



BRIEF NEWS

Nepal Declares Protest Victims as Martyrs, Announces Compensation to Families

Kathmandu: In her first act after assuming office, Nepal's Interim Prime Minister Sushila Karki has declared those killed during recent protests against the former Oli government as national martyrs. She also announced financial assistance of NPR 1 million (approx. 6.25 lakh) each to the families of the deceased. Addressing the nation from Singha Durbar after officially taking charge, Prime Minister Karki stated that her first signed order as head of the interim government was to honor the youths who lost their lives during the September 8 demonstrations. The protests, led by thousands of students under the banner of "Gen-Z," were triggered by the Oli administration's controversial decision to ban 26 social media platforms.

Tragic Accident: Seven Killed as Car Plunges Into Water-Filled Drain Near Jaipur

Jaipur: In a tragic incident near Jaipur, seven members of two families lost their lives when their car plunged into a water-filled drain near Prahladpura on the Ring Road in the Shivdaspura police station area. The victims were returning from Haridwar after immersing the ashes of a deceased family member. According to police, the accident occurred around noon on Sunday.

Previous govts delayed Assam's growth, now key to energy, chips : PM Modi

Agency

Golaghat (Assam): Prime Minister Narendra Modi today criticised earlier opposition governments, asserting that Assam's development had been delayed and its cultural heritage neglected during their tenure. In contrast, the current government is "constantly strengthening Assam's identity," said the Prime Minister after inaugurating a bamboo-based bioethanol plant, underlining the government's thrust on energy self-sufficiency, industrial growth, and cultural revitalisation in Assam. He also laid the foundation stone for a Polypropylene Unit at Numaligarh Refinery Limited (NRL) in Golaghat. Addressing the gathering during Sharodiya Durga Puja, the Prime Minister extended greetings to all citizens and especially the people of Assam. He also paid tribute to



Srimanta Sankardev and other Gurujanas on their birth anniversaries.

Modi said, "India has embarked on the path of becoming self reliant in meeting its energy needs."

He described the inauguration of the bioethanol plant and the laying of the foundation stone for polypropylene

manufacture as critical steps in that direction.

He added, "Today, India ranks among the world's top 5 countries in solar power."

Highlighting the growing demands for electricity, gas, and fuel, he emphasised that India must reduce dependence on imports that cost the

country "lakhs of crores" annually.

Speaking of Assam's role in the national development journey, he stated, "India needs two key things to become self reliant energy and semiconductors. Assam is playing a significant role in this journey."

He observed: "We are constantly strengthening Assam's identity." Modi informed that projects worth approximately Rs 18,000 crore have been earmarked for Assam.

He referred to earlier announcements in Darrang for connectivity and health projects and said that the newly inaugurated and announced plants will bolster energy security in the state.

He noted that the bioethanol plant will benefit farmers and tribal communities, as arrangements are being made to cultivate bamboo locally, set up units for bamboo chipping, and

assure direct procurement by the government.

He disclosed that about Rs 200 crore per annum will be invested in this sector, affirming the plant will benefit thousands in the area.

Modi also recalled that under previous administrations cutting bamboo could lead to imprisonment in some areas, but now the ban has been removed, and "this decision is now delivering substantial benefits to the people of the North East."

On polypropylene, the Prime Minister discussed its wide application, stating that everyday items-from buckets, mugs, chairs to medical kits and agricultural equipment-rely on polypropylene.

The new plant will strengthen 'Make in Assam' and 'Make in India' objectives and stimulate the region's textile and manufacturing industries.

TPC Naxalite carrying bounty of Rs 5 lakh killed in encounter with police in Palamu

Agency

Ranchi: A Naxalite was killed in an encounter between the banned Naxalite organisation TSPC (TPC) and security forces in Palamu district of Jharkhand. The name of the Naxalite killed is Mukhdev Yadav. The government had announced a reward of Rs 5 lakh for him. This encounter took place in the forest of Manatu in Palamu district. It is noteworthy that two police personnel were martyred in an encounter in Palamu on September 3. Mukhdev was also involved with the TPC squad in that incident. However, later, the TPC issued a press statement and called the encounter incident false.

According to the information, on Sunday, the security forces had started a big search operation targeting Commander



Shashikant, who had a bounty of Rs 10 lakh. Cobra, Jharkhand Jaguar and other security forces were involved in this operation. The police team was conducting a combing operation in the forests of Manatu when the TPC militants started firing on them.

The security forces retaliated immediately.

According to police officials, this operation conducted by the police on Sunday is the biggest operation against TPC to date. More than 200 soldiers have been deployed in this operation.

It is worth noting that TPC has made the border areas of Manatu, Tarhasi and Chatra of Palamu its stronghold. Shashikant's squad comprises 8 to 10 members, which also includes the rewarded Naxalites Mukhdev Yadav and Nagina.

Amit Khare appointed Secretary to Vice-President



Agency

New Delhi: The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has approved the appointment of retired IAS officer Amit Khare as Secretary to the Vice-President of India. A 1985-batch officer of the Jharkhand cadre, Khare will take charge in the rank and pay of Secretary to the Government of India.

According to an order issued by the Department of Personnel and Training on Sunday, his appointment will be on a contract basis for three years from the date of assuming charge, or until further orders, whichever is earlier. The terms of service will be governed by the rules applicable to re-employed central government officers.

Khare has held several key positions in the Union Government. He served as Secretary in the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, where he oversaw media and communication policies,

and later as Education Secretary, contributing to reforms in the education sector. After retiring from the civil service, he joined the Prime Minister's Office as Adviser, where he was entrusted with social sector portfolios.

Khare first came into the national spotlight in the 1990s for exposing the multi-crore fodder scam during his tenure in Bihar. His intervention uncovered large-scale financial irregularities in the animal husbandry department, ultimately leading to the conviction of former Chief Minister Lalu Prasad Yadav. His role in the case established his reputation for integrity and fearlessness in public life.

The government order announcing his appointment has been circulated to senior officials, including the Cabinet Secretary, the Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister, the Secretary to the President, and other constitutional and administrative authorities.

The campaign to take Hindi towards prosperity our duty - Praveen Toppo

DB Reporter

Ranchi: Hindi Diwas celebrations were organized at the Sri Krishna Institute of Public Administration on Sunday by the Department of Personnel, Administrative Reforms and Official Language in Jharkhand. During this event, emphasis was laid on using and promoting Hindi in administrative work and technical fields. During the programme, State Personnel Secretary Praveen Toppo said that Hindi is a powerful language for our national unity, culture and communication. Hindi has made a significant contribution in simplifying administrative work and making it accessible to the general public. Everyone will have to make collective efforts to make the Hindi language



more simple, easy and rich. He said that it can be made more widespread by promoting the use of Hindi in daily life, administrative work and technical fields. He said that Hindi as mother tongue is our cultural identity and it is our responsibility to pass it on strongly to the coming generations. The correspondence between our department and the Government of India is also

done in Hindi, due to which the usage of Hindi is becoming more strongly established not only at the state level, but also at the central level. The Personnel Secretary said that the Jharkhand Government is continuously working towards the promotion and effective implementation of Hindi language through the Department of Personnel, Administrative Reforms and Official Language. The use of Hindi is being encouraged by the department through various schemes, training programmes and awareness campaigns.

Dr. Parvati Tirkey, writer and Assistant Professor of Hindi Department (Ram Laxhan Singh Yadav College), who was recently awarded the Sahitya Akademi Yuva Puraskar, said that it is necessary to go deep into the Hindi language.

Indian languages are pillars of our cultural unity: Shah's message on Hindi Diwas

Agency

New Delhi: On the occasion of Hindi Diwas today, union Home Minister Amit Shah extended warm greetings to the nation and emphasised the central role Indian languages play in preserving the country's rich cultural, historical and spiritual heritage.

In a message marking the day, Shah described India as "fundamentally a language-oriented nation", a Home Ministry statement said.

"Our languages have been a powerful medium for carrying forward culture, history, traditions, knowledge, science, philosophy, and spiritu-



ality from generation to generation. From the heights of the Himalayas to the vast beaches of the South, from the desert to the rugged forests and village chaupalas, languages have shown the way to man in every situation to stay organized and move forward unitedly through

communication and expression," he said.

"Walk together, think together, and speak together has been the core mantra of our linguistic-cultural consciousness," Shah said.

Shah said, "The greatest strength of India's languages is that they have provided

every class and community with an opportunity for expression".

He highlighted how regional languages and folk traditions such as Bihu songs in the Northeast, Oviyalu from Tamil Nadu, the songs of Lohri in Punjab, the verses of Vidyapati in Bihar, the hymns

of Baul saints in Bengal, Kajri songs, and Bhikari Thakur's 'Bidesia' have all contributed to keeping Indian culture vibrant and welfare-oriented.

