

PM to launch UPITS 2025 today

Greater Noida/Lucknow (UNI) Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate the third edition of the UP International Trade Show (UPITS) today at the India Expo Mart in Greater Noida.

Scheduled from September 25 to 29, the mega event will present Uttar Pradesh's industrial, agricultural, cultural, and innovation strengths on a global stage.

More than just a platform for trade and investment, UPITS 2025 aims at creating a future-ready ecosystem for youth, entrepreneurs and international delegates, while celebrating the state's diverse identity through the confluence of craft, culture, and cuisine, according to officials.

Since its inception, UPITS has grown remarkably in scale and impact. The inaugural 2023 edition, welcomed by President Droupadi Murmu, featured 1,914 exhibitors and 400 foreign buyers.

The second edition, inaugurated by then-Vice President Jagdeep Dhankar, expanded to 2,122 exhibitors, 350 foreign buyers, and 500,000 visitors, generating export orders worth over Rs 2,200 crore and



direct sales of Rs 40 crore.

With more than double the growth in just two editions, the upcoming third edition is expected to attract over 2,500 exhibitors, 500 foreign buyers, and more than half a million visitors, reinforcing its status as a global hub for business and investment.

A major highlight will be the One District One Product (ODOP) Pavilion in Hall No. 9, featuring 343 stalls dedicated to the signature products of each district.

From Bhadohi carpets and Firozabad glasswork to Moradabad metal-

ware and Saharanpur woodcraft, these displays will showcase the journey of Uttar Pradesh's craftsmanship from local to global. The pavilion will also create opportunities for networking, business collaborations, and partnerships involving startups, designers, and international buyers.

Russia will participate as the partner country. On September 26, the Russia-India Business Dialogue will bring together policymakers, industrialists, financial institutions, insurance firms, and academia from both nations.

This dialogue will not only strengthen economic cooperation, but also pave way for technological partnerships, joint ventures, and new business opportunities in the state of Uttar Pradesh.

The IT and Electronics Department will present a live demonstration of an AI model in a sprawling 200-square-meter pavilion. Designed with modern amenities, including a curved LED wall, smart video displays, a VIP lounge, and a dedicated startup zone, the pavilion will highlight cutting-edge technological innovations and reflect how

the Yogi government has positioned Uttar Pradesh as a rising hub of enterprise, innovation, and digital excellence.

Under the master exhibition layout, Halls 1, 8 and 15 will serve as centres for B2B activities, while Halls 9, 10, and 12 will focus on B2C interactions, and Halls 11 and 14 will host both B2B and B2C activities.

The ground floor will feature exhibits from UPSIDA, Invest UP, GNIDA, YEIDA, Civil Aviation, the Russia Pavilion, IT/ITES, Electrical-Electronics, Tourism, Clean Mission, ODOP, Agriculture, Dairy, Textiles, and Logistics. The second floor will serve as the venue for inaugurations, B2B meetings, knowledge sessions, showcases of renewable energy, defence manufacturing, health, education, and culture.

Adding a flavorful dimension, the "Swad Uttar Pradesh" theme will present 25 food stalls, stretching from Gate No. 3 to Hall No. 7. Visitors will be able to savor traditional delicacies such as Moradabadi dal, Banarasi paan and lassi, Panchhi petha, Jain shikanji, Mathura peda, and Khurja's khurchan.

By-Election for Punjab Rajya Sabha Seat Announced Amid AAP's Dominance

Chandigarh (UNI) The Election Commission today announced by-election for a vacant Rajya Sabha seat from Punjab with voting scheduled for October 24.

Nominations will begin on October 6, according to an official notification.

The seat fell vacant after Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) leader Sanjeev Arora resigned from the Rajya Sabha following his election as an MLA from Ludhiana West in a by-election held in June 2025.

Arora secured a victory in the Ludhiana West bypoll by a margin of 10,637 votes, prompted by the death of incumbent MLA Gurpreet Singh Gogi. Following his win, Arora was appointed Punjab's Minister for Industry and NRI Affairs.

Speculation had been rife that AAP chief Arvind Kejriwal might contest the Rajya Sabha seat. However, Kejriwal publicly dismissed these rumours, stating he has no intention of joining the Upper House.

AAP spokesperson Neel Garg emphasized that the party's candidate for the seat will represent Punjab's interests. "The candidate could

be anyone a woman, a farmer, or a businessperson. The decision rests with the party's high command," Garg said.

