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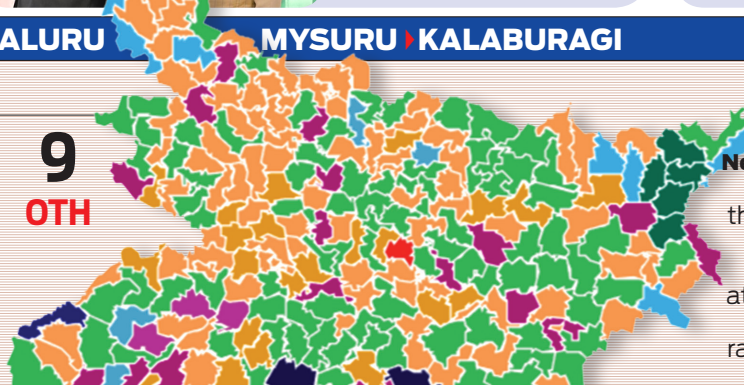
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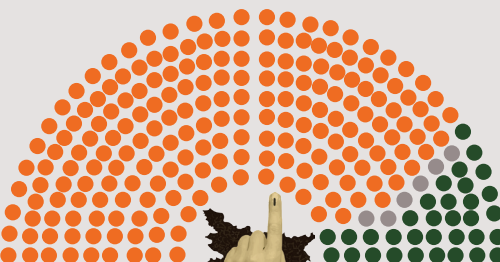
BIHAR ASSEMBLY ELECTION RESULTS

89 BJP	85 JD(U)	25 RJD	19 LJP	6 INC	5 AIMIM	5 HAMS	9 OTH



**'Public contact, not rallies':
Digvijaya's advice to Cong amid rout**
New Delhi: Amid Congress' dismal performance in the Bihar elections, MP Digvijaya Singh on Friday urged the party to pay "special attention" to its organisation at the booth level, instead of public meetings. In an X post, Singh said, "@INCIndia needs to pay special attention to its organisation. Today's election is about intensive public contact at the polling booth, not rallies and public meetings. Congratulations and best wishes to the victorious candidates."

Total Seat: 243 Magic Number: 122



Congress repeats pattern, sinks in Bihar

PATNA: The aggressive campaign of the INDIA bloc, popularly known as the Mahagathbandhan in Bihar, was centered around Congress leader's 'vote chori' (vote theft) allegations against the BJP, but appears to have not fallen flat with voters with the BJP-led NDA registering a historic victory in the state assembly elections 2025. Nine months after the Congress' poor electoral show in the Delhi Assembly election, the grand old party slumped to defeat in Bihar. The Congress, which could hardly secure six seats, lost to the BJP, the Janata Dal, and Chirag Paswan's LJP.



Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) supporters celebrate as early trends show the ruling National Democratic Alliance leading in the Bihar state assembly election results, in Patna.

NI-MO STORM SWEEPS BIHAR

Riding on BJP and JD(U) surge, Modi-led NDA takes Bihar with ease; INDIA bloc bites the dust; Bihar's fondness for 'Sushasan Babu' ensures Nitish remains in the hot seat

PATNA

Nitish Kumar, the state's longest-serving Chief Minister, is set to extend his reign for a record fifth term as the opposition has failed to strike a chord, including in key RJD bastions like Raghopur, in the 2025 Assembly elections.

The BJP-led ruling National Democratic Alliance (NDA) has widened its margin to over 204 seats, registering a landslide victory, under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the alliance's national poll mascot.

According to the Election

Commission of India (EC), the BJP-led NDA has crossed the crucial majority mark with 204 seats in the 243-member Assembly, while the opposition Mahagathbandhan has collapsed in the high-stakes electoral battle with just 33 seats. This marks a dramatic fall from the 2020 election, when the opposition alliance had won 114 seats.

Within the ruling alliance, the BJP has emerged as the single largest party with 89 seats. The alliance partner Janata Dal (United) secured 85 seats.

Chirag Paswan's Lok Janshakti Party (Ram Vilas) made mas-

sive gains by grabbing 19 out of the 19 seats it contested, according to the EC website. Notably, Chirag Paswan's party had secured a massive 100% strike in last year's Lok Sabha elections in which it bagged all six seats it contested.

Cong bites dust

Mahagathbandhan's hopes of a comeback in Bihar took a nose-dive with the RJD struggling even in its key bastions with just 25 seats, while the Congress has slipped to single-digit seats. The INC reduced to six seats while All India Majlis-E-Ittehadul Muslimeen (AIMIM) secured victory in five constituencies. Hindustani Awam Morcha (Sec-

ular) (HAMS) won in five seats, Rashtriya Lok Morcha (RSH-LKM) (4); Communist Party of India (Marxist-Leninist) (Liberation) - CPI(ML)(L) (2); Indian Inclusive Party (IIP) (1); Communist Party of India (Marxist) CPI(M) (1) and Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) could win in only one seat.

Prashant Kishor's Jan Suraj Party has delivered a muted poll debut, failing to lead in any of the 243 seats it contested.

Bihar recorded a historic 67.13% turnout in the two-phase elections to its 243-member assembly on November 6 and 11, with women outnumbering men at the polls, voting 71.78% to 62.98%.

Good governance, development won: PM Modi

NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi termed it a "victory of good governance" after the BJP-led NDA, under the leadership of CM Nitish Kumar of the JD(U), achieved a massive win in the Bihar assembly election 2025, results of which were coming in on Friday.

The NDA was leading on, or had won, around 200 seats in the 243-strong Bihar Vidhan Sabha, as per latest data by the Election Commission. This was its best performance ever in Bihar. "Victory of development has been achieved. Victory of the spirit of public welfare has been achieved. Victory of social justice has been achieved," PM Modi's post read. "My deepest gratitude to the family members of Bihar, who have blessed the NDA with a historic and unprecedented victory in the 2025 assembly elections. This resounding public mandate will empower us to serve the people and work with new resolve for Bihar," the PM added.

Tagging all allies of the BJP in his series of posts, the PM wrote, "The NDA has ensured all-round development of the state. The people have given us a massive majority after witnessing our track record and our vision to take the state to new heights. I extend my heartfelt congratulations to CM Nitish Kumar ji and our NDA family colleagues Chirag Paswan ji, Jitan Ram Manjhi ji, and Upendra Kushwaha ji for this resounding victory."

Top winning candidates

	Name: Sujeet Kumar Constituency: Rajnagar Vote: 1,08,362 Party: BJP
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	Name: Hari Narayan Singh Constituency: Harnaut Vote: 1,06,954 Party: JD(U)
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Top losing candidates

	Name: Ram Narayan Yadav Constituency: Jhanjharpur Vote: 54,849 Party: CPI
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	Name: Bishwanath Chaudhary Constituency: Rajgir Vote: 55,428 Party: CPI(ML)
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The NDA has ensured all-round development of the state. The people have given us a massive majority after witnessing our track record and our vision to take the state to new heights.

—Narendra Modi, PM



I assure the people of Bihar and especially our mothers and sisters that with the hope and trust with which you have given this mandate, the NDA government will fulfil it with even greater dedication.

—Amit Shah, Home Minister



With the support of all of you, Bihar will progress even further and will be included in the category of the most developed states in the country.

—Nitish Kumar, Bihar Chief Minister



This fight is for the protection of the Constitution and democracy. The Congress and the INDIA alliance will deeply review this result and make efforts to save democracy even more effective.

—Rahul Gandhi, Cong leader

IAF Pilatus trainer aircraft crashes

CHENNAI

An Indian Air Force (IAF) Pilatus PC-7 basic trainer aircraft crashed near Tambaram in Chennai on Friday while on a routine training sortie. The pilot managed to eject safely, IAF officials said. A Court of Inquiry (COI) has been ordered to ascertain the cause. Indian Air Force in an X post stated, "An Indian Air Force PC-7 Mk II trainer air-

craft met with an accident during a routine training mission and crashed at about 1425 Hr near Tambaram, Chennai, today. The pilot ejected safely, and no damage to civil property has been reported. A Court of Inquiry has been constituted to ascertain the cause of accident." The Indian Air Force uses Pilatus aircraft to train its young pilots during their initial training.

Finally seeing change: Shaw

NEW DELHI

Industrialist and Biocon founder Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw, who earlier had an online spat with D K Shivakumar over Bengaluru's bad roads and garbage issue, on Friday appreciated the Karnataka Dy CM for "cleaner footpaths and asphalted roads" across the city. The businesswoman posted on X praising Shivakumar for "rescuing

Bengaluru from the "weight of garbage debris and potholes". "We are finally seeing visible change in cleaner footpaths n asphalted roads across the city. @DKShivakumar your leadership has been key in rescuing our city from collapsing under the weight of garbage debris n pot holes. Please continue to drive Please continue to drive this important development. Credit is also due to @GBA-ChiefComm," she wrote on X.

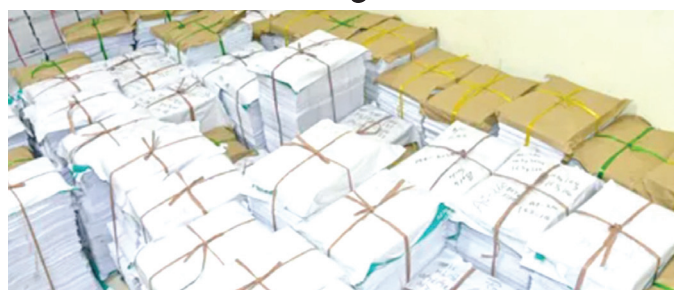
ECI distributes 46.5 cr forms across 12 states

NEW DELHI

The Election Commission of India (ECI) has made significant progress under Phase II of the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls, distributing 46.50 crore Enumeration Forms (EFs) across 12 States and Union Territories as of November 12.

According to the Commission's latest daily bulletin, a total of 50.97 crore forms have been printed—marking 99.95 per cent completion—of which 91.20 per cent have already reached electors. The ongoing enumeration drive runs from November 4 to December 4.

Goa and Lakshadweep have



achieved 100 per cent printing and distribution, showcasing exemplary ground-level coordination. Several other regions have also recorded impressive progress. Puducherry has distributed 93.63 per cent of its printed forms, while Andaman and Nicobar Islands have reached 96.86 per cent. Gujarat has delivered more

than 4.95 crore forms, achieving 97.38 per cent coverage, and Tamil Nadu has distributed 5.62 crore forms, covering 87.66 per cent of electors. Chhattisgarh has crossed 88 per cent distribution with 1.87 crore forms delivered.

Uttar Pradesh, India's largest state by electorate, has distributed 13.74 crore forms,

covering nearly 89.01 per cent of its voters. Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan have reported 93.3 per cent and 95.11 per cent coverage, respectively. Poll-bound West Bengal has also made swift progress, with more than 7.40 crore forms distributed—96.66 per cent of its electorate.

To ensure comprehensive coverage, the ECI has deployed over 5.33 lakh Booth Level Officers (BLOs) and 10.41 lakh Booth Level Agents (BLAs). Political parties have been urged to appoint additional agents to improve field-level verification and enhance the accuracy of voter lists.

'Tree-mother' Thimmakka dies at 114

BENGALURU

Renowned environmentalist Saalumara Thimmakka, famously known as the 'Tree-mother' for her lifelong dedication to planting and nurturing trees, passed away on Friday at the age of 114.

Family sources said the Padma Shri awardee had been ailing for some time and was undergoing treatment at a private hospital in Bengaluru, where she breathed her last.

Born on June 30, 1911, in Gubbi taluk of Tumakuru district, Thimmakka devoted her life to nurturing trees along roadsides, treating them as her own children. She earned the name "Saalumara", meaning 'row of trees', after planting 385 banyan trees along a 4.5 km stretch between Hulikal and Kudur in Ramnagara district, part of Bengaluru South.

Throughout her life, she received numerous awards recognizing her efforts. These included the National Citizen Award in 1995, the Indira Priyadarshini



Famous for planting 385 banyan trees, she became a national symbol of grassroots conservation and received multiple honours, including the Padma Shri

Vrikshamitra Award in 1997, the Padma Shri in 2019, the Rajyotsava Award, and the Nadoja Award. She was also honored with a doctorate from the Central University of Karnataka in 2020.

In addition, Thimmakka received the Karnataka Kalpavalli Award, Godfrey Phillips Bravery Award, Pampapati Environment Award, Babasaheb Ambedkar Award, Vanamate Award, Magadi Pachichi Award, Shrimata Award, H Honniah Social Service Award,

Karnataka Environment Award, Mahila Ratna Award, and the Vishalakshi Award from the Art of Living Organization. She was further recognized by the Karnataka Women and Child Welfare Department and the Indian Institute of Arboriculture and Technology.

Thimmakka's life remains a shining example of environmental stewardship, courage, and dedication. Her legacy of love for nature and selfless service will continue to inspire generations to come.

QUICK READ

Narayana Guru
Awards celebrate
excellence in K'taka

Bengaluru

The Karnataka Backward Classes Recognized Editors and Reporters Association announced the recipients of the Narayana Guru Award. This year's honorees include Saroja Bannappa from the Co-operative Sector, H.R. Jayaram and Amita Anand from the Social Service Sector, Dr. Nagesh Basavaraja from the Medical Sector, and Pundalik Kalliganura from the Complex Sector. The awards recognize outstanding contributions in their respective fields. The ceremony is scheduled for November 23 at 11 am in the auditorium of Green Path Hotel. The event aims to honor dedication, service, and excellence, inspiring others to contribute meaningfully to society.

B'luru launches
mega mass cleanliness
drive today

Bengaluru

Bengaluru Central City Corporation will conduct a large-scale cleanliness drive on from 5:30 am on November 15. Officials and staff from Engineering, Solid Waste Management, Horticulture, and Forest departments will cover 14.7 km across six divisions, including Shantinagar, C.V. Raman Nagar, Shivajinagar, Gandhinagar, Chickpet, and Chamarajpet. Key areas like major roads, arterial routes, and densely populated streets will be cleaned under supervision of Executive Engineers and Deputy General Managers, with support from traffic police. The drive emphasizes urban hygiene, community well-being, and coordinated civic action, aiming to keep Bengaluru cleaner and healthier for all residents.

City traffic goes out of
gear after woman
driver clash

Bengaluru

Chaos broke out near Baiyappanahalli, Bengaluru, when a woman on a scooter collided with an auto rickshaw on a bridge leading to Swami Vivekananda Metro Station. The woman was reportedly driving on the wrong side, triggering the minor accident. She argued aggressively with the auto driver, ignoring traffic police intervention, causing nearly a 1 km traffic jam. Netizens criticized her behavior, calling for strict penalties and vehicle towing for such violations. The incident highlights the importance of civic sense and road discipline, with online users demanding harsher enforcement to prevent similar disruptions in the city's busy traffic.

Kengeri MLA accelerates
development projects for residents

BENGALURU

MLA S. T. Somashekar has promised faster development in Yeshwantpur assembly constituency, aiming to meet the expectations of local residents. He made the statement while launching new road and drainage projects in Megalabeedi Dr. Vishnuvardhan Circle of Kengeri ward and Vinayak Nagar in Bandemath ward.

