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# TOP STORY

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Rohit, Yashasvi named in Mumbai Ranji squad against Jammu and Kashmir game



'Privileged' to represent India at Trump's swearing-in ceremony: EAM Jaishankar

Coldplay's Chris Martin says 'Shah Rukh Khan forever' at his second Mumbai concert

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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	
Maximum	23°C
Minimum	10°C

## Trump takes oath; says 'golden age' of America begins right now

Donald Trump, who overcame impeachments, criminal charges, and two assassination attempts to secure a second term, has been inaugurated on Monday as the 47th U.S. president.

Washington — Donald Trump was sworn in Monday as the 47th president of the United States, returning to the White House after overcoming four criminal indictments and two assassination attempts in one of the most remarkable political comebacks in U.S. history. Trump recited the oath of office shortly after noon ET at an intimate inauguration ceremony inside the Rotunda of the Capitol, the same building a mob of his supporters stormed four years ago to try to stop the certification of Trump's 2020 election loss. It was moved indoors because of below-freezing in the nation's capital.



The 78-year-old Trump raised his right hand and took the oath of office using a Bible his mother gave him in 1955 that was stacked on a second Bible used by President Abraham Lincoln for his 1861 swearing-in. JD Vance was sworn in as vice president before Trump. "From this day forward, our country will flourish and be respected again all over the world. We will be the envy of every nation, and we will not allow ourselves to be taken advantage of any longer during every single day of the Trump administration."

Trump said at the beginning of his second inaugural address. "The golden age of America begins right now," Trump said at the beginning of his second inaugural address.

## Such persons should be barred from fighting polls: SC on Tahir Hussain's plea

New Delhi — The Supreme Court on Monday made some tough observations against persons accused in criminal cases, such as riots, seeking interim bail to campaign for the polls, saying that all such persons should be barred from contesting elections. A bench led by Justice Pankaj Mishra orally made these remarks, while deferring to January 21 the hearing on a plea filed by former councillor and Delhi rioter accused Tahir Hussain. Hussain moved the apex court seeking interim bail to campaign for the upcoming Delhi assembly polls in February. Violence broke out in northeast Delhi on February 24, 2020, leaving 53 dead and several injured.



The bench, also comprising Justice Amanullah, adjourned the hearing on the matter due to paucity of time. As the judges were rising for the day, Hussain's lawyers mentioned the matter and urged the court to hear it on January 21, and added that his nomination was accepted. "It is easy to win elections sitting in jail. All such persons should be barred from contesting the elections," the bench made this oral observation. On January 14, the Delhi High Court granted custody parole to Hussain to file nomination papers from the

### HIGHLIGHT

SC made some tough observations against persons accused in criminal cases, such as riots, seeking interim bail to campaign for the polls. Mustafabad constituency on an AIMM ticket. However, the high court declined to entertain his plea for interim bail from January 14 to February 9 to fight the polls, saying the gravity of allegations against Hussain, being the main perpetrator in the violence, resulting in the death of several persons, could not be overlooked. The high court observed that nearly 11 FIRs were registered against him in connection with the riots and he was admittedly in custody in a related money laundering case and UAPA case. Agency'

A short time from now, we are going to be changing the name of the Gulf of Mexico to the Gulf of America, - Donald Trump

Trump is just the second former president to return to office after losing an election, joining Grover Cleveland who arrived back in the White House for his second term in 1893. Trump is the first formerly impeached president to return to office, first convicted felon to serve as president and the oldest president on Inauguration Day. Trump's return to power marks a seismic change across the federal government. He enters claiming an election "mandate" to enact sweeping changes after winning every battleground state and the popular vote. The new Trump era is expected to be even more aggressive than the president's

## Army soldier killed in gunfight with terrorists in Sopore

The night and intensified search for suspected terrorists in the area this morning when the encounter broke out.



Jammu soldier was killed on Monday during an overnight encounter with terrorists in North Kashmir's Sopore area, according to the Srinagar based Chinari Corps of the Indian Army. The Army has identified the martyred soldier as Pangala Kartheek who made the supreme sacrifice by laying down his life in the line of duty. He suffered critical injuries during the gunfight at Zalooria Gujjarpari in Sopore and he was evacuated to the hospital for treatment where he succumbed. Security forces laid out a cordon on Sunday when they noticed fire by terrorists while busting a hideout. The security forces retaliated and maintained tight watch at the spot during

## RG Kar rape-murder convict gets life imprisonment till death

Kolkata — A Kolkata court sentenced Sanjay Roy to life imprisonment until death on Monday after he was convicted of raping and murdering an on-duty doctor at the state-run RG Kar Medical College and Hospital. Additional District and Sessions Judge in Sealdah, Anirban Das, had on Saturday found Roy guilty of committing the crime against the postgraduate trainee doctor on August 9 last year. The heinous crime triggered nationwide outrage and prolonged protests in West Bengal. The court also ordered Roy to pay a Rs 50,000 fine and directed the state government to pay compensation of Rs 17 lakh to the family of the deceased doctor. Judge Das stated that the crime did not fall



under the "rarest of the rare" category, which justified the decision to not impose the death penalty on the convict. Roy, a former civic volunteer with the Kolkata Police, was found guilty under Sections 64 (rape), 66 (punishment for causing death), and 103(1) (murder) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS). "The CBI prayed for

imposed upon non-payment of the fine, he added. Under Section 102(1), Roy has been sentenced to life imprisonment with a Rs 50,000 fine, and another five months in jail if the fine remains unpaid. Additionally, under Section 66, he has been sentenced to life imprisonment till death, the judge said. All the sentences will run concurrently, the judge said. "Since the victim died while on duty in the hospital, her place of work, it is the responsibility of the state to pay compensation to the family of the doctor - Rs 10 lakh for the death and Rs 7 lakh for the rape," Das said. The judge informed Roy that he had the right to appeal against the decision before the

## SC stays defamation case against Rahul in Ranchi court

New Delhi — The Supreme Court on Monday stayed proceedings of a defamation case filed against Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi in a Ranchi court. In a relief to the Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, the Supreme Court on Monday stayed proceedings against him before a trial court in Ranchi, Jharkhand, in a criminal defamation case arising from his 2018 speech at AICC plenary session saying that the Union Home Minister Amit Shah was an "accused" in a murder case. Staying all the proceedings before the trial court in Ranchi further orders, a bench of Justice Vikram Math and

Justice Sandeep Mehta issued notice to the Jharkhand government and the Bharatiya Janata Party leader Navin Jha - the complainant before the trial court. The court gave the state government and the complainant, Jha, four weeks to respond to Rahul Gandhi's petition and two weeks to the Congress leader to file his rejoinder to the reply by the State government and the complainant. Rahul Gandhi has approached the Supreme Court against the



21/16 February 2024, Jharkhand High Court, initiating the defamation case arose from his speech on March 18, 2018, at the AICC plenary session. In the said speech, Rahul Gandhi was reported to have said, "The people of this country will accept a lying Bharatiya Janata Party leadership drunk with power because they know that, what the Bharatiya Janata Party is designed for" and further, he had said, "They will, accept a man accused of murder as the President of Bharatiya Janata Party but the people will never accept the same in the Congress Party". Appearing for Rahul Gandhi, senior advocate Abhishek Manu Singhvi told the bench that the complaint was filed by a third party and that is not permissible when it comes to the offence of defamation.

## India Slips To 3rd Place On Trust Barometer

Davos — India has slipped one place to the third slot when it comes to people's trust in the government, businesses, media and NGOs, while the low-income population is far less trusting than their richer counterparts, a study showed here on Monday. The annual Edelman Trust Barometer, now in its 25th year, released before the start of the World Economic Forum Annual Meeting, also showed that India ranks low at 13th place when it comes to trust of people in other countries, in companies with Indian headquarters.



Canada topped this list of foreign-headquartered companies, followed by Japan, Germany, the UK, France and the US, while those ranked higher than India also included Mexico, South Africa, Saudi Arabia, China and Brazil. The overall list for the trust of the general population in the government, businesses, media and NGOs was again topped by China, while Indonesia replaced India for the second spot with an increased score despite the Indian score remaining unchanged. The survey of 28 countries saw Japan replacing the UK at the bottom. In most countries, including India, the low-income population was far less trusting than the high-income group. Agency

Trump takes oath; says 'golden age' of America begins right now



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 tumultuous first four years in office, when he was twice impeached but acquitted by the Senate. Trump has promised a new "golden age" in the U.S. after campaigning on big promises in his election victory over Democrat Kamala Harris to root out the so-called "deep state" from the federal government, begin mass deportations of immigrants in the country illegally and undo Biden's policies on climate, energy, transgender rights, cryptocurrency and a host of other areas.

Trump and his advisers have said the new president will take more than 100 executive actions described by allies as "shock and awe" during his first days in office with a focus on "sealing" the U.S.-Mexico border and levying new tariffs on Mexico, Canada and China.

Trump's next four years are expected to showcase an ever more populist GOP, one that has turned away from free markets toward protectionism and away from international alliances toward an "America First" mentality. Introduced in Trump's first term with tariffs on China, renegotiated trade pacts and hostility toward NATO, these ideas will be more fully expressed in a second Trump administration.

Lawmakers in both parties are on edge about a potential trade war, even as many support Trump's push to protect American industry.

Meanwhile, U.S. and world leaders will be watching closely to see how Trump handles the war in Ukraine, which he has promised to end quickly, and a fragile ceasefire between Israel and Hamas in Gaza.

**Army soldier killed in gunfight with terrorists in Sopore**

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According to the police, a contingent of J&K Police, CRPF, and Army launched a joint cordon and search operation in Gujarpatti after receiving inputs about the presence of militants there.

The security forces used drones for aerial surveillance to keep track of movement of the terrorists hiding in the area.

The elite para commandos were also rushed for the anti-militancy operation and were assisting troops on the ground. Additional troops were also rushed from the nearby formations.

The Chinार Corps said that the "Chinar Warriors salute the immense valour and sacrifice of the soldier Pangala Kartheek and express deepest condolences and stand in solidarity with the bereaved family."

# Not satisfied, will move High Court against verdict: Mamata

**Kolkata:** Expressing "dis-satisfaction" over a Kolkata court awarding life imprisonment to the convict in the RG Kar hospital case, West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Monday claimed the probe was "forcibly" taken away from the state police, asserting that had it been with them, they would have ensured a death penalty.

Speaking to reporters in Murshidabad district, Banerjee also criticised the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) for its probe into the rape-murder of the on-duty medic at the state-run hospital.

"From day 1, all of us had demanded the death sentence, but the court has given a life term until death. We still stick to our demand. I can share my party's opinion on the death sentence, but it has been taken from us. Had it been with the (Kolkata) police, we would have ensured that he got the

## BJP criticises life imprisonment verdict for Kolkata rape-murder convict

**New Delhi:** The BJP on Monday criticised the sentence of life imprisonment for the convict in the R G Kar rape-murder case by a Kolkata court as a "travesty of justice", and said justice must not only be done but also be seen to be done.

BJP's IT department head Amit Malviya, who is also his party's organisational co-incharge for West Bengal, called for appealing the judgement and for probe agencies to investigate the role of the then Kolkata commissioner and the state's chief minister Mamata Banerjee for allegedly destroying the evidence.

He said on X, "Life imprisonment and a 50,000-rupee fine for Sanjay Roy, accused in the RG Kar rape and murder case, is a travesty of justice. The verdict must be appealed." He added, "West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee must stop shielding the criminal. Agencies also need to



death sentence," the CM said.

"We don't know how the probe was conducted. In many similar cases that were probed by the state police, the death penalty was ensured. I am not satisfied... Had it been the death penalty, at least my heart would have been somewhat at peace," she said.

Later, posting on her X handle where she

sounded more critical, Banerjee informed that the state government would challenge the Sealadh Court verdict and move the Calcutta High Court.

"In the RG Kar junior doctor's rape and murder case, I am really shocked to see that the judgement of the Court today finds that it is not a

Rarest of Rare case! I am convinced that it is indeed a rarest of rare case which demands capital punishment. How could the judgement come to the conclusion that it is not a rarest of rare case?!! We want and insist upon the death penalty in this most sinister and sensitive case," she said.

"Recently, in the last 3/4 months, we have

**Speaking to reporters in Murshidabad district, Banerjee also criticised the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) for its probe into the rape-murder of the on-duty medic at the state-run hospital.**

been able to ensure capital/maximum punishment for convicts in such crimes. Then, why, in this case, has capital punishment not been awarded? I strongly feel that it is a heinous crime that warrants capital punishment," the CM said, adding, "We will plead for capital punishment of the convict at the High Court now." The Sealadh court, presided by Additional Justice Anirban Das, on Monday sentenced Sanjay Roy to life imprisonment, after convicting him for the rape and murder of the postgraduate trainee

doctor at RG Kar Medical College and Hospital on August 9, 2024.

The ghastly crime had led to unprecedented and prolonged nationwide protests.

Judge Das ruled that the crime did not meet the criteria for the "rarest of the rare" category, which would have warranted the death penalty.

The chief minister emphasised the severity of the case, stating, "If the verdict had been a death sentence, it would have provided some comfort to our hearts." The crime warranted the "most severe punishment", Banerjee asserted.

"In the three cases we handled — Jaynagar, Farakka, and Guralp — our police successfully secured death sentences (through proper investigation and filing of chargesheet)," she pointed out, referring to similar rape and murder cases investigated by local authorities.

## SC defers bail hearing of Christian Michel James to Feb 18

**New Delhi:**

The Supreme Court on Monday deferred to February 18 the bail hearing of alleged middleman Christian Michel James, accused in the Rs 3,600-crore AgustaWestland corruption case.

A bench of Justices Vikram Nath and Sandeep Mehta adjourned the hearing after the CBI counsel sought time. The top court granted three weeks time and posted the hearing on February 18.

On December 6, the apex court issued notice to CBI and directed it to file its reply within four weeks. The alleged scam is over the purchase of 12 VVIP helicopters from chopper design and manufacturing company AgustaWestland.

James moved the apex court challenging the Delhi High Court's bail rejection order passed on September 25.

James, a British na-



tional, was extradited from Dubai in December, 2018, and was arrested subsequently.

The high court had dismissed his bail plea, observing there was no significant change in circumstances from the time when his previous pleas were rejected.

He is among the three alleged middlemen probed in the case with the other two being Guido Haschke and Carlo

Gerosa.

The CBI chargesheet alleged an estimated loss of 398.21 million euros (about Rs 2,666 crore) to the exchequer due to the deal that was signed on February 8, 2010, for the supply of VVIP choppers worth 556.262 million euros.

The Enforcement Directorate, in its chargesheet against James in June, 2016, in a related memo-

lauding case, alleged he received 30 million euros (about Rs 225 crore) from AgustaWestland.

On February 7, 2023, the top court denied bail to James while rejecting his submission that he had completed half of the maximum sentence in the cases.

The high court dismissed his bail applications in both the CBI and ED cases in March, 2022.

## Centre's strides in toy manufacturing boosted India's quest for

**New Delhi:**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday highlighted that the Centre's strides in the toy manufacturing sector have boosted India's quest for 'Atmanirbharta'.

Responding to a post by Mann Ki Baat Updates handle on X, Modi in a post on X said, "It was during one of the #MannKiBaat episodes that we had talked about boosting toy manufacturing and powered by collective efforts across India, we've covered a lot of ground in that."

"Our strides in the sector have boosted our quest for Atmanirbharta and popularised traditions and enterprise," Modi further said in the post.

Earlier, Mann Ki Baat Updates in a post on X along with a short video clip said, "Here's how PM @narendramodi's #MannKiBaat breathed new life into a 600-year-old craft of Etikoppaka toys, sav-

ing a treasured tradition and livelihood of many!"

The Indian toy industry has now expanded its global footprint to more than 100 countries including the US, the UK, Germany, Netherlands, Denmark and even China from where toys were imported in large quantities, a senior official of the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) said.

As part of its strong commitment to create a better ecosystem for the toy industry, the Government of India has identified the sector as one of the champion sectors, with a long-term vision to create a global market for 'Made in India' toys.

According to industry estimates, India's exports of toys, games and sports articles between 2014-15 to 2022-23 increased by 239 per cent, whereas the imports fell by 52 per cent.

RG Kar rape-murder convict gets life imprisonment till death

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Calcutta High Court and that he would be provided legal aid if needed.

The sentence was passed after the judge heard the final statements of the convict, his defence counsel, the victim's family, and the CBI.

Earlier in the day, Roy claimed in the court that he was innocent and had been "wrongly held guilty." "I am being framed and have not committed any crime. I have not done anything, and still, I have been held guilty," Roy told the court ahead of sentencing in the case.

During the proceedings, the CBI lawyer and the counsel for the victim's parents pleaded for the highest penalty for the convict, calling the crime "rarest of the rare." The parents of the deceased woman medic in the RG Kar rape-murder case said they were not at all satisfied with the verdict of the court pronouncing life-term imprisonment until death, as well as the financial assistance, and would move to a higher court seeking justice.

They claimed that the investigation was done half-heartedly and several other culprits involved in the crime were shielded.

"We are shocked. How can this not be the rarest of the rare case? An on-duty doctor was raped and murdered while being on duty. We are dismayed. There was a larger conspiracy behind this crime," the mother said.

Upon the announcement of the compensation of the deceased doctor said they did not want any compensation.

The father added that they would continue their fight until all the other culprits were brought to book.

