



Sachin Tendulkar to get BCCI Lifetime Achievement Award



Myanmar's military govt extends state of emergency by 6 months

Sad as a fan but rooting for Vijay's political journey: Pooja Hegde



2 NATIONAL

Mahakumbh Tragedy a National Disaster, Helping Victims is a Moral Duty: MRM

3 DELHI

If BJP comes to power, it will stop your 5 free facilities says Arvind Kejriwal

5 STATE

Poison in Yamuna: Haryana CM Saini accuses Kejriwal of trying to commit mass genocide

6 SPORTS

ICC unveils men's Champions Trophy 2025 campaign featuring MS Dhoni

7 BUSINESS

India Needs 8% Growth to Become Developed by 2047: CEA



MARKET

SENSEX	NIFTY
76532.96	23163.10
631.55	205.85
GOLD	SILVER
80,329.00	92,030.00
40.00	979.00

WEATHER

Sunrise	7:11 AM
Sunset	5:59 PM
Moonrise	7:52 AM
Moonset	6:55 PM
Today's Prediction	
Maximum	11°C
Minimum	24°C
Tomorrow's Prediction	
23°C	11°C

Economic Survey lowers growth forecast to 6.3-6.8% blaming weak global demand

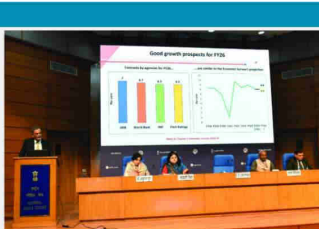
Economic Survey projects GDP growth at a four-year low of 6.4% in FY25. In regard to inflation, it said risk from higher commodity prices seems limited in FY26.

New Delhi The economic survey has presented a tepid set of macro numbers, projecting real GDP growth to be 6.3-6.8% for the next fiscal, citing the increasing pressure on the manufacturing sector due to weak global demand and seasonal domestic conditions. The economy is seen printing in a 6.4% growth in the current fiscal, which is close to the decadal average.

"Though the macro fundamentals remain robust with a strong external account, calibrated fiscal consolidation and stable private consumption, balancing it with the weak global demand and seasonal domestic factors we expect that the growth in FY26 would be between 6.3 and 6.8%," said the Economic Survey tabled by Parliament by finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Friday. Interestingly, the Survey has skipped a fiscal deficit for this fiscal or the next and it speaks up to FY24 only when the actual deficit printed in at 5.6% of GDP and

HIGHLIGHTS

- India's economic fundamentals robust, backed by calibrated fiscal consolidation, stable consumption
- Navigating global headwinds will require strategic, prudent policy management and reinforcing the domestic fundamentals
- Risks to inflation remain on account of significant global political, economic uncertainties
- Rupee depreciation in 2024 mainly due to strong US dollar amid geopolitical tensions, uncertainty around US election.



- Food inflation likely to soften in Q4 FY25 with seasonal easing of vegetable prices, Kharif harvest arrivals.
- Investment activity expected to pick up, supported by higher public capex and improving business expectations
- India needs to improve its global competitiveness through grassroots-level structural reforms
- Forex at USD 640.3 billion, sufficient to cover 10.9 months of imports and 90% of external debt

the budget had pegged it at 4.9% for this fiscal. The survey further says the manufacturing sector faces pressures due to weak global demand and domestic seasonal conditions. But it quickly also notes that this has been

visible across the globe with manufacturing slowing especially in Europe and parts of Asia, due to supply chain disruptions and weak external demand. Private consumption remains stable, reflecting steady domestic demand.

Fiscal discipline and strong external balance supported by a services trade surplus and healthy remittances growth have contributed to macroeconomic stability so far. Together, these factors have provided a solid foundation

for sustained growth amid external uncertainties," the survey said further exuding optimism. The industrial sector grew 6% in first half, and is estimated to grow by 6.2% for the full year. The government also credits the government for all-round stability on inflation, fiscal health, and external sector balance safeguarded by services trade and record remittances. The composite purchasing managers index has stayed in the expansion zone for the 14th consecutive in December. While the services sector continues to show strength, manufacturing has shown contraction. Aggregate GVA has surpassed the pre-pandemic trend in Q1 of FY25 and now hovers above the trend in the first half of FY25 and according to the first advance estimates released earlier this month, the real GVA growth for FY25 is estimated to be 6.4%, after growing at 6.2% in H1. Of this, private final consumption

Seven outgoing AAP MLAs resign ahead of Delhi polls



TSN/New Delhi

In a major blow to the Aam Aadmi Party ahead of the Delhi assembly elections, eight MLAs have resigned from the party. The eight MLAs of Delhi's ruling party did not get tickets to contest the upcoming polls. The MLAs cited "growing corruption" within the party as the reason for their resignations. The MLAs who have resigned from the primary membership of the party are Naresh Yadav from Mehrauli, Rohit Kumar from Trilokpuri, Rajesh Rishi from Janakpuri, Madan Lal from Kasturba Nagar, Pawan Sharma from Adarsh Nagar, BS Joon from Bijwasan, Girish Soni from Madipur and Bhavna Goud from Palam. According to sources, several MLAs

who did not get a ticket this time held a meeting on Friday following which resignations came one by one. The AAP's Bijwasan MLA was the first to quit the party.

AAP's Mehrauli MLA Naresh Yadav was convicted by a Punjab court in a Quran desecration case in December and sentenced to a two-year jail term. Earlier, the party announced his candidature from the same constituency but when it released its fifth list of sources, several MLAs

Sonia Gandhi's remark on President Murmu sparks row



New Delhi Congress Parliamentary Party Chairperson Sonia Gandhi's remarks on President Droupadi Murmu's address to Parliament on Friday sparked controversy, drawing criticism from Rashtrapati Bhavan and the BJP demanding an apology. Soon after the President concluded her address to the joint sitting, Congress leaders Sonia

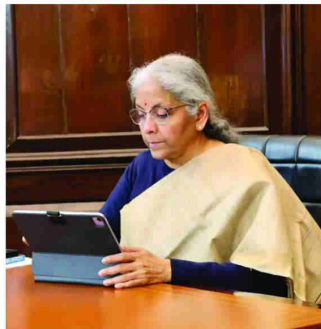
BJP claimed Sonia's remarks insulted the president, showing a feudal mindset. Priyanka said her mother's words were twisted by the media and that she had the utmost respect for President Murmu.

Gandhi, Rahul Gandhi, and Priyanka Gandhi Vadra were seen discussing the speech. "The poor lady, the President, was getting very tired by the end... she could hardly speak poor thing," Sonia was purportedly heard saying in a video doing the rounds on social media. Reacting to the incident, the Rashtrapati Bhavan said that the Congress leader's

FM Nirmala Sitharaman gives final touches to her record eighth Budget

New Delhi Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Friday gave final touches to the first full Budget of Modi government's third term that is expected to balance the aspiration of the middle class for tax cut and needs of the economy to boost growth.

