

Good Morning

Kashmir

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Every Indian heart has an inner song and that is Vande Mataram. During freedom struggle when Vande Mataram was sung by someone, other hearts were humming it back. Thus, a strong bond was created which should inspire young generation today to serve Maa Bharti.

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BY-POLLS

NC faces shocking defeat in Budgam, BJP retains Nagrota



YOGESH

SRINAGAR: The National Conference suffered a historic defeat in its Budgam stronghold on Friday, ending a 47-year winning streak, while the Bharatiya Janata Party comfortably retained the Nagrota seat in Jammu.

In Budgam, the People's Democratic Party candidate Agha Syed Muntazir secured 21,576 votes, defeating NC's Agha Syed Mehmood who polled 17,098 votes, a margin of 4,478 votes that marks the first time the party

In a first, PDP clinches victory in Budgam constituency

NAVEED UL HAQ

BUDGAM: In a landmark political shift, the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) has won the Budgam Assembly Constituency for the first time in history, breaking the decades-long dominance of National Conference (NC) in the central Kashmir seat.

• P-06

150th year commomeration of 'Vande Mataram'

Going has never been as good in J&K as it has been since 2019: LG Sinha

Says Vande Mataram 'inner song' of every Indian heart

GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: "The going has never been as good for Jammu Kashmir in the past as it has been since 2019," the Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha said on Friday. He said, Jammu Kashmir's economy has grown at an impressive pace since 2021 and rapid growth in infrastructure since 2019 is unprecedented in J&K UT history.

"Our effort for industrialization is showing impressive growth. We have taken bold decisions taking Jammu Kashmir into a brighter future and ensuring far greater prosperity for our people," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor was speaking at the valedictory function of first phase of celebrations marking the 150th year of the national song 'Vande Mataram' at MA Stadium in Jammu. The event witnessed a massive gathering with more than 20,000 students and citizens participating in the mass singing of 'Vande Mataram' on the occasion. The second phase will start from 9th January 2026. The celebration was organised by Department of Culture.

The Lieutenant Governor congratulated the people of Jammu Kashmir for their historic participation in the 150th year celebration of 'Vande Mataram'.



"I am proud to announce that Jammu Kashmir has secured 1st rank nationally in the overall participation in week-long celebrations marking 150th year of national song. Today, more than 20,000 students and citizens participated in showing a strong indication of national pride," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor paid homage to Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay and highlighted his contribution

in freedom struggle and inspiring the society.

He said, Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay had strengthened the bond between Maa Bharti and her sons and inspired people to secure the independence.

"Every Indian heart has an inner song and that is Vande Mataram. During freedom struggle when Vande Mataram was sung by someone, other hearts were humming it back. Thus, a strong bond was created which should inspire young generation today to serve Maa Bharti," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor observed that every section of the society should spread the ideas and ideals of Bankim Chandra which shaped our freedom struggle and use its spirit to take the UT of Jammu Kashmir forward into the future.

"We must show the courage, wisdom and strong conviction that Bankim Chandra would have expected us in building a peaceful and prosperous J&K UT," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor called upon every citizen to dedicate themselves to nation-building, shedding the vestiges of colonial past and embrace the spirit of brotherhood and equality.

"The overwhelming participation of citizens in programmes like 'Har Ghar Tiranga' and 'Vande Mataram

• P-06

Nagrota, Budgam results reflect verdict against family-driven politics: LoP

RAJA SYED RATHER

JAMMU: Leader of Opposition in Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly, Sunil Sharma on Friday said that the election results in Nagrota and Budgam clearly reflect the public's verdict against "nepotism, corruption and family-driven politics" in Jammu and Kashmir.

Speaking to reporters, Sharma, said the victory of Devyani Rana in Nagrota was "inevitable" as the people voted to fulfill the dreams of the late Devender Singh Rana.

"Nagrota's result was definite. The people had already decided to elect Devyani Rana to bring peace to the soul of Swargi Devender Singh Rana and carry forward his vision. What is astonishing is the massive margin with which a young leader entering politics for the first time has been blessed," he said.

Reacting to allegations



from rival leaders regarding misuse of money and influence, Sharma said such claims only show their "lack of trust" in the public mandate.

On the Budgam by-poll, Sharma termed it a "historic rejection of the Abdullah family."

"This is the defeat of the Abdullah family and Omar Abdullah. I have not seen such public anger against any former Chief Minister in such a short time. People are fed up with corruption, nepotism, deceit and broken promises," he said.

• P-06

'Political suicide'

Ruhullah backed a man who 'will never let him grow': CM Omar

YOGESH

JAMMU: Conceding defeat in the Budgam and Nagrota Assembly segments, National Conference (NC) Vice President and Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Friday said the party will analyse the results in both constituencies to take necessary steps for the future. He further said the party's Member of Parliament (MP), Agha Syed Ruhullah Mehdi, had "committed political suicide" to "send me a message" through the Budgam by-elections.

The by-election results declared today saw the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) candidate Agha Syed Muntazir Mehdi triumph over the NC's Agha Syed Mehmood by a margin of 4,478 votes. Mehdi secured 21,576 votes, ending the NC's



decades-long dominance in the Shia-majority seat, which has been a party stronghold since 1962—barring a single loss to Congress in 1972.

Similarly, in Jammu, Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) candidate Devyani Rana clinched the Nagrota Assembly constituency by-election, securing 42,350 votes. NC candidate Shamim Begum, a sitting

District Development Council member, trailed in third place with just 10,872 votes.

Speaking to media persons about the "Ruhullah factor" in Budgam, Omar said there was certainly an impact. "But as we say, 'You cut off your nose to spite your face.' Similarly, Ruhullah has committed political suicide to send me a message through Budgam. Ruhullah has done whatever he had to do, but politically, he has committed suicide, as the man who has emerged victorious will never allow him to contest again from Budgam. I can contest from there again, but whether Ruhullah will contest or not is for him to decide," he said.

Abdullah added that whatever happened has happened, and now the party will do whatever it has to do.

• P-06

CS launches Single Window System for Recruitment Rules



GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: In a significant step toward strengthening administrative efficiency and transparency in government functioning, Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo Friday formally launched the Single Window System for Recruitment Rules (RRs).

The launch, attended by senior Administrative Secretaries and Heads of Departments, marks a major governance reform aimed at streamlining the formulation, amendment, and timely approval of Recruitment Rules across all departments in J&K.

Speaking on the occasion, the Chief Secretary described the initiative as a unique and transformative measure designed to bring uniformity, efficiency,

and enhanced monitoring to the entire process of Recruitment Rules management. He emphasized that the new system will not only simplify departmental workflows but also ensure that each stage is tracked and completed within defined timelines.

The Chief Secretary underscored the need for capacity building and targeted training of Nodal Officers and other departmental staff to enable effective functioning of the new system. He also called for expediting its integration with the e-Office network, enabling seamless digital processing, enhanced visibility, and improved inter-departmental coordination.

The Chief Secretary further stressed the importance of ensuring that all existing Recruitment Rules

• P-06

'Ruhullah's absence, Para's push'

NC loses Budgam after 47 years in stunning political upheaval

SAJID RAINA

SRINAGAR: In a result that has sent ripples through Kashmir's political establishment, the National Conference (NC) on Friday lost the Budgam Assembly seat for the first time in nearly half a century, a stunning break in a constituency long treated as the party's safest ideological home.

Peoples Democratic Party's Agha Syed Muntazir Mehdi secured 21,576 votes, defeating NC's Agha Syed Mehmood, who polled 17,098, ending a 47-year winning streak that survived insurgency, boycotts, political realignments and generational churn.

The 4,478-vote margin, analysts said, is less a number and more a verdict on internal rifts, shifting loyalties, and a quiet rebellion



brewing within the NC's own Shia belt.

For the NC, Budgam has never been an ordinary constituency. From Ghulam Hussain Geelani's victories

in 1977, 1983, 1987 and 1996, to Agha Ruhullah's sweep of the 2000s, the seat has functioned as both a family turf and a party bastion, uninterrupted even in the most turbulent

phases of Kashmir's politics. But this election marked the first time the NC went into Budgam without the campaign muscle of Agha Syed Ruhullah, its most

• P-06



Budgam verdict 'people's reply to 2024 neglect': Agha Muntazir

NAVEED UL HAQ

SRINAGAR: Newly elected legislator from Budgam, Agha Syed Muntazir Mehdi on Friday said his victory in Budgam by-election is the outcome of "50 years of hard work" and reflects the people's response to the "neglect" they faced in 2024.

Speaking to reporters after securing a decisive win for the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP), Mehdi, said the mandate carries a message that political change in Jammu & Kashmir would begin from Budgam. "This is a result of our hard work of 50 years. The way people of

• P-06

PM, Nitish hail landslide win

NDA Secures Decisive Victory in Bihar Elections



AGENCIES

PATNA: The ruling NDA decimated the Mahagathbandhan in Bihar on Friday to retain power reaffirming Prime Minister Narendra Modi's popularity and Chief Minister Nitish Kumar's enduring appeal and dealing a body blow to the Congress and ally RJD.

The massive scale of the victory of the National Democratic Alliance(NDA) can be gauged from the fact that its two main

constituents--BJP and JD(U)--are on course for an over 85 per cent strike rate in 101 seats each they had contested. The alliance is set for a "200 paar" win for a three-fourth majority with BJP emerging as the single largest party, according to latest results and trends at 9.30 pm.

