

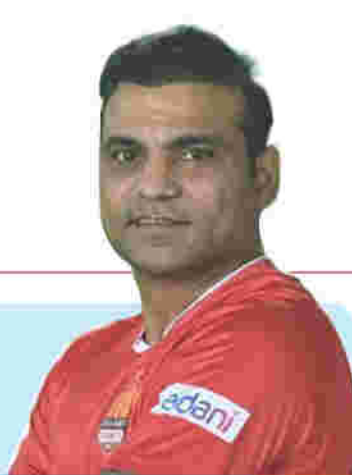


Salman Khan attends Pooja Hegde's brother's marriage



Pope lands in South Sudan to urge peace as fighting kills 27

India's 2007 T20 WC hero Joginder Sharma announces retirement



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HP transport first in India to switch over to e-vehicles



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Aditi extends lead to 5 shots at halfway stage in Kenya; Amandeep, Avani make cut

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Financial inclusion important for achieving economic empowerment of women: Anurag Thakur



MARKET	
SENSEX	NIFTY
60841.88	17854.00
909.64	243.60
GOLD	SILVER
56,762.00	67,999.00
-933.00	-2,205.00

WEATHER	
Sunrise	7:08 AM
Sunset	6:03 PM
Moonrise	04:45 AM
Moonset	07:03 PM
Today's Prediction	
Maximum	24°C
Minimum	11°C
Tomorrow's Prediction	
Maximum	24°C
Minimum	12°C

Adani crisis: Banking sector resilient and stable, says RBI

■ Hindenburg released the report on January 24 -- the day on which Adani Enterprises' Rs 20,000-crore follow-on share sale opened for anchor investors.

■ The RBI, the statement said, remains vigilant and continues to monitor the stability of the Indian banking sector.

■ It further said banks are also in compliance with the Large Exposure Framework (LEF) guidelines issued by the RBI.

Mumbai: Amid concerns over banks' exposure to the crisis-ridden Adani Group, the Reserve Bank of India said India's banking sector is resilient and stable, and the central bank maintains constant vigil on the lenders.

Responding to media reports expressing concern about the exposure of Indian banks to a "business conglomerate", the Reserve Bank said in a statement that it is constantly monitoring the banking sector.

However, the RBI did not name the Adani Group in the statement.

Stocks of Adani Group firms have taken a massive beating on the bourses after US-based short-seller Hindenburg Research made a litany of allegations in a report, including fraudulent transactions and share price manipulation at the Gautam Adani-led group.

The group has rejected the allegations.

Hindenburg released the report on January



24 -- the day on which Adani Enterprises' Rs 20,000-crore follow-on share sale opened for anchor investors.

In its statement, the RBI said as per the current assessment, "the banking sector remains resilient and stable. Various parameters relating to capital adequacy, asset quality, liquidity, provision coverage and

profitability are healthy." "As the regulator and supervisor, the RBI maintains a constant vigil on the banking sector and on individual banks with a view to maintain financial stability. The RBI has a Central Repository of Information on Large Credits (CRILC) database system where the banks report their exposure of Rs 5 crore

and above which is used for monitoring purposes," the central bank added.

The RBI, the statement said, remains vigilant and continues to monitor the stability of the Indian banking sector.

It further said banks are also in compliance with the Large Exposure Framework (LEF)

guidelines issued by the RBI.

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) earlier this week sought details about lenders' exposure to the Adani Group. On Wednesday, Swiss lender Credit Suisse stopped accepting bonds by Adani group companies as collateral for margin lending.

Three leading public sector banks have already disclosed their exposure to the Adani Group. The country's largest lender State Bank of India (SBI) has an exposure of Rs 27,000 crore, while that of the second biggest Punjab National Bank (PNB) is at Rs 7,000 crore.

Another state-owned lender Bank of Baroda has total exposure of Rs 7,000 crore, which is also fully secured.

Government-owned Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) has disclosed holdings of Rs 36,474.78 crore in Adani group's debt and equity.

CONTD ON PG-2

Centre asks Vi to convert govt dues into equity worth \$2 bln



New Delhi: Throwing a lifeline to the troubled telco, the government has approved conversion of over Rs 16,133 crore interest dues of Vodafone Idea into equity, the company said in a regulatory filing on Friday.

With this conversion, the government is expected to hold 33.14 per cent stake in the loss making telecom firm which is reeling under debt burden of over Rs 2 lakh crore.

Vodafone Idea will issue equity shares to the government at face value of Rs 10 each.

"Ministry of Communications...passed an order today ie 3 February, 2023... directing the company to convert the NPV of the interest related to deferment of spectrum auction instalments and AGR dues into equity shares to be issued to the gov-

ernment of India," the filing said.

The relief for the company comes as part of the reforms package announced by the government in September 2021.

"The total amount to be converted into equity shares is Rs 16133.18,48,990. The company has been directed to issue 1613,31,84,899 equity shares of the face value of Rs 10 each at an issue price of Rs 10 each," the filing added.

Earlier, VIL had said that with conversion of dues into equity, the government will get around 33 per cent stake in the company.

The order from the Department of Telecommunications (DoT) comes after a legal opinion advised in favour of picking stake in VIL even after the shares are trading below Rs 10.

CONTD ON PG-2

Indian drug firm recalls eye drop linked to vision loss in US

New Delhi: Global Pharma Healthcare is recalling entire lots of eye drop linked to vision loss in the US, according to the US Food and Drug Administration.

The Chennai-based company is recalling all lots of artificial tears lubricant eye drops distributed by Ezri-Care, LLC and Delsam Pharma to the consumer level due to possible contamination, the US health regulator said in a statement.

"The Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) alerted FDA to an investigation of a multi-state cluster of Verona Integron-mediated Metallo-β-lactamase (VIM)- and Guiana-Extended Spectrum-β-Lactamase (GES)- producing carbapenem-resistant



Pseudomonas aeruginosa (VIM-GES-CRPA) infections possibly associated with the use of the artificial tears manufactured by Global Pharma Healthcare," USFDA said.

To date, there are 55 reports of adverse events including eye infections, permanent loss of vision and a death with a bloodstream infection, it added.

The USFDA noted that "use of contaminated artificial tears can result in the risk of eye infections that could result in blindness".

Artificial Tears Lubricant eye drops are used as a protectant against

irritation or to relieve dryness of the eye.

In a statement posted on its website, Global Pharma Healthcare said it is notifying the distributors of this product Aru Pharma Inc and Delsam Pharma, and is requesting that wholesalers, retailers and customers who have the recalled product should stop using it.

Consumers should contact their physician or healthcare provider if they have experienced any problems that may be related to using these over-the-counter drug products, it said.

Global Pharma Healthcare produces and supplies a wide range of pharmaceutical formulations in several therapeutic forms to a variety of markets in Southeast Asia, Central America, LATAM, CIS, and Africa. Agencies

Appointment of 5 judges recommended by Collegium likely by Feb 5, Govt tells SC

New Delhi: Facing some tough questions from the Supreme Court, the Centre on Friday gave an assurance that the Collegium's pending recommendations for the elevation of five high court judges to the apex court will be cleared soon and the warrant of their appointments may be issued by Sunday.

A bench of Justices S K Kaul and A S Oka also expressed displeasure over the delay in clearing recommendations for transfer of high court judges, calling it a "very serious issue", and warned that any delay in this matter may result in both administrative and



judicial actions which might not be palatable.

Queried about the status of the apex court collegium's recommendations for the top court during a hearing on two petitions, Attorney General R Venkataramani said the warrant of

appointments of five judges is expected to be issued shortly.

"When, is the next question? We are not saying about date. Two days, three days or four days, when will the warrants be issued?", the bench asked.

"I was given to understand that by Sunday, it may be issued," Venkataramani said.

The top court while referring to the issue of delay in clearing recommendations for transfer of high court judges also observed, "Don't make us take a stand which will be very uncomfortable." "You will make us take some very very difficult decisions." The Collegium system has become a major flashpoint between the Supreme Court and the Centre with the mechanism of judges appointing judges drawing criticism from different quarters. Agencies

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Adani crisis:
Banking sector
resilient and
stable, says RBI

CONTD FROM PG-1

Earlier, the conglomerate withdrew the Rs 20,000-crore follow on public offer (FPO) of its flagship firm Adani Enterprises amid a steep fall in its stock prices.

Besides Credit Suisse Group AG, Citigroup Inc's wealth arm has also stopped accepting securities of Adani Group firms as collateral for margin loans as banks ramp up scrutiny of the conglomerate's finances.

The Opposition has been stalling Parliament for the past two days demanding a Joint Parliamentary Committee or a Supreme Court monitored probe into the affairs of the group. They alleged that the drastic fall in Adani Group shares on Indian exchanges has put public money in danger as public sector LIC and SBI have invested in those companies.

The Congress has alleged that the LIC and SBI have been "forced" to invest in the Adani Group.

Meanwhile, Moody's Investors Service on Friday said it is assessing overall financial flexibility, including liquidity position, of Adani Group firms.

"These adverse developments are likely to reduce the group's ability to raise capital to fund committed capex or refinance maturing debt over the next 1-2 years," Moody's said.

However, another rating firm Fitch Ratings said there is no immediate impact on the ratings of Adani entities and their securities.

Shares of four Adani Group firms, including Adani Enterprises and Adani Ports bounced back on Friday after facing heavy drubbing in the past 6 days.

The stock of Adani Enterprises rebounded 1.25 per cent to settle at Rs 1,584.20 apiece on the BSE. During the day, it tumbled 35 per cent to Rs 1,017.10 -- its one-year low.

Shares of Adani Ports also bounced back and climbed 7.98 per cent to Rs 498.85 after falling 14.51 per cent to Rs 394.95 -- its one-year low -- during the day.

Ambuja Cements rallied 6.03 per cent and ACC climbed 4.39 per cent.

Centre asks Vi to convert govt dues into equity worth \$2 bln

CONTD FROM PG-1

Telecom Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw had last month said Vodafone Idea has various requirements, including infusion of capital, and discussions around this were on.

"Vodafone (Idea) has many requirements. It has a particular requirement of capital. How much capital, who will infuse? All those things are under discussion at this point of time. The responsibility of capital has to come from various sources. The company just doesn't require conversion. It requires capital. All those things are a complex issue," Vaishnaw had said.

Advt Contact:
9818799941

Jolt to BJP as Opposition MVA bags 3 of 5 seats on offer

Mumbai:

The Congress on Friday won the Amravati division graduates constituency, taking the tally of the Opposition Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) to three in elections for five Maharashtra Legislative Council seats, a result which has come as a jolt to the ruling Bharatiya Janta Party-Balasaheb-nachi Shiv Sena alliance.

Congress candidate Dhiraj Lingade won the Amravati constituency, where counting started on Thursday morning and stretched to more than 32 hours and went on till late Friday afternoon, by defeating sitting legislator Ranjit Patil of the BJP. Thus, the Congress has snatched the seat from the BJP.

With this, poll results of all the five seats from teachers and graduates segments of the Council are now available and the outcome shows the MVA, comprising the Shiv Sena (Uddhav Balasaheb Thackeray), the Congress and the Nationalist Congress Party (NCP), has emerged as the clear winner.

Voting for biennial elections to five Council seats - three teachers segments (falling in Nagpur, Konkan and Aurangabad divisions) and two graduates constituencies (Nashik and Amravati divisions) was held on January 30. The results of four other seats of the Upper



House of the legislature were declared on Thursday, and two of them were won by the MVA.

In Amravati, Congress nominee Lingade bagged 46,344 votes, while BJP candidate and sitting MLC Patil secured 42,962 ballots, an official said.

MVA-backed contestant Sudhakar Adale and Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) candidate Vikrant Kale registered victory from Nagpur and Aurangabad teachers constituencies, respectively.

In Nagpur, hometown of Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnis, BJP heavyweights, Adale trumped BJP-supported

candidate Nagorao Ganar.

BJP candidate Dyanshwar Mhatre won the Konkan division teachers constituency, while Congress rebel Satyajit Tambe, who revolted against the party ahead of polls, won as an independent from the Nashik division graduates seat.

Satyajit Tambe defeated his nearest rival, independent candidate Shubhangi Patil, who was supported by the MVA, by 29,465 votes.

No candidate was fielded by either of the Shiv Sena factions in the elections held to fill up five vacancies in the Upper House of the state legislature.

Talking to reporters,

Maharashtra Congress president Nana Patole said the MLC polls have shown the BJP "who is the king", indicating voters are supreme, and maintained the ruling party's "house will crumble".

He said Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's Bharat Jodo Yatra, which passed through Vidarbha last year, created enthusiasm among people for the party ahead of the Council polls.

"Vidarbha has remained with the Congress. We (in the past) were hit by wrong coordination and planning. This time everyone worked together and fought this war," Patole said.

"Be it Amravati or the Nagpur division, because of the trouble from BJP leaders (an apparent reference to Deputy CM Devendra Fadnis), many BJP leaders have helped us. You see how their house will crumble," said the MPCC president.

Buoyed by the victory, Maharashtra NCP president Jayant Patil said MVA candidates have won with huge margins which indicate the prevailing political mood in the state.

