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PM Modi congratulates Mohanlal on Dadasaheb Phalke Award, praises his cinematic brilliance

(Gns). Mohanlal has been named the recipient of the Dadasaheb Phalke Award, India's highest honour in cinema, for 2023, the ministry of information and broadcasting announced Saturday. Prime Minister Narendra Modi Saturday congratulated renowned actor Mohanlal on being conferred the prestigious Dadasaheb Phalke Award. In a heartfelt message shared on handle X, PM Modi praised Mohanlal's excellence and versatility, highlighting his remarkable contributions to Malayalam cinema, theatre, and Kerala's cultural landscape. "Shri Mohanlal Ji epitomises excellence and versatility. With a rich body of work spanning decades, he stands as a leading light of Malayalam cinema, theatre and is deeply passionate about the culture of Kerala. His cinematic and theatrical brilliance across mediums is truly inspiring. Congratulations to him on being conferred the Dadasaheb Phalke Award. May his accomplishments continue to inspire generations to come," PM Modi said. Mohanlal has been named the recipient of the Dadasaheb Phalke Award, India's highest honour in

cinema, for 2023, the ministry of information and broadcasting announced Saturday. Mohanlal will receive the award at the 71st



National Film Awards ceremony on September 23. Mohanlal is a highly acclaimed actor, producer, and philanthropist who has delivered remarkable performances in multiple lan-

guages, including Malayalam, Telugu, Tamil, Kannada, and Hindi. He is known for his versatility and has been recognized with numerous awards for his contributions to Indian cinema.

The Dadasaheb Phalke Award is India's highest honor in cinema, recognizing outstanding contributions to the growth and development of Indian film arts. The award is a testament to Mohanlal's dedication, talent, and impact on the film industry.

The news of Mohanlal's Dadasaheb Phalke Award has been met with widespread acclaim and congratulations from the film industry.

Union Home Minister invited to Bastar's 600-year-old Dussehra festival

(Gns). Union Home Minister Amit Shah is to celebrate the upcoming Dussehra festival in Bastar as he has been formally invited to attend the historic Bastar Dussehra festival, one of the longest-running and culturally rich celebrations in India.

Bastar MP Mahesh Kashyap met Shah in the national capital on Friday and extended the invitation on behalf of the Bastar Dussehra Committee and the Manjhi-Chalaki community, that plays a central role in the festival's traditional proceedings.

During the meeting, the Union Home Minister was

presented with a sacred image of Maa Danteshwari, the revered deity of Bastar, symbolising the spiritual essence of the event.

Shah took to X and wrote, "Bastar, now free from the grip of Naxalism and embracing a path of peace, is celebrating its festivals with renewed spirit and joy. I have been honoured with an invitation to attend the 75-day-long Muria Darbar, a central part of the Bastar Dussehra festivities. "This remarkable event stands as a living testa-

ment to the region's rich tribal culture and heritage. I look forward to being part of this celebration and witnessing the vibrant traditions that define Bastar's identity."

Shah has accepted the invitation and is scheduled to visit Bastar on October 4. His itinerary includes

attending the Muria Darbar at Sirhasar Bhavan in Jagdalpur, where he will interact with tribal representatives and review progress on Mission 2026, a central campaign aimed at eliminating Naxalism

from the region.

The Bastar Dussehra Committee has also extended an invitation to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, signaling the festival's growing prominence on the national stage.

The Bastar Dussehra, celebrated in Jagdalpur, Chhattisgarh, spans over 75 days and is deeply rooted in tribal customs and rituals that date back more than 600 years.

Unlike the mainstream Dussehra, which commemorates Lord Rama's victory over Ravana, Bastar Dussehra is dedicated to the worship of local deities, especially Maa Danteshwari.



Trump Raises H-1B Visa Fee To \$100,000; Rahul Gandhi Calls Modi A Weak PM

(Gns). President Donald Trump on Friday signed a proclamation sharply increasing the annual fee for H-1B visas to an unprecedented \$100,000. The move, aimed at tightening immigration rules, is expected to hit Indian professionals the hardest, since India accounts for 71% of all H-1B visa holders.

The announcement drew immediate political reactions in India, with Congress leader Rahul Gandhi launching a direct attack on Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Sharing a news report on X, Gandhi wrote, "I repeat, India has a weak PM."

Former U.S. President Donald Trump signed a proclamation increasing the

annual fee for H-1B visas to \$100,000, a move expected to impact Indian professionals, who constitute 71% of H-1B visa holders;

by the Hindustan Times, Trump's decision effectively dismantles the H-1B programme. The new \$100,000 visa fee is higher



this decision drew criticism from Indian Congress leaders like Rahul Gandhi and Mallikarjun Kharge, who attacked Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government.

According to an analysis

than the median annual salary of fresh H-1B visa holders and exceeds 80% of the average annual salary of all existing holders.

Congress Leaders Target Modi Over H-1B

Other senior Congress leaders also criticized Prime Minister Modi, accusing him of being unable to safeguard India's interests in the wake of Trump's move.

Congress deputy leader in the Lok Sabha, Gaurav Gogoi, posted on X: "With the recent decision on H-1B visas the American government has hit at the future of the best and brightest minds from India. I still remember the boldness of former PM Manmohan Singh when one IFS lady diplomat was insulted in the US. Now PM Modi's preference for strategic silence and loud optics has become a liability for the national interest of India and her citizens."

India's First Reaction To Trump's \$100k H-1B Visa Fee: Warns Of Humanitarian Impact

(Gns). India on Saturday said it is carefully assessing the implications of the United States' decision to impose a \$100,000 annual fee on H-1B visas, while warning that the move could have significant "humanitarian consequences."

"The government has taken note of reports regarding the proposed restrictions on the US H-1B visa program. The full impact of the measure is being examined by all stakeholders, including Indian industry, which has already released an initial analysis addressing some misconceptions around the H-1B program," the Ministry of External Affairs

(MEA) said in a statement. India is assessing the impact of the US decision to impose a \$100,000 annual fee on H-1B visas, which could have significant humanitarian consequences, as the move affects the 71% of H-1B visa holders from India. The MEA noted that the rise in visa fees comes amid a downturn in India-US ties.

The ministry emphasized that both India and the US have a shared interest in "innovation and creativity" and are expected to consult on the way forward. It further noted that "skilled

talent mobility and exchanges have played a crucial role in advancing technology development, innovation, economic growth, competitiveness, and wealth creation in both the United States and India."

Highlighting the human angle, the MEA said the new visa fee could cause "humanitarian consequences by way of disruption for families."

Trump's H-1B visa move US President Donald Trump on Friday signed a proclamation raising the annual H-1B visa fee to

\$100,000 - a massive increase from the existing \$1,000-5,000 range. The move is the latest in the administration's push to curb immigration.

India, which accounts for 71% of H-1B visa holders, is set to be most affected. Currently, around 300,000 Indian professionals, mainly from the technology sector, work in the US on H-1B visas.

An HT analysis noted that Trump's decision effectively dismantles the H-1B program, as the new \$100,000 fee exceeds the median annual salary of an entry-level H-1B worker and represents more than 80% of the average annual salary of all visa holders.

