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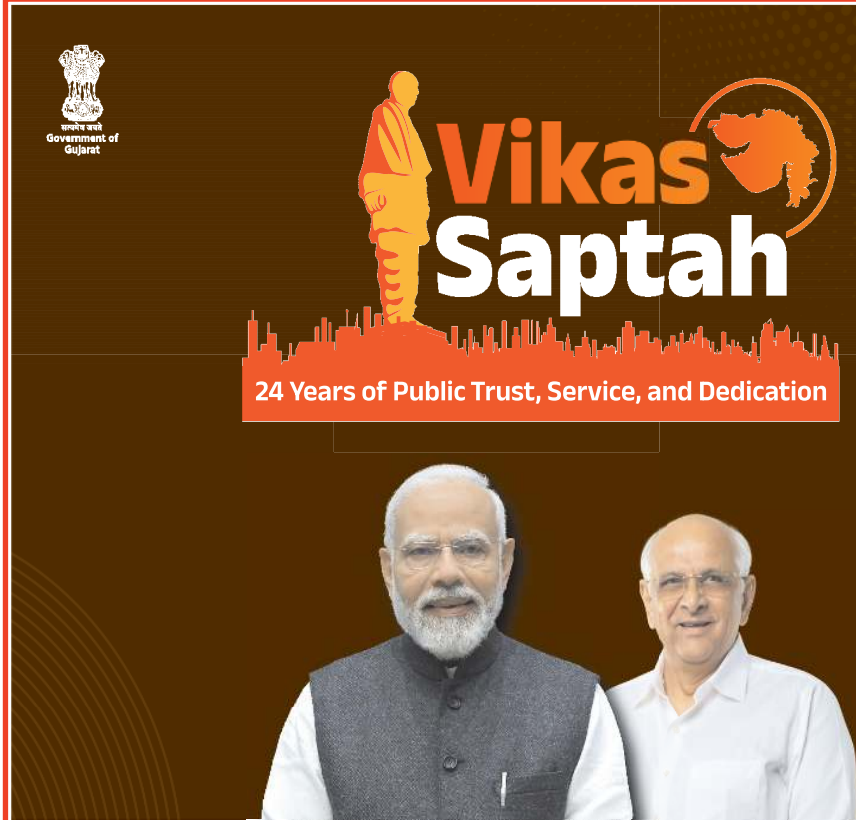
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A Home to Call One's Own - Dreams Fulfilled

Union MoS Kirti Vardhan Singh arrives in Cairo as PM Modi's special representative for Gaza Peace Summit

(Gns). Union Minister Kirti Vardhan Singh represents Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the Gaza Peace Summit in Sharm el-Sheikh. World leaders gather in Egypt to finalize an agreement to end the Gaza war. The summit aims to bring peace and stability to the Middle East. A ceasefire deal between Israel and Hamas is in effect.

Union MoS Kirti Vardhan Singh arrives in Cairo as PM Modi's special representative for Gaza Peace Summit at Sharm el-SheikhANI

Union MoS Kirti Vardhan Singh arrives in Cairo as PM Modi's special representative for Gaza Peace Summit at Sharm el-Sheikh Union Minister Kirti

Vardhan Singh on Sunday announced his arrival in the historic city of Cairo as the special representative of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to attend the Gaza

Minister @narendramodi to attend the Gaza Peace Summit at Sharm el-Sheikh."

Arrived in the historic city of Cairo as special repre-

(@KVSinghMPGonda) October 12, 2025

The summit that Singh referred to is a major international gathering aimed at ending the ongoing conflict in Gaza. An international peace summit will be held in Egypt's Sharm el-Sheikh on Monday to finalise an agreement aimed at bringing an end to the war.

US President Donald Trump and Egyptian President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi will chair the meeting titled "Sharm El-Sheikh Peace Summit," according to a statement from the Egyptian presidency.

The meeting will see the participation of leaders from more than 20 countries, reflecting the global scale of the effort to restore peace and stability in the region.



Peace Summit at Sharm el-Sheikh.

In a post on X, Singh wrote, "Arrived in the historic city of Cairo as special representative of Prime

sentative of Prime Minister @narendramodi to attend the Gaza Peace Summit at Sharm el-Sheikh. pic.twitter.com/DnN0yGJcEs - Kirti Vardhan Singh

Chief Minister Shri Bhupendra Patel offers prayers to Lord Ghantakarna at the renowned pilgrimage site in Mahudi

Chief Minister seeks blessings for the State's happiness, prosperity, peace, and development

Gandhinagar, 12

October 2025: Chief Minister Shri Bhupendra Patel performed Aarti and worship of Lord Ghantakarna at the renowned Jain pilgrimage site, Mahudi Jinalaya, and prayed for the prosperity of the state. During his visit to Mahudi for the flag-off ceremony of the Vikas Rath



under the ongoing Vikas Saptah celebrations in Gandhinagar district, he had the darshan of Lord

Ghantakarna at the Mahudi pilgrimage site and performed Aarti and worship, praying for the happiness,

prosperity, peace, and development of all citizens of the state.

A Girl Should Not Go Out At Night Alone: Mamata Banerjee's Shocking Remark Over Gang Rape Case

(Gns).

Kolkata: West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee has described the gang rape of a medical student in Durgapur as "shocking," while asserting that the private medical college bore responsibility for ensuring the safety of its students.

Speaking on the incident, Banerjee said, "A girl should not be allowed to go out at night," adding that the college authorities must take stronger measures to prevent such crimes. She assured that strict action would be taken and "no one involved will be spared."

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee called the Durgapur gang rape of a medical student shocking, stating the private medical college is responsible for student safety; the assault took place on Friday, and the survivor's father

plans to take her back to Odisha. Banerjee questioned why only her government was being criticized,

daughter back home citing safety concerns. "They could kill her here any moment. That's why we

Odisha government?" she asked, suggesting that selective criticism was being directed towards her administration.

The survivor's father told ANI that his daughter remains bedridden and unable to walk due to trauma. He added that he no longer trusts the safety environment in Bengal and plans to have her continue her studies in Odisha.

Debate Over Safety and Responsibility

The Chief Minister's comments have sparked debate over the balance between personal safety precautions and institutional accountability.

While Banerjee underlined the need for individuals to be cautious, critics argue that the onus lies with authorities and institutions to create secure environments for women.



pointing to a similar past crime in Odisha.

The assault took place on Friday evening, when a 23-year-old second-year MBBS student was attacked in a secluded area behind the hospital. The survivor's father, a resident of Odisha, said he planned to bring his

want to take her back to Odisha," he told reporters.