Currently, AAP holds a dominant position in Punjab's political landscape, with 93 of the 117 seats in the state assembly.

The opposition includes 16 Congress MLAs, three from the Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD), two from the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), one from the Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP), and one independent legislator.

Punjab is represented by six AAP members in the Rajya Sabha: Vikramjit Singh Sahney, Balbir Singh Seechewal, Raghav Chadha, Sandeep Pathak, Harbhajan Singh, and Ashok Mittal.

The vacancy created by Arora's resignation leaves one seat open.

With less than two years until the next Punjab Assembly elections, AAP may prioritize a local leader to reinforce its commitment to regional identity.

Party insiders suggest that nominating a leader from outside Punjab could risk alienating voters, prompting the party to consider a candidate with strong state roots.

GST reform a landmark decision by PM Modi: Sudhanshu Trivedi

Lucknow (UNI)

BJP Rajya Sabha MP Sudhanshu Trivedi said today that the GST reform was a landmark decision for the country under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The reforms would bring about a major change in the country's economy in the future, he added.

Speaking to media at the BJP office in Lucknow, Trivedi said GST 2.0 will lead to economic empowerment of every section.

Trivedi said those who called GST a political decision were wrong. "They should step away from their political ideology and appreciate it," he said.

Responding to a question, Trivedi said the government was working to



make the new GST rates accessible to the public.

Trivedi was asked whether the government would make any arrangement to issue guidelines to companies to display lists of the new and old GST rates.

On the question of making diesel and petrol GST-free, Trivedi said the decision is taken by the GST Council and required the consent of all governments.

Targeting the Opposition on vote-rigging, Trivedi said the Opposition earlier used to blame EVMs for being hacked, but when they won seats, they would no longer make such claims. "It is clear that the hue and cry about vote-rigging is nothing but propaganda," he said.

Actor Sonu Sood appears before ED in 1xBet betting app case

New Delhi: Bollywood actor Sonu Sood today appeared before the Enforcement Directorate (ED) in a money laundering case linked to the banned betting application 1xBet. The probe is being conducted under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA).

Officials said an elite ED team will question Sood, and that the session could last up to seven hours.

Former Indian cricketer Yuvraj Singh and web-series 'Gandii Baat' actress Anveshi Jain were also questioned in the case yesterday. Several celebrities have been summoned by the agency as part of its ongoing investigation.

ED sources said these celebrities allegedly promoted 1xBet through advertising campaigns, which helped the illegal platform expand its user base in India despite being banned.

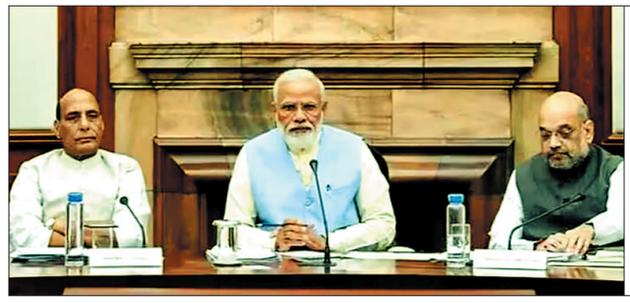
Modi Cabinet approves 78-day bonus for railway staff, key projects for Bihar

New Delhi: The Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has approved a significant productivity-linked bonus for over 10.91 lakh railway employees, costing the government Rs 1,865.68 crore. This 78-day bonus is expected to boost employee morale and improve efficiency across the railway network.

Key projects sanctioned for Bihar

In a major infrastructure push, the government has greenlit two projects for Bihar. The Bakhtiyarpur-Rajgir-Tilaiya railway line will be doubled at a cost of Rs 2,192 crore to streamline both passenger and freight movement.

Additionally, the Sahebganj-Ararej-Bettiah National Highway



will be upgraded to a four-lane road. This 78.942-kilometer project, with a budget of Rs 3,822.31 crore, will enhance connectivity in the state's northwestern region.

The cabinet also approved a Rs 69,725 crore mega package for the

maritime and shipbuilding sectors, aimed at boosting domestic production and making India a global shipping hub. These decisions are part of a broader strategy to accelerate infrastructure development and industrial growth.

UP traders and consumers benefit the most from GST reform: Yogi Adityanath

Lucknow (UNI)

The "Next Gen GST Reform," which came into effect on the first day of Shcaradiya Navratri, has infused new energy into the market, Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath said today.

Addressing a media conference at Universal Booksellers in Hazratganj, Adityanath stated that the reduced GST rates are significantly benefiting all segments, including consumers, traders, and entrepreneurs.

