



Kriti Sanon praises 'Deva' trailer, Shahid Kapoor thanks his 'Sifra'

Ashwini Vaishnav represents Bharat's vision at World Economic Forum 2025, Davos

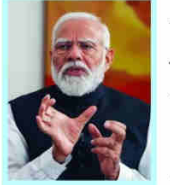
India ready to showcase its unique brand of cricket during CT: Hardik



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MARKET	
SENSEX	NIFTY
76404.99	23155.35
566.63	130.70
GOLD SILVER	
79,597.00	91,824.00
373.00	-267.00

WEATHER	
Sunrise	7:15 AM
Sunset	5:53 PM
Moonrise	12:42 AM
Moonset	11:50 AM
Today's Prediction	
Maximum	22°C
Minimum	9°C
Tomorrow's Prediction	
Maximum	22°C
Minimum	8°C

# 12 dead as passengers jump off train after fire rumour, run over by another

The accident took place between Maheji and Pardhade stations near Pachora, more than 400 km from Mumbai, where the Lucknow-Mumbai Pushpak Express had halted after someone pulled the chain due to a rumour of fire around 5 pm, Central Railway officials said

Jalgaon At least 12 passengers were killed on Wednesday evening when they jumped from their train in panic due to a 'fire incident', only to be run over by another train on the adjacent tracks in North Maharashtra's Jalgaon district, officials said.

Twelve bodies were sent to the nearby civil hospital while six to seven persons were injured, special Inspector General of Police Dattatraya Karale said.

The accident took place between Maheji and Pardhade stations near Pachora, more than 400 km from Mumbai, where the 12533 Lucknow-Mumbai Pushpak Express had halted after someone pulled the chain around 5 pm, Central Railway officials said, without confirming the death toll.

Some passengers of the Pushpak Express jumped off, and were hit by the oncoming Karnataka Express heading from Bengaluru to Delhi,



said Central Railway's chief spokesperson Swapnil Nila. IG Karale said that a 'fire incident' occurred on Pushpak Express, at km 372/07 between Maheji and Pardhade stations.

The train stopped at the location, and some passengers disembarked. Train No. 12627, Bengaluru-New Delhi Karnataka Express hit people standing on the

railway tracks, he added. 'Six to seven people have been injured. All injured passengers are being treated at the hospital, none of their injuries are serious. Both trains have reached their respective next stations and the accident site has been cleared,' the senior police official added.

Pushpak Express departed from the spot in just 15 minutes, while the Karnataka Express was removed within 20

minutes after the accident, a railway official said.

Maharashtra minister Girish Mahajan also reached the spot. The injured are being treated in a hospital in Pachora and most of them were out of danger, he said.

Visuals from the accident spot showed a few bodies and severed body parts.

"Our preliminary information is that there were sparks and smoke

inside one of the general coaches of Pushpak Express due to either 'hot axle' or 'brake-binding' (jamming), and some passengers panicked. They pulled the chain, and some of them jumped down. At the same time, Karnataka Express was passing," a senior railway official had said earlier.

An Accident Relief Train has been dispatched to the spot from Bhusaval, and Central Railway is making all efforts to provide medical aid to the injured passengers, an official statement said.

Government and private hospitals in the area have been instructed to be ready to treat injured passengers, said Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnis on X.

Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnis on Wednesday said Jalgaon General Hospital and nearby private hospitals are being kept ready for treating passengers injured in the train tragedy.

CONTD ON PAGE-2

# Deportation shadow falls on 18,000 Indians living 'illegally' in US



Washington India will be verifying documents of around 18,000 of its nationals, who are in a queue to be deported for living 'illegally' in the US. The list has been shared by the US, sources said, adding, "if they are found to be Indian nationals they would be accepted back".

The Donald Trump administration - which rode to power by promising, among other things, deporting illegals from the US - has officially taken up the matter of deporting around 18,000 Indian nationals back to the country.

The number of possible deportations could go up to 2 lakh, with more cases of illegal immigrants being detected in the US.

A large number of illegal immigration to the US is by the people from

Punjab, Haryana and Gujarat.

Sources in India said the verification and deportation is an ongoing process, adding that India has never stood for illegal immigration. "Anybody who is an Indian national and found to be living illegally in the US, and his or her documents are found in order, will be accepted back," sources said.

The issue of illegal immigration was flagged on Tuesday by US Secretary of State Marco Rubio at a meeting with External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar.

A US State Department statement said Rubio expressed a desire of the Trump Administration to 'work with India to advance economic ties' and address concerns related to irregular immigration. Agency



The DRDO tableau, showcasing India's advancements in defense technology and innovation, is seen during the media preview at Rashtriya Rangshala Camp, Parade Ground, Delhi Cantt, ahead of the Republic Day Parade 2025 on Wednesday.

# JD-U sacks Manipur unit chief soon after he withdrew support from BJP

New Delhi Confusion prevailed on Wednesday over Janata Dal-United's support to the Bharatiya Janata Party-led Biren Singh government in Manipur with its state unit writing a letter to the governor, informing him of withdrawal of support and the central party leadership dismissing it, asserting the support to National Democratic Alliance.

In the letter to Governor Ajay Kumar Bhalla, JD-U state president Ksh Biren Singh "reiterates non-support" to the BJP-led government in Manipur.

Shortly after Singh's letter, the JD-U central leadership sacked him, in a bid to quell growing speculation about the party's ties with the BJP. Party's national spokesperson Rajiv Ranjan said Singh's re-



removal was due to discipline and asserted that the party would continue to support the BJP-led government in the northeastern state.

Ranjan affirmed that the JD-U remains committed to supporting the BJP-led NDA, not just in Manipur but across the country.

In his letter, the Manipur unit chief also said the lone JD-U MLA, Mohammed Abdul Nasir,

will sit in the opposition benches. Repeated efforts to contact Nasir did not fructify.

The withdrawal, however, will not have any impact on the Biren Singh government as the BJP has 37 seats in the 60-member assembly and is also supported by five MLAs of the Naga People's Front and three independents.

CONTD ON PAGE-2

# 3 students among 14 killed in road accidents in Karnataka

Bengaluru As many as fourteen people were killed and 24 sustained injuries in two separate road accidents that occurred in Uttara Kannada and Raichur districts on Wednesday, the police said.

The injured are out of danger, but are undergoing treatment in the hospital, they said. Condoning the tragic incident, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah said the families would be paid compensation.

"It's heartbreaking to hear the news that 14 people died in two separate accidents in Yellapur in Uttara Kannada district and Sindhnanur



in Raichur district. I pray for the souls of the deceased to rest in peace," Siddaramaiah said in a statement.

"The families of the deceased will be provided appropriate compensation by the government," he added. In the Yellapur incident, a truck carrying 29 fruit sellers fell into a

50-metre-deep valley in the wee hours of Wednesday, the police said.

The victims from Savanur in Haveri district, were heading towards the Yellapura fair to sell fruits. The accident occurred in a forested section, the Uttara Kannada Superintendent of Police M.Narayana said.

CONTD ON PAGE-2

# Trump warns Putin to make Ukraine deal 'now' or face tariffs, sanctions

WASHINGTON DC US President Donald Trump told his Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin on Wednesday to make a deal to end the grinding Ukraine war "now" or face tariff hikes and more sanctions.

"If we don't make a deal, and soon, I have no other choice but to put high levels of Taxes, Tariffs, and Sanctions on anything being sold by Russia to the United States, and various other participating countries," Trump said on his Truth Social network.



Trump said he was "not looking to hurt Russia" and had "always had a very good relationship with President Putin," a leader for whom he has expressed admiration in the past.

"All of that being said, I'm going to do Russia, whose Economy is failing, and President Putin, a very big FAVOR. Settle now, and STOP this ridiculous War! IT'S ONLY GOING TO GET WORSE."

HIGHLIGHT

"If we don't make a deal, and soon, I have no other choice but to put high levels of Taxes, Tariffs, and Sanctions on anything being sold by Russia to the US," Trump wrote on Truth Social.

Trump was taking a harder line than he had during a White House press conference on Tuesday, when he said it "sounds likely" that he would apply additional sanctions if Putin did not come to the table. The US president also

declined to say whether he would continue his predecessor Joe Biden's policy of sending weapons to Ukraine to fight off Russia's invasion, launched in February 2022. "We're looking at that," he said at the press conference. "We're talking to (Ukrainian President Volodymyr) Zelenskyy, we're going to be talking to President Putin very soon." Prior to his inauguration on Monday, Trump had vowed to end the Ukraine war before even taking office, raising expectations he would leverage aid to force Kyiv to make concessions to Moscow. Agency

12 dead as passengers jump off train after fire rouser, run over by another

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"The tragic loss of lives in a very unfortunate incident near Pachora in Jalgaon district (which) is deeply distressing. I pay my heartfelt tributes to them," Fadnavis, who is in Davos, posted on X. He said state minister Girish Mahajan and the superintendent of police have reached the spot and the district collector will reach there shortly.

The Jalgaon district administration is working in coordination with the railways, and immediate arrangements are being made for the treatment of the injured, he said.

Fadnavis said eight ambulances have been dispatched to the spot. The general hospital as well as other nearby private hospitals have been kept ready for the treatment of the injured, he added.

### JD-U sacks Manipur unit chief soon after he withdrew support from BJP

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In the letter to Bhalu, Ksh Biren Singh said, "In the election to state assembly of Manipur held in February/March 2022, six candidates set up by JD-U were returned. After a few months, five MLAs of JD-U defected to BJP. Trial under tenth schedule of India of the five MLAs is pending before the Speaker's Tribunal."

"After JD-U became part of India Bloc, support to the BJP-led government was withdrawn by JD-U ... as such, seating arrangement of the lone MLA of JD-U in Manipur Md Abdul Nasir is made in the opposition bench in the last session of the assembly by the Speaker," it said.

"JD-U further reiterated that it does not support the BJP-led government in Manipur and that the lone MLA should be treated as an opposition MLA in the House" it added.

Clarifying the party's stand, JD-U secretary general Mainsam Dorendro Singh claimed that the letter sent by Ksh Biren Singh to the new government was to reiterate the party's earlier position, and there is no mention of any fresh withdrawal from the BJP-led government in the state.

"With the coming of the new governor, JD-U Manipur state unit just wanted to reiterate the position of the party. In the letter, there is no mention of any fresh withdrawal of support (to the BJP govt). It has been widely misunderstood," he stated.

Asked about the seeking of Ksh Biren Singh, Dorendro Singh said, "We have heard of it from different quarters and many have called to ask about it. However, we are yet to receive any official information."

**Advt Contact:**  
9818-799941

# State police has no role in lodging complaints for airport violations: SC

New Delhi  
The Supreme Court has held the Aircraft Act was "a complete code" to deal with the safety and security of civil aviation and aerodrome, whereas the state police could only forward probe material to the authorised officer to decide on lodging a complaint.

The significant verdict, ruling out any significant role of a state police in dealing with the airport violations cases, came from a bench comprising Justices A S Oka and Manmohan on an appeal of the Jharkhand government.

The state government challenged the Jharkhand High Court judgement, which quashed the FIR against BJP MPs Nishikant Dubey and Manoj Tiwari and others.

They were accused of allegedly forcing the Deoghar air traffic control to allow their aircraft to take off after sunset in 2022.

The judgement, authored by Justice Manmohan, and made available on Wednesday said, "The Aircraft Act, 1934 as well as the rules framed thereunder... is



a complete Code which deals with safety and security of civil aviation and aerodrome." It added, "The Aircraft Act also prescribes a special procedure for taking cognizance of any offence punishable under the Aircraft Act, 1934, i.e., the complaint must be made by or with the prior sanction of the Aviation authorities. Section 12B is in the nature of a pre-condition for taking cognizance by a court." The bench referred to the relevant provisions of the Act and the rules

and said a complaint could be filed by an authorised officer alone under the Aircraft Act before the court concerned.

"The local police can only forward the material collected by it during the investigation to such authorised officers. It shall be open to the authorised officer to take a decision in accordance with law with regard to filing or non-filing of a complaint," it said.

The bench said it was a settled law that in the exercise of the extraor-

dinary power under Article 226 of the Constitution or the inherent powers under Section 482 of CrPc, it was open to a high court to quash an FIR either to prevent abuse of the process of any court or otherwise to secure the ends of justice.

"Keeping in view the findings, the present appeals are dismissed with liberty to the appellate-state of Jharkhand to forward the material collected by it during investigation to such authorised officer under

**The significant verdict, ruling out any significant role of a state police in dealing with the airport violations cases, came from a bench comprising Justices A S Oka and Manmohan on an appeal of the Jharkhand government.**

the Aircraft Act within four weeks, who shall take a decision in accordance with law as to whether a complaint needs to be filed under the Aircraft Act and the rules framed thereunder," the bench said.

The verdict said there was no evidence that the MPs acted rashly or negligently to endanger lives and hence no offence under Section 336 IPC (endangering human life) was made out against them.

It also held that no offence of Section 447 (criminal trespass) was made out as there was no allegation of forcible entry, intimidation, or annoyance by the law-makers.

On invocation of Section 448 (house tres-

pass) IPC, the bench ruled that the ATC office, not being a dwelling or place of worship, does not fall under this provision.

The top court, in December 18 last year, reserved its verdict on the appeal of the state government against the Jharkhand High Court judgement.

The case relates to an FIR lodged at Kunda police station in Deoghar district of Jharkhand against nine people, including Dubey and Tiwari.

They had allegedly forced Deoghar ATC personnel to clear their chartered flight to take off after the scheduled permitted time on August 31, 2022 in violation of security protocol at airports.

The flight reportedly departed at 6:17 PM, 14 minutes after sunset.

The top court's verdict came on a petition by the Jharkhand government challenging a March 13, 2023 high court ruling which quashed the FIR on grounds that no prior sanction was taken from Lok Sabha secretary as per the Aircraft (Amendment) Act,

### 6 States, 10 Ministries to showcase India's rich heritage at RD Parade

New Delhi

In a grand display of India's cultural richness and developmental strides, 16 States/Union Territories (UTs) and 10 Ministries/Departments of the Union Government will showcase their vibrant tableaux at the 76th Republic Day Parade on Kartavya Path. The overarching theme, "Swarnim Bharat: Virasat Aur Vikas," will highlight the nation's diverse strengths, its evolving inclusivity, and its hopeful march into the future.

The participating tableaux from States and UTs include Goa (Cultural Heritage of Goa), Uttarakhand (Cultural Heritage and Adventure Sports), Haryana (Bhagwad Gita), Jharkhand (Swarnim Jharkhand: A Legacy of Heritage and Progress), Gujarat (Swarnim Bharat: Virasat Aur Vikas), Andhra Pradesh (Eetippokpa Bonmullu - Eco-Friendly Wooden Toys), Punjab (Land of Knowledge and Wisdom), Uttar Pradesh (Mahakumbh 2025 - Swarnim Bharat), Bihar (Nalanda - Vishwavidyalaya), Madhya Pradesh (Kuno National Park: Land of Cheetahs), Tripura (Kharchi Puja: Worship of 14 Deities), Karnataka (Lakkundi: Cradle of Stone Craft), West Bengal (Lakshmir Bharat and Lok Prasar Prakhya - Empowering Lives), Chandigarh (Heritage, Innovation, and Sustainability), Delhi (Quality Education), and Dadra Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu (Avari Bird Park & Kirti Memorial - A Tribute to Navy Sailors).

This year's Republic Day Parade will not only celebrate country's journey through its rich heritage but also reflect its progress in various fields, reinforcing the spirit of "Swarnim Bharat."

**Advt Contact:**  
9818-799941

### BJP will win Delhi assembly polls with two-thirds majority: Anurag Thakur

New Delhi

Former Union minister Anurag Thakur on Wednesday asserted that the BJP will win the Delhi assembly polls with a two-thirds majority as people have understood the reality of "excuse-maker and anti-woman" Arvind Kejriwal and his Aam Aadmi Party (AAP).

"The BJP is at the top in the hearts of the people and there is only one thing in the people's heart that the BJP has to win," Thakur said in an interview said.

He described the AAP as an anti-women party, alleging that first its Raja Basha member Swati Malviya was beaten up at Kejriwal's residence and now the picture of the incumbent Chief Minister Atishi has not been given a place even on the party's posters.

"BJP will win the Delhi assembly elections with a two-thirds majority because the people of Delhi have understood the reality of excuse-maker and anti-women Arvind Kejriwal and the Aam Aadmi Party," he said.

The BJP will choose someone who is honest and has a clean image as its chief minister, he added. Replying to a question on announcements of freebies, Thakur said, "We will get the SIT (a special investigation team) to investigate the scams committed by Arvind Kejriwal and the AAP in the schemes." He assured that the BJP, if voted to power, will continue all the schemes which include free bus service, free water or electricity schemes.

### Electoral bonds: Plea seeks review of SC order rejecting petitions for seizure of money

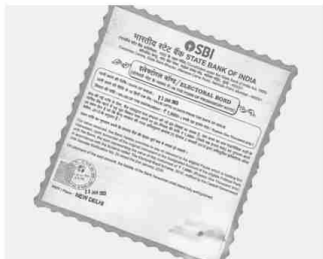
New Delhi

A petition filed in the Supreme Court on Wednesday sought a review of its August 2, 2024 order dismissing pleas for confiscation of Rs 16,518 crore received by political parties under the 2018 electoral bond scheme.

The review plea sought a recall of the August 2, 2024 order which dismissed a previous petition seeking confiscation of money received under the scheme. It therefore sought the plea's restoration and a fresh hearing.

The top court, on August 2 last year, rejected a batch of pleas including the one filed by Khem Singh Bhati, who filed the review, seeking a court-monitored probe into the electoral bonds scheme (EBS) and observed it couldn't order a roving inquiry.

The review plea, filed through advocate Jayesh K Umnikrishnan and settled by senior advocate Vijay Hansaria, said on February 15, 2024 the apex court held in another case - Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR) v. Union of India



— EBS as unconstitutional for violating Article 19(1)(a) of the Constitution.

"The effect of declaring the Electoral Bond Scheme and the various statutory provisions as unconstitutional is that the said scheme never existed and is void ab-initio and it is a settled position of law that the court only finds law and it does not make law," it argued.

The verdict in the ADR case, said the plea, rendered the EBS void since inception and therefore the subsequent pleas for confiscation of the amount collected by

### Haryana's tableau will present a divine view of prosperity, heritage & development on R-Day

Shiv Kumar Chhandigarh

Haryana's pride will be seen again on 26 January this year on the occasion of Republic Day on New Delhi Kartavya Path as Haryana's tableau will be seen on the path of duty, which has been prepared on the theme of a divine view of the state's prosperity, heritage and development.