Shah praised the way Indian languages, despite their diversity, have moved forward in unity, transcending geography and community.

"I firmly believe that languages, by becoming companions of one another and bound in the thread of unity, are moving forward together. Saint Thiruvalluvar is sung with as much devotion in the South as he is read with interest in the North.

Krishnadevaraya was as popular in the South as he was in the North. The patriotic compositions of Subramania Bharati ignite national pride in the youth of every region. Goswami Tulsidas is revered by every Indian, and the couplets of Saint Kabir are found in translations in Tamil, Kannada, and Malayalam.

Surdas's poetry remains prevalent in the temples and musical traditions of South India even today. Srimanta Sankardeva and Mahapurush Madhavdeva are known to every Vaishnav, and Bhupen Hazarika's songs are hummed even by the youth of Haryana,

he said.

Shah underlined the role of Indian languages in the freedom movement, noting how they became voices of resistance during colonial rule. He cited the slogans "Vande Mataram" and "Jai Hind" as powerful symbols that emerged from India's linguistic soul and fueled the fire of patriotism across the country. Shah said, "Even during the difficult period of slavery, Indian languages became the voice of resistance. Our languages played a significant role in making the freedom movement a nationwide endeavor.



Choratand Defeats Sehda 1-0 to Clinch Shibusoren Memorial Football Tournament Title

DB Reporter
Barkagaon - In a thrilling final of the Shibusoren Memorial Football Tournament held at Sehda village in Barkagaon block, the Choratand football team edged past the host team Sehda with a 1-0 victory to claim the championship title. The tournament was organized by the Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM) to promote sports in rural areas. Sadhwanha secured third place, while Banwar finished fourth. Chief Guest Sanjeev Bedia, Central Executive Member and District President of JMM, along with Block President and Jharkhand



Shramik Union District Secretary Sanjay Singh, felicitated the top four teams with trophies and traditional prizes including goats (khassi). The event began with a traditional tribal welcome, where dignitaries were honored with head-

gear made of sukhwa leaves and garlands, accompanied by rhythmic drumbeats and folk music. Speaking on the occasion, Sanjeev Bedia emphasized the urgent need for a proper stadium in Barkagaon. "There

is not a single stadium here. I urge the district administration to identify land, and I will personally raise the matter with Chief Minister Hemant Soren to build one," he said. Sanjay Singh pledged full support for local ath-

letes, stating, "Sports and education go hand in hand. Youth should focus on both to build their futures. I will always be ready to assist wherever needed." Outstanding players, referees, and linesmen were also honored for their performances. All 16 participating teams were presented with official jerseys by JMM. The event was anchored by Mahadev Hansda and Indradev Ram. Key organizers included JMM Panchayat President Churaman Ganjhu, Rajesh Hansda, Sanjay Bhuiyan, Falandar Ganjhu, Vijay Soren, and several others.

Womens Participation Crucial for Social Development, All Issues Will Be Addressed: Sudhir Manglesh

DB Reporter
Ramgarh - Sudhir Manglesh, Block 20-Point Programme Chairman and District Spokesperson-cum-Media Chairman, met with local women in Budh Bazaar, Siru (Dulmi Block) on Sunday to listen to their grievances and understand the challenges they face. During the interaction, women highlighted several pressing issues, including the shortage of drinking water, delays in pension disbursements, and problems related to the Abua Awas Yojana (housing



scheme). Manglesh assured the women that their concerns would be addressed on a priority basis. He further stated that the relevant departments and administrative officials would be informed immediately to ensure timely resolution. "Our primary focus is resolving the issues of the common people,"

Manglesh said. "Women's problems will be taken seriously, and prompt action will be initiated." He also assured the community that concrete steps will be taken soon on matters related to drinking water, pensions, and housing, so that the affected people can receive much-needed relief.

Advocates' Council Celebrates Foundation Day at Birhor Settlement in Hazaribagh

DB Reporter
Hazaribagh - The Hazaribagh District Unit of the Jharkhand Advocates' Council celebrated its Foundation Fortnight at the Birhor settlement located in Demotand, under the council's outreach initiative. The celebration began on a patriotic note, as students from the Birhor community and Birsas School sang songs dedicated to Bharat Mata, setting the tone for the day. Senior advocate Dr. Santosh Pandey, representing the Hazaribagh



Civil Court, addressed the gathering and spoke in detail about the mission and values of the Advocates' Council. "Anyone in need of legal assistance or information can always count on the Advocates' Council," he affirmed. District President Vinod Kumar emphasized the council's commitment to

the development of the Birhor community, while General Secretary Vasudev Rana pledged to take the community's concerns to the appropriate government authorities. Treasurer Kapil Dev Rana reiterated the council's continued support for the welfare of marginalized communities.

District Media In-Charge Advocate Amit Mishra added that the council is determined to work collectively to address the challenges faced by the Birhor people. The event also featured cultural performances by children from the settlement, creating a lively and inclusive atmosphere. Light refreshments were distributed among the children, adding to the festive spirit. The program concluded with the national anthem and chants of "Bharat Mata Ki Jai," echoing unity and patriotism.

Namo Football Tournament-2025 Concludes with Grand Finale in Hazaribagh

DB Reporter
Hazaribagh - The Namo Football Tournament-2025, organized under the Sansad Khel Mahotsav initiative by Hazaribagh MP Manish Jaiswal, concluded successfully in Sadar Block with an electrifying final match. Hosted by Oriya Panchayat, the tournament saw participation from 66 teams across the region. In the semifinals, Team Oriya defeated Chutiyaro 3-0, while Birbir triumphed over Chutiyaro with the same scoreline to set up a thrilling final clash. The grand finale was



inaugurated by Chief Guest Shradhdhanand Singh, noted social worker and BJP leader, along with other dignitaries. The match began with a ceremonial kickoff after players were introduced to the guests. Both finalist teams - Oriya (host) and Birbir - put up a spirited performance, resulting in a 0-0 draw during

regular play. The match was decided by a tense penalty shootout, where Team Oriya edged past Birbir 5-4 to clinch the championship trophy. **The winners, Team Oriya, received a ₹25,000 cheque, while runners-up Birbir took home ₹15,000. Individual awards included:**

► Man of the Match: Narendra Yadav
► Man of the Series: Deepak Ram alias Bittu
► Best Goalkeeper: Kauleshwar Yadav alias Kali
Speaking on the occasion, Shradhdhanand Singh praised MP Manish Jaiswal's efforts in reviving grassroots football. "The Namo Football Tournament has reignited the passion for football across villages and provided youth with a much-needed platform," he said, encouraging both the winning and runner-up teams to keep striving for excellence.

Grand Opening of Disneyland Fair at Gandhi Maidan Brings "Mini India" to Hazaribagh

DB Reporter
Hazaribagh - The much-anticipated Disneyland Fair was inaugurated on Sunday at Gandhi Maidan, Matwari, marking the beginning of a grand festive celebration ahead of Durga Puja, Diwali, and Chhath. The fair was officially opened by Sadar MLA Pradeep Prasad, with Rakesh Gupta serving as the guest of honour. Organized for the first time on such a grand scale in Hazaribagh, the fair presents a vibrant blend of culture, crafts, cuisine, and entertainment, transforming the city into a "Mini India" for the festive season. Speaking at the inauguration, MLA Pradeep Prasad called the fair a historic initiative for the city. "This fair not only provides a platform for artisans but also supports



self-employment, economic growth, and cultural exchange," he said. Artisans and vendors from across the country-including Punjab, Assam, Gujarat, Bihar, West Bengal, Uttar Pradesh, and Jharkhand-have set up stalls showcasing traditional crafts such as furniture, wooden items, bamboo crafts, ready-made garments, jewelry, pickles, papads, carpets, and cutlery. Soft toys and teddy bears also drew significant attention. Adding to the excitement, the fair features a range of thrilling rides,

including the Russian Swing, Mickey Mouse Ride, Ajmeri Jhula, and Boat Ride, making it a major attraction for children and youth alike. Food stalls offering pizza, burgers, chaat, golgappas, ice cream, and cold drinks ensure a delicious experience for visitors. The event is being managed by Ashish Kumar, Mithilesh Prasad, Mukesh Kumar, and Shubham, with the organizing committee aiming to blend entertainment, culture, and local enterprise.

Illegal Coal Stockpiled Near Luti Pahadi Coal Dump; CISF Takes Action

DB Reporter
Baghmara (Dhanbad): Illegal storage of coal was discovered near the Luti Pahadi coal dump, adjacent to No. 4 Dhoda in BCCL Block-2 area, Baghmara. Upon receiving information, BCCL nodal officer Rajiv Ranjan, along with CISF Inspector Ravikant Rai, Pawan Kumar, and other per-



sonnel, reached the site and seized the illegally stored coal. Officials stated that continuous monitoring is being carried out to prevent coal theft and illegal stockpiling. Strict action will be taken against those involved in such unlawful activities.

