



Left knee heavily strapped, Shami turns up the heat at India nets

SPORTS PAGE-6



Three Israeli hostages arrive in Israel as fragile ceasefire passes first hurdle

WORLD PAGE-7

Kangana Ranaut's 'Emergency' earns Rs 7.39 crore in two days



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Arvind Kejriwal proposes affordable housing scheme for sanitation workers

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CM Mann praises women entrepreneurs for playing an important role in Punjab's progress

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LSG set to unveil Rishabh Pant as captain at Kolkata event on Monday



7 BUSINESS
India-EU Trade: Tech, Raw Materials & amp; FTA - Goyal

WEATHER
Sunrise 7:15 AM
Sunset 5:50 PM
Moonrise 10:56 PM
Moonset 10:53 AM
Today's Prediction
Maximum 21°C Minimum 10°C
Tomorrow's Prediction
23°C | 10°C



A big fire broke out at the Maha Kumbh Mela here on Sunday due to a cylinder blast, engulfing 18 tents in Sector 19. No casualty was reported in the incident. Thick clouds of smoke enveloped the mela area as panic gripped the nearby akhadas.

FIR against Rahul Gandhi for fighting 'Indian State' remarks



GUWAHATI

An FIR was registered against Congress leader Rahul Gandhi in Guwahati for his reported statement "The BJP and RSS have captured every single institution, and we are now fighting the BJP, the RSS, and the Indian State itself."

HIGHLIGHT
Monjit Chetta, who filed the complaint said that the statement, made in a public forum by a person who is holding the position of Leader of the Opposition, was not an ordinary political remark.
"The informant believes that these remarks were made with deliberate design and calculated intent to undermine the sovereignty and integrity of the Indian State and to provoke rebellion against the democratically-elected central government and Prime Minister Narendra Modi," the FIR read.
"The statement made by the accused has gone beyond the limits of permissible free speech and

Sentence for RG Kar convict to be pronounced on Monday

The charges under which Roy has been convicted entail a minimum sentence of life imprisonment, while the maximum can be capital punishment.

Kolkata
Kolkata court will announce the quantum of punishment of Sanjay Roy, convicted of raping and murdering an on-duty doctor at the state-run RG Kar Medical College and Hospital in Kolkata.

The charges under which Roy has been convicted entail a minimum sentence of life imprisonment, while the maximum can be capital punishment.
Additional District and Sessions Judge Anirban Das, Sealdah court, had on Saturday declared Roy guilty of rape and murder of the postgraduate trainee at the hospital on August 9 last year.
The gruesome crime had led to nationwide outrage and prolonged



protests.
Roy, a former civic volunteer with the Kolkata Police, was arrested on August 10, 2024, a day after the 31-year-old medic's body was found in the seminar room of the hospital.
Found guilty of sexually assaulting the doctor and throttling her to death, Roy was convicted on Saturday by the judge under Sections 64, 66 and 103(1) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita.
Section 64 (rape) of the BNS entails a punishment of not less than 10 years and can go up to life term.

Suspected hooch leaves 7 dead in dry Bihar, probe ordered

PATNA
At least six people died allegedly after consuming spurious liquor in Bihar's West Champaran district during 36 hours on Sunday. The incident has put senior officials of the district on their toes due to liquor ban in the state.



The tragedy struck at Mathia village under Lauria police station limits. Initially, 35-year-old Pradip Gupta died allegedly after consuming spurious liquor on Friday night. The next day five others, including Suresh Choudhary (42), Manish Choudhary (22), Nayaz Shah (25) and Shiv Ram (60) died.
The relatives of the sixth victim, however, cremated the body before the arrival of police to the village on Sunday. Locals said that all the deceased belonging to Mathia village were addicted to alcohol and used to consume the banned material even after protests from their family members.
Surya Prakash Gupta, sub-divisional officer (SDO) of Lauria, said that the district administration got information about the death of six people at Mathia vil-

lage under mysterious circumstances. Subsequently, a medical team was dispatched to the village.
"The cause of death of the victims will be ascertained after post-mortem. A medical team has been sent to the affected village for investigation. The report of the medical team is awaited," SDO Gupta said, adding that further action will be initiated on the findings of the medical team.
Rameshwar Gupta, father of one of the deceased Pradip Gupta, said that his son complained of stomach ache, loss of eyesight, vomiting tendency and nausea soon after he returned home from a local market late on Friday.
He was rushed to the primary health centre at Lauria from where he was referred to Bettiah

based government hospital. However, he died on the way to the hospital at Bettiah, the district headquarters town of West Champaran district.
When contacted, Bettiah civil surgeon (in-charge) Dr. Murtoza Ansari said, "A medical team headed by medical officer Dr. Dilip Kumar has been sent to the affected village to collect evidence to corroborate the statement of the relatives of the deceased."
"So far we have received information about the death of four to five people due to the consumption of some poisonous substance," the civil surgeon (in-charge) said. He said that the cause of death will be ascertained after post-mortem. The autopsy report is still awaited," he added. Agency

Saif attack suspect sent to police custody for 5 days



Mumbai

A Mumbai court on Sunday remanded a man arrested in the Saif Ali Khan attack case in five-day police custody after observing that the prosecution's contention of an international conspiracy cannot be ruled out.
The police produced the accused Mohammad Sharif Islam Shehbaz (30) before a metropolitan magistrate court in Bandra at 1:30 pm.
The police told the court that the alleged attacker was a Bangladeshi national residing illegally in India and there was a need to find the motive behind his act.
The police also told the court they needed to find out if there was an international conspiracy linked to the case.
However, defence lawyer Sandeep D Sherkhane contended his client was residing in the country for several years and has vital documents (for staying in the country) and that his family is also residing in India.
The case has been hyped because of the presence of actor Saif Ali Khan, the defence lawyer further submitted.
The police, however, sought 14-day custody stating the case was not just about a celebrity but that it involved a brutal attack. Agency

India's 1st vertical-lift 'Pamban Bridge' over sea ready for train operation; PM Modi may inaugurate next month

Ahishbek Byahat Rameswaram will be the first vertical-lift Pamban Bridge in India, connecting Mandapam town in mainland India to Pamban Island and Rameswaram with rail connectivity is a sign of "a modern engineering marvel" in self-reliant India.
With the completion of the new Pamban Rail Bridge, Rameswaram will re-establish rail contact after two years since the closing of the century-old Pamban bridge built during British rule.
It is expected that Prime Minister Narendra

Modi may inaugurate the project on Mahashivratri in February, 2025.
Over 100 years old, the old Pamban Bridge, built in 1914, has now gone out of commission, retiring in December 2022. The new bridge construction began back in 2019 and was completed by November 2024.
The new Pamban Bridge is 2.08 km long vertical lift sea bridge with a unique 72.5 meters Vertical Lift span as this 660-metric-tonne vertical lift span can open up to a height of 17 meters within 5 minutes and 30 seconds, as compared to the old bridge's system



HIGHLIGHT
Pamban Rail Bridge 'a modern engineering marvel' is ready for operation of the trains between mainland India to Rameswaram.

of manual opening that takes about 45 minutes. This technology has been revamped to save time in the operation of the trains and indeed requirement for passage of large ships underneath.
The new bridge has 100 spans across the sea, 99 of which are of 18.3 meters length and one of which (the main span)

is 72.5 meters. The new bridge is 3 meters higher than the existing bridge. The new broad-gauge Pamban Bridge features a single rail line with provisions to add a second line on parallel pillars when needed.
The design of this steel bridge has been done by a TYPASA International Consultant. The bridge is designed with European and Indian Codes. However, the construction of this bridge has been done by indigenous agency Rail Vikas Nigam Ltd (RVNL) in coordination with the Southern Railway.
The bridge, costing Rs

531 crore, is supported by 101 pillars and uses 5,772 metric tonnes of standard steel. It also features an automated signal system to halt train movements in adverse weather conditions.
The trains are supposed to cross the new bridge at a speed of 60 km per hour, while of the old bridge, the speed is 10 km per hour.
The new Pamban Rail Bridge, set to be inaugurated in February 2025, will restore rail connectivity to Rameswaram, ensuring safer, faster, and more efficient travel experience to passengers.
CONTD ON PAGE-2

FIR against Rahul Gandhi for fighting 'Indian State' remarks

CONT FROM PAGE-1 The same constitutes a serious threat to public order and national security. By declaring that his fight is against the 'Indian State itself', the accused has consciously incited subversive activities and rebellion among the populace. This is an attempt to delegitimize the authority of the State and to portray it as a hostile force, thereby creating a dangerous narrative that could provoke unrest and separatist sentiments," the FIR further read.

The complainant said the remarks were a manifestation of Gandhi's frustration over repeated electoral failures. Having been unable to gain public trust through democratic means, the accused now seeks to incite disaffection against the central government and the Indian State, the complainant said.

India's 1st vertical-lift 'Pamban Bridge' over sea ready for train operation; PM Modi may inaugurate next month

CONT FROM PAGE-1 The police also told court the investigation is at a primary stage.

Khan sustained grievous injuries in the attack, including a part of the knife blade getting embedded in his body, the investigating officer told court.

The knife broke into three parts, two of which have been found, while the third needs to be recovered from the accused, the police told court.

The clothes the accused had worn at the time of the incident will have blood stains and it needs to be seized as part of the probe, police submitted.

A probe was required to find out how he entered the actor's house and the motive behind the attack, the IO said.

However, the defence lawyer said Shehzad should be remanded in judicial custody.

Accepting the police's contention after perusing documents on record, the court said the prosecution's submission of international conspiracy "cannot be said to be impossible".

"I find the allegations against the accused are well-founded. Therefore, the police need to be provided with sufficient time to investigate the case. Five-day police custody is justified," the court said.

The court also dismissed the defence's claim that the arrest was illegal and asserted the police had followed all required norms while apprehending the accused.

Earlier in the day, the police had told the media that the alleged attacker was a Bangladeshi national who had illegally entered India and changed his name to Bijoy Das. He was held from adjoining Thane city.

As per preliminary probe, he had entered the Bollywood star's home, in Satgur, Sharan building, Bandra, in the early hours of January 16 with the intention of theft, the police had said.

Khan (54) was stabbed multiple times in the attack, after which he underwent a five-hour surgery in nearby Lilavati Hospital.

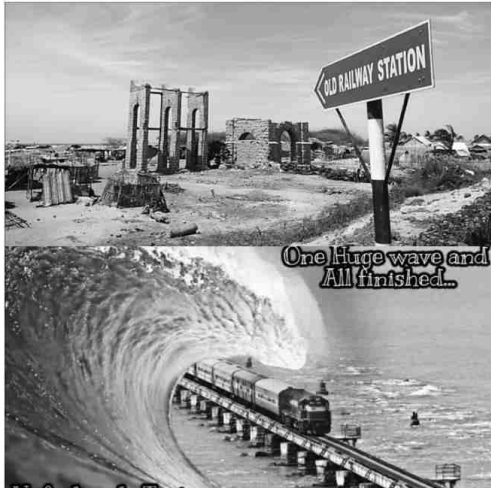
Following inauguration of Pamban Bridge, Govt. eying to revive 1964 cyclone-damaged Dhanushkodi Rail line

Abbishek Byahut Dhanushkodi (Rameswaram) The first vertical-lift Pamban Bridge in India, connecting Rameswaram island with rail connectivity, has been completed. Following its inauguration, the central government and Railway Ministry will expedite plans to expand train services from Rameswaram station to Dhanushkodi.

In 2019, Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the Rameswaram-Dhanushkodi rail project, but five years later, it remains stalled due to environmental concerns and delays in land acquisition from the Tamil Nadu government.

Talks between the Central and Tamil Nadu Governments are ongoing. If an agreement is reached, the project will be expedited. In the coming years, trains will operate from Rameswaram to Dhanushkodi, as efforts to revive the historic railway line, originally closed due to the 1964 tsunami, are underway.

