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Modi to launch Bihar poll campaign from socialist icon Karpoori Thakur's birthplace

(Gns). Prime Minister Narendra Modi will begin his campaign for the Bihar assembly elections on 24 October from Karpoorigram, where he will pay tribute to Bharat Ratna Jananayak Karpoori Thakur before addressing his first election rally in Samastipur.

The decision to launch PM Modi's poll campaign from the birthplace of the socialist icon and two-time chief minister is not only political but also symbolic of an emotional connection.

It is seen as Modi's attempt to give a new direction to the politics of social justice and development in Bihar. Bihar BJP President Dr. Dilip Jaiswal told the media in Patna on Sunday that PM Modi will also address another rally in Begusarai later the same day.

The prime minister is scheduled to visit Bihar again on 30 October, during which he will address election rallies in Muzaffarpur and Chhapra. A series of further visits to the state are planned.

Dr. Jaiswal expressed



confidence that PM Modi's rallies will help create a favourable atmosphere for the NDA in Bihar and connect the public with the central government's schemes, developmental initiatives, and message of good governance. "All eyes in Bihar's political circles

are now on Modi's visit and his first speech, which is expected to shape the course of the electoral battle in the state," said

Jaiswal.

He added that the NDA is focused on development, the welfare of the poor, and women's empowerment. It

is concerned about youth employment and job creation. The welfare measures for farmers under the NDA government, he said,

have been unprecedented. The people of Bihar, he added, trust in PM Modi's guarantees.

Chief Minister Shri Bhupendra Patel to Extend New Year Greetings to the Citizens of Gandhinagar and Ahmedabad on the Auspicious Beginning of Vikram Samvat 2082

Chief Minister Shri Bhupendra Patel's Diwali and New Year Sneh Milan Programs

Gandhinagar, 19 October 2025: On the occasion of the start of Vikram Samvat 2082, Wednesday, 22nd October, Chief Minister Shri Bhupendra Patel will extend New Year greetings to the citizens.

Chief Minister Shri Bhupendra Patel will begin the New Year by visiting Panchdev Mandir in Gandhinagar at 7:00 am on Wednesday, followed by

pooja at Trimandir in Adalaj

at 7:30 am.

am. At 8:50 am, the Chief Minister will visit Raj



CM will greet citizens and exchange New Year wishes at the Community Center in the Cabinet Residence Complex at 8:00

Bhavan to extend New Year greetings to Governor Shri Acharya Devvrat.

Shri Bhupendra Patel will greet citizens and

exchange New Year wishes at the Annexe Circuit House in Shahibaug, Ahmedabad, at 10:30 am. Before this, the Chief Minister will visit the Bhadrakali Mata Temple in Ahmedabad at 10:00 am.

On New Year's Day, the CM will also visit the Police Officers' Mess at Shahibaugh Dafnala at noon at 11:45 am and attend the ceremony held to extend New Year greetings to senior police officers and their families.

No Deal Without Protecting Farmers, Fishermen, MSMEs: Piyush Goyal on India-US Trade Talks

(Gns). Union Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal said on Saturday that trade discussions between India and the United States are progressing positively. He avoided giving a deadline but assured that any final decision on the agreement will be communicated once the negotiations conclude successfully.

Union Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal stated that trade discussions between India and the United States are progressing positively, with talks focusing on protecting India's core sectors amidst shifting geopolitics influenced by China's export controls and high US tariffs on Indian goods, and an

Indian delegation is currently in the US for the sixth round of talks.

"I believe the talks are progressing in a very cordial atmosphere, and I

agreement unless we fully address the interests of the nation - India's farmers, India's fishermen, India's MSME sector," Goyal said. He added that talks are

ment came amid concerns over high US tariffs on Indian goods.

At present, US President Donald Trump has imposed a 50 per cent tariff on imports from India, among the highest globally. It includes a 25 per cent base tariff and another 25 per cent over India's purchase of Russian oil.

Shifting Geopolitics and Trade Realignment

Global political shifts are influencing the trade talks. After China tightened export controls on rare earth minerals, Trump threatened a "100 per cent tariff" on Chinese imports. This move could speed up a trade agreement between Washington and New Delhi.

According to a Global



have said many times that free trade agreements or trade talks are never based on deadlines. There is no

moving in the right direction and the government will share updates once a decision is reached. His state-

Hong Kong Plane Crash: Emirates Cargo Aircraft From Dubai Skids Off Runway, Plunges Into Sea

(Gns). A cargo plane arriving from Dubai skid off the runway on Monday and plunged partly into the sea at the Hong Kong International Airport, leaving two people dead.

