



Film with Vishal sir set in '90s Mumbai, got quirks much like 'Kaminey': Shahid Kapoor

Pak PM offers parliamentary committee to advance negotiations with opposition

Sanju Samson's weakness against raw pace, finishing woes in focus



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Budget Session begins Friday: Stakes high for BJP, Oppn sharpens knives

Opposition parties also accused the government of politicising the parliamentary committees and trying to push its agenda by using its majority.

Sitharaman will present the Union Budget on Saturday for the eighth consecutive time.

New Delhi Parliament's Budget session is likely to get off to a stormy start on Friday with Opposition parties demanding a discussion on the alleged mismanagement of the Maha Kumbh festival in Prayagraj where 30 pilgrims were killed in a stampede.



At the all party meeting, the opposition accused the BJP-led government of politicisation of the Kumbh congregation and prevalence of VIP culture at the cost of the common man.

The opposition parties also alleged that the government is steam-rolling its agenda in parliamentary panels and having disregard for parliamentary procedure of finalising House business at the meetings of the Business Advisory Committee.

of the Business Advisory Committee.

"We have taken note of their concerns. The Business Advisory Committee will decide which issues will be taken up for discussion. We hope for a smooth and productive Budget session. Cooperation from all parties is essential for a meaningful and constructive parliamentary session," Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijju said.

The government has listed 16 Bills, besides the financial business, for the Budget session which will be held from January 31 to February 13 before breaking for recess to examine the Budget proposals.

The session will reconvene on March 10 and continue till April 4.

The all-party meeting was attended by Congress leaders Jairam Ramesh, K Suresh, Gaurav Gogoi and Pramod Tevari, Trinamool Congress leaders Sudip Bandyopadhyay and Derek O'Brien.

Revolutionary Socialist Party leader N. K. Premachandran, Biju Janata Dal leader Sammit Patra, Dravida Munnetra

Cross-voting gives BJP Chandigarh mayor's post



Chandigarh The BJP on Thursday won the post of mayor while AAP-backed Congress candidates registered victory in the poll for the senior deputy mayor and deputy mayor posts in the high-stakes Chandigarh mayoral elections that took place here.

The contest for the mayoral polls was between the BJP and the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP)-Congress combine. AAP was fighting for the post of mayor while the Congress was contesting for the posts of senior deputy mayor and deputy mayor.

In a jolt to the AAP-Congress combine, BJP's Harpreet Kaur Babla was elected as the new mayor of the Chandigarh Municipal Corporation after she defeated AAP nominee Prem Lata. Babla secured 19 votes while Lata got 17 votes. No vote was found to be invalid. Agency

All 67 on board feared killed in US mid-air collision



Washington After the mid-air collision over a Potomac river in Washington, DC, authorities said that they no longer expect to find any survivors, and efforts have shifted to a recovery mission, according to DC Fire and EMS Chief John Donnelly, according to a report by CNN.

A press briefing was held at Reagan National Airport, where Washington, DC, Mayor Muriel Bowser addressed the deadly collision involving an American Airlines passenger plane carrying 64 people and a US Army Black Hawk helicopter with three soldiers on board.

"We are now at a point where we're switching from a rescue operation to a recovery operation. At this point, we don't believe there are any survivors from this accident," Donnelly said in a news conference on Thursday.

Donnelly confirmed that recovery teams had retrieved 28 bodies from the passenger jet and one from the military helicopter.

Donnelly further said that officials are confident in recovering the bodies of those killed in the plane crash. He said that all 67 people are believed dead - 64 aboard the passenger jet and three on the US Army Black Hawk helicopter.

Meanwhile, Secretary of Transportation Sean Duffy provided an update on the wreckage, explaining that the American Airlines jet, which crashed into the Potomac following the collision, had broken into multiple pieces. He noted that the aircraft's fuselage had been found overturned and split into three sections, submerged in waist-deep water, with recovery operations continuing. Agency

EC asks Kejriwal to provide facts about 'Yamuna poisoning' remarks by Friday

New Delhi The Election Commission on Thursday asked AAP convener Arvind Kejriwal not to mix the issue of increased ammonia in Yamuna with his allegation of river poisoning, and gave him a fresh opportunity to explain his charges against the Haryana government.

Kejriwal had on Wednesday responded to the Election Commission notice over his claim the Haryana government was "mixing poison" in Yamuna, and said raw water received from the BJP-ruled state in the recent past has been "highly contaminated and extremely poisonous" for human health.

In the 14-page reply to the EC, the former Delhi chief minister said if such "toxic water" is allowed to be consumed by people, it would lead to grave health hazard and fatality.

Not satisfied with his reply on Wednesday, the EC asked him to provide factual evidence with specific and pointed response to type, quantity, nature and manner of poisoning of Yamuna. He was also asked to share details of engineers, location and methodology of detecting the "poison" by Delhi Jal Board staff by Friday 11 am, failing which the Commission will be free to take appropriate decision in the

matter. In its fresh letter to the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) leader, the poll body also highlighted that availability of sufficient and clean water is a governance issue, and that all governments concerned at all times should engage in securing this for all the people. Agency

Delhi Police, EC team reaches Punjab CM's residence for search

New Delhi A team of the Election Commission officials and Delhi Police personnel has reached Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann's Kapurthala House residence in Delhi for conducting a search.



Delhi Chief Minister Atishi in a post on X hit out at the BJP, saying a team was at her Punjab counterpart's residence for "raid."

An official outside Kapurthala House on Copernicus Marg told reporters that a complaint was received regarding "cash" being distributed from there. The team was awaiting permission to conduct the search, he added.

Delhi Chief Minister Atishi in a post on X hit out at the BJP, saying a team was at her Punjab counterpart's residence for "raid." She alleged that people in the BJP were "openly" distributing money, shoes, slippers and bed

sheets, but the police was unable to see that and reached an elected chief minister's residence for "raid." A senior officer said that Delhi Police personnel were accompanying the Election Commission officials and members

of the flying squad for protection. Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann accused the delhi police and the Election Commission of trying to "defame" the Punjabis at the behest of the BJP. Agency

ACCESSIBLE ELECTIONS Facilitation for Person with Disabilities. PUBLIC NOTICE ATTENTION: VOTERS WITH DISABILITY. GENERAL ELECTION TO DELHI LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY 2025. Details of Nodal Officers for PwD and Pick & Drop facility for Eleven (11) Districts of NCT of Delhi for General Election to Delhi Legislative Assembly 2025 are as under: Table with columns for District No., District Name, Details of PwD Nodal Officer, Details of Pick & Drop Officer, Control Room No.

Budget Session begins Friday: Stakes high for BJP, Oppn sharpen knives

Kejriwal lies like Modi but probably more cunning, sophisticated: Rahul

Contract Health Workers Thank Delhi BJP President After Resolution of their Issues

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Kazhagam leader TR Baalu, Samajwadi Party leader Ram Gopal Yadav, Jharkhand Mukti Morcha leader Mahua Maji, and Nationalist Congress Party-Sharadchandra Pawar leader Fouzia Khan, among others.

The 16 Bills listed for the Budget session include the Waqf (Amendment) Bill, the Banking Laws (Amendment) Bill, The Railways (Amendment) Bill, The Disaster Management (Amendment) Bill, The Oilfields (Regulation and Development) Amendment Bill, The Protection of Interests in Aircraft Objects Bill, and The Immigration and Foreigners Bill.

Asked about the opposition's demand for a discussion on the stampede at the Maha Kumbh, Rijuji said the decision will be taken by the committee.

"There are many important issues...the Kumbh was also mentioned," he said.

Meanwhile, Congress leader Pramod Tiwari said opposition leaders have decided that the INDIA bloc will raise all issues together during the Budget session.

Emerging from the all-party meeting convened by the government on the eve of the session, Tiwari also slammed the "politicisation of the Kumbh", saying VIP movement during the event was creating difficulties for the common man.

BJD leader Sasmit Patra accused the BJP of going back on its promise of granting special state to Odisha.

Indian Union Muslim League leader ET Mohammed Basher said he raised the issue of the weakening of the law-making process in the country.

"The JPC on Waqf was constituted to have discussion, but members were not given enough opportunity to speak," Basher said.

All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam member M Thambi Durai wanted the government to make efforts to regain control over Katchatheevu island.

Advt Contact : 9818-799941

New Delhi: In a stinging attack on AAP convenor Arvind Kejriwal, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi Thursday said the former Delhi chief minister "lies just like Narendra Modi" but is probably more "cunning" and "sophisticated" than the prime minister.

Addressing a public meeting in the Badli constituency here in the run-up to the February 5 Assembly polls, Gandhi asserted that he and his party can never compromise with the BJP. "We will die but never compromise with these people," Gandhi also lashed out at Kejriwal over his five-year-old promise of making Yamuna water potable and his press conference on Thursday, saying it reflected his "hollowness".

The AAP supremo on Thursday claimed that for the past several days, water with extremely dangerous ammonia levels has been flowing into the Yamuna from Haryana. "When CM Atishi called her Haryana



counterpart, urging him to stop sending this toxic water, he did nothing," Kejriwal alleged. At the public meeting in Karnataka and Telangana, where the Congress is in power, "It is a battle of ideologies. On one side there is the BJP and RSS and on the other, there is the Congress. They (BJP and RSS) spreads hatred, violence and fear among people. We have said clearly wherever they spread hatred, we

will open 'Mohabbat Ki Dukaan', Gandhi said. The Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha alleged the BJP spreads violence and hatred. When people got killed in riots, Kejriwal and his party people did not stand with those affected, Gandhi alleged. "One ideology works to protect the Constitution and the other wants to finish it off. Mahatma Gandhi was killed on this day (October 30, 1948) because he was

The AAP supremo on Thursday claimed that for the past several days, water with extremely dangerous ammonia levels has been flowing into the Yamuna from Haryana.

fighting hatred, he was uniting Hindus, Muslims, Christians, and Sikhs, and protecting Dalits. Who killed him? The same people whose ideology is burning the country today," the former Congress chief said. Kejriwal thinks the people of the country do not understand but the truth is that he and Manish Sisodia indulged in corruption, he alleged. "They made false promises. Five years ago, Kejriwal said I will bathe in Yamuna and drink its water. I challenge him, leave alone Yamuna water, drink the water that people are getting here (in Badli)." "The Congress and I can never compromise with the

BJP. I faced a 55-hour interrogation, and they have slapped 32 cases (against me). But I am not scared. I did not run away. I said you can arrest me. They took away my official residence and I handed over the keys to them. We will die but never compromise with these people," he said.

He urged people to remember the work done by the Sheila Dikshit government and the work of Indira Gandhi. "We work for the poor, Dalits, tribals, backwards, minorities, farmers and labourers," he asserted.

The senior Congress leader claimed the BJP people talked about "400 paise" (winning 400 seats) during the Lok Sabha elections with the intention of finishing off B R Ambedkar and Gandhi's Constitution.

RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat's Independence remarks show that he does not believe in India's Constitution and wants to finish it off, Gandhi said.

iOncology.ai a pioneering AI platform dedicated to transforming oncology care



New Delhi: iOncology.ai, a pioneering artificial intelligence platform dedicated to transforming oncology care. The Oncology.ai is further strengthened by adding the smart digital prescription paper in collaboration with WONDRx, a leader in digitized healthcare solutions. Now, iOncology.ai enhances clinical workflows by integrating digitized handwritten prescriptions with iOncology.ai's precision

genomics-driven cancer treatment platform, focusing on breast and ovarian cancer patients. This transformative technological collaboration was presented at the 4th Research Day, All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), New Delhi on Thursday, where it received widespread appreciation from the audience for its potential to transform oncology care.

By combining WONDRx's advanced prescription digitization technology with iOncology.ai's AI/ML-driven insights, oncologists will gain access to a more streamlined and data-driven approach to personalized cancer care. This integration will facilitate better decision-making, improve treatment adherence, and enhance patient outcomes through real-time analytics and AI-assisted recommendations.

"This collaboration represents a significant leap forward in our mission to harness AI and data-driven solutions for precision oncology. By integrating prescription data seamlessly into our platform, we are empowering oncologists with comprehensive insights to optimize treatment strategies," said Dr. Ashok Sharma, Additional Professor, Department of Biochemistry, AIIMS, New Delhi.

WONDRx CEO, Mr. Pankaj Sandhu echoed this sentiment, stating, "Our collaboration is designed to bridge gaps in healthcare digitization. Partnering with iOncology.ai enables us to make a profound impact in oncology by ensuring accurate, efficient, and AI-enhanced clinical decision-making." The partnership is supported by leading healthcare institutions and underscores a shared commitment to revolutionizing cancer care through technological innovation.

Delhi Police awarded for Best Marching Contingent Trophy for its outstanding performance on R' Day Parade



Staff Reporter New Delhi:

Delhi Police has been awarded the Best Marching Contingent Trophy for its outstanding performance during the Republic Day Parade 2025.

The award was presented by Honble Raksha Rajya Mantri, Minister of State for Defence, at a ceremony held at RR Camp, Delhi Cantt.

The ceremony was attended by senior officers such as Neeraj Thakur, IPS (Special CP/Armed Police Division), M.N. Tiwari, Dr. Rakesh Bansal, Krishan Kumar, Rishi Kumar Singh, Bhag-

wati Prasad, and Insp Ramesh Thakur. Following the ceremony, Sanjay Arora, IPS, Commissioner of Police, Delhi, personally congratulated the contingent members for their outstanding performance and dedication.

The event was marked with great enthusiasm, as senior officials commended the participants for their rigorous training and perseverance. The Best Marching Trophy stands as a symbol of excellence and dedication, reinforcing the spirit of discipline and commitment among the forces.

सार्वजनिक सूचना
को संस्थान को प्रतिष्ठित नाम है कि
के मुद्रितकर्ता की सेवा शुरू करने की
आवश्यकता है...

PUBLIC NOTICE
Be it known to all that my client
namely (1) Dharampal Singh,
Residence (2) Sakunika Devi W/o Sh. Dharampal Singh...

Amit Shah inaugurates NUCFDC Corporate Office in Mumbai

Mumbai: The National Urban Co-operative Finance and Development Corporation (NUCFDC) has officially inaugurated its Corporate Office in Mumbai. The Honourable Union Home and Cooperation Minister, Amit Shah, virtually inaugurated the NUCFDC Corporate Office on the sidelines of the inaugural event for the International Year of Co-operatives 2025 in Mumbai. The event was inaugurated by a distinguished group of dignitaries, including Murlidhar Mohan, Minister of State for Co-operation; Eknath Shinde and Ajit Pawar, Deputy Chief Ministers of Maharashtra; and Dr. Ashish Kumar Bhutani, Secretary of the Ministry of Co-operation.



Minister of State for Co-operation; Eknath Shinde and Ajit Pawar, Deputy Chief Ministers of Maharashtra; and Dr. Ashish Kumar Bhutani, Secretary of the Ministry of Co-operation. The inauguration of the NUCFDC office marks a significant step toward modernizing the Urban Co-operative Banking (UCB) sector. The event was attended by Laxmi Dass, Presi-

dent of NAFUCB; Ajay Brahmacha, President of the Maharashtra Federation; Satish Marathe, Central Board Member of the Reserve Bank of India; Uday Joshi, President of Sahakar Bharati; Milind Kale, Director of NAFUCB and former Chairman of Cosmos Bank; Gautam E. Thakur, Chairman of Sarvasat Co-operative Banks; All financial dealings of co-operative institutions will be conducted through co-operative banks. By implementing this principle nationwide, we will achieve significant success, leading to the economic self-reliance of the co-operative sector."

Delhi BJP spokesperson accused Kejriwal of spreading lies over poison in Yamuna River

Abbhishek Bhabut New Delhi: Delhi BJP spokesperson Praveen Shankar Kapoor on Thursday accused Arvind Kejriwal of spreading lies about poison in the Yamuna River, stating that 90% of the drinking water supplied to Delhi from Haryana does not come from the Yamuna River but from two specially constructed canals and pipelines.

The spokesperson argued that Kejriwal should clarify who drinks raw water from the Yamuna, whether he himself or the people of Delhi, and that we all drink purified water from water treatment plants. The spokesperson also pointed out that today, 55% of Delhi's water supply comes from Sonia Vihar, most of which is not from Haryana but from the Ganga Canal in Muradnagar. The spokesperson argued that Kejriwal is spreading lies about the



The spokesperson argued that Kejriwal should clarify who drinks raw water from the Yamuna, whether he himself or the people of Delhi, and that we all drink purified water from water treatment plants.

Yamuna, stating that he was the Chief Minister and didn't even know that 90% of the drinking water supplied to Delhi from Haryana does not come from the Yamuna River. The spokesperson also highlighted that 55% of Delhi's water supply comes from Sonia Vihar, most of whose raw water supply is not from Haryana but from the Ganga Canal in Muradnagar.

Advt Contact : 9818-799941

PUBLIC NOTICE
It is to inform to the public at large that I Anand singh s/o late Sh.Pabald singh I am the owner of the entire property address...

JAGANNATH BEHERA Advocate
Seat No.38, Hall No.2, (First Floor) Lawyers Chamber Complex, District Courts Dwarka, Sector 10, New Delhi-110075, Mob. No. 9837175778

PUBLIC NOTICE
Notice is hereby given to public at large that in the public notice at large that I Anand singh s/o late Sh.Pabald singh I am the owner of the entire property address...

