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Bihar Polls 2025: NDA Seat-Sharing Talks To Conclude After Dussehra, Says Jitan Ram Manjhi

(Gns).
The National Democratic Alliance (NDA) has not yet settled on a seat-sharing agreement for the upcoming Bihar assembly elections, according to Union Minister Jitan Ram Manjhi. Manjhi, who leads the Hindustani Awam Morcha (Secular), mentioned that more clarity is expected Dussehra, celebrated on October 2. This delay comes amid ongoing discussions among NDA leaders.

Reports suggest that the NDA faces challenges in finalising the seat-sharing arrangement. The Lok Janshakti Party (LJP), led by Chirag Paswan, is demanding 40 seats. However, the Bharatiya

Janata Party (BJP) has offered only 25 constituencies. The LJP continues to hint at its desire to contest



more seats, adding complexity to negotiations.

Union Minister Jitan Ram Manjhi stated that the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) has not yet finalized its seat-sharing

agreement for the upcoming Bihar assembly elections, with more clarity expected after Dussehra

on October 2, while the Lok Janshakti Party (LJP) is demanding 40 seats. In the 2020 elections, BJP and JD-U had a 121:122 seat-sharing formula. In the previous 2020

assembly elections, the BJP and Janata Dal-United (JD-U) agreed on a 121:122 seat-sharing formula. From its share of 121 seats, the BJP allocated 11 to Mukesh Sahani's Vikassheel Insaan Party (VIP). This time, VIP is part of the Mahagathbandhan alliance. Meanwhile, JD-U gave seven seats to HAM from its quota.

Manjhi's Concerns and Clarifications
Jitan Ram Manjhi recently expressed feeling "humiliated" due to HAM's lack of "recognised party" status even after a decade since its inception. This sparked speculation that HAM might seek more seats in the upcoming elections.

VP Radhakrishnan Highlights 'Dharma' as Unifying Force at Unmesha Literature Festival

(Gns).
Vice President CP Radhakrishnan on Sunday emphasised the significance of 'dharma' in maintaining unity across India's diverse linguistic regions. Addressing the valedictory session of the third edition of Unmesha – International Literature Festival in Patna, as the Chief Guest, Radhakrishnan stated that despite the country's varied languages, 'dharma' serves as a common thread that binds the nation together, fostering unity and social harmony.

The event, which was also attended among others by Governor Arif Mohammed Khan, Deputy Chief Minister Vijay Kumar

Sinha, and Tourism Minister Raju Kumar Singh, showcased the rich cultural heritage of India through literary discussions and per-

formance. During his address, Radhakrishnan also reflected on his past involvement

with socialist leader Jayaprakash Narayan and shared his camaraderie with Governor Arif Mohammad Khan, high-



participation in the Sampoorna Kranti movement and his role as a district general secretary.

The Unmesha International Literature Festival, organised by Sahitya Akademi and the Ministry of Culture, provided a platform for writers, poets, and intellectuals to share their perspectives on literature, culture, and society. Radhakrishnan expressed optimism that the festival would continue to inspire future generations of writers and thinkers. The festival showcased India's rich cultural heritage through literary discussions and performances. The festival provided a platform for writers.

Mithun Manhas Appointed New BCCI President, Succeeds Roger Binny

(Gns).
Mithun Manhas has been appointed as the new president of the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI). The decision was finalised during the annual general meeting held at the BCCI headquarters. Manhas, a former cricketer associated with the Jammu Cricket Association, replaces Roger Binny in this role.

Manhas, born in Jammu and Kashmir, has had an extensive cricketing career. He played most of his matches for Delhi and captained the team in the Ranji Trophy. Over his career, he participated in 157 first-class matches, scoring

9,700 runs. Additionally, he played for teams like Delhi Daredevils (now Delhi Capitals), Pune Warriors,



and Chennai Super Kings in the IPL.

Mithun Manhas, former cricketer, has been

appointed as the new president of the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI), succeeding Roger

Binny, while Rajeev Shukla remains vice-president, and this decision was finalised during the annual gen-

eral meeting at the BCCI headquarters.

Switch To Shorts
Mithun Manhas Appointed New BCCI President Succeeds Roger Binny

Mithun Manhas: A Prolific Domestic Career
Manhas made his debut in first-class cricket during the 1997-98 season. As a right-handed batsman, he occasionally bowled arm-spin when needed. Throughout his career, he amassed 9,714 runs in first-class cricket with 27 centuries and 49 half-centuries. In List-A cricket, he played 130 matches and appeared in 91 T20 games.

He should respond to our questions. This copycat government is imitating my vision, but without presenting any clear data or concrete plans for implementation."

Referring to corruption scandals under the NDA regime in Bihar, Tejashwi said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi himself had mentioned 32 scams under Nitish Kumar's leadership during an earlier speech. Showing that video to journalists, Tejashwi asked, "Why is the PRIME MINISTER now silent on those scams? Where are the CBI, ED, and other investigative agencies? Has the money been recovered? Has anyone been punished?"

Bihar sitting on a time bomb of corruption and unemployment, says Tejashwi Yadav

(Gns).
Leader of the Opposition in the Bihar Assembly Tejashwi Prasad Yadav said while the state is sitting on a time bomb of corruption and unemployment, the state government is attempting to bribe voters ahead of the crucial Assembly elections. However, he asserted that the people of Bihar would not fall for this trap.

Accusing the NDA government in the state of using welfare schemes as an election gimmick, Tejashwi alleged by transferring Rs 10,000 each into the bank accounts of 75 lakh women, the 20-year-old NDA government is trying to buy votes days

before the elections. "After ruling for 20 years, the double-engine government has robbed Bihar's youth of both their present and future. Now, they're trying to cover up their failures with last-minute handouts under the Women Employment Scheme. But the people of Bihar will not be fooled by this conspiracy," he said.

"When our government comes to power, we will provide Rs 30,000 annually to women and ensure economic justice," he promised.

Addressing Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, Tejashwi said, "You keep making announcements, but you're putting more financial burden on the

public. Why don't you reveal that the state is paying Rs 65 crore daily from



the treasury in the form of debt?"