"The people of Bihar, with this massive victory and their unshakable confidence, have taken the state by storm (garda uda diya)," Prime Minister Modi told cheering party

• P-06

CM Omar reviews ongoing housing projects in Jammu



GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah Friday inaugurated a newly constructed block of residential flats at Muthi, marking a major step towards strengthening the Government's housing infrastructure for its employees.

The Chief Minister formally opened the facility by cutting the ceremonial ribbon.

Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Kumar Choudhary, Advisor to the Chief Minister Nasir Aslam Wani, Additional Chief Secretary to the CM Dheeraj Gupta, Director General Estates Tariq Hussain Ganai, Deputy Director Estates Jammu Dr. Vikas Sharma, and other senior officers were present on the occasion.

The new block at Muthi comprises 28 one-room residential flats built as a

Ground + 6 floors structure. Each compact unit includes a bedroom, lobby/living area, kitchen, and washroom—designed to efficiently meet the residential needs of employees while ensuring cost-effectiveness and optimal space utilization.

The Chief Minister inspected various flats, appreciated their aesthetics, and expressed satisfaction over the space management evident in the construction. He hoped that the project would help in addressing the accommodation requirements of government employees.

During the briefing, DG Estates Tariq Hussain Ganai informed the Chief Minister that the project has been executed with a strong focus on functional design, structural safety, and affordability. He added that the department is undertaking a compre-

hensive plan to modernize old residential colonies in a phased manner.

DD Estates Jammu Dr. Vikas Sharma briefed the Chief Minister on the layout, amenities, and ongoing supervision mechanisms put in place to ensure quality control and timely completion of upcoming housing units.

Speaking on the occasion, the Chief Minister reaffirmed the Government's commitment to strengthening residential infrastructure and ensuring access to safe, secure, and well-planned housing for employees.

"Our aim is to bridge the gap in government accommodation by creating modern, sleek and employee-friendly residential spaces across Jammu and Kashmir," he said.

The Chief Minister later inspected the ongoing construction of 56 two-room

residential flats—28 each at Ahata Amar Singh and Sarwal. These Ground + 6 floor structures include two bedrooms, a lobby/living area, kitchen, and two washrooms, designed to meet the needs of employees with families. The projects are scheduled for completion in December 2025.

He directed the officers to ensure optimal use of available land, maintain high aesthetic standards quality in construction and phase out old and unsafe quarters to make way for new and improved residential facilities.

The Chief Minister observed that the combined 84 residential units coming up at Muthi, Ahata Amar Singh, and Sarwal will substantially reduce the shortage of government accommodation. He emphasized that these initiatives aim to close the existing housing gap, provide employees with modern and better living environment, and promote fair and equitable allocation of residential facilities across different employee categories.

He appreciated the Estates Department for expediting construction across multiple locations and underscored the need to continue upgrading public infrastructure for the welfare of government employees.

CS calls for 100% saturation of PM Fasal Bima Yojana for eligible farmers



GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, Friday chaired a meeting to review the implementation, reach, and impact of the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) in Jammu and Kashmir, calling upon all banks and financial institutions to ensure complete saturation of the scheme for eligible Kisan Credit Card (KCC) holders ahead of the upcoming Rabi season.

The meeting was attended by Additional Chief Secretary, Agriculture Production Department (APD), Shailendra Kumar, Heads of Departments of the Agriculture Production Department, the Convenor, UTLBC, while all Deputy Commissioners participated through video conferencing.

Emphasizing the need to utilize the window available till 31st December, the

Chief Secretary directed banks to register as many farmers as possible under PMFBY for the Rabi 2025 season. He underscored that the scheme serves as a vital safeguard for farmers against crop loss arising from adverse weather conditions and natural calamities.

The saturation of PMFBY is crucial for securing the livelihoods of vulnerable farming communities across the Union Territory, he said, stressing the need for proactive mobilization by banks and field agencies.

He further instructed the Agriculture Production Department to submit insurance claims promptly to banks to ensure swift and timely settlement for affected farmers.

Chief Secretary, Dulloo directed all Deputy Commissioners to monitor progress at the district level and remove bottle-

necks to ensure maximum enrollment of eligible farmers. The DCs shared district-specific insights, highlighting both challenges and opportunities in expanding coverage under PMFBY.

Speaking during the meeting, ACS APD Shailendra Kumar emphasized the need for assigning daily enrollment targets to bank branches over the next 45 days to ensure full coverage before the Rabi season begins.

He instructed banks to focus equally on all crop categories, rather than prioritizing only cash crops. He also directed them not to delay processing of claims over concerns regarding the UT's share, assuring that the requisite UT contribution would be released prior to claim disbursements.

The meeting was informed that cumulatively 11.5 lakh farmers

have been enrolled under PMFBY across J&K, while for Kharif 2025, a total of 72,356 claims worth Rs 40.28 Cr have been received. Overall, 2.01 lakh farmers, covering 75,732 hectares, were registered under the scheme for the Kharif season. In addition, out of 4,35,313 eligible KCC account holders, 1,68,421 farmers were brought under PMFBY for crop insurance coverage during this crop season.

The meeting also reviewed the progress of tendering for the Restructured Weather-Based Crop Insurance Scheme (RWBCIS). It was informed that five insurance companies have submitted bids for Jammu division and four for Kashmir division. These bids are scheduled to be opened on 17th November, enabling timely rollout and implementation of this flagship scheme across all districts of the UT.

Div Com Chairs Meeting on Handover of Centaur Lake View Hotel



GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, Anshul Garg, Friday chaired a meeting of the 'Committee for Handing Over of Centaur Lake View Hotel' to review the progress of the handover process.

The meeting was attended by Commissioner SMC, Managing Director of JKTDC, Director SKICC, Secretary JKAACL, Additional Deputy Commissioner Srinagar, and representatives from the KPDC, JalShakti, R&B, Horticulture, Tourism, and Forest departments.

During the meeting, detailed discussions were held on several crucial aspects, including the revised tendering process, the relocation of immovable items, and the division

of utilities such as power and water between SKICC and the Centaur Hotel. The committee also discussed cost-sharing arrangements for some logistic issues, building permission, and other critical matters.

The Div Com directed the concerned engineering departments to conduct a joint site visit to assess the immovable items and prepare a comprehensive report. He also instructed the revenue officer to share the land demarcation report with the JKTDC to clearly identify the hotel's land boundaries.

Also, the Divisional Commissioner emphasized the importance of expediting the completion of all formalities within the set timeline to ensure the smooth handover of the Centaur Lake View Hotel to the concessionaire.

DC Sgr hands over Reefer Van to beneficiary under HADP at Parimpora Fruit Mandi

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Deputy Commissioner(DC) Srinagar, Akshay Labroo Friday handed over the key of Reefer Van to a beneficiary under the Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP) during a programme organized by Horticulture Planning & Marketing at Parimpora Fruit Mandi.

The event was attended by Chief Planning Officer, Fayaz Ahmad Dar; SDM West, Irfan Bahadar; Tehsildar Shalteng, Area Marketing Officer(HP&M), stakeholders from Parimpora Fruit Mandi and other concerned.

While presiding over the programme, the DC handed over the Refrigerated Truck (Reefer Van) to the district beneficiary to facilitate the efficient transportation of fruits and vegetables across the Srinagar catchment area. On the occasion, the DC also flagged off the Reefer Van carrying fresh fruit produce to Coimbatore.

The DC congratulated the beneficiary and appreciated the department for the initiative, encouraging unemployed youth to take



advantage of various livelihood and employment-generation schemes for economic upliftment.

It is pertinent to mention that under HADP, the government provides a 75% subsidy on each reefer unit costing Rs 25 lakh under the component Strengthening of Agricultural Marketing, Project 4, aimed at augmenting logistics support for the fruit industry.

The Reefer Truck, with a capacity of 9 metric tonnes, is a recent inter-

vention under post-harvest management initiatives. Equipped with an in-built controlled atmosphere system, it enables long-distance transportation of fruits and vegetables while preserving freshness and quality.

The services of these for Controlled Atmosphere (CA) trucks is steadily increasing in the local cold-chain sector, as these vehicles significantly enhance the shelf life and profitability of fruit produce.

Div Com, Dir SKIMS Jointly Flag-Off Walkathon on World Diabetes Day

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: To mark World Diabetes Day, a Walkathon aimed at raising awareness about diabetes and promoting healthy living was jointly flagged off Friday by Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, Anshul Garg, and Director SKIMS & EOSG, Prof. M. Ashraf Ganie at the iconic Clock Tower (Ghanta Ghar), Srinagar.

Senior faculty members of SKIMS including Prof. Nisar Ahmad Bhat, HOD Pediatric Surgery & Associate Dean Student Welfare and Prof. Abrar Ahad Wani H.O.D Emergency Medicine were also present on the occasion.

Speaking on the occasion, Divisional Commissioner Kashmir lauded the initiative of SKIMS and stated that such initiatives play a crucial role in early prevention of the disease. He said public participation in awareness programs like these is essential to curb the rising tide of diabetes in our region.

He emphasized on extensive awareness regarding causes leading to diabetes among the people. He urged Dir SKIMS to identify high risk patients and extend them medical assistance.

Highlighting the importance of the day, Director



SKIMS said that a significant proportion of the local population is affected by diabetes, underscoring the need for sustained public awareness.

