

Ram Charan's 'Game Changer' collects Rs 186 crore worldwide on day one

Chinese FM Wang Yi makes surprise visit to Maldives, holds talks with Prez Muizzu

Bhuttia urges 'sports first' shift in Indian education to create world champions

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WEATHER

Sunrise: 7:16 AM
Sunset: 5:43 PM
Moonrise: 3:01 PM
Moonset: 5:52 AM

Today's Prediction
Maximum: 17°C Minimum: 11°C
Tomorrow's Prediction
Maximum: 18°C Minimum: 11°C

Ex-AAP leader, former CM's son in BJP's 2nd list of 29 candidates for Delhi polls

Harish Khurana, son of former Delhi CM Madan Lal Khurana, fielded from Moti Nagar; Kapil Mishra from Karawal Nagar

The BJP on Saturday released its second list of 29 candidates for the Delhi Assembly polls, fielding Kapil Mishra, a former AAP leader now identified with headline Hindutva politics, from Karawal Nagar.

It has fielded Harish Khurana, son of former Delhi chief minister Madan Lal Khurana, from the Moti Nagar constituency.

With the second list, the party has so far named candidates for 58 seats for the elections to the 70-member Delhi Assembly.

The party has also nominated Raj Karan Khatri from Narela, Surya Prakash Khatri from Timarpur, Gajendra Daral from Mundka, Bajrang Shukla from Kirari, Karan Singh Karma from Sultampur Majra, Karnail Singh from Shakur Basti, and Tilak Ram Gupta from Trinagar.

Additionally, the BJP has given tickets to Manoj Kumar Jindal from Sadar Bazar; Satish Jain from Chandni Chowk; Deepthi Indora



from Matia Mahal, Urmila Kailash Gangwal from Madipur, Shyam Sharma from Hari Nagar, Shweta Saini from Tilak Nagar, among others.

To finalize the names of candidates for the remaining 41 of the 70 assembly seats, the Central Election Committee (CEC) of the BJP met on Friday evening. The names of 29 candidates

were then released a day later.

Sources suggest that the CEC placed significant emphasis on selecting non-controversial candidates, with a strong focus on including women from OBC and other sections.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Home Minister Amit Shah, and BJP President JP Nadwa were part of the CEC,

which reviewed recommendations from the Delhi BJP Core Committee. This committee had met earlier to prepare a tentative list of candidates.

The list of candidates was scrutinized from various angles, including gender, winnability, organizational contributions, and social and caste factors, in line with the criteria set by an internal survey.



Shami returns for England T20I series

Mumbai fast bowler Mohammed Shami made a comeback to the Indian team as BCCI announced the squad for the T20I series against England, on Saturday.

Senior pacer Jasprit Bumrah, wicket-keeper Rishabh Pant and batter Shubman Gill have been named his deputy.

Shami last played for India in the 2023 World Cup final in Ahmedabad after which he was sidelined due to an ankle injury for which he underwent surgery last year.

The 34-year-old made a return to cricket for the Ranji Trophy and also played in the T20 Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy and is playing the on-going 50-over Vijay Hazare Trophy. However, he missed the bus for India's disastrous tour of Australia because of swelling of the knee.

Shami has been picked because he will also be a part of the Champions Trophy squad and will be gradually working on his bowling load. He is not going to play all five games against England.



HIGHLIGHT

BCCI reviews the Border-Gavaskar Trophy series, discusses the role of the coaching staff and contemplates charting out the transition of the longer format squads

India's break out star in the Test series Down Under, all-rounder Nitish Reddy finds a place in the squad, while Dhruv Jurel has been named as the second-choice wicket-keeper behind Sanju Samson.

Sunju and Yashasvi Jaiswal will open the innings followed by Tilak Varma and skipper Surya Hardik Pandya and Rinku Singh are expected to bat at No. 5, five and No. 6, respectively, and they will be followed by Axar in the batting order.

CONTD ON PAGE-2

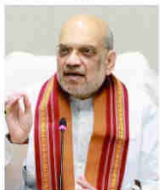
Slum dwellers will 'liberate' Delhi by uprooting 'Aapda' govt: Amit Shah

New Delhi slum dwellers will become "liberators" of Delhi by uprooting the "Aapda" (AAP) government in the upcoming Assembly polls, BJP leader Amit Shah said on Saturday, assuring that no welfare schemes for the poor will be stopped if his party forms government in the city.

Addressing the 'Jhug-ji Basti Pradhan Sammelan' at the JLN stadium here, Shah, who is also the Union home minister, promised that every slum dweller will be provided a house if the BJP wins the polls.

The elections for 70-member Delhi Assembly polls will be held on February 5 and the votes will be counted on February 8.

Shah greeted the gathering on the first anniversary of the consecration ceremony of Ram Lalla's idol at the Ram Temple in Ayodhya with



a loud chant of "Jai Shri Ram".

"When we talked of Ram Temple, Kejriwal said toilets need to be constructed, when Article 370 was scrapped, he said people need houses. Modi ji gave toilets as well as houses to the poor people, not Kejriwal," Shah said.

Shah charged that the Aam Admi Party (AAP) has proved to be an "Aapda" (disaster) in its 10 years of rule in Delhi. He slammed AAP supremo and former Delhi chief minister Arvind Kejriwal for allegedly betraying the slum

HIGHLIGHT

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dwellers and forcing them to live in pathetic conditions in slums.

"The slum dwellers will become the liberators of Delhi and do the work of uprooting the Aapda government," Shah said, citing the shortage of drinking water and sewers, and heaps of garbage in the slum clusters of the city.

The senior BJP leader lashed out at Kejriwal over his claim, earlier in the day, that the BJP had finalised its leader Ramesh Bidhuri as the chief ministerial face of the party for the Delhi polls. Agency

Uddhav Sena says will go solo in local elections

Mumbai Uddhav Thackeray-led Shiv Sena will fight the forthcoming Maharashtra civic bodies elections alone, the party's Rajya Sabha MP Sanjay Raut announced in Nagpur on Saturday.

Shiv Sena (UBT) has unilaterally announced that the party will go solo in the upcoming nagar panchayat, nagar parishad, zilla parishad and municipal corporation elections. Party MP Sanjay Raut announced this here on Saturday.

"We will fight on our own from Nagpur to Mumbai. It is our decision. When will the workers be given a chance in Mumbai, Thane and Nagpur? Not giving a chance to workers will hurt the party's growth. All parties should contest local



body elections on their own and give a chance to their workers," Raut said.

"When they are part of the alliance, party workers do not get a chance to fight Lok Sabha and assembly elections. This is affecting the party's growth. We should fight the elections to municipal corporations, district

councils and Nagar Panchayats (town councils) on our own and strengthen our party at the grassroots level," Raut said, adding that Shiv Sena chief Uddhav Thackeray has given his consent to fight the forthcoming Maharashtra local and civic body elections independently.

The Uddhav Thackeray-led Shiv Sena also sees its hegemony over the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) which has a budget of around Rs 40,000 crore, as crucial to its political survival in Maharashtra. The party has often been criticised for using the cash-rich BMC as its cash cow.

Recently, Thackeray had interacted with his party cadres from across the state where his party workers had made a strong case for fighting Maharashtra civic polls independently.

Raut's announcement is being viewed as the beginning of a probable disbanding of the opposition Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) alliance which had contested Lok Sabha and 2024 Maharashtra state assembly elections together.



report to be presented in Parliament. Meanwhile, the AAP has rubbished the alleged CAG findings, terming them as fake. AAP leader and Rajya Sabha MP Sanjay Singh asked at a press conference "Was it drafted in the BJP office?" Agency

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CONTD ON PAGE-2

Several workers trapped as building collapses at Kannauj railway station

Lucknow At least 23 people were injured, with several trapped under debris, after the shuttering of an under-construction roof collapsed at Kannauj railway station on Saturday afternoon.

Six of the injured were pulled from the rubble and rushed to the hospital. Of these, three critically injured workers were transferred to the KGMU Trauma Centre in Lucknow for advanced treatment.

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath took cognisance of the incident and di-



rected officials to ensure the safe recovery of those trapped. Two teams from the State Disaster Response

Force (SDRF), along with a dog squad and specialised equipment to detect human presence under rubble, were

HIGHLIGHT

District Magistrate Shubhrant Kumar Shukla said that the incident occurred when the shuttering of the roof gave way and about 35 labourers were working at the site when the collapse occurred.

The site was filled with chaos and confusion as crowds gathered, dust clouds billowed, and broken beams littered the area. Rescue teams worked frantically to locate and assist those feared trapped under the debris. The construction was part of a project to upgrade Kannauj railway station under the Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT). Inspector General of Police (Kanpur Range) Jogendra Kumar said the incident was reported at around 2:30 p.m. He added that about 35 labourers were working at the site when the collapse occurred. Agency

BJP, AAP in war of words after CAG report claims Rs 2,026 cr revenue loss

New Delhi purporting report of the Comptroller and Audit General (CAG) pegging a revenue loss of Rs 2,026 crore to the government due to "irregularities" in the now-scrapped Delhi liquor policy has brought the excise scam to the centre stage of the electoral battle between the Aam Admi Party and the BJP.

The findings of the alleged leaked report are now being used by the BJP to corner the ruling party. At a press conference on Saturday, BJP leader and former minister Anurag Thakur targeted AAP national convener Arvind Kejriwal over the CAG report.



"Arvind Kejriwal is the kingpin of the whole scam," said Thakur. "Who will be the CM face from the AAP? There isn't a single face who is clean of charges of corruption, and who is not enjoying profits from the scam". Thakur also questioned the AAP on why they had not allowed the



report to be presented in Parliament. Meanwhile, the AAP has rubbished the alleged CAG findings, terming them as fake. AAP leader and Rajya Sabha MP Sanjay Singh asked at a press conference "Was it drafted in the BJP office?" Agency

Uddhav Sena says will go solo in local elections

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The latest development has come after Raut had announced the Congress to openly announce on Friday that the INDIA bloc no longer exists, especially after the decision of the Congress to fight against Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) in Delhi assembly elections.

On Friday, Sanjay Raut had openly expressed concerns about the INDIA bloc, echoing Jammu & Kashmir chief minister Omar Abdullah's sentiments about the lack of coordination within the opposition alliance.

National Conference leader Omar Abdullah had called for clarity on the opposition INDIA alliance, particularly given tensions between Congress and Aam Aadmi Party ahead of the Delhi assembly elections. Abdullah had said that if the INDIA bloc was only for the Lok Sabha elections, then it must be wound up and opposition parties should start working separately.

"As far as I remember, there was no time limit set on this. Unfortunately, since no meeting of the INDIA bloc has been called, there is no clarity on this—neither regarding leadership, nor the agenda, nor whether we will continue as an alliance or not. Perhaps the elections in Delhi will happen and after that, it would be good if all the stakeholders of the INDIA bloc are called, so that there is clarity on whether this alliance was set up only for the parliamentary elections," Omar Abdullah had said.

Echoing Abdullah, Raut had spoken about the absence of any strategic meetings within the INDIA bloc after the Lok Sabha elections to chart the alliance's future path.

"We fought Lok Sabha elections together and the results were good as well. After that it was the responsibility of all of us, especially the Congress, to keep the INDIA alliance alive, sit together and show the way forward. However, so far, not a single such meeting has taken place after the Lok Sabha elections. This is not right for the INDIA alliance. Leaders like Omar Abdullah, Mamta Banerjee, Akhilesh Yadav and Arvind Kejriwal all say that the INDIA alliance has no existence now," Raut had said on Friday, Agency

VP Dhankhar urges authentic research, says indigenisation is pointless if limited to nuts & bolts

Bengaluru: Calling for authentic and practical research that is able to change the ground reality, Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar on Saturday said that indigenisation has no point when it is confined to nuts and bolts.

Stressing the spirit to innovate and to engage in research, he said it must be inflamed in students in schools and colleges.

The Vice President was speaking at the Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL) R&D Award ceremony here that was attended by Governor of Karnataka Thawarchand Gehlot, and BEL CMD Manoj Jain among others.

"From a global perspective, if you look, our patent contribution leaves much to be desired. When it comes to research, the research has to be authentic. The research has to be cutting-edge. The research has to be practical. The research must change the ground reality. There is no use having research which goes a little beyond surface sketching.

