



# 22.04.2026 NEWS

## LAUREUS WORLD SPORTS AWARDS

- At this year's Laureus World Sports Awards, tennis players were selected as both the Sportsman and Sportswoman of the Year.
- Spanish tennis star Carlos Alcaraz won the Sportsman of the Year award, while Belarusian tennis sensation Aryna Sabalenka clinched the Sportswoman of the Year title.
- Considered one of the most prestigious honors in the sporting world, these awards are presented annually by the London-based 'Laureus Sport for Good' Foundation.
- Accordingly, the awards ceremony for the athletes and teams who performed exceptionally in 2025 took place in Madrid, Spain, on Monday midnight (IST).
- India in Nominations Notably, the Indian Women's Cricket Team, which won its first-ever World Cup, was among the nominees in the Team of the Year category.

## NOIDA LABOR PROTEST

- Noida, located in Uttar Pradesh near Delhi, is a major industrial hub of the country.
- Through the labor of thousands of workers, products including automobile spare parts, aircraft components, and electronic devices are manufactured here.
- The majority of these individuals are unorganized workers many of them migrants earning a monthly salary ranging from Rs. 10,000 to Rs. 14,000.
- Living in crowded residential areas in the suburbs, they have been struggling for years due to meager wages.
- Additionally, the price hikes resulting from a gas shortage over the last few months have further impacted them.

- Under these circumstances, on April 13 and 14, these workers took to the streets in the industrial areas of Noida to protest, demanding a wage hike.
- Although the protest began peacefully, violence unexpectedly broke out in the midst of it.
- The police fired tear gas shells and arrested more than 300 protesters.
- Following this, the Uttar Pradesh government announced an interim hike of up to 21% in the minimum wages for workers in Noida and Ghaziabad.
- According to this, an unskilled worker who was earning Rs. 11,313 will now receive Rs. 13,690; a semi-skilled worker who received a wage of Rs. 12,445 will now receive Rs. 15,059; and a skilled worker who was paid Rs. 13,940 will now be provided Rs. 16,868.
- Following this announcement, some of the workers returned to work. However, the protest has not fully come to an end.
- Even though the minimum wage in Haryana was increased by 35% (to approximately Rs. 19,000), the central issue of the protest is that in Noida, neither wage increases nor improvements in working environment facilities have been provided for a long time.
- It is criticized that within the same economic zone, wages vary from state to state for workers performing the same manufacturing tasks.
- It is also alleged that employers are engaging in labor exploitation by demanding up to 14 hours of work, violating the regulation that mandates double pay for overtime beyond the regular 8-hour workday.
- Most of those who protested are contract workers who are not members of a trade union.
- It has now come to light that these individuals are struggling without legal protections such as basic social security, pay slips, and job security
- The government has stated that the permanent minimum wage will be determined only after the recommendations of the Wage Board, which is to be established next month.
- Accordingly, it is said that the Union Ministry of Labour and Employment is also considering raising the national minimum wage from Rs. 350 to Rs. 450 per day.