Shiv Sena (UBT) leader Sanjay Raut said the BJP's defeat in Vidarbha (where Nagpur and Amravati are located) shows people in the region are "fed up" with the party.

These were the first

In Amravati, Congress nominee Lingade bagged 46,344 votes, while BJP candidate and sitting MLC Patil secured 42,962 ballots, an official said.

MLC polls after the Eknath Shinde-led government took charge in June last year. However, rival Shiv Sena factions (led by Chief Minister Shinde and former CM Uddhav Thackeray) were not in the fray directly.

Teachers and graduates fulfilling certain criteria and enrolled as voters formed the electoral college for these elections.

Of the Upper House seats which went to polls, Nashik was held by Congress' Sudhir Tambe (father of Satyajit Tambe), Nagpur by independent candidate Nagorao Ganar, Aurangabad by NCP's Vikram Kale, Konkan by independent candidate Balaram Patil and Amravati by BJP's Ranjit Patil.

State Congress president Patole said he still thinks the Tambe father-son betrayed the party.

While Sudhir Tambe, the party's official candidate, had opted out on the last day of filing nomination, his son Satyajit submitted his papers as an independent. The Congress later suspended the father-son duo.

Working for deprived, backward sections our priority: PM Modi

Guwahati:

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday asserted that the deprived and backward sections will be given priority in the government's quest for development of the nation.

Modi, during a virtual address at the 'Krishnaguru Ekaam Akhand Kirtan for World Peace' in Assam's Barpeta district, also said special provisions have been made in the Union Budget 2023-24 to increase the interest rates on women's savings to empower them.

"In order to make the income of women a means of their empowerment, the Mahila Samman Saving Certificate has been started. Women will especially get the benefit of higher interest on savings," he said.

"There are many such provisions in this budget, from which women of northeastern states like Assam,



Nagaland, Tripura, Meghalaya will be widely benefited, new opportunities will be created for them," the PM said.

He said Assam and the northeast was "deprived" of connectivity and development for decades, but during the last eight years, the government has focused on the region's welfare.

"Provisions have been made in the budget for improved tourism facilities, modern infrastructure and virtual connectivity, and these will greatly benefit the people of the northeast," Modi said.

He also said 50 tourist destinations will be developed and upgraded.

Modi said traditional skills of artisans of the region are now being recognised globally and the central government will set up a 'Unity Mall' in each state, where customary products will be displayed.

Such products of the region will also be on display at important tourist destinations.

The country is starting the 'PM Vishwakarma Kaushal Yojana' for the traditional artisans to enhance their skills, he said.

Rahul writes to PM over 'plight' of Kashmiri Pandits

New Delhi:

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi has urged Prime Minister Narendra Modi to look into the "plight" of Kashmiri Pandit employees who do not want to return to the Kashmir Valley without a guarantee of their security, and accused the Union Territory administration of adopting an "insensitive" approach towards them.

In a letter to Modi, Gandhi flagged the issue of the recent spate of targeted killings of Kashmiri Pandits and others by terrorists, which he said, has created an atmosphere of fear and gloom in the Valley. He wrote to the prime minister, saying a delegation of Kashmiri Pandits met him during the Jammu leg of the Bharat Jodo Yatra that was aimed at uniting the whole of India in a thread of love and unity.

"They (Kashmiri Pandits) said government officials are forcing them

to go back to work in the Kashmir Valley. In these circumstances, forcing them to go back to the Valley without any surety of their safety and security is a cruel move," Gandhi said.

Till the situation improves, the government can take services from these Kashmiri Pandit employees in other administrative and public facilities, the former Congress chief said in his letter in Hindi to Modi.

"At a time when the Kashmiri Pandits are pleading for their safety and families' concerns, and expecting sympathy and affection from the government, use of words like 'beggars' by the Lt. Governor for them is irresponsible. Prime Minister, you may not be familiar with this insensitive style of functioning of the administration," Gandhi said.

"I have assured the Kashmiri Pandit brothers and sisters that I

will try my best to convey their concerns and demands to you. I hope that you will take appropriate steps in this regard as soon as you get this information," he said in the letter on Thursday.

A Kashmiri Pandit delegation had called on Gandhi during his Bharat Jodo Yatra in Samba district and briefed him about their issues, including the "targeted killings" by terrorists and the resultant protest by those employed under the prime minister's package.

Nearly 4,000 Kashmiri Pandits are working in different departments in the Kashmir Valley after their selection under the prime minister's employment package announced in 2008. The package has two major components -- 6,000 jobs for the youth from the community and building as many accommodation units for the recruited employees.

BJP's Mathura district secretary hails union budget

Mathura:

BJP's Mathura district secretary and Railway Consultative Committee member Kunj Bihari Chaturvedi has said that strengthening the resolution of Amritkal, this general budget 2023-2024 will write a new chapter of development in the country.

It is going to make the dream of a self-reliant India come true and the central government will make India the third largest economy in the world, he added.

Surcharge has been reduced in this budget to encourage small scale industries and provision of Rs 20 lakh crore for excellent performance



in the agriculture sector will provide progress to self-reliant India.

Increasing the income tax exemption limit up to Rs 7 lakh will speed up the pace of economic growth.

Maitreyi College's annual cultural festival Rhapsody'23 has begun with a bang!

New Delhi:

Prof. Vijay Laxmi Singh, Chairperson of Maitreyi College Governing Body formally declared the cultural festival RHAPSODY'23 as open. The event was also graced by the Guest of Honour, Dr. Shikha Sharma, renowned Nutritionist and Ms. Gauri Diwakar, renowned classical dancer. Officiating Principal, Prof.

Haritma Chopra addressed the esteemed gathering and wished all the best for conceptualisation and organization of the event. Maitreyi College's Photography Society 'Vista' launched their bi-monthly magazine 'Bokeh' in the inaugural ceremony which showcased the works of their society members.

Students from Maitreyi College's Classical Dance society 'Nrityakriti' performed on Shiv Vandana to seek blessings for successful execution of the cultural festival.

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is hereby notified to the General Public by this public notice that our client Sh. Kashyap Lal and his wife R/o House No. B-796, Madipur Colony, New Delhi-110063, has annulled all their relations with Sh. Kishore and Smt. Shalu, who is the son and daughter-in-law of our client, and they have disowned them from all right, title and interest in their moveable and immovable properties. If anyone deals with them in any manner whatsoever, our clients shall not be responsible for the same.

SHIVOM GARG & ASSOCIATES

Advocates
Chamber No. 449, Lawyers Chamber, Saket Courts Complex, New Delhi
Ph- 858088841

PUBLIC NOTICE

All concerned are hereby informed through this Public Notice that my clients, SMT. SHANTI KHURANA, W/o. LATE SH. HARBANSH LAL KHURANA, R/O 9/6/10B, Rukabang, Faizabad, Uttar Pradesh-224001, have disowned and debarred their son namely PAWAN KHURANA, S/O LATE SH. HARBANSH LAL KHURANA and his wife NEETU KHURANA W/O SH. PAWAN KHURANA due to disrespect, disobedience, misbehaviour and quarrel some nature and debarred from all moveable and immovable properties and have revoked all relations from them. My clients shall not be held responsible for their acts, deed, in any manner and if anyone deals with them, shall deal on his/her own risk, cost and consequences.

DIKSHA GUPTA (ADVOCATE)
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MOB- 91-9210320741

PUBLIC NOTICE

Public at large is hereby informed that my Client, Smt. Ram Devigand about 74 years wife of Late Shri Khushal Chand, staying with her son Inder Pal Ahuja with her own free will at House No.27, Silver Park, Shiv Puri, East Delhi-110051, have disinherited, debarred and disown her son RAMESH CHAND AHUJA & his legal heirs residing separately from last 34 years and her daughter SUNITA BHOLA & her legal heirs from the inheritance of all her moveable and immovable properties due to their & their legal heirs non obedient nature, mental torture, threatening, abusive, quarrelling, disrespectful behavior & harassing nature towards my senior citizen client & her family members and they collectively have made the life of my Client & her other legal heirs miserable. Therefore, my Client has severed all relations with them & their legal heirs and now they & their legal heirs shall have no right over the properties of my Client, in any case. That if anyone deals with them, will do so at their own risk, cost and consequences, my Client shall not be responsible for any act or misconduct done by them, in any case.

Sourabh Grover Advocate
207, New Lahore, Shastris Nagar, East Delhi-110031
(Near DC Office Complex, East Distt.)
Mob.- +91-9999066304

Be your own valentine and make heads turn in the stunning platinum jewellery by PLATINUM EVARA

New Delhi:

With Valentine's Day around the corner, dedicate this time of the year to celebrating self-love! True happiness always begins with loving yourself. So this month of love, be your own Valentine by gifting yourself a metal that is just as unique and rare as you are - precious platinum.

Born from the stars, platinum is one of the rarest metals to exist on this planet, akin to the rare and progressive choice of young women who wear their identity proudly on their sleeves. Platinum's sleek, durability and strength, allows this white metal to stay untarnished through the passage of time, and lend itself to timeless jewellery designs. Crafted from 95% pure platinum, Platinum EVARA by PGI India offers a curated collection of exquisitely crafted platinum jewellery. Embedded with meaning, every piece in this collection is an ode to the woman who stays true to her core and embraces all parts of herself.

Be it casualwear, party wear, workwear or even Indian wear,

the stunning collection by Platinum EVARA promises to take the style quotient a notch higher by offering designs that complement and elevate different looks across occasions. The versatile range includes an array of designs that range from captivating necklaces and alluring wristwear to intricately crafted earrings and elegant rings. Delicate yet seamless forms, combined with alluring diamond cuts come together to create one-a-kind pieces that seamlessly

ly complement your outfits while making a discerning style statement. As much as we cheer for our loved ones, it is equally important to also be your own biggest cheerleader. There is no love like self-love and no better time to accept and appreciate yourself, as you take those strides to own your individuality. So, this Valentine's Day, celebrate self-love as you pick from a stunning array of platinum jewellery pieces from Platinum EVARA's curated collection for yourself!

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As much as we cheer for our loved ones, it is equally important to also be your own biggest cheerleader. There is no love like self-love and no better time to accept and appreciate yourself, as you take those strides to own your individuality. So, this Valentine's Day, celebrate self-love as you pick from a stunning array of platinum jewellery pieces from Platinum EVARA's curated collection for yourself!

NEWS IN BRIEF

**DPCC demands
Kejriwal's
resignation over
liquor scam**

Staff Reporter
New Delhi

Chief minister Arvind Kejriwal should resign forthwith after the enforcement directorate filed a charge sheet about his direct involvement in the liquor scam, said Delhi Congress president Anil Kumar here on Friday.

Kumar said that what the Delhi Congress has been insisting that Kejriwal was the king pin of the liquor scam has been proved correct with the enforcement directorate in its charge sheet filed in the special court, stating that there was video call evidence of Kejriwal's involvement to facilitate the liquor deal by taking Rs 100 crore kickbacks from the liquor cartels for the liberalised liquor policy and part of this money was used for AAP's assembly election expenses in Goa.

Kejriwal's involvement in the liquor scam was clear when the new liquor policy was hastily scrapped to restore the old liquor policy as soon as the Lt. Governor ordered a probe into the liquor scam, he added.

He said that Kejriwal should immediately tender his resignation as chief minister as his involvement in the liquor scam has been established, though he has been trying to save himself by diverting the attention of the people with flimsy allegations.

Kumar said that Kejriwal has been trying to project a clean image of himself by distancing from the scam, as the CBI, in its charge sheet, had named deputy chief minister Manish Sisodia as the No 1 accused in the scam, with jailed minister Satyender Jain's name also figuring in the scam.

He said that the enforcement directorate's charge sheet has finally nailed Kejriwal's lie, and he would have to face the probe himself as his involvement in the liquor scam has been established beyond any doubt.

NDMC to hold 'Suvidha' camp on Saturday

Staff Reporter
New Delhi

The New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC) is going to organise its next 'Suvidha' camp at Atal Adarsh Vidyalaya, Mandir Marg to address grievances of citizens at their doorstep on Saturday.

The 'Suvidha' camp will address the grievances related to new electricity connection/disconnection, load enhancement/reduction, name change/transfer, property tax, birth & death certificate, service matters of serving and retired employees of the NDMC, water logging, sanitation, waste disposal, road repairs, widow pension, old age pension, handicapped pension, booking of Barat Ghar and parks and any other services offered by the NDMC.

Apart from organising the 'Suvidha' camp, the NDMC has also launched a "Jan Suvidha Portal" as a contact grievance redressal mechanism for the residents and service users of the NDMC.

The link for the Jan Suvidha portal is available on NDMC website (<https://www.ndmc.gov.in/complaints.aspx>). The Jan Suvidha Portal can be used for lodging the grievance, tracking their grievance status and for giving feedback on the grievance redressal mechanism.

AAP alleges BJP got MCD budget passed 'unethically' through officials

New Delhi

The Aam Aadmi Party on Friday accused the BJP of "backstabbing" Delhiites by making officials "unethically" pass the budget of the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD), in a statement, however, said, "The budget has not been passed yet and it is still under consideration." The accusation from the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) comes ahead of the mayoral election on February 6. AAP's chief spokesperson Saurabh Bharadwaj claimed that they had learnt through newspaper reports that the municipal budget had been passed by the MCD, and since this was the objective, the elections of the mayor and deputy mayor were deliberately delayed.



