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# The Researchers'

## 'Grave mistake...'

**\*Netanyahu Issues Stark Warning to Hezbollah Following Drone Attack\***

### 3 dead in shooting at Mississippi football team homecoming celebration

**Lexington** Three people were killed, and eight others were injured in central Mississippi early Saturday when at least two people opened fire at a group of several hundred people who were celebrating a school's homecoming football win at an outdoor trail several hours after the game had ended, authorities said. The gunfire was caused by a fight between some of the men at the celebration, but deputies hadn't yet learned what sparked the fight, said Holmes County Sheriff Willie March. Anywhere from 200 to 300 people were on the trail celebrating, and the gunfire sent them fleeing, the sheriff said in a phone interview. "It was chaos, to tell you the truth," March said. "The shooting just started and people started running." The shootings about five miles (3 kilometres) outside of Lexington, Mississippi, followed a football game several hours earlier at the Holmes County Consolidated School's homecoming celebration. After the victory, scores of young people headed to the trail to celebrate. Lexington is located more than 60 miles (96 kilometres) north of Jackson. Two of the victims who died were 19 and the third was 25. The injured victims were airlifted to local hospitals. Deputies were collecting ammunition at the scene in an effort to determine how many weapons were fired, March said. Shootings by young men have been an "off and on" problem recently in the county, which has a population of almost 16,000 residents. The young men who talk to the sheriff tell him that it's often because they have a "beef," or disagreement with someone. "It's hard to see what they are fighting over. I don't think they are fighting over turf or drugs," March said. "These are young men walking around with weapons. I wish I had an answer."

### Netanyahu's strong message after drone attack on residence: Won't deter me

**World** Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Saturday asserted his determination in the ongoing conflict with Hamas, declaring that "nothing will deter" him and reaffirming that Israel is "going to win this war". The rare video statement by Netanyahu, released on Shabbat, the Jewish day of rest, came in the wake of a drone attack that targeted his residence in Caesarea, though he did not directly reference the incident. In the video, posted on social media both in English and Hebrew, Netanyahu said, "You know, two days ago we eliminated the mass murderer [Hamas leader] Yahya Sinwar. As I've said, we're in an existential war, and we're continuing to the end." Filmed in a sunny park while donning sunglasses and a black polo shirt, Netanyahu praised the Israel Defence Forces, saying, "I'm proud of our soldiers, I'm proud of our commanders, and I'm proud of you, the citizens of Israel". In the English version of his address, Netanyahu described Sinwar as "the terrorist mastermind whose goons beheaded our men, raped our women, and burned babies alive". He concluded with a resolute declaration: "We took him out, and we're continuing our battle with Iran's other terrorist proxies". Earlier in the day, a drone, launched from Lebanon, exploded near Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's private residence in Caesarea in southern Haifa. However, the Prime Minister's spokesperson said Netanyahu and his wife were not present at the time of the attack. Later in a post on X, Netanyahu said that agents of Iran who tried to assassinate me and my wife today made a mistake.

### New literary treasure: Lost ghost story by 'Dracula' author Bram Stoker discovered in Dublin

**World.** A forgotten short story by Bram Stoker, the author of Dracula, has been discovered by a Stoker enthusiast in Dublin. The story called "Gibbet Hill" was found by Brian Cleary in the archives of the National Library of Ireland. It was hidden in a Christmas supplement of the Dublin edition of the Daily Mail from 1890 and had been undocumented for over 130 years. This newly uncovered tale is being displayed publicly in Dublin for the first time. While Stoker is best known for "Dracula", his roots trace back to Dublin where he was born and raised. Brian Cleary, a 44-year-old writer and amateur historian, has long admired Stoker's works. "I read 'Dracula' as a child, and it stuck with me," Cleary said. He mentioned his deep interest in anything related to Stoker. Cleary, who lives in the same Dublin neighborhood where Stoker grew up, emphasised Stoker's influence on popular culture. Cleary's discovery journey began in 2021 after he suffered sudden deafness and had to retrain his hearing following cochlear implant surgery. During his visits to the National Library of Ireland, he explored historical literature, especially Stoker's works. In October 2023, he found "Gibbet Hill", a story he had never heard of before.

**Tel Aviv:** Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has delivered a pointed warning to Hezbollah in the wake of an attempted drone attack on his residence, calling the incident a "grave mistake." The attack is seen as an alleged assassination attempt against both Netanyahu and his wife, prompting a strong response from the Israeli leader. In a post on X (formerly Twitter) on Saturday, Netanyahu described Hezbollah as "Iran's proxy" and emphasized that such actions will not dissuade Israel from its commitment to combat threats to its citizens. "The attempt by Iran's proxy Hezbollah to assassinate me



will bring our hostages home from Gaza; and we will return our citizens who live on our northern border safely to their homes." The drone incident occurred shortly after

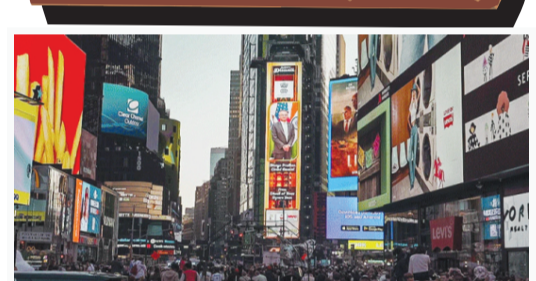
Hamas confirmed the death of its leader, Yahya Sinwar, in an Israeli airstrike in Gaza. According to the Israeli military, three drones were launched from Lebanon on the same day, two of which were intercepted. Netanyahu and his wife were not at their residence in Caesarea at the time of the attack, and no injuries were reported. Sinwar, who was linked to the planning of the October 7, 2023, attacks that resulted in over 1,200 Israeli fatalities and more than 250 hostages taken, had taken over as Hamas chief following the assassination of his predecessor in Tehran.

## Former Indonesian army general Prabowo Subianto sworn in as President

**Jakarta** Indonesia's Prabowo Subianto on Sunday took over as president of the world's third-largest democracy after sweeping the country's election with policies like free meals for school children and with the outgoing leader's son as his running mate. The 73-year-old former special forces commander won the February 14 contest with nearly 60 per cent of the vote and has spent the past nine months building a formidable parliamentary coalition. Prabowo, wearing a traditional black hat and navy suit with a woven maroon and golden sarong, officially became Indonesia's eighth president on Sunday morning after he was sworn in during a ceremony at Indonesia's parliament. Prabowo, who unsuccessfully ran for the presidency twice before, is expected to give a speech to lawmakers at

the parliament's upper house and then head to the presidential palace. He was joined in the swearing-in ceremony by his running mate, Gibran Rakabuming Raka, 37, the eldest son of outgoing President Joko "Jokowi" Widodo. As they make their way to the palace, they will be greeted by thousands of flag-waving supporters already thronging Jakarta streets that are lined with posters of the incoming leader. Flower boards set up outside the palace either congratulated Prabowo and Gibran or thanked Jokowi for his decade as president. Prabowo and Gibran are expected to stop at seven stages along the way between parliament and the palace, Nusrun Wahid, a Prabowo aide, told reporters on Friday. Jokowi supporters are also attending the celebrations to bid farewell to Indonesia's outgoing leader. Annetta Yuniar, a bystander who had excitedly waved at Jokowi's motorcade as it slowly made its way past supporters before the ceremony, said she would miss Jokowi but that Prabowo was a strong leader. "Prabowo will continue the development that Jokowi started. There's continuity. It's what I want," she said. Jokowi has left an indelible mark on the nation of 280 million, presiding over a period of strong economic growth and massive infrastructure development. Critics also say, though, his rule has been marked by a rise in old-time patronage and dynastic politics, and they warn about diminished integrity in courts and other state institutions. The Indonesian police and military have put in place strict security measures, deploying at least 100,000 personnel across the city, including snipers and anti-riot units.

### Diwali bash at New York's Times Square, Indian community, Mayor join festivities



**World** A vibrant celebration of Diwali took place in the heart of New York City on Saturday (local time), as scores of Indian community members and US citizens gathered in Times Square. The iconic Midtown Manhattan location was transformed into a colourful display of culture and brotherhood. The event saw the participation of several heavyweights, including the New York Mayor, Mayor Eric Adams, New York state representative Jenifer Rajkumar Consul General Binaya Pradhan, amongst others. Mayor Adams said it was a proud moment to be with the Indian community in Times Square. He tweeted, "What better place to celebrate the festival of lights than in the Crossroads of the World? Proud to be with our Hindu brothers and sisters today for the annual Diwali at Times Square celebration as we push away the darkness and welcome in light all across our city". Indians gather at Times Square every year to celebrate Diwali. This year's Diwali falls on November 1. Celebrations were also held in Upper Darby, Pennsylvania. Deputy Consul General of India, Varun Jeph, joined the celebrations organized by the Khalsa Asian American Association. Upper Darby Mayor Ed Brown and State Senator Tim Kearney also attended the gathering. Thank You Upper Darby Mayor Ed Brown and PA State Senator Tim Kearney for joining the celebrations and for your support to the Indian American community and fostering India-US ties," the Indian Embassy in the US tweeted.

## At least seven dead after ferry dock collapses on Georgia's Sapelo Island

**Officials believe at least 20 people were on the gangway when the ferry dock collapsed.**



**SAVANNAH:** At least seven people were killed when a part of a ferry dock collapsed on Georgia's Sapelo Island on Saturday. The frightening incident unfolded as island residents, families and tourists were gathered for the annual Cultural Day dedicated to the tiny Gullah-Geechee community of Black slave descendants. The Associated Press reported that multiple people were taken to hospitals, and crews from the U.S. Coast Guard, the McIntosh

County Fire Department, the Georgia Department of Natural Resources and others were searching the water, according to Natural Resources spokesperson Tyler Jones. Jones said a gangway at the dock collapsed, sending people plunging into the water. "There have been seven fatalities confirmed. There have been multiple people transported to area hospitals, and we are continuing to search the water for individuals," he added. Officials believe at least 20 people were on the gangway when the ferry dock collapsed. Georgia Governor Brian Kemp said he and his family were "heartbroken by today's tragedy on Sapelo Island." "As state and local first responders continue to work this active scene, we ask that all Georgians join us in praying for those lost, for those still in harm's way, and for their families," Kemp said on the social platform X.