Sitharaman will on February 1 present a record eighth consecutive Budget that is expected to contain measures to shore up weakening economic growth and ease the burden on the middle class struggling with high prices and stagnant wage growth while being fiscally prudent. "Union Minister for Finance and Corporate Affairs Smt. @nitharaman interacts with the Secretaries and the senior officials involved in the Budget making process @FinMinIndia



while giving final touches to the Union Budget 2025-26 at her office in North Block, in New Delhi, today," the finance ministry said in a post on X. Minister of State for Finance Pankaj Chaudhary also participated in the meeting, it said. The Budget will come in the backdrop of the GDP growth rate projected to fall to 4-year low of 6.4 per cent in the current financial year, close to its decadal average. The Economic Survey

2024-25 tabled by the Finance Minister in both Houses has estimated India's GDP growing in the range of 6.3-6.8 per cent in FY26, much lower than what is needed to become a developed country, and requires deregulation and reforms in areas like land and labour to stimulate growth. It indicated that India's world-beating growth is moderating and more needs to be done to achieve the near 8 per cent annual rate required to achieve the Viksit Bharat target by 2047. The 6.3-6.8 per cent growth rate in the 2025-26 financial year compares to an estimated 4.4 per cent growth in the current year ending March 31 - the weakest since the pandemic - and 8.2 per cent in the 2023-24 financial year. Agency

9 dead in van-truck collision in Punjab's Ferozepur

Ferozepur (PB): Nine people were killed and many injured in a collision between a pick-up van and a tanker truck in this Punjab district on Friday, police said.

The van was carrying more than 20 people, mainly those working as waiters, who were going to attend a function in Jalandhar. The accident took place at around 8 am near a village in the Guruharsahi sub-division, police said. At least nine people suffered injuries and are undergoing treatment at various hospitals, they added. Ferozepur's Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Saumya Mishra said soon after the accident, teams from the 'Sadak Suraksha Force' (SSF) reached the spot and launched a rescue operation. Police said while some reports had earlier claimed that the accident could have been caused due to low visibility because of fog, they are still investigating the reason behind it. Deputy Commissioner (DC) Deepshikha Sharma said some of the critically-injured people were referred to the Guru Gobind Singh Medical College in Faridkot, while a few others were admitted at the civil hospital in Jalandhar. "Five ambulances were sent to the spot immediately after the incident," the DC said, adding that the administration will bear the treatment cost of the injured. Agency

India, U.S. working on PM Modi's visit: MEA

New Delhi India and the United States are working towards an early visit by Prime Minister Narendra Modi to the US, to further deepen India-US Comprehensive Global Strategic partnership, the Ministry of External Affairs said on Friday. MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said the dates for the visit are being worked and will be announced at the appropriate time. "Prime Minister Modi and President Trump had a telephonic conversation some days back. Recently, the two sides are working on an early visit of the Prime Minister to the United States to further deepen India-US Comprehensive Global Strategic partnership and



partnership and the Indo-Pacific Quad partnership. They also discussed plans for PM Modi's visit to the White House, and Indo-Pacific Quad partnership, with India hosting Quad Leaders for the first time later this year. Describing Donald Trump, who took oath as US President earlier this month, as his "dear friend", PM Modi said India and the United States will work together towards global peace, prosperity, and security. The two leaders exchanged views on global issues, including the situation in West Asia and Ukraine, and reiterated their commitment to work together for promoting global peace, prosperity and security. Agency

specific dates for this visit are still being worked out and will be announced at the appropriate time," Jaiswal said in weekly briefing today. Notably, Trump had held a "productive" telephonic conversation with PM Modi on, a statement

'Incident not in public view' SC junks case under SC-ST Act

New Delhi The Supreme Court on Friday quashed a case against a man booked under the SC/ST Act saying the alleged incident did not happen in public view. A bench of Justices B R Gavi and Augustine George Masih said Section 3(j)(r) of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989, reveals for an offence to occur, it had to be established that the accused intentionally insulted or intimidated a member of either a SC or ST with the intent to humiliate in a place within public view. In addition, it said for constituting an offence

view, the offence would not come under the provisions of either section 3(i)(r) or section 3(j)(s) of the SC-ST Act," held the bench. Section 3 of the Act deals with punishment for offences of atrocities. The top court referred to the FIR which said the alleged incident took place within the four corners of the complainant's chambers and his other colleagues arrived there after the of incident. The top court delivered its verdict on an appeal filed by a man challenging a February 2024 order of the Madras High Court. Agency

under Section 3(i)(s) of the Act, it would be necessary that the accused abused any member of a SC or ST by caste name in any place within public view. "We are, therefore, of the considered view that since the incident has not taken place at a place which can be termed to be a place within public

Economic Survey lowers growth forecast to 6.3-6.8% blaming weak global demand

CONT FROM PAGE-1 expenditure is estimated to grow by 7.3% driven by a rebound in rural demand, taking its share in GDP from 60.3% in FY24 to 61.8% in FY25, making it the highest since FY03. On the supply side, GVA is seen dipping at 6.4% in FY25 on the back of the agriculture sector rebounding to 3.8% and the industrial sector growing 6.2%. Strong growth rates in construction activities and electricity, gas, water supply and other utility services are expected to support industrial expansion.

Growth in the services sector is expected to remain robust at 7.2% driven by healthy activity in financial, real estate, professional services, public administration, defence, and other services. Sectorally speaking, the survey notes that construction has been a standout, gaining momentum since mid-FY21 and soaring around 15% above its pre-pandemic trend thanks to the robust infrastructure development and housing demand.

The utilities sector, including electricity, gas, water supply, and other services, reached the pre-pandemic level by the end of FY23 and has consistently stayed above these levels. But the biggest negative surprise has been the manufacturing sector, while steadily recovering, remains slightly below its pre-pandemic trajectory.

Seven outgoing AAP MLAs resign ahead of Delhi polls

CONT FROM PAGE-1 candidates, it announced Mahender Chaudhary as its Mehrauli candidate, replacing Yadav.

Yadav, while sending his resignation to the AAP National Convener Arvind Kejriwal, said the ruling party had deviated from its founding principle of "honest politics." "I dedicated my entire life to politics and worked under your leadership with utmost honesty and dedication. I made every effort to realize your vision and also contributed 100% to fulfilling the responsibilities given to me. However, today, the party has drifted from its core ideology, and good people who want to work honestly are being sidelined, while those involved in corrupt practices are being given a place in the organization," he said in his letter.

Yadav further said that the AAP is no longer what it was founded for. In such a situation, he no longer wishes to be a part of the party. Hence, he resigned from the primary membership of the party with immediate effect.

Reacting to the setback, the AAP said it is a widely loved party with many able and well-educated candidates aspiring for tickets. This time, some MLAs were denied tickets, leading to dissatisfaction in the party. For the past few weeks, BJP members have been constantly approaching AAP MLAs who did not get tickets this time, luring them with various offers, promising positions, power and incentives, the party alleged.

Mahakumbh Tragedy a National Disaster, Helping Victims is a Moral Duty: MRM

Pravargaj
The tragic accident at the grand spiritual festival of Mahakumbh has plunged the entire nation into deep sorrow. This horrific incident has claimed the lives of many innocent devotees, leaving hundreds injured. It is not just an accident but a national tragedy that has shaken every Indian. The Muslim Rashtriya Manch (MRM) has expressed profound grief over this disaster, praying for the peace of the departed souls and extending deep condolences to the affected families. The organization has pledged full cooperation with the administration in this difficult time and is actively participating in relief efforts.