"The budget of the MCD is a very important document that gives the detailed breakdown of how much money the elected government hopes to spend in the fulfillment of its promises. This is where all the planning of the team is reflected, and then work begins in a mission mode to deal with the problems that people of the city are facing," he said.

"But what has happened now is betrayal of citizens of

Delhi by the BJP. Despite losing the elections to the AAP, the BJP-ruled central government has illegally passed the budget of the MCD through officials..." Bharadwaj alleged.

The AAP won 134 wards in the MCD polls held in December last, while the BJP won 104 wards.

A senior civic official earlier said the "budget had not been passed".

Later, the MCD in a state-

ment said, "It is informed that Budget 2023-24 has not been passed yet, and the same is still under consideration. The consideration process will shift to the deliberative wing once the mayor is elected in the election scheduled for it on 6th February, 2023. The corporation will complete the budget exercise latest by 15th February, 2023, as statutorily mandated under the DMC Act, 1957." Lt Governor V K Saxena has approved convening of an MCD House to elect the mayor on February 6, Raj Niwas officials had said on Wednesday.

The date had been proposed by the AAP-led Delhi government.

The mayoral election is the first item on the agenda for the municipal House which will be followed by the election of deputy mayor and six members of the standing committee, sources had said. Earlier in the day, Bharadwaj said, "Bureaucrats

of the MCD who have passed the budget should be asked to fight the MCD polls the next time. This is a betrayal of the people of Delhi. It is the AAP that has been elected by the people to run the MCD, but those passing the budget are bureaucrats of the MCD. What sense does this make?" Accusing the BJP of using similar tactics wherever it loses polls, he alleged that it uses governors to "obstruct" works of elected governments.

"They have always said that 'Delhi is not a full state' and tried to obstruct all the development work of the AAP. But they are doing the same in Tamil Nadu and Telangana, where the governors have tried to overshadow the elected governments. The Congress party also until now blamed the AAP for not working with the central government, but look at what their MLAs are doing in other states," he said.

Citing examples of states

such as Telangana and Tamil Nadu, he alleged the "dirty politics of the BJP" has led to the derailment of key political institutions in the country.

"One of the key reasons, after the partition in 1947, India went on to become a robust nation and Pakistan lies in such shambles is the importance these two countries gave to political institutions in their respective countries. In India, key institutions such as the Supreme Court, the elected government and its role were formed and given importance. But, now the BJP and its leaders have made a mockery of these institutions and this is something that we will strongly fight against," he said.

Senior party leader Dilip Pandey echoed similar sentiments and accused the BJP of bypassing the elected government of Delhi, and passing the budget before the mayor's election. He demanded that the "budget be withdrawn".

Coast Guard commandant's wife hangs herself at south Delhi residence

New Delhi

A 50-year-old woman, wife of an Indian Coast Guard commandant, allegedly hanged herself at her residence in south Delhi's East Kidwai Nagar area on Friday, police said.

At 5.03 pm on Friday, police received a PCR call in which the caller said that his mother has died by suicide. When police reached the spot, the 14-year-old boy told them that his mother, Anjana Rana, hanged herself from a ceiling fan, a senior police officer said.

He and his elder brother

brought down their mother after cutting the saree from which she was hanging from the ceiling fan. He said his father Vivek Rana came from office and took his mother to hospital with his elder brother, Deputy Commissioner of Police (south) Chandan Chowdhary said.

His father is said to be a commandant in the Indian Coast Guard and posted at the ICG headquarters in Delhi, police said.

A crime team inspected the spot. A suicide note found in the room blamed nobody for the incident, they added.

Man arrested for attacking MCD parking staff with cricket bat

New Delhi

A 28-year-old man has been arrested for allegedly attacking a Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) car parking attendant with a cricket bat for asking parking fee, the police said.

Officials said that the accused, identified as Vikram Jeet Singh, a resident of Mehrauli, has been arrested by Vasant Vihar Police station.

He was produced before the court and sent to judicial custody on Friday. "The role of other persons is be-

ing verified," they said. "The Vehicle and weapon of the offence have been recovered," an official familiar with the matter said.

The alleged thrashing incident occurred in South West Delhi on Thursday. "Further investigation is underway," they added. A Case under section 308 of the Indian Penal Code had been registered at Vasant Vihar Police station.

Police on Thursday said, a PCR Call regarding a person beaten by a man at PVR Priya Complex was re-

ceived at Vasant Vihar Police Station at about 10:30 PM. "Investigative Officer along with staff reached the spot where they found one man injured identified by police as Vikas Thakur, a resident of Kusumpur Pahari (35 years) working in the parking area of PVR Priya market, stated, that on February 1 at about 7:00 PM, a man parked his Honda Amaze car. At 9:30 pm, the car owner came back in an incensed state to take back his car," the official said.

"He asked the car owner to pay Rs 60 car parking fee. On which, the car owner, started abusing him

photographed by the crime team," the official said. "On enquiry, one Manoj Kumar, an eye witness, resident of Kusumpur Pahari (35 years) working in the parking area of PVR Priya market, stated, that on February 1 at about 7:00 PM, a man parked his Honda Amaze car. At 9:30 pm, the car owner came back in an incensed state to take back his car," the official said.

"He asked the car owner to pay Rs 60 car parking fee. On which, the car owner, started abusing him

B.tech, MBA graduate arrested for fraudulent withdrawing Rs 9.47 lakh from a bank account

Staff Reporter
New Delhi

The cyber unit of North-West Delhi police has arrested a desperate fraudster for allegedly withdrawing Rs 9.47 lakh from a bank account, said the police on Friday.

The accused has been identified as Aslam Bhatt (24), a resident of Baramula, who has done B.Tech. from Kashmir University and MBA from Punjab University. Police has seized a mobile phone Cyber used in crime.

52-year-old Sanjay Jain, a resident of Ashok Vihar filed a complaint with Delhi police that he was not using a mobile number registered at his Current Bank account in IDFC Bank for last few months, so his mobile number was closed/deactivated by JIO company. He never did online transaction or debit/credit card transactions. He only used to operate his bank account through cheques or RTGS at bank



branch personally. Complainant further alleged that on 14 December, 22, it was learnt from his IDFC bank that there is only 1 rupee in his account and Rs. 9.47 lakhs were transferred from his account through multiple IMPS transactions and all transaction messages were sent to the registered mobile number.

A case was registered under section 420 IPC in Cyber Police Station in February, 2023 and investigation was taken up.

Usha Rangnani, DCP, North West said that during investigation, it was found that mobile number regis-

tered with the bank account of complainant, was re-issued by JIO company due to continuous non-usage of said mobile number. This mobile number was re-issued to one Junaid Bhatt, a resident of Baramula, J&K. The alleged phone number was found to be deactivated after the alleged transactions. The money trail revealed that alleged unauthorised transactions were done to a J&K bank account of one Aslam Bhatt, a resident of Baramula, J&K. It was also found that some of the alleged amount was further invested in stock market by the suspect.

"The team mounted technical surveillance and secret informers were deployed to gather local intelligence about the suspect. Based on collected information, it was found that the accused person is residing in Delhi nearby Netaji Subhash Place. Accordingly, accused Aslam Bhatt apprehended on February, 02

from his office at Netaji Subhash Place, Delhi wherein he was working as a sales executive in a company named Fortune Plus Hardware and was residing in the area of Shakurpur for last one year. He confessed his role in the instant case," DCP Usha Rangnani said.

"During interrogation, the accused disclosed that his brother Junaid got issued the alleged mobile number in his name. After some months, his brother started receiving messages from IDFC Bank regarding bank transactions. On seeing these messages, the accused Aslam Bhatt explored an idea to download mobile app of the IDFC bank by using the alleged phone number and he got unauthorized access to the bank account of complainant. Further, the accused Aslam Bhatt transferred the alleged amount through internet banking to his own bank account of J&K Bank through multiple IMPS transactions," the official further said.

Five held, 46 pistols seized in Delhi Police crackdown against arms syndicates

Staff Reporter
New Delhi

Three inter-state cartels of arms and ammunition have been busted by the special cell of Delhi police and five arms traffickers who were supplying arms to gangsters of Delhi, Punjab, Haryana and Rajasthan have been arrested, police said on Friday.

The police has seized a total 46 pistols, 16 spare magazine and 36 live cartridges from their possession, they added.

They have been identified as Paramjeet Sehrawat alias Pummy (33), a resident of Delhi's Bawana, Sanjay (29), a resident of Madhya Pradesh, Ram Vishnu (23), Anil (22), duo resident of Rajasthan and Rahul Kumar (27), resident of Uttar Pradesh's Hathras.

Rajiv Ranjan Singh, DCP, Special Cell, (New Delhi Range) said that the five members of three cartels have been arrested in three operation by teams of Special Cell led by Inspectors Vivekanand Pathak, Arvind



Kumar and Ravinder Kumar Tyagi under the close supervision of ACP Lalit Mohan Negi, Hridaya Bhushan and Ved Prakash on a specific inputs.

"Accused Paramjeet Sehrawat alias Pummy, Ram Vishnu, Anil, Sanjay and Rahul were arrested from different locations in Delhi and accused Sanjay was arrested from Gandhwani, Madhya Pradesh," DCP Special Cell said.

"During interrogation, accused Ram Vishnu and Anil made revelations that they used to procure illegal weapons from one Sanjay resident of Manawar (Madhya Pradesh) and sell to criminals of Delhi, Punjab

and Rajasthan."

Adding that, "A total 19 illicit pistols of .32 bore were seized from their possession. However, 16 pistols of .32 bore with 16 spare magazines seized from Rahul and 5 pistols, 6 single shot pistols and 36 live cartridges seized from Paramjeet Sehrawat alias Pummy.

These cartels used to procure illicit pistols for ₹ 12000/- to ₹ 50,000/- for pistols of .30 bore, .32 bore including pistols having burst fire mechanism and sell the same to criminals of Delhi, Haryana, Punjab and Rajasthan for ₹ 35,000/- to ₹ 1 Lakh per piece. Accused Paramjeet Sehrawat alias Pummy is also previously involved in cases of kidnapping, Arms Act and theft in Delhi, the official mentioned.

The fire arms suppliers of Delhi, Haryana, Punjab and Rajasthan are in touch with illicit firearms suppliers of Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh and procuring illegal firearms from them, they further said.

Retired govt officer trapped by 'sextortion' racket

New Delhi

A 70-year-old retired government officer was allegedly blackmailed to pay more than Rs 6 lakh after being trapped by a "sextortion" racket, police said on Friday. According to the complaint filed by the retired Haryana government officer, a resident of the civil line area, on January 30, he received a phone call claiming to have been made from Youtube - an online video-sharing and social media platform.

The complainant said

soon after the first call he received another from a different number. The caller claimed to have his video with a girl in an objectionable condition.

"I denied many times but they threatened to upload that video on Youtube, Instagram, Facebook and also tag my family, relatives and friends. I was afraid and transferred Rs 6, 10,000 in a bank account given by the caller," he said.

They again demanded more money which prompted me to move to

the police, he added.

Following the complaint, an FIR was registered against the unknown accused under sections 384 (extortion), 419 (cheating by impersonation) and 420 (cheating) of IPC and section 66-D of the IT act.

"We are investigating the matter and have put the numbers used by the accused on surveillance. Further probe is underway," said Sub Inspector Amit Kumar, Station House Officer (SHO) of the cyber crime police station, west.

Interstate arms racket busted in Delhi, five held

New Delhi

Special Cell of Delhi police busted three interstate firearms syndicates and arrested five people including four traffickers and one supplier along with recovery of 38 illicit pistols during raids, the police said on Friday. The police have also recovered 16 spare magazines and 36 live cartridges.

The accused have been identified as Paramjeet Sehrawat (33), a resident of Delhi, Sanjay (29), a resident of Madhya Pradesh, Ram Vishnu (23) and Anil (22) both native of Rajasthan and Rahul Kumar (27), a resident of Uttar Pradesh. Police said



the arrested accused are members of three interstate firearms syndicates run by a Madhya Pradesh-based illegal firearms supplier.

An official familiar with the matter said that in view of the use of illegal firearms in various crimes in Delhi and

adjoining states, the Special Cell of Delhi police is working round-the-clock to thwart the nefarious designs of such anti-national elements. "Accordingly, information about illegal firearms suppliers and their associates active in Delhi and NCR are being collected through various sources. During the investigation of various cases, it transpired that firearms suppliers of Delhi, Haryana, Punjab and Rajasthan are in touch with illicit firearms suppliers of Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh and procuring illegal firearms from them," the official added.

"The Special Team launched three drives against illegal firearm users and traffickers in the state and concerted efforts were being made to identify such members of the syndicate," an official of the special cell team said. "In first operation, a team of Inspectors Vivekanand Pathak and Kuldeep Singh of Special Cell of Northern Range (NR) laid a trap near Begampur Chowk, of Delhi's Rohini area and two key members of an arms syndicate, namely Ram Vishnu and Anil were apprehended along with 15 illicit pistols of .32 bore," the official said.