Civic Polls: Uddhav Instructs Sainiks To Maintain Coordination With MNS At Local Level

(Gns). Shiv Sena chief Uddhav Thackeray has instructed his Shiv Sainiks to maintain co-ordination with the Raj Thackeray-led Maharashtra Navnirman Sena (MNS) leaders at the local level with an eye on the forthcoming municipal and local civic body elections.

According to Shiv Sena sources, Uddhav Thackeray held a meeting of Sena office bearers of Badlapur, Kalyan West Bhiwandi and Ambarnath at his Bandra East 'Matoshree' residence on Friday night, where he made important suggestions in view of the municipal elections. There was a serious dis-

cussion about an alliance with the Raj Thackeray-led MNS and Uddhav Thackeray told Shiv Sainiks to start preparing for the forthcoming municipal elections by hinting at an alliance. "Make your full preparations by holding review meetings of both the parties. Forget your differences and get to work. Hold meetings with MNS office bearers at the local level. Discuss and maintain harmonious communication," Uddhav Thackeray told Shiv Sena office bearers at the meeting.

Uddhav's latest instructions to his Shiv Sainiks came after his statement on September 17 (Tuesday) that "a formal

alliance with MNS chief Raj Thackeray will be announced soon and at the right time."

However, MNS chief Raj Thackeray has not said anything about an alliance with the Uddhav-led Shiv

Sena so far. Yet, when Uddhav Thackeray was holding a meeting with Shiv Sena office bearers from Badlapur, Kalyan West Bhiwandi and Ambarnath at his Matoshree resident, his cousin and MNS chief Raj Thackeray toured far flung Mumbai suburbs like Ambarnath, Badlapur and Kalyan.

Raj Thackeray's visit is considered important in view of the forthcoming municipal elections. During his visit, Raj Thackeray visited the homes of MNS office bearers. After discussing local civic body election related issues, Raj also sought opinions of MNS office bearers about the forthcoming municipal elections.



Science Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh Announces Historic Milestone: India Secures Exclusive Rights for Exploration of Polymetallic Sulphides in the Carlsberg Ridge in the Indian Ocean

India Becomes First Country to Hold Two PMS Exploration Contracts with the International Seabed Authority; Recognised as Pioneer Investor

Deep Ocean Mission launched by PM Narendra Modi, which focuses on seabed mineral exploration, mining technology development, and strengthening India's 'Blue Economy Initiatives'

Reaffirms 30-Year Partnership with ISA; To Host 8th ISA Annual Contractors Meeting in Goa (Gns).

Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Earth Sciences; Science & Technology, MoS PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances, Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space, Dr. Jitendra Singh announced the signing of a new 15-year contract between the Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES) and the International Seabed Authority (ISA) for exclusive

rights to explore Polymetallic Sulphides (PMS) in the allotted 10,000 sq km area of the Carlsberg Ridge in the Indian Ocean.

With this, India has become the first country in the world to hold two contracts with ISA for PMS exploration, reaffirming its pioneering role in deep-sea resource exploration and its strategic presence in the Indian Ocean.

Dr. Jitendra Singh said that the new contract is a significant step towards realizing the vision of Deep Ocean Mission launched by PM Narendra Modi, which focuses on seabed mineral exploration, mining technology development, and strengthening India's 'Blue Economy Initiatives'. He added, "By formalising exclusive rights for PMS exploration in the Carlsberg Ridge, India has further consolidated its leadership

in deep-sea research and exploration. This will enhance our maritime presence and build national

capacity for future resource utilisation."

Polymetallic Sulphides contain valuable metals such as iron, copper, zinc, silver, gold, and platinum, and are precipitates formed by hot hydrothermal fluids from oceanic crust. Their strategic and commercial potential has attracted global attention, placing India at the forefront of deep-sea resource exploration.

Highlighting India's longstanding partnership with ISA, Dr. Jitendra Singh recalled that India was the

first country to receive an area for polymetallic nodule exploration in international waters and was designated as a "Pioneer Investor." With two PMS contracts now in place—one in the Central Indian Ridge & Southwest Indian Ridge and another in the Carlsberg Ridge—India also holds the largest exploration area allocated for PMS in the international seabed.

"India's 30-year association with the ISA has been a source of pride, and as ISA celebrates its 30th anniversary, India reaffirms its commitment to working closely with ISA to deliver on its mandate for the common heritage of humankind," Dr. Singh said. He also announced that India will be hosting the 8th ISA Annual Contractors Meeting from 18-20 September in Goa, marking another milestone in India's leadership role in seabed exploration.



देश-दुनिया के नवीनतम समाचार
प्राप्त करने के लिए आज ही
गरवी गुजरात हिंदी चैनल देखिये

Editorial

Fragile Stability

The United States has entered a new phase of economic management, one where the central bank is no longer focused solely on taming inflation but on cushioning a labour market that shows the first signs of fatigue. The quarter-point reduction in the benchmark lending rate, bringing it down to a range of 4 to 4.25 per cent, is more than a routine adjustment. It signals a recognition that growth is slowing and that the risk of job losses now outweighs the threat of runaway prices. For nearly two years, the dominant concern was inflation. Aggressive rate hikes were justified as the only way to cool an overheated post-pandemic economy. Those efforts have paid off to some extent: consumer prices have fallen from their earlier peaks and supply chain pressures have eased. Yet inflation has not disappeared. At 2.9 per cent over the past year, it remains above the long-term target. Ordinarily, such numbers would argue for caution. Instead, the central bank has chosen to loosen policy, highlighting how swiftly the economic narrative has changed. The shift stems from the labour market. After a remarkable run of job creation, hiring has slowed to a crawl. June even saw a net loss of jobs, something not experienced since the early days of the pandemic. Economists know that employment trends can reverse sharply. A gradual softening can quickly become a contraction if businesses cut back in anticipation of weaker demand. By easing now, policymakers hope to prevent a slide into a self-reinforcing downturn. Early indicators from small businesses show tighter credit and slower hiring intentions, reinforcing fears that a mild slowdown could quickly snowball into broader weakness if consumer confidence begins to slip. Political crosswinds add another layer of complexity. President Donald Trump has publicly demanded deep rate cuts, even threatening institutional shake-ups at the Fed. New appointments to the policy board have strengthened voices calling for more aggressive action. Although central bankers insist their decisions are guided by data, the optics of political pressure are unavoidable. Markets, however, largely view the latest move as a response to economic signals rather than presidential prodding. The path forward is fraught with trade-offs. Cut too slowly and unemployment could rise sharply. Cut too quickly and the economy could reignite inflation just as households begin to feel relief. With seven policy makers signalling no need for further reductions and others advocating continued easing, the split within the board reflects the uncertainty of the moment. What emerges is a portrait of an economy at a crossroads. Borrowers will welcome slightly lower costs, but cheaper credit is no guarantee of stability. The real challenge lies in striking a balance that supports employment without undermining hard-won progress against inflation. Navigating that narrow passage will determine whether this rate cut marks the start of a gentle landing ~ or the first step toward a more painful correction.

Riding the waves of oceanic opportunity

For a nation as vast and diverse as ours, the journey to becoming a developed country, 'Viksit Bharat' by 2047, requires us to look at every resource, including those hitherto unexplored under-explored, and every available opportunity – particularly, when the ambitious goal is to move up the ladder from Economy Rank 4 to Rank 1. For decades, our focus has been primarily harnessing the potential of our land resources. We have built highways, expanded the railway network, developed industries, and cultivated our fields.