## Trump escalates attacks on Kamala Harris as candidates try courting early voters

**Republican Donald Trump escalated his verbal attacks on Democrat Kamala Harris on Saturday as the vice president turned to celebrities to generate enthusiasm for her campaign, with both candidates for US president courting early voters.**

**Atlanta, Pennsylvania,** Republican Donald Trump escalated his verbal attacks on Democrat Kamala Harris on Saturday as the vice president turned to celebrities to generate enthusiasm for her campaign, with both candidates for US president courting early voters. Harris and Trump are essentially tied in the most competitive states and many Americans are voting early by mail or in person, with just 17 days until the November 5 election. On Saturday, Harris rallied supporters at a get-out-the-vote event in Detroit, Michigan, for the city's first day of early voting, alongside Detroit-born rapper Lizzo, who said voting was crucial in a state where thin margins can determine elections. In Atlanta later, Harris appeared with pop singer Usher. "This is the swing state of all swing states, so every single last vote here counts," Lizzo said. She rejected the argument by some that America was not ready for a woman president, saying, "It's about damn time," riffing on one of her

biggest hits. Votes in a handful of swing states, where candidates from both parties have strong support and electoral results have been close in past cycles, are likely to decide the election. In Latrobe, Pennsylvania, Trump escalated his personal attacks on Harris, a practice some of his advisers fear could alienate swing voters. Trump said Harris is further to the left than Democratic Senators Elizabeth Warren and Bernie Sanders. "You have to tell Kamala Harris that you've had enough, that you just can't take it anymore. We can't stand you, you're a shit vice president." As the crowd applauded, Trump added: "Kamala, you're fired, get the hell out of here, you're fired." Trump had billed his Latrobe event as the start of his final argument to voters but quickly went off script with a long story about hometown hero Arnold Palmer that included an off-color comment about the genitalia of the late golf legend.

"He took showers with the other pros, they came out of there and said 'oh my God, that's unbelievable,'" he said. The Harris campaign quickly seized on the comments. "Trump's Pennsylvania closing argument is literal junk. In a Pennsylvania rally speech his campaign team billed as 'the beginning of his closing argument in the final stretch,' Donald Trump focused on the issue most important to voters in this election: a deceased golfer's anatomy," the campaign said in a statement. In both Detroit and Atlanta, Harris urged her supporters to put in an all-out effort to win. "On Election Day, we don't want to have any regrets about what we could have done these next 17 days," she told about 300 voters who planned to march together to an early-voting site. She said early voting had already set records in Georgia and North Carolina, and challenged Detroit - a city known for producing musical recordings - to follow suit. Harris'

next stop was Atlanta, Georgia, for a rally with another music icon, Usher, who took a break from a three-day concert tour in the southern city to urge voters to go door-to-door and enlist their neighbors and friends to vote. "Every call matters. Every conversation matters. All of it makes a difference in closing this race... Everything that we do in the next 17 days will affect the future of our children, of our grandchildren, of the people who we love the most," he said. Harris, speaking before some 11,000 people at a music venue in Atlanta, hammered Trump for a second straight day for cancelling events and for avoiding another presidential debate because of "what she called 'exhaustion.'" "When he does answer a question or speak at a rally, have you noticed he tends to go off-script and ramble, and generally for the life of him, cannot finish a thought?" she said. "He has called it 'the weave.' But I think we here will call it nonsense."

## 73 killed in Israeli strikes in Gaza, communication blackout hits rescue ops

**Cairo** At least 73 Palestinians, including many women and children, were killed and dozens wounded in Israeli strikes on Saturday that hit several houses in Beit Lahiya town in the northern Gaza Strip, medics and Hamas media said. Medhat Abbas, a senior health ministry official, also said dozens were wounded and missing in the strikes. Medics said they targeted a multi-floor building and damaged several houses nearby. The Israeli military is checking reports of casualties from an airstrike in northern Gaza, an Israeli official said, adding a preliminary examination suggested the Hamas media office's numbers were exaggerated and did not match the information available to the Israeli military. Palestinian health officials said rescue operations were being hampered by the cut-off of telecommunication and internet services for a second day. Earlier in



the day, the Gaza health ministry said Israeli military strikes killed 35 Palestinians across the enclave. "This is a war of genocide and ethnic cleansing. The occupation has conducted a horrifying massacre in Beit Lahiya," the Hamas media office said. Residents and medics said Israeli forces had tightened their siege on Jabalia, the largest of the enclave's eight historic camps, which it encircled by also sending tanks to the nearby towns of Beit Hanoun and Beit Lahiya and issuing evacuation orders to residents. Israeli officials said evacuation orders were aimed at separating Hamas fighters from civilians and denied there was any systematic plan to clear civilians out of Jabalia or other northern areas. In Jabalia, residents said Israeli forces besieged several shelters housing displaced families before they stormed them and detained dozens of men. Footage on social media, which



Reuters could not immediately verify, showed dozens of Palestinian men sitting on the ground next to a tank, while others were led by a soldier to a gathering site. Residents and medical officials said Israeli forces were bombing houses and besieging hospitals, preventing medical and food supplies from

entering to force them to leave the camp. Health officials said they refused orders by the Israeli army to evacuate the hospital or leave the patients, many in critical condition, unattended. "Hospitals in northern Gaza suffer from stark shortages of medical supplies and manpower and are overwhelmed by the number of casualties," said Hussam Abu Safiya. "We are now trying to decide who among the wounded we needed to attend to first, and several wounded died because we could not deal with them," he said. **SINWAR LEAFLETS** Earlier on Saturday, Israeli planes dropped leaflets over southern Gaza on Saturday showing a picture of the dead Hamas chief Yahya Sinwar with the message "Hamas will no longer rule Gaza", echoing language used by Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

# Innovative 'Smart Insulin' Could Revolutionize Diabetes Treatment

Newly developed NNC2215 dynamically responds to blood sugar levels, offering hope for improved diabetes management

**New Delhi:** Diabetes affects over half a billion people globally, leading to nearly seven million deaths each year. The prevalence of this condition, marked by elevated blood sugar levels, has surged dramatically in recent decades. In a significant advancement towards transforming diabetes management, researchers have developed a "smart" insulin that dynamically responds to changes in blood sugar levels. This groundbreaking research was published in Nature on Wednesday and represents a major step forward in diabetes treatment. Diabetes exists in two primary forms, both related to the body's handling of insulin, the hormone responsible for converting blood sugar into energy. Type 1 diabetes, usually diagnosed

in childhood, arises when the pancreas fails to produce sufficient insulin. Type 2 diabetes occurs when the body's cells become resistant to insulin, necessitating higher amounts than the pancreas can supply. Currently, both conditions are managed through synthetic insulin administration, which presents challenges due to the constant fluctuations in blood glucose levels. Administering too much insulin can lead to dangerously low blood sugar levels, posing life-threatening risks. For decades, scientists have sought to create glucose-sensitive insulin therapies. The most advanced systems developed thus far involve storing insulin within the body, releasing it based on blood sugar levels detected



by sensors. The latest study, conducted by an international team from Denmark, the UK, Czechia, and the University of Bristol, introduces NNC2215, a novel insulin formulation with an "on-and-off switch." This modified insulin au-

tomatically responds to changes in blood glucose levels. NNC2215 comprises two components: a ring-shaped structure and a glucoside molecule, similar to glucose. When blood sugar levels are low, the glucoside binds to the ring, keeping

the insulin inactive and preventing further drops in blood sugar. As glucose levels rise, the glucoside is replaced, activating the insulin to lower blood sugar to safer levels. Elizabeth Robertson, Director of Research at Diabetes

UK, praised the innovation, emphasizing its potential to alleviate the constant burden of managing blood sugar fluctuations, thus improving the physical and mental well-being of millions reliant on insulin therapy. In tests conducted on rats and pigs, NNC2215 proved to be as effective as human insulin in lowering blood sugar. Human trials are anticipated to begin soon. However, the current version of NNC2215 has limitations. It requires a significant spike in blood glucose to activate and releases insulin rapidly rather than gradually. Researchers are actively working to refine the molecule to ensure a slower, more controlled release of insulin.

## AJSU Announces List of 8 Candidates for Jharkhand Assembly Poll



**Ranchi:** The AJSU Party is stepping up its efforts for the upcoming Jharkhand assembly elections, following the BJP's recent candidate list release. On Sunday, AJSU unveiled its own list of candidates as part of the electoral race. The candidates announced by AJSU include Sudesh Mahato from Silli, Sunita Chaudhary from Ramgarh, Neeru Shanti Bhagat from Lohardaga, Ramchandra Sahis from Jugsalai, Nirmal Mahato (alias Tiwari Mahato) from Mandu, Harelal Mahato from Ichagarh, and Azhar Islam from Pakur. However, the party has yet to announce candidates for the Dumri and Manoharpur constituencies. In a collaborative effort, the BJP and AJSU Party will contest the elections together. As part of the NDA alliance, the BJP has allocated 10 seats to AJSU, of which AJSU has announced candidates for 8 seats, leaving 2 yet to be revealed. The candidate list was finalized during a meeting of AJSU's parliamentary board, chaired by party leader Sudesh Mahato. This list features a mix of familiar faces and new entrants, including Azhar Islam, who recently joined AJSU and will contest from Pakur.