Tributes Paid to Sub-Inspector of Navalshahi Police Station Following His Demise

DB Reporter
Domchanch (Koderma) - On September 14, 2025, the mortal remains of Sub-Inspector Shukra Toppo, posted at Navalshahi Police Station in Koderma district, were paid homage by the Superintendent of Police at the Police Headquarters, Koderma. The solemn tribute ceremony saw police officers and personnel observing a two-minute

silence, praying for the peace of the departed soul, and expressing heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family. Senior officials and members of the Police Association, along with other police staff, were present to honor the late officer. It is reported that Sub-Inspector Shukra Toppo had been seriously ill for the past few days and was undergoing treatment at AIIMS, Delhi, where he passed



away during his course of treatment.

Mothers Observe Jivitputrika Vrat with Fervor, Pray for Their Children's Long Life

DB Reporter
Ramgarh - On September 14, mothers across Ramgarh district observed the sacred Jivitputrika Vrat (Jitiya), a traditional fast in Hindu culture, praying for the long life, prosperity, and well-being of their children. The observance involved a day-long nirjala (without water) fast and rituals performed with great devotion. The Jivitputrika Vrat, considered highly significant in Hindu tradition, is a symbol of maternal sacrifice and love. Mothers participated in the rituals by worshipping and offering prayers for the



protection and longevity of their children, seeking divine blessings to shield them from all adversities. Performing the rituals during the occasion, astrologer Mithlesh Tiwari emphasized the deep spiritual meaning of the vrat. He stated, "Jivitputrika Vrat is not merely a tradition but a profound

expression of a mother's love, sacrifice, and her unwavering resolve for her child's safety and success in life." Tiwari further added that, according to scholars, the vrat is a mother's solemn vow for the health, happiness, and longevity of her offspring. "It reflects the deep-rooted belief that sincere

prayers made during this fast can bring divine protection and prosperity to the children," he said. District-Wide Observance The festival was observed with great devotion not just in Ramgarh town but also in other parts of the district including Gola, Chitarpur, Dulmi, Kurmu, Barkakana, Rajrappa, Mandu, and Patratu. Mothers across these regions performed the rituals with full traditional sanctity. The fast concluded on the morning of September 15 with the paran (ritual break of the fast), following the customary procedures.

Jewellery Theft Under Pretense of Cleaning in Jhumritilaiya; Thieves Escape with Lakhs Worth of Ornaments

DB Reporter

Kodarma: In a shocking incident in Naresh Nagar under Tilaiya police station, an unknown duo duped a woman by pretending to clean her jewelry and fled with ornaments worth lakhs of rupees. The victim's mother, Satyajit Kumar alias Golu's mother, informed that on Saturday evening, a man claiming to represent a company arrived at their home promoting a product and offered to clean their jewelry. At that time, only she and her daughter-in-law were



at home. The man first cleaned some utensils brought from the house using chemicals and powder. He then convinced the women to place their gold jewelry, including earrings and chains, into a vessel containing the

cleaning solution. The daughter-in-law also added Golu's gold chain, wedding gift gold bangles, and earrings into the container. Meanwhile, another accomplice arrived on a bike without a number plate. The culprits cunningly applied the chemical to the women's hands and asked them to wash it off quickly. As soon as the women stepped inside, the two thieves escaped. The victims searched the area and raised an alarm after realizing the jewelry was missing.

BSL Employees Stage Massive Protest Over Bonus Formula Dispute

DB Reporter
Bokaro: Employees of Bokaro Steel Plant (BSL) staged a massive protest under the banner of the BSL Anadhishasi Karmachari Sangh, expressing strong resentment against the implementation of the ASP-LIS bonus formula and demanding the introduction of a production-related pay system. The protest rally began at Mazdoor Maidan in Sector 4 and passed through Gandhi Chowk, culminating in a



meeting at the Two Tank protest site. A large number of BSL workers participated,

carrying banners and posters highlighting production data, profit figures, and related statistics. During the protest meeting, union leaders severely criticized the attitude of SAIL management towards wage revision MoUs, bonus agreements, pending arrears, and incentive rewards. Speakers also condemned the NJCS-affiliated unions and their leadership for allegedly siding with the management and neglecting workers' rights.

The central demand of the protest was to determine the bonus amount based on per million tonnes of production. Protesters voiced their frustration at the unilateral imposition of agreements by the SAIL management and the direct crediting of bonus amounts to employee accounts over the past three years without proper consultation. Addressing the gathering, Union President Hariom and General Secretary Dilip Kumar declared that this

protest was not just a rally but clear evidence of the missteps of SAIL management, forcing workers to take to the streets despite fulfilling their duties. They also criticized the silent stance of the Ministry of Steel, which they claimed is further fueling the workers' anger. "We will not stop until production-related pay is implemented," said the leaders, vowing to intensify the movement if their demands are not addressed.

"Sansad Khel Mahotsav 2025" to Kick Off on September 23; Kodarma Set to Witness Sporting Stars

DB Reporter
Kodarma: A press conference for the upcoming "Sansad Khel Mahotsav 2025" was held at Grand Surya, Kodarma, with the presence of Union Minister for Women and Child Development, Annapurna Devi, and Barkatha MLA Amit Yadav. Annapurna Devi announced that Kodama Lok Sabha constituency is gearing up to host a grand sports festival from September 23 to December 25, 2025. The event aligns with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's flagship campaigns "Khelo India" and "Fit India," aiming to promote fitness, discipline, and team spirit among youth. The Minister emphasized that this is not just a sports competition but a



strong initiative to connect rural and urban talent with national-level platforms. The festival will spotlight both traditional and modern sports, fostering a bridge between generations and enriching the local sports culture. **Key Objectives:**
► Identify and encourage young sporting talent.
► Promote discipline, teamwork, and health awareness.
► Provide equal opportunities for rural and urban athletes.
► Blend traditional and contemporary sports to boost cultural heritage. **Sports Included:** The festival will feature football, kabaddi, kho-kho, volleyball, badminton, table tennis, chess, athletics, and traditional games like Lagori (Sattuliya/Saat Patthar). **Event Schedule Highlights:**
► Football Tournament (Domchanch): Sept 23 - Oct 25

► Football Tournament (Barkatha): Oct 3 - Oct 31
► Kho-Kho, Kabaddi, Lagori (Jhumri Tilaiya): Oct 6 - Oct 18
► Badminton, Table Tennis, Chess, Athletics (Giridih): November dates
Minister Annapurna Devi appealed to the locals to enthusiastically participate and make the festival a memorable celebration of fitness and sportsmanship. She urged everyone to spread the message of a "Fit Youth, Developed India" from the heart of Kodarma to the entire nation. Prominent attendees included provincial committee members Nitesh Chandravanshi, Mukesh Jalan, Devnath Rana, Manoj Kumar Jhunnu, and others.

Drone Sightings and Night-Time Burglaries Spark Panic in Domchanch, Villagers Hold Emergency Meeting

DB Reporter
Domchanch (Koderma) - A wave of fear has gripped several villages under the Kharkhar Panchayat in Domchanch block following reports of suspicious drone activity and night-time burglaries. In response, concerned villagers convened an emergency meeting at the Panchayat Bhawan on Sunday to address growing safety concerns and to formulate a community-based vigilance plan. During the meeting, residents discussed strategies to ensure village security, including the formation of tola (locality) monitoring teams to patrol their respective areas at night. It was unanimously decided that streetlights



or bulbs would be installed on electricity poles to deter criminal activities. The funds for the lighting will be contributed voluntarily by villagers. In light of rising digital misinformation, it was agreed that any suspicious activities or incidents must be shared responsibly on social media or WhatsApp groups, with a clear directive to avoid spreading rumors or unverified claims. Members posting inflammatory or false content may be held accountable before the community and local authorities. Additionally, all local youths were instructed to gather every evening at 6:30 PM at the Kharkhar Temple, where daily vigilance assignments and updates would be shared. Social media usage will be monitored, and only verified news will be circulated to maintain order and transparency.

The meeting was attended by several key figures including Panchayat representative Pintu Yadav, Officer-in-Charge Shashi Bhushan Kumar, Deputy Chief Representative Rajkumar Sahu, social worker Praveen Rawani, Brij Kishore Sharma, Mohammad Abrar, Santosh Singh Prakash, and Arjun Yadav, along with hundreds of local residents. It's worth noting that reports of burglary attempts and suspicious drone flights have surfaced recently in Nawada, Dhargawan, Kharkhar, Paiserha, and Raydih villages, prompting increased police patrolling in the area.