**Advt Contact : 9818-799941**

### PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Karan S/o ASHWANI KUMAR NAMBLY, MS, NANKI KAIR, PO, NAIJARGARH, SOUTH WEST DELHI, DELHI - 110043 declare that my father's name as ASHWANI KUMAR is mentioned in my PAN Card No. ETPK1691A but in my 10th Matriculate Certificate my father's name is mentioned as ASHWAN SHARMA & my mother's name as PRATIBHA which is mentioned in my all documents but in my 10th Matriculate Certificate her name is mentioned as PRATIBHA SHARMA & my father & mother's actual name is ASHWANI KUMAR & PRATIBHA respectively.

### PUBLIC NOTICE

GENERAL PUBLIC IS HEREBY INFORMED THAT MY CLIENT NAMELY, MS. NANKI KAIR, W/O LATE SARDAR SHRI GAGAN SINGH AGED ABOUT 68 YEARS, R/O HOUSE BEARING NO 13547, BLOCK-13, KALYANPURI, EAST DELHI, DELHI - 110091, (BEARING ADHAR NO 4256 7994 7322) THAT MY CLIENT MS. NANKI KAIR, W/O LATE SARDAR SHRI GAGAN SINGH, HAVE DISOWNED HER ELDEST SON NAMELY, MR. DAYAL SINGH SON (MR. DAYAL SINGH S/O LATE SARDAR SHRI GAGAN SINGH, R/O 108-109, ARYA NAGAR, NILOTHI EXTENSION, NANLOI, NEW DELHI - 110041) FROM ALL HER MOVABLE AND IMMovable PROPERTIES ASSETS AND HAVE SEVERED ALL RELATIONSHIPS WITH HIM IN RELATION TO CONTINGENT DISBEHEVANCE, DISRESPECT AND ACTS OF OMISSION AND MY CLIENT SHALL NOT BE RESPONSIBLE FOR ANY OF HIS ACTS) WHATSOEVER, IN FUTURE.

VLENDER SINGH (Advocate)  
 CHLN0.324, 3rd FLOOR,  
 SAKRY COURT COMPLEX,  
 NEW DELHI - 110017  
 98189109429

## BJP's policies reflect ideologies of Ambedkar: Thakur

**Bhubaneswar:**

Senior BJP MP Anurag Thakur on Monday claimed that the saffron party's policies were reflections of Dr BR Ambedkar's ideologies and that the Narendra Modi government was busy building the nation based on the principles of the architect of the Indian Constitution.

Laambasting the Opposition Congress, Thakur said that the BJP government has been trying to implement the Uniform Civil Code (UCC) after being influenced by the ideologies of Dr Ambedkar.

"UCC ensures equality for all the communities. UCC will end the religion-centric laws on marriage, divorce, adoption and inheritance rules and provide uniform laws for all," he said.



Thakur said this while participating in the party's two-week-long 'Samvidhan Gaurav Abhiyan' to commemorate the 75 years of the Indian Constitution and honour Ambedkar.

The BJP leader alleged that it was the Congress which amended the Constitution several times for its political gain, while BJP and non-Congress parties hardly corrected the provisions.

While Congress govern-

75 times, others took similar steps 31 times, he said.

He also accused the Congress, beginning from Pt Nehru to Indira Gandhi and Sonia Gandhi, of insulting Dr Ambedkar, who all along his life fought for the rights of the tribals, Dalits and other backward caste communities.

He also charged Rahul Gandhi with misleading the people in the name of the Constitution.

Odisha BJP president Manmohan Samal had earlier said that the party would organise seminars and intellectual meets at 50 places to spread awareness among the people about the Constitution and counter the alleged propaganda launched by the Congress over undermining constitutional values.

# BJP accuses AAP, Congress of joining hands with 'anti-national elements'

■ The BJP on Monday hit out at Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) national convenor and former Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal and Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi, accusing them of joining hands with "anti-national elements" and standing alongside them.

New Delhi  
Ahead of the February 5 Delhi Assembly elections, the BJP on Monday hit out at Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) national convenor and former Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal and Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi, accusing them of joining hands with "anti-national elements" and standing alongside them.



"On the one hand, we are focused on eliminating Naxalism completely, and for the BJP, 'Nation First' has always been the guiding principle. However, there are some anti-national parties that collaborate with forces working against the country, receive funding from them for political gains, and then choose to remain silent," Thakur said. "Rahul Gandhi and Arvind Kejriwal, who engage in 'double dating,' appear one way on the outside but are entirely different on the inside. Whether it is the surgical strike, air strike, or the issue of Afzal Guru's hanging, on all these topics, both Congress and the Aam Aadmi Party have shown the same position, with Rahul Gandhi and Arvind Kejriwal standing together," he charged.

"Who stood shoulder to shoulder with the tukde tukde gang who raised anti-national slogans? Who gave him (chief of tukde tukde gang) the ticket? It was Rahul Gandhi and Arvind Kejriwal, who indulge in double dating? Not only this, who stayed with the terrorist sympathisers in Punjab just to win elections? Kejriwal should answer this," he said.

He accused former AAP leader Tahir Hussain of "defaming" the country by "inciting riots" in the national capital. "Who defamed the country by inciting riots in Delhi? If Tahir Hussain is in jail today, can the Aam Aadmi Party run away from him?" Thakur asked.

Hitting out at the AAP and Congress, the BJP MP said these are the same people who raise doubts over the martyrdom of Inspector Sharma in connection with the Batla House case. "This is the same AAP and the same Congress Party that raise questions on the Batla House incident. They raise doubts over the martyrdom of Inspector Sharma. There are some people in Delhi who spread rumours of bomb blasts and make parents cry and get schools closed. Who is the mastermind behind this?" Thakur said.

The leader of the Opposition highlighted the development initiatives undertaken by the Central Government under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, particularly for Delhi and Rohini. He emphasised key schemes like the metro expansion to Narela, Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana, Ujjwala Yojana and the free ration distribution initiative, illustrating how these welfare programs have benefited the common people.

He also mentioned the special funding provided by the Narendra Modi Government for Delhi's development. Improvement in traffic systems, and the expansion of healthcare facilities.

Kejriwal said that tenants in Delhi will also get free electricity and water. Arvind Kejriwal said that Dakhshina of 18 thousand will be given every month to the elderly. I will get the old sewer line of Delhi replaced.

The government will give money to security guards for RWA. Arvind Kejriwal said that the law and order in Delhi is at a standstill. Arvind Kejriwal said that you gave the responsibility of Delhi to a small man like me 10 years ago. I don't know what you saw in me.

Kejriwal said that as soon as the lotus button is pressed, the free bus service for women will be stopped. Arvind Kejriwal said that after the elections, people get treatment in Mohalla Clinics, Mohalla Clinics will be closed as soon as the lotus button is pressed. Arvind Kejriwal said that I made water free, after I went to jail, BJP got huge bills made in collusion with LG, if AAP wins then the wrong bills will be forgiven.

Arvind Kejriwal cornered BJP and said that BJP has clearly written in its Sankalp Patra that Mohalla clinics will be closed. In the last 5 years, 5 crore people get treatment in Mohalla Clinics, Mohalla Clinics will be closed as soon as the lotus button is pressed. Arvind Kejriwal said that I made water free, after I went to jail, BJP got huge bills made in collusion with LG, if AAP wins then the wrong bills will be forgiven.

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# AAP indulging in politics based on false promises: Gupta

New Delhi  
Ahead of the Delhi assembly elections, Leader of the Opposition in the Assembly Vijender Gupta accused the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) of indulging in politics based on false promises.

During his padyatra on Monday, Gupta, who is the BJP's candidate from the Rohini Assembly constituency, said, "The AAP is indulging in politics based on false promises and advertisements. The AAP government has misled the people of Delhi in the past 10 years."

He said despite the AAP government's tall claims about improvement in water, electricity, education, and healthcare, the problems remain unresolved. "Government schools and hospitals are in poor condition. Mohalla Clinics are a mere eyewash. The issue of pollution and drinking water remained unresolved," he pointed out.

The leader of the Opposition highlighted the development initiatives undertaken by the Central Government under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, particularly for Delhi and Rohini. He emphasised key schemes like the metro expansion to Narela, Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana and the free ration distribution initiative, illustrating how these welfare programs have benefited the common people.

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Kejriwal said that as soon as the lotus button is pressed, the free bus service for women will be stopped. Arvind Kejriwal said that after the elections, people get treatment in Mohalla Clinics, Mohalla Clinics will be closed as soon as the lotus button is pressed. Arvind Kejriwal said that I made water free, after I went to jail, BJP got huge bills made in collusion with LG, if AAP wins then the wrong bills will be forgiven.

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## 4 members of house burglary gang arrested in an encounter with Noida cops

Amar Saini  
Noida  
In an encounter with Noida Sector-24 police station, City police has arrested four members belonging to the house burglary gang. One miscreant has received a bullet injury in retaliatory firing.

Police have seized a stolen motorcycle and Rs 40,000 stolen cash from their possession. This gang used to commit thefts by breaking the locks of houses and shops.

The encounter took place near Chaura village. During police checking, our police team intercepted two people on a motorcycle and two people on foot in a suspicious condition at Sector-54 T-point. "When the police tried to stop them, the miscreants on the motorcycle started running away. Their motorcycle collided with the divider and they fell down. While fleeing, the miscreants opened fire on the police, but one miscreant was injured in the retaliatory action of the police," Additional DCP, Noida, Manish Kumar Mishra said.

The arrested accused have been identified as Jahar Singh, Deepak Giri alias Dam Bahadur, Jharendra and Vinod Thapa, all four are native of neighbouring country Nepal.

"We have seized live cartridges, knife, crowbar, screwdriver too from their possession," ADCP said. "This gang was committing thefts by breaking the locks of houses and shops for a long time. Their other criminal history is being investigated. The injured criminal has been sent to the hospital for treatment," DCP Noida, Rambadan Singh said.

## Kejriwal highlights 'lack of opportunities' to slam Centre over Indian students' death in US

New Delhi  
Poor education system and "lack of opportunities" in the country are forcing youths to go abroad, AAP supremo Arvind Kejriwal claimed on Monday, slamming the BJP-led Central government over the death of an Indian student in the US.

The 26-year-old student from Telangana was allegedly shot dead in the US by unidentified persons. K Ravi Teja had gone to the US in 2022 and was looking for a job after completing his MS course eight months ago.

Describing it a "matter of great concern", Kejriwal



demanded the Centre pay immediate attention to the incident. "This news is very sad. In the past few months, several incidents have come to light where our country's youth have been killed abroad. This is a matter of great concern. The poor education system and lack of opportunities are forcing our youths to go abroad," he

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## I am a Baniya's son, a magician, I say you just eat mangoes on free schemes

Ravi Dalmiya  
New Delhi  
AAP's national convenor and former Delhi CM Kejriwal has started an aggressive campaign with the aim of reaching all 70 assembly seats in Delhi.

He started his campaign on Monday with a public meeting in Vishwas Nagar in East Delhi. Vishwas Nagar Assembly's Aam Aadmi Party candidate Deepak Singal, local corporation councillor and other Aam Aadmi Party workers were present in this public meeting.

Arvind Kejriwal has announced many free schemes before the Delhi Assembly elections. Regarding this, BJP had cornered him asking where will the money come from these free schemes.

Now Arvind Kejriwal has answered this question in a public meeting where he said that these people ask

where will the money come from? I am a Baniya's son, I am a magician, I say you just eat mangoes. Arvind Kejriwal said that this time my focus will be on employment. Arvind Kejriwal said that I do not work to take credit, I work to serve the public.

Arvind Kejriwal cornered BJP and said that BJP has clearly written in its Sankalp Patra that Mohalla clinics will be closed. In the last 5 years, 5 crore people get treatment in Mohalla Clinics, Mohalla Clinics will be closed as soon as the lotus button is pressed. Arvind Kejriwal said that I made water free, after I went to jail, BJP got huge bills made in collusion with LG, if AAP wins then the wrong bills will be forgiven.

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## Sachdeva, who visited the flats in Bawana, North West Delhi, claimed that the Central Government had allocated Rs 12,000 crore to build these houses for sanitation workers and the underprivileged.

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## Noida Authority to set up dog shelter

Noida  
The Noida Authority, to address the rising number of dog bite cases in the city, will set up a new dog shelter in sector-34 along with the expansion of the existing dog shelter in sector 34. Each shelter will have the facility to take care of about 25 dogs.

According to sources, these special shelters will focus on the treatment and behavioural correction of stray dogs. Dogs will be kept in these centres for 15 days, where they will be given rabies vaccination and special behavioural training. After treatment, the dogs will be released back to their original place.

This expansion is being done due to lack of space in the shelter of sector-34 which was started in June last year. In these shelters, proper arrangements have been made for first aid, vaccination, food and accommodation for the dogs. Currently, injured dogs are being treated at the animal shelter located in sector-94. Tender has been issued for the construction of a new shelter and construction work is likely to start from February.

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**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
General public is hereby informed that Mrs. Manisha W/o Mr. Sudheer Kumar owner of Plot land area 100 sq. yds, part of Khara no. 44/1 & 44/2 & 43 & 50, at Mohalla Pahad Mandi known as Govindpur Kankar Kheda, Meerut, U.P. vide Sale Deed dated 08.10.2013, doc no. 6236, executed by Sardar Hardhar Singh S/o late Sardar Sohan Singh Mathora & Sardar Manjeet Singh S/o late Sardar Kuldeep, SR-Meerut-IV, and said property to be financed by AU Small Finance Bank Ltd, if anybody has any charge/interests/title/third party in the said property of any kind of dispute kindly inform the undersigned in writing and with proof on the below mentioned address, failing which and I am aware that in case default with the mortgage property that all borrower / Owners are responsible for the same.  
**Satendra Gautam Advocate**  
Shop no. 3, Property no. 126, Lal Kaula Ghaziabad, U.P

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
General Public is hereby informed that my clients Sh. Pawan Kumar C/o Sh. Devi Chand and his wife Smt. Sunita R/o House No. 104-105, upper ground floor, Bck-1, pocket-3 Sector-16, Rohini North West Delhi-110089 have severed all relationships and disowned/debarred their son Vineet Mittal C/o Pawan Kumar from their movable and immovable property. That Vineet Mittal disobeyed and quarrels and left his old age parents along with against the wishes of my clients and other family members. That my clients have no concern whatsoever with their son. They are not responsible in any manner for the acts, deeds and conducts of their son. That anybody Deals with them shall bear at his own risk and cost.  
**ROBIN BHARDWAJ Advocate**  
Ch. No. 703, Lawyer's Chamber Block Rohini Courts Complex, Delhi-110085

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
General Public is hereby informed that Mrs. Anaksha Mehta is Selling Entire Ground Floor without roof rights part of Property No. 73, area measuring 125 sq. yds., in Block C-3, situated in the layout plan of Wazirpur Residential Scheme, Ashok Vihar, Phase-II, New Delhi. (HEREIN AFTER REFERRED AS THE "SAID PROPERTY"). That original papers of the above said property i.e. Original Deed Certificate Of Mrs. Kesra Devi. Original Sale Deed dated 07.04.2005 executed by Mr. Love Dev in favour of Mr. Ramesh Chand in relation to Entire Ground floor without roof rights, Plot no. 73, Block no.C-3, Area measuring 125 sq. yds., duly regd., at Doc no. 12569, Book no.1, Vol no.6132 pages 141-147 dated 07.04.2005. Original Sale Deed dated 16.09.2005 executed by Mr. Ramesh Chand in favour of Mr. Gurcharan Mehta and Mrs. Rama Mehta in relation to Entire Ground Floor without roof rights of Plot no. 73, Block no.C-3, Area measuring 125 sq. yds., duly regd., at Doc. no. 30001, Book no.1, Vol no. 6808 pages 170-176 dated 16.09.2005. are missing anywhere. A missing information/NCR to this effect has already been lodged with Delhi Police Crime Branch bearing LR No. 2510239/2023 Dated: 20.01.2025. It is hereby notified that any person or entity, firm/Company, bank, HUF/member of HUF, financial institution, having any claim any charge, interest or lien or deed on the basis of above documents and/or objection to thereof, he/she/they may lodge notify the same to the undersigned with documentary proof/court judgment within 07 days from the date of this publication on Email-gharmandarkamt09@gmail.com of undersigned, failing which any such claim/objection shall be deemed to be null and void.  
**Kamini Singh Advocates**  
Address: A2/162 & 163 Lower Ground Floor, Safdarjung Enclave South Delhi-110029

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# Delhiites will secure their children's future by voting for 'jhadu' again: Bhagwant Mann

New Delhi  
Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann held mega roadshows in Model Town, Badli, and Rohini assembly constituencies, urging support for AAP candidates. The Punjab CM highlighted Arvind Kejriwal's focus on schools, hospitals, electricity, and water, contrasting it with the BJP's empty promises. Despite Amit Shah's efforts in Delhi's last elections, the BJP failed to win.



Meanwhile, senior AAP leader and Punjab's Finance Minister, Harpal Cheema led a Jansabha in Karol Bagh Assembly constituency today and Punjab's Education Minister, Harjot Singh Bains led a padayatra in Bijnawas Assembly constituency.

Seeing the overwhelming support during his roadshow in Model Town, Punjab CM Bhagwant Mann stated, "It makes me feel like there's no need for me to speak; your support speaks for itself."

Bhagwant Mann stated that people have grown to dislike politicians because they have destroyed the country. He asserted, "But Arvind Kejriwal talks about schools, hospitals, infrastructure, electricity, and water. Meanwhile, others make hollow promises like depositing Rs. 15 lakh in your accounts. Now, they're saying they'll give Rs. 2,500."

