and lead analyst at environmental think tank Envirocatalysts.

Dahiya, however, pointed to other problems with the DSS. "With an outdated emissions inventory, it seems none of the agencies and bodies which should be using this data are utilising it, which explains the semi-frequent updates in between."

The model continues to run on an outdated 2021 emissions inventory, officials have acknowledged, raising doubts about forecast accuracy. The system was operationalised on October 5 ahead of the winter pollution season—the same inventory issue that prompted CAQM to halt it last year and request improvements from IITM.

During last winter, DSS data was available from the start of October till November

before going dark until December 9. CAQM said at the time it would not use the system for pollution-related decisions because the emissions inventory was too old, though the model would continue sharing information.

At least three major real-time source identification studies have been halted or rendered obsolete in the past four years. In 2021, the Delhi government stopped a study by Washington University before its data was made public, citing "unsatisfactory" results. The work was reassigned to IIT Kanpur the same year, but that two-year study ended in November 2023 with the government again dissatisfied with methodologies and results. No replacement system has been established.

"It is a model which ticks a lot of boxes, but eventually, is turning out to be a waste of funds, unless our data is running on a new emissions inventory and is updated regularly," Dahiya said.

## At UNESCO meet, India calls for ethical AI education access, heritage cooperation

**New Delhi, Agency:** India outlined its agenda on ethical artificial intelligence, digital education, and cultural heritage at the 43rd General Conference of UNESCO, where Ambassador Vishal V Sharma said the country's focus was on "education, ethics, and equity" as part of its Viksit Bharat vision for 2047.

The 43rd General Conference, being held in Uzbekistan from October 30 to November 13, is UNESCO's highest decision-making body, setting the agency's programmes and budget for 2026-2027.

Sharma, India's Permanent Delegate to UNESCO, said India is working with UNESCO on the Readiness Assessment Methodology (RAM) to map national preparedness for ethical and responsible AI, and pointed to a sequence of India-based consultations held with the ministry of electronics and information technology (MeitY) and IndiaAI Mission. The RAM initiative is designed to help countries assess strengths and gaps for deploying AI in line with UNESCO's



Recommendation on the Ethics of AI. He said India's National Quantum Mission and a \$29 billion AI sector "are expected to create over one million professionals by 2026", alongside a \$10 billion semiconductor mission aimed at building digital self-reliance.

Referring to India's education reforms, Sharma said the National Education Policy promotes online learning through platforms such as SWAYAM, DIKSHA, Bhashini, and PM eVidya, developed under the G20 and UNESCO frameworks.

## Six killed after being hit by train while crossing tracks in UP's Mirzapur



**New Delhi, Agency:** Six passengers were killed after being hit by a train while crossing the railway tracks at Chunar Junction in Uttar Pradesh's Mirzapur district on Wednesday morning, barely a day after another major train accident in Chhattisgarh claimed 11 lives.

According to officials, the victims had just alighted from the Gomti-Prayagraj Express around 9.15 am and were attempting to cross the tracks from the wrong

side when they were struck by the Kalka Mail passing through platform number three. Follow Mirzapur train accident live updatesThe identities of the deceased, said to be devotees, are yet to be confirmed. Eyewitnesses described the scene as horrific, with bodies mutilated in the impact. Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath took cognizance of the incident and expressed condolences to the families of the deceased.

## Paratrooper injured in gunfight between terrorists and security forces in J&K's Kishtwar



**NEW DELHI, Agency:** A paratrooper was injured and airlifted to a hospital in Jammu and Kashmir's Udhampur after a gun battle broke out between terrorists and security forces on Wednesday in the Kishtwar district.

Officials said that the encounter started after the Jammu and Kashmir Police, with help from the Indian Army, launched a joint operation in the Chhatri area based on intelligence about terrorists in the region.

The search operation began in the early morning, after which security forces came under fire, resulting in an exchange of gunfire.

The White Knight Corps posted on X, "In an intelligence-based operation, launched in coordination with the Jammu and Kashmir Police early this morning, alert troops of the White Knight Corps established contact with terrorists in the general area of Chhatri."

"The operation is in progress," the post added.

The security forces are closely monitoring terrorist movements

in the mountainous district, leading to several encounters along the border of Doda and Udhampur districts.

Notably, Kishtwar has witnessed six encounters over the past seven months as troops continue searching for Pakistan-based terrorists hiding in the hills.

On September 21, a group of terrorists clashed with forces in the Chhatri area. On September 13, two army personnel, including a junior commissioned officer, died and two others injured in an encounter in the Naidgram area of Chhatri.

Violent confrontations also happened in the Dul and Chhatri belts on August 11 and July 2, though the terrorists managed to escape.

On May 22, one soldier and two terrorists died during a clash in Chhatri. Further, on April 12, three terrorists were killed in Kishtwar, while the army prevented an infiltration attempt along the LoC in the Akhnoor sector.

## Woman, her partner get 180-year jail term for assault of minor girl in Kerala

**NEW DELHI, Agency:** A couple convicted for repeated sexual assault of a minor girl was sentenced with 180 years of imprisonment each by a Special Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) court in Kerala's Manjeri on Tuesday. The accused in the case was a woman, who reportedly had eloped with her lover and her 11-year-old daughter to Malappuram, where they resided in a rented cottage. There, with the aid and help of the mother, her lover sexually assaulted the little girl for two years, from 2019-2021. He not only raped her, but also forced her into oral sex," Somasundaram said.

The couple has also been fined with ₹11.75 lakh each and failure to pay the fine would lead to an added prison sentence of 20 years, according to an ANI news agency report.

the court has convicted both of the accused—180 years of rigorous imprisonment and ₹11.75 lakh," Special

Public Prosecutor Somasundaram told the news agency.

This case was registered by Malappuram Police against the mother and her lover. Originally living in Thiruvananthapuram, the mother eloped with her lover and her 11-year-old daughter to Malappuram, where they resided in a rented cottage. There, with the aid and help of the mother, her lover sexually assaulted the little girl for two years, from 2019-2021. He not only raped her, but also forced her into oral sex," Somasundaram said.

The verdict was given by Special POCSO Court Judge Ashraf AM under various sections of the Indian Penal Code (IPC), the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, and the Juvenile Justice Act (JJ



Act). The prosecution said the girl's stepfather intimidated her by claiming a hidden camera had been implanted in her head and that any attempt to reveal the abuse would be detected. She was also given alcohol before being assaulted.

According to the prosecution, the first accused, from Palakkad, repeatedly assaulted the child between 2019 and 2021 at rented houses in Anamangad and Vallikapattu.

The second accused, the

girl's mother from Thiruvananthapuram, is accused of aiding, abetting and encouraging the abuse.

The abuse began after the woman left her husband and started living with her partner in 2019. The two accused also committed sexual intercourse in the presence of the girl. They committed offences as per the POCSO Act, as well as the Juvenile Justice Act. The Court has now convicted both the accused to 180 years of rigorous imprisonment as well as ₹11.75 lakh as fine," the Prosecutor said. If the accused submits the amount before the Court, it will be given to the minor child...

They have been sent to 180 years of rigorous imprisonment, but they have to remain in jail for 40 years," Prosecutor added.

## Four militants killed, one arrested in Churachandpur gunfight

**Manipur, Agency:** In an early morning operation on Tuesday, security forces killed at least four insurgents of banned Kuki outfit United Kuki National Army (UKNA) killed and arrested one in Manipur's Churachandpur district.

An Assam Rifles spokesperson confirmed that the incident occurred at around 6 am while conducting an intelligence-based operation in Khanpi village, Churachandpur, Henglep subdivision which is approximately 80 km west of Churachandpur town. The 21 Para SF were also part of the operation.

Officials in security forces said that the militant group resorted to unprovoked firing on the security forces, and added that forces were searching adjoining areas for more insurgents.

In a statement, UKNA condemned the action of the security forces; some Kuki Zo civil society organisations also expressed condemnation of the incident.

The security officials cited above said the operation came in the week of recent incidents involving UKNA insurgents, including the killing of a village chief, intimidation of locals and attempts to disrupt peace and stability

in the region.

Successful neutralisation of these terrorists highlights the Indian Army and Assam Rifles commitment to protecting innocent civilians, mitigating all threats and ensuring peace and security in Manipur", the Assam Rifles spokesperson said in a press note.