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Your research must correlate with the change you seek to bring about," Dhankhar said.

Authentic research should alone be recognised, he expects more. We cannot rest our laurels on past achievements," he added.

"The exemplification has to be if it is recognised at a global level, a research paper that has momentary importance of being presented and then goes on the shelf and gathers dust is

something we must keep away from. While your track record is extremely impressive. But when the whole nation is in an expectant mood, it expects more. We cannot rest our laurels on past achievements," he added.

Underlining the significance of research and technology in achieving the status of a developed nation, the Vice President said that when it comes to the country's contribution by way of patents, we are contrib-

uting not in consequential fields. "Our presence is minuscule." "We are one-sixth of humanity. Our genius allows us a wider participation. And for that, everyone who is in the managerial seat, the seat of governance, must take initiative. That is required because we can emerge as an economic powerhouse in the global community only when we subscribe to research and development. The very concept of Atmanirbhar Bharat is rooted in this," he

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said.

Pointing out that when it comes to the contribution of corporates in research and development from a global perspective the country hardly figures, Dhankhar said that corporates are envisioned by enlightened managerial skills, but they must converge on one platform and make it a mission that research and development will get a big leap. "We have to be passionate about it." Calling on BEL to lead the semiconductor revolution and handhold startups in the field, Dhankhar asked the company to lead the semiconductor revolution from design to manufacture.

"Think about it, brain-

storm, scratch your brains. This is the need of the hour. We need to take initiative. To establish India's position in global supply chains through friendshoring do it? Nurture domestic startups and indigenous component development... Identify startups that require hand-holding. There are enough people who seek to venture," he added.

On indigenisation, Dhankhar said he has had the fortune to see indigenous components and the country is increasingly having equipment that has indigenisation.

"But look at it, are we having engines? Are we having the core material? Are we having that which others want to see from us? Or are we confining it to usual aspects? There's no point in being satisfied that we are indigenous when it comes to nuts and bolts. Our aim has to be 100 per cent," he noted.

Further, emphasising the need to promote the spirit of innovation in schools and colleges, the Vice President said the nation abounds in talent.

Shah urges Delhiites to free city from 'AAP-da'

New Delhi: In a sharp attack at the AAP government, Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Saturday urged the people of Delhi to free the city from 'AAP-da' and vote for BJP for February 5 Delhi assembly elections.

Addressing the 'Slum Dwellers' conference, Shah said, "People living in slums of Delhi are getting dirty water and questioning about it being one of the most polluted cities in the world. What did Arvind Kejriwal do in Delhi in the last 10 years? If you are not able to do anything Arvind Kejriwal, then you should leave the government. BJP will give all the benefits."

Shah claimed that February 5 is the day when Delhiites will get relief from 'AAP-da'. People who launched an agitation against corruption broke all records of corruption and Kejriwal is the only CM who did not resign even after going to jail," he added.

The BJP has listened to the pain, inconvenience and anger of the slum dwellers against the broken promises of AAP and it can only provide them with facilities. "They have made a list of all your problems and given it to BJP national president JP Nadda and Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Our manifesto will provide you relief from all your problems. The BJP manifesto is the guarantee of PM Modi and unlike AAP, we do what we say," Shah highlighted.

Commenting on Kejriwal's claim of Ramesh Bidhuri being made as CM face of the saffron party, Shah claimed that the AAP leader cannot deny anyone as BJP candidate.

Shami returns for England T20I series

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The two pacers for the first couple of games will be Arshdeep Singh and Shami, with Pandya as the third seamer. The two wrist spinners - Chakravarthy and Bishnoi - will come into the equation to complete the expected playing XI.

The T20I series against England starts with the first T20I in Kolkata on January 22, followed by matches in Chennai (Jan 25), Rajkot (Jan 28), Pune (Jan 31) and Mumbai (Feb 2). India and England will then face off in a three-match ODI series from February 6.

Dook International Honored at the 32nd NAI Achievement Awards



New Delhi:

Dook International was recognized at the 32nd NAI Achievement Awards for its remarkable contributions to the travel and hospitality industry. The prestigious award was presented by former Member of Parliament Praveesh Verma. Dr. Rakesh Kumar IAS former Chairman Uttarakhand Public Service Commission and Algerian Ambassador Dr. Ali Achoui in acknowledgment of the company's outstanding achievements and innovative approach to travel services.

Founded 13 years ago, Dook International

has enabled over 5 lakh travelers to embark on dream vacations, supported by a robust network of 10,000 travel agents across 15 countries. The company's corporate MICE division has also organized more than 500 global corporate events, reflecting its expertise in handling large-scale operations with precision.

Known for its innovative travel itineraries, Dook International has played a pivotal role in introducing Indian travelers to unique destinations, especially in Central Asia, while continually broadening its global offerings. From

bespoke travel experiences to corporate events, women-centric tours, group and luxury travel, and comprehensive visa and ticketing services, Dook International has set a benchmark in the travel industry.

The Global Strategy & Leadership Awards, named after Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam, celebrate excellence in leadership and innovation. This recognition underscores Dook International's unwavering commitment to delivering exceptional travel experiences and its significant contributions to the global travel and hospitality sector.

COAS Hosts 'At Home' Event for NCC Cadets at Army House

Staff Reporter
New Delhi:

General Upendra Dwivedi, Chief of the Army Staff (COAS), and Mrs. Sunita Dwivedi, President of the Army Wives Welfare Association (AWWA), hosted an 'At Home' event at the Army House for 390 NCC cadets representing all 17 NCC Directorates from across the country.

The cadets, gathered for the Republic Day Parade, were welcomed into the COAS's official residence, where they had the unique opportunity to interact with him and gain insights into the Indian Army's legacy.

The event included a screening of a short film showcasing Indian Army's contributions to nation-building, followed by a cultural performance where eight cadets sang the official NCC song, adding vibrancy to the gathering.

During an engaging interaction, General Dwivedi inspired the cadets by discussing leadership, resilience,



and their aspirations for 'Viksit Bharat' by 2047. The COAS encouraged the cadets to reflect on their roles in shaping India's future and shared his views on the importance of discipline, innovation, and teamwork.

Many cadets shared stories of how the NCC has shaped their lives, instilling values of service, leadership, and perseverance. The cadets also recounted their memorable experiences from the Republic Day Parade camp, expressing pride in being part of a national-level event alongside peers from diverse regions. In one discus-

sion, cadets imagined themselves as soldiers for a week, voicing their eagerness to serve in challenging terrains and contribute to the nation's security and welfare.

A pamphlet detailing Indian Army's contributions to national growth was distributed to the cadets, offering further insights into contributions made by Indian Army in nation's progress. The COAS also recognized outstanding cadets excelling in sports, cultural activities, and leadership, presenting them with books as a token of appreciation.

Extensions in service defy logical principle of expectation: VP Dhankhar

Bengaluru: Extensions in service in any form for a particular post are a setback to those in line and defy the logical principle of expectation, Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar said on Saturday.

"We have a doctrine of expectation. People devote decades to be in a particular groove. Extension indicates that some individual is indispensable. Indispensability is a myth. Talent abounds in this country. No one is indispensable. And therefore, it lies in the domain of public service commissions at the state and the central level that when they have a role to play in such kinds of situations, they must be firm," he said delivering the inaugural address at the 25th National Conference of Chairpersons of All State Public Service Commission at Bengaluru.

He stressed that the appointments cannot be



driven by patronage, by favoritism. "We must account ourselves to our conscience. We cannot have a public service commission chairman or a member, wedded to a particular ideology or an individual. That will be undoing the essence and spirit of the framework of the constitution."

Drawing attention towards post-retirement assignments, Mr

Dhankhar said, "Post-retirement recruitment is a problem. In some states it has been structured. Employees never retire, particularly those in the premium services. They get a number of ad-hoc nomenclatures. This is not good. Everyone in the country must have due and that due is defined by law. Any largesse of this kind is antithetical to what was visualised by the framers

of the Constitution." Expressing concern over paper leaks, he said this is a menace that has to be curbed. The fairness of selection will have no meaning if paper leaks are there. And paper leakage has become an industry, a commerce.

"People, young boys and girls used to have fear of examinations. How difficult the question will be. How will we

address it? Now they are having two fears. One is fear of examinations. Second, fear of leakage. So when they are giving their very best for several months and weeks to prepare for an examination, they receive the setback of leakage," he said.

Highlighting the divisive and polarized nature of polity, the Vice President said: "Our polity at the moment is too divisive, too polarised. Interaction is not taking place at the premium level in political organizations. When it comes to nations, when the world is in a transformative phase, it is India's century. That century can be fully fructified for people's gain only when we have a calm political atmosphere. We need political fire extinguishers. A political divisiveness, a vitiated political climate is far more dangerous than the climate change we are facing."

Bhadohi murder case: Delhi Police arrests man fleeing to Mumbai



Hemant Kumar New Delhi: A man wanted in the murder of UP inter college principal was arrested from Delhi airport, police said on Saturday.

The accused, Amir Khan (31), was arrested near Terminal 1 of Indira Gandhi International Airport when he was trying to flee to Mumbai to escape arrest, police said.

The incident occurred on October 21, 2024, when Yogendra Bahadur Singh, Principal of Indra Bahadur Singh National Inter College in UP's Bhadohi, was shot dead.

Two armed assailants on a motorcycle ambushed Singh's car and opened fire. Despite being rushed to the hospital, the 56-year-old principal succumbed to injuries. Investigations by the Uttar Pradesh Police revealed a conspiracy with Amir Khan identified as one of the key perpetrators. A reward of Rs 50,000 was announced for his arrest, a senior police officer of the Crime Branch said.

Acting on a tip-off, a team laid a trap near Delhi's domestic airport on Thursday. Khan was intercepted around 12:30 pm and arrested, police said.

PUBLIC NOTICE

IT IS TO INFORM TO GENERAL PUBLIC THAT MY CLIENT NAMELY, SH INDER DEV THAKUR SOANATHA THAKUR R/O PLOT NO. - 97, KHARSA NO - 522, NEAR SHIV MANDIR NITHARI, NORTH WEST DELHI, NEW DELHI-110086, PS. PREM NAGAR, NEW DELHI HAS DROWNED AND BREAK OFF ALL HIS RELATIONSHIP WITH HIS SON NAMELY MUKESH AND HIS WIFE MANISHA DEVI. TWO MUKESH THAKUR BOTH R/O PLOT NO. - 97, KHARSA NO - 522, NEAR SHIV MANDIR NITHARI, NORTH WEST DELHI, NEW DELHI-110086, AND DROWNED HIM FROM THEIR ALL MOVABLE AND IMMovable PROPERTIES AS THE NAMED MUKESH AND HIS WIFE MANISHA DEVI HAS DEVELOPED A DIVERGENT ATTITUDE AND NOT IN CONTROL OF MY CLIENT. HENCE MY CLIENT SHALL NOT BE RESPONSIBLE FOR ANY OF THEIR ACT, DEED, WHOMSOEVER, DEALS WITH THEM. SHALL BE AT HIS OWN RISK AND RESPONSIBILITIES.

ROHIT BHARDWAJ
ADVOCATE
M.No. - 8384071034

NEWS IN BRIEF

Four held for supplying opium in Delhi

New Delhi

The Southern Range of Special Cell has arrested four persons for supplying opium in Delhi-NCR, following the seizure of 30 kilograms of narcotic material valued at over Rs 50 lakh in the international market.

Additional Commissioner of Police (SR) Manoj C said the smugglers were arrested in Guwahati and later in Delhi while transporting a consignment of opium from Manipur to supply the same in the national capital and Rajasthan.

Acting on specific information, two persons, identified as Ajay and Kailash, were nabbed from Sarai Kale Khan Bus station on December 31 while en route to deliver the drug consignment, Manoj added.

During the investigation, it was revealed that another consignment was en route from Guwahati, Assam, leading to the arrest of another peddler, Ananda Ram, he said.

Another lead revealed that a third consignment was arriving in Delhi in a truck, which was intercepted. During the operation, a total of 30 kg of opium was seized, the officer said.

A further investigation into the matter has been launched and the operation is in line with Home Minister Amit Shah's directive to curb illegal drug suppliers in the national capital, he added.