In 2018-2019, a survey approved the reconstruction of Rameswaram to Dhanushkodi by rail, with funds sanctioned.



This project will revive Dhanushkodi's rail heritage and boost local tourism and development.

The railway line and station still exist and attract visitors today, having served as a key travel link between India and Sri Lanka. Steamer services to Ceylon (now Sri Lanka) operated here, resulting in the loss of hundreds of lives, including train staff and passengers, in this disaster.

No initiatives were made to restore the railway line until Prime Minister Narendra Modi laid the foundation stone for the Rameswaram-Dhanushkodi rail project.

The project includes a 17.3 km broad gauge line with 13 km of elevated track, showcasing modern engineering. Three halt stations and a terminal will be built at an estimated cost of Rs 733.91 crore allocated, with Rs 17.61 crore spent on initial works.

The project is pending land and environmental clearances. 66 hectares of private land, 28.61 hectares of forest. The Tamil Nadu government has addressed environmental concerns related to 82 hectares of government land for the railways.

The state government requested the railways to revise the project, enabling faster

Prime Minister Modi initiated the Rameswaram-Dhanushkodi rail project in 2019 to revive a 1964 cyclone-damaged line, but environmental and state government land acquisition delays cause concerns.

progress if bottlenecks are resolved. The reconstruction of this rail link will facilitate access to Dhanushkodi, which is significant both religiously and historically.

Lakhs of tourists can now easily reach Dhanushkodi, boosting local tourism. Dhanushkodi was a historic Indian Railways station connecting Ceylon in Sri Lanka to Mandapam in India.

This area gained recognition for its location atop Pamban Island, where steamer services operated until 1964, enhancing economic and cultural ties between India and Sri Lanka. With government approval, this project will revive Dhanushkodi's rail heritage and boost the region's economic and cultural development.

The railway's move exemplifies the Modi government's "Development with Heritage" policy, as the Rameswaram-Dhanushkodi rail link project honors the memories of those who lost their lives in the 1964 cyclone. Decades later, the area will buzz with railway engines and bustling passengers once again.

Sir Ganga Ram Hospital and IMA Karol Bagh Organize CME

New Delhi Sir Ganga Ram Hospital, in association with the Indian Medical Association (IMA) Karol Bagh, hosted a Continuing Medical Education (CME) program on Head & Neck and Breast Cancers here.

This CME event aimed to provide medical professionals with valuable insights into the latest advancements in cancer diagnosis, treatment, and management. The program was attended by distinguished medical experts, practitioners, and cancer care specialists from various fields.

The event was graced by the presence of several esteemed patrons, and other dignitaries.

The event also featured a special presentation by Pfizer, which contributed to the discussions surrounding the latest advancements

in cancer therapies. This CME session provided an in-depth exploration of the evolving role of surgical, radiation, and immunotherapy treatments in improving patient outcomes. The program highlighted the significance of multidisciplinary management in personalizing cancer care and enhancing the quality of life for patients.

The organizing team expressed their gratitude to all the distinguished speakers, patrons, and participants for making the event a resounding success. Sir Ganga Ram Hospital remains committed to advancing medical education, clinical practices, and cancer care, ensuring that healthcare professionals are equipped with the latest knowledge to tackle the challenges of cancer treatment.

While the NDRF responds during natural disasters, the NDA steps in to serve the people during "man-made" crises.

He asserted that after the massive wins in the 2024 Assembly elections in Maharashtra and Haryana, the NDA is poised to form the government in Delhi as well in early 2025.

He went to assure that the Narendra Modi government at the Centre is standing like a rock (supporting) with Chandrababu Naidu for AP's development," he said.

On the NDRF, Shah said today India has emerged as a global leader in Disaster Management, and in the area of disaster resilient infrastructure the country is leading the world.

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Wanted criminal arrested in attempt to murder case

Hemant Kumar New Delhi With the arrest of one person the crime Branch of Delhi police claimed to have solved an attempt to murder case at Ashok Vihar police station here on Sunday.

According to the police, the accused has been identified as Suraj (23), a resident of Kaulshalpur, Azadpur.

The police said the accused Suraj, was wanted in an attempt to murder case against him at Ashok Vihar police station had been evading for the last two months. He was the main culprit responsible for stabbing the victim during the clash.

The police said, on November 2 last year a violent clash broke out



between two local gangs from the Azadpur cluster, led by Ankit Changa and Suraj. The altercation, over establishing supremacy in the area, led to the use of dangerous weapons such as pistols, knives, and broken bottles. Two separate cases of attempt to murder were registered FIR Nos. 461/24 & 462/24 at PS Ashok Vihar. All the accused, were arrested in the case. However, managed to evade arrest by frequently changing his appearance and hideouts.

A team set up a trap at the location based on the

received information, with technical assistance provided as a result, the team successfully apprehended the suspect. During interrogation, admitted his involvement in the crime.

During interrogation, Suraj revealed that on the intervening night of November last year, he, along with his associates Ashish, Vishal, and Rohit, attacked victims Hemant, Pintu, Ankit, and Aakash with knives, causing multiple stab wounds. Suraj was the primary individual responsible for the stabbing and had been evading arrest due to ongoing rivalries within the area. While his associates had been arrested, he continued to remain on the run.

A team set up a trap at the location based on the

Rahul Gandhi launches 'White T-shirt movement' for justice, equality

New Delhi Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi on Sunday announced the launch of a 'White T-shirt Movement,' championing the rights of the masses, even as he accused the Narendra Modi government of turning its back on the poor.

Gandhi announced the launch in a post on X and urged people to be a part of it.

"If you believe in economic justice, oppose rising wealth inequalities, fight for social equality, reject all forms of discrimination, and strive for peace and stability in our country, wear your white T-shirts and join the movement," said a video voiceover posted by Gandhi on X.

Gandhi said, "Today the Modi government has turned its back on the poor and the working class and has left them to their own devices. The government's entire focus is on enriching a select few capitalists."

He said that because of this, inequality is increasing and the condition of the

Delhi's development will return if people vote for Congress in polls: Kharge

New Delhi Ahead of the February 5 Delhi Assembly elections, Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge has urged Delhiites to vote only for the grand old party in the polls asserting that his party only can fulfill their needs.

In a post on X, Kharge said, "Every need will be fulfilled, vote only for Congress."

The Congress chief said Delhi's development will return if people vote for Congress in the polls.

"Development of Delhi will return one vote to Congress, Congress will win, unwavering faith has awakened among the people!" Kharge said in the post.

"Delhi has to be saved from its plight, We have to move again towards development and public welfare," he said.

In the post, the Congress Chief also made a mention of the 'Pyari Didi Yojana', 'Jeevan Raksha Yojana', 'Mehangai Mukti Yojana' and 'Yuva Udaan Yojana' which the party

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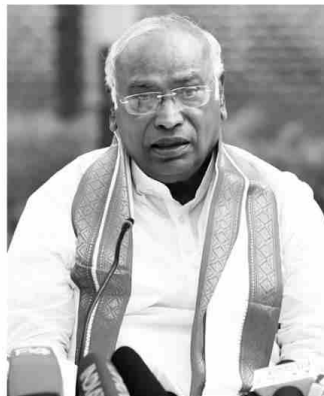
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promised to implement if it came to power in Delhi.

Under the 'Pyari Didi Yojana', the Congress promised to provide Rs 2,500 monthly allowance to every woman and Rs 25 lakh health insurance cover for all the residents under 'Jeevan Raksha Yojana'.

Earlier on January 12, the party announced the 'Yuva Udaan Yojana' and promised to provide Rs 8,500 per month to every educated unemployed youth in the national capital for a year if it comes to power.

"Women will get Rs 2500/month from Pyari Didi Yojana. Excitement from life saving plan with Rs 25 lakh insurance, Apprenticeship of Rs 8500/month from Yuva Udaan Yojana, Everyone benefits from inflation free and electricity schemes," Kharge said.

Elections to the 70-member Assembly in Delhi are scheduled to be held on February 5 and the counting of votes will take place on February 8.

In the 2020 Assembly polls, the AAP won 62 Assembly seats and the BJP eight constituencies while in 2015 polls, the AAP bagged 67 seats and BJP won only three seats.

The Congress drew a blank on both the Assembly polls.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Kejriwal seeks reel life to change tainted image: Delhi Congress

Staff Reporter
New Delhi

Delhi Congress president Devender Yadav said that it was surprising that former CM Arvind Kejriwal has made documentary to cover up his liquor scam taint. As a failure in real life, he was now seeking solace in reel life to whitewash his corrupt image.

He said that to hide his corruption in the liquor policy, Kejriwal did not table the CAG reports in the assembly, despite the direction of the Lt. Governor, but now it comes to light that he has made a film on it.

Yadav that the Delhi Congress was the first to complain to the Lt. Governor about corruption in the implementation of the old liquor policy. Yadav said that during the Congress government, in 2013, a barcode system was introduced on every bottle from inventory to the point of sale, but the AAP government was lax in implementing it and ended transparency in the liquor policy.

Yadav said that open loot was carried out to help the liquor contractors in many ways. He said that not only Kejriwal committed the corruption in a shameful manner, but also pushed unemployed youth into the abyss of liquor addiction.

Tender issued for beautification of Japanese and D Park



Noida

The Noida Authority has issued tender for construction of Japanese Park in sector-94 and beautification of D Park in sector-62. According to the sources, after the selection of the agency, the work of both the parks will be started.

Interested agencies can apply till February 3. Both the parks will cost around Rs 25 crore. The authority claims that if the agencies are selected, then it will take only nine months to complete the work.

Noida Authority's horticulture department director Anand Mohan said that if the agency is selected in this tender process, then work will start from March. He said that the Japanese park will cost around Rs 10 crore to prepare. The Japanese park will show those aspects of culture which have qualities like love for nature, peace and spirituality.

The park will have Japanese swings, dragon-shaped swings, many selfie points, walking tracks, waterfalls, rivers, islands and bridges. Some such trees and plants will also be grown here which will be grown using Miyawaki technology. The park will be built on 14 acres.

About Rs 15 crore will be spent on the beautification of D Park. A big entrance will be built for entering the park. There will also be kiosks and food courts here. Along with this, the butterfly dome and the lake inside will also be beautified. Many other works including musical fountain will be done. People will also be able to travel here by boat.

Kejriwal proposes affordable housing scheme for sanitation workers

■ Ahead of the assembly elections in Delhi, AAP's National Convener and candidate for the New Delhi assembly constituency Arvind Kejriwal, on Sunday, proposed a scheme to provide affordable homes to sanitation workers on monthly installments.

New Delhi
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the land in the national capital is under the Centre's control as per the Constitutional framework, he said its cooperation is essential for the project.

"I want to draw your attention to the issues faced by sanitation workers employed in NDMC and MCD areas. These workers, who are the backbone of our

city's cleanliness system, are required to vacate their government accommodations after retirement. With no means to buy homes or afford high rents in Delhi, they and their families face a precarious situation," Kejriwal said.

He said he wants the Central government to allot land for the retired sanitation workers at concessional rates and the Delhi government, in turn, would construct houses on the land so that the workers could repay the cost in affordable installments and thereby become owners of the houses by their retirement.

The scheme, he said, would initially focus on sanitation workers and could be extended to benefit all government employees later. He urged the Centre to address this pressing issue to ensure better living conditions for the city's essential workers. Earlier on Friday, Kejriwal wrote a similar letter urging Prime Minister Narendra Modi for a 50 per cent concession for students in Delhi Metro fares.

He said since both the Centre and the Delhi government share ownership of the Delhi Metro, both should jointly bear the cost of the proposed fare concession.

Delhi Police stalled screening of documentary on arrest of leaders: AAP

New Delhi

The AAP, on Sunday, accused the Delhi Police of stalling the screening of a documentary based on the arrest of Arvind Kejriwal and other party leaders in jail for the second day at the Godavari auditorium at the behest of the BJP.