According to the official information released by the government, a glimpse of Haryana's cultural tableau constituted an "apparent error on the face of the record".

This information was given by K.M. Pandurang, Director General, Department of Information, Public Relations and



Languages, Haryana, while presenting Haryana's tableau to the media at RR (National Stadium) Camp, New Delhi today.

He said that the front part of Haryana's tableau depicts Lord Krishna preaching the Gita to Arjuna before

the Mahabharata war at the holy Jyotisar shrine of Kurukshetra. This is the divine message that Lord Krishna gave to the entire human race through Arjuna. This is a proof of Haryana's lasting contribution to India's spiritual and cultural heritage.

"Along with this, a glimpse of Haryana will also be seen with the name of Sports Power House Haryana," he said.

This tableau has been prepared by the Department of Information Public Relations and Language.

### 3 students among 14 killed in road accidents in Karnataka

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of danger," a police officer said.

A pall of gloom descended on Savanur town after the accident.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah too condoled the tragic death of 10 people in Yallapur.

"Deeply saddened by the loss of lives in the accident in the Uttara Kannada district of Karnataka. Condolences to those who lost their loved ones. May the injured recover soon. The local administration is assisting those affected. An ex-gratia of Rs 2 lakh from PMNRF will be given to the next of kin of each deceased. The injured would be given Rs 50,000," the Prime Minister Office said in a post on X.

Bhasha Parasi (30), Ghulam Hussain Gudsab Jawali (40), Intiaz Ahmed Jafar Muzageri (45), Alfaz Jafar Mandaki (25), Jalani Abdul Ghaffar Zakati (20) and Aslam Babu Benne (24).

"We shifted the 15 injured persons to the hospital. They are out

#### PUBLIC NOTICE

It is for general information that I, UMA SHANKAR SINGHI son of DHARMEDEV SINGHI residing at H No.-399, Gali No. 15, Bhagwati Garden Estate, Uttam Nagar, D. K. Mehra Garden, New Delhi, Delhi 110059, declare that the name of mine and my wife have been wrongly written in the name of my wife as UMA SHANKAR SINGHI and ATRABASA DEVI in my PPO No. 601260100482 (e-PPO No. 34929010613). The actual name of mine and my wife are UMA SHANKAR SINGHI and ATRABASA DEVI respectively, which may be amended accordingly.

#### PUBLIC NOTICE

It is hereby informed to all concerned that my client, Smt. Manju Kohli W/O Late Sh. Lalit Kohli, residing at 2-175, Subhash Nagar, Tagore Garden, West Delhi, Delhi-110027 has executed her son Sh. Nalin Kohli and daughter-in-law Smt. Swati, from all his movable and immovable properties and has severed all relations with them due to their indecent behaviour, assault, threats of implicating them in false cases and not being in his control. If in future the above mentioned son Sh. Nalin Kohli and daughter-in-law Smt. Swati, have any kind of transaction, ethical or unethical behavior with my client, he himself will be responsible for it. My client will have nothing to do with it and neither will be accountable for it.

MANISH KUMAR ADVOCATE  
CHLN. 839, L.C.B., DWARKA COURT,  
NEW DELHI  
PHNO. 9825266167

NEWS IN BRIEF

**Noida Authority allots plots to developers**

The Noida Authority has allotted plots to four developers under the commercial plot scheme. This allotment will bring an investment of about Rs 3,000 crore.

The authority had launched a scheme in 2024-25 (Builder Plot-1) for plots larger than 20,000 square meter of eight commercial plots in sector 15. Under the scheme, applications were made from 26 September 2024 to 5 December 2024.

Apart from this, the scheme of five plots smaller than 20,000 square meter in sector-40, 50, 93B, 94, 135 was from 30 September to 9 December 2024. E-auction was conducted on 21 and 22 January among the participating developers. Plots were allotted to the four developers who placed the highest bid.

This scheme will also provide employment opportunities. The application process will be opened again for those plots for which no bidders were received. The developers who got the plot are Max State Limited (Consortium).

Mangalam Multiplex Private Limited (Consortium), M3M Private Limited (Consortium) and Vertex Construction Com-03.

**Residents protest over delay in registration of flats**

Noida

Residents of phase 3 of Mahagan Mywood Society of Greater Noida West staged protest over delay in registration of flats.

They staged a sit-in protest at the builder management office on Tuesday evening, demanding registration of flats and possession soon. Society resident Ranjeet Ratan Singh said that Wing 8 and Wing 9 have been built inside Phase 3. There are about four towers in the wing in which about 700 families are residing. At the same time, there are three towers in Wing 9 which are under construction. People have not got possession of them yet.

In such a situation, the residents of both the wings gathered on Tuesday evening and reached the builder management's office in sector 63. They staged a sit-in protest outside the builder's office. Residents alleged that two years have passed, registry has not been done yet. Also, the work of the incomplete towers has not been completed, though all the people have paid on time. Even after that the builder is not ready to complete the work. Possession date is being given continuously, but when residents ask for it then they give the next date.

All the residents are upset with this. Residents told that during the protest on Tuesday the builder management promised the residents of Wing 9 that possession of some towers will be given in March and some in June, but on asking for registry, no answer was received yet.

**Misguided AAP govt policies behind Delhi's plight: LoP Gupta**

Noida  
Stepping up his attack on the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) government in Delhi, Leader of the Opposition in the Delhi Assembly Vijender Gupta said on Wednesday that the ruling dispensation's "misguided" policies are the main reason for the plight of the national capital and alleged that the government has failed on all fronts.

**PM Modi interacts with Delhi BJP workers under "Mera Booth Sabse Majboot" program**

■ Delhi people angry with AAP, win 50 per cent votes in every booth: PM Modi to BJP workers and standing alongside them.

New Delhi  
Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday urged Delhi BJP members to target winning over 50 per cent of votes in every booth in the upcoming assembly polls, and exhorted the AAP for its "unfulfilled" promises, "fake" announcements and "corruption".

People are openly expressing anger with the AAP government during the party's campaign, he said, claiming that it is making new announcements every day as it is aware that it is losing ground across the national capital.

In an online interaction with Delhi BJP members, Modi reiterated his "aadpa" (disaster) barb against the AAP and asked them to gather photographic and video evidence of the city's poor roads, sanitation and other problems in their outreach to voters ahead of the February 5 polls.

Calling for defeating the AAP, which has been in power since 2015, the prime minister said the BJP will pave the way for fulfilling the resolve of making Delhi the developed capital of a developed India.

He accused the city government of not tabling CAG reports, which reportedly highlight the losses caused to the exchequer by its policies, for the fear of being exposed. The reports will be tabled



by the new BJP government, he said, asserting that people have made up their mind to oust the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP).

Modi said the common man is saying, "aadpa ko hata kar rahenge. BJP ko laakar rahenge (We will surely remove aadpa and bring BJP)".

People are aware of the AAP's "misdeeds" and BJP workers should continue to highlight the destruction the ruling party has inflicted on the national capital, he added, lacking an identity of its own unlike several other cities such as Bengaluru, Gurgaon, Noida and Chandigarh. Delhi is still associated with the central government, he said.

With Purvanchali voters emerging as a key voting bloc in the city, the PM ac-

used the AAP of conspiring to push the people from Bihar and Uttar Pradesh out of the national capital following the COVID-19 outbreak and alleged that the party is full of hate for them.

In the over 75-minute programme, the prime minister interacted with a number of BJP workers and took repeated jibes at the AAP.

When a party worker spoke about the lack of water supply in an area, Modi said "liquor is available but water is not", a reference to the city government's now-scrapped excise policy which led to the arrest of several AAP leaders, including Kejriwal, on corruption charges.

Modi said he is writing a letter to Delhi voters and asked BJP members to read it out to them.

"This 'aadpa' has engaged in lies and deceit, and city residents have been betrayed by it and the Congress over the last 25 years, he said, claiming that the AAP has surpassed the main opposition party in deceiving people with fake promises.

"The Congress was in power in Delhi from 1998 to 2013.

"They (AAP) have set new records in corruption but have no shame. There is a lot of anger among people against their scams," he said.

The AAP makes excuses in Delhi but it has not fulfilled its promises in Punjab too, he added.

Those born in the last 25 years or those who are in the 35-40 age group have seen nothing but destruction, Modi said, adding that they have lost hope and are in de-

spair.

He exuded confidence that the BJP will secure a massive majority due to the hard work of its booth workers.

With the AAP depending on its welfare plank, including sops to women, to clinch a third consecutive win, Modi noted that BJP governments in several states such as Odisha and Maharashtra are successfully running cash assistance schemes for women besides other welfare initiatives.

Unlike the AAP, the BJP's model is based on truth, he said.

The BJP will run a massive campaign to ensure that drinking water reaches everyone once it is voted to power, he said.

Slamming Kejriwal, the PM said the "Sheesh Mahal" is an example of the AAP's deceit and lies.

The BJP has dubbed Kejriwal's official residence as "Sheesh Mahal", claiming he spent crores on the house.

The prime minister urged BJP members to ensure record polling to surpass the turnout figures of the last 10 years.

Without naming Kejriwal, Modi said he promised to clean the Yamuna but is now claiming that cleaning the river does not get votes.

The prime minister said the AAP also failed to fulfil its promise of building houses for the poor and noted that the Centre has built thousands of homes for them.

**Former Delhi CM to MLAs, AAP Faces Corruption Charges & Imprisonment: Dhani**



Staff Reporter  
New Delhi

Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhani participated in a roadshow in support of BJP candidate Mrs. Poonam Sharma in the Wazirpur constituency ahead of the Delhi Assembly elections on Wednesday.

During the event, he also inaugurated the BJP's election office. A large crowd gathered to listen to CM Dhani, welcoming him with flowers and garlands at various points.

Chief Minister Dhani stated that the Aam Aadmi Party's (AAP) government in Delhi has completely failed. He accused the Kejriwal government of deceiving the people of Delhi by making false promises about new hospitals and schools.

He further remarked that under the leadership of Honorable Prime Minister Narendra Modi, states governed by "double-engine" governments are making

rapid progress. These states have zero corruption, whereas in Delhi, allegations of corruption have led to the imprisonment of the Chief Minister, Deputy Chief Minister, ministers, and MLAs.

He urged the public to decide whether they want a "double-engine" government to lead Delhi to new heights or a government entangled in corruption.

CM Dhani criticized the Delhi government's failure to help the Yamuna River clean, stating that while it flows pure and pristine in Uttarakhand, it turns into a sewer in Delhi. The river water is not even suitable for irrigation, let alone for consumption or ritual purposes.

He also pointed out that the Aam Aadmi Party has not implemented the Ayushman Bharat Scheme in Delhi, depriving residents of affordable healthcare.

He appealed to the people to establish a "double-engine" government in Delhi.

He alleged lack of improvement in health services, absence of revolution in education, and failure to enhance basic infrastructure under the AAP government.

**Noida Authority CEO inspected problems of civil, cleanliness, encroachment in Noida-e-way**

Ajeet Kumar  
Noida

Chief Executive Officer Lokesh M visited Noida-Greater Noida Expressway and Sector-150 to review the civil, horticultural and electrical maintenance, cleanliness system, encroachment etc. of the area.

During the inspection, the team of the authority's civil and water department was present with the Chief Executive Officer.

During the inspection, it was found that due to the absence of a drain towards Sector-150, 152 parallel to the Noida-Greater Noida Expressway, the waste water is going into the green belt at the said place, due to which mosquitoes etc. are breeding at the said place, due to which there is a strong possibility of diseases spreading around.

In view of the above, temporary arrangements were to be made on the spot for the drainage of all the water from the green belt. During the inspection, the

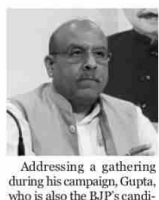


service roads on both sides of the expressway were found damaged. For its maintenance, the damaged or broken planters built earlier from 10 km to 20 km of the Noida-Greater Noida Expressway chainage were to be completely removed from the site.

Silt was found accumulated on the roads on both sides of the expressway and in the inner area of Sector-150. The cleaning of which was to be done. During the inspection, kerb stones were found broken and fallen on the roads at some

places. These were to be repaired and reinstalled. Water was found coming from Sector-148 in the underpass constructed near Sector-150.

For the grouting of which, a large number of street vendors were found standing in a disorderly manner in Sector-150. Instructions were given to arrange them on the service road of the 7.5 m wide route. Also, electrical/mechanics were directed to change the fountain installed on the roundabout in Sector-150 and make it attractive.



date from the Rohini Assembly constituency, stated that the AAP government, over the past decade, has offered nothing but empty promises to public under the guise of development.

He alleged lack of improvement in health services, absence of revolution in education, and failure to enhance basic infrastructure under the AAP government.

**CAG report bares 'Farjiwal's corruption in health sector, says Ajay Maken**

Staff Reporter  
New Delhi

AICCS treasurer Ajay Maken, MP said that Arvind Kejriwal, who came to power on the anti-corruption plank, is a "Farjiwal" as the CAG report on public health and management of health services has exposed serious irregularities and corruption.

Addressing a press conference here on Wednesday, Maken along with Delhi Congress president Devender Yadav, said that there were 14 CAG reports which were to be tabled in the assembly, but these reports were not tabled due to the slanging match between the Lt. Governor and Kejriwal.

Maken said that Kejriwal wanted to conceal his corruption in the health sector as the CAG, in its 240-page report, has critically evaluated the performance of the Delhi government in public

health infrastructure. Maken said that the CAG report called the bluff of Kejriwal to avoid cost over runs, but the AAP government caused Rs 382.52 crore loss to the government due to the increase of final cost from the tendered cost on account of corruption and delay in the completion of the Indira Gandhi Hospital, Burari Hospital and Maulana Azad Dental Hospital Phase-II.

He said that the construction work of these hospitals was started by the Congress government, but due to Kejriwal's corruption and ineptness, the work got delayed, and the cost went up. He said that the Indira Gandhi hospital was delayed by 5 years, with the cost rising by Rs 314.9 crore. Burari was delayed by six years (Rs 41.26 crore cost jump) and Maulana Azad by three years (cost jump Rs 26.36 crore).

Maken said that the Delhi government acquired 15 plots between 2007 and 2015 where hospitals and dispensaries could have been constructed, but nothing was done. He said that Rs 2623.35 crore of the budget for various infrastructure projects lapsed from 2016-2022, and funds sanctioned by the government of India for Covid care were also not utilised when people died and suffered in Delhi due to shortage of medical oxygen, hospital beds, medicines and even ambulances. He said that out of the Rs 695.62 crore sanctioned by the Centre for various heads, Rs 360.64 crore were returned, which showed the irresponsible governance of Kejriwal.

Delhi Congress president Yadav said that BJP and AAP were hand-in-glove in hiding the CAG reports from the public domain.

PUBLIC NOTICE

My clients Lajja Ram S/o Sh. Bhola Ram and Smt. Lokes Deva W/o Sh. Lajja Ram both R/o A-24, A-Block, Bunkar Colony, Ashok Vihar Phase-4, Ashok Vihar, Delhi-110052, have disowned and debarred their son name Gaurav and his wife Monika from all of their moveable and immovable properties and we have also severed all of their family relations with them due to their misconduct and misbehavior and if anybody deals with them, he/she will do so at his/her own costs, risks and consequences and my client or their any other family members will not be responsible for their any good or bad acts.

Fajal Khan Advocate  
Seat No. 27 Ps. Nothee Block, Tis Haz Cants Delhi-54

PUBLIC NOTICE

General public is hereby informed that my client Sh. Balbir Singh S/o Sh. Puran Singh, R/o House No. 387, Second floor, Gram Sabha Colony, Pooth Kalan, Delhi-110086 has served all his relations with his son name Mr. Vikram Paul his daughter in law Mrs. Meenu Paul and their son Master Advik Paul from his all movable and immovable property, because of their act and conduct.

Now my above-named client would have no concern and relation of any kind whatsoever with his son and his family in any manner, and henceforth they all shall have no right and claim of any nature in the properties of my above-named client whatsoever and whichever, either movable or immovable.

SANJIV KUMAR ADVOCATE  
707, Indraprakash Building, Barakhamba Road, New Delhi-110001

PUBLIC NOTICE

My clients Roshni Devi W/o Sh. Amar Singh R/o C-47, Amar Colony, Kamruddin Nagar, Punjabi Bagh, Nanogli, Niloti, West Delhi, Delhi-110041, have disowned and debarred her son name Sudeep Kumar from all of her moveable and immovable properties and she has also severed all of her family relations with him due to his misconduct and misbehavior and if anybody deals with him he/she will do so at his/her own costs, risks and consequences and I or my any other family members will not be responsible for his any good or bad acts.

Sumit Kumar Advocate  
2nd Floor, W-wink, No 735-C, End Floor, Western Wing Tis Hazon Cants, Delhi-54

**New Okhla Industrial Development Authority**

Administrative Building, Sector-6, Noida-201307 (U.P.)  
Website: www.noidaauthorityonline.in

**E-TENDER NOTICE**

E-Tenders are invited from firms/contractors registered with the following jobs against which bids can be uploaded and same shall be opened/downloaded as per schedule mentioned. The details and conditions of all tenders are available on Noida Authority's official website: [www.noidaauthorityonline.in](http://www.noidaauthorityonline.in) & <https://etender.up.nic.in>. Please ensure to see these websites for any changes/ amendments & corrigendum etc.

S. No.	Job No./Work Name	Amount (Rs. in Lacs)
1.	59/D(H)/DD(H)-I/2024-25, D/o RSP (Beautification) FNG Road Tikona Road No.-06 Village Garhi Gol Chakkur with 02 year maintenance Noida.	25.17

Which can be uploaded by date 05.02.2025 upto 5.00 PM. Pre-qualification sheet to be opened/downloaded on date 06.02.2025 at 11.00 AM.

Director (Hor.)  
Office - Sector - 39, Noida

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**NORTHERN RAILWAY E-AUCTION NOTICE**

Sr. Divisional Commercial Manager/PS, Northern Railway Delhi Division invites bids through E-Auction through IREPS (<http://ireps.gov.in/>) for the allotment of Deluxe Pay & Use Toilet Contracts on MOT Basis at following Railway Stations/locations:-

E-Catalogue No.	Date & Time of bidding	Railway Stations/Locations/Sites
PayNUse02-2025	07.02.2025 at 12:00 Hrs.	New Delhi (NDS)-02 Sites, Badli (BHD)-1 Site, Panipat (PNP)-1 Site Total 4 Sites.