Other security officials said that during the gunfight, at least three Assam Rifles personnel also sustained injuries.

The bodies of the insurgents have been moved to Churachandpur district hospital.



## Women's Cricket Team Achieves World Victory, But Equality with Men Still Lags Behind

The Indian women's cricket team has filled the entire country with pride by winning the World Cup. This historic achievement has proven to be a significant turning point not only on the playing field but also in the direction of social change. This victory has given Indian women players a new identity, increasing both expectations and responsibilities for them. Women's cricket has come a long way in the last two decades, but inequalities still persist in many areas compared to male cricketers. In the past, the situation of women cricketers was extremely difficult. Until the 1980s, players did not receive match fees. They traveled on concession tickets on trains, stayed in ordinary accommodations, and the quality of the kits they received was also very poor. At that time, women's cricket was run by the "Women's Cricket Association of India," but in 2006, it merged with the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI). After this, improvements in women's cricket began, and today it has established a strong identity at the international level.

In October 2022, the BCCI took a historic decision that women and men players would now be paid equal match fees. That is, both receive equal payment of 15 lakhs for Test matches, 6 lakhs for ODIs, and 3 lakhs for T20s. However, there is still a big difference in the annual contract amounts. Male cricketers receive 7 crores, 5 crores, 3 crores, and 1 crore annually in A+, A, B, and C grades respectively, while the three grades for women players, A, B, and C, are fixed at 50 lakhs, 30 lakhs, and 10 lakhs respectively. The same structure has been implemented in domestic cricket as well, but some differences are still seen in state associations. While male players' salaries in the IPL are in crores, the income of women cricketers in the Women's Premier League (WPL) is limited to 10 lakhs to 3.4 crores. This difference still reflects inequality in the economic aspect of the sport. In terms of facilities, male players also have an advantage. They regularly receive access to better nets, state-of-the-art training, rehabilitation centers, and expert physiotherapists. The number of support staff for women players is still limited. However, there has been improvement in recent years, with the women's team now receiving business class travel and accommodation in five-star hotels, which was previously limited only to the men's team. Male cricketers also have an advantage in terms of medical and recovery facilities. While women players receive equal facilities during major tournaments, this level is not consistently maintained. There is also an inequality in mental health support. Male players have permanent access to mental coaches and counselors, while this facility is still in its nascent stages for the women's team. In terms of brand value and sponsorships, male players continue to dominate. Male players have a significantly larger share in BCCI's media rights and individual endorsement deals. Women players have had limited opportunities so far, although this scenario may gradually change after the launch of the WPL and the World Cup win. Inequality in funding levels still persists. In 2023-24, the BCCI's total budget was approximately 12,000 crore, with less than 1 percent spent on the development of women's cricket. This disparity clearly indicates that women's cricket requires more institutional support. This victory of the Indian women's team is not just a success in one tournament, but a strong call for change. It has shown that with equal opportunities and resources, Indian women players are second to none in world cricket.

Pankaj Jagannath Jaiswal

Dattopant Thengadi was born on November 10, 1920, in Arvi village of Wardha district in Maharashtra. He completed his LLB from Nagpur Law College and his postgraduate studies from Morris College. In 1940, when M.S. Golwalkar Guriji was appointed the second Sarsanghchalak of the RSS, he encouraged young people to dedicate themselves to full-time service as RSS Pracharak to expand the organization's reach. Responding to this invitation, Thengadi ji became an RSS Pracharak in 1942 and remained so until his death at the age of 84 on October 14, 2004. He had no desire for official positions. It was for this reason that he declined the offer of the Padma Bhushan award from the NDA government. Thengadi ji was often called the "silent strategist." He was a visionary architect rather than an overly reactive speaker. He believed that strong institutions, discipline, and clear thinking were essential for long-term change.

Instead of controlling leadership, he worked in the background to nurture it. Those who knew him remember his humility, his unwavering faith in nationalist ideals, and his understanding of philosophy, economics, and history. His work demonstrates a unique blend of cultural connections and economic pragmatism. He was influenced by the global philosophy of Integral Humanism propagated by Dendayal Upadhyaya and India's civilizational ethos. **Global Economic Issues vs. Hindu Economic System** Globalization, which has exacerbated inequality

and human rights violations

globally, was a creation of the Western world. The rich are getting richer, and the poor are getting poorer. Most of the world's wealth is held by 1% of the people. According to the OXFAM report presented at the Davos Economic Forum, the wealth of the eight richest people in the world is equal to that of the poorest half of the world's population, i.e., 4 billion people. Furthermore, hunger claims the lives of 8 million people every year, while both curable and incurable diseases also claim a similar number of lives.

Dattopant Thengadi expressed serious concern about the possibility of developed nations exploiting smaller countries. He stated, "Some developed countries (or their ideological leaders) do not want to cooperate in efforts to maintain ecological balance, but rather spread their pollution in the backyard of developing countries." However, this approach will not prevent a global environmental catastrophe for very long, and Western nations will not be spared either. The calamity will ultimately destroy prosperity everywhere because there is only one world. Economic conditions serve as the base, but various superstructural elements—the political and legal forms of class struggles and their consequences, the constitution and legal forms—as well as the reflections of these real struggles in the minds of the participants—political-legal, philosophical theories, and their religious beliefs—all influence the development of historical struggles and, in many cases, determine their form.

In his book, *Global*

Economic System: The Hindu View, Thengadiji argued that "it is imperative to abandon the current version of Eurocentric history, which lacks a sense of proportion, and to initiate a new phase of historical inquiry, a new framework, new contexts, and a new scale of values that will facilitate globalization." Additionally, he emphasized that the Hindu concept of Dharma could provide the best framework for creating an economy that prioritizes the ideal of social well-being rather than the relentless, competitive pursuit of material wealth.

The principles outlined in Hindu religious texts such as the *Shastras* and *Smritis* serve as the foundation of Thengadi's Hindu economic system.

Contrary to the "wage-employment" promoted by Western economic ideology, he described the Hindu model of progress and development as having "self-employment" as one of its key features. Such a large number of people entering the workforce cannot be employed by the government. Unlike the "ever-growing army of the proletariat" characteristic of Western economic strategy, the aim is to establish an "ever-growing self-employment sector." The Hindu economic philosophy promotes "free competition in an unmanipulated market where nature is utilized, not exploited" and "moves towards equity and equality." It encourages "complete harmony between the individual, society, and nature." The Western approach, however, results in "continuous conflict between the individual, society, and nature" and "ever-increasing inequalities in society."

According to our traditions, society functions best when all parties fulfill their

responsibilities with a sense of mutual respect and shared accountability. The concept of "co-working" reflects this. Employees are not instruments of production in the economic process, but co-creators. The ancient Indian concepts of "respect for labor" and "public welfare" are consistent with the idea that employees should actively participate in management and profit-sharing.

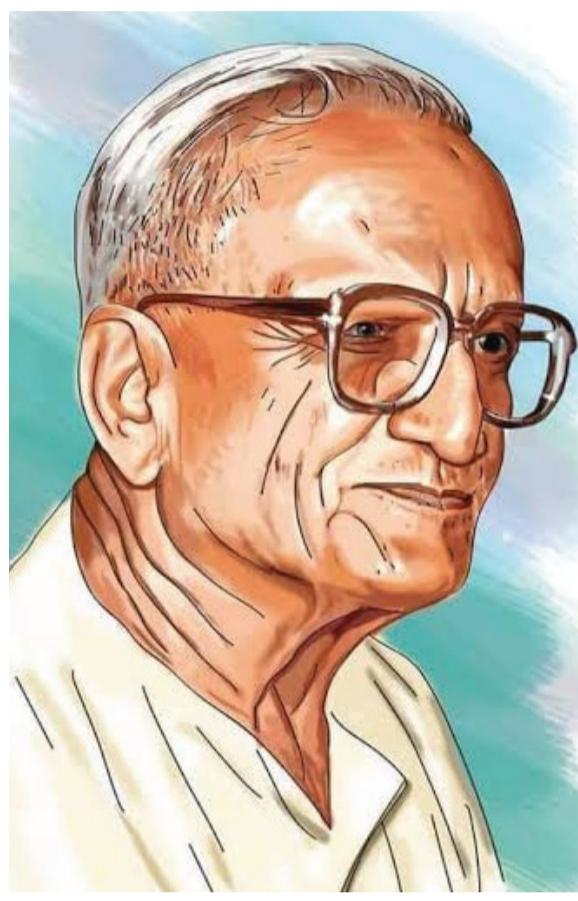
### Why Self-Reliance is Necessary

According to Thengadiji, the founder of Swadeshi economics, Swadeshi is about much more than just products and services. It is about the determination to achieve national self-reliance, maintain national independence and sovereignty, and engage in equitable international cooperation.