Prof. Ashraf emphasized the need for early prevention, noting that uncontrolled diabetes can lead to serious complications if not managed in time. "People need to adopt a healthy lifestyle," he stressed, adding that diabetes prevalence is higher in urban populations compared to rural communities. He urged the public to embrace active living and healthy dietary habits.

He appreciated the efforts of the Organising Committee, headed by Prof. Riyaz Misgar and Dr. Ajaz, for conducting a well-

coordinated and impactful awareness program.

Following the Walkathon, a Screening Camp was organized at Joggers Park, Rajbagh, where experts from SKIMS screened around 300 individuals.

Notably, 20 participants in a age group of 40-45 years were newly diagnosed with diabetes, reflecting an upward trend in the burden of the disease. The diagnosed individuals were advised to follow up at the Department of Endocrinology, SKIMS for further evaluation and management.

During the event, the general public was counseled and educational pamphlets on diabetes prevention, early detection, and lifestyle modification was provided to them.

CM lays foundation stone of an Indoor swimming pool at Jammu

Vows to make Jammu Tawi Golf Course a national golfing destination

GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah Friday reiterated his government's resolve to position Jammu Tawi Golf Course (JTGC), Sidhra, as a premier national destination for golfers.

He made these remarks while addressing a felicitation ceremony organized for paragliders upon the completion of their training course at JTGC.

Speaking on the occasion, the Chief Minister said that while tournaments are being held in Srinagar, Pahalgam and Gulmarg, Jammu's golfing potential has not been promoted to the extent it deserves.

"Jammu's golf course is exceptionally beautiful and of high quality. We

will work harder to promote it, host more tournaments, and ensure that JTGC emerges as a national golfing destination," he said.

He assured the people of Jammu that the government is making concerted efforts to secure the region economically and elevate its standing on the national tourism map.

"Our commitment to Jammu is unwavering. Whether it is Jammu city, its surrounding areas, or the remotest parts of Jammu province, our endeavour is to ensure not just security but prosperity. We have taken several steps already, and many more are in the pipeline," he said.

The Chief Minister emphasized that Jammu possesses immense tourism diversity—heritage tourism, pilgrimage tourism, border tourism



and adventure tourism—all of which require sustained promotion.

"There is a need to bring more people here, develop facilities further

and unlock the full tourism potential of this region," he added.

Referring to the development of the golf course, he said, "I don't know what first inspired us to establish a golf course here—but Jammu deserves it. People here love golf as much as anywhere else, and this facility must be strengthened and promoted."

He also appreciated the introduction of new initiatives such as the enhanced tourist bus services. "The bus inaugurated today, linked to border tourism, is a special addition. We have always maintained that Jammu's tourism must be nurtured across all fronts," he noted.

Earlier, the Chief Minister laid the foundation stone for a state-of-the-art Indoor Swimming Pool at JTGC,

Sidhra—marking a major addition to sports infrastructure in the region. He also flagged off the Jammu Gedi Bus Service, an innovative transport initiative aimed at improving connectivity to major tourist destinations such as Surinsar-Mansar and Suchetgarh.

Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Choudhary, Minister for Transport Satish Sharma, Advisor to the Chief Minister Nasir Aslam Wani, MLA Jammu East Yudhvir Sethi, Additional Chief Secretary to the CM Dheeraj Gupta, Director Tourism Jammu Vikas Gupta, and other senior officials were present during the event.

The Chief Minister congratulated the paragliders on completing their course and encouraged them to serve as ambassadors of Jammu's adventure tourism potential.

Good Morning Kashmir

Ruhullah's silent blow to NC

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah’s blunt assessment of Agha Ruhullah’s withdrawal from the Budgam bypoll campaign has peeled back layers of a political episode that continues to reverberate inside the National Conference. By saying that Ruhullah “killed himself politically,” Omar Abdullah has not only articulated the sentiment within the party but has underscored the cost of decisions made in haste, emotion, or personal protest.

Ruhullah’s withdrawal, meant to convey displeasure or send a message to the party leadership, ended up weakening his own political ground. Omar’s use of the phrase “cut your nose to spite your face” accurately captures the self-defeating nature of the move. In a constituency like Budgam, where personal networks, local dynamics and quiet, behind-the-curtain voting patterns dominate, walking away on the eve of a crucial contest is nothing short of political self-sabotage.

Omar Abdullah’s remarks also highlight a deeper truth: the candidate who eventually won from Budgam is unlikely to offer Ruhullah easy political space in the future. Politics rarely forgives miscalculations, and Budgam’s voters, who are known for their silent and unpredictable voting behaviour, have already demonstrated that they weigh their choices independently of party narratives.

The Chief Minister’s candid admission that NC knew the contest would be difficult even before the campaign began adds another dimension. Internal discontent, shifting political moods, and the phenomenon of silent voting shaped the outcome more than campaign speeches or development claims. In such a climate, a candidate’s withdrawal becomes not just a symbolic protest but a decisive factor that alters the electoral landscape.

What happens next for Agha Ruhullah is now a question only he can answer. Rebuilding political space is possible, but the road will be steep and unforgiving. His future in Budgam will depend on whether he can re-establish trust, re-engage with the electorate, and demonstrate consistency in the face of adversity.

For the National Conference, the episode is a reminder that internal cohesion is as important as public outreach. The party has accepted the verdict, as Omar Abdullah stated, but moving forward will require introspection, discipline, and clarity of purpose. Budgam has spoken. The party has learned. Now, both must look ahead.



DR. REYAZ AHMED

Have you ever been certain you left your car keys on the dining table, only to find them sitting on the kitchen counter? Or felt confident a friend said “6 p.m.” when, in fact, they said “7 p.m.”?

If so, you’ve experienced one of psychology’s most intriguing quirks: the false memory effect—when people vividly recall events that never actually occurred or misremember real ones. These aren’t simple lapses in attention but rather deeply convincing “memories” that feel just as real as authentic ones.

What Is the False Memory Effect?

Contrary to popular belief, memory isn’t like a video recording that plays back reality. It’s reconstructive, meaning every time we recall an event, our brains rebuild that memory from fragments—sensory details, emotions, and external cues.

During this mental reconstruction, errors can easily slip in. Over time, these small inaccuracies can blend seamlessly into the story, making the false detail feel indistinguishable from the truth. Neuroscientists have found that the hippocampus (the brain’s memory centre) and prefrontal cortex (responsible for reasoning and narrative building) often work together to “fill in the gaps” when parts of a memory are missing—sometimes inventing details that



never existed.

For example, you might recall the face of a childhood friend’s parent, but your brain may unknowingly blend it with the face of a teacher or neighbour. What feels like memory is, in fact, imagination cleverly disguised as truth.

How False Memories Form

False memories don’t form at random. They are shaped by psychological and social influences that subtly distort how we store or recall information.

► Suggestion & Leading Questions

When people are asked suggestive questions—such as “Did the man have a beard?”—they often “remember” the beard even if it wasn’t there.

A classic experiment by Elizabeth Loftus in the 1970s showed that when witnesses were asked how fast cars were going when they “smashed” versus “hit” each other, those who heard “smashed” later recalled seeing broken glass that never existed.

► Misinformation

Exposure to incorrect information after an event can reshape your original memory. For instance, hearing others describe an accident can alter what you remember about it. This “post-event information effect” is why eyewitness accounts often contradict each other—and why news reports can unintentionally reinforce errors.

► Imagination Inflation

Simply imagining an event can make it feel real. Studies show that people who imagine themselves doing an action—like shaking hands with a famous person—may later “remember” it as a genuine experience.

► Association & Repetition

Memories from different experiences can merge. Repeating a false detail, even jokingly (“Remember that time we met Taylor Swift?”), can eventually make it feel authentic. The more often we recall or retell a memory, the more it evolves—often in subtle, unnoticed ways.

Famous and Everyday Examples

► The Mandela Effect

Many people vividly “remember” Nelson Mandela dying in prison in the 1980s, though he was released and lived until 2013. This collective misremembering, known as the Mandela Effect, includes other pop-culture mix-ups like “Berenstain Bears” (often recalled as Berenstein) or the non-existent “Shazaam” movie starring Sinbad.

► Eyewitness Testimony

In legal settings, false memories

can have devastating consequences. The Innocence Project reports that about 70% of wrongful convictions overturned by DNA evidence involved mistaken eyewitness identification—often shaped by suggestive questioning or stress during the event.

► Pop Culture Misquotes

Fans of Star Wars often quote Darth Vader as saying, “Luke, I am your father,” when the real line is “No, I am your father.” Similarly, many believe the Monopoly man wears a monocle—he doesn’t. These examples show how repetition and cultural sharing reinforce collective false memories.

► Everyday Mix-Ups

You might swear you left your phone on your desk when it’s really in your bag. Or remember eating a cereal from childhood that wasn’t sold until years later. Families often argue over “who said what” during a holiday dinner—each person certain their memory is correct.

Why It Matters

False memories aren’t just amusing—they have serious implications:

- In the legal system: Eyewitness errors can send innocent people to prison.
- In therapy: Suggestive techniques, especially in recovering “repressed memories,” may create false recollections of traumatic events.
- In daily life: Misremembering details can affect relationships, job performance, and personal credibility.

Understanding false memories helps us recognize the fragility of human memory—and why humility in our certainty is sometimes necessary.