He appealed to the supporters and said the moment you press the 'Jhadu' button, it's as if you've entrusted the next five years of your children's future into Arvind Kejriwal's hands. He is someone who shapes destinies.

"But don't give your children's future into the wrong hands—those who only take from you. They don't talk about education, hospitals,

or real issues. All they do is create divisions. We are not about fighting; we believe in unity. These divisive people—why are they dividing us? We are not here to talk about fights; we are here to talk about education," the Punjab CM asserted.

Bhagwant Mann stated, "If each of your family members casts their vote, the victory is certain. If two or three members of your

household vote, the candidate will surely win. We are people who have risen from among you, and true governance is done by those who win hearts. Just having a crown doesn't make someone a leader—after all, even a rooster has a crown on its head! When Arvind Kejriwal asks me where I went, I'll tell him, 'I went to Kamla Market.' He'll ask, 'How was the response?' I'll say, 'It was fantastic.'"

During his roadshow in Badli, Bhagwant Mann urged supporters to ensure that Delhi receives the highest voter turnout for AAP this time. He said, "If you deliver on this promise, I'll tell my party chief that you kept your word. By 8:01 am on the 8th, results will start coming in. Remember to press the 'Jhadu' button on 5th February. Don't look at any other button, or it might bring misfortune. These corrupt people's symbols should not even catch your eye."

Bhagwant Mann said, "There's immense enthusi-

asm across Delhi, similar to what I witnessed in Punjab in 2022, Delhi in 2020, and 2015. Parvesh Verma is distributing shoes and money—does he think Delhiites are for sale? Democracy isn't for sale. Arvind Kejriwal, a three-time MLA from New Delhi, will win again, setting records, and securing over 60 seats. Even Home Minister Amit Shah distributed pamphlets last time but couldn't win. Delhiites will never support those spreading hatred. AAP doesn't just lead in surveys, it forms governments."

Bhagwant Mann highlighted, "Today, Delhi's electricity bills are zero, and in Punjab, 90% of households also get zero bills. Clean intentions make it possible. PM Modi mocked Arvind Kejriwal's free 'revidis' but promised Rs. 2,500 to women after Arvind Kejriwal announced Rs. 2,100. They call our schemes 'revidis,' but now they're handing out papads themselves."

## BJP, AAP play politics of polarisation of communities for political gains : Khurshid

Staff Reporter  
New Delhi  
Former Union Minister Salman Khurshid has accused the BJP and the AAP of playing politics of polarisation of communities for political gains.

Addressing a press conference here on Monday, Khurshid said that Congress respects all without any discrimination. He said there are poor, middle class and rich among minorities like in other communities, and Congress does not play appeasement politics.

He said that former CM Arvind Kejriwal promised that Pujaris and Granthis will be given Rs 18,000 per month if AAP returns to power, but why make such a promise now as Pujaris and Granthis do puja every day, why they were denied such honorariums till now?

Khurshid said that Kejriwal misled the Dalits with his Ambedkar Scholarship Scheme, announced in 2020, but due to fund shortage, Dalit students were not sent abroad. He said that only Rs 25 lakh was distributed in

scholarships, but spent Rs 9 crore for its publicity.

He asked Kejriwal after the communal violence in Jahangirpuri and East Delhi, you neither visited the affected areas nor spoke publicly in favour of the victimised and vulnerable communities. As the then Chief Minister of Delhi, why did you maintain silence? What steps have you taken since then to address the problems of the affected communities and restore their confidence—especially in areas like Jahangirpuri and East Delhi?

Khurshid further said the Bilkees Bano case transcended caste and religion and shocked the sensibilities of the country. But then AAP deputy chief minister Manish Sisodia had clearly refused to condemn that shameful incident or make any comment on it. This raises serious questions about AAP's commitment towards justice.

Why didn't AAP do anything to hold those responsible for that case accountable or show solidarity with the victim?

## Delhi Metro warns of longer queues



New Delhi  
The Delhi Metro on Monday announced that the CISF has intensified security checks in view of Republic Day, which may lead to queues at some stations during peak hours. A senior it in DMRC official stated that, in light of the enhanced security arrangements ahead of Republic Day, the CISF has further intensified passenger security checks across metro stations until January 27.

"This may result in queues at some metro stations, especially during peak hours, until this period. Therefore, passengers are advised to plan their journey accordingly and allow for some additional time for their commute during these days," the official said.

They also urged passengers to cooperate with security personnel during the checks.

## AAP, BJP ruined lives of people in Delhi, says Rajeev Shukla

New Delhi  
Senior Congress leader Rajeev Shukla on Monday said people of the national capital have taken a pledge to vote for the grand old party in the upcoming assembly elections as the BJP and the AAP have "ruined" their lives by doing nothing for their welfare.



Addressing a press conference at the party's Delhi office, he said due to the fight between the AAP and BJP for taking "credit" for the work done by DMRC official stated that, in light of the enhanced security arrangements ahead of Republic Day, the CISF has further intensified passenger security checks across metro stations until January 27.

"This may result in queues at some metro stations, especially during peak hours, until this period. Therefore, passengers are advised to plan their journey accordingly and allow for some additional time for their commute during these days," the official said.

They also urged passengers to cooperate with security personnel during the checks.

Renewal Mission at 14 areas in the national capital, but it was unfortunate that despite completing 35,744 flats many years ago, only 4,883 flats were allotted and 30,303 flats ready for allotment still remain vacant due to the clash between AAP and BJP. Attacking the AAP and BJP, he further said taking "credit" for the work of others has been a habit of the AAP government in Delhi and BJP-led government at the Centre.

The schemes implemented by the Congress for the uplift of the poor and the marginalised were now being appropriated by AAP and BJP, and they were also recycling them to mislead the voters ahead of the Delhi As-

sembly elections, alleged Shukla.

On air pollution, the Congress MP said Delhi air has become so toxic that people cannot breathe easily, and respiratory illnesses have become the new 'normal'.

Referring to the five guarantees announced by the Congress, he said the voters have faith in the Congress as the party will fulfil its promises of Rs 2,500 to women under the Pyari Didi Yojna, Rs 25 lakh health insurance to all, Rs 8,500 monthly scholarships for unemployed, educated youth for their skill development, Rs 500 cooking gas per cylinder along with a ration kit and 300 units of free power.

## Udit Raj, priests protest near Kejriwal's residence over honorarium demand

New Delhi  
Former Lok Sabha MP and Congress leader Udit Raj, along with several priests staged a protest on Monday near the residence of Aam Aadmi Party supreme Arvind Kejriwal's residence demanding a monthly salary for Buddhist monks and priests of Guru Ravidas and Lord Valmiki temples.



The protesters alleged that the protest was scheduled at Jantar Mantar, but police did not allow the gathering.

They said Kejriwal has announced salary for granthis and Hindu priests, but why not for Buddhist monks, priests of Valmiki, Guru Ravidas

and even the Church? "Under the leadership of Udit Raj, a protest was scheduled at Jantar Mantar for a monthly salary of Rs 18,000 for Buddhist monks, priests of Guru Ravidas and Lord Valmiki, but the police did not allow the gathering," a

protester claimed.

The protesters further said that they rescheduled the demonstration near Kejriwal's residence at Ferozshah Road.

On Sunday, Raj accused Kejriwal of being "anti-Dalit", saying that while his party announced a

scheme to provide a monthly honorarium to temple priests and gurdwara granthis, it left out priests of Valmiki and Ravidas temples.

On Monday, "bhikshus" and priests of Valmiki and Ravidas temples will protest against the AAP to demand that they be covered under the party's proposed scheme, the former MP had said.

On December 30, Kejriwal announced that the AAP would give a monthly honorarium of Rs 18,000 to temple priests and gurdwara granthis under the 'Pujari Granthi Samman Yojana' if it returns to power in Delhi in the upcoming assembly polls.

## Delhi HC seeks police stand on plea over preservation of case diaries

New Delhi  
The Delhi High Court on Monday sought the stand of police on the issue of preservation of case diaries of a probe against activist Devangana Kalita in a February 2020 riot case.

Arguing before Justice Vikas Mahajan, Kalita's counsel said in view of an order of the high court directing preservation of the record, the prosecuting agency must show how it was done.

"File a response," the court said and posted the hearing on January 31.

Kalita moved the high court last year alleging the police added "antedated" statements to the case diary, which was impermissible in law and sought a direction to "re-construct" and "preserve" the document.

On December 2 last year, the high court passed an order directing "the case diaries involved in the present case be preserved by the respondent".



Kalita moved the high court last year alleging the police added "antedated" statements to the case diary, which was impermissible in law and sought a direction to "re-construct" and "preserve" the document.

On Monday, Kalita's counsel informed before the trial court, the prosecution took a stand that the case diaries were part of the police file retained by the trial court.

Let a report be filed to show how they have complied with the high court's direction, he argued.

Kalita in her plea before high court challenged a trial court order which refused to summon the case diary.

The police had opposed the request on the ground it would further delay the matter.

The trial court said it could not look into the truthfulness and veracity of her allegations that raised a "suspicion on the version of the investigating agency" and asked her to raise the issue at an appropriate stage.

The northeast Delhi violence led 53 dead and about 700 injured.

## Yogi Adityanath to hold 14 rallies for BJP in Delhi

New Delhi  
The BJP leader and Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath will hold 14 poll rallies and public programs in the national capital, starting from January 23, while campaigning for the party in the Delhi assembly elections.

As per the top source in Delhi BJP, "UP CM Yogi Adityanath will play a crucial role in campaigning in Delhi for BJP. His presence as UP CM in Delhi will impact voters who have a UP background. Yogi will do 14 rallies and public programs starting from 23rd January."

## AAP tops list of candidates with criminal records: BJP

New Delhi  
BJP leader Shehzad Poonawalla alleged that the Aam Aadmi Party, which once claimed it would not allow criminals in the assembly to ensure the passage of strict laws, had fielded the highest number of candidates with criminal records.

He claimed AAP had that nearly 60% of candidates with criminal records, followed by Congress. He said this reflected yet another U-turn by the party.

"Aam Aadmi Party used to say that they do not want criminals in their assembly because criminals will not be able to pass important and strict laws... But when the list (of candidates) was released, it was found that Aam Aadmi Party has the highest number of people with criminal records nearly 60%, followed by Congress... This means that Aam Aadmi Party has taken a U-turn once again..." he said.

On Sunday, AAP released a list of 40-star campaigners, it includes party leaders, including Chief Minister Atishi, national convener Arvind Kejriwal, Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann, former Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia, former Delhi mayor Shelly Oberoi, AAP's RS MP Raghav Chadha have been included in the list.



On Sunday, AAP released a list of 40-star campaigners, it includes party leaders, including Chief Minister Atishi, national convener Arvind Kejriwal, Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann, former Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia, former Delhi mayor Shelly Oberoi, AAP's RS MP Raghav Chadha have been included in the list.

Various other leaders, such as Sandeep Pathak, Pankaj Gupta, Satyender Jai, Harbhajan Singh, Saurabh Bhardwaj Imran Hussain, and Mukesh Ahlawat have been also included.

The BJP on Thursday released its fourth list of nine candidates for the polls, thus declaring 68 of the 70 names, leaving two seats for its allies.

While the Congress had declared 68 candidates out of Delhi's 70 assembly seats.

The Delhi Assembly elections are going to be held in a single phase on February 5, with counting to be done on February 8.

A three-way contest is on the cards in Delhi between the ruling AAP, BJP and Congress. Congress, which was in power for 15 consecutive years in Delhi, has suffered setbacks in the last two assembly elections and has failed to win any seat. AAP dominated the 2020 assembly elections by winning 62 out of 70 seats while the BJP got eight seats.

**Crackdown on counterfeit Kashmiri handicrafts intensifies**

**Jammu:** In a stringent move to curb the sale of counterfeit Kashmiri handicrafts to tourists, the Handicrafts and Handloom Department on Monday issued a stern warning to showroom owners in the Kashmir Valley. They were instructed to refrain from selling machine-made items under the guise of genuine handmade products, failing which strict action under the Tourist Trade and Quality Control Acts will be taken. A spokesperson for the Handicrafts and Handloom Department revealed that numerous complaints have been received regarding the sale of machine-made Turkish carpets falsely labeled as authentic Kashmir hand-knotted carpets. "This practice has tarnished the rich heritage of Kashmir's handicrafts. Acting promptly, several showrooms have been inspected, and unlabelled machine-made products have been confiscated," the spokesperson stated. The spokesperson further disclosed that the Central Inspection Squad from the Quality Control wing has been directed to intensify inspections of showrooms in Srinagar City, as well as along tourist routes to Gulmarg, Pahalgam, and other locations. The aim is to clamp down on traders misrepresenting machine-made goods as handmade Kashmiri art. To promote the sale of authentic handmade products, stakeholders have been encouraged to approach the Handicrafts and Handloom Department for GI tagging, testing, and certification of their goods at institutions such as CDI and ICT. This initiative seeks to enhance customer satisfaction and safeguard the rich cultural heritage of Kashmir. "The department has devised a plan to significantly improve testing and certification capacity of handmade products, particularly at the Pashmina Testing and Quality Certification Centre at DDI," the spokesperson added. He also highlighted ongoing local and national-level IEC campaigns aimed at encouraging customers to insist on purchase of the labeled, certified handmade products.

**Suggestions from mothers & sisters will play a key role in empowering women in upcoming budget: CM**

**Komal Ramola Chandigarh:** Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini said that under the leadership of Prime Minister Sh. Narendra Modi, both the Central and Haryana Governments are actively working towards empowering women. He said that the government's goal is to ensure women become key contributors to the nation's development. The Chief Minister expressed confidence that the suggestions provided by women today would play an important role in further empowering and strengthening women in the upcoming budget. Nayab Singh Saini was speaking during the sixth pre-budget consultation with women for Budget 2025-26, held in Panchkula here on Monday. A total of 35 women, playing leading roles across various fields, participated in the pre-budget consultation and shared their suggestions with the Chief Minister. The women who contributed ideas



included Anganwadi workers, members of self-help groups, Drone Didi, Lakhpati Didi, representatives from NGOs, progressive women farmers, and women entrepreneurs. In addition, young women from Haryana who took part in the Prime Minister's Vikas Bharat Young Leaders program in New Delhi on "Swami Vivekananda Jayanti also shared their valuable suggestions. Nayab Singh Saini highlighted that the Prime Minister has announced a provision for 33 percent reservation for women in the Lok

Sabha and State Assemblies by 2029, aimed at ensuring greater female participation in the nation's development and providing them with leadership opportunities. He further mentioned that the Haryana government is committed to empowering and making women self-reliant. To achieve this goal, the state government has implemented several ambitious initiatives. The Chief Minister said that in order to realize the concept of an inclusive budget, the state government is actively seeking suggestions from various

sections of society. The best suggestions received through pre-budget consultations will be incorporated into the state government's budget. He mentioned that, for the first time, the state government has introduced a system where residents can submit budget-related suggestions online from the comfort of their homes. A dedicated portal has been created for this purpose. He assured that the important suggestions shared by women during today's pre-budget consultation will be included in the upcoming budget. He added that thousands of sugges-

tions have already been received through pre-budget consultations with representatives from various sectors across the state. He will soon hold pre-budget discussions with industrialists in Faridabad and representatives from the textile industry in Panipat. Prior to this, similar consultations were held with stakeholders in Gurugram and Hisar. The Chief Minister said that women today are not only excelling in fields such as education, agriculture, entrepreneurship, self-help groups, and sports but are also becoming a source of inspiration for others. He said that the government is fully supporting and assisting women in their endeavours. Whether it's the launch of the Drone Didi initiative or the establishment of Sanjha Bazaars, the government is dedicated to empowering women. He shared that last year, it was suggested that a market for working women be created, allowing them to earn income by selling their products and becoming self-reliant. In response to this, the state government announced the Sanjha Bazaar scheme in the 2024-25 budget.

**J&K LG Manoj Sinha registers for organ donation**

**Jammu:** Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Monday pledged organ donation by registering on Ayushman Bharat Organ Donation Registry of the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Government of India. The State Organ and Tissue Transplant Organization (SOTTO) representatives, Dr Elias Sharma, Nodal Officer, Dr Sanjeev Puri, Joint Director, Manoj Sinha on Monday pledged organ donation by registering on Ayushman Bharat Organ Donation Registry of the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Government of India. The State Organ and Tissue Transplant Organization (SOTTO) representatives, Dr Elias Sharma, Nodal Officer, Dr Sanjeev Puri, Joint Director, Manoj Sinha on Monday pledged organ donation by registering on Ayushman Bharat Organ Donation Registry of the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Government of India. Sandeep Jain, President and Monika Jain, General Secretary of Bharatiya Jain Sangathan, J&K were also present on the occasion. Earlier, the lieutenant governor had expressed his willingness for organ donation during a programme organised by Bharatiya Jain Sangathan on Sunday.