Swadeshi is the practical, external expression of patriotic sentiments. Separatist thinking is not the same as the feeling of nationalism. Patriots do not oppose globalization. As long as international cooperation is considered equitable, their argument for national self-reliance is not inconsistent with it. He said that unemployment should be tackled on a war footing.

One of his works, "The Third Way," laid the foundation of "Swadeshi" economics. The only alternative to replace capitalism and communism is an economy and society based on the principles of Dharma and the Hindu approach to life. In his ideal society and economy, self-employment, free competition, equality, and complete harmony between the individual, the community, and nature" and "ever-increasing inequalities in society."

Every culture has its own model. A development model imposed by foreign vested



interests or imported from another cultural context can be harmful.

Ivan Illich is the renowned author of "Towards a History of Needs."

His Mexican experience with the myth of development is described in "Medical Nemesis," "Tools for Conviviality and Deschooling Society." He analyzes the effects of development on the lives of the poor living in rural areas and slums, the erosion of traditional skills and means of livelihood, the decline of community self-reliance, dignity, and solidarity, the destruction of nature, displacement from traditional environments, unemployment, the destruction of nature, displacement from traditional self-sufficient communities into a cash economy, cultural rootlessness, and political corruption.

Although religion and Dharma are not the same, the world must recognize the power of Dharma, not religion, which is considered an opiate in communist analysis. Thengadi ji advanced Hindu economic thought by deeply studying the intellectual foundations of "Dharma," moving beyond the concepts of capitalism and communism. Thus, understanding the true philosophical significance of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's call for "Atmanirbhar Bharat" (Self-Reliant India) and combating this global crisis and its negative effects is only possible by understanding Thengadi ji's perspective.

## Nitish Kumar - Messiah of the Poor of Bihar

Sanjay Goswami

Today, very few people know about the next Chief Minister of Bihar, but according to my prediction, Nitish Kumar is most likely to become the next Chief Minister of Bihar, either with the support of the NDA or other parties. Because he knows what to do and when, and a large community in Bihar is supporting him, mostly women. Nitish Kumar is the longest-serving Chief Minister of Bihar, and this is also his ninth term. He is the leader of the Janata Dal (United). Earlier, Nitish had also served as a Union Minister as a member of the Samata Party. He was a member of the Samata Party until 2005 and of the Janata Dal from 1989 to 1994. Nitish first entered politics as a member of the Janata Dal and became an MLA in 1985. A socialist, Nitish, along with George Fernandes, founded the Samata Party in 1994. In 1996, he attempted a comeback

and was elected to the Lok Sabha and served as a Union Minister in Atal Bihari Vajpayee's government. His party joined the National Democratic Alliance. In 2003, his party merged with the Janata Dal (United), and Nitish became its leader. In 2005, the NDA secured a majority in the Bihar Assembly, and Nitish became Chief Minister, leading a coalition with the Bharatiya Janata Party. In the 2010 state elections, the ruling coalition achieved a landslide victory. In June 2013, after Narendra Modi was made the Prime Ministerial candidate, Nitish broke ties with the BJP and formed a Grand Alliance with the Rashtriya Janata Dal and the Indian National Congress and joined the United Progressive Alliance. After the party suffered a crushing defeat in the 2014 general elections, Nitish resigned as Chief Minister on May 17, 2014, and was replaced by Jitan Ram Manjhi. However, he attempted a comeback

as Chief Minister in February 2015, which led to a political crisis, and ultimately Manjhi had to resign, and Kumar became Chief Minister again. Later that year, the Grand Alliance won a landslide victory in the state elections. In 2017, facing corruption allegations, Nitish broke ties with the RJD and returned to the NDA, leading another coalition with the BJP; his government was re-elected by a narrow margin in the 2020 state elections. In August 2022, Nitish left the NDA and rejoined the Grand Alliance (Mahagathbandhan) and the UPA. In January 2024, Nitish once again left the Grand Alliance and rejoined the NDA. Nitish comes from the socialist school of politics. In his early years as a politician, he was associated with Ram Manohar Lohia, S. N. Sinha, Karpoori Thakur, and V. P. Singh. Nitish participated in Jayaprakash Narayan's movement between 1974 and 1977 and joined the Janata Party led by Satyendra

Narayan Sinha. Unlike Lalu Prasad Yadav, who is considered a populist, Nitish is considered a skilled communicator. Nitish contested and won his first state assembly election from Harnaut in 1985. In the early years, Nitish supported Lalu Prasad Yadav as the Leader of the Opposition in the Bihar Assembly in 1989, but later, after winning his first Lok Sabha seat from Barh in 1996, Nitish joined the BJP. The Janata Dal had previously survived a split when leaders like Nitish and George Fernandes defected to form the Samata Party in 1994, but it remained a rudderless party after Lalu Prasad's decision to form the Rashtriya Janata Dal in 1997. The second split occurred before Rabri Devi came to power, resulting in only two significant leaders remaining in the Janata Dal, namely Sharad Yadav and Ram Vilas Paswan. Paswan was considered an emerging leader of the Dalits and was credited with winning

elections by unprecedented margins. His popularity reached the national level when he was given the post of Railway Minister in the United Front government in 1996 and later made the Leader of the House in the Lok Sabha. Their influence was also seen in western Uttar Pradesh, when their followers organized an impressive rally at the call of a new organization called the Dalit Panthers. In the 1999 Lok Sabha elections, the Rashtriya Janata Dal suffered a crushing defeat at the hands of the BJP+JD(U) alliance. The new alliance was leading in 1999 out of 324 assembly constituencies, and it was widely believed that the Lalu-Rabri rule would come to an end in the upcoming Bihar assembly elections. The RJD contested the elections in alliance with the Congress, but this alliance did not work, and the Congress state leadership became convinced that Lalu Prasad's tarnished image after being implicated in the fodder scam

had diminished his support base. As a result, the Congress decided to contest the 2000 assembly elections alone.

The RJD had to be content with the Communist parties as alliance partners, but due to complications in seat-sharing within the National Democratic Alliance (NDA), Nitish Kumar separated his Samata Party from the Sharad Yadav and Ram Vilas Paswan factions of the Janata Dal. Differences also arose between the BJP and Nitish Kumar as Nitish Kumar wanted to project himself as the Chief Minister of Bihar, but Nitish Kumar... The RJD emerged as the largest party, and thanks to Lalu Yadav's political maneuvering, Rabri Devi was sworn in as Chief Minister again. The media largely failed to grasp the ground-level polarization in Bihar. Sharad Yadav was also a senior socialist leader, but he lacked a broad popular base. In the 1998 parliamentary elections, the Samata

Party and the Janata Dal, which were significantly weakened after the formation of the RJD, began to encroach on each other's vote banks. This led Nitish to merge the two parties, forming the Janata Dal (United). There is no doubt that the upper-caste media has always been anti-Lalu and either lacked knowledge of the ground-level polarization in Bihar or deliberately ignored it. If the election results were not a crushing blow for the RJD, it was mainly due to the bleak picture painted by the media. Against this backdrop, the RJD's defeat seemed like a victory. Even after serving a jail sentence in connection with the 1997 scam, Lalu seemed to relish his role as the lower-caste jester. He argued that the corruption charges against him and his family were a conspiracy by the upper-caste bureaucracy and media elite, who were fearful of the rise of the peasant farming castes.