SHUBHAM THAKUR Advocate
Office at: D-29, Vikas Complex, Vikas Marg, Laxmi Nagar, New Delhi-110075. Cont. No: 98183401918

NEWS IN BRIEF

MP Sharma reviews development works

Noida

A meeting of the District Development Coordination and Monitoring Committee was held here on Thursday under the chairmanship of Gautam Buddha Nagar MP Dr. Mahesh Sharma to review development works. In the meeting Sharma discussed in detail about the schemes of the Centre and the state and other schemes and directed the officials concerned to make the public aware about them by organising camps from time to time.

He said that all senior officials concerned should make efforts to ensure that the benefits of all the above schemes reach the rural areas as well. He directed the electricity department to resolve the electricity problems soon so that the public does not face any problem. While discussing with the officials concerned issues related to the farmers, he said that efforts should be made to ensure that farmers register their agricultural land with Unique card number so that they get the benefits of all the upcoming schemes directly.

Regarding Swachh Bharat Mission, the MP told the officials concerned of the authority to remove all the shortcomings in the cleanliness work and work to keep the village, colony and city clean. Through Jal Jeevan Mission, in the villages where there is no direct supply of water, water should be made available to every house under this mission. He also directed the officials concerned of the NHAI to complete the work of widening of the roads and building new roads as soon as possible. The MP also discussed about businessmen and entrepreneurs in the meeting. He said that new employment opportunities should be provided through skill development and the unemployed youths of the area should be given training and help in providing employment to them.

Farmers give consent for land acquisition for Jewar Airport

Noida

About 5,800 farmers have given their consent for land acquisition for the Noida International Airport. Out of the 15,000 farmers affected by the acquisition, consent of 70 percent is mandatory. In fact, consent of 38 percent of the farmers has been obtained so far.

For the expansion of Noida International Airport, about 2,053 hectare of land is to be acquired in the third phase. In this land of 14 villages, 1889 hectare belongs to farmers, for which the consent of the farmers is being taken by the district administration. For this, camps are being set up in the nearby villages.

The state government has also increased the price of their land for compensation to farmers to Rs 4300 per square meter. At the same time, the way forward for the administration has become easier, due to the increase in the rate of farmers' land. The number of farmers has started increasing.

According to administration sources, consent of about 38 percent of the farmers has been obtained and the figure of consent of 70 percent of the affected farmers will be completed soon.

AAP unveils 7 guarantees for govt staff like job portal, legal protection

The promises, which include a dedicated job portal, staff hostels, and legal protections on wages and working hours, come as part of a last-minute push ahead of the upcoming polls.

New Delhi

With the Delhi elections around the corner, AAP national convener Arvind Kejriwal on Thursday unveiled seven major guarantees aimed at improving the lives of staff working with government officers, MPs, and ministers.

The promises, which include a dedicated job portal, staff hostels, and legal protections on wages and working hours, come as part of a last-minute push ahead of the upcoming polls. Kejriwal emphasized that these guarantees will provide crucial support for employees who often face uncertainty in their jobs, including life and health insurance, marriage assistance for daughters, and scholarships for children. The AAP Chief also assured that AAP MPs would actively advocate for central government action to ensure comprehensive reforms for this workforce.

In a press conference, Kejriwal noted the difficulties



faced by those working in government residences, referring to them as 'servants' or staff members.

"In many government bungalows, the people working in these homes are referred to as 'servants.' These staff members face numerous issues—issues most people are unaware of. They are housed in 'servant quarters,' yet are not paid salaries, with many of them

only receiving accommodation as compensation," Kejriwal explained.

He further highlighted the instability that staff members face, especially when their employer, an MP or government officer, is transferred or completes their term. "When an officer or MP leaves, the staff becomes homeless, uncertain whether the next occupant will keep them on or let

them go. Their lives are marked by instability, anxiety, and insecurity for their future," Kejriwal added.

To address these concerns, Kejriwal outlined seven guarantees, including setting Staff Registration Portal (a dedicated platform to help staff register and match with new employers when they lose their jobs), Government Personal Servant/Staff Card (Similar to a Labour

Card, this will provide staff with access to government schemes and benefits), Staff Hostel (A temporary housing option for staff who lose their jobs or face displacement due to transfers), and Affordable Housing (EWS housing at affordable rates for staff, offering easy installation options).

He also announced Mobile Mohalla Clinics (Healthcare facilities accessible to staff members), Regulations on Working Conditions (Enforcing legal regulations for working hours, salaries, and conditions, with penalties for violations), and Welfare Benefits (Extending the same welfare benefits given to auto drivers, e-rickshaw drivers, and taxi drivers—such as life insurance, health coverage, financial aid for weddings, and scholarships for education).

Kejriwal emphasized that AAP MPs Sanjay Singh and Raghav Chadha would raise these concerns in Parliament to press for central government action on issues falling within its purview.

Congress in bed with BJP, dont vote for either, says Kejriwal

New Delhi

AAP chief Arvind Kejriwal on Thursday accused the BJP and Congress of joining forces against his party to dislodge it from power in Delhi.

Kejriwal, who was addressing a roadshow in outer Delhi's Kirari with Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav, told the public it would mean the same whether they voted for the BJP or the Congress.

"This time, there is 'ilu ilu' between the BJP and Congress, and they are fighting these elections together. Voting for Congress means voting for BJP. Do not press the wrong button, otherwise, life will be miserable," Kejriwal said in the rally.

The former Delhi chief minister flouted his government's schemes for free water, healthcare, and bus rides for women, to claim that all these would go the moment the BJP comes to power in Delhi.

He claimed these schemes help households save over Rs 25,000 annually.

Despite being part of the opposition INDIA

"This time, there is 'ilu ilu' between the BJP and Congress, and they are fighting these elections together. Voting for Congress means voting for BJP. Do not press the wrong button, otherwise, life will be miserable," Kejriwal said in the rally.

block, several key parties—including the Samajwadi Party, Trinamool Congress, Shiv Sena (UBT), and NCP (Sharad Pawar faction)—have extended their support to AAP over Congress in Delhi.

AAP has fielded Anil Jha from Kirari, who will take on BJP's Bajrang Shukla and Congress' Rakesh Gupta.

Delhi's votes on February 5, with results to be declared on February 8.

CEC doing politics, destroyed credibility of EC: Kejriwal

New Delhi

AAP supremo Arvind Kejriwal on Thursday accused Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Rajiv Kumar of doing politics by sending him a notice over his claim that the Haryana government was "mixing poison" in the Yamuna. Addressing a press conference here, Kejriwal alleged that Kumar had "destroyed" the credibility of the Election Commission (EC) and was eyeing a post-retirement position.

The former chief minister's remarks came shortly after the EC expressed dissatisfaction with his reply to its notice and gave him a fresh opportunity to explain his charges against the Haryana government. "No one has damaged the Election Commission the way Rajiv Kumar has done. If he wants, he can contest elections from any of the Delhi

Assembly seats," Kejriwal said at the press conference.

"I will not let the people of Delhi drink poisonous water till I am alive. I know they will arrest me in two days but I am not afraid," he said without naming anyone.

Kejriwal responded to the EC notice on Wednesday, saying that raw water received from Haryana in the recent past had been "highly contaminated and extremely poisonous" for human health. If such "toxic water" is allowed to be consumed by people, it would lead to grave health hazard and fatality, he said in his 14-page reply to the EC.

In its letter on Thursday, the EC said that Kejriwal's reply was "entirely silent" on the core issue and demanded further clarification by 11 am on January 31, failing which appropriate action would be taken.

Swati Maliwal protests against Kejriwal, dumps garbage outside residence; detained

New Delhi

AAP Rajya Sabha MP Swati Maliwal was detained by police on Thursday after she strewed garbage outside former Delhi chief minister Arvind Kejriwal's house in protest.

Maliwal and her aides picked garbage from roads in Vikaspuri, collected it into three mini trucks and reached Kejriwal's house on Firozshah Road. She threw shovelful of garbage out on the ground there before she was accosted by female police personnel and removed from the site. Scores of women holding placards that read "Muskuraiye, AAP Delhi Mein Hai" were seen near Kejriwal's 5 Ferozshah Road residence. Maliwal arrived there in one of the three garbage trucks.

She earlier shared a video on X of herself and



others gathering garbage from Vikaspuri.

"There have been heaps of garbage on the roads in Vikaspuri for years. People are very angry. They are going to collect all this garbage and dump it at Kejriwal's house," she wrote in the post.

She added, "The condition of the entire Delhi

has deteriorated. The filth and stink that Delhiites face daily will be faced by Kejriwal ji today... The public is coming, Kejriwal ji, don't be afraid."

In the wake of the incident, security was heightened outside Kejriwal's residence. A senior police officer said, "We have installed barricades and de-

ployed additional personnel to maintain law and order. No one will be allowed to breach the law."

Maliwal had a fallout with the party and its top leader Arvind Kejriwal last year after she went to meet him at his house but was allegedly misbehaved with there by Kejriwal's personal secretary.

When will you take a dip in Yamuna, Delhi is waiting: Rahul to Kejriwal

New Delhi

With Yamuna being at the centre of the election discourse in Delhi, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Thursday released a video flagging the issue of pollutants in the river and challenged AAP convener Arvind Kejriwal to take a dip in it.

He said the "horrific condition" of Yamuna is the result of the confluence of negligence and corruption of the governments of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Kejriwal.

Gandhi shared on his YouTube channel his visit to the banks of the river on Wednesday here in which he highlighted how polluted the water of the Yamuna was.

"If you are a Delhi resident like me, then you must be very sad to see the plight of Yamuna ji. Yesterday morning I reached the banks of Yamuna ji and discussed with the local residents, boatmen and activists concerned about the condition of Yamuna," Gandhi said in his post in Hindi along with the video.

"Yamuna is filled with garbage, dirt, stench and sewage—meaning that there



is no river left. According to researchers, clean water of the river is taken out for sewage treatment and the sewage is dumped in the river itself," he said.

Gandhi said earlier that devotees used to come in large numbers to take a dip in the Yamuna but now only a few people come and that too by risking their health. "Ever since coming to power in Delhi, Kejriwal has been making empty promises—'we will clean Yamuna, I will take a dip or else don't vote', and many more long speeches. And today again he is sitting with a bottle of Yamuna water making allegations and counter-allegations," Gandhi said.

"This is not just an insult to Yamuna ji, it is a mockery of the lives of the people of Delhi that has been going on for years. This horrific condition of Yamuna is the result of the confluence of negligence and corruption of the Modi and Kejriwal governments.

In a post in Hindi on X, Gandhi said, "Kejriwal ji, now 2025 has come. When will you take a dip in the Yamuna? Delhi is waiting!" In the video, Gandhi takes an activist that talk of cleaning Yamuna is a "juma" and has been made an excuse to make money by the dispensations.

Vote for BJP in Delhi irrespective of candidates, says Rajnath Singh

New Delhi

Launching an attack on AAP for "breaking" its promises like that of a Jan Lokpal, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Thursday appealed to people in Delhi to vote for the BJP irrespective of the candidates.

"The BJP is the only party which has fulfilled all promises it had made in its manifesto... I will urge you to forget everything and vote for the BJP," Singh said, addressing a poll rally at Delhi Cantonment.

"Vote for the BJP in Delhi and don't see who the candidate is. Your vote who be for Prime Minister Narendra Modi," Singh said.

He assured that all the schemes in Delhi will continue if the BJP comes to power. The residents will also be able to get the benefit of central schemes like Ayushman Bharat Yojana which, he said, will be implemented within 10 days of the formation of government.

Singh also said Aal Cantenets will be established in all slums which will provide meals at Rs 5.

Targeting the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP), Singh used the term 'AAPDA', which translates to disaster in Hindi, for the party, and accused it of not keeping its poll promises, especially to establish a Jan Lokpal.

"During the Anna Hazare movement, Arvind Kejriwal had said he would not form any political party. The trust that people bestowed on Anna Hazare's movement was used by him to form the government in Delhi... But did he fulfil his promises?" Singh said.

"He (Kejriwal) said they will establish a Jan Lokpal... but today, there are so many scams in Delhi," he said.

Singh said it was the BJP that gave statehood to Delhi and also regularised several colonies.

"But the AAP government could not provide them with water or drainage facilities," he alleged. "AAP has fooled the people of Delhi to get their support. They had promised to clean Yamuna in three years. Where did that promise go?" he said.

NORTHERN RAILWAY
NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Name of Work and its location: 30-Elect-02/2024-25-03 Electrical work in connection with Development of Goods Shed at (i) Material Cantt. (MUT), (ii) Patparg (PRTPT), (iii) Daurala (DPA), (iv) Muzaffar Nager (MNC), (v) PART A MOK siding/MTC.

Approx. Cost of work (in ₹) ₹125.23 Lakh Earnest Money ₹2,12,600/-

Address of the office: Sr. Div. Elect. Engineer/General, New Delhi.

Date & time of submission of tender: 25.02.2025 at 12:00 hrs.

Opening of tender: 25.02.2025 at 12:00 hrs.

Website & notice board: www.irps.gov.in & Sr. Div. Elect. Engineer/General, New Delhi.

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE 312/2025

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KUMBH MELA WEEKLY SPECIAL TRAIN

In continuation to already announced Special Trains for Maha Kumbh Mela-2025, Railways have decided to run following Weekly Special Train as per details given below—

Train No. 02421	Subdarganaj Superfast Kumbh Mela Weekly Special Train TRIPS	Train No. 02422
ARR. DEP.	STATIONS	ARR. DEP.
22:45 21:35	SUBDARGANAJ	19:40 ---
00:15 00:20	FATEHPUR	17:18 17:20
02:00 02:02	GOVINDPURJI	16:00 16:05
03:33 03:35	ETAWAHJ.N.	13:50 13:52
04:45 04:47	TUNDLAJ.N.	12:43 12:45
08:55 ---	ALIGARJ.N.	11:35 11:37
	DELHI.J.N.	09:30

Days of Run : 02421 Ex Subdarganaj on every Sunday from 09.02.2025 to 02.03.2025 and 02422 Ex Delhi.Jn on every Monday from 19.02.2025 to 03.03.2025

Accommodation: 3 Tier AC, Sleeper & General

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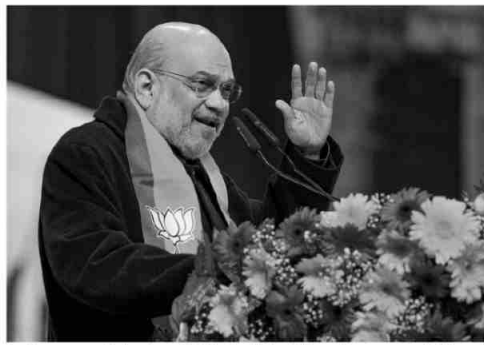
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

Kejriwal allowed Yamuna to get polluted, forced Delhiites to drink its water: Amit Shah

New Delhi
Union Home Minister Amit Shah Thursday alleged that AAP supremo Arvind Kejriwal allowed the Yamuna river to get polluted and forced the people of Delhi to drink its water.

With people asking what happened to fulfilling his promise of making the Yamuna clean like the Thames river in London, Kejriwal is making an "excuse" by falsely accusing the BJP government in Haryana of mixing poison in the river, Shah charged while addressing a public meeting in the Rohini Assembly constituency.

He termed Kejriwal's accusation against the Haryana government "petty politics" and alleged the AAP government could not fulfil Kejriwal's promise of cleaning the Yamuna dur-



ing its 10-year rule due to "corruption".
"Kejriwal says people from the BJP have mixed poison in the Yamuna to trouble the people of Delhi. I have come to tell Kejri-

wal that he should stop telling lies to win the election," Shah told the gathering.
"Kejriwal, you polluted Yamuna and forced the people of Delhi to drink its water. And you offered all

the money meant to be used in the cleaning of the river to AAP's corruption," he charged.

Shah alleged that Kejriwal is resorting to such "petty politics" after sensing

his party's defeat in the upcoming assembly polls. "They keep making excuses... Kejriwal ji, leave (Delhi for the BJP) if you cannot do anything. We will show how Delhi can be better governed," he said.

"The AAP means 'lies and deception'," he said, alleging that its government failed to fulfil any of its promises. Kejriwal made entire Delhi a "kind of dustbin" during the 10-year rule of AAP, the senior BJP leader added.

Shah also raked up the issue of alleged corruption during 10 years of AAP's rule in Delhi and alleged that scams worth crores of rupees were committed during its term under the leadership of Kejriwal.

AAP leaders were put in jail for their involvement in the scams, he said in an apparent reference to the arrest of Kejriwal and oth-

ers in the Delhi excise policy case.

"You talk about corruption. You committed liquor scam, Jal Board scam, ration distribution, DTC bus scam, classroom construction scam, panic button (buses) scam and built a 'sheesh mahal' for yourself worth Rs 52 crore," he said.

The BJP often uses the 'sheesh mahal' jibe to attack Kejriwal with allegations of corruption in the renovation of the residence he used as the Delhi chief minister. In an apparent pot-shot at Kejriwal, the Union home minister further said, "Such is the situation today that whenever he goes, he appears like a bottle of liquor to the people instead of a human being."

Shah exhorted people to dislodge the AAP from power and give their mandate to the BJP to make Delhi the number one capital in the

country. He said that BJP will make Delhi a beautiful and corruption-free city if it is voted to power.

"All garbage hills will be removed. City roads and lanes will be cleaned. There will be better water management in the city," he said. "Strengthen Prime Minister Narendra Modi's hands and form a double-engine government (in Delhi) under the leadership of PM Modi".