Banerjee questioned why her government was being singled out over the incident, pointing to a similar crime that occurred nearly a month ago at Puri beach in Odisha. "What action is being taken by the

Operation Blue Star Wrong Approach, Says P Chidambaram; Indira Gandhi Sacrificed Her Life

(Gns).

Senior Congress leader P Chidambaram described Operation Blue Star as a "mistake" and the "wrong way" to flush out terrorists from the Golden Temple in Amritsar, stating that former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi paid with her life for that decision. He made these remarks on Saturday during a discussion on They Will Shoot You, Madam, a book by journalist Harinder Baweja, held at the Khushwant Singh Literature Festival in Kasauli, Himachal Pradesh.

The 80-year-old former Union Home Minister emphasized that while the operation was carried out on Indira Gandhi's instruction, it was a cumulative decision involving the army, police, intelligence, and civil services, and therefore she alone cannot be blamed.

Senior Congress leader

P Chidambaram stated that Operation Blue Star,

Chidambaram Indira Gandhi Sacrificed Her Life

said, stressing he meant no disrespect to any military personnel.

He further noted that the Army should have been kept out of the operation to retrieve the Golden Temple. "No disrespect to any military officers here, but Operation Blue Star was not the correct way to retrieve the Golden Temple. A few years later, we demonstrated the right approach by keeping the Army out," he added.

Chidambaram also highlighted that the real issue in Punjab today is economic, not the separatist Khalistan movement. "My visits to Punjab have led me to believe that the political cry of Khalistan and separation has practically died down. The real problem is the economic situation... most illegal migrants are from Punjab," he said.



launched in June 1984 to remove Jarnail Singh Bhindranwale from the Golden Temple, was a mistake for which Indira Gandhi, the then Prime Minister, paid with her life; he also noted the Khalistan movement is no longer the core issue in Punjab and the real problem is economic.

"There was a way to capture all the militants without causing the destruction that occurred. Operation Blue Star was the wrong approach, and I agree that Mrs. Gandhi paid with her life for that mistake. But it was a collective decision involving the army, police, intelligence, and civil officials. You cannot blame only Mrs. Gandhi," Chidambaram

Mystery over summons to Kerala CM's son deepens as ED remains silent

(Gns).

The mystery over the Enforcement Directorate's (ED) summons to son of Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan deepened as the Central agency failed to take any action against Vivek Kiran for defying the summons issued by it in 2023 in connection with the Life Mission money-laundering case is deepening.

Reports about the summons emerged only on 11 October, 2025, leading to accusations of a secret understanding between the CPM and the BJP.

The ED had issued the summons to Pinarayi

Vijayan's son as part of a plan to conduct a comprehensive review of his financial transactions based on the statements of the accused in the Life Mission fraud case. The move followed

information the agency gathered during the interrogation of several individuals on monetary dealings linked to Vivek, who is employed at a bank in Abu Dhabi.

Swapna Suresh, an accused in the case, had

reportedly mentioned Vivek Kiran's role in the Life Mission case to the media

in 2023. The chief minister's former principal secretary M Sivashankar was named as an accused and arrest-

ed based on the statement of Unitach MD Santosh Eepan. However, the mystery of the ED's suspension of further action against Vivek despite his non-appearance continues.

The ED, in its summons, asked Kiran to furnish

details of all the bank accounts maintained by him in India and abroad. It also sought information and supporting documents regarding all assets, both movable and immovable, held in his name as well as that of his family members. Apart from these, the Central agency reportedly demanded details of companies or firms in which Vivek served as a director or partner, along with documents showing his shareholding status in such entities. The directive was based on inputs that Vivek was involved in multiple business partnerships.



Editorial

Realistic Diplomacy

The visit of Taliban Foreign Minister Amir Khan Muttaqi to India is not merely a diplomatic milestone, it is a quiet revolution in South Asian geopolitics. What was once unthinkable has become inevitable, as India and the Taliban cautiously explore a relationship built not on trust, but on necessity. Both sides have shed ideological rigidity to make space for a more pragmatic engagement, reflecting the shifting realities of a post-American Afghanistan and a more fragmented regional order.

For India, this outreach is rooted in strategic foresight. After two decades of backing the Western-supported Afghan Republic, Delhi has had to adapt to a drastically altered landscape. The Taliban are no longer a proxy confined to Pakistan's influence; their fraying ties with Islamabad have created a narrow but crucial diplomatic opening. Pakistan's confrontations with the Taliban over cross-border militancy and its air strikes inside Afghanistan have eroded the old patron-client equation. For Delhi, this is a window to engage a neighbour it cannot afford to ignore, especially when China, Russia, and Iran are all recalibrating their stakes in Kabul. The Taliban, for their part, seek more than symbolism. They want legitimacy, investment, and economic ties that extend beyond their traditional orbit.

Their decision to engage India, a country they once denounced as an enemy, signals a recognition that Afghanistan's isolation is unsustainable. By reaching out to New Delhi, the Taliban hope to diversify partnerships, attract humanitarian aid, and project themselves as a government capable of sovereign diplomacy rather than dependent subservience to Pakistan. Both sides recognise that engagement, however tentative, is better than estrangement. The dialogue marks a shift from mutual suspicion to a pragmatic search for stability in an uncertain region. India's motives are more measured. Beyond trade and reconstruction, its primary concern is security. The possibility of extremist groups exploiting Afghan territory for anti-India activities remains a red line. Yet the Taliban's repeated assurances against this risk, coupled with India's interest in Central Asian connectivity through Iran's Chabahar Port, have created incentives for cautious dialogue.

By keeping channels open, Delhi safeguards both its regional interests and its ability to respond swiftly should the security calculus shift. The relationship, however, is far from settled. India still withholds formal recognition of the Taliban regime and remains mindful of international sensitivities. The engagement is tactical – anchored in dialogue, but distant from endorsement. The challenge lies in balancing realpolitik with principles, ensuring that outreach does not dilute India's longstanding support for democratic values and women's rights in Afghanistan. Yet, beneath this diplomatic balancing act lies a deeper truth: in today's volatile regional theatre, disengagement is no longer an option. The Taliban minister's visit to India signifies not reconciliation, but adaptation. It is a reminder that foreign policy, at its core, is the art of navigating uncomfortable realities, where yesterday's adversaries can become tomorrow's partners in pursuit of stability.