**Central expert team visits J&K village to probe 17 mystery deaths**

**Jammu:** As the inter-ministerial expert team constituted by Union Home Minister Amit Shah reached the Badhaal village on Monday where 17 people, including 12 children, have mysteriously died since 7 December. The authorities have banned community feasting and sealed a natural water spring in the village of the in the Rajouri district near the Line of Control (LOC). The 11-member inter-ministerial team has been assigned with the task of probing the "mystery" deaths. The team members, who were briefed by the district administration of Rajouri on Sunday, visited the affected village this morning and collected samples. They also spoke to the family members of the . Of the 38 people affected by the mysterious illness, 17 belonging to three families have died since 7 December when the affected people started losing their lives. All six children of Mohammad Aslam were among the deceased. Experts from reputed institutions of the



country have not yet been able to identify the cause of the deaths. The Central team headed by a director-rank officer, consists of experts from the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers and Ministry of Water Resources. It is also assisted by experts from animal husbandry, food safety and forensic science labs. An official said that the team is accompanied by experts from some of the most reputed institutions of the country. Meanwhile, J&K's Health Minister, Saini too ruled out any viral infection or communicable disease. She said the test reports so far have ruled out viral, bacterial or microbiological infections. However, experts said that "certain neurotoxins" have been found in the samples of those who have died so far. A Health Department team has conducted a door-to-door survey of over 3,000 residents in the affected area, collecting and testing samples of water, food, and other materials. All test results, including those for influenza and other possible contaminants, are being shared with J&K officials said. The district administration also conducted an aggressive contact tracing, health interventions and took 272 samples.

**Har CM announces horticulture college, hockey astroturf for Naraingarh**

**Chandigarh:** In a major boost to education and sports infrastructure in the region, Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini, on Monday, announced the establishment of a Horticulture College and Hockey Astroturf in stadium in the Naraingarh Assembly constituency. The college will be affiliated with Mahara Prapat Horticulture University, Karnal, and is expected to provide world-class education and research opportunities in the field of horticulture to the youth of the region. Announcing the installation of a Hockey Astroturf at Badaghar stadium, he also stated that high-mast lights will be installed to ensure hockey players can continue their practice sessions even after evening. The CM made these announcements while addressing a public meeting at Naraingarh. Furthermore, he announced that the state government will review the physical report of 'Narain Talab' and submit it to the Pond Authority to ensure its



renovation and restoration. He also declared the four-laning of the road from Patarberri to Shahzadpur, Naraingarh. To improve local infrastructure, the CM allocated Rs 10 crore for the repair and renovation of PWD roads in the constituency. An additional Rs five crore was announced for the repair of roads under the Marketing Board. In addition, he also announced Rs five crore for the development of villages within the Naraingarh Assembly constituency. He highlighted that community centers have already been constructed in

around 45 villages and assured that similar facilities will be provided gradually in the remaining villages. The Chief Minister said that the state government had already announced the establishment of a cooperative sugar mill in Naraingarh. Acknowledging the challenges faced by farmers, he said that the government has actively discussing their issue and formed a committee under the chairmanship of the Chief Secretary. The Chief Secretary is personally overseeing the issue, and three meetings have already been held in this regard. The Chief Minister said that either the existing mill will be established as a cooperative sugar mill, or an alternative cooperative mill will be set up. This decision will be implemented soon to ensure that the farmers of Naraingarh and surrounding areas do not face any further difficulties. On this occasion, Saini also inaugurated and laid the foundation stone for 10 development projects in the Naraingarh Assembly constituency, with a total cost of Rs 43.28 crore. Of these, seven projects worth Rs 22.23 crore were inaugurated, and the foundation stone for three projects worth Rs 21.05 crore was laid. The inaugurated projects include the construction of several new link roads, as well as the widening and renovation of existing roads. In addition, the Regional Horticulture Research Centre in Chandoli, under Mahara Prapat Horticulture University, Karnal, was also inaugurated.

**Central govt pensioners get new office in Jammu**

**Jammu:** The Central Government Pensioners Welfare Association, Jammu, (CGPWA) on Monday got its new office at the Residency Road Estates Complex, behind Chief Secretary's official Residence, here. At a simple but impressive function, the former Director General of Police, Kuldeep Khoda, President, CGPWA and former ADGP SS Wazir, Patron, formally inaugurated it. Among those present included the former DGP, Dr. Ashok Bhan and former senior IAS officer and General Secretary of the Association, KB Jandial. Speaking on the occasion, Khoda described the occasion as a momentous one for the Association's long struggle for a government accommodation had a happy ending. On behalf of the pen-



sioners, he conveyed profound gratitude to the Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo for making it a reality and recalled meeting with him where this issue along with other matters relating to central government pensioners were discussed and suitable directions were issued. He supported the idea of taking up some societal quick implementable programmes along with the already taken up national ones under the aegis of Pension Department. Wazir complimented the CGPWA's team, especially Khoda and Jandial for addressing problems of the pensioners and making things possible for their welfare. Dr Bhan congratulated the management of CGPWA for

remarkable work done by it and established its office at a prestigious place benefiting to the Association and its members. He said that one of the objectives of the Association is to promote bonding between the former service colleagues and work together, not only to address pensioners' issues, but to create a happy and entertaining environment. Jandial said that opening of the office accommodation augured well for the aspirations of the New Year. He thanked officers of Estates Department for their help and support in establishing this office. He apprised the members about the progress of various pending matters including shifting of Wellness Centre-1 to new location, transfer of already allotted land at Thanger to CGHS and issues with J&K Bank. Appreciating the support of the Chief Secretary to the issues of CGPWA for redressal, he said the Chief Secretary is likely to hold a meeting with our President to take review of implementation of his earlier directions. A large number of CGPWA members attended the function.

**Manipur security forces seize arms cache in Kangpokpi**

**Imphal:** Security forces recovered a large cache of arms and ammunition during search and area domination operations in the Lunkhlong Ridges, under New Keithelambi Police Station in Manipur's Kangpokpi District. It was conducted to bolster security in vulnerable hill and valley regions. The seized weapons included a sniper rifle, several pistols, grenades, live ammunition, and a communication device, among other items. Officials highlighted that such recoveries are critical in disrupting the movement of armed groups and preventing potential violence in the region. Kangpokpi, a district often at the center of security concerns in Manipur, has witnessed sustained efforts by law enforcement to curb il-



licit activities, including arms smuggling and illegal poppy cultivation. This development comes amid ongoing discussions between Manipur's Governor and Union Home Minister Amit Shah on addressing the state's security and law-and-order situation. Local authorities have also intensified vigilance in areas prone to unrest. Efforts to dismantle illegal networks operating in the region. This development comes amid ongoing discussions between Manipur's Governor and Union Home Minister Amit Shah on addressing the state's security and law-and-order situation. Local authorities have also intensified vigilance in areas prone to unrest.

# India's Digital Data Protection Act protects Children

The digital age has revolutionised every aspect of our lives, from education to entertainment. While the virtual world offers unparalleled opportunities for growth, learning, and connectivity, it also carries inherent risks, especially for vulnerable groups like children. The Indian government has taken a significant step toward safeguarding these young netizens with the introduction of the Digital Personal Data Protection Act, 2023. The accompanying Draft Rules, 2025, aim to shield children from the digital world's pitfalls by enforcing stringent measures for handling their personal data.

Understanding the risks Children are the most susceptible demographic in the online ecosystem. Their curiosity and lack of understanding about the consequences of sharing personal information often make them prime targets for cyber exploitation. From identity theft to exposure to harmful content and behavioural profiling, the risks are extensive and multi-faceted.

Social media platforms, gaming apps, and even educational portals frequently collect data from minors, often without adequate safeguards. This data, if misused, can lead to breaches of privacy, financial exploitation, or even emotional and psychological harm. Recognising this, the Digital Personal Data Protection Rules, 2025, introduce a robust framework to mitigate these risks, focusing on parental consent, strict data collection, and stringent content monitoring.

Verifiable Parental

Consent One of the most commendable provisions in the draft rules is the requirement for verifiable parental consent before processing children's personal data. Platforms and services aimed at minors must now obtain explicit permission from parents or guardians before creating accounts or collecting information.

For instance, when a child wishes to register for an online learning platform or gaming app, parents will need to verify their identity and approve the data-sharing permissions. This provision ensures that control over a child's online presence lies squarely with the parents, minimising the risks of predatory targeting and exploitation. Such safeguards are particularly significant in preventing behavioural profiling, which can impact a child's mental well-being long-term. Targeted advertising based on personal habits or preferences can manipulate young minds, shaping their choices and habits in ways they do not fully comprehend.

Safeguarding Data in Educational Institutions Schools and allied institutions are pivotal in shaping a child's future. However, they also depend heavily on data collection for administrative and educational purposes. Third-party agencies often carry out these tasks, leaving educational institutions with limited control over their activities.

Recognising this, the draft rules limit the processing of children's data in schools to essential activities. For example, tracking attendance, evaluating academic performance, and ensuring transport safety are permissible.

However, we strictly prohibit collecting or storing excessive, irrelevant, or sensitive information. Schools are also encouraged to adopt stringent data security measures to prevent unauthorised access to sensitive student information. This ensures that while technology supports education, it does not compromise the privacy and safety of students.

The digital world can be a double-edged sword. While it offers educational resources and entertainment, it also exposes children to inappropriate or harmful content. The draft rules mandate that data fiduciaries implement measures to ensure children cannot access content that negatively affects their well-being. This includes filtering out materials related to violence, explicit content, and other age-inappropriate material.

Such provisions are critical in protecting the mental and emotional health of children, who are particularly susceptible to the influence of harmful digital stimuli. Moreover, they underscore the importance of collaboration between regulators and technology companies to create a safer online environment.

Shielding Children from Harmful Content The internet, while a treasure trove of information, can also expose children to harmful and age-inappropriate content. The draft rules emphasise the role of data fiduciaries/entities responsible for handling personal data in filtering out content that could adversely affect a child's mental or emotional well-being. Platforms must now implement mechanisms to restrict access to violent, explicit, or otherwise inappropriate material for minors. Creating a safer online space aims to foster a healthier digital environment for children, enabling them to explore the internet without undue risks.

Role of Consent Managers A cornerstone of the proposed framework is the introduction of consent managers facilitating parental permissions management. These platforms will allow parents to give, modify, and revoke consent for their child's data usage in a transparent and user-friendly manner.

For instance, parents can use consent management platforms to review which apps or websites their child has access to and withdraw permissions if they find any platform violating privacy norms. These managers will also maintain detailed records of all consent transactions, enhancing accountability and transparency across the digital ecosystem.

Addressing Implementation Challenges While the draft rules set a high standard for child data protection, their implementation is not without challenges. One major hurdle is verifying the identity of parents or guardians. Traditional methods may not suffice, requiring innovative solutions like integrating government-backed digital IDs (e.g., Aadhaar) into consent management systems.

Additionally, small and medium enterprises operating in the digital domain may find it challenging to comply with the technical and administrative requirements of the new rules. To address this, the government must provide clear guidelines, training, and support

systems for businesses. Building a Collaborative Digital Future

Protecting children in the digital age is not the sole responsibility of regulators. It requires collaboration between policymakers, technology companies, educators, and parents. Tech companies, for instance, must prioritise ethical design practices that align with child safety guidelines. Schools should educate students about online risks and responsible internet usage, while parents must stay informed and proactive about their child's digital interactions.

The draft Digital Personal Data Protection Rules, 2025, mark a watershed moment in India's journey toward a safer digital future for children. By addressing key vulnerabilities and empowering parents, these rules create a framework where children can benefit from technology without falling prey to its darker aspects.

As the digital landscape continues to evolve, the government must remain vigilant, updating policies and frameworks to address emerging threats. With concerted efforts with the stake holders - students, parents and teachers, India can become a global leader in child data protection, setting an example for other nations to follow. More than regulations, the present generation should be taught how to use the prophecies of the digital environment judiciously and sensibly.

## Breaking Time Sudoku

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.

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

## Solution, Sudoku

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

## THE WISDOM TREE BY SUVEEN KUMAR

### COVERED SIN

It's a bad news that one day your sin will be uncovered but the good news is that not all the sins and the bad news over this good news is that you don't know which ones will be uncovered and which ones will remain covered. Your life becomes miserable only with one sin uncovered, imagine how miserable your life will be if all of your sins are uncovered. You are never strong enough to fight your own weakness and never weak enough to empower your own strengths. Life is far forgiving than we do to its. We know the rules of life but we never care to care for it, it lives with us in all the times but we never care to live for it, it takes our mistakes, it fades the pain away,

it bears the scars, it walks us through from ground to stars. But we take it for granted, make it suffer knowingly, fail it at important routines, push it to go extreme, force it to experiment with anything and everything, put it through to damaging situation, drive it to wrong direction. We sometimes behave with life as if it belongs to someone else, we sometimes are so cruel with life as if it is made of something else. Give your life a five star as a rating if you think it deserves it, give your life an excellent review if you think it deserves it, glorify it, magnify it, gratify it if you think it deserves it, don't overrate it, just confide it and give your life a life that it starts living for life.



Moral: Every sin is forgivable and every virtue is immortal.

# Tough Contest Between BJP and AAP in Delhi

All the big guns preparing to contest the Delhi polls, for which only a few days are left, have filed their nomination papers in the last two days. The campaigns have become a shrill as fresh accusations are made every day and Election Commission authorities are being kept busy with complaints by three political parties in the contest. There is no more talk of Congress top leadership being lukewarm in the contest, with the Leader of the Opposition Rahul Gandhi and Congress MP Priyanka Gandhi addressing public rallies in support of Congress candidates and attacking former Chief Minister of Delhi Arvind Kejriwal.

This has added to challenges facing the Aam Aadmi Party, which has lost much of its shine after 10 years of incumbency. It has also been hurt by allegations relating to the Liquor Scam, which led to the arrest of its top leaders, including the former Chief Minister. Allegations relating to lavish fittings in the renovation of the Chief Minister's Residence have also damaged his reputation, as when he came to power he had declared that he would not use the benefits



which come with the office of Chief Minister. As such, no one expects the AAP to sweep the polls as it did in the last two elections for the Delhi Assembly, in which the BJP could get only eight seats, and the Congress had no presence in the Assembly. Kejriwal and AAP got more than fifty per cent of the votes polled, with the BJP getting 3 per cent, and Congress only four per cent. The BJP hopes to improve its tally because of the anti-incumbency factor hitting the ruling party AAP. There is also hope that Congress may improve its tally by cutting into the AAP

support among Muslims and Dalits. Congress and AAP, who are part of INDIA alliance of opposition parties, had an alliance in the Lok Sabha elections but are fighting each other this time. It is believed that most of the gains that the Congress party may make will be at the cost of AAP. The bitterness between two former allies has reached the extent of Congress leaders calling the AAP Convenor anti-national, while AAP has accused Congress of being the B Team of the BJP. To the extent that Congress fortunes are revived in Delhi, it will be a gain for BJP.

The regional parties who are part of the INDIA alliance of opposition parties have declared their support for AAP. The parties who have spoken in their favour include Trinamool Congress, Samajwadi Party, Shiv Sena, and the NCP. They have criticised Congress leadership for going against a regional party which was in power and had the best prospects in a fight against BJP. Some have even raised doubts about the survival of the INDIA alliance in view of recent developments. Congress, on the other hand, argues that AAP had damaged the prospects of the Congress Party in the elections

to state Assemblies held in Gujarat, Haryana, Goa, and other states where it had no base. Congress is keen to reclaim the space in Delhi which AAP had taken over by defeating the Congress which had ruled Delhi for ten years before AAP came into picture. So there is no love lost between the two. They are fighting each other in all States and are main competitors in Punjab.

The BJP's disadvantage is a lack of a local face who could match Kejriwal's popularity. The BJP argues that it does not declare a Chief Minister in advance and this has not prevented them from winning in Maharashtra and Haryana. In addition, AAP has also announced many new schemes like allowances for women and treatment for the elderly in private hospitals free of cost. It hopes that these will help them as has been the case in Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra.

There is little doubt that it will be a tough contest between AAP and BJP with Congress acting as a spoiler which may win a few seats dominated by minority communities.

This has added to challenges facing the Aam Aadmi Party, which has lost much of its shine after 10 years of incumbency. It has also been hurt by allegations relating to the Liquor Scam, which led to the arrest of its top leaders, including the former Chief Minister. Allegations relating to lavish fittings in the renovation of the Chief Minister's Residence have also damaged his reputation, as when he came to power he had declared that he would not use the benefits

## TOP STORY

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# NCC cadets should contribute to PM Modi's 'Viksit Bharat' dream: Rajnath

New Delhi  
Noting that Prime Minister Narendra Modi is an ex-cadet of the NCC, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Monday exhorted cadets to contribute to PM Modi's dream of making India a 'Viksit Bharat' by 2047.



Addressing a gathering of cadets and officers during his visit to the ongoing Republic Day National Cadet Corps (NCC) camp at Delhi Cantonment, Singh also said that he sees an image of India in NCC cadets.

A total of 2,361 NCC cadets from across the country are taking part in the month-long camp, which began on December 20, and will culminate with the PM rally on January 27.

The annual event is also witnessing the participation of 97 girl cadets, the largest contingent so far.

Appreciating the unity and discipline shown by cadets at the NCC camp, the defence minister said, "India has many bodies but one soul, many branches but one root, many rays but one light".

In his address, Singh also recalled that before foraying into politics, he himself was "a student, a cadet of NCC, and a physics teacher".

The energy and enthusiasm of the cadets reflect that India has and will have a bright future. NCC in-gredients in youth leadership quality and discipline, he added.

Singh also spoke of the 'Viksit Bharat' vision of the government and the role the cadets can play in realising the ambitious vision that seeks to make India a

developed nation by the time it completes 100 years since its Independence in 1947.

"Our Prime Minister Narendra Modi, himself an ex-cadet of the NCC, has given the vision of 'Viksit Bharat' by 2047. So, its current cadets have a responsibility to contribute to his 'Viksit Bharat' dream," Singh said.

Singh also emphasised that 'Viksit Bharat' does not mean merely physical development on land, but holistic growth of entire society.