Campaigning for the BJP candidates, Shah also held a road show in Shalimar Bagh and held a public meeting in Wazirpur. Prime Minister Narendra Modi is likely to address a poll rally at Deer Park on February 2, where the BJP's allies are expected to be present.

Elections to the 70-member Delhi Assembly will be held on February 5 and the votes counted on February 8.

Boy missing for 3 years successfully recovered by Crime Branch

**Hemant Kumar
New Delhi**

A 20-year-old boy reported missing or kidnapped for three years has been successfully recovered by a team of the NR-II and Snatching unit of the Crime Branch, Delhi.

The operation was conducted through sustained and coordinated efforts, including technical input analysis and on-ground intelligence gathering. The case was registered at PS Begun Pur, Delhi under Section 363 IPC, and the Delhi Police launched an immediate search and investigative effort to trace her whereabouts.

A special team of NR-II/Crime Branch under the supervision of Insp. Sandeep Swami and overall guidance of ACP/NR-III Sh. Narendra Singh employed a multi-pronged strategy involving the analysis of multiple Call Detail Records (CDRs) related to both the victim and possible suspects. Parallel to this technical evaluation, on-ground enquiries were conducted to gather actionable leads.

"Late into the investigation, a credible tip-off indicated the presence of the missing/kidnapped minor in the vicinity of H. No. 13J block, Shakurpur, Delhi. The team immediately acted on this intelligence and carried out a carefully planned raid in the area, resulting in the safe recovery of the victim," said DCP Crime branch Satish Kumar.

Following the recovery, the minor boy was brought to PS Begunpur and handed over to the Investigating Officer. Further legal action and investigation will be carried out by the concerned police authorities to ensure the victim's safety and bring those responsible to justice.

Zuari Finserv Expands Operations with New Office in Noida

Noida

Zuari Finserv, the leading financial services arm of Zuari Industries Limited and part of the Adventz, has expanded its operations with the launch of a new office in Noida, Uttar Pradesh.

This strategic move underscores the company's commitment to delivering comprehensive wealth management and investment solutions in Noida, a city recognized as a hub of economic growth.

Located at the Ithum in Sector-62, Noida, the new

office is part of Zuari Finserv's broader plan to strengthen its presence in India. With the opening of branches in key cities, Zuari Finserv will be able to cater to clients in residential, commercial, and institutional segments.

Commenting on the launch, Mr. Ranjan Kumar, CEO & Whole Time Director of Zuari Finserv Limited, said, "Noida is a growing business and financial destination, with numerous multinational corporations contributing to the growth of the city.

Priority is to fix stalled development of Gandhi Nagar if become MLA: Naveen Chaudhary 'Deepu'

**Ravi Dalmiya
New Delhi**

Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) candidate Naveen Chaudhary Deepu during his Jan Sampark program in Kailash Nagar, Chand Mohalla, and East Azad Nagar, East Delhi assured the people that he would work on war to fix the stalled development of Gandhi Nagar as soon as he became MLA.

He promised to never disappoint the people and would always be ready to work for them.

During the Karyakarta Samman Sannam at Rajgarh Colony office, he encouraged AAP workers and



discussed the election strategy wherein the party workers expressed that the election

campaign is in full swing in the area, and the people of Gandhi Nagar want change.

A foot march was organized in Shiv Mandir, Chand Mohalla, where Deepu met

with the people of Gandhi Nagar to request their support. During the padyatra, Deepu received complaints from the public for being cheated by previous MLAs as well as stalled development work, sewerage filling, garbage in streets, drain clogging, and lack of clean water.

After the padyatra, a meeting was held in East Azad Nagar, where he criticized the current BJP MLA for not doing enough in the past five years. He assured that the entire constituency would become an exemplary area in terms of development works.

MERI Group of Institutions' Global Startup Festival 2025 Ends on a High Note, Fueling Innovation and Collaboration

New Delhi

The Global Startup Festival 2025, organized by MERI Group of Institutions through its MERI Startup Hub, successfully took place on January 7-8, 2025, at the Janakpuri campus of MERI Group of Institutions. The two-day event brought together entrepreneurs, investors, and industry leaders, focusing on sharing ideas, addressing challenges, and promoting collaboration within the startup ecosystem.

The festival kicked off with the ceremonial lighting of a lamp and the National Anthem, followed by the welcome address from Prof. Lalit Aggarwal, Vice President of MERI, who highlighted innovation as a key driver of societal progress. Mr. Luv Aggarwal, CEO of MERI Startup Hub, spoke about the objectives of the



festival and how MERI has played a role in facilitating collaboration between entrepreneurs and investors.

A keynote address by Lt. Gen. A.B. Shivane, Strategic Advisor to the Government of India, discussed how startups can contribute to India's growth. Mr. Basem Hellis, representing the Palestinian Embassy, emphasized the

importance of international cooperation in the startup space. One of the significant highlights of the festival was the launch of Lexyta, an AI-powered tool for investment underwriting and business risk assessment. Lexyta helps businesses assess their potential and identify risks, providing useful insights for both entrepreneurs and in-

vestors. Panel discussions during the day covered topics such as startup challenges, entrepreneurship-driven growth, and sustainability, offering practical insights and solutions. The day concluded with a startup pitch session where over 30 startups presented their ideas to investors.

The second day began with a presentation by Mr. Luv Aggarwal, providing further details on Lexyta and its potential impact on the startup landscape. Panel discussions for the day included "Technology and Innovation," led by Mr. Pankaj Jain, Managing Director of VCJ Trust, focusing on the role of technology and collaboration in addressing global issues.

Rear Admiral Shekhar Mital led another panel on "Defense and Startups," discussing how innovation is transforming defense technologies. IICICI Bank also presented financial strategies for startups, offering guidance on effective resource management and scaling. The festival concluded with a felicitation ceremony recognizing standout startups like Expense Cosmos, Colmen, and Decor Earth, who were awarded for their innovative approaches.

The Global Startup Festival 2025 provided a valuable platform for networking, collaboration, and learning. MERI Group of Institutions remains committed to supporting startups and fostering an environment where entrepreneurs can thrive. The event successfully contributed to the ongoing effort of MERI Startup Hub in connecting entrepreneurs with the resources and guidance they need to grow and succeed.

Nadda criticized Kejriwal for scams in the name of water, medicines & bus purchases

**Staff Reporter
New Delhi**

Union Minister and BJP National President J.P. Nadda on Tuesday addressed a public meeting in Krishnanagar, where he criticized the AAP party for its anarchy and lack of real work.

Nadda criticized Arvind Kejriwal for his statements about poison in Haryana and his efforts to create a state-state conflict. Is this anti-national work or not? Nadda asked.

Nadda criticized Kejriwal for his scams in the name of water, medicines, and bus purchases. "Arvind Kejriwal had earlier said that he will clean the Yamuna water but he committed a scam of 8000 crores in its cleaning. Even today foam is visible in the Yamuna water," he said.

He also criticized Kejr-



wal for not allowing the implementation of the Ayushman Yojana in Delhi.

Nadda also attacked Congress leader and Opposition Leader Rahul Gandhi, stating that he insulted India by going abroad. He called for the people of Delhi to decide the importance of making the lotus bloom in Delhi

and urged them to retire from politics.

Former Union Minister Harsh Vardhan, BJP candidate Dr. Anil Goyal, BJP candidate Arvind Singh Lovely, Gandhinagar MLA Anil Shashdara District President Deepak Gaba, local corporation councilors, and workers were present.

Aarti Chawla, AAP Municipal Councillor from Rajendra Nagar joins BJP

**Staff Reporter
New Delhi**

Aarti Chawla, an Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) Municipal Councillor from Rajendra Nagar, has joined the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) in the presence of Delhi BJP President Virendra Sachdeva.

Chawla, along with local AAP leaders Rajat Chawla, Deepak Nagpal, and Ramit Arora, joined the party.

Sachdeva criticized Chawla's inclusion as a political setback for senior AAP leader Durgesh Pathak, who is responsible for AAP's Delhi Municipal Corporation affairs.

In support of BJP candidate Rajkumar Bhatia from Adarsh Nagar, RWA Pres-



ident Vijender Sharma, General Secretary of Keval Park Extension RWA Hari Prakash Sharma, and other associates joined the BJP.

Senior BJP leader from Adarsh Nagar, Anubhav

Dheer, was also present. Sachdeva welcomed AAP and RWA members into the BJP, stating that AAP supremo Arvind Kejriwal has taken his representatives hostage and restricted their service to the public.

Rs 500 notes are being distributed along with calendars by AAP party to influence voters alleged Delhi BJP

**Abhishek Byahut
New Delhi**

Parvesh Sahib Singh, BJP candidate from the New Delhi Assembly constituency, has expressed concerns over suspicious activities during the elections in Delhi, allegedly orchestrated by Arvind Kejriwal and the entire Aam Aadmi Party.

Addressing a press conference at the party office, he stated that ₹8 lakh in cash has been recovered along with Aam Aadmi Party campaigning materials, indicating attempts to manipulate the election process.

Singh warned that Delhi's security is at risk in the



coming four days, as a large number of people from Punjab are entering

specific settlements under the pretext of election campaigning.

He alleged that the Aam Aadmi Party is resorting to intimidation and decep-

tion as they foresee their defeat. He alleged that ₹500 notes are being distributed along with calendars to influence voters. He also referenced the Delhi liquor scam, suggesting that the same government that paid lawyers' fees amounting to ₹25 crore using public funds is now trying to mislead voters out of fear of losing power.

Sahib Singh urged the people of Delhi to stay alert and report suspicious calls to the Election Commission. He also urged citizens to inform authorities if a large number of Punjab-registered vehicles are spotted or individuals are seen distributing money.

Army troops foil infiltration bid along LoC in J-K's Poonch

Jammu: Army troops on Thursday foiled an infiltration attempt by a group of heavily-armed terrorists along the Line of Control (LoC) in Poonch district of Jammu and Kashmir, security officials said.

Alert Army troops picked up the movement of the terrorists trying to sneak into this side from across the LoC in Khari Kamara area, leading to a gunfight between the two sides, the officials said.

They said at least two terrorists were hit by the bullets in the Army firing but it was not immediately known whether they were dead or injured.

Reinforcements have rushed to the scene with thick foliage and a search operation is underway, the officials said, adding further details are awaited.

Punjab AAP

leaders condemn EC action at CM Mann's residence in Delhi



Chandigarh: Punjab ministers Harpal Singh Cheema and Aman Arora have strongly criticized the Election Commission (EC) and Delhi Police over the raid at Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann's official residence in New Delhi. Taking to X, both leaders called the move politically motivated and accused the BJP of targeting Punjab and its leadership.

Finance Minister Harpal Singh Cheema said, "@ECISVPEP, along with Delhi Police, conducted raids on CM @BhagwantMann Ji's official residence today. He is an elected CM, and such actions reek of dirty politics. EC must take notice of @BJP4India candidates distributing cash to voters before doing such raids. Democracy deserves better!"

Cabinet Minister Aman Arora also condemned the raid, calling it an act of vendetta by the BJP. He stated, "AAP's victory and their own defeat is a reality written on the wall, but @BJP4India is unable to accept it. The raid at the Delhi residence of Punjab's Hon'ble CM @BhagwantMann is the latest episode in BJP's political vendetta against Punjab and Punjabis, which neither the people of Punjab nor Delhi will tolerate."

The raid has triggered a political storm, with AAP leaders alleging that the BJP is using central agencies to intimidate opposition leaders ahead of elections.

Contact for Advt: 9010793941

New initiatives being taken to promote investment: Nayab Saini

Komal Ramola Faridabad: Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini has said new initiatives are being taken to encourage industrial investments and promote investment for the economic progress of the state.

He said policies will be simplified on the basis of suggestions received in the pre-budget consultation meetings and he himself will review the issues related to the Haryana Enterprise Promotion Centre (HEPC) every three months.

The Chief Minister was chairing the sixth meeting of the pre-budget consultation with stakeholders related to the manufacturing sector for the financial year 2025-26 in Faridabad on Thursday. In the meeting, representatives of various organizations related to the manufacturing sector put forward their suggestions for the upcoming Budget. State Industry and



Commerce Minister Rao Narbir Singh, Revenue and Disaster Management Minister Vipul Goel, Minister of State for Food and Civil Supplies, Rajesh Nagar, Minister of State for Sports, Gaurav Gautam, former minister and MLA Moolchand Sharma and others were present in the meeting.

Saini heard carefully to the suggestions of the representatives who participated in the

meeting and also assured them to consider the necessary issues in the upcoming Budget. He said in the Budget, meaningful efforts will be made to meet the current needs as well as long-term goals.

The upcoming Budget is a reflection of our collective ambitions and priorities. For its preparations, it is necessary that we communicate with all sections of society so that necessary positive

efforts can be made to fulfill the needs and dreams of every citizen of Haryana, he added.

Saini said in the last few years, the state has made remarkable progress in various fields, including agriculture, industry, education, infrastructure and technology.

Giving priority to constructive suggestions from state residents, other citizens can also give their suggestions online for the Budget this time. Along with state residents, other citizens can also give their suggestions online for the Budget.

ering youth through skill development and social welfare, proper representation will be given in the Budget.

To make it inclusive, a meeting was held with representatives of different sectors and their suggestions were also taken.

He also assured to sympathetically consider the suggestions put forward by the representatives regarding food processing, improving public transport, promoting facilities in industrial areas, promoting small industries, skill development, promoting MSMEs, ease of doing business and necessary reforms in industrial policy.

In the meeting, Chief Principal Secretary to the Chief Minister, Rajesh Khullar, said the Chief Minister, who also holds the charge of the Finance Ministry, has taken a new initiative for the Budget this time. Along with state residents, other citizens can also give their suggestions online for the Budget.

UP man sets self, woman ablaze after her marriage got fixed with another man



Pratapgarh (UP): A 29-year-old man set himself and his partner ablaze after her wedding was fixed with another man in the Kohndour area here, police said.

The woman succumbed to her injuries while the man is in hospital, they said.

Vikas Kumar Yadav of Chandokha allegedly ignited a fire after pouring petrol on himself and Neelu Yadav (22) of Laulipokhta Ham.

"Preliminary investigations suggest that Vikas Yadav committed the act. The two were reportedly in a relationship but Neelu Yadav's wedding was scheduled for March 2nd," Deputy Superintendent of Police Shivnarayan Vaish said that.

Vikas Yadav allegedly called her to the farm and, with the intention of suicide, poured petrol on both of them before setting it alight. Vikas Yadav is currently unable to provide a statement due to his injuries," said the officer.

While Neelu Yadav died at the scene due to severe burns, Vikas Yadav also sustained serious burns and has been admitted to a medical college for treatment.

The scene has been inspected and a field unit has been dispatched to collect forensic evidence.

People of Delhi will not be misled by Kejriwal: CM Saini

Chandigarh: Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini said that the upcoming state budget will prioritize the welfare of the people, ensuring full representation for all sections of society, including farmers, youth, women, and traders.

Saini made these remarks while interacting with the media after presiding over a meeting with industrialists and representatives from the textile industry in Panipat today. In response to a question regarding former Delhi Chief Minister, Arvind Kejriwal's statement, Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini said that baseless propaganda should not be spread for political gain.

He accused Kejriwal of insulting the people of Haryana and asserted that the people of Delhi will not be misled by him again. Nayab Singh Saini further added that the situation in Delhi had become unimaginable, something Kejriwal himself is aware of.



"The people of Delhi gave him two chances, but this time, they will not offer him another, as he failed to meet their expectations," he stated.

The Chief Minister said that the Central Government had allocated Rs 8,500 crores to the Delhi Government for setting up Sewage Treatment Plants (STPs), but neither the STPs were established nor could the funds be accounted for. He pointed out that the streets of Delhi

are flooded with water, clean drinking water is not available in households, and even the ponds remain neglected. There is a severe lack of water distribution. Instead of addressing these issues, Arvind Kejriwal is focusing more on rhetoric, the Chief Minister added.

Responding to a question about the civic elections in Haryana, the Chief Minister said that the party is fully prepared for the Mayor's election.

Haryana CM launches registration process for Faridabad Half Marathon-2.0

Chandigarh: Haryana Chief Minister, Nayab Singh Saini, on Thursday, launched the registration process for Half Marathon-2.0, scheduled to be held on March 9 in Faridabad. To kick off the event, the Chief Minister personally registered online and encouraged residents of the district to participate enthusiastically in this grand event.

The event was also attended by Industries and Commerce Minister Rao Narbir Singh, Revenue and Urban Local Bodies Minister Vipul Goel, Minister of State for Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs Sh. Rajesh Nagar, Minister of State for Sports Gaurav Gautam, Chief Principal Secretary to the Chief Minister Rajesh Khullar, and Additional Chief Secretary for Finance and Planning Anurag Kastojo.

Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini stated that under the Haryana Uday Outreach Program, the message of a Drug-Free Haryana is being spread to the people of the state through marathons



held across Haryana. To inspire the youth to move forward with renewed energy and a positive attitude, the Haryana Government is encouraging people to stay away from social evils by organizing awareness campaigns through initiatives like Rahgiri and marathons. He called on the citizens of the state to actively participate in this noble cause and contribute to realizing the vision of a Drug-Free, Healthy, and Prosperous Haryana.

While congratulating the people of the dis-

trict for the Faridabad Half Marathon-2.0, the Chief Minister highlighted that this event has become an annual tradition for the city. He urged the residents to make this year's event a success, just like the previous one, by participating in large numbers in the marathon, which is organized under the theme "Drug-Free Haryana."