With AJSU's announcement of 8 candidates, the NDA has officially declared a total of 74 candidates. Previously, the BJP had named candidates for 66 of its allocated 68 assembly seats. The party is still pending announcements for two seats, Tundi Barhet, as well as AJSU's candidates for Manoharpur and Dumri. Additionally, two seats designated for JDU—Jamshedpur West and Tamar—are now allocated to LJP, with candidate announcements forthcoming. The Chatra seat also remains unannounced, with speculation surrounding former RJD leader Janardan Paswan, who may receive a ticket from LJP (R).

## BJP Loyabad Mahila Morcha plans poll strategy in meeting



by Ashok Kumar

**Loyabad (Dhanbad):** The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) Loyabad Mandal Mahila Morcha convened a general meeting at the Mandal office in Sijua, attended by Mahila Morcha President Satya Devi and former Mandal President Pappu Kumar Singh. The gathering expressed gratitude to State President Babulal Marandi and Dhanbad MP Dhulu Mahato for selecting Shatrughan Mahato as the BJP candidate for the Baghmara Assembly. During the meeting, a five-point action plan was established, which includes: Conducting door-to-door campaigns to encourage voters to support the lotus symbol; Actively recruiting more women into the Bharatiya Janata Party; Informing the public about the benefits provided by Prime Minister Modi, particularly the resumption of a Rs 1 registration scheme for women; Ensuring voters are engaged and Offered refreshments on election day, November 20, 2024. Strategizing to maximize voter turnout for the BJP in the Baghmara Assembly elections. Key participants in the meeting included Vimal Tiwari, Rita Devi, Mala Devi, Asha Devi, Idu Devi, Lakshmi Devi, Sabia Devi, Geeta Devi, Reena Devi, Punita Singh, Tinku Das, Guddu Das, Mahesh Kumar, Pradeep Nishad, Prince Kumar Tiwari, Ganesh Ravidas, Satyendra Paswan, Sanjay Kumar, Bhagwan Das, and Dayashankar Singh.

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## Dr. Sanjay Appointed as Akhil Bhartiya Mantri of Sanskar Bharti



by Arun Pathak

**Bokaro:** Dr. Sanjay Kumar Chaudhary, a resident of Bokaro, has been appointed as the Akhil Bhartiya Mantri (All India Minister) of Sanskar Bharti, a distinguished organization focused on promoting literature and fine arts. The announcement was made during the All India General Assembly held on 19-20 October, in Jaipur, Rajasthan. In a notable development, renowned violinist Mysore Manjunath has also been nominated as the All India President of Sanskar Bharti.

The Bokaro District Unit of Sanskar Bharti expressed enthusiasm over the appointments of both Chaudhary and Manjunath, conveying their heartfelt congratulations on their new roles. On Sunday, members of the Sanskar Bharti Bokaro District Unit convened at Surya Mandir in Sector 4F, where they discussed plans for the upcoming Diwali Parivar Milan and Rangoli Competition, with the event date to be announced shortly.

Key attendees included Saroj Mishra, provincial co-head of painting; Bokaro President Amarji Sinha; Secretary Swaroop Shekhar Pandey; Music Head Arun Pathak; Dance Head Rajni Padhy; and Treasurer Rupak Kumar Pandey.

## Mithila Sanskritik Parishad Entire Executive Resigns Amid Leadership Change

**Bokaro:** The entire executive committee of the Mithila Cultural Council, a prominent institution for speakers of the Mithila language in Bokaro, has resigned, including the president. This decision comes about a week after a proposal to form a new executive was approved during a general meeting held on 13 October.

General Secretary Neeraj Chaudhary confirmed the acceptance of the resignations on Sunday. Key resignations include President Anil Kumar, Vice Presidents Samarendra Jha and Avinash Kumar Jha, Joint Secretary Pradeep Kumar Jha, and other executive members such as Manoj Kumar Jha, Bahuran Jha, and Shivesh Pathak. In total, numerous office bearers and executive members submitted their resignations.

Chaudhary stated that the resignations were accepted with immediate effect. He also announced that, due to the code of conduct associated with the upcoming assembly elections, the general meeting originally scheduled for October 20, 2024, has been postponed.

The next assembly meeting will be organized after the elections and may be conducted online; new executive will be announced and other pertinent issues will be discussed.

## Omar Abdullah opens Kashmir marathon; runs 21 km

**Srinagar:** Just days after being sworn in as the Chief Minister of Jammu and Kashmir, Omar Abdullah participated in the Kashmir Marathon on Sunday, successfully running 21 kilometers. Sharing his accomplishment on X, Abdullah expressed his excitement, stating, "I'm so damn pleased with myself today. I completed the Kashmir Half Marathon - 21 KM at an average pace of 5 min 54 sec per KM." He noted that this was his longest run to date, having previously only completed 13 km once. In another post, he encouraged others to embrace running as a healthy alternative to substance use. "You don't need drugs to



feel good or beat stress. A good run is enough to clear the cobwebs & achieve a natural feeling of euphoria," he wrote, advocating for a drug-free Jammu and Kashmir. Omar Abdullah took of-

fice as Chief Minister on Wednesday, marking the establishment of the first government in Jammu and Kashmir since it became a union territory following the abrogation of Article 370 on 5 August, 2019.

His National Conference-Congress alliance secured 48 seats in the recent assembly elections, primarily from the Kashmir valley, while the Bharatiya Janata Party won 29 seats in the Jammu region.

## Bangladeshi Citizen Arrested at Gaya Airport for Fake Documents

by Suresh Pd Nikhar

**Gaya:** A Bangladeshi citizen, living illegally in Bodh Gaya for the past ten years as a self-identified Buddhist monk, was arrested on Saturday at Gaya International Airport. Identified as Babu Joe Barua, also known as Rajiv Dutta, he was apprehended while attempting to travel to Thailand.

During the arrest, police discovered a significant amount of cash, including 1,560 Thai baht, 411 US dollars, 5 euros, and Rs 3,800 in Indian currency, along with a mobile phone, a handbag, and various identity documents, including two Aadhaar cards, a voter ID, and a PAN card.



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from Magadh Medical Thana were dispatched to the airport. Upon arrival, Bodh Gaya police, in collaboration with security personnel at the airport, detained the individual for questioning. A thorough search revealed the fake documents, which, upon verification, were confirmed to be counterfeit.

Further investigation indicated that Barua had originally entered India on a Bangladeshi passport and had been residing in Bodh Gaya. Currently, Gaya police are interrogating the suspect to gather further information regarding his activities and potential connections.

## Police Memorial Day: Honoring Sacrifice & Remembrance of Betrayal

by Sunil Bajpai

**Kanpur:** October 21 marks Police Memorial Day in India, a solemn occasion dedicated to honoring the ten policemen who made the ultimate sacrifice on this day in 1959 while protecting the nation at the India-China border. This day serves as a poignant reminder of the commitment of Indian police forces to maintain unity, integrity, and sovereignty in the face of adversity.

The significance of the police in upholding law and order is paramount, especially in a diverse nation like India. They have consistently shown unwavering dedication to their duty, often putting their lives on the line, whether in encounters with enemy forces or in daily policing activities. The history of betrayal, particularly from China, underlines the im-



portance of remembering these sacrifices. The roots of Police Memorial Day can be traced back to a tragic event on October 21, 1959, when a contingent of the Chinese army ambushed an Indian patrol team in Hot Springs, Ladakh. This barbaric attack resulted in the martyrdom of ten Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) personnel, marking a dark chapter in Indo-China relations. It was during a time when India was promoting the slogan "Hindi-Chini Bhai-Bhai," symbolizing friendship with China,

which only later revealed its treacherous nature. The day not only commemorates the bravery of those who fell but also serves as a reminder of China's history of betrayal, which has included multiple aggressive encounters. The attack on Indian soldiers near Pangong Lake in May 2020 further emphasized this ongoing conflict, where Indian troops displayed exceptional courage, sacrificing their lives while inflicting significant losses on the Chinese forces. As we observe Police Memorial Day today, we re-

flect on the heroism displayed by the CRPF on that fateful day in 1959. They were patrolling the rugged and remote terrains of Aksai Chin, unaware of the ambush that awaited them. Despite the overwhelming odds, the soldiers fought valiantly, exemplifying the spirit of sacrifice that defines the Indian police force.

This day stands as a tribute not only to the fallen heroes but also to the enduring commitment of Indian police and paramilitary forces in safeguarding the nation. As families of the martyrs gather to honor their memories, the sentiment of pride and loss resonates deeply among all Indians. The legacy of these brave souls will continue to inspire generations, reminding us of the sacrifices made in the name of duty and the importance of remembering the past.

## AFFIDAVIT

Before the Executive / Residential Magistrate BOKARO

I, ROHIT KUMAR, S/O Shobha Kant Mahto, by faith Hindu, by occupation business, resident of Village Taranari Kushwaha Tola, P.O. Taranari, P.S. Chandrapura, Dist. Bokaro, (Jharkhand) do hereby solemnly affirm on oath and declare Vide Affidavit No.: 5062, dated- 05-10-2024, as follows:  
1. That, my actual name is ROHIT KUMAR which is also mentioned in AADHAR CARD NO. 2915 8563 5502.  
2. That, I have opened an Account in Bank of India, Telo Branch, Account No. 5869 18210004841 wherein my name has been written as ROHIT KUMAR MAHTO  
3. That, ROHIT KUMAR and ROHIT KUMAR MAHTO is the same and only one person ie. myself.  
4. That, this affidavit is being sworn by me in token of proof of the contents made hereinabove and to submit before the authority concerned for entering my name in my said Account as ROHIT KUMAR and for needful.