Speaking at the event, Somashekar said that education and basic facilities are being given top priority. He added that the focus is on building good roads in every village, supplying clean drinking water, and providing better learn-

Nehru the true builder
of modern India: CM

‘The future of the country depends on young minds who think scientifically and act with good values’

BENGALURU

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah said that some people speak negatively about Jawaharlal Nehru even though they never took part in the freedom struggle.

He called Nehru the true builder of modern India while speaking at the Children's Day celebration and parent-teacher meeting held at the Banquet Hall of Vidhana Soudha.

He told students that the future of the country depends on young minds who think scientifically and act with good values. He urged children to stay away from ignorance and corruption from an early age. He also reminded everyone that Nehru believed children would shape India's tomorrow, which is why he focused strongly on education. The Chief Minister said the government has given top



priority to education, allocating ₹65,000 crore for the sector.

Siddaramaiah highlighted that Nehru spent more than 3,200 days in jail during the freedom movement, even though he came from a wealthy family. As India's first Prime Minister, Nehru laid the foundation for progress in agriculture, science, irrigation, and technology. He was behind major institutions and industries, including IITs, AIIMS, and large dam proj-

ects. Siddaramaiah criticized those who supported the British instead of joining the independence struggle, yet now blame Nehru and Gandhi.

He reminded children, teachers, and parents that Nehru dreamed of a nation led by curious, intelligent, and scientific thinkers. Many talented students come from poor families and government schools, he said, adding that 900 new Karnataka public schools are being opened this year.

He urged people to reject discrimination based on caste, religion, or language and protect India's unity in diversity. The government is providing many facilities—Indira Kits, shoes, uniforms, eggs, bananas, textbooks, and scholarships—so that every child can learn with dignity. Education Minister Madhu Bangarappa and officials also attended the event.

Karnataka opens
loans, subsidies
for Christians

BENGALURU

The Karnataka Christian Community Development Corporation (KCCDC) has invited members of the Christian community to apply online for loans and subsidies under various schemes for the year 2025-26. The announcement aims to support entrepreneurship, education, and skill development within the community. The schemes open for applications include the Shramshakti Loan/Subsidy Scheme, Shramshakti Special Women's Loan/Subsidy Scheme, Taxi and Goods Vehicle Purchase Subsidy Scheme, Vocational Promotion Loan/Subsidy Scheme, Christian Community-Based Skill Development Training Scheme, Foreign Education Loan Scheme, Arivu Education Loan Scheme, Ganga Kalyan Scheme, Business Enterprise/Direct Loan Scheme, and Subsidy Scheme for Women Self-Help Groups.

Interested applicants can submit their forms online at www.kccdconline.karnataka.gov.in before the deadline of November 30, 2025. The programs are designed to empower community members by providing financial support for education, business ventures, skill training, and women-led initiatives.

Women should step
forward in every field: Min

BENGALURU

Women should step forward in every field, and supportive platforms must continue to grow to help them succeed, said Women and Child Development Minister Lakshmi Hebbalkar at the 4th CII Conference on Women's Workplace held in Bengaluru. Speaking to a gathering of women entrepreneurs, she praised the CII for creating opportunities that encourage women to build their own careers and businesses.

The minister highlighted that her department has already launched several programmes aimed at promoting women entrepreneurs and ensuring they receive the guidance and support they need. She noted how times have changed, explaining that earlier many women worked quietly behind the scenes, often helping their husbands in business. Today, she said, women are stepping into lead-



Lakshmi Hebbalkar highlighted that her department has already launched several programmes aimed at promoting women entrepreneurs and ensuring they receive the guidance and support they need.

ership roles on their own and starting successful ventures across sectors. This shift, she added, reflects the growing strength and confidence of women in modern India.

Sharing her own experi-

ence, Minister Hebbalkar said she manages two factories and understands the challenges women face when starting or expanding a business. One of the biggest hurdles, she explained, is accessing bank loans, as financial institutions often demand high account balances or strong collateral. She encouraged women not to be discouraged by these obstacles and reminded them that courage is the most important ingredient for success.

The conference saw participation from women entrepreneurs from within Karnataka and other states. Many attendees shared their experiences, challenges, and achievements, turning the event into an inspiring platform for networking and learning. The gathering also reinforced the growing belief that women's leadership is essential for India's progress and that stronger institutional support can help unlock even greater potential in the years ahead.

GBA CHO calls for building
pneumonia-free society

BENGALURU

Dr Sirajuddin Madani, GBA Chief Health Officer, called on officials and the community to join efforts in creating a “pneumonia-free society” in Bengaluru. The appeal came during the launch of a pneumonia awareness programme at H. Siddaiah Road Referral Hospital, marking World Pneumonia Day.

Pneumonia is a severe infection affecting people of all ages, from young children to the elderly. Dr. Madani highlighted that vaccination, hygiene, proper nutrition, and timely treatment are the most effective ways to prevent the disease.

Pediatrician Dr. Vinuta emphasized the importance of raising awareness at the community level, particularly among pregnant women, mothers, and children, as part of preventive healthcare initiatives. Medical Superinten-

dent Dr. Bharathi assured that pneumonia detection, treatment, and public awareness would continue with the full cooperation of hospital staff.

The programme included Information-Communication-Education (ICE) sessions on pneumonia symptoms, emergency care, pneumococcal vaccination for children, and preventive measures for pregnant women and infants. Officials stressed the importance of community participation in reducing the disease burden.

District RHC Officer Dr. Kalavathi, H. Siddaiah Road UPHC Dr. Bhumi, along with all hospital and UPHC staff, participated in the event. The health department reaffirmed its commitment to working with the community to promote vaccination, early treatment, and preventive care to achieve a healthier, pneumonia-free society.

BJP workers celebrate Bihar NDA poll triumph

BENGALURU

BJP leaders and supporters in Bengaluru came together this afternoon to celebrate the party's stunning victory in the Bihar Assembly Elections. The celebration took place near the BJP State Office at Jagannath Bhavan, drawing a large gathering of party workers and leaders.

Prominent attendees included Leader of the Opposition R. Ashok, Legislative Council Leader Chalavadi

Narayanaswamy, Chief Whip N. Ravikumar, State General Secretary P. Rajeev, Raja Sabha member Lehar Singh Siroya, MLA Dr. Chandru Lamani, Cement Manjunath, former MLA M.D. Lakshminarayan, former MP Dr. Umesh Jadhav, State Vice President N. Mahesh, State Secretary Sharanu Tarikeri, and leaders from various Morchas, including Bangaru Hanumanthu and Umesh Karajol. District Presidents S. Harish and

Saptagiri Gowda were also present.

The atmosphere was vibrant, with activists raising slogans such as “Today Bihar, tomorrow Karnataka,” “Bharat Mata Ki Jai,” and “Narendra Modiji Ki Jai.” Supporters danced enthusiastically, waving party flags, and chanting, “Wherever you look, you see BJP.” Sweets were distributed among attendees as part of the celebrations.

Party leaders said the

event was a way to share the joy of Bihar's win and to strengthen unity among Karnataka cadres. Citizens and activists expressed their excitement, promising to continue working toward similar success in the state.

The celebration highlighted the party's strong grassroots presence and the enthusiasm of its supporters in Karnataka, marking the Bihar victory as a moment of pride for BJP members across the country.

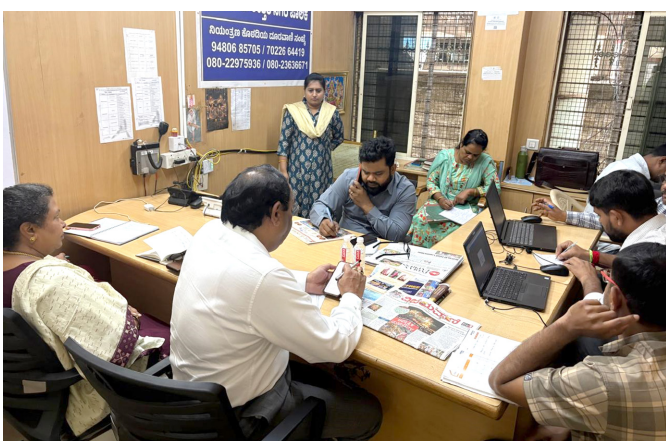
PHONE-IN PROGRAMME

BNCC chief acts swiftly on citizen complaints

BENGALURU

Bengaluru North City Corporation (BNCC) Commissioner Pommala Sunil Kumar held a Phone-In Programme today at 7:00 am from the Byatarayanapura Control Room on Amruthahalli Main Road to directly listen to citizen grievances.

During the session, 46 complaints were registered, covering issues from road repairs and waste management to streetlights, parks, and urban planning. Thirteen complaints were related to potholes and road maintenance. The Commissioner confirmed that day-



and-night pothole-filling work is already underway and instructed engineering teams to

expedite work at critical locations while maintaining quality standards.

Eight complaints concerned improper waste collection and disposal. The Commissioner directed officials to act immediately and ensure timely collection and proper disposal across all wards. Other issues included streetlight maintenance (3), dangerous trees (2), health and sanitation (2), park upkeep (3), traffic concerns (1), animal husbandry (3), stormwater drains (1), E-Khata services (2), and urban planning matters (3).

Citizens expressed their gratitude to the Commissioner, praising the ongoing development efforts and timely resolution of public issues.

Commissioner Sunil Kumar reiterated his commitment to directly engage with the public. To ensure continuous monitoring and quick resolution of civic concerns, the Phone-In Programme will continue every Friday, providing residents a platform to voice grievances and receive prompt attention from the Corporation.

This initiative reflects Bengaluru North City Corporation's focus on citizen-centric governance and timely implementation of developmental projects, ensuring safer roads, cleaner streets, and improved public services.

QUICK READ

Shaw applauds Shivakumar for cleaner Bengaluru roads

Bengaluru
Biocon founder Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw has praised Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar for improving Bengaluru's roads and footpaths. She said the city is finally seeing "visible change" with cleaner paths and newly asphalted roads. Her remarks come weeks after both had disagreed online over potholes and garbage issues. Shaw thanked the BBMP Chief Commissioner and urged citizens to act responsibly. Earlier, she had warned that poor infrastructure could drive away investors, which led to a sharp reaction from Shivakumar. After a personal meeting, tensions eased, and Shaw's latest appreciation shows progress that many residents have been hoping for.

Cops seize nine stolen bikes in Jnanabharati operation

Bengaluru
Jnanabharati Police have arrested Arbaaz, also known as Dubai, a 21-year-old resident of Chikkabasti, for stealing two-wheelers parked outside homes and on roadsides. Police seized nine stolen bikes worth ₹5 lakh from him. The case began when a resident, Srikanth, found his bike missing after parking it outside his house and filed a complaint. CCTV footage helped police identify the suspect, who was later caught near Shivaji Hotel. Officers said Arbaaz and his accomplices targeted vehicles across multiple police limits, including Halsur Gate, Chamarajpet, and Yeshwanthpur. Several theft cases have now been cracked following his arrest.

Swiggy to shift headquarters from Bellandur to Whitefield

Bengaluru
Swiggy will move its headquarters from Embassy Tech Village in Bellandur to Sumadhura Capital Towers in Whitefield in the coming months. Sources said the Bellandur contract is ending and employees prefer Whitefield for its better social environment and metro access near Kadugodi station. Swiggy, which spent six years on ORR and employs over 2,000 people, began its journey in Koramangala 11 years ago. The company recently reported a quarterly net loss of Rs 1,092 crore but saw strong revenue growth.

Shivakumar's 'Neerina Hejje' launched by CM

BENGALURU
Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Friday released the much-awaited book Neerina Hejje, authored by Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar, at the Vidhana Soudha Banquet Hall. The event saw the presence of senior leaders including H.K. Patil, N.S. Bosaraju, Krishna Byre Gowda, Cheluvarayana Swamy, Priyanka Kharage, Lakshmi Hebbalkar, Madhu Bangarappa, and R.V. Deshpande. Despite his busy schedule as KPCC President, Deputy Chief Minister, and Bangalore Urban Development Minister, Shivakumar personally wrote the book, which focuses on water resources, disputes, and management strategies at the state, national, and international levels. The work details irrigation projects, court judgments, challenges, and possible solutions,

CM honors Thimmakka's lifelong love for nature

CM Siddaramaiah recalled that Saalumarada Thimmakka's service to nature earned her the Padma Shri award



BENGALURU
Chief Minister Siddaramaiah paid his last respects to Padma Shri awardee and beloved environmentalist Saalumarada Thimmakka. After viewing her mortal remains, the Chief

Minister said that even though Thimmakka is no longer with us, her love and dedication to nature will remain eternal. Siddaramaiah recalled that Thimmakka's service to nature earned her the Padma Shri award, recognizing her ex-

traordinary contribution to environmental conservation. Before her passing, she expressed her wish for a museum in Belur to honor her work. The government has assured that her proposal will be examined with respect.

Constable denied bail over exploitation allegations

BENGALURU
The High Court has refused anticipatory bail to Bhagwantrao Basant Rai Biradar, a constable accused of cheating, sexually exploiting, and refusing to accept a woman constable as his wife after tying a knot with her in front of a Sai Baba photo. The bench led by Justice S. Rachaiah delivered the order while hearing his criminal appeal. According to the complaint, both the accused and the victim served at the Amrutur Police Station. The woman, who belongs to a Scheduled Caste, alleged that Bhagwantrao repeatedly professed his love and began a physical relationship with her. When she refused, he allegedly tied a thali in front of a Sai Baba photo at her house and continued to sexually exploit her. She stated that he asked her to keep the matter secret, claiming public knowledge would create community-related problems. Later, when she urged him to publicly recognize her as his wife, he avoided her, made excuses,

and eventually got engaged to another woman. The complaint also states that the accused visited her police hostel with support from another constable, verbally abused her using caste-related remarks, and assaulted her. After learning that she was being cheated, the victim filed a case under the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act. The court noted that the allegations indicated clear exploitation and refusal to accept her as his wife because of her caste, making the charges serious under Section 18A of the Act. Bhagwantrao first sought anticipatory bail from the Tumkur District Sessions Court, which rejected his plea. His lawyer argued in the High Court that he was falsely implicated and that there was no evidence of marriage or exploitation. The government lawyer opposed the plea, insisting the allegations required full investigation. The High Court dismissed the appeal.

Yaklasapur High School wins prestigious best award

BENGALURU
Yaklasapur High School, officially known as 'Shri Mati Parva Tevva Kom Hire Basappa Hale Mani Sarkar Ri High School,' located in Mundargi, Gadag district, has been honored with the prestigious 'Best School Award.' The recognition is given by the Kannada Friends Association to mark the centenary of renowned writer Prof. L.S. Sheshagiri Rao. The award celebrates Kannada medium schools that demonstrate outstanding performance in academics, infrastructure, and overall development. Along with the recognition, the school will receive a cash prize of ₹10,000. Currently, the school educates 121 students and is equipped with well-maintained science and computer labs, an auditorium, and other facilities. The school building is noted for its cleanliness and organized environment, according to R.N. Chandrashekar, director of the awarding association.