Deputy Commissioner Vikram Singh said that the district administration has begun preparations for the Chief Minister's

Half Marathon-2.0. Representatives from the Runners Club, RWAs, and various organizations will be participating in the event, with people from different age groups, including the youth, showing great enthusiasm. He encouraged everyone to register for Half Marathon-2.0 at <https://faridabadhalfmarathon.com/>.

Former Minister and MLA Mool Chand Sharma, along with other dignitaries, were also present on this occasion.

Regional workshop organized for preparation of DDU-GKY and RSETIs 2.0.

Rajesh Tomar Akash Jain Agra: A two-day regional workshop was organized on Thursday at Hotel Courtyard by Marriott for the determination of the action plan of Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Grameen Kaushalya Yojana and Rural Self Employment Training Institute 2.0.

During the workshop officials and subject experts implementing more than 100 schemes including Uttar Pradesh, eight other states Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Rajasthan, Haryana, Punjab, Uttarakhand, Ladakh and Uttar Pradesh participated.

By providing modern and employment oriented training to the youth of the entire country, branding information is being done for the outline of the program for increasing their skill capacity



and self-employment / employment. Mr. Pankaj Yadav, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India, who attended the above 2-day, regional workshop as the Chief Guest, gave detailed information about all the aspects of implementing the said scheme in 2025-26 and

the Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India provided guidance on the efforts / suggestions being made by the states for all the components related to this scheme.

Along with him, Mr. Abhishek Singh, Mission Director, Uttar Pradesh Skill Development Mission and more than 100 officers from

other states are participating in the workshop. On the first day of the 02-day workshop, the officials of the Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India gave detailed information about the activities related to the entire operation of the new version 2.0 of Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Grameen Kaushalya Yojana.

Dalit bodies protest against vandalising of Ambedkar statue, demand inquiry

Ferozepur (Punjab): Several Dalit bodies on Thursday held protests here against the vandalising of a statue of B R Ambedkar by a man in Amritsar on Republic Day.

All commercial establishments, educational institutions and markets remained shut in the wake of the call for a 'bandh' given by the Dalit organisations.

Dalit leaders Deep Dashanan and Vijay Goriya strongly condemned the incident and demanded an inquiry into it.

The matter should be probed by independent agencies or the senior judges. Though the police arrested the accused, there should be an inquiry to know who was behind the incident. It is a conspiracy against Dalit Samaj," said Dashanan. The protesters also carried out a process-



ion and raised slogans against the Union and the state government.

A video clip purportedly of the incident surfaced on social media, showing a man carrying a hammer and climbing atop the statue using a steel ladder. He is seen hitting the statue multiple times with the hammer.

The man also caused damage to the Constitution book, which is part of the statue.

leads to the Golden Temple in Amritsar. A video clip purportedly of the incident surfaced on social media, showing a man carrying a hammer and climbing atop the statue using a steel ladder. He is seen hitting the statue multiple times with the hammer. The man also caused damage to the Constitution book, which is part of the statue.

"Delhi Assembly Elections: Kejriwal's Poisoned Narrative or Real Issues at Stake"?



By Dr. Anil Singh

An Election Over-shadowed by Yamuna's Poison: The upcoming Delhi Assembly elections should ideally focus on governance, infrastructure, healthcare, education, and public services. However, the political discourse has taken a dramatic turn after Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal's allegations that the Haryana government is deliberately poisoning the Yamuna river to cause a water crisis in Delhi. This narrative, strategically pushed by Kejriwal and the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP), has dominated election debates, pushing real issues—such as roads, streetlights, public health, and urban development—to the sidelines.

As all major political parties—AAP, BJP, and Congress—jump into this controversy, the people of Delhi are left wondering: will this election be about sensational claims, or will it be about real governance concerns?

The 'Poisoning' Controversy: AAP's Election Strategy?

Arvind Kejriwal has built his political brand on public outreach and playing the victim card when needed. His latest claim that the Haryana BJP government is poisoning the Yamuna to cripple Delhi's water supply appears to be a calculated move to steer the election away from core governance issues. By positioning himself as the protector of Delhi against external threats, Kejriwal seeks to rally voters around the idea that only AAP stands for Delhi's interests.

This strategy serves multiple purposes:

***Diverting Attention:** By making the election about an external crisis, AAP avoids discussions on failures in governance, including infrastructure gaps and mismanagement.

***Playing the 'Delhi vs. BJP' Card:** The ruling party in Haryana is the BJP, which also governs at the Centre. Kejriwal is using this as an opportunity to paint the BJP as an outsider trying to sabotage Delhi.

***Keeping Opposition on the Back Foot:** Instead of presenting a counter-narrative, BJP and Congress have been forced to respond to Kejriwal's allegations, thus reinforcing the discussion he set.

While AAP leaders have taken this message to the streets, social media, and campaign speeches, opposition parties have failed to bring back focus on pressing governance concerns.

Real Issues of Delhi: What the Election Should Be About

While the water controversy dominates headlines, Delhi's residents continue to struggle with unresolved civic and governance issues that should have been the focal point of this election. Delhi's roads remain choked with traffic despite several promises to improve public transportation. While the Delhi Metro is a success story, the last-mile connectivity remains weak. Buses are in short supply, and auto-rickshaw fares are often arbitrary. The AAP government has promised to introduce more electric buses, but

the rollout has been sluggish.

While Kejriwal blames Haryana for the water crisis, the reality is that Delhi's water distribution system is inefficient. Even in areas with piped supply, leakage and illegal tapping lead to wastage. The Delhi Water Board (DWB) under AAP, has failed to address the deeper issue of water mismanagement, and despite the talk of free water, many colonies still rely on expensive tanker services.

Every winter, Delhi turns into a gas chamber, yet no real action has been taken beyond knee-jerk odd-even policies. The pollution issue is complex, involving vehicular emissions, construction dust, and stubble burning in neighboring states. However, Delhi's own contribution to the problem—such as poor waste management and unchecked industrial pollution—remains

Kejriwal has often showcased government schools and Mohalla Clinics as his biggest achievements. While there has been some improvement in education infrastructure, reports suggest that student learning levels have not significantly improved. Similarly, while Mohalla Clinics provide basic healthcare, they are ill-equipped for serious medical cases, forcing people to rely on large hospitals where waiting times remain high.

Infrastructure Gaps: Broken Roads and Poor Street Lighting

Delhi's roads are full of potholes, despite repeated claims of improvement, commuters

continue to struggle. Poorly lit streets have also contributed to rising concerns about women's safety in several areas. The delay in major infrastructure projects, such as the Eastern and Western Peripheral Expressways, has further added to congestion woes.

The Rising Cost of Living in Delhi

While AAP offers free water and electricity, Delhiites are paying a hidden cost in the form of rising indirect taxes and fuel prices. The cost of essential services, including property taxes and commercial electricity bills, has gone up. Small businesses are also facing challenges, but economic issues have taken a back seat in this election.

BJP and Congress: Failing to Set the Agenda

While Kejriwal dominates the election narrative, BJP and Congress have struggled to highlight governance failures effectively. The BJP, despite being the ruling party at the Centre, has been reactive rather than proactive. It has failed to counter Kejriwal's claims with a strong, development-oriented agenda.

Congress, on the other hand, remains a weak force in Delhi. After being in power for 15 years under Sheila Dikshit, the party lost its relevance in the capital. It has failed to position itself as a viable alternative, and its leaders are barely visible in the campaign.

The BJP's best bet remains exposing AAP's governance lapses—

such as the liquor policy scam, irregularities in government spending, and its failure to improve Delhi's basic infrastructure. However, the party has not been able to mount a strong enough campaign to shift voter focus away from Kejriwal's water narrative.

Way forward: Will Delhi Voters See Through the Diversion?

The Delhi Assembly elections should be a referendum on governance, infrastructure, and public welfare, but Kejriwal's 'poisoned Yamuna' narrative has successfully hijacked the debate. Instead of questioning why Delhi's roads, water supply, public transport, and pollution control remain inadequate, the election is revolving around an alleged conspiracy by Haryana.

The big question now is whether Delhi's voters will see through this diversion. Will they demand accountability on real governance issues, or will they be swayed by the emotional appeal of an external threat?

As polling day approaches, it remains to be seen whether the BJP and Congress can bring the focus back to Delhi's real issues. Otherwise, Kejriwal's strategy of crisis-driven politics might once again hand AAP an electoral advantage, even as the city's pressing problems continue to be ignored.

(The Writer is an Editor, Star View)

Breaking Time Sudoku

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

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

Solution, Sudoku

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

THE WISDOM TREE BY SUVEEN KUMAR

COVERED SIN

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

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



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

Prayagraj stampede: Administrative negligence or frenzy of devotees?



By Priyanka Saurabh

It is unfortunate to hear about the stampede in Prayagraj, which resulted in the loss of many lives. The incident will undoubtedly give rise to widespread discussions on various media platforms. The opposition will criticize, while the government will attempt to justify its actions, but those who have died cannot be brought back. This is the first time this has happened.



use of elephants in the Kumbh Mela was banned forever. Organize a small program in your house; it takes a lot of effort to conduct it safely, but here the whole world has come in crores of people.

One must consider the limitations of a legendary city that is tasked with ensuring the safety of 80 million people while maintaining its religious heritage. How can a hundred people live in a space designed for ten? This is an important issue to consider. Moreover, the nexus between VIP culture and the government's pursuit of profits, which involves leasing out every available piece of land for revenue and involving middlemen, further complicates the matter. This is a matter of religious devotion, not competition or frenzy.

Some people are calling it the failure of the administration. It is very easy to write and criticize, but where there is a crowd

of lakhs and crores of people, a large number of them are elderly. Where a large number of devotees are bathing at the ghats, a large number of devotees are coming out after bathing, and a large number of devotees are going to take a bath at Sangam. There is a possibility of an accident, and unfortunately an accident has happened.

Always remember. The administration cannot help everyone to take a bath. An accident can happen anywhere. Neither is the administration at fault, nor can it be called a conspiracy of the opposition. This is just an accident. After the accident, the situation in the entire Sangam area is completely normal, but the media is creating sensation for its TRP. Whereas the media has the responsibility to report on the reason behind the incident (stampede).

Apart from this, people have come to Maha Kumbh with the same

devotion and faith; they should also have a sense of duty with the same devotion. They should follow the rules, discipline, and warnings of the government with the same faith. When there is an unexpected crowd in Ayodhya and Kashi, the number of devotees participating in the Maha Kumbh in Prayagraj cannot even be estimated. Everyone should not insist on bathing only at Triveni Sangam; bathing ghats have been built and spread over forty kilometers here and there, i.e., eighty kilometers. Please cooperate in the arrangements by bathing there.

It seems that the government is focused on showing itself as the best organizer, while some people are more interested in promoting Sangam through social media, neglecting the sentiments of common devotees. For about 45 days during Bhadma Kalpa, Shahi Snan (Royal Bath) takes place daily, yet

our religious leaders have not communicated it to the devotees effectively.

The real importance of Kumbh bathing has not been explained to the public by these leaders. If the religious figures who frequently appear on television to discuss Sanatan Dharma had stressed the importance of bathing during each prahar during these 45 days of Kalpavas, the huge crowds could have been spread over different days, potentially preventing such tragedies.

Due to excessive publicity, a huge crowd gathered in Maha Kumbh. Apart from this, excessive importance given to VIPs and stopping or sending back the common people on many routes or providing separate routes for VIPs on the path of salvation is also a reason. Only a small mistake is needed for a stampede. Another thing is that influential or rich people usurp the rights of common pilgrims by using their money and push them back. Is this not a sin? Will Gangaji be able to wash away the sins of such sinners? May the departed souls rest in peace.

(Priyanka Saurabh, Research Scholar in Political Science/Poetics, Independent Journalist and columnist)

One must consider the limitations of a legendary city that is tasked with ensuring the safety of 80 million people while maintaining its religious heritage. How can a hundred people live in a space designed for ten? This is an important issue to consider. Moreover, the nexus between VIP culture and the government's pursuit of profits, which involves leasing out every available piece of land for revenue and involving middlemen, further complicates the matter. This is a matter of religious devotion, not competition or frenzy.

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Par panel likely to take up issues of fake and paid news, neglect of serious news

New Delhi
Issues of "rampant" paid news, fake news, many TV news channels focussing on sensationalism, and traditional newspapers' struggle to digital disruption and declining readership are likely to figure in a parliamentary committee meeting on Friday, NewsDrum reported.



The standing committee on Communications and Information Technology headed by BJP MP Nishikant Dubey is scheduled to "review implementation of laws related to all forms of media" in the meeting, in which a host of factors related to the media will be discussed.

Sources Thursday said the panel may also highlight its concerns over disproportionate coverage given to crime and celebrity

news at the cost of important and serious news as some channels turn to sensationalism in chasing TRPs.

Media trials of sensational cases at times shape public opinion and affect their legal course, and the

committee cannot overlook it, the sources said.

That TV debates often turn into a platform for shouting matches and mud-slinging are expected to figure in the meeting as well.

A source said conflict of

interests involving media owners, journalists and political entities affects credibility of the news and that ethical boundaries are crossed many a time due to lack of strong regulatory mechanism.

Among other items likely to be discussed are the functioning of the Press Council of India (PCI), a statutory quasi-judicial body which functions under the Press Council of India Act, 1978 is also likely to come up for discussion, the sources said.

Among other key issues

that may draw the committee's concerns is the expensive and long-drawn legal battles faced by journalists and media houses that discourage investigative journalism.

Severe financial crunch facing regional and vernacular media, and fake news is playing "havoc" in the country, especially during elections, a source said.

Information and Broadcasting secretary, Prasar Bhati CEO, Press Registrar General and Press Council of India chairperson are among the important functionaries who are expected to appear before the committee.

The panel is also expected to traverse the journey of laws and other mechanism related to the media since the enactment of the Press and Registration of Books (PRB) Act, 1867, which was later replaced with the Press and Registration of Periodicals Bill, 2023.

The functioning of the

Press Council of India (PCI), a statutory quasi-judicial body which functions under the Press Council of India Act, 1978 is also likely to come up for discussion, the sources said.

The PCI's main objectives include preserving the freedom of press, and maintaining and improving the standards of newspapers and the news agencies in India.

The panel is also expected to traverse the journey of laws and other mechanism related to the media since the enactment of the Press and Registration of Books (PRB) Act, 1867, which was later replaced with the Press and Registration of Periodicals Bill, 2023.

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India to develop its own AI model in next 10 months: Vaishnav

New Delhi
India's large language model (LLM) is expected to be ready within the next 10 months, said the Minister of Electronics and IT Ashwini Vaishnav on Thursday.

"We have created the framework, and it is being launched today. Our focus is on building AI models that maintain the Indian context and culture," he said at a press conference on the India AI Mission.

He said the project will be supported by the India AI Compute Facility which has procured 18,693 GPUs to facilitate the creation of a LLM designed specifically for India.

The minister also emphasised India's AI capabilities by comparing the country's infrastructure to global benchmarks.

"DeepSeek AI was trained on 2,000 GPUs, ChatGPT was trained on

25,000 GPUs, and we now have 15,000 high-end GPUs available. India now has a robust compute facility that will support our AI ambitions," a media report quoted him as saying.

The technical partners started working and investing well before the finalisation. This facility will be available for everyone to use," Vaishnav added.

The IT minister also praised Chinese startup DeepSeek for shaking up the sector with its low-cost AI assistant, likening its frugal approach to his government's efforts to build a localized AI model.

It is to be highlighted that the DeepSeek has triggered a dramatic rethink on artificial intelligence spending around the world, claiming it took just two months and cost under \$6 million to build an AI model using Nvidia's less-advanced H800 chips.

Economy in slowdown; people reeling under 'no jobs, raging inflation': Congress

New Delhi
Ahead of the Union Budget, the Congress on Thursday slammed the government's handling of the economy, asserting that there is a slowdown with "no jobs, raging inflation, stagnating wages and huge income inequality".

Senior Congress leader and former finance minister P Chidambaram said the economic growth could even fall by up to 2 per cent as compared with the previous year.

He made the remarks at the Congress' 24, Akbar Road office after releasing the 'Real State of the Economy 2025' report prepared by former party MP Rajeev Gowda and his team.

"The economy is in a slowdown... that cannot be denied at all, however, much the government may try to do that the economy is in a slowdown and it may fall up to two per cent of the previous year's growth," he said at the press conference.

"There are no jobs. Youth unemployment is close to 40 per cent. There are no jobs despite the PM handing out letters to people



from time to time. That is just filling of vacant posts and does not involve creation of new jobs," he said.

Chidambaram said wages have stagnated for the last four-five years.

"Inflation is raging, with food, education and healthcare inflation is in double digits. Inflation has been raging since 2-3 years," the Congress leader said.

Noting that there is huge income inequality, Chidambaram said he does concede that the top 20-30 per cent may be better off but the rest of the 70 per cent, the bottom half, is living on Rs 100-150 a day.

"There is huge inequality

and that gap between the rich and the poor is growing. The government has done nothing to deal with it," he said.

Chidambaram said wages have stagnated for the last four-five years.

"Therefore, Prof. Rajeev Gowda's team decided to present the report on the real state of the economy, even as the turrel state of the economy is put forward by the government every day, every hour," he said.

The Union Budget will be presented by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on February 1.