MRM's National Convener & Media In-charge, Shahid Sayeed, termed the incident a national loss, stating, "The Mahakumbh is a symbol of India's rich culture and heritage. Tragedies like this do not just affect one community but wound the soul of the entire nation." He affirmed that MRM stands with the bereaved



families and will extend all possible help in this hour of grief. The organization's teams are assisting in relief and rescue efforts, providing food and medical aid to those in need. MRM emphasized that it is both a moral and social duty to support the victims and urged the government to take concrete steps to prevent such incidents in the future. In response to the Mahakumbh tragedy, MRM convened an emergency online and offline meeting on Friday, attended by over 200 members.

The meeting decided that MRM would write an emotional letter to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, expressing deep condolences and offering full support for relief efforts. The organization emphasized that political differences should be set aside at this moment and that the entire nation must unite to help the victims. "This is a time to show compassion and unity. The Mahakumbh tragedy is a wake-up call to

ensure such incidents do not happen again," said MRM. The letter will call for a thorough investigation into the disaster and the formulation of a long-term safety policy for massive religious gatherings like the Kumbh Mela. The Muslim Rashtriya Manch is actively participating in relief and rescue operations. MRM volunteers, in coordination with the administration, are helping injured victims, distributing food, water, and essential medicines at relief camps. National

MRM's National Convener & Media In-charge, Shahid Sayeed, termed the incident a national loss, stating, "The Mahakumbh is a symbol of India's rich culture and heritage. Tragedies like this do not just affect one community but wound the soul of the entire nation."

to seek spiritual merit. Such disasters deeply wound the entire nation." He demanded a detailed investigation into the incident and urged the government to strengthen safety measures for large gatherings.

National Convener Raza Hussain Rizvi also expressed deep sorrow, stating, "Millions of devotees attend the Mahakumbh, and such incidents shake the entire country. The administrative system must be strengthened to prevent such tragedies in the future. MRM prays for the speedy recovery of the injured and demands that the government provide all possible assistance to the victims' families."

National Convener Dr. Shalini Ali called the incident an unfortunate and stressed that "the safety of women, elderly people, and children at the Mahakumbh must be a top priority. Such tragedies are not just the administration's responsibility but the responsibility of the entire society." She urged special security measures for women and children.

LEAD boosts student confidence with India's largest student championship

New Delhi
India's largest school edtech company, LEAD Group, has announced the winners of the National Championship 2024, the sixth edition of the prestigious national level platform.

Over 1.9 lakh students participated in the event, which focused on 21st-century skills such as communication, critical thinking, creativity, confidence, and coding. The National Championship was organized by LEAD Group, aiming to nurture the next generation of future-ready innovators and change-makers.

The competition was held in Delhi and attracted talented students from thousands of schools across the country.

LEAD Group's Chief Executive and Co-Founder, Sumeet Mehta, praised the students' creativity and enthusiasm, showcasing their skills from unique ideas to real-world problems.

The National Championship 2024 was for students from Pre-Primary to Class 9 and aimed to nurture the next generation of future-ready innovators and change-makers.

The competition was an incredible opportunity for students from small towns and underprivileged areas of India to realize their dreams on the national stage.

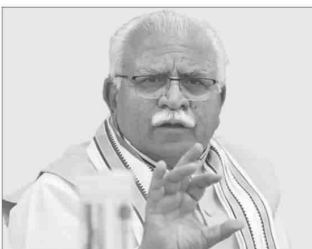
SC to hold event on Jan 1 to discuss issues in district judiciary

New Delhi
The Supreme Court would organise a national conference over the issues faced by the district judiciary on January 1.

According to a press release, the conference comprises four technical sessions, of which the first would be chaired by Chief Justice of India Sanjiv Khanna to "bring together the experience and knowledge of each high court" to bring about judicial reforms for a timely and efficient case disposal.

The first session would also comprise discussions on the implementation of the policy and action plan for 2024 prepared by the national court management systems committee, which identifies bottlenecks in case disposal and provides strategies to reduce the backlog of cases.

India's Power Sector Expands Robustly: Manohar Lal



New Delhi
The Economic Survey reflects robust expansion in India's power sector, which has witnessed significant strides over the last few years, Union Minister Manohar Lal said on Friday.

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Friday presented the Economic Survey 2024-25 in the Lok Sabha. "We are committed to ensuring uninterrupted and affordable elec-

tricity for every citizen while steering India towards becoming a major energy exporter by 2047, in line with the vision of Viksit Bharat," a power ministry statement quoted Lal as saying.

The minister said: "The survey aptly reflects the robust expansion of India's power sector, which has witnessed significant strides under our government's initiatives.

Sonia Gandhi's remark on President Murmu sparks row

CONT FROM PAGE-1 comments on the President's address to the Parliament clearly hurt the dignity of the high office and therefore are unacceptable. The President's office said it believed it might be the case that these leaders were not acquainted with "the idiom and discourse in Indian languages such as Hindi," and thus formed a wrong impression.

"In any case, such comments are in poor taste, unfortunate and entirely avoidable," the President's office said in a statement.

The Rashtrapati Bhavan said, "While reacting to the media on the President's address to the Parliament, some prominent leaders of the Congress party have made comments that clearly hurt the dignity of the high office, and therefore are unacceptable."

These leaders have said that the President

was getting "very tired" by the end and she could hardly speak, it said.

"Rashtrapati Bhavan would like to clarify that nothing could be farther from the truth. The President was not tired at any point. Indeed, she has believed that speaking up for the marginalized communities, for women and farmers, as she was doing during the course of her address, can never be tiring," it added.

Reacting strongly, the BJP launched a scathing attack on Sonia Gandhi.

BJP National president JP Nadda condemned her remarks and demanded an apology. "We strongly condemn the usage of the phrase 'poor thing' by Smt. Sonia Gandhi for Honourable President of India, Droupadi Murmu Ji," Nadda posted on X.

He further stated, "The deliberate usage of such words shows the elitist, anti-poor, and anti-tribal nature of the Congress

Over 23,000 Track Kilometers Upgraded for 130 kmph Speed: Indian Railways

Staff Reporter
New Delhi

Indian Railways has achieved a significant milestone by upgrading over 23,000 track kilometers (TKM) of the Indian Railways network to support train speeds of up to 130 kilometres per hour (kmph).

This remarkable progress underscores the government's commitment to modernizing railway infrastructure, improving connectivity, and reducing travel times for millions of passengers nationwide.

With nearly one-fifth of India's railway network now equipped for higher speeds, these advancements have been made possible through robust safety measures such as modern signalling systems and strategic fencing, marking a new era of efficiency and reliability in train travel.

The modernization of track infrastructure involves comprehensive upgrades, including the strengthening of tracks



to ensure stability and durability for high-speed operations, the implementation of advanced signalling systems for precise communication and safe train operations, and the installation of safety measures such as fencing at vulnerable locations to enhance security and mitigate risks.

These efforts align with Indian Railways' goal of fostering a safer and more efficient railway network, catering to the needs of both passenger and freight demands.

The upgrades prominently feature sections of the Golden Quadrilateral and Golden Diagonal networks, vital corridors linking the nation's major cities. These routes, which handle a significant portion of India's passenger and freight traffic, are now better equipped to accommodate higher speeds, ensuring faster transit and improved logistics.