Harsh Ajmera Unveils Poster for Grand "Raas Rangilo Dandiya Night" in Hazaribagh

DB Reporter
Hazaribagh - The city is set to witness a vibrant celebration of culture and tradition with the grand Raas Rangilo Dandiya Night, scheduled to be held on September 25 at Hotel Mayuri. In a curtain-raiser to the event, prominent youth social worker Harsh Ajmera officially launched the event poster at his office premises on Sunday. The poster unveiling ceremony was marked by enthusiasm and excitement, with several young community members and organizing committee representatives in attendance. On the occasion, Ajmera was felicitated with a ceremonial shawl by the organizers, and discussions were held regarding the overall preparations and logistics of the upcoming event. Speaking at the launch,



Harsh Ajmera emphasized the cultural significance of such events. "Dandiya Night is not merely a form of entertainment-it is a powerful medium to keep our rich traditions alive and strengthen social bonds," he said. He expressed confidence that with the blessings of the divine, the event would be a grand success. "This is not just a cultural event; it is an opportunity to bring the youth together and foster unity and brotherhood in society," he added. Ajmera also noted that

events like these play a crucial role in guiding the youth of cities like Hazaribagh towards positivity and community engagement. "When hundreds of people dance together to the rhythmic beats of Dandiya, it becomes more than a performance-it becomes a vibrant confluence of culture, tradition, and collective energy," he remarked. Concluding his address, Harsh Ajmera affirmed his full participation and support for the event, promising to make it a memorable and historic celebration for the city.

Tata Steel Foundation Athletes to Represent Bihar-Jharkhand in National Karate Championship

DB Reporter
East Singhbhum: Two promising karatekas from the Dhatkidih Community Centre, supported by Tata Steel Foundation, have qualified to represent Bihar-Jharkhand at the upcoming National Karate Championship 2025. Sunakshi Gupta and Hiba Firdaus secured gold medals at the recently held CISCE Regional Karate Selection Tournament in Patna, earning them a spot in the national championship. Tata Steel announced their qualification through an



official press release on Sunday. The National Karate Championship will be held from September 15 to 18 at the Centre of Excellence for Sports in Bengaluru. Sunakshi Gupta will compete in the 64-68 kg weight category, while Hiba Firdaus will represent in the above 68 kg

category. Their coaches, Shiha Sarju Ram and Sensei M. Prashant, expressed immense joy and pride over their achievement. They acknowledged the dedication and discipline of both athletes, highlighting it as a significant milestone not just for the

players but for the karate unit of the Tata Steel Foundation as well. The Foundation's continuous support for youth in sports, especially at the grassroots level, has played a key role in nurturing talents like Sunakshi and Hiba. Their participation on the national stage is seen as a testament to the impact of such initiatives. The karate unit continues to be a platform where young athletes receive professional training, mentorship, and opportunities to excel beyond regional boundaries.

"Those Who Obstruct Development Will Never Be Forgiven by the People": Motilal Mahato

DB Reporter
Ramgarh - Jharkhand Democratic Revolutionary Front's State Media In-Charge, Ramesh Kumar Mahato, informed on Sunday that the party's Central Senior Vice President, Motilal Mahato, has issued a strong statement through his official Facebook page condemning a recent unfortunate incident. According to Mahato, Dumri



MLA Jayram Kumar Mahato recently laid the foundation stone for two long-awaited development projects in the Goniato

Panchayat: Construction of a PCC road from Goniato Mod to Nadia Dhaara Construction of a PCC road from the Middle School to Banekhutta These projects were widely seen as long-standing demands of the local population, aiming to improve infrastructure and connectivity in the area.

Adani Power signs pact to supply 2,400 MW power to Bihar

DB Reporter
Ahmadabad: In a significant development, Adani Power Ltd (APL) has signed a 25-year power supply agreement with Bihar State Power Generation Company Ltd (BSPGCL) to supply 2,400 megawatt (MW) of power to the state, the Adani Group's firm said on Saturday. Under the agreement, the India's largest private sector thermal power generator would supply the proposed power from a greenfield ultra super critical plant to be set up at Pirpainti in Bhagalpur district of Bihar. The development came after a Letter of Award (LoA) by BSPGCL to APL, on behalf of North Bihar Power Distribution Company Ltd (NBPDC) and South Bihar Power Distribution Company Ltd (SBPDCL) in August. Adani Power won the project by offering the lowest supply rate at ₹6.075 per kWh. "The company is planning to invest approximately \$3 billion to build the new plant (800 MW X 3) and its



supporting infrastructure under the Design, Build, Finance, Own, and Operate (DBFOO) model," the APL informed. The coal linkage for the power plant has been allocated

under the SHAKTI Policy of the government of India. During the construction phase, the project will generate around 10,000 to 12,000 direct and indirect

employment. Once it becomes operational, it will employ 3,000 people. APL aims to commission the plant in 60 months. Earlier, in a first-of-its-kind adoption of the green-shoe option in a thermal power tender in India, APL was awarded a total of 1,600 MW capacity by MP Power Management Company Limited (MPPMCL). The company received a LoA from MPPMCL, awarding 800 MW additional capacity under the 'Greenshoe Option'. Both units (800MW x 2) in Anuppur district, Madhya Pradesh, will be commissioned within 60 months of the appointed date. APL said that it will invest around ₹21,000 crore towards setting up the plant and related infrastructure. The project is expected to generate direct and indirect employment of 9,000-10,000 during the construction phase, and 2,000 once in operation.

Southwest monsoon starts retreating three days early from west Rajasthan

New Delhi, Agency: The southwest monsoon began its withdrawal from parts of West Rajasthan on Sunday — three days ahead of the normal date of September 17 — after fulfilling the required meteorological conditions, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said.

The southwest monsoon has withdrawn following the development of an anticyclonic circulation over West Rajasthan at 1.5 km above mean sea level, the absence of rainfall over the region for the past five consecutive days, and a reduction in atmospheric moisture content up to the mid-tropospheric level — the required meteorological conditions.

The line of withdrawal of

southwest monsoon currently passes through Sri Ganganagar, Nagaur, Jodhpur and Barmer in Rajasthan. Conditions are favourable for further withdrawal of Southwest Monsoon from some more parts of Rajasthan and some parts of Punjab and Gujarat during next 2-3 days,” IMD has said.

Conditions are becoming favourable for the withdrawal of the Southwest monsoon from some parts of West Rajasthan around September 15, the India Meteorological Department said on Friday. If the monsoon starts withdrawing from West Rajasthan on September 15, this will be the earliest start of withdrawal since 2015, when the withdrawal began on September 4.



To be sure, 2016 also saw withdrawal begin on September 15.

“We can declare commencement of withdrawal when rainfall stops, humidity reduces and there are anticyclonic winds. We are expecting such conditions over West Rajasthan from September 15,” director general of IMD

M Mohapatra had said.

This year, the monsoon made its onset over Kerala on May 24—eight days ahead of schedule—and made remarkably rapid progress over the next two days, covering large parts of the country.

Since June 1, there has been 8% excess rain over the country with 34% excess over

IndiGo flight with Dimple Yadav on board aborts take-off in Lucknow

New Delhi, Agency: An IndiGo flight from Chaudhary Charan Singh International Airport in Lucknow, carrying 151 passengers — including Samajwadi Party lawmaker Dimple Yadav — to Delhi aborted takeoff on Saturday morning, an official aware of the development said.

The aircraft, flight 6E-2111, had already begun accelerating down the runway around 11am when the pilot initiated an emergency.

brake, halting the plane after detecting a technical issue involving insufficient engine thrust, an airport offi-



cial, requesting anonymity, said.

Passengers on board, including Mainpuri MP (Member of Parliament) and wife of Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh.

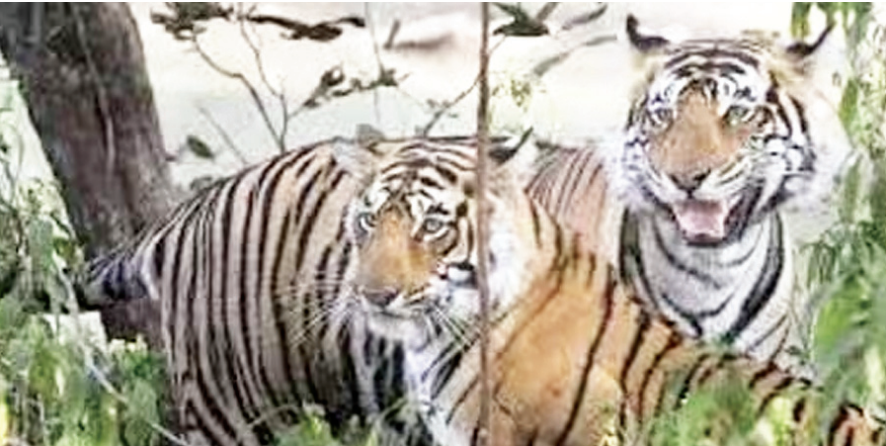
Yadav, Dimple Yadav, were safely deboarded, and alternate arrangements were made to send them to Delhi on another flight.