But as we stand in this pivotal period of our history, the Amrit Kaal, we recognize that our greatest untapped resource lies not just on land, but in the vast blue ocean that surrounds our country. The Blue Economy is more than just another sector, it is our new exclusive frontier for growth, a pathway to prosperity, sustainability, and national strength. It is also recognized as a key focus pillar within India's vision of Viksit Bharat. It is a broad and powerful concept that includes everything from traditional activities such as fisheries, ports, and shipping to cutting-edge new fields such as marine biotechnology, eco-tourism, renewable ocean energy, and deep-sea exploration.

The Blue Economy defines it as "comprising the entire system of ocean resources and man-made economic infrastructure in marine, maritime and onshore coastal zones within India's legal jurisdiction, aiding the production of goods and services with clear linkages to economic growth, environmental sustainability and national security". With a revised coastline stretching now over 11,098 kilometers and a vast Exclusive Economic Zone spanning 2.4 square million kilometers, India is exceptionally well-placed to become a leader in this ocean-based growth engine.

Under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the Blue Economy has emerged as a key pillar of New India's growth vision, with an ambitious target of building a US\$100 billion economy through sustainable use of ocean resources. Blue economy not only promises to create jobs, but also support our coastal communities, protect marine ecosystems, and strengthen our global maritime presence. We are now in Blue Economy 2.0, a new phase that is more modern and forward-looking. This new phase focuses not just on traditional sectors, but on the emerging, high-potential areas that will define our future. Our efforts are already in motion through key initiatives.

The Deep Ocean Mission is helping our scientists explore the deep sea using advanced technologies like the 'Matsya 6000' submersible, aiming to find strategic resources and create new technologies for the future. The Sagarmala Programme is modernizing our ports and infrastructure to make trade faster and more efficient, making our businesses more competitive. For the welfare of our coastal communities, the Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY) is a flagship scheme to bring a "Blue Revolution" to our fisheries sector. But our vision goes far beyond this.

It is a vision that empowers people and protects our planet and entails secretion of new opportunity for women's empowerment by encouraging them to lead in sustainable fields likes seaweed farming and eco-friendly tourism. This provides them with new income streams and greater voice ice their communities. It also entails investments in our youth, offering them training and skills for the new jobs that the Blue Economy will create, from marine engineering to data analytics. We are nurturing a new generation of blue-collar innovators and entrepreneurs. To support this innovation, the Ministry acts as a catalyst for private investment and innovative start-ups which are the core of Blue Economy.

Equity, access must be part of AI education

(Gns).

Across India's vast and diverse educational landscape, a silent shift is underway, but not one of replacement or disruption alone. With over 250 million students in schools and many more in higher education, the narrative that Artificial Intelligence (AI) will simply enter and transform Indian education is not just simplistic; it's grossly misleading. It belies a complex reality – as AI enters the ecosystem, India's many education systems will also shape it in return. This is not a story of technology replacing tradition.

It is one of mutual engagement that is fluid, contextual, and necessarily adaptive. Unlike in many countries, India does not have one singular education system. Our learning spaces range from expensive private schools in metropolitans to government-run village classrooms, from digital-first urban universities to informal local knowledge hubs. Each of these responds differently to change, and AI will be no exception. Consequently, AI will not deliver a uniform impact and must be designed to respond to India's plural realities. Just as our classrooms are diverse, so too will be the ways AI is adopted and adapted. Globally, AI is being rapidly integrated into education systems to prepare students for an uncertain future.

According to the World Economic Forum, nearly 40 per cent of core job skills are expected to change in the next five years. Consequently, AI literacy is becoming as important of a building block as reading or arithmetic. It is not only about using technology but also about thriving in a world intensively shaped by it. In this context, India cannot afford to lag. However, our response must be rooted in the understanding that any AI-for-education strategy must mirror the diversity, decentralization, and dynamism of Indian education itself.

India already has the beginnings of a supportive policy environment in the shape of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020. However, to truly succeed, these efforts need to fit different local contexts rather than be copied the same way everywhere. The real test is not whether AI can support education.

It is about how AI will be experienced across India's many learning environments. To understand its true impact, we need to look beyond technical potential and focus on how students, teachers, and communities actually use it

tifying and addressing individual needs. Yet, the impact of such tools in a rural school with limited connectivity versus an urban private institution with tech-savvy staff will vary. A personalized algorithm must also be context-aware. Equally important is how AI is reshaping the role of teachers. Across contexts, educators are moving beyond being content-deliverers to becoming mentors, facilitators, and co-learners. AI can take over administrative tasks like grading or attendance, freeing up teachers to focus on student engagement, critical thinking, and emotional support.

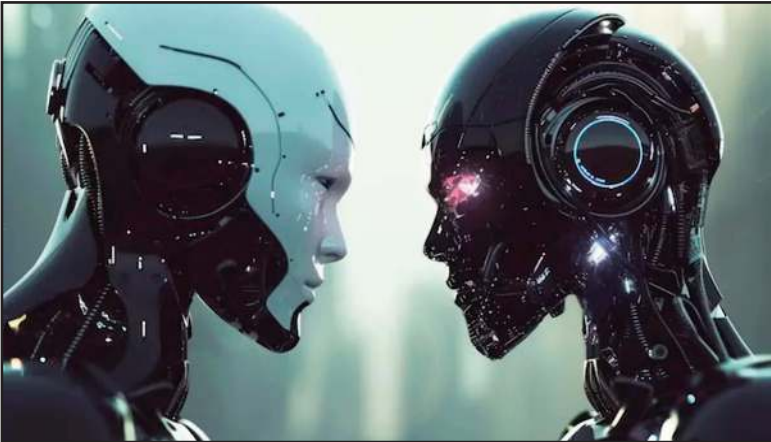
But this transformation cannot be top-down. Teachers must have the agency to shape how they

use these tools in their unique contexts. In a multilingual classroom, for example, teachers may rely on AI-powered translation or speech tools to support their teaching. Outside schools, higher education and lifelong learning are also being reimaged. AI is making continuous learning more accessible, especially through self-paced modules in regional languages. Government initiatives like "AI for All" are already expanding digital literacy to broader audiences. Nonetheless, it is useful to recall that the reception and effectiveness of such programs depend on infrastructure, cultural attitudes, and existing pedagogical traditions in different communities.

This brings us to the most critical concern: equity and access. Technology does not enter a neutral field. Its impact is shaped by, and can reinforce, existing inequalities. Students without reliable internet or devices may be left out, deepening the digital divide. AI tools trained on biased or limited data sets may disadvantage certain linguistic, social, or regional groups. We are already seeing AI being used to translate complex engineering content into Indian languages, but we must go further. Inclusion must be built into the foundation, not added as an afterthought.

To mitigate these risks, ethical oversight and local governance are vital. AI in education must be accountable, and its design and deployment must be transparent and inclusive. Educators, developers, policymakers, and even students must be part of shaping how these tools evolve. India's education transformation will not come from importing readymade solutions. It will require co-creating systems that recognize the diversity of learners and empower teachers to adapt tools meaningfully.