While the reform has provided relief to consumers, it has also paved the way for strengthening the market and creating employment. He said being the state with the largest consumer base in the country, Uttar Pradesh's traders and consumers will



benefit the most from the GST reform.

The Chief Minister informed that GST on notebooks, pencils, and other educational materials for students has been reduced to zero. Similarly, most

essential household items have been brought under the zero or 5 per cent tax bracket. As many as life-saving medicines have also been completely exempted from GST.

He said that increased consumption in the market has led to increased production. This has benefited both traders and entrepreneurs and opened up new employment opportunities for the youth. This major step has brought relief to consumers during the festive season.

The Chief Minister stated that after the implementation of GST, national collections have gone up from 77 lakh crore to 722 lakh crore, while in Uttar Pradesh, it has increased from 749 thousand crore to over 71.15 lakh crore.

BJP's Mandal office set on fire in Tripura allegedly by TIPRA Motha supporters

Agartala: Tension gripped the mixed populated areas of Jirania, the eastern outskirts of the city, after the Mandal office of the ruling BJP in Mandai constituency was vandalised, the prime minister's photographs stored inside were defaced, and finally set on fire, allegedly by BJP's coalition partner, TIPRA Motha, last night.

A large contingent of security personnel has been deployed in the area to manage the escalating situation. The Superintendent of Police (West Tripura), Namit Pathak, rushed to the spot late at night along with SDOPO Jirania and reviewed the law and order.

The incident took place merely a day after PM Modi visited the Tripura Sundari temple in Udaipur, where members of the royal family and TIPRA Motha leaders were reportedly not invited, leaving some feeling dissatisfied.

No Mandatory 3-Year Practice for Civil Judges in MP

Supreme Court has annulled Madhya Pradesh High Court's ruling

New Delhi: The Supreme Court has struck down a Madhya Pradesh High Court ruling that made three years of legal practice mandatory for becoming a Civil Judge. This decision overturns the High Court's previous order, which had halted the appointment process for civil judges over the eligibility requirement.

A bench of Justices P.S. Narasimha and Atul S. Chandurkar accepted an appeal challenging the High Court's verdict. The High Court's counsel, Ashwani Kumar Dubey, had argued that a re-examination was unconsti-

tutional and impractical.

The case stems from a June 2023 amendment to the Madhya Pradesh Judicial Service Rules, which introduced the three-year practice rule. While the High Court initially upheld the change, it later ordered the exclusion of successful candidates from the preliminary exams who did not meet the new criteria, leading to numerous lawsuits and an appeal by the High Court itself to the Supreme Court.

With this ruling, the Supreme Court has set a precedent, ensuring that judicial aspirants in Madhya Pradesh are no longer required to complete three years of legal practice before they can sit for the civil judge entrance exam.

Supreme Court seeks NIA report on Shabir Shah's custody in 24 cases

New Delhi (UNI)

The Supreme Court today directed the National Investigation Agency (NIA) to submit detailed information on the custody of Kashmiri separatist leader Shabir Ahmed Shah in connection with 24 criminal cases, including terror funding charges.

A Bench comprising Justice Vikram Nath, Justice Sandeep Mehta, and Justice N.V. Anjaria passed the order while hearing Shah's plea challenging the Delhi High Court's June 12 decision denying him bail in a terror funding case.

The Court noted that the NIA's counter-affidavit must include the custody status of Shah in other pending cases.

"Please provide us with the status of custody in other cases also. He is facing trial in probably 24 cases," the Bench observed, granting the agency four weeks to file its affidavit. The matter will be heard next on October 31.

Shah, arrested by the NIA on June 4, 2019, is facing trial in a 2017 case linked to raising funds to disrupt public order and wage war against the Government of India.

The prosecution alleges that he played a "substantial role" in facilitating separatist and militant movements in Jammu and Kashmir, securing funds through hawala channels and cross-LoC trade, delivering inflammatory speeches, funding stone pelters, and glorifying slain militants.

Madras HC transfers BSP leader Armstrong murder case probe to CBI

Chennai: In a major setback to the Tamil Nadu government, the Madras High Court today transferred to the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), the probe into the July 2024 gruesome murder of former Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) State President and dalit leader K Armstrong by an armed gang.

Passing the orders, Justice P Velmurugan, expressed dissatisfaction over the manner in which the Greater Chennai City Police had conducted the investigation and pointed out gaping holes in the probe. The Judge transferred the case to the CBI, on a petition by the deceased leader's brother, K Imanuel.