Chhattisgarh to relocate six tigers from MP to boost population in two tiger reserves

Raipur, Agency: The Chhattisgarh government is planning to relocate six tigers from two Madhya Pradesh reserves to the Udanti-Sitanadi and Guru Ghasidas Tamor Pingla tiger reserves in a bid to strengthen its tiger population, forest officials aware of the development said.

According to the officers, Udanti-Sitanadi Tiger Reserve will receive one male tiger and two tigresses from Kanha Tiger Reserve in Madhya Pradesh, while Guru Ghasidas Tamor Pingla Tiger Reserve will get three tigresses from Bandhavgarh Tiger Reserve.

Principal chief conservator of forests (wildlife) Arun Kumar Pandey said that the department is actively working on the translocation plan, and coordination



with Madhya Pradesh is underway. “We are working on this project in consultation with the NTCA and other agencies. The aim is to stabilise populations in reserves like Udanti-Sitanadi and Guru Ghasidas Tamor Pingla, where numbers are critically low, and to ensure long-

term conservation success,” he said.

The plan was cleared by the technical committee of the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) under its Standard Operating Procedure for tiger population management. “The NTCA’s technical commit-

tee, in its 13th meeting on May 30, had approved the proposal, subject to evaluation by Dehradun’s Wildlife Institute of India,” a senior forest officer said.

The move comes as Chhattisgarh’s tiger population has shown encouraging growth, rising from 17 in 2022 to 35 in April 2025, according to the latest survey — a sharp increase after concerns over shrinking habitats and rising human-wildlife conflict. Achanakmar Tiger Reserve in Bilaspur now has the highest population, with 18 tigers. Guru Ghasidas Tamor Pingla in Surguja has seven, Indravati Tiger Reserve in Bijapur has six, Boramdev Sanctuary in Kawardha has three, while Udanti-Sitanadi in Gariaband has just one.

8 students in Odisha hospitalised after eyes sealed with Fevikwik

New Delhi, Agency: At least eight students from a state-run Tribal Welfare Residential School in Odisha’s Kandhamal district were hospitalised on Friday after their eyes were allegedly sealed with adhesive by fellow students when they were sleeping, PTI reported on Friday, citing the police.

The incident occurred at the Sevashram school in Salaguda. The boys, around 12 years old and enrolled in Classes 4 and 5, were first taken to the primary health centre in Gochhapada.

According to the police, seven of them were later referred to the district headquarters hospital in Phulbani for advanced care, while one was discharged after he could open his eyes.

“Around 7 am, I visited the hostel and found that eight students were unable to open their eyes. Later, I found out that some students applied an adhesive on their eyes,”



teacher Premalata Sahoo said, according to PTI.

The teacher said she helped the students brush their teeth and feed them breakfast before taking them to the nearby primary health centre.

We do not know whether there is any criminality behind this, but suspect that some students did it for fun. We are inquiring into the

matter,” Sahoo added.

According to a report in India Today, the incident was allegedly caused by classmates who poured Fevikwik, a strong adhesive, into the students’ eyes while they were asleep.

The doctors said that the adhesive caused significant eye damage, but timely medical attention prevented a permanent loss of vision for the children, NDTV reported.=

Following the incident, the district administration in Kandhamal suspended the school’s headmaster, Manoranjan Sahu, on charges of negligence.

A high-level probe has also been launched to determine how such an incident took place. The students’ parents and local leaders have also demanded stringent action against those responsible.

Meanwhile, local sarpanch Rohit Kahanra blamed the school teachers for the incident.

Speeding car lands on railway track after toppling off Mukarba Chowk flyover



New Delhi, Agency: A car toppled over from the Mukarba Chowk flyover in Delhi and landed on a railway track near the Haiderpur metro station in northern part of the capital on Sunday.

The driver, identified as 35-year-old Sachin Chaudhary, escaped with only minor injuries to his shoulder and face, with no other injuries being reported in the incident, news agency PTI reported.

The police at the Samaypur Badli police station, after receiving information about the accident in the morning, rushed a team to the spot. The team found the car in an overturned condition in the tracks below the Ring Road, deputy commissioner of police (outernorth) Harehswar Swami said in a statement.

How did the car fall off the flyover?

The driver allegedly lost control of the car, leading to the accident. Chaudhary, who was travelling from Peeragarhi to Ghaziabad, according to his statement to the police, said he had lost control of the car on the stretch of the flyover which crosses the railway lines.

Following this, the car had hit the pavement to the side, and overshot the railings of the flyover to roll down the grassy slopes, finally landing on the tracks upside down, PTI quoted DCP Swami as saying.

After the police reached the spot, the vehicle was removed from the railway tracks, with no train movement being affected due to the accident.

However, the police said that a blue motorcycle had also been found near the spot of the accident. While it had no relation to the accident, the two-wheeler had been parked at the spot since Saturday, PTI reported.

5 Bangladeshi students of NIT Silchar suspended for campus violence

Silchar, Agency: Five students of the National Institute of Technology (NIT) in Assam’s Silchar, all Bangladeshi nationals studying under Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) scholarships, have been suspended for violent clashes inside the campus.

They were also found in possession of narcotic substances, according to NIT authorities. The institute’s director, Professor Dilip Kumar Baidya, said all five will be sent back to

Bangladesh.

We have adequate evidence to establish that they were actively involved in mass violence in the campus and they have been suspended for two semesters. Since they are not allowed to attend classes, they will be sent back to their country soon,” Baidya told HT on Sunday.

The incident occurred on September 8, when a group of third-year students from Bangladesh allegedly attacked fellow Bangladeshi students.

“We investigated the



matter thoroughly and finally suspended the five prime accused for one academic year. They have also been expelled from the hostel as part of the punishment on

September 12,” the director said.

S. S. Dhar, dean of students’ welfare, said narcotic substances were recovered from the rooms of the accused,

which was taken into account while deciding the disciplinary action. “Primarily, the action was for in-campus violence, but the suspected use of narcotics was also considered,” Dhar told HT. According to eyewitnesses, around 11.30 pm on September 8, the five students went on a rampage, allegedly under the influence of drugs, and attacked their compatriots.

“They were armed with rods, knives and screwdrivers, and targeted Bangladeshi students

from the final year, causing serious injuries in an attack that lasted nearly 30 minutes,” said one student on condition of anonymity.

Another witness said the accused initially assaulted students from their own batch. “When the seniors tried to intervene, the attackers called them to a room for discussion, suddenly switched off the lights with weapons, leading to further injuries,” the student recounted.

Several injured stu-

dents were rushed to Silchar Medical College and Hospital (SMCH). Two of them sustained severe head injuries and required intensive care, according to fellow students.

The NIT authorities said they conducted their own investigation, with a senior ICCR officer from the Guwahati zone also visiting the campus. “We are satisfied with our investigation and the disciplinary measures taken. Hence, we did not inform the police,” said Dhar.

Editorial

Kangra Bank or Auction House'

The accounts of Kangra Central Cooperative Bank have deteriorated and hence financial decisions are now being held in check. The wonder of the politics of keeping financial institutions as mistresses is that all the bells that were played, are now breaking in front of their power. Kangra Bank, caught in the list of lax financial system and insult to national financial discipline, is finally suspending its own board of directors under the whip of action. This decision of the government came at a time when the working methods of the bank, divided into stories, started being sold on the streets. The surprising thing is that the bank reached the garbage of content, flouting the guidelines of RBI and NABARD. This order is not so small that the current irregularities can be hidden under the tarpaulin of the next elections of the board of directors. There are so many such issues where the beneficiaries are found to be in contact with politics. The accounts of those who got big loans or those who cooked their own dal in the khichdi of loans will be found in these ruined accounts. The veiled bank is being exposed when it has come to the point of serving notices to all the members of the board of directors including the chairman. The allegations are serious and if this method of operation continues, then one day the accounts of the common account holders will be hit by lightning of zero. The bank has done many such miracles that even the financial institutions of the country will be left wondering. Amidst all the symptoms of bankruptcy, the rate of NPA, the falling credibility of the financial base, laxity in the discipline of operation and all the flaws of the banking system, the bank is losing in the game of politics. The allocation of financial benefits within the bank and the system getting ruined due to suicidal steps have started measuring the bank as a testimony of its sinking existence. There was a time when, in the hope of a bank, all the banks of the Pong Dam and all the cooperative societies became the reason for the revolution of deposits. The roots of this cooperative sector bank reached modern and commercial banking, but all the economic energy was invested in political business. In this context, a loan of Rs 45 crore on a hotel was sold for just Rs 21 crore in the name of OTS. The bank's BOD devised such a system that the lender was able to sell the unique OTS to a third party outside the grace period. Neither was there an open auction of the property nor was the essence of OTS alive, rather the bank handed over a hotel worth Rs 45 crore loan to a political boss for Rs 21 crore with folded hands. This amazing deal of the banking sector is a stab on the back of those savings holders who put every part of their deposits in rural areas in trust with this bank. Kangra Bank, which is registered in the protection of rural economy, cooperative sector, small industries and small businessmen, has now become its own auction house.