Praising the NCC's role in inculcating discipline and leadership qualities among cadets when they are young, the defence minister said there is a "spark within" the cadets that forges a way of life for them in such a way that irrespective of the profession they will choose later, they will all contribute to nation-building.

Singh also recalled his visit to Taj Mahal Palace Hotel in Mumbai, a place, he said, also reminds one of the deadly 26/11 terror attacks

in that city in 2008.

He also mentioned the last words spoken by Major Sandeep Unnikrishnan before he laid down his life while battling the terrorists in the attack.

"That was his (Major Unnikrishnan's) leadership quality (shown during the combat)," the defence minister told the cadets, exhorting them to become leaders in life.

Singh also exhorted them to "think big" and never get disheartened in life, nor have a narrow-minded thinking.

"A person becomes significant in life not by virtue of the big posts one holds, but by the human qualities they have," he said.

"There is a need to move forward by breaking free from shackles of thoughts," he said, and urged people to never harbour conceit.

Earlier, he was accorded a welcome by a group of cadets drawn from all three wings of the NCC and later also reviewed a guard of honour given by them at the venue.

The defence minister also handed Raksha Mantri Padak and Commendation

Cards to several NCC cadets, chosen for their exemplary performance and devotion to duty, at an investiture ceremony held during his visit.

Singh also visited the 'Flag Area' and interacted with a few cadets.

On Saturday, Minister of State for Defence Sanjay Seth visited the NCC camp and lauded cadets as "ambassadors" of 'Viksit Bharat' while urging them to continue working tirelessly towards the vision of making India a developed country by 2047.

The NCC camp was formally inaugurated by Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar on January 5.

Chief of Defence Staff Gen Anil Chauhan, Army Chief Gen Upendra Dwivedi, Indian Air Force Chief Air Chief Marshal A P Singh, and Navy Chief Admiral Dinesh K Tripathi have also visited the camp and addressed cadets.

Recalling his days as an NCC cadet, the Army chief, in his address on January 9, had urged the youth to dream big and strive to become the "changemakers, innovators and leaders" of tomorrow.

## SC directs Atul Subhash's wife to produce minor son through VC



New Delhi

The Supreme Court on Monday directed the wife of Bengaluru-based engineer, who died by suicide last year, to produce their minor son before it.

A bench of Justices B V Nagarathna and Satish Chandra Sharma told the lawyer appearing for Subhash's estranged wife Nikita Singhania to produce the child through video-conferencing.

"This is a habeas corpus petition. We want to see the child. Produce the child," the bench said.

The counsel appearing for Singhania said he would produce the child within 30 minutes. The top court would continue hearing the matter.

The court was informed that the child dropped out of school in Haryana and was currently residing with the mother.

The bench was hearing a plea filed by Anju Devi who has filed a habeas corpus petition, seeking the custody of her four-year-old grandson. On January 7, the top court denied her the minor's custody saying she was "stranger to the child".

Subhash, 34, who was found hanging at his house in Bengaluru's Munnekolalu on December 9 last year, reportedly left behind lengthy messages, blaming his wife and in-laws for pushing him to take the extreme step.

## Rahul urges Nadda to strengthen public healthcare infrastructure at all levels

New Delhi  
Congress leader Rahul Gandhi has written to Union Health Minister J P Nadda and Delhi Chief Minister Atishi, flagging the plight of hundreds of patients and their family members huddled on the footpath and subway outside AIIMS here and sought concrete steps to resolve this "humanitarian crisis".

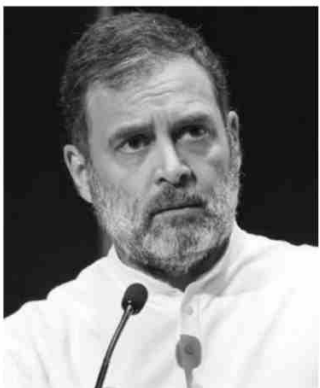
The Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha also urged the central government to take concrete steps to strengthen the public healthcare system in the upcoming budget and increase the necessary resources for it.

In a post in Hindi on X, Gandhi said, "I have written letters to the Chief Minister of Delhi and the Union Health Minister to provide better facilities to the patients and their families coming to Delhi AIIMS from all over the country." "Recently I saw that in freezing cold these people are forced to sleep in the subway under the metro station, where there is no provision of drinking water or a toilet. There are heaps of garbage lying around. The arrival of such a large number of patients to Delhi AIIMS also shows that people are not getting affordable and good quality health facilities where they live," Gandhi said.

"I hope that taking cognizance of my letter, the Chief Minister of Delhi and the Union Health Minister will take immediate steps to resolve this humanitarian crisis," he said.

In his letter to Nadda, Gandhi said he wants to bring to his attention "the distressing situation" outside AIIMS, Delhi and went on to add that during his recent visit to the area he was saddened to see hundreds of patients and their family members huddled on the footpath and in the subway in the bitter winter cold, with only thin blankets to protect them without drinking water or sanitation facilities.

"Many of these patients travel from across the country, spend their life savings, and wait for



**While AIIMS Delhi delivers excellent and affordable care, the condition of patients and their families shows that healthcare is still out of reach for crores of Indians, he said in his letter dated January 18.**

months on end for medical care at India's premier medical institution. I am sure you will agree that no one should face such hardship, especially while already battling serious medical conditions," he said.

While AIIMS Delhi delivers excellent and affordable care, the condition of patients and their families shows that health-care is still out of reach for crores of Indians, he said in his letter dated January 18.

"As public representatives, we must all work together to address these issues. I urge you to take immediate and timely steps to address the situation at AIIMS Delhi. The government of India should work with the AIIMS leadership, the Government of Delhi and charitable organizations

to provide heating, bedding, water, and shelter to patients and expand permanent facilities for accommodation," Gandhi said in his letter to Nadda.

In addition, reducing the long wait times would help reduce patients' uncertainty, he said.

"Crucially, the larger systemic issue is that AIIMS Delhi is overburdened because crores of people do not have access to affordable and high-quality healthcare where they live. I urge you, as Health Minister, to recognise and address this systemic issue," Gandhi said.

As a first step, the new AIIMS facilities across the country should be operationalised at the earliest, he said.

"In addition, the public healthcare infrastructure should be strengthened at all levels, from primary to tertiary, in partnership with state governments. Central healthcare schemes such as Ayushman Bharat should be reviewed to reduce patient out-of-pocket expenses as much as possible, by expanding eligibility, hospitals enrolled, and conditions covered," the former Congress chief said.

The sharp rise in the costs of private healthcare also deserves detailed scrutiny, he said.

"I hope the Government will use the upcoming Budget to review its overall approach, and substantially increase its in-

vestment in public healthcare. I request your prompt intervention on this pressing humanitarian issue. You have my full support in any endeavour to reduce the suffering of countless patients and their families," the Congress leader said.

In his letter to Atishi, Gandhi urged the Delhi government to take immediate and timely steps this winter. "More permanent solutions to accommodate patients by building and expanding permanent facilities should also be explored, in partnership with AIIMS and the Government of India, as well as charitable organisations," he said.

"I request your prompt intervention on this pressing humanitarian issue. You have my full support in any endeavour to reduce the suffering of countless patients and their families," Gandhi said.

The Congress leader on Thursday had met several patients and their families camping on the roads, footpaths and subways around the AIIMS and enquired about their problems and grievances. He had accused the Centre and the Delhi government of showing "insensitivity" towards them.

Most of the patients and their family members had complained to him about the lack of a place to stay while getting their treatment done and a long waiting time for appointments at the AIIMS.

Many of them also complained of being left with no option but to get medical tests done at private facilities and not being able to get those done at the AIIMS.

Gandhi had claimed on Saturday that the national healthcare system has been "completely destroyed" and patients are paying a heavy price in the hope of getting cheap and proper treatment at the AIIMS here.

He had shared a video of his interaction with patients and their families camping on roads, footpaths and subways near the All India Institute of Medical Sciences here.

## Om Birla inaugurates All India Presiding Officers' Conference in Patna

Patna  
Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla inaugurated the 83rd All India Presiding Officers' Conference (AIPOC) in Patna on Monday.

The two-day conference is being held on 73th Anniversary of Constitution: Contribution of Parliament and State legislative bodies in strengthening constitutional values.

In the conference, the delegates will deliberate on the adoption of modern technologies in legislative bodies for greater efficiency, effectiveness and productivity, officials said.

Bihar Assembly Speaker Nand Kishore Yadav said this was the third time the state was hosting the programme after a gap of 43 years.

"The land of Bihar is considered to be the centre of cultural, historical and intellectual heritage of India. This land has given birth to



the compassion of Lord Buddha, the non-violence of Mahavira and the courage of Guru Govind Singh. This is the land from where Chanakya started the principles politics and emperor Ashoka gave the message of morality in governance," he said, adding that the land of Champaran made Gandhi Mahatma.

Yadav said the conference was organised to strengthen democracy and promote dialogue and coordination among public representa-

tives.

The valedictory session will be addressed by Bihar Governor Arif Mohammad Khan and the Lok Sabha speaker on Tuesday.

Among those present at the inaugural session were Deputy Chairperson of Rajya Sabha Harivansh, Chairperson of Bihar Legislative Council Avdesh Narayan Singh, and Deputy Chief Minister Samrat Choudhary. The leader of the opposition in the assembly, Tejashwi Yadav, skipped the inaugural day of the conference.

## Nitish meets Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla in Patna

Patna  
Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar on Monday met Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla, who is in Patna to attend the All India Presiding Officers' Conference. The JD(U) supremo drove to the Raj Bhavan, a stone's throw from the CM's residence, where the senior BJP leader and other visiting dignitaries had come, upon an invitation from Governor Arif Mohammad Khan.

Later, Birla shared a picture of himself with Kumar on X and wrote "Proud to attending the 83rd All India Presiding Officers' Conference (AIPOC) at the Bihar legislature, met the honourable Chief Minister of Bihar Shri Nitish Kumar ji. Was touched by his warm hospitality".

## India hosts seminar on evolving peacekeeping strategies

New Delhi  
A seminar titled "Adapting Modern Peacekeeping Strategies to Contemporary Threats" was organized by the Centre for United Nations Peacekeeping (CUNP) in collaboration with the Centre for Land Warfare Studies (CLAWS) at the Manekshaw Centre here on Monday.

The event focused on the changing global landscape of peacekeeping, addressing the complex challenges faced by peacekeepers worldwide and exploring strategies to improve the effectiveness and sustainability of peacekeeping operations.

The keynote address was delivered by Tammy Lal, Secretary (West) of the Ministry of External Affairs, and Lieutenant General Rakesh Kapoor, Deputy Chief of Army Staff (Information Systems and Communication).

## First draft of India's history came through colonisers' distorted perspective: Dhankhar

New Delhi  
Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar on Monday said the first draft of the country's history came through colonisers' distorted perspective. He said it was a travesty that the ignorant were trying to make us aware of inclusivity by their narrow-minded approach.

He was speaking after laying the foundation stone for the Nandlal Nayal Centre of Indology at Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan here.

Highlighting the interconnectedness of Indian knowledge, Dhankhar remarked, "We are not a country in isolation. We take the whole world as one."

He lauded Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan and its founder K M Munshi for their unwavering commitment to promoting Indian culture and knowledge systems, especially during times when Western ideas dominated. He noted Munshi's dedication to India's heritage, which was exemplified in projects like Somnath.

The vice president asserted that the philosophical schools of Vedanta, Jainism, Buddhism and others have always encouraged dialogue and co-existence — the prin-



**Highlighting the interconnectedness of Indian knowledge, Dhankhar remarked, "We are not a country in isolation. We take the whole world as one."**

It was time now to ensure India's heritage blossoms and thrives and there could not be a more opportune time, he noted while urging the youth to take pride in India's mathematical contributions.

The vice president stressed the significance of Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan's efforts to keep Indology alive through its work in classical language preservation and the unity of Indian heritage. Concluding his address, he urged a renewed dedication to Indology's principles to achieve the vision of a developed India by 2047.

"We have to unshackle ourselves from colonial legacy and mindset," he said. Dhankhar also said that while thousands contributed to the freedom struggle, only a few were promoted. Even post-Independence, this was allowed to take root. This disrupted the organic evolution of our knowledge system, he said.

"We have to unshackle ourselves from colonial legacy and mindset," he added.

Mahakumbh  
delays Ram  
Temple  
construction's  
work in  
Ayodhya

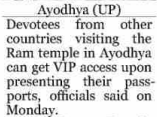


Mahakumbh Nagar  
The ongoing Mahakumbh at Prayagraj Sangam has further delayed the construction work of the Ram Temple here, said Nripendra Mishra, Chairman of the Building Construction Committee of the temple here on Monday.

However he said that the idol of Ram Darbar to be installed in the Ram Temple will be ready by February 15. Talking to the media here before the two-day review meeting, he said that not only the idol of Ram Darbar but the idols of other seven temples, idols of six temples in the park, the idol of Tulsi Das ji in PFC have been checked in Jaipur.

He said, "construction of Ram temple due to Mahakumbh bathing have been affected as after the Mahakumbh bath, lakhs of devotees are reaching Ayodhya and more than two lakh devotees are having darshan of Ram Lala every day." He said safety of devotees is priority and some work has also been stopped to ensure the safety of the devotees. However, he also said after February 8, the construction work of Ram temple is expected to pick up pace again.

Foreigners  
can get VIP  
access to  
Ram Temple  
using their  
passports



Ayodhya (UP)  
Devotees from other countries visiting the Ram temple in Ayodhya can get VIP access upon presenting their passports, officials said on Monday.

The Ram Temple trust has been developing facilities to enhance visitors' experience and officials noted that many foreigners and NRIs visiting the Maha Kumbh in Prayagraj have been making stops in Ayodhya to visit the Ram temple.

Regional Tourism Officer of Ayodhya R P Yadav said, "Foreign devotees can obtain VIP passes for entry to the Ram temple by showing their passport at the pilgrim service centre." He added that in the past 20 days, over 100 foreigners have paid a visit to Ram Lalla.

"Passes for VIP issued to the temple are issued based on recommendations from the trust or senior police officials. Special arrangements have been made for foreign nationals and NRIs, who can obtain VIP passes using their passports," said Anil Mishra, a trustee of the Ram Temple.

## Boost manpower to accelerate projects: Yogi to UP govt officials

Lucknow  
Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has emphasised increasing manpower and ensuring accountability to accelerate development projects in the state.

During a review meeting held at the Annex Bhawan auditorium in Gorakhpur on Monday, the chief minister assessed the progress of projects across key departments, including GDA, Municipal Corporation, Public Works Department, Irrigation Department, Jal Nigam, and GDA.

He instructed officials to ensure timely and high-quality completion of all projects, with a nod to officers assigned to each for progress monitoring and weekly updates to the District Magistrate.

"Additionally, the district magistrate or a senior officer must review all projects every 15 days while regular meetings should be held with public representatives to discuss progress and



consider their suggestions.

He reiterated the importance of public participation and directed officials to maintain regular communication with public representatives regarding ongoing development efforts.

The chief minister also stressed the need for officials to address

the grievances of the citizens with sensitivity and urgency. He instructed them to promptly resolve complaints registered on the IGRS and CM Helpline while ensuring feedback is collected from complainants to enhance accountability and public trust.

During the meeting, Chief Minister Yogi

Adityanath highlighted Gorakhpur's growing appeal as a hub for entrepreneurs in recent years. He directed officials to engage with entrepreneurs promptly and proactively to resolve their issues.

Strengthening online mechanisms in GDA to address entrepreneurs' concerns and ensuring

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has emphasised increasing manpower and ensuring accountability to accelerate development projects in the state.

they benefit from government schemes were emphasised. The CM also urged practical engagement with bankers to increase the district's CD ratio from 58 to 75%.

Reviewing law and order, the chief minister reiterated the government's zero-tolerance policy against crime and criminals and emphasised strict action against the mafia.

The CM also instructed officials to identify and take decisive action against cow smugglers. To enhance public safety, he directed increased police and foot patrolling while improving the response time of PRVs.

Govt giving special impetus to sports in state: CM Sukhu



Rajan Puncthi  
MANDI:  
Chief Minister Thakur Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu while travelling from Dharamshala to Manali made a brief stop at Dohang, helped in Joginder Nagar district to unfavourable weather.

During the halt, the Chief Minister played cricket with local children and boosted their morale and promoted spirit of sportsmanship amongst them.

The Chief Minister said that the present state government was

giving special emphasis to encourage sports in Himachal Pradesh as it not only keeps the youth physically fit but also inspires them to stay away from drugs.

The Chief Minister proceeded to Kangnoidhar helped in Mandi and continued his journey by road to Manali.

Senior Leader and Advocate Jeevan Thakur, Deputy Commissioner Apoorv Devgan, and other senior officers were present on the occasion, besides others.

Kumbh tradition embodies the heart of Indian sanatan culture: Himachal Guv

Shimla  
Kumbh tradition embodies the heart of Indian Sanatan culture, serving as a source of not just religious but also spiritual, cultural and intellectual enrichment, said Himachal Pradesh Governor Shiv Pratap Shukla on Monday.

Addressing a lecture series at the Maha Kumbh in Uttar Pradesh's Prayagraj on the theme 'India's Glorious Saga: Breaking the Chains of Self-Doubt', he said that the Kumbh platform is a medium to recognise and disseminate the unique glory of Indian civilisation to future generations.

"The Kumbh is not just a confluence of rivers but also of thoughts and cultures, representing the immense richness of India's history. Our ancient traditions and values inspire the world, making India an essential and powerful presence globally," said the Governor in a statement issued here.