Tips to Reduce False Memories

Although we can’t eliminate false memories, we can reduce

their impact with mindful strategies:

- Write Early:** Record details soon after events—journaling locks memories before they distort.
- Beware of Suggestion:** Ask neutral, open-ended questions when discussing events.
- Cross-Check Facts:** Compare your memories with reliable evidence like messages or photos.
- Avoid Filling Gaps:** If unsure, resist the urge to “fill in” missing details.
- Practice Mindful Recall:** Ask, “Did I see this, or did someone tell me about it?”
- Limit Group Influence:** Just because others agree doesn’t mean it’s true.
- Use External Reminders:** Photos, notes, and recordings serve as memory anchors.
- Keep Your Brain Healthy:** Good sleep, nutrition, and mental balance strengthen accurate recall.

Conclusion

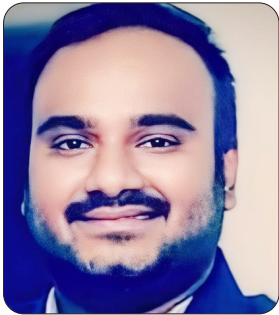
The false memory effect reveals an essential truth: our minds are storytellers, not cameras. Memory’s power lies in its flexibility—it helps us learn, empathize, and imagine—but that same flexibility makes it unreliable.

By staying self-aware, documenting key moments, and questioning our recollections, we can protect ourselves from the subtle distortions that memory weaves over time.

So next time you’re sure of a memory, pause and ask: Is this what truly happened—or what my mind made me believe?

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White Collar Terror: The New Face of Extremism



DR. PIYUSH RAJA

The blast that shook Delhi on November 10, 2025, killed 13 innocent people and injured over 25 others. What started as a suspected accident soon turned into something far more sinister. Police investigations revealed a shocking truth: the attack was carried out by educated doctors, not desperate militants hiding in the mountains. This was white-collar terror at its most dangerous. The explosion happened at 6:52 pm near the Red Fort Metro Station. A Hyundai i20 car registered in Haryana was standing at a traffic signal when it exploded. CCTV footage showed the driver wearing a black mask. The car had been parked for nearly three hours at Sunehri Masjid parking before it moved towards the signal. The blast was so powerful that several vehicles caught fire, and people ran for their lives in Chandni Chowk.

The Professional Terror Network: When the National Investigation Agency took over the case, they discovered a well-planned terror network run by doctors. Six doctors, two clerics, and at least 18 people have been arrested so far. The network was linked to Jaish-e-Mohammed, a Pakistan-based terror group, and Ansar Ghazwat-ul-Hind, an Al Qaeda affiliate. The main accused was Dr. Umar Mohammad Nabi, a 36-year-old MBBS doctor from Pulwama who worked at Al-Falah Medical College in Faridabad. He had been living in Faridabad for two years, quietly collecting explosives for the terror attack. DNA tests confirmed that he died in the suicide blast. Police found nearly 2,900 kilograms of explosives from different locations in Faridabad, along with AK-47 rifles, timers, and batteries. This was not meant to be a small attack. Investigators believe the group planned multiple serial blasts like the Mumbai attacks of 26/11. But when police started raiding their hideouts, the attackers panicked and carried out the blast in a hurry.

The Doctor Who Became a Bomber:

Dr. Umar had come to Delhi from Kashmir in March 2024. He registered the car in his name after buying it from someone named Tariq Malik. His family, including his mother Shameema Bano and brothers Aashiq and Jahangir, have been taken into custody for questioning. The family claims they had no idea about his activities. Intelligence reports show that funding for this operation came from Pakistan through Telegram channels and cryptocurrency. The group had direct links with Masood Azhar, the chief of Jaish-e-Mohammed.

More Doctors in the Network: The second key person arrested is Dr. Adil Rather, also known as Adeel Ahmad. He is from Kazigunj, Kulgam, in Jammu and Kashmir. After completing his MBBS from GMC Srinagar, he was working as a senior resident at Anantnag GMC. In October 2024, he moved to a private hospital in Saharanpur, Uttar Pradesh. Police arrested him on November 5 for putting up Jaish posters. An AK-47 rifle was found in his locker, and his phone showed links to radicalization and terror funding on Telegram. Dr. Mujammil Shakeel, a 35-year-old doctor from Pulwama, was working as an assistant professor at Al-Falah University. He was arrested in Faridabad on November 9. Police recovered 2,900 kilograms of explosives and weapons from rented houses in Dhauj and Fatehpur Taga. He had been declared wanted on October 30 in connection with Jaish posters found in the region.

The Female Commander: One of the most shocking arrests was that of Dr. Shaheen Shahid, a 40-year-old doctor from Lal Bagh, Lucknow. She was the Indian head of Jamaat-ul-Mominat, the women’s wing of Jaish-e-Mohammed. She was directly connected to Sadia, the sister of Masood Azhar. Dr. Shaheen worked at Al-Falah Hospital and had been collecting explosives for two years. When police arrested her on November 9, they found an AK-47, a pistol, and magazines in her Maruti Swift car. Her brother, Dr. Parvez Ansari, was a professor at Integral University in Lucknow. He suddenly quit his job by email on November 7, raising suspicions that he was trying to escape. The UP Anti-Terrorist Squad quickly arrested him. The Maruti Swift Dzire from which weapons were recovered was registered in his name. Call records between Shaheen and Parvez after the blast contained suspicious code words and timing details.

More Suspects Under Scanner: Dr. Sajjad Ahmad Mallah from Bandipora village, Pulwama, worked at the prestigious SMHS Hospital in Srinagar. He was a close friend of Dr. Umar Mohammad Nabi.

Jammu and Kashmir Police detained him on November 11 for questioning. Dr. Tajamul Ahmad Malik from Kulgam also worked at SMHS Hospital. He was detained on November 11 after his name appeared in digital chats and phone records linked to Umar and Mujammil. After 12 hours of questioning, the police released him but kept his mobile phone for further data analysis. Dr. Nisar-ul-Hasan, a senior resident at Al-Falah Medical College, is currently missing. He previously worked at SMHS Hospital in Srinagar as an assistant professor but was fired in 2023 over suspected anti-national activities. He disappeared after the Delhi blast. NIA is checking his phone records, emails, and CCTV footage to trace his location.

Wider Crackdown: Apart from the doctors, police have arrested or detained several other people, including four lab technicians from Al-Falah Medical College, nine suspects from Kanpur, and ten from Faridabad and Delhi. Even the car dealers who sold vehicles to the accused are being questioned. The families of the arrested doctors are in shock. Dr. Umar’s mother and brothers insist they knew nothing about his terror activities. The families of other doctors have expressed similar disbelief.

Government Response: Prime Minister Narendra Modi visited LNJP Hospital the day after the blast to meet the injured and the families of the victims. Home Minister Amit Shah made it clear that all those responsible will face full punishment and nobody will be spared. The government has issued a high alert across the country. Vehicles using CNG and LPG are being checked thoroughly, especially on NH-44. Patrolling has been doubled in Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh, and Bihar. The Indian Medical Association expressed deep grief over the incident and called it an attack on humanity. The United States and Britain immediately issued travel advisories asking their citizens to be careful in Delhi. NIA has started tracing Jaish’s financial network, focusing on crypto transactions and Telegram channels. So far, over 400 search operations have been conducted and more than 500 people questioned. The investigation has now expanded to Maharashtra.

The New Face of Terror: This incident has revealed a frightening new pattern in terrorism. These are not uneducated militants from remote villages. They are doctors who treat patients during the day and plan mass murder at night. They hold respectable positions in hospitals and medical colleges. They speak both the language of science and the language of

hate. The white collar terror module shows how terrorism is changing in India. The enemy no longer just comes from across the border with guns. The enemy can be sitting in a hospital, wearing a white coat, with access to labs and chemicals. This makes detection extremely difficult because these people do not fit the traditional profile of terrorists. Security experts say this is the biggest challenge for Indian intelligence agencies. How do you identify a doctor who is plotting terror? How do you separate a genuine medical professional from one who is radicalized? The usual surveillance methods do not work on educated, professional people who know how to avoid detection.

Questions That Remain: The biggest question is how such a large terror network operated for so long without being detected. Dr. Mujammil and Dr. Shaheen had been collecting explosives for two years. Dr. Umar lived in Faridabad for two years. How did nobody notice anything suspicious? Radicalization occurred through online channels, especially Telegram. This shows how difficult it has become to track terror activities in the digital age. Terrorists no longer need physical training camps. They can be radicalized sitting at home, watching videos, and reading messages on encrypted apps. Another concern is the involvement of medical colleges. Al-Falah Medical College appears repeatedly in this investigation. Were the college authorities unaware? How many other educational institutions might be hiding similar networks?

The Way Forward: India’s fight against terrorism has entered a new phase. The country must now watch not just the borders but also hospital wards, college campuses, and research labs. Intelligence agencies need new methods to detect ideological radicalization among educated professionals. At the same time, there is a danger of creating suspicion against an entire community. Most Muslim doctors are patriotic citizens who serve the nation. A few radicals should not be allowed to destroy the trust between communities. This is what the terrorists want to achieve. As one security analyst noted, heavy-handed responses could push even uninvolved people towards extremism, making the problem worse. The NIA is doing commendable work in cracking down on this network. But the real success will be in preventing such networks from forming in the first place. That requires better monitoring of online radicalization, stricter checks on educational institutions, and most importantly, building a society where young people do not fall prey to

extremist ideology. The Delhi blast was a wake-up call. Terror has put on a white collar. The nation must respond with intelligence, precision, and unity.