The incident occurred at around 03:53 am local time when Emirates SkyCargo flight EK9788, operated by Turkish carrier Air ACT, landed on the airport's north runway (07R) after departing from Al Maktoum International Airport in Dubai.

The Boeing 747-481 (BDSF), registered TC-ACF, reportedly veered left mid-way through its landing roll before crashing into a ground-service vehicle and coming to rest with its nose

over the seawall.

According to local media, sources said the impact sheared off one of the vehicle's wheels. The four crew members on

initially reported missing, have been confirmed dead. One, aged 30, was pulled from the sea and confirmed dead at the scene at 5:55 am. The other, aged 41,

under way, involving fire services, marine police and a Government Flying Service helicopter. Emergency teams have cordoned off the area around the runway as the search continues.

Flight-tracking data from Flightradar24 indicated that the aircraft's landing trajectory suddenly shifted left shortly after touchdown.

A Cathay Pacific flight, CX851, which was preparing to land on the same runway, was forced to abort its approach and divert to the south runway following the crash.

Authorities have not yet determined the cause of the incident. Officials said the north runway will remain closed until debris



board the freighter escaped unharmed.

Two men aboard the ground vehicle, who were

was sent to North Lantau Hospital and was confirmed dead at 6.26 am.

Rescue operations are

Siddaramaiah's 'Sanatanis' Remark Ignites Row as RSS Seeks Clearance for Karnataka's Chitapur March

(Gns). Bengaluru: Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah has sparked a row after his remarks on the right wing and Sanatanis, urging people to avoid their company and remain cautious of the RSS and Sangh Parivar.

Siddaramaiah said that the RSS has historically opposed BR Ambedkar and the Constitution he framed.

Making the statement, Siddaramaiah said, "Keep your company right. Associate with those who stand for society, not with those who oppose social change or with 'Sanatanis'." The Chief Minister made the remark after inaugurating the silver jubilee celebrations of Mysore

University and dedicating the new Jnana Darshana building.

Siddaramaiah also alleged that the RSS and Sangh Parivar had opposed Ambedkar's Constitution and continue to do so, urging people to remain vigilant.

Calling Ambedkar a visionary who used knowledge for social transformation, he said, "Ambedkar acquired knowledge to understand society and used it throughout his life to change society."

Accusing the BJP and Sangh Parivar of spreading false propaganda in

Ambedkar's name, he said, "They are spreading lies that the Congress defeated Ambedkar in the elections. But the truth is what Ambedkar himself wrote in his own handwriting—'Savarkar and Dange defeated me.' Such truths must be placed before society to expose the falsehoods of the Sangh Parivar."

Karnataka HC asks RSS to File Fresh Petition for Route March in Chittapur on Nov 2

Earlier today, the Karnataka High Court asked the RSS representatives to file a fresh applica-

tion seeking permission to hold its route march in Chittapur of Kalaburagi district on November 2.

Justice MGS Kamal said this after the petitioner submitted to the court that it intends to hold the route march on November 2, since the permission for Sunday (October 19) was declined by the authorities.

A special bench of the HC was constituted to hear the petition filed by Ashok Patil on behalf of RSS.

The judge, during the hearing, asked the petitioner whether it would be possible to hold the march on an alternative date or time, to which the petitioner's counsel submitted that November 2 would be suitable.



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गरवी गुजरात हिंदी चैनल देखिये

Editorial

Dull Skies

India's battle with air pollution has long been seen through the lens of health and visibility ~ smog-filled skies, wheezing citizens, and the occasional winter air emergency. But an unsettling truth is now emerging: pollution is also stealing India's sunlight. Across vast stretches of the country, the Sun itself is growing dimmer, its rays scattered and weakened by clouds and aerosols that have thickened in the atmosphere over the past three decades. This slow eclipse has quietly reshaped India's natural rhythm. Meteorological data show that sunshine hours, the time direct sunlight actually reaches the ground, have declined persistently since the late 1980s.

The dimming is most pronounced over northern and coastal India, including regions like Amritsar, Kolkata and Mumbai, where industrialisation, traffic, and construction dust are at their most intense. The causes are both man-made and climatic: pollutants released from burning fossil fuels, crop residues, and industrial emissions seed tiny aerosol particles that not only scatter sunlight but also alter cloud formation, prolonging their presence in the sky. The implications are profound. India's solar revolution, once hailed as a cornerstone of its clean energy future, is now being undermined by the very pollution it seeks to replace. Aerosols and haze can reduce solar panel efficiency by up to 40 per cent, costing millions in lost power generation and undermining the economics of renewable energy projects. A nation chasing 500 gigawatts of renewable capacity by 2030 cannot afford to have its sunlight literally dimmed by dirty air.

