



GROWING INDIA

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NEWS IN BRIEF

India's Q1 GDP Surprises Positively



New Delhi: India's GDP growth for Q1 2025-26 surged to 7.8 per cent, exceeding expectations and highlighting the resilience of the economy, according to Rajiv Memani, President of the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII). The growth is significantly higher than 6.5 per cent recorded in the same quarter last year. Key sectors driving the expansion include agriculture (3.7%), construction (7.6%), and manufacturing (7.7%). Memani credited stable policies, government reforms, and a near 20% increase in government expenditure for sustaining growth. He noted India's position as the fastest-growing major economy, underscoring its rising prominence in the global economic order.

Trump Cancels India Visit for Quad



New York: US President Donald Trump has reportedly cancelled his plans to visit India for the Quad Summit later this year, according to The New York Times. The report highlights deteriorating relations between Trump and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, worsened by Trump's repeated claims of having "solved" the India-Pakistan conflict. Tensions escalated during a June 17 phone call, when Trump suggested Modi nominate him for Pakistan's Nobel Peace Prize, which Modi rejected.

"Human GPS" Terrorist Killed Jammu Kashmir

Srinagar: Security forces on Saturday killed Bagu Khan, widely known as the "human GPS" of terror networks, in Gurez, Jammu and Kashmir. Also referred to as Samandar Chacha, Bagu had been based in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) since 1995 and was one of the most prolific facilitators of cross-border infiltration. He was shot dead alongside another terrorist during an infiltration attempt from Nowshera Naar. Authorities say Bagu was responsible for planning and guiding nearly 100 infiltration bids over the years, making him a key figure in terror operations along the Line of Control.

CHINA ROLLS OUT RED CARPET FOR MODI

Growing India

Tianjin: Prime Minister Narendra Modi received a warm and rousing welcome upon his arrival in China on Saturday, marking his first visit to the country in over seven years. The trip carries heightened significance amid the recent downturn in India-US relations, triggered by President Donald Trump's tariff policies, which have affected global trade and economic stability. Modi arrived in Tianjin from Japan, concluding the second and final leg of his two-nation tour. He is set to attend the annual summit of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) on August 31 and September 1. During the summit, Modi is expected to hold bilateral discussions with Chinese President Xi Jinping on Sunday, a meeting that assumes added importance in



light of ongoing geopolitical and economic challenges. The two leaders are likely to review India-China economic ties and explore ways to further normalise relations, which

have been strained since the 2020 border clashes in eastern Ladakh.

The SCO summit will also bring together Russian President Vladimir Putin, host Xi Jinping, and

leaders from Belarus, Iran, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan. Dialogue partners and observers will also participate. India has been a full member of the

SCO since 2017, after serving as an observer from 2005. Over the years, India has chaired the SCO Council of Heads of Government in 2020 and the SCO Council of Heads of State

from 2022 to 2023. Ahead of his trip, Modi highlighted the importance of stable bilateral relations with China in ensuring global peace and economic stability. In an interview with

Japan's The Yomiuri Shimbun, he said, "Given the current volatility in the world economy, it is also important for India and China, as two major economies, to work together to bring stability to the world economic order."

The visit follows Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi's recent trip to India, where he held wide-ranging discussions with External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar and National Security Advisor Ajit Doval. The talks resulted in several measures aimed at building a "stable, cooperative, and forward-looking" bilateral relationship. These measures include joint maintenance of peace along the contested frontier, reopening border trade, and resuming direct flight services between the two countries at the earliest opportunity.

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11 DEAD IN J&K LANDSLIDES, CLOUDBURST

Growing India

New Delhi: At least 11 people, including seven from one family, were killed in separate cloudburst and landslide incidents in the remote Reasi and Ramban districts of Jammu and Kashmir, as the Union Territory reels from two weeks of relentless natural disasters.

Since 14 August, J&K has been battered by continuous cloudbursts and landslides, claiming 130 lives and injuring 140 people across the region. Thirty-two pilgrims remain missing. The pilgrimage to the Mata Vaishno Devi shrine atop Trikuta Hills in Reasi has been suspended for the fifth consecutive day following a landslide earlier this week that killed 34 pilgrims halfway along the 12-km trek from Katra.

Chief minister Omar Abdullah expressed profound grief over the devastating landslide in Reasi's Bhadder village that claimed seven lives from a single family. Amid relentless heavy rains, he urged residents to remain alert, steer clear of vulner-



able areas, and strictly follow safety advisories.

Abdullah has ordered district authorities and disaster management teams to conduct round-the-clock monitoring, swiftly evacuate those in high-risk zones, and ensure immediate relief reaches affected families. He also called on all departments to stay vigilant, coordinate seamlessly, and take every possible step to protect lives as the severe weather continues.

Reasi tragedy:

Early Saturday, a landslide flattened a house in Badder vil-

lage, Reasi district, killing seven members of the same family. The deceased were identified as Nazir Ahmad (38), his wife Wazira Begum (35), and their children Bilal Ahmed (13), Mohd Mustafa (11), Mohd Adil (8), Mohd Mubarak (6), and Mohd Wasim (5). Nazir and his family were asleep when the house, located on a hill slope, was buried under debris. Locals initially searched the site before police teams retrieved the bodies.

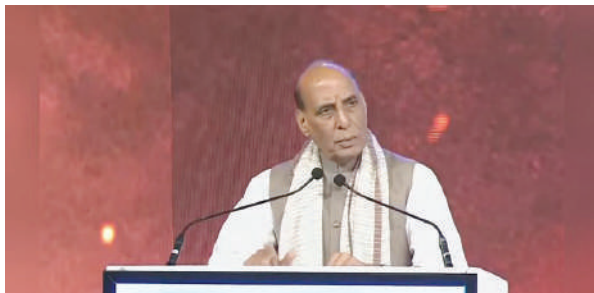
Ramban disaster:

In Ramban district, a cloudburst struck the mountainous

Rajgarh area around 11:30 pm on Friday, damaging two houses and a school, and triggering flash floods. Four people died: Ashwani Sharma (24), his brother Dwarka Nath (55), niece Virta Devi (26), and guest Om Raj (38). Sharma's sister-in-law, Bidya Devi (55), is still missing. Rescuers, including local volunteers, police, and the SDRF, recovered the bodies after a strenuous search.

"The cloudburst created a fast-flowing stream that swept away houses, a cowshed, and the school building," said local resident Ajay Kumar. He praised the district administration and local volunteers for their rapid response. Officials, including deputy commissioner Mohammad Alyas Khan and SSP Arun Gupta, are overseeing rescue and relief operations. Chief Minister Omar Abdullah has urged citizens to remain vigilant and avoid risk-prone areas, while instructing government departments to maintain close coordination to protect lives amid ongoing heavy rains.

No permanent friends or enemies; only permanent interests



Growing India

New Delhi: Amid US President Donald Trump's tariff threats, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Saturday underlined that in international relations there are "no permanent friends or enemies, only permanent interests."

He stated that India will continue to protect the interests of its farmers and citizens, and its position will remain "unchanged" regardless of external "pressure." "This vision will keep us secure in the future and will give us a prominent position in the emerging powers of the world. This vision is being reflected in our every decision. In the swiftly changing world, the so-called devel-

oped countries are showing a form of protectionism, and the trade and tariff war is getting serious," Defence Minister Singh said while addressing the NDTV Defence Summit 2025. The remarks came in response to Trump's announcement of a 50 per cent tariff on Indian goods, blaming what he described as unfair trade practices and New Delhi's refusal to halt the import of Russian crude oil. Referring to Edmund Burke, who had described the East India Company as "a state in the guise of a merchant," Defence Minister Singh noted, "Today, the way the state is working like the merchants, his quote is changed a bit and has become a merchant in the guise of the state."

-More on P3

RCB EXTENDS SUPPORT

RCB GIVES 25L AID TO STAMPEDE VICTIMS' KIN

Growing India

New Delhi: The Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) have announced Rs 25 lakh in financial aid to the families of the 11 victims who lost their lives in a stampede on June 4, during celebrations of the team's maiden Indian Premier League (IPL) victory. The stampede occurred outside the M Chinnaswamy Stadium, where over 2,50,000 people gathered to celebrate RCB's historic win. This fresh compensation comes nearly three months after RCB had ini-



tially provided Rs 10 lakh to each family, a day after the tragedy. The team had also launched the "RCB Cares" initiative on June

5, a fund intended to support the victims of the stampede. In an emotional statement posted on Saturday, RCB said, "Our

hearts broke on 4 June, 2025. We lost eleven members of the RCB family. Their absence will echo in the memories of each one of us." The franchise added that the Rs 25 lakh aid was a first step in their ongoing commitment to show compassion and care. Two days earlier, on August 28, RCB posted for the first time in almost three months, saying, "The Silence wasn't Absence. It was Grief." The team acknowledged how 4 June had changed everything, and that the silence since then was a way of holding space for the loss.



CM SHARMA PAYS TRIBUTE IN AJMER



Chief Minister Shri Bhajanlal Sharma's Ajmer Visit – The Chief Minister paid tribute to the late Shri Suraj Singh Rawat, father of Water Resources Minister Shri Suresh Singh Rawat.

COURT ORDERS PROBE, SI EXAM REMAINS VALID

Growing India

Jodhpur: Rajasthan's Minister of Law and Justice, Jogaram Patel, on Saturday clarified that the state's controversial Sub-Inspector (SI) recruitment examination has not been cancelled by the court. Instead, he explained, the court has ordered a probe with specific observations aimed at ensuring transparency in the recruitment process.

Patel made the remarks while addressing the public during a hearing session at the Circuit House in Jodhpur. He stated that the court has directed the state government to conduct an inquiry into the alleged irregularities and submit its findings to the



Rajasthan Public Service Commission (RPSC). "This step has been taken to make the recruitment procedure transparent and restore public trust," the minister said.

He further disclosed that the court has also raised concerns about the appointments of chair-

persons and members of the RPSC during the tenure of the previous Congress government. According to Patel, the court has ordered an investigation into how those appointments were made and whether due process was followed.

Highlighting the seri-

ousness of the allegations, Patel remarked, "Names ranging from the Chief Minister's Officer on Special Duty (OSD) to security personnel have surfaced in connection with this case. There are suspicions of involvement of several big players. Every individual implicated will face investigation and strict action in accordance with the law."

The SI recruitment process has long been under the scanner, with allegations of corruption and malpractice surfacing on multiple occasions. Aspirants and opposition parties have repeatedly demanded fair proceedings, citing compromised credibility in the recruitment system. Patel assured that the state gov-

ernment is committed to removing such doubts by ensuring impartial inquiry and accountability.