Delhi LG and CM as tussle between two sides continues

New Delhi

The weekly meeting between Delhi Lieutenant Governor VK Saxena and Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal could not take place on Friday as the two sides were engaged in a tussle over governance-related issues.

Sources at the LG's office said Kejriwal did not turn up at the Raj Niwas for the meeting scheduled at 4 pm and no reason was given by his office in this regard.

An official at the Chief Minister's Office (CMO) confirmed that the meeting did not take place, without giving any reason for it.

With the ruling Aam Aadmi Party (AAP), led by Kejriwal, slamming Saxena over a range of issues, including a proposal to send school teachers for training to Finland, the weekly meetings between the two constitutional functionaries have not been taking place for several weeks.

Accompanied by his deputy Manish Sisodia and other AAP MLAs, Kejriwal had marched to the Raj Niwas last month and sought a meeting with the LG, alleging that his government's proposal to send teachers to Finland was not approved by Saxena.

The LG had invited Kejriwal and Sisodia for a meeting with him, but the chief minister turned down the offer, insisting to take other AAP MLAs along with him.

In a letter to Saxena, Kejriwal had suggested a meeting with him and was asked to bring 10 of his MLAs and the deputy chief minister last week.

However, Kejriwal excused himself from the meeting with the LG, saying he was scheduled to inaugurate mohalla clinics in Punjab.

The last meeting between the chief minister and the LG took place on January 13.

Additional funds critical

The National Education Policy (NEP) continues to solicit much debate and educationists will be eagerly looking forward to the Budget today, in the hope that funds no longer remain low despite lofty promises. The policy is based on the foundational pillars access, affordability, equity, quality and accountability. However, while the government is interested in giving a thrust in education, it appears it's unwilling to arrange at least some enhanced resources for implementing the NEP, which also includes funds for research and development.



stantial infrastructure and academic standing.

condition of the masses, private universities cannot possibly acquire the critical mass to be chief knowledge providers to an India-sized population.

While public universities are suffering due to lack of resources, private universities are coming up which charge high fees which is beyond the reach of low-income groups. Improving the quality of education is, no doubt, very much desirable but it has also to be ensured that students from low-income sections and the economically weaker groups get proper education at affordable rates. Further, it's distressing to note the government has stopped many scholarships and research grants.

Another important aspect is the low spending on R&D. If India aspires to occupy the third in the world position for knowledge generation, dwindling grants for research will not help and Indian scientists cannot reach global heights. The National Research Foundation (NRF) is yet to be established, as formulated in the NEP, and it is necessary that funds must be found from various sources. While basic research must be encouraged to a higher level, the fund for addressing societal problems must come from various ministries and industries.

It is worthwhile to refer to a recent conference organised by the Indian Chamber of Commerce where Prof. Suranjan Das, eminent historian, and Jadavpur University Vice Chancellor, stressed that NEP should take into account the legal discrepancies between setting up of foreign universities in India and pre-existing Indian ones. Outlining some caveats that could democratise the global education platform in India, Das suggested that foreign universities should be able to penetrate rural areas and not only be limited to the metropolises and should be affordable and accessible. Otherwise, 'new further class divisions could creep up in the student community, creating socio-educational problems.'

Going by present trends it appears that with the spread of neoliberal capitalism, the privileged section will acquire quality education that will enable it to fill executive and official positions whereas others excluded from such education will be given skills and will join the vast segment of the workforce among whom limited number of available positions is rationed out. The globalisation of capital, characteristic of neoliberal capitalism, has also created a global market that requires a homogeneous education across countries. This de-

taches education, say in India, completely from its Indian setting. Thus, a student of economics in the country cannot simply understand the Indian economy without reckoning with the legacy of colonialism.

It needs to be pointed out here that economic growth and development takes place where educational and awareness levels are quite high, and this is manifest in the southern States compared to the north. This once again proves the need for education to spread all over the country – not just in metro and big cities, as is being manifest now.

Can the government not ensure that for any private university opened in cities and metros, one college must be started in the backward districts or subdivisions of the country? Opening more and more colleges and universities in big cities, higher education cannot spread and reach the struggling student community, which also aspires to get good education nearer home. In this context, good laboratories need to be opened in each sub-division of the country so that science education reaches the bottom segments of society.

Surveys indicate that educational levels, either in secondary or college or university levels is not improving. The vast public university system is now on the verge of destruction in the hands of unsystematic governments at the Centre and in various states. Classes are run by a hapless army of ad hoc teachers in private universities without adequate benefits. Unfortunately, State funding is steadily drying up everywhere. But with a booming youth population and an expanding urge to gain higher education, there has been an emergence of profiteers, keen to exploit this by setting up private universities.

Breaking Time Sudoku

What to do

Fill in the grid so that every row, every column, and every 3x3 box contains the digit 1 to 9. Every puzzle has only correct solution.

		2	6					
	7				8		3	
	9			1		6		
8		5		6				
7				3				1
				5		9		8
		3		4			7	
	4		7				1	
					9	2		

Solution, Sudoku

7	9	3	5	1	8	4	2	6
1	8	4	3	6	2	9	5	7
6	2	5	7	4	9	1	3	8
5	6	2	1	9	7	8	4	3
8	3	1	4	2	6	7	9	5
9	4	7	8	3	5	6	1	2
3	7	9	6	5	4	2	8	1
4	5	6	2	8	1	3	7	9
2	1	8	9	7	3	5	6	4

THE WISDOM TREE

BY SUVEEN KUMAR

GIVE IT A SHAPE

Just listen to if you don't feel like speaking, just keep moving if you don't feel like stopping and just keep working if you want to go on making. Shape your life if you are not happy with its shape, tape your life if you want to rewind and see it over and over again, face your life if you don't want to face death's face. Give your life a shape! No matter how unpredictable it is still give it some pattern to follow, no matter how



accelerate, if the time slows down your life should also slow down. The thrilling swing of life is to swing with its time, the real friendship of life is to be partner with its crime and the real disciplines of life is to do things on its chime. Give your life a shape that suits your personality, treat your life the way you want yourself a royalty. Don't play with it it is not a toy, don't experiment with it it is not a laboratory, don't use it it is not a thing, live it because it lives, love it because it loves, hug it because it clings. How beautiful it is you only get to know when you get to know.

Moral: if there is one thing that you should know is not life but your life.

desires it is still let it bring down its searches to narrow, if it is not interested in today give it its coming tomorrow. Give it a form it can be proud of its look, give it push it get something beautiful hook, teach it some tricks it can deals with every kind of crook. A healthy life brings us closer to happiness and a sick life bring us closer to pain, a running life brings us closer to adolescence and a sluggish life brings us closer to old age.

The speed of your life is determined by the speed of time in your life. If the time accelerates your life should

TOP STORY

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There is thus the need to focus on rural areas to improve the quality of education at all levels through coordinated planning and prompt implementation.

Proper Waste Management- A Challenge

India is battling plastic waste pollution and a garbage crisis. About 70 per cent of the waste even in our UT that goes into landfills is actually organic waste that can be turned into compost. Left unsorted, organic waste is prevented from entering the natural cycle of decomposition, and when mixed with other waste, adding to mountains of garbage, gives off an unbearable stench, as well as leachate – toxic fluids that leach into and contaminate the soil and water.



division are overflowing as both the landfills have already exceeded their capacity. Due to the fertile nature of the land, mountainous terrain, and rapid urbanization, it is difficult to find more land in J&K for waste disposal.

Sharing Social Responsibility: The solution of the problem/ crisis lies in it itself. I would like to quote here the example of a family who lives in Nagrota area of Jammu District. The daily garbage generated by Sushila Devi a house wife and head of the family and his family of four can fit inside two regular disposable pits one for organic waste and other one for in-organic waste which is treated properly by his son Madan Gopal, a Govt. servant, on regular intervals of time

and is converted into manure for their kitchen garden. This has been possible because the family segregates its garbage and composts the organic kitchen waste in a pit constructed in their kitchen garden for this purpose. Before they introduced this simple tweak in their daily routine few years back, they generated on an average three kilogram's of mixed waste every day.

A similar routine is followed by Mujtaba Bashir, and his family in Budgam district, who believes that in-house composting is the only sustainable solution to the mounting garbage problem in the Valley. Like them, many more families spread across different districts that put their faith in in-house composting which is the need of an hour to

rein in the monster of pollution.

"Our goal is to build a sustainable economy. For achieving this goal, we must change our habits and routines. An important method of waste management is the prevention of waste material being generated, also known as waste reduction. Waste Minimization is reducing the quantity of hazardous wastes achieved through a thorough application of innovative or alternative procedures. Methods of avoidance include reuse of second-hand products, repairing broken items instead of buying new ones, designing products to be refillable or reusable (such as cotton instead of plastic shopping bags), encouraging consumers to avoid using plastic disposable prod-

ucts (such as disposable plates, glasses), removing any food/liquid remains from cans and packaging, and designing products that use less material to achieve the same purpose (for example, light-weighting of beverage cans).

If we have got the gumption, we can not only turn the waste into wealth but simultaneously, rid ourselves from one of the biggest threats the humanity is facing due to rapid urbanization and population explosion.

About 70 per cent of the waste even in our UT that goes into landfills is actually organic waste that can be turned into compost.

Himachal Pradesh transport first in India to switch over to e-vehicles

■ HP will be India's first 'Green Energy' State by 2025

■ Shimla, Nadaun Bus Stands will be fully electrical

Sushil Kumar Sharma
Shimla

Switching on its entire fleet of official vehicles, as electrical, the Himachal Pradesh State Transport Department has achieved the distinction of becoming the first such department in the Country to switch over to electrical vehicles. Adopting the 'Go Green' approach, the directorate of the transport has replaced the official petrol and diesel vehicles with electrical.

Chief Minister, Thakur Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu congratulated the Dy Chief Minister Mukesh Agnihotri who is the Minister of Transport and said that Himachal Pradesh transport has taken a lead in switching over to electrical vehicles and notify its policy, whereas some states of the country are in final stage for implementing the same.

The motive to start these e-vehicles was to curtail the unnecessary expenditure on petroleum products besides preserving the pristine environment of the State. All the Government departments will be equipped with



electrical vehicles within a year, stated the Chief Minister, adding that Electric Vehicle Policy 2022 has also been notified.

We will completely transform the existing diesel buses with e-buses in a phased manner, said the Chief Minister, adding that the local bus depot of Shimla will soon have full fleet e-buses. An electric Bus depot will also be opened in Nadaun as well and the e-buses will soon run on all the local routes in Shimla, said he,

adding that 300 e-buses will be added to the fleet of HRTC for which an outlay of Rs. 400 crore were sanctioned. In coming two years a target of 60 percent e-buses will be added to the fleet of HRTC. The Chief Minister said that we working in the direction to make Himachal as India's first 'Green Energy State' by 2025.

At present, about 33 crore vehicles are registered in the country and about 21 lakh vehicles are registered

in Himachal Pradesh. According to government data, the country's dependence on crude oil imports has increased from 82.9 percent to 83.7 percent. These figures are showing that India is spending a huge amount on petroleum. In such a situation, the use of electric vehicle will help in reducing this dependence.

The Government mulls to make Parwanoo-Nalagarh-Una-Hamirpur-Nadaun-Dehra highway as 'Clean and Green' corridor.

Apart from this, the e-buses will soon run on the Shimla-Rampur corridor, said he. The rest of the routes in the State will be provided e-buses in a phased manner in next three to four years, which will minimize both noise and air pollution.

The HRTC was in loss since from last few years. Switching over to electrical vehicles will be a step forward to minimize the cost of transportation and will be affordable to the all.

The electrical Charging Stations will be set up in a phased manner for which around 110 places along the four lanes, National and State highways have been identified. Besides, 700 government buildings have been selected to set up the electric charging stations.

The Chief Minister also flagged off electrical vehicles on the occasion.

Speaking on the occasion Deputy Chief Minister, Mukesh Agnihotri, who also heads the Transport department lauded the efforts of the department to fully take on to electrical vehicles. He said that it was

in record time that the transport department has pushed itself to Green Mobility, and has initiated steps to make Himachal a Green and clean State, which can be aptly referred to as an initiative towards "Vayavstha Parivartan". In coming times all the buses will be replaced by electrical vehicles, he said.

It is congress government that took in initiative in the country to make the transport department fully electrical.

Earlier, Principal Secretary Transport R.D. Nazeem and Director, Transport, Anupam Kashyap also welcomed the dignitaries present on the occasion. Ministers Dr. (Col) Dhani Ram Shandil, Chander Kumar, Harshvardhan, Rohit Thakur, Anirudh Singh, former minister Asha Kumari, Chief Parliamentary Secretaries, Mohan Lal Brakta, Ashish Butail, Ram Kumar Chaudhary, Kishori Lal, MLAs Ravi Thakur, I.D. Lakhani, Vinay Kumar, Nand Lal, Harish Janatah, Malinder Rajan and Sudershan Babloo were present on the occasion amongst others.

HP govt releases Rs 900 cr for health schemes

Top Story News
Shimla

The state government has released Rs. 900 crore for the smooth implementation of the SAHARA and HIMCARE schemes, stated Chief Minister, Thakur Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu, while presiding over the MLA priority meeting attended by the legislators of Chamba, Shimla and Lahaul-Spiti districts in the final session of the meet here on Friday.