Right Track

When just-retired Surekha Yadav climbed into the cabin of her first train in 1989, she wasn't setting out to make history. She was simply taking up a government job that promised stability. Yet, over the next 36 years, she would become a quiet force of change, blazing a trail in one of India's most male-dominated professions and showing, in her own words, that "machines don't see gender." Her story is more than a personal achievement; it is a powerful lens on how persistence, competence, and institutional support can reshape the gender landscape in India's workplaces.

At a time when few women ventured beyond traditional occupations, Ms Yadav entered a field where she was literally the only woman in the training room. The railway engine cabin was an unlikely stage for a social shift, but it became one. She mastered the complex demands of train driving: monitoring signals, tracks, overhead equipment, and speed simultaneously, often in difficult terrain and unpre-

dictable conditions. She drove through floods, mountain passes, and multi-day journeys, learning on the job and proving her worth through performance, not proclamations.



Her journey also reflects the invisible labour many pioneering women undertake. She worked through pregnancies, missed family occasions, adapted to erratic schedules, and coped with a lack of basic facilities for women, all without a word of public complaint. The absence of infrastructure did not deter her; instead, her steady presence pushed institutions to evolve.

Today, more than 2,000 women operate trains across India, a development made possible by the example she set. Ms

Yadav's story is emblematic of a broader truth: real gender breakthroughs often happen quietly, in the everyday workplaces that keep the country running. They are not always scripted in boardrooms or announced with grand policy statements. They are lived, shift by shift, in spaces where competence earns respect over time.

Haryana Cabinet approves framing of state rules under HIV/AIDS Prevention and Control Act, 201

(Gns).

The Haryana Cabinet, which met on Sunday under the chairmanship of Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini, approved the framing of State Rules under Sub-section (1) of Section 49 of the Haryana Human Immunodeficiency Virus and Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (Prevention and Control) Act, 2017.

The new rules will be called the Haryana Human Immunodeficiency Virus and Acquired Immune Deficiency

Rules, 2025.

Under these rules, the State Government will designate the Commissioners of its six administrative divisions to act as Ombudsmen.

Their role, as outlined in Section 23 of the Act, is to handle complaints and grievances of people living with HIV/AIDS. Each Ombudsman will operate within their respective divisions—Rohtak, Hisar, Karnal, Gurugram, Faridabad, and Ambala—and will be supported by

the Civil Surgeon of the district concerned.

The State Government will take necessary measures to strengthen diagnostic facilities and ensure the management of opportunistic infections, i.e., those infections that can lead to reduced immunity.

It will provide free diagnostic services at all government health institutions, including Sub Health Centres, Primary Health Centres, Community Health Centres, Civil

Hospitals, District Hospitals, and Medical College Hospitals.

In addition, free Antiretroviral Therapy (ART) drugs will be made available to all HIV-positive individuals at ART Centres, Facility-Integrated ART (FIART) Centres, and Link ART (LART) Centres, in accordance with National AIDS Control Organisation guidelines.

The Government will also actively involve the private medical sector in delivering diagnostic.

Vikas Saptah : Urban Development Day: Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi Empowers Urban Poor by Providing Affordable Housing

Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Urban): Construction of Over 9.09 Lakh Houses Completed in Gujarat

Gujarat Wins 14 Awards for the Successful Implementation of Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Urban)

Gandhinagar, 12 October 2025: On 7 October 2025, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi marked 24 years of dedicated public service, effective governance, and commitment to the welfare of the poor. To commemorate this milestone, Vikas Saptah is observed every year from 7 October to 15 October, with Urban Development Day celebrated on 12 and 13 October. It is noteworthy that during his tenure as Chief Minister of Gujarat, the Prime Minister launched planned urban development by declaring 2005 as the Urban Development Year. Today, under the leadership

of Chief Minister Shri Bhupendra Patel, Gujarat is making remarkable strides in the direction of urbanisation. To accelerate world-class city development, the State Government has declared the year 2025 as the 'Year of Urban Development'. With the vision of providing every poor and lower-middle-class family living in urban areas with a home of their own, the Prime Minister implemented the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Urban) — a landmark initiative. Today, under the leadership of Chief Minister Shri Bhupendra Patel, Gujarat stands as a leading state in the nation in implementing this scheme.

Urban Poor of Gujarat Get Their Dream Homes; Construction of over 9.09 Lakh Houses Completed Prime Minister Shri

Narendra Modi believes that urban development is not just about infrastructure but about improving the

in Gujarat's urban development journey.

Gujarat Leads in the Implementation of Pradhan



Mantri Awas Yojana (Urban)

Gujarat is the leading state in the implementation of the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Urban). The state leads the country in providing interest subsidies on home loans to over 6 lakh beneficiaries under the Credit Linked Subsidy Scheme (CLSS) component of PMAY (Urban),

helping countless families fulfil their dream of owning a home. In addition, under Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan announced by the Central Government in 2020, the Affordable Rental Housing Complexes (ARHCs) scheme was launched to provide affordable rental housing to the urban poor and migrant workers. In just three months, Gujarat became the first state to get project approval by converting 393 SUDA-area houses in Surat into rental homes under Model-01 of the scheme. Global Housing Technology – Rajkot in Gujarat is among six locations chosen by the Central Government for the India Light House Project. As part of this initiative, 1,144 EWS-2 type houses, each with a carpet area of 39.77 sq m, have been constructed using monolithic concrete technology.

Gujarat Wins 14 Awards for Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Urban)

Gujarat has consistently excelled under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Urban). In 2017, the state earned first place in the Credit Link Subsidy category from the Central Government. In 2019, Gujarat received three additional awards, while three beneficiaries were recognised for Best House Construction under the BLC component. In 2022, the state won awards in seven different categories. Altogether, Gujarat has been honoured with 14 awards under PMAY (Urban) so far.

Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Urban) 2.0

Building on this success, PMAY-U 2.0 'Housing for All' Mission was launched in September 2024. The scheme pla...

Can Trump be a dictator?

At the end of August, Donald Trump declared in the White House that he is not a dictator. He clarified why he isn't, adding that he hates dictators. (However, he implied that Americans may like a "dictator.") During a Cabinet meeting at the White House in early September, Trump reaffirmed his belief that he is not a dictator, and he just knows how to stop crime. "Dictators everywhere, first of all, claim that they're not dictators," Harvard University political scientist Steven Levitsky reminded us following Trump's claim.