Additionally, around 54,377 TKM of tracks have been upgraded to support speeds up to 110 kmph. This systematic enhancement ensures

seamless connectivity across various regions and bolsters the overall operational efficiency of Indian Railways.

Indian Railways' flagship semi-high-speed train, the Vande Bharat Express, exemplifies the success of these infrastructure improvements. Capable of achieving speeds up to 160 kmph, the Vande Bharat Express symbolizes a new era in Indian train travel, offering passengers a faster, more comfortable, and premium travel experience. To accommodate such speeds safely, Indian Railways has prioritized safety fencing along high-speed track sections.

These measures not only ensure the smooth operation of trains but also minimize the risk of accidents. Compared to the previous year, specialized train services during periods of peak demand increased significantly by 54%, reaching to 57,169 services.

AAP doesn't want Delhi to benefit from central govt schemes": CM Dhama

Pawan Lalchand
New Delhi

Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhama addressed a public meeting in support of Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) candidate Harish Khurana in the Moti Nagar assembly constituency of Delhi on Friday, according to a release.

CM Dhama criticised the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP), calling it 'corrupt' and 'useless', stating that it came to power by lying, did not want the people of Delhi to get the benefits of the schemes of the central government started under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

While the work of providing water to various states of the country under the 'Har Ghar Nal Se Jal Abhiyan' is being done across the country, people in Delhi are not getting the benefit of this scheme, a statement from the release said. Even today 40 percent



of the population here is forced to buy water and drink it. He said that due to the poor thinking of the Aam Aadmi Party, people were not able to get the benefit of Ayushman Yojana.

The Chief Minister further said that the party which could not clean the Yamuna after being in power for 11 years was now asking for five years for cleaning again. "Kejriwal and his party people should answer how the Yamuna which is sent clean and pure from Uttarakhand becomes so

polluted in Delhi that its water is not fit for irrigation," he further added.

Chief Minister Dhama said that Kejriwal committed "corruption" across multiple sectors, including clinics, medicine purchases, streetlights, buses, schools, and liquor. "AAP's Kejriwal and Manish Sisodia are still out on bail", he further said.

The Chief Minister, also said that the people of Delhi are ready to oust the AAP from power at the upcoming elections.

PUBLIC NOTICE
Known to all that my client known to all that my client Mrs. Varsha Arora owner of the Property address:- B-10, Upper Ground floor, without roof rights part of Property bearing No. B-48, area measuring 50 Sq. Yds., Khata No. 3228 Sitling, Posinganagar, Uram Nagar, New Delhi purchased aforesaid property from Mrs. Sudha Arora Vide Regd. General Power of Attorney AT'S AND WILL dated 16.07.2004, and it is informed by my deal with said documents by any person except my self and my attorney on regarding said property, shall be deemed as null and void. If any person having any claim, right in said property then he may contact and handover the same and withdraw his claim to undersigned within 15 days of this publication.

Dhananjay Kumar
Advocate & Legal Consultant
Chamber No.35 Dwarka Court
New Delhi-110028
Mob: 9810592498

NEWS IN BRIEF

NDMC to organise 'Suvidha' camp today

Staff Reporter
New Delhi

The NDMC is organising its next 'Suvidha' camp to address citizens' grievances at the NDCC Convention Centre, Jai Singh Road (near Park Lane Kendra) here on Saturday.

The 'Suvidha' camp will address the grievances related to new electricity connection/disconnection, load enhancement/reduction, name change/transfer, property tax, birth and death certificate, service matters of serving and retired employees of NDMC, water logging, sanitation, waste disposal, road repairs, widow, old age and handicapped pensions, booking of Barat Ghar and parks and other services.

The NDMC has also launched a 'Jan Suvidha' portal as a contactless grievance redressal mechanism for the residents and service users of NDMC. The link for the said portal is available on NDMC website (<https://www.ndmc.gov.in/complaints.aspx>). The 'Jan Suvidha' portal can be used for lodging the grievance, tracking their grievance status and for giving feedback on the grievance redressal mechanism.

Film City's layout plan approved

This Film City is proposed to be built in sector-21 of the Yamuna Development Authority. It is to be constructed by Bayview Bhutanese Film City Private Limited led by film producer Boney Kapoor.

Noida

The Yamuna Expressway Industrial Development Authority (YEIDA) has approved the layout plan for the Film City.

This Film City is proposed to be built in sector-21 of the Yamuna Development Authority. It is to be constructed by Bayview Bhutanese Film City Private Limited led by film producer Boney Kapoor.

This approval has been given after a detailed review of the project. The layout which has been approved is for the first phase. The Film City will cover 230 acre of land in its first phase in which 75 acre of land will be allotted for commercial development and 155 acre of land for the film industry.

District election office of North East Delhi Celebrates "EK SHAAM VOTERS KE NAAM"

New Delhi

The District election office of North East Delhi, under the leadership of Ajay Kumar, District Magistrate (DM/DEO), hosted a special program titled "EK SHAAM VOTERS KE NAAM" on January 31, 2025, at the Dr. Akhilesh Das Gupta Institute of Professional Studies, Shastrri Park, New Delhi.

The event aimed to promote voter awareness and encourage active participation in the upcoming Delhi Legislative Assembly Elections.

The event commenced at 2:00 p.m. with the ceremonial lighting of the lamp, followed by plant pot presentations to the dignitaries. The distinguished guests

If BJP comes to power, it will stop your 5 free facilities says Arvind Kejriwal

Ravi Dalmiya
New Delhi

Arvind Kejriwal, the National Convenor of AAP and former Chief Minister of Delhi on Friday urged the people to form an "AAP" government while stating that if the BJP government comes to power, it will stop five free facilities: free electricity, free water, free bus travel for women, and free treatment in Mohalla Clinics.

Kejriwal said that if these facilities are stopped, the burden of 25000 to 30000 rupees per month will increase on the pockets of the people of Delhi.

Kejriwal was addressing a public meeting in



support of AAP candidate Naveen Chaudhary Deepu from Gandhi Nagar Assembly constituency.

"In the AAP Party government, free treatment is provided in Mohalla

Clinics, electricity bills are coming zero, good education is provided in government schools, women are traveling free in buses, and free water is coming to homes," Kejriwal said.

He further said that if the government returns, every woman will receive 21000 rupees every month under the Mahila Samman Yojana, and those who are not registered will

People in 'AAP' are Feeling Deceived says Sachdeva on 8 MLAs quits AAP Party

Staff Reporter
New Delhi

Delhi BJP President Virendra Sachdeva has stated that a significant number of people are leaving the Aam Aadmi Party, including seven or eight current or former MLAs.

Sachdeva cited the erosion of trust Arvind Kejriwal initially tried to build and the feeling of deceit among those associated with the party.

The list of those leaving AAP, which began with Anna Hazare, has now reached eight MLAs.

Sachdeva emphasized that anyone who truly wants development in Delhi cannot remain with AAP, as Kejriwal symbolizes corruption, theft, plundering,



and commission-based politics.

He emphasized that those who left the party made their own personal decisions, but eventually, every individual who wants to see Delhi develop will leave AAP.