## Who will take the reins of power in Bihar?

Kantilal Mandot

After defeats in every state, the Congress and the Grand Alliance should now accept that this is not the time for them to rule, either at the center or in the states. Given the rise of nationalism worldwide, this is the time for the Bharatiya Janata Party, which came to power riding on the chariot of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh, with Narendra Modi and Amit Shah as its charioteers. The age of this era of nationalism may be slightly shorter than that of globalism and liberalism, but it will not be less than 50 years. Because even Congress leader Rahul Gandhi has said from the stage that the BJP will not be out of power for 50 years. It will depend on whether its charioteers continue to lead the country towards development and greater heights in the same way they have been doing so far, and whether Modi and

the BJP continue to make the country inclusive and welfare-oriented. In such a situation, the Congress and the Grand Alliance now have two tasks. They must recognize their role and work towards it, and secondly, they must take some concrete decisions to make their remaining presence effective in the states. Because the Indira Gandhi they are talking about in the Bihar elections, Rahul Gandhi has probably not read her history. Because his ancestors did the same thing as Rahul Gandhi is doing now, trying to cover up their actions by talking about Hinduism and Hindutva. This politics of appeasement has brought Rahul and the Congress party down. The voters are no longer uneducated and illiterate. This Indian society, connected by mobile phones and the internet, is not easily misled. Rahul cannot deceive an educated society. Rahul Gandhi, who targeted Modi,

Donald Trump, Adani, and Ambani in the Bihar elections, seems unaware of what should and shouldn't be said regarding foreign policy. Because Indian foreign policy is currently at its best. External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar's policies have been appreciated by all countries in the world today. A lack of political and practical knowledge leads to difficulties in governing the country. Leaders who have taken India to great heights understand everything. Rahul, who talks about Nalanda University, should know that the Congress party is responsible for the state of this heritage site. The BJP has been in power for only ten years, but the Congress ruled for 60 years. The plight of the backward classes is the doing of the Congress. Now, the Mahagathbandhan (Grand Alliance) has gone to the Dalit, tribal, and Yadav communities for votes. It is the Mahagathbandhan that is

responsible for their miserable condition. Political parties in Bihar, after gauging the mood of the voters by releasing their manifestos, have now decided to align themselves with the development-oriented party. Bihar is no longer the Bihar where the public was forced to submit to Lalu's dominance. The arrest of Anant Singh has heated up politics in Bihar. Addressing a rally in Ara, Modi said that the people of Bihar have decided to form an NDA government again. The open display of money and muscle power is rampant in the Bihar Assembly elections. The assets of these strongmen are in the crores. They are contesting the elections. Discussions are underway to establish coordination between the leaders and the public who have arrived to campaign in Munger. Local issues are also dominant. In Bihar, Priyanka and Tejashwi were heard talking about crime. It doesn't suit these parties,

who have only given the people a legacy of violence, brutality, and misgovernance since the country's independence, to talk about this. The whole country knows about the anarchy under the Congress. Those who presided over a "jungle raj" are now accusing the Nitish government of the same. It's like the thief accusing the policeman. Women's safety is being reiterated, but the NDA's first priority has always been to ensure the safety of women and girls. This is a time of frustration for the grand alliance. Because the Congress party has been out of power for many years, it needs to shake off the lethargy that has settled into its bones and infuse itself with new energy and ideas. Nature has given it a time for transformation. The Nehru family has held a dominant position since before independence, and after independence, even the Congress members themselves could not

imagine their existence without that family. The Nehru-Gandhi family wants to maintain its grip on this country. The senior leaders of the Congress party lack the courage to stand on their own and lead the party forward. This is because the Congress is trying to regain its lost political ground. But the way the country was treated under the guise of secularism is now nothing short of an intrusion for the educated society. Congress leaders brought the royal family into politics, and today they are feeling the sting of that same prince's political immaturity. Rahul Gandhi's erratic statements are the reason why Congress is being marginalized. Rahul asks, "I am making so many accusations, but why doesn't Modi respond to my allegations?" Rahul and the Congress party need to understand this. Because without responding, the decline of Congress is increasing day by day. Instead of fighting on the issues that Congress should be addressing, they are directly attacking Modi. This is not good for Congress. This is a crucial time for the grand alliance. Modi has taken many decisions at the economic and social levels, and he is moving forward. Modi and the BJP have one dream: for India to become a global superpower, but the grand alliance lacks a vision for making the country prosperous. Successfully maintaining power for a third term is impossible without political and diplomatic understanding. India's foreign policy has reached a significant level globally. Meanwhile, Congress is making unsuccessful attempts to gain popularity by criticizing democracy and Modi abroad. Can leaders who target Modi and the Constitution truly strive to maintain the unity and integrity of India? Today, Congress is feeling the lack of leaders with a strong public base. Perhaps Rahul Gandhi shows no interest in active politics. If he did, instead of making false accusations against Modi and hurting the sentiments of millions of people, he would be engaging in issue-based politics. Rahul needs to understand his responsibility. The Congress party lacks leaders with foresight, the ability to make quick decisions, courage, and the capacity to connect with people. In the history of Indian politics, Modi is the most powerful leader to date, one whom even seasoned political strategists cannot defeat. There is no shortage of people who consider Modi godlike. Even Goa, which Congress leader Digvijay Singh (Diggy) had won, was snatched away by the BJP. Many senior Congress leaders are either in the BJP today or have become political recluses. Congress policies today lack any support.

# Exterro Joins AWS ISV Accelerate Program

**Coimbatore, Agency:** Exterro, the leading provider of data risk management software, today announced that it has joined the Amazon Web Services (AWS) Independent Software Vendor (ISV) Accelerate Program, a co-sell program for AWS Partners that provides software solutions that run on or integrate with AWS. The program helps AWS Partners drive new business by directly connecting participating ISVs with the AWS Sales organization.

Exterro's Data Risk Management platform empowers organizations to identify, understand, and manage their data wherever it resides--helping legal, priva-

cy, compliance, and digital forensics teams reduce risk, accelerate investigations, and ensure regulatory compliance. With its availability as part of the AWS ISV Accelerate Program, enterprise customers now have easier access to the Exterro platform to help transform workflows such as:

- Legal hold management
- Document review
- Internal investigations
- Data mapping and categorization

- Incident response

The Exterro solution enables enterprises to orchestrate and automate workflows by leveraging responsible AI and its Exterro Intelligence to accelerate



insights and achieve measurable savings in both time and cost.

"By joining the AWS ISV Accelerate Program, we're expanding customers' access to our AI-powered, enterprise-scale data risk management platform, which includes our eDiscovery and document review to data privacy, security, governance

and digital forensics solutions," said Bruce Holbert, Senior Director, Channel Sales at Exterro. "Working with AWS aligns with our commitment to build strategic collaborations that make it easier for customers to manage and secure their data wherever it resides."

The AWS ISV Accelerate Program provides Exterro

with co-sell support and benefits to meet customer needs through collaboration with AWS field sellers globally. Co-selling provides better customer outcomes and assures mutual commitment from AWS and its partners.

AWS ISV Accelerate Program members are held to the industry's highest standards and must undergo a comprehensive evaluation to gain acceptance into the program. Exterro participated in a thorough architectural and security review to ensure the quality and design of its solutions. Proof of customer excellence was also reviewed to validate the successes Exterro customers have achieved across industry ver-

ticals.

## About Exterro

Exterro empowers organizations to manage data risks with a complete platform for e-discovery, data privacy, cybersecurity and governance, and digital forensics. Unlike any other software provider, Exterro makes it easy for organizations to understand their data and take swift action. Exterro's AI-driven solutions provide accurate, actionable insights, enabling businesses to ensure compliance, reduce risks, and streamline operations while lowering costs. With Exterro, organizations gain the clarity and confidence needed to address their most critical data challenges.

## WizzFinancial's Unimoni Signs Strategic Partnership with Sahaj Retail Limited

**Kolkata, Agency:** November 5: Wizz Financial, a premier global fintech platform specializing in cross-border payments, digital wallets, and inclusive financial solutions, is thrilled to announce a landmark strategic partnership between Unimoni India, fully owned subsidiary of WizzFinancial with Sahaj Retail Limited - one of India's largest and fastest-growing phygital rural retail networks.

This alliance will leverage Sahaj's extensive rural network - targeting over 350 thousand centres set to expand to 600 thousand across India--and



the innovative capabilities of Wizz Voyager, Wizz UPI, and Wizz Wallet to bring affordable, accessible digital financial services directly to India's underserved communities.

Through this partnership, WizzFinancial and

Sahaj will jointly facilitate and distribute a suite of financial products, including cross-border remittances, micro-lending, digital wallets, and UPI-enabled payments, creating new opportunities for economic inclusion and empowerment.