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**Ways to protect yourself from Dengue**

- Remove mosquito habitats
- Use mosquito repellent
- Keep your home clean
- Use netting for windows and gaps
- Clear clogged drain
- Light up your home and use air conditioning
- Wear long clothing

# Maharashtra adds popular minority pilgrimage sites under Teerth Darshan scheme

**Mumbai.** Ahead of the Assembly polls in the state, the Maharashtra government has added 110 minority religious sites, including 15 from across the country and 95 from within the state, to facilitate free pilgrimages for senior citizens under the Mukhyamantri Teerth Darshan Yojana. The pilgrimage destinations include prominent religious sites of Muslim, Parsi, Buddhist and Jain communities. As per the government order, Haji Ali Dargah and Haji Malang Dargah Ramtek Jain Temple, Iranshah Atash Behram and Velankanni, among others found their place in the Mukhyamantri Teerth Darshan Yojana.

In addition, Gautama Buddha's Mahaparinirvana place in Uttar Pradesh's Kushinagar, Gautam Buddha Sadhana Bhoomi in Bihar, Sarnath in UP, BR Ambedkar's birthplace in Nagpur have also been added to the list. Speaking on the issue, Samajwadi Party MLA Rais Shaikh termed it an "election gimmick" to win the Assembly polls. "When the scheme was launched in July, I immediately asked the government why not a single holy place of Muslims in the state has been included in this scheme. I wrote



**Maharashtra has added 110 minority religious sites to facilitate free pilgrimages for senior citizens under the Mukhyamantri Teerth Darshan Yojana ahead of the Assembly polls in the state.**

a letter to the Chief Minister demanding to include three holy places in the scheme. I am happy that these three holy places of Muslims have been included," Shaikh said. "Maharashtra is the land of saints. Sufi saints have many dargahs in the state, which are also visited by Hindus. Notable dargahs like Haji Malang and Haji Ali are in the state. Despite such a rich history, the government didn't include them in the first list which shows their true nature," the Samajwadi Party MLA added.

Mukhyamantri Teerth Darshan Yojana was launched by the Maharashtra government in July 2024, with 139 religious sites, such as Vaishno Devi temple, Amarnath Caves,

Golden Temple in Amritsar, Char Dham Yatra, Ram Temple in Ayodhya, Somnath Temple in Dwarka, and Jagannath Puri in Odisha. Eligible individuals with an annual income of up to Rs 2.5 lakh are entitled to Rs 30,000 to cover travel, accommodation, and food expenses. Applicants above the age of 75 are allowed to take along a spouse or attendant. At the state level, the commissioner of the social justice department will act as the nodal officer for the scheme.

# H1B visa issue 'thing of past', says Piyush Goyal after recent US visit

**During his visit, Piyush Goyal met with around thirty business leaders already operating in India, indicating a strong interest in expanding their ventures.**

**New Delhi:** Union Minister of Commerce and Industry Piyush Goyal announced that discussions about the H-1B visa will no longer be part of international dialogues, marking a significant shift in India's economic strategy. This statement came during a meeting at Vanijya Bhavan in New Delhi, where Goyal outlined the country's focus on building strategic partnerships beyond traditional visa-related topics. Goyal's remarks followed a recent trip to the United States, where he spent two days in New York meeting with CEOs of major companies.

The discussions centred on reforms implemented by Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government to enhance foreign investments in India, particularly in the pharmaceutical and diamond sectors. Surat, a key hub for the diamond industry, was highlighted as a crucial area for investment opportunities.

During his visit, Goyal met with approximately thirty business leaders already operating in India, indicating a strong interest in expanding their ventures. After New York, he travelled to Washington, where he had a luncheon meeting with 17 CEOs from the CEO forum, including top executives from Tata Sons.

The agenda included restructuring the CEO forum, as several members' terms are set to expire in December. Multiple Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) were signed to reinforce the commitment to strengthen business ties



between India and the US. Goyal's trip also featured discussions with Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs), think tanks, and educators, as well as meetings at the Centre for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS). He emphasised that this visit differed from previous ones, as there were no "negative agendas," reflecting a more optimistic outlook for Indo-US relations.

# 2 Days After Quitting Party, Ajay Yadav Says He Is "Congressman By Birth"

**Former Haryana minister Captain Ajay Singh Yadav said he was "prevailed upon" by his son and former MLA Chiranjeev Rao to "forget the past" and work for the party.**

**Chandigarh:** Two days after quitting the Congress party, former Haryana minister Captain Ajay Singh Yadav on Saturday took a U-turn and said he was a "Congressman by birth" and would remain one "till his last breath". Mr Yadav said he was "prevailed upon" by his son and former MLA Chiranjeev Rao to "forget the past" and work for the party.

Mr Yadav quit the party on Thursday alleging shabby treatment after Sonia Gandhi left the post of party president. He also resigned as chairman of the All India Congress Committee's Other Backward Classes (OBC) Department. In a series of posts on X, the 65-year-old leader said he has served the Congress for 38 years and gave his best to the party. He said his family has had an "association of



more than 70 years" with the Nehru-Gandhi clan. "I worked with my leader late Rajiv Gandhi ji and Sonia Gandhi and cannot forget their affection towards me... I am a Congressman by birth and would remain a Congressman till my last breath," said Mr Yadav. "I was upset that my hard work

done for the OBC department was not being appreciated by the high command and some harsh words made me take this drastic step. But with a cool mind I have decided to strengthen the Congress party, especially my mentor and leader Sonia Gandhi ji," he said in another post. "I am especially indebted to my leader and mentor Sonia Gandhi ji and can never think of hurting her feelings," he said. Chiranjeev Rao lost from Rewari in the recently concluded Haryana Assembly polls.

Mr Yadav had earlier said the party should introspect to find the reasons for its failure in southern Haryana, especially Gurugram, Rewari, Mahendragarh and Faridabad where it won just one seat as against 10 by the BJP.

# Ex-Union Minister RCP Singh announces decision to leave BJP, to form own party

**RCP Singh joined the BJP in 2023 after leaving the JD(U). He left the Nitish Kumar-led party last year after the JD(U) sought an explanation on allegations of corruption levelled against him.**

**Patna.** Former Union Minister and BJP leader RCP Singh announced on Saturday that he will be leaving the BJP and intends to establish his own political outfit shortly. He joined the BJP in 2023 after Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar-led JD(U) sought an explanation on allegations of corruption levelled against him. In an exclusive interview with India Today, Singh revealed, "I have not got my BJP membership renewed, and it is for everyone to understand my intentions. I will very soon form my own political party."

He expressed frustration at not being assigned any significant responsibilities in the BJP over the past 18 months, stating, "I had communicated with the BJP leadership that since I have long experience of running a political organisation, they should use it for the benefit of the party, but BJP has a different style of functioning, and I appreciate it."



Singh's entry into the BJP was seen as a strategic move to counter Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar's departure from the NDA and his subsequent alignment with the Mahagathbandhan in August 2022. However, following Kumar's return to the NDA in January 2024, Singh found himself politically isolated within the party. When asked about the possibility of returning to his former party, Janata Dal United (JDU), Singh firmly rejected the idea. "Since I have my own political power, there is no need to return to Janata Dal United. I share a good relationship with Nitish Kumar even today, but there has been no effort for rapprochement between us," he said.

Soon after leaving JD(U) in 2023, Singh launched a scathing attack on Nitish Kumar, calling him a 'palti maar' (someone who switches allegiances).

RCP Singh had quit the JD(U) after the party sent him a notice over corruption allegations. "Nitish Kumar will not become Prime Minister in any of his seven lives," he said after his resignation, describing the JD(U) as a "sinking ship". Looking ahead, RCP Singh indicated that his new party would consider contesting the upcoming assembly elections in Bihar, depending on the political landscape. "I will be floating my own political party very soon, and depending on the situation, my party would also take a decision to contest assembly elections in the state next year," he said.

# 'A new disease': Dhankhar on students going abroad to study

**Jagdeep Dhankhar said this was burdening the country, "They have created 6 billion US dollars hole in our foreign exchange."**

**Jaipur.** Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar on Saturday termed the trend of students going abroad to study as a "new disease". He also said that commercialisation of education is adversely impacting its quality and that "there is a need to save education from commercial mentality."



Addressing the silver jubilee celebrations of Sobhasaria Group of Institutions in Sikar, Rajasthan, Dhankhar said, "There is another new disease — children, I am addressing you — of going abroad. Parents do not get counselling for studies abroad. The child eagerly wants to go. He sees a new dream and feels that he will find heaven as soon as he goes there. There is no assessment as to which institution he is going to, which country he is going to,

there is just a blind path that I have to go abroad. You will be surprised, boys and girls between the ages of 18 to 25 get influenced by advertisements. In 2024, 13 lakh students went abroad. What will happen to their future is being assessed." He said this was burdening the country, "They have created 6 billion US dollars hole in our foreign exchange. Imagine if

these 6 billion US dollars are funnelled into improving the infrastructure of educational institutions here, what would have been our condition. A lot of attention is being paid to this. This is the loss of foreign exchange."

"It is forex drain, it is brain drain, this should not happen. It is the responsibility of the institutions to make their students aware of the foreign conditions. Tell them, what is the ranking of the institution in which you are taking admission into, what is its status. And along with this, we should take a very big revolutionary step that whoever is capable, with the intention of giving to the society, based on that policy, with a clean mind, should build institutions in Tier 2 and 3 towns and in rural areas. This will be a big change for the country," the V-P said.

# Odisha Tribal Woman Sends PM Modi 100 To "Convey Thanks". He Responds

**BJP ended the 24-year-old rule of Naveen Patnaik-led Biju Janata Dal (BJD) in Odisha after securing 78 seats in the 147-seat assembly in the 2024 state elections.**

**New Delhi:** Blessings from 'Nari Shakti' inspired him to keep working to build a 'Viksit Bharat', Prime Minister Narendra Modi said responding to a heartfelt gesture of a tribal woman in Odisha who handed over ₹ 100 to BJP leader to "convey thanks" to PM Modi.