Conclusion: The November 10 Delhi blast has exposed a disturbing reality that India can no longer ignore. Terrorism has evolved from armed militants in border areas to educated professionals in white coats working in the heart of our cities. The involvement of at least six doctors in this attack shows that radicalization knows no boundaries of education or profession. This investigation has brought several uncomfortable truths to light. First, our traditional methods of identifying terrorists are no longer enough. Second, online radicalization through encrypted apps has made it easy for terror groups to recruit from any part of society. Third, the time gap between radicalization and action can be years, making detection extremely difficult. The arrest of 18 people and the recovery of nearly three tonnes of explosives prevented what could have been a series of deadly attacks across Delhi.

The quick action by NIA, Delhi Police, and UP Anti-Terrorist Squad saved countless lives. However, the fact that this network operated for over two years raises serious questions about our intelligence-gathering capabilities. Going forward, India needs a multi-pronged strategy. Intelligence agencies must develop new tools to monitor digital radicalization. Medical colleges and hospitals need stricter background checks for staff. At the same time, society must not let fear create divisions. The vast majority of doctors and medical professionals are dedicated to saving lives, not taking them.

The families of the 13 innocent victims deserve justice. The nation owes it to them to ensure that such attacks never happen again. As Home Minister Amit Shah promised, every person involved in this conspiracy must face the full force of the law. But beyond punishment, India must focus on prevention, building a system where educated youth are not vulnerable to extremist ideology. The white collar terror network has been broken, but the ideology behind it remains. The real victory will come when no doctor, engineer, or teacher ever thinks of betraying the oath they took to serve humanity. Until then, vigilance must remain our constant companion.

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Children's Day: Celebrating the dreams and future of nation



DR. PRIYANKA SAURABH

Children's Day is celebrated with great enthusiasm in India every year on November 14th. This day marks the birth anniversary of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, the first Prime Minister of independent India. Because of his deep love and affection for children, children affectionately called him "Chacha Nehru." Nehru believed that "today's children are tomorrow's future; giving them the right direction is true national service." He believed that if children were provided with the right environment, education, and opportunities, they could take India to greater heights of global glory.

Nehru saw a glimpse of India's bright future in children. He said that the true wealth of any nation lies in its children—not its army or wealth. Children possess boundless energy, imagination, and creativity, which, if channeled properly, can become a society's greatest strength. Along with building independent India, he also prioritized the development of children. Under his leadership, numerous programs related to education, science, and child welfare were launched. He founded institutions for children such as the National Children's Fund, Bal Bhavan, and the Shishu Kalyan Parishad, all of which aimed to nurture children's talents and inspire them on creative paths.

Children's Day is not just a

memorial day, but a symbol of the vision that places children at the center of the nation. On this occasion, we should reflect on the circumstances in which our children are growing up today. The technological revolution in the modern era has impacted children's lives in many ways. While the internet, mobile phones, and social media have opened doors to knowledge, they have also

Both parents and society place a mountain of expectations on them. This pressure is causing many children to suffer from mental stress, depression, and fear. This situation is worrying, because the foundation of a healthy society is strengthened only by a happy, healthy, and secure childhood.

In this context, Children's Day reminds us that children are not

school education so that children can learn to live life to the fullest.

The India that Nehru envisioned was not just economically or technologically progressive, but one rich in human values. He inspired children to progress with the spirit of freedom, equality, and fraternity. For him, education was not just a means of knowledge, but the foundation of nation-building. Nehru

opportunity, education, and protection? The reality is that even today, millions of children in our country are deprived of education, and many are victims of child labor and child abuse. The situation of child protection is equally worrying in both rural and urban areas.

If we are to truly understand the meaning of Children's Day, we must address these chal-

efforts towards child rights. Initiatives like the National Policy for Children (2013), the Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan, the Poshan Abhiyaan, and the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) are commendable steps in this direction. However, policies alone are not enough unless they are implemented effectively at the grassroots level. Every school, every parent, and every citizen must become sensitized in this direction.

Children's Day also reminds us that a child's laughter is the purest music. When a child smiles fearlessly, it is the smile of the nation's soul. We must ensure that this smile never fades. This requires not just government policies, but social cooperation and family affection.

Children need inspiration, not just information. They need examples, not just books. If we embrace morality, empathy, and compassion in our lives, our children will learn from them. The family is a child's first school, where they learn values, cooperation, and harmony.

Today's Children's Day gives us an opportunity to pledge to create a society for our children where they can think without fear, realize their dreams, and shape India's future with their creativity. Nehru's dream will only be realized when every child is safe, educated, and happy.

Children's Day is not just a celebration of children, but a symbol of a new beginning for humanity. This day reminds us that childhood is not just a milestone, but a beautiful stage of life, filled with the purest forms of hope, energy, and love. We must protect this childhood and let it blossom, because where children smile, a nation blossoms.

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weakened the innocence and tradition of communication of childhood. Children now spend more time on screens than on playgrounds. The very nature of education has been reduced to a race for marks, where morality and sensitivity are being left behind.

Today's children are blessed with immense potential, but the burden of competition and success has become overwhelming.

just the responsibility of parents, but the heritage of society as a whole. Within every child lies an artist, scientist, teacher, or leader. We need only to recognize and encourage them. The education system must be transformed so that it is not solely exam-based, but rather grounded in experiences, values, and creativity. Today, there is a need to make sports, music, art, and literature an integral part of

established institutions like the IITs, IISc, and the National Science Policy to promote a scientific temper, so that future generations could contribute to the building of a modern India.

Today, as we celebrate Children's Day, it is also a time for introspection. Have we created an environment conducive to the development of children, in accordance with Nehru's ideals? Is every child receiving equal

challenges. Society must recognize that the progress of any nation is linked to the well-being of its children. Protecting children's rights is not achieved simply by enacting laws, but by building a sensitive society. We must ensure that no child goes to bed hungry, no child lives in fear, and every child has the opportunity to fulfill their dreams.

In modern India, both the government and society have made

Bihar Results: Rise of New Dawn of Good Governance

LALIT GARG

The historic and extraordinary victory of the NDA in the Bihar Assembly elections has once again made it evident that the charismatic personality of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the strategic brilliance of Home Minister Amit Shah, and their widespread public acceptance continue to play a decisive role in Indian politics.

This victory is not merely an electoral success but a blueprint for Bihar's future. The experienced leadership of Nitish Kumar, the organizational strength of the BJP, and the impressive performance of the rising young star Chirag Paswan together turned this election into a remarkable mandate for the NDA. The coalition's victory rests significantly on its ten major promises, including the 'Panchamrit Guarantee', employment generation, free education, women-centric schemes, agricultural reform, and infrastructural development. This election was also special because Bihar witnessed the highest voter turnout since 1951.

This year, Bihar recorded a 67.13% voter turnout—9.6% higher than the previous assembly election. Women outpaced men in voting by a margin of 8.15%. Men recorded a 62.98% turnout, whereas women reached 71.78%. The state has 3.51 crore women voters and 3.93 crore men voters, with a total electorate of 7.45 crore. The NDA crossed the 200-seat mark in the early trends, and women voters played the most decisive role in this sweeping mandate. It is evident that Bihar's women voted overwhelmingly for stability and development. As a result, the NDA emerged victorious, Bihar emerged victorious—and the arrogance of the Mahagathbandhan



collapsed.

The crushing defeat of the Mahagathbandhan raises serious questions. Crowds did gather at opposition rallies, and fiery speeches were made, yet the opposition failed to earn the trust of the people. Their leadership appeared unclear, their strategy weak, and their vision for development and governance largely absent. Voters feared that a change of power would bring instability rather than progress. While the Mahagathbandhan repeatedly invoked slogans of social justice and recalled the past, today's Bihar demands far more—

employment, safety, law and order, and continuity in basic services. The opposition could not present a concrete and credible roadmap on these issues. Consequently, their loud rhetoric did not influence voters; in fact, it backfired.

On the other hand, the NDA anchored its campaign on the theme of "Stability & Development." Modi's national appeal, the welfare-oriented policies of the central government, and Nitish Kumar's image as a torchbearer of good governance reassured voters that this alliance represented experience, trust, development, and

policy consistency. Nitish Kumar may have been criticized for political shifts, but his image as an administrator committed to improving law and order, women's empowerment, road development, and educational reforms remained intact. The NDA greatly benefited from this perception. The BJP's robust booth-level network strengthened voter outreach and reinforced the belief that a strong Centre-State coordination would accelerate Bihar's progress.

A significant highlight of this election was the rise of Chirag Paswan. He proved that he is not a "pawn"

of anyone but a decisive force in the making. His aggressive and confident campaign infused new energy among the youth and Dalits. His role within the NDA was not symbolic but grounded in real electoral influence. His impressive grip over several seats signalled that he could redefine Bihar's political landscape in the coming years. His growing popularity may pose a balancing challenge for Nitish Kumar, yet if the alliance maintains coordination, Bihar could benefit from a stronger collective leadership.

The key question now is: in which direction will Bihar move after this historic victory? Public expectations are high—demanding a safe society, sensitive administration, effective control of corruption, and accelerated development. Law and order remain the most sensitive issue in Bihar's politics. People want better crime control, a more modern and accountable police system, and faster justice delivery. With resources at both the state and central levels, the NDA is expected to write the "second chapter of good governance." The BJP is not only the largest party but appears capable of surpassing the majority mark even without the JDU.