By combining Sahaj's village-level entrepreneurship model with Wizz's corridor expertise in India, GCC, and the USA, both organizations will unlock prosperity for millions of individuals and businesses bridging these key global markets.

This collaboration positions WizzFinancial in India at the forefront of digital transformation and financial inclusion, aligning with India's vision of digital empowerment while extending best-in-class fintech solutions to the GCC and USA to the world's fastest-growing digital finance market.

## Sparkle Clean Tech and Aquadei Launch Global Alliance to Transform Oil and Gas Water Treatment with Next-Gen Nanobubble Technology

**Mumbai, Agency:** Sparkle Clean Tech (SCT) (exclusive global licensee of Siemens Energy's oil & gas water-treatment IP) and Aquadei, LLC have formed a strategic alliance to deploy Aquadei's proprietary nanobubble and hydrodynamic cavitation technologies to oil & gas operations globally. This partnership is set to drive advanced water treatment methods, delivering measurable operational, economic and environmental benefits across the industry.

### Nanobubble Technology in Oil & Gas: Performance Advantages

Nanobubbles (gas particles smaller than 200 nanometers) feature extraordinary physical surface and interfacial properties that enhance how oil and solids interact in water. When paired with SCT's separation technolo-



gies, these ultrafine bubbles enable more efficient separation, lower chemical consumption, and greater process stability.

Unlike traditional flotation systems that rely on buoyancy alone, SCT and Aquadei's approach leverages hybrid nanobubble + microbubble flotation -- a design proven to improve attachment between bubbles and oil droplets.

## Firstsource Strengthens UnBPO™ Vision with Strategic Investment in Lyzr.ai



**Mumbai, Agency:** Firstsource Solutions Limited (NSE: FSL) (BSE: 532809), a leading global provider of business process management services and an RP-Sanjiv Goenka Group company, today announced a strategic investment in Lyzr.ai, a cutting-edge enterprise AI agent infrastructure platform that enables organizations to build secure, reliable, and interconnected AI agents anchored by comprehensive knowledge bases, orchestration, and robust responsible AI governance.

This investment marks a significant milestone in advancing Firstsource's UnBPO™ vision - a bold reimagination of how work gets done by seamlessly blending human ingenuity with enterprise-grade.

responsible AI. UnBPO™ embodies a transformative shift from traditional outsourcing and labor arbitrage toward technology arbitrage that enables organizations to become more adaptive, intelligent, and purpose driven.

Dr. Sanjiv Goenka, Chairman of RPG Group and Firstsource, said, "Our partnership with Lyzr.ai is deeply aligned with Firstsource's UnBPO™ approach,

accelerating the creation of future-ready organizations through secure, scalable AI agents designed for complex, regulated environments. As AI moves decisively from experimentation into production, success will belong to those who marry technological depth with responsible governance and clear business outcomes. Lyzr.ai exemplifies this balance -- pioneering intelligent automation that amplifies human capability while upholding enterprise readiness and trust."

Siva Surendira, CEO of Lyzr.ai shared, "Firstsource has long been a pioneer in automating complex processes for the world's most regulated industries. Their deep expertise in banking and healthcare directly reflects why we built Lyzr: to provide a 100% private, full-stack agent infrastructure that enterprises can trust with their most critical data.

This strategic partnership is a massive accelerator for our shared vision. Together, we will empower Fortune 500s to securely move AI from experimentation to production, reinventing their operations and building their central OGI - Organizational General Intelligence.

## Harshdeep Hortico Limited Reports Strong H1 FY26 Financial Results with Net Profit of INR 5.7 crore

**Mumbai, Agency:** Harsheep Hortico Limited (BSE: HARSHDEEP), specialising in the manufacture and export of pots, planters, garden accessories, and outdoor furniture, announced its Unaudited financials for H1 FY26.

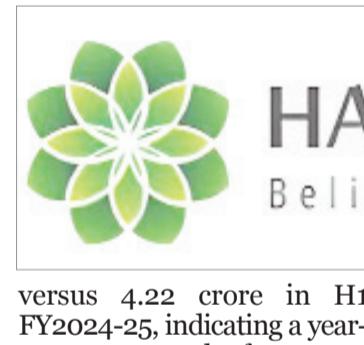
### Key H1 FY25 Financial Highlights

#### Key Financial Highlights (Consolidated) - H1 FY2025-26

Revenue for H1 FY2025-26 was 26 crore, compared to 24.90 crore in H1 FY2024-25, reflecting a year-over-year growth of 31.

Profit Before Tax (PBT) for H1 FY2025-26 stood at 6.88 crore, up from 5.10 crore in H1 FY2024-25, marking a year-over-year increase of 34.91.

Profit After Tax (PAT) for H1 FY2025-26 was 5.70 crore



**HARSHDEEP**  
Believe in Quality

versus 4.22 crore in H1 FY2024-25, indicating a year-over-year growth of 34.94.

Harshdeep Hortico Limited demonstrated strong performance in H1 FY26, reflecting the company's resilience, operational excellence, and strategic focus within the horticulture and outdoor lifestyle sector. Commenting on the results, Mr. Harshit Shah, Director, stated that the company's growth in net profit and prestigious contracts--such as those with Mumbai and Mangalore airports--under-

scores Harshdeep's market strength. To support its long-term growth ambitions, the company expanded its manufacturing capabilities with the installation of new rotational and injection moulding machines, increasing total production capacity to 1,440 tonnes per year. This strategic investment is expected to enhance productivity, product quality, and operational efficiency while reinforcing the company's commitment to sustainability and innovation.

Harshdeep also continued

to strengthen its retail and distribution footprint with a new flagship store in Ahmedabad and dealer showrooms.

across Patna, Kolhapur, Hisar, NCR Delhi, Kochi, and Jaipur. The company's Agri Shield division, launched last year, has emerged as a key growth driver with its premium range of Agro shade nets. In response to growing demand, Harshdeep invested in advanced automated machinery, adding 200 tons of annual production capacity dedicated to Agri Shield. With over 500 unique designs and 2,200 SKUs, Harshdeep Hortico remains focused on delivering sustainable, high-quality products that blend design excellence with durability, positioning the company for continued growth and value creation.

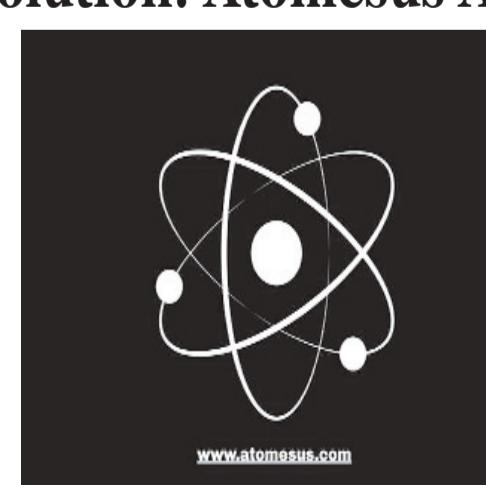
## India's Own AI Revolution: Atomesus AI Set to Launch Soon

**New Delhi, Agency:** In a historic step for India's growing artificial-intelligence ecosystem, Atomesus AI, developed under the leadership of Indus Valley Group, is gearing up for its official launch. The initiative, led by a group of passionate college innovators with research exposure to ISRO-linked projects, aims to make artificial intelligence accessible, affordable, and proudly Indian.

### Pioneering Indian Innovation

Atomesus AI blends youthful creativity with deep technical expertise. The team has created a hybrid AI system that merges the precision of machine learning with the adaptability of contextual reasoning -- a breakthrough designed to elevate user experience while preserving efficiency and scalability.

Unlike conventional startups that rely entirely on external technologies, Atomesus AI has built a proprietary integration layer combining in-house



development with select global AI systems. This approach ensures enhanced performance, privacy protection, and a uniquely optimized platform for Indian and international users alike. Mission: The World's Most Affordable AI Atomesus AI's mission is clear -- to become the world's most affordable AI platform for everyone.

From students and creators to small businesses and enterprises, the platform democratizes access to powerful AI tools once reserved for major corporations.

Its guiding motto, "AI for everyone, from India to the world," reflects a commitment to inclusion, affordability, and global accessibility.