Delhi Police to question AAP MLA in fake document

New Delhi

The Delhi Police has issued a notice to AAP MLA Mohinder Goyal and his office staff for interrogation related to the fake Aadhar card document case.

This comes after the arrest of Bangladeshi nationals with fake documents by South Delhi Police in which some Bangladeshi immigrants were arrested with fake Aadhar cards.

The Delhi Police has launched a two-month long drive against illegal immigrants in compliance with LG's directive to take action against the foreign nationals in the national capital.

So far, the police have apprehended more than 50 migrants and put them in a detention centre to deport them to Bangladesh who had entered India illegally or have overstayed after the expiry of their visa.

Attacking on the AAP over the issue of illegal immigrant, BJP National Spokesperson Sudhanshu Trivedi said, "Investigation into fake votes in Delhi has revealed that voters of Bangladesh infiltrators are being made by making fake Aadhar cards and signatures of two AAP MLAs - Mohinder Goyal and Jai Bhagwan Upkar have been found in this conspiracy. AAP is taking support of anti-national forces."

One dies in road accident in SW Delhi

New Delhi

A man was killed in a road accident on Saturday morning in southwest Delhi's Safdarjung Enclave area following a collision of two cars, the police said, adding that the driver of the vehicle that hit the car is absconding.

According to the police, information related to the accident was received at 6:30 am and on reaching the spot, two vehicles, a white Eriga car and another silver colour Audi car, both having registration of Haryana were found in accidental condition.

Kejriwal claims BJP to name Bidhuri as CM candidate

■ Ahead of the assembly elections in the National Capital, AAP National Convener and former Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Saturday challenged BJP CM candidate for an open election debate. tional capital to hire private security guards.

New Delhi

AAP chief Arvind Kejriwal on Saturday claimed that the BJP has decided to field former MP Ramesh Bidhuri as its chief ministerial candidate for the Delhi Assembly elections, promoting the BJP to dismiss it as a "baseless rumour".

Union Home Minister Amit Shah accused the AAP leader of spreading canard for political mileage. "Can Kejriwal decide the BJP's chief ministerial face? Who is he to make such claims?" asked Shah while addressing Jhuggi Basti Pradhan Sammelan.

Shah also accused Kejriwal of attempting to manipulate public perception, asserting that the people of Delhi understood his tactics. Addressing a press conference, Kejriwal

claimed that he has come to know from "reliable sources" that the BJP will



announce Ramesh Bidhuri, party's candidate from Kalkaji seat against Chief Minister Atishi, as its CM candidate in the next one or two days. He challenged Bidhuri to a public debate to let Delhiites decide who is better equipped to lead. "Once Bidhuri's candidacy is officially announced, I propose that to strengthen democracy, there should be a public debate between the AAP's candidate and the BJP's candidate,

the party's leader.

During the press conference, Kejriwal said a debate between him and Bidhuri would strengthen democracy, allowing voters to assess candidates' accomplishments and visions for Delhi. Kejriwal also called on Bidhuri to clarify his plans for the city if he were to become chief minister. "In this debate, people can assess who to vote for, based on what each has accomplished, their visions, and their plans for Delhi,"

Kejriwal said. "Yes, we are challenging the BJP to a debate," Kejriwal said in response to questions from reporters. Bidhuri's recent remarks about Atishi and Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi have triggered a controversy. In the past, he has also courted controversies with his statements. Bidhuri had said Atishi "changed her surname" by changing her surname from

Marlena to Singh. His remark that he would make roads in Kalkaji smooth like "Priyanka Gandhi's cheeks" had drawn flak with the Congress terming it as an "insult to women".

He later expressed regret following an uproar. The BJP has fielded Bidhuri from the Kalkaji assembly constituency. He will take on Atishi, who is seeking re-election from the seat. On Friday, Atishi also claimed that the BJP was going to name Bidhuri as its CM

face and criticised the party for picking a leader who "hurts the most abuses". The 70-member Delhi Assembly will go to polls on February 5, and the counting of votes will be taken up on February 8. The AAP, which won 67 seats in the 2015 polls and 62 in the 2020 polls, is eyeing a third consecutive term in the capital. The BJP won three seats in 2015 and eight in 2020 while the Congress drew a blank.

CAG report on excise policy exposes Kejriwal: Nadda

New Delhi

BJP president J P Nadda claimed on Saturday that the CAG report on the Delhi government's excise policy has exposed intentional lapses, leading to a loss of Rs 2,026 crore loss to the exchequer.

Nadda said on X, "Intoxicated by power, high on misgovernance. 'AAP' DA model of loot in full display and that too on something like liquor."

He said it is just a matter of a few weeks before the AAP government is voted out and punished for its misdeeds.

He alleged, "CAG Report on 'Liquorate' exposes @ArvindKejriwal and @AamAdmiParty Gov. Intentional 'Lapses' in Policy Implementation. Rs 2026 Cr Loss to Exchequer money." The then chief minister Kejriwal and his deputy Manish Sisodia were arrested by the Enforcement Directorate in the case of alleged corruption in framing the excise policy, which was later scrapped.

Both were released on bail after spending months behind bars.

The said CAG report has not been officially released as yet but its purported content



have been reported in some sections of the media.

Asked about the BJP allegations, AAP Raja Sabha MP Sanjay Singh said, "Where is the report? The BJP itself keeps saying no CAG report has been tabled."

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Rahul Gandhi to address public meeting in Delhi's Seelampur on Monday

New Delhi

With the Delhi polls weeks away, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi will hit the campaign trail on January 13 and address a public meeting in northeast Delhi's Seelampur, the party said on Saturday.

Addressing a press conference at the Delhi Pradesh Congress Committee office here, AICC Delhi in-charge Qazi Nizamuddin said that Gandhi has emerged as the voice of the people of the country. Wherever there was an issue, Gandhi reached there and raised people's voice, he said.

"Senior Congress leader Rahul Gandhi will address a public meeting - Jai Bapu,

Jai Bhim, Jai Samvidhan" - on Monday at 5:30 pm in northeast Delhi's Seelampur area. A large number of people, Congress party workers and leaders will participate in it," Nizamuddin said. This will be Gandhi's first rally in Delhi.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has already held two programmes in the capital during which he attacked AAP convener Arvind Kejriwal and the party's government.

The Congress held a month-long 'Delhi Nyay Yatra' in November to connect with voters and boost the morale of the party cadre ahead of the assembly polls.

Faridabad Cyber police arrested 35 accused in 22 cyber crime cases, resolved 1412 complaints

■ Police have recovered ₹9,40,999 from the accused and refunded ₹42000/ to victims.

Sandeep Chauhan Faridabad

Taking action under the guidance of Police Commissioner Satyendra Kumar Gupta and Deputy Commissioner of Police Cyber Crime Usha, teams of Cyber Police Station of Faridabad Police have arrested 35 accused.

Police spokesperson said that from 4 to 10 January, the teams of all three cyber police stations of Faridabad Police have solved 22 cases and arrested 35 accused.

Which includes 05 cases of Cyber Police Station NIT, 10 cases of Cyber Police Station Central and 07 cases of Cyber Police Station Ballabhgarh. While taking action in



the cases, ₹9,40,999/- has been recovered and ₹42000/- has been refunded by settling 1412 complaints.

by people. "Cyber fraudsters lure the complainant to earn money in a short time which includes investing in the share market, lucky draw, misleading by sending links about money being deposited in the account, etc. Apart from this, cyber fraud is being done nowadays by threatening digital arrest, in which fraudsters pretend to be officers of government departments like police, customs department, income tax department, CBI, etc. and inform people that they are trapped in some false case and ask them not to talk to anyone, and talk about putting them in jail if they tell anyone about the case." Police spokesperson said.

Luxury car hits teen jogging near Noida critical driver arrested

Noida

A 14-year-old boy sustained serious injuries after being hit by a car while jogging on a service road in Noida Extension, with the police arresting the driver of the luxury vehicle, according to officials.

The boy is being treated at a private hospital and his condition is critical, an official said.

The incident took place around 6 am on January 9 near Stellar Jeevan Station in the Biskrah police station area when the Jaguar car allegedly struck the boy from behind, as per a complaint lodged by the victim's father, Murari Singh.

"My son Neeraj was running on the service road when the Jaguar, driven recklessly, hit him from behind. He sustained serious injuries to his head and chest and is undergoing treatment at a private hospital," Singh has said in his complaint.

A police spokesperson said that following the complaint, an FIR has been registered at



the local police station.

"The boy is being treated for his injuries at a private hospital, where his condition remains critical. The vehicle involved and its driver are in police custody, and further investigation is underway," the official added.

According to the police, the erring Jaguar XE is registered in Gautam Buddha Nagar district and its 22-year-old driver has been arrested. The FIR was lodged under Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) sections 281 (rash driving) and 125b (causing grievous hurt with rash or negligently done act that endangers human life), the spokesperson added.

Recently, taking note of

the high number of accidents and casualties caused by them in Uttar Pradesh, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath had directed officials to launch large-scale road safety awareness campaigns, especially in schools and colleges.

According to official figures on road accidents available from January to September 2014, the district recorded over 850 crashes that left around 330 dead and over 750 injured.

In 2024, several road accidents involving luxury vehicles occurred in the National Capital Region, including Noida and Greater Noida. On May 16, 2024, a speeding BMW collided with an e-rickshaw near Sector 24 in Noida, resulting in two fatalities and three injuries. The driver was arrested following the incident.

On May 26, a 64-year-old man was fatally struck by a speeding Audi while crossing the road to buy milk near Gijhara village in Sector 53 of the city.

BJP attempting to deceive EC with fake voter registration applications, says AAP

New Delhi

Aam Aadmi Party on Saturday accused the BJP of attempting to deceive the Election Commission by submitting fake voter registration applications in large numbers from the residential addresses of its leaders.

Addressing a press conference, AAP Raja Sabha MP Sanjay Singh claimed that dozens of voter registration applications had been filed from single small shops and basements.

BJP of submitting multiple new voter registration applications using the residential addresses of their leaders.

"This is the reality of the biggest political party in India. This is how Prime Minister Modi's party plans to win the elections," Singh said, listing the names of BJP leaders, including union ministers, for their alleged involvement in the issue.

"The BJP and its leaders are trying to deceive the Election Commission. This



Addressing a press conference, AAP Raja Sabha MP Sanjay Singh claimed that dozens of voter registration applications had been filed from single small shops and basements.

is BJP's election scam, being carried out by their Union ministers and MPs, and they are undermining the integrity of the Election Commission," Singh added.

Delhi heads to the poll on February 5 and results will be declared on February 8.

Rain intensifies chill in Delhi; IMD predicts more showers and dense fog

New Delhi

Rain showers swept through parts of Delhi-NCR on Saturday evening, intensifying the cold weather. The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has predicted more light showers on Sunday morning.

The national capital and its surrounding areas experienced dense fog on Saturday morning, disrupting train and flight operations.

According to the IMD, the minimum temperature in Delhi was recorded at 7.7 degrees Celsius at Safdarjung, and 8.4 degrees Celsius at Palam, while the maximum temperature stood at 17 degrees Celsius.

The IMD attributed the rain to a Western Disturbance interacting with easterly winds, which is expected to bring a wet spell to Northwest and adjoining Central India. Thunderstorms are also likely on January 12.

Dense to very dense fog is expected to persist across North, East, and Northeast India for the next two to five days.

Visibility in Delhi was severely affected due to the fog. Zero visibility was recorded at Palam from 11:30 PM to 2:00 AM, improving to 500 meters by 7 AM. Similarly, Safdarjung recorded visibility as low as 50 meters from 12:30 AM to 1:30 AM, which later improved to 200 meters and remained so until 7:30 AM.

Parties woo women voters with cash promises ahead of Delhi polls

New Delhi

Ahead of the Delhi Assembly polls, all major parties seem to be wooing women voters with direct cash transfers.

Major political contenders, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP), and the Indian National Congress, have each promised financial assistance

schemes for women, a demographic that constitutes 46.2 per cent of Delhi's electorate.

According to the final electoral roll published by the Office of the Delhi Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) on January 6, the national capital has a total of 1,55,24,858 registered voters, comprising

83,49,645 male voters and 71,73,952 female voters.