He continued by saying, "If Nitish Kumar is not unconscious or indifferent,

Rahul accuses BJP, RSS of attacking Ladakh's people, their culture

(Gns).
Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, accusing the BJP and the RSS of attacking Ladakh's people, and culture & traditions on Sunday, claimed that the people of Ladakh were demanding a voice.

In a post on handle X, Gandhi demanded that Ladakh be granted the 6th Schedule status, which would grant autonomous district councils control over land use, forests, and water resources.

The protests that began for a peaceful demand for statehood and constitutional safeguards turned violent, resulting in the death of four young men and

injuries to over 70 others and the jailing of Sonam Wangchuk

"Give Ladakh a voice. Give them the 6th Schedule," Rahul Gandhi urged, emphasizing the need for greater autonomy and protection of the region's unique identity. The 6th Schedule of the Indian Constitution grants autonomous district councils control over land use, forests, and water resources, which is a key demand of the people of Ladakh.

The violence erupted during a shutdown called by the Leh Apex Body (LAB) to press for statehood and the extension of the Sixth Schedule to Ladakh. Climate activist Sonam Wangchuk, who had been on a hunger strike for 15 days, called off his fast after the violence broke out. Wangchuk's NGO, Students Educational and Cultural Movement of Ladakh (SECMOL), had its FCRA license cancelled by the Home Ministry, sparking

further controversy.

Key demands include: Ladakhis are demanding full statehood, citing neglect and betrayal by the central government. The region seeks constitutional safeguards to protect its land, resources, and cultural identity. The protesters wanted to stop outsiders from buying property in Ladakh, preserving traditional livelihoods.

The situation remains tense even while the government has assured that the situation is under control. However, the protesters continue to demand justice and greater autonomy.

Deeply saddened to hear about Karur stampede: Telangana CM Revanth Reddy

(Gns).
Telangana Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy on Sunday condoled the loss of many precious lives in a rally addressed by Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK) president and actor Vijay in Karur, Tamil Nadu. As many as 39 people were killed in the tragedy.

In a post shared on X, Reddy said, "Deeply saddened to hear about the tragic stampede in #Karur that led to loss of many precious lives. My heartfelt condolences to the bereaved families."

Meanwhile, Director General of Police (DGP) in charge of Tamil Nadu, G Venkatraman, noted that earlier rallies of Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam TVK had "smaller crowds", but this time the turnout was "far higher" than expected a day after 38 people died at a rally addressed by TVK president and actor Vijay in Karur, Tamil Nadu.

DGP Venkatraman stated that the "reality" is that the crowd had already been "waiting for hours

himself appreciated the police for their role but stressed that party cadres must take responsibility for

He also said that police personnel were deployed in large numbers at the venue where Vijay was scheduled to address.

"This is a deeply tragic incident. So far, 38 people have died: 12 men, 16 women, and 10 children (five boys and five girls). Following the incident, we reviewed the steps that the police should take...Earlier rallies of TVK had smaller crowds, but this time the turnout was far higher than expected. Though organisers had requested a large ground in Karur, anticipating about 10,000 people, nearly 27,000 gathered. At the campaign venue where Vijay was to address the public, 500-plus police personnel were on duty"

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin visited the Government Medical College and Hospital late on Saturday night and met with those injured in Saturday's stampede.



without sufficient food and water", as Vijay arrived few hours late at the venue.

"The permission for the meeting was given for 3 pm to 10 pm, but crowds started assembling as early as 11 am. By the time Vijay arrived at 7:40 pm., the crowd had already been waiting for hours without sufficient food and water. That is the reality. Vijay

crowd management. It does not mean the police should deploy numbers equal to the entire crowd of 27,000. The reasons behind the tragic incident will be revealed only after the inquiry. A one-person commission has already been established. Until then, I cannot comment further on it," DGP told reporters.

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Editorial

Credibility Eroded

The recent decision by the United States to raise the H-1B visa fee to an unprecedented \$100,000 per worker is another reminder of how disruptive economic nationalism can be when it collides with the realities of a global economy. Since Donald Trump returned to the White House for a second term, disruption has become the new normal in Washington's engagement with the world. During this term, Trump has weaponised tariffs as a blunt instrument to penalise exporting countries and raise revenue for the United States.

India was among the major sufferers when he imposed an extra 25 per cent tariff because of Indian purchases of Russian oil. While New Delhi was still negotiating those tariffs, Trump has now targeted a different pillar of the India-U.S. economic relationship by drastically increasing the fee for H-1B visas. This time the services sector, particularly the technology industry, finds itself in the crosshairs. The logic behind Trump's policies is rooted in the economic nationalism that fuels his "Make America Great Again" movement.

Tariffs, he argued, would push global manufacturers to relocate production to the United States, restoring jobs to American workers. But the experience of the past few years shows that such structural changes do not happen overnight, nor can they be engineered by presidential decree. Global supply chains are complex, and companies shift production only when conditions are suitable and costs make sense. The result of Trump's tariff wars was not a wave of factories returning to the United States, but rather higher costs for American consumers and retaliatory measures by trading partners.

The same flawed reasoning underpins the decision to make the H-1B visa prohibitively expensive. Trump and his supporters believe that by pricing foreign workers out of the market, U.S. companies will be forced to hire more Americans. Yet the H-1B programme exists because there are not enough qualified American workers to fill many high-skill positions, particularly in technology. For decades, the United States has attracted some of the world's best engineers, scientists, and programmers through this visa. Imposing a \$100,000 fee is unlikely to create a pool of homegrown talent overnight.

Instead, it will create chaos for businesses, raise costs, and potentially drive innovation away from American shores. Even within Trump's own political base, there is recognition of the value that H-1B visa holders bring to the U.S. economy. Elon Musk, who has often been sympathetic to the MAGA movement, has publicly supported the programme, describing it as a crucial way to attract global talent. Tech entrepreneurs know that the vibrancy of Silicon Valley and other innovation hubs depends on the ability to recruit the best minds, regardless of nationality.

Making it prohibitively expensive for companies to sponsor these workers risks undermining one of America's greatest competitive advantages. The proclamation, which took effect on September 21, raises the annual H-1B fee from the current \$2,000-5,000 to an extraordinary \$100,000. Initially, the sudden announcement sparked panic among Indian professionals, who account for roughly 70 per cent of H-1B beneficiaries. Families worried whether loved ones would need to rush back to the United States to avoid paying the new fee. Companies scrambled to assess the potential financial burden and consider emergency filings. Airlines reported a surge in last-minute bookings as workers sought clarity on whether they needed to re-enter the country before the deadline.