HC convicts newspaper editor for defamatory articles

BENGALURU
The Karnataka High Court has convicted T. Gururaj, Editor of the Hello Mysore newspaper, for publishing defamatory articles against a Circle Inspector attached to K.R. Police Station, Mysuru. The conviction came after the High Court set aside a previous acquittal granted by the

trial court. Justice S. Rachaiah, delivering the judgment, observed that the editor had levelled several allegations against Inspector S.N. Suresh Babu without providing any supporting evidence or public complaints. "Allegations are made against an officer and failed to prove any one of such allegations by producing

any complaints by public amounts to defamation," the court stated. Allowing the appeal filed by the police officer, the High Court convicted Gururaj under Sections 500 and 501 of the IPC. He has been sentenced to six months' simple imprisonment for each offence and fined ₹2,000 for each count.

B'luru customs stop massive ganja smuggling spree

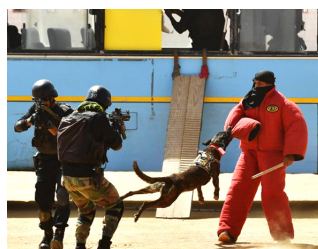
BENGALURU
Customs officials at Kempegowda International Airport (KIA) have stopped a major wave of drug smuggling attempts, seizing more than 72 kg of hydroponic ganja worth over ₹53 crore in just 18 days. Most of the accused were passengers arriving from Bangkok, signalling a sudden rise in efforts to bring high-grade contraband into the city. The latest case was reported on November 12, when officers caught two passengers carrying 15.79 kg of hydro ganja valued at

₹5.53 crore. Both were arrested under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act. A day earlier, on November 11, officials seized 2.76 kg worth ₹96.6 lakh. On November 10, another passenger was found with 6.77 kg valued at ₹2.37 crore and was taken into custody. The pattern continued through the month. On November 9, a Bangkok passenger was intercepted with 2.99 kg worth ₹1.04 crore. Earlier, on November 5, officers seized 3.32 kg valued at ₹3.32 crore. On November 1, 3.18 kg was found hidden inside

checked-in luggage. The biggest seizure came on October 29, when the Air Intelligence Unit stopped a passenger travelling from Bangkok via Dubai with 37.88 kg of hydro ganja worth ₹37.88 crore — the largest haul in the ongoing crackdown. Officials have questioned all the accused and are investigating whether these cases are connected to a larger organised smuggling network. The repeated attempts, they said, show the growing demand for high-quality contraband and the need for tighter checks at international entry points.

K'taka Police clinch National IED title again

BENGALURU
The Karnataka State Police have achieved a remarkable feat by winning the National Joint Counter-IED Championship for the third year in a row. The Internal Security Division (ISD) Counter-IED Team secured the top honour at Visfot Kavach IX, a national-level event conducted by the National Security Guard (NSG) in New Delhi. Led by Col. Akkula Balakrishna, SM, the team has now become the only State police force in the country to win three consecutive titles in counter-IED operations. Officials said the victory highlights the team's growing technical skills, discipline, and ability to respond effectively during high-risk situations involving explosives. This year's championship, held from November 10 to 15, brought together 28 teams from across India, including State police units, Union Territories, and Central Armed Police Forces. The contest featured a series of tough challenges like



advanced bomb-disposal drills, detection of hidden IEDs, safe neutralisation techniques, and real-life simulation exercises designed to test quick thinking and teamwork. According to officials, the Karnataka ISD team stood out throughout the competition by finishing first in every category. Their performance won appreciation from senior officers and organisers, who noted that such training and readiness play a major role in strengthening national security. The State Police Department said the achievement will inspire other forces and encourage more officers to specialise in counter-IED operations. It also praised the team for bringing pride to Karnataka through their hard work and dedication.

Two youths murdered in separate cases

RAMANAGARA
Two youths were brutally murdered in separate cases in Ramanagara and Tumakuru on Friday night. The police are on the lookout for the attackers in both cases. Nishant (25) from Kondapura village in Channarayana taluk was brutally murdered with a sharp weapon at Kadamba Hotel near Bidadi late on Friday night. Nishant had been working as a security guard at the hotel for the past two and a half months. The police suspect that the murder was committed due to old enmity. The assailants stabbed Nishant in the ear with a knife while he was sleeping at the hotel and also took away the DVR of the hotel's CCTV camera. The Bidadi police visited the scene and conducted an investigation, with fingerprint experts and a dog squad. According to the police, Nishant had a previous case registered against him at the Konanakunte police station in Bengaluru. The Bidadi police have launched an investigation and are working to apprehend the accused.

Zaveri bros shines bright with Bengaluru debut

BENGALURU
Bengaluru welcomed a sparkling new addition to its luxury scene as Zaveri Bros Diamonds & Gold opened its first boutique in Sadashivanagar, marking a major step in the brand's growing presence across South India. The family-led jewellery house, known for three decades of trust and craftsmanship, celebrated the launch with grace, history, and heartfelt pride.



L-R: Roshni Chetan Hinduja, Director, Zaveri Bros Diamonds & Gold, Maharajakumari Indrakshi Devi Wadiyar, Sangeeta Chetan, Co-Founder & CEO, Zaveri Bros Diamonds & Gold, Maharajakumari Kamakshi Devi Wadiyar, Naresh Chetan, Co-Founder & Managing Director, Zaveri Bros Diamonds & Gold

The event was led by Her Highness Maharajakumari Kamakshi Devi Wadiyar and Her Highness Maharajakumari Indrakshi Devi Wadiyar of the Mysuru royal family. Their presence added a sense of heritage as they unveiled new collections, drawing admiration from guests, designers, and jewellery lovers who gathered to witness the brand's elegant blend of tradition and modern design. The Bengaluru boutique follows the success of the brand's Coimbatore flagship and Gurugram store. Designed with a warm, minimal aesthetic, the space highlights pieces in gold, diamonds, and Polki—each crafted to tell personal

stories. Co-Founder and Managing Director Naresh Chetan said the expansion reflects the company's belief that trust and fine craftsmanship never lose relevance, no matter the era. A major highlight of the launch was the Hearts & Arrows Collection. The diamonds in this line display a rare pattern of eight hearts and eight arrows, created through exacting craftsmanship and perfect symmetry. The hearts symbolize harmony, while the arrows stand for strength, making each piece both artistic and meaningful. Co-Founder and CEO Sangeeta Chetan said the new bou-

tique mirrors Bengaluru's blend of heritage and contemporary taste. She added that every design aims to make women feel celebrated every day. Guests also explored Navya — The Navaratna Collection, a youthful take on India's nine sacred gems crafted in 18K rose gold. Director Roshni Chetan Hinduja said the collection brings heritage to a generation that values individuality. The boutique offers personalized consultations, bespoke designs, heirloom revivals, and a dedicated Bridal Lounge—creating a complete, immersive jewellery experience.

Cooperative growth brings strong social and economic progress: CM Siddaramaiah

BENGALURU
Chief Minister Siddaramaiah said that strengthening the cooperative sector can greatly boost the economic and social growth of lakhs of families across Karnataka. He spoke at the 72nd All India Cooperative Week celebration held at Palace Grounds, where the prestigious Cooperative Ratna

Awards were presented. The Chief Minister said that Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru had given strong direction to the cooperative movement, believing it to be a key force for developing rural India. He recalled Nehru's idea that every village must have a school, a cooperative society, and a shelter to truly progress. He said that both Nehru and

Mahatma Gandhi worked with commitment to strengthen cooperatives across the country. Siddaramaiah highlighted that Karnataka has a proud history in this sector, as the first cooperative bank in Asia was established in the state. Because of this, Karnataka is often recognized as the cooperative capital of India.

QUICK READ

Youth brutally murdered over personal rivalry

Ramanagara
A 25-year-old youth, Nishanth from Kondapura village in Channapatna taluk, was brutally killed near Kadamba Hotel in Bidadi on Thursday night. Nishanth had been working as a security guard at the hotel for the past two and a half months. Police suspect that the murder was carried out due to an old rivalry. The assailants allegedly stabbed him near the ear while he was asleep inside the hotel and later filed with the hotel's CCTV DVR to destroy evidence. Bidadi police, along with fingerprint experts and a dog squad, conducted a thorough inspection of the spot. Nishanth reportedly had a previous FIR registered against him at Kananakunte police station in Bengaluru. Police have launched a search to nab the accused.



Man stabbed to death on Mantur Road

Dharwad
A 27-year-old man, identified as Mallik Jan Ahmed, was brutally stabbed to death late Thursday night on Mantur Road in Hubballi. According to police, a group of youths attacked Mallik Jan with knives, leading to severe bleeding. He was rushed to KIMS Hospital for treatment, but despite efforts, he succumbed to his injuries due to excessive blood loss and deep stab wounds. A case has been registered at the Bendigeri Police Station. After the post-mortem examination, the body was handed over to the family. Outraged by the murder, local residents blocked the road near the KEB office, alleging that negligence by the Bendigeri police had allowed such an incident to occur in the area.



Patel School celebrates Kannada Rajyotsava and Children's Day

RAMANAGARA
Patel Public English School, Magadi Road, in collaboration with the District Negilayogi Social Service Trust (Ramanagara-Bengaluru South), celebrated the 70th Kannada Rajyotsava along with Children's Day on the school premises. Inaugurating the programme, the school's founder-secretary Patel C. Raju highlighted the historical significance of the Kannada language, noting that the Halmidi inscription stands as its earliest documented evidence. He said Kannada is a rich language with a strong identity of its own and does not need to be "saved" repeatedly. Instead, people must develop genuine love and pride for Kannada, especially within Karnataka. He urged the government to ensure Kannada is taught as the first language in all schools and colleges across the state. Speaking about Children's Day, he recalled Jawaharlal

Judge Vijay urges nurturing children as responsible citizens

Children are a nation's greatest asset, and nurturing them into responsible global citizens is a shared duty of society, said Senior Civil Judge M. Vijay

CHITRADURGA

Children are the true asset of the nation, and it is our collective responsibility to guide them into becoming responsible global citizens, said Senior Civil Judge and Member Secretary of the District Legal Services Authority, M. Vijay. He was speaking after inaugurating the district-level Children's Day celebration held at the Zilla Panchayat auditorium on Friday. The event was organised by the Directorate of Child Protection, District Administration, Zilla Panchayat, District Legal Services Authority, Department of Women and Child Development, and the District Child Protection Unit under the theme Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao. Addressing the gathering, he emphasized that children must receive proper support, protection, quality education, and opportunities that help



them grow and compete confidently at the global level. He urged children to raise their voices against social evils like child marriage and report any issues to concerned authorities. Student life, he said, is a golden phase, and children should focus not only on academics but also creative and extracurricular activities to grow into responsible citizens. Zilla Panchayat Deputy Secretary Dr. Rangaswamy highlighted the importance of children's village assemblies

(Makkala Grama Sabhas), which give children a platform to express their opinions on their rights, challenges, and village development. Issues such as education, mid-day meals, sanitation, cleanliness, and transportation are discussed, and solutions are initiated through these forums, he added. Child Welfare Committee Chairperson P. Sheela described children as fountains of energy who bring peace and joy. She stressed the need for both internal and external

education for their holistic development. On this occasion, students including Swapna from Reddihalli (Challakere) and Gammamma from Molakalmuru, along with high scorers in SSLC and PUC exams under the Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao scheme, were honoured. District-level competitions such as essay writing and drawing were also conducted, and prizes were distributed to winners. Several officials from various departments participated in the event.

Bihar voters have endorsed 'Ni-Mo' governance: MLA

UDUPI

BJP MLA Sunil Kumar said that the people of Bihar have once again brought the NDA alliance to power, appreciating Prime Minister Narendra Modi's development model and Chief Minister Nitish Kumar's governance. Speaking to the media in Udupi about the NDA's majority in Bihar, he remarked that the people have clearly accepted the "Nimo" style of administration. Taking a dig at the Congress, he said the party keeps blaming EVMs and ballot papers, and may soon start blaming the voters



themselves. He added that the Mahagathbandhan had planned major political changes in the country, but the left-liberal strategies failed to gain traction. The Bihar result, he said, has created curiosity about how it will influence Karnataka's so-called "November Revolution." Sunil Kumar further accused the Congress of creating an environment of distrust in democratic systems. The party itself, he said, is facing internal turmoil, raising questions about leadership: whether

the Congress will split, where dissenting groups will go, whether Siddaramaiah will step aside, and whether D.K. Shivakumar will take over. These debates, he claimed, are active within the party. He also said the people of India have rejected the Congress completely, pointing out that it could not even cross double digits. According to him, those who relied on minority appeasement have been defeated. He argued that the mindset that insulted national operations and criticised the RSS has been rejected by the public, who have supported nationalism and service-oriented politics.

Sulluvadi poisoned prasada case: Bail to accused sparks protest

CHAMARAJANAGAR

Residents of Sulluvadi and the families of those who died in the notorious poisoned prasada tragedy have strongly opposed the High Court's decision to grant bail to the prime accused. The incident, which occurred a few years ago at the Kichuguththi Maramma Temple near Martalli in Hanur taluk, Chamarajanagar district, had shocked the entire state after 17 devotees lost their lives from consuming poisoned prasada distributed during a temple event. Following the recent court order granting bail to Immdi Mahadevaswamy, the main accused in the case, grieving families and local villagers gathered at the temple premises to register their anger and disappointment. As a mark of protest, the demonstrators symbolically burnt

an effigy of Mahadevaswamy, expressing their deep anguish over what they described as an unjust decision. Protesters argued that the tragedy had torn apart many families and left irreversible emotional scars, and therefore the accused should not be allowed bail under any circumstance. They demanded that the High Court reconsider its decision immediately and cancel the bail granted to the accused. According to them, releasing the prime accused at this stage could affect the ongoing legal proceedings and undermine the victims' fight for justice. The protestors vowed to continue their agitation until the authorities take necessary action to ensure that the bail order is withdrawn and the accused remains in custody.

Bihar voters backed NDA after seeing Modi's work: BSY

SHIVAMOGGA

Former Chief Minister B.S. Yediyurappa said that the Congress has once again faced a major defeat, this time in Bihar, where voters chose the NDA after recognising the development and leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Speaking to reporters in Shivamogga, he said the election results clearly reflect people's approval of Modi's governance. According to him, both Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah played a crucial role in crafting an effective strategy that led to the NDA's victory in the state.