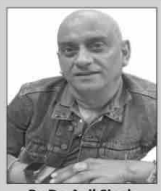
In a bid to woo the female voters and as a countermeasure to AAP's welfare-centric campaign, BJP has proposed a monthly aid of Rs 2,500 for women. AAP, under the Mahila Samman Yojana, has pledged Rs 2,100 per month to women, continuing its

strategy of offering direct benefits to secure electoral support.

Not to be left behind, the Congress has introduced the 'Pyari Didi Yojana,' promising Rs 2,500 monthly to women if elected, mirroring similar initiatives it has implemented in other states.

These announcements have had a tangible impact on voter registration dynamics. Between December 16 and January 6, Delhi's Chief Electoral Officer received an unprecedented 5.1 lakh applications for new voter registrations, with nearly 70 per cent (approximately 3.4 lakh) submitted by women.

Trump's Vision for America: Navigating Politics, Economy & Diplomatic Affairs



By Dr. Anil Singh

As the United States prepares for a historic political transition on January 20th, Donald Trump, returning to the political forefront, has outlined an ambitious vision for his presidency. His recent statements on taxation, foreign policy, and internal security signal a unique approach to governance. However, this presidency is historic in more ways than one—Trump will become the first U.S. president to take the oath of office as a convicted individual, following the Supreme Court's pronouncement of his judgment. This adds a layer of complexity to an already polarized political landscape. Furthermore, his controversial stance on issues such as Greenland, Canada, and global alliances adds intrigue to what lies ahead for his administration.

Economy: Taxation and Domestic Growth

Donald Trump's economic philosophy has always emphasized prioritizing American businesses and workers. In his recent speeches, Trump has reaffirmed his commitment to economic nationalism, including promises to overhaul the U.S. taxation system. Key highlights of his economic approach include:

Tax Reform:

Trump has criticized

the existing tax structure, vowing to reduce corporate taxes to attract businesses back to the U.S. His plans aim to incentivize investments in manufacturing and technology sectors, ensuring that "Made in America" becomes a global brand. Additionally, Trump has hinted at tax cuts for middle-class families, aiming to boost disposable incomes and consumer spending.

Trade Policies:

Trump's economic rhetoric often includes taking a tough stance on Canada and other trading partners. Recently, he made a provocative suggestion: the potential merger of Canada as the 51st state of the United States. This controversial idea, framed as a way to strengthen North American economic ties and security, has sparked global debate. Trump argues that integrating Canada could streamline trade policies, enhance resource sharing, and consolidate regional power. Critics, however, view this as unrealistic and dismiss it as political posturing that could alienate both Canadians and global allies.

Greenland Controversy:

Trump's earlier interest in purchasing Greenland resurfaced recently, as he reiterated its strategic importance for American security and economic interests. This proposal was met with resistance from Greenland and Denmark, with leaders outright rejecting the idea. Nonetheless, Trump has highlighted its proximity to the U.S. border, framing it as part of his broader strategy to counter Russian and Chinese influence in the Arctic.

Infrastructure Investment:

Trump has pledged to launch a massive infrastructure investment program to rebuild America's crumbling roads, bridges, and airports. By doing so, he aims to create millions of jobs, reduce unemployment, and modernize the country's economy. Critics, however, question the feasibility of such projects without substantial federal borrowing, which could exacerbate national debt.

Internal Security: Ensuring Stability Amid Domestic Challenges

Internal security remains a cornerstone of Trump's presidency, particularly in a time of heightened polarization and domestic unrest. Trump has outlined a multi-pronged strategy to address these challenges:

Law and Order:

Trump's campaign rhetoric often revolved around promises to restore law and order in American cities. He has vowed to increase funding for police departments, implement stricter sentencing laws, and crack down on organized crime and drug cartels. While this approach appeals to conservative voters, critics argue that it risks exacerbating tensions with marginalized communities.

Immigration Policies:

Trump has reiterated his commitment to securing U.S. borders, including plans to complete the Mexico border wall. He has also emphasized stricter vetting processes for immigrants, focusing on national security concerns. However,

this hardline stance risks alienating immigrant communities and creating backlash over human rights issues.

Domestic Terrorism:

Following recent incidents of domestic terrorism, Trump has pledged to strengthen counter-terrorism measures. His proposed policies include enhanced surveillance capabilities and increased funding for intelligence agencies. Balancing these measures with civil liberties will be a key challenge for his administration.

Foreign Policy: A Redefined Global Role

Donald Trump's foreign policy vision reflects a blend of pragmatism and unpredictability. His recent remarks on international relations, the Panama Canal, Greenland, and selective invitations for his oath ceremony offer insights into his priorities:

Selective Alliances:

Trump's decision to invite a limited number of international leaders, excluding the Indian Prime Minister, has drawn global attention. By prioritizing relationships with certain nations, Trump signals a shift toward strengthening alliances that align with his strategic goals. This approach, while calculated, risks alienating key partners like India, whose role is critical in balancing global power dynamics.

Taxation and Trade in Foreign Relations:

Trump has linked foreign policy with economic interests, emphasizing the need for reciprocal trade deals. His comments on the

Panama Canal suggest a focus on securing U.S. economic and strategic interests in key global chokepoints. By renegotiating trade agreements, Trump aims to ensure that American businesses benefit from international partnerships.

Military Strategy and Global Influence:

Trump has expressed intentions to reduce U.S. involvement in prolonged foreign conflicts while modernizing the military to deter emerging threats. This "peace through strength" strategy underscores a preference for leveraging economic and military power rather than engaging in costly interventions.

China and Russia Relations:

Trump's foreign policy is expected to focus heavily on countering China's growing influence. At the same time, he has expressed interest in improving relations with Russia, a move that could redefine global power dynamics. Balancing these priorities will be crucial to maintaining international stability.

Challenges Ahead: A Polarized and Precarious Presidency

While Trump's policies address key concerns, they also face significant challenges:

- Conviction and Credibility:** Trump's conviction, now part of the U.S. Supreme Court's records, casts a shadow over his presidency. It has amplified polarization and raised questions about the ethical and moral leadership of the United States.
- Domestic Resistance:** His controversial decisions, including his selective oath ceremony

invitations and provocative suggestions like merging Canada, highlight the potential for domestic and international criticism.

Global Repercussions:

Trump's hardline economic and foreign policies could strain relationships with allies and trade partners, potentially impacting global stability.

Economic Uncertainty:

While tax reforms and infrastructure investments promise economic growth, they also raise concerns about increasing national debt and inflation.

A Way Forward: A Presidency of Transformation or Turbulence?

Donald Trump's presidency, commencing on January 20th, offers a vision of transformation for America's economy, internal security, and foreign policy. His provocative suggestions, such as merging Canada and purchasing Greenland, promise dramatic shifts but also risk heightened global tensions. His status as the first U.S. president to take office while convicted adds a historic dimension to his tenure, raising stakes for both domestic and international stability.

As Trump prepares to take the oath, the world watches closely. Will his policies lead to a stronger, more secure America, or will they deepen domestic and global divides? The answer lies in the execution of his ambitious plans and his ability to unite a fractured nation while navigating an increasingly complex world.

(The writer is an Editor STAR Views, New Delhi)

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 one correct solution.

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

Solution, Sudoku

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

THE WISDOM TREE BY SUVEEN KUMAR

REFLECTION

Everything clearly reflects, it reflects when you are unloved, it reflects when you are disturbed, it reflects when you think of someone and blush, it reflects when someone waits for you and your rush, a mere reflection of love sweetens everything around you and a bare reflection of love poisons everything around you. eyes with kindness, mouth with sweetness, skin with softness and thoughts with greatness stay desirable. don't let anything come in you that you don't want the world to see, because everything that is in there will reflect. everything throws some signals that are felt by everyone around you. reflection doubles your power when it brings you inside out and halves your power when it brings you outside in.

side in. life is easy when you and your reflection are on the same page, life is difficult when you are your reflections. don't really talk to each other and life is death when your own reflection is your enemy. clean yourself everyday as you get yourself dirty everyday, nourish yourself everyday as you fight a battle everyday, cherish yourself everyday as you remain with yourself everyday, adjust with yourself everyday as you change yourself everyday, hold yourself everyday as you let fall yourself everyday, save yourself everyday as you spend yourself everyday, praise yourself everyday as you insult yourself everyday, celebrate yourself every day as you find yourself everyday.

Moral: Be so clean in life that you can feel proud of your reflection.



By Priyanka Saurabh

Haryana's 'Sukanya Samridhi' in trouble again

DECREASING NUMBER OF DAUGHTERS: THEIR BREATHS ARE BEING SNATCHED AWAY IN THE WOMB ITSELF.

The sex ratio (SRB) of Haryana, notorious for female foeticide, has reached its lowest level in eight years, according to data released recently by the state government. The sex ratio was recorded at 905 in the first 10 months of 2024, i.e., till October. This is 11 points less than last year. A lower sex ratio was recorded in the year 2016. After reaching a high of 923 in the year 2019, the sex ratio at birth in Haryana in the year 2024 fell to 910, the lowest in eight years. These figures have worried activists and civil society members of Haryana, although officials have termed the latest figures as "minor fluctuations."

According to the National Health and Family Survey-5 (NFHS-5) published in the year 2021, the overall sex ratio at birth in India was 929.

Haryana is far away from the ideal sex ratio of 950 recommended by the World Health Organization. The state has not been able to achieve this figure to date. The decline in sex ratio means that girls in the state are being killed in the womb itself. Despite economic progress, a large number of people in Haryana still prefer sons. Unless this thinking



changes, the situation regarding the sex ratio will not improve. Due to the preference given to boys by the people of the state, the business of ultrasound operators and abortion centers is flourishing in the neighboring states of Haryana. There is not much strictness in these states. People from Haryana reach here through brokers and get tests done. Ultrasound operators also give wrong information about the fetus growing in the womb for money. Many such cases have come to light when abortions were done by declaring boys as girls.

Those who perform ultrasounds and those who perform abortions are in the same boat. This is a set back for a state that has made remarkable

improvements on this scale in the last decade. In 2014, the sex ratio in Haryana was just 871. This led to a huge outrage across the country, and civil society organizations, the state government, and the Centre made concerted efforts to improve the situation. In view of the falling sex ratio in Haryana, Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao campaign in 2015. After the campaign, the sex ratio of the state improved to 923 in 2019. But in 2020, it started declining again, which continues till now. Although the sex ratio has once again seen a decline since then, this setback comes at a time when women of the state are excelling in sports as well as ac-

ademics, including at

international forums. The gains between 2014 and 2019 were due to strict enforcement of the Pre-Conception and Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques Act, 1994 (PNDDT Act), as well as intensive awareness drives. This was aimed at curbing rampant prenatal sex selection and female foeticide in Haryana, as well as changing social attitudes that preferred boys and saw a girl child as a burden. Despite Haryana providing a lump sum of Rs 21,000 on the birth of a girl child and opening bank accounts for girls through the Sukanya Samridhi Yojana, why are girl children seen as a burden? Activists say more work is needed to change attitudes and that enforcement of laws aimed at curb-

ing female foeticide has become lax in recent years.

Due to the preference of boys, the desire for girls has decreased in the state as their families fear that they may cause disgrace in the future due to elopement and marriage. According to them, girls cannot help their families by earning money and property. On the contrary, families will have to give a dowry in their marriage. Due to such thinking, boys in Haryana are not getting girls for marriage. Such a problem is common in most of the villages of Haryana. In many families, if girls are not brought up properly, they become victims of malnutrition, and after some time they also die. Despite the economic progress of Haryana, the mindset of a large population here has still not changed. Unless this mindset of discrimination between boys and girls changes, the situation will not improve.

(Priyanka Saurabh, Research Scholar in Political Science)

TOP STORY

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CM Mann seeks ₹600 cr from Centre to combat drug menace

TOP STORY DESK
Chandigarh

The Chief Minister of Punjab Bhagwant Singh Mann seeks financial aid of ₹600 crore from the Union Minister of India Amit Shah to set up special NDPS courts for faster disposal of drug cases.

Mann said the drug problem in Punjab is disturbing the socio-economic balance, leading to an increase in crime, domestic violence, and health issues.