The Law Minister emphasized that the government's handling of the matter reflects its resolve to uphold fairness and transparency in competitive examinations. "Our priority is to ensure that meritorious candidates do not suffer due to irregularities," he added.

The clarification is expected to bring relief to thousands of aspirants who were concerned about the possible cancellation of the exam. The government now awaits the inquiry report, which will determine the future course of action for the recruitment process.

Heavy Rain Collapses Old Hingola School Rooms, None Hurt

Growing India

Jodhpur: The ongoing rains in Rajasthan have once again exposed the fragile condition of government school buildings. On Saturday morning, heavy rainfall led to the collapse of two rooms, along with the veranda, at a government school in Chirayon Ki Dhani under Hingola Gram Panchayat. Fortunately, no students were present at the time, preventing any casualties.

According to local reports, the incident occurred around 7 a.m. The building, part of the Rajkiya Uchh Madhyamik Vidyalaya, had long been in a dilapidated state, with cracks in the walls and a weakened foundation. Villagers claim that the administration had been repeatedly informed about the building's unsafe condition, but no remedial ac-



tion had been taken. Continuous heavy rain on Saturday further compromised the structure, causing the ceilings and walls of two rooms to collapse and leaving a pile of debris across the school premises.

Hingola Gram Panchayat Sarpanch Muse Khan and local residents visited the site immediately after the incident. Villagers have demanded that the unsafe

structure be demolished immediately and new classrooms be constructed to ensure the safety of students.

This incident raises renewed concerns about the condition of government school buildings in Rajasthan. Similar collapses have been reported recently in districts such as Jhalawar and Karauli, putting the lives of children at risk.

Attacker Dies After Alleged Assault on 62-Year-Old Woman; Police Probe How He Was Injured

Growing India

Jodhpur: A man who allegedly launched a life-threatening attack on a 62-year-old woman in Balasar town has died during treatment, police said. The incident occurred on Wednesday in the Silawaton ka Bas locality, where the accused reportedly entered the victim's home in an intoxicated state and assaulted her with a sharp glass object.

Police detained the injured assailant at the scene and admitted both him and the victim, identified as Saira Bano, to Mathura Das Mathur (MDM) Hospital in Jodhpur. Following a complaint by the woman's nephew, an FIR was registered against Siddhant Valmiki, son of Deepak, a resident of Raikabagh, Jodhpur. Valmiki died while undergoing



treatment in hospital. His body has been placed in the mortuary and will be handed over to relatives after a post-mortem examination. With the accused's death, investigators say the nature of the case has shifted; a police team led by Balasar Station House Officer Mool Singh Bhati is conducting an in-depth inquiry into how the accused sustained his injuries and the sequence of events leading up to the assault.

Deputy CM Diya Kumari Attends Langdi Express, Visits Juna Khedapati Temple

Growing India

Jodhpur: Deputy Chief Minister Diya Kumari revisited her childhood memories by participating in the traditional Langdi Express game in Jodhpur on Saturday. She attended the event as part of the Member of Parliament Sports Festival, held at the Gaushala grounds, alongside Minister of Industries K.K. Bishnoi and Jodhpur city MLA Atul Bhansali, who also joined the Langdi Express race.

Prior to the event, Kumari visited the Juna Khedapati Balaji Temple, where she performed the oil abhishek ritual to Shani Dev and sought blessings from Hanuman Ji and other deities. She also



paid respects to the sacred Peepal, Banyan, and Kalp trees within the temple premises. The Deputy Chief Minister won the hearts of devotees when she warmly greeted a temple cleaning staff couple and inquired about their family's well-being. Following her visit, she proceeded to Ramdevra Dham in Jaisalmer district, the revered site of folk deity Baba Ramdev.

Rajasthan Bar Council Registers 700 New Advocates

Growing India

Jodhpur: The Registration Committee of the Rajasthan Bar Council held a meeting on Saturday to review applications for new advocates. Members of the committee, Kapil Prakash Mathur and Devendra Singh Rathore, were pre-

sent during the discussions.

After thorough deliberation, the committee finalized the selection of new advocates. Vikas Dhaka, Joint Secretary of the Rajasthan Bar Council, confirmed that approximately 700 new advocates have been successfully registered.

ARMY COMMANDER INAUGURATES SOUTHERN COMMAND TA FUSION SEMINAR

Growing India

Jodhpur: Lieutenant General Dhiraj Seth, PVSM, AVSM, General Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Southern Command, delivered the keynote address at the inaugural Southern Command Territorial Army (TA) Military-Civil Fusion Seminar 2025 in Jodhpur on Friday.

The seminar, a first-of-its-kind initiative, was designed to create a collaborative platform bringing together the Armed Forces, academia, industry, and thought leaders to strengthen military-civil synergy and contribute to a safer, more resilient nation. In his address, Lt



Gen Seth highlighted the growing significance of military-civil collaboration in addressing the complexities of modern warfare and nation-building. He emphasized that leveraging the combined expertise of diverse stakeholders is essential for tackling evolving security challenges and fostering innovation-driven solu-

tions. The day-long seminar featured discussions by eminent speakers on topics such as the changing character of warfare, technological integration, and the collective role of society in shaping future security frameworks. Interactive sessions, workshops, and field visits provided participants with

opportunities to exchange ideas and develop actionable strategies for enhanced cooperation.

Concluding the event, organizers reaffirmed the Indian Army's commitment to bridging the gap between the military and civil society, promoting shared responsibility for national security and sustainable development.

Man Booked After Video of Dog Beating Goes Viral

Growing India

Jodhpur: A viral video showing a dog being brutally beaten and ultimately killed by a local resident has sparked widespread outrage across social media platforms, prompting immediate legal action. The incident reportedly took place in Mahamandir, and the accused has been

identified as Babulal Soni. Following the circulation of the video, an NGO-affiliated lawyer lodged a formal complaint with the Mahamandir police station. Acting on this complaint, authorities registered a case against Soni under Section 11(1)(t) of the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960, which addresses acts of

severe cruelty against animals. According to reports, the accused not only physically assaulted the dog but later ended its life, causing shock and anger among animal rights activists and the local community. Many have condemned the act, highlighting it as a reminder of the vulnerabilities faced by voiceless animals and call-

ing for strict action against perpetrators. The police confirmed that an official investigation is underway, with ASI Maniram heading the probe. Officers are reviewing the video evidence, collecting witness statements, and examining the circumstances surrounding the incident to ensure thorough legal action is taken.

CHENAB, ANJI BRIDGES SYMBOLIZE PROGRESS PROWESS

SHEKHAWAT HAILS CHENAB AND ANJI KHAD BRIDGES AS SYMBOLS OF INDIA'S ENGINEERING PROWESS

Growing India

Jodhpur: Union Minister for Culture and Tourism, Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, described the Chenab Railway Bridge and Anji Khad Bridge as remarkable symbols of India's engineering capabilities. Speaking at a lecture on the two bridges at MBM University on Saturday, he highlighted that the arch-designed Chenab Bridge and India's first cable-stayed Anji Khad Bridge are fully equipped to withstand challenging natural conditions.

Shekhawat detailed that construction of the Chenab Railway Bridge began in the early 2000s but was temporarily halted for safety reasons.



Work later resumed with a stronger design and modern technology. Built at a cost of approximately Rs.1,486 crore, the bridge was completed in August

2022 and, following rigorous safety tests, was inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on June 6, 2025. Measuring 1,315 meters in length and 359 me-

tters in height, it is currently the world's highest railway bridge, engineered to endure earthquakes, landslides, and winds of up to 266 km/h.

He also spoke about the Anji Khad Bridge, which stands 331 meters high and stretches 750 meters long. Completed in 2023 and formally commis-

sioned in 2025 after successful trials in 2024, the bridge, with its gleaming cables set against the Himalayan backdrop, exemplifies India's engineering brilliance.

Shekhawat emphasized that these bridges are more than mere structures; they serve as lifelines connecting Kashmir to the rest of India. He added that robust infrastructure is a cornerstone of national strength, aligning with the government's vision for a developed India by 2047. MBM University Vice-Chancellor Prof. Ajay Sharma, Organizing Secretary Prof. A.N. Modi, and Ashok Kumar Mathur were also present at the event.

Tripura Rolls Out PVC Ration Cards for PDS Beneficiaries

Growing India

Agartala: The Tripura government has begun distributing consumer-friendly **PVC ration cards** to beneficiaries of the Public Distribution System (PDS), replacing old paper booklets with durable, digital-ready cards to ensure greater transparency and efficiency, officials said on Saturday. Tripura is the first state in the Northeast to introduce PVC ration cards and also the first to install PoS (Point of Sale) machines to enable their use. When swiped at ration shops, the cards automatically update connected databases, helping prevent irregularities. According to the Food and Civil Supplies Department, out of 9.91 lakh family ration card holders in the state, around 4.87 lakh

PVC cards will be issued in the first phase. The remaining beneficiaries will receive them once their e-KYC (electronic Know Your Customer) formalities are completed. Distribution delays, officials said, are largely due to Aadhaar and residential proof issues or beneficiaries shifting back to their native places.

The new PVC ration cards are designed like voter ID or Aadhaar cards, making them long-lasting, waterproof, and resistant to damage even during the rainy season. They also aim to reduce corruption and improve consumer convenience. To further strengthen PDS services, the government is converting 600 out of 2,072 fair price shops into model outlets, providing Rs. 5,000 to each dealer for improvements.

Not a ‘dead economy’, it’s ‘long live economy’

Growing India

New Delhi: Union Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan hailed the latest GDP figures, declaring that India has proven itself to be a “Long Live Economy” in the face of global headwinds.

“When leadership is steadfast, policies are precise, and decisions are farsighted, then the results make history. Those who used to call it a ‘Dead Economy’ should now understand that India is a ‘Long Live Economy’, moving firmly on the path of becoming a developed and self-reliant nation,” Chouhan said in a post on X on Saturday. He credited the collective effort of farmers, scientists, and India’s 140 crore citizens for the strong performance. “The sweat of our farmers, the hard work of our scientists, and the determination of ordinary Indians have all contributed to this success. Today, India’s economy is not just strengthening -- it is setting new benchmarks across sectors,” he added.

Pointing to the resilience of the economy despite global challenges, Chouhan highlighted that India’s GDP grew by 7.8 per cent in the April-June quarter of FY 2025-26, up from 6.5 per cent in the same quarter last year. Calling the achievement a matter of “special pride” for the agricultural community, he noted that the sector’s growth rebounded sharply. “The role of the agriculture sector is unprecedented in this progress. Thanks to the tireless efforts of our food providers and innovations in agri-technology, the growth rate of agriculture and allied activities has jumped from 1.5 per cent last year to 3.7 per cent this year,” Chouhan said.