Ultimately, AI in Indian education must be a story of interaction over replacement. Our systems will shape AI just as AI will shape them. This dynamic exchange, rooted in India's diversity, is an important strength. If we combine innovation with local insight, India's classrooms can become models of adaptive, inclusive, and future-ready learning. AI will not transform education for us; we will shape that transformation together, with care and context.



Radhika Muthukumar from COLORS' upcoming show 'Binddii': "Playing Kajal has shifted my understanding of motherhood in ways I didn't expect"

No prison wall is strong enough to cage a mother's spirit. Carrying forward its legacy of fearless and raw sagas, COLORS brings a stirring tale of love, betrayal, and resilience in its new drama Binddii. Born behind bars, Binddii's world begins and ends with her mother Kajal, whose warmth turns a prison cell into her haven. But when fate pulls her into the outside world, she is thrown into a ruthless battle where survival is the only choice. In the heart of Mathura, Binddii discovers the bitter truth, her father Aviraj's lies and mafia don Dayanand Chaudhury's thirst for power shattered her mother's life. As danger looms and enemies circle once again, Binddii must summon the courage to defy them all and fight for her mother's freedom.

Starring Radhika Muthukumar as Kajal, Saachi Bhojar as Binddii, Krushal Ahuja as Aviraj, and Manav Gohil as Dayanand, Binddii premieres on 17th September and will air every Mon-Fri at 8:30 pm on COLORS and JioHotstar.

1. Tell us about the show.

A. Binddii is the saga of a daughter's fight for her imprisoned mother. Born and raised inside prison walls, Binddii's only world is Kajal, whose love turns life behind iron bars into a haven of joy and hope. But their fragile happiness is shattered when the law forces Binddii out, leaving her unprotected and alone in a hostile world she has never known. When her uncle Saurav takes her to his home in Mathura, the past begins to resurface. She discovers that her father, Aviraj deceived Kajal, conspiring with the ruthless mafia don Dayanand Chaudhury for money and power. Determined to right these wrongs, Binddii sets out to educate herself and one day free her mother, but the challenge is that Aviraj and Dayanand are closing in on the mother-daughter. The story rides on her inspiring journey to fight this impossible battle that is skewed in favour of the powerful.

2. What drew you to Binddii and your role in particular?

A. Kajal is one of the most resilient women I've had the chance to play, and you can immediately see where her daughter Binddii gets her grit from. She's gentle and soft on the outside, but there's an inner strength that surprises you. Whatever she takes up, she gives it her all, and if she doesn't know something, she learns it until she masters it. For instance, in prison she became proficient at stitching dresses on a sewing machine, turning even that skill into a small source of dignity. Her responsible nature has earned her loyal friends, both inside the prison and outside, because people trust her heart. She's obedient to jail rules, disciplined about exercise, and even careful with food; she eats less of the jail food because she wants to be healthy for her daughter. She guards Binddii's innocence fiercely. She doesn't want her to know about her father and Dayanand, who have wrecked her life.

3. Kajal's love for her daughter turns even prison walls into a home. How did you prepare to bring such layered strength and warmth to life?

A. When I first read Kajal, the first thing I noted is that she's a mother who turns the bleakest of places into a sanctuary for her child. I wanted Kajal to connect with the audience at an emotional level. So I immersed myself in understanding what life inside prison looks like. I watched documentaries, read firsthand accounts, and even heard women speak of being framed for crimes they didn't commit. What stayed with me most was how, despite injustice and confinement, these women shielded their children from pain, never letting them feel the weight of reality. Being a mother isn't something you can learn from a manual - it's instinctive. All mothers have certain things in common: the endless worries, the constant taunts born of concern and the quiet sacrifices. I drew from my own observations of mothers in everyday life and then shaped Kajal's distinctiveness from the script.

4. This role is about a mother fighting against injustice. Did you draw inspiration from your own experiences or people you've known?

A. Like most of us, I've grown up seeing women constantly silenced, underestimated, and yet pushing forward with remarkable strength. We all know a woman who has fought battles quietly, whether it's a mother, an aunt, or a neighbour, raising her children in tough circumstances, but with her dignity intact. When I play Kajal, I think of those women, extraordinary in spirit, even if they don't make the headlines. Growing up, most of us don't fully realise what our parents fight for us. It's only later in life that we look back

underestimated, and yet pushing forward with remarkable strength. We all know a woman who has fought battles quietly, whether it's a mother, an aunt, or a neighbour, raising her children in tough circumstances, but with her dignity intact. When I play Kajal, I think of those women, extraordinary in spirit, even if they don't make the headlines. Growing up, most of us don't fully realise what our parents fight for us. It's only later in life that we look back

me to switch between two headspaces – one that worries for her child's life beyond prison and one that goes all out for her happiness. It gave me a perspective on the freedom we often take for granted.

7. What do you hope mothers across India take away from Kajal's story?

A. I hope mothers see themselves in Kajal's fight. She is a woman pushed into extraordinary circumstances and still finding the strength to rise. I think it will resonate with mothers who feel unheard or undervalued. Kajal represents the massive force of a mother's love.

8. In today's India, where many women continue to face invisible shackles of societal judgment even outside prison walls, what message does Binddii hold for them?

A. The message is that shackles, whether inside prison or outside, are meant to be broken. Kajal and Binddii show that love, education, and resilience are tools of freedom. I believe many women will see a reflection of themselves in Kajal because many of us know what it feels like to be caged by rules, by family, or by society. This show tells them: you don't have to accept that cage. You can push back, and fight for freedom to make a world of your own.

Radhika Muthukumar from COLORS' upcoming show 'Binddii': "Playing Kajal has shifted my understanding of motherhood in ways I didn't expect"

No prison wall is strong enough to cage a mother's spirit. Carrying forward its legacy of fearless and raw sagas, COLORS brings a stirring tale of love, betrayal, and resilience in its new drama Binddii. Born behind bars, Binddii's world begins and ends with her mother Kajal, whose warmth turns a prison cell into her haven. But when fate pulls her into the outside world, she is thrown into a ruthless battle where survival is the only choice. In the heart of Mathura, Binddii discovers the bitter truth, her father

Central Railway Announces Special Traffic & Power Block Between Kharbao–Juichandra On 22 Sept

(Gns). Trial runs for the 10.5-km Cadbury Junction-Gaimukh section in Thane are set to begin on Monday, nearly a month after the first train coaches for Mumbai Metro Line 4 were lowered onto the tracks. The trials mark the first phase of operations for the 32.3-km-long Metro Line 4, also known as the Green Line, along with its extension, Metro 4A. Once completed, the corridor will connect Wadala to Kasarvadavali via Ghatkopar, providing a vital link between Mumbai and its eastern suburbs. The Mumbai Metropolitan Region Development Authority (MMRDA) has set a year-end target for commencing passenger services.

Trial runs for the 10.5-km Cadbury Junction-Gaimukh section of Mumbai Metro Line 4 are scheduled to start Monday, connecting Wadala to Kasarvadavali, with passenger services planned by year-end; Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis is expected at the inauguration. Meanwhile, the Central Railway will conduct a Special Traffic and Power Block between Kharbao and Juichandra on September 22 from midnight to 4 AM affecting several trains.

The inauguration ceremony for the trial runs is

expected to be attended by Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis, along with Deputy Chief Ministers Eknath Shinde and Ajit Pawar, according to a report by the Indian Express.