The problem extends beyond energy. Crops, especially rice and wheat in the Indo-Gangetic plains, are suffering silent stress from reduced sunlight and altered temperature patterns, with studies suggesting yield losses of up to half in the most polluted regions. The same aerosols that block the Sun's rays also disrupt rainfall cycles, creating clouds that linger without releasing precipitation, a cruel paradox that darkens the sky without feeding the soil. India's dimming skies are a symptom of something deeper, a collective failure to see clean air as a foundational economic resource. Nations that once faced similar "global dimming," like Germany and Japan, reversed the trend through strong environmental laws and a cultural pivot toward clean energy and efficiency.

India, by contrast, continues to subsidise the pollution it condemns, allowing crop burning, unchecked vehicular growth, and lenient industrial regulation to erase the very sunlight its solar ambitions depend on. Reclaiming India's sunshine will require more than incremental reforms. It demands a generational commitment to cleaner fuels, stricter emission standards, and a unified national clean-air mission that goes beyond token restrictions in Delhi. For a country whose mythology and agriculture are both bound to the Sun, the fading light is more than an environmental warning, it is a reminder that progress cannot thrive in the shadows.

Standing Up for Herself

In a small town on the banks of the Ganges, a young woman stood her ground, not merely against a man's taunts but against the weight of an entire patriarchal mindset that continues to dictate how women in India should live, dress, and dream. Muskan



Sharma's calm defiance when confronted by self-appointed moral guardians is a moment that goes beyond a beauty pageant. It is a powerful reminder that individual freedom and dignity cannot be negotiated or suppressed under the guise of preserving "culture."

The scene was ordinary enough ~ a group of contestants preparing for a local beauty pageant ~ until a man stormed in to berate them for wearing skirts and "Western" clothes. What followed was extraordinary.

Instead of shrinking back, Ms Sharma questioned his right to police her choices. Her retort was sharp, logical, and fearless: if the sale of such clothes was not against the law, why should wearing them be? And if morality was truly the concern, why ignore far greater

Time for a reset in ties with Canada

The relationship between India and Canada has been marked by periods of highs and lows, influenced by factors such as the Cold War, nuclear non-proliferation issues, and trade disputes. Despite these challenges, both countries have consistently sought to strengthen their ties, recognizing the potential for mutual benefit in areas such as trade, education, and strategic cooperation. The recent agreement between India and Canada to work closely on a new roadmap for bilateral ties has generated significant interest and optimism about the future trajectory of their relationship.

This development comes at a crucial juncture, when both countries are seeking to diversify their diplomatic and economic

How Food Environments are Failing Children

A recent UNICEF report titled "Feeding Profit: How Food Environments are Failing Children" revealed very disturbing facts. It reported that globally, there are more overweight than underweight children, and overweight is the dominant form of malnutrition among school-going children and adolescents. The report said that as of 2022, 20 per cent kids in the 5-19 age group were overweight, while only 10 per cent were underweight, and 8 per cent of the overweight kids were obese.

The trend was seen to be more pronounced in lower and middle-income nations. This was a sharp change from 2000 when 13 per cent children were underweight and only 11 per cent overweight. The report held the ultra-processed food (UPF) and soft drinks industry primarily responsible and urged governments to take urgent steps to protect kids' diets by restricting availability, marketing and purchase of UPFs. The report elaborates how the UPF and beverage industries exercise disproportionate influence over what children eat: "It shapes what foods and beverages are produced and how they are marketed, especially in settings where government regulation is weak or absent.

In pursuit of profit, the industry leverages vast financial resources and deep political influence to resist policies aimed at creating healthier, more equitable food environments." These foods are more widely available, priced inexpensively, and marketed aggressively in places

where children live, learn and play, without much regulatory constraints in the low and middle-income countries, where inexpensive UPFs and beverages are flooding retail markets and schools. The report cited studies in Tanzania and Zimbabwe about how Public Private Partnerships are enabling UPF companies to distribute their food products directly in schools to build brand loyalty among young people.

The report noted, "The unethical business practices of the UPF and beverage industry undermine efforts to put legal measures and policies in place to protect children from unhealthy food environments." It recommends "robust safeguards to protect public policy processes from interference by the UPF industry" including compulsory exclusion of industry actors in policy design and implementation. According to the UN, between 1961 and 2021, the average daily food supply available for a person in the rich world increased by over 20 per cent to 3,500 kilocalories, but obesity rates have more than tripled; today, globally, one in three people is obese or overweight. All evidence points to UPFs. The Economist reports that in UK, USA, Canada and Australia, UPFs now make up over half of caloric intake, in some cases approaching 70 per cent.