Official figures released by the Ministry of Statistics on Friday confirmed India’s GDP growth for this quarter stands at 7.8 per cent. Agriculture posted a 3.7 per cent expansion, manufacturing registered a solid 7.7 per cent growth, and the construction sector grew by 7.6 per cent in the first quarter of 2025-26.

CM Yogi Surveys Flood-Hit Areas in Ghazipur

Growing India

Ghazipur (UP): Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Saturday conducted an aerial survey of flood-affected areas in Ghazipur district. CM Yogi first reached Varanasi, and from there he left to conduct an aerial survey of the flood-affected Ghazipur district of the state.

After reviewing the situation from the air, the Chief Minister instructed district and divisional officials to ensure that flood-affected families face no inconvenience. He emphasised the timely supply of food, clean drinking water, and healthcare at relief shelters, and asked officials to remain in constant touch with people. Yogi also ordered special arrangements for cattle feed, purity of drinking water, and adequate stock

of medicines, including anti-snake venom and anti-rabies vaccines, in the flood-hit villages.

He reiterated that the state government stands with every citizen in this crisis and urged people not to panic. Floods have inundated several areas of Ghazipur, submerging standing crops and cutting off connecting roads. Waterlogging has blocked the Gahmar bypass, forcing residents to rely on boats for commuting. In Zamania tehsil, officials held a chaupal to hear villagers’ grievances, while health teams spread awareness about disease prevention and sprayed bleaching powder in affected villages. With the water level stabilising since Saturday morning, after crossing the danger mark on Friday, people remain hopeful that the situation will improve in the coming days.

Over 2 lakh voters in Bihar filed objections on draft voter list

Growing India

Patna: Preparations for the upcoming Bihar Assembly elections have gained momentum with large-scale participation in the ongoing Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of the voter list.

According to the Election Commission, so far 2,27,636 voters have filed claims and objections against entries in the draft voter list.

Among them, 29,872 applications have been filed for the inclusion of the names in the electoral rolls, while 1,97,764 applications were filed for the exclusion of names from the voter lists. The election commission has disposed of 33,771 applications in the last 7 days.

The most encouraging sign has come from first-time voters. In August alone, 13,33,793 youth above 18 years have submitted Form-6 applications to get their names enrolled in the voter lists.

According to an official of the ECI, this indicates strong interest among young voters in participating in the democratic process.

If approved, over 13 lakh new names will be added to the electoral rolls this year. The Election Commission claims 61,248 applications were disposed of in the last 7 days. The Commission’s report also highlights the role of Booth Level Agents (BLAs) appointed by political parties.

1,60,813 BLAs from 12 political parties are actively engaged across the state to assist voters in corrections and new registrations. Among them, CPIML BLAs

filed the maximum 118 claims and objections, while RJD agents submitted 10 forms till Saturday.

Among the 118 claims and objections of CPIML, 15 applications were filed for the inclusion of names in the electoral rolls, while 103 applications were filed for the exclusion from the voter lists. Officials said that such efforts by political parties, voters, and the Commission are making the revision process more transparent and error-free. Earlier, nearly 65 lakh names were deleted from the rolls during special intensive revision drives to remove ineligible or duplicate entries. The last date of filing the claims and objections is August 31.

India to Build All Future Warships Domestically: Rajnath Singh

Growing India

New Delhi: Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Saturday announced that India’s warships will be manufactured domestically, reinforcing the Modi government’s push towards an ‘Aatmanirbhar Bharat (self-reliant India)’ to enhance the nation’s military strength and global standing amid ongoing economic and geopolitical challenges.

Highlighting the scale of indigenous effort, Defence Minister Singh, speaking at the NDTV Defence Summit 2025, noted that nearly 75 per cent of the new warships were designed locally, a development he said would significantly bolster India’s strategic autonomy.

The statement comes days after the commissioning of two indigenously-built Nilgiri-class stealth frigates, INS Himgiri and INS Udaygiri.

These advanced warships feature significant upgrades in weapon and sensor systems and are equipped to undertake a wide spectrum of maritime operations.

Defence Minister Singh’s remarks also follow the conclusion of ‘Operation Sindoor’, India’s military response to the April 22 Pahalgam terror attack in which 26 people were killed by Pakistan-backed terrorists.

The attack was carried out by terrorists linked to ‘The Resistance Front’ -- an offshoot of the Pakistan-based Lashkar-e-Taiba. India retaliated with precision strikes on terror camps located in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir.

A notable aspect of ‘Operation Sindoor’ was the deployment of indigenously-developed air defence system modules, which successfully shielded both civilian and military infrastructure from a barrage of Pakistani missiles and drones.

Defence Minister Singh said the entire world had witnessed India’s growing Defence capabilities.

“The way our forces, with indigenous equipment, carried out precise strikes on their targets shows no mission can succeed without a vision, long-term preparation, and coordination,” he said. He stressed that the operation was not just a short-term conflict but a reflection of long-term strategy. “Operation Sindoor may seem like just a few days’ war, and a story of India’s victory and Pakistan’s defeat, but behind it lay years of strategic preparation and a long role of Defence preparedness,” Defence Minister Singh said. The Defence Minister also highlighted the economic benefits of advancing indigenous Defence production, citing the rapid growth in arms exports.

“In 2014, our Defence export was less than Rs 700 crore. Today, it has increased to nearly Rs 24,000 crore, reaching a record level. This shows that India is no longer just a buyer; it is becoming an exporter,” he said.

Emphasising that the focus on domestic Defence manufacturing would not only safeguard the country but also strengthen its global stature, Singh remarked, “This very approach will keep us secure in the times to come and also secure us a leading position among the world’s emerging powers.”

NEW UNIT TO BOOST INDIA'S DEFENCE TECHNOLOGY, STRENGTHEN STRATEGIC CAPABILITIES

Rajnath Singh, CM Yogi inaugurate drone manufacturing unit in Noida

Growing India

Noida: Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Saturday inaugurated the Raphe mPhibr Drone Manufacturing Unit and Defence Equipment and Engine Test Facility in Sector-81, Noida. Speaking at the event, CM Yogi said the establishment of state-of-the-art facilities for drones, aircraft engines, and aerospace testing marked a major achievement for India’s defence sector in the face of evolving global challenges.

“India has been facing challenges since 1947, and Operation Sindoor has demonstrated the nation’s power in this new era of warfare. If you have strength, the world bows before you. When Shastra (epics) and Sastra (weapons) go hand in hand, peace prevails,” he said. The

Chief Minister cited the examples of Maharana Pratap’s valour and the symbolism of the lion as strength and authority.

Highlighting Uttar Pradesh’s contribution to national defence, he said

nine ordnance factories were operational in the state, while 12,500 acres of land had been allocated for the Defence Corridor spread across Agra, Aligarh, Jhansi, Chitrakoot, and Kanpur. He added that a BrahMos missile unit set up in Lucknow had already proven its capabilities during Operation Sindoor.

Congratulating the new unit, Yogi assured that the state government was committed to the security of the country and to supporting defence manufacturing.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh described the facility as a milestone in India’s scientific and defence innovation.

“This unit is dedicated to the nation and represents a revolution in defence technology. The company that began in 2017 with just 10 people now has more than 3,600 scientists and engineers,” he said.

Claiming that the drones produced at the facility cannot be detected by defence systems in the US or China, Singh called it India’s most innovative aircraft manufacturing hub. “This technology will instil fear in the enemy,” he added. He also noted that Uttar Pradesh, once considered difficult for industrial investment due to poor law and order, had now become the first choice of investors under

Yogi Adityanath’s leadership. Drawing on global examples, Singh pointed out that drones have become central to modern warfare, as seen in the Russia-Ukraine conflict.

Recalling the Pokhran nuclear tests of 1998, he said India had always forged ahead despite opposition. The Defence Minister further said that within just 14 months, equipment developed by this company in collaboration with DRDO had been successfully deployed in Operation Sindoor -- a feat made possible by a blend of determination, science, and the courage of India’s armed forces.

PM Modi Gifts Moonstone Bowls and Pashmina Shawl to Japanese Leaders

Growing India

Tokyo: Showcasing a perfect blend of timeless Indian artistry and Japanese culinary tradition, Prime Minister Narendra Modi gifted a set of vintage precious stone bowls with silver chopsticks to his Japanese counterpart Shigeru Ishiba during his two-day Japan visit which concluded on Saturday.

Featuring a large brown moonstone bowl with four smaller ones and silver chopsticks, it draws inspiration from Japan's donburi and soba rituals. The moonstone, sourced from Andhra Pradesh, glows with adularescence and symbolises love, balance, and protection, while the base of the main bowl is Makrana marble inlaid with semiprecious stones in the traditional 'parchin kari' style of Rajasthan.

PM Modi also gifted a Pashmina shawl in a



hand-painted papier mache box to the spouse of the Prime Minister of Japan. The Pashmina shawl, made from the fine wool of the Changthangi goat in Ladakh, is valued worldwide for being light, soft, and warm. Handwoven by Kashmiri artisans, it carries a centuries-old tradition once cherished by royalty. The shawl has an ivory base with delicate floral and paisley patterns in rust, pink, and red, showing classic Kashmiri design and craftsmanship. It comes in a hand-painted papier-mache box decorated with floral and bird motifs, adding to its beauty and cultural value.

Court Strikes Down Most of Trump's Reciprocal Tariffs

Growing India

Washington: In a setback to U.S. President Donald Trump, a federal appeals court struck down most of the administration's global reciprocal tariffs. In its ruling, the court ruled that President Trump did not have the "power to impose tariffs." Hours after the ruling, President Trump stated that he would approach the Supreme Court on the ruling.

"The statute bestows significant authority on the President to undertake a number of actions in response to a declared national emergency, but none of these actions explicitly include the power to impose tariffs, duties, or the like, or the power to tax," it said.

The ruling stopped short of implementing the order until October 14 to provide time to the administration to seek legal



recourse in the Supreme Court. However, U.S. tariffs on steel and aluminum, which were enacted through a different legal authority, would stay in place. Remarking on the President's use of the 1977 International Emergency Economic Powers Act (IEEPA) to impose "reciprocal" tariffs, the court said it did not give Trump "unlimited authority to impose tariffs."

"The statute neither mentions tariffs (or any of its synonyms) nor has procedural safeguards that contain clear limits on the President's power to impose tariffs," the court mentioned in its ruling.

India prevents global crisis by purchasing Russian oil, keeps markets stable

Growing India

New Delhi: As allegations fly thick and fast over India extending a financial lifeline to Russia and becoming a laundering hub, the reality is that by purchasing Russian energy, New Delhi has prevented a global crisis by keeping global markets stable and inflation under control for itself and for the world.