However, there was no reaction from the Delhi Police to the allegation till going to press.

According to Singh, the AAP had booked an auditorium for a press conference and screening of the documentary. However, the Delhi Police allegedly blocked the event under pressure from the BJP. The Election

Commission also reportedly canceled the venue's booking, citing permission issues.

"When we are neither holding a public rally nor making an appeal for votes, what right does the Election Commission have to cancel the permission? A press conference doesn't require their approval," he added.

"Election Commission's job is to ensure free and fair elections, not to interfere in press conferences. Press conferences have never required their permission," Singh elaborated.

Singh further stated, "On Saturday, we were told that the event couldn't proceed due to crowd concerns."

Kejriwal seeks Aggarwal community's support ahead of Delhi polls

New Delhi

AAP National Convener Arvind Kejriwal met representatives of the Aggarwal community at his residence on Sunday, urging them to support the Aam Aadmi Party in the upcoming assembly elections.

Expressing his gratitude on social media platform X, Kejriwal stated, "Met with representatives of the Aggarwal community at my residence today and thanked them for their continued support to the Aam Aadmi Party. With the blessings of Maharaja Agrasen, we have served the people of Delhi with sincerity and will continue to do so in the future."

AAP leader and former



Rajya Sabha MP Dr. Sushil Gupta highlighted that members from all 70 constituencies of Delhi came together to demonstrate the unity of the Aggarwal community in supporting Kejriwal.

"Arvind Kejriwal himself belongs to the Aggarwal community. The BJP has subjected him to numerous injustices, including imprisonment and false cases.

The threats from agencies like the ED and CBI go beyond him; they affect the entire community, which has voiced its opposition to such actions," Dr Gupta said.

Rajesh Goyal, National President of the Aggarwal Samaj Ki Awaz organization, noted that assembly presidents from all Delhi constituencies, along with their teams, met Kejriwal to discuss their concerns.

"Our community is so fearful today that it hesitates to express its political affiliations openly. This fear stems from a deliberate political conspiracy. Everyone knows that wherever the Aggarwal community resides, it excels through its capabilities.

AAP's Youth Wing state unit vice president Kapil Nagar joins BJP

New Delhi

Ahead of the February 5 Delhi Assembly elections, the Aam Aadmi Party's Youth Wing State Vice President Kapil Nagar joined the BJP on Sunday.

Along with him, more than 200 Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) workers from the Model Town Assembly constituency also took the BJP's membership.

Nagar joined the saffron party in the presence of BJP national general secretary Arun Singh and Delhi BJP president Virendra Sachdeva.

On this occasion, BJP candidate from Model Town, Ashok Goyal, and state spokespersons Nitin Tyagi and Shubhendra Shekhar Awasthi also welcomed Na-



Nagar joined the saffron party in the presence of BJP national general secretary Arun Singh and Delhi BJP president Virendra Sachdeva.

Nagar said his resolution is now to work with the BJP

colleagues and secure a victory for the party in Model Town Assembly constituency.

BJP national general secretary Arun Singh said Delhi's political atmosphere has completely changed, and people from all sections of society, particularly the youth and women, are now joining the BJP to envision a new highly developed Delhi.

Cong leader Udit Raj accuses AAP, BJP of betraying Dalits

New Delhi

In the lead-up to the Delhi Assembly elections, Congress leader and former MP Udit Raj on Sunday urged the Dalit community not to vote for the BJP or AAP, accusing both parties of causing significant harm to the community.

Addressing a press conference at the DPCC office, Udit Raj alleged that as the Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal had made several promises to the Dalit community but failed to fulfill them over the past decade.

"Kejriwal did not fill thousands of vacant posts in the Delhi Government, which would have benefited the Dalit community. He also failed to regularize ad hoc and temporary employees, including sanitation workers, teachers, DTC employees, and others. Additionally, he had promised to appoint a



Dalit as the Deputy Chief Minister of Punjab but did not honor this commitment," Raj said.

The Congress leader also questioned Kejriwal about the lack of honorarium for Buddhist monks and priests at the Guru Ravi Das Mandir and Valmiki Mandir, who belong to the Dalit community.

He further alleged that AAP has no Dalit or back-

cast on its publicity," he added.

Raj criticized Kejriwal for remaining silent on the issue of a caste census, claiming he ignored Rahul Gandhi's demand for a public statement on the matter.

He also reiterated that Kejriwal had promised to appoint a Dalit Deputy Chief Minister in Punjab but failed to deliver.

The Congress leader accused Kejriwal of hurting Dalit sentiments by using the broom as his party's symbol to garner their votes, without taking meaningful steps to improve their welfare, education, or employment opportunities.

"Kejriwal engages in vote-bank politics, seeking the support of Dalits, backward classes, the poor, and marginalized communities without addressing their real concerns," Raj concluded.

Parvesh Verma vows to defeat Arvind Kejriwal by 20k votes

New Delhi

Former MP and BJP candidate from the New Delhi assembly constituency Parvesh Verma, on Sunday, predicted that Arvind Kejriwal, who is pitted against him, in the election by a margin of 20,000 votes.

The statement from Verma came a day after the AAP alleged attack on national convener Arvind Kejriwal's car with stones during an election campaign and Verma countered the allegation saying three youths, residents of the New Delhi area, were allegedly hit by AAP chief's vehicle as they tried to approach him during his door-to-door campaign for polls.

Addressing a press conference, Verma gave it in writing that he would be



able to defeat Kejriwal by 20,000 votes. "A vehicle in which Kejriwal himself was sitting hit three local youths but the AAP is creating a fake narrative of an attack on him," he said.

Verma said that five years ago, on this exact date, January 19, Kejriwal had announced 10 guarantees, which included a pollution-free Delhi, clean

and bright Delhi, safer Delhi for women, facilities in unauthorized colonies, housing for slum dwellers, a shining Delhi, access to clean water, world-class schools, affordable health-care facilities, and the largest and cheapest public transport system.

All of these promises remained unfulfilled and the people of Delhi are now

pointing out how bad the city's situation has become, he said.

He has not been able to step out of his New Delhi constituency and was conducting door-to-door campaigns. Not a single photo or video of his public meeting in the constituency is available due to poor response by the locals, he claimed.

"Kejriwal is conducting his election campaign with a convoy of 50 cars and 400 Punjab Police personnel despite having taken the oaths to refuse security and vehicles. Voters will not support him this time," he emphasised.

The BJP leader claimed that Kejriwal would finish at the third position. After this, he would be planning to go to Punjab to replace Bhagwant Mann as the chief minister.

Delhi never seen such violence during polls: Kejriwal on 'attack' on him

New Delhi

A day after an alleged attack on his vehicle during campaigning in the New Delhi assembly constituency, Arvind Kejriwal said the city has never seen the kind of violence during polls where a former CM's life could be under threat.

Addressing a press conference here, the AAP's national convener said, "The people of Delhi have never witnessed campaigning during which a murderous attack was made on a former chief minister."

"This is their way of campaigning because they are losing badly," he added, apparently referring to the BJP, whose workers are accused of the attack by him and his party.

Dismissing BJP candidate Parvesh Verma's prediction that he would lose the New Delhi seat by

719 candidates in fray for Delhi Assembly elections



New Delhi

A total of 719 candidates are set to contest the upcoming Delhi Assembly elections across 70 constituencies, according to data from the Election Commission. This comes after the scrutiny of nomination papers, which concluded on January 18.

"Out of 981 nominations filed, 719 have been accepted. January 17 was the last date for filing nominations, while the scrutiny took place on January 18," the Election Commission stated.

A total of 1,040 nominations were initially submitted, of which 477 were rejected. The highest number of candidates is contesting from the New Delhi constituency, with 23 candidates in the fray. In contrast, Kasturba Nagar and Patel Nagar constituencies have the fewest candidates, with only five each.

Notable candidates for the New Delhi constituency include AAP's Arvind Kejriwal, seeking a fourth term as MLA, BJP's Praveesh Verma, and Congress' Sandeep Dikshit, both former MPs.

In Kalkaji constituency,

13 candidates are contesting, including prominent figures such as Chief Minister Atishi from AAP, BJP's Ramesh Bidhuri, and Congress' Alka Lamba.

Candidates have until Monday, January 20, to withdraw their nomination papers, following which the final list of candidates for the February 5 elections will be published.

The Delhi elections will take place in a single phase on February 5. A fierce triangular contest is expected between the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP), Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), and Congress, with political stakes running high amid the cold wave in the national capital. The election results will be announced on February 8.

In the 2020 Assembly elections, AAP secured 62 out of 70 seats, while BJP won 8 seats.

Earlier, on January 6, the Election Commission of India (ECI) released the final electoral roll. The total number of registered voters in Delhi stands at 1,55,24,858, comprising 83,49,645 male voters, 71,73,952 female voters, and 1,261 third-gender voters.

LOST/FOUND

1. Omvir Singh S/o Rampal Singh have Lost my original Sale Deed bearing property Plot/Khara No.-1135, Mi. Village- Mehrauli, Pargana- Dasna, Tehsil & Jila-Ghaziabad, Registration Dated 31/07/2014, Bahi No.-1, Jild No. 4467, Page No.-1 to 82, Particular No. 5129, Seller- Kavitender S/o Rajveer & Buyer- Ravinder Singh S/o Bhagirath Singh. Finder please contact - 8745873005



By Dr. Anil Singh

"The Historic Ascension of Donald Trump: Transforming America's Role in Global Politics and Economy"

The United States presidency is a position unparalleled in its influence on global politics, economics, and societal values. Donald Trump, a real estate tycoon and television personality turned politician, epitomizes a unique chapter in this legacy. His journey to the presidency, culminating in the oath-taking ceremony on January 20, marks a transformative moment in modern history. Leaders from across the globe, including Indian industrialist Mukesh Ambani, will bear witness to this significant event. As Trump assumes office, his past statements and policies shape not just the direction of U.S. foreign relations but also global geopolitics and economic dynamics.

Historical Presidency of the U.S.

The U.S. presidency has historically symbolized democracy, leadership, and global stewardship. From the foundational principles laid by George Washington to the dynamic diplomacy of Franklin D. Roosevelt, every president has left a distinct mark on the nation and the world. Trump's ascension to this role, however, stands out for its deviation from conventional political pathways. His election campaign slogan, "Make America Great Again," resonated deeply with millions who sought change amidst political stagnation. His presidency represents a new era where traditional political norms are challenged, and business acumen takes precedence.

Trump's Campaign Promises: Foreign Policy, Economy, and National Pride

Donald Trump's campaign was marked by bold and often controversial statements. He pledged to redefine U.S. foreign policy by prioritizing



American interests over global engagements. His assertion that NATO allies must shoulder more financial responsibility for defense was a direct challenge to decades-old alliances. He vowed to renegotiate trade agreements, such as NAFTA and the Trans-Pacific Partnership, which he deemed unfavorable to U.S. economic interests. Trump's "America First" doctrine emphasized national pride, economic rejuvenation, and a robust defense posture.

On the economic front, Trump's promise to slash taxes, deregulate industries, and bring manufacturing jobs back to the U.S. struck a chord with disillusioned workers. His emphasis on renegotiating trade deals with China and implementing tariffs aimed to restore the U.S. as a manufacturing powerhouse and support infrastructure and energy independence, ensuring America's dominance in global trade and energy markets.

Inauguration Day: A Global Spectacle

Trump's oath-taking ceremony is set to be a grand affair, underscoring his business-oriented leadership style. The presence of global leaders and business magnates, including Mukesh Ambani, reflects the anticipation and curiosity surrounding his presidency. The ceremony symbolizes a shift in power dynamics where corporate interests and political leadership intertwine. For Ambani,

this event is an opportunity to explore deeper U.S.-India trade collaborations, especially in energy and technology sectors.