The inauguration ceremony will take place on March 19, 2025, at 11:00 AM, with prominent leaders from the industry, govern-

Indian Industries Association (IIA) Announces Build Bharat Expo-2025: A New Platform for Global Trade and Industrial Innovation

New Delhi
The Indian Industries Association (IIA) Delhi Chapter officially announced the Build Bharat Expo-2025 during a press conference.

This major industrial event will take place from March 19 to 21, 2025, at India Expo Centre, Hall No. 06, New Delhi. The objective of the Expo is to showcase India's manufacturing capabilities on a global stage, promote industrial innovation, and strengthen trade collaboration.

It will provide a significant opportunity for Indian entrepreneurs and industries to exhibit their technical expertise and products.

Dr. Mamtamyri Priyadarshini, Chairperson of IIA Delhi Chapter, stated, "Build Bharat Expo-2025 will serve as a testament to the strength, innovation, and self-reliance of Indian industries. This event will help Indian industries compete globally and play a crucial role in establishing India as a global manufacturing hub."

The inauguration ceremony will take place on March 19, 2025, at 11:00 AM, with prominent leaders from the industry, govern-



ment officials, and investors in attendance. The closing ceremony will be held on March 21, 2025, with Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman as the chief guest.

Several important sessions will be held during the three-day event, focusing on industrial innovation, policy-making, and fostering business partnerships.

The Expo will feature over 340 stalls, showcasing products and services from various industrial sectors. The latest technologies in Green and Clean Energy, Agriculture and Food Processing, Building and Construction Materials, Electrical and Electronics, among others,

will be on display. This Expo will provide a significant platform to present emerging industries, startups, and innovations to the global audience.

Dr. Lakshmi Kant Pandey, CEC Member, IIA Delhi, shared that Build Bharat Expo-2025 will be particularly focused on promoting Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs).

The MSME Ministry will reimburse 80-100% of the stall charges for these businesses. Additionally, industries will receive support under the Uttar Pradesh government's ODPD and MDA schemes. With the cooperation of the Ministry of Food Processing Industries, UPNEDA, and

other government institutions, the Expo will contribute significantly to empowering the Indian industrial sector. Industries from the Northeast states are also invited to participate, which will further boost regional industrial development.

Mr. Charanjeet Singh, Vice President of IIA, mentioned that the Expo will unveil new technologies and services, showcasing India's industrial and technological advancements.

The seminars, panel discussions, and B2B interactions during the Expo will focus on industry development, innovation, sustainability, and technology adoption. This event will not only promote business partnerships but will also strengthen Indian industries in the global competitive market.

Mr. Neeraj Bajaj, Secretary of IIA Delhi, shared that over 25 countries, including Japan, Russia, South Korea, Vietnam, Thailand, and Malaysia, will participate in the Expo. This will foster international trade and cooperation. Additionally, more than 15,000 domestic business visitors will attend, offering industries a

golden opportunity to expand their markets and products. Indian entrepreneurs will have the chance to partner with foreign companies and access export markets.

So far, more than 50% of the stalls have been booked or blocked. Bookings for the remaining stalls are ongoing, and interested entrepreneurs have been urged to book their stalls as soon as possible.

This event will not only accelerate the growth of India's industrial sector but also serve as an excellent platform to expand business opportunities.

Build Bharat Expo-2025 has received support from various industrial organizations such as KASSIA, AWAKE, Mohali Industry Association, and the A-20 Forum. Through this initiative by IIA, Indian industries will have the opportunity to present themselves on the global stage, contributing to India's industrial excellence and economic growth.

Senior IIA members, including Mr. Piyush Agarwal, Mr. Arvind, and other dignitaries, were also present at the press conference.

There are people at apex of ruling establishment who reject Gandhi's sacrifices: Congress slams BJP-RSS

New Delhi
The Congress on Thursday took a swipe at BJP-RSS leaders on Martyrs' Day, saying there are people at the apex of the ruling establishment who reject Mahatma Gandhi's sacrifices and claim India became free only on January 22, 2024.

The opposition party also asserted that the survival of the very idea of India depends on protecting and preserving the Father of the Nation's legacy.

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge paid rich tributes to Mahatma Gandhi on his Martyrdom Day.

"The greatest help you can give me is to banish fear from your hearts" - Mahatma Gandhi. On Martyrs' Day, we pay our deepest respects to Babu - the guiding light of our nation. His ideas of Satya, Ahimsa, Sarvodaya and Sarvadharm Sambhava continue to light our path," Kharge said.

"We must commit to fighting against those who want to destroy his ideals of equality and upliftment for all. Let's protect India's unity in diversity and ensure justice and equality for everyone," the Congress chief said.

Former Congress president Rahul Gandhi said,



"Gandhiji was not just a person, he is the soul of India, and is still alive in every Indian." "The power of truth, non-violence and fearlessness can shake the roots of even the biggest empires - the whole world takes inspiration from these ideals. Hundreds of salutes to the Father of the Nation, Mahatma, our Babu on his Martyrdom Day," Gandhi said in his post on X in Hindi.

Kharge and Rahul Gandhi also paid floral tributes to the Mahatma at Gandhi smriti here.

In a post on X, Congress general secretary in-charge communications Jaiaram Ramesh said, "Today, 77 years ago, Mahatma Gandhi was assassinated. Nathuram Godse was the man who pumped the bullets into Babu's body but there was an ideology and there were ideologists who created the toxic environment that led to the murder of the Father of the Nation."

Today, there are ruling party MPs who when asked to choose between Gandhi and Godse say they have to

think, Ramesh said.

"Today, there are also those occupying powerful positions of power who have mocked Gandhi ji, just as they have mocked Dr. Ambedkar," he said.

"Today, there are people at the apex of the ruling establishment who reject Gandhi's sacrifices and claim India became free only on January 22, 2024," he said.

His remarks were in apparent reference to Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) chief Mohan Bhagwat's comments that India's "true in-

"We must commit to fighting against those who want to destroy his ideals of equality and upliftment for all. Let's protect India's unity in diversity and ensure justice and equality for everyone," the Congress chief said.

dependence" was established the day the Ram temple in Ayodhya was consecrated.

Ramesh said today, there are those who appropriate Gandhi's spectacles and walking stick for projecting themselves but who are destroying Gandhi institutions across the country.

"It is now more than essential to protect, preserve, and promote Mahatma Gandhi's legacy. The survival of the very idea of India depends on it," Ramesh asserted.

PIL in SC seeks safety measures for devotees at Maha Kumbh

New Delhi
A PIL was filed on Thursday in the Supreme Court seeking implementation of specific guidelines and regulations to ensure safety of devotees attending the Maha Kumbh where at least 30 people were killed and 60 injured in a pre-dawn stampede at Sangam area in Prayagraj.

The stampede took place on Wednesday on the occasion of Maauni Annavasaya, one of the most auspicious days of the Hindu calendar.

The petition, filed a day later under Article 32 of the Constitution by lawyer Vishal Tiwari, seeks to prevent stampede incidents and protect the fundamental rights of equality and life under Article 21.

The plea, which made the Centre and all the states as parties, has sought a direction to the Centre and the state governments to work collectively in ensuring a safe and secure environment for devotees at the Maha Kumbh.

"A petition... filed under Article 32 of the Constitution of India praying for a writ of mandamus or any other appropriate writs seeking issuance of specific directions, policies and regulations in-



tiate guidelines and directions to state governments to facilitate the people for Maha Kumbh avoid stampede incidents and to determine and initiate assessment to ensure safety, viability etc. for the enforcement of fundamental right of equality and life under Article 21 of the Constitution and to call a status report," the plea said.

It said all states should establish facilitation centres at Prayagraj to provide safety information and assist their respective residents in emergencies.

It also sought installation of signage and announcements in multiple languages to help pilgrims navigate the event with ease.

"All states shall establish in proper manner their facilitation centres at Prayagraj

the Maha Kumbh. These centres shall provide and display the basic information regarding the safety measures and guidelines to the persons coming from their states. In an emergency these centres shall be ready for any assistance," it said.

The plea said that SMSes and WhatsApp messages be used to disseminate safety protocols to attendees.

There is the need for coordination between the Uttar Pradesh government and other states to ensure the availability of doctors and nurses at the venue, it said.

The plea also sought regulation of VIP movement and said public safety should be given priority over VIP protocols to prevent congestion and ensure smooth crowd movement.

15 tents gutted outside Sector 22 of Maha Kumbh, no loss of life

Mahakumbh Nagar: At least 15 tents were gutted on Thursday after they caught fire near Chamanganj Chowki outside Sector 22 in the Maha Kumbh Mela area with officials saying there was no loss of life.

Chief Fire Officer (Kumbh) Pramod Sharma said information about a fire was received this afternoon and the fire was extinguished immediately.

He said due to lack of road, fire engines had difficulty in reaching the spot.

However, the fire was completely extinguished and there was no loss of life or injury, he added.

Sharma said that according to the SDM, these tents were unauthorised.

"Fifteen tents were gutted in this fire. The cause of the fire is being investigated," he said.

Brajesh Pathak, Dimple Yadav campaign for Milkipur assembly by-polls



Milkipur:

Campaigning for the Milkipur assembly by-polls in Uttar Pradesh, scheduled for February 5, has intensified.

UP Deputy Chief Minister Brajesh Pathak addressed a couple of election meetings in the Milkipur assembly segment on Thursday, claiming that the Samajwadi Party (SP) candidate will lose his security deposit in the by-polls. He also criticised the SP candidate for dynasty politics and asked voters to be cautious of his alleged conspiracy.

On the other hand, Samajwadi Party's star campaigner, MP Dimple Yadav, held an impressive 10-km-long roadshow on Thursday.

The Mainpuri MP first offered prayers at Maharishi Vamdev Taposthali in Kungarj before commencing her roadshow. She was accompanied by cricketer Rinku Singh's fiancée and MP from Machilshahar, Priya Saroj, and party MPs Igra Hasan and Ragini Sonkar.

This is the first roadshow by the party's central leadership. SP President Kanhilash Yadav will campaign in Milkipur on February 3.

Speaking to media persons, Dimple Yadav claimed that the mood of the voters is in favour of the Samajwadi Party in the Milkipur by-polls. "We will win by a heavy margin," she remarked.

Termining the Prayagraj Mahakumbh stampede as unfortunate, Dimple Yadav said, "Our condolences are with the families who have lost their loved ones. We pray to God that those who are injured recover soon."

She also urged the Yogi Adityanath government to increase the compensation announced for the families of the deceased.

For Advt Contact 9818799941

Probe panel to visit Kumbh stampede site on Friday; report in 1 month

Lucknow:

The three-member judicial commission set up by the Uttar Pradesh government to probe the Maha Kumbh stampede will visit the site on Friday, panel head Harsh Kumar, a retired Judge of the Allahabad high court, said.

Kumar also said that the commission has a month to wrap up its investigation but will try to expedite it.

Kumar and panel members former director general of police V K Gupta and retired IAS officer D K Singh reached the office assigned to them here and began their work on Thursday, an official statement said.

"We have taken charge within hours of the announcement as the probe has to be taken up on priority," Kumar said.

Asked about the timeline for the probe, he said, "We have a one-month timeline but all the same, we will try to expedite it."

Asked if the three members will be probing separate aspects, Kumar said, "We will discuss this amongst



ourselves. Can't go into detail right now."

Later, the panel members also interacted with the media on Thursday. "Tomorrow (Friday), we will visit the site to

conduct an inspection and analyse the possible causes and circumstances surrounding the incident. We will carefully consider all factors and are required

to submit our report within one month," said Kumar.

Two other panel members, Gupta and Singh, were also present during the briefing.

Kumar and panel members former director general of police V K Gupta and retired IAS officer D K Singh reached the office assigned to them here and began their work on Thursday, an official statement said.

Talking about the probe, Kumar explained, "First, we must examine the causes. The solution will come only after we identify the root cause. Initially, we will focus on understanding the causes, and then we will propose preventive measures for the future."

At least 30 people were killed and 60 injured in the pre-dawn stampede at the Sangam area of the Maha Kumbh on Wednesday as millions of pilgrims jostled for space to take a holy dip on Mauni Amavasya, one of the most auspicious days of the Hindu calendar.

According to police, the incident took place as the crowd jumped barricades, crushing those waiting on the other side.

65 Lakh devotees flock to Ayodhya after Mahakumbh snan



Ayodhya:

Following a holy dip in Prayagraj on Mauni Amavasya, a massive influx of devotees began arriving in Ayodhya on the same evening, continuing uninterrupted until Thursday afternoon. The sacred city's streets were packed overnight, and as dawn broke, the air resonated with chants of "Jai Shri Ram." Experts estimate that about 65 lakh devotees have reached Ayodhya in 96 hours.

With the swelling crowd, senior officials took command, personally inspecting arrangements throughout the night. Many pilgrims, carrying bundles on their heads and devotion in their hearts, made their way directly from Prayagraj to Ayodhya.

From 4 AM, ritual bathing commenced on the banks of the Sarayu River, followed by pilgrimages to Hanuman-garhi and the Ram Temple. The sheer volume of devotees transformed

Rampath and Bhaktipath into a sea of pilgrims, with long queues stretching late into the night.

In view of the overwhelming turnout, temple authorities have extended darshan hours to 18 hours daily, accommodating an estimated three lakh devotees visiting Ram Temple and Hanuman-garhi each day.

Meanwhile, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath is actively monitoring the situation, issuing directives to ensure seamless management. As a result, officials and employees are working tirelessly to assist pilgrims.

To support the influx, police personnel stationed at the Ram Janmabhoomi complex are providing water to devotees. Additionally, medical camps have been set up within the temple premises for health assistance. Volunteers from the Ram Mandir Trust have also been deployed to serve the pilgrims.

Prayagraj Railways sets record with 222 Special trains on Mauni Amavasya

Mahakumbh Nagar:

On the occasion of Mauni Amavasya, the largest Amrit Snan festival of Mahakumbh, over eight crore devotees took a holy dip in the sacred Triveni.

In the days leading up to the festival, millions of devotees continued to arrive in Prayagraj, prompting the Prayagraj Railway Division to implement extensive arrangements for their safe and smooth travel.

Railway officials here on Thursday claimed that to accommodate the massive influx, the railway administration operated more than 360 trains along with a record 222 Mela Special trains on Wednesday. These special trains ran throughout the day from all railway stations across Prayagraj.

The Prayagraj Railway Administration took special measures to facilitate the movement of devotees. These included streamlined ticket distribution, designated shelter and holding areas, and co-ordinated efforts with GRP and civil police for ensuring smooth entry



and exit of pilgrims.

In fact, on this occasion, the Prayagraj railways operated as many as 104 Mela Special trains from Prayagraj Junction (NCR), 23 from Chheoki, 17 from Naini, and 13 from Sub-darganj. Also, 23 special trains from NR's Prayag station, five from Phaphamau, nine from Rambagh (NER), and 28 from Jhansi were also operated. Additionally, five extended trains, five ring rails, three long-distance trains, and 69 non-timetable trains were operated from NCR stations in the city.

As the crowd surged around 8 AM, the Khuroo Bagh Holding Area was promptly activated. With the assistance of civil police, devotees were guided in an orderly manner from Khuroo Bagh to Prayagraj station, ensuring smooth boarding of trains. To oversee operations, NCR General Manager Udayendra Joshi continuously monitored the situation from the war room, while Divisional Railway Manager Himanshu Badoni managed coordination from the control room.

These strategic efforts by the railways ensured a safe, well-organized, and seamless travel experience for millions of devotees participating in the sacred Amrit Snan festival.

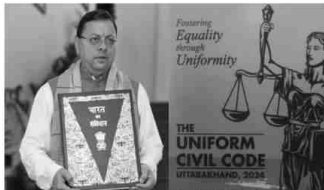
Uttarakhand govt clarifies on UCC for live-in couples

Pawan Lalchand Dehradun:

The implementation of the Uniform Civil Code (UCC) in Uttarakhand has led to various public concerns and misinformation.

Meanwhile, some media reports have raised concerns that a religious certificate from clergy members will be required for live-in relationship registration. However, UCC Rules Committee member Manu Gaur has clarified that this requirement will only apply to cases where marriage between the partners is prohibited. Such relationships have been clearly specified in Schedule 01 of the Code.

Under UCC, only four documents are required at the time of live-in registration: proof of residence, date of birth, Aadhaar, and rental agreement documents (if applicable). Additionally, individuals who have been divorced must present a legal divorce decree, while those whose previous spouse has passed away or whose prior live-in relationship has ended must provide relevant documents at the time of registration.



Manu Gaur further clarified that a religious certificate verifying the relationship will only be required in cases where the partners have a pre-existing relationship that falls under the prohibited category mentioned in Schedule 01. In Uttarakhand, marriages in such relationships are extremely rare. This means that less than 1% of UCC registrations in the state will require such a certificate. Communities where marriages within the prohibited category occur can still register their relationship by providing a religious certificate.

Thus, the purpose of this requirement is not to restrict registrations but to assist applicants in completing the process. According to Manu Gaur, the format of the religious certificate has also been clearly defined

in the UCC rules.

Manu Gaur also clarified that under UCC, any individual who has been living in Uttarakhand for one year is eligible for registration. This residency period is unrelated to permanent or native residency status. Many people from other states reside in Uttarakhand and avail benefit from government schemes. Now, only those who register under UCC will be able to access these government services, thereby reducing the strain on Uttarakhand's resources.