Central Railway Announces Special Traffic & Power Block Between Kharbao & Juichandra on 22 September

The Central Railway, Mumbai Division, will conduct a Special Traffic and Power Block for the launch of an Open Web Girder at Kharbao RFO (Kms 66/25-31) between Kharbao and Juichandra. The block will be in effect from 00:00 to 04:00 hours on the midnight of Sunday to Monday, affecting both UP and DOWN main lines.

Train regulation during the block:

11049 Ahmedabad-Kolhapur Express will be regulated from 03:30 to 04:00 at Vasai Road.

22193 Daund-Gwalior Superfast Express will be regulated from 03:49 to 04:00 at Bhiwandi Road.

12297 Ahmedabad-Pune Durgam Express may experience a delay of 10-15 minutes.

The block is essential for infrastructure maintenance and safety. Passengers are requested to bear with the Railway Administration for any inconvenience caused.

Most H-1B Visa Holders Earn Less Than Their Visa Fees

(Gns). US President Donald Trump has introduced significant changes to the H1B visa programme, which could severely impact India. The new \$100,000 fee for H1B visas is higher than the median annual salary of new visa holders and exceeds 80% of the average salary for all H1B workers. This change poses a substantial challenge to Indo-US relations, potentially more damaging than the 50% tariffs on Indian exports.

US President Donald Trump implemented a new H1B visa fee of \$100,000, significantly impacting India, which received 71% of the 399,395 approved visas in 2024, and introduced a gold-card visa scheme costing \$1 million or \$2 million. These changes could strain Indo-US relations and potentially end the H1B program, as fees now exceed median annual salaries.

The Financial Times explains that the six-figure application fee, as stated by US Secretary of Commerce Howard Lutnick, requires employers to pay annually. Previously, the government charged \$215 for lottery registration and an additional \$780 for sponsoring applicants. A White House executive order mentions this as an application fee without specifying an annual payment.

Impact on India and Other Countries

India has historically been the largest beneficiary of H1B visas. In 2024, Indians received 71% of the 399,395 approved visas, while China followed with only 11.7%. The new fee structure will likely affect India more than any other country. The cost is now comparable to or even exceeds a full year's salary

for many H1B employees.

The Trump administration has also introduced a gold-card visa scheme. Individuals and corporations can pay \$1 million or \$2 million for a US visa, equating to approximately ₹9 crore and ₹18 crore in Indian currency. This initiative adds another layer of complexity to obtaining US visas.

Potential Consequences of New Visa Fees

The recent announcement suggests that these changes might effectively end the H1B programme. With fees surpassing the annual salaries of most visa holders, applications may decline significantly. For first-time employment seekers under this visa category, the cost now exceeds their potential earnings.

A report from US Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) in 2025 highlighted that the median wage for initial H1B employment was \$97,000. Continuing visas had a slightly higher median wage of \$132,000, averaging around \$120,000 overall. With fees exceeding these figures, it's unlikely many will apply.

Trump's decision could have far-reaching implications beyond just financial burdens. It may strain diplomatic ties between India and the US further. As one of India's key economic partners, such policies could lead to broader geopolitical tensions.

This development marks a significant shift in US immigration policy under Trump's leadership. While he often revises his decisions, this move indicates a potential end to a programme that has long benefited skilled workers worldwide.

PoK Terror Bases Relocate to Khyber Pakhtunkhwa After India's Operation Sindoor

(Gns). Following India's Operation Sindoor in May 2025, the pattern of terrorist activities in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) has changed substantially, according to PTI. These reports indicate that groups like Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM) and Hizbul Mujahideen (HM), reportedly supported by Pakistan, are relocating their bases to Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KPK). Experts cited in the media suggest this is a strategic move rather than just a reaction to Indian strikes.

PoK Terror Bases Relocate to Khyber Pakhtunkhwa After India's Operation Sindoor

Following India's Operation Sindoor in May 2025, terrorist groups like Jaish-e-Mohammed and

organisations are transferring operations to KPK, reports add.

Operation Sindoor: Targets and Impact

On 7 May 2025, the Indian Air Force and Army launched Operation Sindoor, targeting nine major terrorist sites in Pakistan and PoK, media reports say. Key locations reportedly included:

According to reports, at least 100 terrorists were killed. The Markaz Tayyaba camp is notorious for training terrorists like Ajmal Kasab and David Headley, involved in the 2008 Mumbai attacks. Indian forces also reportedly dismantled bases in Sialkot, Muzaffarabad, Kotli, Bhimber, and other areas.

Between 7 and 10 May, reports say 13 Pakistani military installations and airbases were targeted.

Recruitment Drive in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

Media reports indicate that Pakistan's government machinery is allegedly aiding the relocation of these groups. Organisations like JeM reportedly hold public gatherings under police protection, while political-religious groups such as Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam (JUI) are covertly involved.

Recently, JeM reportedly conducted a large recruitment drive in Garhi Habibullah, Mansehra district, KPK, just hours before an India-Pakistan Asia Cup cricket match. While presented as a religious event, reports say it served as a recruitment campaign for new fighters.



Union Minister of Commerce and Industry launches Logistics Data Bank (LDB) 2.0 to boost India's digital trade and export competitiveness

(Gns). On the occasion of the decade-long celebrations of Make in India, the Union Minister of Commerce and Industry, Shri Piyush Goyal, today in New Delhi launched Logistics Data Bank (LDB) 2.0, advancing India's journey toward a digitally empowered, investment-ready, and export-competitive economy. Shri Goyal said that LDB 2.0 will provide critical insights into the availability of facilities and infrastructure across the logistics ecosystem. The system will enable real-time tracking and assessment of logistics performance, supporting better planning, higher efficiency, and cost reduction. He added that the initiative will serve as an important tool for both industry and government to strengthen

competitiveness, improve supply chain management, and make logistics in India more efficient and business-friendly.

Developed by NICDC Logistics Data Services (NLDSL), LDB 2.0 is a significantly enhanced logistics tracking platform that enables export container tracking on high seas along with multi-modal shipment visibility. The platform strengthens India's digital trade infrastructure, supports MSMEs and exporters, and reflects the government's commitment to building a transparent, data-driven, and globally competitive logistics ecosystem aligned with the vision of Viksit Bharat @2047.

LDB 2.0 introduces high-seas container tracking, allowing exporters to track containers even after departure from Indian ports across international waters, improving coordination and enhancing credibility in global markets. It also offers multi-modal visibility across road, rail, and sea using container, truck, or trailer numbers, as well as railway FNRs through integration with Unified



MAIDEN BILATERAL MARITIME EXERCISE BETWEEN INDIAN NAVY AND HELLENIC NAVY CONCLUDES IN THE MEDITERRANEAN

(Gns). The maiden edition of the bilateral maritime exercise between the Indian Navy and the Hellenic Navy concluded on 18 Sep 2025 in the Mediterranean Sea, marking an important milestone in the growing defence cooperation between India and Greece. The exercise was conducted in two phases - a harbour phase held from 13 to 17 Sep 2025 at Salamis Naval Base, followed by the sea phase on 17 and 18 Sep 2025. The Indian Navy was represented by guided missile stealth frigate INS Trikanth.