### A Vision of National Self-Reliance

The founders of Atomesus AI envision an India that leads in the field of artificial intelligence. Their roadmap includes launching a fully indigenous AI model, trained and deployed entirely in India using localized data to ensure data sovereignty and technological autonomy.

As part of Indus Valley Group -- a forward-looking conglomerate engaged in AI, space technology, Web3, and citizen-security -- Atomesus AI stands as a testament to India's drive toward self-reliance in advanced technologies.

# The fourth T20I between India and Australia will be played today

» The match will begin at 1:45 PM

AGENCY

**Gold Coast.** The fourth T20I between India and Australia will be played here on Thursday. The two teams are currently tied 1-1 in the series. This match will be crucial for both teams, with the winner gaining a lead in the series. The first match of the series was abandoned due to rain, while the hosts Australia won the second. India won the third match. All eyes will be on opener Shubman Gill in this match. Shubman has yet to score a significant innings in this series. The Indian team appears to have the upper hand in this match, as several Australian players are out preparing for the Ashes.

The absence of Josh Hazlewood in the previous



match weakened the hosts' bowling. Opener Travis Head will also be absent in this match. He is playing in the Sheffield Shield in preparation for the Ashes. With several key players missing from the Australian team, India has the best opportunity to win this match and gain the upper hand in the series. A concern for the Indian team is Shubman's form. He hasn't scored a single

half-century in six matches during the current tour of Australia. He also failed in the ODI series. He failed to score runs in both matches of the T20 series. Shubman is having trouble with full-length deliveries that show movement. The worrying thing is that Shubman hasn't yet shown his usual form. The positive aspect for the Indian team is that opener Abhishek

Sharma is in good form. The team will expect another aggressive innings from him. Shubman will need to score runs to regain his momentum, considering he will play South Africa after this series. Captain Suryakumar Yadav had good starts in the first and third matches, and he will now look to convert them into big scores. The inclusion of left-arm fast bowler Arshdeep Singh will improve the Indian team's bowling. The presence of spin all-rounder Washington Sundar will strengthen the Indian batting lower down the order. Washington scored an unbeaten 49 off 23 balls in the previous match. On the other hand, the hosts' batting will rely on captain Mitchell Marsh and Tim David. In Head's absence, Matthew Short could open the innings with Marsh. Australia will need to make changes to their bowling department, as Sean Abbott hasn't performed as expected. Either Ben Dwarshuis or Mahli Beardman could be included.

**The squad is as follows:**

**India:** Suryakumar Yadav (captain), Abhishek Sharma, Shubman Gill (vice-captain), Tilak Verma, Nitish Kumar Reddy, Shivam Dubey, Axar Patel, Jitesh Sharma (wicketkeeper), Varun Chakravarthy, Jasprit Bumrah, Arshdeep Singh, Harshit Rana, Sanju Samson (wicketkeeper), Rinku Singh, Washington Sundar.

**Australia:** Mitchell Marsh (captain), Matthew Short, Josh Inglis (wicketkeeper), Josh Philippe (wicketkeeper), Mitchell Owen, Glenn Maxwell, Matt Kuhnemann, Adam Zampa, Mahli Beardman, Ben Dwarshuis, Xavier Bartlett, Nathan Ellis, Marcus Stoinis.

## Virat Kohli turns 36, receives congratulations from fans

AGENCY

**New Delhi:** Indian cricket team's legendary cricketer Virat Kohli turned 36 today. Fans and fellow players showered him with congratulations on his birthday. Virat now plays only ODI cricket, having already retired from Tests and T20s. Even at 36, he remains fit and aspires to play in the 2027 ODI World Cup. Even today, despite playing only one format, he remains one of the best cricketers in the world. Virat is not called the best batsman of the current generation for nothing. He has played many big innings in his career. In the 2012 tri-series between Sri Lanka and Australia, Sri Lanka, batting first, scored 320 runs. The Indian team was trailing in the series and needed to win at all costs to gain bonus points. The target of 321 runs had to be achieved in 40 overs, which was a very difficult task. However, Virat, along with



Gautam Gambhir and then Suresh Raina, batted so well that the Indian team scored 321 runs in just 36.4 overs, winning the match and earning bonus points. In this match, Virat scored 133 runs in 86 balls with the help of 16 fours and 2 sixes at a strike rate of 154.65. This innings of Virat's was one of the most memorable innings of his career. In the Asia Cup 2012, Virat led the Indian team to victory by playing a brilliant inning of 183 runs against Pakistan. In this match, Pakistan had scored 329

runs while batting first, but in response, Virat's brilliant batting helped the Indian team win by 7 wickets. This is Virat's highest score in ODIs so far. Virat played a brilliant inning for the Indian team in the Adelaide Test on the tour of Australia. Batting first in this match, Virat Kohli scored 517 runs. In response, the Indian team could only manage 444 runs, giving Australia a 73-run lead. Australia scored 290 runs in their second innings and, after declaring, set India a target of 364 runs in the fourth

innings on the difficult Adelaide pitch. Virat Kohli then played a brilliant innings alongside Murali Vijay. Murali was dismissed for 99, while Virat scored 145 runs off 175 balls. However, after the two were dismissed, the Indian team was all out for 315 runs. Thus, Australia won the match by 48 runs. Who can forget Virat Kohli's 149-run innings in the Birmingham Test during the 2018 England tour? Virat Kohli's century on a difficult pitch helped India win by 31 runs. This century was also significant for Virat because he had previously failed miserably in England. He stunned everyone with his 149 in Birmingham. Virat Kohli's 82-run innings against Pakistan in the ICC T20 World Cup 2022 played a crucial role. Chasing a target of 160 against Pakistan, Team India lost four wickets for 31 runs. Virat Kohli hit a massive six off Haris Rauf to give India the victory.

## BRIEF

World Cup win boosts brand value for women cricketers including Mandhana and Jemima

**New Delhi:** Following the Indian women's cricket team's World Cup victory, the players' popularity and brand value have risen rapidly. Consequently, their earnings will now increase exponentially. Jemima Rodrigues played an unbeaten 127-run innings in the semi-final against Australia. According to reports, Jemima's endorsement fee has now increased from 7.5 million to 1.5 crore. Following the match against Australia, she began receiving contract offers from 10 to 12 brands across various categories. Mandhana is already the biggest brand ambassador in women's cricket. She currently represents 16 major brands, including Hindustan Unilever, Nike, Hyundai, Herbelife, SBI, Gulf Oil, and PAB MetLife. Following the World Cup win, their fees have also risen to 1.5 to 2 crore per brand. Experts believe this World Cup victory will completely transform Indian women's cricket.

**Coach Trott and Batting Coach Puttick Will Remain with the Afghanistan Team Until the World Cup**

**Kabul:** Afghanistan cricket team head coach Jonathan Trott and batting coach Andrew Puttick will remain with the team until the 2026 T20 World Cup. Neither is interested in extending their tenure after the World Cup. Trott became coach in July 2022. He has transformed the team in these three years, making it a better team in the limited-overs format, T20. The Afghanistan Cricket Board (ACB) stated that coaching changes are essential for any team's development.

## WTA Finals: Gauff defeats Paolini, knocks her out of the tournament

AGENCY

**Riyadh:** Defending champion Coco Gauff of the United States produced a dominant performance on Tuesday, defeating Jasmine Paolini of Italy 6-3, 6-2 to record her first WTA Finals win and also send Paolini packing. The 21-year-old American player Gauff committed 17 double faults in her previous match against compatriot Jessica Pegula, but this time she committed only three and dominated the entire match. Gauff said after the match, "I knew this win was essential to stay in the tournament. If I had lost, I would have been eliminated." In the first set, Gauff took a 3-0 lead in just 10 minutes. Paolini struggled for nine minutes to win the next game, saving three break points. However, Gauff then played a



brilliant return to take a 5-3 lead and win the first set. Gauff's strategy proved effective in the second set as well, as she constantly chased Paolini from one end of the court to the other.

As a result, Gauff broke twice in a row to take a 5-2 lead and won the match with a strong serve. Gauff said, "I felt I served smart today. Although I don't think Jasmine was 100% fit."