Detailed deliberations were held on the proposals as placed by the MLAs.

Reiterating, that we have not come in power for enjoying the same but for 'Vayavstha Parivartan' (Change in the system), so that the last man standing in the queue could be benefitted by the Government schemes, adding that some tough decisions have to be taken to achieve the same.

He also sought report on the techniques of anti-freeze pipes in snowfall areas and directed the Jal Shakti Department to explore the possibilities of laying anti-freeze pipes to provide water facilities to the people living in tribal and snowbound areas throughout the year.

He said that the present state government was also

working with grit to curb drug and mining mafia in the state.

Besides strengthening the road infrastructure the government would also focus on upgrading facilities in medical and educational institutions, and fill up vacant posts in various medical colleges in the State.

He also said that the Government intends to promote small hydel projects in the State, besides, drinking water schemes and parking facilities in major towns of the State. Chief Minister asked the horticulture department to submit a detailed report regarding the irregularities in the Rs 1134 crore horticulture development project funded by the World Bank. The Chief Minister also assured for setting up of CA store, particularly in the apple belts so as to benefit the horticulturalists of the State.

The smart city works of Shimla will also be reviewed, as per the issue raised in the meeting.

The MLAs urged for a permanent solution to the water problem in their areas and emphasized on expansion of health facilities, besides improving the condition of roads and rural infrastructure.

VP Jagdeep Dhankhar Inaugurated 36th Surajkund International Crafts Mela

Komal Ramola
Chandigarh

Vice President of India Jagdeep Dhankhar while formally inaugurating the 36th International Surajkund Mela at Faridabad today said that India has become the fastest-growing country in the world in terms of the global economy; in which art and craftsmen have made significant contributions.

"Earlier our country was in 10th place in the world in terms of economic progress, whereas under the leadership of Prime Minister, Narendra Modi, it has now jumped to 5th place and I am hopeful that India will soon be at the first position," said Dhankhar.

He said that for the first time in the country, every person is getting an opportunity to showcase their talent. Praising the Surajkund Mela being organized by Manohar Lal-led state gov-



ernment, he said that this fair has an important contribution to making India shine bright on the world map.

Describing the Surajkund Mela as a confluence of diverse cultures and arts of the country, the Vice President said that the participation of Shanghai Cooperation Organization countries in this Mela is a historic moment.

Terming the cultural importance of the North-Eastern states of India as glorious for the country, he said that the talented artists and

craftsmen of these states who have reached this Mela have become a live example that under the able dynamic leadership of Prime Minister, Sh. Narendra Modi, India has been swiftly moving on the development track.

While referring to the statement made by the Prime Minister, in which he had said that war does not solve any issue and solution is possible only through dialogue, Jagdeep Dhankhar said that today our country's leadership and

citizens are respected all over the world.

On the announcements made for craftsmen in the general budget presented by Union Finance Minister, Nirmala Sitharaman, the Vice-President said that under the leadership of the Prime Minister, the country has made unprecedented progress in the field of digitization. "The monetary benefits of about Rs. 27 lakh crore of 300 schemes are being sent directly to the accounts of the beneficiaries," he added.

He said that the craftsmen and artists are getting direct benefits from the Mudra Yojana, Hunar haat, and Hashtshilp Yojana implemented by the Prime Minister. He said that Unity Mall would prove to be a milestone in the promotion of crafts made by artists for the sale of products made under the One District-One Product scheme.

CITU will run campaign against budget reduction for MNREGA scheme

■ Demonstration will be held at block level on March 15 and at Parliament on April 5

Rajan Punchhi
Mandi

In the central budget proposal presented by the central government, the budget of MNREGA has been cut by 30 percent.

The finance minister has reduced it from 72 thousand crores to 60 thousand crore rupees and from this budget the pending payment of last year will also be done and Due to this, it will be impossible for the laborers to get the stipulated 100 days work in future. The MNREGA and construction workers union belonging to CITU has termed this budget of the Finance Minister and the Modi government as anti-MNREGA workers.

State general secretary of the union and former Zila Parishad member Bhu-
pendra Singh has accused

the Modi government that this government has been working on the MNREGA scheme from the very beginning. It is taking decisions to weaken it and is now gradually implementing a policy to weaken it by cutting the budget for it.

He said that if all the job card holders registered in the country have to be given 100 days of employment, then the central government will have to make a budget provision of one lakh twenty thousand crore rupees from year one, but at present this budget is only fifty percent of the requirement.

The employment opportunities that poor families and especially women got from MNREGA, but the Modi government is snatching them in a phased manner, which the union

will strongly oppose.

Bhupendra Singh said that in his budget proposal, the Finance Minister has given a lot of relaxation to the big capitalists in his budget proposal but has reduced the budget of the scheme which provides employment in rural areas.

There will be a campaign at the village level regarding the cuts made and on March 15 there will be protests at the block level and on April 5 there will be a fierce demonstration outside the Parliament in Delhi.

Prior to this, the union will conduct an awareness campaign about the anti-MNREGA budget of the government, for which a district level convention will be organized in Mandi on February 24 to prepare the outline.

Max Hospital Mohali expansion starts with Rs. 400 cr investment

Chandigarh

The construction of Max Hospital, Mohali new building commenced with a ground-breaking ceremony on Friday. The new building adjacent to the existing one will house 170 beds. On completion of the project by the end of Q3, 2024 the hospital bed capacity will go up to 400 beds from the existing 231 beds thus making it one of the largest private state-of-the-art medical institutions in the Tri-city.

The new building will house niche specialties including liver transplant,

bone marrow transplant, renal Transplant, orthopaedics and neurosciences.

Col. Harinder Singh Chehal, senior director and COO of Max Healthcare said, "This expansion involving Rs. 400 cr investment will not only strengthen the existing healthcare infrastructure in the tri-city area and the state of Punjab but also create job opportunities at scale across clinical and non-clinical roles.

The hospital currently employs close to 1,000 doctors, nurses and other full-time staff.

Top Story News
Shimla

The State Pollution Control Board (PCB) has taken cognizance of non adherence of defined parameters for Sewage Treatment Plants (STPs) by Shimla Jal Prabadhan Nigam Limited (SJPNL) and Jal Shakti Vibhag, and there is always a fear of contamination of water bodies, stated Chairman, Pollution Control Board, Sanjay Gupta in a communiqué issued here on Friday.

As per the directions of National Green Tribunal (NGT), action Plans for the rejuvenation of polluted

stretches of few rivers viz: River Sirsa, near Baddi, River Markanda, River Beas, Ashwani Khad, River Giri and Pabbar were formulated in 2019-20 and SJPNL & JSV were required to expedite the works as per the directions of NGT, which should be conformed with the guidelines of NGT, he affirmed.

Jal Shakti Vibhag is operating 70 STPs with 99.97 MLD capacity, in different parts of the State covering major urban areas. Besides, the SJPNL has six STPs with installed capacity of 26.06 MLD, which needs to be

upgraded. However, the rejuvenation of the polluted river stretch of Ashwani Khad is being done as per the orders of National Green Tribunal (NGT). The bio remediation process of catchment area of Ashwani Khad also needs to be accelerated to reduce the concentration of pollutants, as well. The Board is regularly inspecting, monitoring and conducting sampling of treated waste water, and taking regulatory action as and when required, said Sanjay Gupta.

Gupta said that the directions have been issued to

the respective departments regarding improper operation and functioning of these non-complying STPs and to expedite the process of modification, up-gradation, expansion and construction of the plants on priority. The operations of the existing STPs needs to be improved and expedited in augmentation of sewage management system which is impacting water quality of rivers and natural aquatic resources of the State. Review meetings will soon be held with the concerned department, said the Chairman.

Follow defined norms while treating sewage plants, directs PCB

Punjab cabinet approves new industrial policy

Chandigarh

The Punjab Cabinet on Friday approved the state's new industrial policy that has infrastructure, power, MSMEs as its key focus areas and a slew of incentives for various sectors.

The new industrial and business development policy, 2022 shall be effective from October 17, 2022, the

time when previous policy's period ended, and the new policy will remain in force for five years.

The new policy lays thrust on creating an enabling environment for the industries and businesses for balanced economic growth, job creation and overall development of the state.

The new policy is struc-

tured around key strategic focus areas -- infrastructure, power, MSMEs, large enterprises, innovation, start-up and entrepreneurship, skill development, ease of doing business, fiscal and non fiscal incentive, export promotion logistic, stakeholder engagement and grievance redressal, said an official statement here.

The Cabinet had met here under the chairmanship of Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann.

As per the policy, the state will develop 15 industrial parks covering general and sector specific requirements of various industrial sectors and 20 rural clusters across the state.

As per the policy, the state

will also allow setting up of dedicated country specific integrated industrial township to attract investment by allowing the infrastructure and other norms of the country.

As per the policy, the manufacturing of auto or auto components including electric vehicle, sports goods including fitness equipment,

hand tools including power tools and machine tools, agricultural machinery and equipment, paper based packaging units, circular economy activity including shredding units, and one district one product have been included in the category of thrust sector for the purpose of higher fiscal incentives.

PUBLIC NOTICE

GENERAL PUBLIC HEREBY INFORMED THAT MY CLIENT SH. OM PRAKASH S/O SH. KHILARI SINGH & SMT. PUSHPA RANI W/O SH. OM PRAKASH R/O B-475, GAURAV NAGAR, GALI NO. 11, KIRARI SULEMAN NAGAR, NORTH WEST, DELHI 110086, DO HEREBY DISOWNED/ DEBARRED HIS SON NISHU KUMAR, FROM HIS/HER ALL MOVABLE AND IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES AND SEVERE HIS/HER RELATIONS FROM HIM DUE TO FITS DISOBEDIENCE AND ACT OF OMMISSION. ANYBODY DEALING WITH HIM SHALL DO SO AT HIS OWN RISK AND MY CLIENT SHALL NOT BE RESPONSIBLE FOR ANY OF THEIR ACT(S) WHATSOEVER, IN FUTURE. SURAJ ADVOCATE OPPOSITE DC OFFICE COMPLEX KANJAWALA, NEW DELHI-110081 M:9711992150

PUBLIC NOTICE

KNOW ALL MEN through this Public Notice that my client Ashok Chawla S/o Shri Hans Raj Chawla R/o WZ-330, Naraina Village, New Delhi-110028, have disowned and debarred their son, namely Sheelkar Chawla & daughter Vipal Manocha with legal heirs, from their all moveable and immovable assets and severed all relations with them for disobedience, misbehavior and indiscipline towards my client. My client would not be responsible for any legal or illegal future. PRAMOD K. SINGH Advocate CHAMBER No. 181 DELHI HIGH COURT, NEW DELHI-110001 Mobile No.9718267472

NORTHERN RAILWAY TENDER NOTICE				
Invitation of Tenders through e-procurement system				
Principal Chief Materials Manager, Northern Railway, New Delhi-110001, for and on behalf of the President of India, invites e-tenders through e-procurement system for supply of the following items:-				
S.No.	Tender No.	Brief Description	Qty.	Closing Date
1.	82231056	Sacubitril 24 mg and Valsartan 26 mg	282436 Nos.	10.03.2023
2.	82231216	Empagliflozin 25 mg tablet	259000 Nos.	10.03.2023
3.	82231215	Empagliflozin 10 mg tablet	244580 Nos.	10.03.2023

Note: 1. Vendors may visit the IREPS website i.e. www.ireps.gov.in for details. 2. No Manual offer will be entertained.
Tender Notice No: Inj. Medicines Date: 02.02.2023

MOHIT PAPER MILLS LIMITED	
CIN: L21093DL1992PLC116600	
Regd. Office: 15, A/13, UPPER Ground Floor, East Patel Nagar, New Delhi - 110008	
Works: 9KM Miles Stone, Nagina Road, Bijnor, UP-246701	
Tel.: 011-25886798	
Email: investors@mohitpaper@gmail.com, Website: mohitpaper.in	
NOTICE	
Notice is hereby given that a meeting of the Board of Directors of Mohit Paper Mills Limited (the "Company"), pursuant to regulation 29 of SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosures Requirements) Regulations, 2015 ("Listing Regulations") is scheduled to be held on Saturday, February 11, 2023 at 11:00 A.M. at 9km stone, Nagina road, Bijnor, UP-246701 inter-alia to consider and approve the Unaudited Financial Results along with the Limited Review Report for the Quarter and Nine months ended on December 31, 2022.	
Further this is to inform that as per the Company's Code of Conduct formulated and adopted for Trading by Insiders and Code of Practices & Procedures for Fair Disclosures of Unpublished Price Sensitive Information adopted by the Company under SEBI (Prohibition of Insider Trading Regulations), 2015 (SEBI PIT Regulations) (trading window for directors, designated employees and their immediate relatives, specified persons and connected persons for dealing in equity shares of the Company was closed from January 01, 2023 to till 48 hours after the declaration of financial results (both days inclusive).	
For Mohit Paper Mills Limited Sd/- Shivam Sharma Company Secretary M. No: ACS-42083	
Place: New Delhi Date: 03-02-2023	

“We will look to take positives from Tri-series into World Cup: Deepti Sharma



Aditi extends lead to 5 shots at halfway stage in Kenya; Amandeep, Avani make cut

Vipingo

Aditi Ashok, coming into the new season after almost two months without golf, continued her fine run as she extended her lead from four to five shot at the halfway stage of the Magical Kenya Ladies Open.