During the harbour phase, personnel of both navies engaged in a wide range of activities aimed at fostering mutual understanding and synergy. Key events included cross-deck

visits to strengthen operational familiarity, professional interactions between the crew and a pre-sail conference conducted onboard HS Themistokles, Elli class frigate of the Hellenic Navy. During a cultural exchange onboard, the ship hosted His Excellency Mr. Rudrendra Tandon, Ambassador of India to Greece, Commodore Spyridon Mantis, Commander, Salamis Naval Base and senior officers of the Hellenic Navy and their families. The event showcased India's rich traditions and strengthened bonds between the two maritime forces. Additionally, the ship's crew visited the Sacred Rock of Acropolis.

The sea phase witnessed complex maritime manoeuvres and tactical exercises between units of both navies, which included night VBSS operations,



Data User's Conference on the Time Use Survey (TUS), 2024

(Gns). The National Statistics Office (NSO), Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI), Government of India, in collaboration with Centre for Development Studies (CDS), Thiruvananthapuram, is organising a Data User's Conference on Time Use Survey (TUS), 2024 on 22nd September, 2025 at Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala. This conference seeks to strengthen the dialogue between data producers and users, enabling deeper insights into the significance and applications of TUS data for socio-economic policymaking.

Time Use Survey (TUS) provides valuable information on how individuals allocate their time to various paid and unpaid activities, care work, learning and leisure. The TUS 2024 builds on the earlier survey of 2019 and provides comparative evidence to track

changes in work and life patterns in India, particularly in the context of gender roles, and evolving socio-economic dynamics.

The Inaugural Session of the Conference will be graced by distinguished dignitaries Shri K. M. Chandrasekhar, Former Cabinet Secretary, Dr. Saurabh Garg, IAS, Secretary, Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, Dr. Indira Hirway, Former Director, Centre for Development Alternatives, Prof. Veeramani, Director, Centre for Development Studies (CDS) and Ms. Geeta Singh Rathore, Director General, National Sample Survey (NSS).

The event will host approximately 175 participants, comprising researchers, economists, policymakers, representa-



Department of Consumer Affairs, GoI, enables GST grievance redressal on National Consumer Helpline (NCH) as part of Next-Gen GST

(Gns). The Department of Consumer Affairs has taken steps to align the National Consumer Helpline (NCH) with the Next-Gen GST Reforms 2025 approved during the 56th meeting of the GST Council chaired by the Union Finance Minister and in line with the vision articulated by the Hon'ble Prime Minister in his Independence Day 2025 address.

To address the expected consumer queries and complaints on NCH following the implementation of revised GST charges, rates and exemptions effective from 22.09.2025, a dedicated category has been enabled on the INGRAM portal. This category features major sub-categories including Automobiles, Banking, Consumer Durables, E-commerce, FMCG and others wherein GST related complaints will be registered.

In preparation for this initiative, an inaugural training session by Central Board of Indirect Taxes & Customs (CBIC) officials was conducted on 11.09.2025 to equip NCH counsellors to handle GST related queries and grievances effectively. Recently, a stakeholder consultation meeting was convened under the chairpersonship of Secretary (Consumer Affairs) on 17.09.2025 with participation from leading e-commerce platforms, representatives of industry associations and consumer durables companies. During the meeting, participants were urged to pass on the benefits of GST rate reductions on specified goods and services to consumers.

The helpline will also share data and insights generated from consumer complaints under this sector with concerned companies, CBIC and other concerned authorities to enable timely action under relevant laws. This initiative is expected to strengthen GST compliance and promote a participatory governance model by empowering consumers to become active stakeholders in fair market practices.

The National Consumer Helpline (www.consumer-helpline.gov.in) has emerged as a single point of access for consumers across the country to register grievances at the pre-litigation stage. Consumers can now lodge their complaints in 17 languages (including Hindi, English, Kashmiri, Punjabi, Nepali, Gujarati, Marathi, Kannada, Telugu, Tamil, Malayalam, Maithili, Santhali, Bengali, Odia, Assamese, and Manipuri) via toll-free number 1915 or through the Integrated Grievance Redressal Mechanism (INGRAM). This omnichannel IT-enabled platform supports multiple registration modes including WhatsApp, SMS, email, NCH app, web portal and Umang app providing convenience and flexibility to consumers.

Over the years, NCH has grown into a robust ecosystem collaborating with 1,142 convergence partners till date comprising private companies, regulators, ombudsmen and government agencies, thereby enabling centralized and faster grievance resolution. Each complaint is assigned a unique docket number for transparent tracking and resolution. The platform currently receives over one lakh complaints per month reflecting the growing consumer trust.

The technological transformation of the NCH has significantly boosted its call-handling capacity. The number of calls received by NCH has grown more than tenfold from 12,553 in

Ministries/Departments of Government of India Actively Undertaking Preparatory Phase Activities for Special Campaign 5.0

(Gns). The Special Campaign 5.0 launched by the Government, with Department of Administrative Reforms & Public Grievances as the nodal department, has gained significant momentum in its preparatory phase. The Special Campaign 5.0 will enter the implementation phase from 2nd October to 31st October 2025, preceded by Preparatory Phase from 15th September 2025 to 30th September, 2025.

During this phase, Ministries/Departments, nominated nodal officers in each of their campaign offices in attached / subordinate offices/ PSUs / autonomous organizations and trained them on their roles in the campaign. It involved various activities

such as mobilizing field functionaries, identifying pending references, finalizing the list of offices for Swachhata Campaign, assessing the volume of electronic/ automobile/ office scrap to be disposed and finalizing the procedures for their disposal. They also undertook plans for enhancement of office spaces, digitization practices, procedures for scrap disposal, sanitation protocols, inclusivity measures and record management practices for weeding of records and preservation of historical records.

The progress of Special Campaign 5.0 is monitored through a dedicated web-portal (<https://scdpm.nic.in/spe>



cialcampaign5/). All Ministries/Departments are to upload targets for the Preparatory phase of the Campaign on the Special Campaign 5.0 web portal. The preparatory phase began on 15th September 2025. Notably, the National Archives of India will conduct a 'Sushasan aur Abhilekh Exhibition' from 10th-14th October 2025 as part of Special Campaign 5.0. This exhibition will focus on the historical evolution of various central Ministries and showcase important archival records contributed by these Ministries.

The Third Meeting with Nodal Officers of Special Campaign 5.0 for Swachhata and Disposal of Pending Matters was held

Tourism success must be matched with industry: Omar Abdullah

(Gns). Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Saturday emphasized the need to complement Jammu and Kashmir's tourism success story with an equally robust industrial growth, calling upon industry leaders to view J&K as a viable and promising investment destination.

Addressing the 4th meeting of the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) Northern Regional Council 2025-26, held in Srinagar, the Chief Minister acknowledged that while the focus in recent months has largely been on tourism, industrial growth has not received the same attention. He assured stakeholders that the government is determined to correct this imbalance by strengthening the investment ecosystem across Jammu and Kashmir.

"Tourism is one part of our growth story, but the other part that requires equal attention is industrialisation," Omar Abdullah said while interacting with business leaders.

"Jammu and Kashmir remains an attractive place for investment despite challenges, and we are committed to making it easier and more rewarding for industry to operate here," Omar said.