PM Modi's reaction came after the BJP vice president Baijayant Jay Panda's post on X in which he shared that during the party's membership drive in Odisha's Sundargarh district on Friday, he met the tribal woman who insisted on giving the money to Panda to "convey thanks" to PM for his efforts. "This Adivasi lady insisted on giving me 100 to 'convey thanks' to PM Narendra Modi. She brushed aside my demurrals & explanations that it wasn't necessary, & simply would not take no for an answer until I finally



relented," the five-time MP said in his post, sharing pictures. "This is a reflection of the transformation that Odisha & Bharat is experiencing," he added. PM Modi responded in a post on X, "Very touched by this affection. I bow to our Nari Shakti for always blessing me. Their blessings inspire me to keep working to build a Viksit Bharat." "Notably, the BJP ended the 24-year-old rule of Naveen Patnaik-led Biju Janata Dal (BJD) in Odisha after securing 78 seats in the 147-seat assembly in the 2024 state elections held simultaneously with Lok Sabha polls. The BJD secured 51 seats way behind the majority mark of 74 while the Congress secured just 14 seats. In the 2024 Lok Sabha polls also BJP performed well by securing 20 out of the 21 parliamentary seats of the state while the Congress got just one and BJD drew blank.

# Let bureaucrats understand... now decisions will not be taken without ascertaining opinion of public: Omar in Jammu

**Jammu.** In his first outreach to Jammu as the new chief minister of Jammu and Kashmir, Omar Abdullah said Saturday that having a deputy chief minister from the region was an answer to those who had been describing the National Conference as a party of Muslims promoting family rule. Addressing party activists at Sher-I-Kashmir Bhawan on his maiden visit to Jammu city as the new CM, Omar said while there had been deputy chief ministers from Jammu in the past, those were due to "coalition compulsions". The visit comes two days after Omar took oath as J&K's new CM alongside NC's Jammu leader Surinder Choudhary as his deputy. "We had no such compulsions. While the Congress is yet to decide on joining his ministry, we decided to have a Deputy CM from the same party as the CM," he said. Advertisement Responding to allegations of nepotism, he said: "Now what will you say, since the deputy CM is from Jammu and he has nothing to do with my family, I, too, can ask you many questions, but I will not like to

use that occasion for that because the people have given the answer". Without naming the BJP, the party said the people of Jammu overwhelmingly voted for one party despite resentment over various issues from the 'Durbar' move to electricity meters, inflated power bills and



unemployment. However, this resentment was not seen at polling booths. Either there is no anger among people as everything here is alright," he said. "If this is the case, it's good and one doesn't need to do much here. But votes have been given despite the resentment, one needs to understand what has happened."

## One Nation, One Election' is undemocratic

ONE saving grace of Indian democracy — though some call it one of India's troubling flaws — is that there is practically always an election happening. So, just as the echoes of the last General Election — which kept Prime Minister Narendra Modi in office, but without a majority and leading a coalition government — died down, the state of Haryana and the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir went to the polls to elect their legislatures. The results, announced last week, surprised politicians and pollsters alike.

Modi's Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) pulled off an unexpected victory in Haryana, where it was expected to lose. And the opposition Congress party, together with its regional ally, the National Conference, claimed victory in Jammu and Kashmir, where polls had forecast a hung Assembly with no party or alliance securing a majority. With pollsters also having gotten the June Lok Sabha election wrong — they had projected a sweeping BJP victory — India's electorate certainly cannot be called predictable.

Indian voters will soon have more chances to defy expectations. Before the year is out, two more states, Maharashtra and Jharkhand, will go to the polls. They could easily be followed by Delhi, where its beleaguered Chief Minister recently resigned, demanding early elections (which are due by next March in any case). In other words, beyond being packed — each of India's 28 states and seven union territories elect their own governments — India's electoral calendar is subject to change. For Modi's government, all this election-related uncertainty has gone too far. He wants India to establish a fixed election schedule, with the Lok Sabha (lower house of Parliament), state Assemblies, and local bodies all being elected on the same date every five years. A high-level committee, headed by former President Ram Nath Kovind, recently produced a voluminous report backing this approach, which Modi calls "One Nation, One Election". The frequency of elections can indeed be a challenge for the national government. For one thing, while state/local elections largely concern local issues, these are often seen as a sort of rolling referendum on the national government. For another, governance comes to a halt during elections since the independent Election Commission's Model Code of Conduct prohibits incumbents from making policy announcements that might induce electorate to vote for them. In addition, national leaders get busy in campaigning in the states holding elections, each of which has its own political history and, often, its own parties. Modi and his Home Minister Amit Shah have been fixtures on this endless campaign trail throughout their decade in office, leaving them with little time for their official duties. Modi argues that frequent elections waste both money and time. It may have also occurred to him that simultaneous elections might give national parties and issues a boost in state elections, which may be less likely to turn the focus onto local leaders and problems amid a national election campaign.

The Opposition rejects the proposed reform, pointing out that whatever trivial cost savings might be gained by holding all elections simultaneously would be dwarfed by the losses associated with depriving the economy of the frequent stimulus that free-spending campaigns provide. More important, the proposal betrays a sinister intent to ride roughshod over India's federalism and diversity, reflecting Modi's fondness for unitarianism dressed up as efficiency. The most glaring problem with "One Nation, One Election," however, is that it is impractical, which we know from experience. After Independence, India established a single Election Day. But that arrangement lasted just fifteen years, from 1952 to 1967. The reason lies at the root of India's parliamentary system: governments must maintain a legislative majority. If a government loses its majority before its term is up, fresh elections must be held. A government might also call early elections in the hope of increasing its majority.

## Polluted by industry, Buddha Dariya faces tipping point

Every day, millions of litres of untreated raw sewage is flowing into the Buddha Dariya directly.

ONE vexed problem of the pollution of the Buddha Dariya, a tributary of the Sutlej, has reached a decisive phase with the Punjab Pollution Control Board (PPCB) ordering dyeing units to stop discharging their untreated water into the dariya.

Thousands of people from Ludhiana, South Punjab and Rajasthan have gathered under the banner of "Kaale Paani Da Morcha", a group protesting against severe pollution in the Buddha Dariya of Ludhiana. They are demanding that the pollution of the drinking and irrigation water by the industry be stopped. Unfortunately, the problem has persisted due to lack of political will by successive governments as well as most political parties, due to the fear of losing industry funding for elections, even though the polluted water affects over two crore people. Every day, millions of litres of untreated raw sewage is flowing into the Buddha Dariya directly. Earlier, the Municipal Corporation of Ludhiana had started the construction of an intermediate pumping station (IPS) — one of the biggest of its kind in capacity — for water treatment, but the construction had to be stopped due to a land dispute. Land on both banks of the dariya has been heavily encroached upon. The case is pending in the Supreme Court. The municipal corporation needs to find another plot to set up the pumping station and complete its construction on a war footing so that raw sewage can be stopped from being discharged into the Buddha Dariya at the earliest. The dyeing industry, despite having common effluent treatment plants (CETP), is polluting the dariya both indirectly and directly. The treated water discharged by the industry does not meet the parameters, as per the reports by the Central and Punjab pollution control boards. This has led to the present crisis. Many units are still connected to the municipal sewerage as officials have turned a blind eye to this indirect pollution. The only possible solution is that CETPs of the dyeing industry must opt for Zero Liquid Discharge (ZLD) Technology and reuse their water, as is being done by the dyeing industry of Tirupur, Tamil Nadu, following an order by the Madras High Court. On January 28, 2011, the Madras HC had

ordered the closure of more than 700 bleaching and dyeing units and effluent treatment plants in Tirupur. It had also directed the industry to adopt the ZLD technology. For the Buddha Dariya too, the industry and government should work out a way to switching to the ZLD technology, with some support from the Central government. There are around 2,800 electroplating units in Ludhiana. Of them, 1,700 are registered, 300 are awaiting registration and the remaining are illegal. The registered units are supposed to get their wastewater treated at a CETP

officials. The presence of heavy metals like chromium, nickel, lead and copper in the sludge of the sewage treatment plants (STPs) detected by lab tests points to some wrongdoing. Most industries are disposing of their polluted water into the sewerage. The crisis has intensified as the Buddha Dariya STP can only treat sewage, but not the chemicals.

The only solution is to shift the present and upcoming units and other such clusters to a separate area, away from the city, where they can be directly connected to the treatment plants. Modern industrial clusters

with ZLD technology and more treatment plants are needed. Otherwise, more Giaspura-like tragedies are waiting to happen. In this tragedy, 11 persons had died from the sewage gas leak in the area.