Speaking via a video link in the regional conference on 'Drug Trafficking and National Security', Mann urged the Centre to give Punjab financial assistance for 10 years - ₹60 crore per year - for the creation of Special Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances courts and recruitment of public prosecutors, said an official release.

The CM further said that 35,000 drug cases were pending trial as of January 1, 2025, adding, at the present rate of disposal, on average, a sessions court takes seven years to complete the trial.



In the next five years, the average disposal time will increase from seven years (35,000 pending cases) to 11 years (55,000 pending cases), he pointed out.

"To clear the pendency in the next five years, the state needs to create 79 new exclusive NDPS Special Courts in Punjab and to appoint 79 public prosecutors along with supporting staff for these special courts, this financial assistance is solicited," the chief minister stated.

The CM also asked Shah to ensure a "generous" grant from the National Fund for Control of Drug Abuse for the anti-narcotics task force

(ANTF), live monitoring systems for six bordering districts, purchase of technical surveillance equipment, infrastructure, and logistics for 5G jamming solution for prisons.

The state had sought ₹2,829 crore through the 16th Finance Commission which should be approved at the earliest for effective law enforcement and upgrading infrastructure and logistic support of the ANTF and prisons, he said.

Mann said the state had sought ₹107 crore from the Centre in 2022 for the hiring of counsellors and coordinators to survey the impact of CADA (comprehensive

action against drug abuse) amounting, but nothing has been allotted to date.

He said the state faced a full-scale insurgency in the late 1970s and 1980s, and it is now fighting a proxy war with Pakistan, which is plying it with drugs.

Mann said that in the last five years, 1,247 drone sightings have been reported and only 417 of them have been captured.

At present, there are only 12 jamming systems operational along 552 km of the international border, he said, asking for at least 50 more such systems for effective interception.

"These cater to only 1/5 of the border stretch while the 4/5 of the entire border stretch is without the jamming system," Mann said.

Punjab Police has raised the ANTF with 861 officials, who are trained to deal with the drug trafficking.

In the last two-and-a-half years, the state government registered around 31,500 cases under the NDPS Act in which 43,000 accused have been arrested with 3,000 kg of heroin, 2,600 kg of opium and 4.3 crore of pharmaceutical drugs.

The state's location along the notorious Golden Crescent drug route makes it a key transit point for narcotics and other contraband, he said, adding that now the drug is consumed by the local population at an alarming level.

He said due to increased vigil and border fencing, drug trafficking is now mostly done through drones, which are hard to catch.

Mann said the "narco-terror" trade in Punjab has links with the international cartels that smuggle drugs from Pakistan, Afghanistan, and other countries into the state.

The drug trade in Punjab is believed to be the source

ODOP Scheme Makes Global Impact, says UP CM

TOP STORY DESK
Lucknow

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Saturday said items under the 'One District One Product' (ODOP) scheme are making an impact globally.

The chief minister remarked while inaugurating the Khadi Mahotsav 2025 at the Indira Gandhi Pratishthan in Lucknow.

The week-long festival showcases the artistic talents of Khadi and handloom artists from across the country, according to a statement.

Addressing the gathering, he described Khadi as a symbol of India's self-respect and self-reliance.

Emphasising the importance of Khadi, Adityanath said it is more than just a fabric, it represents India's self-respect.

He recalled how Mahatma Gandhi transformed Khadi into a movement that became pivotal in India's freedom struggle.

The spinning wheel was not just a source of employment but also an integral part of the national movement, the chief minister added.

Adityanath highlighted how Khadi has evolved from



manual spinning wheels to modern solar and electric variants, emphasising its continued relevance in society today.

He lauded the success of the One District One Product (ODOP) scheme, calling it the pride of Uttar Pradesh. He noted how each district's signature product has gained not only national but international recognition.

The chief minister highlighted how Uttar Pradesh has effectively implemented Prime Minister Narendra Modi's 'Vocal for Local' initiative, empowering the local economy while encouraging handicrafts and entrepreneurship.

He also praised the diverse craftsmanship of var-

ious districts, especially in textiles and handicrafts.

Adityanath emphasised the state government's efforts in ensuring market access for Khadi, clay art, and other indigenous products. Calling it a "chain of self-reliance", he proudly said the Khadi sector alone has generated employment for over 3.5 lakh people in the past seven years.

He also stressed the growing preference for indigenous products during festivals, replacing foreign goods.

The chief minister pointed out how in the past, festivals were celebrated with imported goods, including hazardous products from China, which even caused health issues among children.

HP committed to combat Drug menace: CM Sukhu

TOP STORY DESK
Shimla

The NDPS cases have risen by 340 per cent in the past decade from 500 cases in 2012 to 2200 cases in 2022 and the Prevention of Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (PIT-NDPS) Act was invoked for the first time in Himachal Pradesh, said Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu.

Virtually participating in the regional conference on 'Drug Trafficking and National Security' chaired by Union Home Minister Amit Shah in New Delhi on Saturday, he emphasised on Himachal Pradesh's commitment to combat the escalating drug crisis, a statement issued here said.

Asserting that the percentage of cases involving heroin has doubled, rising from 29 per cent in 2020 to 50 per cent in 2024, he said the state legislature has amended Section 37 of the NDPS Act, 1985, to close legal loopholes that allowed habitual offenders to secure

bail. The PIT-NDPS Act was invoked for the first time, he said. This act enables the detention of repeat offenders involved in drug trafficking.

In June 2024, three months preventive police detention of an accused Puneet Mahajan in the Kangra district was ordered under Section 3(1) of (PIT NDPS) Act. Puneet was accused in multiple cases under the NDPS Act and was earlier arrested five times in different cases.

The challenges before us are immense, but with the unwavering support of the people, dedication of our law enforcement agencies, and a compassionate approach to rehabilitation, we can create a drug-free state, he said. He stressed that individuals struggling with addiction are victims of illness and should not be criminalised. "Our approach must transcend punitive measures to include robust rehabilitation frameworks," he said. Expressing concern over the trend towards more addictive and

harder synthetic drugs, he stressed the need of a comprehensive approach to tackle drug trafficking, particularly in inter-state border areas, which have become hotspots for illicit activities.

He said drug trafficking often overlaps with organised crime and terror funding, posing a direct threat to the nation's sovereignty and security. He also outlined Himachal Pradesh's multifaceted strategy to address the narcotics issue, blending law enforcement, public health, rehabilitation, and judicial reforms.

The CM said that Himachal Pradesh has confiscated illegally acquired property worth Rs 16 crore over the last three years, including Rs 9 crore in the past year alone. "The state is also setting up a Special Task Force (STF) dedicated to narcotics and drug-related crimes, which will have specialised resources, autonomy, and dedicated police stations to intensify operations against drug networks," he added.

Yogi performs aarti at Ram temple on first anniversary of consecration

TOP STORY DESK
Ayodhya

The first anniversary of Ram-lala's consecration is being celebrated in Ayodhya on Saturday.

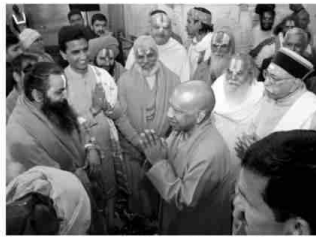
Special worship of Ram-lala started in the early morning with priests performing Pan-chamrit Abhishek of Ram-lala anointed with milk, curd, ghee, honey and sugar, then mixed Ganga water.

After this Ram-lala was decorated. He was dressed in yellow clothes and it has been woven with gold wires. There is a diamond studded in his crown.

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath visited Ayodhya on the first anniversary of the consecration of Lord Ram's idol at the Ram Mandir.

After landing at the heli-pad at Ram Katha Park, the Chief Minister proceeded directly to the Ram Mandir. Upon arrival, CM Yogi offered his prayers to Lord Shri Ram and performed the aarti.

During his journey along the Jannabhoomi path, the CM greeted devotees stand-



ing along the route. At the temple, he conducted a formal darshan and pooja of Lord Ram's idol. He also met with Mahant Nriyaya Gopal Das, Chief of the Shri Ram Jannabhoomi Teerth Kshetra Trust, to seek his blessings.

CM Yogi also shared a meal with saints and ascetics as part of the spiritual observance. Notably, this visit comes after his previous trip to Ayodhya on January 4, where he held meetings with BJP workers and reviewed developmental projects with officials.

covering 19-20 km daily.

The Chief Minister presented Mohabbat with a shawl, choolatras, and words of encouragement, also inquiring about his well-being.

Meanwhile, devotees from several states including Delhi and Himachal have come to have a darshan of Ram-lala on the first anniversary.

Ram temple has been decorated with flowers. The temple trust has installed German bangar tents at Angad Tila where over 5000 devotees will listen to Ramkatha.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has congratulated the countrymen on this occasion.

He said: Ram temple will help in fulfilling the resolve of developed India. According to the temple trust, today 2 lakh devotees will have darshan of Ram-lala. There will be celebrations from 11 to 13 January on the first anniversary of the consecration. There will be no VIP darshan in these 3 days. General darshan will continue from 6.30 am to 9.30 pm.

The Chief Minister said that to ensure that the people need not make frequent rounds of offices to get their grievances redressed, Samadhan camps are being organized in all districts for two hours on all working days under the leadership of Deputy Commissioners. He directed the Deputy Commissioners to patiently listen to each complainant and resolve their grievances on the spot. He emphasized that special attention should be given to ensuring a high level of satisfaction among the complainants. He directed them to maintain regular communication with the public and ensure the immediate redressal of issues related to the government's ambitious schemes.

Media performing its duty for the interest of society: Harvindra Kalyan

Komal Ramola
Karnal

Haryana Assembly Speaker Harvindra Kalyan on Saturday said that in this long journey of politics, media has played an important role at every turn. How a journalist makes an important and huge contribution towards building a good society and in this period of struggle, he is not able to even pay attention to his personal needs. I have always received the support of many journalists and have also observed and understood the media very closely.

He said in a program organized by Media Well Being Association (Regd.) in the auditorium of Karnal Lake, Karnal.

In which a seminar on modern journalism and challenges was organized under the aegis of MWBA and term insurance and accidental insurance policies of Rs 10 lakh each were distributed to 350 colleagues associated with the media. Kalyan was the chief guest



at the program. He was honored by the organization's President Chandreshkhar Dharani, General Secretary Surendra Mehta, Senior Vice President Naresh Uppal and Treasurer Tarun Kapoor by giving memento.

Karnal MLA Jagmohan Anand as the guest of honor in the program, MLA Pawan Kharhoda as the keynote speaker, Media Secretary of Chief Minister Haryana

Praveen Atre, representative of the Editor-in-Chief of Dainik Jagat Kramit Yadram Bansal, Editor-in-Chief of Gurgaon Mail and former Vice Chancellor Dr. Charat Singh graced the occasion.

Kalyan further said the way journalists fulfill their responsibilities and move forward fearlessly in their work despite limited resources and personal problems, no one other than the journal-

ist class can do this.

He said that our country is a very democratic system and journalism is the fourth pillar among the four pillars of democracy. Where policies are made, plans are made or they are reviewed to determine the future of the country and state, the most important means of making those works reach the general public is the media, they have this right.

Ambala Cantonment's domestic airport to become operational by February: Anil Vij

Komal Ramola
Chandigarh

Haryana's Energy, Transport and Labor Minister Vij announced that the Ambala Cantonment Domestic Airport is a significant achievement for the region and will be operational by February.

He said the airport will enhance connectivity for Haryana, Western Uttar Pradesh, Punjab and Himachal Pradesh. Additionally, the airport will support the landing of large aircraft and operate efficiently in all weather conditions.

During an inspection of the airport, Vij stated that almost all preparations for the domestic airport are complete.

During the inspection, Anil Vij discussed the progress with the Superintendent Engineer and reviewed the security arrangements. He was informed that security equipment is arriving soon and will be installed at gates and other designated areas. Vij instructed officials to properly level and clean the premises to enhance the airport's aesthetics.

Speaking to media per-



sions, Vij emphasized that the domestic airport at Ambala Cantonment will be highly beneficial for the public. He revealed that the defense department provided 133 crores for the land acquisition, 40 crores were allocated for infrastructure, and 16 crores were spent on constructing the building. The installation of equipment is pending but preparations are complete. Vij highlighted that Ambala is an old railway junction connecting multiple states, and the new airport will further increase its significance and beautify the cantonment.