Website particulars where complete details of E-Auction can be seen <https://ireps.gov.in/>

All contractors who intend to participate in the e-auctions conducted through E-Auction Leasing module of IREPS should fulfil following mandatory requirements before they can submit their bids:

- Registration on IREPS for E-Auction Leasing module
- Active IREPS User Account for E-Auction Leasing Module
- Payment of One Time Registration Fee, Current Account in State Bank of India; Integration of SBIs Bank Account with IREPS Account; Lien Marking of Funds; Updation of Turnover Details
- A new mechanism namely Virtual Account Number (VAN) has been introduced now for E-Auction Leasing module, which can be used by the bidders as an alternative to Lien Marking Mechanism. The bidders are free to switch between Lien Marking Mechanism (if activated) and VAN mechanism at any point of time, before entering the bidding round. VAN mechanism does not require the bidder to have a current account in State Bank of India. The users are free to transfer money from any of their existing bank accounts in any bank to their VAN account, which enables them to participate in IREPS E-Auctions.
- Contractors who do not have IREPS account for any module of IREPS can submit their online request for registration by clicking on New Vendors / Contractors (E-Tender /E-Auction Leasing) link on IREPS Home page.

Divisional Railway Manager's Office, Commercial Branch, State Entry Road, New Delhi 110055.  
Email: sanitation2@gmail.com  
Tel: 011-23743084

No.: 7PUB/TN/PayUseToilets/Auction/2022 Dated: 21.01.2025

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE 24/2025

# Celebration of Democracy: A festival of democracy & indianness: Inaresh Kumar

New Delhi  
The "Jashn-e-Jamhuriya" program organized under the aegis of the Muslim Rashtriya Manch (MRM) at Alwar-e-Ghalib Auditorium in Delhi elevated the ideals of democracy, communal harmony, and the values of Indianness to new heights on the occasion of Republic Day. This event was not merely a celebration but also a platform for dialogue, highlighting India's democratic traditions, cultural diversity, and unique strength in unity.



The event was graced by the presence of Inaresh Kumar, guide of the Muslim Rashtriya Manch; Iqbal Singh Lalpura, Chairperson of the National Commission for Minorities; Shahid Akhtar, Acting Chairperson of the National Commission for Minority Educational Institutions (NCMEI); and Anil Gupta, Delhi Prant Sanghchalak. The speakers emphasized the power of voting, the enriched status of minorities in India, and the importance of education and awareness. Discussions centered on the significance of the Republic, democratic rights, and duties, underlining that the spirit of "Hindustaniyat" is the true identity of the nation.

Inaresh Kumar, guide of MRM and a member of RSS National Executive, re-

marked, "As the world's largest democracy, India celebrates its Republic Day. This day is not just an occasion but a celebration of our constitutional values and cultural heritage. The Quran teaches us that patriotism (Hubb-ul-Watan) is half of faith, and the Ramayana teaches that 'Mother and Motherland are greater than heaven.' Both messages inspire us to love and serve our country."

He added, "We must understand that religion is not limited to prayer and worship. Every faith guides us toward service, respect, and truth." Recalling MRM's journey, he said, "Initially, I trusted just 10-15 individuals, but these few expanded the platform to create the vast organization we have

today. This time, we are taking Buddhists to the Kumbh Mela, and many Muslims have expressed their desire to join as well."

Anil Gupta, Delhi Prant Sanghchalak, stated, "Voting is not merely a formality; it is the most critical means to shape the future of ourselves and the coming generations. The challenges Delhi faces today—pollution, corruption, and the state of education—are the result of poor priorities and negligent policies over the past decade. Every voter has the responsibility to cast their vote wisely and elect leaders who prioritize basic amenities like clean air, clean water, and quality education."

He emphasized, "Our nation is the shared home of Hindi, Urdu, and Sanskrit

cultures, whose roots cannot be harmed. While the last thousand years of history have seen conflict and bitterness, it is now time to move past these divisions to build a strong and prosperous India. Today, we must prioritize not only our rights but also our duties."

The Hindi edition of the book Waqf Bill 2024: Gift to Islam and Baza for Muslims was grandly launched during the event. Co-authored by Prof. (Dr.) Shahid Akhtar, Dr. Shalini Ali, Shiraz Qureshi (Advocate), and senior journalist Shahid Sayeed, the book was described as a landmark document for the effective management and social use of

Waqf properties. The speakers hailed the book as a historic step, noting its potential to empower the Muslim community and inspire reforms in Waqf property management for societal welfare.

The program, organized by MRM Delhi Prant, witnessed active participation from several leaders, including Hafiz Sabrin, Imran Chaudhary, Faiz Khan, Dr. Shaista, and Shabana Sheikh, alongside numerous Delhi-based workers.

Speakers stressed that the challenges India faces can only be resolved through dialogue, consensus, and an inclusive approach.

The program reaffirmed India's strength lies in its communal harmony, democratic values, and the principle of "Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam," which views the world as one family. This event highlighted the greatness of India's Republic, cultural diversity, and the message of mutual respect and brotherhood.

The Jashn-e-Jamhuriya platform demonstrated that unity in diversity is India's soul, and preserving it is a shared responsibility. Through such events, the significance of the Republic and the depth of Indian culture are conveyed not only to the nation but to the world at large.

A Delhi court has sentenced a convict in a minor's rape case to five years' imprisonment which he already underwent observing it must not be swayed by emotions and follow judicial principles. The verdict paves way for the release of the 40-year-old convict.

Additional sessions judge Babita Puniya was hearing the arguments on sentencing against the man who was charged for rape under IPC and the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) for committing aggravated sexual assault.

Special public prosecutor Shararwan Kumar Bishnoi said the convict did not deserve any leniency. The December 13 order said a court couldn't ignore the principles laid down by the Supreme Court on sentencing. It said in the interest of justice, a sentence proportionate to the offence's gravity had to be imposed. "Excessive punishment does not serve the interest of justice or society," it said.

The convict was stated to be the minor survivor's neighbour and despite being in a position of trust, lured

and sexually assaulted the child. "Thus, his behaviour with her was not only a disgusting abuse of physical power but also a violation of trust as a neighbour. He acted in a manner unacceptable in our society," the court said.

It noted the convict had already spent 5.4 years in prison.

"I consider a sentence of imprisonment for the period already undergone by the convict with a fine of Rs 10,000 appropriate," the judge said.

"This would provide just retribution, adequate protection to society and make the convict realise the gravity of his act, while also leaving scope for rehabilitation," the judge said.

The court awarded Rs 8.25 lakh in compensation to the survivor. A case was registered against the man (accused under Sections 376-AB (punishment for rape on a woman under two years of age)/511 (punishment for attempting to commit offences punishable with imprisonment for life or another imprisonment) of the IPC and under provisions of the POCSO Act.

**NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY**  
Tender Notice No. DY-CE-C-II-JHS-2025-01 Dated: 18.01.2025  
**E-TENDER NOTICE**  
Deputy Chief Engineer (Construction-II), North Central Railway, Jhansi for and behalf of the president of India invites E-tender up to 15:00 hrs on the closing date **11.02.2025**. The detail of the tender are as under:  
Tender No. DY-CE-C-II-JHS-2025-01 Description of work: Maintenance of track (New line) between DWA-New LAR Town & BWRV-TKA section under A&ZEMULine-Manchala for 18 months.  
Approx Cost: ₹ 72,88,432.40 Earnest Money: ₹ 1,45,400.00  
Completion Period: 18 (Eighteen) Months including harvest & monsoon period.  
Validity: 90 Days Closing date/time: 11.02.2025 at 15:00 Hrs.  
Note: For complete detail and submission of tender please visit Indian Railway's website <http://www.irmp.gov.in> **12723 (MC)**  
LN North central railways @ CPONRCA @ www.ncr.indianrailways.gov.in

## Consent for sex doesn't extend to filming, sharing private moments: Delhi HC

New Delhi  
The Delhi High Court has significantly held the consent to have sex doesn't allow capturing private moments and posting it on social media.

Justice Swarana Kanta Sharma while dismissing the bail application by a rape accused said consent did not extend to permitting misuse and exploitation of private images.

"Even if the consent for sexual relations had been given at any point in time by the complainant, such consent cannot, in any manner, be construed as consent to capture and post her inappropriate videos on social media platforms. Consent to engage in physical relations does not extend to the misuse or exploitation of a person's private moments or their depiction in an inappropriate and derogatory manner," the court held in a January 17 verdict.

The accused, in the present case, alleged it was a case of a "long friendly relationship" turning sour owing to



the woman failing to repay a loan he gave her.

Refusing to grant any interim relief, the court said even if the initial sexual relationship between the parties was consensual, the alleged subsequent acts of the accused were "clearly rooted in coercion and blackmail."

"While the first sexual encounter may have been consensual, the subsequent ones were allegedly based on blackmail, with the accused taking advantage of the videos to exert control over the complainant. The accused's actions in preparing the videos and using them to manipulate and sexually exploit the complainant prima-facie reflects a strategy of abuse and exploitation, transcending any initial consensual interaction," it said.

It prima facie appeared that the accused had exploited his relationship under the guise of a loan transaction but such an arrangement — even between friends — did not entitle one party to exploit the other's vulnerability or dignity, the court said.

The court rejected the accused's plea that being married, the woman was mature enough to understand the significance of her actions, and said an "attempt to weaponise" her marital status and professional background to diminish the gravity of the allegations was "unacceptable".

"The mere fact that, said the court, the complainant worked in a massage parlour could not be used to diminish the seriousness of the alleged offences committed against her when there was no evidence of her engaging in illicit or unlawful activities.

The complainant alleged she was lured by the accused who also gave her Rs 3.5 lakh in loan to enrol in a course but subsequently began blackmailing her to comply with his sexual demands.

She alleged by 2023 end, the accused came to Delhi and showed an allegedly objectionable video of her on his cellphone and forced her to have sex for two days while threatening to make the videos public.

He reportedly posted the content on social media platforms such as Facebook, WhatsApp, and Instagram.

"Ever since Rakesh Bidhuri is contesting elections from Kalkaji, BJP has created an atmosphere of fear in the Kalkaji Vidhan Sabha region. In every area, BJP workers, and some people who claim to be the 'bhatijas (nephews)' of Ramesh Bidhuri, are threatening AAP workers, grabbing their collars. They are snatching and burning the campaign materials," Atishi said.

Meanwhile, AAP national convener Arvind Kejriwal also joined the news conference and said that the events described by Atishi were not limited to one assembly constituency. "What Atishi said is not limited to just one assembly constituency. BJP has resorted to hooliganism," he said.

"Any party or candidate resorts to violence only when they see that it is impossible to win peacefully.

Ahead of the upcoming assembly elections, Delhi Chief Minister Atishi on Wednesday accused the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) of creating an atmosphere of "terror" in the Kalkaji assembly constituency, levelling serious allegations of "hooliganism" and use of "profanity" against Aam Admi Party (AAP) workers by Ramesh and his associates.

Launching a scathing attack on BJP candidate Bidhuri and demanding action from the Election Commission of India (ECI) on the matter, Atishi said that he and his workers were indulging in hooliganism.

"Ramesh Bidhuri and his workers are not contesting elections, they are doing hooliganism. We demand from the Election Commission that action should be taken in this matter," Atishi said in a press conference.

She said that people claiming to be nephews of Bidhuri were threatening AAP workers while grabbing their collars and "burning" the campaign materials including pamphlets.

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"Any party or candidate resorts to violence only when they see that it is impossible to win peacefully.

urging him to pronounce the verdict on his pending bail application.

The trial judge said at the present stage he could only decide the miscellaneous application and not the regular bail plea.

The case was sent back to the ASJ by the district judge for hearing.

The ASJ court requested the district judge to transfer the case to a court designated to try lawmakers since Rashid was now an MP.

His counsel and the NIA had jointly sought the trial to remain in the matter court already hearing it.

Apart from the NIA case, the ASJ also recommended transferring a connected money laundering case and Rashid's regular bail plea to the court meant for lawmakers.

## Atishi accuses BJP's Ramesh Bidhuri of perpetrating "hooliganism"

New Delhi  
Ahead of the upcoming assembly elections, Delhi Chief Minister Atishi on Wednesday accused the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) of creating an atmosphere of "terror" in the Kalkaji assembly constituency, levelling serious allegations of "hooliganism" and use of "profanity" against Aam Admi Party (AAP) workers by Ramesh and his associates.

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Apart from the NIA case, the ASJ also recommended transferring a connected money laundering case and Rashid's regular bail plea to the court meant for lawmakers.

BJP is heading towards a historic defeat in Delhi. It will be written in history that a party will lose so badly," Kejriwal added.

Taking a dig at Union Home Minister Amit Shah and Delhi Police, Kejriwal said that police were now campaigning for the BJP while helping "goons" indulging in hooliganism.

"Amit Shah has now taken charge and the entire Delhi Police is now campaigning for BJP. They help BJP goons in committing hooliganism. Money, goods, and saarees are being distributed and the police were helping in this," he added.

Furthermore, the Delhi CM narrated various incidents alleging hooliganism from the side of BJP workers, saying that AAP ward president Arun Chauhan from Giri Nagar was abused by BJP's Rajeev Bhati, who claims to be a nephew of Bidhuri.

"On January 15, in the Giri Nagar area, AAP ward president Arun Chauhan and our women wing team were campaigning door-to-door. BJP's Rajeev Bhati, who claims to be a nephew of Bidhuri, abused our party workers, snatching away the pamphlets they had," Atishi added.

She further alleged that a young man Ankit Gupta, who was campaigning for AAP, was slapped by BJP workers on January 19. Meanwhile, Atishi said that a A P S Deepa Singh from Gindaypur received a call from Bidhuri, who told her to rejoin the BJP or else she would be arrested after the election results.

## Delhi court to hear defamation plea against BJP MP Bansuri Swaraj on Feb 1

New Delhi  
A Delhi court is likely to hear arguments on February 1 on whether to take cognisance of a defamation complaint filed against BJP MP Bansuri Swaraj by AAP's Satyendra Jain.

In his plea, Rashid prayed for an expeditious ruling on the issue of his release on bail, which is currently pending before a trial court. He is also believed to have said the matter could be decided by the high court, the documents related to the complaint to Swaraj.

"Certain documents have been filed on behalf of the complainant. Copy of the same has been supplied to counsel for proposed accused n.o.... Put up for further arguments on the point of cognisance on February 1, 2025," the judge said.

## Jailed J&K MP Rashid Engineer moves Delhi HC in terror case

New Delhi  
Jammu and Kashmir MP Rashid Engineer on Wednesday moved the Delhi High Court over bail in a terror-funding case.

The matter would come up on January 23 before Justice Vikas Mahajan.

In his plea, Rashid prayed for an expeditious ruling on the issue of his release on bail, which is currently pending before a trial court. He is also believed to have said the matter could be decided by the high court, the documents related to the complaint to Swaraj.

"Certain documents have been filed on behalf of the complainant. Copy of the same has been supplied to counsel for proposed accused n.o.... Put up for further arguments on the point of cognisance on February 1, 2025," the judge said.

Nabi said the party would continue to make efforts to ensure justice for the jailed



MP.

"Engineer Rashid has always been a voice for the marginalised and a strong advocate for the democratic aspirations of the people of Jammu and Kashmir. His continued incarceration is deeply concerning and a disservice to the principles of democracy and justice," said the spokesman.

On December 24 last year, additional sessions judge Chanderjit Singh dismissed Rashid's plea

## SPECIAL TRAINS

For the convenience of rail passengers, Railways has decided to run the following Reserved Special Express Trains as per details mentioned below:-

04014/04013 Delhi Sarai Rohilla - Sabarmati - 02		Delhi Sarai Rohilla Reserved Special Express Train		Trips	
Train No.	04014	STATIONS	Train No.	04013	
Arr.	Dep.		Arr.	Dep.	
--	08:10	Delhi Sarai Rohilla	23:00	--	
00:30	--	Sabarmati	--	05:30	--

Days of Run: 04014 Ex Delhi Sarai Rohilla on 24.01.2025 (Friday) and 04013 Ex Sabarmati on 25.01.2025 (Saturday)

Accommodation: 1st AC, AC 2 Tier & AC 3 Tier.  
Stoppages: Delhi Cantt., Gurgaon, Rewari Jn., Alwar Jn., Jaipur Jn., Kishangarh, Ajmer Jn., Beawar, Marwar Jn., Falna, Abu Road & Palanpur Jn. Stations.

04064/04063 Delhi Sarai Rohilla - Sabarmati - 02		Delhi Sarai Rohilla Reserved Special Express Train		Trips	
Train No.	04064	STATIONS	Train No.	04063	
Arr.	Dep.		Arr.	Dep.	
--	08:10	Delhi Sarai Rohilla	23:00	--	
00:30	--	Sabarmati	--	05:30	--

Days of Run: 04064 Ex Delhi Sarai Rohilla on 25.01.2025 (Saturday) and 04063 Ex Sabarmati on 26.01.2025 (Sunday)

Accommodation: 1st AC, AC 2 Tier, AC 3 Tier & Sleeper.  
Stoppages: Delhi Cantt., Gurgaon, Rewari Jn., Alwar Jn., Jaipur Jn., Kishangarh, Ajmer Jn., Beawar, Marwar Jn., Falna, Abu Road & Palanpur Jn. Stations.

For any kind of information, passengers are requested to contact RailMadad Helpline No. 139 or visit Indian Railways Website <https://enquiry.indianrail.gov.in> or NTES App.