In India, opposition parties criticised the government for failing to secure exemptions, while industry groups warned of massive disruptions to ongoing projects. Fortunately, a senior U.S. administration official has clarified that the new fee applies only to fresh petitions, not to existing visa holders or renewals. This reassurance has calmed immediate fears of families being separated or professionals facing unexpected costs during travel. Indians currently holding H-1B visas, including those visiting India, do not need to rush back before the rule takes effect. Yet even with this clarification, the damage has already been done. Companies will need to rethink their hiring strategies, and the psychological shock of such a steep increase will weigh heavily on future planning.

For Indian IT firms such as TCS, Infosys, Wipro, HCL, and LTIMindtree, as well as U.S. technology giants like Amazon, Microsoft, Google, and Apple, the cost implications are staggering. These companies are among the largest users of H-1B visas, with thousands of approvals each year. The new fee represents a massive increase in the cost of employing skilled foreign workers. Analysts warn that this will inevitably lead to higher project costs, fewer petitions, and perhaps a shift toward greater offshoring of work to India and other countries. Instead of encouraging the hiring of Americans, the measure may encourage firms to expand operations abroad, where talent is abundant and costs are lower. The Indian government has responded with measured concern.

The Ministry of External Affairs has directed its missions to assist Indian nationals travelling back to the United States and is studying the full implications of the measure. Indian industry bodies have begun consultations to develop a coordinated response. Both Indian and U.S. businesses have a shared interest in sustaining the flow of talent and maintaining the innovation ecosystem that has benefited both economies for decades. The United States has long been a magnet for Indian professionals, and Indian IT services have helped U.S. companies remain competitive in a globalised economy. Disrupting this partnership risks undermining a relationship that contributes significantly to growth and technological advancement on both sides.

The broader economic impact may ultimately hurt the United States more than India. Global trade experts predict that U.S. companies will face talent shortages, higher operational costs, and slower innovation, while Indian firms may respond by expanding offshoring and investing more heavily in domestic capabilities. In the long run, this could accelerate the very trends that Trump claims to oppose, as high-value work migrates outside the United States to avoid punitive fees. History shows that attempts to wall off an economy from global talent and trade rarely succeed in making it more competitive. The humanitarian dimension cannot be ignored either. Even though existing visa holders are exempt, the uncertainty created by such sudden policy shifts takes a toll on families.

Ganges drying up faster than ever before

The Ganges, a lifeline for hundreds of millions across South Asia, is drying at a rate scientists say is unprecedented in recorded history. Climate change, shifting monsoons, relentless extraction and damming are pushing the mighty river towards collapse, with consequences for food, water and livelihoods across the region. For centuries, the Ganges and its tributaries have sustained one of the world's most densely populated regions.

Stretching from the Bay of Bengal to the Bay of Bengal, the whole river basin supports over 650 million people, a quarter of India's freshwater, and much of its food and economic value. Yet new research reveals the river's decline is accelerating beyond anything seen in recorded history. In recent decades, scientists have documented alarming transformations across many of the world's big rivers, but the Ganges stands apart for its speed and scale. In a new study, scientists reconstructed streamflow records going back 1,300 years to show that the basin has faced its worst droughts over the

period in just the last few decades. And those droughts are well outside the range of natural climate variability.

Stretches of river that once supported year-round navigation are now impassable in summer. Large boats that once travelled the Ganges from Bengal and Bihar through Varanasi and Allahabad now run aground where water once flowed freely. Canals that used to irrigate fields for weeks longer a generation ago now dry up early. Even some wells that protected families for decades are yielding little more than a trickle.

Global climate models have failed to predict the severity of this drying, pointing to something deeply unsettling: human and environmental pressures are combining in ways we don't yet understand. Water has been diverted into irrigation canals, groundwater has been pumped for agriculture, and industries have

proliferated along the river's banks. More than a thousand dams and barrages have radically altered the river itself. And as the world warms, the monsoon which feeds the Ganges

stream during the dry season. These glaciers are often termed the "water towers of Asia". But as those towers shrink, the summer flow of water in the Ganges and its tributaries

Farakka Barrage in India have reduced dry-season flows into Bangladesh, making the land saltier and threatening the Sundarbans, the world's largest mangrove forest.



Decisions to prioritise short-term economic gains have undermined the river's ecological health. Across northern Bangladesh and West Bengal, smaller rivers are already drying up in the summer, leaving communities without water for crops or livestock.

The disappearance of these smaller tributaries is a harbinger of what may happen on a larger scale if the Ganges itself continues its downward spiral. If nothing changes, experts warn that millions of people across the basin could face severe food shortages within the next few decades. The need for urgent, coordinated action cannot be overstated. Piecemeal solutions will not be enough. It's time for a comprehensive rethinking of how the river is managed. That will mean

has grown increasingly erratic. The result is a river system increasingly unable to replenish itself. At the river's source high in the Himalayas, the Gangotri glacier has retreated nearly a kilometre in just two decades.

The pattern is repeating across the world's largest mountain range, as rising temperatures are melting glaciers faster than ever. Initially, this brings sudden floods from glacial lakes. In the long-run, it means far less water flowing down-

is dwindling too. The reckless extraction of groundwater is aggravating the situation. The Ganges-Brahmaputra basin is one of the most rapidly depleting aquifers in the world, with water levels falling by 15-20 millimeters each year. Much of this groundwater is already contaminated with arsenic and fluoride, threatening both human health and agriculture.

The role of human engineering cannot be ignored either. Projects like the

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Tariff Powerplay



chains are judged not only by cost or efficiency but by political loyalty, forcing firms to weigh market access against production independence. For India, the immediate trade impact may appear limited. Patented drugs form only a small slice of our pharmaceutical exports to the United States, which

are dominated by generics. Yet the shockwaves are already visible. Indian markets tumbled as investors anticipated higher costs for contract manufacturing and feared a wider crackdown on healthcare products. The blow landed just as Indian technology companies were digesting a \$100,000

fee on H-1B visas, another policy that raises the cost of operating in America. Two of India's most export-oriented sectors ~ IT services and pharmaceuticals ~ now face simultaneous headwinds. The real danger lies beyond today's tariffs. If the world's largest consumer economy can impose such sweeping conditions on life-saving medicines, it can do so on other advanced industries. Each targeted duty creates pressure for firms to relocate research, production and even talent to the US, where policy makers can claim job creation as a political victory. Countries like India, which aspire to move up the value chain in pharmaceuticals, biotech-

nology and digital services, risk being caught in a slow erosion of competitiveness if they cannot match these investment incentives. India's response must therefore be more strategic than reactive.