This reduces Nitish Kumar's bargaining power significantly, though the BJP's top leadership has repeatedly affirmed that he will remain the Chief Minister regardless of the final arithmetic. The JDU also echoed this stance. Meanwhile, women voters emerged as the true game-changers, influenced strongly by the Bihar government's recent transfer of 10,000 into women's accounts under the employment scheme. This development dealt a major blow to the Mahagathbandhan.

Clearly, Bihar's electorate dis-

played vigilance and wisdom. They understand that merely changing governments is not as important as changing political culture—ensuring integrity, development, law and order, and administrative accountability. This election did not merely decide assembly seats; it marked a shift from Bihar's troubled past toward a brighter future. Bihar has long been associated with backwardness, corruption, and chaos, but concrete solutions seldom emerged. Today, a renewed sense of trust in Modi's leadership is visible. Over the past two decades, Bihar has undergone significant improvement, overcoming the disorder of earlier regimes. The surprising results also reflect the impact of Nitish Kumar's announcements—especially large-scale schemes for women, the disabled, and the elderly.

This mandate must be viewed not just as a triumph of political strategy but as a verdict of public confidence. It is both an opportunity and a challenge for the BJP, JDU, and LJP (Ram Vilas). They must now prove that the brilliance of their election slogans can shine equally in governance. The people of Bihar rejected the tall claims of the Mahagathbandhan, its dynastic politics, and the abrasive tone of its loud leaders. They voted instead for stability, honest leadership, and sustained development. Once again, the Congress suffered a humiliating defeat, demanding serious introspection. The NDA's victory is not merely a change of government—it marks the dawn of a new destiny for Bihar. Only time will tell whether this dawn becomes a true sunrise or remains a glow of political illumination.

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PM Modi's MMC swipe at Congress, says 'Katta sarkaar' will never return to Bihar

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi, hailing the NDA's stellar show in Bihar elections, said that this was a vote for 'Viskit Bihar' and also launched a blistering attack at the Congress-RJD for 'misleading' people on imaginary claims of 'vote chori' and dividing the people on caste lines.

Addressing the party workers at the BJP HQs, PM Modi said that the people of Bihar have given a befitting reply to the divisive MY formula, jungle raj of the RJD regime and shattered their dreams of returning to power.

"When I used to speak about Jungle Raj and Katta Sarkar, the RJD party raised no objections. However, it unsettled the Congress. Today, I want to reiterate that Katta Sarkar will never return to Bihar," he said.

Doubling down attack on the grand old party, he said that Congress was like a parasite, which was eating into the votes of its own allies.

Coining a new term, MMC for the Congress, he said that the grand old party has become MMC – Muslim League Maoist Congress. Reiterating the infighting charge within the RJD-Congress alliance, he said that the duo kept fighting during the elections while soliciting public support at poll rallies, and their altercation will soon come out in the open.

"There are many states where Congress has been out of power for decades – for 35 years in Bihar, 3 decades in Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal, and so in other states," he pointed out.

Training guns at the RJD, he said that the booth capturing and violence, which used to be a regular affair during their 'jungle raj' during elections, no longer exists, and today people are voting on issues of development.

Describing the NDA's win as the victory of Bihar, he said that the people of the state have vanquished those people who tried to hurt democracy with their motivated campaign.

Taking offence to likening of Chhath Puja with drama, PM Modi hit out at the Congress and RJD for not apologising to Chhathi Maiya and said that one can't expect them to respect the rich traditions of Bihar.

The Prime Minister also praised the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) drive and praised the Election Commission's endeavour in carrying out the purification drive with precision.

"The elections in Bihar have proven one more thing. Now the country's voters, especially our young voters, take the purification of the voters' list seriously. The youth of Bihar have also supported the purification of the voter list. Now it becomes the responsibility of every party to activate their respective parties at the polling booths and join the work of purifying the voter list," he said.



Army engineers build indigenous Mono Rail System at 16,000 ft to keep Kameng frontier supplied



NEW DELHI: In a major breakthrough for high-altitude military logistics, the Indian Army's Gajraj Corps has indigenously developed and operationalised a High Altitude Mono Rail System at an elevation of nearly 16,000 feet in Arunachal Pradesh's Kameng sector – one of the most inhospitable and weather-prone frontiers along the Line of Actual Control (LAC).

The Kameng Himalayas are notorious for their sheer, barren cliffs, sub-zero temperatures, violent weather swings, and a rugged landscape that routinely disrupts supply lines. Forward posts often remain cut off for days under heavy snow, while traditional transport methods struggle in the extreme terrain.

Ensuring the uninterrupted movement of essential stores, ammunition, and equipment has remained a persistent operational challenge.

Responding to this pressing requirement, the Gajraj Corps conceptualised, engineered, and deployed an indigenous mono rail system capable of carrying more than 300 kg of load in a single trip.

Designed to function round-the-clock, the system can operate day or night, in hail, storm, or whiteout conditions, ensuring that mission-

critical supplies, including rations, fuel, engineering equipment and heavier loads, reach troops without delay.

"It enables reliable movement of mission-critical stores, ammunition, rations, fuel, engineering equipment, and other heavy or awkward loads that are otherwise difficult to ferry across steep gradients and unstable surfaces. This transportation facility is fully operation worthy to be used day or night, with or without escort, during hail or storm, irrespective of the weather conditions," a defence official said.

Its robust, weather-agnostic design allows movement over steep gradients and unstable surfaces where mules, vehicles, and even porters face significant risk.

Beyond its logistical advantages, the monorail system has also demonstrated potential for rapid casualty evacuation.

In several stretches where helicopters cannot land or fly safely, and where manual evacuation is slow and perilous, the new system offers an efficient and safer alternative to move injured personnel.

The development underlines the military's continued efforts to innovate and excel in extreme environments, ensuring troops deployed along challenging frontiers remain fully supported and mission-ready.

EAM Jaishankar discusses global situation, multilateralism with UN chief

UNITED NATIONS: External Affairs Minister (EAM) S. Jaishankar met with Secretary-General Antonio Guterres for a wide-ranging discussion of the current global situation and multilateralism.

After he met with Guterres at UN headquarters in New York on Thursday (local time), the EAM posted on X that he "valued his assessment of the current global order and its implications for multilateralism".

"Also appreciated his perspectives on various regional hotspots," he added.

EAM Jaishankar came for a quick visit to New York after wrapping up his Canada visit, during which he participated in the G7 foreign ministers' meeting and met with several foreign ministers from



ed India to participate as a partner.

EAM Jaishankar met with the host, Canada's Foreign Minister Anita Anand, and he posted on X that they appreciated the progress in implementing the 'New Roadmap 2025' for the relationships between the two countries.

On the sidelines of the two-day meeting in Niagara, the EAM conducted whirlwind diplomacy with the ministers attending it.

US Secretary of State Marco Rubio discussed bilateral ties with him, focusing on trade and supply chains, and exchanged views on the Ukraine conflict, the Middle East/West Asia situation and Indo-Pacific, EAM Jaishankar wrote on X.

Ukraine's Foreign Minister Andrii Sybiha wrote on X after meeting Jaishankar that he shared Kyiv's views on "the path to peace, battlefield situ-

ation, and Russia's dangerous strikes on critical substations powering Ukrainian nuclear power plants".

In posts on X, he wrote that he discussed strategic partnerships with EU Foreign Affairs High Representative Kaja Kallas, and Foreign Ministers Jean-Noel Barrot of France and Johann Wadephul of Germany.

UK Foreign Secretary Yvette Cooper, and Foreign Ministers Faisal bin Farhan of Saudi Arabia, Mauro Vieira of Brazil, Juan Ramon de la Fuente of Mexico, and Ronald Lamola of South Africa, were among those he met for discussions of bilateral ties and international issues.

From Lok Sabha to Vidhan Sabha, Bihar remains solidly pro-Modi

BIHAR: Bihar, India's third most populous state, has once again demonstrated its pivotal role in national politics, giving a decisive mandate to the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) in the assembly elections.

Bihar's significance cannot be overstated. Roughly 89 per cent of Bihar is a rural pocket. This is second only to Himachal Pradesh. People of this state are known for their hardworking and resilient nature. They are contributing across every part of India.

Analysts say the overwhelming support from the rural regions of Bihar for the NDA underlines the appeal of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's policies, which are seen as promoting dignity, development, and inclusive growth.

The people of Bihar, according to political observers, voted against insult and disregard from the opposition. The INDIA Bloc leaders have routinely targeted Bihar for political gains, with Congress MP Rahul Gandhi even mocking the state's cherished Chhath Puja, calling it a drama, say analysts. In contrast to this, PM Modi has taken steps to promote the festival globally. He pushed for Chhath Puja's inclusion in the UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage list. This move really reflected respect for Bihar's traditions and culture.

Undoubtedly, Bihar's electoral history shows a consistent bond with PM Narendra Modi. The state delivered strong support in the 2014, 2019, and 2024 Lok Sabha elections. Moreover, it delivered good results for him in the 2020 and 2025 Vidhan Sabha polls.

Today's assembly poll results reinforce that trust, with the NDA sweeping most constituencies and leaving the Mahagathbandhan decimated.

Analysts point out that the voters rewarded leadership that honours their pride, culture, and aspirations, choosing stability and dignity over 'politics of insult'.