This is not the case with France, Spain and Italy which follow traditional diets, but rising consumption points to a transition away from home-cooked foods toward packaged and convenience items. A



appear "modest." But when a young woman asserts the right to be herself, unapologetically, it unsettles the moral gatekeepers. Ms Muskan Sharma's victory, therefore, is not just a personal milestone. It is a quiet, yet emphatic, declaration that

unfolded, is not a city accustomed to diversity. It hosts yoga seekers, international tourists, and spiritual travellers, many dressed far more freely than the pageant contestants. Yet, the backlash Ms Sharma faced reveals how selectively this supposed

small towns in India are ready to challenge outdated notions of honour and shame. Her story is a testament to a new generation of women who are not asking for permission, they are claiming their space. For all its noise about culture and values, India's real strength lies in the courage of those who defend choice over conformity. That courage, as Ms Sharma has shown, can make even the smallest crown gleam with the light of a much larger freedom.

contours of India-Canada relations in the years to come. One of the key areas of cooperation is trade and investment. Canada is looking to diversify its trade and investment portfolio, and India, with its rapidly growing economy, presents an attractive opportunity.

The new roadmap could focus on reducing tariffs, improving market access, and promoting investments

From screen to soul: festivals via film

(Gns).

In Indian cinema, a festival is never just a celebration, it is a heartbeat. A plot twist. A pause before the storm. A grand, glittering breath. From the swirling gush of Holi to the solemn shimmer of Diwali diyas, from Eid celebrations bursting with rhythm to Lohri bonfires under a starlit sky, Indian films have long used festivals as more than just backdrops. They are portals.

Cinematic rituals. Emotional punctuation marks in the stories being told and remembered. As Diwali approaches, it is worth reflecting on just how powerfully cinema in India has preserved, performed, and reinvented the art of celebration, for all communities, all faiths, and all seasons of the soul. Some of the most iconic scenes in Indian cinema unfold beneath the glow of festivity. Consider "Rang Barse" from Silsila, a Holi song that speaks not just of colour, but of layered emotions, unspoken tensions, and the cathartic joy of release, a moment where the personal and the festive converge on screen. Then there is the effervescent "Balam Pichkari" from Yeh Jawaani Hai Deewani, where Holi becomes a cinematic turning point, playful, energetic, and unfiltered. It marks a moment of transformation for Naina, as

into components such as sugars, proteins, starches and fibre, which are then chemically modified and reassembled along with additives like artificial colours, preservatives and

Early in this century, Dr. Carlos Augusto Monteiro, a Brazilian epidemiologist, noticed that people in Brazil were buying less sugar and oil than in the past, and yet obesity and metabolic diseases were rising.

At that time, packaged snacks and ready-made meals loaded with sugar, fats and preservatives were gaining in popularity. In 2009, Dr Monteiro came up with a classification system for food called Nova according to their degree of processing. Foods like fruits and milk that required minimal processing belong to the first group, basic ingredients like butter and sugar belong to the second, while tinned vegetables, bread, and cold cuts belong to the third. It is the fourth group ~ the UPFs, that includes heavily processed items like fizzy drinks, sugary cereals and frozen pizzas, etc. that are most harmful to human health; they are made from ingredients like hydrogenated oils, high-fructose corn syrup, flavouring agents and emulsifiers which are not found in the home kitchen.

UPFs are made by breaking down whole foods

sweeteners to make the food more appealing and what is more dangerous ~ more additive. Multinational food companies employ the best brains from the best universities in the world and pay them millions of dollars just to research how to make such foods irresistible. The result is visible to all of us, open a packet of chips and it finishes before we even noticed.

This is a win-win game not only for the food and beverages industry but also for the pharmaceutical industry for obvious reasons, and even the government gets taxes from increased sales and investments from these companies. The only losers are the voiceless, helpless, hapless people who are not even aware of the damage they are causing to themselves and their children by consuming such foods. Authorities in Brazil, Canada and Peru are advising the public to limit consumption of these foods, while Colombia imposed a tax on highly processed foods and drinks. UK has banned TV and online advertising on unhealthy

foods and drinks from October this year through legislation. The restrictions apply to food products that constitute over 20 per cent of all food-and-drink purchases in British supermarkets ~ foods that are high in saturated fat, salt and sugar; they are the subjects of 60 per cent of all food-and-drink advertisements.

Big supermarkets will now be barred from selling such stuff using volume-based promotions. The efficacy of the measure is doubtful ~ the food industry with its powerful lobbies can resort to endless gimmicks to beat the law. Making regulations on food to promote a healthy diet is never easy. Policymakers have a tough job promoting healthier alternatives rooted in local culinary traditions. Indeed, regulating UPF and beverages is extremely difficult because the major players in these industries have immense financial leverage to arm-twist most governments. Their turnovers or market caps would exceed the GDP of most countries. They have no ethical concerns, taking advantage of weak regulation. Nestlé, the Swiss food MNC, was recently caught adding extra sugar to their baby food Cerelac in third-world countries, but not in developed countries.