## Team India is testing different combinations ahead of the T20 World Cup- Morne Morkel

AGENCY

**Hobart:** Indian fast bowler Arshdeep Singh bowled brilliantly in the third T20 International against Australia on Sunday, taking three wickets and earning the Player of the Match award. However, Arshdeep has only had the opportunity to play three T20 Internationals since the five-match T20 series against England. Team India's bowling coach Morne Morkel said in a press conference before the fourth T20I against Australia that Arshdeep fully understands that the team management is experimenting with different combinations ahead of the T20 World Cup (which is now less than 100 days away). Morkel said, "Arshdeep is experienced and understands that we are trying different combinations with the World Cup in mind. He knows he is a world-class bowler. He has taken the most wickets for us in the powerplay, so we know how valuable he is to the team. He said, "There will be disappointment regarding selection, but everything is not always in a player's control. Our message



options as well, and he understands that." Regarding team selection, Morkel said that choosing from such a large player pool is not easy, and some players may face disappointment. Morkel said the team is working on various options to be prepared for any situation before the World Cup. He said, "There will be disappointment regarding selection, but everything is not always in a player's control. Our message

is to work hard and when the opportunity arises, come fully prepared. There are limited matches left before the World Cup, so it is important to see how the players react under pressure." He said, "Every team is currently working on its combination. We know certain combinations, but flexibility is essential in T20 cricket. You want to know which player can perform better in which role. In a tournament like the World Cup, no possibility should be left unexplored." Morkel also provided an update on Nitish Kumar Reddy's fitness. Reddy was ruled out of the first three T20 matches due to a neck strain and quadriceps injury. He said, "Nitish completed all the necessary drills today, including fielding, batting, and bowling. Now, after an examination by his medical team, it will be known whether he is fit for the next match or not." The T20 series between India and Australia is now in its decisive phase, and the team management is seriously strategizing about its final combination before the World Cup.

## David's son Anvay will be in focus in the Under-19 One Day Challenger Trophy

AGENCY

**New Delhi :** Anvay, son of former Indian cricket captain and coach Rahul Dravid, will be playing in the men's Under-19 One Day Challenger Trophy, which is being held in Hyderabad. Wicketkeeper-batsman Anvay has been included in Team C for the tournament. All eyes will be on Anvay's performance. This tournament provides an opportunity for young cricketers to showcase their talent. The first match of the tournament will be played on Friday between Team C, led by Aaron George, and Team B, captained by Vedant Trivedi.

**The teams participating in the tournament are as follows:**

**Team A:** Vihann Malhotra (Captain), Abhigyan Kundu (Vice-Captain and Wicketkeeper), Mitchell Owen, Glenn Maxwell, Matt Kuhnemann, Adam Zampa, Mahli Beardman, Ben Dwarshuis, Xavier Bartlett, Nathan Ellis, Marcus Stoinis.

**Team B:** Vedant Trivedi (Captain), Harvansh Singh (Vice-Captain and Wicketkeeper), Wafiq Kutchi, Sagar Virk, Sayan Paul, Vedant Singh Chauhan, Pranav Pant, Ahit Salaria (Wicketkeeper), BK Kishore, Anmoljot Singh, Naman Pushpak, D Deepesh, Vansh Acharya, Mohammad Yasin Saudagar, Vaibhav Sharma.

**Team C:** Aaron George (captain), Aryan Yadav (vice-captain), Satvik Deswal, V Yashveer, Ankit Chatterjee, Hemchudesan J, RS Ambareesh, Manikant Shivanand, Rahul



Kumar, Yash Kaswankar, Anvay Dravid (wicketkeeper), Yuvraj Gohil (wicketkeeper), Khilan A Patel, Kanishk Chauhan, Ayush Shukla, Henil Patel, Laxman Pruthi, Rohit Kumar Das, Mohit Ulva.

**Team D:** Chandrasah Dash (captain), Moulyaraisingh Chavda (vice-captain), Shantanu Singh, Arnav Bugga, Abhinav Kannan, Kushagra Ojha, Aryan Sakpal (wicketkeeper), A Rapole (wicketkeeper), Vikalp Tiwari, Mohammad Anan, Ayan Akram, Udhav Mohan, Ashutosh Mahida, M Toshith Yadav, Solib Tariq.

## Cristiano Ronaldo to retire soon, says he's in the final stages of his career

AGENCY

**New Delhi:** Portugal and Al Nasr football legend Cristiano Ronaldo has revealed that he is preparing to retire from football soon. The 40-year-old said his illustrious career is nearing its end, and it will be a very emotional moment when he says goodbye to the game. Ronaldo spoke openly about his retirement and future plans in an interview with Piers Morgan Uncensored. He said, "Soon... but I'll be ready. It will be hard, yes, I might even cry. I'm an emotional person. But I started preparing for my future at the age of 25-26, so I'm confident I'll be able to handle it." Ronaldo, one of the world's most successful players, has scored 952

goals in his career so far. He said that he wants to devote his life after football to his family and personal interests. He said, "Nothing can match the adrenaline of scoring a goal in football. But everything has a beginning and an end. Now I want to spend more time with my family and children. I want to be with Cristiano Jr. because he is now at an age where children make mistakes. Mateo also loves football." Ronaldo also revealed that he is now enjoying padel sports with his friends. Ronaldo began his professional career with Sporting Lisbon. He then played for legendary clubs like Manchester United, Real Madrid, and Juventus. With Manchester United, he won three Premier League titles and one Champions League trophy, while with Real Madrid, he won two La Liga titles and four Champions League titles. After leaving

United in 2022, he joined Saudi Arabian club Al Nasr. However, he still monitors Manchester United's results, as his former Portuguese teammate Ruben Amorim is now the club's manager. Ronaldo said of United's current situation, "He (Amorim) is doing his best, but no one can work miracles. The team has talent, but some players need to understand what Manchester United is all about. This club is still in my heart, but the truth is they are not on the right track. Change is needed—not just in the coach or the players, but in the entire system." Ronaldo, a five-time Ballon d'Or winner in football history, has hinted that whenever he retires, it will be the end of an era for the sporting world.

## Team India announced for Hong Kong Sixes 2025, Dinesh Karthik to captain

AGENCY

**Hong Kong:** Cricket Hong Kong China has announced the full Indian squad for the Hong Kong Sixes 2025 tournament. The tournament will be played at the Tin Kwong Road Recreation Ground from November 7 to 9. Experienced wicketkeeper-batsman Dinesh Karthik has been appointed to lead the Indian team. The team includes experienced players along with some strong domestic performers. Dinesh Karthik is known for his international experience and calm demeanor under pressure. Robin Uthappa, who captained Team India last year, will also be part of the team. 2007 T20 World Cup winner Uthappa played an explosive innings of 52 runs off just 13 balls against Oman in the 2024 edition and was one of the most impressive batsmen of the tournament. Bharat Chipli, India's top scorer in the previous edition, remains in the squad. The 42-year-old Chipli played a brilliant innings of 53 not out off 16 balls

against Pakistan in 2024, finishing with a total of 156 runs. Stuart Binny will provide balance to the team as an all-rounder. Having played in all three formats for India – Tests, ODIs, and T20s – Binny is capable of contributing with both bat and ball, which will prove crucial for the team in this shorter format. The bowling will be led by Abhimanyu Mithun, who has played both Tests and ODIs for India. Mithun, who has taken over 330 first-class wickets, is highly experienced in domestic cricket. Shahbaz Nadeem from Jharkhand will add variety and control to the team as a left-arm spinner. Nadeem, who made his Test debut for India in 2019, has been a consistent wicket-taker in domestic cricket. The team also includes Priyank Panchal, a technically sound batsman who recently retired from domestic cricket. Panchal, who has scored over 8,800 first-class runs, will provide stability to the team.

**Team India's full squad:** Dinesh Karthik (captain), Robin Uthappa, Bharat Chipli, Stuart Binny, Abhimanyu Mithun, Shahbaz Nadeem, Priyank Panchal.

**Team India Manager:** Kapil Arora

India will aim for its second Hong Kong Sixes title with a strong performance in the tournament. Team India previously won the title in 2005.

Hong Kong Sixes is a fast-paced format, with each team consisting of six players and each innings consisting of six overs. The 2025 edition will be played in Hong Kong from November 7 to 9.

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will provide stability to the team.