And secondly, "somewhat contradictorily, claim that the people want a dictator. Those are classic dictator lines." Before the 2024 election, Trump, however,

intended to become a dictator only on the first day of his second term. One can perceive that his aspiration has gained a long-time horizon. While Illinois Governor JB Pritzker referred to him as a "wannabe dictator," I also found an intriguing survey by the Public Religion Research Institute (PRRI) of 5,025 adults during February-March that revealed that 52 per cent of Americans think that President Trump is a "dangerous dictator."

But is he? Or can he be? "It'll be fixed!" Trump assured supporters during the 2024 presidential campaign that they won't have to vote in the future. Wow! He even advocated doing away with elections. Then, to gain more authority over

the Federal Reserve, President Trump attempted to fire Federal Reserve Governor Lisa Cook. When he disapproved of a subpar jobs report, he dismissed the head of the Bureau of Labour Statistics. He has demanded that former President Barack Obama

and institutional pushback. Undoubtedly, the nature of dictatorship changes with time. A dictator in ancient Rome was a leader who was momentarily granted absolute authority to address a particular situation. These days, leaders in non-democracies are



referred to as "dictators."

They typically consolidate power by intimidating or co-opting the legislature, courts, media, and other centres of authority. In their 2022 book Spin Dictators: The Changing Face of Tyranny in the 21st Century, Sergei Guriev and Daniel Treisman described how, in contrast to dictators of the 20th century like Hitler, Stalin, or Mussolini, today's leaders like Putin, Erdogan, and Orbán manipulate their populace by falsifying information and mimicking democratic processes. The use of the phrase "spin dictatorship" is primarily centred on media manipulation, highlighting outside threats, and feigning democracy. The

book explains why the majority of authoritarians in the modern era are spin dictators and how they vary from the "fear dictators," like Bashar al-Assad and Kim Jong-un.

Both kinds, however, aim to monopolise political power and maintain their positions indefinitely without fair elections or checks and balances. Is Trump a dictator, though? Daniel Treisman, a professor at the University of California, LA, however, says "no." Also, Steven Levitsky, a co-author of the 2019 book How Democracies Die, thinks Trump is not a dictator from a political science perspective. Trump could certainly sway the balance of power in the US Supreme Court by appointing a staggering number of federal judges during his first term – roughly 25 per cent of the 800-something total.

In fact, the US is a country where the public, media, and academicians freely debate judges' allegiance to the appointing party or president. However, in America, judges have lifelong tenures, and the court system is set up to restrain the executive. Thus, gaining the judiciary's complete allegiance is never simple. Not every Trump appointee has made decisions that align with Trump's preferences. Historically, President Franklin D. Roosevelt attempted but was unable to fully control

the courts. It's doubtful that Trump's Justice Department will be able to create the institutional and societal consensus necessary to do what FDR couldn't following the New Deal.

In the past, Trump rejected election results, claimed legal immunity even after leaving office, and defended MAGA-aligned media as an alternate source of reality. However, he is still far from establishing the kind of societal consensus he would need to rule as an autocrat or gain complete control over American institutions, the media, and the court. The mainstream news channels and independent media outlets are examples of the old guard's tenacity. New York is another symbol of a fortress, where Zohran Mamdani is expected to become this important city's mayor, despite Trump's fierce opposition. For as long as possible, cities and metropolitan centres – where young people, professionals, and educated elites congregate – will stave off an illiberal coup.

Still, from Columbia and Harvard Universities to Trump's tariffs, the fragility of the US system became apparent in the recent past. It's neither unassailable in its institutional commitment to liberal democracy nor impervious to populism, which is a prelude to authoritarianism.

Every corner of Ayodhya is painted, streets adorned with artistic paintings for Deepotsav

Ayodhya, the city of Lord Shri Ram, is currently fully immersed in preparations for Deepotsav 2025 and Ramnagar's identity is being enhanced not only as a spiritual center but also as a cultural and artistic splendor.

The three-day celebration will begin on October 17 and conclude with grandeur and divinity on October 19. This year, more than 30 lakh earthen lamps will be lit throughout the district including 28 lakhs alone at the temples and Saryu river ghats.

This year, the Deepotsav celebration is transforming Ayodhya into a unique cultural canvas, where flyovers, walls, and roads are adorned with scenes from the Ramayana and artistic 3D paintings.

This spectacle is becoming a center of attraction not only for locals but also for devotees and tourists from India and abroad.

This year, Ayodhya's flyovers are becoming a medium for the live depiction of the Ramayana during Deepotsav.

The Ayodhya Development Authority is engraving various episodes

overs and bypasses near Saadatganj, Naka, Devkali, and the Saket Petrol Pump. More work has begun in some locations, so that every traveler can experience the Ramayana.

Local artists have also



Lanka, the dialogue between Rama and Lakshman, and the abduction of Sita. These paintings not only soothe the eyes but also convey the teachings of the Ramayana to the general public. Local artists say that these paintings combine modern and traditional art to further highlight Ayodhya's cultural heritage.

Ashwani Pandey, Vice-Chairman of the Ayodhya Development Authority, stated here on Sunday that the divine figures carved on the flyovers and roads of Ramnagar are making this festival of lights even more special. "The areas surrounding the Ram Temple have been specially decorated, where the combination of lamp-light and artistic depictions presents a truly surreal sight. These figures depict Lord Ram, Mother Sita, Lakshman, and Hanuman, as well as the ancient culture of Ayodhya.

been given the opportunity, with walls decorated with scenes from the Ramayana.

The walls of Ayodhya are becoming a symbol of the cultural brilliance of the festival of lights this year. Scenes from the Ramayana have been depicted on the walls of the city's main roads, temples, and public spaces. These include scenes such as Hanuman's burning of

Afghanistan Invites India To Invest In \$1 Trillion Mineral Sector, Agriculture, And Sports

(Gns). Afghanistan's Foreign Minister Amir Khan Muttaqi has extended an invitation to India to invest in key sectors such as minerals, agriculture, and sports, while also urging the reopening of the Wagah border to boost trade and transit between the two nations.

During his visit to New Delhi in early October 2025, Muttaqi held detailed discussions with India's External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar, focusing on trade, infrastructure, humanitarian cooperation, and regional security. He highlighted Afghanistan's immense mineral potential—estimated to be worth around \$1 trillion—with reserves of lithium, copper, gold, iron ore, and other rare earth minerals, sectors including minerals and agriculture, and advocated for reopening the Wagah border to enhance trade, following discussions in New Delhi with India's External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar in early October 2025, focused on trade, encouraging Indian companies to participate in mining and development projects.