The product is fed to babies 1-6 months old, and consumption of too much sugar at a young age can not only have long-term consequences like affecting the brain, but can be addictive as well, which assures a future market for MNCs. Numerous studies show that people who consume diets high in UPFs are exposed to high risks for obesity, type-2 diabetes,

cardiovascular diseases, various cancers and non-communicable diseases as well as mental-health problems. A 2019 NIH study by Kevin Hall found that UPF eaters consume 500 extra calories per day, eat more quickly and gain weight, suggesting that UPFs, engineered to be irresistibly tasty and energy-dense, prevent natural satiety cues from working. The combinations of ingredients like fat or carbohydrate plus sugar or salt which make food hyper-palatable do not occur in nature; they make people to eat more quickly, not giving enough time to the brain to tell the gut that it is full.

A Lancet-linked study of 300,000 people conducted over a period of nearly 11 years found a 17 per cent higher incidence of diabetes for every 10 per cent rise in UPF intake. Another study covering eight countries (Australia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Mexico, UK, and USA) showed that UPF consumption is clearly linked not only to half a dozen diseases but often leads to premature deaths. Yet another study, published in the journal Cell Metabolism, found that UPFs can negatively impact sperm quality and overall reproductive and metabolic health. All these only point to only one course of action by the government, to completely ban UPFs and sugary beverages from the Indian market. What will be consequences of such a ban, in terms of employment, income and growth? We shall try to explore this in the second part of this article.

friendships deepen and laughter becomes liberation.

In Kabhi Khushi Kabhie Gham, the grand Diwali homecoming sequence, with its glittering chandeliers, perfectly coordinated attire, and overwhelming emotional payoff, has become a cultural shorthand.

friendships deepen and laughter becomes liberation.

Indian films have never flattened festivals into stereotype. Instead, they allow each one to unfold in its own distinct rhythm; sometimes grand, sometimes intimate, always resonant. This is cinema as soft power: presenting an India where a temple bell a

settling into real life. The "Soni Soni" Holi sequence in Mohabbatein isn't just romantic, it is disruptive in the best way, using colour to challenge rigid tradition with uncontainable joy. "Happy Diwali" from Home Delivery, regardless of the film's fate, finds itself playing in homes, shops, and playlists every festive season.

These songs no longer belong solely to their films. They have found their way into weddings, markets, and memories. They are not just melodies, but markers of time and tradition. For many, these cinematic sounds are now part of how festivals are felt, heard not just in speakers, but in hearts. What makes these scenes endure is not choreography or costume, but the underlying emotion. They evoke home. Nostalgia. Belonging. Moments of standing on a terrace as fireworks crackle across the sky. Of dancing shoulder to shoulder in a Holi gathering. Of watching a quiet prayer scene in a darkened theatre and feeling suddenly, deeply understood. They remind viewers that celebration itself can be a form of resistance. That joy is not naïve, it is powerful.

That identity can be braided from many faiths, many sounds, many songs and still hold true to the spirit of joy. In an era often marked by division, cinematic festivals continue to stitch people together. They remind the world that India's soul does not rest in headlines, but in the way it celebrates: loudly, lovingly, and across difference. So this Diwali, as lights flicker across rooftops and screens glow with re-runs of beloved films, one truth remains unchanged: Indian cinema does not just capture festivals. It elevates them into stories. And turns stories into celebrations.



Happy Diwali & a Happy New Year



This festive season, let us embrace **Swadeshi**
Let us light the lamp of Viksit Bharat &
build **Atmanirbhar Bharat**



Shri Narendra Modi,
Hon'ble Prime Minister

Har Ghar Swadeshi
Ghar Ghar Swadeshi



Shri Bhupendrabhai Patel,
Hon'ble Chief Minister

Let us take pride in Swadeshi and light up India's path of development.

- Shri Harsh Sanghavi, Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister

Senior Devaswom Board officials among beneficiaries of Sabarimala gold heist: Unnikrishnan Potty

Unnikrishnan Potty, the prime accused in the Sabarimala gold heist case, has reportedly stated that many people, including senior Travancore Devaswom Board (TDB) officials, have benefited from the Sabarimala gold heist.

Unnikrishnan Potty has reportedly told the Special Investigation Team (SIT) probing the case that around 15 individuals, including senior officials of the Travancore Devaswom Board (TDB), were involved in the scam.