Besides industrial units, dairies in the Haibowal, Tajpur and other areas located upstream and downstream of the Buddha Dariya municipal limits are also directly throwing animal dung into the dariya or indirectly into the sewerage system. As a result, the STPs may soon stop functioning. Even the new plants meant for treating dairy water might soon become non-functional. As per the Municipal Solid Waste

Management Rules, 2016, dairies cannot exist within the municipal limits. The solid waste — including domestic waste, plastics, slaughterhouse waste, textile waste and animal carcasses — from the areas around the dariya is choking the tributary. The authorities need to rebuild the fence around the dariya. The earlier one, erected at an expenditure of Rs 9.34 crore, was damaged during the floods last year. Also, deployment of manpower is needed to stop solid waste ingress into the dariya. At present, there is no solid waste enforcement force for issuing challans to the offenders. A similar force deployed by the MC along the Sidhwan Canal has reportedly earned Rs 26 lakh through challans even as only Rs 7 lakh was spent on the employees' salary. Two or three floating garbage barriers-cum-conveyors are also needed for taking out the solid waste which enters the dariya.



by paying Rs 1.25 per litre. However, the owners of these units allege that almost 90 per cent of the polluted water is being discharged directly into the sewerage or by reverse-boring it into the ground aquifers, like the Zira distillery. Apart from the dyeing industry, there is sheet metal industry that has not yet come under the public glare for polluting the dariya. The dyeing industry blames the sheet metal industry for causing this pollution as it uses hydrochloric (HCL) acid, and there is no treatment plant in Ludhiana to treat HCL acid-laden water. The sheet metal industry is directly disposing of around two lakh litres of acid-laden water in the sewerage. Making matters complicated are allegations of corruption by PPCB officials. The industries cannot afford to stop production and, at the same time, they do not want to adhere to the pollution board norms because they claim that they still have to bribe PPCB

## Jaishankar in Pak

Ball now in Islamabad's court

THE go-ahead to the first visit by an Indian External Affairs Minister to Pakistan in almost nine years was indication enough that behind-the-scenes diplomacy had been productive. Before going to Islamabad to attend a conclave of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation, S Jaishankar had declared that India's Pakistan policy was not passive. New Delhi, the message went, was willing to respond to any positive gestures. In the Pakistan capital, he said activities characterised by the three evils of terrorism, extremism and separatism would not encourage trade, energy flows, connectivity and people-to-people exchanges. Strong words, but minus the hostility that matter-of-factly manifests itself in any forum that includes India and Pakistan. The resumption of dialogue may not be on the cards, but Jaishankar's informal interaction with his Pakistani counterpart Ishaq Dar raises hopes of ending the deep freeze in bilateral relations. Sustaining even a limited engagement with Pakistan has remained a



challenge for successive Indian governments.

Islamabad's, or rather Rawalpindi's, proclivity to betray trust adds to the scepticism. Having laid on the table its non-negotiable stance against terrorism, New Delhi must continue to explore options to engage with its rogue neighbour. Keeping the channels of communication open is critical. Cricket diplomacy may or may not come to Delhi's aid, as it has in the past, but in the larger scheme of things, it can serve as an ice-breaker.

The smooth completion of Jaishankar's visit is being viewed as a constructive takeaway — a baby step, but forward movement, nevertheless. The ball is now in Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's court. The track record of his brother, former PM Nawaz Sharif, in fomenting ties does not inspire any confidence. Before India, there's the Pakistan military the Sharifs have to deal with. New Delhi will be keenly watching the outcome.

## Scene shifts to Maharashtra

TRYSTS AND TURNS: 'One Country, One Election' vision falters as ECI unable to hold even 4 Assembly polls together

THE Modi government wants to follow its dream of "One Country, One Election". Future Lok Sabha elections in India will be held simultaneously with the state Assembly elections throughout the country. Yet, when elections to the four state Assemblies in Maharashtra, Haryana, Jammu and Kashmir and Chhattisgarh were to be planned, the ECI could not manage to hold even these four simultaneously. It held the J&K and Haryana elections first and postponed Maharashtra and Chhattisgarh to the following month! The dates for the polls in my state were announced on October 15, just as time was running out. Voting is scheduled for November 20 and the results will be out on November 23 as newly elected legislators have to take their seats on or before November 26, when the term of the present legislature expires. The Mahayuti government, being steered by the BJP's Devendra Fadnavis, has emptied the state's coffers with tall promises that will be impossible, or, at least, difficult to meet.

In the interregnum, strange things are happening in the state's capital, Mumbai, and its surroundings. The phenomenon of the 'encounter specialist', former Police Commissioner Anami Roy, who had been banished to the boondocks, suddenly reappeared on the scene. A wannabe specialist called Sanjay Shinde, who started out as an acolyte of an old-timer named Pradeep Sharma, was plucked out from his 'comfy' zone and entrusted with the pedestrian task of escorting a child molester from the prison, where he was lodged, for that crime to the Thane Commissionerate's Crime Branch. The police 'encounter' that occurred in the police vehicle transporting the accused rekindled inspector Shinde's wish to become an 'encounter specialist'. It also re-established the Deputy Chief Minister's credentials as a tough administrator because posters

appeared the very next day in Thane and Mumbai of Fadnavis with a revolver or pistol in his hand! That was to restore the public's faith in the Mahayuti Home Minister's aura of strength and invincibility.

It also resurrected the public's thirst for instant justice that gives a dangerous carte blanche to police officers to investigate, prosecute, judge and punish the designated perpetrator. In judicial systems all over the world, the police cannot try and declare an accused guilty. And even more importantly, the police are not empowered to carry out death sentences. Middle class citizens in particular are jubilant when what they consider quick justice is delivered. What they do not realise is that it also breeds criminality in law-enforcing agencies and encourages its members to turn lawless. The disease then spreads among the fraternity of criminals because the two coexist. The murder of a long-time Congress politician, who recently crossed over to the Ajit-Pawar faction of the NCP (National Congress Party), a faction aligned with the BJP, has sent the political class in Mumbai city into a tizzy. 'Baba' Siddique, the murdered man, was shot dead on Saturday evening in his own familiar hunting ground, Bandra. Two suspects, one hailing from Haryana and the other from UP, have been detained by the police. It is reported that they belong to the Lawrence Bishnoi gang which originated in Punjab and came to the country's attention when the gang was accused of killing Sidhu Moosewala, at his own village in Punjab's Mansa district. Lawrence Bishnoi himself has been lodged in Sabarmati Central jail in

Gujarat, from where he orders the killings of intended victims. One of his targets was the actor, Salman Khan, a flamboyant personality if ever there was one. Politician Siddique was known to be a regular visitor to Salman's home in Bandra. Some say that that could be one reason for Lawrence targeting Siddique. Whatsoever the reason, the early

To add to their worries, the police were ordered to provide a state funeral to the slain politician. They had done such a job willingly when industrialist Ratan Tata was recently cremated. Soon thereafter, they were told in a written order from the state government's Home Ministry to provide a ceremonial sendoff to a controversial politician, who had, at times, come into conflict with the law.

Ajit Pawar proclaimed that Siddique was to be one of his star campaigners in the coming elections. There is no doubt that Siddique was popular with Muslim voters in Bandra's slums. Yet, personally, I am not convinced that even a Baba Siddique would be able to persuade his co-religionists to switch over to a BJP-mentored Mahayuti. The regular lynchings of suspected cattle traders and beef-eaters and the pursuit of Muslim young men in love with Hindu girls (so-called 'love jihad') have consolidated the almost-total Muslim vote against the BJP. It would not have been easy for Siddique to breach that wall, even though the community in Bandra owed much to him. Incidentally, the state government's decision to give the slain leader a state funeral will open the door for many more such requests. The government needs to firm up its rules for sanctioning such requests. If it decides to be liberal, it will need to create many more jobs in the armed constabulary. The inevitable demand for personal security by politicians will also need to be re-evaluated, lest police stations in the city are further denuded of bodies required for essential duties, as is happening at present.



evening murder of a well-known political figure has stirred up curiosity and also fear among other politicians.

Many politicians in this city have an official security cover provided by the police. Many more will clamour for this largesse after Siddique's murder. The understaffed police force will be severely strained in performing its allotted role of preventing and detecting crime and keeping order on the streets.





## NEWS BOX

## Virat's advice, strokeplay with Pant: Sarfaraz cherishes dream Test in Bengaluru

NEW DELHI. India middle-order batter Sarfaraz Khan scored a stunning century on Day 4 of the Bengaluru Test match against New Zealand. The batter scored 150 runs and combined with Rishabh Pant to dig India out of trouble on Saturday, October 19. In a short video uploaded by the Board of Control for Cricket in India, Sarfaraz said that Saturday was like a dream to him. The batter spoke about getting advice from Virat Kohli during his innings, and how him and Rishabh Pant wanted to play their natural attacking game when India were put under pressure. "It felt very good. When I was celebrating my century it felt like the grass was blue, not green. It felt like I was in the sky. I was so happy. My dream was to score a hundred for India and it came true," Sarfaraz Khan said about his century in the Bengaluru Test match.

IND vs NZ, 1st Test: Day 5 Live Updates | Full Scorecard

The batter added 177 runs with Rishabh Pant



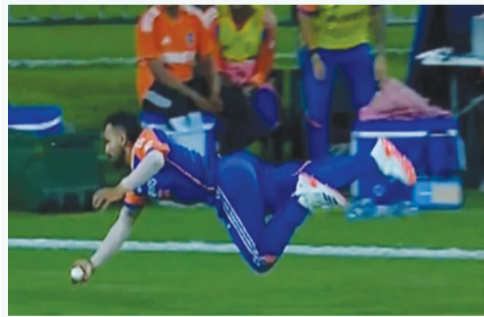
in just 211 balls. While Sarfaraz got out at 150, Rishabh Pant painfully played the ball into his own stumps at 99. Sarfaraz said that both of them helped each other throughout the innings. "Me and Rishabh play aggressive cricket. Both play attacking cricket and we were talking in the middle that we would help each other," Sarfaraz said. The batter concluded by talking about the seniors of the Indian team. Sarfaraz said that Virat told him to back his shots and play without any stress.

"I have watched Virat Kohli since childhood and I always wanted to play with him. That dream came true in RCB, but to play with him in the Indian team, that was special. He kept saying that 'back your shots, play freely' and he gave me a lot of confidence. When someone like Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma pat your back and say that you have done well, it is obviously a proud moment," Sarfaraz concluded in the BCCI video.

Sarfaraz's innings helped India set a target of 107 runs against New Zealand. They play was stopped on Day 4 evening due to bad light when New Zealand had just come out to bat.