Vij mentioned his discussions with the Union Civil Aviation Minister in Delhi,

which expedited the airport's development. Initially, central police forces were to be stationed at the airport, but Vij advocated for Haryana Police instead. Police personnel have been trained, and robust security measures are in place. The deployment of airport staff will also be voluntary.

Vij added that the Haryana government has reached agreements with airlines for flights connecting Ambala and Hissar. He has requested the inclusion of major airlines like Air India and IndiGo to facilitate flights to other states. He assured that the airport could handle large aircraft and operate in all weather conditions.

Officers should prioritize resolving public grievances: CM Saini

Chandigarh

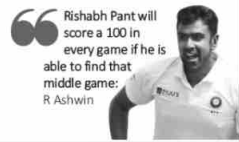
Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini has directed Deputy Commissioners to prioritize resolving public grievances, emphasizing that the swift resolution of public issues is the state's top priority. He stated that the government's objective is to ensure that the benefits of its development and welfare schemes reach eligible individuals, adding that the government will not hesitate to make necessary policy decisions to achieve this goal.

The Chief Minister was presiding over a meeting with all Divisional Commissioners and Deputy Commissioners here today. During the meeting, 23 agenda items were reviewed in detail.

The Chief Minister said that to ensure that the people need not make frequent rounds of offices to get their grievances redressed, Samadhan camps are being organized in all districts for two hours on all working days under the leadership of Deputy Commissioners. He directed the Deputy Commissioners to patiently listen to each complainant and resolve their grievances on the spot. He emphasized that special attention should be given to ensuring a high level of satisfaction among the complainants. He directed them to maintain regular communication with the public and ensure the immediate redressal of issues related to the government's ambitious schemes.

The Chief Minister emphasized that in line with the goal of Antyodaya, it must be ensured that eligible beneficiaries receive the benefits of government schemes. He further stated that if a complaint cannot be addressed due to policy reasons, detailed information should be provided to the government so that necessary policy decisions can be made, if required.

It was informed during the meeting that a total of 96,000 complaints have been received in the Samadhan camps so far, of which over 75,000 complaints have been successfully resolved.



“Rishabh Pant will score a 100 in every game if he is able to find that middle game.”
R Ashwin

India eye to seal ODI series against Ireland

Rajkot
Following a commanding performance by the youngsters in the opening match, India will eye another clinical display from them to seal the three-match series when they face Ireland in the second women's ODI here on Sunday.

Despite fielding a relatively inexperienced side, Indian women enjoyed a perfect day in the first ODI, registering a six-wicket win to take a 1-0 series lead.

Captain Smriti Mandhana continued her fine form, laying the foundation with a forceful 41, while the efforts of Pratika Rawal and Tejal Hasabnis, who shared a 100-plus partnership to steer the chase, were crucial.

Their performances are a big boost for the team, especially with regular skipper Harmanpreet Kaur missing from the lineup after she was rested for this series.

Pace spearhead Renuka Singh, the highest wicket-taker in the previous series against the West Indies, was also



rested for this series.

In her absence, young Titas Sadhu stepped up, striking in her first spell. Sayali Satghare also impressed, taking a wicket, while Saima Thakor bowled

a tidy 10-over spell.

Spinner Priya Mishra had a notable outing with two quick wickets, and vice-captain Deepti Sharma also played her part.

Mandhana, who had previously captained India against New Zealand, managed the inexperienced squad in excellent manner, and the management might be pleased with the bench strength ahead of the home ODI World Cup later this year.

However, India's fielding was sub-par in the first ODI.

They dropped Leah Paul twice, allowing Ireland to recover from a precarious 56 for 4 to go past the 200-run mark. The Indian bowlers will also look to execute their plans in a better way to keep Ireland under 200 and close out the match with much more ease.

For Ireland, captain Gaby Lewis played the lead act with a superb 92, but lacked support from the middle order. Paul, benefitting from her chances, also struck a half-century. Ireland will need more intent from other batters to challenge India.

The biggest disappointment for Ireland was their bowling attack.

Apart from Aimee Maguire, who

took three wickets, the rest of the bowlers were expensive and ineffective as India chased down the target with more than 15 overs to spare.

Sitting at the bottom of the Women's Championship table and failing to qualify directly for the World Cup, Ireland will need a complete lift in their performance level to secure their first-ever women's ODI win against India.

Squad (from): India: Smriti Mandhana (C), Deepti Sharma (VC), Pratika Rawal, Harleen Deol, Jemimah Rodrigues, Uma Chetry (wk), Richa Ghosh (wk), Tejal Hasabnis, Raghuvi Bist, Minnu Mani, Priya Mishra, Tanuja Kanwer, Titas Sadhu, Saima Thakor, Sayali Satghare.

Ireland: Gaby Lewis (C), Aisling Canning, Christina Coulter, Reilly, Alana Dalzell, Laura Delany, Georgina Dempsey, Sarah Forbes, Arlene Kelly, Joanna Loughran, Aimee Maguire, Leah Paul, Orla Prendergast, Una Raymond-Hoe, Freya Sargent, Rebecca Stokell.

Match starts at 11 am.

Satwik-Chirag lose Malaysia Open semifinals



India's no. 1 men's doubles pairing of Satwik Pant and Chirag Shetty suffered a semi-final exit at the Malaysia Open 2025 in Kuala Lumpur on Saturday. They were the only seeded pair left in the men's doubles category in the competition. The duo lost their semi-final match in a straight game (10-21, 15-21) to the South Korean pairing of Kim Won Ho and Seo Seung Jae.

Satwik and Chirag had no answers to the exceptional net play of the Korean pairing, especially Seo's precise placements on the sidelines troubled the aggressive play of the Indian players. "They were playing well and we saw them playing well in this tournament, we were prepared but things didn't go as planned and today was very slow compared to the last three days' shuttles," Satwik said in the mixed zone. "It's good learning for us and they were playing very well, it's a bit disappointing but yes we have the tournaments to play," Satwik added. Indian pair had a better start to the second game and were trying to play more rallies and with fewer errors, gaining a decent lead at the mid-game. But, the fortunes changed after the break as the Indian pair made a couple of unforced errors.

"We started to be a little bit calmer in the second game but we gave away a few easy points after 11-8 and they were serving well," Chirag expressed his views on the second game reversal. What Next The Indian pair will now move to the home tournament, The India Open Super 750, starting next week, hoping for a better result as they are the defending runners-up of the event. "We are excited for our home tournament and will try to play well and go as deep as possible in the tournament," Chirag expressed his excitement for the home tournament.

Bhutia urges 'sports first' shift in Indian education to create world champions

New Delhi
Former Indian football team captain Bhaidung Bhutia has called for a transformative shift in the country's education system, emphasising the need for a more sports-oriented curriculum to nurture future world champions.

Speaking at the Viksit Bharat Young Leaders Dialogue and National Youth Festival, Bhutia expressed concern that India's current education policies prioritise academics over sports, limiting the potential to produce world-class athletes.

"One view out of all the discussions of taking sports forward which I strongly feel is that we need to collaborate with the ministry of education so that our education system supports the sports policies in a big way," Bhutia said in a Vidcon in an exclusive interview on the sidelines of the event on Saturday.

"Every kid is specialised to study, become a doctor or an engineer, but a more sports-friendly system has to be in place and that is how we will be able to produce world champions in this country," he said.

Bhutia stressed the need for collaboration between the ministry of education and the ministry of youth affairs and sports to revamp the curriculum. "The sports minister and education minister should sit together and have



a word on this and ensure that sports is one of the major subjects in the curriculum," he added.

Sports minister Mansukh Mandavdya inaugurated the festival.

The former captain also lauded the government's efforts on hosting the event.

"It is a great initiative by the government of India under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi ji about Viksit Bharat and it was great to discuss how sports can be taken forward in the country," Bhutia said.

The event, held at Bharat Mandapam, brings together over 3,000 young leaders from across India for thematic discussions and creative competitions.

Gifty fetches three points for debutants Nita Academy; Sethu FC beat Sribhumi FC

New Delhi
Ghanaian recruit Gifty Acheampong scored in the 80th minute as newly-promoted Nita Football Academy from Odisha made a memorable start to their Indian Women's League campaign with a 1-0 away win against HOPS FC here on Saturday.

The game, played under chilly weather at the Ambedkar Stadium, had a slow start, but picked up momentum late in the second session.

The decisive moment came in the 80th minute when Gifty efficiently made the best use of a long ball and got the better of goalkeeper Priti Sarkar and captain Mamta before flicking the ball in.

In Chennai, former champions Sethu FC defeated newly-promoted Sribhumi FC 1-0 to make a winning start to their campaign at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium.

After a closely-fought first half, Ugandan midfielder Amnah Nababi's (59') volley at the hour mark earned all three points for Shareef Khan's side against last season's IWL 2 champions.

After playing out of Goa last season, Sethu will be delighted to make a perfect start in their home state.

In the day's other match, Kamala Devi and Gladys Amfoeba were the



standout players for Nita Academy and HOPS respectively, coming close to scoring on multiple occasions.

In the 33rd minute, Gifty launched a powerful strike toward the far post, but Priti managed to deflect it.

Former India international Kamala Devi also tested the HOPS defence with a promising free kick in the 44th minute, sending the ball toward the far post. However, Priti was alert as the ball bubbled in the air before she made a vital save. Despite several attacking attempts from HOPS FC, including a fine long-range shot from Ghanaian Gladys Amfoeba that went over the bar in the 55th minute, the home side could never

Sri Lanka beats New Zealand by 140 runs in the 3rd ODI

Auckland
Asitha Fernando and Maheesh Theekshana shared six wickets as Sri Lanka bowled out New Zealand for 150 runs in 29.4 overs to win the third one-day international by 140 runs here Saturday.

Fernando took 3-26 and Theekshana 3-35 to jointly knock the top off the New Zealand innings as it chased 291 for victory. Eshan Fernando also contributed 3-35 as Sri Lanka completed a comprehensive victory.

New Zealand won the three-match series 2-1 in its last matches at home before the ICC Champions Trophy begins in Pakistan and the United Arab Emirates next month.

Earlier, Pathum Nissanka made 66 in an innings of two parts as Sri Lanka compiled 290-8 after choosing to bat first. New Zealand then slumped to 21-5 inside seven overs as Fernando helped Sri Lanka unlick the New Zealand top order.

"It's a huge confidence boost for me and for the team as well because we haven't played well in the first two games. It's a pleasure to play like this," Fernando said.

"We identified a few areas to be improved (after the first two games). Now we are going straight back to work to continue improving day by day."

Mark Chapman was the only New Zealand batter to stand against the chaos, making 81 at a run a ball. Chapman's 51-run partnership with Nathan Smith (17) for the eighth wicket was New Zealand's hope of making a game of it. The run rate never got away from New Zealand but it lost too many wickets early to seriously challenge Sri Lanka's total.

Elena Rybakina disagrees with WTA's provisional suspension of coach Stefano Vukov

Melbourne
Elena Rybakina, the 2022 Wimbledon champion, said Saturday she disagrees with the WTA Tour's decision to provisionally suspend her longtime coach, Stefano Vukov, and reiterated that she never made a complaint about him.

"I always said that he never mistreated me," Rybakina said at a news conference the day before the start of the Australian Open, where she was the runner-up to Aryna Sabalenka two years ago.

Rybakina, who is seeded No. 6 in Melbourne, characterized the whole thing as "definitely not the ideal situation" as she prepares to compete in the year's first Grand Slam tournament.



ment, and said she objected to comments made by "some coaches," mentioning Pam Shriver by name.

Rybakina announced right before last year's U.S. Open that she no

longer was working with Vukov, then said ahead of this season that her new coach would be Goran Ivanisevic. He won Wimbledon in 2001 as a player and then was Novak Djokovic's coach for 12 major titles.

But Rybakina said this month that Vukov would be rejoining her team. The WTA then said Vukov "is currently under a provisional suspension pending an independent investigation into a potential breach of the WTA code of conduct."

The WTA added that "Vukov is not eligible to obtain a WTA credential at this time," which would prevent him from going into player-only areas at tournaments such as practice courts or training areas.