Please join us on   
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**Morning Glory Leasing and Finance Limited**  
CIN: L5720DL1969PLC018872. Website: [www.morninggloryleasing.in](http://www.morninggloryleasing.in)  
Regd. Off: 1015 House 18 Business Centre, Nangla Raza, New Delhi-110046.  
Email: [memorninggloryleasing@gmail.com](mailto:memorninggloryleasing@gmail.com), Ph: 011-41119100  
Extract of Statement of Standalone Unaudited Financial Results For The Quarter And Nine Months Ended December 31, 2024

Sl. No.	Particulars	For the Quarter		For the Nine Months		For the Year Ended
		31-12-2024 Unaudited	31-12-2023 Unaudited	31-12-2024 Unaudited	31-12-2023 Unaudited	
1	Total Income from Operations	1,25	1,52	4,20	5,96	2,38
2	Net Profit for the period (before Tax & Exceptional Items)	(0.19)	0.98	0.89	2.38	2.38
3	Net Profit for the period (after Tax & Exceptional Items)	(0.19)	0.98	0.89	2.38	2.38
4	Net Profit for the period (after Tax & Exceptional Items) (Comprising Profit for the Period, Tax and Other Comprehensive Income after Tax)	(0.19)	0.98	0.89	2.38	2.38
5	Paid up Equity Share Capital (Face value of Rs.10/- each)	24.90	24.90	24.90	24.90	24.90
6	Reserves (including Revaluation Reserve) as shown in the Audited Balance Sheet of the previous year	--	--	--	--	--
7	Earnings Per Share (of ₹ 10/- each)					
	(For continuing and discontinued operations) (Not Annualized)					
1	Basic	(12.91)	(24.48)	(3.44)	(52.80)	(52.80)
2	Diluted	(12.91)	(24.48)	(3.44)	(52.80)	(52.80)

NOTES:  
1. The above results were reviewed and recommended by the Audit Committee and then approved by the Board of Directors at their respective meetings held on 22nd January, 2025. The financial results for the quarter and period ended December 31, 2024 have been limited reviewed by the Statutory Auditor of the Company.  
2. The above is an extract of the detailed format of quarterly/interim financial results filed with the stock exchange under Regulation 33 of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulation, 2015. The full format of the quarterly/interim financial results is available on the company website: [www.morninggloryleasing.in](http://www.morninggloryleasing.in) and Company's website at: [www.morninggloryleasing.in](http://www.morninggloryleasing.in)  
3. There is no change(s) in accounting policies which impact on net profit/loss, total comprehensive income or any other relevant financial item(s).  
4. Exceptional items adjusted in the Statement of Profit and Loss in accordance with Ind-AS Rules.

For and on behalf of the Board of Directors of Morning Glory Leasing and Finance Ltd.  
Rajesh Bhat  
Managing Director and Chief Financial Officer

Place: New Delhi  
Date: 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2025

UP govt approves establishment of Prosecution Directorate

**Mahakumbh Nagar**  
In a significant step towards realizing the vision of a crime-free Uttar Pradesh, the Yogi Adityanath government has approved the establishment of an independent Prosecution Directorate. The decision was taken during a cabinet meeting held at Triveni Sankul in Arai, Mahakumbh Nagar on Wednesday.

The move aligns with the implementation of the Indian Civil Defence Code 2023, aiming to ensure effective and impartial prosecution in the state. The Prosecution Directorate will function independently, with a Director of Prosecution and Deputy Directors appointed as per the state government's directives. The existing staff of the Prosecution department will be integrated into the new directorate under Section 20 of the Indian Civil Defence Code 2023. Additionally, separate funding will be allocated for the directorate's future operations, ensuring its effective functioning.

As part of the new proposal, each district will have its own Prosecution Directorate. It will be led by a Director of Prosecution, who will work under the administrative control of the Home Department. To qualify for the role of Director, a candidate must have at least 15 years of experience as an advocate or prosecutor or must have served as a session judge. The state government will have the authority to remove the Director from his position before completing his three-year tenure if they are found involved in criminal or corruptible cases, or deemed unable to perform their duties effectively. The selection and appointment of the Director of Prosecution will be carried out by a search committee led by the Additional Principal Secretary or Principal Secretary of the Home Department. Other members of the committee will include the Principal Secretary of Justice and Legal Counsel, the Director General of Police, and the Secretary of the Home Department. The committee will decide the selection process independently.

The minimum tenure for the Director of Prosecution will be three years. The state government will create permanent and temporary positions for the directorate's headquarters, regional offices, and district offices to ensure its smooth operation. At the district level, the District Magistrate will play a key role in overseeing and reviewing the prosecution activities and the work of the prosecution office to ensure the effective implementation of this new system. The UP government has also approved an agreement with Tata Technologies Limited (TTL) to upgrade 62 Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs) and establish five Centers for Innovation, Incubation, and Training (CIITs). The project, with a total cost exceeding Rs 3,634 crores, will see TTL contribute Rs 2,851 crores and the government over Rs 783 crores.

**Advt Contact :**  
**9818-799941**

# Haryana approves Rs 36 Cr solar plant project on govt Buildings

**Komal Ramola Chandigarh**  
Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini on Wednesday approved a project worth Rs 36 crore to install rooftop solar power plants on 20 government buildings in Haryana.

Saini was presiding over a meeting of the High-Powered Purchase Committee (HPPC), Departmental High-Powered Purchase Committee (DHPPC), and High-Powered Works Purchase Committee (HPWPC).

Contracts and purchases worth a total of Rs 804 crore were approved in the meeting in which Ministers Vipul Grewal, Rambir Gangawa, and Shrutu Choudhary were also present, said an official statement.

According to the statement, the Chief Minister said that the state government is rapidly implementing the PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana.

The aim of this scheme is to provide affordable electricity to people by installing solar panels of up to 2 kW on rooftops. Consumers will use the electricity as per their need, and excess power will be sold to the grid, he said.

The Chief Minister said that under this scheme, the central government is providing a subsidy of Rs 60,000, and the Haryana government is providing Rs 50,000. Therefore, people should take full advantage of this scheme, he said.

In the meeting, an agency was finalized for the complete disposal of legacy waste at the Bandhwari landfill site in Gurugram district.

The Chief Minister directed the officers concerned that the waste should be fully disposed of within the next four months. If this is not done, action will be taken against the concerned agency, and fines will be imposed, directed by the Chief Minister.

He said that cleanliness arrangements should be ensured in all cities and rural areas of Haryana. No piles of garbage should be visible anywhere, he said.

Meanwhile, in the meeting approval was also given for the purchase of super sucker machines costing nearly Rs 13 crore to ensure proper cleaning of sewers.



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Saini directed the officers concerned that there will be no compromise on quality in infrastructure projects.

He said that special attention should be given to the quality of every task.

During the meeting, the Chief Minister directed the officers that demands for various sports should be sought from all schools, and infrastructure should be developed in schools according to those demands.

Highlighting the unique historical and

Agony

India faces threat from within, not outside: Farooq Abdullah

Jammu

Emphasising the importance of unity and countering divisive narratives to secure the nation's future, National Conference (NC) President Dr Farooq Abdullah said on Wednesday that India does not face a threat from outside but from within.

Addressing a convention of the SC cell of the party at the NC headquarters here, Dr Abdullah said, "The country demands sacrifice even today to save itself. India does not face a threat from outside but from within. People inside the country can destroy it, not those from outside. To make the nation strong, we must make ourselves, our brothers, and our sisters strong," he contended.

He highlighted the need for a united effort towards nation-building, stating, "This country can only progress when all of us are happy and united. India is diverse, comprising various races and regions, and our strength lies in our unity amid diversity."

He criticised the divisive propaganda, particularly the narrative that Hindus are under threat. "There are 80 per cent Hindus in this country, so where is the threat? This narrative is meant to create fear among people. It is everyone's duty to break this falsehood," he said.

Commenting on the abrogation of Article 370, Dr Abdullah said that the special provision was not solely for Kashmiris but was introduced by Maharaja Hari Singh in 1927 to protect Dogras of Jammu from economic domination by wealthy Punjabis. "You celebrated the abrogation, but now even domestic jobs are going to outsiders. Servants are being brought in from outside. Think about what you have gained," he remarked.

# Nagaland govt pushes for review of FMR, PAP policies

**Kohima**  
The Nagaland government on Wednesday reiterated its demand to the Centre to review its decision on the 10 km Free Movement Regime (FMR) along the Indo-Myanmar border and the re-imposition of the Protected Area Permit (PAP).

Interacting with reporters, minister and government spokesperson K G Kenye expressed the state's objection to the new FMR restrictions, which limit movement to a 10 km radius along the border, instead of the previous 16 km.

"While we respect the government's security concerns, we believe that Nagaland's situation is unique and requires a different approach," he said.

He added that the state has not yet received any official response from the Centre regarding its request for a review.

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# Journalist among 2 held for 'offensive' comments on Maha Kumbh, Hindu deities

**Barabanki (UP)**  
Two men, including a journalist, have been arrested here for allegedly making objectionable social media comments on the Maha Kumbh and Hindu deities, police said on Wednesday.

The two were held Tuesday evening after their remarks sparked anger among some members of the Hindu community, prompting the police to issue an alert for enhanced social media monitoring.

City Kotwali SHO Alok Mani Tripathi said, "Kamran Alvi was arrested here after he posted a video related to the Maha Kumbh. It offended some people. The higher authorities took note of the video."

"The accused was promptly arrested, and a case was registered under section 299 (de liberate and malicious acts, intended to outrage religious feelings of any class by insulting its religion or religious beliefs) of the BNS Act for insulting religious symbols. He will be presented in the court," Tripathi said.

Alvi describes himself as a journalist on Facebook where he has more than 9,000 followers. He runs a news portal.

Police said they are investigating others involved in the circulation of the video.

In the second case, SHO Amit Pratap Singh said, "Abhishek Kumar, a resident of Boja village near Jaidpur, made objectionable remarks on social media about Hindu deities and the Maha Kumbh. A case has been registered and the accused arrested."

Being organised after 12 years, the Maha Kumbh — one of the most significant Hindu pilgrimages — kicked off on January 13 in Prayagraj and would continue till February 26.

# NIA raids multiple locations in Punjab over Chandigarh grenade attack case

**New Delhi**  
The NIA conducted searches at multiple locations linked to the Babbar Khalsa International (BKI) in several states on Wednesday in connection with the Chandigarh grenade attack case.

The search operation was conducted at the premises of suspects linked to US-based terrorist Harpreet Singh alias Happy Passion in Amritsar, Gurdaspur, Bathinda and Ferozepur districts of Punjab, Ludhiana, and Chandigarh.

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"Incriminating materials including mobiles and digital devices and documents were seized during the searches," the statement said.

The NIA took over the case related to the hand grenade attack at a house in Sector 10/D, Chandigarh on September 9 last year and arrested accused Rohan Masih and Vishal Masih, it said.

The Union Home Ministry had handed over the case to the NIA. "The conspiracy involved recruitment of India-based associates by foreign-based main accused and handlers for carrying out terror acts, providing funds for such terror acts, smuggling of terror hardware into India, and movement of terror hardware through dead drop model," the NIA said.

It said the two terrorists had tasked a module to carry out the attack and had provided funds, weapons and other logistical support to the on-ground operation.

# BJP set to form a majority govt in Delhi: Haryana CM

**Komal Ramola Chandigarh**  
Haryana Chief Minister, Nayab Singh Saini, said that under the Beti Bachao Beti Padhao campaign, the state government has made continuous efforts over the past 10 years to eliminate gender discrimination, provide girls with proper educational opportunities, fulfill their aspirations, and ensure their rights.

He highlighted that the nationwide Beti Bachao Beti Padhao campaign, launched on January 22 in 2015 from the historic land of Panipat under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has played a significant role in combating this social evil. Through unprecedented improvements in the state's sex ratio over the last decade, the sex ratio has risen from 861 in 2011 to 910 today. The state government is making sustained and serious efforts to completely eradicate this social evil.

Chief Minister explained that the state government is diligently working to further improve the sex ratio. Officials have been instructed to work with

full commitment to completely eradicate this social evil at its root. In addition, during a recent review meeting of the Women and Child Development Department, it was decided to appoint women Sarpanches as ambassadors in their respective villages. This initiative aims to strengthen efforts for improving the sex ratio and promoting further progress.

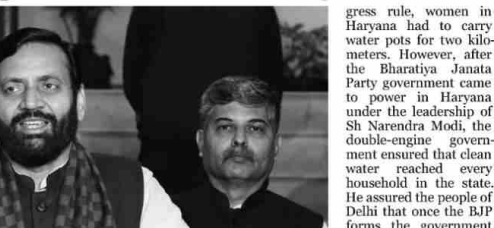
In response to a question about former Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini said that the people of Delhi are highly disappointed with Arvind Kejriwal. He pointed out that Sh Kejriwal has repeatedly made false promises to the people, claiming to transform Delhi into a city like Paris over the last 10 years. However, instead of transforming Delhi, he has only succeeded in turning his own house into a Paris.

On being asked to comment on CAG's report on the Rs 380 crore corruption in Delhi government's health department, Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini stated that Arvind Kejriwal is entirely involved in

corruption, and their primary motive is not the welfare of the people, but their own self-interest.

The Chief Minister questioned Arvind Kejriwal, stating that while he had promised to provide clean drinking water to the people of Delhi free of cost, neither did the Yamuna River get cleaned nor did the people receive access to clean water during his tenure. He added that the current situation in Delhi is such that residents are now forced to drink contaminated water.

The Chief Minister further said that prior to 2014, during Congress rule, women in Haryana had to carry water pots for two kilometers. However, after the Bharatiya Janata Party government came to power in Haryana under the leadership of Sh Narendra Modi, the double-engine government ensured that clean water reached every household in the state. He assured the people of Delhi that once the BJP forms the government after February 8, clean water will be supplied to their homes.



**Advt Contact :**  
**9818-799941**

# Enriching India's Foreign Policy creating new structures

Recently, External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar urged the non-government strategic community to pull themselves up by their bootstraps to contribute to India's external relations through Track-II diplomacy or even overtake the Track-I. Jaishankar regretted that the Track-II has sadly fallen behind. A welcome statement indeed coming from the Foreign Minister himself.

Some of us have long argued that the foreign policy making in India has been an elite exercise as the non-governmental agencies, businesses, or civil society had marginal, peripheral role or no contribution to it. In a democracy, that does not reflect the national opinion or even national interest.

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decidedly stronger than religion, politics or economy. It is a practice and a mindset built over years, decades, and millennia. It is demonstrated by people who embody and embrace it. Cultural diplomacy is conducted through people visiting or interacting with citizens in another country.

Diaspora is a good strategic asset in this regard. I wrote in this column, last week, about the role and contribution of diaspora in foreign policies. India's diaspora, the largest in the world in current times, should be optimally harnessed. Also, India used to have friendship associations with most countries. They were quite active. One member, the India-Pakistan Friendship Association, which was promoting goodwill delegations to either country. Asma Jahangir from Pakistan, a lawyer and human rights activist was one prominent figure in this association.

Former Economic and Political Weekly Journalist Gautam Navlakha, who was active in this forum has been in and out of jail on Bhima Koregaon case.

This is, of course, another matter, as the Laws should take their course, despite so-called politicization of such cases. I was a part of India-Iraq Friendship Association, which folded up in the wake of Iraq war. Such associations need to be built or activated if they already exist.

Economic diplomacy is another route to strengthen foreign policies and international relations. In fact, economic transactionalism has been the credo of many countries in recent times, and for India, since 1990s. Economic diplomacy in many cases precedes political relations as seen in the integration of the European Union. Trade, commercial, and economic integration happened since 1957 onwards, but the political union took place only in 1992.

There are agencies promoting Indian businesses across the world in a politically neutral format. In addition to the established business bodies like FICCI, CII, ASSOCHAM, PHD and others, there are newer but vibrant agencies like

IETO - Indian Economic and Trade Organisation, which operates through its trade councils across the world. It leads business delegations on average of two a month to all over the world in order to explore market opportunities.

Having participated in many of their events in the presence of diplomats, entrepreneurs, traders, manufacturers and other stakeholders of international business, I could see that it is a facilitating Forum that is relentless and on constant move. Such activities and agencies should be encouraged by Government of India with timely and deserving facilitations.

Conferece diplomacy is an emerging area that should receive serious attention. After the successful conclusion of G-20, the entire world is looking at India for more such events. In Track-II, the Raisina Dialogue commencing in 2016, jointly by the Ministry of External Affairs and Observer Research Foundation (ORF) is receiving increasing response from across the world.

India could be the hub of such dialogues, conferences on multiple themes in various state capitals of the country. Conferences, draw academics, policymakers, and influencers, from many parts of the world. The leading newspapers and TV channels do organise such events - leadership forums, literature festivals, celebration of India's growth and development and so on. They should be done more and more and quite frequently.

Think Tank diplomacy is another area that is less developed in India. Recently, a global think tank conference was organised in Delhi by an American think tank. Only a handful Think Tanks from India participated. As such, there are not many Think Tanks in the largest populous country in the world, certainly not on India's foreign policy. Also, there is a dearth of journals and periodical of world standard or great reach on India and the world. A new journal called "India's world" has just been launched. The forging remark of Jaishankar was made at the launch of this journal.

States diplomacy is an unexplored area in India's foreign policy making. Although foreign policy, defense, energy, and communication, etc. are in the Center's list and are the domain of Union Government, it will be imprudent to leave out the states in conduct of India's international affairs. Foreign Heads of Governments do visit the states in pursuance of business and investment opportunities. But there is more that can be done.

## Breaking Time Sudoku

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

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

## Solution, Sudoku

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

## THE WISDOM TREE BY SUVEEN KUMAR

### SHARE YOUR TIME

If you are not willing to share your time with people, you should not expect them share their happiness with you. You have some spiritual existence when you give some time to yourself and you have some social existence when you give some time to people. Not having time, not using time and not giving time are three different things however for may of us it is a same thing, share your time to someone who needs it the most and sometimes it is you and sometimes it other. you are not wealthy of time if you have a lot of it, you are wealthy of time when you use it best of it. if you have time then give it, use it else it will be lost, we all are made of time but only a few of us are made by time. Time is the only motivational speech; the next, you're accidentally knee-deep in a conspiracy theory about alien cucumbers. Memes, GIFs, and viral challenges bombard us, turning our attention into confetti.

upon the amount of time we share and the intensity of the relationship depends upon the amount of attention we share. time is most important and absolutely free thing to share, all it cost is some life, sharing time is sharing your life. if your life is important, your time is important but if your life is important your time is important, people who spend most of their time to build their career and expect welcome in the relationship is mistaken. you can't have both worlds if you don't live in there equally.

the reason we don't value time even after listening its importance, finding its importance because we get it for free. Time is a blank paper, before you sell it make sure it is precious.



THE WISDOM TREE BY SUVEEN KUMAR

**MORAL:**  
Save relationship and spend time, don't spend relationship and save time.

# Silent Conversations and Wild Screens

In the early and mid 20th century, communication wasn't about mere tapping and swiping but a journey imbued with the charm of epic poetry. Carrying letters is seen as primitive in this advanced technology and the allure of expressive emojis. Making a phone call required walking miles to a friend's landline or the post office to send a telegram. Post cards and inland letters meandered through the postal system at a tortoise pace.