Former Chief Minister B.S. Yediyurappa said the Congress has suffered another major defeat in Bihar, where voters backed the NDA after recognising Prime Minister Narendra Modi's development-focused governance

Yediyurappa added that the people have rejected the leadership of Rahul Gandhi, which he said is evident from the Congress party's poor performance. He further stated that the decision on who will serve as Bihar's Chief Minister will be taken jointly by Modi and Amit Shah after due discussions, as the mandate has strongly favoured their leadership. Shifting focus to Karnataka, Yediyurappa addressed concerns related to sugarcane farmers. He assured that the ongoing issues faced by sugarcane growers will be resolved soon. The state government, he said, must re-

spond seriously and take appropriate measures to address the challenges affecting farmers. He urged the administration to act swiftly to provide relief and ensure that farmers' demands are met without delay. Yediyurappa reiterated that the Bihar results send a strong message about national leadership and governance, and that people across the country continue to place their trust in the NDA because of Modi's developmental agenda and decisive leadership.

Car bursts into flames near Nanthoor junction

MANGALURU

A car suddenly caught fire near Nanthoor in Mangaluru, creating panic among motorists. The incident involved a white Hyundai Verna, which began burning mid-way while travelling on the road. As smoke and flames intensified, a water-supply tanker from the city corporation rushed to the spot. The tanker staff immediately

sprayed water in an effort to bring the fire under control. Traffic police also arrived and regulated vehicle movement in the busy junction to prevent congestion. The exact cause of the fire is yet to be determined, and officials are investigating whether it was triggered by a technical fault or another issue. Fortunately, no injuries were reported, but the car suffered extensive damage.

ZP CEO launches Kayaka Grama Programme

MANDYA

Mandya Zilla Panchayat CEO Nandini K.R. inaugurated the Kayaka Grama programme at Chikkankanaahalli Gram Panchayat in Srirangapatna taluk, as part of the 2025-26 budget announcement to strengthen rural development. The initiative aims to ensure that senior district and taluk-level officials adopt and support backward gram panchayats to improve the implementation of state and central government schemes. Speaking at the launch, CEO Nandini said that under

the programme, action plans with long-term vision will be prepared. Regular meetings will be held to address drinking water supply, infrastructure development, streetlight maintenance, tax collection, timely service delivery, upgrading anganwadis, improving GP libraries and information centres, protecting child rights, empowering women, supporting SC/ST communities, and enhancing health and sanitation. A total of 19 key areas will be monitored for effective implementation, she added.



Appreciation for GP's record management: During her visit to the Chikkankanaahalli GP office, Nandini inspected the archive room and reviewed the e-property (e-Swathu) documentation. She praised the staff for maintaining records systematically and instructed that similar record-keeping practices should be adopted across all GPs in the district. She also directed the PDO to initiate steps for digitalizing all documents in the coming days. **Directions to strengthen Makkala Grama Sabhas:** Nandini emphasized the need for meaningful children's village assemblies that address child rights, prevention of child marriage, identifying and supporting school dropouts, hygiene, nutrition, and creating child-friendly environments. GPs must ensure active participation of children and act on their concerns, she said. Taluk officials, GP members, and local leaders were present at the programme.

DIABETES REVERSAL DAY

Demand to declare Nov 14 as 'Diabetes Reversal Day'

SHIVAMOGGA

In Shivamogga, doctors from the Diabetes Reversal Centre have urged the government to officially declare November 14—currently observed as World Diabetes Day—as Diabetes Reversal Day. Speaking at a press conference, Dr. Preetham announced that a formal request will be submitted to the government through the Deputy Commissioner in the coming days. He explained that World Diabetes Day has been observed since 2006, but public



awareness still remains limited regarding the root causes of diabetes. According to him, poor dietary habits and chronic mental stress are the primary contributors to diabetes.

Medication, he noted, only offers temporary relief and does not provide a permanent cure. Instead, significant improvements can be achieved when individuals adopt healthier food practices and lifestyle changes. Through diabetes reversal techniques, many patients can reduce or even completely discontinue their medication. Dr. Preetham highlighted that nearly 90 out of every 100 diabetic patients suffer from Type-2 diabetes. In 2016, the World Health Organization confirmed that Type-

2 diabetes can indeed be reversed. Similarly, the American Diabetes Association acknowledged in 2019 that Type-2 diabetes reversal is possible. Medical evidence supporting reversal has existed even earlier: in 2008, researcher Roy Taylor scientifically demonstrated that Type-2 diabetes can be reversed through targeted interventions. Further, he noted that as early as 1995, Dr. Walter Pories showed that bariatric surgery could lead to diabetes reversal in certain patients.

With substantial scientific backing and growing public awareness, Dr. Preetham said it is essential to promote the concept of diabetes reversal more widely. Declaring November 14 as Diabetes Reversal Day, he argued, would help educate the public and encourage lifestyle-based approaches to managing and reversing the condition. Doctors Manjunath, Vishwanath Kashi, Seetharam, Rajanna, Yogeesh, Dr. Siraj Ahmed, Vinay and Shyam were present at the press meet.

QUICK READ

**5 killed as car plunges into gorge on Delhi-Mumbai expressway****Ratlam**

A tragic accident claimed the lives of five people, including a 15-year-old boy and a 70-year-old man, when their car veered off the Delhi-Mumbai Expressway and plunged into a deep gorge near Bhetia-Bhimapura village in Madhya Pradesh's Ratlam on Friday. The incident occurred shortly before 7.30 a.m., just ahead of the Mahi River bridge under the jurisdiction of Rawati police station. The vehicle, a sedan bearing Maharashtra registration MH03 EL 1388, smashed through the roadside railing before free-falling into the ravine below. Those who have been killed were from Gujarat and Mumbai.

HC ruling on delay in panchayat, municipal elections**Jaipur**

The Rajasthan High Court will on Friday deliver its crucial verdict on the delay in holding elections for nearly 6,759 Panchayats and 55 Municipalities across the state, despite the expiry of their terms. A division bench headed by Acting Chief Justice S.P. Sharma will pronounce the judgment on a series of petitions, including a Public Interest Litigation (PIL) filed by Giriraj Singh Devanda, former MLA Sanyam Lodha, and others. The court had reserved its judgment on August 12, after completing the hearing. Nearly three months later, the decision is set to come on Friday.

Kerala HC grants partial relief to makers of 'Haal'**Kochi**

The Kerala High Court on Friday granted partial relief to the makers of the Malayalam film 'Haal', setting aside a Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC) directive that mandated six cuts and restricted the film to an Adults-only (A) certificate. The Court, however, directed the filmmakers to carry out two modifications before the film could be reconsidered for certification. Justice VG Arun, who viewed the film before issuing the order, held that the CBFC's insistence on six cuts for granting even an A certificate could not stand.

Kerala Health Min defends treating patients lying on floor

Thiruvananthapuram
Kerala Health Minister Veena George on Friday defended the strong criticism that erupted over patients being treated on the floor at the Thiruvananthapuram Medical College Hospital and attributed it to overcrowding and shortage of beds in medical colleges. The Minister said the situation was a direct result of overwhelming patient inflow and insisted that no patient is ever denied treatment, even if it means treating them on the floor. According to her, medical colleges across Kerala are receiving far more patients than they can physically accommodate.

India-Canada revises ties with critical minerals, aerospace deals

Both counties agreed to intensify ministerial-level trade engagement next year, reaffirming their strong and growing economic partnership

NEW DELHI

India and Canada have agreed to hold sustained ministerial engagements with trade and investment stakeholders early next year, signaling renewed momentum in bilateral economic cooperation.

The agreement was reached during the latest 'Ministerial Dialogue on Trade and Investment', held between India's Union Minister for Commerce and Industry Piyush Goyal and Canada's Minister of Export Promotion, International Trade and Economic Development, Maninder Sidhu.

Sidhu's four-day visit to India concluded on Friday, with both ministers underscoring the importance of continued engagement with the private sector to unlock new avenues in trade, investment and supply-chain collaboration. They stressed that the India-Canada



economic partnership remains strong and resilient despite recent diplomatic tensions.

According to the joint statement, bilateral trade in goods and services reached USD 23.66 billion in 2024. Merchandise trade alone hit USD 8.98 billion, marking a 10 per cent year-on-year increase — a sign of strengthening commercial ties and diversified

sectoral growth.

Both sides agreed to promote long-term supply-chain partnerships in critical minerals, an area where Canada is a major global supplier and India seeks to secure stable inputs for its clean energy and manufacturing ambitions. They also committed to deeper cooperation in clean energy technologies to support each

country's energy transition goals.

In addition, the ministers discussed expanding investment and trade opportunities in aerospace and dual-use capabilities. With India's aviation sector experiencing rapid expansion, both nations see potential in jointly identifying opportunities for technology exchange, manufacturing and long-term industrial partnerships.

The dialogue also underscored the importance of strengthening resilience across critical sectors, including agriculture, and the need for diversified and reliable global supply chains. Both ministers reaffirmed that sustained engagement will help build a forward-looking and mutually beneficial economic relationship, setting the stage for enhanced collaboration in 2025.

BJP leaders, workers celebrate across country

**NEW DELHI**

As the NDA is poised to win over 200 seats in the 243-member Bihar Assembly, BJP leaders and workers on Friday celebrated across different parts of the country. In Rewari, Haryana, BJP leaders and workers celebrated with great enthusiasm. In Viluppuram, Tamil Nadu, BJP workers celebrated following the NDA's lead in the Bihar Assembly election. Similarly, in Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh, celebrations erupted following the NDA's projected victory. Supporters celebrated with fireworks and cutouts featuring PM Modi and CM Yogi. In Patna, Bihar, BJP supporters gathered at the party's state headquarters to mark the alliance's strong lead in the results.

While inaugurating the 72nd State Cooperative Week, Saini emphasised cooperation's role in rural prosperity and development

Soul of nation resides in rural communities: Haryana CM

SONIPAT

Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini on Friday inaugurated the 72nd state-level Cooperative Week in Sonipat, stressing that the future of India's development lies in empowering villages through strong cooperative structures.

Addressing a large gathering, the Chief Minister said that the soul of the nation resides in rural communities, and cooperation remains the most effective path to achieving sustainable progress and self-reliance. This year, he noted, has been declared the 'Year of Cooperatives', giving the week-long celebration added significance.

Saini called upon the youth to break away from conventional mindsets and embrace cooperatives as modern enter-

prises that can be scaled into global brands with the support of Digital India. He said India's cooperative movement was built by millions of ordinary citizens who contributed small savings and collective efforts, creating a foundation that continues to strengthen the nation's economic trajectory. With India now the world's fourth-largest economy and moving rapidly toward the third position, he emphasised that cooperatives will play a crucial role in realising this aspiration.

Recalling Prime Minister Narendra Modi's commitment to strengthening the cooperative sector, the Chief Minister highlighted the historic establishment of the Ministry of Cooperation in 2014. He stated that Haryana, in alignment with this vision, is working to

transform cooperatives into a mass movement that benefits every section of society.

CM Saini detailed some of the state's key achievements in the sector, including the issuance of RuPay Kisan Credit Cards to over three lakh farmers through 19 District Central Cooperative Banks. He also announced that 21 Primary Agricultural Credit Societies have been chosen for the construction of new warehouses aimed at improving rural storage capacity.

A major highlight of Haryana's cooperative initiatives is the zero-interest crop loan scheme for timely-paying members of primary cooperative societies. So far, the scheme has provided interest relief of ₹1,223 crore to 5,31,652 farmers, strengthening their financial stability and supporting inclusive agricultural growth.

Jharkhand High Court issues notice to IG Prisons

RANCHI

The Jharkhand High Court has taken suo motu cognisance of a viral video showing inmates dancing inside Birsra Munda Central Jail in Hotwar, Ranchi, raising serious concerns over the security and management of the state's prisons. During a hearing on Friday, a division bench headed by Chief Justice Tarlok Singh Chauhan expressed strong displeasure over the incident and questioned how such a lapse could occur inside a high-security prison.

The court directed the Inspector General of Prisons to appear in person on the next date of hearing and ordered the

production of the DVR containing the original CCTV footage related to the incident.

Describing the video as unfortunate and shameful, the bench observed that the incident exposes glaring weaknesses in the prison administration.

The court also noted that the video clearly suggests the use of mobile phones inside the jail, a violation that has repeatedly been flagged as a major security threat in many prisons across India. The judges questioned how inmates, including those facing charges in serious financial crimes, were able to gather in a special hall and engage in such activities without the knowledge of prison authorities.

ED issues fresh summons to Anil Ambani

NEW DELHI

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has issued fresh summons to Reliance ADAG Group chairman Anil Ambani, directing him to appear for questioning at its Delhi headquarters on Monday, according to reliable sources.

The development comes after the industrialist reportedly sought permission to join the inquiry virtually, a request the agency has declined.

Ambani, who had responded to an earlier summons by email on Friday, asked the ED to allow him

to participate via video conferencing. However, officials rejected this proposal and issued a renewed directive requiring his physical presence on November 17.

In a media statement, Ambani reiterated that he is willing to offer to appear by virtual means and assured that he will fully cooperate with ED on all matters.

His statement further clarified that the summons pertain exclusively to an inquiry under the Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA) and not to

PM Modi to review bullet train progress during Gujarat visit

AHMEDABAD

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will be in Gujarat on Saturday to inspect progress on one of India's most ambitious infrastructure projects — the Mumbai-Ahmedabad High-Speed Rail Corridor (MAHSR).

At around 10 am, the Prime Minister is scheduled to review the under-construction Bullet Train Station in Surat, a crucial node on the 508-km route that will mark India's entry into high-speed rail travel.

The corridor spans Gujarat, Maharashtra, and the Union Territory of Dadra and Nagar Haveli, connecting major cities such as Sabarmati, Ahmedabad, Anand, Vadodara, Bharuch, Surat, Bilimora, Vapi, Boisar, Virar, Thane, and Mumbai. Of the total stretch, 352 km lies in Gujarat and the Union Territory, while 156 km passes through Maharashtra.

Designed to meet global high-speed rail standards, nearly 85 per cent of the corridor above 465 km, is being constructed on elevated vi-



The under-construction Bullet Train Station in Surat considered as a crucial node on the 508-km route that will mark India's entry into high-speed rail travel

ducts to enhance safety, efficiency, and reduce land acquisition challenges. Project officials report significant progress, with 326 km of viaduct already completed, along with 17 of the planned 25 river bridges.

Once operational, the Bullet Train is expected to cut travel time between Mumbai and Ahmedabad to around two hours, reshaping regional mobility, boosting business connectivity, and stimulating tourism. Authorities say the project will serve as a major economic catalyst, driving investment and development along the entire route.

The Surat-Bilimora section, spanning 47 km, is among the most advanced stretches, with civil work and track-bed preparation fully completed.

2027 Assembly polls: Punjab's AAP retain Tarn Taran seat

CHANDIGARH

Ahead of the 2027 Punjab Assembly polls, Aam Aadmi Party's (AAP) candidate Harmet Singh Sandhu on Friday retained the Tarn Taran Assembly seat, defeating his nearest rival, Sukhwinder Kaur of the Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD), who was leading in the initial rounds of counting, by more than 12,000 votes. This bypoll was seen as a crucial test for Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann and the AAP that had won five of the six bypolls held in the state since it came to power in March 2022.