Russia supplies nearly 10 per cent of world oil. If India stopped buying, crude could hit \$200 a barrel. By keeping oil flowing, India stabilised markets and helped global citizens. US Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen and others have already praised India's role towards this. India is not using US dollars from trade to buy Russian oil as purchases are routed through traders in third countries and settled in currencies like AED. At no point did the US government ask India to stop buying. India's trade is fully legitimate and within G7 and EU price-cap rules.

There is no black market either. Russian oil is



not sanctioned like Iranian or Venezuelan oil. It is sold under a price-cap system designed by the West to prevent profiteering. If the US wanted to ban Russian oil, it would have sanctioned it. It did not because it needs Russian oil in the market.

India also cut fuel prices for its citizens even as global oil spiked to \$137 a barrel. State-run oil firms took losses of Rs 21,000 crore, while government taxed exports to prevent profiteering. India's imports prevented a global spike and cushioned inflation for everyone.

The country has been the world's 4th-largest refiner for decades. Refining crude and exporting fuels is how the global system works. After banning Russian crude, Europe itself relied on Indian diesel and jet fuel. That is stabilisation, not laundering.

PM Modi and Zelensky hold key phone call on Ukraine peace and bilateral ties ahead of SCO meet

Growing India

Tianjin (China): In a significant diplomatic development ahead of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) summit, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky held a detailed telephone conversation on Saturday, reaffirming a shared commitment to the peaceful resolution of the ongoing conflict in Ukraine.

The conversation, initiated by President Zelensky, comes just two days before PM Modi's scheduled meet-



ing with Russian President Vladimir Putin on the sidelines of the SCO summit being held in Tianjin, China.

Taking to social media platform X, PM Modi shared the essence of the discussion: "Thank President Zelensky for his

phone call today. We exchanged views on the ongoing conflict, its humanitarian aspect, and efforts to restore peace and stabil-

ity. India extends full support to all efforts in this direction."

The Indian government's official readout echoed this sentiment, reiterating India's "steadfast and consistent position" in favour of a peaceful settlement and expressing readiness to extend "all possible support" towards the earliest restoration of peace.

President Zelensky also posted about the call on X, offering insights into Ukraine's current diplomatic outreach and hopes for meaningful mediation: "I spoke with the Prime

Minister of India, Narendra Modi. I informed him about the negotiations with President Trump in Washington involving European leaders. It was a productive, important conversation, a shared vision among partners on how to achieve real peace."

Zelensky noted Ukraine's willingness to engage in a direct dialogue with Russia, while expressing frustration over Moscow's 'lack of constructive response': "Ukraine confirmed its readiness for a meeting with the Russian leader."

PM Modi Receives Warm Welcome in Tianjin Indian diaspora in China accords rousing welcome to PM Modi

Growing India

Tianjin (China): Prime Minister Narendra Modi received a rousing welcome from members of the Indian community upon his arrival in China's Tianjin on Saturday evening, local time, to attend the two-day Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Summit, beginning Sunday. PM Modi was greeted with traditional cultural performances and enthusiastic chants of 'Vande Mataram' and 'Bharat Mata ki Jai', reflecting the community's excitement.

Sharing the glimpses on his social media platform X, PM Modi said, "China's Indian community accorded a very special welcome in Tianjin." Prime Minister Modi travelled from Tokyo after concluding his visit to Japan earlier in the day, before landing at the Binhai International Airport in Tianjin.

"Landed in Tianjin, China. Looking forward to engaging in in-depth discussions during the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation summit and meeting with leaders from various countries," PM Modi posted on X after landing in China.

According to the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), this visit is a testament to India's con-



structive and proactive role in the SCO.

On the sidelines of the Summit, Prime Minister Modi is expected to hold several key bilateral meetings with world leaders attending the Summit. He is scheduled to have a meeting with Chinese President Xi Jinping on Sunday and Russian President Vladimir Putin on Monday.

PM Modi and Xi Jinping last met on the sidelines of the BRICS Summit in Russia's Kazan in 2024. The breakthrough in bilateral talks was made possible after India and China reached an agreement on patrolling along the nearly 3,500-km LAC to end the four-year-long border confrontation.

India has been a member of SCO since 2017. It

held the presidency of the Council of Heads of State of SCO during 2022-23.

"India is an active and constructive member of SCO. During our Presidency, we have introduced new ideas and initiated collaboration in the fields of innovation, health and cultural exchanges. India remains committed to working with the SCO members to address shared challenges and deepen regional cooperation. I also look forward to meeting President Xi Jinping, President Putin and other leaders on the sidelines of the Summit," said PM Modi in his departure statement.

"I am confident that my visits to Japan and China would further our national interests and priorities, and contrib-

ute to building fruitful cooperation in advancing regional and global peace, security, and sustainable development" he added.

The SCO is a permanent intergovernmental international organisation established in Shanghai on June 15, 2001. The SCO member states are: China, Russia, India, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Pakistan, Uzbekistan, Iran and Belarus.

The SCO has two observer states - Afghanistan and Mongolia and 14 dialogue partners, including Turkey, Kuwait, Azerbaijan, Armenia, Cambodia, and Nepal. Sri Lanka, Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Qatar, Bahrain, the Maldives, Myanmar and the United Arab Emirates.

BNP says those backing Proportional Representation system have 'ulterior motives'

Growing India

Dhaka: In an escalating political standoff ahead of next year's general election, the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) on Saturday said that those backing the Proportional Representation (PR) system have "ulterior motives". The party stated that there is no mention of a "PR system" in Bangladesh's Constitution, local media reported.

Speaking at the opening of Netrokona district BNP's triennial council, BNP standing committee member Salahuddin Ahmed took an indirect dig at the radical Islamist party Jamaat-e-Islami.

"According to their statement, if elections are not held under a PR system, they will not allow polls in Bangladesh. Today, I am announcing that the national election will be held in the first half of February next year, before Ramadan begins. No one will be able to stop it," Bangladesh's leading newspaper, The Daily Star, quoted the BNP leader as saying. "Article 65(2) of Bangladesh's constitution clearly states that 300 members of parliament shall be elected directly from territorial constituencies. There is no mention of any PR system or provision." He added, citing the Constitution of Bangladesh. Salahuddin alleged that those issuing misleading statements to delay or hinder the election were deceiving the public. "Candidates are reaching out to the pub-



lic, and people are ready to vote. Anyone speaking against elections will be rejected by the people," he added. Meanwhile, on Saturday, Shafiqul Alam, Press Secretary to the interim government's Chief Advisor, asserted that the national election will be held as scheduled in the first half of February, insisting that no force will be able to obstruct it. "We are saying firmly that the election will be held in the first half of February. There is no force that can stop it," Bangladesh's leading daily Dhaka Tribune quoted Alam as saying.

"The election will definitely be held before February 15, within the first half of February. No kind of conspiracy will be able to halt it," he stressed. On Friday, Jamaat accused Chief Advisor Muhammad Yunus of breaking his promise, claiming that the recently announced roadmap was designed to derail the prospect of a free election. "The Chief Advisor has broken his promise by announcing the election roadmap; this roadmap is a blueprint to derail a fair election," said Jamaat leader Syed Abdullah Muhammad Taher, addressing a public event.

ARAKAN CONFLICT ESCALATES, REGIONAL TENSIONS RISE

Pakistan's growing support to Rakhine mujahideen, radicalised Rohingyas under Yunus regime

Growing India

Dhaka: The political and territorial landscape of Myanmar's Rakhine State has been fundamentally altered by the rise of the Arakan Army, the collapse of central military control, and ongoing persecution and displacement of the Rohingya population. The involvement of Pakistan through its Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) in training and radicalising Rohingya armed groups has raised security concerns for the region. Reports indicate that Pakistani military officers have visited the 10th Infantry Division in Ramu and the 66th Infantry Division in Rangpur, strengthening ties



with local militias. In December 2024, the Rohingya Solidarity Organisation (RSO) joined the 'Four Brothers Alliance'—a coalition including ARSA, Rohingya Islami Mahaz, Arakan National Defence Force

(ANDF), and Arakan Rohingya Army (ARA)—ending prior internal conflicts and consolidating strength within refugee camps. Bangladesh Army is reportedly training Rohingya cadres to counter the Arakan Army

in collaboration with the ruling junta. Training centres are located in Mymensingh, Cox's Bazar, and Bagerhat, with ISI support in Naikhongchhari and Brahmanbaria.

The Arakan Army has seized control of 14 of 17 townships in Rakhine, representing nearly 80 percent of the region, and has been enforcing conscription for adults up to 45 years under its National Defence Emergency Provision. The group has been accused of anti-Rohingya violence and spreading hate speech. Bangladesh's planned UN-supported Rakhine Humanitarian Corridor (RHC) has been shelved, with aid now delivered through channels approved by

Dhaka. While the US supports a safe zone for Rohingyas, Bangladesh maintains control over its implementation. Amid the humanitarian emergency, Dhaka is pushing for dignified repatriation of Rohingyas, although the Arakan Army remains non-committal.

The Bangladeshi Ministry of Foreign Affairs held a three-day international conference in Cox's Bazar, urging global attention and donor participation. National Security Advisor Khalilur Rahman recently visited Doha to engage Qatari and US officials on strategies for Rohingya-Rakhine mediation, highlighting the ongoing international dimension of the crisis.

Man Killed in Animal Grazing Dispute

Growing India

Kushinagar: A violent dispute over animal grazing in Semra village under Kuberthan police station in Kushinagar district, Uttar Pradesh, ended in tragedy on Friday evening when a local man was brutally killed. The victim, Utkarsh Singh (40), son of Indrajit Singh, who serves as the district co-convenor of the RSS, was attacked by a group of local men following an argument over livestock grazing in a field.

According to police and eyewitnesses, Utkarsh Singh went to the field after receiving information about animals grazing there. A dispute ensued with a family residing in a nearby hut, which escalated into a violent assault. Four men, identified as sons of Kanhai Yadav from the same village, reportedly chased Utkarsh into the village carrying sickles, sticks,

and rods. They repeatedly struck him on the head, face, eyes, and other parts of his body, and continued to hold him down even after he fell to the ground. Eyewitnesses stated that the attackers also gouged his eyes and cut his ears before police arrived at the scene.

Utkarsh was rushed to Padrauna Medical College in critical condition, where doctors declared him dead on arrival. Police have taken three of the accused into custody, while the fourth is still at large.

Kushinagar CO Dr. Ajay Kumar Singh confirmed that the police inspected the site and recorded statements from the victim's family. Based on the FIR filed by Indrajit Singh, a case has been registered against the four men—Satchidanand Yadav, Srinivas Yadav, Devendra Yadav, and Gyan Yadav—for murder. Investigation is ongoing.