The 60s, 70s, and 80s were the analog era. Dialing a number on a rotary phone involved spinning a small wheel, each turn feeling like winding the clock of destiny with forefingers. A single misdial meant starting over, a Sisyphean task that tested one's patience. By the 1970s brightly coloured rotary phones added vibrancy to homes, but the design was as heavy and clunky as a Soviet tank.

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During that period, communication channels were primarily dominated by Post and Telegraphs Department (P&T), now Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL). Connectivity was scarce, and acquiring a landline often meant enduring long waiting periods rendering telephones a luxury rather than a necessity. With a little advancement, obtaining a local landline connection became easier but securing an STD (Subscriber Trunk Dialing) connection for long distance calls was still a privilege of the elite. Talking to a friend or relative in another city, be it from Srinagar to Solan (HPP) or Jammu to Jaipur or Mumbai, meant either walking to the telephone exchange or waiting turn in a booth to make a heavily charged STD call.

Jammu travel guide  
Fast forward, a few years later, the mobile phone revolution descended like a deus ex machina, transforming communication overnight. Suddenly, the world shrank. The day of anxiously pacing by a payphone or deciphering cryptic messages in exchanges was gone. By the 1990s, Nokia and Motorola emerged as pioneers of the era, introducing sturdy handsets that were as robust as bricks. With their basic texting features, these

devices heralded the dawn of a transformative age in communication.

Nowadays, the mobile phone has woven into every aspect of our lives, becoming as indispensable as soap and water. From the kitchen counter, where it sits silently waiting for its next task, to the bathroom where it's almost treated like royalty, it accompanies us on every necessary at every moment. Whether it's catching up on social media, answering emails or indulging in a quick scroll mid task, the mobile phone has transformed every corner of our homes into a potential hub for work or entertainment.

Text messages initially preserved a touch of linguistic dignity, but soon, language began to devolve. "How are you?" morphed into "brn" and "okay" shrank to a mere "k." Conversations compressed into cryptic abbreviations, with phrases like "Oh my God" becoming "OMG" and "Let me know" transforming into "LMK," as if we were all spies exchanging coded messages.

Mobile phones have become extensions of human appendages, a veritable fifth limb. WhatsApp groups sprout like mushrooms. There are groups for everyone, each with its own unique lingo and flair. For the

ladies, the groups are, "Lipstick Mafia," "Girl Gang Goals," "Caffeine Queens," and "Laughter Therapy Gang." The gentlemen aren't left behind, with "Suits, Ties, and High Fives," "Macho Men and Mimosas," and "Battle Buddies." For lighter moments, there is "Meme Team" or "Kitchen Funnies." For curious, niche groups like "The Art of Medicinal Mushroom" or "Wisdom Warriors," or "Troll dreamers," so on and so forth offer deeper engagements from casual chats to niche interests.

Every morning begins with a deluge of good-morning images featuring sunrises, flowers, and sometimes oddly photoshopped deities. The messages reflect humanity's quirks, a heartfelt poem from one friend and dubious health tips about usages of turmeric and ghee from another. Messages, photos and videos are shared multiple times leading amusements and rage. Once a friend texted, "Let's have a friu at the resort." Puzzled, I asked, "What's a friu." He clarified, "Fun!" I chuckled, realizing vowels had become an endangered species. Even our social interactions are tinged with absurdity. Receiving a message from another friend said, "We lost our fry." Bewildered, if he misplaced a potato snack, only to realize later, he meant "friend."

The modern mobile phone is no longer just a device, it's a carnival. Videos, many of them doctored, disseminate faster than wildfire. One day, you're watching a motivational speech; the next, you're accidentally knee-deep in a conspiracy theory about alien cucumbers. Memes, GIFs, and viral challenges bombard us, turning our attention into confetti.

And yet, for all its marvels, modern communication often feels paradoxically disconnected. We send a dozen messages a day but rarely pause to ask someone how they truly are. We are preoccupied with curating the perfect selfie or debating the merits of pineapple on pizza in a WhatsApp group.

So, the next time your phone pings with a "WhatsApp" message, take a moment to appreciate the ridiculous beauty of it all. After all, we've come a long way, from walking miles for a chat to carrying the world in our pockets. And who knows? Perhaps the future holds even more fantastical forms of communication, telepathic texts, anyone? Until then, keep texting, keep laughing, and, above all, keep connecting by silent conversations and wild screens.

## TOP STORY

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# Access to judiciary has been weaponized, says VP Dhankhar

**New Delhi**  
Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar on Wednesday said access to judiciary has been weaponized in recent years, posing a great challenge to our governance.

Interacting with a batch of participants from the Indian Institute of Democratic Leadership (IIDL), he said, "We have a fundamental right in the country, and the right is we can access the judiciary. It's a fundamental right. But in the last few decades, access to the judiciary has been weaponized! It has been weaponized, to another level, it is posing a great challenge to our governance, our democratic values."

Expressing concern over the current situation, he stated, "Day in and day out, you'll find advisories emanating, executive functions being performed by bodies that have no jurisdiction or jurisprudential authority or competence to perform



those actions. To put it in layman's language, a telephonic FIR can never record an FIR. How so very strongly he may feel."

"Because our constitution ordains institutions to work within their own domain. Are they working? I'll answer for you, no."

The Vice-President went on to say, "Institutions are yielding ground to other institutions, and that is being done out of expediency. These placatory mechanisms

there should be a whip. "Whip means you are curtailing expression, you are curtailing freedom, you are subjecting your representative to servility. You don't allow such a person to use his or her mind. Examine whether the US has a whip or not, find out in the last ten years how decisions of the Senate have been influenced by persuasion. But when you issue a whip, there is no persuasion.

"To persuade whom?.....Political parties are supposed to promote democracy, but do the elected representatives have the freedom of expression? Whip comes in the way," he added. Reflecting on the disruptions in Parliament, Mr Dhankhar observed that Parliament, which was once considered a temple of democracy, has now become a wrestling ground, a battleground. "Is there anything left to see, anything left to hear? People have forgotten the word 'decorum,'

and there is no concept of dignity anymore," he lamented.

"Chaos, disruption, disturbance and the like, is remote controlled in the house. They step in the temple with firm determination to carry out a command that this day is a day of dysfunction in the parliament or legislature. Examine it!" he added.

Talking about the need for talented people in politics, the Vice-President emphasised, "We need trained people in policy making. We need trained people who know politics. It is not easy to hold the government accountable. The only way to hold the government accountable is through the platform of the legislature.

"And mind you, when you hold the government accountable, you are helping the government. Anyone would like to improve, but someone has to tell him or her that these are the areas of concern where you need improvement."

# India cannot endure millions of illegal migrants: Dhankhar

**Raipur**  
Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar has expressed serious concerns over the challenges posed by illegal immigration, population explosion, and forced religious conversions, calling them emerging threats to national stability. Addressing students from the National Institute of Technology (NIT), Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Bhubaneswar, and Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Raipur at an event titled "Ideas for a Better India," Dhankhar emphasised the urgent need to implement the Uniform Civil Code (UCC).

Speaking candidly, Dhankhar declared, "No nation can endure the pressure of millions of illegal migrants. This issue not only strains our resources but also threatens our employment, healthcare, and education sectors. Resolving this growing menace cannot be delayed any further. National interests must always take precedence over political considerations."

The Vice President highlighted the alarming impli-



cations of unchecked population growth, describing it as a severe threat to national stability. "Ordinary population growth is peaceful and harmonious, but when it is deliberately aimed at destabilising democracy, it becomes a matter of grave concern," he said.

Dhankhar also raised the issue of orchestrated religious conversions, stating, "Planned attempts to alter the nation's demographic composition through inducements for conversion are a direct challenge to our cultural and national identity."

Dhankhar reiterated the constitutional mandate for implementing the Uniform Civil Code, calling it a vital

step towards national unity. "How can we oppose something that is enshrined in our Constitution? The framers of our Constitution, with wisdom and foresight, envisioned fundamental principles for us, including the Uniform Civil Code as a goal for a mature democracy."

He further stressed the need for meaningful dialogue among political parties to achieve consensus on critical issues like national security, development, and sovereignty. "While political ideologies may differ, some issues demand unity and agreement for the greater good of the nation," he remarked.

Chhattisgarh Governor Ramen Dekha emphasized the need for India to be both self-reliant and globally connected to build a robust nation. Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai highlighted the state's initiatives to combat climate change, stating, "We are focusing on Green GDP by promoting measures to reduce carbon emissions and encouraging the production of green steel. Every challenge hides opportunities."

## India on track to meet health targets before 2030 deadline

**New Delhi**  
The ongoing efforts of the National Health Mission (NHM) have successfully led to a dramatic transformation in India's healthcare landscape. With significant progress towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), India is on track to meet its health targets well ahead of the 2030 deadline.

The Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi here on Wednesday, was apprised of the progress under the NHM during the years 2021-22, 2022-23 and 2023-24. It was also apprised of accelerated development in Maternal Mortality Rate, Infant Mortality Rate, Under-Five Mortality Rate, Total Fertility Rate, and the progress in respect of various disease control programmes like TB, Malaria, Kala-Azar, Dengue, Tuberculosis, Leprosy, Viral Hepatitis, etc. and new initiatives undertaken such as National Sickle Cell Anaemia Elimination Mission. The cabinet later approved the achievements under the NHM.

The NHM engaged over 12 lakh additional healthcare workers between the financial year 2021-24. About 220 crore Covid-19 vaccine doses were administered nationwide under the mission. The MMR declined by 83 per cent since 1990, which is higher than the global decline of 45 per cent.

India demonstrated a higher decline of 73 per cent in the Under-Five Mortality Rate compared to the global reduction of 60 per cent since 1990. The TB incidence reduced from 237 per one lakh population in 2015 to 195 in 2023, while the TB mortality rate came down from 28 to 22 in the same period.

Ayushman Arogya Mandir centres reached 1.72 lakh mark by FY 2023-24, and the National Sickle Cell Anaemia Elimination Mission screened over 2.61 crore individuals. India achieved 97.98% coverage in the Measles-Rubella Vaccination Campaign, while the Pradhan Mantri National Dialysis Programme benefited over 4.53 lakh dialysis patients in FY 2023-24, it was informed.

## Rajnath calls for inclusive and sustainable development

**New Delhi**  
Defence Minister Rajnath Singh has emphasised the need for India's development to be inclusive, equitable, ecologically sustainable, and morally desirable while ensuring the health of the planet is never compromised. While addressing a gathering in Pathanamthitta district, Kerala, commemorating the 90th birth anniversary of renowned writer and environmentalist Sugathakumari, Singh said, that India's consumption should be driven by need rather than greed, urging a shift away from the 'use-and-dispose' economy to ensure long-term sustainability.

Describing Sugathakumari as not just a poet but a "conscience-keeper" of society, the defence minister praised her ability to blend emotional empathy, humanist sensitivity, and moral awareness in her work. He acknowledged her



pivotal role in Kerala's environmental activism, particularly her involvement in the 'Save Silent Valley' movement, which marked a significant chapter in India's environmental history. The defence minister also pointed out the foresight of India's constitutional framers, who recognised the deep respect for nature and integrated the protection of the environment into the Constitution.

He noted that it is a fundamental duty for all Indian citizens to safeguard the natural environment, emphasising that humanity should act as a trustee, not a master, of natural resources.

Singh also spoke about the idea of climate justice, stressing that India's path to becoming a developed nation by 2047 hinges on the success of its green initiatives. Despite contributing minimally to global warming, India remains committed to a sustainable future. He shared that the country's forest and tree cover has been steadily increasing, as highlighted by the recent 'India State of Forest Report'.

Addressing the global challenge of climate change, the defence minister acknowledged the growing frequency of extreme weather events such as floods, heatwaves, and droughts.

He called for a multi-stakeholder approach to adapt to climate challenges and underscored the importance of both corporate strategy changes and individual behavioural shifts to safeguard the environment.

## Kharge slams BJP govt on 10 yrs of 'Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao' initiative

**New Delhi**  
Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge on Wednesday launched a scathing attack on the BJP-led government at Centre on 10 years of 'Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao' initiative, asking the ruling dispensation why it adopted the policy of 'save the criminals' instead of 'save the daughters'.

Referring to 10 years of the initiative, he highlighted several incidents of crime against women reported in the BJP-led ruled states, and posed three questions to Prime Minister Narendra Modi in this regard.

"Why did the BJP adopt the policy of 'save the criminals' instead of 'save the daughters'? When will the women of Manipur get justice? Be it the bait daughter of Hathras or the daughter of Unnao, or our champion female wrestler, why has the BJP always given protection to criminals?" the Congress chief ques-



tioned.

Kharge, who is also the Leader of Opposition in Rajya Sabha, citing crime against women, said, "Why are 43 crimes against women recorded every hour in the country? Every day, 22 crimes are registered against women and children of the most vulnerable Dalit-Tribal community of our country."

Taking a jibe at the Prime Minister, the Congress president said he has spoken on women's safety many times

in his speeches at the Red Fort, but there is a difference between words and actions.

"What is the reason that till 2019, about 80 per cent of the total amount allocated for the 'Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao' initiative was spent only in media advertising?" he asked.

Kharge asserted that in the last 11 years, the Modi government has reduced the budget spent on the Union Ministry of Women and Child Development.

Referring to 10 years of the initiative, he highlighted several incidents of crime against women reported in the BJP-led ruled states, and posed three questions to Prime Minister Narendra Modi in this regard.

"Will sticking 'Beti Bachao' on the back of every truck or painting it on every wall help in crimes against women, provide employment opportunities for them, give them better health facilities or give women justice after atrocities? BJP's hollow advertisement of ongoing attacks on women' shows its utter hypocrisy after 10 years," he charged.

## India witnessed transformative telecom revolution in past two decades: Prez Murmu

**New Delhi**  
President Droupadi Murmu on Wednesday observed that the country has witnessed a transformative telecom revolution, driven by the advent of mobile telephony and high-speed internet networks over the past two decades.

This revolution has unlocked India's vast digital potential, she said while talking to a group of proponents of Indian Defence Accounts Service and Indian Telecommunications Service which called on her at the Rashtrapati Bhavan.

The president said that by enhancing digital connectivity through telecom infrastructure, telecom communication officers can help in the inclusive development of the nation by using technology to empower citizens and enhance the overall quality of life. She urged them to focus on research and development in the telecom sector to ensure the safety and security of the telecommunication network.

"The convergence of emerging technologies, rapid information dissemination, and shifting



global landscapes present a complex yet exciting environment," she said, and told officers that their role would be vital in inclusive development of India and in making it globally more competitive.

She advised them always to adopt and promote the citizen-centric approach while performing their duties. They must keep in mind the needs and aspirations of the deprived and underprivileged sections of the society while making de-



isions. Their thoughts, decisions, and actions would significantly influence the future trajectory of the nation.

Addressing the Indian Defence Accounts Service officers, the President said that they would be playing a pivotal role in overseeing the financial aspects of the nation's armed forces. Their responsibilities would encompass ensuring seamless financial management, fostering a culture of accountability, and up-

holding the highest standards of transparency.

She urged them to leverage cutting-edge technologies and innovative methods to streamline auditing and accounting processes.

She said that by performing their job with utmost dedication, they would not only strengthen the financial management of our armed forces but also contribute significantly to the nation's security and prosperity.

## 'Beti Bachao Beti Padhao' gives new dimension to rights, respect of daughters: Amit Shah



**New Delhi**  
Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Wednesday hailed the completion of 10 years of the 'Beti Bachao Beti Padhao' (BBBP) programme launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, saying it gave a new dimension to the rights, education and respect of daughters.

BBBP was launched by the prime minister on January 22, 2015 at Panipat in Haryana. It addresses the declining Child Sex Ratio (CSR) and related issues of women empowerment over a life-cycle continuum.

BBBP was launched by the prime minister on January 22, 2015 at Panipat in Haryana. It addresses the declining Child Sex Ratio (CSR) and related issues of women empowerment over a life-cycle continuum.

"The 'Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao' scheme, started a decade ago under the leadership of Modi ji, has today become a mass movement. #10YearsOfBBBP gave a new dimension to the rights,



education and respect of daughters.

"Today there has been an increase in the enrolment rate of girls in schools and an unprecedented improvement in the sex ratio. Today daughters are increasing the country's prestige by playing a leading role in every field," Shah wrote on X in Hindi.

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath also expressed condolences to the families of the deceased and wished for speedy recovery of the injured.

## Shah speaks to Maharashtra CM; takes stock of train accident

**New Delhi**  
Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Wednesday spoke to Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnis, who briefed him about the train tragedy in Maharashtra's Jalgaon district.

At least 10 train passengers were killed after they stepped down on the tracks from their train due to a rumour of fire and were run over by another train coming from the opposite direction this evening.

"The train accident in Jalgaon, Maharashtra is extremely sad. I spoke to Chief Minister Shri @Dev\_Fadnis ji in this regard and took stock of the situation arising after the accident. The local administration is providing all possible help to the injured. I express my deepest condolences to the families of those who lost their lives in this accident and wish for the speedy recovery of the injured," Shah wrote on 'X' in Hindi.

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath also expressed condolences to the families of the deceased and wished for speedy recovery of the injured.

Sukhu for timely execution of works for public welfare

Shimla

Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Thakur Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu stressed on timely execution of works and quality services for public welfare. While presiding over the meeting of the officers of district Kangra at Dharamshala on Wednesday, he reviewed the progress of various developmental projects being undertaken in the district.

He directed the officers to expedite the implementation of the state government's flagship projects and ensure their timely completion. He emphasized that the year 2025 is a "Performing Year" for the state government, and all officers and officials must extend their wholehearted cooperation for the development of the state. He asked officials to end the practice of delaying matters, calling it "delayed corruption."

He added that the state government was providing budgets for the schemes, ensuring there was no shortage of resources for development. Sukhu also reiterated the government's goal to make the state self-reliant and directed all departments to ensure that welfare schemes reach eligible beneficiaries.

He also emphasized the importance of maintaining quality in the services being provided to the public and instructed departments to fully utilize allocated funds within the financial year. The CM said that the government was focusing on the health and education sector and Rs. 1,500 crore would be spent in the coming months to procure modern equipment for health institutions, ensuring better healthcare services to people at their doorstep.

He said that the state government was making efforts to boost tourism in Kangra district. "An international-level zoological park will be established in Rambhadr, Dehra Assembly Constituency. The construction has begun and the first phase is expected to be completed by April 2026. Tenders for the construction of helicopter in Rakkar and Palampur will be opened this month. Additionally, the construction of the Pathankot-Mandi and Matour-Shimla four-lane highways is underway, with instructions to keep a 5-meter median on these roads," he said.