Afghanistan's Foreign Minister Amir Khan Muttaqi invited India to invest in



Bengaluru Real Estate Market Slows Down as Tech Layoffs Hit Homebuyers

(Gns). In Bengaluru, the real estate market is witnessing a clear slowdown as uncertainty looms over the tech job market. With major IT companies announcing layoffs and developments in the US technology sector impacting India's IT exports, many professionals are delaying their plans to buy homes or flats.

Festive Season Fails to Lift Bengaluru Property Sales as Buyers Wait and Watch

Bengaluru's real estate market is slowing down because of uncertainty in the tech job market, leading to a 20-25% drop in buyer inquiries, especially in areas like Whitefield and Sarjapur Road; unsold residential inventory has increased by 30% year-on-year.

Popular real estate hotspots like Whitefield, Sarjapur Road, and areas near Kempegowda International Airport were inquiries over the last two months. Even the festive season, which typically boosts property sales, has seen muted activity.

"Usually during Dussehra and Diwali, we see crowds, but this time interest is more cautious," said Kiran Kumar of Hanu Reddy Realty.

Impact of Job Market on Homebuyers' Sentiment

Areas like Electronic City, Bannerghatta Road, and Outer Ring Road-Bellandur are seeing fewer property site visits. Rising property prices, ongoing policy changes, and job insecurity are making buyers more price-sensitive and hesitant to commit.

According to real estate consultants across East and North Bengaluru, buyer interest is down compared to last year. Many potential homeowners are waiting to see stability in IT hiring before making large financial commitments.

Industry experts point out that policy changes have created additional confusion among buyers. Many prefer to wait for regulatory clarity and potential price corrections before investing. "Buyers are taking longer to decide and are more price-sensitive," Kumar added.



Sameer Wankhede Opens Up: Online Hate Pouring in on Family After Aryan Khan Series Suit

(Gns). Sameer Wankhede, a former zonal director of the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB), has reported that his family is receiving threatening messages from Pakistan, the UAE, and Bangladesh. This follows his defamation lawsuit against Red Chillies Entertainment and Netflix regarding the web series 'The Ba***ds of Bollywood'.

The Delhi High Court has summoned Netflix and other major entities involved in the series.

"My personal belief is that this has nothing to do with my job or my profession. In my personal capacity, I have approached the Delhi high court. I wouldn't like to comment on the court proceedings or the issues involved, because the matter has been sub

judice," Sameer Wankhede told news agency ANI.

Former NCB zonal director Sameer Wankhede reported receiving threats from Pakistan, UAE, and Bangladesh after filing a defamation lawsuit against Red Chillies Entertainment and Netflix regarding the web series 'The Ba***ds of Bollywood'.

The Delhi High Court has summoned these entities, seeking a response in seven days, with the next hearing scheduled for October 30.

The Delhi High Court has issued a summons to Red Chillies Entertainment Private Limited and others in response to Wankhede's civil defamation suit.

Justice Purushendra Kumar Kaurav issued this notice against Red Chillies Entertainment, owned by Shah Rukh Khan and Gauri Khan, among others. The court has requested responses from these parties within seven days.

Wankhede emphasized that his case revolves around self-respect, dignity, and honour. He argued that targeting him not only insults him but also those combating drug abuse. His family, unrelated to his professional duties, have been unfairly impacted by these threats.

Family Concerns Wankhede expressed concern for his family's safety due to these threats. "We have regularly informed the police about the threats that my sister and my wife keep getting. I will not accept that because of me, they are facing the brunt of it," he stated.

The court has instructed Wankhede to provide copies of his petition to all defendants involved in the case. The hearing for this matter is scheduled for October 30. Despite Wankhede's request for immediate relief, the court declined and advised him to return after ten days.

The defamation suit was heard by the high court on September 26. The petitioners were asked to file a rejoinder within three days after receiving replies from Red Chillies Entertainment and others.



Muhammad Yunus Addresses Hindu Minority Concerns Amid Political Tensions In Bangladesh

(Gns). Bangladesh's leader, Muhammad Yunus, has dismissed reports of violence against the Hindu minority in his country as "fake news," a phenomenon he attributes to India. In a recent interview, Yunus addressed various issues, including the potential return of Sheikh Hasina to face trial. The Nobel laureate economist was speaking with Mehdi Hasan of Zetco.

During the interview, Hasan mentioned that last November, approximately 30,000 Hindus in Bangladesh protested against Yunus's government. They claimed there were numerous attacks on their community. US President Donald Trump had described the violence as "barbaric." Hasan asked Yunus what measures could be taken to stop such violence.

Muhammad Yunus, the leader of Bangladesh, dismissed reports of violence against the Hindu minority as fake news, attributing it to India during an interview with Mehdi Hasan of Zetco, while also addressing the upcoming elections within six months after Sheikh Hasina's removal.

Yunus responded by labeling these reports as fake news and emphasized that India is currently known for spreading such misinformation. He further explained that while there might be occasional conflicts due to family or land disputes, these should not be viewed as religious issues.

He elaborated on how two neighbours might have disagreements over land boundaries. If one is Hindu and the other Muslim, it doesn't automatically make it a religious conflict. Yunus stressed that the interim government is vigilant about such matters since Sheikh Hasina was ousted in 2024 through public protests.

When asked about his message to Hindu Bangladeshis, Yunus advised them not to isolate themselves by identifying solely as Hindus seeking protection. Instead, he encouraged them to assert their rights as citizens entitled to state protection. This approach would align them with others who feel deprived of rightful treatment from the state.

The relationship between Bangladesh and India remains tense due to India's decision to offer sanctuary in exile to Sheikh Hasina. This issue continues to be a point of contention between the two countries.

Upcoming Elections Yunus confirmed that elections are scheduled within six months, marking 18 months since the revolt that led to Hasina's removal from power. He reiterated the government's commitment to addressing any issues related to communal tensions.



Three Landmark Initiatives Unveiled at International Purple Fest

(Gns). Goa, October 11, On the second day of the International Purple Fest, three transformative initiatives were launched to strengthen accessibility in listening, reading and writing for persons with disabilities, marking a significant step toward inclusive education and skill development.

Shri Rajesh Aggarwal, Secretary, Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities, Government of India, launched these initiatives in the presence of Shri Taha Haaziq, Secretary to SCPD, Goa, Mrs Richa Shankar DDG, Shri Praveen Kumar CMD, ALIMCO, Shri Kumar Raju, Director, Indian Sign Language Research and Training Centre (ISLRTC) and Shri Jasbir Singh, Dy. Secretary, Shri Anupam ecosystem and empowering persons with disabilities

Shukla, Ms Debala Bhattacharjee, Under Secretaries, and S K Mahto retired Dy. Secretary, Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities. The launches reflect the Government's continued commitment to building a barrier-free learning

to participate fully in global education and professional opportunities.