Impact on Global Politics

Trump's presidency signals a recalibration of global politics. His isolationist rhetoric challenges multilateralism, compelling nations to reconsider alliances and economic dependencies. For Europe, his critique of NATO and focus on bilateral trade agreements pose challenges to traditional security structures. In Asia, Trump's stance on China, including trade restrictions and opposition to its territorial expansion, introduces both opportunities and risks.

The Middle East, too, faces new uncertainties. Trump's promise to move the U.S. embassy to Jerusalem and support Israel alters the delicate balance in the region. His aggressive stance against Iran's nuclear ambitions could lead to renewed tensions, while his focus on combating radical Islamic terrorism has implications for U.S. military engagements.

Immediate Implications for India

For India, Trump's presidency is both an opportunity and a challenge. His emphasis on economic nationalism aligns with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of "Make in India." Bilateral trade is expected to grow, particu-

larly in defense and technology sectors. Trump's tough stance on China could indirectly benefit India, as it seeks to counter Beijing's influence in the Indo-Pacific region.

However, Trump's immigration policies, particularly regarding H-1B visas, may impact the Indian IT industry. His focus on domestic job creation could strain outsourcing and restrict opportunities for Indian professionals. Nonetheless, the presence of Mukesh Ambani at the inauguration underscores India's strategic interest in fostering strong ties with the U.S.

Economic Repercussions

Trump's economic policies prioritize domestic growth but have global repercussions. His tax reforms and deregulation aim to attract businesses back to the U.S., potentially impacting emerging markets. The imposition of tariffs and renegotiation of trade deals could disrupt global supply chains, compelling countries to adapt to new trade realities.

For India, this presents both opportunities and challenges. As the U.S. seeks alternative trade partners, India can position itself as a reliable ally. Simultaneously, India must navigate the challenges posed by Trump's protectionist measures, which could impact exports and investments.

Does American

Politics Change?

Trump's presidency undoubtedly marks a departure from traditional American politics. His approach emphasizes pragmatism over ideology, focusing on immediate results rather than long-term strategies. This shift reflects a broader trend where voters prioritize economic growth and national pride over global leadership.

However, this transformation also raises questions about the durability of U.S. alliances and its commitment to global challenges like climate change and human rights. Trump's presidency tests the resilience of American institutions, as they adapt to a leader who defies conventions.

Conclusion: A New Era of Leadership

Donald Trump's inauguration as the 45th president of the United States is a historic event with profound implications for global politics and economics. His emphasis on "America First" redefines the country's role in the world, prioritizing economic interests and national pride. For India, Trump's presidency presents a unique opportunity to strengthen bilateral ties while navigating challenges posed by his protectionist policies.

As the world watches the inauguration, the question remains: will Trump's presidency usher in a new era of American dominance, or will it mark a retreat from global leadership? One thing is certain - the ripple effects of his leadership will shape the geopolitical landscape for years to come. This moment signifies not just a change in leadership, but a fundamental shift in the priorities and approach of the United States on the world stage.

(The writer is an Editor, STAR Views, Maryland USA)

Breaking Time Sudoku

What to do

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

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

Solution, Sudoku

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

THE WISDOM TREE

BY SUVEEN KUMAR

LEARN YOURSELF

Learn yourself, from yourself, by yourself and for yourself. You are the best library of experience, your are the best institution of life-lessons, you are the best transformation of taken actions. Learn yourself and from yourself, keeping in mind that your learning will keep changing but so will you, keeping in mind that your experience will not be perfect, you will not always make the right move, you will not always know the right thing yet learn yourself learn from yourself. Your own learning will contradict, your own learning will confuse, your own learning will mislead you, your own learning will deceive you but it is not about you it is about learning, this is how it is, so learn yourself

learn from yourself.

You are the biggest responsibility of you, you have the biggest authority of you. Hold yourself as everyone else is busy holding themselves, make yourself as everybody else is busy making themselves and race yourself as everybody is busy racing themselves. Be the best version of yours, give the best reason of yours and live the best vision of yours. You are wrong when you are wrong but you are right when you know you are wrong. You have some years to live and it is fine if you have some goals and it is also fine if you don't have any. The purpose of your life is not to achieve but to live. The biggest achievement in life is to live right. Wronging your whole life will not give you the satisfaction of achieving something right.



Moral : Treat yourself as a master until you find your master.

THE WISDOM TREE, BY SUVEEN KUMAR

Iran is the next Target of Israel

Pro-Israel triumphalists are celebrating a trifecta: in the course of a little over a year, Israel has felled or significantly set back its three most troublesome enemies: Hamas, Hezbollah, and Syria's Bashar al-Assad. Another enemy, Iran, has been brought low by Israeli missile attacks, the assassination of Hamas leader Ismail Haniyeh in Tehran, and a Revolutionary Guard commander in Damascus. Its Iraqi Shia militia allies have reportedly promised, at least temporarily, to cease attacks on Israel.

Israeli military sources claim that its strikes inside Iran (precipitated by an Iranian missile assault on Israel) dismantled much of its air defense systems. These security officials note that this was a key mission: to eliminate Iran's air defenses in preparation for a future all-out assault on its nuclear program. The sources estimate it will take a year or more for Iran to repair the current damage and restore its capabilities. During this period, it will be most vulnerable, and an attack would be most optimal from an Israeli point of view. That would be the time frame within which such an assault would be expected.

In its weakened state, both Israeli leaders and Trump security advisors are urging such an attack on Iran. Former Israeli defense minister, Yoav Gallant, travelled to Washington, DC, last month. He lobbied US officials, telling them this is "a window to act against Iran. He favored either an Israeli or preferably a joint US-Israeli operation against Iran's nuclear infrastructure.

President Joe Biden does not favour such an attack. Thus it would be left to the incoming Trump administration, whose advisors are seriously considering this option. Though Trump has repeatedly expressed reluctance to commit US forces on behalf of foreign interventions, he is attuned to Israeli interests.

At the very least, he would instruct US intelligence agencies to share reports that could assist in targeting Iranian sites; he would also provide specialized munitions needed for such strikes as Biden has in Gaza and Lebanon.

For example, to destroy Iran's most secure nuclear site, Fordow, would require a 30,000-pound GBU-57 bunker buster, which can only be flown in a B-2 bomber. It would

require either a US or Israeli pilot to conduct the mission. Without this level of US participation, it would be unlikely Israel could do any significant damage to Fordow.

An example of a similar US-Israeli intelligence collaboration is Israel's assassination of Hezbollah's former second-in-command, Imad Mughniyeh, enabled by a CIA reconnaissance team. The United States also helped pinpoint the locations of much of Hamas's senior leadership in Gaza, enabling the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) to murder them. Similarly, we may expect a green light for the Trump administration for Israel to continue eliminating key Iranian security officials, as it has Hamas and Hezbollah senior leadership.

The new reality in Middle East affairs offers Israel far more latitude in attacking its rivals. Whatever restraints existed at one time are now gone. In its defiance of the Biden administration during the Gaza genocide, Prime Minister Netanyahu has shown that Israel will act with impunity anywhere in the region to pursue its interests. No does it ever face consequences or accountability.

Iran, who once ordered the assassination of Iran's former military commander, Qassem Soleimani, has no love lost for the Iranians. He also cancelled Barack Obama's 2015 Iran nuclear deal. The incoming president has little use for conventional diplomacy or agreements. He prefers a unilateral approach and, if necessary, the use of force. This adds to the likelihood he will green-light an Israeli operation.

Another militating factor is Netanyahu's political vulnerability. The only thing preventing early elections and a defeat for the unpopular leader - whose approval rating is 29 percent - is continued military conflict. Earlier this month, he testified for the first time in court, where he faces three corruption charges. A conviction of any of the counts would force him to resign.

Netanyahu has shown himself to be a wily political survivor, expert at manipulating the public, his own rivals, and political allies for his own benefit. He understands quite well that a successful attack on Iran, even if it portends a drawback to a counterattack, could offer him enormous political benefit at home.

On the economic front, Trump's promise to slash taxes, deregulate industries, and bring manufacturing jobs back to the U.S. struck a chord with disillusioned workers.

Israeli military sources claim that its strikes inside Iran (precipitated by an Iranian missile assault on Israel) dismantled much of its air defense systems.

CM Mann praises women entrepreneurs for playing an important role in Punjab's progress

■ Chief Minister Mann complimented the Indian women in general and Punjabi women in particular for making marvellous contributions towards the empowerment of womanhood in the modern society.

Komal Ramola
Chandigarh

Underlining the crucial role of Women in overall progress and development of the society, the Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann on Sunday said that empowerment of women is pivotal for empowering the entire society.

Addressing the Women Empowerment Summit at ISF College, Chief Minister Mann complimented the Indian women in general and Punjabi women in particular for making marvellous contributions towards the empowerment of womanhood in the modern society.

He said that in today's society women are playing a decisive role to foster social and cultural cohesiveness thereby bringing awareness amongst mankind across the world. Bhagwant Singh Mann said that women had tremendous potential to usher in an era of prosperity and development across the globe.

The Chief Minister said that today the Indian women have also shared the responsibility to safeguard the international borders of our country. He said that such functions are an appropriate occasion for all of us to rededicate ourselves to make strenuous efforts for raising the status of women and ensuring their rightful place in the society.

Emphasizing the need to



percolate the policies and programs pertaining to the status of women in general and empowerment of the women, Bhagwant Singh Mann said that it can be duly done through the voluntary participation of social and non-government organizations.

The Chief Minister said that this could play a pivotal role in bringing revolutionary transformation in the status of women in general and girl child in particular about the socio-economic awakening in the society.

Lauding the MNC Grant Thornton for transforming the lives of women by supplementing their income, he assured fulsome support and cooperation to them. Bhagwant Singh Mann said that it is heartening that 10000 Women beneficiaries who are members of these companies benefited

through various activities.

The Chief Minister said that after the intervention of the company, income of women and households increased by an average of 40 per cent through various initiatives. He also lauded the practice of the company into capacity building of about 25 women members of FPCs into drone pilots.

Laying thrust on the all-round development of the girls by equipping them with quality education, Bhagwant Singh Mann said that given an opportunity the girls could do any stupendous task and easily achieve their target.

The Chief Minister said that due to this need of hour was to provide them more and more opportunities to showcase their ability adding that the state government was not leaving

any stone unturned for this noble cause.

Bhagwant Singh Mann also praised women entrepreneurs for their valuable contributions to the state's economic growth. He said that with their hard work, dedication and commitment the women of state are becoming an integral part of the social economic growth of the state.

The Chief Minister also acknowledged the significant impact of women on the progress of Punjab and prosperity of its people. He highlighted the state government's initiatives to support women entrepreneurs to make them an equal partner in the progress of the state.

The Chief Minister said that by promoting women entrepreneurship, the state government aims to foster economic growth, social de-

velopment and a brighter future for Punjab. He said that people of the state have bestowed a huge responsibility on the state government by giving a whopping mandate to them.

Citing his own mother's influence and the phrase "Word of Mother" that renowned scientists couldn't define, the Chief Minister highlighted the importance of women's empowerment. Bhagwant Singh Mann said that he was impressed by the products created by women at the function and emphasized the need for a platform to sell these products globally. He shared his vision of showcasing Phulkari and other Punjabi products worldwide, inspiring women to become entrepreneurs.

The Chief Minister noted that China's women play a significant role in the country's world-class products, contributing to its economic power. He said that likewise, given a chance, the Punjabi women can also carve a path for themselves by producing these world class products. Giving an example, he said that the Punjab government has provided sewing machines to women and placed an order of school uniforms from them.

The Chief Minister said that currently, 25 private schools and the Punjab Police uniforms are being prepared by these women. He also visited the FPC stalls of women including that of

Cold-Pressed Mustard Oil, Basmati Rice, Honey, Desi Ghee Atta Biscuits, Pickles, Drone Technology and Handcrafted Terracotta Art. Bhagwant Singh Mann envisioned that these FPCs will act as a catalyst for empowering the women in coming times.