Sachdeva also stated that Kejriwal has betrayed the people of Delhi and his own colleagues.

NOIDA MLA, CEO Lokesh M distributed 5% residential plot allotment letters to 23 farmers

Ajeet Kumar
NOIDA

The Noida Development Authority on Friday organized a program to distribute allotment letters for 5% residential plots to farmers in the presence of Chief Executive Officer Lokesh M. The program involved 23 plots, including Basai Bhaundh Nagar 01, Chotpur-05, Sarfabad-07, and Yalabpur-10, covering an area of approximately 4400 sq. m.

The Authority is committed to providing 5% population plots to affected original farmers in relation to acquired land. Allotment letters have been issued for 2226 plots from January 2017 to December 2024.

The Noida Authority's policy is to give 5% population plots to affected original farmers on a priority basis, following proceedings at various levels. The department is committed to resolving the seriousness of the case and the problems of farmers according to government guidelines.



Additional Chief Executive Officers Sanjay Kumar Khatri, Special Executive Officer Mahendra Prasad, Mrs. Vandana Tripathi, Additional Chief Executive Officer Satish Pal, Special Executive

Officers Arvind Kumar Singh, and other officials participated in the program, extending their cooperation to make the program successful.

Delhi polls: Rs 3.05 lakh cash seized in Dashrathpuri

New Delhi

In violation of the Model Code of Conduct ahead of Delhi assembly polls, the police has seized Rs 3.05 lakh during vehicle checking in Dashrathpuri, an official said on Friday.

The cash was recovered from the storage compartment of a scooter during routine checks on Thursday.



The MCC came into effect in the national capital early January with the announcement assembly poll dates. The team was deployed to monitor illegal activities in the run-up to the elections.

PUBLIC NOTICE

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE THAT MY CLIENTS SHRI BHAGWATI PRASAD S/O SHRI MOOL LAL AND HIS WIFE SMT SHOBHA WATI BOTH R/O MEK-706 & 513-G, K-2 BLOCK, MATA CHOWK, MAHAPAL PUR EXTN, DELHI-110037 HAVE DISOWNED THEIR SONS NAMELY (1) SHRI JAMUNA PRASAD AND HIS WIFE SMT. SANDHYA, (2) SHRI SUSHIL @ SUDAMA AND HIS WIFE SMT. PRIYANKA AND (3) SHRI SURAJ AND HIS WIFE SMT. MALA, FROM ALL THEIR MOVEABLE AND IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES AND ALSO SEVERED ALL THEIR RELATIONS WITH THEM, DUE TO THEIR CRUEL, RUDE, NEGLECTIVE, AGGRESSIVE AND DISRESPECTFUL BEHAVIOUR TOWARDS MY CLIENTS. IF ANY BODY DEALS WITH ABOVE SAID (1) SHRI JAMUNA PRASAD AND HIS WIFE SMT. SANDHYA, (2) SHRI SUSHIL @ SUDAMA AND HIS WIFE SMT. PRIYANKA AND (3) SHRI SURAJ AND HIS WIFE SMT. MALA, IN ANY MANNER WHATSOEVER NATURE, SHALL DO SO AT HIS/HER/ THEIR OWN RISK AND MY CLIENTS SHALL NOT BE HELD RESPONSIBLE FOR ANY ACTS AND DEEDS OF THE ABOVE SAID PERSONS.

ARVIND KUMAR & ASSOCIATES LEGAL CONSULTANT & ADVOCATES SUPREME COURT OF INDIA, Chamber No. 8-127, B-Block, Tis Hazari Courts, Delhi-110054.

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the general public that My Client, Azhar Ali C/o Ansar Ali R/O J-3/35, GF, Kharkhi Extra, Hauz Khas, Delhi-110017, had published a public notice dated 08.01.2025 in Newspaper Jan Satta & The Indian Express about pendency of two Civil Suit bearing No. CS SCI/1072/2024 case titled as "Azhar Ali Vs Mohammad Nadim" and another suit bearing No. CS SCI/1074/2024 in case titled as "Azhar Ali Vs Mohammad Sarajuddin" both pending before the Ld. Civil Judge, South Dist., Saket Courts, New Delhi in respect of the property Plot No.13 & 26, bearing Municipal No. 895/C-5, Kharsa No.115/13, in Ward No.8, measuring 181.44 sq. yds and 185. Sq. yds situated in Abadi of Lal Dora of Village mehraul, Tehsil, Hauz Khas, New Delhi. By present Corrigendum it is hereby clarified that the above mentioned suits are only with respect of four floors i.e First, Second, Third & Fourth on plot no 26 only instead of entire plots and has no dispute with the owners of the plot. Hence any one may proceed with sale and purchase of any other part of the property.

ROHIT ARORA & ASSOCIATES DELHI HIGH COURT Office: Q19-A, 3rd Floor, Jangpura Extension New Delhi-110014

Delhi Cong slams Kejriwal for failing to clear Bhalswa landfill

Staff Reporter
New Delhi

Delhi Congress president Devender Yadav here on Friday said that former CM Arvind Kejriwal during his visit to the Bhalswa landfill site on March 17, 2023 along with then mayor Shelly Oberoi, had asserted that the said landfill would be cleared by March 2024, but the Bhalswa landfill has only grown taller with waste.

Yadav who held election campaigns in Badli on Friday said that the Congress manifesto had outlined specific plans to flatten the landfill, ensure round the clock drinking water supply and electricity and reconstruct the crumbling civic infrastructure as to work in the name of development had been done in Badli for the past years. He said that he was committed to fulfil all the promises made in the Delhi assembly elections as the Badli assembly had not

witnessed any development in the past 10 years, with people living in inhuman conditions. He said that dirty drinking water, garbage dumps, highly toxic air and land pollution make life miserable for the people.

Yadav, who is the Congress candidate for the Badli assembly said that he had done a lot of development works in Badli when he was the MLA of the area and continued to nurse the constituency even when he was not the MLA. He said that the AAP government had totally neglected Badli.

Yadav held election campaigns in Badli on Friday when he addressed public meetings at Masarwalli Colony, near the Masjid, Valmiki Mohalla and Harijan colony (Bhalswa). He also held padayatra at TTI JJ clusters, K2 Block, Jahangirpuri, E Block, Yadav Nagar, E Block, Landi Wali Gali, Shivpuri, Teacher Colony.

Delhi cop assaulted in Bhajanpura, 4 held

New Delhi

A Delhi Police probation sub-inspector (PSI) was assaulted by four to five men in northeast Delhi's Bhajanpura area in an alleged road rage case, an official said.

Four people were arrested after a video of incident, which occurred around 12:30 am on Friday, surfaced on social media, the official said. "A video of a police officer being assaulted by four to five men in Bhajanpura is circulating on social media. The officer, posted at Bhajanpura police station and currently assigned to the Static Surveillance Team (SST) for election duty, was attacked while returning home late at night," the police said in a statement.