He highlighted that Indian culture is rooted in the harmonious pursuit of Dharma (righteousness), Artha (economic well-being), Kama (fulfilment) and Moksha (liberation).

The Governor pointed out the unfortunate reality of self-doubt prevailing in a civilisation that once upheld the universal philosophy of 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam'.

"Colonial powers not only exploited our resources but also attempted to weaken our identity and mindset. This lingering effect of mental colonisation is visible even today in our behaviour and perspectives," he added.

He stressed that the sense of self-doubt is the biggest obstacle to progress and urged the youth to connect with the grandeur of their past to instill pride in their heritage and reignite the spirit of 'Atma-Gaurav'.

YEIDA unveils transformative projects at Maha Kumbh Mela 2025

Staff Reporter  
Mahakumbh Nagar  
Minister for Industrial Development, Government of Uttar Pradesh, Nand Gopal Gupta Nandi, inaugurated the exhibition stall set up by the Yamuna Expressway Industrial Development Authority (YEIDA) at the ongoing Maha Kumbh Mela in Prayagraj here on Monday.

Nandkishore Sundriyal, Staff Officer, and Hari Pratap, Tehsildar, presented a bouquet to the Minister. YEIDA showcased its significant projects within the allocated 1850 sq. meter exhibition area.

Nandi was briefed about the progress of various industrial initiatives in the authority's region. Key projects included the Medical Devices Park, the Apparel Park being developed in Sector 29, the Toy Park in Sector 33, Semiconductor Parks in Sectors 10 and 28, and MSME and Handicraft Parks in Sectors 32 and 33. He was also informed about



the International Film City project planned in Sector 21 and reviewed the progress of the Noida International Airport project.

In addition to YEIDA's stall, a grand stall by M/s Bhutani Group showcasing the International Film City project was also on display. Officials provided insights into the design and scope of the project, which is set to commence development soon. At the PriyaGold stall, visitors sampled

the company's newly launched Maggie Tom Tom along with biscuits and toffees, which were well-received. Patanjali also set up a large stall, displaying its wide range of popular products, drawing significant attention from visitors at the Maha Kumbh Mela.

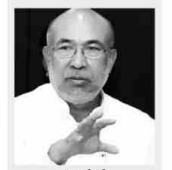
The Minister praised YEIDA's efforts, including the setup and informative posters displayed in the exhibition area. He emphasized that the construction of the Noida International

Minister Nand Gopal Gupta Nandi inaugurates YEIDA's exhibition, showcasing UP's industrial growth and key developments

al Airport in Jewar has triggered a new wave of development in Western Uttar Pradesh. He further highlighted that various industrial and institutional initiatives by YEIDA have created new opportunities for employment and development in the region and the state.

The event was attended by K.S. Awasthi, OSD to Minister, Nandkishore Sundriyal, Hari Pratap, Damodar Mishra from Bhutani Group, Shivendra Mishra, Vivekanand Mishra, Ankit Singh from Patanjali Group, along with several officials, employees, and visitors to the Maha Kumbh Mela.

2 arrested with fake ILP in Manipur: CM



Imphal  
Manipur Chief Minister N Biren Singh on Monday said two persons have been arrested for possessing fake Inner Line Permit (ILP) cards.

He said a staff of the Deputy Commissioner's Office in Tameinglong district was also arrested for issuing fake ILP cards. "In the drive against illegal immigrants and ILP monitoring exercise by the District Police Jiribam, on January 9 last one Sambabu Rabidas was arrested for possessing fake Inner Line Permit (ILP) issued by the office of the Deputy Commissioner, Tameinglong," the CM said.

In the follow-up of the investigation, so far, two other persons have been arrested, Singh said.

He said, "A person named Jitendra Kumar from Bihar was arrested with a fake ILP card while one Gaiphalung Pamei who works at the DC office, Tameinglong in the ILP section was arrested on January 19 for issuing fake ILPs." A case has already been registered and an investigation of the case is in good progress, Singh said.

Inner Line Permit (ILP) is an official travel document issued by the state government to allow inward travel of an Indian citizen into a protected area for a limited period. It is obligatory for Indian citizens from outside Manipur to obtain a permit to enter the protected state.

Over 100 women initiated into Juna Akadha at Mahakumbh

Mahakumbh Nagar  
The 13 Akharas, symbols of Sanatan power and spirituality, are preparing for the Amrit Snan of Mauni Amavasya which includes initiating a growing number of new sadhus, with increasing participation from women, through 'diksha'.

The growing number of women joining as Naga Sannyasis signifies a momentous shift in the Mahakumbh's history. On Sunday, more than a hundred women were given the diksha of Mahila Naga in Sanyasi-ni Shri Panch Dashnam Juna Akhara.

Divya Giri, a female saint at the Shri Panch Dashnam Juna Akhara, shared that on Sunday, over 100 women were initiated as Naga Sannyasis in their Akhara alone. The registration process for this initiation is currently underway and in the first phase, the women were given the Naga Diksha. After 12 years of serving, dedicating, and test-



ing their devotion under their branch guru, these women were granted the title of 'Avidhutam'. The Avidhutam group then arrived at the banks of the Ganga, where they were dressed in a 2.75-meter unstitched cloth, and their head was shaved as part of the ceremony.

After taking a holy dip in the Ganga, they were given a water pot (Kamandal) and a staff (Dand),

They will complete their remaining rituals, including performing them under the flag and in the Ganga. The final initiation will be performed by the Akhara's Acharya Mahamandaleshwar, Swami Avadheshanand Giri.

At Mahakumbh, foreign women also took part in this initiation and are now members of the Shri Panch Dashnam Juna Akhara. Divya Giri shared that this time three foreign

women were initiated as Naga Sannyasis.

Among them, Bankiya Mariani from Italy took the Naga Diksha and was given the name Shivani Bharti. Similarly, Bequeven Marie from France, after the initiation, is now known as Kamakhya Giri. Mokshita Rai from Nepal also received the Naga Diksha at the Juna women's Akhara and was named Mokshita Giri by the Akhara.

MUDA case: ED's statement issued at behest of BJP, says Siddaramaiah

Bengaluru  
Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Monday said that the ED's statement on the MUDA site allotment case was politically motivated.

The chief minister, his wife Parvathi B M and her brother Mallakurju Swamy and others are accused in the case registered by the Lokayukta police on court directions.

The Enforcement Directorate on January 17 said it had attached 142 units of immovable assets worth about Rs 300 crore in a MUDA-linked money laundering case involving Siddaramaiah and others.

The ED is also probing the case based on a complaint by an activist Snehamayi Krishna. "I have no connection with the ED's press release. They (ED) are doing it intentionally and unnecessarily for political reasons," Siddaramaiah told reporters here.

part of a money laundering probe into alleged irregularities in land allotment by Mysuru Urban Development Authority (MUDA).

The attached properties are registered in the name of various individuals who are working as real-estate businessmen and agents, the federal agency said in a statement.

"It is alleged that Siddaramaiah (a Congress leader) used his political influence to get compensation for 14 sites in the name of his wife Smt. BM Parvathi in lieu of 3 acre 16 guntas of land acquired by MUDA.

"The land was originally acquired by MUDA for Rs 3,24,700. The compensation in the form of 14 sites at pash locality is worth Rs 50 crore," the agency said.

The chief minister, who has been questioned by the Karnataka Lokayukta in this case, has repeatedly denied any wrongdoing by him or his family, saying the opposition was "scared" of him and that these were politically motivated charges.

Advt Contact:  
9818-799941

Teen pleads guilty to murder of 3 schoolgirls at UK dance class

London — A British teen pleaded guilty Monday to murdering three girls and attempting to kill 10 other people in what a prosecutor said was a "meticulously planned" stabbing rampage at a Taylor Swift-themed dance class in England last summer. Axel Rudakubana, 18, entered the surprise plea as jury selection had been expected to begin at the start of his trial in Liverpool Crown Court.

The July 29 stabbings sent shock waves across the U.K. and led to a week of widespread rioting across parts of England and Northern Ireland after the suspect was falsely identified as an asylum-seeker who had recently arrived in Britain by boat. He was actually born in Wales.

The rampage occurred on the first day of summer vacation when the little girls at the Hart Space, a facility hidden behind a row of houses, were in a class to learn yoga and dance to the songs of Taylor Swift. What was supposed to be a day of joy turned to terror and heartbreak when Rudakubana, armed with a knife, intruded and began stabbing the girls and their teacher in the seaside town of Southport in northwest England.

For Advt Contact : 9818-799941

BUSINESS

GBF organised a Grand Bilateral Business Conference in Delhi



New Delhi: In a grand event organized by the Global Indian Business Forum (GBIF) at the Constitution Club of India in New Delhi, entrepreneurs from various sectors across India were honoured with the National Business Excellence Award. The awards, presented by esteemed ambassadors, celebrated both large and small businesses for their exceptional contributions to the sector and the country's economy.

Ambassadors and other diplomats from 17 countries were present - H.E. Dr. Ali Achoui (Algeria), H.E. Ganbold Dambajav (Mongolia), H.E. Prof. Joyce Kakuramatsi Kikafunda (Uganda), H.E. Javier Paulinich (Peru), H.E.

'Privileged' to represent India at Trump's swearing-in ceremony: EAM Jaishankar

New York: External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar is carrying a letter from Prime Minister Narendra Modi for US President Donald Trump, sources said on Monday.

Jaishankar is representing PM Modi as his special envoy at President Trump's inaugural function on Monday, the sources said. Trump is taking charge as the 47th President of the US. The external affairs minister's presence at the presidential inauguration is in line with India's general practice of sending special envoys to attend the swearing-in ceremony of heads of state and government, the sources said.



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Defence Minister Rajnath Singh attended the swearing-in ceremony of the president of Nigeria in May 2023 while then Minister of Earth Sciences Kiren Rijiju attended the swearing-in ceremony of the Maldivian president in November 2023, the sources

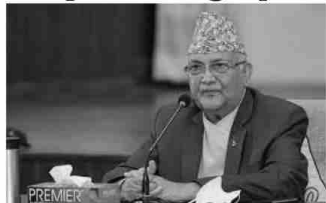
said citing past precedents. Road Transport Minister Nitin Gadkari attended the swearing-in ceremony of the Indonesian president in July

last year and MoS for external affairs Pabitra Margherita attended the oath-taking ceremony of the president of Indonesia and president of Mexico in October 2024, the sources said.

Philippines, they added. Jaishankar said on Monday that he was "privileged" to represent India at the swearing-in ceremony of Donald Trump as the US president. "Privileged to represent India as External Affairs Minister and Special Envoy of PM at the Swearing-In Ceremony of the 47th President of the United States of America today in Washington DC," he said in a post on X. "Attended the Inauguration Day Prayer Service at St John's Church this morning," he said.

PM Oli on Nepal foreign policy: 'No enemies and all are our friends'

Kathmandu: Prime Minister K P Sharma Oli said on Monday that Nepal conducts its foreign relations with a "no enemies and all are our friends" approach while asserting that the Himalayan nation believes in mutual benefit and co-existence.



Addressing a parliamentarians' dialogue on foreign policy, Oli said Nepal is committed to its sovereignty,

benefits and co-existence. We conduct our foreign relations with the attitude that we have no enemies and all are our friends," Oli said at the event organised by the CPN (UML)'s Department of Foreign Affairs. He said that Nepal is capable of maintaining its geopolitical position in a "balanced way" to advance its "national interests". He added that the nation focuses

equally on world peace and humanitarian concerns. "We are guided by the UN Charter and the Five Principles of Peaceful Co-existence and the non-alignment," he said. "Being a small country in size, we should not be guided with an inferiority complex while dealing with others," Oli stressed. He also underscored the importance of pre-

senting Nepal's views to neighbouring countries in a clear, open and friendly manner rather than reacting impulsively. "We do not believe that diplomatic dialogues should be ambiguous. Such dialogues should be clear and it will be convenient for another party to understand and build an opinion," he said. Oli stressed that na-

TikTok restores service for US users based on Trump's promised

Washington: TikTok restored service to users in the United States on Sunday just hours after the popular video-sharing platform went dark in response to a federal ban, which President-elect Donald Trump said he would try to pause by executive order on his first day in office. Trump said he planned to issue the order to give TikTok's China-based parent company more time to find an approved buyer before the ban takes full effect. He announced the move on his Truth Social account as millions of U.S. TikTok users awoke to discover they could no longer access the TikTok app or platform. But by Sunday afternoon, a message greeted those who signed on thanking them — and the president-elect — for their support. "As a result of President Trump's efforts, TikTok is back in the U.S.!" the message read. TikTok said it shut down the platform late Saturday because of a federal law that required parent company ByteDance to sell its U.S. oper-

ation by Sunday. Google and Apple also removed TikTok from their digital stores. The law, which passed with wide bipartisan support in April, allows for steep fines. While the company that runs TikTok in the U.S. said on X that the steps Trump outlined Sunday provided "the necessary clarity and assurance to our service providers that they will face no penalties," the TikTok app remained unavailable for download in Apple and Google's app stores. "It was a brilliant marketing stunt for both TikTok and incoming president Donald Trump," Jasmine Enberg, an analyst with market research firm EMarketer, said. "By abruptly shutting off service, TikTok proved how unpopular the ban was among its users." The law that took effect Sunday required ByteDance to cut ties with the platform's U.S. operations due to national security concerns. However, the statute authorized the sitting president to grant a 90-day extension if a viable sale was underway.

Govt Policies Face Resistance From Large Businesses: CEA

New Delhi: Even a good government policy requiring timely payments to the key MSME sector faces resistance from large business entities, Chief Economic Adviser (CEA) V Anantha Nageswaran said on Monday. Speaking at an event organised by India Exim Bank of India, he said the government came up with a very thoughtful behavioural nudge to alleviate the working capital issue of micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs). The amended law gives enough leeway to make the payment within a given financial year and claim the deduction, but yet, even for this kind of a small nudge, there is resistance from the large corporate entities in



this country, and the association that represents them are asking for doing away with 45-day payment ceiling for MSMEs, Nageswaran said. "Look at some of the

through Finance Act 2023, if a larger company does not pay an MSME on time -- within 45 days in case of written agreements -- it cannot deduct that expense from its taxable income, leading to potentially higher taxes. Nageswaran also spoke on the importance of agriculture, saying it is the sector of the future. He further said that manufacturing and services are going to face global headwinds. Manufacturing will face issues because of the dominance of one large country, while the services sector faces technological developments and international trade-related resistance, he said. He also said the Economic Survey may dwell upon land use by corporates.

Dabur Honitus Launches 'Khansi Jab, Honitus Tab' Campaign

New Delhi: Winter is the most awaited and charming season of the year for many. But the change in temperatures not only brings chill and frosty mornings but also heralds a surge in cough and cold problems. Keeping this in mind, India's No.1 Ayurvedic Cough Syrup Dabur Honitus has launched a new TV Campaign 'Khansi Jab, Honitus Tab'. The campaign highlights that Dabur Honitus relieves cough effectively without causing drowsiness, letting people continue their daily activities uninterrupted. The new TVC shows happy kids, students, or professionals they all want to get rid of their nagging cough but are also scared of getting drowsy and missing important tasks. The campaign emphasizes that Honitus is a trusted solution for effectively relieving cough and throat irritation without the drowsiness commonly associated with many other cough syrups. By offering non-drowsy relief, Honitus ensures that individuals can stay active and focused, seamlessly managing their daily tasks and responsibilities. It's a reliable herbal remedy designed to provide comfort and efficiency, allowing people to go about their lives uninterrupted while addressing their cough concerns.

"With winter we also encounter problems like cough and throat irritation which usually occur due to sudden changes in temperature. However, most cough syrups can make one feel drowsy, and hence consuming them while celebrating life's moments in the most spectacular way.

'KISNA Diamond & Gold Jewellery Concludes #Abki Baar Aapke Liye campaign

New Delhi: KISNA Diamond and Gold Jewellery, one of India's leading jewellery retail chains, today, gave away 100 Maruti Celerio cars to lucky customers, spread across the country. The cars were handed over to winners simultaneously at 11 cities, as part of the grand conclusion of #Abki Baar Aapke Liye campaign. Over 51,219 people participated in this engaging initiative, making it one of the most significant campaigns in KISNA's history as well as the industry. The campaign, which went live on September 1, 2024, and concluded on January 18, 2025,



offered participants the chance to win a car through a purchase of diamond, platinum, or solitaire jewellery worth ₹20,000 or more, or

gold jewellery worth ₹50,000 or more. Customers had the option to participate in a lucky draw and win a Maruti Suzuki Celerio. This is

a testament to KISNA's dedication to creating unforgettable moments for its patrons. As part of the campaign's grand finale,

KISNA selected 104 winners from across India. North India saw maximum participation with 20,795 participating customers, followed by other regions. The winners received the keys to their cars at special events curated for the same, across states, including Delhi, Haryana, Punjab, Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu among others. Mr. Ghanshyam Dholakia, Founder & Managing Director of Hari Krishna Group, stated, "The overwhelming participation from jewellery buyers in the #Abki Baar Aapke Liye campaign, is a testament to the trust and

affection our customers have for KISNA. This campaign celebrates the spirit of sharing joy and rewarding our loyal patrons with the opportunity to win something truly extraordinary." Mr. Parag Shah, Director of KISNA Diamond & Gold Jewellery, further emphasized, "This campaign underscores our commitment to connecting with every Indian household. The excitement and engagement seen during this period reflect the deep bond KISNA shares with its customers, blending tradition, modernity, and trust in every piece of jewellery we offer."