**Australia's full squad for the first Ashes Test:** Steve Smith (captain), Usman Khawaja, Marnus Labuschagne, Cameron Green, Travis Head, Beau Webster, Josh Inglis, Alex Carey, Jake Weatherald, Mitchell Starc, Scott Boland, Nathan Lyon, Josh Hazlewood, Sean Abbott, Brendan Doggett.

playing in the fourth round of the Sheffield Shield. Cameron Green is returning to bowling, which will provide us with more information." Mitchell Marsh has been left out of the squad despite his impressive performances in white-ball cricket, despite recent support from coach and selector Andrew McDonald. Steve Smith will assume captaincy duties in the first Test due to Pat Cummins'



back injury. The match will be played in Perth from November 21.

**Australia's full squad for the first Ashes:** Steve Smith (captain), Usman Khawaja, Marnus Labuschagne, Cameron Green, Travis Head, Beau Webster, Josh Inglis, Alex Carey, Jake Weatherald, Mitchell Starc, Scott Boland, Nathan Lyon, Josh Hazlewood, Sean Abbott, Brendan Doggett.

## Huma Qureshi called Yash's film "Toxic: A Fairy Tale for Grown-Ups" a brilliant and unique story.

**She said, "Such a grand creation is rarely seen."**

Speaking to The Hollywood Reporter, Huma Qureshi shared that being part of such a grand film was a truly special experience for her. She said,

"This film has been made on a massive scale, and working with a superstar like Yash and a brilliant director like Geetu Mohandas has been an inspiring experience. The two have created something so beautiful that it's truly worth the wait."

Huma further added that she would love to do more South Indian films but hasn't yet received a project that excites her deeply. "My heart really wants to work more in the South, but I haven't got that kind of explosive offer yet," she said with a smile.

### Film production house Rajshri wished Tabu on her birthday and remembered Sadhana's iconic character.

As a child artist, Tabu, whose full name is Tabassum Fatima, made her debut in the 1980 film Bazaar. On Tuesday, she celebrated her 54th birthday, and Bollywood stars showered her with love and warm wishes.

Among them, Rajshri Films wished Tabu in a special way, sharing a heartfelt post that also recalled one of her most iconic roles. The film production house Rajshri posted a beautiful picture of Tabu as Sadhana, her memorable character from Hum Saath Saath Hain, and wrote:

"Wishing the magnificent Tabu a very Happy Birthday! Celebrating Sadhana, the ideal elder daughter-in-law of Hum Saath Saath Hain — a character full of grace, warmth, and love. Tabu truly made it unforgettable. No one could ever dislike her roles!"

In the film, Tabu's character Sadhana transforms from a shy girl into a strong, family-oriented woman who holds her family together. To prevent disputes among brothers over property, Sadhana decides to move away with her husband to a village — a gesture that highlights her maturity and selflessness. Her portrayal received widespread praise from both critics and audiences.



#### Pandit Ji is a man of great virtues — Govinda apologizes over wife Sunita's statement.

Bollywood actor Govinda is once again in the headlines — this time, for something related to his personal life. A few days ago, his wife Sunita Ahuja appeared on Paras Chhabra's podcast, where she made several candid statements about Govinda's superstitious beliefs, his spending on astrologers and priests, and the behavior of the people around him. Her remarks quickly created a stir on social media. In response, Govinda released a video statement addressing his wife's comments and clarifying his views about the priests associated with his family. In the video, Govinda says: "Namaskar, Pranam. I am Govinda, and I would like to say that the respected Pandit Mukesh Shukla Ji, who has been associated with my family, is a very knowledgeable, virtuous, and authentic person. Our family has always been connected to him with great respect. Whatever inappropriate words my wife has spoken about him, I sincerely apologize for them and also refute them, because I believe Pandit Ji is a very simple and impartial man."

**The makers of "The Raja Saab" have put an end to all rumors the film will now release on January 9, 2026.**



There had been strong buzz about a possible delay in Rebel Star Prabhas's much-awaited and India's biggest horror-fantasy film, The Raja Saab, but the producers have now completely silenced all such speculations. People Media Factory, the production company behind this high-profile entertainer, has clarified that the reports of a postponed release are entirely baseless. The film will hit theatres on January 9, 2026, exactly as announced earlier — and that too on the festive occasion of Sankranti!

Producer T.G. Vishwa Prasad, on behalf of the team, released an official statement:

"The rumors circulating about Rebel Star Prabhas's upcoming mega film The Raja Saab being postponed beyond Sankranti 2026 are completely false. The film will release worldwide on January 9, 2026, as previously announced. Post-production work is progressing rapidly, and all technical standards are being met with top-notch quality."

## Three years of Sonakshi and Huma's "Double XL" The actresses share an emotional clip



The film "Double XL," starring Sonakshi Sinha and Huma Qureshi, has completed three years since its release. On this special occasion, Sonakshi Sinha revisited the memories associated with the movie. The actress shared a clip from "Double XL" on her Instagram Stories, in which both she and Huma are seen discussing issues like body shaming and talking about moving ahead in their careers. Instead of writing a caption, Sonakshi added three heart emojis, expressing her love and fondness for the film. Directed by Satram Ramani, the movie starred Sonakshi Sinha, Huma Qureshi, Mahat Raghavendra, and Zaheer Iqbal in lead roles. Indian cricketer Shikhar Dhawan also appeared in a brief cameo role. In the film, Huma (as Rajshree Trivedi) and Sonakshi (as Saira Khanna) play two women who face challenges in their careers because of their body weight. Saira's boyfriend even cheats on her because of her weight. Feeling disheartened and hopeless, Rajshree and Saira eventually meet, and that encounter changes their lives forever.

## Urvashi Rautela dazzled at the Diwali party in a red lehenga worth ₹16 lakh

Urvashi Rautela once again proved why she is considered one of Bollywood's most glamorous style icons. As soon as she arrived at a Diwali celebration wearing a stunning red lehenga worth ₹16 lakh, all eyes were instantly on her.

The luxurious lehenga, adorned with intricate embroidery and exquisite craftsmanship, beautifully captured the essence of festive fashion while highlighting Urvashi's regal charm. The deep red color reflected traditional elegance, while the modern design and styling added a divine touch to her look.

What truly elevated the ensemble was Urvashi's poise, confidence, and grace, which drew everyone's attention. Her choice of jewelry, makeup, and styling perfectly complemented the lehenga, giving her an ethereal festive glow.

Despite the grandeur of her outfit, Urvashi remained humble and gracious. She warmly greeted guests and photographers with her radiant smile, adding a touch of warmth to all the glamour.



**Agastya Nanda to wave the flag of bravery in Ekkis — Amitabh Bachchan shares the poster.**



Bollywood megastar Amitabh Bachchan's grandson and actor Agastya Nanda's film Ekkis is all set to hit theatres soon. On Tuesday, Amitabh Bachchan showered praise on Agastya and gave him his blessings for success. The veteran actor shared the poster of Ekkis on Instagram with the caption:

"Agastya... so proud of you. Lots of love and best wishes. The film will unfurl the flag of bravery on December 25. Witness the untold story of India's Param Vir Chakra awardee, Lieutenant Arun Khetarpal." The film, directed by Sriram Raghavan, will be released under the Maddock Films banner. Earlier, the makers had unveiled the trailer, offering a glimpse into the film's storyline. The trailer showcases the journey of a 21-year-old brave soldier who is ready to sacrifice everything for his country. The 2-minute 39-second trailer begins with Agastya appearing in a military avatar, promising his comrades that he will bring home the next Param Vir Chakra for his regiment. What follows is his inspiring journey. The story also takes a brief turn into his past, revealing a tender love story.

The trailer captures glimpses of his days at the National Defence Academy, his courage, and his unwavering dedication to making the nation proud. As it progresses, we see Arun (played by Agastya) training hard at the academy and eventually joining the army to fight in the Indo-Pak war.

**Paresh Rawal breaks his silence on the 2017 viral post related to the Taj Mahal.**



She is all set to make her Bollywood debut with this film, which will hit theatres on December 25. Veteran actor Paresh Rawal is one of the most respected figures in Indian cinema, known for his versatility and expressive performances. Beyond his acting achievements, he is also admired for speaking candidly on social and cultural issues. Recently, during the promotions of his film The Taj Story, Paresh Rawal addressed his viral 2017 social media post, which had sparked widespread discussion at the time.