The star Indian, who already has three Ladies European titles, including one at home, shot 3-under 70 at the Par-73 Vipingo Ridge course.

She had shot 6-under 67 on the first day when she led by four shots and is now five clear of the field. Aditi, who had six birdies and an eagle against two bogeys on the first day, had just one bogey on the second. She started on the 10th with a birdie and then had nine pars till her next two birdies on second and third holes.

A bogey on the fifth and a birdie on the seventh, which she had eagled a day earlier saw her finish the day at 3-under 70 and a total of 9-under 137.

The 2022 Hero Women's Indian Open runner-up Amandeep Drall ensured weekend action after shooting another 74. She is 2-over through 36 holes and is tied 21st.

India's prodigious amateur Avani Prashanth, playing on an invite, also made the cut despite three bogeys in her last six holes. She was 1-under in the



second round through 12 holes and then bogeyed 13th, 14th and 16th for a second straight 75. At 4-over she was tied 33rd.

Diksha Dagar (78-80), Vani Kapoor (81 and 4-over through 17 in the second) and Seher Atwal (81 and 4-over through 16 in the second) were certain to miss the cut.

Aditi said, "It has been a great start to the tournament. Yesterday was a much

better round, I didn't know how I was playing coming into this week because of two months of no tournament golf, but I think nine-under after two days is pretty good. Hopefully, I can keep it going for the weekend." Teenaged Thai golfer April Angurasarane, who came through the Let Qualifying School added a second straight 71 to get to 4-under and was sole second.

Spain's Marta Sanz Barrio (71-72) was

sole third at 3-under, while three players were tied for fourth at 2-under each. Only Alice Hewson (71-73), playing alongside Aditi, had finished. Ana Pelaez Trivino of Spain and Kylie Henry of Scotland were both 2-under but had played only nine holes in their second round.

Aditi was happy with her play in the second round. "It was good. I think for the most part I played pretty consistently today, there was just one dropped shot, which was good. I feel I could have driven it a bit better and hit it closer than I did but overall, it was a good day," said Aditi.

"I don't know why my driving was a little off. Maybe I didn't warm up as well this morning or I guess when the wind picked up, I couldn't find my rhythm. It's easy on this course to hit 3-woods as well so that kind of helped me a bit, but definitely the drives I couldn't get good angles into some of the holes and some of the par-fives, I didn't drive it long enough because I wasn't driving it as good. It's something to work on for the weekend." She added, "I think the morning is a bit easier because the wind isn't as strong, and it hasn't picked up as much. I guess as the wind gets up, the course is firm so it's really hard to get the ball close — that's what I felt between yesterday and today."

India's 2007 T20 WC hero Joginder Sharma announces retirement

New Delhi

Former India medium pacer Joginder Sharma, who bowled the iconic match-winning final over in the 2007 World T20 summit clash against Pakistan, on Friday announced retirement from all forms of cricket.

The 39-year-old represented India in four ODIs and as many T20s between 2004 and 2007, picking five wickets. He played domestic cricket for Haryana.

"My journey from 2002-2017 has been the most wonderful years of my life for it was an honour representing India at the highest level of sport," he said in a message posted on twitter. "To all my team-mates, coaches, mentors and support staff: It has been an absolute privilege to have played with you all, and, I thank you all for helping turn my dream into reality." Handed the ball by skipper MS Dhoni in the final over of the inaugural T20 World Cup final, the inexperienced Sharma bowled India to victory, scripting one of the most iconic moments in the history of cricket.

Pakistan were well on course for a famous win with Misbah-ul-Haq reducing the equation to six runs off four balls. But the Pakistan batter mistimed a scoop shot with Sreesanth completing a simple catch at short fine-leg to help India lift the trophy.

However, the final was Sharma's last game for India. He turned out for



Chennai Super Kings in the IPL before joining the police service where he served as the deputy superintendent of police and was on the frontline during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Sharma added that he will be exploring new opportunities in the game. "I am excited to announce that I will be exploring new opportunities in the world of cricket & the business side of it, where I will also continue to participate in the sport that I love and challenge myself in new and different environment. "I believe that this is the next step in my journey as a cricketer and I look forward to this new chapter in my life." He most recently featured in the Legends Cricket League in September last year.

Can't take new year's Test from Sydney to Adelaide: Clarke

Sydney

Former Australia captain Michael Clarke has ridiculed a reported proposal by South Australia to bring the new year's Test to the Adelaide Oval from Sydney, saying it is unthinkable.

Just like the Boxing Day Test is synonymous with the Melbourne Cricket Ground, the Sydney Cricket Ground (SCG) has historically been hosting the first fixture of the new year.

However, the inclement Sydney weather around this time of the year has caused a lot of frustration, with the latest disruption coming during the third Test against South Africa.

Substantial disruption was witnessed on the first and second day of the Test, while the entire third day was rained off as the match ended in a tame draw. It is estimated that inclement weather affected Test cricket 64 per cent of the time in the last eight years in the Sydney.

A report in news.com.au said on Friday that South Australian Premier Peter Malinauskas has confirmed that Adelaide had approached Cricket Australia (CA) for the new year's Test to be moved from SCG to Adelaide Oval.

"I think we had double the crowd at the Adelaide Test than we saw at the Perth Test. We often have bigger crowds than Sydney and that's despite having a far smaller population," Malinauskas was quoted as saying in the report.



"South Australians are passionate about their sport. They love their cricket, myself included, so we stand ready to work with Cricket Australia to improve their product to more people around the country." However, Clarke, who hails from New South Wales, indicated it was wishful thinking.

"Not happening," Clarke said on Big Sports Breakfast on Friday.

"Can't take Boxing Day from the MCG and you can't take new year's away from the SCG, (an) absolute no-brainer. The day that stops is the day Test cricket is finished in this country."

"Their (Adelaide) Test match is perfect, when they've got it, under lights, it's perfect, it's working so well. Why would they want to change that?" Clarke asked.

How U-19 girls went on to conquer the world

New Delhi

Seven months of meticulous planning by the National Cricket Academy (NCA) top brass ahead of the inaugural U-19 World Cup went a long way in India securing their maiden ICC title in women's cricket.

With India already being the most successful side at the men's U-19 level with five trophies, expectations were high from the U-19 girls. With the event happening for the first time, VVS Laxman-led NCA was proactive in organising regular camps and back-to-back series in the lead up to the competition in South Africa.

It all started with a camp in June last year with all 25 probables, who were shortlisted considering their performances in the domestic U-19 event. After that, the players competed in the Challenger Trophy, a quadrangular series involving West Indies, Sri Lanka and two India teams, bilaterals against New Zealand before the five games in South Africa ahead of the ICC event.

It was crucial since the junior women players did not have much exposure of playing against international teams unlike the men's junior players. According to team's fielding coach Munish Bali, who was also part of U-19 title winning squads led by Virat Kohli (2008) and Yash Dhull (2022) respectively, said the players got better with every game against international teams and peaked at the World Cup. "The NCA



has to be given a lot of credit for how it prepared the players. Compared to the boys, the girls don't get as many games at the age-group level but the BCCI made sure they got the best possible training cum competition exposure," said Bali.

The other members of the support staff were head coach Nooshin Al Khadeer, batting coach Apurva Desai and bowling coach Rajiv Dutta.

The likes of Shweta Sehrawat, Parshavi Chopra, Archana Devi, Mannat

Kashyap and Titas Sadhu become overnight stars with their exploits in South Africa but Bali feels they still have a long way to go. "All the players have the talent, now women's IPL will give them a big boost. We need to see how they perform there and get ready for the big stage. It is the only beginning but the future is bright," Bali said.

The fielding coach revealed even the players, who didn't get to play regularly, could be stars of the future. "As part of team strategy, Sadhu played most of

the games because her all-round abilities. The other pacer to watch out for is Shabnam MD. She has a nice rhythmic run up and bowls at 110 kmph. Batter Soumya Tiwari is another player who didn't play all the games but is very talented," Bali remarked. He emphasised the need to go back to domestic cricket for all the squad members.

"After the men's U-19 World Cup last year, all the boys all went back to domestic cricket and out of them only Yash Dhull went on to make a statement in Ranji Trophy. "Comparison between boys and girls should not be done. Boys get much more exposure, they start early and play a lot more games. Now the girls are picking up the game young too with women's cricket getting more popular," he said.

Shafali Verma and Richa Ghosh were the two senior India players in the squad. There was scope of other players getting overawed with their presence but Bali said the captain galvanised the whole unit.

"She led the team brilliantly. Shafali gelled with the girls instantly and became friends with everyone. That is a great quality for a leader. She has been playing international cricket for more than three years but she made everyone felt equal."

"The win meant a lot to her and it was visible too as she was crying post the final," he added.

Saurashtra's second innings fightback leaves Punjab with 200 to get on day five

Rajkot

Fighting half-centuries from skipper Arpit Vasavada, Chirag Jani, Prerak Mankad and Parth Bhut helped Saurashtra make a comeback in their Ranji Trophy quarter-final against Punjab on day four here on Friday.

Having conceded the first innings lead to Punjab, Saurashtra recovered to score 379 in their second innings to set the opposition a 252-run target.

Vasavada (77) and Jani (77) shared a 160-run stand for the fifth wicket before Mankad (88) and Bhut (51) shared a valuable 92-run stand for the eighth wicket. The game is nicely poised going into day five with Punjab needing 200 runs with eight wickets in hand. Pukhraj Mann (17 batting) and night watchman Siddharth Kaul (2 batting) were in the middle at close of play. With the pitch offering a lot of turn, 2020 Ranji champions Saurashtra will back themselves to complete the job on Saturday. It will need a special batting effort from Punjab to reach the semi-finals.

Saurashtra got a shot in the arm when they removed the opening pair of Prabhsimran Singh and Naman Dhir, who both struck fine hundreds in the first innings to



Saurashtra got a shot in the arm when they removed the opening pair of Prabhsimran Singh and Naman Dhir, who both struck fine hundreds in the first innings to take Punjab to 431.

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Dhir was the first to be dismissed as he made room to drive a turning ball from left-arm spinner Parth

Bhut, only to edge it to first slip. Tempers flared in the middle with bowlers appealing at almost everything and Punjab batters were not amused.

Prabhsimran departed in the final over before stumps as he missed a fast and straight ball from Bhut, trapping him lbw. Brief Scores: Saurashtra: 303 and 379 all out in 120.1 overs (Arpit Vasavada 77, Chirag Jani 77, Prerak Mankad 88; Vinay Choudhary 7/179). Punjab 1st innings: 431 all out and 52/2 in 23 overs (Pukhraj Mann batting 17, Siddharth Kaul 2 batting; Parth Bhut 2/30).

Judge hears 8 witnesses in Dani Alves sexual assault case

Bercelona

The judge overseeing the investigation into the Dani Alves sexual assault case took testimony from eight witnesses at a closed hearing in Barcelona on Friday.

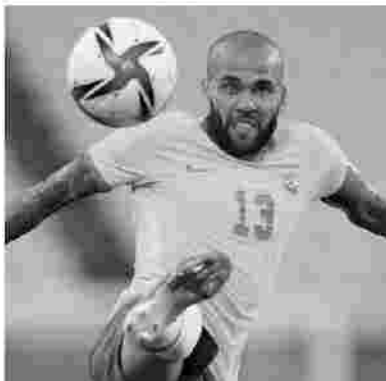
The Brazilian soccer player is accused of sexually assaulting a young woman in a Barcelona nightclub on Dec. 30. The 39-year-old Alves has spent the last two weeks in pre-trial detention at a prison outside Barcelona after he was denied bail.

The judicial investigation is now in the hands of judge Concepcion Canton, who will determine if the case should go to trial. The investigation could continue for weeks.

The plaintiff is represented by Ester Garcia, a specialist in sex crimes. Alves' defense lawyer, Cristobal Martell, is a specialist in financial cases and represented the player's former Barcelona teammate Lionel Messi in his tax fraud case. Neither spoke to the media after the judge took testimony for more than two hours at Barcelona's City of Justice complex.

Alves has denied any wrongdoing. At first he denied having ever seen the woman before his arrest. He then later admitted to what he called a consensual sexual encounter.

Earlier this week, Alves' defense filed an appeal to seek his release on bail, offering to turn in his passport and wear a tracking device if he is set free pending



ing the investigation. The judge had denied Alves bail in part because he was deemed a flight risk.

The appeal is being handled by a higher court.

Under Spain's sexual consent law passed last year, sexual assault takes in a wide array of crimes from online abuse and groping to rape, each with different possible punishments. A case of violent rape can receive a maximum sentence of 15 years.

Alves won 42 soccer titles, including three Champions Leagues with Barcelona and two Copa Americas with Brazil. He played in his third World Cup last year in Qatar.