PM Modi to lay foundation stones for projects worth Rs 1.22 lakh crore in Rajasthan

Jaipur (UNI)

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will visit the tribal dominated Banswara in Rajasthan tomorrow to lay foundation stone for projects worth Rs 1,22,000 crore, including the Rs 42,000 crore, 2800 MW Mahi-Banswara Atomic Energy Plant.

According to an official release today, projects worth Rs 1,08,468 crore are earmarked for Rajasthan alone. These include the Mahi-Banswara Atomic Energy Plant at a cost of Rs 42,000 crore, the 590 MW Bikaner Akshaya Energy Project worth Rs 8,500 crore, and installation of 15.5 GW capacity transmission lines in Jaisalmer, Barmer, Sirohi, Nagaur and Bikaner involving an investment of



Rs 13,183 crore.

Work on 15 drinking water projects costing Rs 5,884 crore will begin simultaneously in Banswara, Udaipur, Durgapur, Dholpur, Sawai Madhopur, Barmer, Dausa, Churu, Ajmer, Bhilwara

and Sikar. The Prime Minister will also lay the foundation for two flyovers in Bharatpur; a bridge over the Banas River, and 119 Atal Pragati Path roads valued at Rs 878 crore. In addition, three 220 KV grid sub-stations with a connected line network in Jaisalmer and Bikaner will be constructed at a cost of Rs 348 crore.

Among the projects scheduled to be inaugurated and dedicated to the nation are the Water Resources Department's initiatives worth Rs 20,833 crore, 1,400 MW solar energy projects and the 925 MW NOKH Solar Park with an investment of Rs 10,710 crore, and 895 MW decentralised solar energy projects under PM KUSUM-C developed at a cost of Rs 3,132 crore.

Life in Kolkata limps back to normalcy following record rains

Kolkata (UNI)

After a trail of devastation caused by unprecedented rain, life in Kolkata is slowly limping back to normalcy.

The city recorded over 300 mm of rain on Monday night, leaving behind widespread destruction and killing at least 11 lives. Large parts of south Kolkata continue to remain under water, disrupting power supply and drinking water, and forcing residents to stay indoors.

Local authorities, including the Calcutta Electric Supply Corporation, have been working round the clock to restore snapped power lines and damaged connections in



inundated areas. Many ground-floor homes are still submerged. Several hospitals also bore the brunt of the downpour, with knee-deep water entering their premises.

With the weather clearing, and the sun out, officials said

Mamata govt announces Rs 2 lakh ex gratia to kin of those killed in torrential rains

Kolkata: West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee today announced an ex gratia of Rs 2 lakh each to the kin of those who were killed in rain-related mishaps, mostly due to electrocution, in the city and elsewhere. The chief minister also requested the Calcutta Electric Supply Corporation to provide Rs 5 lakh compensation each to the families of those who died of electrocution. Sources said 10 people have died due to rain related accidents following the massive deluge in the city two days ago. Of the fatalities, eight died in Kolkata. Addressing after the unveiling of Durga Puja at Bhawanipur in south Kolkata, the chief minister said the government would also ensure employment for family members of the deceased. She said the water levels have receded significantly, although the Ganga experienced substantial flooding.

Folk Singer Saroj Sargam, Husband held for objectionable song on Goddess Durga

Mirzapur (UNI)

In a controversial case that sparked widespread outrage on social media, folk singer Saroj Sargam and her husband have been arrested for allegedly singing and uploading an objectionable Birha song targeting Hindu deity Goddess Durga.

The arrest was made yesterday following strong public protests and demands for action from Hindu organizations and social media users.

According to police sources, Saroj Sargam, a resident of the Madihan area in Mirzapur district, recently released a Birha folk song in which derogatory and offensive language was allegedly used in reference to Goddess Durga and demon Mahishasura.

The song, uploaded on YouTube,

reportedly featured vulgar language in its lyrics and even in the thumbnail, which further fueled public anger.

The video quickly went viral, prompting thousands of users on platforms like X (formerly Twitter), Facebook and others to share the video and screenshots, tagging SSP Mirzapur and the UP Police, and demanding strict action.

The controversy led to significant backlash from Hindu groups and local communities, who accused the singer of deliberately hurting religious sentiments.

Responding to the growing unrest, Mirzapur SSP Somen Verma confirmed that Saroj Sargam and her husband were arrested from the Madihan police station area.