## Sri Adi Shankar Viman Mandapam Temple key attraction at Mahakumbh

• After CM Yogi Adityanath, industrialist Gautam Adani and his family offer prayers at the temple

**Mahakumbh Nagar**  
The Sri Adi Shankar Viman Mandapam in Prayagraj is witnessing a historic surge in attention, drawing countless devotees and notable figures like Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath and industrialist Gautam Adani. Following Adani's recent visit with his family, the temple, a symbol of Indian philosophy and cultural renaissance, has gained national prominence.

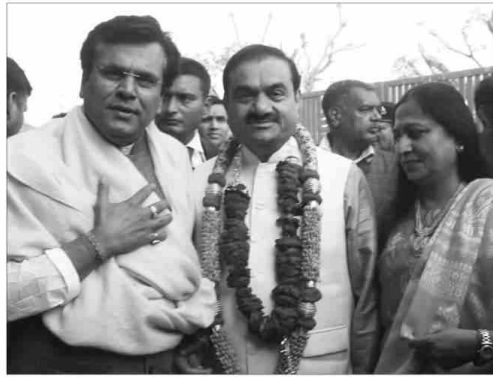
Rakesh Shukla, popularly known as Prayagputra, described the Sri Adi Shankar Viman Mandapam as the main center of Indian philosophy and cultural consciousness within the Kumbh area.

On Tuesday, leading industrialist Gautam Adani offered prayers at the temple, where he was welcomed by 51 Vedic Brahmins who recited prayers under the guidance of the revered Swami Kashi Mani at the temple's main gate.

Adani also interacted with devotees at the Aarti Sangrah Pagoda, located within the temple complex. The temple was built by Shankaracharya Swami Jayendra Saraswati, the 69th Peethadheesh-

war of Kanchi Kamakoti, to fulfill the wish of his guru, Chandrashekarendra Saraswati. In 1934, Guru Chandrashekarendra Saraswati performed Chaturmas in Prayag, staying at the ashram in Daraganj.

Every day, he would walk to Sangam for bathing and noticed an empty space between two peepal trees near the dam. Through his spiritual insight, Guru Chandrashekarendra Saraswati determined that this was the site of a historic conversation



On Tuesday, leading industrialist Gautam Adani offered prayers at the temple, where he was welcomed by 51 Vedic Brahmins who recited prayers under the guidance of the revered Swami Kashi Mani at the temple's main gate. Adani also interacted with devotees at the Aarti Sangrah Pagoda, located within the temple complex.

between Adi Shankaracharya and Kumaril Bhatt. Inspired by this vision, he wished to build a temple at the location, a desire that was eventually realized by Shankaracharya Swami Jayendra Saraswati.

The foundation of Sri Adi Shankar Vimana Mandapam was laid in 1969 by Gopal Reddy, the then Governor of Uttar Pradesh. Engineers B. Somo Sundaram and C.S. Ramachandra prepared the design, with assistance from the Uttar Pradesh State Bridge

Corporation. The 16 pillars supporting the temple were constructed under the guidance of Krishna Murari Dubey, the Assistant Engineer of Uttar Pradesh State Bridge Corporation at the time.

The temple was inaugurated for devotees on March 17, 1986. The idols and stones used in its construction were sourced from South India, and the temple stands as a remarkable example of Dravidian architecture. Standing at 130 feet

high, the Sri Adi Shankar Viman Mandapam houses a statue of Shri Adi Shankaracharya and features idols of Goddess Kamakshi, 51 Shaktipeeths, 108 Shivalingas, and deities like Tirupati Balaji and Sahasra Yoga Linga. A temple dedicated to Lord Ganesha is also located within the complex.

Devotees can visit the temple from 6 am to 1 pm and again from 4 pm to 8 pm. From the upper floors of the temple, visitors can enjoy a panoramic view of Sangam. During the Mahakumbh, thousands of devotees flock to the Sri Adi Shankar Viman Mandapam daily for darshan.

## Yogi govt approves new Aerospace and Defence Policy

**Mahakumbh Nagar**

In a Cabinet meeting chaired by Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath in Prayagraj on Wednesday, the Uttar Pradesh government approved 10 key proposals aimed at accelerating the state's development. Among these, the groundbreaking Aerospace and Defence Unit and Employment Promotion Policy 2024 was introduced to position Uttar Pradesh as a leading aerospace and defence hub, accelerating indigenous capabilities, fostering innovation, and promoting global collaboration to enhance national security and economic prosperity.

The policy aims to strengthen the aerospace and defence (A&D) sector in Uttar Pradesh by creating a robust, hi-tech, and efficient A&D manufacturing ecosystem within the UP Defence Industrial Corridor (UPDIC). It also seeks to attract startups and investments for the development of state-of-the-art facilities in the sector.

The Yogi Cabinet also approved the new FDI Policy to boost setting up of foreign industries in Uttar Pradesh in order to propel industrial and economic growth. Under this policy, the state government will offer up to 80% subsidy on land to the

foreign firms investing in the state. Additionally, major reforms have been introduced in the UP Industrial Investment and Employment Promotion Policy to further boost industrial development.

The Uttar Pradesh Aerospace and Defence Unit and Employment Promotion Policy 2024 aims to position Uttar Pradesh as a leading aerospace and defence hub, accelerating indigenous capabilities, fostering innovation, and promoting global collaboration to enhance national security and economic prosperity.

At its forefront stands a grand, forward-leaning replica of the 'Amrit Kalash', symbolizing the flow of divine nectar (Amritdharma). Surrounding it, scenes of saints and sages blow-

## 'Mahakumbh' tableau to shine on Kartavya Path on Republic Day

**Lucknow/New Delhi**

The Uttar Pradesh tableau on Kartavya Path will showcase the theme "Mahakumbh 2025: Golden India—Heritage and Development." It will celebrate the Mahakumbh, a UNESCO-recognized event, depicting the divine spectacle at the confluence of the Ganga, Yamuna, and the invisible Saraswati in Prayagraj, the largest gathering of humanity on Earth.

Mahakumbh 2025, one of the most significant global events, represents a confluence of spirituality, heritage, development, and digital progress. This theme is central to the tableau's design.

At its forefront stands a grand, forward-leaning replica of the 'Amrit Kalash', symbolizing the flow of divine nectar (Amritdharma). Surrounding it, scenes of saints and sages blow-



ing conches, meditating, and sipping holy water, along with devotees taking ritualistic dips at the confluence, bring to life the spiritual essence of the event. Visitors from across the globe will witness this unprecedented gathering under the leadership of the Yogi Adityanath government.

The tableau's trailer panel will showcase

of the 14 divine treasures (ratnas) that emerged from the churning, including Halahala poison, Kamdhenu cow, Uchhai Shrivara horse, Airavat elephant, Kaustubh Mani, Kalpavriksha, Rambha Aparasa, Lakshmi, Varuni, the Moon, Parijat tree, Shankh, Dhanyantari, and Amrit (nectar).

Additionally, the tableau will highlight the advanced technology, management, and digitalization being employed for the organization of Mahakumbh 2025.

A prominent feature will be the high-tech Integrated Command and Control Center (ICCC), exemplifying crowd management and security excellence. Live visuals of the Akhara processions for the Mahakumbh festival bath will also be broadcast via LED screens, adding a dynamic and immersive dimension to the presentation.

## Yogi and his Cabinet take holy dip at Sangam praying for public welfare

**Mahakumbh Nagar**

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath and his Cabinet took the holy dip at the Triveni Sangam in Prayagraj on Wednesday, praying for global welfare. Highlighting the significance of the ritual, the Chief Minister described the Sangam bath as a profound symbol of Indian culture and Sanatan Dharma, embodying spiritual, religious devotion, and social welfare. He said, "Bathing in the sacred confluence is not just a personal act of purification but a collective call for the welfare of all."

He added, "As part of the grand Mahakumbh 2025, millions of devotees are visiting the Sangam to take this holy dip, which is a powerful message of religion, culture, and faith."

The Chief Minister reiterated that the Mahakumbh reflects the di-



vinity and universality of Indian traditions, with the Sangam bath inspiring purity and prosperity through the strength of religion and culture.

The Triveni Sangam, where the Ganga, Yamuna, and the mystical Saraswati rivers meet, is revered as a spiritual center for salvation and soul purification. Scriptures regard the Sangam bath as a path to lib-

eration from sins and spiritual elevation.

In a solemn sequence, the Chief Minister and his cabinet first performed a traditional puja at the Triveni complex in Arai. They then proceeded to the Sangam by motorboat, completing the ritual with mantras, recitations and a havan.

Along with the Chief Minister, both Deputy

Chief Ministers Keshav Prasad Maurya, Brajesh Pathak, Finance and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Suresh Khanna, Jal Shakti Minister Swatantra Dev Singh, Agriculture Minister Surya Pratap Shahi, Industrial Development Minister Nand Gopal Gupta, Nandi, Tourism Minister Jaiveer Singh, Laxmi Narayan Chaudhary, Dharampal, and Anil Rajbhar, all 21 ministers and rest of the independent charge and state ministers duly took bath and performed puja at Sangam.

Where the Ganga, Yamuna, and Saraswati converge, the sacred bath at the Triveni Sangam is believed to bring salvation and peace to the soul. With this profound spiritual experience, the entire cabinet of Uttar Pradesh conveyed a powerful message to the world.

## Agra DM direct departments to prepare plan for marking place for tree plantation

**Akash Jain**

**Agra**

District Environment Committee/District Plantation Committee/District Wetland Committee and District Ganga Committee meeting concluded in Collectorate Auditorium under the chairmanship of District Magistrate Arvind Mallappa Bangari.

District Magistrate directed all the departments to prepare a plan for marking the place for tree plantation, number of plants.

The proposals put forward in the last meeting regarding granting permission for construction/beautification work of the ghats at the eleven steps near Etmadud-Daulah and Mehtab Bagh on the Yamuna river.

District Magistrate directed to send the said proposal along with the minutes of the committee to the office of State Clean Ganga Mission-Uttar Pradesh,



Namami Gange and Rural Water Supply Department, Uttar Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh Water Corporation Headquarters.

In the last meeting, the concerned departments were directed that all the departments should provide the list of wetlands under their department to the Social Forestry Division, and prepare an action plan for their conservation and submit it within 15 days.

The District Magistrate expressed his strong displeasure over this situation and direct-

## Akhilesh slams UP cabinet meet at Maha Kumbh

**Lucknow**

Samajwadi Party president Akhilesh Yadav on Wednesday slammed the Yogi Adityanath government for holding a cabinet meeting in the Maha Kumbh Mela area, terming it a political move to send a message.

The former Uttar Pradesh chief minister's reaction came shortly after ministers of the state government gathered in the Mela complex for a meeting followed by a dip in the sacred waters of the Triveni Sangam.

Speaking to reporters at Janeshwar Mishra Park in Lucknow on late socialist leader Janshwar Mishra's death anniversary, Yadav said, "Kumbh and Prayagraj are not places for politics or political programmes and decisions. The entire cabinet meeting held there is political, aimed at sending a political message," Yadav also responded to a question about whether he would take a holy dip at the Sangam.

"Samajwadi Party members have deep faith in their mothers and the Ganga. Many of us have already taken a dip without publicising it or sharing pictures on social media," he said.

During the event, Yadav paid floral tributes to Mishra and described him as "man of simplicity" and a stalwart leader of the socialist



movement. "Mishra ji dedicated his life to advancing the Samajwadi Party and was fondly known as 'Chhotu Lohia'. The best tribute to him is for socialists to follow the path he showed," Yadav added.

On the proposed amendment to the waqf law, Yadav alleged that the BJP is turning into the "largest land mafia" and misusing laws to further its agenda.

"They are focused on grabbing the waqf land and maintaining disputes rather than resolving them. Check the registries of religious places like Ayodhya or in Lucknow or Noida, and you'll find BJP people dominating the registries," he claimed.

On the upcoming by-poll in Milkipur, Yadav accused the BJP of misusing administrative machinery.

## Himachal govt stopping school grants in the name of system change: Jai Ram Thakur

**Shimla**

Leader of Opposition Jai Ram Thakur on Wednesday said that the "Sukh Ki Sarkar," which claims to bring about a change in the system, has stopped the grants for government schools.

"The budget for the centrally funded 'Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan' has also been diverted for other purposes. As a result, schools are not receiving the funds allocated for non-educational activities, affecting various school operations. Due to this, many schools are unable to pay their electricity bills, and consequently, the electricity connections of government schools are being disconnected," Thakur pointed out.

"Recently, media reports highlighted the disconnection of electricity connections in some schools in Kangra, and many others have received notices warning of imminent disconnections," he added.

In a statement issued from Shimla on Wednesday, the former CM said that such a situation is unfortunate. "If the government doesn't provide money, how will the schools pay their electricity bills? Does the government expect teachers to pay the bills from their own salaries? The approach being adopted by the Sukhu government will soon lead to the disconnection of electricity in many more schools."

He urged the Chief Minister to intervene and ensure that the funds allocated for the schools' expenses are provided to them as soon as possible. Thakur further said that this was a shameful example of the so-called "system change".

### Murdoch's UK tabloids offer rare apology in settlement with Prince Harry

London: Rupert Murdoch's UK tabloids made a rare apology to Prince Harry in settling his privacy invasion lawsuit and will pay him a substantial sum, his lawyer said Wednesday.

Harry's lawyer David Sherborne read a statement in court saying News Group offers a full and unequivocal apology to the Duke of Sussex for years of unlawful intrusion.

The bombshell announcement in London's High Court as the Duke of Sussex's trial was about to start against the publishers of The Sun and now-defunct News of the World for unlawfully snooping on him over decades.

Harry, 40, the younger son of King Charles III, and one other man were the only two remaining claimants out of more than 1,300 others who had settled lawsuits against News Group Newspapers over allegations their phones were hacked and investigated unlawfully intruded in their lives.

In all the cases that have been brought against the publisher since a widespread phone hacking scandal forced Murdoch to close News of the World in 2011, Harry's case got the closest to trial.

### Advt Contact: 9818-799941

## Ashwini Vaishnav represents Bharat's vision at World Economic Forum 2025, Davos

Staff Reporter Switzerland In alignment with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision to establish India as a global manufacturing hub, India's Railways, Electronics & IT and Information & Broadcasting Minister Ashwini Vaishnav, participated in a series of strategic engagements today in Switzerland before heading for World Economic Forum 2025 in Davos.

The discussions underscored India's commitment to fostering international collaboration and embracing innovative technologies in the railway sector.

Speaking on the occasion, Mr Vaishnav stated, "PM Modi ji has always guided us to benchmark our efforts to the global bests. Today's visit is also in this direction. There is a lot of interest around the world for our made in India products." The day in Zurich commenced

with a presentation by Swiss Federal Railways (SBB), where the latest advancements in infrastructure diagnostics were showcased.

Minister Vaishnav engaged with Swiss experts to understand the cutting-edge technologies that can bolster operational efficiency and



safety within the Indian Railways system. This was followed by a meeting with leading railway sector SMEs, including Rhombeg Sersa Ag, Seletron, Ucentrics, Autech, and nu Glass.

These interactions focused on exploring potential partnerships and technology transfers, particularly in areas such as smart railway solutions and sustainable manufacturing practices.

A significant highlight of the day was a meeting with Stadler Rail Management and a visit to their state-of-the-art manufacturing facility in St. Margrethen. Stadler

Rail's expertise in producing double-decker multiple-unit trains resonated with India's ambitions to modernize and expand its passenger rail.

The exchange of ideas during this visit aligned with India's efforts to integrate world-class manufacturing practices and advanced engineering into its domestic rail production.

The day concluded with Minister Vaishnav attending the Opening Dinner hosted by the Board of Trustees of the World Economic Forum, with luminaries at the event.

**Vaishnav said, "PM Modi ji has always guided us to benchmark our efforts to the global bests. Today's visit is also in this direction. There is a lot of interest around the world for our made in India products."**

### Pakistani authorities crackdown on nationals deported from different countries

Karachi The immigration authorities in Pakistan on Wednesday launched a crackdown on its nationals deported from different countries after 220 people were sent back in the last 48 hours.

Hundreds of Pakistanis die every year while trying to reach Europe by land and sea with the help of human traffickers.

Earlier this month, 44 Pakistanis drowned in the capsizing of a boat off West Africa's Atlantic coastline, which has emerged as a primary point of departure for migrants aiming to reach Europe.

Another FIA source said the government crackdown at all airports as human smugglers were now sending victims to Senegal by air and then using land and sea routes to get them to the Canary Islands via Mauritania and Morocco.

Agency In recent cases of human trafficking, Pakistanis have been flown to and from some African countries, including Senegal, South Africa, and Zimbabwe, by human smugglers and their attempts to smuggle them into European

countries by road and sea links through Mauritania or Morocco has put everyone on alert," the official confided.

He said in some cases these people first went to the UAE to get connecting flights to these African countries.

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Another FIA source said the government crackdown at all airports as human smugglers were now sending victims to Senegal by air and then using land and sea routes to get them to the Canary Islands via Mauritania and Morocco.

## Bangladesh court acquits Khaleda Zia in sabotage case

Dhaka A court in Bangladesh acquitted BNP Chairperson and former prime minister Khaleda Zia on Wednesday in a sabotage case filed in the southeastern Cumilla district 10 years ago.

Additional District and Session Judge Court-2 of Cumilla Afroza Jesmin passed the order as there was no evidence against 79-year-old Zia, who is now undergoing treatment in London,

the state-run BSS news agency reported.

The court observed that the case was filed on political grounds and harassment, the agency said.

The case was filed against 32 people, including Zia, in the Special Powers Act, 1974, at Choudhagram Police Station in Cumilla in connection with damaging and setting fire to a covered van during a strike on January 25,



2015. Zia was the 32nd accused in the case. No specific evidence was found against Zia

and she has been acquitted. Public Prosecutor Kaimul Haque Rinku was quoted as saying by

bdnews24 news portal.

He added that 32 people were named in the FIR, but 42 people were charged afterwards. Of them, 36 people have been removed from the case. The decision on six others will be taken later as they received a suspension order in favour of them in the case.

Last week, the Supreme Court acquitted Zia, her party's Acting Chairman Tarique Rahman, and all other sus-

pects in their appeal over the Orphanage Trust graft case, overturning the High Court's earlier 10-year prison sentence.

She was sentenced to 17 years in prison for graft in 2018 under the rule of her arch-rival Sheikh Hasina.