Strengthening our own manufacturing ecosystem, streamlining regulatory approvals and negotiating trade arrangements that protect critical sectors will matter more than short-term market interventions. The message from Washington is unmistakable: economic nationalism is no longer confined to slogans. It is being enforced through tariffs that seek not only to protect today's industries but to command the industries of tomorrow.

Long Goodbye

usually became a cautionary tale. Ageing airframes, stretched maintenance cycles, and a notoriously

alike, earning the fighter an infamous reputation even as its admirers defended its agility and



high landing speed turned a proud workhorse into a dangerous relic. Hundreds of crashes over the years claimed pilots and civilians

raw performance. Each accident was a painful reminder of how sentiment and strategic delay can cost lives.

₹66,000 Crore Investment, Boosts Atmanirbhar Shipbuilding

With their collective industrial, socio-economic, and strategic impact, these projects are set to re-position

Bharat. "Under the visionary leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, India's



India as a leading global maritime and shipbuilding hub in the next decade, advancing the national resolve of an Atmanirbhar

maritime sector is undergoing a historic transformation. These initiatives reflect our commitment to building a strong, self-reliant and glob-

The latest salvo of trade measures from Washington reveals a strategy that is less about correcting trade deficits and more about reshaping the geography of global production. By announcing a 100 per cent import duty on branded and patented drugs, alongside steep levies on heavy trucks and household furnishings, the United States is making a calculated bid to pull capital and capacity back to its own soil.

Companies that already manufacture in America, or pledge to build factories there, are spared the harshest penalties. Everyone else must choose between investing in the US or surrendering a critical market. This is

not a mere skirmish over prices. Pharmaceutical products are among the most research-intensive and globally interlinked goods in the world. Their supply chains depend on a delicate balance of intellectual property rights, regulatory approvals and specialised manufacturing.

Even if generic medicines are exempt, the move sets a precedent that governments can use tariffs as a lever to direct high-value investment. The aim is clear: ensure that the next breakthrough cancer drug or advanced biologic is produced within American borders, where jobs and profits remain under domestic political control. This shift also signals a future where supply

(Gns). The retirement of India's MiG-21 fighter marks the end of an era that shaped the country's military identity as much as its strategic choices. When the needle-nosed jet first entered service in the early 1960s, it catapulted the Indian Air Force into the supersonic age. Designed for speed and altitude, it was capable of soaring to the edge of the stratosphere and streaking across the sky at twice the speed of sound.

For a generation of young pilots, it was not just a machine but a rite of passage, a test of nerve and skill that fused man and metal in the unforgiving theatre of air combat. The

arrival of the aircraft transformed India's air power. Built under license in domestic factories, it offered unmatched versatility in a region still adjusting to post-colonial realities. In war after war ~ from the 1960s through the 1971 Bangladesh conflict and beyond ~ the MiG-21 proved its mettle as an interceptor, a ground attacker, and a symbol of a nation capable of mastering complex technology.

It also deepened defence ties with Moscow, creating a supply chain and industrial ecosystem that would underpin Indian aviation for decades. But the very jet that once embodied modernity grad-

MoU Exchange Secures Over

A historic chapter in India's maritime journey was written in Bhavnagar on 19th September 2025, when a MoU Exchange Ceremony took place on the eve of the "Samudra Se Samridhhi ~ Transforming India's Maritime Sector" event addressed by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi in which a number of projects pertaining to the maritime sector were launched. The MOU's were signed on 18th September, 2025 in the presence of Shri Sarbananda Sonowal - Union Minister of Ports, Shipping and Waterways, Dr Mansukh Mandaviya - Union Minister of Labour & Employment, Youth Affairs & Sports, and Shri Shantanu Thakur - Minister of State for Ports, Shipping and Waterways. As many as twenty-seven Memorandum of

Understanding (MoUs) were exchanged between public and private sector stakeholders in the maritime sector, State Governments, and international partners. Together, these agreements carry an investment and development potential of over ₹66,000 crore and represent a significant collaborative commitment towards the growth of India's maritime and shipbuilding sector.

The MoU ceremony showcased India's integrated vision for maritime growth, covering new port infrastructure, shipping, shipbuilding clusters, global shipyard partnerships, financing mechanisms, innovative maritime investment, sustainable projects such as water metros and green tugs, as well as heritage-linked initiatives like the lighthouse museum.

Karur Stampede: Emotional Scenes As Minister Anbil Mahesh Breaks Down During Hospital Visit

(Gns). A tragic incident unfolded in Karur, where a massive crowd gathered for a political rally led to the loss of over 30 lives and injuries to more than 40 people. The event has cast a shadow of grief across the nation, with the hospital in Karur witnessing heart-wrenching scenes of mourning families and injured individuals fighting for their lives.

Amidst this sorrowful backdrop, Minister Anbil Mahesh was seen shedding tears at the hospital. The distressing situation has deeply affected everyone involved, including former Minister Senthil Balaji, who is actively participating in relief efforts alongside Anbil Mahesh. Both were visibly moved by the overwhelming grief surrounding them.

In Karur, a political rally organised by Vijay's Tavaka party resulted in a stampede, leading to more than 30 deaths and over 40 injuries, with Minister Anbil Mahesh and former Minister Senthil Balaji

actively involved in relief efforts; Chief Minister M.K. Stalin is expected to visit to



oversee operations. Switch To Shorts Political Rally Turns Tragic

The rally was part of a series of campaigns conducted by Vijay, leader of the political party Tavaka. He had already campaigned in districts like Trichy and Thiruvavur before moving to Namakkal and Karur. However, reports suggest that Vijay arrived later than scheduled, which might have contributed to the chaos.

Despite expectations of around 10,000 attendees,

the crowd swelled beyond control. This led to a severe stampede that resulted in

numerous casualties. The police had not granted permission for such a large gathering, adding to the controversy surrounding the event.