The winners were informed through telecalls on the same day as the delivery of the vehicles, to maximise excitement and make it memorable. KISNA's regional presence has also made it possible to reward participants from remote areas as well, offering everyone a fair chance to be a part of this grand celebration. KISNA's #Abki Baar Aapke Liye campaign has redefined customer engagement by providing a unique opportunity to experience the magic of jewellery shopping while celebrating life's moments in the most spectacular way.

# Cricket

## With hunger, you can fight back from injuries anytime: Mohammed Shami

Kolkata

A sports person can overcome multiple injury setbacks as long as he has an insatiable hunger to play for the country, said India pacer Mohammed Shami, who is set to make a national comeback after 14 months.

Shami last played for India in the ODI World Cup final in November 2023. He had sustained an ankle injury on his left leg that required surgery.

The veteran fast bowler is expected to make his India comeback with the first T20 against England at his home ground here on Wednesday. He has also been picked in the ODI Champions Trophy squad.

"Country ke liye jo khelne ki bhoonk hai woh kabhi khatam nahin honi chahiye. Apko agar usse pyar hai toh aap hamesha fightback karte rahe, injured chah ap ko baar ho jaye (The first thing I feel is that the hunger to play for the country should never end," Shami said at an organised by Cricket Association of Bengal.

"If you have that hunger, you will always fight back, no matter how many times you get injured.

"Mere dimaag mein hamesha yehi rehta hai mein kitna bhi match khel



loon woh mere liye kam hai, kyunke ek baar agar meine cricket chhod toh shayad woh dobara na hoga (No matter how many matches I play, it always feels like less. Because once I leave cricket, I may never get this chance again)," he added.

He was speaking at CAB's felicitation ceremony of the victorious Under-15 women's cricketers at Eden Gardens here.

"It has never happened that players

who represent their state or country think about leaving the game after an injury. Whenever we get injured, the only thought in our mind is -- when can we return?" Shami added.

Shami, who missed key assignments including the T20 World Cup and Border-Gavaskar Trophy five-match Test series, stressed that overcoming injuries is part of an athlete's journey.

"If you are hardworking and committed, no injury can keep you away for

too long. You will always find a way to return." Wearing the Blue jersey remains the ultimate honour, and he believes every player deserves a chance to represent the country if they play with loyalty and commitment.

Talking about his deep connection with Eden Gardens, he said, "The home ground is always special. I started my career here. I've said earlier as well -- though I was born and brought up in Uttar Pradesh, I was made by Bengal. This is my home, my life."

Sharing the stage with cricketing legend Sourav Ganguly, former India women's captains Mithali Raj and Jhulan Goswami, he expressed his gratitude for the opportunities that came his way through sheer dedication.

"I have only done one thing -- fulfilled my responsibilities with loyalty. And I hope you all carry the same loyalty and one day play for India. Because once you get that chance, you won't experience a better feeling than representing your country."

CAB also felicitated the senior women's Bengal team for the runners-up in T20 and One-Day Trophy and the Under-19 Bengal men's team for reaching the Vmoo Mankad final.

## Rohit, Yashasvi named in Mumbai Ranji squad against Jammu and Kashmir game



Mumbai

India captain Rohit Sharma and young opener Yashasvi Jaiswal, were on Monday named in Mumbai's squad for their Ranji Trophy fixture against Jammu and Kashmir, starting January 23 at MCA-BKC Ground here.

The team will continue to be led by the seasoned Ajinkya Rahane.

Rohit had confirmed his participation for the next round of the Ranji Trophy

match on Saturday.

Of late there have been questions over Rohit's form in the longest format after his forgettable outing in his last eight Tests, including against New Zealand at home and against Australia Down Under.

The BCCI recently made it mandatory for all contracted India players to participate in domestic cricket except when there are fitness issues.

## 'Bazball' inventor McCullum says England will play 'watchful' cricket in India

New Delhi

Brendon McCullum, a former teammate of Gautam Gambhir, has "no doubt" that the Indian head coach will be successful in getting the best out of the talent in the Indian dressing room. McCullum's support for Gambhir comes at a crucial time when the former Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR) captain and mentor is facing criticism after India's 3-1 defeat in the Border-Gavaskar Trophy in Australia and also saw his team lose 3-0 at home to New Zealand before the tour Down Under.

McCullum, who is now also England's white-ball coach, played with Gambhir at KKR in the Indian Premier League (IPL). On Monday, he labelled Gambhir an "outstanding leader," two days before England and India compete in a five-match T20 series.

"What I will say about Gautam Gambhir is that I've worked with him before. He's a really strong leader. He's a really strong leader of men, and in the time that he's had in any sort of leadership position he's held previously, he's been able to excel," McCullum told reporters in Kolkata.

"He's only just sort of got underway with this team, but I have no doubt that he'll get the best out of the talent that he's got. And then we've (England) got to find a way to be able to counter that with our own style," he added.

Gambhir took over India's head coach role from Rahul Dravid, who guided the Men in Blue to the T20 World Cup 2024 title victory. Apart from T20s, Gambhir has not enjoyed a good run so far. Team India also lost an ODI series in Sri Lanka under Gambhir's guidance last year.

McCullum, meanwhile, is getting ready to start his era of white-ball coaching with England, which starts on 22 January in Kolkata. Known as the proponent of Bazball, McCullum says his T20 team will play a "watchable brand of cricket".

"I'm desperate for us to play a really watchable brand of cricket," McCullum said. "With the talent we have, there's no reason why we can't.



## Virat Kohli set to play Ranji Trophy after 12 years



New Delhi

Indian superstar Virat Kohli is set to play his first Ranji Trophy game since 2012 after making himself available for Delhi's tie against Railways scheduled here from January 30.

Kohli could not make it for Delhi's upcoming away clash against Surashtra, beginning on January 23, due to a neck sprain but he has communicated to DCCA that he is avail-

able for the team's last league match of the Ranji Trophy.

"Virat has conveyed to DCCA president (Rohan Jaitley) and team management that he is available for the game against Railways," Delhi head coach Sarandeep Singh said.

The BCCI has made playing domestic cricket mandatory for its contracted cricketers unless there is a fitness issue following the series loss in Australia earlier this month.

## KL Rahul to miss Agarwal-led Karnataka's Ranji game against Punjab

New Delhi

Seasoned batter KL Rahul, who is recovering from an elbow niggle, was not included in the Karnataka Ranji Trophy squad for their penultimate Elite Group C match against Punjab, beginning here on January 23.

The PTI had reported on January 18 that Rahul could be a part of the state side for its last league match against Haryana on January 30.

The wicketkeeper-batter has been named in India's ODI squad for the three-match home series against England, starting on February 6, and the ICC Champions Trophy, scheduled from February 19.

Opener Mayank Agarwal will lead the 16-man side that also features India pacer Prasidh Krishna and top-order batter Devdutt Padikkal, who made a fifty and a hundred in three Vijay Hazare Trophy matches recently.

Shreyas Gopal named vice-captain Shreyas Gopal, who had an excellent run in Karnataka's triumphant run in the Vijay Hazare Trophy with 18 wickets, has been elevated as vice-captain.



Karnataka squad: Mayank Agarwal (captain), Shreyas Gopal (vice-captain), Devdutt Padikkal, KV Aneesh, R Smaran, KL Shriji (wicketkeeper), Abhinav Manohar,

## Openers have fixed positions but everyone else needs to be flexible about batting slots: Axar

Kolkata

Openers are the only ones with a fixed slot in the Indian T20 line-up and the batting order that follows will be made up of "multiple floaters", new vice-captain Axar Patel said on Monday while spelling out the team's strategy ahead of the five-match series against England.

India will start their campaign against England in a five-match T20 series at the Eden Gardens on Wednesday.

Asked about being a floater in batting order, the all-rounder replied: "...it's not just about me; it applies to everyone in the team.

"Right from the start of 2024, we had decided to have a fixed opening slot, and from No. 3 to No. 7, everyone has been told to be flexible based on the situation, combinations, and matchups."

Axar, who is now a part of the team management for the series, spoke in a manner that reminded one of Rohit Sharma's interaction before the 2023 ODI World Cup where he called for flexibility in the middle-order.

"There is no fixed position where a particular batter will always play...it's the same for everyone in that range (between Nos 3 to 7), depending on who is having a great day, which we assess during practice sessions.

"In T20 cricket, it's all about utilising the right batter in the right situation."

There is not much that changes for Axar as Suryakumar Yadav's deputy except for the fact that he will now



also be a part of certain hard calls that are taken by the team management.

"It's been only one day. Yes, we (skipper Surya, head coach Gautam Gambhir and myself) have had a discussion. There is an extra responsibility on the leadership group. There is not much of a change. Obviously, we have a settled T20 side, there is not much pressure."

"When you come into the leadership group, obviously you have to take some harsh decisions. Those also we have spoken about. It is about having a genuine opinion and keeping trust on each other."

This is the national team's first game after the Test debacle in Australia and the all-rounder doesn't want to fret on the bygone.

"Hum yeh bhi bat kar chhain ki, jo ho gaya woh ho gaya, woh wapas nahin aanevala (Let bygones be bygones). It is about taking the positives into our next series," he said.

## Ganguly hails Kohli as the 'greatest white-ball player'

Mumbai

In the midst of ongoing scrutiny regarding his recent batting form, former Indian captain Sourav Ganguly has come forth with outstanding praise for Virat Kohli, dubbing him "the greatest white-ball player the world has seen." Ganguly's remarks came on Sunday, emphasizing that Kohli is a "once-in-a-lifetime" cricketer who should not be judged solely on his recent performances, particularly with the upcoming 2025 Champions Trophy in mind.

Kohli has faced substantial criticism after a disappointing outing during the recent Australia tour, where India lost the five-match Test series 1-3 in the Border-Gavaskar Trophy. Ganguly remains unfazed by Kohli's form, asserting, "To score 80 international centuries in a career is something unbelievable. For me, he's probably the greatest white-ball player the world has seen."

Reflecting on Kohli's struggles, Ganguly noted, "I was really surprised by the way he batted after

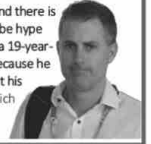
getting a hundred in Perth. After that hundred, I thought it would be a big series for him, but every player has their strengths and weaknesses. It's about how you adapt your weaknesses as you face great bowlers over time." Notably, Kohli scored a remarkable century in the Perth Test but only managed a total of 90 runs in his next four innings, falling victim to Australia's outside off-stump trap where he was dismissed edging the ball in all eight of his completed innings during the series.

Despite this challenging performance, Ganguly expressed confidence in Kohli's abilities, stating, "There's a lot of cricket left in the 36-year-old. The upcoming tour of England will present a significant challenge for him, but I'm not overly concerned about his form in the Champions Trophy, given his stature as the best white-ball player for a long time."

Fans eagerly await Kohli's return to the international arena as he is set to represent India in the first ODI against England.

“Look its tough and there is always going to be hype when you have a 19-year-old making debut because he is in rare company at his age.”

— Simon Katich





## Satwik-Chirag eye first title of season, Lakshya Sen aims to bounce back

**Jakarta (Indonesia)**  
**S**tar Indian men's doubles pair of Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty will be eyeing its maiden title of the year while Lakshya Sen will look to put behind a disappointing start to the season when the Indonesia Masters Super 500 tournament gets underway here on Tuesday.

The world No 9 duo of Satwik and Chirag has been in a fine form, reaching semifinals of the last two tournaments — Malaysia Open Super 1000 and India Open Super 750 — over the last as many weeks and will be keen to cross the final hurdle.

Satwik-Chirag had lost each of the two semifinals in straight sets and their aim would be to go the distance in the upcoming tournament.

They will open their campaign with a round of 32 clash against Chinese Taipei's Chen Zhi-Ray and Yu Chieh Lin.

The challenge, however, would be greater for India's singles players Sen



and PV Sindhu when they take the court here.

The 23-year-old Sen, who had finished fourth in last year's Paris Olympics has lost twice in the first round over the last two weeks, will be determined to put his best foot forward in the round of 32 clash.

Priyanshu Rajawat will also begin his

campaign at the same stage, taking on Japan's Kodai Naraoka.

However, two other Indians will face off in the men's singles qualification round as Kidambi Srikanth, who did not feature in India Open, will look to get the better of Kiran George.

In women's singles round of 32, Sindhu will open her campaign against

Chinese Taipei's Sung Shuo Yun. Akashshi Keshyap will face Japan's world No 19 Nozomi Okuhara and Anupama Upadhyaya will take on local player Gregoria Mariska Tunjung.

Sindhu lost in the quarterfinals of the India Open and the two-time Olympic medalist Indian star will be keen to make amends.

In women's singles qualification, Isharani Baruah will face compatriot Rakshitama Ramraj while Tanya Hemant will clash against Chinese Taipei's Tung Ciou-Tong.

Tanisha Crasto and Ashwini Ponnappa will begin their women's doubles campaign in round of 32 against Thailand's Ormicha Jongstathapornpatt and Sukitta Suwacha.

Tanisha will team up with Dhruv Kapila for their mixed doubles' round of 32 game against Indonesia's Adnan Maulana and Indah Cahya Sari Jamil.

In the same round, Rohan Kapoor and Rutvik Gadde will face off against England's Gregory Mairs and Jenny Mairs.

## JSW Soorma register comprehensive 5-1 victory over Delhi SG Pipers



**Ranchi**  
**JSW Soorma Hockey Club** returned to winning ways with a comprehensive 5-1 victory over Delhi SG Pipers in the Women's Hockey India League here on Monday.

Charlotte Englebert (6th) and Sonam (9th, 10th) gave Soorma a comfortable lead in the first quarter.

Charlotte Staphenhorst (36th) extended the lead in the third quarter. Sangita Kumari (38th) pulled a goal back for Delhi SG Pipers. But Penny Squibb (60th) found the back of the net in the last minute of the match to round off a five star performance for Soorma.

Soorma started strong, pressing the Pipers deep into their half. Their early pressure paid off when Maria Verschoor set up Englebert on the left wing, who bypassed Bichu Devi Kharibam in goal with a low reverse sweep to open the scoring.

Shortly after that, Englebert and Staphenhorst unleashed a flurry of shots.

A save by Bichu fell to Sonam, who bundled the ball over the line to double Soorma's lead.

In the very next minute, Englebert dodged past defenders around the circle and picked out Staphenhorst, who lobbed the ball across goal and Sonam was alert to touch the ball in and make it 3-0 for Soorma in the first quarter.

The onslaught on the Pipers' goal

continued in the second quarter with Englebert and Staphenhorst combining to unleash a couple of attempts on goal.

The Pipers found some rhythm, with Preeti Dubey making a run into the circle and lifting the ball across the goal, but no teammate could connect.

Verschoor and Englebert controlled the midfield, generating more opportunities for Soorma, but Bichu and the Pipers' defence held firm to prevent further damage.

The Pipers employed aerial passes to bypass the Soorma press as the third quarter began and found Sangita on the baseline but she was shut down quickly by goalkeeper Savita Pania.

The game became more end-to-end with the Pipers committing more players forward, but five minutes into the quarter, Englebert pinched the ball from the Pipers and unloaded to Staphenhorst, who lifted the ball past Elodie Picard to make it 4-0.

The Pipers were quick to respond as Navneet Kaur found Sangita high up the pitch and without any defender in front of her, she rocketed the ball past Savita Pania to score their first goal.

With five minutes left, the Pipers earned a penalty corner but Lily Owsley was unable to deflect Deepika's effort towards goal.

## Swiatek satisfied after WADA decide not to appeal her case at CAS

**Melbourne**  
**Iga Swiatek** felt satisfaction and hoped for closure after the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) said on Monday that it would not appeal her case at sport's highest court.

WADA's announcement came shortly after the five-times Grand Slam champion produced a ruthless display during her 6-0 6-1 win over German lucky loser Eva Lys to move into the Australian Open quarter-finals for the second time in her career.

"For sure I'm just satisfied that I can get closure and I can just move on and finish this whole process, because I just want to play tennis and focus on the tournament," Swiatek told reporters later.

The world number two had tested positive for the banned hormone and metabolic modulator trimetazidine in August and was provisionally banned the following month.

She then successfully appealed against her provisional ban and returned to action in October after the International Tennis Integrity Agency (ITIA) accepted the explanation her positive test was caused by contamination of her medication melatonin.

The Pole accepted a one-month ban that ended on Dec. 4 after accounting for time already served.

WADA said on Monday there would be no scientific grounds to challenge Swiatek's explanation at the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS).

"WADA has conducted a full review of the case file related to the ITIA decision, which it received on 29 November," WADA said in a statement.

"WADA's scientific experts have confirmed that the specific contaminated melatonin scenario, as presented by the athlete and accepted by the ITIA, is plausible and that there would be no scientific grounds to challenge it at CAS."

Swiatek said anyone who knew the details of her case would be understanding.

"The locker room has also been pretty nice," she added. "The girls are understanding... Now for sure, I just want to put this behind me, because I have already been on tour for quite a few weeks, and it's all been good."

"I don't expect any changes. I'm happy people understand."

However, men's world number one Jannik Sinner is still under the scanner after testing positive for the anabolic androgenic agent clostebol in March last year.

The Italian was also cleared of wrongdoing but WADA lodged an appeal to CAS, with a hearing starting on April 16.

Earlier on Monday, he shrugged off illness to battle past Holger Rune 6-3 6-6-3 6-2 and reach the quarter-finals of the Australian Open, where he is the defending champion.