Revenue Inspector Caught Taking Bribe, Anti-Corruption Team Takes Him into Custody

Growing India

Deoria: A revenue inspector was caught red-handed accepting a bribe near the Deoria Sadar Tehsil gate on Saturday. The Anti-Corruption team from Gorakhpur apprehended the official and took him into custody at Sadar Kotwali for questioning.

Krishna Kumar Mishra, Sadar Tehsildar of Deoria, told reporters that the revenue inspector, Shailesh, posted at Rampur Karkhana, was caught taking a bribe from a cultivator in connection with a land matter. The Anti-Corruption team is conducting a de-

tailed interrogation at the police station.

Local resident Jwala Yadav of Harpur village stated that despite orders from higher authorities for the measurement of his land, the inspector demanded a bribe of 10,000. Following his complaint to the Gorakhpur Anti-Corruption team, the official was caught in the act after the team verified the allegations.

DV Singh, in-charge of Deoria Sadar Kotwali, confirmed that the revenue inspector is under questioning and a formal case will be registered based on the report submitted by the Anti-Corruption team.

Uncovered Coal Transport from SECL Dipka Raises Safety, Environmental Concerns

Growing India

Korba: Coal from SECL's Dipka mine is being transported daily to various states via 10 to 15 trains, but concerns have been raised over the practice of moving coal without covering it with tarpaulins. Experts and local residents argue that this could potentially violate Supreme Court guidelines and compromise both environmental and public safety standards.

Photographs and videos shared by local observers show coal spilling from open wagons onto railway tracks, creating hazardous conditions. Flying dust generated from uncovered coal is not only a source of environmental pollution but also poses serious health risks to nearby communities. Labor organizations and social groups have highlighted that such transportation methods increase the likelihood of accidents along the routes.

Safety concerns extend beyond environmental issues. Social organizations have pointed out that coal theft is more likely when transported openly and that the pres-

ence of overhead high-tension lines along the railway routes poses an additional life-threatening danger. Residents and local groups have stressed the urgent need for strict adherence to regulations to prevent potential mishaps.

Experts have called for rigorous enforcement of environmental and safety norms, suggesting that covering all coal shipments with tarpaulins can mitigate pollution, reduce accidents, and protect public health. They argue that proper monitoring by management and railway authorities is essential to ensure compliance with Supreme Court directives and maintain safe transportation standards.

Local communities have appealed to SECL and the relevant authorities to adopt stricter measures immediately, including full coverage of coal wagons, adherence to safety protocols, and continuous monitoring of transport routes. They emphasize that these steps are crucial to safeguard both public safety and the environment while maintaining efficient coal supply operations.

Pawan Singh's second wife urges him to at least acknowledge her presence, threatens self-harm

Growing India

Mumbai: Bhojpuri actor and politician Pawan Singh has once again found himself in the spotlight, not for his professional endeavors but due to a deeply personal matter. His wife, Jyoti Singh, recently posted an emotional note on social media, expressing years of pain and neglect in her relationship with the actor. The post has sparked widespread discussion among fans and media alike.

In her note, Jyoti alleged that her repeated attempts to communicate with Pawan over the last several months have gone unanswered. "I have been trying to talk to you for several months about



some family and political issues, but you or the people around you have perhaps not deemed it appro-

priate to reply to my calls and messages," she wrote. She also revealed that she had traveled to Lucknow to meet him during Chhath at Dehri, only to be turned away, citing instructions from an unspecified "boss."

Jyoti described her emotional turmoil, claiming that even her father's attempts to intervene two months ago failed to yield any positive results. Expressing extreme distress, she threatened self-immolation, writing, "What grave offence have I committed that I am being punished like this? If I am not worthy of you, then you could have just left me. There was no need to give me false hope during the Lok Sabha elections." She added that she felt dis-

respected, saying, "I am your family — yet it hurts me deeply when you embrace such people who once spoke harshly against you, but when I share my pain, my own family doesn't even acknowledge me."

Jyoti's post concluded as a final plea, marking the end of what she described as seven years of struggle. "Nowadays, I have begun to hate my life. Come and talk to me, respond to my calls and messages, try to understand my pain for once," she urged.

The post has gone viral, generating reactions across social media platforms and drawing attention from fans, followers, and the general public. Many have expressed con-

cern for Jyoti's well-being, while some have called for a resolution to the couple's ongoing issues.

As of now, Pawan Singh has not publicly responded to Jyoti's heartfelt message. The lack of a reaction has only added to the speculation surrounding the couple's relationship. Observers note that the unfolding situation highlights the challenges of maintaining privacy and personal boundaries amid the intense scrutiny faced by public figures.

This incident serves as a reminder of the human struggles that celebrities often face behind the glamour of fame and political influence, as fans and the public await further developments.

District Administration Inspects Padrauna Sugar Mill to Explore Revival, Boost Employment and Regional Development

Growing India

Kushinagar: The district administration of Kushinagar conducted an on-site inspection of the closed Padrauna Sugar Mill on Saturday, aiming to assess possibilities for its revival. The inspection was led by District Magistrate Mahendra Singh Tawar, along with Sub-Divisional Magistrate Rishabh Deshraj Pundir, Tehsildar of Padrauna, and the District Cane Officer.

The Padrauna Sugar Mill has remained non-operational since 2012-13, impacting local sugarcane farmers. During the visit, the District Magistrate reviewed pending dues owed



to farmers and directed the District Cane Officer to submit a detailed report.

He further assessed the requirements for restarting the mill, emphasizing that its reopening could create significant employment opportunities and open new avenues for development in the region. The Sub-Divisional Magistrate and District Cane Officer were instructed to

Fitness Camps and Police Verification to Ensure Safety of All School Buses

Growing India

Deoria: A meeting of the School Transport Safety Committee was held today at the Collectorate auditorium under the chairmanship of Rudrapur MLA Jai Prakash Nishad. District Magistrate Divya Mittal, Superintendent of Police Vikrant Veer, MLC representative Raju Mani, and officials from various departments along with public representatives attended the meeting to discuss comprehensive safety measures for school vehicles.

MLA Jai Prakash Nishad emphasized that children must only be seated according to the pre-

scribed seating capacity, and overloading under any circumstances must be strictly prohibited. He instructed that drivers and conductors should always wear the prescribed uniform, and school management should periodically hold meetings with drivers to raise awareness about safety. The MLA further directed that school managements publish a list of their buses, ensure no vehicle is operated by a part-time driver, and completely ban the practice of adding extra seats in vans.

District Magistrate Divya Mittal instructed all school principals and managements to have their vehicles tested at fit-

ness camps and ensure that each bus is equipped with a first aid box, fire extinguisher, speed governor, and GPS system. She stressed that police verification of all drivers is mandatory, and CCTV cameras should be installed on buses. Proper parking arrangements and regular vehicle servicing are to be ensured by the school authorities themselves.

Superintendent of Police Vikrant Veer stated that children's safety is paramount and any negligence will not be tolerated. Strict action will be taken against drivers found operating vehicles under the influence of alcohol.

Three Arrested for Attempted Murder Over Old Feud

Growing India

Champa: In a swift police action, three individuals have been arrested in Champa for carrying out a life-threatening attack over an old family feud. Authorities recovered weapons used in the assault, including an iron leg guard, sticks, and knife-like implements.

The incident occurred on the night of August 28, 2025, when Dheeraj Devangan was closing his shop at Kachahri Chowk. According to a complaint filed by his brother, Naveen Devangan, the three accused attacked Dheeraj in a coordinated assault with the intent to kill, stemming



from an unresolved dispute.

The arrested individuals include Kamlesh Devangan, 33, Akhilesh Devangan, alias Raju, 26, both residents of Hanuman Dhara, Ward C-01, Champa Police Station, and Pancharam Patel, 28, a resident of Parskholi village, Basna Police Station, Mahasamund district.

Under the direction of Janjgir-Champa Superintendent of Police Vijay Kumar Pandey, the Champa Police apprehended the accused promptly. During interrogation, the trio confessed to the crime and were formally arrested before being sent to judicial remand.

Health Minister Issues Warning to Striking NHM Employees

Growing India

Raipur: In Chhattisgarh, the state government has issued an ultimatum to NHM employees on strike over ten-point demands, including regularization, warning that their services will be terminated if they do not return to work. A formal notice has also been issued as part of the action. Health Minister Shyam Bihari Jaiswal stated that contractual employees are not paid if they do not report to work. "This is not a matter of a day or two; a long gap has already occurred. Hence, the department has issued a 'no work, no pay' notice," he said.



Around 16,000 NHM health workers across the state have been on an indefinite strike for over two weeks, disrupting hospital operations. In response, the state government directed the employees to immediately resume duties. Following this, NHM employees met with Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel to request discussions on at least five of their key demands.

UNCOVERED COAL TRANSPORT SPARKS SAFETY CONCERNS

Coal Transported from SECL Dipka Uncovered

Growing India

Korba: Coal from SECL's Dipka mine is being transported daily to various states via 10 to 15 trains, but concerns have been raised over the practice of moving coal without covering it with tarpaulins, potentially violating Supreme Court guidelines. Local residents and labor organizations have emphasized that strict adherence to environmental and safety standards is essential during this process.

Photographs and videos



from the transport routes show that uncovered coal leads to flying dust, environmental pollution, and coal spilling onto railway tracks, which could cause accidents. Social organizations have also highlighted the

risk of theft during open transport and the danger posed by overhead high-tension lines, which could be life-threatening.

Experts say that strict enforcement of environmental and safety regulations could prevent such incidents and provide relief to local communities. Residents and local organizations have appealed to the management to ensure that all coal shipments are covered with tarpaulins, following proper guidelines to safeguard both public safety and the environment.

EDITORIAL

The ‘Bhagwat Thought’ on Hinduism

RSS Chief Mohan Bhagwat has expressed almost the same ideas on Hinduism and Hindutva that he has reiterated several times before. While the commentary and context may differ, the core concept of the RSS remains the “Hindu.” Its meaning is not synonymous with a “Hindu nation.” The RSS chief still envisions a concept of “Akhand Bharat” (Undivided India), and therefore considers the shared cultural ethos of Hindutva as a unifying factor among the people and societies within this geographic expanse. According to the RSS, this sense of shared identity continues to connect many regions of Akhand Bharat.