He said that it is the need of hour to restore the pristine glory of the state and make Punjab a frontrunner state in the country. Bhagwant Singh Mann said by the God's grace his government is leaving no stone unturned to come up to the expectations of people and top priority is being accorded by the government to implement pro-people and development-oriented policies.

The Chief Minister said that the state government is committed to provide ample opportunities to the youth to excel in life and so far, around 50,000 government jobs have been provided to them. He said that further new avenues will be opened for youth to ensure that they become an active partner in socio-economic growth of the state.

Taking a dig at the Akali leaders, the Chief Minister said that though it will be unfair to comment on those who attend Gurudwara functions with broken legs as they are paying for their misdeeds. He said that mistakes can be forgiven but the Akalis have committed sins which are unpardonable.

Punjab & Haryana High Court Orders Key Transfers in Panchkula Judiciary

Chandigarh

As per the orders of the Punjab & Haryana High Court at Chandigarh, Ms. Arpana Bharadwaj, Chief Judicial Magistrate (CJM) Panchkula, has been transferred to the District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Panchkula as CJM/Secretary, DLSA, ADR Centre, District Courts, Panchkula. She will assume this position in place of Ajay Kumar Ghanghas, who has now been appointed as Chief Judicial Magistrate, Panchkula.

Ajay Kumar Ghanghas, who took charge as CJM/Secretary, DLSA Panchkula in August 2024, has made significant contributions during his tenure, leading to a manifold increase in legal aid activities in the district. He has been actively involved in ensuring the smooth implementation of various legal aid schemes and welfare activities under the DLSA's jurisdiction.

Ghanghas personally monitored all legal aid activities and interacted with individuals who approached the DLSA office for assistance. He also extended his efforts to mediation cases, personally engaging with parties to resolve their disputes amicably. For parents visiting the mediation centre regarding "child visit" matters, he handled sensitive cases with compassion, speaking directly to children to understand their concerns. On several occasions, he encouraged parents to settle their dis-

putes amicably, emphasizing the welfare of their children, stating, "What is the mistake of your child? Due to your separation, the child is suffering a lot."

Ghanghas took a proactive approach to strengthen the functioning of the DLSA and its outreach. He played a pivotal role in organizing National Lok Adalats by coordinating with various departments, including the police, electricity, revenue, health, banks, district social welfare office, agriculture, municipal corporation, and transport departments.

He held meetings with chief managers of banks, encouraging them to file the maximum number of cases for disposal during Lok Adalats.

Ghanghas regularly visited CCJs to identify and address any issues faced by children. He inspected the quality of food served to the children and even tasted it himself to ensure its standard. On multiple occasions, he accompanied District and Sessions Judge Sh. V.P. Sirohi to courts, engaging with children and ensuring their welfare.

Ghanghas appreciated the critical role of the media in disseminating information about legal aid activities and welfare schemes of HALSA & NALSA. He emphasized that through media, awareness about DLSA, HALSA and NALSA schemes could reach every doorstep, benefiting the common man.

Minister inaugurates 'Invest UP Pavilion' at Mahakumbh-2025

Prayagraj

Uttar Pradesh Minister for Industrial Development, Export Promotion, NRI, and Investment Promotion, Nand Gopal Gupta 'Nandi', inaugurated the 'Invest UP Pavilion' on Sunday at Sector 25 of the Mahakumbh Mela area in Prayagraj.

The pavilion is set to be a major attraction for investors and visitors during Mahakumbh-2025, showcasing Uttar Pradesh's progressive industrial policies, ambitious development plans, and its growing reputation as a premier investment destination.

Mahakumbh-2025, taking place from January 13 to February 26, is not only a significant spiritual gathering but also a platform for substantial economic opportunities.

The 'Invest UP Pavilion' highlights investor-friendly policies that have positioned Uttar Pradesh as an emerging hub for industries. It focuses on opportunities across key sectors such as infrastructure development, electronics manufacturing, defense production, food processing, textiles, and more. Digital and interactive mediums showcase investment projects, industrial advancements, and major achievements.

Speaking at the inauguration, the Minister emphasized that the 'Invest UP Pavilion' serves as a key platform to educate the public and potential investors about Uttar Pradesh's industrial growth, progressive policies, and transformation into a leading investment hub.

"Under the visionary guidance of our Prime Minister Narendra Modi ji and the dynamic leadership of Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, Uttar Pradesh is rapidly emerging as the growth engine of the nation," said the Minister.

Bihar's Governor Arif Mohammad Khan pays homage to Cartoonist Harish Chandra Shukla 'Kaak'

Avnish Tyagi
Ghaziabad

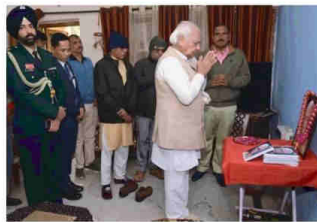
Bihar Governor Arif Mohammad Khan visited the residence of celebrated cartoonist Harish Chandra Shukla, fondly known as "Kaak", in Vaishali, Ghaziabad, on Sunday to pay his respects.

Kaak, who passed away at the age of 85 on January 1, 2025, was a luminary in the field of cartooning and left an indelible mark on Indian journalism.

The Governor extended his condolences to Kaak's wife, Pushpa Shukla, his sons Subhav, Prabhav, Vibhav, and Tushit Shukla, their spouses Anita, Richa, Kirti, and Garima Shukla, and his grandchildren Gaurang, Anvay, Akshat, Aadya, Shreya, and Ananya.

During his visit, Governor Khan fondly recalled his memorable meeting with Kaak in Kanpur and paid tribute to his remarkable body of work. Reflecting on one of Kaak's most iconic cartoons from 1987, the Governor highlighted how the satirical depiction of him, kicking a chair resonated widely after he resigned from the then Rajiv Gandhi government.

Kaak's illustrious career



Kaak, who passed away at the age of 85 on January 1, 2025, was a luminary in the field of cartooning and left an indelible mark on Indian journalism.

in cartooning began in 1967 with his first published cartoon in Dainik Jagran. Over the years, his insightful and often humorous depictions of political and social scenarios earned him a loyal following and collaborations with several prominent newspapers and magazines.

Spending over an hour with the grieving family, Governor Khan shared his

thoughts and memories. In a written tribute, he expressed his deep admiration and sorrow, saying, "Kaak ji is no more—I don't believe it. The person who brought smiles to so many faces has left a void in our hearts. His cartoons revealed the inner truths of contemporary politics and will forever remain etched in our memories. I will always cherish his love and the joy he spread. My heartfelt tribute to him."

The loss of Harish Chandra Shukla "Kaak" has left the art and journalism community mourning the end of an era. His legacy, however, will live on through his timeless creations and the inspiration he has provided to generations of artists and readers alike.

Hry govt offering special incentives to youth for Startups, says CM Saini

Komal Ramola
Chandigarh

In his first 'Mann Ki Baat' programme of 2025, Prime Minister Narendra Modi highlighted the growing startup culture in cities like Ambala and Hisar in Haryana. He expressed his happiness that cities like Ambala and Hisar are emerging as hubs for startups. He remarked that the startup culture is not confined to large cities alone, with more than half of the startups in smaller cities being led by our daughters. For this, Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini thanked the Prime Minister for his remarks.

Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini listened to the 18th episode of Prime Minister Modi's 'Mann Ki Baat' program in Kaithal on Sunday.

Addressing the party workers after the program, the Chief Minister said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi had praised the startups from Ambala and Hisar in Haryana by mentioning them in his 'Mann Ki Baat' program. He further added that Haryana is home to many young entrepreneurs whose startups are now setting benchmarks, with turnovers ranging from Rs 100 to 200 crores.



The Chief Minister said that the state government is committed to establishing Haryana as a leading startup hub. The government is making concerted efforts to position Haryana as a major player in the national startup ecosystem, aligning with the goals of 'Make in India' and 'Startup India'. The aim is not only to accelerate the state's economic development but also to create new employment opportunities for the youth, ensuring that Haryana earns a distinctive identity as a hub of innovation and entrepreneurship across the country. The Chief Minister further mentioned that the state government is actively considering new schemes in the upcoming budget for the financial years 2025-26 to promote startups.

Describing Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Mann Ki Baat program as a source of

inspiration for the youth, Nayab Singh Saini urged all party workers to listen to the programme every month with citizens at their respective booths. He called on the workers to connect as many people as possible, especially the youth, with the ann Ki Baat program.

It is noteworthy that, in a previous episode, Prime Minister Narendra Modi had also praised the efforts of Kaithal's young farmer, Virendra Yadav, for his work on stubble management.

Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini said that both the Central and State Governments are continuously working for the welfare of the common people, with the direct benefits reaching the eligible individuals. He highlighted that the outcome of this work was evident in the formation of the BJP government with a massive ma-

ajority for the third consecutive time in Haryana. He acknowledged that people have high expectations from the government and emphasized the need to meet those expectations. He urged party workers to address the grievances of the people.

The Chief Minister further said that for the first time in history, 24,000 youth have been provided government jobs simultaneously as soon as the government was formed. He added that people have already accepted that the Bharatiya Janata Party will run the government again in 2029.

The Chief Minister said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi had mentioned the contributions of the Constituent Assembly members, the Maha Kumbh, and India's achievements in Space during his Mann Ki Baat programme. In addition, he recalled the bravery of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose in his fight against the British, highlighting that every year, his birth anniversary is celebrated as Parakram Diwas on January 23.

Later, in response to a query from journalists, the Chief Minister reaffirmed that the Haryana government follows a zero-tolerance policy towards corruption.

Mahakumbh's message: Unity is the key to a united India, says CM Yogi

Lucknow

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Sunday said that the message of Mahakumbh is clear: India will remain united and strong only through unity. "We are all coming together with this message of unity and integrity. This is the message of Prime Minister Modi," he added.

The CM made the remarks at a press conference in Prayagraj after reviewing the preparations for Mauni Amavasya. He said, "A large



number of devotees are arriving at the Mahakumbh from across the country and abroad. Many foreign devotees were deeply moved after taking a holy dip in the

whelming. "They did not know Hindi, Sanskrit, or Awadhi, but they were chanting Hindi chaupais, Sanskrit mantras, and verses connected to Satguru Dharma with great devotion. The reverence they expressed for Mother Ganga and the sacred places here was overwhelming," he remarked.

The CM highlighted the grand scale of the Mahakumbh and lauded Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision for the event. He emphasised that everyone is

fully dedicated to bringing this vision to life at the local level. He also thanked the media for helping promote Prayagraj's positive image.

The main bathing events of Paush Purnima and Makar Sankranti have concluded, while the two Maha Snans — Mauni Amavasya on January 29 and Basant Panchami on February 3 — are still to come. Over 7,000 organisations have already arrived," he noted.

The Chief Minister informed that an aerial survey

of the entire Mahakumbh area was conducted on Sunday. He added that the total number of people present at Mahakumbh, including devotees bathing at the Sangam, residents of Kumbh tents, and other connected groups, exceeds one crore.

"To ensure the convenience and safety of such a large crowd, both the central and the state government departments are working in full coordination. The vision of a grand, divine, and digital Kumbh is being realised,

while also connecting the pilgrims' faith with modernity and honouring their devotion," he added.

The CM mentioned that to address all the issues, the state government's Chief Secretary, DGP, and other senior officials were sent to the site. Today, once again, efforts were made to assess the progress. Keeping in mind the upcoming major bathing events on January 29 and February 3, a review of the entire arrangement was conducted.



Bumrah won't be available for first two ODIs against England, told to offload: Alit Agarkar

Left knee heavily strapped, Shami turns up the heat at India nets

Kolkata
As Team India gathered for their white-ball series opener against England, the spotlight during the intense three-hour practice session was on veteran pacer Mohammed Shami.

Returning to the national set-up after a 14-month injury lay-off, Shami displayed promising signs, bowling at full tilt for over an hour.