EASTERN RAILWAY
Abridged e-tender No. - DCPM/ISS-ENG-SDAH-10-24-25 (Open tender in Single Packet System), dated : 28.01.2025. Tender for e-tendering is invited by Dy. Chief Project Manager/ Gati Shakti Unit/Engg./Sealdah, Eastern Railway, Ramdole Control Building, Kaiser Street, Sealdah, Kolkata-700014 for the following work: Name of the work : Sealdah Division - Gati Shakti Unit - Feasibility Study and Reconnaissance Survey and Preparation of Detailed Project Report, etc. for Krishnanagar - Construction of 2 Lane Road Over Bridge in lieu of Level Crossing Gate No. 68T at Km. 69/12 - 69/13 in Ranaghat - Lalgaola section of Sealdah Division of Eastern Railway. Approx. Value : ₹ 32.41,790.45. Earnest money : ₹ 64,800.00. Cost of Tender Documents : Nil. Completion period : 18 (Eighteen) months. 19.02.2025 at 15:00 hrs. The tender and other details can be obtained from the website www.irps.gov.in The bidding for the tender is to be submitted the e-tendering on above website. Manual offers are not allowed against this tender and any manual offer if received will not be accepted and will be summarily rejected. SDAH-3402024-25 Tender Notice is also available on www.indianrailways.gov.in Follow us at: @EasternRailway @easternrailwayheadquarter

NORTHERN RAILWAY
TENDER NOTICE
The Dy. Chief Engineer/Construction, Northern Railway, Tikari Bridge, New Delhi for and on the behalf of the President of India invites open e-tender under Two Packet System for the following work:-
Civil works, permanent way works including Earthwork in filling in embankments and in cutting, supplying and screening including compaction of ballasting materials, supplying & putting of stone ballast. Extension of LHS, provision of drainage, etc. service buildings, provision high level platform, provision of drainage system, laying & linking of railway track/route and all other permanent way installations etc. all types of dismantling of existing buildings and existing P-Way infrastructures and all other allied works etc. in C/W - Kumbhawaas Yard Work in c/wth connectivity of DFC with Northern Railway in the jurisdiction of Dy. Chief Engineer/Construction, Tikari Bridge on Delhi-Rewari Section of Delhi Division.
Completion period of the work : 18 (Eighteen) months
Approx. cost of the work : To be filled only
Earnest Money : ₹ 26,47,000/- (Rs. Twenty Six Lakh Four Seven Thousand and Four Hundred only)
Date & time for submission of tender and opening of tender : Tender may be uploaded upto 11:30 hrs on 28.02.2025 on IRPS web site i.e. www.irps.gov.in. The bidders can participate in the e-tendering. Bids of which will be opened at 11:30 hrs on 28.02.2025.
Detail of tender : The detailed tender's document will be available on IRPS website i.e. www.irps.gov.in from 08.02.2025 to 28.02.2025 and bidding Notice & Tender & Document will be able to offer their documents and financial bid from 14.02.2025. All other terms and conditions in respect of above tenders are given in tender document.
Tender Notice No.: 491-ACC-C-KWMD-TKI Dated : 30.01.2025 34A/2025 SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

KIND ATTENTION RAIL PASSENGERS!
KUMBH MELA SPECIAL TRAIN
In continuation to already announced Special Trains for Maha Kumbh Mela-2025, Northern Railway has decided to run following Special Train as per details given below:-
Train No. 04494/04493 Anand Vihar T.-Patna Jn. 02 TRPS
Train No. 04494 ANAND VIHAR T. KUMBH MELA SPECIAL TRAIN
ARR. DEP. STATIONS ARR. DEP.
--- 23:55 ANAND VIHAR T. 14:00 ---
00:43 00:45 GHAZIABAD 13:15 13:17
02:00 02:02 ALIGARH JN. 10:43 10:45
03:05 03:10 TUNDLA JN. 08:50 08:55
06:40 06:45 GONDVPURI 05:15 05:20
10:30 10:35 PRAYAGRAJ JN. 02:10 02:15
14:40 14:50 PT. DEEN DAYAL UPADHYAYA JN. 23:25 23:35
16:05 16:07 BUXAR 22:08 22:10
17:00 17:02 ARAJN. 21:08 21:10
17:30 17:32 DANAPUR 20:40 20:42
18:15 --- PATNA JN. --- 20:00
Days of Run : 04494 Ex Anand Vihar on 06.02.2025 (Thursday) and 04493 Ex Patna Jn. on 07.02.2025 (Friday).
Accommodation: 1st AC, 2 Tier AC & 3 Tier AC.
For any kind of information, passengers are requested to contact RailMadad Helpline No. 139 or visit Indian Railways website <https://enquiry.indianrailways.gov.in/NTESApp>.
NORTHERN RAILWAY
Your Convenience-Our Concern
Visit us at: www.northernrailways.gov.in
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE



By Priyanka Saurabh

The trend of nuclear families is eating away social morality like termites

The growing influence of nuclear families, consisting of small families of parents and children, has significantly eroded the own family group, especially its traditional function in inculcating values. This shift, driven by urbanization, financial pressures, and individualistic lifestyles, has altered the way values are transmitted. While nuclear families allow for independence and personal growth, they also face challenges in transmitting cultural, moral, and ethical values that were previously reinforced through the extended family structure. Impact on the family as an institution for inculcating values The role of the extended family in value transmission has diminished. In traditional joint families, grandparents, uncles, and aunts played an important role in storytelling, advising, and reinforcing collective values such as identity and a sense of network for elders. With nuclear families, this intergenerational connection is weakened, restricting children's exposure to different viewpoints. Confucius emphasized one's family members as the first capacity for virtue. The decline of multi-generational living may also weaken this moral education. In nuclear families, parents bear the entire burden of supplying values, regularly combining this with professional commitments. This may lead to a shortage due to time constraints or stress. Urban nuclear families may prioritize educational fulfillment over coaching of empathy or patience, creating indi-



vidualistic attitudes in children.

Nuclear families promote values such as autonomy, decision-making, and personal responsibility, which align with current societal demands. John Stuart Mill valued individual freedom and self-reliance as qualities essential to individual and social progress, which nuclear families effectively sell. Nuclear families often prioritize the needs of their own family, which undoubtedly diminishes the awareness of collective values such as sharing, sacrifice, and mutual aid, which were essential to the joint family system. Festivals, which once strengthened networks and cultural bonds in joint families, are now celebrated in solitude. While traditional systems are weakening, nuclear families are becoming more and more dependent on schools, peer groups, and virtual systems for education.

However, a lack of per-

sonal mentoring can also impair moral development. In nuclear families, the absence of models from multiple positions can also limit children's ability to observe and study multiple virtues. The growing emphasis on nuclear families has reshaped the family's position in developing values. While promoting independence and self-reliance, it often diminishes awareness of collective knowledge and cultural traditions provided by extended families. To bridge this gap, nuclear families must consciously adapt by emphasizing pleasant parenting, fostering network connections, and responsibly taking advantage of modern tools. As Confucius said, "The energy of the state is derived from the integrity of the home," highlighting that families, regardless of structure, remain valuable for shaping moral citizens.

The nuclear family is an "organic" phenomenon of private human society. It is not an adaptive form in

addition to loved ones, have lost power. This has made one's own family more "factual" than in its former state of extreme morality. As a result, the nuclear family has weakened because it is largely an organization of religion and is no longer very much controllable with the aid of litigation and public regulation. This is therefore not going well in Western countries, leading to a general loss of fundamental primate values. This leads to the reform of family corporations, which bring "spontaneous" moral pressures back into the picture. The fate of the nuclear family, here called a "counter-revolution," will probably be one of increasing assistance from relatives in the next generation.