The first major launch was the IELTS Training Handbook for Persons with Disabilities, developed by Believe in the Invisible (BITI) with support from the Department of Empowerment of Persons

with Disabilities (DEPwD), Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment, Government of India. Authored by Anjali Vyas, Co-Founder of BITI and British Council-certified IELTS Trainer, the handbook is a first-of-its-kind inclusive resource designed to make IELTS preparation accessible, structured, and learner-friendly for persons with disabilities (PwDs). Serving both as a self-study guide for learners and a teaching manual for trainers, the publication addresses the challenges faced by persons with visual, hearing, locomotor and other disabilities in accessing standard IELTS resources. It provides reasonable accommodation guidelines, adapted strategies.



Union Minister Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya leads 'Sundays on Cycle' in New Delhi

Union Minister Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya leads 'Sundays on Cycle' in New Delhi with Doctors and Health Professionals, Stresses role of Health Professionals in guiding Bharat in its fitness journey

44th Edition of Sundays on Cycle held in more than 10,000 locations across India

World Para Athletics Championship medalists Sailesh Kumar, Praveen Kumar and Sonam Rana joined Sundays on Cycle to motivate citizens to take up fitness activities

(Gns). Union Minister of Youth Affairs & Sports and Labour & Employment, Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya, led the latest edition of 'Sundays on Cycle (SOC)', a nationwide initiative aimed at promoting fitness and healthy living among citizens, in New Delhi today.

This week's special partners were doctors and health professionals, underscoring the critical role of preventive health and the importance of physical activity in combating lifestyle diseases such as obesity.

Lauding their contribution to the nation, Dr. Mandaviya said, "As Health Minister during Covid, I have closely seen the dedication of doctors and health staff; their contribution to the nation is unparalleled and I take this opportunity to thank you all for joining Sundays on Cycle to spread the message of fit-

ness. I also urge you to guide citizens towards a healthier life because when a doctor says something related to health, people follow it. Whether it is the fight against obesity which is the vision of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi or the merits of cycling which we propagate through Sundays on Cycle, your message will reach every Indian."

The event saw enthusiastic participation from people of all ages, along with World Para Athletics Championship (WPAC) medalists Praveen Kumar, Soman Rana and Sailesh Kumar, who joined to inspire the public towards an active lifestyle. Organised in collaboration with the Cycling Federation of India (CFI), Yogasana Bharat, and MY Bharat. The Delhi event was conducted in partnership with Raahgiri Foundation, Fitspire and Red FM. Alongside cycling, the event also had Zumba, Rope Skipping led by Dr. Shikha Gupta.



12 paid menstrual leaves in Karnataka cover govt and private sectors, unorganised sector still unclear

(Gns). Menstrual Leave Policy in Karnataka: In a major move towards gender-sensitive workplace policies, the Siddaramaiah-led Karnataka government has approved a new initiative that allows women to take one paid day off every month during their menstrual cycle.

The Menstrual Leave Policy 2025 will apply not only to government employees but also to those working in private organisations across various sectors, including IT, corporate offices, and the garment industry.

Announcing the decision on Thursday, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah said the policy reflects the state's commitment to ensuring dignity and well-being at the workplace.

"Through the Menstrual Leave Policy 2025, women employees across Karnataka will now receive one paid leave day every month – a step towards a more humane, understanding, and inclusive workspace," the Chief Minister shared in a post on X (formerly Twitter).

The government stated that the new policy recognises women's health as a fundamental right and aims to create an environment where they can take care of themselves without hesitation or stigma.

"The Karnataka government recognises the importance of health as a fundamental aspect of women's rights and workplace wellbeing. The menstrual policy is a step towards creating an environment where women can take care of their health without stigma," said an official statement.

With this decision, Karnataka becomes one of the few Indian states to formally introduce menstrual leave for women in both public and private sectors.

Also Read: 24% students in Karnataka & Telangana distressed by fear of letting down parents

The move follows similar efforts in Kerala. The state introduced menstrual leave for female students earlier this year. Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan had said at the time that the initiative reflected the government's commitment to building a gender-just society.

Bihar and Odisha already have menstrual leave policies. But those benefits are currently limited to just government employees.

Karnataka's policy has received praises for being inclusive and progressive. But some questions persist about how the government will implement it. The confusion particularly is in the unorganised sector where monitoring workplace rights can be challenging.

The unorganised sector includes workers in various domains like small shops, daily wage jobs, construction sites, street vendors, domestic help. Simply speaking, these are the jobs that are not officially registered. The workers often do not have formal contracts or workplace benefits.

Workplaces in the unorganised sector, unlike the government offices and the private sector, may not have clear HR systems or leave policies. Women in these jobs often face pressure to work even when they are unwell. In many cases, taking time off can mean losing pay or even risking their job.

This makes it uncertain whether the 12 paid menstrual leave days promised by the government will really reach them.



ED questions Kerala CM's son, everything will come out, says gold smuggling accused Swapna Suresh

(Gns). Swapna Suresh, prime accused in the diplomatic baggage gold smuggling case, has reacted to the news that Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan's son Vivek Kiran has ignored the summons issued by the Enforcement Directorate's (ED) in 2023 in connection with the Life Mission money-laundering case.

In a Facebook post, Swapna said if the ED questions the son and daughter of the chief minister properly, everything will come out loud and clear like the sound of bells. For that to happen, the father's throne must be overthrown, she added.

Questioning why the Malayalam media are only now reporting on the ED summons to the chief minister's son, she said if an ordinary citizen's child ignored an ED notice, it would trigger immediate arrest, court proceedings, and a public uproar.

In her Facebook post on Saturday, Swapna recalled a 2018 incident when she, along with her former boss – the UAE Consular General, had gone to the home of the 'Captain'. "In 2018, I went to meet the captain with my old boss, Council General. The Captain told him (the UAE Consular General) that his son works in a bank in UAE and would like to buy a star hotel in the UAE at a reasonable price and requested the Council General to provide him with the necessary assistance.(If the CCTV footage of the captain's official residence has not been destroyed in lightning, the ED can see its visuals, if interested.) The doubt that arises among the public – can the son of a bank officer buy a star hotel in the UAE," wrote Swapna Suresh.