Sporting heavy strapping on his left knee, Shami began with a gradual warm-up session under the watchful eyes of bowling coach Morkel Morkel. Initially running in with short strides, he bowled for nearly an hour before participating in a cautious fielding drill to test his knee.

Just as doubts arose about his full readiness, the seasoned pacer turned back the clock with a long run-up and trademark fiery spells, bowling to trailblazers like Abhishek Sharma, and Tilak Varma in the nets.

Shami's rhythm improved with each delivery, as he extracted bounce and movement, troubling the batters on multiple occasions.

However, young wicketkeeper-batter Dhruv Jurel managed to take on Shami, hitting some aggressive strokes, providing the veteran with a stern test.

Despite a taxing session, Shami continued to bowl at full steam for nearly 45 minutes without requiring assistance from the team's physiotherapist or strength and conditioning coach.

After the nets, Shami wasn't done yet. He moved to the adjacent length-bowling practice area where he engaged



in a detailed discussion with Morkel. The duo worked meticulously on hitting specific lengths, with Shami showcasing pinpoint accuracy by repeatedly striking the two stumps set up for the drill.

He then joined Hardik Pandya and Harshit Rana for further practice, exchanging insights during the session.

The only moment Shami appeared slightly discomforted was when he limped back to the changing room, but he quickly returned to the ground, cautiously engaging with his old Bengal teammates while carefully managing his heavily strapped left knee.

Shami was seen as a late inclusion for Team India in the five-match Test series against Australia for the Border-Gavaskar Trophy but was not picked, raking up a debate.

Shami's inclusion in the T20i squad marks a significant moment as the

team looks to bolster its pace attack ahead of the ICC Champions Trophy, slated to begin on February 19 in Dubai and Pakistan.

With an injury cloud hanging over Jasprit Bumrah, Shami's fitness is pivotal to India's plans.

Chairman of selectors Ajit Agarkar has underlined the importance of Shami's inclusion in the Champions Trophy squad announcement in Mumbai on Saturday.

"I don't think his fitness was anything to do with white-ball cricket anyway. We were trying to get him to Australia," said Agarkar in the press conference while announcing the squad for the Champions Trophy 2025.

"Unfortunately, his knee didn't allow him to play four-day or five-day cricket. With regards to white-ball, I think he has played most of the Syed Mushtaq Ali games and some of the Vijay

Hazare games. "With uncertainty around Jassi (Bumrah) as well, if he (Shami) is fit and playing regularly, the quality and the experience that he brings is invaluable."

"To get him involved in T20is is precisely because of that. To get him back into international cricket and play under pressure."

"Even though it's T20i cricket, it will be high-intensity. He has got quality. If he was fit, he was always going to be part of the discussion. We are hoping he comes through these games and by the time the Champions Trophy comes, he is 100 percent," Agarkar has said.

Shami has been steadily rebuilding his form through domestic cricket. Making his Ranji Trophy return last November, he guided Bengal to a season-opening victory with a match haul of seven wickets.

He then featured in the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy T20s, claiming 11 wickets in nine games at an average of 25.36, followed by the Vijay Hazare Trophy one-dayers, where he took five wickets in three matches at 25.80.

Meanwhile, left-arm pacer Arshdeep Singh was the only member of the 15-player squad absent from the practice session due to personal reasons. He is expected to join the team later on Saturday.

"Arshdeep will join the team tonight. The rest of the squad is here," a team official confirmed.

On the other hand, the Jos Buttler-led England team opted for a complete rest day on Sunday. Their first practice session is scheduled for Monday.

LSG set to unveil Rishabh Pant as captain at Kolkata event on Monday

Kolkata
Having made a splash at the IPL auction by acquiring Rishabh Pant, Lucknow Super Giants are all set to unveil the India star wicketkeeper as their next captain on Monday.

Without disclosing anything, owner of LSG Sanjay Goenka has called for the "special" media interaction of the IPL franchise where the jersey unveiling is also expected.

Pant, who was bought by LSG for Rs 27 crore, would mark his second stint as a leader in the IPL.

At his former franchise Delhi Capitals, the captaincy became a point of contention, leading Pant to opt out of DC's retention plans after unsuccessful negotiations.

Despite DC's interest in keeping him, they were not fully committed to him leading the side, prompting Pant to re-enter the auction.

India batter KL Rahul led LSG through their first three IPL seasons (2022-2024), taking the team to the playoffs in their first two campaigns, though they failed to reach the final in either year.

The 2024 season, however, was a setback, with LSG finishing seventh on the points table.

Nicholas Pooran, Ravi Bishnoi, Mayank Yadav, Ayush Badoni, and Mohsin Khan were retained by the Goenka-owned franchise but they still were on the lookout for an Indian leader to succeed Rahul.

At the auction, they picked Sunrisers Hyderabad, LSG to get Pant for Rs 20.75 crore, eventually they had to



raise their price to Rs 27 crore to outbid Delhi Capitals' right-to-match card.

Pant, who had been with DC since 2016, was appointed captain in 2021 and led the team until 2023 before a near-fatal car accident in December 2022 had ruled him out.

In the revamped LSG squad, Pant will be supported by key overseas players such as David Miller, Mitchell Marsh, and Aiden Markram, along with Indian seamers Akash Deep and Avesh Khan, among others.

Pooran, Marsh, Markram, and Miller were also considered potential captaincy candidates after the auction.

Pant will also have team mentor Zaheer Khan and head coach Justin Langer for company during IPL.

Kho Kho World Cup: Indian women's team crowned champion

New Delhi
The Indian women's team emerged champion in the inaugural Kho Kho World Cup with a dominant 78-40 victory in the summit clash against Nepal here on Sunday.

On a memorable night at the Indira Gandhi Indoor Stadium here, India produced a masterclass of speed, strategy and skill, dishing out a clinical show.

A brisk start marked Turn 1 as the Indian attackers took charge of the proceedings. Three batches in the Nepal women were out by simple touches on 7 occasions, putting 14 points to India's kitty.

Skipper Priyanka Ingle was in the best form with multiple touch points to her name, as the hosts started off in an excellent manner. This was enough to take the Women in Blue to 34 points and preventing a single Dream Run for the Nepal team.

Manmatti Dhami got Vaishnavi Pawar, and B Sanjitha eliminated Priyanka Ingle but B Chaitra took India's first batch of Turn 2 into the Dream Run.

It wasn't for long, though, as Dipa completed the ALL OUT just moments later. This got the side back into the game but they only managed to score 24 points at the end of Turn 2, with an 11-point deficit at half time.

India were once again the dominant force in Turn 3, never allowing the Nepal defenders to settle in their stride. BK Dipa was a regular for Nepal but it went in vain throughout, ensuring that the Indians edged closer to the trophy.

Chaitra was the orchestrator of the Dream Run for India, taking the score to a massive 78 points in Turn 4. Their batch went on for a massive 5 minutes and 14 seconds, closing out the game for India and confirming them as the first-ever champions of the Kho Kho World Cup.



India begin women's U-19 WC title defence with 9-wicket win over West Indies



Kuala Lumpur
Indian bowlers shot a clueless West Indies batters out for a meagre 44 to set up a commanding nine-wicket win to begin their title defence on a resounding note in the women's U-19 World Cup here on Sunday.

Left-arm spinners Parunka Sisodia (3/7) and Ayushi Shukla (2/6), as well as pacer VJ Joshihitha (2/6), toyed with the West Indies batters to bowl the Caribbean out in just 13.2 overs in the Group A match at Bayemas Oval.

Kenika Cassar top-scored for the West Indies with a 29-ball 15 while opener Asabi Callender contributed 12. All the other West Indies batters could score in single-digit figures with five of them getting out without opening an account.

India chased down the target of 45 in just 4.2 overs, reaching 47 for 4 on the second ball of Jahzara Claxton.

Wicketkeeper-batter G Kamalini (16 not out off 13 balls) and Sanika Chalke (8 not out off 11 balls) took India home for an easy win.

India play hosts Malaysia in their next group match here on Tuesday. Sri

Multan
Sajid Khan and Abrar Ahmed led the charge for Pakistan, bundling out West Indies for 123 to win the first Test in Multan by 127 runs on the third day as spinners ruled the roost.

It was the shortest completed men's Test match in Pakistan with 40 wickets falling in 106.4 balls.

Spinners took 16 wickets on Sunday as Omer Warican's seven-wicket haul restricted Pakistan's second innings to 157, setting a target of 251 for West Indies, who failed to get a partnership going on the turn-heavy track.

"It's hard out there. Bating was hard," Pakistan captain Shan Masood said.

Coaching Overhaul: French duo aims for World Championships and World Tour Finals

New Delhi
Bolstered by the hope fuelled by the Paris Olympics, French badminton players are turning a new page, a revolution led by mixed doubles pair of Thom Gicquel and Delphine Delrue.

The French duo are on the rise again after achieving their career-best ranking of fifth at the start of 2023.

Since the Olympics, Thom and Delphine reached the quarterfinals at the Denmark Open, the semifinals at the Hylo Open, before finishing runners-up at the Japan Masters, steadily climbing to world number 12 from a mid-2024 dip to 23rd.

The duo made a strong start to the new season with a quarterfinal finish at the Malaysia Open Super 1000 and reached the semifinals at the ongoing India Open Super 750.

"The secret is to have the shack of fire in our head and the body if we want to reach the top level. And for that, you need to have goals to improve and also goals for tournaments. And our big goal for this season is the World Championship in Paris," Thom said.

"That's one of the best things. If you play well there, it can be fantastic. So that's the main goal," Delphine added: "I think we have a goal to be back in the top 10 and to be in the top 8. So yeah, we also want to qualify for the World Tour Finals. So we have a lot of goals."

With Paris hosting the Olympics last year, there were high expectations from the home players. Even though it didn't turn out as the French players had hoped for, it brought significant change and hope for a better future.

While Thom and Delphine are the top-ranked shuttlers from the country, Alex Lanier and Toma Junior Popov



are climbing up the world rankings in men's singles, currently ranked 17th and 18th, respectively.

Alex had stunned reigning world champion and Olympic silver medalist Kuntlavut Vitidsarn in the opening round of the India Open. The Popov brothers — Toma and Christo — are also knocking on the top 20, with Christo ranked 22nd.

Margot Lambert and Anne Tran have also broken into the top 20 in women's doubles.

"I think we felt the last two years that it was tough because we didn't have the best staff. And now, since six months, it's really nice. I think our mind is free, and we can play badminton," Delphine said.

"We have a lot of new staff right now. So we changed everything in September. Now, we are working with one Danish coach, one Icelandic coach, and one French coach. We have an all-new team, and it's working pretty well, I think. We are improving, and it's al-

ways nice when you have the feeling, at 26, that you are still improving," Thom said.

"Badminton is becoming increasingly ingrained in French sports culture, I believe. More and more players are talking up the sport, and there is a growing number of players who aspire to reach the top."

"I think the federation is now striving to become a high-performance organization, which wasn't the case before. So, I believe we are on the right path." The French pair said while they missed the opportunity in Paris, the Los Angeles Games remained their main target.

"The next target is not just qualifying for the Olympics, but doing well and competing for medals. Yes, I think we haven't achieved what we want yet. We still have big motivation for the next four years, for the Los Angeles Olympics. And also, to have a stable environment is really nice," Delphine said.

Sajid Khan, Abrar Ahmed help Pakistan crush West Indies in first Test

Multan
Sajid Khan and Abrar Ahmed led the charge for Pakistan, bundling out West Indies for 123 to win the first Test in Multan by 127 runs on the third day as spinners ruled the roost.

It was the shortest completed men's Test match in Pakistan with 40 wickets falling in 106.4 balls.

Spinners took 16 wickets on Sunday as Omer Warican's seven-wicket haul restricted Pakistan's second innings to 157, setting a target of 251 for West Indies, who failed to get a partnership going on the turn-heavy track.