There has been so much change in the social structure that now there is very little difference between live-in relationships and marital affairs, as a result of which women and men have started preferring to remain single rather than getting interested in marital relationships. The fault here is not of any family but of giving preference to western values. We Indians have now started considering it better to separate from the responsibilities rather than fulfilling them.

Now in the West, people within their own families tend to move cyclically at short intervals of several generations. A study of 55,000 families shows this suggested reversal.

The nuclear unit in Western society has become more and more difficult for spiritual bureaucracy for moral management and for civil regulation for governance purposes. Relatives, in

addition to loved ones, have lost power. This has made one's own family more "factual" than in its former state of extreme morality. As a result, the nuclear family has weakened because it is largely an organization of religion and is no longer very much controllable with the aid of litigation and public regulation. This is therefore not going well in Western countries, leading to a general loss of fundamental primate values. This leads to the reform of family corporations, which bring "spontaneous" moral pressures back into the picture. The fate of the nuclear family, here called a "counter-revolution," will probably be one of increasing assistance from relatives in the next generation.

There has been so much change in the social structure that now there is very little difference between live-in relationships and marital affairs, as a result of which women and men have started preferring to remain single rather than getting interested in marital relationships. The fault here is not of any family but of giving preference to western values. We Indians have now started considering it better to separate from the responsibilities rather than fulfilling them.

Now in the West, people within their own families tend to move cyclically at short intervals of several generations. A study of 55,000 families shows this suggested reversal.

The nuclear unit in Western society has become more and more difficult for spiritual bureaucracy for moral management and for civil regulation for governance purposes. Relatives, in

About the Author

(Priyanka Saurabh, Research Scholar in Political Science)

Breaking Time Sudoku

What to do

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

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

Solution, Sudoku

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

THE WISDOM TREE BY SUVEEN KUMAR

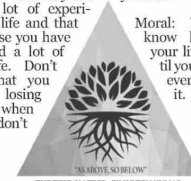
IT IS LIFE

It is not money that one day or someday you will have enough, it is bundle of breaths, it is life; so spend it wise. If you have decided what you want, you must also decide, how you want it. Life may be defined by what you possess, but it can be only understood by how you have possessed them. Only listen to those who speak the word of God, only trust people who trust people a lot and only share things with the ones who share things with no halt. Let's be all the reasons of how your life has shaped up today, let's be the reasons of what your life has wrapped up today. Anyone. Not everyone who reaches is sharing their learning, many of them teach you to continue their learnings. Don't be a laboratory of someone's homemade formulas. You may not have a lot of experience of life and that is because you have not lived a lot of your life. Don't think that you are not losing anything when you don't

have to invest money as money is not the only thing that you lose, in fact, everything that you can earn; you can lose. When we don't earn time, so we don't care about losing it, when we don't earn life so we don't care about losing it, when we don't care about losing it. But, the ones who have to earn every minute of their lives they know how it is like losing the time.

Don't be too stubborn to change and too flexible to be changed, don't go too far to be in range and be too different to be exchanged. Your worth depends on less or more how you value yourself, your length depends on less or more how much you stretch yourself, your strength depends on less or more how much you wreck yourself.

Moral: You never know how much your life costs, until you have spent everything for it.



The increasing nuclear families have changed the very nature of our society. Today's children are not getting the values and discipline that they used to inherit from joint families, and as a result of this, social problems like family breakdown, domestic violence, feelings of insecurity, suicide, rape, kidnapping, etc. have spread in society.

Will the Integrated Pension Scheme be able to guarantee financial security?



By Dr Satyavan Saurabh

Recently, the Union Cabinet, chaired by the Prime Minister, has approved the Unified Pension Scheme (UPS) to replace the National Pension System (NPS). This is based on the suggestions of the. The recommendations will be effective from April 1, 2025. According to the UPS proposal, the benefits of the Old Pension Scheme (OPS) and the New Pension Scheme (NPS) will be combined together. The goal of this visionary approach to retirement planning in India is a secure and long-term pension system for all eligible employees. It seeks to preserve the freedom and choice of government employees as well as provide them with long-term financial security. Central government employees who opt for this option and are covered under the National Pension System (NPS) are covered under UPS. Current and future central government employees who are covered under NPS have the option to remain with the current NPS scheme or switch to UPS.

Switching to UPS is considered final and binding once it is decided. UPS can be governed through regulations issued by the Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA). April 1, 2025, is the date on which the Integrated Pension Scheme will come into effect. Employees eligible under UPS are guaranteed a pension that is equal to 50% of their average basic pay for the 12 months preceding retirement.



service periods ranging from 10 to 25 years. Employees will be eligible for a fully assured pension after completing at least 25 years of qualifying service. On the death of an employee, his family will be guaranteed a pension equal to 60% of the employee's pre-death pension. Employees who have worked for at least ten years will be guaranteed a minimum pension of Rs 10,000 per month on retirement. For retirees, this guarantees a safety net.

Central government employees who have worked for at least 25 years are guaranteed a pension. This is determined by taking half of their average base salary for the 12 months before retirement. UPS offers an assured minimum pension, an assured family pension, and an assured pension indexed to inflation. As well as dearness relief, which is based on the All India

Consumer Price Index for Industrial Workers (AICPI-IW) and is equal to that for support workers. One-tenth of the monthly salary and dearness allowance is added to the gratuity for every full six-month service period. Ten percent of their salary will still be contributed by employees who choose UPS. The government will contribute 18.5 percent instead of the current 14 percent. This guarantees that no additional financial pressure will be put on workers. When employees reach retirement, UPS provides guaranteed payouts.

In the 12 months before retirement, the UPS will pay a central government employee 50% of their average basic pay as long as they have completed 25 years of service. Workers who have worked for more than ten years but less than twenty-five years will be eligible for a

proportionate pension. After ten years or more of qualifying service, employees are assured a minimum payment of Rs 10,000 every month. This payment will begin on the day they would have reached the retirement age if they had continued to work for those who voluntarily retire after 25 years of service. A legally married spouse will receive a family payment of 60% of the pay admissible to the holder in the event of the payment holder's death after retirement. The guaranteed payment and the family payment will also be eligible for dearness relief, which will be determined in the same way.

For serving employees, dearness relief will be calculated in the same way as dearness allowance. UPS or guaranteed payout will not be available in case an employee resigns or is removed from service.

Unlike the previous pension scheme, UPS is a contributory scheme, which means employees will have to contribute 10% of their basic pay and dearness allowance, while the central government, which is the employer, will contribute 18%. The corpus, which is primarily invested in government debt, will ultimately determine the payout based on market returns. UPS and National Pension Scheme (NPS) are the two options available to central government employees. Unlike UPS, NPS is market-linked. There are similarities between UPS and the Old Pension Scheme (OPS) in terms of the benefits offered. However, the way it is funded is very different.

UPS receives all its funding from the budget each year, unlike OPS, which was a pay-as-you-go program. Employees can build a retirement fund through NPS, a defined contribution scheme first introduced in 2004. For those looking for a more guaranteed pension, UPS offers an option.