Narendra Modi : Nurturing cadres, strengthening the organisation



B. L. Santosh

Narendra Modi became a ‘pracharak’ (full-time worker) of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) in the early 1970s. After the Emergency in 1977, when he emerged as an able organiser in the role of vibhag pracharak, his working style was rooted in cadre- building. The early 1980s was a period when RSS had a very limited spread in Gujarat.

It takes the towering devotion of its cadres to make an organisation truly bloom in all its glory. This has been the guiding mantra of Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s life and his organisational vision. PM Modi has always considered cadres as the heart of the organisation.

Nurturing them, training them, and empowering them has remained among his foremost tasks. He believes that the organisation is not just a framework, its real strength lies in the ability, discipline, and dedication of its cadres.

Narendra Modi became a ‘pracharak’ (full-time worker) of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) in the early 1970s. After the Emergency in 1977, when he emerged as an able organiser in the role of vibhag pracharak, his working style was rooted in cadre- building. The early 1980s was a period when RSS had a very limited spread in Gujarat.

Even setting up a single ‘shakha’ (branch) in a taluka was considered a big achievement in those days. But the young Modi had a different vision: “Every village should have a shakha,” he would say. He would assign responsibility for setting up each branch to a cadre and periodically take progress reports — who the chief instructor was, what activities were conducted, who remained absent and why — every detail was monitored carefully.

In 1985, when the RSS completed 60 years, a massive camp was organised in Karnavati (Ahmedabad). Nearly 5,000 cadres attended the camp. In its run-up, Modi went from village to village, meeting youth and motivating them to purchase uniforms.

As a result, hundreds of new young people not only reached the camp but also became permanently associated with the organisation. This infused fresh energy into the Gujarat unit and marked the begin-

ning of large-scale cadre-building. Modi taught cadres to work systematically and in an organised manner. For example, participants of the RSS training camp held at P.D. Malaviya College in Rajkot in the early 1980s still recall how he had them conduct a survey among locals to assess the organisation’s image and present the results using statistical methods.

This was not only an innovative learning exercise but also a message that modern techniques and systematic thinking were essential to strengthening the organisation. He inspired cadres with practical examples of behaviour and etiquette. Small habits — such as being organised, knocking on doors before entering, and warmly enquiring after the well-being of family members — turned them into responsible and respected workers.

His training moulded cadres not just as members of the organisation but as model representatives in society. Modi also extended personal moral support to cadres and their families during tough times and unfortunate incidents — something many workers still remember with gratitude. When he became the organisation secretary of Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) in Gujarat in 1987, he carried forward the same practice of cadre-building in the political sphere. Through the BJP’s ‘Organisation Festival’ during the 1980s, thousands of new cadres were drawn into the party.

Discipline and accountability formed the foundation of Modi’s working style. He taught cadres that these values, along with dedication, are the cornerstones of a strong organisation. He himself never came late to meetings, not even by a minute, and if anyone else arrived late, he would make them stay outside and still participate.

Modi also gave new direction to both social balance and electoral

strategy within the organisation. While selecting office-bearers, he ensured social inclusivity.

In the 1987 Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation elections, with his ‘Win the Booth’ strategy, cadres became active at the grassroots and worked with a focused approach. Additionally, through his personal conduct, Modi instilled confidence and capacity in cadres.

He would reassure first-time entrants into the party and explain the significance of booth-level organisation, membership details, and collective effort. As a result, within just a few months, lakhs of new members were enrolled and strong cadres were raised.

As BJP’s organisation secretary, he also initiated ‘Tiffin Meetings’, through which cadres and their families were emotionally connected with the organisation.

In cadre-building, Modi did not restrict himself to structure and strategy alone. He taught cadres to become sensitive and farsighted leaders. He urged senior cadres to cooperate with juniors and to take responsibility. Balanced responses to criticism and restraint in the face of praise — these were integral parts of Modi’s cadre-building strategy.

Modi’s perspective has always been clear: the true strength of the organisation lies in its cadres. Cadres filled with discipline, dedication, and a spirit of service, keep national interest above all else in any circumstance. This is why today the organisation is not just a political power but a vibrant cultural consciousness. His journey of cadre-building conveys a lasting message to future generations: if the roots are nurtured, the branches will naturally blossom and the tree will stand strong for ages.

The author is National General Secretary of the Bharatiya Janata Party. The views expressed are personal.

Democracy: The best system of government in the world

Dr. Lokesh Kumar

Today democracy is the best system of governance in the world, in which a person gets a chance to participate in governance. International Democracy Day is celebrated every year on 15 September all over the world. It was established in 2007 through a resolution passed by the United Nations General Assembly. Its main goal is to strengthen and consolidate democracy. Democracy means the rule of the people, in which the public participates directly or indirectly in governance. According to Abraham Lincoln, democracy is ‘rule of the people, by the people and for the people.’ He saw democracy not only as a political system, but as a rule which is based on the ideals of equality and freedom. British political philosopher John Stuart

Mill believed that the democratic system of governance is the best. But, true democracy is the one in which all citizens participate directly in governance, but this experiment is not possible. In the present times, it is not possible to run direct democracy in big countries. In a democracy, the best form of governance should be indirect democracy or representative governance. Although this democratic system is not completely flawless, it can still be made better. Democracy was born in Greece. Greek civilization had developed about seven to eight hundred years before Christ. Here hundreds of people lived in different valleys. The regions of such people were called city states. The people here established political organizations. In the city state, the villagers lived a community life even while living separately

from each other. Their community interests were also the same. There was a direct democratic system in Athens, Greece. All the citizens here used to assemble in a council called Ecclesia and discuss the governance of the city and all the citizens there used to get a chance to participate in governance one by one. In 461-629 BC, the direct democratic system of Athens was at the peak of progress. The land area of ??this city was about 1000 square miles. Its population was approximately between 3-4 lakhs. Famous historian Prof. Romila Thapar says that the features of a democratic system were found in India in the Vedic period and 600 BC. Like the present-day parliament, councils were formed in ancient times, which resemble the current parliamentary system. It is believed that the Vedic period ‘Sabha’ would have been a

council of the elders of the people (tribe) and Samiti would be a general council of all the people. In the tribes that did not have an elected king, these councils used to discharge the duties and rights of the government. Around 600 BC, democratic states were settled in the foothills of the Himalayas, some distance south of them and in modern Punjab, while the monarchies of India were concentrated in the plains of the Ganges. Compared to monarchies, democracies were less opposed to individualism and independent thinking and the leaders of two sects that later assumed the form of important social and religious liberalism were born in democracies. Buddha belonged to the Shakya people and Mahavira, the founder of Jainism, belonged to the mechanical people. When India gained independence,

everyone insisted on adopting a democratic system of governance. Democratic governance has been in place in India for 75 years. But unfortunately, in recent years, some youth in our two neighboring countries ousted the governments by carrying out violent movements against democratic governments. Political thinker Dr. Dharamvir Chandel says that democracy is the best system of governance in the world, but the elected governments should work for the interests of the people. However, it can be said that democratic governments should also try to curb unemployment, corruption and economic gap in their country, otherwise today’s youth may turn against the elected governments. There is no doubt that the democratic system has proved to be the best system of governance in the world.

Mercedes eyes best-ever festive sales, urges uniform road taxes for growth

New Delhi, Agency:The recent GST rate cut is likely to make the upcoming festive season the 'best-ever' for the luxury carmaker, but there is a need to cap road taxes levied by states on car purchases for long-term growth of the industry, Mercedes-Benz India MD and CEO Santosh Iyer said.

In an interaction with PTI here, Iyer noted that to help cost reduction measures trickle down to the end customer, some uniformity is required in road taxes levied by states across the country.

While welcoming the GST rate rationalisation, he pointed out that the automotive sector remains one of the highest taxed, with state levies ranging from 15 to 22 per cent across the country.

The reduction in GST, which has a clear impact on price by 6- 8 per cent, would definitely have an impact on demand in the short run, for

sure, because there has been a postponement of purchases in August that should get materialised," Iyer said.

The GST rate cut brings a lot of positive sentiment and momentum to the market, he added.

So, the next couple of months, we surely see that the overall luxury market and also Mercedes-Benz should see significant growth. And this festive season should be the best-ever," Iyer said.

He, however, noted that at some point, even the road taxes across states and India need to be uniform, and it may be capped at certain levels, else the GST benefit will never reach the end-consumer.