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do that." Pakistan, who had a 93-run lead after the first innings, started from an overnight score of 109-3, but Warican struck early, dismissing Saud Shakeel and Muhammad Rizwan in his successive overs.

Warican's destructive spell continued with Kamran Ghulam (27) getting caught behind soon after and, with Salman Agha (14) becoming Gudakesh Motie's solitary wicket of the innings, the hosts collapsed, having lost seven wickets in 48 runs.

"We'll take a look at how Warican bowled. As spinners we should take a look at that. He was bringing the batters forward," West Indies captain Kraigg Braithwaite said.

BRAITHWAITE FALLS

Braithwaite (12) was the first to fall when the visitors began the chase as he tried to hit Khan for a six but ended up finding Khurram Shahzad at deep mid-wicket.

Keacy Carty (6) tried to sweep Khan, but the ball nicked his glove and was caught by wicketkeeper Rizwan. Khan bamboozled Kaveem Hodge (0) and Mikyle Louis (13) soon after, bowling them out with sharp turns as West Indies fell to 37-4.

Alick Athanaze (55) put up a fight, scoring quick runs to put the pressure back on the bowlers. But Ahmed kept knocking batters down at the other end, as Tevin Imlach (14) and Kevin Sinclair

(10) fell before they could fully settle down.

Athanaze was finally trapped leg before wicket by Khan, and a defiant Warican was the last to fall as he was bowled out for a duck trying to reverse sweep Ahmed.

"The wicket had a lot of turn and bounce... it was our strategy to throttle the runs. If we could do that, wickets would come automatically," said Khan.

He took nine wickets in the Test, including five in the second innings in a player-of-the-match performance. Pakistan have now won three home tests in a row, having beaten England twice to win their three-match series 2-1 in October.

Palestinians trek across rubble to return to their homes as Gaza ceasefire takes hold

KHAN YOUNIS: Even before the ceasefire deal between Israel and Hamas was fully in place Sunday, Palestinians in the war-battered Gaza Strip began to return to the remains of the homes they had evacuated during the 15-month war.

Majida Abu Jarad made quick work of packing the contents of her family's tent in the sprawling tent city of Mitwasi, just north of the strip's southern border with Egypt.

At the start of the war, they were forced to flee their home in Gaza's northern town of Beit Hanoun, where they used to gather around the kitchen table or on the roof on summer evenings amid the scent of roses and jasmine.

The house from those fond memories is gone, and for the past year, Abu Jarad, her husband and their six daughters have trekked the length of the Gaza Strip, following one evacuation order after another by the Israeli military.

Seven times they fled, she said, and each time, their lives became more unrecognizable to them as they crowded with strangers to sleep in a school classroom, searching for water in a vast tent camp or sleeping on the street.

Now the family is preparing to begin the trek home — or to whatever remains of it — to reunite with relatives who remained in the north.

Three Israeli hostages arrive in Israel as fragile ceasefire passes first hurdle

DEIR AL-BALAH: The first three hostages released from Gaza have arrived in Israel, the military announced on Sunday, hours after the fragile ceasefire between Israel and Hamas took hold. Their mothers were waiting to meet them, Israeli media, carrying live footage from Qatar-based Al Jazeera, showed the three women walking to Red Cross vehicles as their convoy moved through Gaza City.

No further glimpses of the three were immediately expected as they will be taken for medical assessment.

"They appear to be in good health," US President Joe Biden said in brief remarks as they were arriving in Israel.

In Tel Aviv, thousands of people gathered to watch the news on large screens erupted in cheers.

For months, many had gathered in the square to demand a ceasefire deal.

The ceasefire ushers



in an initial six-week period of calm and raises hopes for the release of dozens of militant-held hostages and an end to the devastating 15-month war.

A last-minute delay by Hamas put off the truce's start by nearly three hours and highlighted its fragility.

Even before the ceasefire took effect, celebrations broke out across the territory and some Palestinians began returning to their homes.

the Israeli-occupied West Bank, families and friends gathered excitedly as cars honked and people waved the Palestinian flag.

The truce, which started at 11.15am local time, is the first step towards ultimately ending the conflict and returning nearly 100 hostages abducted in Hamas's October 7 2023 attack.

Romi Gonen, 24, Emily Damari, 28, and Doron Steinbrecher, 31, were released.

Ms Gonen was abducted from the Nova music festival, while the others were kidnapped from Kibbutz Kfar Aza.

Ms Damari is an Israeli-British dual citizen.

In the interim between 8.30am and when the ceasefire took hold, Israeli fire killed at least 26 people, according to Gaza's Health Ministry.

It did not say whether they were civilians or fighters.

hard-line national security minister, mean-

while, said his Jewish Power faction was quitting the government in protest over the ceasefire agreement.

Itamar Ben-Gvir's departure weakens Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's coalition but will not affect the truce.

In a separate development, Israel announced it had recovered the body of Oron Shaul, a soldier killed in the 2014 Israel-Hamas war, in a special operation in Gaza.

The bodies of Mr Shaul and another soldier, Itamar Goldin, remained there after the 2014 war and had not been returned.

The ceasefire deal was announced last week after a year of mediation by the United States, Qatar and Egypt.

The outgoing Biden administration and President-elect Donald Trump's team had both pressed for an agreement to be reached before the inauguration on Monday.

Pak journalist arrested for staging own kidnapping

Sindh: A journalist from Khairpur in Pakistan's Sindh, has been accused of faking his own kidnapping to create a false case against his cousins over a land dispute, police revealed on Sunday, as reported by Dawn.

Fayyaz Solangi, a journalist based in the area, had earlier posted a distressing video on his Facebook account claiming that he had been abducted by dacoits demanding a ransom of 10 million. The video, which also showed Solangi chained and tortured by a masked man, led to protests among journalists in several towns of upper Sindh.

The video sparked public concern, prompting fellow journalists and police to search for Solangi after he was reported missing on January 12. His motorcycle was found abandoned along a link road at around 7:00 pm.

The following day, Solangi's uncle reportedly received a ransom call from the supposed kidnappers, demanding the

large sum for his release. This led to immediate action from the Sindh government, with Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah instructing the police to recover Solangi and report back, reported Dawn.

Following an operation in Kashmore, the police recovered Solangi and discovered that he had staged his kidnapping. Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Khairpur, Tawheed Memon, confirmed that Solangi had fabricated the entire ordeal as part of a plan to frame his cousins over an ongoing land dispute. Memon further revealed that Solangi's uncle, Mazhar Solangi, was arrested for his involvement in orchestrating the false kidnapping.

In response to the incident Solangi's employer, KTN News Group, announced his dismissal for faking the kidnapping. The organisation stated that it no longer had any professional ties with Solangi, condemning the act as a violation of journalistic integrity, as per reports by Dawn.

South Korea's impeached president arrested over martial law declaration

SEOUL: Hours after South Korea's impeached President Yoon Suk Yeol was formally arrested, triggering rioting by his supporters, his lawyers said Sunday that he remains defiant in his refusal to answer questions over the probe into his declaration of martial law last month.

Yoon was formally arrested early on Sunday, days after being apprehended at his presi-



dential compound in Seoul. He faces possible imprisonment over his

short-lived authoritarian push, which set off the country's most seri-

ous political crisis since its democratization in the late 1980s.

Yoon's arrest could mark the beginning of an extended period in custody, lasting months or more.

The decision to arrest Yoon ignited unrest at the Seoul Western District Court, where dozens of his supporters broke in and riot-ed, destroying the main door and windows. They used plastic chairs, met-

al beams and police shields that they managed to wrestle away from officers. Some were seen throwing objects and using fire extinguishers, destroying furniture and office machines, smashing glass doors and spraying water on computer servers. They shouted demands to see the judge who had issued the warrant, but she had already left.

Hundreds of police officers were deployed

and nearly 90 protesters were arrested. Some injured police officers were seen being treated at ambulance vans. The court said it was trying to confirm whether any staff members were injured and assess the damage to its facilities.

In a statement issued through lawyers, Yoon lamented that the court did not recognize the "just purpose" of his martial law decree but also urged his supporters to

express their frustrations peacefully. He called on the police to adopt a lenient stance toward the protesters.

Court describes Yoon as threat to destroy evidence

In granting law enforcement's request for an arrest warrant for Yoon, the court said he was a threat to destroy evidence. Yoon and his lawyers on Saturday appeared before the court and argued for his release.

BUSINESS

India Aims for \$250 Billion Engineering Exports by 2030

Greater Noida: The government's target of USD 1 trillion export includes USD 250 billion from the engineering sector, Commerce Secretary Sunil Barthwal said here on Sunday.

The government has set a target to achieve USD 1 trillion export from India by 2030.

"India is known for leather, textile and traditional sectors but engineering sector in India which includes automobiles, equipment etc is almost close to 25 per cent of the total exports. Tomorrow when India is looking at USD 1 trillion of exports, USD 250 billion of exports we are expecting from the engineering industry," Barthwal said.

He was addressing a conference of construction equipment manufacturers.

"This is the ambition that we have taken which is based on ground reality. It is based on the fact that how the middle class is growing, the government focus on infra-

structure development within the country, focus on development of ports, airports, railway modernization, broadening of roads," Barthwal said.

Secretary said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi spoke about multi-modal transport which is to provide last-mile connectivity. He said that in the process of energy transition, there will be demand for adopting technologies which have net zero carbon emission.

This will also create huge opportunities. Youth in India are also looking for certain innovative ideas on which they can take patents and start commercial production," Barthwal said.

He said that Prime Minister Modi at Bharat Mobility interacted with several youths who are looking for opportunities in the sector, making the charging system efficient.

The commerce secretary also emphasized that the mobility industry should focus on ease of travelling as well as safe and secure travel.

India-EU Trade: Tech, Raw Materials & FTA - Goyal

New Delhi: Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal has said that India would work with the European Union to develop cutting-edge technologies and secure critical raw material supply chains to strengthen economic ties.

These issues were discussed during a meeting between Goyal and Maros Sefcovic, European Commissioner for Trade and Economic Security on January 18-19 in Brussels.

The two leaders also agreed to build a commercially meaningful trade agenda and a mutually beneficial Free Trade Agreement (FTA).

The commerce and industry ministry in a statement on Sunday said that India would build a commercially



meaningful trade agenda with the EU, which is fair and equitable, addressing the tariff and non-tariff barriers through simplification and cost competitiveness for benefits of

businesses from both sides.

"India would work together with the EU for developing cutting edge technologies, secure critical raw material supply chains and build

resilient supply chains-reducing dependencies on non-market economies and developing closer economic ties between India and the EU," it said.

Both sides also discussed increasing cooperation in the area of trade and sustainable development in a fair manner keeping in mind the respective level of developments and the principle of common but differentiated responsibility.

The two leaders outlined political directions to both the teams to develop a mutually beneficial agenda for trade and investment and a robust FTA in an expedited manner to meet global challenges," the ministry said.

They reviewed progress in the trade and investment group of the India-EU Trade and Technology Council (TTC), agreed to address legacy issues and laid a roadmap for continuous consultations between senior officials from both sides and at ministerial level.

Punjab & Sindh Bank to Raise Rs 2,000 Cr via QIP

New Delhi: State-owned Punjab and Sindh Bank plans to raise Rs 2,000 crore through Qualified Institutional Placement (QIP) during the ongoing quarter, a top official of the bank said.

The bank has already appointed merchant bankers and legal advisers for the proposed QIP. Punjab & Sindh Bank managing director and CEO Swarup Kumar Saha said.

"With the QIP, the government holding in the bank would come down 3-4 per cent and capital adequacy ratio would rise at the end of March 2025," he said.

The government of India holds 98.25 per cent stake in Punjab & Sindh Bank at the end of December 2024, he said.

The government has extended the deadline for meeting minimum public shareholding norms for central public sector enterprises and public sector financial institutions till August 2026.

Out of 12 public sector banks (PSBs), five are yet to comply with minimum public shareholding (MPS) norms and the government's holding is beyond 75 per cent.