Congress withdraws from Rajya Sabha contest after seat-sharing dispute with NC

(Gns).

Exposing sharp differences between the ruling alliance partners, the National Conference (NC) and the Congress, on sharing of seats for the election to the four vacant Rajya Sabha seats in Jammu and Kashmir, the latter on Sunday unanimously decided not to contest the polls as the NC offered them an unsafe seat on which the BJP's position appeared strong.

The decision to keep away from the Rajya Sabha polls was taken in a meeting of the core committee of the Congress in Srinagar.

PCC president Tariq Hameed Karra announced after the meeting that it has been unanimously decided that the Congress will not field its candidate for the polls.

He said that the Congress high command had sought a safe seat from among the seats numbered 1 or 2. "However, the NC offered us seat number 4, which is not safe. Since the NC did not offer us a safe seat, we have decided not to contest the election," he said.

Karra said, "We will open our channels of discussion with the NC on the by-election for two seats of the assembly."

He said that the party had written a letter to the NC for leaving a safe seat for the Congress, but they have not responded so far. Tomorrow is the last day for NC having so far failed to constitute a coordination committee to oversee the governance.

The NC has already announced candidates for the three safe seats. Its candidates are Chowdhry Ramzan, Sajad Kitchloo and Shami Oberoi. With the party's strength in the assembly, the NC-Congress alliance was in a position to win three seats, while the BJP could win one.

The BJP this morning announced its candidates for three Rajya Sabha seats. The J&K unit's president, Sat Sharma, has been nominated for seat number 2, whereas Rakesh Mahajan and Dr Ali Mohammad Mir are the party's other candidates.



almost 60% of Indians are not ready for retirement, a Senior Consultant, AMFI

Mathura, October 12 – Increased life expectancy has made planning for retirement even more important and socially desirable in light of the fact that almost 60% of Indians are not ready for retirement, a Senior Consultant, AMFI, said in an interview to PTI today.

"The majority of Indians are not serious about financial planning and sometimes are spending beyond their means," Surya Kant Sharma said. This becomes more challenging with the fact that many still don't realise the importance of regular savings and investment of money, as time tested tools for having financial comfort in life.

Due to poor financial planning, investors put their hard-earned savings into online to make sustained investments for a financial goal. "Though it is not in our mind," Suryakant Sharma said.

He said SEBI and AMFI are working to bring maximum transparency in the structure of the investment products in the securities market, especially in mutual fund schemes.

Surya Kant Sharma was speaking on the conclusion of World Investors Week, organised worldwide by respective securities market regulators and in India by securities market regulator Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI), and all stakeholders of the securities market to create awareness amongst citizens for informed investment in the securities market.

Ponzi or unregulated schemes, promising unrealistic returns, and lose their money, Sharma added.

He advised investors to use calculators available hands as to how many years we are going to live after retirement, but how much money we should have for a comfortable retirement life is not difficult to know, keeping inflation in mind," Suryakant Sharma said.



Naujheel police caught two with 73 kg explosives

Mathura. Police have recovered a huge amount of explosive material in the forest of village Khajpur of Naujheel town and arrested two accused.

Naujheel police station in-charge Sonu Singh said that information was received from the informer that explosive fireworks were being made in the forests of Khajpur from Managadhi towards Khajpur. Acting on this information near Shri Krishna Hitkari Inter College, the police station reached the spot and conducted raids in two rooms arrested the accused Sandeep son of Devicharan alias Patwari and Rajbir son of Hubbi, residents of Khajpur Naujheel. Explosive materials, equipment for preparing fireworks and raw materials were seized from them. These include about 73.370 kg of gunpowder, sulfur and potash, small balls of clay, twine and paper for making twine bombs and equipment for making other fireworks. These items were prepared for the purpose of selling firecrackers and fireworks during the festival of Diwali.

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accused in police custody

Deputy Chief Minister Brajesh Pathak Inaugurates Kisna New Showroom

Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh, October 12, 2025: Kisna, India's leading diamond and gold jewelry brand, today inaugurated its new exclusive showroom in Indira Nagar, Lucknow, the capital of Uttar Pradesh. Uttar Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister Mr. Brajesh Pathak and Hari Krishna Group Founder and Managing Director Mr. Ghanshyam Dholakia were the chief guests at the event. To mark this festive season, Kisan has brought exciting offers for its customers – up to 75% off on diamond jewelry making charges, up to 25% off on gold jewelry making charges, and an additional 5% instant discount on ICICI Bank credit and debit cards. Additionally, the brand has launched a special 'Shop & Win' scheme, offering customers a chance to win over 1,000 scooters and 200+ cars upon purchasing diamond and gold jewelry. Mr. Ghanshyam Dholakia, Founder and Managing Director of Hari Krishna Group, said, "Lucknow is known for its rich culture and love for art. Our growing presence in Uttar Pradesh is a testament to the trust and love our customers have shown in Kisna, which is our greatest asset. Our vision is 'Har Ghar Kisna' – to bring beautiful and affordable diamond jewelry to every woman in the country." Mr. Parag Shah, Director, Kisan, said, "The opening of our new showroom in Lucknow marks another important step in Kisna's growth journey. We aim to provide customers with a great shopping experience based on trust, quality, and exquisite design, making their festivals even more memorable." Mr. Sudhir and Pratik Rai, Franchise Partners, Kisna, said, "We today has over 1,500 distribution points and over 100 exclusive showrooms across 28 states in the country. The company practices ethical sourcing of diamonds—maintaining transparency at every step from mine to market. Kisna's range includes rings, earrings, pendants, mangalsutras, necklaces, bangles, bracelets, nose pins, and men's jewellery, available in 14KT and 18KT gold. All products are IGI certified and BIS hall-marked. The company also offers 90% buyback and 95% exchange value (including making charges) on diamond jewellery.



MP CM Mohan Yadav transfers money to Laadli Behnas

(Gns).

Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Dr Mohan Yadav on Sunday announced that the occasion of Bhai Dooj and Diwali will bring sisters a gift as they will start receiving Rs 15,00 per month, instead of the present Rs 1,250, under the 'Laadli Behna Yojana'.

Asserting his government's commitment to the welfare of women and bringing smiles to them, the CM transferred the scheme's 29th installment for this month, amounting to Rs 1,541 crore to the accounts of over 1.26 crore Laadli Behnas at a grand function at Sheopur.

Speaking on the occasion, he said the interstate Parbati-KaliSindh-Chambal River Linking Project will greatly benefit the farmers of Sheopur.