SIT officials interrogated Potty at the Crime Branch office in Thiruvananthapuram for several hours on Saturday. It was reported that Potty

informed the SIT that the conspiracy spanned both within and outside Kerala.



Potty also reportedly claimed he did not gain any financial benefit from the gold extracted from the Dwarapalaka idols and ornamental copper plates, alleging that others exploit-

ed the gold's value and used him as a pawn. While police suspect this could be

an attempt to shift blame, the investigation will now focus on those he has named. Suspended Devaswom official Murari Babu is also expected to be questioned soon, it is learnt.

It is learnt that the investigation team will take Potty to Chennai, Bengaluru, Hyderabad, Sabarimala, and the residences of his sister and associate, Vasudevan, for collecting evidence in the coming days.

During a search conducted at Potty's residence in Thiruvananthapuram on Saturday, the investigation team seized gold, cash, and documents. The investigating officers began the search at Potty's residence in Pulimath, Kilimanoor, on Saturday afternoon. The search continued till Sunday morning. Documents related to Unnikrishnan Potty's property transactions since 2020 were also seized.

Revanth accuses BRS of having a secret pact with BJP

(Gns). Accusing the Opposition BRS of colluding with the BJP ahead of the bypoll in Jubilee Hills constituency, Telangana Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy said that the party was conspiring to try to split votes due to a secret pact between the two.

Participating in the Rajiv Gandhi Sadbhavana Yatra Commemoration programme at Charminar on Sunday, the Chief Minister conferred the Sadbhavana award on veteran Congressman Salman Khurshid. Addressing the gathering, he said that the BRS and BJP have maintained a secret understanding since the 2014 Lok Sabha elections. "The transfer of 21 per cent vote share to the BJP in the Lok Sabha elections is enough to prove the conspiracy pol-

itics of the BRS in the state," Reddy said. He also appealed to voters to foil similar attempts by the



BRS in Jubilee Hills, a constituency with a sizeable minority vote, as the Congress fears the votes may be split.

In the last Lok Sabha

elections, the BRS failed to win any seats following its defeat in the Assembly elections just five months

earlier, while the BJP won eight seats, equalling the Congress tally. After the results were declared, both AIMIM president Asaduddin Owaisi, who had supported

the Congress, as well as the Chief Minister, alleged that BRS votes were deliberately transferred to the saffron party at the behest of party leaders.

The Chief Minister also referred to former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's contribution to lowering the voting age from 21 to 18 in his address. He also said reducing the age of contestants for MLA elections to 21 was now the need of the hour and assured that a resolution would soon be moved in the Telangana Legislative Assembly in this regard. He also recalled the former Prime Minister's efforts to uphold national integrity and communal harmony. Rajiv Gandhi had held the Sadbhavana Yatra from Charminar to Secunderabad in 1990 for national unity.

Restaurant owner shot dead in Ranchi over biryani dispute

(Gns). Tension gripped Ranchi's Kanke Road area after Chowpatty Restaurant owner Vijay Nag was shot dead late Saturday night following an argument over a food order.

According to police, the dispute began when a group of customers who had ordered vegetarian biryani were mistakenly served non-vegetarian biryani. The altercation escalated and one of the men allegedly opened fire, killing the restaurant owner on the spot.

The incident sparked outrage in the locality. On Sunday morning, hundreds of residents gathered on the Ranchi-Pithoria Road and blocked traffic for over an hour, demanding immediate arrest of the culprits.

The protestors accused the police of negligence and alleged that rising lawlessness in the capital has emboldened criminals.

Kanke MLA Surendra Baitha reached the spot and appealed for calm. The



blockade was lifted after police officials assured the crowd that the accused would be arrested within 24 hours.

The Jharkhand Chamber of Commerce condemned the incident, calling it deeply disturbing and an indication of deteriorating law and order in Ranchi. In a statement, Trilochan Singh, chairman of the Chamber's Hotel and

Banquet Sub-Committee, said the killing of a restaurant operator over a food

dispute was unacceptable and a matter of grave concern for the hospitality sector. He urged the administration to take swift and strong action against the perpetrators and to reinforce security in the city.

At an emergency meeting held at the Chamber office, office-bearers expressed concern over the growing number of violent incidents during the

festive season. President Aditya Malhotra, Vice-President Praveen Lohia, Secretary General Rohit Agarwal, Joint Secretary Navjot Alang and Treasurer Anil Agarwal were present. Law and Order Sub-Committee chairman Mukesh Agarwal visited the site and met police officers to press for immediate action.

Secretary General Rohit Agarwal said despite police presence, the recurrence of daylight murders and shootings showed that criminals no longer fear the law. He demanded stronger policing and accountability to restore confidence among the business community.