Alves had his contract with Mexican club Pumas terminated after his arrest. He was detained after returning from Brazil to Spain and agreeing to talk to authorities about the case.

Manu Gandas misses cut on debut in Ras Al Khaimah; 3-way lead at top

Rasalkhaimah

India's Manu Gandas missed the cut on his debut at the Ras Al Khaimah Championships despite an even par second round at the Al Hamra Golf Course here.

Gandas, No. 1 on the Indian PGTI Tour in 2022, who earned a card into the DP World Tour, shot 75 on the first day and added an even par 72 with three birdies and as many bogeys on the second day.

He will now play in the DP World Tour events in Singapore and Thailand next.

Meanwhile, Poland's first winner on DP World Tour, Adrian Meronk, one of the members of the Continental Europe team, which won the Hero Cup last month, moved into shared lead at the halfway stage of the USD 2 million event. Meronk followed his first round 68 with a superb 65 to get to 11-under and shared the lead with Rasmus Hojgaard's, whose twin brother won the event last year. Hojgaard carded 66-67 while Scotland's David Law shot 69-64 to be part of the leading trio. Overnight leader Japan's Ryo Hisatsune (64-70) dropped to tied fourth alongside Will Besseling (68-66), Daniel Gavins (68-66) and Dale Whitnell (71-63) at 10-under.

Ukraine may also get old Leopard 1 tanks from German stocks

Berlin:

Ukraine could add old Leopard 1 battle tanks from German defense industry stocks to deliveries of modern tanks that Berlin and other governments pledged last week to counter Russian forces in the war.

German government spokesman Steffen Hebestreit confirmed Friday that "export authorization has been granted" but declined to give numbers or other details, saying that they may become more concrete "in the coming days and weeks." He told reporters in Berlin that the application from industry to permit delivery of Leopard 1 tanks had been made "some time" ago.

Hebestreit's comments came after the daily Sueddeutsche Zeitung reported that the government had cleared the export of the tanks and that they could be sent as soon as the defense industry gets them in working order. It said that two companies, Rheinmetall and FFG, want to prepare dozens of Leopard 1 tanks that could be delivered to Ukraine if it is interested. But it also said that there are issues so far with securing sufficient ammunition for the vehicles. It wasn't immediately clear when any deliveries might be possible, but it appeared unlikely to be a quick process.

The Leopard 1, manufactured between the mid-1960s and the mid-1980s, was the first battle tank built for West Germany's Bundeswehr. The German military hasn't had any of the tanks since 2003, Defense Ministry spokesman Arne Collatz said.

Germany last week agreed to send 14 modern Leopard 2 A6 tanks from its military's current stocks.

Pope lands in South Sudan to urge peace as fighting kills 27

Juba:

Pope Francis has landed in South Sudan, opening the second and final leg of his African pilgrimage with plans to encourage the young country's stalled peace process.

The pope, who was using his wheelchair, was greeted Friday at the international airport in Juba by South Sudan's president, Salva Kiir, as a crowd of thousands nearby undulated and sang in 96-degree Fahrenheit (35.5-degree Celsius) heat.

"The long, long expected moment has come," Archbishop Stephen Ameyu told the country's state broadcaster minutes before the arrival.

Francis had one final appointment Friday in Kinshasa with Congo's bishops before flying to the South Sudanese capital, Juba. There, he joins the Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby, and the moderator of the Church of Scotland, the Rt. Rev. Iain Greenshields, in a novel ecumenical push for peace.



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Together, the three represent the religious leadership of the overwhelmingly Christian country, the world's youngest, which gained independence from the majority Muslim Sudan in 2011 but has been beset by civil war and conflict. The Christian leaders are aiming to give a joint call for South Sudan's political leaders to put aside their differences and work for the good of their people.

Continued fighting, including attacks this week in the south that killed 27 people, has displaced some 2 million people and hampered implementation of a 2018 peace deal, but residents said the arrival of Francis on the first-ever papal visit to South Sudan gave them hope.

"The pope will bring us peace," said Monica Lado, a 40-year-old from Juba, on the eve of the three leaders' arrival.

One group of about 80 Catholics from the central

"The long, long expected moment has come," Archbishop Stephen Ameyu told the country's state broadcaster minutes before the arrival.

city of Rumbek walked for nine days, covering an estimated 300 kilometers (around 190 miles), and arrived in Juba to cheers on Thursday. The pilgrims were sore, tired and had blisters, but said they hoped to attend Francis' big Mass on Sunday and take back blessings to their homes and families.

"As the pope is coming, I believe what was killing us will stop," said a smiling Victoria Yar, 58, as she sat in a plastic chair to rest after the long journey.

Another pilgrim on the trek, Mary Yom, a mother of eight, lost two children to violence. "Our country is being destroyed by the conflict and we hope that the pope is coming with peace, and no one will be killed again," she said.

ASEAN foreign ministers meet under shadow of Myanmar crisis

Jakarta:

Southeast Asian foreign ministers met in Indonesia's capital on Friday for talks overshadowed by the deteriorating situation in military-ruled Myanmar despite an agenda focused on food and energy security and cooperation in finance and health.

Myanmar belongs to the 10-member Association of Southeast Asian Nations, but the annual ministers' retreat is being held in Jakarta without its foreign minister, Wunna Maung Lwin. His forced absence is a result of Myanmar's lack of cooperation in implementing a five-step agreement made in 2021 between ASEAN leaders and Myanmar's military leader, Senior Gen. Min Aung Hlaing. In the agreement, Myanmar's military leaders promised to allow a special ASEAN envoy to meet with jailed ousted leader Aung San Suu Kyi and others to foster dialogue aimed at easing the crisis, set off by the military's seizure of power two years ago.

Last year, when ASEAN was chaired by Cambodia, Min Aung Hlaing was not invited to the November meeting of ASEAN leaders after Myanmar declined to let an ASEAN envoy meet with Suu

Kyi.

Analysts said the military takeover in Myanmar loomed large over the foreign ministers' meeting, even as Indonesia, the chair of ASEAN this year, seeks to dampen concerns that the issue will hold the bloc "hostage." Kicking off the country's turn as chair of the regional bloc, Indonesian President Joko Widodo said late last month that ASEAN will continue contributing to making Indo-Pacific a peaceful and stable region and maintaining regional economic growth. In her opening remarks on Friday, Indonesian Foreign Minister Retno Marsudi said the ministers were meeting in the midst of immense global challenges in which the Indo-Pacific region is not immune, including geopolitical, food, energy, financial and ecological crises, as well as major power rivalries that could spill over and potentially destabilize the region.

"Internally, we are facing the situation in Myanmar that tests our credibility," Marsudi said, adding that "as a family, we dedicate a working lunch to have an in-depth and frank discussion on the implementation of the five-point consensus.

British Sikh intruder who wanted to "kill" late queen admits treason

London:

A British Sikh man who wanted to "assassinate" Queen Elizabeth II on Christmas Day in 2021 and was caught on the grounds of Windsor Castle armed with a crossbow has admitted to committing treason on Friday.

Jaswant Singh Chail, who identified himself as an "Indian Sikh", wanted to kill the late monarch as revenge for the 1919 Jallianwala Bagh massacre in Amritsar in a social media video that emerged soon after his arrest.

Chail admitted to an offence under the United

The British Sikh man, who is being held at Broadmoor Hospital from where he appeared in court via video link, will be sentenced by the court on March 31.

Kingdom's Treason Act at the Old Bailey court in London.

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"This was an extremely serious incident, but one which the patrolling officers who apprehended

who heads the Metropolitan Police's Counter Terrorism Command which led the investigation into the case.

"They showed tremendous bravery to confront a masked man who was armed with a loaded crossbow, and then detain him without anyone coming to harm," he said.

The 21-year-old pleaded guilty to an offence under section 2 of the Treason Act, 1842; an offence of threats to kill contrary to section 16 of the Offences Against the Person Act 1861; and an offence of possession of an offensive

weapon contrary to section 1 of the Prevention of Crime Act 1953.

"He had made a video of himself stating his desire to harm the late Queen, which he sent to a group of contacts shortly before he was arrested," the Met Police statement said.

"Further enquiries into Chail uncovered evidence of his planning and motives. Evidence recovered by officers showed that he harboured ill feelings towards the British Empire for its past treatment of Indian people," it said.

The Queen, who passed away in September last

year at the age of 96, was in her private apartments at Windsor Castle at the time of Chail's intrusion on the morning of December 25, 2021.

Two officers saw the intruder within the grounds of the Castle and one approached him.

According to the Met Police, he was wearing black clothing and a metal mask and said to the officers he was there to kill Queen Elizabeth II.

Chail was carrying a crossbow loaded with a bolt, and the officers drew their Taser guns and arrested him.

BUSINESS

AZAD Engineering to supply critical Rotating Parts for Nuclear Turbines

New Delhi:

AZAD Engineering Private Limited, a Hyderabad based market leader in Precision Engineering is approved as the first Indian company to supply critical rotating parts for Nuclear Turbines. The first set of critical parts have now been delivered and will be assembled on Nuclear Turbines manufactured in Belfort, France. AZAD have signed a long-term supply agreement with GE Steam Power to manufacture critical rotating parts for the Nuclear Turbines in one of the most stringent environments. 2022 has been a great year for us, as an organization, it's a really big milestone and we believe this will propel us further towards our 5-year plan of growing 10x.

GE Steam Power offers a broad portfolio of technologies and services for power plants helping customers deliver reliable power as they transition to a lower carbon future.

The world is rapidly moving towards generating energy from green and zero-emission clean energy sources. At present, nuclear power is the one of the most cost-effective, clean zero-carbonised electricity sources and is one of the

best alternatives available to coal-based power plants.

Speaking to the media, Rakesh Chopdar, Managing Director, AZAD, said "We feel very proud & delighted to announce that we are the first and the only Indian company to get approved for nuclear parts. We have also signed a long-term agreement with GE Steam Power to manufacture critical rotating parts for the Nuclear Turbines in one of the most stringent environments. 2022 has been a great year for us, as an organization, it's a really big milestone and we believe this will propel us further towards our 5-year plan of growing 10x.

Mr. Chopdar is on a mission to put India onto the global map by challenging the current mindset around manufacturing in India and by creating a beautiful destination, a one-stop world-class facility, for all the needs of a global OEM end to end."

I would also like to thank the GE Steam Power for having the faith in us and giving us this incredible opportunity"

Financial inclusion important for achieving economic empowerment of women: Anurag Thakur

New Delhi:

Financial inclusion is critical to achieving the economic empowerment of women — which is one of the targets under the fifth Sustainable Development Goal on gender equality.

"Women must be a larger part of the labour force as at present only 2 percent women are engaged in various jobs in the country. Empowering women, addressing their concerns and amplifying their voices is a priority for the present Government. India is the 3rd largest start-up ecosystem in the world with 107 unicorns. He said, women's contribution will be much more when India will move to become the 3rd largest economy in the next three years."

Said Mr Anurag Thakur, Union minister for Information and Broadcasting, sports and youth affairs while inaugurating a Conclave for the proactive well-being of Young Women organised by the FICCI Ladies Organization in association with G20 Empower and



Sleepwell Foundation here on Friday.

"Womens role in leading the national transformation has been a defining feature under the present regime in the country. Under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, we have prioritised women's development and also women-led-development." Said Mr Thakur.

"From women sarpanchs

to outstanding athletes, business leaders, legislators, entrepreneurs and technocrats the role of women in governance, public service, sports, social entrepreneurship and corporate leadership is being celebrated in India like never before/so as to ensure that each and every woman becomes confident, self-reliant, financially independent and thus increasing their participation

in the society," he added.

"FICCI Ladies Organisation (FLO), the apex body of businesswomen in the country putting a spotlight on Women's Financial Wellness and Economic Empowerment along with G20 Empower organised this conclave with the theme 'Ameliorating Holistic Wellness of "Young Women" for Global Good. The Conclave

"Womens role in leading the national transformation has been a defining feature under the present regime in the country."

assumes importance in view of India's presidency of G20 and its focus on empowering and progressing women's representation in the economic development of nations." Said Ms Jayanti Dalmia, National President, FICCI Ladies Organisation, while speaking at the conclave.

"The Wellness Rules Conclave is probably the only event of its kind that will have interactive sessions aimed at learning and adopting best practices from India and the world and envisioning a way forward in creating an ecosystem for Financial Wellness of young women. The insights and ideas emerging from the Conclave are likely to inspire decision makers and ecosystem influencers. In India, and at a Global level," said Ms Dalmia.

India's forex kitty jumps USD 3.03

bn to USD 576.76 bn

Mumbai:

India's forex reserves increased by USD 3.034 billion to USD 576.76 billion as of January 27, making it the third consecutive week of a jump in the kitty.

The overall reserves had risen by USD 1.727 billion to USD 573.727 billion in the previous reporting week. It can be noted that in October 2021, the country's forex kitty had reached an all-time high of USD 645 billion.

The reserves have been declining as the central bank deploys the kitty to defend the rupee amid pressures caused majorly by global developments.

For the week ended January 27, the foreign currency assets, a major component of the reserves, increased by USD 2.66 billion to USD 509.018 billion, according to the Weekly Statistical Supplement released by the RBI on Friday.