Relief Efforts Underway The state government has mobilised medical teams from Chennai and Salem to assist those injured in Karur's government hospital. Chief Minister M.K. Stalin is expected to visit Karur shortly to oversee relief operations personally. Several ministers are already stationed there to

coordinate efforts.

Anbil Mahesh expressed his anguish over the incident by saying, "I kept telling them to follow safety conditions." His emotional outburst was captured on video and has since gone viral on social media platforms. Senthil Balaji stood beside him, equally shaken by the tragedy.

The atmosphere at Karur hospital is filled with cries of despair from grieving relatives. Each tear shed tells a story of profound loss that touches anyone who witnesses it. Those involved in relief work are carrying out their duties with heavy hearts amidst this overwhelming sadness.

This heartbreaking event serves as a stark reminder of the importance of ensuring safety measures during large gatherings. As authorities continue their investigations into what went wrong, communities across India mourn together with those directly affected by this devastating occurrence.

Swami Chaitanyananda Saraswati Arrested In Agra for Molesting 17 Students at Delhi Institute

(Gns). Swami Chaitanyananda Saraswati, previously the chairman of Sri Sharada Institute of Indian Management Research in Vasant Kunj, was apprehended by Delhi Police in Agra. He had been evading arrest since August following several FIRs against him. Allegations include sexual harassment of 17 students and financial misconduct related to a ₹122 crore trust; he is also accused of using fake diplomatic plates.

Switch To Shorts Financial Irregularities and Fake Diplomatic Plates In addition to molestation charges, Saraswati faces allegations of financial irregularities involving a trust worth ₹122 crore. Authorities have frozen over ₹8 crore across 18 bank accounts and 28 fixed deposits linked to him. He is also accused of using nine fake diplomatic car number plates marked with "UN".

The religious organisation heading the college, Peetham, had earlier announced severing ties with Saraswati due to

evading arrest since August due to multiple FIRs, including sexual harassment of 17 students and financial misconduct related to a ₹122 crore trust; he is also accused of using fake diplomatic plates.

Investigation and Arrest Deputy Commissioner of Police (Southwest) Amit Goel stated that during inquiries with students, statements from 32 female students were recorded. Out of these, 17 alleged receiving obscene WhatsApp messages, abusive language, and unwanted physical contact from Saraswati. Faculty members reportedly pressured students to comply with his demands.

Police analysed CCTV footage and conducted multiple raids at incident locations and Saraswati's known addresses. NVRs



molestation complaints and alleged financial deception. The police lodged an FIR based on statements accusing him of sexual harassment, acts insulting women's modesty, and criminal intimidation.

Investigation and Arrest

Deputy Commissioner of Police (Southwest) Amit Goel stated that during inquiries with students, statements from 32 female students were recorded. Out of these, 17 alleged receiving obscene WhatsApp messages, abusive language, and unwanted physical contact from Saraswati. Faculty members reportedly pressured students to comply with his demands.

Police analysed CCTV footage and conducted multiple raids at incident locations and Saraswati's known addresses. NVRs

and hard disks from the institute were sent to the Forensic Science Laboratory for analysis. Statements from 16 victims were recorded before a magistrate at Patiala House Court.

Previous Cases Against Saraswati

Saraswati has five cases registered against him. The first case was filed in Defence Colony in 2009, while another molestation case was lodged by a student in Vasant Kunj in 2016. Three additional FIRs were filed this year for molestation, cheating, forgery, among other charges.

Saraswati continuously altered his appearance and hideouts to evade capture. Over five police teams worked tirelessly to track him down. DCP Goel confirmed that he was finally apprehended in Agra late on Saturday and is being transported to Delhi for further proceedings.

Vijay Karur rally Stampede: CM Stalin Announces Rs10 Lakh Compensation For Families Of Victims

(Gns). A tragic stampede during Tamilaga Vetti Kazhagam Chief Vijay's election rally in Karur results in 36 fatalities and more than 60 injuries. Chief Minister MK Stalin announces immediate relief measures and initiates a judicial inquiry led by retired Justice Aruna Jagadeesan to investigate the incident.

A massive stampede at Tamilaga Vetti Kazhagam (TVK) Chief Vijay's election rally in Karur has left 36 people dead and more than 60 injured, plunging Tamil Nadu into grief. The tragedy struck during the star-turned-politician's event, where overcrowding spiraled into chaos.

Immediate Relief Announced

Chief Minister MK Stalin swiftly responded, declaring ₹10 lakh compensation

for families of the deceased and ₹1 lakh for those injured. He directed the District Collectors of



Tiruchirappalli, Salem, and Dindigul to rush to Karur and supervise relief measures. Emergency medical teams have been mobilized, with hospitals on high alert to treat survivors.

In Karur, Tamil Nadu, a stampede at Tamilaga Vetti Kazhagam (TVK) Chief Vijay's election rally resulted in 36 deaths and

over 60 injuries, prompting Chief Minister MK Stalin to announce ₹10 lakh compensation for the deceased

and order a judicial inquiry led by retired Justice Aruna Jagadeesan. Inquiry Commission Formed In a decisive move, Stalin ordered a judicial inquiry to uncover the causes of the stampede. The panel will be headed by retired Justice Aruna Jagadeesan, who previously

led the probe into the 2018 Thoothukudi police firing. The commission will examine crowd management, review CCTV footage, and gather eyewitness testimonies to establish accountability and recommend preventive measures.

Political Silence and Public Concern

As rescue and relief operations continue, TVK and Vijay have yet to issue any statement on the tragedy. The absence of their response has drawn attention, while families of the victims await justice and stronger safeguards for public safety at political rallies.

The Karur rally stampede stands as one of Tamil Nadu's deadliest political gathering tragedies, sparking urgent questions about event security, crowd control, and government preparedness.

World Food India 2025 Secures Investment Commitments Worth ₹1.02 lakh crores

MoUs with Leading Global and Domestic Players to Transform India's Food Processing Landscape

(Gns). World Food India 2025, organized by the Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MoFPI), concluded on a historic note with investment commitments of unprecedented scale. Over the course of the four-day event, 26 leading domestic and global companies signed Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) worth a total of ₹1,02,046.89 crore, marking one of the largest investment announcements in India's food processing sector. These MoUs are projected to generate direct employment for over 64,000 people and create indirect opportunities for more than 10 lakh individuals, reinforcing the government's vision of positioning India as a global hub for food processing.