Zia had been imprisoned for more than two years. On March 25, 2020, the Hasina government suspended her sentence and granted her conditional release

through an executive order. Subsequently, the government extended her sentence suspension and release period over six months, upon application.

She appeared in public on November 21, 2024, at Dhaka Cantonment to join Bangladesh's Armed Forces Day reception at the invitation of the Chief Adviser of the interim government Muhammad Yunus. Agency

### BUSINESS

### Sensex, Nifty Rebound on Infosys, HDFC Bank Gains

Mumbai Benchmark Sensex rebounded nearly 567 points and Nifty regained 23.150 level on Wednesday following value banking in IT and banking shares and firm global trends.

The 30-share BSE Sensex surged 566.63 points or 0.75 per cent to close at 76,404.99, driven by gains in Infosys, TCS and HDFC Bank. During the day, the benchmark surged 624.77 points or 0.82 per cent to hit an intra-day high of 76,463.13.

The broader NSE Nifty climbed 130.70 points or 0.57 per cent to settle at 23,155.35. In the intraday session, the Nifty rose 144.9 points or 0.63 per cent to 23,169.55 on the NSE.

The key stock indices had slumped to seven-month lows on Tuesday due to foreign fund outflows and profit-taking by investors amid tariff war worries. Sensex tanked by 1,225 points and Nifty by 320 points.

Recovering its past losses, Infosys surged 3.16 per cent to emerge as the biggest gainer among Sensex scrips. Tata Consultancy Ser-



vices jumped 2.97 per cent and Tech Mahindra by 2.28 per cent. Sun Pharmaceutical, Bajaj Finserv, HCL Technologies, Bajaj Finance, HDFC Bank, IndusInd Bank and Kotak Mahindra Bank were among the gainers.

Tata Motors was the biggest loser among Sensex shares, dropping by 2.24 per cent. PowerGrid, Axis Bank, State Bank of India, NTPC, Tata Steel and Adani Ports were the major laggards.

The benchmark indices rebounded amidst heightened volatility following better-than-expected results from a major private bank. The IT sector led gains, recovering from recent losses, while mid and small-cap stocks continued to underperform due to valuation concerns," Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geoit Financial Services said.

## EPFO Adds 14.63 Lakh Members in November 2024

New Delhi Retirement fund body EPFO has added 14.63 lakh net members in November 2024, a growth of 4.88 per cent over the same month last year, according to the latest payroll data.

The growth in net member additions signifies increased employment opportunities and heightened awareness of employee benefits, bolstered by EPFO's effective outreach initiatives, a labour ministry statement said.

On a monthly basis, net member additions rose by 9.07 per cent over October 2024, the ministry said.

The EPFO enrolled around 8.74 lakh new members in November 2024, up by 18.80 per cent over the year-ago month and a 16.58 per cent rise against October 2024, the provisional data showed.

This is in consonance with the earlier trend which indicates that most individuals joining the organised workforce are youth, primarily first-time job seekers, the ministry said.

The payroll data highlights that approximately 14.39 lakh members exited and subsequently rejoined EPFO.

This figure represents an 11.47 per cent increase compared to the previous month of October 2024. It also depicts a significant year-on-year growth of 34.75 per cent in November 2024. These members switched their jobs and re-joined the establishments covered under



constituting a significant 54.97 per cent of the total new members added in November 2024.

Net member additions in the age group of 18-25 years are approximately 5.86 lakh for November 2024, reflecting an increase of 7.96 per cent compared to the previous month of October 2024.

This is in consonance with the earlier trend which indicates that most individuals joining the organised workforce are youth, primarily first-time job seekers, the ministry said.

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the ambit of EPFO and opted to transfer their accumulations instead of applying for final settlement thus, safeguarding long-term financial well-being and extending their social security protection.

Gender-wise analysis of payroll data unveils that out of the new members added during the month, around 2.40 lakh new members are female, it said.

The comparison with the previous month of October 2024 shows an

**The growth in net member additions signifies increased employment opportunities and heightened awareness of employee benefits, bolstered by EPFO's effective outreach initiatives, a labour ministry statement said.**

increase of 14.94 per cent.

This figure also exhibits its significant year-on-year growth of 23.62 per cent during the month under review.

Also, the net female member addition during the month stood at 3.13 lakh, reflecting an increase of approximately 12.16 per cent from October 2024.

It reflects an on-year growth of 11.75 per cent against November 2023.

The increase in female member additions is indicative of a broader shift towards a more inclusive and diverse workforce, the ministry said.

Agency

## Gold Hits Record High at Rs 82,730 Amid Global Cues

New Delhi Gold prices rallied by Rs 630 to a lifetime high of Rs 82,700 per 10 grams in the national capital on Wednesday following persistent buying by jewellers and retailers amid strong global trends, according to the All India Sarafa Association.

Rallying for the sixth straight session, gold of 99.5 per cent purity appreciated by Rs 630 to hit a lifetime high of Rs 82,330 per 10 grams.

"Gold prices touched new all-time highs in Wednesday's session. The uncertainty surrounding US President Donald Trump's trade policy appears to be an important factor driving a haven flow toward precious metals," Saumil Gandhi, Senior Analyst of Commodities at HDFC Securities, said.

Gold of 99.9 per cent purity previously hit its record level of Rs 82,400 on October 31,

**Rallying for the sixth straight session, gold of 99.5 per cent purity appreciated by Rs 630 to hit a lifetime high of Rs 82,330 per 10 grams.**

2024. Gold of 99.5 per cent purity hit an all-time of Rs 82,000 per 10 grams same day.

Silver also surged Rs 1,000 to Rs 94,000 per kg on Wednesday.



Meanwhile, in futures trade on the Multi Commodity Exchange

(MCX), gold contracts for February delivery increased by Rs 299 or

0.38 per cent to trade at Rs 79,523 per 10 grams on Wednesday.

"In the domestic market, MCX gold registered comparatively minor gains, limited by the rupee's strength. This currency strength capped the upward movement in domestic gold prices," Jateen Trivedi, VP Research Analyst - Commodity and Currency, LKP Securities, said.

Silver futures for March delivery in-

creased Rs 204 or 0.22 per cent to Rs 92,295 per kg.

Globally, Comex gold future rose USD 20 per ounce or 0.37 per cent to USD 2,769.40 per ounce.

"Gold prices continue to rise as the dollar weakens. Markets are worried after Trump delayed his promised trade tariffs on China, Mexico, and Canada, raising fears they may come next month sparking

### CBDT Notifies Amendments in I-T Rules for Cruise Ship Operators

New Delhi The income tax department has notified amendments in I-T rules to prescribe conditions for applicability of presumptive taxation regime for non-resident cruise ship operators.

As a measure to promote investment and employment, the government had in the July Budget, provided a presumptive taxation regime for non-residents, engaged in the business of operation of cruise ships.

Further, exemption has been provided for any income of a foreign company from lease rentals of cruise ships, received from a related company which operates such ship or ships in India.

As per the amendment to I-T Rules, 1962, notified on January 21, the applicability of the presumptive taxation regime is subject to conditions, including that the non-resident, engaged in the business of operation of cruise ships operate a passenger ship having a carrying capacity of more than 200 passengers or length of 75 metres or more, for leisure and recreational purposes and having appropriate dining and cabin facilities for passengers.

The conditions also include that the non-resident operate such ship on scheduled voyages or shore excursions touching at least two sea ports of India or the same sea ports of India twice annually on such ship primarily for carrying passengers and not for carrying cargo.

# Cricket

## India will adhere to ICC's dress code at Champions Trophy: BCCI Secy Saikia

**T**he Indian cricket team will adhere to the dress code set by the ICC during the upcoming Champions Trophy, BCCI secretary Devajit Saikia said on Wednesday, rejecting speculation that the Board had objected to host Pakistan's name on the side's official jersey.

The Champions Trophy will be held from February 19 and India will play its share of matches in Dubai after citing security concerns as the reason for refusing to travel to Pakistan.

"BCCI will follow every uniform-related ICC rule during Champions Trophy," Saikia said.

"Whatever the other teams will do regarding the logo and dress code, we are going to follow in true letter and spirit," he added.

However, Saikia said that whether national captain Rohit Sharma participates in the ICC's pre-tournament engagements, including a press conference and an official photo shoot in Lahore, is something that is still being discussed.

"Whether Rohit Sharma travels to



Pakistan for ICC media engagements is something that's still not decided," Saikia added.

There were some unconfirmed media reports that the BCCI had objected to the host nation's name being embossed on their jersey, which is an established practice for all ICC events, owing to the tense political ties between the two countries.

It is understood that there was never

any doubt about following the logo guidelines and the BCCI did not raise concerns with the global body.

When Pakistan came to India in 2023 for the 50-over ICC World Cup, Babar Azam and his men duly sported the host country's name on their jerseys as part of the tournament protocol.

The Champions Trophy is being conducted under a 'Hybrid Model' for

the first time as BCCI didn't get permission from the Indian government to travel to Pakistan.

India will play all its matches, including the marquee league match against the arch-rivals from across the border, in Dubai. In case, the Indian team reaches the semi-final and subsequently final, the two matches will be played in Dubai as well.

As far as Rohit Sharma visiting Pakistan is concerned, the matter is still under consideration and there are certain issues that the Indian cricket board needs to consider if its captain visits Pakistan for a customary photo-shoot and pre-event press conference.

It remains to be seen if the ICC decides to hold these events in Pakistan or shift the pre-tournament captains' engagements to the UAE.

Even that would be a massive logistical task for all other teams, which are playing in Pakistan.

The opening match of the tournament between hosts Pakistan and New Zealand will be held in Karachi on February 19. India will start their campaign against Bangladesh a day later.

India ready to showcase its unique brand of cricket during CT: Hardik



Dubai

India is ready to showcase its unique brand of cricket and the players are committed to bringing the Champions Trophy home again, star all-rounder Hardik Pandya said on Wednesday.

The Champions Trophy will be held from February 19 and Pakistan is the official host country of the tournament. But India will play its share of matches in Dubai after citing security concerns as the reason for refusing to travel to Pakistan.

India had won the tournament in 2013 when it was held in the United Kingdom, and were joint winners with hosts Sri Lanka in 2002.

"The return of the ICC Men's Champions Trophy is a significant boost to cricket, adding depth and context to the One-Day format. This iconic tournament promises to reignite excitement among fans and players alike," Pandya said in an ICC statement.

"India is ready to showcase its unique brand of cricket, with every player committed to bringing the trophy home again." The opening match of the tournament between hosts Pakistan and New Zealand will be held in Karachi on February 19. India will start their campaign against Bangladesh a day later,"

he added as the ICC launched its 'All On The Line' campaign.

The high-energy film aims to bring to life the intense nature of the Champions Trophy where every match counts.

Featuring Pandya, Mohammad Nabi, Phil Salt, Shadab Khan and Shaheen Shah Afridi, the film showcases the immense stakes faced by players as they put everything on the line to claim the Champions Trophy and the unique White Jackets, the ICC said.

"Playing for England in the ICC Men's Champions Trophy is a huge honour. We know it's going to be a very competitive tournament but we have an exciting group and we are going to give it our best effort to lift the trophy," Salt said.

Afghanistan's first-time Nabi said: "It's Afghanistan's first time at the Men's Champions Trophy, we can't wait to compete against the best of the best and make our nation proud." Pakistan pacer Shaheen Shah Afridi added: "For Pakistan, cricket is more than a game—it's our passion, our pride, our identity and as defending Champions and tournament hosts, there's everything to play for. I'm sure the whole of Pakistan is eagerly awaiting the 19th of February, it'll be a spectacle like no other."

India to follow ICC's uniform-linked rules at Champions Trophy 2025: BCCI



New Delhi

The Indian cricket team will adhere to the dress code set by the International Cricket Council (ICC) during the upcoming Champions Trophy, BCCI secretary Devajit Saikia told the news agency on Wednesday, rejecting speculation that the Board had objected to hosting Pakistan's name on the official jersey for the side.

The Champions Trophy will be held from February 19 and India will play its share of matches in Dubai after citing security concerns as the reason for refusing to travel to Pakistan.

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However, Saikia said that whether national captain Rohit Sharma participates in the ICC's pre-tournament engagements, including a press conference and official photo shoot, in Lahore is still being discussed.

"Whether Rohit Sharma travels to Pakistan for ICC media engagements is something that's still not decided," Saikia added.

## Jasprit Bumrah continues to top ICC Test ranking in bowlers category

Dubai

India's pace spearhead Jasprit Bumrah continued to remain the undisputed No. 1 Test bowler, while Ravindra Jadeja maintained his top spot in the all-rounders' category, in the latest ICC rankings released on Wednesday.

Bumrah, who had made history ahead of the fifth and final Border-Gavaskar Test against Australia in January by recording the highest-ever ICC Rankings rating for an Indian bowler at 907 points, is currently on a career-best points tally of 908.

Australia's Pat Cummins (841) and South Africa's Kagiso Rabada (837) are placed second and third respectively.

Pakistan's Noman Ali (761) broke



into the top 10 after an impressive six-wicket haul in the first Test against the West Indies in Multan.

There was no movement to the top-10 all-rounders list in the Test for-

mat, with Jadeja (400 rating points) retaining the top spot, followed by South Africa's Marco Jansen (294) and Bangladesh's Mehidy Hasan (263).

## No one has to tell Rohit what to do: Ajinkya Rahane

Mumbai

Rohit Sharma doesn't need to be told what to do and he will get a "big one once he gets in", said Mumbai captain Ajinkya Rahane on Wednesday, backing the embattled Indian skipper ahead of his first Ranji Trophy appearance in nearly a decade.

All eyes will be on Rohit and his India opening partner Yashasvi Jaiswal when defending champions Mumbai will take on Jammu and Kashmir here at the BKC Ground on Thursday.

"See, Rohit is Rohit. We all know that. Aapko hihi pata hai Rohit ka character (You also know Rohit's character). I am really happy to have both of them back in the Mumbai dressing room," Rahane told media during Mumbai's training session here on Wednesday.

"Rohit has always been relaxed. Even playing at the international level, his character is similar. His attitude is pretty much relaxed. He knows his

game really well so, no one has to tell him what he needs to do.

"Once he gets in, I'm sure he will do well. He has never changed, which is a very good thing," Rahane added.

Form has deserted the 37-year-old Rohit in the past few months with Test losses to New Zealand (at home) and Australia (away) weighing heavily on him currently. Rahane said every player goes through ups and downs but Rohit has been "really confident."

"What is important is (that) he is hungry, he is determined to do well. I am sure once he gets in, he will get a big one," the veteran, who has shared the Indian dressing room with Rohit, said.

"He batted really well yesterday (in) a couple of sessions so it's part and parcel of a player's career. I am really confident about Rohit," Rahane, however, said the contest starting on Thursday could be the only match Rohit would play this season.

## AB de Villiers hints at comeback, says wants to play casual cricket somewhere

Johannesburg

AB de Villiers wants to play "real cricket" again. Not in the high-pressure environment of IPL but somewhere "casual" to have a bit of fun and please his children.

De Villiers retired from all of forms of cricket in November 2021 to spend more time with his family. The 40-year-old former South Africa captain is now involved with multiple projects in charity and broadcasting.

He is also the brand ambassador of the ongoing SA20. But in a chat with Melinda Farrell on her YouTube channel, de Villiers let it slip that he wishes to play the game again.

"I might still play cricket one day. No confirmation whatsoever. My kids are putting me under a bit of pressure and I feel like I could go to the nets with them," de Villiers said referring his three children — two sons Abnham and



John, and daughter Yente.

"My boy could feel me bowling machine balls... maybe I will walk out and play a bit of casual cricket somewhere," he added.

De Villiers hinted at playing proper cricket outside the lens of professional leagues like the IPL.

"I am talking on a more serious note, actually, of playing some real cricket not professional IPL or SA20 stuff but who

knows? I've had my fair share (of high pressure cricket), that's done," he said. A slight challenge to that ambition is his eye sight, especially the "bit blurry" left one.

"...this right one is the dominant one, it is working fine. I am doing it for my kids and see if I can go out there and enjoy cricket again. Even if it is very casual and see where we draw the line.

"We are not talking RCB (Royal Challengers Bengaluru) and some stuff. I don't want to feel that pressure again. Wherever I go I would want to have bit of fun," added the batting great, whose wide range of strokes, some of them quite unconventional, earned him the moniker 'Mr 360'.

De Villiers represented South Africa in 114 Tests, 228 ODIs and 78 T20s.

The power-hitter holds the record for the fastest 50 (16 balls), 100 (31 balls) and 150 (64balls) in the ODI format.



## There was a sense of fear during rehab, but I've crossed that phase, says Mohammed Shami

Kolkata

Seasoned India pacer Mohammed Shami has revealed that he was gripped by a sense of fear when he began his rehabilitation after a long injury layoff, but managed to overcome that phase by training his mind to stay focused on the national comeback.

Shami was sidelined after the ODI World Cup final against Australia in November 2023 due to an ankle injury that required surgery. The recovery from that was followed by a swelling on his left knee during the domestic comeback some weeks back.

Following his inclusion in India's Champions Trophy squad, his return has garnered national attention. He is also in the squad for the five-match T20I series against England beginning here later this evening.

"I waited for an entire year and I worked very hard (to get back to full fit-

ness). There was a sense of fear (of getting injured during rehabilitation) even while running," Shami said in a video posted by BCCI.

"It is difficult for any player to get injured after being in full flow, go to the NCA (National Cricket Academy) for rehabilitation and then make a comeback," he added.

The cricketer, however, said an ath-

lete is far more determined after dealing with an injury.

"When you go through injuries, I feel you grow stronger as an athlete, this is what I feel. Because you have to repeat a lot of things while being mentally strong," Shami went through the domestic grind, representing his home state Bengal in the Ranji Trophy, Syed Mushtaq and Vijay Hazare but a swelling in his knee finally ruled him out of the five-match Border-Gavaskar Test series in Australia.

On his competitive return in the Ranji Trophy, he guided Bengal to their first win of the season with a seven-wicket haul.

He followed it up with impressive performances in the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy (11 wickets) and the Vijay Hazare Trophy (five wickets).

Shami's T20I career has been sporadic, with just 23 appearances since his

debut in 2014. His last outing in the format was against England in the 2022 T20 World Cup semifinal.

The 34-year-old said he has overcome the setbacks and is raring to go.

"Whatever is done, is done. I have crossed that (injury) phase. If you work hard you will get the results. That's what I believe in. If you get injured you have to make a comeback for your team for your country. So fight and grow," he said.