Jamwal shocks former Youth champ to join Shiva Siwach in quarters

Bareilly
Himachal Pradesh's Abhinav Jamwal pulled off a major upset, knocking out former Youth World champion Vanshaj Kumar, while Shiva Thapa and Sachin Siwach continued their dominant run to sail into the quarterfinals of the 8th Elite Men's National Boxing Championship here on Saturday.

Jamwal defeated the 2022 youth champion Vanshaj of the Services with a decisive 5-0 victory in the 63.5kg category.

Representing Assam, the former World Championship bronze medalist, Thapa, showcased his skills as he eliminated Himanshu Sangwan with a clean 5-0 win in the 60-65kg category.

Former World Youth Champion Sachin Siwach delivered another stellar performance, defeating Kingson Pukhrambam of Manipur by the same margin.

Competing in the 47-50kg category, Rajasthan's Devendra Solanki bagged his third consecutive win, dismantling Mizoram's Zorammuana via a unanimous decision to book his quarterfinal berth.

The Services reinforced their status as favourites, with multiple boxers advancing to the next stage.

Alongside Sachin, Hitesh Gulia (light middleweight), Deepak (welterweight), Jugnoo (cruiserweight), and Vishal (heavyweight) delivered commanding wins, maintaining Services' stronghold in the championship.

Rani Rampal hopes Women's Hockey India League will inspire future Olympic stars

New Delhi
Former captain Rani Rampal believes the Women's Hockey India League (HIL) can have a similar impact on the sport as the Indian Premier League (IPL) has had on cricket, providing a platform for young girls to earn national team spots for the 2032 Olympics.

The inaugural WHIL, scheduled from January 12 to 26 in Ranchi, will feature four teams: Delhi SG Pipers, Odisha Warriors, Shrachi Rath Bengal Tigers, and Soorma Hockey Club.

"There may be four teams only this time but starting the league has been a long time coming. Hockey India needs to be complimented for this," Rampal, who will serve as a mentor and coach for the Soorma HC, told SAI Media.

"The men's hockey team won back-to-back bronze medals in the Olympics in Tokyo and Paris because the foundation was laid by the men's Hockey



India League years back," said the former India hockey captain.

"Now thanks to the introduction of the women's HIL, we will get to see a lot of talented young women showcase their mettle in the 2032 and 2036 Olympics. This platform will turn out

immensely fruitful."

The 30-year-old from Haryana, who has played over 250 international matches, is embarking on her first stint as a support staff member.

The Hockey India League (HIL) began in 2013 with six men's teams,

The inaugural WHIL, scheduled from January 12 to 26 in Ranchi, will feature four teams: Delhi SG Pipers, Odisha Warriors, Shrachi Rath Bengal Tigers, and Soorma Hockey Club.

running for five years before it was discontinued primarily due to commercial challenges. It was revived after seven years with the addition of a women's league.

Reflecting on the rise of women's cricket, Rampal drew parallels with the success of the Women's Premier League, which gave the sport a lot more

prominence.

"Nobody knew much about women's cricket, but now you see, how the sport has become so popular in the nation. Through the women's IPL (WPL), people came to know about it and have started following the sport manifold."

Rampal extended her wishes to former goalkeeper PR Sreejesh in his new role as coach of the Indian junior hockey team.

"Sreejesh has almost 20 years of international experience. The junior team will do very well because they will get to know how to perform in a high-level pressure situation," said Rani.

Discussing her own coaching approach, Rampal said she and Sreejesh share a common mindset.

"I also want to share the same knowledge and experience with the youngsters during the women's HIL so that they can be helped emotionally and mentally. We have to bring the best out of them," she said.

Imran Khan moves LHC for bail in May 9 cases

Lahore: Jailed former prime minister Imran Khan on Saturday filed a petition in the Lahore High Court (LHC) requesting pre-arrest bail in eight cases involving the May 9 violence.

In his plea, Khan, 72, argued he was in NAB custody in Islamabad at the time of the incidents and had been falsely implicated as part of political victimisation. He further stated that he has been facing legal actions related to these cases for the past two years. Khan termed the cases against him as an act of "political revenge". Khan told the court that he has been subjected to "political victimisation" and facing several "fabricated" cases for two years and requested the court to approve his post-arrest bail.

The petition urged the court to grant bail and order his release in all eight cases, Pakistan Today reported.

Earlier, the Lahore Anti-Terrorism Court had rejected his bail applications in these cases, including the Jinnah House attack.

"The ATC has rejected the bail applications, contrary to the facts," Khan argued.

Khan is reportedly named in 12 cases related to the May 9 events though he has already secured bail in four of them.

For Advt Contact:
9818-799941

Chinese FM Wang Yi makes surprise visit to Maldives, holds talks with Prez Muizzu

Beijing/Male: Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi made a surprise visit to the Maldives, during which he held talks with President Mohamed Muizzu and discussed the state of bilateral relations, amid Male's recent warming up to India.

Wang, who is also a member of the powerful Political Bureau of the Communist Party, met Muizzu during his stopover in Male on Friday while on his way back from a tour, official media reported.

This was the first major visit by a Chinese official to Maldives after Muizzu visited China in January last year, months after his election.

During Muizzu's visit, the two countries elevated the bilateral ties to a comprehensive strategic cooperative partnership and signed some key agreements.

In his meeting with Wang, Muizzu stressed the importance of fast-tracking key infrastructure projects outlined in the agreements and Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs) between the two countries, Maldives media reported.

He emphasised the need to prioritise social housing and road development projects, which are among the most urgent requirements for the Maldivian people, and referred to China's commitments in this regard.

Additionally, Muizzu



highlighted his administration's focus on economic diversification, particularly in agriculture and fisheries, and requested China's support in advancing these crucial sectors. Muizzu said he was glad to see Chinese people becoming the largest source of tourists for the Maldives in recent months. Wang said that Muizzu's successful state visit to China was a high-light in China-Maldives relations.

During the visit last year, Chinese President Xi Jinping and Muizzu agreed to upgrade bilateral ties to a comprehensive strategic cooperative partnership and jointly commit to building a China-Maldives community with a shared future, which has laid out broad prospects for bilateral relations, state-run Xinhua news agency reported.

Wang praised Muizzu's development

vision for the Maldives and reiterated China's ongoing support for the country's sustainable development. He also assured that the Chinese government would support the swift implementation of development projects in progress, Maldives news portal adhadhu.com reported.

During the initial months of his presidency, Muizzu sought to move closer to China but gradually recast his government policy, balancing relations with India after New Delhi replaced its air force personnel operating two helicopters and a Dornier maritime surveillance aircraft with civilians in Maldives, following his poll campaign demand.

The overall episode had significantly frayed the ties between India and Maldives. However, there was a thaw in the relations following Muizzu's state visit to Delhi in October last year, during which he held talks with Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Pakistan coal mine explosion leaves at least four dead eight missing

Karachi: A methane gas explosion caused a coal mine to collapse in Pakistan's restive Balochistan province, killing at least four miners, authorities said, as officials launched a search operation to rescue eight other missing workers.

The coal mine collapsed on January 9 in the Sanjdi area located around 40 kilometers from Quetta in the Balochistan province.

The mine collapsed due to a methane gas accumulation and explosion leaving 12 workers trapped inside the collapsed structure.

"The incident occurred due to a buildup of gas, which caused an explosion and the mine to cave in," Balochistan government spokesperson, Shahid Rind said on Saturday.

He said full-scale rescue operations were ongoing for more than 24 hours, but due to the presence of toxic gas and debris, progress was slow.

Rind confirmed that on Friday evening the rescue

workers succeeded in recovering four bodies from the mine.

Abdullah Shawani, the head of the province's mining department conceded that chances of recovering the eight remaining workers were very slim as they were buried nearly 1500 feet under the mine and their condition would be critical after 48 hours.

He confirmed the mine was a privately operated one and investigations would be carried out to find out why the explosion occurred and if proper mining regulations were followed.

Balochistan's Minister for Mines and Finance, Mir Shoaib Noshervani, said that rescue teams are making every effort to save the remaining miners.

Pir Muhammad Kakar, one of the leaders of the miners workers association said the incident was again the result of not implementing mining regulations by the owner of the coal mine and the responsible officials at the mines department.

12 killed, 11 injured in road accident in NW Pakistan

Khyber: A bus and another vehicle collided on the outskirts of Pakhtunkhwa in northwest Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Pakistan. Nine people have died. Many have been injured. The accident took place at Amberi Kalle intersection in Karak district.

A vehicle collided with a passenger bus in the accident. It is not yet known how many passengers were in the bus.



However, it is expected that the death toll may

rise further. Police have reached the scene and sent the injured to the hospital for treatment.

Ali Amin expressed grief over the death of nine passengers in the accident. He has ordered to provide all possible medical treatment to the injured passengers. Further detailed reports awaited in this matter.

Recently on December 24 at least six peo-

ple, including women and children, died and three others were injured in a car accident caused by dense fog at Tandianwala in Pakistan's Punjab, Ary News reported.

The accident occurred when a car from Lahore to Tandianwala collided with a sugarcane-loaded tractor-trolley in a suburban area.

The victims, members of the same family, included children aged between 3 to 6 years. The three injured family members were taken to a nearby hospital for treatment.

The police said that the family belongs to Lahore and was traveling to Tandianwala after exiting the motorway, Ary News reported.

The police have confiscated the tractor trol-

ley, though the driver fled the scene. Authorities have launched an investigation, and a case has been registered against the fleeing driver.

Earlier, Pakistan's Motorway Police shut down different sections of highway routes namely M-2, M-3, and M-4 for all kinds of traffic due to dense fog which engulfed the area in the wee hours of Tuesday.

BUSINESS

India Sets Renewable Energy Record: 30 GW in 2024



New Delhi: India logged a record high renewable energy capacity addition of about 30 GW in 2024, more than 13 per cent higher than 13.75 GW recorded in 2023, according to the Ministry of New & Renewable Energy data.

This assumes significance in view of India's ambitious plan to have 500 GW of renewable energy capacity in the country by 2030.

Besides, India needs to add an average of 50 GW of renewable energy capacity per annum over the next six years to achieve its target.

"Exponential growth from 13.75 GW in 2023 to around 30 GW in 2024, resulting in achieving nearly 218 GW

now underscores India's growing commitment to clean energy and its progress in building a greener future," New & Renewable Energy Minister Pralhad Joshi said in a post on X.

According to the ministry data, India had 35.84 GW of renewable energy capacity as of March 31, 2024.

Since the fiscal year 2014-15, when the NDA government took the reins at the Centre, India recorded the highest renewable capacity addition of 18.48 GW in 2023-24.

The government is eyeing adding 50GW of renewable energy capacity addition per annum to achieve its target of 500GW by 2030.

UK Seeks 'Common Ground' with China on Trade

London: The UK's Chancellor of the Exchequer, Rachel Reeves, arrived in China this weekend for the first UK-China Economic and Financial Dialogue (EFD) since 2019 in an effort to seek "common ground" on trade and investment with Beijing.

According to the UK Treasury department, Reeves met with her counterpart, Vice Premier He Lifeng, on Saturday for a series of conversations around the support for safe trade and investment.

It claims to have resulted in agreements worth GBP 600 million to the British economy as both sides agreed to deeper cooperation across areas such as financial services, trade, investment, and the climate to support secure growth.

"By finding common ground on trade and investment while being



candid about our differences and upholding national security as the first duty of this government, we can build a long-term economic relationship with China that works in the national interest," said Rachel Reeves.

"The agreements we've reached show that pragmatic cooperation be-

tween the world's largest economies can help us boost economic growth for the benefit of working people - a priority of our Plan for Change. More widely, today is a platform for respectful and consistent future relations with China. One where we can be frank and open on areas where

we disagree, protecting our values and security interests, and finding opportunities for safe trade and investment," she said.

The minister is joined on her visit by the Indian-origin chief executive of the Financial Conduct Authority (FCA) Nikhil Rathi, Bank of England

Governor Andrew Bailey and senior representatives from some of Britain's biggest financial services firms.

Her visit comes at a time of turmoil for the UK economy, with the Opposition Tories accusing the minister of having "fled to China" rather than explain how she plans to fix the UK's flatlining economy, as the pound dropped, increasing government borrowing costs.

The government, however, is keen to highlight that the Chancellor's visit is to follow up the meeting between Prime Minister Keir Starmer and President Xi Jinping at the G20 Summit last year.