The MoUs were signed by some of the most prominent names in the sector, including Reliance Consumer Products Ltd., The Coca-Cola System in India, Gujarat Cooperative Milk Marketing Federation (Amul), Fair Exports (India) Pvt. Ltd. (Lulu Group), Nestlé India Ltd., Tata Consumer Products Ltd., Carlsberg India Pvt. Ltd., B.L. Agro Industries Ltd., ABIS Foods & Proteins Pvt. Ltd., ACE International Ltd.,

Patanjali Foods Ltd., Godrej Agrovet Ltd., Agristo

Gujarat, Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh, Punjab, Bihar,



Masa Pvt. Ltd., Tiwana Nutrition Global Pvt. Ltd., Haldiram Snacks Food Pvt. Ltd., Indian Poultry Alliance Pvt. Ltd., Mrs. Bectors Food Specialities Ltd., Dabur India Ltd., Allana Consumer Products Ltd., Olam Food Ingredients, AB InBev, Cremica Food Park Pvt. Ltd., Dairy Craft, Sundex Biotech Pvt. Ltd., Naso Industries Pvt. Ltd., and Bluepine Foods. The commitments span across diverse segments such as dairy, meat and poultry, packaged foods, alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages, spices and condiments, confectionery, edible oils, fruits and vegetables, and ready-to-eat products.

A significant highlight of these partnerships is their pan-India footprint, with investments spread across multiple states including

Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, Rajasthan, West Bengal, Assam, Chhattisgarh, Uttarakhand, Jammu & Kashmir, and the North-Eastern region. This wide geographic distribution ensures that the benefits of these investments are equitably shared, bringing opportunities for farmers, entrepreneurs, and local communities across diverse regions of the country.

Invest India, the national investment promotion and facilitation partner, assisted the Ministry of Food Processing Industries in signing these MoUs.

World Food India 2025 has not only attracted record investment commitments but also reaffirmed India's position as a trusted

global destination for food processing. The event has laid a strong foundation for sustainable growth, innovation, and international collaboration, further consolidating India's leadership in shaping the future of global food systems. The Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MoFPI), in partnership with Invest India, will continue to work closely with industry stakeholders to facilitate these investments and ensure their effective implementation.

DFS and MCMP, Supreme Court of India organise Mediation Training Programme for Presiding Officers of Debt Recovery Tribunals and Senior executives of Public Sector Banks

(Gns). The Department of Financial Services, Ministry of Finance, in collaboration with the Mediation and Conciliation Project Committee (MCMP), Supreme Court of India had organized a 40 hours mediation training programme for the presiding officers of Debts Recovery Tribunals and senior executives of Public Sector Banks.

The training was scheduled from 24th September, 2025 to 28th September, 2025 at Additional Building Complex, Supreme Court of India. The training was organised considering the importance of dispute resolution mechanisms in the present times. Mediation is internationally recognized

Israel-Gaza Peace Talks: Trump's Plan Calls For Palestinian Recognition, Hostage Release, Troop Withdrawal

(Gns). The United States has reportedly put forward a 21-point plan aimed at ending the ongoing Gaza conflict. The initiative comes as peace talks between Israel and Hamas have stalled following Israeli strikes on Doha earlier this month.

The plan, spearheaded by the Trump-led US administration, calls for the release of all Hamas-held hostages within 48 hours of an agreement. It also lays out a post-war roadmap for Gaza, which has suffered extensive damage during

Israel's offensive. According to the Gaza Health Ministry, over 66,000 Palestinians have been killed since the con-



flict erupted on October 7, 2023. The war has dis-

placed approximately 90% of Gaza's population, triggering a severe humanitarian crisis.

The United States, led

by the Trump administration, proposed a 21-point

plan to end the Gaza conflict, presented at the United Nations General Assembly in New York, addressing the stalled peace talks between Israel and Hamas and outlining a post-war roadmap, including the release of hostages and withdrawal of Israeli troops.

The US reportedly shared the proposal with a select group of Arab and Muslim countries during the United Nations General Assembly in New York last week. Trump stated that "all of the countries within the region are involved," and that Hamas is aware of the discussions, although Hamas has denied receiving any new ceasefire proposals.

While Trump expressed optimism about resolving the conflict, Israel has indicated it expects the plan to be adjusted to reflect its demands. US special envoy Steve Witkoff is reported to have curated the proposal. Key elements of the plan include recognition of the Palestinian state, the release of hostages, and the withdrawal of Israeli troops from Gaza. Notably, Hamas would have no role in Gaza's future government under the proposed framework.

Some clauses are expected to face strong opposition in Israel. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has firmly rejected the creation of a Palestinian state. Addressing the UN General

as an effective practice for

tion, comparison between



resolving disputes through mutual consensus.

During this training programme various topics including concept of media-

judicial process and various ADR processes, the process, stages and role of mediators, ways of communication in mediation as

well as negotiation and bargaining in mediation were covered. The training programme also covered the role of various stakeholders viz referral judges, lawyers and parties in mediation with special focus on the cases tried and entertained by the Presiding Officers of DRTs under the Recovery of Debts and Bankruptcy (RDB) Act 1993 and the SARFAESI Act, 2002.

The participants expressed their satisfaction regarding the range of topics covered during the training and conveyed their appreciation to the Department of Financial Services and MCMP, Supreme Court for organizing this 40 hours mediation training.