The police have initiated an investigation and assured that those involved in the murder will be apprehended soon. Additional forces have been deployed in the area to maintain order.

Former live-in partner stabs pregnant woman to death, killed by husband

(Gns). A man stabbed his former live-in partner, a pregnant woman, to death in Delhi's Nabi Karim area on Saturday night before being overpowered and killed by her husband with the same knife, officials said.

The police described the act as a 'crime of passion' involving a complicated love triangle.

The deceased have been identified as 22-year-old Shalini and 34-year-old Aashu, also known as Shailendra.

The incident took place at around 10:15 pm on Saturday near Qutub Road in Nabi Karim. Preliminary investigations indicate that Aakash and Shalini had gone to visit her mother,

Sheila, when Aashu allegedly attacked Aakash with a knife. As Aakash



managed to escape the attack, the assailant moved on to assault Shalini, who was seated in an e-rickshaw. He stabbed her multiple times, the police said.

In a bid to rescue his wife, Aakash sustained

stab injuries. In the following melee, he overpowered Aashu and stabbed him with the same knife.

Deputy Commissioner of Police, Central said "Shalini's husband, Aakash, suffered stab injuries and is receiving treatment at Lady Hardinge Medical College (LHMC) Hospital."

Shalini's brother Rohit rushed all three to LHMC Hospital where doctors declared Shalini and Aashu dead on arrival.

DCP Valsan said in his statement that the preliminary inquiry revealed that Shalini and Aakash, a married couple with two children, were reportedly trying

to reconcile after a period of estrangement. During that period, Shalini was reportedly in a live-in relationship with Aashu outside Delhi. Police sources said Aashu became enraged after Shalini returned to her husband and had claimed to be the father of her yet to be born baby.

The officer confirmed that Aashu had a criminal record and was known as a 'bad character' at the Nabi Karim police station while Aakash had three previous criminal cases registered against him.

Based on the statement of Shalini's mother, an FIR has been filed under Sections 103(1) [murder] and 109(1) [attempt to murder] of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS).

Diwali vs Christmas? Akhilesh Yadav's Comment Sparks a War of Words

(Gns).

As the glow of Diwali lights up cities across Uttar Pradesh, a political storm has dimmed the festive cheer.

Samajwadi Party leader Akhilesh Yadav found himself at the centre of controversy after suggesting that the state government rethink its spending on Diwali diyas - drawing an unexpected comparison to the way Christmas is celebrated around the world.

Speaking at a recent event, Yadav remarked that during Christmas, cities abroad remain illuminated for months. "Why do we have to spend so much on lamps and candles?" he asked, adding that his party

would "ensure more beautiful lights" if voted to power. Akhilesh Yadav, a Samajwadi Party leader, faced criticism from the Vishva Hindu

Parishad (VHP) after suggesting the Uttar Pradesh government reconsider spending on Diwali diyas, drawing comparisons to Christmas celebrations; the VHP accused Yadav of insulting Hindu traditions.

Those comments, made just days before Diwali, ignited an immediate back-

lash.

VHP Fires Back The Vishva Hindu Parishad (VHP) didn't hold back.

Its national spokesperson Vinod Bansal took to X (formerly Twitter), accusing Yadav of insulting Hindu traditions. "This former Chief Minister is praising Christmas on Diwali! The rows of diyas have burned his heart," Bansal wrote.

He went further, calling Yadav a supporter of "conversion gangs" and claiming he admired "foreign festivals more than Indian

ones."

The Cultural Clash Bansal reminded Yadav that Diwali existed long before Christianity and accused him of undermining the potters and artisans who depend on diya sales. "For him, Christmas is already here, but the diyas made by our brothers seem to bother him," he said sharply.

He even rechristened Yadav's party as the "Asamajwadi Party" - or "anti-social party" - alleging jealousy over Ayodhya's festive grandeur.

The spat has quickly turned into a larger conversation about India's cultural identity and politics of celebration.



Mayawati urges support for Akash Anand at National BSP meet

(Gns).

Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) National President and four-time former Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh, Mayawati, convened a high-level meeting in Lucknow on Sunday with over 430 party coordinators from across India, excluding Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand.

The two-hour-long session focused on strengthening the party organization and expanding its grass-roots presence across the country.

Mayawati emphasized that the time had come for BSP to reassert itself as a powerful national force, rooted in the vision of social transformation and economic emancipation laid down by party founder Kanshi Ram and Dr BR Ambedkar.

She urged party workers

to replicate the energy and commitment shown by lakhs of supporters during the October 9 rally in

Mishra. As Mayawati entered the hall, Akash Anand touched her feet in a gesture of respect. The



Lucknow commemorating Kanshi Ram's 19th death anniversary.