If UCC applied only to native and permanent residents, many people from other states would be excluded from its coverage. Moreover, the definition of "resident" in the UCC Act is specific to matters related to UCC and includes five different categories.

Its objective is to en-

After confusion over live-in-relationship registration under UCC, which required certificates from religious leaders, the Uttarakhand government clarified that no such certificates are mandatory for live-in relationship registration under UCC.

sure that all residents of Uttarakhand have access to UCC registration while also enriching the government's database. This process is similar to voter ID registration and is not linked to permanent or native residency.

Gaur also given clarification on the registration form's length, stating that while it is 16 pages long due to various available options, filling it out online takes only 5-10 minutes. Since the form is designed to be foolproof, it has been kept comprehensive. Even offline, it can be completed within 30 minutes. When registering online, Aadhaar details will automatically populate the form, making the process more convenient.

Live-in-relationships is danger for Uttarakhand: LOP Yashpal Arya

Pawan Lalchand Dehradun:

Leader of Opposition in the Uttarakhand Assembly Yashpal Arya on Thursday alleged that the government behind the UCC has not taken any step to reform the rituals of all religions, but the reason behind it is to take constitutional political advantage.

The Leader of Opposition said that the people of Uttarakhand needed strict land laws and a permanent solution to the original residence at this time, but the government has offered Uniform Civil Code to divert attention from this important issue.

He said that there is no agreement on live-in relationship in any religion of the country. The live-in relationship in the UCC has been grossly insulted by the concerned Secretary Dhama govern-



ment to the religious and cultural traditions of Devbhoomi Uttarakhand.

A very large-scale document change has

been planned in Uttarakhand from the Legislature to legally accept other members of the resident if they live in a live-in relationship in one year of the state's territory. Yashpal Arya has called it a huge betrayal and conspiracy with the state's territory.

The Leader of Opposition said that after the implementation of the law of Uniform Civil Code, live-in relationship will be promoted in Devbhoomi Uttarakhand. He said that recently implemented part 3 of Uniform Civil Code includes provisions related to live-in relationship from section 378 to 389.

In these legislations, while live in relation has been given legal recognition, Muslim children from such relation have also been considered legitimate children and the woman has been given the right to maintenance if her male friend leaves her. He said that implementation of these legislations will bring about a big change in Uttarakhand.

The Leader of Opposition said that recently in UCC, divorce

or divorce has been made difficult for all religions, but a person living in live in relation can end the relationship anytime under section 384. Due to this loophole of law, people in Uttarakhand prefer to live in live in relation instead of marrying a friend. He said that both starting and ending a live in relation is easy. This has harmed the institution of marriage in Uttarakhand.

The Leader of Opposition said that in House, Chief Minister Dhama said in the time that, UCC in Uttarakhand has been brought with the aim of proposing women's co-habitation. But the draft of this law has been put forward for the tribes of the state. He said that whether the right of this illegal beneficiary was not designated to the

women with housing belonging to 4 percent of the population of the tenant tribe?

He alleged that, through the Uniform Civil Code, it was not possible to show the BJP community with the blood-thirsty leadership of the minority community. The BJP feared that the minority community would oppose it, which would benefit the BJP politically. But this did not happen. He made it clear that instead of the minority community, the Santani population of Uttarakhand is frankly opposing provisions like live-in relationship. He believes that with time, the people of Uttarakhand should support Uniform Civil Code legal institutions, for which the BJP's Dhama government will be responsible.

Imran Khan's party plans public rally in northwest Pakistan on Feb 8

Pak PM offers parliamentary committee to advance negotiations with opposition

Islamabad: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Thursday proposed the formation of a parliamentary committee to advance negotiations with jailed former prime minister Imran Khan's Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) after talks faltered with the opposition party.

The two sides on December 23 last year initiated talks but the process entered into a dead alley just after three sittings when the PTI walked away over the issue of delay in the formation of judicial commissions on events of May 9, 2023, and November 26 last year.

As the parleys ran aground, the PTI announced a re-launch of agitations and said February 8 would be observed as a "Black Day" to protest the alleged rigging in the polls held last year.

It plans to hold rallies



Shehbaz while addressing a meeting of the federal cabinet

in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's Swabi and Punjab's Lahore on February 8.

He made a bid to cool the temper and offered a way forward by saying that a bipartisan committee comprising members of parliament be formed to probe the

events in place of a judicial committee.

He said the committee should be set up on the same pattern as formed in 2018 when the PTI came to power

and then the opposition led by Shehbaz Sharif demanded a probe in the elections.

"They offered a house committee and we accepted it. The 2018 house committee should conduct its probe and so should the committee that will be formed to probe the 2024 general elections," he said.

"Similarly, the parliamentary committees should probe the November 26 as well as 2014 protest events. It takes two to tango," the prime minister said.

The prime minister said he was ready with good intentions to advance the dialogue so that the country could move forward. "The country can not sustain more damage," he said.

However, the PTI has not responded to the new offer and it is less likely to accept the proposal as the party would first try to show its street power.

6 terrorists, 2 security personnel killed in NW Pakistan

Peshawar: A Pakistan Army major was among two security personnel killed in an encounter with terrorists in the country's restive northwest, bordering Afghanistan, the army said Thursday.

The clash occurred during an intelligence-based operation conducted by security forces on the night of January 29-30, said the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) - the military's media wing.

During the operation, Pakistani soldiers killed six militants, it said.

The deceased security personnel were identified as Major Hamza Israr, 29, from Rawalpindi, who was leading his troops in the operation, and Sepoy Muhammad Naeem, 26, from Naseerabad.

vowed to continue efforts to clear the region of any remaining threats.

President Asif Ali Zardari praised the security forces for eliminating six terrorists and paid tribute to the deceased soldiers, Dawn newspaper reported.

He commended their bravery and patriotism, stating that security forces would continue operations until terrorism is completely eradicated, and reaffirming the country's determination to defend against terrorist elements.

A day earlier, security forces successfully thwarted a terrorist attack on a check post in the Gultistan area of Balochistan's Qila Abdullah District, during the night of January 27-28.

Pakistan has been reeling under rising violent attacks since the Taliban rulers returned to power in Afghanistan in 2021, particularly in the bordering provinces of Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan.

ISLAMABAD: A provincial leader of jailed former premier Imran Khan's party said on Thursday that would hold a public rally in the Swabi area of Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa on February 8 - the day marks the first anniversary of the controversial general elections of last year.

Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf's Khyber Pakhtunkhwa unit chief, Junaid Akbar, said that the rally was being held on the directives of Khan.

"A public rally will be held in Swabi on February 8 on the PTI founder's call," Akbar, recently appointed as provincial president in place of Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur, said in a statement.

The party, which is in power in the KP province, also sought permission from the local administration to hold a public gathering in Peshawar on February 8.

Separately, PTI leader Aliya Hamza submitted an application to the deputy commissioner's office in Lahore for permission to organize a gathering at the historic Minar-e-Pakistan ground.

Khan's party already declared that it would observe Feb 8, when elections were held, as a "Black Day" to protest against the alleged stolen mandate.

Bill introduced in US Senate to restrict birthright citizenship

Washington: A group of Republican Senators has introduced a bill in the US Senate to restrict birthright citizenship to the children of illegal immigrants and non-immigrants on temporary visas.

According to Senators Lindsey Graham, Ted Cruz and Katie Britt, who introduced the bill, the exploitation of birthright citizenship is a major pull factor for illegal immigration and a weakness for national security.



The US is one of only 33 countries in the world with no restrictions on birthright citizenship, they said.

The legislative move

comes after an executive order on the matter, signed by President Donald Trump on the first day of his presidency, has been blocked by a federal judge in Washington state.

The Center for Immigration Studies estimates that in 2023, there were 2,25,000 to 2,50,000 births to illegal immigrants, amounting to close to seven per cent of births in the US.

It is long overdue for the United States to change its policy

on birthright citizenship because it is being abused in so many ways, said Graham.

"One example is birth tourism, where wealthy individuals from China and other nations come to the United States simply to have a child who will be an American citizen. When you look at the magnets that draw people to America, birthright citizenship is one of the largest," he said.

"I also appreciate President Trump's executive order to address birthright citizenship. It is time for the United States to align itself with the rest of the world and restrict this practice once and for all," Graham said.

"The promise of American citizenship should not incentivize illegal migration, but that's exactly what has happened for far too long," said Britt. It's time to fix this, she said.

Senator Lindsey Graham and my Birthright Citizenship Act

would codify President Trump's commonsense stance and end the abuse of birthright citizenship that I do not believe is consistent with the original meaning of the 14th Amendment's Citizenship Clause," she added.

"This will protect our nation's sovereignty, disincentivize illegal migration, and ensure America's citizenship program stays stronger and better aligned with peer countries around the globe," Britt said.

BUSINESS

PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana: 20 Lakh Installations by Oct 2025

New Delhi: Rooftop installations under the PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana are expected to touch the 20 lakh-mark by October 2025, Union Minister Shripad Naik said on Thursday.

By March, around 10 lakh installations are expected to happen, the Minister of State of Power and New & Renewable Energy said while addressing the third Discom Conclave 2025 event organised by industry body PHDDCI in the national capital.

The PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana is the world's largest domestic rooftop solar initiative transforming India's energy landscape with a bold vision to supply solar power to one crore households by March 2027, he said.

Naik said installations under the scheme are expected to exceed 10 lakh by March and the numbers will double to 20 lakh by October.

It will reach 40 lakh by March 2026, and ultimately achieve the target of one crore by

March 2027, the minister said.

Launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on February 15, 2024 with a budget outlay of Rs 75,021 crore, the initiative aims to provide free electricity to households by facilitating the installation of rooftop solar panels, he said.

Under the scheme, discoms are designated as state implementation agencies (SIAs) responsible for facilitating various measures, including net meter availability, timely inspection, and commissioning of installations.

The total financial outlay for the 'incentives to DISCOMS' component is Rs 4,950 crore, substantiating the previous outlay under the Grid Connected Roof Top Solar (GCRT) Phase II programme.

A total of 1.45 crore registrations, 26.38 lakh applications and 6.34 lakh rooftop solar installations have been reported on the national portal, Union Minister Shripad Naik said in December.

Adani Enterprises Profit Slumps 97 percent on Weak Coal Trading

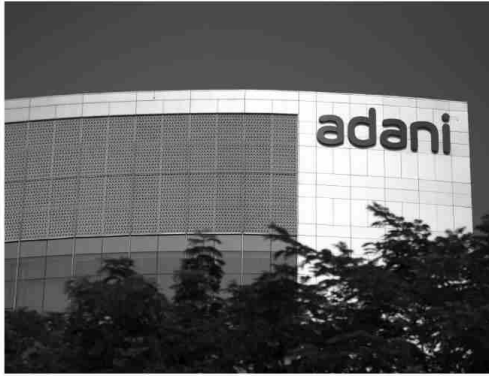
New Delhi: Adani Enterprises Ltd, the flagship company of billionaire Gautam Adani-led group, on Thursday reported a 97 per cent drop in the third quarter net profit as key coal trading volumes were hit.

Net profit declined to Rs 57.83 crore in October-December 2024 - the third quarter of April 2024 to March 2025 fiscal (FY25) - from Rs 1,888.45 crore earnings a year back, the company said in a statement.

Revenue from operations declined 9 per cent to Rs 22,848.42 crore.

Pre-tax profit (EBIT-DA) from the coal trading segment, which contributes more than a third of overall revenue, halved to Rs 745 crore as volumes fell.

The volume drop was primarily because of lower demand from the power sector where the share of renewable energy sources has risen.



Third quarter profit was also impacted due to "high notional forex loss in finance cost of Australia mining due to depreciation of Australian dollar," it said.

For the first nine months of the current fiscal, net profit rose

17 per cent to Rs 3,254 crore while total income was up 6 per cent at Rs 72,763 crore.

"This exceptional nine-month performance underscores Adani Enterprises Ltd's position as a powerhouse for nurturing transformative infrastructure and energy transition sectors," said Gautam Adani, Chairman of the Adani Group.

"Strong growth across our incubating businesses, from energy transition to logistics and adjacencies, highlights the immense potential of

our core plus portfolio.

"These results are a testament to our focus on execution operational excellence, innovation and sustainability as we continue to set new benchmarks across sectors. With each milestone, AEL reaffirms its commitment to creating long-term value for its stakeholders while contributing to India's progress and global competitiveness," he said.

New energy vertical saw a 26 per cent rise in Profit Before Tax (PBT) at Rs 691 crore in the third quarter while the airports business clocked a 2.6x growth at Rs 237 crore PBT.

Pre-tax profit (EBIT-DA) from the coal trading segment, which contributes more than a third of overall revenue, halved to Rs 745 crore as volumes fell.

BoB Profit Rises 5.6% to Rs 4,837 Cr in Dec Quarter

New Delhi: State-owned Bank of Baroda (BoB) on Thursday reported a 5.6 per cent increase in net profit at Rs 4,837 crore in the December quarter.

The Mumbai-based bank had earned a net profit of Rs 4,579 crore in the same quarter a year ago.

Total income increased to Rs 34,676 crore from Rs 31,416 crore in the same period a year ago, BoB said in a regulatory filing.

Interest income also rose to Rs 30,908 crore during the quarter under review compared to Rs 28,605 crore in the year-ago period.

Operating profit grew to Rs 7,664 crore from Rs 7,015 crore in the third quarter of previous fiscal.

On the asset quality front, the bank's gross non-performing assets ratio moderated to 2.43 per cent against 3.08 per cent a year ago.

Similarly, net NPAs, or bad loans, came down to 0.59 per cent from 0.7 per cent at the end of the third quarter last fiscal.

However, the overall provisions, excluding tax, increased to Rs 1,082 crore during the quarter from Rs 666 crore a year ago.

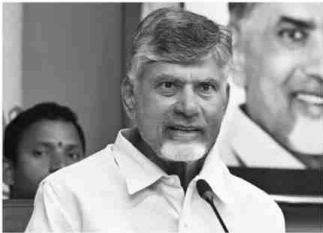
Capital Adequacy Ratio declined to 14.72 per cent from 15.96 per cent at the end of the third quarter of the previous financial year.

AP approves Rs 44,776 cr Projects, focus on Clean Energy

Amaravati: Andhra Pradesh investment board has approved projects worth Rs 44,776 crore this month, largely in the clean energy space, which will generate 19,580 jobs, the state government said.

Of the projects approved, Rs 42,932 crore worth of projects are in the energy sector, mostly solar energy.

The energy projects cleared include Rs 14,328 crore investment by Navayuga Engineering Company Ltd and Rs 10,300 crore investment by Megha Engineering



and Infrastructure Ltd. Other companies whose projects were cleared include Tata Power Renewable Energy

Lyd (Rs 2,000 crore), Ayana Renewable Power Pvt Ltd (Rs 4,435 crore), Ampin Energy Transition Pvt Ltd (Rs

3,142 crore), SAEL Solar MHP1 Pvt Ltd (Rs 1,728 crore), SAEL Solar MHP2 Pvt Ltd (Rs 1,728 crore), Cuddapah Renewables Pvt Ltd (Rs 1,163 crore) and Ecoren Energy India Pvt Ltd (Rs 1,051 crore).

According to the state government, Rs 1,844 crore worth of projects in other sectors were also approved.

Since July 2024, the State Investment Promotion Board (SIPB), headed by Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu, has approved projects worth Rs 3.1

lakh crores with employment potential of 3.12 lakh people.

The latest project approvals happened at the SIPB's fourth meeting.

Andhra Pradesh IT Minister Nara Lokesh said, "Our new investment policies have created a favourable environment for investments in Andhra Pradesh."

In the latest SIPB meeting, clean energy was the focus, with approvals granted for projects that will create about 13,000 jobs.

"Andhra Pradesh has targeted to develop 160

GW of renewable energy under our new integrated clean energy policy," he said. "We welcome investors to develop their projects in Andhra Pradesh and supply clean energy to fulfil the nation's climate goals."

India is targeting 500 gigawatts (GW) of renewable energy capacity by 2030 in its pursuit of cutting its carbon emission to net zero by 2070.

The Andhra Pradesh State Investment Promotion Board (SIPB) today approved projects

across solar energy, storage, electronics manufacturing, and fertilizer sectors," it said, adding that the latest approvals would give a significant boost to the state's economy.

The SIPB approved 12 projects worth Rs 44,776 crore, which is expected to generate a whopping 19,580 jobs in the state.

"This is a massive win for Andhra Pradesh, and it's a testament to the government's efforts to attract investments and create employment opportunities," the state government said.

For Advt Contact: 9810-799941

Cricket

Samson's weakness against raw pace, finishing woes in focus

Pune
Sanju Samson's technical weaknesses against express pace along with Rinku Singh's dip in form and fitness issues will be a concern for India when they take on a resurgent England in the fourth T20 International here on Friday.

Having fluffed their chances in the third T20i in Rajkot, the penultimate game of the five-match series gives the hosts another opportunity to seal the series going into the final game in Mumbai on February 2. Suryakumar Yadav's men won the first two games in Kolkata and Chennai.

Samson, the maverick keeper-batter from Kerala, whose sympathetic and loyal fan base never fails to remind everyone of the limited chances he has got, started the T20i season with three hundreds against Bangladesh and South Africa prior to the ongoing series.

In the current rubber, he has had scores of 26, 5 and 3 and it is not these numbers that are concerning. In T20 cricket, if one factors in risk, there would always be a lot of less profitable days at the office considering the kind of strokes batters play these days.

But in case of Samson, what is of concern is his palpable discomfort against anything bowled above 145 clicks.