Bhagwat regards the term “Hindu” as fundamentally integrative, seeing it as a guarantor of secularism. Questions arise: Should the word “secular” be removed from the Preamble of the Constitution since India is a Hindu-majority and secular nation? While Bhagwat’s core idea centers on “Hindu,” he also regards the soul, consciousness, and essence of Muslims as part of this broader Hindu identity. However, most ordinary, educated, or ideological Muslims do not identify themselves as Hindu. Whenever this debate arises, the oldest political party, Congress, tends to revisit historical pages, blaming Savarkar and past RSS leaders for the two-nation theory. Later, hardline Muslims also began advocating the two-nation theory. This legacy extends even to Pakistan’s Field Marshal Asim Munir. The fundamental question remains: Which “Hindu” does Bhagwat refer to—the religion, the community, the ideology, or the lifestyle? On what basis does he consider the “Hindu” as a guarantor of secularism? If the Hindu is integrative, why are calls for a “Hindu nation” repeated? Why has the RSS’s notion of “Hindu” been associated with hatred and communalism? When Bhagwat speaks of 40,000 years of history,

which civilization is he referring to? The Ramayana and Mahabharata are less than 5,000 years old. No study has traced civilizations back 40,000 years. By citing such sensational figures, what is Bhagwat trying to prove—that the idea of Sanatan Hindu thought is so prehistoric? Such antiquity would likely belong to a dark age devoid of education, language, writing, or human values.

Whom is the RSS chief quoting, then? Reports by Freedom House have shown that where the “Hindu” (idea and individual) is dominant, democracy is 100% stable and vibrant. Where Christians are dominant, democracy is about 50% stable. Where Muslims are in majority or hold dominance, democracy tends to be unstable. Why did Bhagwat not cite this theory?

The RSS is celebrating its centenary, which is natural. Its chief is delivering such lectures across the country. The discussion of “Hindu” and “Hindutva” reflects the ideological stance of the RSS, but why is it repeatedly emphasized? Does the RSS mobilize its supporters, volunteers, and propagators, and politically support the BJP for electoral gains? Indeed, the “Hindu” is a symbol of coordination. Even today, India ranks second globally in the number of mosques. If Hindus were not integrative, this would not have been possible.

Bhagwat repeatedly emphasizes leading everyone together. Then, the key question is: Who spreads hatred and against whom? India’s first Prime Minister, Jawaharlal Nehru, wrote in his historic book India: A Discovery that Hinduism is a broad-based community. Who can object to that? Yet, why did Dr. B.R. Ambedkar not include the word “minority” in the Preamble? Nehru advocated for minority protection. Two mutually opposing words cannot be placed together in the Constitution. Nehru also regarded Hinduism as a symbol of unity and equality.

Radha: The Eternal Flame of Love Devotion and Divine Energy



The eighth day of the bright fortnight of the month of Bhadrapada in the Hindu calendar brings with it a festival of love, devotion, power, and surrender – Radhastami. This day is celebrated as the divine birth of Goddess Radha. It is not merely the celebration of the birth of a woman who epitomizes the summit of devotion, but the adoration of that supreme energy which gave Lord Krishna’s life its unique height and completeness. On this day, devotees worship Radha and Krishna together, observe fasts, and pray for happiness, prosperity, and good fortune. Especially in Braj, and most vibrantly in Barsana, the festival is observed with great fervor. Radha is the symbol of love, devotion, and the inner energy of Krishna. She is worshipped as the pinnacle of divine love, the goddess of devotion, and the soul-force of Krishna Himself. If Krishna is the embodiment of divine play (leela), sweetness, and compassion, then Radha is the very essence of that play, the depth of that sweetness, and the soul of that compassion. Thus, the Bhakti tradition proclaims: “Radhe bina nahin Krishna, Krishna bina nahin Radhe” – without Radha there is no Krishna, and without Krishna there is no Radha.

Radha is not just the name of a woman in Indian culture; she is the supreme manifestation of love and the highest expression of devotion. Her love is not worldly or bodily, but the mystical union of soul and Supreme Soul. It is a love free from selfishness and possession – a love of pure surrender and complete identification. Radha’s life is an extraordinary confluence of sacrifice and deep spiritual attachment. She never desired anything for herself; her every



thought, every breath, was absorbed only in Krishna. This is why the great poet-saints have revered her as the very embodiment of devotional rasa and the presiding goddess of divine love. Surdas beautifully wrote: “Prema bhaya manu bhava samana, Radha tana mana Krishna bakhana” – true love is that state where body, mind, and soul are completely identified with Krishna.

Indeed, the relationship between Radha and Krishna is not that of an ordinary lover and beloved. It is far more profound: the eternal dialogue of the soul with the Supreme Soul. This relationship is spiritual, not worldly; it is a timeless communion devoid of attachment, selfishness, or desire. Radha gives completeness to Krishna’s personality. Krishna is the center of divine play, yet without Radha that play remains incomplete. Hence, in devotional traditions, Krishna’s name is always preceded by Radha’s – “Radhe-Krishna”, “Shyama-Shyam”. This sequence itself conveys a deep philosophical truth – that the path to God always passes through the bridge of love and devotion exemplified by Radha. Radha is not merely Krishna’s consort; she is His strength and His inspiration. In the Bhagavad Gita, Krishna speaks of two forms of nature – apara (lower) and para (higher). Radha is regarded as the embodiment of para prakriti, the high-

er nature that leads life towards spirituality. She is the soul of Krishna’s divine play, the foundation of His worship. In Radha’s love there is no demand, only surrender. Her message is that true love lies not in possessing, but in giving. It is this spirit of giving that elevates life to sublime heights.

The Bhakti tradition considers Radha’s devotion supreme. Her love is selfless and entirely Krishna-centered. She merged her very existence into Krishna. Hence, Chaitanya Mahaprabhu immersed himself in the devotion of Radha, declaring, “In Radha’s devotion I see Krishna, and in Krishna’s devotion I see Radha.” Saints like Surdas, Ras Khan, Vidyapati, and Mirabai expressed the deepest forms of love and devotion only through Radha. When Mirabai declared, “Mere to Giridhar Gopal, doosro na koyi” (“My only beloved is Krishna, there is none else”), the echo of Radha’s sentiment reverberated through her words. In today’s age, when relationships are increasingly tainted with selfishness, calculation, and transience, Radha’s life offers a new illumination. True love is that which is marked by surrender, trust, and sacrifice. Where families and societies are disintegrating, Radha’s example becomes ever more relevant. She teaches that as long as relationships are measured only in terms of gain and loss, they cannot en-

dure. Endurance and permanence arise only when there is surrender like Radha’s.

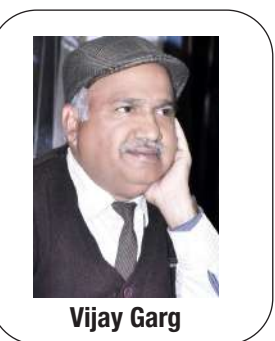
On the level of devotion too, Radha inspires us. Today, religion often appears confined to rituals and external ostentation. Radha shows us that true devotion resides in the depth of the heart – where the difference between devotee and God vanishes. When, like Radha, we surrender selflessly to the Divine, every difficulty appears trivial and we attain profound peace. Radha’s life reminds us that the ultimate purpose of human existence is not material wealth or achievements, but the union of soul with the Supreme. Devotion is not just prayer and ritual, but the deep identification of the heart with God. In times when humanity struggles with conflict, stress, and loneliness, Radha teaches that the true solution lies in love and surrender. If we imbibe her message, our personal relationships, our social fabric, and our spiritual journey can all be infused with new energy and peace.

The scriptures describe Radha as the eternal energy of Krishna, the very soul of His being. Hence, Krishna’s worship is considered incomplete without Radha. The Devi Bhagavatam narrates that Lord Narayana Himself told Narada that without Radha’s worship, one does not even have the right to worship Krishna. Even Lord Shiva

confessed to Narada that he was incapable of describing Radha’s beauty and virtues fully – such is her ineffable glory, beyond the comprehension of even the greatest beings. Her beauty enchants even Krishna, the charmer of the three worlds. According to the scriptures, worship of Krishna is incomplete without Radha. Therefore, Radhastami holds profound significance. Observing fasts and worship on this day brings blessings of Goddess Lakshmi in the form of prosperity, fortune, and happiness. Married women observe the fast for the blessings of marital bliss and children. Yet, Radhastami is not merely a birthday celebration – it is a reminder of what true love and devotion mean.

According to legend, Radha was born in Barsana to Vrishabhanu and Kirti Devi. She is revered as the divine energy of Lord Krishna. It is believed that pleasing Radha automatically pleases Krishna Himself. Radha teaches us that love is a realization of the soul, a bridge to the Divine. She is the eternal flame of love, illuminating not only Krishna but all of humanity. In today’s time, her relevance is even deeper. She shows us a path of love without selfishness, surrender without demand, and union without desire – only the meeting of the soul with the Supreme Soul. This is the true message of Radha, and this is the real significance of Radhastami.

‘MICROPLASTICS’ HAVE BECOME PART OF NOT ONLY AQUATIC LIFE, BUT ALSO OUR FOOD CHAIN



Scientists worldwide have long warned about the deteriorating state of the oceans, but human negligence, overexploitation, and selfish practices continue to suffocate marine life. Over three billion people depend on marine organisms for their livelihoods, yet insufficient measures have been taken to preserve this vital resource. Illegal fishing, plastic pollution, and climate change are accelerating the

loss of marine biodiversity, demanding immediate global attention to safeguard the future of humanity and the oceans.

Rising sea temperatures and plastic pollution have intensified the crisis. The Mediterranean, for instance, is warming twenty percent faster than the global average, despite the Paris Agreement’s target to curb global temperature rise. Currently, over sixty percent of the marine ecosystem faces degradation, and plastic pollution is projected to nearly double by 2040, reaching 23–37 million tonnes annually. Microplastics have infiltrated water and marine life, compounding the problem.

Amid these challenges, researchers at Tokyo University’s Riken Center for Emergent Matter have developed a biodegradable



plastic alternative. This new material, as strong as conventional plastic, disintegrates upon contact with saltwater into harmless components, preventing

the creation of microplastics. While not yet commercially available, this innovation offers hope for reducing oceanic plastic waste.

Global organizations aim to conserve thirty percent of the oceans by 2030, aligning with the Paris Climate Agreement’s 1.5°C goal. Technical solutions,

such as phased plastic removal and recycling, must complement ambitious climate plans. Coral reefs, which support roughly twenty-five percent of marine species, are bleaching at alarming rates due to rising temperatures. In the Caribbean, Indian Ocean, and Pacific regions, widespread coral degradation threatens fisheries, tourism, and coastal livelihoods.

Oceans also absorb nearly ninety percent of greenhouse gas-induced heat, mitigating climate disasters. However, overfishing and mismanagement continue to strain marine ecosystems. In response, the World Trade Organization previously restricted subsidies to curb excessive fishing, and international treaties now aim to protect marine life in global wa-

ters. Yet, experts argue that policies alone cannot reverse ecological damage; enforcement and adequate funding are essential.