Independent candidate Mandeep Singh Khalsa, backed by hardline Sikh groups and jailed MP Amritpal Singh's faction, was in the third spot, while Congress' Karanbir Singh Burj was at the fourth. AAP's Sandhu leads got a

total of 42,649 votes, holding a margin of 12,091 votes. SAD's Kaur was in second place with 30,558 votes, followed by Khalsa at 19,620 votes, Congress' Karanbir Singh at 15,078 votes, and BJP's Harjit Singh Sandhu at 6,239 votes.

Responding to his party retaining the seat, state AAP Chief and Minister Aman Arora told the media here, This victory is recognition of the work done by the Bhagwant Mann government in Punjab. We presented our work to the people, they accepted it, and gave us great respect. Heartfelt thanks to everyone.

Harsimrat Kaur Badal thanked the people of Tarn Taran for supporting the Shiromani Akali Dal despite pressure, saying their support shows they prefer a regional party and will reject AAP in free 2027 elections.

UNION OF POLITICS & CRICKET

Yogi meets champ Deepti, lauds field feat

LUCKNOW

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, on Friday, met the state's World Cup winning Women's Cricket Team player Deepti Sharma and also led a Cabinet meeting which took 20 key decisions, including one on easing the registration process for old age pension, an official said.

Sharma, who is serving as Deputy Superintendent of Police (DSP) in the state, was praised by Chief Minister Adityanath for her good performance in the World Cricket final and winning the Player of the Tournament award.

Deepti has done the Uttar Pradesh Police proud at the world stage, CM Adityanath had tweeted soon after the women's cricket team lifted the World Cup on November 2.

Cricketer Deepti Sharma was earlier appointed as DSP in January this year under the sports quota as part of Chief Minister Adityanath's Skilled Athlete Scheme.

During the Cabinet meeting held at the CM residence on Friday, CM Adityanath led his Ministers in congratulating the women's cricket team for winning the World Cup.

The Cabinet also condemned the fatal Delhi blast on November 10. A key deci-



sion taken at the meeting relates to saving the elderly the trouble of running around for pension. The Cabinet decided that the social welfare department will deploy call-centre executives to contact and seek consent of the beneficiary and fill their

forms online through common service centres.

The forms will be verified using family IDs before the release of their pension, saving the elderly to run around to complete formalities. As a pilot project, the scheme will be tried in five districts, including Ghaziabad, Gorakhpur, Hardoi, Kannauj and Lalitpur, an official said.

In the existing system, an online application by an elderly person seeking pension needs the verification by the Sub-Divisional Magistrate and village Block Development Officer before an approval from the District Magistrate-led Committee.

CDS Chauhan stresses on defence R&D, lauds PSUs

NEW DELHI

Chief of Defence Staff General Anil Chauhan led the discussions on Defence R&D, Autonomous Systems and Futuristic Technologies and Ammunition and Explosives at the second edition of the Brainstorming Session (BSS 2.0) on Friday. While delivering the keynote address at Manekshaw Centre, the CDS highlighted the contribution of PSUs, the private sector and MSMEs in defence manufacturing. The Brainstorming Session 2.0 with the theme Atmanirbharta in Defence – Leverag-

ing Defence Industry Ecosystem for Future Warfare was organised by the Headquarters Integrated Defence Staff (HQ IDS), in association with the Society of Indian Defence Manufacturers (SIDM). Air Marshal Ashutosh Dixit, Chief of Integrated Defence Staff, in his welcome address, emphasised providing a boost to domestic industries focusing on technological advancement and Research and Development, said the Headquarters, Integrated Defence Staff, on X.

The event witnessed significant participation from defence industries, said a statement.



‘Massive majority, complete unity’: Nitish thanks NDA

PATNA: As the NDA is speculated to again form the government in Bihar, Chief Minister Nitish Kumar expressed gratitude to alliance partners, emphasising that the “massive majority” reflects the “Unity” of the alliance.



In a post on X, Nitish thanked voters and expressed gratitude to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Lok Janshakti Party (Ram Vilas), Rashtriya Lok Morcha and Hindu-stani Awam Morcha. He asserted that Bihar will now progress even further with the support of all the NDA members. “The NDA alliance has achieved a massive majority in this election by demonstrating complete unity. For this massive victory, thanks and gratitude are also due to all the partners of the NDA alliance – Shri Chirag Paswan Ji, Shri Jitan Ram Manjhi Ji, and Shri Upen-dra Kushwaha Ji,” he said. “I express my heartfelt gratitude and thanks to the Honorable Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi Ji for the support received from him, while bowing to him,” CM Nitish Kumar said.

Tejashwi retains Raghapur after day-long seesaw thriller

PATNA: While Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) supremo Lalu Prasad Yadav has been a two-time chief minister of Bihar, his sons Tejashwi Yadav and Tej Pratap Yadav had a tough time winning the elections, even in the party bastion. After day-long seesaw thriller, sitting MLA Tejashwi Prasad Yadav finally retained the Raghapur Assembly constituency in Bihar, a traditional RJD stronghold with a 68.54% voter turnout. As per the Election Commission of India (ECI) data, the grand alliance's chief ministerial face face and RJD top leader Tejashwi secured victory in Raghapur, finishing with 1,18,597 votes, a winning margin of 14,532 over BJP's Satish Kumar, who ended with 1,04,065 votes after the 32nd and final round of counting. While his brother Tej Pratap lost in Mahua.



Bihar reserves hot seat for ‘Sushasan Babu’

‘People have expressed their confidence in our govt and I bow to them for giving us a massive majority’

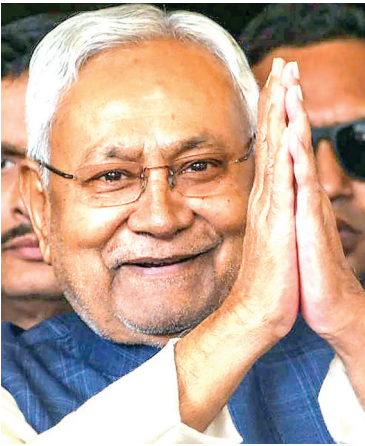
It’s a victory of good governance, development, public welfare and social justice, says PM Modi

LUCKNOW

set to return as Bihar’s chief minister for a record fifth time with a sweeping victory for the JD(U)-led NDA.

The 74-year-old has been at the centre of Bihar politics for more than two decades, building a reputation as a reformer and earning the nickname ‘Sushasan Babu’ against the backdrop of the RJD’s so-called ‘Jungle Raj’. For him, this election has been widely viewed as a test of both political endurance and public trust.

Nitish Kumar’s 2025 resurgence has been aided by strong backing from women voters, who outnumbered men at the polls, with a record turnout of 71.6%, the highest in 15 years. The boost came with the NDA’s manifesto, which promised to create one crore ‘lakhpati didis,’ offering up to Rs 2 lakh financial aid. Ahead of the elections, Nitish also transferred Rs 2,500 crore via direct benefit transfer (DBT) to 25 lakh women across the state.



Born in 1951 in Kalyan Bigha village of Nalanda in Bihar, Nitish grew up in a household shaped by the freedom movement. As a student, he got attracted to socialist ideas and the Lohia School principles of caste justice.

Rising through the JP movement of the mid-1970s, he entered the electoral politics in 1977 when the nation was witnessing a Janata wave, but got defeated twice by in-

dependent candidates in Harnaut. His breakthrough came in 1985 when he captured the same seat on a Lok Dal ticket and emerged as a significant voice for backward castes and secular politics.

Nitish, who in his initial days in state politics was seen as Lalu Prasad Yadav’s ‘Chota Bhai’ (younger brother), eventually carved his own support base among the backward classes, especially Kurmis. He broke away from Lalu over the latter’s ‘growing dominance’ and formed the Samata Party with George Fernandes in 1994.

After his shift to national politics, Nitish won six Lok Sabha elections between 1989 and 2004 from Barh and Nalanda, establishing his presence on the national political stage.

Often targeted by the opposition as ‘paltu ram’ (frequent turncoat), Nitish held his ground and vote bank stronger always. His political journey and lasting popularity are a testament to his adaptability and strategic growth.



The dual formula that rode to a historical triumph

The mix of PM Modi’s national appeal and Bihar CM Nitish Kumar’s deep grassroots connect has emerged as a formidable electoral force, which helped the alliance to translate the political momentum into a historical triumph in Bihar, India’s third most populous state.

The results reaffirmed a pattern of voting witnessed in multiple nationwide elections, with Bihar giving the Narendra Modi and his party an overwhelming support in the 2014, 2019, and 2024 Lok Sabha polls, as well as in the 2020 and 2025 Assembly elections.

The ruling alliance also accused the INDIA bloc of disrespecting the state’s identity, pointing to the remarks made by its leaders, including Rahul



Gandhi who criticised PM Modi when he performed ‘Chhath Puja’ during the election rally. Following the controversy, Modi pushed for ‘Chhath Puja’ to be listed in UNESCO’s intangible cultural heritage category as evidence of NDA’s commitment to preserving Bihar’s heritage.

With Modi standing firmly beside Nitish throughout the campaign, the NDA projected a united and reinvigorated front, stressing welfare of all.



Remember, we were not the senior partner in the alliance and that RJD also has to look carefully at its own performance. But, it’s very important that we look at the totality of our performance

—Shashi Tharoor, Cong leader



The people of Bihar have given their verdict and we take that as a lesson. We will work on a new strategy for Congress party and India bloc.

—DK Shivakumar
DyCM, Karnataka



The mandate is ‘unexpected’ and ‘unacceptable’. While the results are now out, the reasons behind such a verdict need to be examined.

—Priyank Kharge
Karnataka Minister



The people of Bihar have blessed the party with unexpected support and sent a message to the nation that Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s hands should be strengthened.

—R ASKOKA, BJP leader

Cong, BJP, PDP register win assembly bypolls

NEW DELHI

The counting of votes for the recent assembly by-elections reveals a mixed outcome with both the BJP and the Congress marking notable victories.

Cong wins Jubilee Hills, Rajasthan’s Anta seats

The Congress registered crucial wins in two separate states. In Rajasthan’s Anta, Pramod Jain ‘Bhaya’ defeated the BJP’s Morpal Suman and Independent Naresh Meena, securing 69,571 votes and winning by a margin of 15,612 votes. The Congress also celebrated a victory in the Telangana’s Jubilee Hills by-poll, where Naveen Yadav was declared the winner.

BJP retains Nagrota

The BJP marked its dominance in two key areas. In Jammu & Kashmir’s Nagrota, Devyani Rana secured a massive victory, winning by a substantial margin of 24,647 votes. Similarly, in Odisha’s Nuapada, the BJP’s Jay



Dholakia established a commanding lead of 82,911 votes.

Budgam goes for PDP

Regional parties proved their resilience in their respective strongholds. The Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) secured a significant victory in J&K’s Budgam, where Muntazir Mehdi won with 21,576 votes, defeating the National Conference (NC) and an independent candidate by a margin of 4,478 votes. The BJP’s candidate, Mohsin Mosvi, finished sixth with 2,619 votes.

MNF shines in Dampa

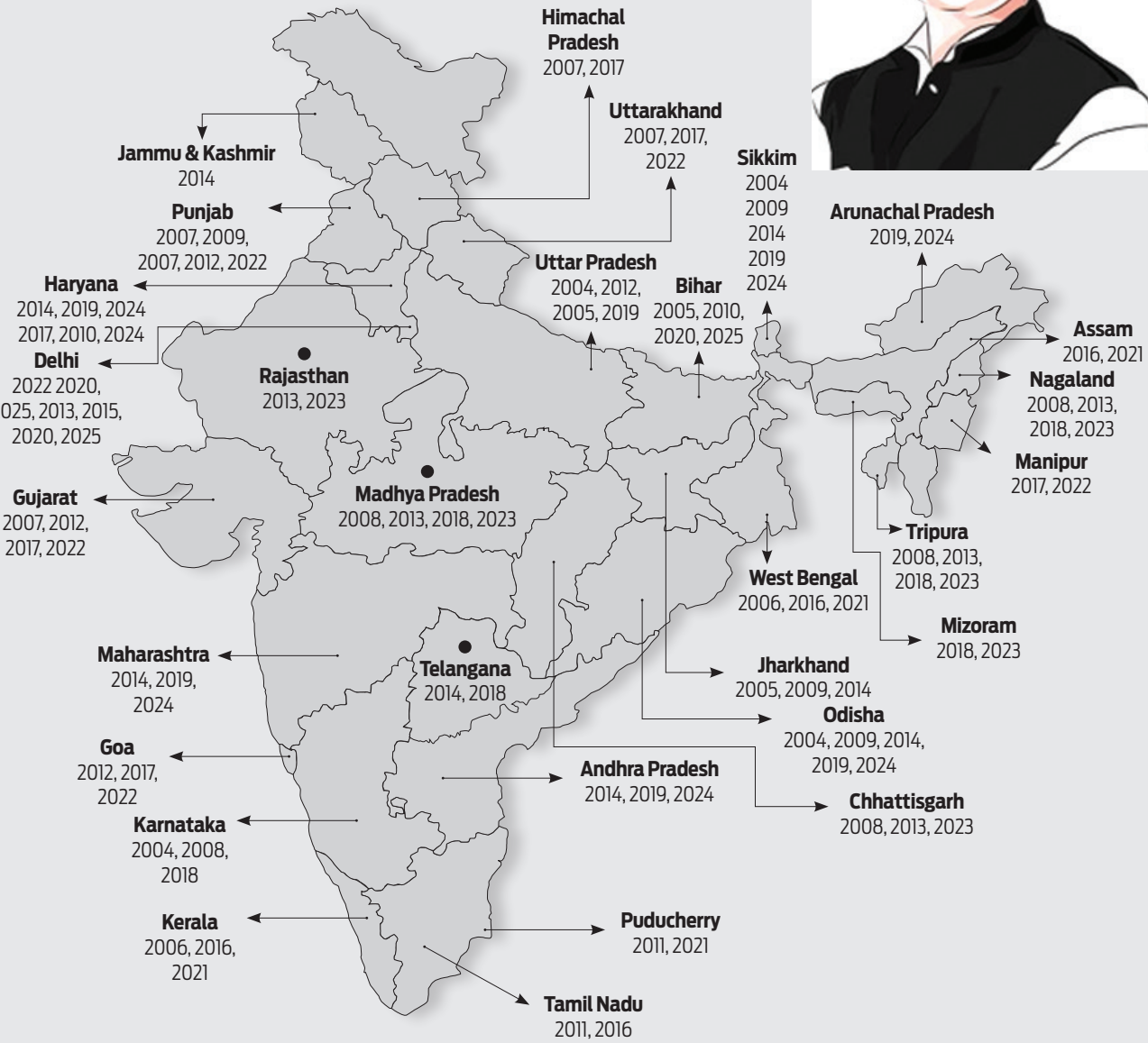
In Mizoram, the Mizo National Front (MNF) successfully retained the Dampa constituency with Dr R Lalthangliana won by a narrow margin of 562 votes.