Against Bangladesh at home, he faced Taskin Ahmed, Tanzim Hasan Shakib while in South Africa Andile Simelane and Lutho Sipamla were among the bowlers.

These are not exactly intimidating fast bowlers and he rightfully took



them to the cleaners. These are bowlers who fire in between 130 to 140 clicks and can be hit through the line on flat decks.

However, Jofra Archer and Mark Wood are different beasts, bowling between 145 kmph to 155 kmph and that pace is creating problems for Samson.

During all three games, the Kerala batter couldn't even get his bat down as deliveries would thud into Phil Salt's gloves.

The hard lengths and steep bounce are creating a problem and even on batting short-fronts, it is not easy to hit through the line if one doesn't have proper technique or doesn't regularly face this quality of fast bowling.

Samson is one of head coach Gautam Gambhir's favourites and it is expected that he would be persisted with going into next year's T20 World Cup. But his technical issues need to be sorted out at the earliest by Gambhir, new batting coach Sitanshu Kotla and the himself.

chance with him? Looks unlikely as given the pace of England speedsters even the burly Mumbaikar would be ill at ease.

The third option is Ramandeep Singh, who also looks exciting as a finisher and is a better seamer than Dube. But even he is untested against quality pace attack.

Will Arshdeep be back in order to seal the series

Mohammed Shami needs a lot of bowling in match situations and the Rajkot game was a decent restart to his international career without being spectacular.

While a bilateral series win counts for little, Gambhir wouldn't like the ignominy of being the first coach under whom India lost a home T20i series against England.

Hence, it would be interesting if Arshdeep Singh, India's best T20i bowler in absence of Jasprit Bumrah is in line to come back and give some breakthroughs in the Powerplay overs.

Teams (from): India: Suryakumar Yadav (captain), Abhishek Sharma, Sanju Samson (wk), Tilak Varma, Asav Patel, Hardik Pandya, Washington Sundar, Varun Chakravarthy, Ravi Bishnoi, Arshdeep Singh, Mohammed Shami, Dhruv Jurel (wk), Rinku Singh, Shivam Dube, Ramandeep Singh, Harshit Rana.

England: Jos Buttler (captain), Phil Salt (wk), Ben Duckett, Harry Brook, Liam Livingstone, Jamie Smith (wk), Adil Rashid, Brydon Carse, Jamie Overton, Gus Atkinson, Rehan Ahmed, Jofra Archer, Mark Wood, Jacob Bethell, Saqib Mahmood. Match Starts at 7 pm IST.

Unstoppable Khawaja: 232 runs of pure dominance vs SL



Galle
Australia opener Usman Khawaja scored his maiden double century in the longest format of the game during the first session of the second day of the ongoing first Test against Sri Lanka at the Galle International Stadium on Thursday.

Khawaja completed his double hundred just before lunch on Day 2 of the Galle Test match. The left-hand batter played an exceptional innings of 232 runs from 352 balls which was laced with 16 boundaries and one maximum.

With this innings, Khawaja slammed his highest score in the Test history surpassing his previous best score of unbeaten 195 runs which came against South Africa at the Sydney Cricket Ground in 2023.

The 38-year-old player also broke Justin Langer's record of scoring most runs in Sri Lanka as an Australian batter which was 166 at Colombo in 2004.

The southpaw registered one more record along with stand-in skipper Steve Smith as both players went on to register the highest third-wicket partnership for the Baggy Greens on Asian soil.

Both of them broke 46-year long record which was registered by Allan Border & Kim Hughes which was 222 runs against India at the M.A. Chidambaram Stadium at Chennai back in 1979.

Smith went back to the pavilion after playing a magnificent innings of 141 runs in 251 balls which included 12 fours and two sixes in his innings.

India U19's explosive form makes them favourites

Kuala Lumpur
India would like to continue their flawless campaign when they take on England in the semifinal of the Women's U-19 T20 World Cup in Kuala Lumpur on Friday.

Following a 10-wicket thrashing of hosts Malaysia in their tournament opener, India hammered Sri Lanka by 60 runs, Bangladesh by eight wickets in their first Super Six game and ended the round with a massive 150-run win over Scotland.

The Niki Prasad-led side has been in red-hot form across departments with their last Super Six outing against Scotland sounding an ominous warning to the opponents.

The in-form opener Gongadi Trisha notched up a fabulous 110 off 59 balls with 12 fours and four sixes, while her opening partner G Kamalini also gave a commanding display with a 42-ball 51. With scores of 4, 27 not out, 49, 40 and 110, Trisha has been the leading run-scorer in the competition with 230 runs in five outings at 76.66, way ahead of England's best batter Davina Perrin who has 131 runs to show from four matches at 32.75 with one fifty.

India had shot out Scotland for a mere 58 runs in 14 overs in a Super Six match with Vaishnavi Sharma (3/5), Ayushi Shukla (4/8) and Trisha (3/6) leading the charge.

Vaishnavi and Ayushi have been at the forefront in the bowling department with 12 and 10 wickets respectively in the competition, which has helped India's cause to a great extent.

England will be wary of India's batting firepower and hope their players find their touch quickly in the contest, as a couple of wins and as many defeats in the four Super Six games do not really instil confidence.

Teams (from):
India: Niki Prasad (c), Sanika Chalke, G Trisha, Kamalini G, Bhavika Ahire, Ishwari Awasthe, Mithika Vinod, Josthika VJ, Sarany Yadav, Parvika Sreedevi, Karsari Dithi, Ayushi Shukla, Anandita Kishor, MD Shanban, Vaishnavi S.

England: Abi Norgrove (c), Phoebe Brett, Olivia Brinsden, Tilly Corteen-Coleman, Trudy Johnson, Katie Jones, Charlotte Lambert, Eve O'Neill, Davina Perrin, Jemima Spence, Charlotte Stubbs, Amuruthaa Surenkumar, Prisha Thanawala, Erin Thomas, Grace Thompson. Match starts at 12:00pm IST

KL Rahul's Ranji Return Ends in Disappointment



Bengaluru
KL Rahul's much-anticipated return to Ranji Trophy lasted a mere 37 balls as the India opener was dismissed for 26, leaving Karnataka at 267/5 against Haryana on day one of their must-win Group C match here on Thursday.

Making his first Ranji Trophy appearance since February 2020, local hero Rahul walked in at No. 3 to a warm reception from the semi-packed M. Chinnaswamy Stadium, with chants of 'Rahul, Rahul' echoing through the stands.

The stylish right-hander looked in fine touch from the outset, striking four crisp boundaries in a fluent 54-run stand with Karnataka skipper Mayank Agarwal for the second wicket.

However, just as he appeared to settle down, Rahul fell in the post-lunch session to Haryana's in-form pacer Anshul Kamboj.

The leading wicket-taker for Haryana this season produced a peach of a delivery that forced the experienced India batter into an edge, with wicketkeeper Rohit Sharma making no mistake behind the stumps.

The Haryana pace spearhead was once again the pick of the bowler as he dismissed opener KV Aneesh (17) before lunch after the visiting side opted to bowl.

Rahul had last featured in a Ranji Trophy match nearly four years ago, against Bengal at the Eden Gardens quarterfinal, where he had scores of 26 and 0 in Karnataka's 174-run defeat.

This season, his participation was delayed by an elbow injury, which ruled him out of Karnataka's previous game against Punjab.

His most recent first-class outing before this came in the Duleep Trophy in September last year, where he represented India A in a losing effort.

On a day when everyone wanted Rahul to make it big, it was the India discard and Karnataka skipper Agarwal who shone with an array of shots as he milked the field, hitting three sixes and nine boundaries in his fluent half century.

Agarwal, however, missed out on his 19th first-class hundred by just nine runs, falling to Haryana seamer Anuj Thakral, who returned with 2/74 from his 18 overs.

Talented youngster Devdutt Padikkal also looked in fine nick as he raced to 43 from 93 balls with four boundaries in an entertaining partnership with Agarwal.

But Padikkal also could not convert his start and became Thakral's second victim in the post-tea session.

On a flat track, the spin duo of Nishant Sindhu and seasoned Jayant Yadav then managed to stymie the flow of runs in the final session.

Sindhu looked tidy in his 1/45 from 19 overs and took the wicket of R Smaran (35) as none of the Karnataka batters could manage to make it big.

Placed third in Group C, the former champions find itself in a precarious position ahead of the knockouts and will need to win outright against Haryana to keep their qualification hopes alive.

Brief Scores Karnataka 267/5: 89 overs (Mayank Agarwal 91, Devdutt Padikkal 43, R Smaran 35, KL Rahul 26, Yashovardhan Parantap 27 batting, KL Shrivithi 18 batting; Anshul Kamboj 2/25, Anuj Thakral 2/74).

Shardul Thakur's Historic Ranji Hat-Trick

Mumbai
Shardul Thakur remained at the forefront of the Mumbai attack as his hat-trick and unbeaten half-centuries from skipper Ajinkya Rahane (83) and Siddhesh Lad (89) helped the hosts build a 127-run lead against Meghalaya on the opening day of their Ranji Trophy Elite Group A clash here on Thursday.

Thakur found adequate help from another opening-day bowling-friendly surface as well as from fellow bowlers Mohit Avasthi (3/27), Sylvester D'Souza (2/14) and Shams Mulani (1/1) as Mumbai shot out Meghalaya for a mere 86.

In reply, a sturdy unbeaten 170-run stand for the third wicket between Rahane and Lad powered Mumbai to 213 for two at stumps in their must-win last group stage clash here at the BKC Ground.

Mumbai captain Rahane made the right call of bowling first and Thakur was all over Meghalaya right from the word go.

Pitching the ball up to exploit the early moisture on the wicket and the new ball, the India all-rounder found the perfect line and lengths to record only the fifth hat-trick for Mumbai in Ranji Trophy history.

Thakur provided Mumbai with an early breakthrough getting Meghalaya opener Nishanta Chakraborty (0) caught by Shams Mulani at the slip cordon on the fourth ball of the innings.

But it was in his second over and third of the innings when the carnage unfolded for Meghalaya, who slipped for 2/5 by the end of it.

Airinda B (0) was cleaned up with Thakur's delivery nipping back in and hitting the off-stump on the fourth ball.

Sumit Kumar (0) gave a simple grab to Mulani on the third slip on the penultimate delivery of the over and Thakur again got the ball to move back into another left-hander, Jaskirat Sachdeva (0), to hit the off-stump again.

Meghalaya soon slipped to 2/6 on the first ball of the fourth over as Mohit Avasthi cleaned up opener Arpit Subhas (2), in danger to possibly record the lowest Ranji Trophy total ever.

But Pringsang Sangma (19), skipper Akash Kumar (16), Anish Charak (17) and Himan Phukan (28) did extremely well to negotiate the rampaging Mumbai bowlers and drug Meghalaya as far as 86 all-out in the first essay.

Mumbai lost Ayush Mhatre (5) early but a cautious approach thereon helped the hosts crawl past Meghalaya's paltry score, but in doing so the hosts' batters Lad (89 off 155 balls,



11x4s, 1x6s) and Rahane (83 off 150, 9x4s, 1x6s) took away the fight from the less fancied visitors. If Lad was resolute in defence and attack alike, Rahane raised his first half-century of the season while peppering the on-side with attractive stroke play which was the highlight of his knock.

Meanwhile, as Mumbai lightened screens on Meghalaya, their star player and India captain Rohit Sharma hit the nets adjacent to the BKC Ground on Thursday morning for a half-an-hour session against fast bowlers and throw down specialists.

As if it was a conscious approach, Rohit curbed his attacking instincts throughout the stint to focus on defence against the white-ball as he prepares for ODI assignments against England and Champions Trophy.

At Vadodra, fresh off a five-wicket humbling of the defending champions Mumbai, Jammu and Kashmir seemed to have squandered a solid platform as they slipped from 106 for three to 246 all-out with only Kanhaiya Wadhawan (71) putting up resistance.

But in reply, Baroda were rocked twice as they reached 29 for two, trailing by another 217 runs in the first innings as the race to quarterfinals intensifying with three teams in fray for top-two finish.

J&K led the Group A points table

followed by Baroda and Mumbai at second and third respectively.

At Cuttack, Rajesh Mohanty's 61-ball 60 with eight fours and four boundaries was the only bright spot for hosts Odisha who were shot out for a mere 180 in the first essay by Services.

At the close of play, Services, who were rocked twice by quick succession, reached 85 for two, trailing by another 95 runs in the first innings.

Elsewhere in Solapur, visitors Tripura crawled to 230/5 against Maharashtra.

Brief scores: At Mumbai: Meghalaya 86 in 24.3 overs (Himan Phukan 28; Shardul Thakur 4/43, Mohit Avasthi 3/27, Sylvester D'Souza 2/14, Shams Mulani 1/1) trail Mumbai 213/2 in 59 overs (Siddhesh Lad 80*, Ajinkya Rahane 83*, Anish Charak 1/50) by 127 runs.

At Vadodra: Jammu and Kashmir 246 in 71.3 overs (Virat Sharma 43, Paras Dogra 43, Kanhaiya Wadhawan 71; Mahesh Pithiya 3/62, Ninad Rathva 5/43) lead Baroda 29/2 in 15.3 overs (Shivalk Sharma 16*, Sahil Lotra 1/5, Subham Khajuria 0/1) by 217 runs. At Cuttack: Odisha 180 in 62.2 overs (Rajesh Mohanty 60; Jayant Goyat 3/33, PS Poonia 4/33) lead Services 85/2 in 23 overs (Ravi Chauhan 40*, Sunil Kumar Roul 1/20) by 95 runs.



Chhattisgarh wins 2 gold medals in weightlifting, Vijay Kumar equals NR in men's 55kg class

Dehradun
Chhattisgarh weightlifter Vijay Kumar clinched gold medal in the men's 55kg category with a national record-equaling clean and jerk effort to have a share of the spotlight in the 38th National Games here on Thursday.

Another Chhattisgarh weightlifter Gyaneshwari Yadav won gold in the women's 49kg with a total lift of 191kg (85kg+106kg), while Maharashtra's Sarika Shingare (179kg total lift) and Komal Kohar (179kg) of Haryana bagged the silver and bronze respectively.

After a 105kg snatch, Kumar lifted 143kg in the clean and jerk section for a total of 248kg which handed him the gold. He now shares the clean and jerk national record with Maharashtra's Sanket Sargar who made the mark in 2022.

Maharashtra took both the silver and bronze through Mukund Aher



(total lift of 247kg) and Srinivas Goud (244kg).

For Kumar, the triumph was the culmination of an unwavering journey filled with adversity and setbacks.

Born into a family that couldn't afford sports supplements or specialized training, Kumar's early years were a battle against both financial hardship and self-doubt. For years, his diet was as simple as "daal-

chawal", but his ambition was far from modest.

"My parents didn't see a future in weightlifting," said Kumar after his event, reflecting on his early struggles.

"They wanted me to quit, but I couldn't. This was my passion, my only choice. Today's gold is proof I was right to keep going." Hamstring injuries had also threatened to derail his career more than once, and there were times when Kumar himself doubted whether he would ever lift at the highest level again.

"The pain was constant, and I couldn't see a way forward," he admitted.

"I never thought I would win a gold medal. But here I am, standing at the top." He dedicated his success to the two people who had been his greatest supporters: his parents and his coach.

"This medal is for them. They believed in me when no one else did."

Hockey India announces 32-member Team for FIH Pro League



New Delhi
Hockey India on Thursday announced a 32-member Indian Men's Hockey squad ahead of the FIH Pro League 2024-25, which will be held at the Kalinga Hockey Stadium.

Veteran drag-flicker Harmanpreet Singh will continue to lead the side as captain with deputy Hardik Singh by side. India will kick start its campaign with matches against Spain, Germany, Ireland and England from 15th to 25th February playing each team twice.

The squad includes first-choice goalkeeper Krishan Bahadur Pathak along with Suraj Karkera and Princedeep Singh in goal.

Jarmanpreet Singh, Amit Rohidas, Captain Harmanpreet Singh, Sumit, Sanjay, Jugraj Singh, Nilam Sanjeev Xess, Varun Kumar and Yashdeep Swachh will be stationed in defence.

In the midfield, the team features Rajkumar Pal, Shamsher Singh, Manpreet Singh, Vice Captain, Hardik Singh, Vivek Sagor Prasad, Nilakanta Sharma, Moirangthem Kabichandra Singh and Rajinder Singh. Playing in the attack will be Ab-

bishek, Sukhjeet Singh, Lalit Kumar Upadhyay, Mandeep Singh, Gurjant Singh, Bobby Singh Dhami, Shilansand Lakra, Dilpreet Singh, Arajjeet Singh Hundal, Uttam Singh and lastly Angad Bir Singh and Arshdeep Singh make the cut.

Impressive performances in the junior team and the ongoing Hockey India League has won 22-year-old Angad Bir Singh and 20-year-old Arshdeep Singh their first senior team call-ups for the upcoming FIH Pro League matches.

Speaking on the squad selection, Indian Men's Team Head Coach Craig Fulton stated, "Extremely happy with the squad we have selected for the upcoming Bhubaneswar leg matches of the FIH Pro League 2024-25. I believe this team can win us games, perform in harmony and most importantly play an impressive brand of hockey. Looking forward to training with the players in the camp and starting our Pro League campaign on the right note."

"I have been scouting these players over the last few weeks and am excited to see what they do against some of the best international teams in the world," he added.