Also present at the meeting were her nephew and party's vice-president Akash Anand, his father Anand Kumar, and senior BSP leader Satish Chandra

seating arrangement reflected her singular leadership, with a central chair for her and three side chairs for her close aides.

In a significant move during the meeting, Mayawati called upon all BSP leaders and coordina-

tors to extend their full support to her nephew Akash Anand. Drawing a parallel with her own rise, she said, "Just as you have always stood by me and strengthened the party, I urge you to stand firmly with Akash as well." This statement was seen as a clear signal that Mayawati is gradually grooming Akash for a more prominent leadership role within the party.

During the meeting, Mayawati reviewed the party's performance and organizational groundwork in each state (except UP and Uttarakhand, which had their separate review on October 16). She issued specific directives to coordinators to fill gaps, address emerging political challenges, and connect more deeply with the masses across all communities.

Swadeshi Plank shares space with greetings in Rajasthan CM's Diwali cards

(Gns).

The BJP-led Rajasthan government's inspiration behind the adoption of Swadeshi and the plank of Atmnirbhar Bharat is so strong that it dominated Chief Minister Bhajan Lal Sharma's thoughts largely over his sentiments for extending Diwali greetings to people.

In his message to the people of the state, Sharma, while conveying warm heartfelt good wishes to all on Deepawali, did not forget to appeal to people to adopt Swadeshi. "...

Deepotsva Par Aaeye Hum Sabhi Pradhan Mantri Shri @narendramodi Ji Ke #VocalForLocal" Abhiyan

Ko Sashakt Bante Huye Swadeshi Utpadon Ka



Upyog Karen," he wrote.

He said all should support and encourage local artisan and their products.

The CM also appealed

to the people to care for environment and buy and

burst only green crackers made by local manufacturers and workers.

Even in the official greeting cards sent to dig-

nitaries from different walks of life, by the CMO on behalf of Chief Minister Sharma mindfully exhorted recipients take pledge for the cause".

The multi-coloured greetings cards reads: "Come, let us take a pledge this Diwali to adopt SWADESHI and make ATMNIRBHAR & VIKSIT BHARAT."

He did not stop at appealing to others and sending greeting cards to well wishers, but proceeded for festival purcharging along with his wife and the son in the Mansarovar market bought local artisan made items.

Two killed as speeding Jaguar rams into Diwali crowd in Prayagraj

(Gns).

A horrific road accident rocked the Rajrooppur area of Prayagraj on Sunday afternoon when a speeding Jaguar ran over eight people and collided with multiple vehicles amid a bustling Diwali crowd.

The luxury vehicle, reportedly owned by the family of prominent local sweets business Kamdhenu Sweets, hit two four-wheelers and five two-wheelers before crashing. One young man, identified as Pradeep Patel, an electrician by profession, died on the spot while four others were rushed to a hospital with serious injuries, including two children in critical condition.

The car was allegedly being driven by Rachit Madhyan, a member of the Kamdhenu Sweets family and a resident of Lukarganj. Eyewitnesses claimed that he was heavily intoxicated and driving alone at an

extremely high speed, nearly 100 km/h, when he lost control of the vehicle. The car's airbags failed to



deploy, leaving the driver himself critically injured. Notably, the vehicle's doors were locked from the inside and he had to be rescued by police personnel before being sent to the hospital.

According to the Regional Transport Office (RTO), the Jaguar is registered under KSN Foods LLP, with an address listed at 122 Lukarganj.

The incident triggered public outrage. Enraged

locals vandalized the car and staged a protest at Rajrooppur crossing, blocking the road and shouting

slogans against reckless driving and administrative negligence. Police officials arrived at the scene and struggled to bring the situation under control, eventually restoring traffic after pacifying the crowd.

Pradeep Patel's family has refused to allow a post-mortem examination of his body. A probe into the incident is underway.

Meanwhile, in a separate incident in the Etah dis-

trict, two men returning home for Diwali were killed when an unidentified vehicle collided with their motorcycle on Saturday night near Aaspur village under the Malawan police station limits.

According to SHO Rohit Rath, the three victims were employed in Gurugram and were on their way home when the fatal crash occurred. Anuj (50), a resident of Hardoi, and Abhishek Maurya (55), from the Mau district, died on the spot, while a third individual, Sanjay, sustained serious injuries and is currently receiving treatment at Avanti Bai Medical College in Etah.

The police were alerted by bystanders and are now investigating the case using CCTV footage from the area to identify the hit-and-run driver. The bodies of the deceased have been sent for post-mortem, and their families have been informed.