The Chief Minister presented an overview of

ongoing investments and incentives in J&K, noting that industrial hubs such as Kathua, Samba, Bari Brahmana in Jammu, and Laspiora in Kashmir continue to attract the highest inflow of capital.

He underlined recent government efforts to simplify procedures, while candidly admitting gaps in the single-window clearance system,

"We must ensure that our 'single window' is truly a single window, not one that leads to a ventilator, then an exhaust fan, and eventually nowhere. I have directed the Industries Department to engage directly with recent investors and learn from their experiences to fix this system once and for all."

The Chief Minister highlighted J&K's comparative advantages: cheaper land and electricity than neighbouring regions, GST reimbursement benefits, and availability of skilled labour. He encouraged manufacturers to explore J&K for investment in certain investor-friendly sectors which offer competitive advantage and to weigh their options in the wake of new GST rate slabs.

On the perception-versus-reality gap about peace and security in the region, Omar Abdullah said, "J&K

today is calm, peaceful, and open for business. Yes, there have been difficult times, but those are behind us. Tragic incidents like the one at Pahalgam are aber-



ations, not the norm, and every step is being taken to prevent their recurrence."

The Chief Minister urged investors to look beyond subsidy-driven models and invest in sectors where J&K has inherent strengths. He cited examples from agriculture, horticulture, and dairy production, noting that only 4% of milk in Kashmir is processed, compared to 80% in Gujarat.

"This is a ready-made opportunity for value addition. We produce the raw material, we have the market, and yet we underutilise our potential. The same is true for other sectors where J&K can provide both raw materials and skilled manpower," Omar said.

Calling unemployment a pressing challenge, he stressed that the state cannot continue to rely only on

government jobs.

"Industrialisation and tourism together must create new employment avenues for our youth," he asserted.

The Chief Minister encouraged candid feedback from CII members so that the government will work on shortcomings, if any.

"Those of you investing in J&K, tell us what went well and what hasn't. Those of you who are reluctant, tell us why not—and if it is within our power, we will address it. Your feedback is critical to shaping a business-friendly future here," he added.

Among others who addressed the gathering were CII Northern Region Chairperson Anjali Singh, CII Delhi State Council Chairman Puneet Kaura, Vice Chairman CII J&K Council MA Alim and CII Northern Region Director Rachna Jindal.

The event witnessed wide participation from industry leaders across the region.

The Chief Minister thanked CII for organising the meeting in Srinagar and reaffirmed his government's commitment to facilitate investment, promote value addition and build a sustainable industrial ecosystem in Jammu and Kashmir.

Odisha industry body expresses concern over imposition of export duty on low grade iron ore

(Gns). The Utkal Chamber of Commerce & Industry Limited (UCCIL), espousing Odisha's industry and trade interests, on Saturday urged the Odisha Government to protect the state's iron ore mining industry.

Such a measure will inevitably destroy the sector, cause a collective loss of over 16200 cr to the exchequer of mining predominant states and endanger livelihoods of over 5 lac mining dependents across the states, it said.

In a letter to the Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi, the Chamber referred to a high-level meeting held on 26 August in New Delhi.

The meeting was chaired by the Union Minister of Commerce and Industry and also attended by the State Government officials.

The Chamber reiterated its full commitment to supporting this national vision. However, UCCIL has also highlighted in the communication to the Chief Minister that subsequent deliberations by the committees constituted on this matter are exploring a range of measures, including the possible imposition of export duty on low-grade

iron ore (Fe < 58%). This development has raised serious concerns

sustainability and social contribution. In 2022, a similar duty



within Odisha's mining ecosystem, given the likely economic and social fallout such a policy could trigger.

In its detailed submission, the Chamber has highlighted that any such move would adversely affect not just state revenues but also the viability of mining operations and the livelihoods of thousands dependent on the sector, particularly in remote and economically vulnerable regions.

According to industry estimates and data models, the imposition of the proposed export duties on low-grade iron ore could result in a loss of over ₹10,000 crore annually to Odisha's exchequer.

The Odisha Mining Corporation (OMC) alone is projected to suffer a revenue loss of approximately ₹5,700 crore, significantly undermining its operational

imposed on low-grade ore was swiftly rolled back within six months after it led to losses exceeding Rs 12,000 crore for the state and failed to achieve its intended policy outcomes. The letter cautioned that repeating such a measure would result in avoidable and irreversible economic damage for the state.

This is particularly concerning as mining predominant regions in Odisha are also those with dire socio-economic needs.

Also, in iron ore mining, only 25–30% of extracted material is high-grade lumps suitable for immediate domestic use. The remaining 70–75% comprises fines, largely below the 58% Fe threshold, which are not utilisable by Odisha's MSME or steel sectors.

These fines, if not exported, contribute to

growing mine head stockpiles, which now exceed 180 million tonnes, according to the Indian Bureau of Mines and Ministry of Commerce & Industry.

With no domestic shortage of iron ore for steel-making, the rationale for imposing a blanket export duty on low-grade ore appears misaligned with ground realities. Domestic steel producers primarily consume high-grade ore: lumps (>60% Fe), fines (>60% Fe), and pellets (>62–63% Fe), leaving low-grade ore with limited or no domestic takers.

Export, therefore, remains the only viable economic outlet for low-grade fines—crucial for freeing up space, preventing environmental degradation, and generating foreign exchange.

Another critical dimension is that post the 2021 MMDR Amendment, merchant mines were granted through the government's auction process. Bidders committed substantial premiums based on prevailing terms, which did not indicate any additional export levies or duties. Any retrospective imposition could render these mining operations financially unviable and erode investor confidence in the auction regime.

Hope Comes Home: Traya's First Offline 'Hope Stories' Edition Begins in Lucknow

Traya, Lucknow, India's leading holistic hair health brand, launched the first offline edition of its digital series 'Hope Stories' in Lucknow. The series, which began online, shares real journeys of individuals who overcame hair loss with Traya's treatments. Taking it offline marks an effort to build a deeper connection with customers, starting from one of Traya's key markets — Lucknow. For years, Hope Stories have been shared online, creating a strong community of inspiration and transformation. With the Lucknow edition, Traya brought that same warmth and authenticity into an offline space, where customers, media, and influencers came together to celebrate real stories of courage and re-growth.

Lucknow has shown unique patterns compared to other cities. According to Traya's internal research, nearly 95% of Indians never seek professional help for hair-related issues and rely on home remedies for years until they find a structured solution. But what sets Lucknow apart is the discipline of its cus-

tomers once they begin treatment with Traya. Users

Traya exists — to always keep our customers at the



here not only consistently follow their treatment but also actively engage with their hair coaches and commit long-term to their plans. This dedication has led to some of Traya's strongest success stories, making Lucknow one of its fastest-growing Tier-2 markets in the past 2–3 years.

Speaking about the experience, Traya's founder Saloni Anand said, "Hosting the first offline edition of Traya Hope Stories has been an incredibly humbling and memorable experience for me. The love and energy we received directly from people once again proved why

center. Through these offline connections, our aim is to transform more lives and inspire many others. Traya's three-science approach is not just about solving hair loss, but about helping people regain their confidence and reconnect with themselves, especially at times when hair health feels like it is slipping away."