PDUNASS Concludes Comprehensive Orientation Training for Newly Promoted Assistant Provident Fund Commissioners

(Gns). The Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya National Academy of Social Security (PDUNASS), New Delhi, concluded a three-week Orientation Training Programme for newly promoted Assistant Provident Fund Commissioners (APFCs). The valedictory session was graced by Shri Ramesh Krishnamurthi, Central Provident Fund Commissioner (CPFC), who commended the Academy's efforts in preparing the next generation of EPFO officers for leadership grounded in knowledge, empathy, and public service values. Reflecting on their experience, one of the trainees noted, "We are returning to our workplaces with renewed perspective and deeper insights gained through immersive classroom sessions and dynamic team-building activities. The training covered critical themes such as 'Customer-Centric Approach,' 'Ethics,' 'Compassion,' 'Landmark Court Judgments,' 'Audio-Visual Learning,' and

'Design Thinking'—each leaving a lasting impact." The trainee thanked Shri Kumar Rohit, Additional Central P.F. Commissioner



(Hq) and Director, PDUNASS, for designing a well-rounded and engaging course structure. In his address, Shri Ramesh Krishnamurthi, CPFC, congratulated the officer trainees for their enthusiastic participation and commended PDUNASS for curating a holistic training experience. He acknowledged the leadership of Shri Kumar Rohit and the contributions of the faculty and staff who facilitated the programme. He

encouraged the officers to uphold EPFO's core values of integrity, accountability, and empathy, especially in their interactions with over

30 crore subscribers. On the occasion, the CPFC released a series of booklets authored by the officer trainees. These included book reviews, creative culinary initiatives under the "Delicious Initiative," and reflections on outbound training experiences. He also highlighted key developments within EPFO, including the rollout of the upgraded Electronic Challan-cum-Return (ECR) system. The revamped platform includes advanced

validations for EPS membership, international worker status, and compliance metrics. It also enables automatic calculation of damages and interest under Sections 7Q and 14B, aiming to reduce errors and streamline enforcement. Shri Kumar Rohit, Director, PDUNASS, emphasized the Academy's evolving pedagogical approach, integrating modern teaching tools with interactive methodologies such as case-based learning, outbound training, and design thinking workshops. He highlighted that PDUNASS remains committed to nurturing citizen-centric and compassionate public servants. A key highlight of the programme was the introduction of a pioneering course on "Compassion in Governance", conceptualized and designed by Shri Sanjay Rai, Regional Provident Fund Commissioner-I. Shri Rohit noted that this is the first course of its kind in the country.

Sita Haran, Tableau of Khardushan

Kosikalan. Under the auspices of Sri Ramliila Institute, about half a dozen jhakiya was taken out by Bharata and Ravana, who took Ram's Khadaun on his head on Sunday at the Shri Ramliila Festival. Sita Haran Leela was formed after the tableau reached Ramliila Maidan. Chief Guest T .R Sarma launched the Aarti of the main tableau. Under the aegis of Shri Ramliila Institute, Maja Sita was taken away at the Sri Ramliila Festival, Darshanam, Swarnamriga became Maricha, about half a dozen Jhakiyan, including Ram, Lakshmana, and the main form of Rama-Lakshmana

Sita etc., from Gayalal Smriti Bhawan, including



Ram, Lakshmana, and the

main form of Ram-Lakshmana Sita, was taken out from Gayalal Smriti Bhawan. Apart from this, the flames of Khardushan and Sopankhan from Totaram Madir located in Ramnagar late at night traveled to the city on the melodious tunes of the bandabazo. During this time, in the tableau of Sopankhan, Supanakha, Supanakha laughed everyone by laughing. Jhakiyan reached Ramliila Maidan on Ratnagar Sagar while visiting the city. Where Lakshmana was cut off by Sopankhan's nose and Sita Haran's Leela was

formed by Ravana. Leela was inaugurated by Bhagwat Prasad Mittal. Leela was conducted by Pt. Mormukut Shastri, Leela Director Pt. Satyanarayana Purohit. These are present in the tableaux present in the tableau Dharamvir Agrawal, Chairman Ajay Mangla, Minister Annu Vaidya, Kamal Kishore Varshney, Kanhaiyalal Goyal, Dr. Amar Singh Paunia, Ved Prakash Goyal, Kailash Chaudhary, Shambhu Chaudhary, Suresh Arya, Pintu leader, Bhagavat Shringari, Rahul Mangla, Rishi Mangala, Kalpesh Jain, Sunil Parua, etc. People were walking together.

District Panchayat President laid the foundation stone/inauguration of 1.25 crore development works in Sheesharam

Inaugurating the foundation stone of development works, District Panchayat President Kishan Chaudhary while talking to the shopkeepers of Samkh on GST deduction in Inset
Zipan discussed the GST deduction with the shopkeeper traders
All classes are developing under the leadership of Chief Minister: Kishan Chaudhary

President, on which the of Chief Minister Yogi



Tableau visit Kosi Nagar, Municipality Dharmveer Agrawal, Chairman Ajay Mangla, in Inset

shopkeepers thanked the Central Government and Honorable Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Addressing the foundation stone and inauguration program, Zipan Kishan Chaudhary said that all classes are being developed under the leadership

Adityanath. The first priority of the state government is to develop the poor, farmers and villagers. The implementation of development schemes has brought a complete change in the condition and direction of the entire state. The villagers in Nagla

Sheesharam have come today only to solve the trouble, your area will not be deprived of facilities due to these development works. About Rs 1.25 crore from the District Panchayat Nidhi has been laid/inaugurated for the construction of drain, CC and brick kharanja in Nagla Sheesharam. During the GST discussion, District Panchayat President Kishan Chaudhary said that GST deduction has not only brought relief to the merchant class but there is also an atmosphere of happiness among consumers. This step is definitely going to promote trade and these efforts of the government will prove to be beneficial for both the economy and the public. Former block chief Vinod Chaudhary, Pratap Singh Pradhan Jhudawai, Ved Pradhan Horpatti, Chauhal Singh Pradhan Borpa, Than Singh Pradhan Shishram, Ravindra Bhadar, Neeraj Sharma, Guddu Bachgaon and honored Sardari were present on the occasion

Healthcare Reaches Paataalkot: Delhi Official Inaugurates First Health Centre in Remote Tribal Valley

(Gns). In a landmark step towards ensuring last-mile delivery of government services, Dr. Rashmi Choudhary, Assistant Commissioner, National Education Society for Tribal Students (NESTS), New Delhi, visited the remote Paataalkot valley in Chhindwara district and inaugurated a much-awaited health care centre for tribal communities. A group of people walking on a pathAI-generated content may be incorrect. A group of people standing outside a houseAI-gen-

erated content may be incorrect. Paataalkot—a deep and mystical valley in the Tamia



block—has long been home to Gond and Bharia tribes, classified as

Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs). For decades, its 12 scattered villages with nearly 4,000

residents remained cut off from basic amenities, forcing villagers to rely on steep trails for movement and to travel long distances for healthcare. Under central initiatives such as the Pradhan Mantri Janman Yojana, Dharti Abba Janjatiya Gram Utkarsh Abhiyan, and Aadi Karmayogi Abhiyan, significant progress has been made in roads, housing, drinking water, electricity, and education. Children from Paataalkot now study at the Eklavya Residential School in Tamia, while homestay projects in Chintipur have opened new livelihood avenues through tourism.