## Mohun Bagan hope to continue unbeaten run in the match against Chennaiyin FC

**Chennai**  
**Winless** in four matches, Chennaiyin FC will have a tough task at hand when they face table toppers Mohun Bagan Super Giant in their Indian Super League (ISL) match here on Tuesday.

The Marina Machans are currently 10th on the table with 17 points from 16 games, while the Mariners, sit comfortably at the top spot with 36 points.

Chennaiyin FC are winless in their last four games, two draws and two losses, while the Mariners have notched up three wins and a draw in their last four matches.

The Mariners, who secured a narrow 1-0 victory in the reverse fixture on November 30, are aiming for their first-ever league double over Chennaiyin FC.

Notably, the Marina Machans and Mumbai City FC are the only sides Mohun Bagan have faced multiple times in the ISL without completing a league



double.

Chennaiyin FC have struggled defensively so far, keeping the joint-least clean sheets — 2 — in the league along with Hyderabad FC.

The Mariners, on the other hand, have been lethal in offence, recording the joint-most goals of 31 — the same as Odisha FC and NorthEast United FC — with Jamie Maclaren top-scoring with six goals.

The Jose Molina-coached team might

look to exploit the weaknesses in the Chennaiyin FC backline, whereas the home team will want to wear a guarded look to bridge their seven-point gap with the sixth-placed Mumbai City FC (24), in order to keep their play-off hopes alive.

Chennaiyin FC assistant coach Noel Wilson revealed that injury concerns have troubled their defensive stability this season.

"This season, we have had injuries because of which we have not played the same back-four consistently. You wouldn't want to change the defence across 100 minutes because once the opposition scores one goal, they are raring to go for another," he said.

Mohun Bagan Super Giant head coach Molina brushed aside concerns over his forwards not making the most of the goal-scoring chances being created in the last few games.

## Tennis-Success takes toll on Monfils at Australian Open



**Melbourne**  
**Veteran** Gael Monfils has rolled back the years in recent weeks with a string of incredible performances, but the Frenchman said he had exceeded his limit after retiring hurt from his fourth-round Australian Open match against Ben Shelton on Monday.

Monfils, 38, became the oldest ATP title-winner ever with his victory in the Auckland Classic, before dumping fourth seed Taylor Fritz out of the Australian Open last week.

However, his matches at Melbourne Park have been far from straightforward, with a total of over 12 hours spent on court and his first-round meeting with Giovanni Mpetshi Periarcid lasting five sets.

"At the end of the day, it's been a very long tour for me, playing a lot of matches, spending a lot of hours," Monfils told reporters after retiring while trailing 7-6(3) 6-7(3) 7-6(2) 1-0.

"Of course, some days are tougher. Today was one where I think I was already very close from the limit, and I think I passed it, unfortunately..."

"When you win, win, win, win, oh, to lose is not easy. I had a great week in Auckland. I won Auckland. I was running to take the flight. The next morning I was in practice already.

Then practice again. Then play four hours almost against Giovanni."

Monfils embraced Shelton at the net after making the decision to retire and was given a standing ovation by the crowd at the Margaret Court Arena, which was conducted by the 22-year-old American.

"I love Ben. I love him. This kid is amazing. He's full of energy. He's a great guy, great kid. Of course, it's always too bad to play someone that you love, but we put the fighting spirit," Monfils said.

"That's why I still want to make it tough for him, but at the end of course, now I'm rooting for him. He's a guy that I really appreciate spending time with him, talking with him, sharing anything. We laugh. He's just an amazing kid."

Monfils was cheered on during the match by wife and Ukrainian 28th seed Elena Svitolina, who defeated Veronika Kudermetova 6-4 6-1 in the women's singles earlier on Monday.

The Frenchman said Svitolina was likely more stressed than he was, adding: "It's more stressful because you're not in control, you want to help, and you can just help with talking, but it's different."

"Because when you play yourself, you really want to play sometimes."

## Harnessing youth and experience, Karnataka's mantra of success in VHT: Coach Yere Goud

**Bengaluru**  
**The** heady combination of youth experience that helped Karnataka end their five-year title drought with the Vijay Hazare Trophy triumph will add strength to the state side's quest for more trophies in the future, reckons head coach Yere Goud.

Karnataka had parted ways with veteran batter and former skipper Manish Pandey mid-season.

But newcomers such as Ravichandran Smanran, KV Anesh, KL Shriji and Abhilash Shetty stepped in seamlessly and chipped in alongside experienced players like Mayank Agarwal and Vasuki Koushik.

Goud, himself a former Karnataka skipper, said they started the preparations for the tournament with a course correction after getting knocked out of the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy in the quarterfinals.

"We'd good mix of young and seasoned players. It was all about harnessing them. After the end of the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy, we knew the areas where we have to improve as a team. We defined the roles of the players for this tournament," Goud said.

Karnataka stopped the Vidarbha juggernaut in the title clash at Vadodara on Saturday.

Goud said Karnataka's transformation was helmed by captain Agarwal, who had a wonderful outing as the leader and a batter.

"Our campaign went well because Mayank performed well as a captain and batter. He had a good season in Ranji Trophy and in the SMAT. So, when he started well, it percolated to others. It was amazing to see him performing the twin role," he said.

Vidarbha's Karun Nair (779 runs from 9 matches, Avg: 389.50) hogged all the limelight during a stellar run, but Agarwal was not far behind.

He was the second highest run-getter with 651 runs from 10 matches at an average of 93 with four hundreds.

Goud also lavished praise on young names such as Smanran, Anesh and pacer Abhilash who stepped in at the



crucial time. "The youngsters who have come... they contributed wherever it was required. They have done their job in the quarters and semis and in the final. Of course, we got some boost as well in the knockouts as pacer Prasad Krishna and top-order batter Devdutt Padikkal returned to play for us after the Australia tour."

"They made runs and picked up those crucial wickets when it required. Abhilash Shetty (17 wickets), as a left-arm medium pacer, offered us the variety as well," he said. Smanran made 433 runs from 10 matches at 72 with two hundreds, while Anesh scored 385 runs at shade over 48 with four fifties.

So, what made these two perform consistently throughout the tournament? "I was Anesh's under-16 coach and under-19 coach. And U-23 as well. So, three categories he was with me. Smanran was, last year, the under-23 captain when I was coaching that squad."

"So, it helped me to understand them better and know what their strengths are and how I can use them in a game. Both are players with a lot of potential. "Smanran being a left-hander, adds value as well. I mean, in terms of the match's context, it's difficult for the other teams' bowlers to operate against the right-hand combination," Goud explained.

The coach had a word of praise for Shreyas Gopal, who returned to the state's stables ahead of this season after spending a year with Kerala.

The leg-spinner was joint highest-wicket taker for Karnataka (18) along with Koushik.

Koushik was exceptional because he gave just 4.5 runs per over, the lowest economy rate among frontline Karnataka bowlers, in a tournament where high totals were regularly posted.

"Koushik has been our tireless worker for so many years. He played his role consistently throughout the tournament. He knows his strengths and he keeps that area just on the good length and just short of good length."

"So, he makes the batsmen take chances against him. And in the process, he will get a lot of wickets. And also, helps the other players, the other bowlers to get wickets," said Goud.

However, Karnataka had their task cut out in the Ranji Trophy as the second leg is scheduled to start from January 23.

They are fourth in Elite Group C and they now will have to win the remaining two games and the results of some other matches also need to go their way.

"We will try to win the next two games and see where we stand. Like you mentioned, there are a lot of other games also where the results need to go our way."



# Kangana Ranaut's 'Emergency' earns over Rs 12 crore at box office in 3 days

**K**angana Ranaut's "Emergency" has earned Rs 12.26 crore at the domestic box office on its first weekend.

Also directed and produced by Ranaut, the film portrays the Emergency months and features the actor in the role of former prime minister Indira Gandhi. "Emergency" also stars Anupam Kher, Shreyas Talpade, Vishak Nair, Milind Soman and late actor Satish Kaushik and had its much-delayed

release on January 17.

Ranaut's production banner Manikarnika Films shared the update on the film's collection on its X handle on Monday.

"The Momentum is Unstoppable! #Emergency is winning hearts and growing stronger every day! Experience the powerful story that has the nation hooked."

**"The Momentum is Unstoppable! #Emergency is winning hearts and growing stronger every day! Experience the powerful story that has the nation hooked. Witness HISTORY come alive—BOOK YOUR TICKETS NOW! Watch #Emergency in Cinemas today," read the caption.**

The poster featured the day-wise breakdown of the film's collection. After opening on Friday with Rs 3.11 crore, "Emergency" witnessed growth on Saturday as by earning Rs 4.28 crore and Rs 4.87 crore on Sunday, respectively. The total collection of the film stands at Rs 12.26 crore.

"Emergency", which faced release delays, censor issues, and protests from Sikh bodies for its alleged misrepresentation of facts, was released on the big screen alongside Abhishek Kapoor's directorial "Azaad", starring debutants Aaman Devgan and Rasha Thudani.



## British Sikh groups disrupt some screenings of 'Emergency' in UK

**B**ritish Sikh groups have organised protests against Kangana Ranaut's "Emergency", disrupting the film's screening at some cinemas in the UK during its opening weekend.

The Sikh Press Association (PA) group stated on social media that the film is seen as "anti-Sikh" and the protests have resulted in cancelled screenings in Birmingham and Wolverhampton, in the West Midlands region of England.

Community organisation Insight UK posted a video on its X platform showing protesters interrupting a screening of the film, directed by Ranaut who also essays the role of former prime minister Indira Gandhi, at a cinema in Harrow, north-west London.

"Pro-Khalistan extremists storm Harrow cinema and attempt to stop the screening of 'Emergency'," states Insight UK.

Earlier, Sikh PA had released a statement to register the group's protest against the movie which covers the period of Emergency in India dating back to the 1970s.

"UK Sikhs are protesting at cinemas (sic) over the UK regarding today's release of the film Emergency, a biopic of former India Prime Minister Indira Gandhi considered anti-Sikh propaganda," the group stated on X in time for the film's release on Friday.

"The film stars and was created by Kangana Ranaut, a notorious actress/politician in India, who pushes bigoted rhetoric about the minority Sikh-Punjabi community. Indira Gandhi was the PM who initiated the #SikhGenocide before her assassination," the Sikh PA statement adds.

Meanwhile, Ranaut took to social media herself with a video expressing her gratitude and also voicing her disappointment regarding the film's reception in Punjab and among some Sikhs abroad.

Speaking in Hindi, Ranaut said: "On behalf of Zee Studio, Manikarnika Film, and all the members of Ease My Trip, I would like to thank you all from the bottom of my heart. You all gave so much love and respect to our film. We don't even have words to express our gratitude."

## Folk singer Dr. Nitu Kumari Nootan was Honored with Award by Ambassadors in Delhi

**G**lobal India Business Forum organized a grand National Business Excellence Award 2025 at the Constitution Club of India in Delhi.

In which ambassadors and diplomats from about 20 countries participated. In this program, Bihar's famous and popular folk singer Dr. Nitu Kumari Nootan was honored with the award by the ambassadors of Algeria



and Mongolia and Global President Dr. Jitendra Joshi.

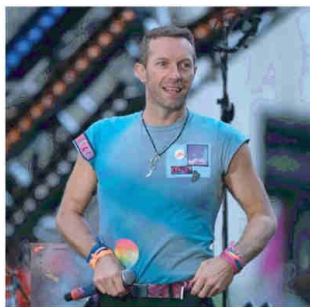
Bihar's daughter Dr. Nitu Kumari Nootan has been honored by the President and the Prime Minister as the country's popular folk singer. Although Dr. Nitu Kumari Nootan has received many honors. But this time she was honored by foreign

ambassadors on the soil of her country. The name of Dr. Nitu Kumari Nootan, who has increased the pride of her state Bihar and the country, is now echoing in foreign countries as well.

With the magic of her melodious voice, Dr. Nitu Kumari Nootan rules the hearts of the audience and listeners not only in Bihar

but in the whole country. On the strength of the magic of her wonderful voice, she has given a wonderful performance in the Bharat Mandapam program of the Government of India and in many programs of the Government of Bihar. For which she was also honored. When Dr. Nitu Kumari Nootan was honored with an award in the field of folk singing in Delhi, she said while talking to the media- 'I was interested in the field of singing since childhood, but it is only the grace of Maa Saraswati that my singing will get such a big honor, due to which I am being honored by the government and foreign ambassadors in my country. I thank Dr. Jitendra Joshi, President of Global India Business Forum and Deepali Gadkari for this honor'.

## Coldplay's Chris Martin says 'Shah Rukh Khan forever' at his second Mumbai concert



**C**oldplay singer Chris Martin gave a shout out to Bollywood superstar Shah Rukh Khan during his second Mumbai concert on Sunday.

In the video circulating online, Martin can be heard saying "Shah Rukh Khan forever" on the stage before beginning his next song amid cheers from concertgoers.

It's not the first time that Martin has expressed his love for the superstar. Back in 2019, the singer shared a post on X in which he mentioned the songs and films he liked back then. At the end of the note, he wrote "Shah Rukh Khan forever".

The band in on its India tour and will perform in Mumbai for a third time on January 21 before they travel to Ahmedabad for a two-day concert at the Narendra Modi Stadium on January 25 and January 26.

On their first concert on

Saturday, Martin won fans over by connecting with them in their native tongues. His attempts to speak Hindi and Marathi were met with overwhelming warmth. Martin began by saying in Marathi, "Tumhe saghere aaj chhan dista" (You all look 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.

The British musician thanked Indian fans for giving him the chance to play in one of "our favourite places in the whole world".

"This is our fourth visit to India, the second time playing... We couldn't have asked for a better audience. It's amazing you welcome us," Martin said.

## 'The Seed of the Sacred Fig' to release in Indian theatres on January 24

**I**ranian filmmaker Mohammad Rasoulof's acclaimed film "The Seed of the Sacred Fig", which is also Germany's Official entry in the best international feature category at the Oscars, is all set to release in Indian theatres on January 24 in Persian with English subtitles. "The Seed of the Sacred Fig" will be distributed by Impact Films in India.

They have previously brought several internationally acclaimed titles such as "Portrait of a Lady on Fire", "Parasite", "Colette", "A Hero", "Parallel Mothers", "Triangle of Sadness", "The Whale", "Everything Everywhere All At Once", "The Zone of Interest", "Monster" and "Ehduma" to Indian theatres.

The story of "The Seed of the Sacred Fig" unfolds in



Tehran during nationwide protests triggered by the tragic death of a young woman. This thought-provoking thriller explores the harrowing dynamics of family, authority, and resistance against a backdrop of societal unrest.

The protagonist Iman; a judge in the Revolutionary Guard Court, faces a moral and personal crisis as his family becomes entangled in the seismic events gripping the city. What begins as a celebration of Iman's professional success unravels into a harrowing tale of paranoia, betrayal, and resilience.

## Citi NCPA Aadi Anant set to take its musical celebration to Delhi & Chennai

**T**he National Centre for the Performing Arts (NCPA), one of India's premier cultural institutions, commenced its annual classical music festival, Citi NCPA Aadi Anant, last weekend in Mumbai. Each year, the festival brings together the musical legacies of some of the most revered names in Indian music, making it one of the country's most coveted classical music experiences.

The guru-shishya tradition, so elemental to Indian classical music, has been the central focus of the Citi NCPA Aadi Anant festival, which also continues to be a thriving platform for innovation within tradition.

The 14th edition of the festival, supported by Citi, is set to present a series of concerts across three cities -



Mumbai, Delhi and Chennai. The festival commenced on the 7th of December at the NCPA with 'Saz aur Awaz' presenting maestro Shujaat Husain Khan, who took the stage for a unique performance blending both sitar and vocals in his signature style, accompanied by a talented ensemble. The following concert on the 8th of December, 'Sarod Quintet: Three Generations, One Legacy', was a special treat

for concertgoers, featuring maestro Anjad Ali Khan, a towering figure in the world of sarod, who was joined by his sons, Amaan Ali Bangash and Ayaan Ali Bangash, along with his grandsons Abeer Ali Bangash and Zohaib Ali Bangash. Together, they presented a multi-generational sarod ensemble, showcasing the enduring legacy of the Seniya Bandash music lineage.

Following the grand

launch in Mumbai, the festival will now travel to Delhi and Chennai for two more exceptional concerts, featuring notable line-ups that include some of the finest stalwarts of Indian Classical Music. Each performance is designed to showcase the mastery and dedication of both the maestros and their students, highlighting the enduring relevance and beauty of India's classical music heritage.

## I became drunk on my own success: Ram Gopal Varma on career after 'Satya'

**F**ilmmaker Ram Gopal Varma said he cried while watching "Satya" when it re-released last week after 27 years because he realised he had become drunk on its success and his later films, gimmicky and with shock value, didn't have

the same "honesty and integrity". Varma, considered one of the most original voices in Hindi cinema in the 90s and 2000s with the success of "Rangeela", "Satya", "Bhoot" and "Sarkar", later came to be associated with mediocre projects such as "Ram Gopal Varma Ki Aag", his remake

of "Sholay", "Rakta Charitra" and "God, Sex and Truth". He admitted as much on Monday in a long post on X, titled "A Satya (true) confession to myself", in which he bared his heart.

"When the bright lights of a 'Rangeela' or a 'Satya' blinded me, I lost my vision and that explains my mean-

dering into making films for shock value or for gimmick effect or to make a vulgar display of my technical wizardry or various other things equally meaningless and in that careless process, forgetting such a simple truth that technique utmost can elevate a given content but it can't carry it."