Annual investment of \$175 billion is needed to conserve oceans and marine ecosystems, but current funding falls drastically short at just \$10 billion. Each year, oceans absorb approximately 12 million metric tonnes of plastic. Fish stocks, once at 90 percent of safe biological levels in 1970, have fallen to 62 percent in 2021. While international conferences since 2017 have produced resolutions on ocean conservation, progress remains limited.

The Third UN Ocean Conference, held in France on June 11, 2025, highlighted that over a third of global fish stocks are being overexploited. Unsustaina-

ble fishing practices, climate change, and poor management continue to diminish oceanic biodiversity. Comprehensive reevaluation of global fisheries policies is urgently needed to meet the target of conserving thirty percent of marine areas and aquatic life by 2030.

Addressing this crisis requires political will, scientific innovation, and adequate economic resources. Technical advances, such as biodegradable plastics and improved fishing techniques, must be scaled globally. Coordinated international efforts can mitigate climate impacts, reduce pollution, and restore marine biodiversity. Without urgent action, the oceans’ capacity to sustain life and protect humanity from climate hazards will be irreversibly compromised.

Pakistan Army Amasses Billions Amid Poverty

Growing India

New Delhi: Amid Pakistan's worsening economic crisis, the country's army has quietly become its largest business conglomerate, wielding influence across multiple sectors, a new report reveals. The "Milbus" empire, comprising entities like the Fauji Foundation, Army Welfare Trust, and Defence Housing Authority (DHA), spans banking, agriculture, manufacturing, real estate, education, and retail. These organizations enjoy tax exemptions, privileged land access, and regulatory protections, insulating them from normal market competition.

According to the Economic Policy and Business Development (EPBD) think tank's Wealth Perception Index 2025, the Fauji Foundation alone is valued at \$5.9 billion, with other military-led firms topping the billion-dollar mark. Meanwhile, Pakistan grapples with stagnant wages, rising prices, energy shortages, and plummeting industrial output. Nearly 44.7% of Pakistanis live below the poverty line, while 16.5%, or around 39.8 million people, survive on less than \$3 a day.

India Engineering Exports Soar 13.81%



Growing India

New Delhi: India's engineering goods exports rose 13.81 per cent year-on-year in July 2025, crossing \$10 billion for the first time in a fiscal month, reaching \$10.43 billion, up from \$9.16 billion in July 2024, according to the Engineering Export Promotion Council of India (EEPC). Growth was led by shipments to the US, Germany, the UK, Japan, Brazil, and China, despite global trade challenges such as US tariffs, regional divergence, and policy uncertainty. Exports to the US grew 19 per cent YoY to \$1.81 billion, while Germany saw a 37.8 per cent increase to \$457.6 million. The UK rose 46.5 per cent to \$402.5 million, Japan 55.2 per cent to \$256.6 million, Brazil 26.4 per cent, and China 35.8 per cent. However, exports to Turkey, UAE, Saudi Arabia, and Singapore declined. Of 34 engineering panels, 29 reported positive growth, with declines in aircraft, ships, and zinc products. For April-July FY26, exports grew 6.1 per cent YoY to \$39.34 billion. EEPC Chairman Pankaj Chadha emphasized the need to diversify markets and products to maintain global competitiveness.

Adani Power gets LoA to supply power from 800 MW thermal power plant

Growing India

Ahmedabad: Adani Power Ltd on Saturday said it has received a letter of award (LoA) from MP Power Management Company Ltd. (MPPMCL) for supply of power from a new 800 MW Ultra-supercritical thermal power plant, to be developed in Anuppur district. According to India's largest private sector thermal power generator, the project will help Madhya Pradesh meet its ever-growing electricity demand owing to increased industrialisation and urbanisation. The company will invest Rs 10,500 crore towards setting up the plant and related infrastructure. "As India's power demand continues to rise, driven by rapid economic



2025, the Fauji Foundation alone is valued at \$5.9 billion, with other military-led firms topping the billion-dollar mark. Meanwhile, Pakistan grapples with stagnant wages, rising prices, energy shortages, and plummeting industrial output. Nearly 44.7% of Pakistanis live below the poverty line, while 16.5%, or around 39.8 million people, survive on less than \$3 a day.

US TARIFFS IMPACT BANARASI SAREE EXPORTS, INDUSTRY FACES CHALLENGES

Growing India

Varanasi: The world-famous Banarasi saree and silk industry is facing a severe impact due to tariffs imposed by the US. Following the imposition of tariffs, large orders from the US are being cancelled, and foreign traders have started returning shipments, say traders.

According to the Varanasi Textile Industry Association, if this situation persists, the city could suffer losses of up to Rs 300 crore annually. This crisis has put the livelihoods of thousands of artisans at



risk, and the industry is now staring at large-scale unemployment. Rajan Bahl, vice president of Banarasi Textile Industry Association, stated: "Exports of Banarasi sarees will decline by 15 to

How one gesture by PM Modi sparked a wave of Japanese investment in India

Growing India

New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Japan continues to resonate beyond diplomatic corridors, as industrialist Baba Kalyani shared a powerful anecdote reflecting the Prime Minister's deep understanding of cultural nuances and his proactive diplomacy in promoting India as an investment destination. In a video shared by Modi Story, a popular X account, chronicling the Prime Minister's leadership journey, Baba Kalyani recalled a memorable moment from one of PM Modi's earlier visits to Japan. Then leading a delegation of Indian industrialists, the Prime Minister displayed a symbolic gesture designed to connect deeply with Japanese business culture, which values unity and collective purpose. "We were around 30 to 40 Indian business leaders in a room with more than 300 Japanese CEOs," Kalyani said. "Narendra Modi turned to us and said, 'Stand up. Tell them that India is



ready for business. That we have a red carpet ready for you.'" The simple yet impactful gesture -- where the entire Indian delegation stood up in unison and extended an open invitation to invest in India -- struck a chord with the Japanese audience. Kalyani noted that PM Modi had keenly observed how collective action and symbolism are deeply embedded in Japanese society, and he used that knowledge to send a strong, unifying message of intent and hospitality. "It was a moment of cultural alignment. The Japanese saw seriousness, commitment, and unity. That's what left an impression," Kalyani added. Since then, substantial Japanese investments have steadily poured into India. This anecdote, now gaining traction online, is being seen as another example of PM Modi's strategic acumen and cultural intelligence in diplomacy -- traits he has consistently displayed, from his days as

Chief Minister of Gujarat to his current role as Prime Minister of India. PM Modi's most recent visit to Japan -- where he held summit talks with his counterpart Shigeru Ishiba -- marked a further deepening of the India-Japan Special Strategic and Global Partnership. Key announcements included: Japan's investment target of 10 trillion yen (nearly Rs 60,000 crore) in India over the next decade, a new defence cooperation framework, and a 10-year roadmap to scale up economic engagement. Speaking in Tokyo on Friday, Prime Minister Modi underlined the significance of the bilateral relationship: "India-Japan cooperation is vital for global peace, stability, and prosperity. Together, we are building a new and golden chapter in our partnership." As India looks to attract greater foreign investment and forge resilient global alliances, such episodes reaffirm how PM Modi combines economic ambition with personal diplomacy -- crafting messages not just for boardrooms, but for hearts and minds across borders.

India's first tempered glass manufacturing facility inaugurated



Growing India

Noida: Union Electronics and IT Minister, Ashwini Vaishnaw, on Saturday inaugurated the nation's first tempered glass manufacturing plant here which is a joint venture of Optimus Infracom, an Indian electronic products manufacturer, and Corning, the world's leading innovator in materials science. "We are pleased to see the partnership between Optimus and Corning, and the commencement of production today. The overall ecosystem for components is developing rapidly in India. Over the last 11 years, electronics manufacturing has grown sixfold, and today it is around Rs 11.5 lakh crore industry, with exports of around Rs 3.5 lakh crore; an impressive achievement and a testament to the prime minister Narendra Modi's vision," Vaishnaw said. "We plan to manufacture every component used in mobile devices right here in India in the near future," the minister said, adding that "we also encourage research and development to take place in India and are working toward becoming a global player". Just as the tempered glass manufacturing plant has begun operations, we will soon see 'made in India' chips as well. The electronics manufacturing industry is shaping up well and currently generates approximately 25 lakh jobs, the minister further stated. With an initial investment of Rs 70 crore, the facility will feature state-of-the-art infrastructure that will enable the complete transformation of raw materials into excellent-quality tempered glass, Optimus Infracom said.

INDIA'S PASSENGER VEHICLE SALES CROSS 10-LAKH MARK IN Q1 FY26

Growing India

New Delhi: Over 10 lakh passenger vehicles were sold in India in the April-June period, with Maharashtra topping the sales chart, according to latest data from industry body Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers (SIAM). From April to June, 10.12 lakh passenger vehicles were sold in the country, and the western zone topped sales with 3.21 lakh units. As many as 1.19 lakh units were sold in Maharashtra in the June quarter. Uttar Pradesh, Gujarat, Karnataka, and Haryana followed in the sales chart compiled by SIAM. In the two-wheeler segment, 46.75 lakh units were sold in the country during this period, with sales in western states reaching



14.19 lakh units, the industry body said. Uttar Pradesh led in two-wheeler sales, totalling 8.18 lakh units, followed by Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Bihar, and Madhya Pradesh. In the commercial vehicle segment, Maharashtra led the space with sales of 32,000 units in the June quarter. Overall, 2.23 lakh commercial vehicles were sold in the country during the period. Sales in the three-wheeler segment reached 1.65 lakh units during this period, with Uttar Pradesh leading sales with 21,000 units, followed by Maharashtra, Gujarat, Karnataka, and Telangana, according to SIAM. In July 2025, passenger vehicle dispatches from companies to dealers declined marginally to 3,40,772 units, down from 3,41,510 units a year earlier. In the upcoming Goods and Services Tax (GST) reforms, the Centre is expected to lower the tax on entry-level passenger vehicles and two-wheelers to 18 per cent, making them more affordable ahead of Diwali. Currently, all passenger vehicles powered by combustion engines are subject to a GST of 28 per cent, plus a compensation cess ranging from 1 per cent to 22 per cent, based on engine capacity, length, and body type.

Mandaviya Launches Task Force for Sports Manufacturing



Growing India

New Delhi: Union Minister of Youth Affairs & Sports, Mansukh Mandaviya, on Saturday announced the formation of a task force to formulate India's first-ever sports goods manufacturing policy. The announcement was made during the inaugural Sports Goods Manufacturing Conclave held in New Delhi.

The conclave, organised by the Sports Ministry, brought together officials from NITI Aayog, Commerce Ministry, DPIIT, FICCI, CII, MSMEs and industry stakeholders to chart a roadmap for building an Atmanirbhar Bharat in the sports sector.