## Ramandeep takes stunning one-handed catch during India A vs Pakistan A

Muscat. India A's Ramandeep Singh produced a moment of brilliance to dismiss Pakistan A's Yasir Khan during their Emerging Asia Cup clash on October 19. The diving catch, which turned a certain boundary into a wicket, left spectators at the Al Amerat Cricket Ground in Oman awestruck. Ramandeep's athletic effort came at a crucial moment in Pakistan A's 183-run chase, effectively turning the game in India A's favour. India A had earlier posted a total of 183 runs, thanks to solid contributions from skipper Tilak Verma and opener Prabhsimran Singh. However, it was the side's sharp fielding and disciplined bowling



that ultimately secured the win. As Pakistan A's wickets tumbled and the required run rate began to climb, opener Yasir Khan attempted to accelerate the scoring by targeting spinner Nishant Sandhu. In an effort to break the shackles, Yasir went for a big hit, but his hopes were dashed when Ramandeep's acrobatic effort sent him back to the pavilion. This pivotal dismissal further derailed Pakistan A's run chase. Yasir's wicket put enormous pressure on the middle-order batters, and despite a valiant knock from Arafat Minhas and a brief cameo from Abdul Samad, the team struggled to recover. The India A bowling attack, led by Anshul Kamboj, was equally impressive. Kamboj delivered a standout performance, taking 3 wickets for 33 runs, ensuring Pakistan A never gained momentum, and his recurring breakthroughs stifled any hopes of a comeback and winning the clash by 7 runs. On top of huge confidence from this win against their arch-rivals, Tilak Verma's India A will now look forward to their next group-stage match against the UAE on October 21. The team's well-rounded performance—highlighted by Ramandeep's sensational catch—will boost their confidence as they aim to advance in the Emerging Asia Cup.

## Djokovic pays tribute to Nadal after final encounter: You have an incredible legacy

**Six Kings Slam exhibition: Novak Djokovic honoured his long-time rival, Rafael Nadal. The emotional exchange marked the end of their legendary rivalry as Nadal prepares for retirement.**

NEW DELHI. Novak Djokovic, a 24-time Grand Slam champion, paid tribute to his long-time rival and friend Rafael Nadal in an emotional and heartfelt exchange following the two great rivals' final match on Saturday at the Six Kings Slam exhibition event in Saudi Arabia. Djokovic thanked Nadal for his impact on the sport and praised the Spaniard's legacy. "It's been an incredible honor and an incredible pleasure to share the court with you," Djokovic said. "It's been quite an emotional moment today, we've been playing a lot of games over so many years." Djokovic, who faced Nadal in one of the most famous rivalries in tennis history, reflected on the



intensity of their battles and expressed a desire to remain close off the court. "The rivalry has been incredible and very intense," he continued. "I hope that we'll have a chance to maybe sit on a beach somewhere, have a little drink, reflecting on life, talking about something else. Thank you for what you have done, you leave an

incredible legacy, and we really appreciate it." The tribute came after Nadal and Djokovic clashed for the final time at the Six Kings Slam exhibition event in Saudi Arabia, where Djokovic won the third-place match 6-2, 7-6(5). The exhibition marked the end of Nadal's illustrious career, with the Spaniard set to retire following the Davis

Cup Finals next month. Nadal, a 22-time Grand Slam champion, responded with gratitude, thanking Djokovic for pushing him to reach new heights in their 15-year rivalry. "Thank you, Novak, for everything, for all the moments we shared on court during our careers," Nadal said. "It's been an amazing rivalry."

"In a personal way, you helped me go over my limits during almost 15 years," Nadal added. "Without that, I wouldn't be the player I am today. Congratulations for all the titles and an amazing career to you and your team. I wish you all the best of luck for the future."

The two legends of the game met 60 times throughout their careers, the most meetings between any two men in tennis history. Djokovic narrowly leads the head-to-head record with 31 victories to Nadal's 29. As Nadal prepares for his farewell appearance at the Davis Cup Final 8 in Malaga from November 19-24, the tennis world will bid farewell to a rivalry that defined an era. Though their competitive days may be over, the mutual respect and admiration between Djokovic and Nadal will continue to resonate throughout the sport for years to come.

## T20 World Cup Final: South Africa, New Zealand set to enter new era of champions

**Women's T20 World Cup: Sophie Devine's New Zealand and Laura Wolvaardt's South Africa will be looking for glory they face each other in the summit clash on Super Sunday at the Dubai International Stadium.**

New Delhi The Women's T20 World Cup is all set to witness a new winner as Sophie Devine's New Zealand and Laura Wolvaardt's South Africa will face each other in the summit clash on Super Sunday the Dubai International Stadium. Both teams will be brimming with confidence after knocking out former champions, Australia and West Indies, in the semi-finals. The White Ferns came into the mega



event on the back of 10 losses on the trot in Women's T20s. Very few gave them a chance to even go past the group stage given their poor form. But once Devine and Co. took down Harmanpreet Kaur's India by 58 runs in Dubai, they became unstoppable. On Friday, they thumped West Indies by eight runs in Sharjah. Barring the game against Australia where their batting crumbled, New Zealand haven't done much wrong. They also returned to the T20 World Cup final after finishing as the runners-up in 2009 and 2010. The men's team lost the final in Dubai three years ago, but here lies another chance, this time for the White Ferns. South Africa, on the other hand, suffered heartbreak in 2023 when

Sune Luus' women lost to Meg Lanning's troopers. The men's team also missed out earlier this year against India at the Kensington Oval. The Proteas came into the tournament as underdogs after beating Fatima Sana's Pakistan 2-1 in the away T20I series. But Wolvaardt has led them with dignity throughout. After beginning their campaign with a resounding 10-wicket win against West Indies, they also beat Bangladesh and Scotland in the group stage. But it was the semi-final that would have done their confidence a world of good.

Anneke Bosch's unbeaten 74 powered them through to an eight-wicket win against Australia, who were looking for their fourth T20 World Cup title on the trot. It was also South Africa's maiden win over the Aussies in the history of the tournament out of eight meetings. Luus could not do it in 2023 and Aiden Markram failed as well in 2024. But Wolvaardt has a chance to lift the title. For New Zealand, they would want to give 'captain' Sophie Devine a happy farewell with glory on Sunday. Devine, earlier, said that she would step down as the White Ferns' skipper after the championship.

## Mohunbagan continue their Kolkata derby dominance with 2-0 win over East Bengal

Kolkata. Mohun Bagan Super Giants extended their dominance in the iconic Kolkata derby with a 2-0 win over a struggling East Bengal FC in the Indian Super League clash on October 19. The Jose Molina-coached side continued their impressive unbeaten streak in the ISL, marking their eighth consecutive derby victory at the Salt Lake Stadium. East Bengal, mired in management troubles, brought in newly-appointed coach Oscar Bruzon, who arrived in Kolkata the night before following visa complications. However, his debut was far from ideal, as the Red and Gold brigade suffered their fifth defeat of the season. Despite the match beginning on a balanced note, Mohun Bagan took control when Manvir Singh's cross-field through ball set up Jamie McLaren, who tapped in the first goal in the 41st minute. The game was sealed in the 89th minute when Dimitri Petratos, Mohun Bagan's star forward,



scored from the penalty spot. Petratos, who came on as a substitute, won the penalty himself after being fouled by East Bengal goalkeeper Prabhsimran Gill in a careless defensive mistake.

## East Bengal's Finishing Woes

East Bengal's primary struggle in this match was their inability to finish attacking plays. While the team displayed some improvement in offensive movements, they

once again faltered in the final third. Even the introduction of Dimitrios Diamantakos, replacing captain Cleiton Silva in the second half, couldn't spark a breakthrough. The Red and Gold have plenty of attacking talent, but they lack the composure to convert chances into goals. With time until their next fixture, Bruzon will need to focus on instilling a more decisive mentality in front of goal.

## Mohun Bagan's mixed performance

Despite securing the win, Jose Molina appeared far from satisfied, as his team's performance was underwhelming. They squandered several clear opportunities, including an early chance by McLaren, who shot directly at the goalkeeper despite being unmarked. East Bengal's disorganized defense allowed Mohun Bagan to capitalize, but stronger opposition might not be as forgiving.



reignited United's belief and energised their play. The match-winner came in the 70th minute when Danish forward Rasmus Hjulund ended his goal drought in style. A slick flick from Bruno Fernandes set Hjulund up to chip the ball past the Brentford goalkeeper, securing a vital victory and silencing the growing concerns surrounding United's form.

## Drawbacks for Ten Hag to address

While the win provided much-needed relief, there were still issues for Erik ten Hag to address. United showed renewed attacking intent, but their failure to convert clear chances remains a concern. The team often lacked enough players in advanced positions, forcing Christian Eriksen, usually a deep-lying playmaker, to act as a forward in several attacking moves. Additionally, Joshua Zirkzee's performance highlighted some finishing problems. The Dutch forward demonstrated his ability to get into dangerous positions but struggled with his final touch, something United must address, especially with key fixtures on the horizon.

## 'Injury-free' Shreyas Iyer keen to make India Test team comeback

**Mumbai batter Shreyas Iyer is keen on making India comeback. Iyer has stressed that he is injury free and pushing his limits in terms of fitness. Shreyas made his comments after scoring a century against Maharashtra in the Ranji Trophy.**

New Delhi Mumbai batter Shreyas Iyer is eager to return to the Indian Test squad, expressing confidence and determination following his recovery from back surgery. The 29-year-old recently celebrated his first red-ball century since his Test debut nearly three years ago during the Ranji Trophy second-round match against Maharashtra. His last first-class ton was in the Kanpur Test against New Zealand in November 2021. "It feels special, coming back after a very long

time. Obviously, I was feeling a bit down with my injuries, but now, getting a century after a very long time, it's a great feeling overall," Iyer shared with reporters after the day's play.

Iyer, who was dropped from the BCCI central contract list earlier this year, last played in the home Test series against England in February. While he participated in the ODI series against Sri Lanka in August, he has a strong desire to contribute to red-ball cricket. Absolutely (the drive is still to play Tests). That's why I've been playing. I mean, or else I would have given a reason and sat out," he stated.