He expressed the strong hope that in the near future, the region would surpass bonus, along with initiatives like Bhavantar, have been implemented for their economic benefit.

The chief minister also inaugurated and laid foundation stones for development works worth over Rs 532 crore.

Dr Yadav emphasized that the welfare of farmers, youth, and the poor is the top priority of the state government, and under the leadership of PM Narendra Modi, these sections have received priority.

He noted that Sheopur has received a gift in the form of a medical college. He pointed out that when Madhya Pradesh was formed in 1956, there were only 5 medical colleges until 2002–03. Now, the number has risen to 32—a result of the hard working of the state government. In the past year alone, 8 new medical colleges have been established.

The CM expressed happiness that local youths in Sheopur will now study medical sciences, opening up a new world for them. Nursing and paramedical colleges will soon follow.



“Our gurukuls shaped global thinkers, we’re reviving that culture,” says Ramdev

(Gns).

The annual celebration of Patanjali Gurukul, recognized by the Bharatiya Shiksha Board, took place at the Patanjali University Auditorium in Haridwar. The event brought together several spiritual leaders, educationists, and students to honour India's timeless Gurukul tradition.

Addressing the gathering, Swami Ramdev, the Chief Mentor of Patanjali Yogpeeth, said that India's ancient Gurukuls once produced leaders who guided the world with knowledge and values.

"Patanjali Gurukul is walking on the same path of our sages. Here, children are not only studying but also developing leadership qualities that will help them serve humanity," he said.

He praised the teachers of the Gurukul for shaping the students' character and guiding them toward a meaningful life. "Our Acharyas are not just teaching subjects. They are building the moral foundation of every student," Swami Ramdev added.

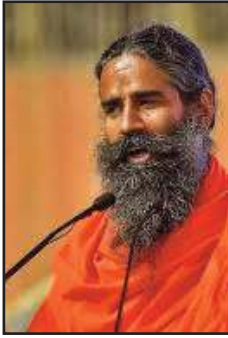
Swami Avdhesananand Giri, the Acharya Mahamandaleshwar of Juna Peeth, called Patanjali Gurukul a "living laboratory" for India's eternal and victorious culture.

"This institution is preserving and nurturing the essence of our Vedic traditions. The students here are awakening a higher form of human consciousness," he said.

Acharya Balkrishna, the co-founder of Patanjali, also applauded the blend of spirituality and modern education.

Gurukul has become a strong pillar for promoting Indian culture and Sanatan values. "Students here gain both knowledge and deep-rooted values. They are learning how to live life with purpose and integrity," he said.

Adding to the sentiments, Swami Chidanand Muni of Parmarth Niketan, Rishikesh, highlighted the importance of viewing India through its own spiritual lens. "The soul of India lies in Sanatan Dharma. Patanjali Gurukul is helping the nation reconnect with its true identity and history," he remarked.



Navigating the turbulent waters of US-China trade war — what it means for India

(Gns).

The recent announcement by the United States to impose a sweeping 100 per cent tariff on all Chinese goods from November 1, 2025, marks yet another escalation in the ongoing trade war between the world's two largest economies. China's robust response—declaring, "We do not want a tariff war but we are not afraid of it"—underscores the determination on both sides to defend their economic interests amid rising tensions.

This standoff, rooted in complex issues of intellectual property disputes, trade imbalances, and geopolitical rivalry, has far-reaching implications not only for China and the US but also for global trade dynamics and third-party economies, notably India.

The US-China Trade War: A Battle of Tariffs and Retaliations

terised by a series of tit-for-tat tariffs, with the US currently imposing an average tariff of 51.1 per cent on Chinese goods and China responding with an average tariff of 32.6 per cent on American products. The planned doubling of US tariffs to 100 per cent represents a dramatic intensification that threatens to disrupt global supply chains and economic stability. China's warning of "strong countermeasures" signals a potential spiral that could reverberate across markets worldwide.

India's Strategic Opportunity Amidst Turmoil

For India, the escalating US-China trade war presents a double-edged sword. On one hand, the higher tariffs on Chinese goods open a window of opportunity for Indian exporters to increase their footprint in the US market. Indian industries—particularly textiles, toys, and electronics—stand to gain significantly as American buyers look to diversify their supply chains away from China's tariff-induced cost escalations. Already, Indian toy exporters report rising interest from major US retailers, such as Target, and the Federation of Indian Export Organisations (FIEO) projects substantial market share gains in price-sensitive segments.

India's exports to the US, valued at USD 86 billion in 2024-25, position it well to capitalise on this shift. However, success depends on Indian exporters maintaining high standards of quality, compliance, and delivery reliability—critical factors that American buyers prioritise.

The Other Side of the Coin: Challenges in India-US Trade Relations

While India may benefit from the US-China trade friction, it is not immune to



BJP, JD(U) to contest 101 seats each in Bihar assembly polls

(Gns).

After much speculation, the seat-sharing formula within the NDA for the upcoming Bihar Assembly elections has been finalised. Following discussions among all constituent parties, the JD(U) and BJP have decided to contest 101 seats each.

Chirag Paswan's Lok Janshakti Party (Ram Vilas) has been allotted 29 seats, while Upendra Kushwaha's Rashtriya Lok Morcha and Jitan Ram Manjhi's Hindustani Awam Morcha (HAM) have been given six seats each.

The announcement was not made via a joint press conference but instead through social media posts by leaders of the alliance.

Sharing the details on platform 'X' (formerly Twitter), BJP's Bihar election in-charge, Vinod Tawde, wrote: "A united and dedicated NDA... All members of the NDA family have amicably completed the seat distribution for the upcoming Bihar Assembly elections through mutual consent. Leaders and workers of all NDA parties have welcomed this decision with enthusiasm. All partners are geared up and committed to bringing back an NDA government in Bihar."

Bihar BJP President Dilip Jaiswal, JD(U) Executive President Sanjay Jha, RLM Chief Upendra Kushwaha, LJP (Ram Vilas) leader Chirag Paswan, and other NDA leaders also posted the seat-sharing figures and expressed unity within the alliance.

The formula was finalised after several rounds of negotiations, largely coordinated by the BJP's central leadership.

While the BJP and JD(U)'s seat division had been agreed upon earlier, finalisation was delayed due to demands from Chirag Paswan and Jitan Ram Manjhi, both of whom insisted on a certain number of seats and specific constituencies.

Chirag Paswan was reportedly adamant on securing at least 30 seats, equivalent to his party's five MPs in Parliament. Meanwhile,