AAP rules Tarn Taran

The ruling Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) in Punjab retained the Tarn Taran Assembly seat in the by-elections.

95 DEFEATS FOR RAHUL GANDHI

While many will call him a 9-to-5 blame-game politician, Rahul Gandhi has now accumulated 95 electoral defeats in two decades, five short of a century. Is the attack on India’s institutions a diversionary tactic by the silver-spoon scion?



Source: Agencies

We bow down to people’s verdict in Bihar: DKS

BENGALURU

Deputy Chief Minister of Karnataka DK Shivakumar on Friday said he would bow down to the verdict given by the people of Bihar.

Addressing the media at Vidhana Soudha, he said, “The people of Bihar have given their verdict and we take that as a lesson. We will work on a new strategy for Congress party and India bloc.” “The NDA government in Bihar has deposited Rs 10,000 to the women and hence their voting percentage has gone up by 11%,” he explained.

Asked if higher voting by women was the reason for the defeat, he said, “I will look at the numbers in detail and then comment on it.”

Grateful to Bihar people: Owaisi

PATNA

AIMIM president Asaduddin Owaisi thanked the people of Bihar for ensuring the success of party’s candidates in five assembly constituencies and urged non-NDA parties to introspect. He said non-NDA parties should try to address their shortcomings instead of assuming voters would automatically favour them. “I am grateful to the people of Bihar. Especially, I have been saying from the beginning that RJD would not be able to stop BJP. You can check my speeches. I had said that. Today also, I am appealing to those people in Bihar who have misconception about the ‘MY’ (Muslim and Yadav) combination,” Owaisi said.



QUICK READ

Steady ties between India and Japan can ensure Indo-Pacific stability

Tokyo

Although the Indo-Pacific continues to be a contested and dynamic theatre, steady and practical cooperation between Japan and India can ensure that it remains open, stable, and secure, a report said on Friday. It added that at a fundamental level, Tokyo and New Delhi view the Indo-Pacific as an interconnected strategic space spanning from Africa's eastern coast to the western Pacific, underpinned by inclusivity, freedom of navigation, and respect for international law as the normative basis for their engagement.



Hasina denounces ICT trial as politically motivated hatchet job

Dhaka

Bangladesh's former Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has dismissed the country's International Court Tribunal (ICT), which is set to deliver its verdict on her case on November 17, describing it as a politically motivated hatchet job orchestrated by her rivals, a report said on Friday. It added that Hasina has already been sentenced to six months' imprisonment for contempt of court, and separately faces corruption charges. Several officials from the former Awami League government led by Hasina also face charges, including the former interior minister and the former police chief.

Traders Warn of Major Economic Losses in Afghan

Taliban's suspension of trade ties with Pakistan has triggered widespread concern among businesses fearing severe economic fallout

KABUL

The Taliban's recent announcement to suspend trade relations with Pakistan has sparked deep anxiety among traders and customs clearing agents in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, who fear that the move could inflict significant damage on the region's fragile economy, local media reported. The abrupt halt, they say, threatens not only daily commercial activity but also the long-standing economic interdependence between the two neighbouring countries.

Reacting to the announcement, Ziaul Haq Sarhadi, Senior Vice-President of the Pak-Afghan Joint Chamber of Commerce and Industry, warned that Pakistan stands to



lose a substantial export market in Afghanistan and the Central Asian states. He noted that Pakistan had recently signed trade agreements with several countries in the region, but the suspension now places those gains at risk. Sarhadi explained that Pakistan exports a wide range of goods to Afghanistan, including

fresh fruits, cement, medicines, surgical tools, agricultural machinery, fabrics, shoes, cosmetics, sanitary products and plastic pipes collectively valued between USD 100 million and USD 200 million per month.

We are the ultimate losers due to the closure of our border with Afghanistan as Kabul

has more choices than us, he said, emphasising the imbalance in market alternatives between the two nations.

Former president of the Sarhad Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Zahidullah Shinwari, echoed similar concerns, stating that the suspension would severely affect the Federal Board of Revenue's tax collection.

He noted that millions of rupees were collected daily from imports and exports across the border, forming an essential revenue stream for the government. Shinwari added that industries in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa would suffer the most, as many rely heavily on Afghan imports particularly coal to sustain production.

Door opened for South Korea's pursuit of uranium enrichment

SEOUL

South Korea took a major step forward on Friday in its long-running quest to secure rights to enrich uranium and reprocess spent nuclear fuel for peaceful purposes, with the United States affirming its support in the countries' joint summit document.

The joint fact sheet, released earlier in the day, outlines the agreements reached in the two summits between President Lee Jae Myung and US President Donald Trump. It covers the allies' commitments on a range of key trade and security issues.

Consistent with the bilateral 123 agreement and subject to US legal requirements, the United States supports the process that will lead to the ROK's civil uranium enrichment and spent fuel reprocessing for peaceful uses, the document showed. ROK stands for South Korea's official name, the Republic of Korea. Under the 123 agree-

ment on peaceful nuclear energy cooperation, South Korea has very limited authority to reprocess spent nuclear fuel or enrich uranium for civilian purposes, as such activities require US consent through bilateral consultations under the relevant treaties, laws and regulations governing both countries.

The agreement only allows South Korea to enrich uranium up to less than 20 per cent based on US consent, with US concerns over nuclear proliferation known as the primary reason.

The nuclear energy pact, forged in 1974, was revised once in 2015 for a 20-year term, to accommodate Seoul's request for the rights to reprocess spent fuel and enrich uranium, but it has been seen as effectively barring Seoul from producing its own civilian nuclear fuel. South Korea, a global nuclear energy powerhouse, has long sought to expand its rights as a way to address growing nuclear waste stockpiles.

Marjorie Taylor Greene Moves to Abolish H-1B Visa

WASHINGTON

Republican lawmakers have renewed their offensive against the United States' H-1B visa programme, despite former President Donald Trump recently defending the non-immigrant work visa that allows American employers to hire skilled foreign workers. The latest move comes from Congresswoman Marjorie Taylor Greene, who announced her intention to introduce a bill seeking to completely eliminate the programme and revoke the pathways to permanent residency it provides.

The H-1B visa, widely used in STEM fields, offers a route to U.S. citizenship through employer-sponsored green cards. After receiving permanent residency, workers can apply for citizenship within five years. This system has particularly benefited Indian professionals, who account for more than 70 per cent of



A new Republican push to abolish the H-1B visa reignites concerns for thousands of skilled foreign professionals, especially Indians.

all approved H-1B applications in recent years, driven by strong demand for specialized talent in American industries. In a video posted on X, Greene claimed the programme has been riddled with fraud and abuse and accused it of displacing American workers. She argued that eliminating the visa would force foreign workers to return home upon expiration of their current status.

Greene's proposal includes a narrow exemption for medical professionals, allowing up to 10,000 visas annually for doctors and nurses providing essential services. However, she added that even this small provision would be phased out over a decade, giv-

ing the U.S. time to build our own pipeline of medical professionals. The bill would further bar Medicare-funded residency programmes from admitting non-citizen medical students.

She pointed to last year's mismatch in medical placements, noting that over 9,000 U.S. medical graduates failed to secure residency positions, while more than 5,000 foreign-born doctors obtained placements in 2023.

If Greene's bill advances, immigration analysts warn it could severely disrupt American industries reliant on skilled talent and deliver a major blow to Indian professionals who form the backbone of the H-1B workforce.

Hundreds of expatriate Bangladeshis rallied outside the ICJ in The Hague protesting alleged human rights violations in Bangladesh

Bangladeshi Expatriates across Europe Protest Outside ICJ

THE HAGUE

Hundreds of Bangladeshi expatriates from across Europe formed a human chain outside the International Court of Justice (ICJ) in The Hague, accusing the Muhammad Yunus-led interim government of committing serious human rights abuses. The demonstration, organised by the Netherlands chapter of the Awami League, took place on Friday and was led by its President Mostofa Zaman and General Secretary Murad Khan.

Former Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina addressed the crowd virtually as the Chief Guest, expressing solidarity with the protesters. According to the Awami League, demonstrators later submitted a formal complaint to the ICJ President, outlining allegations that included arbitrary arrests, torture of minorities and party members, systematic persecution, and politically motivated cases filed against Hasina and her supporters.

The complaint accused Yunus and his associates of illegally seizing power and



working with anti-liberation and extremist forces to destabilise the country. It also cited incidents such as the burning of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman's historic residence at 32 Dhanmondi, attacks on state institutions, and the banning of the Awami League and its student wing, the Chhatra League.

Several senior Awami League leaders from Europe — including Hasan Mahmud, M. Nazrul Islam, Mujibur Rahman, M.A. Kasem, Dilwar Hossain Koiech, and Shahidul Haq — joined the rally, calling for international intervention. Protesters held placards demanding justice for Hasina and all Bangladeshis who they said had been deprived of basic rights. The international community must not remain

silent. Yunus must be held accountable, the Awami League quoted participants as saying.

The demonstration came a day after the Awami League urged its supporters to stay alert against what it described as conspiracies by the Yunus-led interim administration, particularly in connection with the party's Dhaka Lockdown programme. The initiative centres around the upcoming verdict of the Bangladesh International Crimes Tribunal in a case against Hasina, reportedly due on November 17.

Condemning the interim government, the party alleged that the illegal, usurping, fascist regime had deprived it of its democratic rights and violated the rights of its leaders and activists.

First Chief Justice of Federal Constitutional Court sworn

ISLAMABAD

Justice Aminuddin Khan took oath as the first Chief Justice of Pakistan's newly-established Federal Constitutional Court (FCC) on Friday, a day after Pakistan President Asif Ali Zardari signed the 27th Constitutional Amendment Bill into a law.

Zardari administered oath to Justice Khan as

Chief Justice of FCC at Aiwan e Sadr, the official residence of Pakistan's President.

Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, Army Chief Field Marshal Asim Munir, Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee (CJSC) General Sahir Shamshad Mirza and Supreme Court Chief Justice Yahya Afridi were also present during the ceremony.

Israel recovers hostage body from Gaza

JERUSALEM

Israel said Friday it recovered the body of a deceased hostage identified as Meny Godard held by militants in the Gaza Strip. After completing the identification process, officials notified the family of Godard that his remains had been returned for burial, the Israel Defence Forces (IDF) said in a statement.

According to the Prime Minister's Office, Godard's body was handed over to the Red Cross in Gaza and later transferred to Israel, where forensic experts confirmed his identity. Godard, 73, and his wife were killed outside their home in Kibbutz Be'eri during the Hamas-led attack on southern Israel on October 7, 2023. His body was taken to Gaza.

He was pronounced dead on August 12, 2023 and leaves behind four children and seven grandchildren. His

wife, the late Ayelet Goddard, was also murdered in an attack on the Kibbutz. In a statement, the said that it shares the family's grief and continues to invest all efforts in the return of the deceased abductees. Hamas, the IDF said, is required to fulfill its part of the agreement and make all necessary efforts to return the deceased hostages to their families and for a proper burial.

Earlier this week, the Israeli forces received from the Red Cross in Gaza the remains of a hostage whose body was held by Hamas for the past 11 years, the Israeli Prime Minister's office said.

Hamas announced it was handing over the body of Goldin, an army officer killed during Israel's 2014 Gaza war. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu later confirmed the remains were believed to be Goldin's. At the start of his weekly cabinet meeting,

Over 7,000 Afghan refugees return home from Pakistan and Iran in single day

KABUL

Around 7,061 Afghan refugees were forcibly deported to Afghanistan from Pakistan and Iran, according to Afghanistan's High Commission for Addressing Refugee Affairs. In a daily operational report shared on X, Afghanistan's Deputy Spokesperson Mullah Hamdullah Fitrat stated that 1,353 Afghan families, comprising 7,061 people returned from Iran and Paki-

stan. Fitrat stated that Afghan refugees returned to Afghanistan through Spin Boldak in Kandahar, Bahramcha in Helmand, Islam Qala in Herat, Pul-i-Abresham in Nimroz and Torkham in Nangarhar provinces. He further said that assistance was given to 1,436 families that returned to Afghanistan while 3,448 returnee families, comprising 27,223 people were taken to their respective areas. Mullah Hamdullah Fitrat stated that

telecommunication companies distributed 1,338 SIM cards to the refugees.

As many as 10,637 Afghan refugees were forcibly deported from Iran and Pakistan. Last month, Afghan refugees voiced concerns over escalating challenges and growing fear amid the ongoing crackdown in Pakistan. They alleged that the Pakistani police have made announcements in some mosques warning that anyone assisting the refugees.

GAZA AID CRISIS

Israel Is Systematically Crippling Aid Operations: UNRWA

NUSEIRAT

The United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestinian Refugees (UNRWA) has accused Israel of intentionally paralyzing its humanitarian operations in Gaza, warning that millions of Palestinians are being left exposed as heavy rains and winter conditions set in. The agency said the Israeli blockade, now entering its third year amid the ongoing war, has restricted essential aid and hampered its ability to reach Gaza's displaced population. Addressing the UN General



Assembly's Fourth Committee, UNRWA Commissioner-General Philippe Lazzarini said the agency's mandate is protected under international law and must be upheld. He cited conclusions from the UN Commission of Inquiry

survival of millions of Palestinians; and it is essential for a political solution, Lazzarini said.

Speaking to reporters in New York, Lazzarini warned that the agency is also facing a severe funding crisis worsened by cuts from major donors, including the United States. He said the organisation is struggling to sustain its basic functions. We run week by week, month by month. I know that as of today, we will be able to process our salaries in November, but have no idea if... we will be able to process our salaries in De-

cember, he said.

Israel barred UNRWA from operating on its territory earlier this year after accusing several of its staff of participating in the Hamas-led October 7, 2023 attack. However, Israel has not provided evidence supporting these allegations, which UNRWA has called baseless and politically motivated. With resources shrinking and access blocked, UNRWA warns that essential services including food distribution, medical care, and shelter support could soon collapse, leaving Gaza's population in even deeper peril.

SU DO KU

Brain-Bender: Can You Solve It?

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

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

Fill a 9x9 grid with numbers so that each row, column and 3x3 section contain all of the digits between 1 and 9.

Solutions to Yesterday's puzzle





The actor says she focuses on confidence, kindness, and emotional strength rather than following traditional expectations

ISHA KOPPIKAR champions communication in parenting

Actress Isha Koppikar shared her heartfelt thoughts on modern parenting this Children’s Day, explaining how open communication, trust, and emotional awareness guide her journey as a mother, she said she avoids strict, fear-based methods and instead encourages her daughter Rianna to understand her feelings and learn from everyday experiences. Isha explained that she focuses on confidence, kindness, and emotional strength rather than following traditional expectations. She said she tries to

guide her daughter through honest conversations instead of control. When Rianna faces challenges, Isha encourages her to think through the situation, find solutions, and reflect on what she feels, rather than simply following instructions. The actress shared that every night they talk about their day—the good, the mistakes, and the lessons learned. She believes showing her own flaws helps her daughter see that strength includes honesty, compassion, and the willingness to grow. According to her, parenting is not about perfection but about creating a bond built on trust and understanding. Speaking about her hopes for Rianna, Isha said she wants her to grow up feeling safe, loved, and free to choose her own path in life. She wishes for her daughter to know her worth and believe she can become anything she dreams of.