The duo discussed deepening the economic and trade relationship shared by the UK and China, in order to yield mutual benefits, support growth, and have candid discussion on issues where our views differ.

India joins UN committee on big data for official statistics

New Delhi: India has joined the UN Committee of Experts on Big Data and Data Science for Official Statistics (UN-CEBD), which underscores the country's growing stature in the global statistical community and highlights its commitment to leveraging data and technology for informed decision-making.

The UN-CEBD was created to further investigate the benefits and challenges of Big Data, including the potential for monitoring and reporting on sustainable



development goals. As part of the commit-

tee, India will contribute to shaping global

standards and practices in harnessing Big Data

and data science for official statistical purposes, the statement by Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MOSPI) said.

India's active engagement in the Committee of Experts will highlight its pioneering initiatives, including the establishment of the Data Innovation Lab and exploration of alternate data sources such as satellite imagery and machine learning for policy making.

This membership is a strategic opportunity for India to align its domestic advancements

in Big Data and data science with international goals, showcasing the country's capability to lead transformative initiatives in the data domain.

Big Data and advanced data science techniques have the potential to revolutionize the production and dissemination of official statistics.

By integrating non-traditional data sources such as IoT, satellite imagery, and private sector data streams, India aims to modernize its statistical processes, enhance the accuracy of estimates, and enable

the timely availability of critical data for policy formulation and governance.

This engagement will also complement India's ongoing efforts to streamline statistical production and drive innovation in data collection, processing, and analysis to reduce the time lag in data availability, the statement said.

It will also improve decision-making and provide policymakers with real-time insights for evidence-based decisions, addressing key socio-economic challenges.

Goyal Assures Garlic Traders On Illegal Imports

New Delhi: Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal has assured garlic traders to look into their concerns over illegal imports of the agri commodity, an official said on Saturday.

A delegation of garlic traders met the minister on January 10 and highlighted difficulties faced by farmers and traders due to imports of Chinese garlic, the commerce ministry official said.

According to the traders, Chinese garlic is banned in India, but it is being brought into the country, which is hurting farmers and traders, apart from distorting the garlic market.

The traders have alleged that some imports were routed via Afghanistan, Iran and Iraq to circumvent the ban on Chinese imports.

"The minister assured them that the government will examine their petition and take strong action against illegal imports, if any," the official added.

The country's garlic imports stood at USD 7 million during April-October this fiscal. It was USD 31.4 million in 2023-24.

About 80 per cent of the imports are coming from Afghanistan. Other major exporters to India include UAE, Iran and Egypt.

For Advt Contact:
9818-799941



Chris Martin gives 'Punjabi aa gaye oye' shoutout to Diljit Dosanjh at Abu Dhabi concert

CNew Delhi Coldplay frontman Chris Martin surprised his Indian fans as he read Diljit Dosanjh's famous catchphrase "Punjabi aa gaye oye" from a fan poster during his Abu Dhabi concert.

Martin, who is set to perform in India later this month, was interacting with the audience during his concert at Zayed Sports City stadium.

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Dosanjh at his performances.

During his performance, Martin came across a fan-holding poster with "Punjabi aa gaye oye" written over it, which is often used by the singer.

The singer was quick to read the phrase, which was followed by a loud cheer from the crowd. "We love you too," he added.

The phrase, which translates to "Punjabis have arrived", has become synonymous with Punjabi pride and representation globally.

The video of the moment has gone viral on social media after Dosanjh's team shared it on Instagram Stories.

"Chris Martin says 'PUNJABI AA GAYE OYE'. Chris Martin reading Coldplay fan posters and flags

is so wholesome," posted Team Dosanjh.

Coldplay's highly-anticipated concerts in India are touted to be the biggest draw of 2025.

As part of their 'Music of the Spheres World Tour', the British band has three shows at the DY Patil Stadium in Navi Mumbai on January 18, 19 and 21. A fourth show will be held at Ahmedabad's Narendra Modi Stadium on January 25.

They earlier performed in the country in 2016 at the Global Citizen Festival in Mumbai.

Ram Charan's 'Game Changer' collects Rs 186 crore worldwide on day one



ANew Delhi Actor Ram Charan's Telugu film "Game Changer" earned Rs 186 crore gross at the global box office on its opening day, the makers announced on Saturday.

The political action film, which made its debut in theatres worldwide on Friday, marks renowned filmmaker S Shankar's foray in Telugu cinema after directing several commercially-successful Tamil titles such as "Indian", "Anniyan", "Sivaji: The Boss", "Enthiran" and "2.0".

Production banner Sri Venkateswara Creations shared a day one box office collection of the movie on its social media handles.

"King size entertainment unleashes in theatres

#GameChanger takes a blockbuster opening at the BOX OFFICE #BlockbusterGameChanger GROSSES 186 CRORES WORLDWIDE ON Day 1," the company said.

"Game Changer" features Charan as Ram Nandan, a former IPS officer turned district collector with a fiery temperament, who takes on corrupt politicians, including Andhra Pradesh's Chief Minister Bobbili Mopidevi, to uphold his father Appanna's vision of a corruption-free nation.

The film also stars Kiara Advani as the female lead alongside Anjali, S.J. Suryah, Srikanth, Sunil, Jayaram and Samuthirakani.

It is produced by Dil Raju through the banner Sri Venkateswara Creations.

Yami Gautam offers puja at Maa Chintpurni temple in Una

Bollywood actor Yami Gautam on Saturday visited the famous temple of Maa Chintpurni in Una district and offered prayers along with her family members.

The chief priest of the temple, Ravindra Shinda accompanied Yami and her family while worshipping and offering prayers.

The actor, who hails from Mandi district and is known for starring in movies such as "Vicky Donor", "Uri: The Surgical Strike", "A Thursday" and "Article 370", was later presented a photo of Mata Chintpurni by temple priests and

others. Yami is currently on a visit to various Shakti Peethas in the state.

The actor, who shares a son with her filmmaker husband Aditya Dhar, said that she holds deep faith in the goddesses of Himachal Pradesh and has come here with her family to seek their blessings.

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Subodh Bhave bats for releasing Marathi films in drama theatres



TMumbai The Marathi films have long faced challenges in securing adequate screens in cinemas across Maharashtra over Hindi and Hollywood titles and actor-director Subodh Bhave says the industry must find ways to address the issue.

Releasing Marathi films in drama theatres is one such solution to limited screens, Bhave, whose film "Sangeet Manapmaan" released on Friday, said.

"For how many years we will keep saying, 'We are not getting theatres (for screening Marathi films). Why are we not looking at other options ourselves?' We've started, like we released a few shows of my film, 'Hashtag Tadev lagnam' in drama theatres.

There are two advantages to releasing films in a drama theatre. Only plays are staged there and in the remaining time, we can show our Marathi films. Besides, the ticket rates will be as low as Rs. 100 to 150 so, hopefully, more people will watch it," Bhave said in an interview.

If Marathi films get drama theatres in Pune and Mumbai, it will be great because many plays are

held in both places, he added.

Bhave voiced concerns over the lack of prime-time slots for Marathi films in movie theatres in Maharashtra.

"Marathi films get only certain show timings in theatres like 9:30 am, 11:00 am, 1:30 PM or 2:00 PM. Why? Those who go to work will be able to watch the film in the evening. We should have prime-time shows for Marathi films because then only people will be able to watch our films.

They give that (prime time) to Hindi and South films but not to us. So, if we get to show our films in drama theatres, then we will not need this kind of permission." Despite these challenges, Bhave is optimistic about the future of the Marathi film industry.

"We've new directors and writers with new vision and thinking. Marathi films are trying to find their way. We don't want to have a similar fate to that of Hindi films, which are overpowered by South language films. They (Hindi) don't know what they should make, so we don't want to have a similar situation for Marathi films. We are trying to create our own identity like Malayalam movies."

It's like an attempt to go back to my childhood: Shekhar Kapur on 'Masoom 2'

Veteran filmmaker Shekhar Kapur says he is trying to rediscover the creative naivety that shaped "Masoom" as he prepares for its much-awaited sequel.

Veteran stars Shabana Azmi and Naseeruddin Shah, who played lead roles in the 1983 film, are set to return for the sequel which will start shooting this year.

Speaking at the red carpet of the inaugural Indian Film Festival Germany, where "Masoom" will be screened, the veteran director said the movie was born out of his complete inexperience and that gave it a unique quality.

"It's like an attempt to go back to my childhood. And how do I become naive again? Because even Picasso said that. They asked him, 'what do you really want?' He said, 'I want to paint like I've never made a painting before.' And that was 'Masoom'."

"Masoom" was made by a person that did not know a thing about it. So I just said, 'okay, let me try.' And so I just had to concentrate on the story because I didn't know what a camera was and how that worked and everything. So maybe something worked," he said.



but at the same time, he tries to understand why people continue to be deeply moved by it.

"I still don't understand because remember, I was not a trained filmmaker. I'd never made a film. I'd never assisted anybody. I had not studied filmmaking. I knew nothing about film and then one day I just made a film and I was a chartered accountant in London.

"In fact, I worked in Berlin as an accountant also for a while, then I went back and I made a film. There was a certain naivety to it. And there's an innocence to when you're absolutely naive about what you're doing. You do things differently. So when people say, can you make 'Masoom' again? I say, 'Can

you make me naive again?'" he added.

Based on American author Erich Segal's book "Man, Woman and Child", "Masoom" was a story of love, betrayal, and the complexities of family. It followed a happily married couple whose lives are upended when the husband's illegitimate son from a past affair enters their home. The film had a screenplay by cinema legend Gulzar and featured music by the late R D Burman. Some of the memorable tracks from the film included "Tujhse Naaraz Nahai Zindagi" and "Lakki Ki Kaathi".

The Indian Film Festival Germany, which kickedstart on Friday, is organised by the Embassy of India, Berlin & The Tagore Centre. It is de-

scribed as a "landmark celebration of contemporary Indian cinema which has growing resonance in Germany". Kapur said when he received a call from the embassy for the festival, he thought they would be screening his Oscar-winning 1998 movie "Elizabeth" or his most recent directorial "What's Love Got to Do with It?" (2022).

"They said, 'Masoom'. I said 'Masoom' is over 30 years old. What are you talking about? They said no, we just want to show it. It's popular. I haven't seen it for about 30 years. So it'll be interesting for me to see it on screen." He described Berlin as one of the most creative cities he knows, especially its underground art scene.

Timothee Chalamet returns to 'SNL' as host and musical guest

TNew York imothee Chalamet will return to "Saturday Night Live" for his third stint as a host — but this time, he'll be pulling double duty.

NBC announced Friday that comedian Dave Chappelle will host the sketch show January 18, with musical guest GloRilla, while Chalamet will be the host and musical guest on January 25.

It's Chappelle's fourth time hosting. The trio of announced performers are all in the thick of awards season. Chappelle and GloRilla, one of The Associated Press' Breakthrough Entertainers of 2024, are each nominated for Grammys at the February 2 show.

Chalamet has been nominated for a slew of acting awards for "A Complete Unknown" and is considered a contender for the Oscars, whose nominations will be announced January 19.

For "A Complete Unknown", Chalamet sang and learned to play the guitar and harmonica to embody Bob Dylan. It's not clear what the actor will sing during the live show (he also

sang in "Wonka" and dedicated fans may be hoping for a "Statistics" reprise), but he did previously identify to which Dylan songs he was drawn.

"I like the more intimate songs like 'Gloria' from the North Country' or 'Boots of Spanish Leather' or 'One Too Many Mornings' or 'Tomorrow Is a Long Time,'" he told the AP late last year. "But then I also liked North Country Blues' and 'Rocks and Gravel' or 'Ballad of Hollis Brown' — things where you hear the iron ore in Bob's voice, the North Country in Minnesota, the Hibbing."

Dylan himself has appeared on "SNL" — once, as the musical guest, in 1979. Current cast member James Austin Johnson, who portrayed Dylan in a ski earlier this season, briefly appears in "A Complete Unknown."

"SNL" is in the midst of celebrating its 50th season. The show will return in the middle of February to celebrate its anniversary over a weekend, including a Sunday night live broadcast of "SNL: The Anniversary Special" on February 16.