Expressed in dollar terms, the foreign currency assets include the effect of appreciation or depreciation of non-US units like the euro, pound and yen held in the foreign exchange reserves.

The gold reserves continued to rise, increasing by USD 316 million to USD 44.027 billion, the RBI said.

The Special Drawing Rights (SDRs) were up by USD 46 million to USD 18.478 billion, the apex bank said.

The country's reserve position with the IMF was up by USD 11 million to USD 5.238 billion in the reporting week, the apex bank data showed.

ICC and ESMPL organized "ICT Ecosystem & MII Forum 2023

New Delhi:

In a paradigm shift, the Government has embarked on an ambitious "Digital India" program with a goal to build holistic capabilities across information and communication technology (ICT) infrastructure, software delivery platforms and enhance IT skill sets and job creation. It will transform India into a digitally empowered society and knowledge economy. Senior Leaders and Man-

agement members of various Government establishments have participated in the event, along with representatives of leading technology manufacturers, solution providers, system integrators of the Indian ICT market. Exatron management has shared their vision on contributing to the initiatives of the Indian Government for achieving self-reliance.

Considering the major focus of our country's leader-

ship for achieving digitalization in all the aspects of life, it is high time for us, the stakeholders of Indian ICT industry to put their efforts on enabling and empowering the true domestic manufacturers, like Exatron. Mr. Dheeraj Puri, Co Chair, North Region Committee (ICC) said that "The revolution in the information and communication sector is making the world united.

In today's world informa-

tion and communication technology (ICT) is a key parameter for a country's socioeconomic development, especially for a developing country like us. India is contributing 13% to the country's GDP. With the concept of globalization, the cross country transfer of technology with respect to equipment and even manpower has now days become much easier.

ICT adoption, digitaliza-

tion and automation provide formidable new opportunities in terms of increased efficiency and productivity, the creation of new service-based occupations and increased connectivity across the nation.

Market reports shows that countries have started to invest in ICT because the sector can have a substantial positive impact on social and economic sustainability since such investment will lead to

annual GDP growth by 0.6% to 0.7% on average, on an annual basis, for each increase of 10% in household penetration".

Exatron, a green field manufacturing project for ICT products, has their state of the art factory set up in Bangalore. Exatron manufactures Servers, Storage Systems, Work Stations, Desktops and All In One Personal Computers. Exatron's server offerings are available

in both Intel and AMD platforms. Exatron has virtualization servers for data center and other enterprise applications. These are certified by VMware and Microsoft Azure. Beyond encouraging economic growth, the ICT industry is helping to achieve social sustainability by improving the way through which societies and governments provide education, healthcare, and services to its citizens.

Ahead of Sidharth Malhotra-Kiara Advani wedding, celebrity mehendi artist Veena Nagda heads to Rajasthan

Mumbai
Sidharth Malhotra and Kiara Advani are two days away from their big day. While the couple has not confirmed or denied any reports surrounding their wedding, celebrity mehendi artist Veena Nagda headed to Rajasthan on Friday adding on the wedding, she has been the go-to person for Hindi film celebrities for functions, weddings and film shoots for mehendi art.

On Friday, Veena Nagda took to her Instagram handle to share pictures of herself posing at the Mumbai airport. Along with the picture, Veena wrote, "#bigfatindianwedding #calling Rajasthan".

A couple of days back, Kiara was seen outside de-



signer Manish Malhotra's residence reportedly for last minute fittings. While the couple have not reacted to wedding reports, a leading paparazzo took to

his Instagram handle earlier today to announce that his team is headed to Jaipur to cover the wedding.

Viral Bhayani shared a

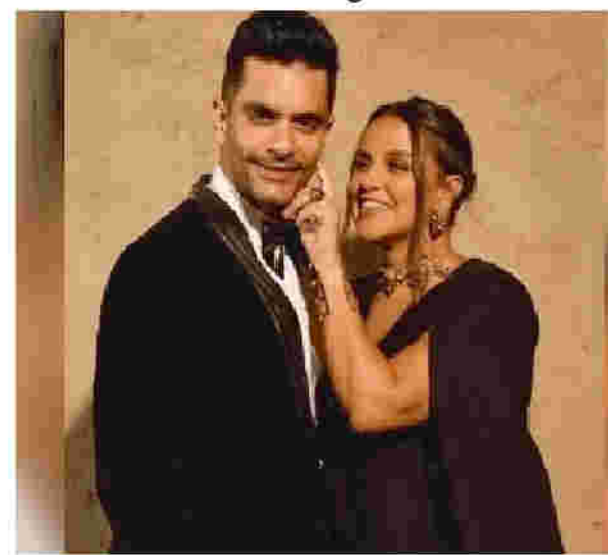
post on Instagram that his team is leaving for the wedding, which will reportedly take place at the luxurious Suryagarh Palace in Jaipur. He

wrote, "We are heading to Jaipur to cover Kiara Advani and Sidharth Malhotra's wedding. We will land tomorrow and then take a jeep to Jaipur."

Reacting to the post, the official handle of Suryagarh palace- the wedding venue- commented, "See you soon".

According to a report in IANS, the couple has booked a luxury hotel in Rajasthan for their industry friends. "They have booked Jaipur's Hotel Suryagarh from February 3 to 7. The couple's security team will be at the premises to avoid any untoward incident. Sid, Kiara, their families, and close friends are expected to reach the venue on February 4. The mehendi, sangeet, and haldi ceremonies will be celebrated in the hotel premises on February 4 and 5," the source had informed while spilling the beans about the Sid-Kiara wedding.

Angad Bedi, Neha Dhupia to pair up for comedy drama



Mumbai
Bollywood couple Angad Bedi and Neha Dhupia will be seen pairing up on screen for the first time.

Bollywood couple Angad Bedi and Neha Dhupia will be seen pairing up on screen for the first time.

Bedi will play the character of Raghavan Rao and Dhupia plays the role of his wife, Savi. The story re-

volves around a married couple during the times of COVID lockdowns. A source reveals, "It is a funny story based on a couple and their shared relationship living together during the COVID lockdown. It is an exciting proposition as the duo are social media goals when it comes to being the adorable couple they are and the casting was done keeping their natural chemistry in mind."

Popular celebrity photographer spills the beans on Sidharth Malhotra-Kiara Advani's wedding



Mumbai
Janhvi Kapoor is one of the most sought after actresses of the current generation. The actress who made her acting debut in the Hindi film industry with 'Dhadak' has been a part of several interesting films that helped her develop her craft. Apart from working on her skills on screen, Janhvi has also been on the receiving end of praise for her looks. However, looking the way she does does not come easy. The actress follows a strict workout regime and gives her all at her sessions.

On Thursday, sending across some mid-week motivation Janhvi shared glimpse of her workout session. From cardio to functional training, the actress is seen sweating it out in the gym under the guidance of her trainer. "@antigravity_club mornings are the best kind of mornings," she captioned the video. The Mili actress added the viral song, 'Ride It (sped up + reverb)'.

Janhvi Kapoor was last

seen in the survival thriller, 'Mili'. The film was a remake of the Malayalam film, 'Helen'. The actress was much praised for her nuanced performance in the film. She has an interesting line up of films to look forward to. Janhvi will be seen in 'Bawaal' alongside Varun Dhawan, 'Mr and Mrs Mahi' with Rakul Preet Singh, 'Jhokumbar Rao'. It is being reported that the actress has also been signed opposite Jr NTR for his upcoming film. While there is no official announcement, Janhvi has not denied the reports as well. The film will mark her debut in the South.

On the other hand, Janhvi's younger sister Khushi Kapoor will also be marking her debut in the film industry with Zoya Akhtar's 'The Archies'. The musical based on the famous American comics 'The Archies' will be released on Netflix later this year. The film will also mark the debut of Shah Rukh Khan's daughter Suhana Khan and Amitabh Bachchan's grandson Agastya Nanda.

Salman Khan attends Pooja Hegde's brother's marriage

Mumbai
Actor Salman Khan recently attended co-star Pooja Hegde's brother Rishabh Hegde's wedding ceremony.

Several social media fan clubs shared pictures in which Salman could be seen posing with the bride and the groom. In the picture, Salman looked stylish as he donned a black shirt with matching pants and was seen in a good mood.

In one of the viral videos, Pooja is seen dancing at the wedding functions to Salman's song 'Chote Chote Bhaiyon Ke Bade Bhaiya'.

Pooja and Salman are all set to share the screen space for the first time in the upcoming family entertainer film 'Kisi Ka Bhai Kisi Ki Jaan'.

Makers recently unveiled the official trailer of the film



which got massive responses from the audience.

Helmed by Farhad Samji, the film is all set to hit the theatres on the occasion of Eid this year.

Salman gathered all the eyeballs with his special appearance in Shah Rukh Khan's ac-

tion thriller film 'Pathaan'. The audience loved watching them reunite and recreate the 'Karan Arjun' magic on the big screen.

Meanwhile, the 'Sultan' actor will also be seen in the upcoming action thriller film 'Tiger 3' opposite actor Katrina Kaif which is all set to hit the

theatres on the occasion of Diwali 2023.

Pooja, on the other hand, was recently seen in the comedy film 'Cirkus' alongside Ranveer Singh and Jacqueline Fernandez, which failed to impress the audience at the box office.

Mumbai Court Issues Notice To Nawazuddin Siddiqui

Mumbai
In a fresh development of an ongoing dispute between Bollywood actor Nawazuddin Siddiqui and his wife Aaliya Siddiqui, Mumbai Court has issued a notice to Nawazuddin.

Last week, Nawaz's mother Mehrunisa Siddiqui had filed an FIR against the actor's wife, alleging her of trespassing in their property. She had even claimed in her FIR that Aaliya is not Nawaz's wife.

In response to these allegations, Aaliya claimed that she has not been provided food, bed, and washroom for the last week. Her lawyer

lawyer Rizwan Siddiquee told ETimes, "The first case that was filed was a counter case to their complaint. We have filed it under section 509, insult to modesty. The basis of that is very simple. Nawazuddin's mother claims that Aaliya is not his wife, in her complaint. So, in this scenario, this statement has to come from Nawaz and not from the mother. If Nawaz claims that Alia is not his wife, then it is contrary to all the documents where he has



declared Aaliya as his wife, which includes government documents, passport and interviews."

He further added, "So if the mother is right and Nawaz is wrong, then it is a case of rape against Nawazuddin Siddiqui. Because, if you deceitfully make a lady believe that you are her husband and have any kind of sexual intercourse by making her

falsely believe that you're a husband, then it is a case of rape. Because Nawaz is keeping quiet about it, I'm not initiating any rape complaint against him right now."

Their dispute started when Aaliya sent legal notice to actor in May 2020, claiming for maintenance, divorce. They are parents to a daughter, Shora Siddiqui, and a son, Yaani Siddiqui.

Lana Clarkson's mum 'felt nothing' when Phil Spector died

Los Angeles
Donna Clarkson was left devastated when the actress was found shot dead at the music producer's home in February 2003 and Spector was later convicted of second degree murder and sentenced to 19 years to life behind bars but died in 2021 after serving only 12 years.

Now Donna has explained how she felt when she found out Spector had died in prison, telling the Mirror newspaper: "I felt nothing. Nothing changes what he did. Lana was my baby, I miss and cry for her every day."

Spector's first trial was declared a mistrial after the jury failed to reach a unanimous verdict but a second ended with a conviction for second degree murder. Throughout both trials, Spector's defence suggested Lana had taken her own life after her acting career slumped - and Donna remains angry about the untrue picture that was painted of her daughter.

She said: "If he had just told the truth 20 years ago, we would not have been left with the memories of how he tried to malign her in death."

Inspired by her role in Bhansali's Heeramandi, Richa Chadha to pursue further training in kathak

Mumbai
Not many know that Richa Chadha was formally trained in the classical dance form of Kathak as a child, but was forced to halt due to her board exams. But when the chance of being directed by the maestro, Sanjay Leela Bhansali made her up her game, she began to pursue Kathak again.

Speaking about the same, Richa said, "I trained in Kathak as a kid under Pt. Abhay Shankar Mishra for ten years as a child. Then life happened and my love for dance got left behind. I was afraid I lost my touch as like any art form, it depends on practice. But, it kind of felt



like swimming and I think I can float without a lifejacket. I think dance has the potential to make a person more connected, grounded, confident and definitely happier. Movement is medicine. This year I hope to complete my degree in the dance form,

under the aegis of my guru Pt. Rajendra Chaturvedi." "Heeramandi", which happens to be a web series for Netflix, is an ambitious project by Sanjay Leela Bhansali also stars Sonakshi Sinha, Aditi Rao Hydari, Manisha Koirala, Fardeen Khan and

Paresh Pahuja.

Speaking of Richa, after having made her presence felt internationally in movies like 'Victoria and Abdul', 'Death on the Nile', Richa Chadha is now all set to showcase her acting skills in international cinema with a new film. Richa will be making her international debut in a lead role and the project is going to be directed by a British director. Confirming the news, Richa had earlier said, "It is too early to reveal anything, but yes, I have read the script and I have decided to go ahead with it. The story is interesting and I really liked my character. It is nice to see crucial roles written for Indian actors in major international productions."