## Ranji Trophy: Shreyas Iyer hits hundred

In his last five first-class games, including the Duleep Trophy, Irani Trophy, and Ranji Trophy, Iyer has made an impact with three fifties and a 40 in 10 innings. Reflecting on missing out on the Test team, he said, "I had addressed my feeling during the longer format and things didn't go my way. But I'm in a good space right now. I'm doing what I'm meant to do." Iyer noted that his recent matches have contributed to his fitness, stating, "This is my seventh match on the trot, and the body has taken a lot of load at the



same time. So, we have to manage here and there and strategise how I play."

He emphasized the importance of listening to his body: "I need to see to it that my body is in the best shape possible, and I have to decide according to that. Based on my experience over the years, I'll make the right decisions, and I hope my team will back me."

Having made a comeback in the Asia Cup last year after his surgery, Iyer also played in the

ODI World Cup. He was selected for the first two home Tests against England in early 2024 but was later omitted from the remaining matches. When asked if he fears a recurrence of his injury, he confidently replied, "Not anymore." He elaborated, "The surgery was last year, and after that, I played the World Cup, Asia Cup, and many more matches. I trained hard to ensure I maintain optimum fitness, and my capacity has improved significantly." Iyer, who led the Kolkata Knight Riders to an IPL title earlier this year, discussed his post-surgery training regimen. "I improved my long-distance running and increased my patience for the longer format. I did intensive training, pushing my body to its limits with 400-800 meters of running." Teaming up with 17-year-old Ayush Mhatre, the duo built a 200-run partnership, helping Mumbai secure a considerable lead. "Nowadays, teams often set defensive fields right from the start, so I focused on taking my time, playing more balls than taking risks." "My plan was to play session by session and see how much my body can take," Iyer concluded, highlighting his commitment to making a successful return to Test cricket.

# Shraddha Kapoor's

## Throwback Picture With Grandmother And Brother Siddhanth Is Nostalgic

Shraddha Kapoor, beyond her professional endeavours, is a dedicated family woman. Her latest Instagram entry is proof. The actress reshared her brother Siddhanth Kapoor's post on IG stories. The post included a touching throwback photo dedicated to the siblings' late grandmother. Also featuring young Shraddha, the nostalgic photo is too cute to be missed. The picture showcases Siddhanth in his childhood, waving at the camera. On the other hand, little Shraddha is a bundle of cuteness in a traditional nazar ka

looking in the opposite direction as their grandmother attempts to feed her. The candid shot perfectly encapsulates Shraddha's sweet childhood memories with her brother and their grandmother. Siddhanth Kapoor also added a heartfelt caption to the photo as he wrote, "Wanted to share this beautiful photo with all of you, my grandma, was my everything, all my morals and values in life are mostly from her always to be grounded, be respectful, never judge, love, be kind and honest... and of course a lotta music... very lucky and grateful, miss you heaps my Amma and Daddy, the best grandparents I could ever ask for. Also my little angelic sister Shra. Sweetestt."

In terms of work, Siddhanth Kapoor has worked as an assistant director on popular films like Chup Chup Ke (2006), Bhool Bhulaiyaa (2007) and Bhagam Bhag. Later, he also forayed into acting with Sanjay Gupta's Shootout at Wadala wherein he shared the screen space with Anil Kapoor, John Abraham and Kangana Ranaut. Other projects credited to his name include Ugly, Paltan, Jazbaa, Haseena Parker and Bombairiya.

Meanwhile, Shraddha Kapoor is basking in the success of Stree 2, the horror-comedy that went on to become one of the highest-grossing Hindi films in India, even surpassing the collections of Shah Rukh Khan's Jawan. Apart from Shraddha, the film also stars Rajkummar Rao, Aparshakti Khurana, Abhishek Banerjee and Pankaj Tripathi.



# Radhika Apte

## Flaunts Baby Bump At Premiere Of Film Sister Midnight, Fans Say Congratulations

Radhika Apte has grabbed headlines as she was seen flaunting her baby bump for the first time at the premiere of her latest film, Sister Midnight. The actress stunned fans as she stepped onto the red carpet. The photos have gone viral on social media. Radhika Apte tied the knot with British music composer Benedict Taylor in 2012 and the couple is expecting their first child after 12 years of marriage. Taking to her Instagram handle, Radhika shared the photos from the event. She wore a black bodycon dress. But what grabbed everyone's attention was her baby bump. This is the first time she is spotted with bump. Earlier, she did not share anything related to her pregnancy on social media. Fans were also quick to react and congratulated her. One of the fans wrote, "Omg!!! She's pregnant, how exciting!" Another wrote, "Ah! Congrats on the premiere and your pregnancy! You are magnificent on the red carpet!" Guneet Monga also congratulated her.

In May, the actress has shared an Instagram post for her husband. He confessed to missing Benedict Taylor in a wholesome note attached to a throwback picture featuring them.

For her post, Radhika picked a hidden gem from her archives. The heartwarming picture captured the Andhadun star seemingly enjoying a vacation with Taylor. Draped in a towel over a white flowy dress, Radhika looked the cutest.

What stole the limelight was the way her husband wrapped her around his arms while posing for the picture. Additionally, the duo flaunted a bright smile and wore sunglasses in the cute frame. Along with the picture, she wrote, "Missing you my sweetest love!" Radhika and Taylor's paths crossed in London where she had travelled to study contemporary dance. In an era where even long-distance relationships fail, the couple is acing their long-distance marriage with immense love and dedication. Previously, in a conversation with Cosmopolitan India revealed the secret behind their healthy marriage. The Sacred Games star noted, "Bened (he hates being addressed as Ben, so I call him Bened) and we try to meet each other every month. Either he comes to India or I go to London, where he's based. It's really important to take time out to meet each other in a Long Distance Relationship."



## Esha Deol Drops An Adorable Photo With Mother Hema Malini, Fans Wish Veteran Actress 'Happy Birthday'



Veteran actress Hema Malini celebrated her birthday on October 16. She has been receiving a lot of wishes from all corners. Esha Deol also took to her social handle and dropped an adorable photo with her mother. She also wished her happy birthday. Even fans also reacted to it. Taking to her Instagram handle, Esha Deol shared the photo and wrote, "Happy birthday my adorable mamma. Love you." As soon as she shared the photo, it went viral. One of the fans wrote, "HEMA MALINI AUNTY JI HAPPY BIRTHDAY GOD BLESS FROM FILM JOURNALIST AUTHOR RAJESH GAUR, SON OF LATE FILM WRITER VRAJENDRA GAUR JI WHO WROTE FILMS LIKE LAL PATTHAR, JYOTI, ETC." Another wrote, "Happy birthday to the beautiful Dreamgirl."

Veteran Bollywood actor Hema Malini celebrated her 76th birthday with love and admiration pouring in from all corners. However, a moment that captured everyone's attention was when an elderly fan bowed down to touch her feet and present her with a bouquet at her birthday event. The heartfelt gesture, captured in videos circulating online, has since gone viral, with fans praising both the elderly man's respect and Hema Malini's gracious response.

In the video, Hema Malini, dressed elegantly in a soft, beige saree with delicate embellishments, is seen walking towards the fan. As she is greeted, the elderly man bends down in a humble gesture, leaving her momentarily taken aback. With a soft smile and folded hands, she gently acknowledges the gesture. The video of this touching interaction has left social media buzzing, with fans sharing their appreciation for her grounded nature. Hema Malini and Dharmendra, who have been married since 1980, celebrated their 44th wedding anniversary earlier this year. Their daughter, Esha Deol, shared a nostalgic photo of her parents, with a caption that melted hearts. "Happy anniversary to my papa & mamma. I adore you, I love you & I just want to hug you," Esha wrote alongside the photo.

## Please Share Your Mobile Number': Salman Khan's Ex Somy Ali Invites Lawrence Bishnoi to a Zoom Call



Somy Ali, actor and former girlfriend of Bollywood star Salman Khan, has sparked controversy with her recent social media post directed at gangster Lawrence Bishnoi whose gang has threatened to kill the latter. Ali shared a picture of Lawrence Bishnoi with a caption directly addressing the jailed gangster. In the post, she referred to him as 'Lawrence Bhai' (brother) and expressed her desire to communicate with him via video call. She also stated her wish to visit his temple in Rajasthan.

This is a direct message to Lawrence Bishnoi. Hello, Lawrence brother, I have heard and also seen that you are making zoom calls from jail as well, so I want to talk to you. Please let me know how this can happen? Rajasthan is my favourite place in the whole world. I want to come to your temple for worship, but let's have a zoom call first and we can have some more talks after the worship. Believe me, these talks are for your benefit. It will be a great favour if you can share your mobile number. Thank you," Ali wrote on Instagram. Her post comes on the heels of the murder of former Maharashtra minister and NCP leader Baba Siddique, a close associate of Salman Khan. The Lawrence Bishnoi gang claimed responsibility for the attack, issuing a warning to anyone associated with the actor. Consequently, Salman Khan's security was tightened. According to the police, the animosity between Lawrence Bishnoi and Salman Khan first became public in 2018 when the gangster said during a court appearance in Jodhpur, "We will kill Salman Khan. Everyone will know once we take action. I have not done anything as of now, they are accusing me of crimes for no reason."

Since then, the popular actor has received multiple threats to his life, with the matter reaching a tipping point in April this year when gunshots were fired outside Salman's Bandra residence by two shooters reportedly belonging to the Bishnoi gang who were later arrested. The enmity stems from the infamous blackbuck poaching case involving Salman Khan which took place in 1998 during the filming of Hum Saath-Saath Hain in Rajasthan, irking the Bishnoi community which reveres the animal.