Iyer noted that there is no guarantee that state taxes will not rise further, which could lead to prices staying higher despite the GST rate cut.

"India has a federal structure, so that's (uniform road



taxes) difficult to implement, but at least if there is an understanding that the taxation on motor vehicles is at a significantly high level, and they need to be capped at some point in time, and can't keep increasing year on year," he said.

Under the new GST system effective September 22, 2025,

luxury cars and other large vehicles (over 1500cc or 4m in length) are taxed at a flat rate of 40 per cent GST, with the removal of the additional compensation cess.

While the GST rate is higher than the previous 28 per cent GST, the absence of a compensation cess has led to an overall reduction in the

total tax burden, making such models affordable.

Besides, GST, which is a central government levy, state governments charge their own taxes during the registration process of a vehicle.

"We are quite happy to note that there is consistency in policy, as the 5 per cent GST has continued on battery electric vehicles," he added.

Iyer noted that the growth of the luxury car industry has a direct correlation to economic growth.

"In the last six years, we have sold one lakh cars in India, and in the total 31 years, we have sold two lakh. So, the majority of the cars sold in India have come in the last six to seven years. 1.5 lakh cars in the last 10 years since 2014," he said.

Between 2014 and 2024, the household per capita income used to be at USD 1,550, which has increased to USD 2,500. So, this clearly

shows a direct correlation between the per capita GDP and growth," Iyer said.

It's a matter of time that as the economy develops, the growth should come in, he added.

"And we don't see a hockey stick kind of growth, but I think sustainable growth, double-digit growth should take us to much higher numbers in the next five to 10 years," he said.

The Indian luxury car industry remains small against the overall passenger vehicle segment and compared to other countries like China. Iyer noted that globally, Mercedes is in the midst of its biggest-ever product offensive, and various new models would also make it to the Indian shores.

"We are producing multiple cars in Pune. So, this will continue as we move forward. Our effort will be to try and see how soon we can bring these cars to India," he noted.

Elon Musk's xAI lays off 500 workers tasked with training Grok. What layoff email said

Elon Musk's xAI laid off 500 workers from its data annotation team on Friday night. The data annotation team was tasked with training xAI's generative AI chatbot, Grok.

According to a Business Insider report, an email sent to affected employees on Friday night informed them that the AI company was scaling back its focus on general AI tutors, while prioritizing and expanding its focus on specialist AI tutors.

What the layoff email said

"After a thorough review of our Human Data efforts, we've decided to accelerate the expansion and prioritization of our specialist AI tutors, while scaling back our focus on general AI



tutor roles. This strategic pivot will take effect immediately," the email read. "As part of this shift in focus, we no longer need most generalist AI tutor positions and your employment with xAI will conclude."

Workers were told that

their access to the company systems would be cut off immediately. However, they would receive their salary till either the end of their contract or November 30.

Specialist AI tutors

xAI, while scaling down

its general AI tutors team, is simultaneously increasing its focus on specialist AI tutors.

A post by xAI on September 13 said it would increase its specialist AI team by 10 times.

"Specialist AI tutors at xAI are adding huge value. We will immediately surge our Specialist AI tutor team by 10x!" the post said.

On the company's website, openings include Specialist AI tutors for fields like video games, web design, data science, medicine, STEM and more. Last week, Business Insider had also reported how many senior xAI employees of the data annotation team had their Slack accounts deactivated.

India's reliance on US software, cloud services poses economic risks: GTRI

New Delhi, Agency: India's reliance on US software, cloud services, and social media platforms poses a major economic and security vulnerability in times of geopolitical tensions, think tank GTRI said on Sunday.

Washington is in a position to cut off services or access to data, disrupting banking, governance, and defence systems, while controlling public discourse through foreign platforms, it said.

"India's economy and security are deeply reliant on US software, cloud, and social media platforms, creating a major vulnerability in times of geopolitical tension," the Global Trade Research Initiative (GTRI) said.

To address this, the government should launch a "Digital Swaraj Mission", with sovereign cloud.

indigenous OS (operating system), homegrown cybersecurity, and data-driven AI leadership at its core," GTRI founder Ajay Srivastava said.

He added that Europe is



already building sovereign cloud and enforcing the Digital Markets Act.

China, too, has replaced foreign code in government, defence, and industrial systems with indigenous platforms.

Explaining the issue further, he said India's entire digital backbone could be crippled overnight if US tech giants pull the plug on Windows, Android, or cloud services.

Over 500 million Indian smartphones run on Google's Android, leaving the country's communications at the mercy of US decisions, Srivastava cautioned.

Samsung Life seeks stake in European alternative investment manager

Seoul, Agency: Samsung Life Insurance is in talks to acquire a stake in a European alternative investment firm managing 55 trillion won (USD 39.6 billion), mainly via private debt, as part of its strategy to diversify earnings amid sluggish growth in the domestic life insurance market, as per a report by Pulse, the English service of Maeil Business Newspaper Korea.

According to foreign media and the insurance industry on Thursday, Samsung Life has been negotiating to buy part of Hayfin's shares held by U.S. private equity group Arctos Partners LP. Hayfin is an alternative investment firm



managing 34 billion euros in assets across private debt and private equity, with Abu Dhabi sovereign wealth fund Mubadala and France's AXA Investment Managers Prime also buying minority stakes in Hayfin in July 2025. Industry officials see Samsung Life's move as aimed at efficient asset management.

CCI seeks Apple's response to final probe report on App Store dominance

New Delhi, Agency: The Competition Commission of India (CCI) has sought Apple's response or objections to its final investigation report in the case concerning alleged abuse of dominance in the app store market by mid-October, according to people aware of the matter.

The informant in the case, non-profit Together We Fight Society, has also been asked to file its response to the findings. In addition, Apple has been

directed to submit detailed financial statements for its global and India operations from 2022 to 2024, which will be used in the determination of penalty.

Background to the case

According to sources, the CCI wrote to Apple and the informant at the end of August, asking them to respond to the report within six weeks. An email sent to Apple remained unanswered. Last year, the regulator recalled its investigation report after Apple com-



plained that confidential commercial information had been disclosed to rivals. A revised report was subsequently shared. The probe concluded that Apple had contravened provisions of

competition law.

In December 2021, the CCI had ordered a detailed investigation into Apple after prima facie finding that the company abused its dominant position in the iOS app store market.

Market definition and findings

While ordering the probe in December 2021, the regulator said Apple had prima facie violated provisions of Section 4 of the Competition Act, which deals with abuse of domi-

New Zealand tightens police certificate rules for Indian visa applicants

New Delhi, Agency: In a move to streamline the submission of police certificates by Indian visa applicants, from December 1, 2025, Immigration New Zealand (INZ) will only accept police clearance certificates (PCC) issued by the Regional Passport Office (RPO) of the Indian Ministry of External Affairs. By accepting only RPO-issued police clearance certificates, INZ aims to reduce delays and simplify the process for applicants.

These police certificates are sometimes called criminal checks, police clearance certificates or penal records.

From December 1, 2025, Only certificates from RPOs will be accepted.

PCC must be less than 6 months old at submission.



If issued in a regional language, an English translation is required. Some passport offices may require fingerprinting. A certificate may still be valid if it

is less than one year old, unless INZ requests a new one. Applicants under age 16 years do not need to provide police certificates.

Indian visa applicants were previously allowed to provide police clearance certificates from an Office of the Deputy Commissioner or Superintendent of Police, or from their local police station. According to an Immigration New Zealand official statement, "these are in an inconsistent format and more difficult to authenticate so will no longer be accepted from 1 December 2025."

Requirements for Indian nationals outside India, and for non-Indian nationals who currently or have previously resided in India, have not changed.

Applying for a visitor, student or work visa: Anyone applying for a student, tourist or work visa must provide police certificates if the total time in New Zealand will be 24 months or longer across all visits.

This includes any time spent in New Zealand in the past on other visas, even if you have been out of the country since then.

Provide police certificates from any country you: are a citizen of, and have lived in for more than 5 years since you turned 17.

If you have a criminal record, INZ may still be able to grant you a visa. The applicant can provide an explanation of his/her criminal record at the time of application, and INZ will decide whether he/she meets the good character requirements. Being of good character: To be given a New Zealand visa, the applicant must be of good character. If you have a criminal history, have provided false or misleading information, or could be a risk to New Zealand, INZ can decline the application.

"Socha zaroor, par hua nahin..."

Mohammed Shami recalls suicidal thoughts

New Delhi, Agency: India's right-arm seamer Mohammed Shami admitted that he was encountering thoughts of dying by suicide, but rejected the idea, after realising the fact that the game of cricket has given so much to him.