India's sports goods industry, valued at USD 4.88 billion (Rs.42,877 crore) in 2024, is projected to grow to USD 6.6 billion by 2027

Portugal Honors Jota, Passes Jersey Neves

Growing India

Oeiras (Portugal): Portugal have paid tribute to late forward Diogo Jota by transferring his No. 21 national team jersey to his close friend and former Wolverhampton teammate Ruben Neves, head coach Roberto Martinez confirmed on Friday.

Neves, now a midfielder for Saudi Pro League side Al-Hilal, was a pallbearer at Jota's funeral, reflecting the deep bond the two shared both on and off the pitch. Jota, 28, died alongside his younger brother, Andre Silva, in a car accident in northwestern Spain last month, an event that has deeply affected the national squad.

Martinez described Jota's influence as a "light" for the team and a source of unity and motivation, saying the number 21 jersey will keep his presence symbolically alive on the field. "Ruben is the ideal person to represent him," Martinez added, emphasizing their close friendship and shared history at club and international level.

Liverpool have also honored Jota, retiring his No. 20 shirt at Anfield, while Brighton's James Milner will wear it this season as a mark of respect.

India Secures Record 50 Golds Shooting

Growing India

New Delhi: India concluded the 16th Asian Shooting Championship in Shymkent, Kazakhstan, with a historic best-ever performance, winning an unprecedented 50 gold medals to top the overall tally. The achievement marks the first time India has led the medal chart at this premier continental event.

The senior team excelled in 15 Olympic disciplines, claiming six gold, two silver, and three bronze medals. China led with eight golds, while host Kazakhstan secured the remaining medals. Standout performers included two-time Olympian Elavenil Valarivan, who won women's air rifle gold with an Asian record, Neeru Dhandas's maiden women's trap gold, Sift Kaur Samra's first title in 50m rifle 3-position, and Aishwary Pratap Singh Tomar defending his men's 3P crown.

Indian juniors dominated Olympic events with 10 golds, four silvers, and three bronzes, highlighting the depth of the country's shooting talent. Additional victories came in youth, team, and non-Olympic events, including Ankur Mittal's men's Double Trap gold with a world record and Gurpreet Singh's 25m Standard Pistol triumph.

NRAI President Kalikesh Narayan Singh Deo hailed the performance, noting India's shooting ecosystem is poised for greater international success.

Asia Cup 2025: Malaysia stun Korea; Bangladesh outclass Chinese Taipei on Day 2



Growing India

Rajgir (Bihar): In a dramatic encounter, Malaysia shocked defending champions South Korea 4-1 to script a major upset in the Men's Asia Cup Hockey 2025, improving their chances of topping the group and improving their chances of reaching the summit clash.

Earlier, Bangladesh reignited their campaign with a commanding 8-3 win over Chinese Taipei.

Malaysia's spirited performance put them firmly on course for a Super 4 berth.

For Chinese Taipei, the heavy defeat has all but ended their hopes, while South Korea suddenly find themselves under pressure to recover in what is now a wide-open group.

In the match between Malaysia and Korea, it was Korea who drew blood first through Geonhyo Jin inside two minutes, but Malaysia responded strongly. Akhimullah Anuar stole the show with a superb hat-trick, while Ashran Hamsani added another. The result put Malaysia on top of Pool B with two straight wins, while Korea face mounting pressure ahead of their remaining fixtures.

South Korea went ahead through Geonhyo Jin, who capitalised on a defensive mishap just two minutes into the contest. The blow was a wake-up call for Malaysia. By the second quarter, Malaysia had found its rhythm. Persistent pressure and creative build-up carved space inside Korea's defensive circle. A slick move saw Akhimullah Anuar level the scores with deft footwork and composure.

The third quarter saw Malaysia strike again, and this time through Ashran

Hamsani. Benefiting from a turnover and quick passing inside the ring, he fired a low shot past the keeper to put Malaysia ahead at the 33-minute mark. Shortly afterwards, another Malaysian surge ended with Anuar doubling his tally from a penalty corner.

Despite South Korea's efforts to recover, the Malaysian defense held firm. In the final minutes, Anuar completed a memorable hat-trick with a flourish, cementing his star-of-the-match credentials and delivering Malaysia a stunning 4-1 result.

Malaysia are now in a prime position to qualify for the Super 4s. For Korea, questions loom as pressure mounts to recover in upcoming fixtures.

Bangladesh outclass Chinese Taipei 8-3

Bangladesh hammered Chinese Taipei 8-3 in a Pool B clash. After a stuttering start to their campaign, the Bangladeshis produced a commanding second-half display that not only secured them vital points but also revived their hopes of advancing to the Super 4 stage. Coming after a 1-4 defeat to Malaysia in their opening match, Bangladesh went all out for a win against Chinese Taipei, who had been crushed 0-7 by defending champions South Korea in their first match. By halftime, the score stood level at 2-2, as Bangladesh's early goals were neutralised by the spirited Chinese Taipei counterattacks.

RANA, DOSEJA HELP WEST DELHI SET UP FINAL AGAINST CENTRAL DELHI

Growing India

New Delhi:The West Delhi Lions booked their place in the grand finale of the Delhi Premier League (DPL) 2025 with a dominant eight-wicket win over the East Delhi Riders in Qualifier 2 at the Arun Jaitley Stadium here on Saturday.

Chasing a modest 140-run target, the Lions crossed the finish line with ease in the 18th over, thanks to a composed knock from Ayush Doseja and yet another fluent innings from Nitish Rana.

The chase began on a shaky note when opener Ankit Kumar fell early to Rohit Yadav for 2. However, Krish Yadav (37 off 25) and Doseja steadied the innings with a 39-run stand for the second wicket. Krish looked in fine touch, striking boundaries with ease, before he was dismissed by Mayank Rawat, caught by Kavya Gupta.

From there, Doseja found strong company in Nitish Rana. The pair ensured there were no further slip-ups as they built a solid, unbeaten partnership. Doseja remained unbeaten on 54 off 49 balls, anchoring the chase, while Rana (45 not out off 26) accelerated in trademark fashion to seal the win in style. Rawat was the standout bowler for East Delhi, returning 1/19 in his four overs.

Earlier, put in to bat, the East Delhi Riders struggled for momentum and could manage only 139/8 in their 20 overs. The Lions struck early when Shubham Dubey dismissed Hardik Sharma for 1. Arpit Rana and Sujal Singh attempted to rebuild with a 40-run partnership, but Tishant Dabla broke through, sending Sujal back for 18.

Arpit carried on to complete a fighting 50 off 38 balls, but his dismissal to Dabla left the Riders reeling at 81/3. Regular wickets pegged them back further, and despite a spirited 24* off 17 from Rounak Waghela in the death overs, they couldn't push the total to a challenging score. The Lions' bowling unit was clinical. Manan Bhardwaj was the pick of the attack with 3-22 in 4 overs, while Dabla chipped in with 2-18 in 3 overs. Anirudh Chowdhary also contributed with 2-28 in 3 overs, ensuring the Riders never found any rhythm.

With this commanding win, the West Delhi Lions set up a blockbuster title clash against the Central Delhi Kings in the DPL 2025 final, promising a fitting finale to the tournament.

PREMIER LEAGUE: FERNANDES' LAST-GASP PENALTY SAVES MAN UNITED IN DRAMATIC 3-2 WIN OVER BURNLEY



Growing India

Manchester: Bruno Fernandes converted a dramatic 96th-minute penalty to hand Manchester United a tense 3-2 victory over Burnley at Old Trafford on Saturday, keeping alive their stuttering campaign under manager Ruben Amorim.

Amorim had branded the clash a "must-win" following the midweek humiliation in the Carabao Cup against Grimsby, but what unfolded was another erratic display that laid bare United's ongoing issues.

The hosts struck first when Josh Cullen diverted the ball into his own net, but the early positivity soon faded. Matheus Cunha's injury forced a reshuffle, and Burnley began to grow in confidence. After United squandered chances to extend their lead, the visitors hit back through Lyle Foster's precise header from Jacob Bruun Larsen's cross. Parity lasted only seconds. From the restart, Bryan Mbeumo scored his first league goal for United, restoring the advantage. Yet, Amorim's side again faltered defensively, with Jaidon Anthony bundling in Burnley's second equaliser after a routine throw-in was poorly dealt with. The goal epitomised United's fragility and sparked frustration among the Old Trafford faithful as Burnley pushed for a shock result.

Deep into stoppage time, the game—and perhaps Amorim's tenure—hung in the balance until VAR intervened, spotting a shirt pull on Amad Diallo. Fernandes, under immense pressure after missing a crucial penalty against Fulham last weekend, stepped up and calmly dispatched the spot-kick to snatch victory. While the win offers temporary relief, United's defensive lapses and lack of control left lingering doubts. Burnley, meanwhile, will feel harshly undone after twice clawing their way back.

PKL SEASON 12

SUMIT, GAGAN GOWDA SHINE AS UP YODDHAS TAKE DOWN TELUGU TITANS 40-35

Growing India

Visakhapatnam (A.P.): The Vishwanadh Sports Club witnessed a nail-biting season opener on Saturday evening, as the UP Yoddhas began their Pro Kabaddi League (PKL) Season 12 campaign with a thrilling 40-35 win over home side Telugu Titans. Skipper Sumit's eight points and Gagan Gowda's superb 14-point haul proved decisive, despite Vijay Malik's equally impressive 14 points for the Titans.

Vijay Malik opened the proceedings with an early hand touch, but the Yoddhas immediately showed their resilience. Gagan Gowda struck early against Bharat Hooda, with both teams trading blows and forcing Do-or-Die raids. Bharat faltered in his first two such attempts, while Guman Singh's double touch gave the Yoddhas the lead 10 minutes into the first half, reducing the Titans to just two men on the mat at the timeout.

The first All Out happened in the eighth minute, when skipper Sumit trapped Jai Bhagwan to hand the Yoddhas a four-point cushion. Soon after, Gagan Gowda's Super Raid extended the advantage, and the visitors began to dictate the tempo. Despite Bharat's resistance, the Titans struggled to close the gap as the Yoddhas went into the break leading 21-13. Early in the second half, the Yoddhas inflicted another All Out, with Sumit completing his High Five after dismissing Shubham Shinde and stretching the lead to 11. Malik briefly revived the Titans with a multi-point raid, but Gowda's consistency carried him to a Super 10. Sumit then produced a Super Tackle on Malik to restore the 11-point margin, putting the game seemingly out of reach.

The Titans, however, weren't done. They capitalised on the Yoddhas' first All Out of the night, cutting the lead to just five points. Malik completed his Super 10 with a multi-point raid and even dismissed Gowda, sparking hopes of a late comeback. But Gowda had the final say, sealing the contest with a Super Raid in the dying moments.