Observers are of the view that Bihar's verdict sends a clear message: the state continues to stand solidly with Narendra Modi and the NDA, endorsing a vision of development, respect for traditions, and empowerment of rural India.

The massive mandate not only strengthens NDA's position in the state but also spotlights Bihar's strategic importance in shaping national political trends.



GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER

MECHANICAL & HOSPITALS DIVISION BARAMULLA

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TENDER NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER

NIT No: M&HDB/TS/2025-26/56/3142-46

Date: 13-11-2025

For and on behalf of the Lieutenant Governor of Jammu & Kashmir, Executive Engineer, Mechanical & Hospitals Division Baramulla, invites online e-bids in Two Cover system on percentage wise basis from Authorized service providers of OEMs / Registered / Listed Contractors for the below mentioned works:

S. No	Name of Work	Estimated Cost (Rs. in Lacs)	Cost of T/Doc. (In Rupees)	Earnest Money Deposit	Time of Completion
01.	Repair and Maintenance of Cat Preet, Cat Old and Tangmarg Snow Clearance Machines at Tangmarg Unit	0.64566	200.00	1291/-	10 days

Note: -

- AAA: - Administrative Approval accorded by Chief Engineer M&HD Kashmir vide No. M&HED/K/Acctt/ of 2025-26/108 Dated: 30-08-2025
- Technical Sanction: - Technical Sanction Accorded by Executive Engineer Mechanical & Hospitals Division Baramulla vide No. M&HDB/TS/36 of 11/2025 Dated: - 13-11-2025.
- Executing Agency: - Executive Engineer, Mechanical & Hospitals Division Baramulla.

1.	Date of issue of Tender Notice	13-11-2025
2.	Period of downloading of the bidding document	From 13-11-2025 to 19-11-2025
3.	Bid Submission Start Date	From 19-11-2025 (18:15 HRS)
4.	Bid Submission End Date	19-11-2025 (18:55 HRS)
5.	Date of Opening of Cover 1 st	20-11-2025 (13:00 HRS)

The bidders are required to submit their offers in two (02) covers.

Cover-I shall contain: Scanned copies of following documents:

01.	Tender Fee	Rs. 200.00 (Rupees Two hundred only) in shape of e-Challan / e-receipt / online Bank transfer acknowledgement including m-Pay Delight+, to be uploaded with each online bid pledged to Executive Engineer Mechanical & Hospitals Division Baramulla. Tender ID to be written also on the voucher. Bank: J&K Bank. Branch: T.P Baramulla. IFSC Code: JAKAOTTEHSIL Account No.: 0213010200000051.
02.	EMD	Scanned copy of Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) in the shape of CDR/FDR equivalent to 02% of value of the advertised cost pledged to Executive Engineer Mechanical & Hospitals Division Baramulla. EMD of successful bidder shall be released on receipt of 03% to 10% Performance Guarantee from (L1) and execution of agreement with the Department. EMD of un-successful bidders shall be also released as per rules provided in J&K PWD Engineering Manual 2020.
03.	Terms & Conditions	Scanned copy of the Annexure- "A" & "B" duly accepted by the bidder.
04.	Tax Clearance	Registration Certificate of Sales Tax Department quoting GST Number.
05.	GST	Scanned copies of PAN Card / GST Registration / Latest GST clearance certificate or acknowledgement of latest returns.
06.	Undertaking	Undertaking as per format at Annexure "C" that the bidder has not been blacklisted or debarred by any Govt./Semi Govt. Department.
07.	Contractor Registration	Scanned copy of valid Contractor Registration on JKPWDOMS of PWD J&K.
08.	Eligibility / Work Experience Certificate	The Bidder Shall submit documentary proof of having successfully executed similar nature of work amounting to 80% of the estimated cost in single contract or 50% of the estimated cost in two contracts each or 40% of the estimated cost in three contracts each in last 07 years in any Govt. / Semi Govt. / Autonomous institutions alongwith satisfactory performance certificate issued by a competent authority not below the rank of Assistant Executive Engineer.

Note: -> The successful bidder has to furnish EMD document physically to the Divisional office alongwith fee receipt within three days from the date of opening price bid, without which his bid shall not be accepted for further processing of contract in his favour.> No EMD exemption shall be given to bidders.> Bidders / Firms shall refrain from uploading irrelevant documents.> Contractor/ Firm shall upload the contact / communication details separately on single page.

01. Cover-II shall contain:

- Price bid, as per BOQ uploaded by this department. In no case, financial bid will be accepted in physical form.
- The bids for the work shall remain valid for 180 days and the contract shall be valid for one complete year, starting from the date of allotment of the said contract.
- The complete bidding process will be online.
- The Financial bid of only qualifying bidders shall be opened online in the Office of the Executive Engineer M&HD Baramulla after evaluation of technical bid and decision thereof.
- Bidder shall be penalized as per tender conditions if they withdraw their bid during the period of bid validity or make any modifications in the terms and conditions of the bid.
- Bidders are advised not to make any change in BOQ (Bill of Quantities) contents. In no case they should attempt to create similar BOQ manually. The BOQ downloaded should be used for filling the rate below %age inclusive of all taxes and it should be saved with the same name as it contains.
- The cost of tender documents is non-refundable and the tender shall in no case be accepted if submitted by any firm other than the purchaser.
- Any tender found to have been submitted by the firm by furnishing false information to the department shall be cancelled and the firm shall be penalized as and when it comes to the notice of the Department even during the currency of the contract. The department reserves the right to debar / blacklist such firm(s).
- Conditional tenders shall not be entertained.
- Unbalanced Bid: In case bid of the lowest bidder is found unbalanced, the successful bidder shall have to produce additional performance security in shape of CDR /FDR / Bank Guarantee within 07 days after opening of price bid as per the Circular directives of the J&K U.T Finance Department issued vide No. FD-Code/441/2021-22-158; Dated: - 08.08.2025 and relevant clauses of J&K (PWD) Engineering Manual 2020.
- The tenders should be addressed to the Executive Engineer M&HD Baramulla.

No: - M&HDB/TS/e-tender-56/3142-46

Dated: - 13-11-2025

DIPK-8110-25

DT: 14/11/2025

Sd/-

Executive Engineer

Mechanical & Hospitals Division

Baramulla

1st Test: Bumrah's five-wicket haul rattles South Africa as India seize control on day one

SIANS

KOLKATA: India closed Day One of the first Test against South Africa at 37/1 in 20 overs and trail by 122 runs after Jasprit Bumrah's sharp five-wicket haul had earlier skittled the visitors for 159 at the Eden Gardens here on Friday.

Before bad light brought an early end to proceedings in the final session, India lost opener Yashasvi Jaiswal cheaply. But KL Rahul (13 not out) and newly established number three Washington Sundar (six not out) ensured there was no further damage before stumps arrived.

The pair batted cautiously, adding 19 runs in an unbroken stand for the second wicket on a surface that continued to show variable bounce.

Earlier, on a challenging two-paced pitch, where India picked all four spin-bowling options, Bumrah stood out yet again with his incisive 5-27 in 14 overs, dismantling South Africa's batting order after they had raced to 57/0.

The visitors lost all of their 10 wickets for just 102 runs, leaving India in control at the close of day one. Apart from Bumrah, Mohammed Siraj and Kuldeep Yadav took two wickets each, while Axar Patel had a scalp to his name.

After South Africa elected to bat first, Ryan Rickelton and Aiden Markram negotiated the early overs with composure to bring up the fifty of the opening stand -- the first such instance for the Proteas in India after 17 innings. Rickelton, fluent from the outset, punished a wayward Siraj for providing width by taking three boundaries off him.

Markram, who got off the mark after facing 22 balls, settled in after a watchful beginning by hitting fours through gorgeous back foot and front foot shots before leaving everyone dazed with his shimmy down the pitch



to dispatch Axar for six over wide long-on.

Bumrah, who had produced a few balls that ranged from climbing sharply to staying a touch low, got India back in the game with his double strike -- getting a length ball to beat Rickelton's outside edge and rattle his off stump. He then produced a rising delivery from short of length that forced Markram to play at it, and the shoulder edge of the bat was caught by a diving Rishabh Pant.

South Africa's progress was further dented when Kuldeep trapped Temba Bavuma with a clever leg-slip play, and Dhruv Jurel caught the inside edge to send the Proteas skipper for just three, as South Africa slipped from 57/0 to 71/3. From there, Mulder and de Zorzi showed grit against the spinners till lunch arrived.

Post the lunch interval, Kuldeep and Bumrah set the tone immediately for India by maintaining relentless accuracy. That relentlessness was rewarded when Wiaan Mulder's attempt to reverse-sweep Kuldeep ended in him being trapped plumb lbw, with the all-rounder also burning a review.

Bumrah's inswinger kept low and came in off the team

from round the wicket to trap Tony de Zorzi lbw for 24. Though Stubbs and Kyle Verreynne tried stabilising South Africa's innings, Siraj found his rhythm with some reverse swing and struck twice in the 45th over to remove Verreynne and Marco Jansen.

While Verreynne was slow to bring his bat down and was trapped lbw by a nip-backer from Siraj, the pacer got one to tail in from length and castle Marco Jansen through the gate for a three-ball duck. Axar joined the wicket-taking party just before the tea break by trapping Corbin Bosch lbw with a straight delivery to leave India happy and South Africa in dire straits.