Isha welcomed Rianna in July 2014 with her former husband, Timmy Narang. The actress, known for films across several languages, made her debut with the Tamil movie “Kaalhal Kavithai,” which won her the Filmfare Best Female Debut Award.

‘Love Never Dies’

Just as the title ‘Premam Madhuram’ suggests, the story revolves around love and romance. The film contains situations that today’s youth will easily connect with. In everyone’s life, love either succeeds or fails. This applies to all. As we watch, many incidents we experienced or witnessed during our school and college days come back vividly before our eyes.

The film shows what love looks like at three different stages of life. Even though it doesn’t try to say anything entirely new, certain aspects of love manage to capture our attention. It also portrays what goes on in the glamorous world and the struggles new talents face when they enter the industry.

In the end, the message to young lovers is that love is eternal, it has no death. How the love story between Vikram, Meghana, and Charmi



concludes can be known only by watching the film in the theatre.

Gandhi.A.B., who has taken on the dual responsibility of Director and lead actor, has handled both roles neatly. In his very first attempt, he succeeds in creating scenes that do not feel boring. Heroines Aishwarya Dinesh and Anusha Jain look charming on screen.

Lapangaraj, an artist from North Karnataka, entertains with dialogues in the local dialect. Likewise, Sihi Kahi Chandru, Rajeswari, Anoop Agastya, and others do justice to their roles. Two songs by Vishal Aalap stand out as pleasant to listen to. Producer Aragonda Shekhar Reddy can be credited with giving the audience a good film.

Priyanka Chopra calls Hyderabad biryani world’s best

Global star Priyanka Chopra, currently shooting for SS Rajamouli’s much-anticipated film *Globe Trotter*, has praised Hyderabad for its food and warm hospitality. The actress has been filming in the city since January 2025 and has explored many corners of Hyderabad and its surroundings.

During a recent fan interaction on X (formerly Twitter), Priyanka spoke fondly about her collaboration with Mahesh Babu and the close bond she shares with both his family and Rajamouli’s family. She even visited Rajamouli’s farm, located about 50 km from Hyderabad, where she enjoyed spending time with a calf and experiencing the serene countryside. Describing her experience on the

film as “adiripoyindi,” Priyanka revealed that she has thoroughly enjoyed every moment of working on the project. When asked about her favorite Hyderabad food, she didn’t hesitate to declare, “Hyderabad biryani is the best in the world!”

In *Globe Trotter*, Priyanka plays the character Mandakini. The first look poster of her role has already created a buzz among fans, heightening anticipation for the film. Her candid comments and excitement about both the city and the project reflect her genuine appreciation for local culture and the collaborative spirit on set.



Nani’s ‘The Paradise’ faces major challenge ahead



Chikiri Chikiri, which is trending online, adding pressure on *The Paradise* team to speed up music production. Director Odela is currently in Chennai coordinating music sessions with Anirudh.

The film is being planned for a global release, with earlier reports suggesting talks with Hollywood star Ryan Reynolds as a presenter to expand its international reach, though no official update has emerged.

Actor Nani’s upcoming film *The Paradise*, touted as his most ambitious and expensive project yet, is facing a tough challenge as it gears up for a March 26, 2026 release. Set in the historic era of Secunderabad, Nani plays Jadaalu, a rugged character with braided hair and tattoos, including one bold tattoo on his hand that reads “ba**rd.”

Directed by Srikanth Odela of *Dasara* fame and produced by Sudhakar Cherukuri, the film is currently being shot across Hyderabad. Key sequences featuring Nani, Mohan Babu, and Sonali Kulkarni are underway, but the production faces a pressing hurdle—none of the songs have been recorded yet. Music director Anirudh Ravichander, who is handling multiple high-profile projects like *Jailer 2* and *King*, is taking time to complete the soundtrack. Meanwhile, competitor Ram Charan’s *Peddi* has already released its first song,



CHADWICK BOSEMAN

honoured with Hollywood star posthumously

Late actor Chadwick Boseman will be honoured with a posthumous star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame five years after his passing at age 43. The ceremony is scheduled for November 20 at 6904 Hollywood Blvd, Los Angeles. Boseman’s wife, Simone Ledward-Boseman, will accept the award on his behalf, while filmmaker Ryan Coogler and actress Viola Davis, both longtime collaborators, are set to speak at the event. Ana Martinez, producer of the Hollywood Walk of Fame, said in a statement that Boseman’s “powerful performances and enduring impact both on and off screen continue to inspire generations around the world.”

Boseman built a celebrated career portraying iconic figures in Black American history. He earned widespread acclaim for playing Jackie Robinson in *42*, James Brown in *Get On Up*, and Thurgood Marshall, the first Black U.S. Supreme Court Justice, in *Marshall*. His performance as troubled trumpet player Levee Green in *Ma Rainey’s Black Bottom* earned him a posthumous Academy Award nomination in 2021 and wins at the Golden Globe, Critics’ Choice, and Screen Actors Guild Awards. Among Marvel fans, Boseman became a global icon for his role as T’Challa, the superhero Black Panther, in the blockbuster franchise directed by Ryan Coogler. His legacy continues to resonate both on the big screen and beyond, inspiring audiences and actors worldwide. The Walk of Fame star will serve as a lasting tribute to Boseman’s talent, dedication, and the cultural impact he made during his brief but extraordinary career.



‘MAD’ fame Gouri Priya shines in two films

Actress Sri Gouri Priya, who regained fame with the show *MAD*, is keeping busy with two promising Telugu projects. On her birthday, both film teams released special posters to celebrate her milestone. In *Chennai Love Story*, she stars opposite Kiran Abbavaram. Written by Sai Rajesh and co-produced by SKN, the film is generating buzz, especially following Kiran Abbavaram’s recent hit *K-Ramp*. Sources say Gouri Priya plays a strong, pivotal role in the romantic drama, adding depth to the story.

Her second project, *Visa*, produced by Sithara Entertainments, casts her as an NRI girl alongside Rahul Vijay. The film promises to showcase her versatility and charm in a completely different character.

With consecutive projects in Telugu cinema and a growing presence in Tamil through her web series and the film *Lover*, Sri Gouri Priya’s career appears to be on a steady upward trajectory. Her choices reflect a mix of strong roles and commercial appeal, making her one of the rising stars to watch in South Indian cinema.

Fans and industry insiders are excited to see how she juggles these two films and further establishes herself as a leading actress in both Telugu and Tamil entertainment.

Ankit Siwach’s dialogue strikes deep with fans



Actor Ankit Siwach is thrilled by the growing craze around his powerful dialogue from the trailer of Farhan Akhtar’s upcoming drama *120 Bahadur*. Since the trailer’s release, one line spoken by Ankit has taken social media by storm. The dialogue, in which he expresses devotion, bravery, and the spirit of a soldier, has become widely shared and discussed by fans online.

Ankit said the overwhelming response feels like a dream come true. He shared that every actor hopes for moments where their performance touches people so deeply. According to him, the line has connected with audiences because it reflects pure emotions tied to loyalty, sacrifice, and love for the country. He recalled shooting the scene in freezing weather, but also feeling a strong emotion that rose beyond acting and made the moment unforgettable.

Legendary actress Kamini Kaushal passes away at 98

Veteran actress Kamini Kaushal, one of Indian cinema’s most respected and long-lived stars, passed away on Friday at the age of 98. Family friends said she had been dealing with age-related health issues and that her loved ones have asked for privacy as they cope with the loss. Born in Lahore as the youngest of five siblings, Kaushal made a mark early in her career with “Neecha Nagar,” the film that won the Palme d’Or at the 1946 Cannes Film Festival. Through the decades, she went on to act in more than 90 films and became a familiar face to generations of moviegoers. Her standout works included “Shaheed,” “Nadiya Ke Paar,” “Shabnam,” “Aarzoo,” and “Biraj Bahu,” along with noted films such as “Do Bhai,” “Ziddi,” “Paras,” “Namoonaa,” “Aabroo,” and “Godaan.”

Kaushal was admired for her natural screen presence and for her work with leg-



endary actors like Dilip Kumar, Raj Kapoor, Dev Anand, and Ashok Kumar. Her on-screen partnership with Dilip Kumar, especially in films like “Shaheed” and “Aarzoo,” won widespread praise. She also reached audiences through television, most memorably with the Doordarshan show “Chand Sitar.” Even in her later years, she remained connected to films, appearing in “Laal Singh Chadha” in 2022.

Kamini Kaushal is survived by her sons Shraavan, Vidur, and Rahul Sood. Her colleagues remembered her as gentle, disciplined, and deeply devoted to her craft.



Bumrah’s five-for lights up Eden as India seizes control of first test

Jasprit Bumrah’s fiery five-wicket haul turned the opening day firmly India’s way

KOLKATA

Jasprit Bumrah produced a spell of high-class fast bowling to claim a superb five-wicket haul and dismantle South Africa for 159 on Day 1 of the first Test at Eden Gardens on Friday. In front of a roaring crowd of nearly 35,000, the Indian spearhead changed the course of the innings the moment he took the ball at the Clubhouse End.

South Africa’s openers Aiden Markram and Ryan Rickelton had begun confidently, racing to 57 without loss as India

searched desperately for a breakthrough. Bumrah delivered instantly, going around the wicket to remove Rickelton with precision before unleashing a sharp, rising delivery that forced Markram to glove behind. With minimal assistance from the surface, his relentless accuracy and attacking lengths made him unplayable.

Bumrah’s return spell proved just as destructive. Tony de Zorzi, well set and batting fluently, was trapped by one that skidded back in. Kyle Verreynne then faced a searing yorker first ball, sur-

living only by inches. The pressure was unrelenting, and Bumrah eventually cleaned up the tail to complete his 16th Test five-wicket haul—and his first at Eden Gardens.

Since 2018, Bumrah has dismissed more Test openers than any bowler in the world, a reflection of his unmatched potency with the new ball and old. His Test average of 19.67—earned across conditions in Asia, Australia, England and South Africa—underscores his stature as one of modern cricket’s most complete fast bowlers.

Former India batting coach Sanjay Bangar praised Bumrah’s immaculate control, noting how he offers almost no scoring opportunities with his stump-to-stump consistency.

A brief on-field exchange during a DRS discussion involving a remark picked up on the stump mic created some online chatter, but it did little to overshadow the day.

On a pitch offering variable bounce and early reverse swing, Bumrah stamped his authority, sending the crowd into a frenzy and putting India firmly in command of the contest.

Kartik Kumar Accepts 3-Yr Ban after Multiple Positive Tests

KOLKATA

Long-distance runner Kartik Kumar, a Hangzhou Asian Games silver medallist in the 10,000m, has accepted a three-year ban after testing positive for multiple prohibited substances during an out-of-competition test conducted in the United States. The 26-year-old, who had been training in Colorado Springs, was tested by the USA Anti-Doping Agency (USADA) following a tip-off.

Kartik was part of a training group under noted coach Scott Simmons, working alongside fellow long-distance star Gulveer Singh and other elite athletes. His sample returned adverse findings for several banned substances, prompting USADA to place him under provisional suspension. The Athletics Integrity Unit and Indian authorities were subsequently informed of the violation.

Kylian Mbappé, Olise Shine as France Seal 2026 World Cup Berth

PARIS

France stormed into the 2026 FIFA World Cup with a commanding 4-0 victory over Ukraine in Paris, a night that blended footballing excellence with poignant remembrance. Kylian Mbappé struck twice, while Michael Olise and Hugo Ekitike added one each, ensuring Les Bleus confirmed qualification with a game to spare.

A minute’s silence preceded kick-off at Parc des Princes as 41,000 spectators honoured victims of the 2015 Paris attacks. France, led by long-serving coach Didier Deschamps, responded with a composed display that underlined their consistency on the global stage.

Mbappé opened the scoring early in the second half, calmly converting a penalty after Olise was fouled. Olise, thriving in a more central role, doubled the lead in the 76th minute with a sharp turn and finish.



Mbappé’s brace and Olise’s brilliance power France into the 2026 World Cup.

The momentum stayed with France as Mbappé added his second, taking his international tally to 55—just two behind Olivier Giroud’s all-time record. Ekitike then completed the rout with his first senior international goal.

Deschamps, set to lead France for the final time at the upcoming World Cup, expressed satisfaction at meeting the team’s primary objective.

With an unassailable lead in Group D, France extended their remarkable qualification streak, having featured in every World Cup since 1998.

Though the qualifying campaign had occasional dips, notably a draw against Iceland, France rediscovered fluency when it mattered. As they await the December 5 draw in Washington, D.C., Ukraine and Iceland now face a decisive clash to keep their hopes alive through the playoffs.

Vaibhav Suryavanshi Fires 32-Ball Ton in Tournament Opener

DOHA

Vaibhav Suryavanshi produced a sensational batting display, hammering a 32-ball hundred to equal the joint-second fastest T20 century by an Indian, during India’s Rising Stars Asia Cup match against the UAE at the West End Park International Cricket Stadium in Doha on Friday.

Walking out to open India’s campaign, Suryavanshi showed intent from the very first over, unleashing an array of fearless strokes across the ground. His innings was fuelled by 10 fours and nine towering sixes, a clean striking effort that left the UAE bowlers with no answers. The right-hander mixed timing with raw power, often stepping out to loft over long-on or backing away to carve shots over point, maintaining a relentless scoring tempo throughout his knock.

Suryavanshi’s 32-ball effort places him behind only Urvil Patel and Abhishek Sharma, the joint record-holders for the fastest T20 hundreds by an Indian, both achieving the milestone in 28 balls.



Young opener Vaibhav Suryavanshi lit up India’s tournament opener with a blistering century.

His innings also provided India with an ideal start to the multi-nation youth competition, injecting confidence into a team eager to make a strong early impression.

The pitch in Doha offered true bounce and value for shots—conditions Suryavanshi capitalised on brilliantly. Despite the UAE bowlers’ attempts to alter pace and length, he continued to dominate, frequently clearing the infield and forcing the opposition captain to spread the field as early as the third over.

Beyond its statistical significance, the knock further elevates Suryavanshi’s reputation as one of India’s most exciting young batters. His ability to accelerate instantly, maintain control under pressure, and convert a flying start into a monumental score will hearten the Indian team management as the tournament progresses.

India will hope this commanding beginning sets the tone for a successful Rising Stars Asia Cup campaign, with Suryavanshi’s whirlwind hundred already emerging as one of the tournament’s stand-out early highlights.