"If you are strong and believe in yourself and you have confidence in your abilities, have self-belief, then I don't think you will find any difference. Confidence is important for any task," he added.

Shami said he concentrated on improving his skills with a lot of focus on fitness during his rehabilitation.

"The rhythm is very important. Everything in life has a flow.

“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





## Mandaviya pitches for kho kho's inclusion in Asian Games, 2036 Olympics

**New Delhi**  
Sports Minister Mansukh Mandaviya on Wednesday expressed the government's desire to take traditional Indian sports to the world and said a collective effort would be required to get kho kho included in the Asian Games and the 2036 Olympics.

India is aiming to host the 2036 Olympics and has submitted a 'Letter of Intent', expressing its desire to the International Olympic Committee's Future Host Commission, taking the first concrete step towards its ambitions plan.

India gets the hosting rights, kho kho is one of the six sports the ministry's Mission Olympic Cell plans to recommend for inclusion in the 2036 Olympics, along with Twenty20 cricket, kabaddi, chess and squash.

"We did a splendid job of organising the Kho Kho World Cup and we need to make an effort that these players get a chance to play at the Asian Games," Mandaviya said, while felicitating the World Cup-winning Indian kho kho team.



"The Government's endeavour is also to take kho kho to the Olympics in 2036. For this, the players and coaches need to keep performing well, the federation has to keep managing well and the Sports Ministry will carry on supporting and helping to raise the level of players' performances."

The felicitation function was attended by the men's and women's squads as well as coaches and president of Kho Kho Federation of India Sudhanshu Mittal, among others. The Indian men's and women's teams clinched the inaugural Kho Kho World Cup titles at the Indira Gandhi Indoor

Stadium on January 19. Both the Indian teams defeated Nepal in their respective finals.

Talking about the resurgence of traditional sports in the country, Mandaviya said, "Traditional games showcase the resilience, community spirit and, most importantly, upholds our traditional sporting value. The world has so much to learn from the richness of these traditional games."

"Honble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has mentioned across various national platforms that we have to give the best exposure to the traditional sports. Now our teams are not only getting the best exposures but also coming out with flying colours." Indian women's kho kho team chief coach Sumit Bhatia credited the month-long camp held here for the team's success.

"On December 10, we started the camp with 60 players. Out of them, we found the best 15 players each for the men's and women's teams. The teams were composed of players from Kashmir to Kanyakumari and the camp helped them forge a chemistry," he said.

## Bengaluru Open upgraded to ATP 125, begins from February 24

**Bengaluru**  
A clutch of top stars are expected to feature in the eighth edition of the Bengaluru Open, now upgraded to ATP 125 category, which begins here from February 24.

An important stop on the ATP Challenger Tour, the Bengaluru Open will now offer an increased prize money of USD 200,000. The winner will pocket USD 28,400 and gain 125 ATP points.

In the past, Indian players have excelled in this event. Sumit Nagal won the singles crown in 2017 and Prajesh Gunneswaran emerged triumphant the following year.

Ramkumar Ramanathan annexed the doubles crown three times, twice with fellow Indian Saketh Myneni and once with Purav Raja. Divij Sharan won the inaugural edition doubles title with partner Mikhail Elgin.

"I'm really happy that the ATP Challenger in Bengaluru is back again this year in an even bigger way. I'll be back again this year," said Ramanathan, a world No. 405.

"Bengaluru Open has been a great platform for promising Indian players looking to graduate to the next level. We hope the Indian players use this op-



portunity as a launchpad for a great career," said Karnataka State Lawn Tennis Association (KSLTA) Vice-President Priyank Kharge, who is also a minister in the state government.

Tournament Director Sunil Yajaman was excited about the Bengaluru Open being upgraded to an ATP 125 event.

"It's really exciting to host the ATP 125 at Bengaluru and with this edition's upgrade, the Bengaluru Open is just below an ATP Tour event," Yajaman said.

"It would surely attract the best players and would go on to enhance its position as a formidable event on the ATP Challenger Tour," he added.

## PV Sindhu, Lakshya Sen to lead Indian team in Badminton Asia Mixed Championship in China

**New Delhi**  
Double Olympic medalist PV Sindhu and World Championships bronze winner Lakshya Sen will lead a 14-member Indian team for the Badminton Asia Mixed Team Championship to be held in Qingdao, China from February 11-16.

India clinched a bronze medal in the last edition of the competition in Dubai in 2023.

"The national selectors have given importance to the world rankings and current form of the players while selecting the squad that will have HS Prannoy and Malvika Bansod as the second men's and women's singles players respectively," the Badminton Association of India said in a release.

The strong Indian team will also have star doubles players Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty. The women's doubles pairing could be either Gayatri Gopichand and Treasa Jolly or Ashwini Ponnappa and Tanisha Crasto.

Tanisha will also pair up with Dhruv Kapila in mixed doubles while Satish Kumar K and Adya Variyath will be the second combination.

BAI secretary general Sanjay Mishra



said, "We did well by winning the bronze medal two years ago, but the target this year is to reach the finals, and then anything is possible, and we will go all out." Indian squad: Men's: Lakshya Sen, HS Prannoy, Satwiksairaj Rankireddy, Chirag Shetty, Dhruv Kapila, MR Arjun, Satish Kumar K. Women's: PV Sindhu, Malvika Bansod, Gayatri Gopichand, Treasa Jolly, Ashwini Ponnappa, Tanisha Crasto, Adya Variyath.

## Minister of State for Sports Raksha Khadse reviews sports facilities in A&N Islands

**New Delhi**  
Union Minister of State for Sports Raksha Nikhil Khadse on Wednesday reviewed the sports facilities in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands and took stock of the training of the athletes during a visit to the Sports Authority of India (SAI) centre in Shri Vijay Puram.

During the visit, she also gathered information on the available sports resources and discussed new measures for further development in other areas of sports.

"The primary objective of this visit was to assess the local progress in the sports sector and take necessary steps to provide better facilities and training to athletes," a release from the Press Information Bureau (PIB) said.

"During the visit, Minister Khadse held discussions regarding the sports complex, training centre, and the progress of the young athletes there. She also engaged in talks about innovations in the sports sector, the progress made in sports development, and future plans." The Andaman and Nicobar Islands host two major centres of the Sports Authority of India. These centres offer



During the visit, she also gathered information on the available sports resources and discussed new measures for further development in other areas of sports.

training in athletics, cycling, football,

kayaking, canoeing, rowing, and weightlifting. More than 150 athletes have access to the facilities there.

"Minister Khadse emphasized the importance of various government schemes while interacting with the athletes and inspired them for India's anticipated participation in the 2036 Olympics," the release added.

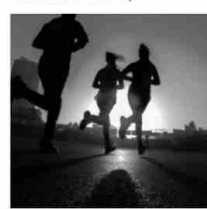
Some coaches and young athletes were also present during Khadse's visit.

## Kerala govt to appoint 249 sportspersons under sports quota

**Kochi**  
The Kerala government has made a significant move to bolster its support for athletes by approving the appointment of 249 sports persons across various state departments under the sports quota for the years 2025 to 2039.

This decision was solidified during a cabinet meeting presided over by Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan, according to an official release.

Notably, five athletes who clinched medals at the 2018 Asian Games have secured positions as Assistant Sports Organisers in the General Education Department. Consequently, these roles will be excluded from the upcoming notification of 250 posts for the period from 2020 to 2024.



## Home tie will help us groom youngsters in good environment, says Rohit Rajpal

**New Delhi**  
It won't be a cakewalk but Togo will be a relatively manageable opponent, said India's Davis Cup captain Rohit Rajpal, who wants to use the home tie against the African nation to groom future stars.

India will take on Togo in the World Group I play-off tie on February 1-2 with Sasikumar Mukund, ranked 368 in singles, to lead the home challenge.

Mukund is making a comeback to the Indian squad after playing against Morocco in Lucknow. The AITA had recently lifted his suspension on disciplinary grounds at the insistence of skipper Rajpal.

Aryan Shah, Chirag Duhhan and Yuvaan Nandal have been added to the squad and will be part of the training camp, starting Thursday, at the DLTA Complex, the venue for the contest.

The reserve players will be chosen after the camp.

They will train along with the Indian team and it will be a great exposure for each one of them. Earlier, talented youngsters Manas Dhame and Dakshinshwar Suresh, were expected to be in the training camp.

Rajpal, whose contract as skipper has been extended till the end of 2025 season along with new coach Ashutosh Singh, is delighted to have got a home tie.

India's last four of the five ties have been away, including the historic match against Pakistan in Islamabad.



"Playing in home conditions is always beneficial. We have travelled a lot in the last two-three seasons. The

slow, hard courts at the DLTA were ideal if Sumit Nagal had played but still, the conditions will suit us," Ra-

**Mukund is making a comeback to the Indian squad after playing against Morocco in Lucknow. The AITA had recently lifted his suspension on disciplinary grounds at the insistence of skipper Rajpal.**

jal said, adding that, "the choice could have been grass courts if we knew Sumit would opt out." Nagal did not make himself available for the tie.

"I will not say that it will be a cakewalk for us but the tie will give us the option to groom the next generation of players in the Davis Cup environment, playing at home, we can definitely utilise the home advantage and home support," Rajpal further added.

Ramkumar Ramanathan and Karan Singh will be the other singles players for India while N Sriram Balaji and Ritvik Choudary Bollipalli, who both recently competed in the Australian Open, will do the doubles duty.

Thomas Steedji will be Togo's key player in the contest. Togo come in with three wins, against Latvia, Indonesia and Benin.

The DLTA is being spruced up to welcome the visiting team players and officials apart from the home fans, with beautification of the venue. A players' lounge is also being set up near the centre court.

## Hyderabad FC look to snap 9-match winless streak

**Hyderabad**  
Their campaign having gone haywire with the last win coming way back in November 2024, bottom-placed Hyderabad FC will look to stop afloat in the Indian Super League when they take on Jamshedpur FC here on Thursday.

The hosts currently have 10 points from 16 matches and desperately will need to end their four-match losing streak against the fourth-placed Red Miners, who have accumulated 28 points from 15 games.

Hyderabad's last win came against Kerala Blasters (2-1) on November 7, 2024 in Kochi and since then they have not tasted victory in their subsequent nine matches. Jamshedpur FC emerged 2-1 victorious in the reverse fixture in October 2024 and another win on Thursday would mark their second league double over Hyderabad FC, having previously done so in the 2023-24 campaign.

The Red Miners will aim to replicate their recent defensive solidity, coming off a 3-0 away win against Mumbai City FC. They then drew 1-1 at home against Mohun Bagan Super Giant.

Jamshedpur are in a promising position in the competition currently. They have won three and drawn once in their last five games and are nine points off table toppers Mariners (37).

With a win here, they will displace the second-placed FC Goa (30), and the visitors will be aiming for just about that against a Hyderabad FC unit that come into this game on the back of three draws in their previous four encounters. Jamshedpur FC have scored 23 goals and conceded 24 in the league so far.



Jordan Murray has top-scored for them with five strikes, whereas Javi Hernandez and Javier Siverio have netted four times each, which also demonstrates their reliance on foreign recruits in the frontline.

The two teams have played 11 matches in the ISL history and Jamshedpur FC have won six of them. Four games have produced draws, whereas Hyderabad FC have emerged victorious once.

Hyderabad FC interim head coach Shameel Chembakath asked his players to be more clinical in their attacking third.

"We need to be more clinical in the final third. We need to win three points at home. Jamshedpur FC are very strong and we know that the match will be a strong one," he said.

Jamshedpur FC head coach Khalid Jamil urged his players to perform well away from home.

"Our preparation for this game is the same as it has been so far.

We need to do well in away matches. It's a must-win match of sorts for us tomorrow," he said.



# Kriti Sanon praises 'Deva' trailer, Shahid Kapoor thanks his 'Sifra'

**T**he excitement surrounding the upcoming film 'Deva' is reaching new heights, especially after the release of its thrilling trailer. Produced by Zee Studios and Roy Kapur Films, the action-packed visuals, Shahid Kapoor's commanding presence, and Pooja Hegde's intriguing role have captivated both fans and industry insiders.

Shahid Kapoor, known for his witty charm, responded to Kriti's post with a nostalgic reference to their previous collaboration. He simply shared a heart emoji and the name "Sifra," a character from their film 'Teri Baaton Mein Aisa Uljha Jiya'.

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## Saif meets auto-rickshaw driver who took him to hospital after knife attack

**S**haif Ali Khan met Bhajan Singh Rana, the auto driver who took him to hospital. Khan was stabbed at home in the early hours of January 16 and he was rushed to Lilavati Hospital. Saif was discharged on January 21.

In the viral picture, Saif Ali Khan could be seen smiling beside Mr Rana. While posing for the camera, he could be seen resting his hands over the driver's shoulders.

Sharmila Tagore, expressed their gratitude to the rickshaw driver, Bha-

Rana. They assured the 54-year-old driver to feel free to ask for any help whenever he needed.

After meeting with the actor, Bhajan Singh Rana spoke to the media and he shared about his experience with the actor and his family.

## Ryan Gosling in talks to lead new 'Star Wars' film from Shawn Levy

**H**ollywood star Ryan Gosling is in negotiations to headline a new 'Star Wars' movie for Disney-owned Lucasfilm.

Shawn Levy, the director of the 2024 blockbuster Marvel movie 'Deadpool & Wolverine', will helm the project, which he has been developing since 2022, according to entertainment news outlet Variety.

Jonathan Tropper, known for his collaborations with Levy on 'This Is Where I Leave You' and 'The Adam Project', is working on the script.

If the project is finalised, Levy will also produce the film under his 21 Laps banner, alongside 'Star Wars' veterans Kathleen Kennedy and Lucasfilm.

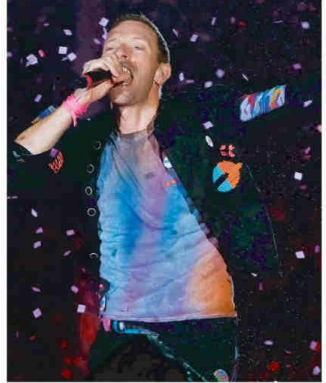
Gosling, who most recently starred in Universal's 'Fall Guy', is currently working on 'Project Hail Mary' from directors Phil Lord and Christopher Miller. The film is based on the bestseller novel by author Andy Weir.

Lucasfilm's film slate also includes movies from filmmakers Sharmeen Obaid-Chinoy, James Mangold, and Dave Filoni.

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## Elaborate security arrangements for Coldplay concert in Ahmedabad



**A**hmedabad team from the National Security Guard and a special forces unit will be a part of the elaborate security apparatus set up for the upcoming Coldplay concert in Ahmedabad, a police official said on Wednesday.

The British rock band will perform at the Narendra Modi stadium in the city's Motera area on January 25 and 26 as part of its India tour. The venue is the world's largest cricket stadium that can accommodate more than 1 lakh spectators.

As many as 3,825 policemen will be deployed in and around the stadium, said Joint Commissioner of Police, Neeraj Badgujar.

Dignitaries and VVIPs from India and across the world are expected to attend the concert.

"Given the movement of over 1 lakh people each day, we will deploy 3,825 policemen to provide security and maintain law and order. These personnel include 14 deputy commissioners of police, 25 assistant commissioners of police, 63 police inspectors, 142 sub-inspectors and over 3,500 constables," Badgujar told reporters.

Teams of Ahmedabad city crime branch and the Special Operations Group will keep a watch at strategic locations, including Metro stations, which will be used by fans to reach the stadium on both days, he said.

"One team of NSG along with three Quick Response Teams, one team of State Disaster Response Force and ten teams of Bomb Detection and Disposal Squad will be deployed at key locations, including the hotel where the crew will stay. Medical and paramedical teams will also remain on standby," the official said. Badgujar added that a disaster management plan and an emergency evacuation plan have been prepared in coordination with the Gujarat State Disaster Management Authority. A mock drill based on the plan will also be conducted by police in the coming days, he said.

While the concert will start around 5:30 pm and end at 10 pm, the entry gates of the stadium will be opened for spectators at 2 pm, he added.



## Justin Bieber claims someone else unfollowed Hailey from his Instagram account

**J**ustin Bieber recently clarified a misunderstanding about his relationship with wife Hailey Bieber, addressing rumors that he had unfollowed her on the platform.

On January 21, the singer took to his Instagram Stories to explain that someone had accessed his account and unfollowed Hailey without his knowledge. "Someone went on my account and unfollowed my wife," he wrote, dispelling any doubts about their relationship.

This clarification came after Justin had shared a series of affectionate posts about Hailey, including a cozy winter date night where the couple enjoyed ice skating together.

He also posted a heartfelt message on his Instagram Stories, calling Hailey, "The greatest woman I have and will ever know," accompanied by a photo of her.

The Biebers, who have been married since 2018, have long faced speculation about their relationship. In December 2024, Hailey addressed the persistent rumors by reposting a viral TikTok video, which suggested that not all online criticism is worth taking seriously.

"Me to all of you on the internet," she wrote over the clip, acknowledging the noise surrounding their personal lives. Despite ongoing gossip, a source close to the couple shared that they continue to laugh off the rumors. "They

laugh at the constant divorce rumors," the insider said in November. "It's annoying, but just noise."

The couple's bond remains strong, and in August 2024, they celebrated a new chapter in their lives with the birth of their first child, a son named Jack Blues Bieber.

Justin shared the happy news with fans, posting a photo of Hailey holding their newborn's tiny foot, with the caption, "WELCOME HOME JACK BLUES BIEBER."

## Sanjay Leela Bhansali's 'Padmaavat' to re-release in theatres on Jan 24

**F**ilmmaker Sanjay Leela Bhansali's 2018 epic film 'Padmaavat' is set to re-release in theatres, the makers announced on Wednesday. Bollywood stars Deepika Padukone, Ranveer Singh and Shahid Kapoor feature in lead roles in the movie, which is coming back to theatres on its seventh anniversary.

"Witness the epic tale on the big screen again. #Padmaavat in cinemas on 24th January," Viacom 18 Studios posted on Instagram.

"Padmaavat" is a 13th-century tale of Queen Padmavati (Padukone), celebrated for her beauty and wisdom, and her husband, Maharawal Ratan Singh (Kapoor) of Mewar.

The story unfolds as Sultan Alauddin Khilji, driven by obsession and ambition, invades Chittor in his quest for Padmavati, who goes to great lengths to protect her kingdom and its values.