The post-tea session began with the crowd of around 35,000 spectators roaring firmly for Bumrah through his fiery two-over burst after tea. Their anticipation was rewarded as Bumrah got one to jag back in and rattle Simon Harmer's off-stump. Three balls later, Bumrah produced a searing inswinging yorker to trap Keshav Maharaj lbw for a duck to complete his five-wicket haul, while Stubbs could only see the carnage unfold by being unbeaten on 15.

India's innings began

cautiously as Jaiswal took 15 balls to get off the mark -- a drive off Marco Jansen through long-off, giving him the boundary. After two more boundaries, Jaiswal's stay ended on 12 when he chopped onto his stumps off Jansen. Rahul, meanwhile, remained watchful, scoring just one run off his first 14 deliveries before leaning forward into a drive off Wiaan Mulder.

Sundar, the new No.3 batter, survived a testing spell early on and grew more assured as the session progressed. Though Jansen, Mulder, and Corbin Bosch kept things tight with the new ball, while spinners Keshav Maharaj and Simon Harmer found turn, Rahul and Washington maintained their discipline nicely.

Bad light eventually forced play to end at 4:35 pm, with Bumrah headlining the day for India through his incredible spell, which would have left the faithful Kolkata cricket fans delighted.

Brief scores: South Africa 159 all out in 55 overs (Aiden Markram 31, Ryan Rickelton 23; Jasprit Bumrah 5-27, Kuldeep Yadav 2-36) lead India 37/1 in 20 overs (KL Rahul 13 not out, Yashasvi Jaiswal 12; Marco Jansen 1-11) by 122 runs

Turkiye bans 102 footballers over widening betting scandal

SIANS

ANKARA : Türkiye's football authorities have handed temporary bans to 102 professional players as part of a widening investigation into illegal betting activities in the country.

The Professional Football Disciplinary Board of the Turkish Football Federation (TFF) on Thursday suspended 25 players from the Super Lig and 77 from the second-tier First League, with punishments ranging from 45 days to 12 months. The investigation reviewed allegations against 1,024 footballers, of whom 102 were sanctioned.

Among the most notable cases is Galatasaray and Turkish national team defender Eren Elmali, who was banned for 45 days and removed from the national team squad, reports Xinhua.

Earlier this week, Elmali admitted on Instagram to placing a bet on a football match approximately five years ago, but said it did not involve his own team. He joined Galatasaray earlier this year.

His teammate Mete-



han Baltaci, who plays for Türkiye's Under-21 team, received a nine-month suspension. Konyaspor's Alassane Ndao was handed the longest ban of 12 months.

The TFF stressed that players who have been provisionally referred to the disciplinary board are not permitted to play in matches during the ongoing investigation.

Due to the scale of the investigation, the TFF announced that matches in the Second and Third

Leagues have been postponed for two weeks, but Super Lig and First League matches will continue as scheduled. The federation also revealed that it has initiated urgent talks with FIFA to allow teams affected by the bans a 15-day transfer window to strengthen their squads.

Earlier, eight people were arrested in Türkiye, and more than 1,000 players were suspended as a wide-ranging investigation into alleged betting on football matches rocked

the country's football federation.

Turkish authorities formally arrested Eyupspor Chairman Murat Ozkaya, a top-tier club chairman, and seven others on Monday, while the Turkish Football Federation (TFF) suspended 1,024 players pending disciplinary investigations. Of the suspended players, 27 compete in the country's top-tier Super Lig, notably Galatasaray defender Eren Elmali, who also represents the Turkish national team.

1st Test: Tough to bowl on a slow wicket, says Kuldeep Yadav, breaking down his day-one plan as India skittle out South Africa

SIANS

KOLKATA: Kuldeep Yadav said that sticking to his stump-hitting method and drawing from recent preparation against South Africa were central to his success on a slow and demanding Eden Gardens pitch, as India bowled out the visitors for 159 on the opening day of the first Test on Friday.

While Jasprit Bumrah stole the headlines with a five-wicket haul, Kuldeep's disciplined spell (2 for 36) and clever planning played an equally important role in India's decisive grip on the contest.

Speaking on JioStar's post-match show Cricket

Live, Kuldeep described the step-up in intensity when playing Test cricket and how his India A outing against South Africa earlier this month gave him useful insight.

"When you play a Test match, your intensity always goes up, and obviously, you need a lot of energy. When we played as India A, it was a good practice match against South Africa, and I bowled to Temba Bavuma there. I knew what sort of shots he plays, so I was prepared to bowl accordingly."

Kuldeep said the sluggish pitch made his job as a wrist-spinner more demanding, as he had to generate his own pace to

trouble the batters. "Today, the wicket was very slow. As a wrist-spinner, it's tough to bowl on this type of wicket because there is hardly any pace. You have to generate that pace yourself."

Despite the conditions, he stuck to his approach of attacking the stumps -- a method he believes translates across formats.

"My bowling type is all about hitting the stumps; that's the most important thing in any format: ODI, T20, or Test. Cricket has changed a lot; players try reverse sweeps and sweep shots, so you don't want to miss those leg-before chances. That was my plan."

That plan paid off as Kuldeep played a key role in breaking South Africa's early resistance, providing control in the middle overs and striking at crucial moments.

Bumrah, meanwhile, was at his lethal best, returning 5 for 27 to dismantle South Africa after their promising start. His incisive spells triggered collapses at vital junctures, leaving India firmly in control by stumps.

With Mohammed Siraj (2 for 47) and Axar Patel (1 for 21) also contributing, India's well-rounded bowling effort ensured South Africa squandered the advantage of winning the toss.

1st Test: It isn't easy for batters to score runs, says Siraj after India dominate opening day

SIANS

KOLKATA: India pacer Mohammed Siraj acknowledged that scoring runs isn't easy for batters after the hosts wrapped South Africa's innings for 159 on the opening day of the first Test at Eden Gardens on Friday. Pace spearhead Jasprit Bumrah returned with the figures of 5-27 in his 17 overs while Kuldeep Yadav and Siraj bagged two scalps apiece to topple South Africa's batting unit.

Speaking after the stumps, Siraj said the new ball was moving, but as soon as the ball became soft, the bounce reduced off the pitch.

"The new ball was coming on nicely to the bat, but when the ball went soft, the bounce became low as well. My mindset was to bowl full and at the stumps. There has been some reverse swing on offer; if you bowl stump-to-stump, you'll get options to take wickets, and it isn't easy for batters to score runs. One end is fine to bat, the other end - the bounce is variable, and it's tough to score," Siraj said.

The 31-year-old pacer revealed what Bumrah advised him during the spell and how he applied that in use. "Jassi bhai just told me that the wicket-taking option was if you bowl at the stumps, you've LBW, bowled, and even catches coming to play when the line is accurate," he said.



Siraj added that India are in a comfortable position after ending the day for 37/1 with KL Rahul (13 not out) and Washington Sundar (6 not out) in the middle. The hosts are trailing by 122 runs.

"We are in a good position, having lost just one wicket. (Earlier) Markram and Rickelton put on a good stand, we did well to come back, and I think we're ahead in the match at the moment," Siraj said.

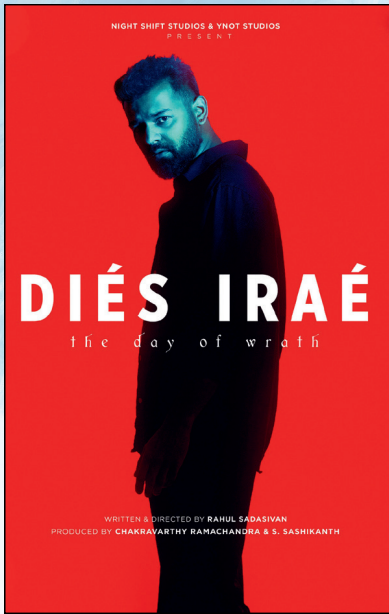
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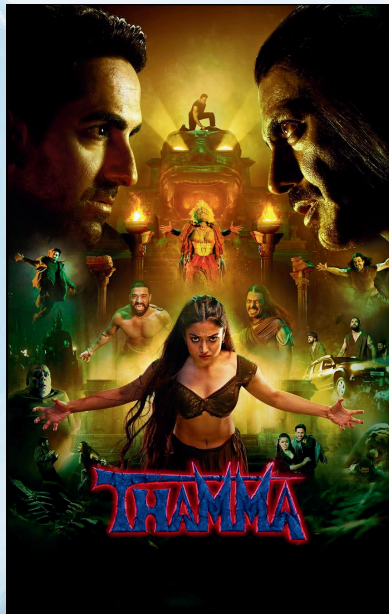
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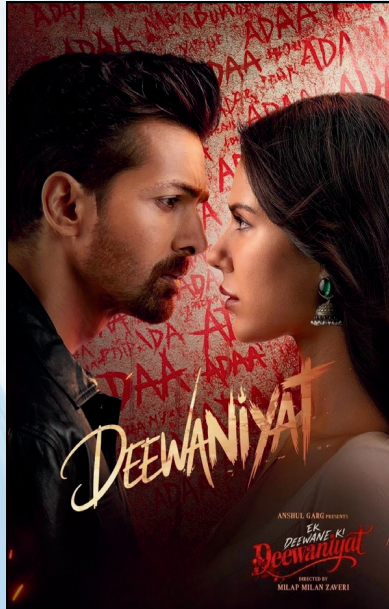
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