Ronaldo’s red card puts his 2026 World Cup participation under serious threat

Ronaldo Risks World Cup Ban after Red Card in Defeat to Ireland

DUBLIN

Cristiano Ronaldo could face a suspension that threatens his participation in the opening match of the 2026 FIFA World Cup after being sent off during Portugal’s 2-0 defeat to Ireland in a crucial qualifying match on Thursday. The veteran forward received a red card in the second half for elbowing Ireland defender Dara O’Shea, an incident that now places him at risk of a multi-match FIFA ban.

Ronaldo will automatically miss Portugal’s next qualifier against Armenia on Sunday, where a win would secure their place at the World Cup in the United States, Canada and Mexico. However, FIFA’s disciplinary regulations stipulate a minimum two-match suspension for serious foul play, and at least three matches for violent conduct or assault—categories under which elbowing can fall. Any suspension he receives would apply only to competitive fixtures, meaning it cannot be served in warm-up games before the tournament.

The flashpoint occurred around the hour mark at Dublin’s Aviva Stadium, with Ireland leading 2-0. As players awaited a cross, Ronaldo spun and struck O’Shea with his elbow, initially earning a yellow card before the referee upgraded it to a red following a pitchside video review. The Portugal star reacted with a wry smile, later clapping sarcastically toward jeering Irish fans as he left the field.

Ronaldo, who turns 41 in February, hopes to feature in his sixth World Cup—a record achievement if realized. The tournament draw will take place on December 5 in Washington, D.C., where Portugal, provided they qualify, will learn their group-stage opponents.



Joseph Parker Returns Positive Test for Cocaine

LONDON

Former heavyweight world champion Joseph Parker has failed a drugs test after traces of cocaine were detected in a sample submitted to the Voluntary Anti-Doping Agency (VADA). A source confirmed the development on Friday, revealing that the test was conducted on the same day as Parker’s bout against Britain’s Fabio Wardley last month.

The result, which only came to light this week, casts a shadow over Parker’s recent resurgence in the heavyweight division. The 33-year-old New Zealander entered the fight in exceptional form, having won six consecutive contests since his punishing 2022 defeat to Joe Joyce. That run included high-profile victories over Deontay Wilder and Zhilei Zhang, as well as capturing the WBO interim title.

Wardley ultimately defeated Parker in a surprise result, and the failed test now raises serious questions about the former champion’s future. VADA notified all relevant parties on Thursday evening, according to a statement released by Frank Warren’s Queensbury Promotions. “Joseph Parker returned an adverse finding following an anti-doping test conducted on October 25 in relation to his bout with Fabio Wardley. While the matter is investigated further, no additional comment will be made at this time,” the statement read.

Sky Sports News has contacted Parker’s management team for comment, though no response has yet been issued. Parker, who lost his WBO belt to Anthony Joshua in 2018, had positioned himself as the mandatory challenger for undisputed champion Oleksandr Usyk.

Alcaraz Seals Year-End No. 1 Spot with Commanding Win

TORINO

Carlos Alcaraz needed less than 90 minutes to wrap up the year-ending No. 1 ranking in men’s tennis, completing a commanding 6-4, 6-1 victory over Italy’s Lorenzo Musetti at the ATP Finals. The win ensured the Spaniard topped his group and finished ahead of rival Jannik Sinner in the year-end standings.

Alcaraz, who entered the tournament needing three victories to guarantee the top spot, delivered exactly that, sweeping all his group-stage

matches. “It means the world to me,” he said. “At the start of the year, No. 1 felt far away with Jannik winning everything. But from mid-season onward, I believed it was possible. I’m proud of my team and myself.” This marks the second time the 22-year-old

has ended a season at No. 1, having first achieved the feat in 2022 at just 19, making him the youngest man to do so. Despite initial nerves, Alcaraz settled quickly and silenced the partisan Italian crowd, sealing the match on his third match point.

KOLKATA

Rabada Ruled Out of First India Test with Rib Injury



South Africa fast bowler Kagiso Rabada has been ruled out of the first Test against India at Eden Gardens after suffering a rib injury during the team’s opening training session. His availability for the second Test in Guwahati remains uncertain. Rabada underwent a scan the day after sustaining the injury and attended Wednesday’s training, though his

workload was unclear. He skipped Thursday’s optional session and failed a fitness test on Friday morning, prompting a late decision to withdraw him from the XI. All-rounder Corbin Bosch replaced Rabada, joining Marco Jansen and Wiaan Mulder in South Africa’s three-man pace attack. With Lungi Ngidi omitted for the subcontinent tours.

NEW DELHI

Ghazanfar Credits Hardik’s Support, Hopes for MI Retention



Afghanistan’s 19-year-old mystery spinner Allah Ghazanfar hopes his strong international progress over the past year will convince Mumbai Indians to retain him ahead of the 2026 IPL season. Ghazanfar missed his debut opportunity last year due to a back injury but says regular motivation from MI captain Hardik Pandya kept him

going. “Hardik bhai stayed in touch and motivated me a lot,” Ghazanfar said, adding that he also had valuable discussions with teammate Tilak Varma. Now fully fit, he is set to play in the Rising Stars Asia Cup in Doha. Reflecting on a taxing year that included his Test debut, Ghazanfar said he has become wiser and stronger.

NEW DELHI

Rohit to Lead India at Junior World Cup 2025



Hockey India announced the FIH Junior Men’s World Cup 2025, naming defender and drag-flicker Rohit as captain. The tournament will be held from November 28 to December 10 in Chennai and Madurai, with India placed in Pool B alongside Chile, Switzerland, and Oman. Coached by former India

goalkeeper PR Sreejesh, the squad blends experience and emerging talent. India, however, will miss key forward Arajjeet Singh Hundal, ruled out with a shoulder injury. The goalkeeping duties will be shared by Bikramjit Singh and Princedeep Singh, while Rohit anchors a strong defence featuring Amir Ali, Anmol Ekka, and Shardanand Tiwari.



Let Blind Cricket Gain Global Recognition: Hebbalkar

Minister said, state has led the way in promoting inclusivity and equal opportunities

BENGALURU

Women and Child Development Minister Lakshmi Hebbalkar expressed hope that blind cricket tournaments, which empower especially abled children, will gain well-deserved global recognition. She was speaking after inaugurating the first-ever Blind Women's T20 World Cup at the Samprasiddhi Ground in Thirumenahalli, Bengaluru. Addressing the gathering, the minister highlighted the challenges faced by visually impaired players. She

noted that even individuals with full physical ability and clear eyesight often struggle to participate in sports. "For children with visual impairment, stepping onto the field and playing cricket requires extraordinary courage and determination. Their efforts are truly inspiring," she said. Hebbalkar added that Bengaluru hosting a significant portion of this prestigious international tournament is a matter of immense pride for Karnataka. The state, she said, has consistently led the way in promoting inclusivity and

equal opportunities in sports. She assured that the Women and Child Development Department would extend complete support to initiatives that uplift especially abled athletes and encourage their participation at all levels.

Minister Watches India–Nepal Match

Following the inauguration, Hebbalkar watched a segment of the match between India and Nepal. She applauded both teams, cheering enthusiastically to motivate the players. Later, she briefly joined

the commentary team, adding to the excitement of the event. The occasion was attended by Samarthanam Trust founder Dr. Mahantesh, along with several dignitaries, organisers, and supporters of blind cricket. Their presence reflected the growing recognition and support for visually impaired athletes in India and beyond. With the successful launch of the Blind Women's T20 World Cup, organisers hope the platform will inspire many more players and pave the way for global appreciation of blind cricket.



Asian Archery Championship: Indian Recurve Men Stun S Korea

DHAKA

The Indian men's recurve team clinched a historic gold at the Asian Archery Championship, defeating South Korea in a tense shoot-off to win their first title since 2007. Yashdeep Bhoge, Atanu Das and Rahul rallied from 2-4 down to edge out a strong Korean trio of Seo Mingi, Kim Yechan and Jang Jiho. Both teams shot 29 in the shoot-off, but India prevailed after Atanu delivered a perfect 10 closer to the centre. The win lifted India's tally to four gold and two silver medals, following a dominant compound performance led by Jyothi Surekha Vennam, who claimed two golds. For coach Rahul Banerjee, part of the 2007 champion team, the victory was deeply emotional. India remain in medal contention with several recurve archers reaching the semifinals.

PAK-SL SECURITY Pak Hands SL Team's Security to Army after Islamabad Blasts

ISLAMABAD

The Pakistan government has handed over the security of the visiting Sri Lankan cricket team to the Army and paramilitary forces after several players expressed a desire to return home following the serial bomb blasts that struck Islamabad earlier this week. Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) chairman and Federal Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi confirmed that the team is now under state-level protection, with the Army, Rangers and police jointly overseeing all security arrangements. Naqvi said the decision came after the Sri Lankan squad agreed to continue the tour following the intervention of Pakistan's Army Chief, General Asim Munir.

Naqvi told reporters in Rawalpindi that both the Sri Lankan government and its cricket board had displayed "immense support" and solidarity with Pakistan by not calling off the tour. He acknowledged that some Sri Lankan players were initially keen to return due to security concerns triggered by the Islamabad terror attack. "The positive outcome was only achieved through sustained engagement between Pakistani and Sri Lankan leadership," Naqvi said. He added that Army Chief Munir had personally assured Sri Lanka's Defence Minister Pramitha Bandara Tennakoon of the team's safety. "The Field Marshal himself spoke to the Sri Lankan Defence Minister and Secretary, and I am grateful the players

showed great bravery in deciding to remain in Pakistan," he noted. Naqvi said he also held an extended meeting with the players to address their apprehensions, stressing that their well-being was the responsibility of the Pakistan government. Sri Lankan President Anura Kumara Disanayake, he added, spoke directly to the squad to reassure them. Pakistan are currently hosting Sri Lanka for a three-match ODI series, which will proceed as scheduled under heightened security.



KARACHI

Pakistan Cricket Board Declines Bangladesh's Proposal for Tri-Series



The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) has turned down an invitation from the Bangladesh Cricket Board to take part in a December triangular T20 series also involving Sri Lanka. A PCB official said the board preferred to manage player workload, especially since several key cricketers have been granted NOCs to participate in overseas leagues. Top players,

including Babar Azam, Mohammad Rizwan, Shaheen Shah Afridi, Haris Rauf and Shadab Khan, are committed to the Big Bash League, while others such as Fakhar Zaman will feature in the Emirates International League. Although Pakistan has no international fixtures in December and January, the PCB had already prioritised league participation.

DHAKA

Ankita Bhakat Shocks Olympic Medallist to Win Asian Archery Gold



India's Ankita Bhakat scripted the biggest victory of her career, defeating Paris Olympics silver-medallist Nam Suhyeon of South Korea 7-3 to clinch the women's recurve gold at the Asian Archery Championships on Friday. Ankita opened strongly, taking the first set with two 10s and maintained composure in the decider to

seal the title. India also claimed the women's recurve bronze as Sangeeta edged past five-time Olympian Deepika Kumari 6-5 in a tense shoot-off. Earlier, Ankita had beaten Deepika in the semifinals. The win marks a major breakthrough for Ankita and adds to India's growing medal tally at the continental event.

Winning a Series in Ind Would Rank Below WTC Title: Bavuma

KOLKATA

South Africa captain Temba Bavuma believes that winning a Test series in India would be the team's biggest achievement after their World Test Championship (WTC) triumph earlier this year. Bavuma said conquering India remains a long-standing ambition for the Proteas. "Winning the World Test Championship—there's not much that can top that. But right behind it would be winning in India," Bavuma said on the eve of the series opener. "It's not something that has eluded us, but it's something we haven't been able to achieve for a very long time. We understand the magnitude of the challenge." He added that many players in the current squad carried "moments of hurt" from previous tours and were determined to prove themselves. "It's exciting when you



Bavuma says conquering India in Tests would be South Africa's next greatest milestone

look at the makeup of both teams. India have fantastic players but also a bit of inexperience. Similarly, our guys want to measure themselves against the best in the world." Bavuma returns to the national Test side after a lengthy injury break, having regained fitness during South Africa A's four-day match against India A in Bengaluru. The

skipper said spending time in the middle was crucial for his confidence. "Getting back on the field, proving my fitness, and batting for long periods was important." He also welcomed the opportunity to face India's left-arm wrist spinner Kuldeep Yadav for the first time. "I'd rather face him in the A game than here in Kolkata—if he plays. He's not a big turner, but he's deceptive off the pitch and a genuine wicket-taker." With no Boxing Day Test this year, Bavuma said the India series carries added significance. "This becomes our festive season. It's disappointing for players and fans, but we'll make the most of it. Back home there's a renewed appreciation for the Proteas." South Africa now aim to script a historic triumph on Indian soil—a feat they have long pursued but never accomplished.

MI strengthen squad with strategic trades ahead of IPL 2026

IPL 2026: MI Sign Thakur, Rutherford in Trade Window

MUMBAI



With the IPL 2026 player retention deadline nearing, Mumbai Indians (MI) boosted their squad by securing India pacer Shardul Thakur and West Indies batter Sherfane Rutherford in two significant trade-window moves. The five-time champions, aiming to rebuild after an inconsistent 2025 season, moved swiftly to finalize deals before the November 15 retention cut-off. MI acquired Shardul Thakur from Lucknow Super

Giants (LSG) for ₹2 crore in an all-cash deal. Thakur, who went unsold in the 2025 mega auction and was preparing for a county stint with Essex, was later drafted by LSG as an injury replacement for Mohsin Khan. Despite a bright start, picking up six wickets in his first two matches of IPL 2025, Thakur's form dipped as he finished the season with 13 wickets in 10 games at an economy of 11.02. MI are banking on his experience and proven ability as a wicket-taking middle-overs bowler. The franchise also strengthened their middle order by bringing back Sherfane Rutherford, signing him from Gujarat Titans (GT) for ₹2.6 crore. Rutherford played 13

matches for GT in 2025, scoring 291 runs at an average of 32.22 and an impressive strike rate of 157.29. Although he was previously part of MI's title-winning 2020 squad, he did not feature in any games that season. His explosive batting and finishing skills are expected to add depth to MI's lineup. In another move, MI traded left-arm pacer Arjun Tendulkar to LSG for ₹30 lakh. Tendulkar, who debuted in IPL 2023, has played five matches overall, taking three wickets at an economy of 9.36. With the auction set for December 14–17 in Abu Dhabi, MI's early trade activity signals their intent to reshape the squad for a stronger 2026 campaign.

NEW DELHI

India's top men's tennis player Sumit Nagal has received his Chinese visa, clearing the way for him to compete in the Australian Open Playoff starting November 24 in Chengdu. Nagal shared his gratitude on X, thanking Indian and Chinese authorities for expediting the process after his initial visa application was rejected without explanation. Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Lin Jian later stated that visas are issued to athletes according to regulations, expressing hope that all required documents would be submitted promptly. The Playoff serves as a qualification pathway into the 2026 Australian Open main draw. Ranked 275, Nagal now depends on qualifiers or wild cards for Grand Slams, having dropped out of the top 100. He last played a Slam main draw at the 2025 Australian Open.



Sumit Nagal Secures Chinese Visa for AO Playoff