As per the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi), all listed companies must maintain an MPS of 25 per cent.

The bank's board had already approved a capital mop up of Rs 10,000 crore, including Rs 5,000 crore as infrastructure bonds, Rs 2,000 crore as QIP and the remaining Rs 3,000 crore as Tier-2 or Tier-2 bonds for the current fiscal.

India's Economy Conducive for Private Investments: CII Survey

New Delhi: India's current economic environment is conducive for private investments with the country emerging as a "bright spot" amid the challenging global environment, according to a CII survey.

The pan-India survey is an ongoing initiative, which would be completed for 500 firms by the first week of February. The interim results are based on a sample of 300 firms spread across all industry sizes (Large, Medium and Small).

Notably, early results reveal that about 97 per cent of the sample firms are likely to increase em-



ployment in both 2024-25 and 2025-26.

In fact, 79 per cent of the respondents' firms said that they added more people over the past three years.

Chandrajit Banerjee, Director General, CII.

"Even though geopolitical fault lines have disrupted global supply chains and have posed serious challenges to global growth, India has emerged as a bright spot amid this challenging global backdrop. The sound economic policies initiated by the Government helped revive the economy with emphasis on public capex-led growth," stated CII.

The industry survey was conducted to assess the pickup in private-sector investments, employment in the private sector and growth in wages in the private sector.

"The average increase in direct employment due to planned investments in the next year is expected to be in the range of 15 to 22 per cent over the manufacturing and services sectors respectively.

Similar expectations were seen in the interim results on indirect employment with manufacturing and services firms expecting about 14 per cent increase in indirect employment respectively over and above the existing levels of employment.

Majority of the firms surveyed indicated that it takes anywhere between 1 to 6 months to fill in vacancies of Senior management, Management/Supervisor level, while regular and contractual workers take less time to fill in a vacant position indicating the need to fill the availability of skilled staff at the higher level in sample firms.

With the two critical drivers of growth - private investments and employment - looking positive, we feel confident that the overall growth is likely to remain around a stable 6.4-6.7 per cent this year and is likely to be 7 per cent in FY26," said Banerjee.

On wages growth, which has impact on per-

sonal consumption, 40 to 45 per cent of sample firms surveyed saw an increase in average wage growth for senior management, managerial/supervisory roles and regular workers in the range of 10 to 20 per cent in FY 25. The trend was similar in FY 24.

These are promising results, exhibiting confidence about some of the important aspects of the economy. That said, results of the survey, when read along with various other emerging economic indicators, will help in a comprehensive understanding of the economy," underlined the Director General of CII.



Kangana Ranaut's 'Emergency' earns Rs 7.39 crore in two days

ANew Delhi Kangana Ranaut's "Emergency" has collected Rs 7.39 crore at the domestic box office in two days, the makers said on Sunday. The political drama, which sees Ranaut playing the role of former prime minister Indira Gandhi, focuses on 21 months of Emergency from 1975 to 1977. The film, which courted controversy over its censor certificate and allegations that it misrepresents the Sikh community, was released across the country on Friday after several delays. According to Ranaut's

Manikarnika Films, the film earned Rs 3.11 crore net on day one, followed by Rs 4.28 crore on Saturday. The film's two-day net collection stood at Rs 7.39 crore. "The buzz is UNSTOPPABLE as #Emergency grips audiences nationwide! The momentum is building—experience the film everyone's talking about," the banner posted on Sunday. "Emergency" was not screened at cinemas in Punjab on Friday, following state-wide protests by the Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee and Sikh organisations with many politicians call-

ing for a ban. The SGPC, an apex gurdwara body, and several Sikh organisations held demonstrations against the movie outside cinemas, multiplexes and malls across the state. Ranaut decried the demand for a ban on "Emergency" and said the film's restricted screenings in parts of Punjab is a "complete harassment of art and the artist". "Emergency" also features Anupam Kher, Shreyas Talpade, Vishak Nair, Milind Soman and late actor Satish Kaushik. The film is produced by Zee Studios and Manikarnika Films.

Jason Derulo dances to Bollywood hits 'Chammak Challo', 'UP Wala Thumka'

AMumbai American singer-songwriter and dancer Jason Derulo, best known for his global hit 'Swalla', recently embraced Bollywood fever during his visit to India. The artist, in the country to promote his latest music video 'Snake', collaborated with actor and dancer Nora Fatehi for the highly anticipated track. During his promotional tour, Derulo made a special appearance on a dance reality show, where he delighted fans by grooving to Shah Rukh Khan's iconic song 'Chammak Challo' from the movie 'Ra.One'.



'Chammak Challo' sung by Akon and Hamsika Iyer features Sonu Nigam features Govinda and Karisma Kapoor. He also showcased his moves to the lively Govinda classic 'UP Wala Thumka' from the film 'Hero No. 1'. The American star's enthusiasm for Bollywood music and dance left the audience

cheering. 'UP Wala Thumka' sung by Sonu Nigam features Govinda and Karisma Kapoor. The dance number has remained a fan favourite since its release in 1997. On the show, Derulo and Nora Fatehi also made Malika Arora groove to their track 'Snack'.

Jasleen Royal performs 'We Pray' with Chris Martin on stage at Coldplay's Mumbai concert

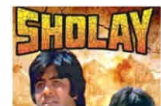
In Mumbai Indian singer Jasleen Royal brought a special touch to Coldplay's concert at DY Patil Stadium in Mumbai on Saturday. Jasleen opened the show with a soulful performance of her song 'Kho Gaye Hum Kahan', captivating the audience. Later, she joined Coldplay's frontman, Chris Martin, on stage for a heartfelt duet of 'We Pray', a track from the band's latest album Moon Music. Sharing highlights of the memorable evening on Instagram, Jasleen posted clips of her performance

and rehearsals. Dressed in a shimmering black outfit with smoky makeup and wavy hair, she looked stunning as she played the piano and sang to loud cheers from the crowd. Expressing her gratitude, she wrote, "Thank you Mumbai, I love you." The evening was filled with surprises, with Chris Martin infusing a uniquely Indian flavour into the concert. The concert featured several surprises. Chris Martin charmed fans by reading placards held by the audience, saying "Shukriya" and even shouting "Jai Shri Ram," which drew enthu-

siastic applause. Curious about the phrase, Martin asked fans what it meant. Adding a playful twist, Martin gave a shoutout to Indian cricketer Jasprit Bumrah. During one of the final songs, he joked, "Hold on, we have to finish the show because Jasprit Bumrah wants to come and play backstage. He says he needs to bowl at me now." Although Bumrah didn't appear, the mention thrilled the crowd. The concert, organized by BookMyShow Live, was a sensory extravaganza featuring Coldplay classics like Fix You and A Sky Full of Stars.



Year of 'Sholay', 'Deewar', 'Nishant' and more, when creativity peaked in Hindi cinema



In New Delhi it was a standout year, and not just in Indian politics. 1975, the year of the Emergency, spent gold for Hindi cinema with memorable films such as 'Sholay', 'Deewar', 'Aandhi' and 'Nishant' making their way to theatres. Fifty years on, they live on in public memory, each a classic in different genres and in different moods. It was also the year of 'Chupke Chupke', 'Mili', 'Julie', 'Chhoti Si Baat' and 'Jai Santoshi Ma'. A happy confluence of talent, a projection of simmering public discontent or simply a time when writers-directors were true creators? Actually, 1975 was all of these. If 'Sholay' and 'Deewar' cemented Amitabh Bachchan's image as the 'Angry Young Man' and gave play to working class angst of the time, 'Aandhi' was the lyrical lament of love that was not to be and 'Nishant', a parallel cinema pioneer, was an angry exploration of feudalism in rural India.

Shaunak Sen reveals cancer battle and recovery: 'The tumour is out of me'

Shaunak Sen, the director of Oscar-nominated documentary "All That Breathes", on Sunday said he is cancer-free after being diagnosed with a "malignant tumour in his kidney" last year. The filmmaker shared a health update on his official Instagram account alongside a few pictures of him from the hospital bed and his peers from the industry who visited him including Mira Nair, Tillotama Shome, and others. "Bit of an absurd update. October end, during a check-up for an autoimmune thing I got a shock diagnosis: a routine scan revealed a small malignant tumour in the kidney. Utter bolt from the blue," Sen wrote. The director further said he underwent surgery in December, which was successful. "No kidney-related symptoms, no hereditary history, no big history of drinking/smoking. Urgent surgery was advised. On the 26th of December, I had a partial nephrectomy, ie a part of my kidney was removed. (It was converted from robotic to an open surgery midway, so there's a dramatic Cronenbergian gash in the belly.) It was successful, the cancer is out of me," Sen said. While most people celebrated Diwali, Christmas,



and New Year with family and friends, the director found himself grappling with his health in the hospital. "The accidental discovery was a blessing in disguise, it was caught very early at a low-grade stage. Recovering since and regaining strength," he said. Sen's movie 2022 "All

That Breathes" was nominated for Best Documentary Feature at the 95th Academy Awards in 2023. It won the World Cinema Grand Jury Prize: Documentary at the 2022 Sundance Film Festival and the Golden Eye Award for Best Documentary at the 2022 Cannes Film Festival.

From 'Jai Shri Ram' to shout-out for Jasprit Bumrah, Coldplay wins Mumbai



From asking what 'Jai Shri Ram' means to giving a tongue-in-cheek shout-out to cricketer Jasprit Bumrah, Coldplay's first concert in India in nine years was nothing short of a cultural celebration where the band's frontman Chris Martin captivated the audience with his humour and curiosity. There were plenty of unforgettable moments that resonated deeply with fans at Navi Mumbai's DY Patil Stadium where Coldplay kick-started their 'Music of the Spheres World Tour' in India. He then said, "What does Jai Shri Ram mean? Must be something good." Martin's innocent inquiry about the meaning of the phrase only heightened the audience's excitement. Throughout the evening, Martin made a concerted effort to connect with the audience in their native tongues. His attempts to speak Hindi and Marathi went met with overwhelming warmth. At the beginning of the concert, he interacted with the crowd in Marathi, Hindi, and English. He began by saying in Marathi, "Tumhe saghre aaj chhan dista" (You're all beautiful today). He then said in Hindi, "Aap sab ka bahut swagat hai humare show pe. Mumbai mein aakar hume bahut khushi ho rahi hai. (You're all very welcome to our show. We feel happy after coming to Mumbai.)" "Sorry, my Hindi and Marathi are bad but I tried my best," he said, before switching to English.

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Henry Cavill, girlfriend Natalie Viscuso welcome first child

Hollywood star Henry Cavill and his girlfriend Natalie Viscuso have welcomed their first child. The couple has not yet announced the news publicly, but they were spotted in Australia on Saturday, strolling with a baby carriage. Photos of their outing with the newborn have since surfaced on social media. In April 2024, Cavill, 41, had confirmed that he is expecting his first child with Viscuso, a television executive. "I'm very excited about it. Natalie and I are both very excited about it. I'm sure you'll see much more of that," the actor told entertainment outlet Access Hollywood at the New York City premiere of his film 'Ministry of Ungentlemanly Warfare'. Cavill and Natalie, who is in her late 30s, made their re-



lationship Instagram official in April 2021 when they shared a photo of themselves playing chess on their respective profiles. "I am very happy in love, and in life. I'd be enormously grateful if you were happy with me. If you can't bring yourself to be happy with me, then at the very least try to do yourself proud and be the best version of yourself (sic)," he had posted on Instagram. The couple made their red carpet debut in New York

City in late 2022 for the premiere of Cavill's Netflix movie 'Enola Holmes 2'. Viscuso and Cavill are also collaborating on a screen adaptation of the miniature wargame 'Warhammer 40,000'. Cavill had earlier spoken about becoming a father and his idea of parenthood. "If I ever have kids one day, I want to be the dad who's running round after them. And if I do have kids, even now, it's starting to get quite late.