Official Tribal Valley

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Former Kerala DGP Jacob Thomas to join RSS as full-time worker

(Gns). Former Kerala Director General of Police (DGP) Jacob Thomas is set to take an active role in the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS). He will officially become a full-time worker by participating in the RSS 'Vijayadashami Pada Sanchalanam' (Vijayadashami procession) at Pallikkara in Kochi on October 1, dressed in the traditional Ganavesha (white shirt and brown trousers). This year's Vijayadashami holds special significance for the RSS, as it marks the centenary of the organization.

Jacob Thomas, who retired as DGP, has been associated with the BJP and the RSS for some time. He has frequently spoken in line with the Sangh's views and drew closer to the Sangh Parivar after his retirement. In 2021, he formally joined the BJP by accepting membership from party president J.P. Nadda and later contested the assembly elections from Irinjalakuda as a BJP candidate. "RSS is the best platform to serve people. I do not

seek any positions—my goal is to work full-time," Jacob Thomas said. He added that joining the RSS during its centenary year reflects his resolve to remain fully dedicated to the nation. Thomas recalled that his attraction to the RSS began in 1997 after visiting an RSS-run school in Mysuru. "Since I was in government service, I stayed committed to my job. I decided to become active in the RSS after retirement," he said.



Responding to allegations of communalism against the RSS, Thomas remarked, "Isn't my decision to work with the RSS itself an answer to such allegations?" Jacob Thomas is not the first senior police officer in Kerala to align with the Sangh Parivar after retirement. Former DGP R. Sreelekha currently serves as the BJP state vice-president, while former DGP T.P. Senkumar has often supported Sangh positions. However, this is the first time a former DGP has publicly announced that he will serve as a full-time RSS worker.

Mission Shakti 5.0 Campaign is creating new energy and trust in society: Hemamalini

Mathura. MP and actress Hema Malini has given a statement on the ongoing Mission Shakti 5.0 campaign in Uttar Pradesh. He said that this campaign has become a symbol of confidence and security of the daughters and women of the country today.

daughters in the BJP government has become com-

matter of pride under the mission power. He con-

touching the heights in the BJP government. In the same sequence, in Mathura late Saturday night, the women police team arrested a crook involved in the robbery and arrested him in an encounter. Reacting to this action, Hema Malini said that such action causes fear among criminals and trust in society.



Hema Malini described the action of women police directly to injured criminals and described the example of empowerment of women power. He said that the security of women and

pletely reliable. This effort of Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath is creating new energy and trust in the society. The MP described the bravery and courage of the women police as a

gratulated the women policemen who challenged the criminals and defeated them. According to Hema Malini, daughters and women are no less than anyone and are constantly

Howard Lutnick urges India to open Markets, end harmful trade practices

(Gns). US Commerce Secretary Howard Lutnick has called on trading partners, including India and Brazil, to "react correctly" to the United States by opening their markets and ending policies that harm American interests. In a recent interview with a television channel, Lutnick emphasized that while the US is keen to resolve trade disputes with its allies, countries like India must shift their stance if they seek improved access to the American market.

their markets, stop taking actions that harm America, and that's why we're off-side with them."

table within "a month or two" driven by pressure from domestic industry stakeholders eager for a

India seeks better market access in the US, "It must adjust its approach. We are at odds with these countries because they have not opened their markets and continue policies that hurt America," he said.



"We have several countries to address, like Switzerland, Brazil, and India," Lutnick said in an interview with a channel. "These are countries that need to really react correctly to America. Open

Lutnick suggested that India's resistance in trade negotiations was largely symbolic. He predicted that New Delhi would return to the negotiating

deal with Washington. Highlighting India as one of the "big ones" with whom Washington wants to resolve trade disputes, Lutnick emphasized that if

Tension in Leh as two cremated amid heavy security after police firing

(Gns). Amid emotional scenes, the cremation of two of the four persons killed in police firing during the Leh violence on 24 September was carried out on Sunday under strict security arrangements. Participation in the last rites was limited to close family members, while the town remained under curfew for the fifth consecutive day.

police firing, three were in their early 20s and one was

cremation of the other two victims is expected on

Tharchin, a decorated ex-soldier of the Ladakh Scouts, fought in the 1999 Kargil War. He had followed his father's footsteps by joining the Army in 1996 and was promoted to Havaldar in 2017.



Heavy deployment of Ladakh Police, ITBP, and CRPF was visible across the town and along the funeral procession route to prevent gatherings. Security was also tightened at the cremation site.

Earlier in the morning, Lt Governor Kavinder Gupta reviewed the security situation and emphasized vigilance, coordination, and public safety. Chief Secretary of Ladakh Dr. Pawan Kotwal, DGP S.D. Singh Jamwal, and senior officers of the CRPF, ITBP, and intelligence agencies attended the meeting. Of the four killed in the

a Kargil War veteran. Post-mortem reports showed multiple bullet wounds to the chest and head, suggesting indiscriminate firing. A girl with a bullet wound to her lungs was airlifted to AIIMS, New Delhi, for urgent surgery. Most of the other 90 injured civilians also suffered bullet wounds. The two cremated on Sunday were Jigmet Dorjay (25), from Kharnakling village, and Stanzin Namgyal (23), from Igoo village. The

His younger brother, Konchok Ishley, said Tharchin also served at the Siachen Glacier and had once survived an avalanche. "He bravely fought Pakistan during the Kargil War, but was killed by a police bullet after retiring from the Army," he said. Meanwhile, political leaders associated with the BJP have demanded an impartial judicial inquiry into the police firing. The demand for the immediate release of environmental activist Sonam Wangchuk, who has been detained under the National Security Act (NSA) and shifted to Jodhpur jail, has also intensified. Leaders of the Apex Body, spearheading the Ladakh agitation, alleged that the charges against Wangchuk were fabricated.