Revealing his thoughts in the episode of Aap Ki Adalat with Rajat Sharma, Indian star pacer said, "Socha zaroor, par hua nahin, yeh shukr hai warna World Cup miss ho jata mere sey, kyun-ki jab wo thought aaya tha mere dimaag mein ki yeh time hai life ke end ka, jis cheez ke liye mujhe itna naam diya, jis cheez ke liye media mere piche hai, usko chhod ke is jump ke chakkar mein...Woh thought, woh pyaar yaad aayin. Socha chalo isko choodo, chalo game me lagte hain phir...(The thought came to my mind, but it did not happen, thank God, otherwise I'd have missed the World Cup.. The thought came to my mind to end my life, but

then I decided, this game, which gave me so much name, why should I jump (to death), forgetting all these. I thought of the love and affection. Then I decided, forget this and focus on my game)."

In July this year, the Calcutta High Court directed Shami to pay his estranged wife, Hasin Jahan, and daughter a monthly alimony of Rs 4 lakh as maintenance. Jahan will have to be paid Rs 1.50 lakh per month, while the daughter will get Rs 2.50 lakh per month. Jahan, a former model, married Mohammed Shami in 2014.

The couple had a daughter in 2015. Mohammed Shami and Hasin Jahan separated in 2018 after she accused him of domestic violence.

Asked about abusive things that were said about him on social media after an allegation of domestic violence, Shami replied "Bad things are spoken about, but nowadays those things are



spoken about which do not exist.. I am most scared of that. Yesterday, I was looking at a photograph, and I didn't know when I had taken it. The number of allegations that have been levelled against me in the last 6-7 years, maybe even a terrorist would not have been levelled so many allegations. I cannot do anything in this."

In 2018, Hasin Jahan had accused the cricketer of domestic violence. She had filed a petition in the Alipore court, accusing Shami and his family of harassing her. Jahan had demanded Rs 7 lakh per month from the pacer to maintain the family.

Shami last featured in a competitive game on May 2, representing Sunrisers Hyderabad in the Indian Premier League (IPL). That outing was a forgettable one for the pacer, as he went wicketless and conceded 48 runs in three overs against the Gujarat Titans.

The 2025 IPL season wasn't a remarkable one for

Shami, as he managed six wickets in nine matches. He also missed India's high-profile Anderson-Tendulkar Trophy Test series in England earlier this year and has not been picked for the Asia Cup in September. He hasn't played for the national side since the ICC Champions Trophy in March. In that Champions Trophy campaign, Shami was spearheading India's pace attack in Jasprit Bumrah's absence. He finished as India's joint-highest wicket-taker, claiming nine wickets in five matches, alongside mystery spinner Varun Chakravarthy, who bagged as many in just three games. Shami's efforts helped India lift the title after defeating New Zealand in the final. He last played Test cricket for India in 2023 against Australia in England. Now it will be interesting to see if Shami gets called for the home series against West Indies and the white-ball series against Australia.

Satwik-Chirag lose in Hong Kong Open: Defeated by Chinese pair in final; Lakshya Sen to face Li Shi Feng in men's singles

New Delhi, Agency: Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty have suffered defeat in the men's doubles of the Hong Kong Open badminton tournament. They were defeated by the Chinese pair of Liang Wei-keng and Wang Chang in the final. The Indian pair won the first game 21-19.



After that, the Chinese pair made a strong comeback. Wei-keng and Wang Chang won the next two games 21-14, 21-17 from the Indian pair and won the title. This was the first final of this season for Satwik-Chirag. Before this, they had lost in the semi-finals six times.

Paris Olympic medallist Aman Sehrawat disqualified from World Championship for being overweight

New Delhi, Agency: In a setback to the Indian wrestling contingent, Olympic medallist Aman Sehrawat was on Sunday disqualified from the World Championship in Zagreb after being found overweight.

In an embarrassing development, Aman, who won a bronze at Paris Games last year, was found overweight by 1.7 kg during the weigh-in ahead of the competition in men's freestyle 57kg. "It's unfortunate and surprising that Aman could not maintain his weight. He was overweight by 1,700 gm when he stood in the weight scale. This is not acceptable, actually. How did he get so much extra weight is beyond us," a source within the Indian contingent told PTI from Zagreb.

Aman had reached



Zagreb, Croatia, on August 25 for an acclimatisation camp along with other Indian wrestlers and had enough time to make

weight. The 22-year-old Aman, who trains at the famed Chhatrasal stadium, was one of the strong medal contenders among Indians.

India beat Switzerland in Davis Cup: Defeated European team for the first time after 32 years; Sumit defeated Henry



New Delhi, Agency: The Indian tennis team created history on Saturday in Biel, Switzerland. India defeated Switzerland 3-1 in the Davis Cup 2025 World Group I. This is India's first win against a European team in 32 years. The last time this feat was achieved was in 1993 against France. With this victory, the Indian team has confirmed its place in the

Davis Cup 2026 qualifiers. India suffered a defeat in the doubles match on Saturday. Switzerland's pair of Jacob Paul and Dominic Stricker defeated N Sriram Balaji and Rithvik Bollipalli 6-7, 6-4, 7-5. After this, Sumit Nagal defeated Henry Burnett 6-1, 6-3. With this, India defeated Switzerland 3-1.

Jaipur Pink Panthers head coach Narender Redhu thanks home fans for energetic presence after win over UP Yoddhas

Jaipur, Agency: Jaipur Pink Panthers registered their first win of the home leg in Pro Kabaddi League (PKL) 12, delivering a convincing performance against UP Yoddhas with a scoreline of 41-29 at the SMS Indoor Stadium in Jaipur, as per a

release from PKL. Following the victory, at the post-match press conference, Jaipur Pink Panthers head coach Narender Redhu credited the fans for their support. He said, "I want to thank the fans for the energy they

give us. We should get this energy in every match. I want to thank the fans from the bottom of my heart." The head coach was also delighted with his team's performance, especially from the younger players on Saturday.

Haryana's Jaismine Lamboria wins gold, Nupur silver, Pooja bronze in World Boxing Championship

New Delhi, Agency: Indian boxer Jaismine Lamboria etched her name into history with a golden flourish, clinching the coveted featherweight title at the World Championships with a stirring victory over Paris Olympics silver medallist Julia Szeremeta of Poland.

Capping off a stupendous campaign that saw her dominate all her rivals, Jaismine outclassed Szeremeta in the 57kg summit clash late on Saturday night, prevailing 4-1 on the judges' scorecards (30-27, 29-28, 30-27, 28-29, 29-28).

However, Nupur Sheoran (80+kg) and the seasoned Pooja Rani (80kg) signed off with silver and bronze medals

respectively in non-Olympic weight categories.

All three medal-winning boxers – Jaismine, Nupur and Pooja – hail from Haryana.

With the victory, Jaismine became the ninth Indian boxer to be crowned world champion.

She joined an illustrious list featuring six-time winner Mary Kom (2002, 2005, 2006, 2008, 2010 and 2018), two-time winner Nikhat Zareen (2022 and 2023), Sarita Devi (2006), Jenny RL (2006), Lekha KC (2006), Nitu Ghanghas (2023), Lovlina Borgohain (2023) and Saweety Boora (2023).

Competing in her third World Championships, the 24-year-old Jaismine grew



steadily into the bout. After a relatively sedate start where both pugilists sized each other up, it was Szeremeta who

drew first blood, prodded into action by the referee.

The much shorter Pole, who had lost the Olympic final to gender-row boxer Lin Yu-ting, was fast and precise, using defensive manoeuvres to dart in and out. She negotiated Jaismine's long reach to edge the opening round 3-2.

But the Indian came roaring back in the second. Adjusting her rhythm, she began controlling the distance, evading Szeremeta's advances, and unleashing crisp combinations that swayed all the judges in her favour.

Jaismine employed the jab and defended stoutly.

When the final verdict was announced, the usually serene

Jaismine let out a brief yell, raising her hand before graciously embracing her crestfallen opponent. At the medal ceremony, her eyes glistened as the Indian national anthem reverberated through the arena.

Nupur walks away with silver

In the second final of the night, Nupur walked away with silver after a narrow 2-3 defeat to Poland's technically astute Agata Kaczmarek.

Despite enjoying a substantial height advantage, Nupur could not impose herself on the contest. She started brightly with a flurry of punches, but Kaczmarek countered with relentless aggression, weaving through

her reach and landing body blows that wore the Indian down.

As the bout progressed, Nupur grew hesitant to throw punches, while the Pole dodged jabs with ease and responded with hooks.

At one point, Kaczmarek even wrestled Nupur onto the canvas. The defining moment came in the final round when the Pole unleashed a stunning uppercut which was enough to tip the verdict 3-2 in her favour and seal her maiden crown.

Pooja signs off with bronze

Earlier in the semifinals, Pooja signed off with a bronze medal after going down to local favourite Emily Asquith by a 1-4 split verdict.