Over the past few years, Traya has transformed the way India approaches hair loss treatment. Traditionally, care in this space was fragmented, with people having to choose between dermatology, Ayurveda, or nutrition — since no integrated solutions were available.

Traya pioneered a unique three-science approach, blending modern dermatology, Ayurvedic wisdom, and nutritional support into a personalized, results-driven plan. Every journey begins with a simple online hair test that identifies root causes — whether stress, gut health, sleep cycles, or hormonal imbalance. Based on these insights, Traya creates a customized kit and provides ongoing guidance through expert hair coaches. This unique combination has made treatment not only more accessible to millions but also three times more effective than traditional methods.

Hair health in India is now emerging as a mainstream wellness concern, just like skincare and fitness. With rising awareness and timely intervention, people are moving away from temporary fixes and shifting towards holistic, root-cause-driven solutions. Over the next five years, this change will become even more evident, and Traya is leading this transformation — driving conversations that help make hair loss treatment a natural part of self-care.

Divya Khosla and director Umesh Shukla promoted their upcoming film "Ek Chatur Naar" in Lucknow: The city where it all began

Celebrating Lucknow, the city that is the soul of their upcoming film "Ek Chatur Naar," lead actress Divya Khosla and acclaimed director Umesh Shukla visited Lucknow to promote the film. This engaging tour included a series of media interactions with leading local media outlets, where Divya and Umesh Shukla discussed their creative journey, their experiences filming in Lucknow, and the inspiration behind "Ek



Chatur Naar." The duo also visited a popular

Lucknow Metro station, where they interacted with daily commuters, surprised fans, and added a vibrant, local touch to the promotional activities. T-Series presents "A Merry Go Round Studios Production," directed by Umesh Shukla and produced by Umesh Shukla, Ashish Wagh, and Zeeshan Ahmed. "Ek Chatur Naar," starring Divya Khosla and Neil Nitin Mukesh, is now in theaters.

Armed Forces and academia join hands for maiden T-SATS on defence innovation

(Gns). In an effort to foster innovation and deepen collaboration between the Armed Forces and India's academic institutions, a Tri-Services Academia Technology Symposium (T-SATS) will be conducted at the Manekshaw Centre, here from Monday.

Chief of Defence Staff, General Anil Chauhan will inaugurate the two-day event which will also feature an exhibition displaying shortlisted innovations from 222 responses submitted by academic institutions through the official symposium portal.

Organised by the Indian Army under the aegis of Headquarters Integrated Defence Staff, the symposium aims to synergise the Services-Academia R&D

The theme of this maiden symposium is "Vivek va

The event will bring together Directors and Heads of Departments from over 200 top academic and 50 R&D institutions, students from IITs and Tier II & III technical institutes and Subject Matter Experts on Technology Domains from all three Services. It will serve as a vital platform for identifying, discussing and promoting cutting edge research and technological solutions relevant to the operational needs of the Services.

Minister of Education Dharmendra Pradhan, Minister of State for Defence Sanjay Seth and Chief of the Army Staff General Upendra Dwivedi will also attend the symposium.



ecosystem for the development of niche technologies critical to national defence.

Anusandhan se Vijay" – Victory Through Wisdom and Innovation.

BJP slams Prashant Kishor, claims 'political startup' is a front for black money

(Gns). Political strategist-turned-politician Prashant Kishor has come under fire from the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) following a string of allegations he made against senior BJP and JD(U) leaders.

In a sharp counterattack, Bihar BJP Vice-President Santosh Pathak accused Prashant Kishor of running a "fraudulent political startup" aimed at amassing black money through shell and benami (proxy) companies.

"Prashant Kishor has launched a political startup based on fraud, whose primary goal is to generate black money through shell

and proxy firms. The national president of the Jan Suraj Party, Uday Singh, his son Abhinav Singh, proxy president Sharad Mishra, and

Kishor had launched a blistering attack on several senior leaders, including Deputy Chief Minister of Bihar Samrat Choudhary, Health Minister Mangal Pandey, BJP MP Sanjay Jaiswal, and JD(U) leader Ashok Choudhary, accusing them of corruption, misuse of power, and hiding assets.

In response, Pathak questioned the source of the Jan Suraj Party's funds. "People of Bihar want to know, why is Jan Suraj receiving crores in funding from INDIA alliance-ruled states like West Bengal, Telangana, Tamil Nadu,

and Karnataka, even though elections in those states concluded years ago?"

He specifically pointed to alleged funding from West Bengal. "From Bengal alone, Rs371 crore was received, despite elections being held there in 2021. This raises serious suspicions. It appears Jan Suraj is the dark face of the INDIA alliance, working to bring back jungle raj in Bihar."

BJP MP Sanjay Jaiswal also questioned donations received by the Jan Suraj Party from YSR Congress MP Ayodhya Rami Reddy, routed through a financially distressed company.



Prashant Kishor's sisters Priyanka Kishor and Shafeli Kishor have collectively moved hundreds of crores of rupees through dozens of such companies," Pathak alleged.

On Saturday, Prashant

AIMIM chief criticises Modi govt over US H-1B fee hike

(Gns). AIMIM president and Hyderabad MP has severely criticised the foreign policy under Prime Minister Narendra Modi following the hike in the fee of H-1B visa to \$100,000 annually by the US under the Trump government, saying that it was a failure of the current government.

Owaisi is one of the key politicians to speak on the thorny issue from this part of the country, particularly because a large chunk of the visa seekers hail from the two Telugu states, Andhra Pradesh and Telangana. Nasscom has admitted that this will severely impact Indian tech firms. Ever since reports about Trump signing the proclamation broke, the issue has dominated discussions on WhatsApp groups and other social media platforms.

Telangana's industry and IT minister has demanded diplomatic intervention to resolve the issue.

Owaisi blamed the current dispensation, saying that India has sacrificed its long-term gains for domestic posturing. According to him, Telangana and AP dominate the H-1B ecosystem. The H-1B visa holders also contribute significantly to India's \$125 billion remittance inflow. AP and Telangana account for 37 per cent of Indian NRI deposits. He went on to question the government for holding events like 'Howdy Modi' and 'Namaste Trump'. "That the US is putting its relationship with India at risk is proof that it does not care about our strategic value. We are a strategic partner of the US



and if they don't see us as allies, then it is a failure of this government," said Owaisi.

He claimed that India was increasingly being isolated. "The enormous tariffs, the Pakistan-US trade agreement, the Pakistan-Saudi agreement (could not have happened without the US's blessings) and overall, India's vulnerable position in the world. We are in a hostile neighbourhood and increasingly isolated on the global stage," said Owaisi. He pointed out that India has entered into de-dollarisation agreements with over 18 countries and trade payments settlements are being done through rupees.

"We must expand this to trade with all major trading partners. We must not cede an inch to Trump's black-

mail," said the MP. He then questioned the government, saying, "This is not an opportunity for me to score some brownie points. But the government must introspect as to why India is facing such difficulties in foreign policy and national security. Is it because you have reduced these issues to gimmicks? After all, it's not Modi who suffers but common Indians."

Telangana IT and industries minister D Sridhar Babu questioned why the Indian government was silent on the issue, pointing out that without timely diplomatic action, India will face serious losses. The Government of India should engage with the US on this issue. He said the move would harm Telangana and other Southern states and demanded temporary relief to H-1B visa holders.