



# THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS

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Narendra Modi Stadium



**2030 MEGA EVENT GETS CABINET APPROVAL, PAVES WAY FOR BID**  
Days after the Indian Olympic Association general body approved 2030 CWG bid, Union cabinet gave its endorsement on Wednesday

## AHMEDABAD WILL BE CWG'S HOST CITY

The cabinet, led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, okayed sports ministry's proposal for submission of the bid. According to a PIB statement, "the cabinet gave its approval to sign the Host Collaboration Agreement (HCA) along with required Guarantees from concerned Ministries, Departments and Authorities and sanction of required grant-in-aid to Gujarat"

## IOA TO SUBMIT THE BID PAPERS BEFORE AUG 31

- This paves the way for IOA to submit the bid papers before the August 31 deadline. It is expected to do so in the next 48 hours
- Ahmedabad is an ideal host city offering world class stadiums, cutting-edge training facilities. India to host disciplines like hockey, shooting, wrestling, archery not included by Glasgow in 2026 | P13

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NUMBER OF COUNTRIES EXPECTED TO PARTICIPATE IN 2030

Will address theaterisation dissonance in best national interest: CDS

MAYANK SINGH @ Mhow

AMID apparent dissonance in the armed forces regarding creation of integrated theatre commands, Chief of Defence Staff Gen Anil Chauhan, the seniormost Indian military officer, on Wednesday said it will be addressed keeping the best national interest in mind.

While Air Chief Marshal A P Singh opined at the Ran Samwad here that the armed forces shouldn't come under any pressure to roll out theatre commands, Navy Chief Admiral Dinesh Tripathi said the opposite: "We are committed to synergising our command control communications and combat capability with the Indian Army and Indian Air Force. Full stop, period."



Navy Chief Adm Dinesh Tripathi and Air Chief Marshal A P Singh

to promote jointness among the three services. And today, I can say with some kind of pleasure and confidence that we can speak about our differences in a very conducive environment, and with openness to different views without temperatures being risen," he said.

"There could be a difference among the three services, but yet we are able to listen to that point. I think that thing is very important," he added.

Chief of Air Staff AP Singh had on Tuesday argued against creating an entirely new structure at this stage. "There is no need for another layer of command. We can begin with joint planning mechanisms and see how they function. If additional structures are truly required, they can be considered later. But disrupting everything to create something entirely new at once isn't advisable," he said.

## AFGHAN FOREIGN MINISTER TO ARRIVE IN SEPT

India is finalising plans for the first visit by an Afghan minister since the Taliban seized power in August 2021. Taliban foreign minister Amir Khan Muttaqi is expected to arrive next month | P9

# Outreach in 40 nations to ease textile sector stress

Bid to cushion it from US tariff blow as it employs 45 million people

DIPAK MONDAL @ New Delhi

WITH textiles emerging as the worst-hit sector under the US's reciprocal tariff regime, the government is moving in "war mode" to cushion the blow to the industry that employs over 45 million people.

Government sources told this newspaper that 40 key importing countries have been identified as part of efforts to diversify India's textile exports. These markets, spread across North America, Europe, Asia, Africa, Latin America, and Oceania, together account for nearly three-fourths of global demand for textiles and apparel.

"Dedicated outreach programmes are being designed to expand India's modest 5-6% market share in these economies, with particular emphasis on apparel, home textiles, technical textiles, and handicrafts," a government source said. The diversification exercise began a few months ago, and exports to these countries have already shown an uptick.



## Russian oil not the lone deal-breaker: US

Russian oil purchase was not the only India-US deal-breaker, US Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent said as he hinted that India's delaying tactics in the trade deal may have resulted in the 50% tariff. He, however, said: "I think at the end of the day, we'll come together."

According to the Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence & Statistics (DGCIIS), textile exports touched \$3.10 billion in July 2025, a 5.37% rise year-on-year. Between April and July 2025, cumulative exports stood at \$12.18 billion, up 3.87% over the same period last year.

Special focus is being placed on Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) with partner nations,

including the recently signed India-UK Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA). Export Promotion Councils, in coordination with Indian missions abroad, will spearhead targeted promotion drives to position India as a reliable source of quality, sustainable, and innovative textiles while reducing overdependence on a handful of traditional markets, officials said.

The US, India's largest textile export market, accounted for \$10.8 billion or 35% of shipments last year. But with apparel exports now facing a 63.9% duty, Indian exporters are at a 30-35% price disadvantage compared to competitors such as Bangladesh, Vietnam, Mexico, and Central American nations. Industry insiders have warned that if the tariffs persist, the apparel sector alone could witness to 15-20 lakh job cuts.

To counter this, four industry-led committees have been formed to recommend time-bound measures covering fiscal, banking and credit support, structural reforms in the value chain, and cost competitiveness through innovation.

# Landslide toll on Vaishno Devi route reaches 34



1) Aerial view of an area affected by heavy rainfall in Jammu; 2) An army helicopter rests on a rooftop during a rescue operation near Madhopur Headworks; 3) Students trapped at a school in Punjab being rescued | P11

FAYAZ WANI @ Srinagar

THE toll in the landslide on a route to the Vaishno Devi shrine in Katra in Jammu's Reasi district, rose to at least 34 people, with 23 others being reported missing. Most of the dead were pilgrims.