Real Madrid would not want to play Manchester City, says Ancelotti



Guingamp
Real Madrid hope to avoid Manchester City in the next round, manager Carlo Ancelotti said after they beat Brest 3-0 on Wednesday to reach the Champions League playoff where they will be seeded.

The holders will face either Celtic or Manchester City in the two-legged playoff on February, with the second leg at home.

"We don't like to play against City, but if we have to, we'll do it like on other occasions," Ancelotti told a press conference when asked whether he preferred to be drawn against the Citizens or the Scots.

"City have more chances to win the Champions League."

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He also told Movistar: "It's a draw and what comes, comes. To win the Champions League you have to win every game."

The draw will be held on Friday in Nyon in Switzerland.
"If we want to win this competition we have to beat the best teams," Real goalkeeper Thibaut Courtois also said.

The Spaniards missed direct qualification to the last 16 due to a poor start in the league phase with three losses during the first five matches.

"We should have woken up earlier in this competition. Now it's like this," Ancelotti said.

Rodrygo, who scored a double, acknowledged his team had fallen short. "Top eight was our objective but we didn't do well in some games. Now we have to keep improving," he told Movistar after scoring a double.

Boca Juniors let lead slip as Union snatch 1-1 dramatic draw

Santa
Boca Juniors missed out on their first win in the Argentine Primera Division's Apertura tournament after a last-gasp Franco Fraga goal for Union cancelled out Marcelo Saracchi's early opener for the visitors on Wednesday.

Coming off a draw against Argentinos Juniors in their Sunday opener, Boca put in a solid performance in the first half, grabbing the lead just five minutes into the game after Saracchi hammered a powerful strike off the crossbar and into the net.

The second half saw the hosts pushing for an equaliser. But they struggled to create any clear-cut chances to breach a solid Boca backline until for-



mer Boca striker Fraga pounced on a loose ball in the box to fire low and find the winner two minutes into stoppage time.

Earlier in the 78th minute, substitute Kevin Zenon could have extended Boca's lead, but goalkeeper Thiago

Cardozo blocked his attempt in a one-on-one.

"We didn't want to sit back, but that's how the game turned out. We were very annoyed, we wanted to take a win from here and it slipped away from us at the end," Boca midfielder Tomas Belmonte told ESPN.

"We have a great squad, now we have to show it on the pitch. Today at times we played a great game."

Boca will look to get back to winning ways on Sunday when they host Huracan.

"You are not going to find results overnight," Boca manager Fernando Gago said. "We have to build, we have to get there and we have to try to find a better rhythm as the matches go by."

Man City scrape into Champions League knockouts with comeback win over Brugge

London
Manchester City kept their Champions League campaign alive as they scraped into the playoffs by beating Belgium's Club Brugge 3-1 in a nervy must-win match on Wednesday thanks to goals from Mateo Kovacic and substitute Savinho, and a Brugge own goal.

The victory in their league-phase finale secured Pep Guardiola's men a spot in the two-legged playoff knockout round, where they will face either Bayern Munich or Real Madrid. They finished 22nd in the table, three places above elimination.

"In the second half we lifted our soul and our hearts were free," relieved City boss Pep Guardiola told TNT Sports.

"For today we are in the next round, that's good. The first half was so academic, we didn't have the spark to do it against a team that defends really well."

Brugge players and staff lingered on the pitch for several minutes with phones in hand, watching other results, before finally celebrating 24th place and a spot in the next round.

"We try to push them every day. All the credit to the group," Brugge manager Nicky Hayden said.

"We try to have a plan and they executed it as well as possible. We are quite happy we go to the next round. We are quite ambitious. This group wants to perform every day."

Brugge, who were lightning quick on the counter-attack, punished City and stunned the Etihad Stadium crowd seconds before halftime when Ferran Jutga easily beat Mathews Nunes before sending in a long cross that Raphael Onyedika smashed into the back of the net. Guardiola slumped down in his seat in response.

Mateo Kovacic levelled in the 53rd minute when he dribbled through the heart of Brugge's defence before unleashing a shot from the edge of the 18-yard box into the bottom corner.



City, who hoisted the Champions League trophy in 2023 and have reached the knockout stage of Europe's elite competition every season since Guardiola took the helm in 2016, paved the way for the nerve-jangling finale with a rocky couple of months that saw them win just three of the eight league-phase games.

City went ahead nine minutes later when Joel Ordonez slid to block Josko Gvardiol's cross but knocked it into the net, and then Savinho added a third in the 77th minute when John Stones played a pinpoint cross-field ball that the

Brazilian chested down before firing it past keeper Simon Mignolet.

"NOT EASY"
"Every game in the Champions League is a tough one. We're happy that we are through now, because it was a tough group stage; for us, was not easy," Kovacic told TNT Sports.

"That we are through is the most important, and then whoever comes next will be difficult."

City, who hoisted the Champions League trophy in 2023 and have reached the knockout stage of Europe's elite competition every season since Guardiola took the helm in 2016, paved the way for the nerve-jangling finale with a rocky couple of months that saw them win just three of the eight league-phase games.

Brugge, whose loss ended a 20-game unbeaten streak across all competitions, threatened from the whistle, putting City fans on tenterhooks and sending Guardiola into fits of frustration.

The visitors had a terrific chance in the opening minutes when Christos Tzolis pounced on a misunderstanding between Nunes and

Manuel Akanji, dribbling half the length of the field before launching a shot.

Ilkay Gundogan had a goal for City chalked off for offside in the 16th minute.

City were better after the break, and Guardiola's decision to bring on Savinho for the second half paid off. He was a key part of the move that led to Brugge's own goal with his perfectly weighted pass that found Gvardiol.

Asked about Guardiola's halftime team talk, Kovacic said: "It was good, because we came out very well. We knew we needed to step up."

"In the second half, we showed great character to win and go through. We have a good team and we came back from 1-0 down. We know we are a great team."

A large fire broke out in a merchandise kiosk outside Etihad Stadium just as fans were making their way to the ground. Firefighters remained for 90 minutes to ensure it was extinguished.

Atalanta's Gasperini upbeat despite impending playoff

"We are Atalanta, we have to be happy to play in the Champions League, to compete with the best European teams," Gasperini told the reporters.

Barcelona
Atalanta coach Gian Piero Gasperini lauded his team's Champions League performances on Wednesday despite narrowly missing out on an automatic place in the last 16 after a 2-2 draw at Barcelona on Wednesday.

The final league phase fixture saw Europa League champions Atalanta slip to ninth in the standings, with the top eight qualifying directly, and they will go into the two-legged knockout phase playoff round.

"We are Atalanta, we have to be happy to play in the Champions League, to compete with the best European teams," Gasperini told the reporters.

"For us it is all a great experience, hearing (the fans) sing in these stadiums... Those who think differently (must be) frustrated."

Atalanta were seventh after beating Austrian side Sturm Graz 5-0 and a win at five-times European champions Barcelona would have seen them avoid the playoffs.

They will now, however, face Belgian champions Club Brugge or Portugal's Sporting Lisbon for a spot in the knockout rounds.

Asked whether he felt satisfied or regretted not finishing in the top eight, Gasperini said his feelings were all positive.

"It's the first one all the way," he said. "We are in the Champions League. We will next play and see what happens against Sporting or Brugge; it's not like we're used to it. "We played in the Champions League for four years, this type of match really enhances the team."

Atalanta advanced to the quarter-finals on their competition debut in 2019-20, before reaching last 16 the following year and being eliminated at group stage in 2021-22.



Film with Vishal sir set in '90s Mumbai, got quirks much like 'Kaminey': Shahid Kapoor

New Delhi Actor Shahid Kapoor says it's a privilege to reunite with filmmaker Vishal Bhardwaj for a fourth film, describing it as their "most open" project till date. Kapoor, who previously collaborated with the acclaimed director on "Kaminey", "Haider", and "Rangoon", said the new movie is a love story, set against the backdrop of the Mumbai underworld in the 1990s. Much like 2009's "Kaminey", the actor said the

currently untitled film has a certain "quirkiness" to it. "It's always been a privilege to work with Vishal sir. This is

"I'm excited to work with all of them, starting with Nana Patekar sir, Randeep Hooda and I have known each other for many years. So it's great to work with somebody of his calibre as an actor."

our most open film that we've made so far in terms of appeal and relatability... It's inherently a love story based against the backdrop of the Mumbai gangsters in the '90s... "Like 'Kaminey', there's a quirk to the film... It has a certain uniqueness to the world, which in moments

will feel a little heightened, which is very interesting," Shahid said.

Bhardwaj's film also stars Tripti Dimri, Nana Patekar and Randeep Hooda with Vikrant Massey in a special appearance.

The 43-year-old actor, who is awaiting the release of "Deva", said he is happy about working with such a stellar cast.

"I'm excited to work with all of them, starting with Nana Patekar sir, Randeep Hooda and I have known each other for many years. So it's great to work with somebody of his calibre as an actor."

"We have a special appearance from Vikrant Massey, who I adore as an actor. We have crossed paths sometimes, I've always loved his work. There's Tripti, who's playing the

female lead, and it's an extremely strong role for her. We're trying to make a film for a wide audience," he added.

"Deva", which arrives in theatres on Friday, will see Shahid playing the role of a rough-and-tough cop who goes to great lengths to seek justice for his colleague.

According to the actor, his titular character from the Rosshan Andrews directorial is another addition to the universe of 'angry young men' who are "very watchable" on the big screen. Shahid, who broke out of his "chocolate boy" image with films such as "Kaminey", "Udta Punjab", "Kabir Singh" and "Bloody Daddy", said he often fields questions about such characters and whether watching them on the screen is good for the masses.

Oscar-nominated live-action short film 'Anuja' to release on Netflix



Mumbai Oscar-nominated live-action short film "Anuja" will be released on Netflix on February 5, the streamer announced on Thursday.

Directed by Adam J. Graves, the short is billed as a hopeful and heartfelt tale of resilience, love, and opportunity amidst hardship.

"Anuja" has Hollywood star-writer Mindy Kaling on board as producer, with two-time Oscar winner Guneet Monga and superstar Priyanka Chopra Jonas attached as executive producers.

"Anuja" has Hollywood star-writer Mindy Kaling on board as producer, with two-time Oscar winner Guneet Monga and superstar Priyanka Chopra Jonas attached as executive producers. Kaling expressed gratitude to Netflix for showcasing the movie on their platform. "It is a dream come true to have 'Anuja' on Netflix, where it can be seen by the worldwide audience it deserves. I'm so grateful to Bela Bajoria and Netflix India for seeing what I saw in this beautiful short film," the actor-producer said in a statement.

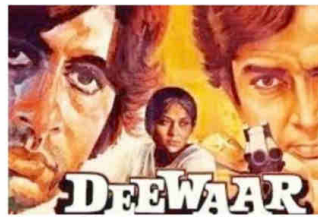
Graves, who has also produced "Anuja" with wife Suchitra Mattai, said they are happy about the release of their movie.

"Suchitra and I are incredibly grateful that 'Anuja' has found a home on Netflix.

This story of hope was brought to life through collaboration with so many talented and passionate people. We are thrilled that the results of our collective dedication can finally be enjoyed by audiences around the world," he added.

In the live-action short film category at the upcoming 97th Academy Awards, "Anuja" will compete with "A Lien", "I'm Not a Robot", "The Last Ranger" and "The Man Who Could Not Remain Silent". "Anuja" is produced in collaboration with the Salaam Baalak Trust (SBT), a non-profit founded by filmmaker Mira Nair's family in support of street and working children, alongside Shine Global, and Krushan Naik Films.

Film Heritage Foundation to screen 'Deewaar' to mark film's 50th anniversary



New Delhi The Film Heritage Foundation (FHF) is set to organise a special screening of "Deewaar" on February 1 to celebrate the 50th release anniversary of the Yash Chopra-directed film. Penned by Salim-Javed, the blockbuster action drama released on January 21, 1975. It starred Amitabh Bachchan and Shashi Kapoor in the lead. According to the official 'Instagram' page of 'FHF', the film will be showcased at Mumbai's iconic Regal Cinema on Saturday at 6 pm on

a "new screen". "A very special screening of Yash Chopra's 'Deewaar' (1975) to celebrate 50 years of the release of a landmark film of Indian cinema on February 1, 2025, at 06:00 pm at Regal Cinema on the new screen!

Produced by 'Trimurti Films', "Deewaar" was a smash hit that further established Amitabh Bachchan's iconic persona of the 'Angry Young Man' and the famed screenwriter duo of Salim-Javed, the not-for-profit founda-

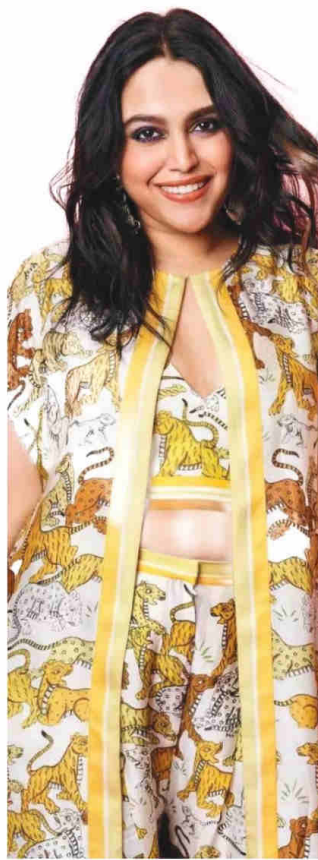
tion said in the post on Wednesday night. "Deewaar" revolved around two impoverished brothers struggling to survive in the slums of Mumbai. When they grow up, the elder brother Vijay (Bachchan) turns to crime while the younger one Ravi (Kapoor) becomes an honest police officer. It also starred Nirupa Roy, Neetu Singh and Parveen Babi. The 'FHF' also expressed special thanks to Rajiv Rai and Trimurti Films for making the screening of the film possible. "Screening is free and open to public. Seating on first come, first serve basis," it further said in the post.

Documentary filmmaker-activist Tapan K Bose dies at 78



New Delhi Renowned documentary and activist Tapan K Bose died on Thursday at his residence here. He was 78. Bose, who started his activism stint during the Emergency period in the late 1970s, was a fearless advocate against human rights violations in Punjab and Jammu & Kashmir. As a documentary director, his credits include "An Indian Story on Bhagalpur Bindings" (1981), "Bhopal: Beyond Genocide" (1986), "Jharkhand" (1993) and "The Expendable People" (2016). Bose was a part of a collective of activists, scientists, journalists and artists, who tried to strengthen the rationalist spirit of the Indian constitution and fight oppression - historic and contemporary, according to a statement.

"Tapan Bose was a very dear friend of communities who were oppressed by jingoistic nationalism and militarisation. His friendships across Balochistan, Burma, Kashmir, Naga ar-



Swara Bhasker criticises social media platform X for permanently suspending her account

Mumbai Actress Swara Bhasker has publicly slammed social media platform X after her account was suspended over alleged copyright violations.

The actress took to her Instagram handle to express her frustration, revealing that two of her tweets were flagged for copyright infringement, leading to her account being locked and ultimately suspended. In a detailed post, Swara outlined the reasons behind the suspension, stating that one of the flagged images featured the popular slogan "Gandhi Hum Sharmindaa Hain, Tere Qaatil

Zindagi Hain," a well-known slogan from the progressive movement in India.

The 'Veere Di Wedding' actress also defended the use of the image, claiming it was an urban, modern folk idiom with no copyright attached to it. Sharing a screenshot of her suspended X account, Swara wrote, "You can't make this stuff up!!!! Dear X, Two images from two tweets have been marked as 'copyright infringement'. Basis which my X account is locked / disabled, I can't access it and permanent suspension has been approved by your teams. One with an orange background and text in Hindi Devnaagri script reading 'Gandhi Hum

Sharmindaa hain, Tere qatil zindagi hain" is a popular slogan of the progressive movement in India. There is no copyright violation. It is akin to urban modern folk idiom."

Her post further read, "The second image marked as a violation is an image of MY OWN child with her face concealed waving an Indian flag and with writing 'HAPPY REPUBLIC DAY India. How can this possibly be a copyright infringement???? Who has a copyright on my child's likeness???? Both of these complaints are ridiculous and untenable by any rational, logical and objective understanding of any legal definition of copyright."

M Night Shyamalan ropes in Jake Gyllenhaal for new movie

Los Angeles Filmmaker M Night Shyamalan is set to collaborate with Hollywood star Jake Gyllenhaal for his next directorial project.

The project is a supernatural romantic thriller, based on an original story co-created by Shyamalan and best-selling novelist Nicholas Sparks, reported entertainment news outlet Deadline.

Shyamalan and Sparks are independently creating a screenplay and a novel, respectively, both inspired by the same original love story. Each project will feature the same core concept and characters but will be uniquely adapted to suit its medium.

RajKummar Rao, Patralekhaa's cryptic post leaves fans guessing

Mumbai Bollywood couple RajKummar Rao and Patralekhaa have sparked curiosity among fans with a cryptic post, hinting at an upcoming collaboration.

Taking to Instagram, the duo shared a silhouette of themselves against colourful lights, along with a caption that left fans guessing. "Something special is

brewing. Can't wait to share it with you all. Stay tuned!" Patralekhaa further clarified any speculation by adding, "P.S: We are not becoming parents yet".

While the details remain under wraps, fans are eager to know what the couple is working on.

RajKummar and Patralekhaa tied the knot on November 15, 2021, in an intimate ceremony in Chandigarh.