Days of heavy rainfall have battered Jammu, causing landslides and flash floods that damaged roads, bridges, houses and vital infrastructure. The latest landslide struck near Inderprastha Bhojnalaya at the Ardhuwari cave temple en route to the shrine on Tuesday evening. The Army, National and State Disaster Response Forces, along with the local police and civil agencies, launched rescue operations soon after. Officials confirmed 34 people had died and 23 were injured. The injured were shifted to different hospitals for treatment.

## 41 killed in J&K amid record 380 mm rains

The total toll due to heavy rains in Jammu and Kashmir climbed to 41 on Wednesday. Jammu received a record 380 mm rainfall in 24 hours between Tuesday and Wednesday morning, breaking the previous record of 270 mm rainfall recorded in 1988, an official said

"My thoughts are with the bereaved families. May the injured recover at the earliest. The administration is assisting all those affected. My prayers for everyone's safety and well-being," Prime Minister Narendra Modi posted on X.

Chief minister Omar Abdullah said, "We are sad that about 29-30 people have lost their lives in Katra." He, however, ques-

tioned why officials had not stopped pilgrims despite warnings. "We had been warned about inclement weather days in advance. Why were pilgrims allowed on the track? Why weren't they stopped and kept safe?" Abdullah asked.

While Jammu has taken much of the beating from incessant rains, Kashmir is also facing flood threats as water has begun flowing over the danger mark in Jhelum in south Kashmir and Srinagar. In Anantnag, water entered houses in many areas, while a locality in the Rajbagh area of uptown Srinagar was submerged. All educational institutions in Jammu and Kashmir will remain closed on Thursday and all exams have been postponed. The mobile and internet services in the Valley remained erratic.



2) An army helicopter rests on a rooftop during a rescue operation near Madhopur Headworks; 3) Students trapped at a school in Punjab being rescued | P11

# 380 pupils trapped by flood at Punjab school rescued

HARPREET BAJWA @ Chandigarh

THE flood situation remained grim in eight districts of Punjab—Gurdaspur, Pathankot, Amritsar, Hoshiarpur, Kapurthala, Tarn Taran, Ferozepur, and Fazilka—on Wednesday, with the key rivers Ravi, Beas, and Sutlej in a furious spate, and water levels at key reservoirs breaching the danger mark.

Rescue works progressed at a rapid pace. In Gurdaspur, more than 380 students and 70 staff trapped by rising floodwaters at Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya were rescued by the district administration teams,

with the support of BSF and the NDRF. The school premises were submerged under 4 to 5 feet of water from the Ravi river. The rescue operation was delayed as vehicles could not reach the school due to flood-inundated roads.

In Pathankot, the Army rescued 22 CRPF personnel and 53 civilians, including 50 staffers of Madhopur Headworks. Three floodgates at the barrage were washed away by the gushing waters. Meanwhile, the water level at two major dams Pong and Ranjit Sagar—has breached the danger mark, while at Bhakra it was just nine feet short of the maximum level.

According to sources, Narayanan's wedding was scheduled to take place on September 4.

The accident has sparked concerns over the increasing number of fatal crashes on the Tirukoilur-Sankarapuram stretch, where reckless driving is allegedly commonplace. Only last month, a family of nine died on the route while on their way to Tirupathi from Tirukoilur.

On February 19, 2023, they trapped a female tiger and a male leopard in the Avalanchi forest near Ooty. P6



The gang is believed to have entered TN years ago posing as petty traders | EXPRESS

# 6 of Bawaria poaching gang sentenced to 3 yrs RI

S V KRISHNA CHAITANYA @ Chennai

A Judicial Magistrate Court in Sathyamangalam has sentenced six members of a notorious Bawaria poaching gang to three years of rigorous imprisonment in a landmark tiger and leopard poaching case, the first conviction secured by the Tamil Nadu Forest and Wildlife Crime Control Bureau

(TNFWCCB) since its inception in 2023.

The accused — Krishan (59), Ramchandrar (50), Ratna (40), Bimala (51), Sunita (35) and Mangal (28) — hail from Punjab and Rajasthan, and belong

## CAUGHT WITH 10-FOOT TIGER SKIN WITH NAILS

A raid of the accused's camp in 2023 uncovered a 10-foot tiger skin with nails intact, four carapace shells, four jaw bones with teeth, eight limb bones with claws, two tail bones with fur and 100 other bones

to the nomadic Bawaria community. They were arrested in February 2023 after forest officials and police, acting on intelligence from the non-profit Wildlife SOS, carried out a covert joint operation in the Sath-

yamangalam Tiger Reserve.

According to court records, the gang had been camping inside the Sathyamangalam Tiger Reserve, operating from temporary tents, and is believed to have entered Tamil Nadu years ago under the guise of being petty traders.

On February 19, 2023, they trapped a female tiger and a male leopard in the Avalanchi forest near Ooty. P6