About the Author

(Dr. Satyavan Saurabh, Poet, freelance journalist and columnist, radio and TV panelist)

TOP STORY

Dear Reader, If you have any news or you have any suggestion regarding our newspaper or you have any problem with any government department, you may contact us on 24 hour helpline no- 0120-4225517, 4241284 or Delhi & Ghaziabad (9582310372). For Noida (9818999899), Advertisement (9818799941), Circulation (08586925450)

Readers are recommended to make all necessary enquiries and seek appropriate advice before any advertisement and content published in this publication. The printer, publisher, editor and seller of the Top Story do not vouch for any claims. The publication is being sold on the condition and understanding that information given in this publication is merely for reference and must not be taken as having final authority of or binding in any way. We do not owe any responsibility for damage or loss to any person, a purchase of this production is not for the result of any action taken on the basis of this work. All disputes are subject to the exclusive jurisdiction of court and forums in Delhi/New Delhi only.

FOR ADVERTISING IN

TOP STORY

PLEASE CONTACT: 9818799941

Poison in Yamuna: Haryana CM Saini accuses Kejriwal of trying to commit mass genocide

■ Saini alleged that Kejriwal's remarks about mass genocide were irresponsible, holding him solely responsible for any such catastrophic scenario.

Komal Ramola
Chandigarh

Amidst the ongoing political feud over Arvind Kejriwal's Haryana mixing poison in Yamuna' claim, Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini on Friday accused AAP supremo of attempting to commit mass genocide.

During a public address, CM Saini vehemently criticised Kejriwal, stating, "Kejriwal is making baseless allegations to hide his failures... Kejriwal had said that he will clean the Yamuna river but he did not clean it and Kejriwal has done the work of making it dirty."

Saini emphasised that Haryana is providing clean water to Delhi, and accused Kejriwal of neglecting the river's cleanliness which has resulted in the people of Delhi being forced to consume contaminated water.



summe contaminated water.

He further alleged that Kejriwal's remarks about mass genocide were irresponsible, holding him solely responsible for any such catastrophic scenario.

Saini demanded an apology from Kejriwal to the people of both Delhi and

Haryana for his failure over the past decade to address the pollution effectively. Recent data shared by Info In Data on social media platform X has revealed a stark contrast in the river's condition before and after it passes through Delhi.

The video titled "Who Is

'Actually Poisoning Our Yamuna River?' highlighted that upon entering Delhi, the river's Biological Oxygen Demand (BOD) is at 2 mg/l, but this increases dramatically to 85 mg/l as it exits the city. Similarly, ammonia levels rise from 5.5 mg/l to 56.1 mg/l, showcasing the

significant pollution contribution from Delhi over just a 22 km stretch of the river, which is vital for over 57 million people.

Despite the Yamuna Action Plan, which has been in operation since 1993, aimed at restoring the river's health, the efforts have been largely unsuccessful due to the persistent issue of untreated sewage and industrial waste being discharged into the river. The pollution in Delhi accounts for about 80% of the total pollution in this stretch, contradicting Kejriwal's allegations against Haryana.

Kejriwal, currently out on bail in connection with the Delhi liquor scam, has been actively engaging with electoral politics. He recently visited the Election Commission office to submit his reply to a notice concerning his controversial remarks about the Yamuna

water. In his reply, he defended his statement by pointing out the "unprecedented high levels of ammonia in the raw water" supplied from Haryana, suggesting it was in this context that he mentioned 'poison'. He further accused CM Saini of orchestrating a conspiracy to influence the upcoming February 5 Delhi Assembly polls by sending polluted water to the capital.

Accompanied by Delhi and Punjab Chief Ministers Atishi and Bhagwant Mann, Kejriwal submitted a six-page written reply to the Chief Election Commissioner, where he also mentioned that the 'poison' he referred to was ammonia. He directed the Election Commission to the Delhi Jal Board (DJB) for further details on the evidence and methodology behind his claims.

UP govt empowers rural women through silk production program



Under the leadership of Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, the Uttar Pradesh government is making continuous and meaningful efforts to promote the livelihoods and empowerment of rural women. The state government's focus extends beyond improving the economic condition of women—it also aims to enhance their social status and self-reliance. In line with this vision, the State Rural Livelihood Mission, in collaboration with the Silk Department, is successfully implementing a silk production program across 25 development blocks in six districts of the state.

The self-help groups (SHGs) formed under the Yogi government are proving to be transformative for rural women. With the support of the government and coordination between various departments, these groups have significantly increased women's income, leading to an improved standard of living and enhanced social respect. The silk production initiative is another crucial step in this direction, helping women achieve financial independence.

Under the State Rural Livelihood Mission, specialized training programs and field visits will be organized for mission staff and 'Resham Sakhi'—women engaged in silk production. A detailed training calendar has been prepared, covering sessions from February 3 to February 20. During this period, women will receive training in modern silk production techniques and industry management at various stages. This initiative

aims to upgrade their skills and equip them with knowledge aligned with evolving industry demands. CM Yogi has introduced long-term plans to strengthen women's livelihoods across the state. The government's objective is to generate more employment opportunities for women in rural areas. Apart from silk production, several other initiatives are being undertaken to promote handicrafts, agro-based industries, and local products.

The recently organized 'Aanksha Haat 2024' further bolstered these efforts by showcasing SHG-made products in national and international markets. Such initiatives not only highlight local craftsmanship but also provide rural women with a platform to showcase their talents and achieve economic independence.

The silk production program has created new employment opportunities across multiple districts, including Bareilly, Gorakhpur, Siddharthnagar, Basti, Deoria, and Ayodhya. Women in these regions have significantly increased their income through silk-related activities. The government aims to expand this initiative to other districts, ensuring that more women benefit from this sustainable livelihood opportunity.

The Yogi government's efforts have given a fresh impetus to rural development by focusing on women's empowerment. Through SHGs, women are not only improving their families' financial conditions but also investing in the education and healthcare of their children.

Kumbh surge: Ganga Aarti in Varanasi stopped till Feb 5

Varanasi

Authorities have stopped the Ganga Aarti performed at the ghats of Varanasi for the general public till February 5, considering a surge in crowd.

Police Commissioner Mohit Agarwal has appealed to the people of Kashi not to leave their house unnecessarily and to cooperate with the devotees.

Ganga Seva Nidhi President Sushant Mishra on Friday said the Ganga Aarti performed at Dashashwamedh Ghat will remain closed for the general public till February 5.

Similarly, the committee performing Ganga Aarti at Sheetha Ghat, Assi Ghat and other ghats have also appealed to the general public, visitors and devotees not to come for it till February 5.

This angered the Gujjar community to which Champion belongs. Terming it as "biased action" against the former MLA, the Gujjar community members gathered in large numbers at his residence in Landhara on January 29 to demand his release within two days. They even threatened to intensify their agitation from February 5 if he was not released.

Judicial probe visits Kumbh stampede spot in Prayagraj



Prayagraj

A three-member judicial commission set up by the Uttar Pradesh government to probe the Maha Kumbh stampede reached Prayagraj and visited the incident spot at Sangam Nose on Friday, an official said.

The panel is headed by Harsh Kumar, a retired judge of the Allahabad High Court, and comprises former director general of police (DGP) V K Gupta and retired IAS officer D K Singh.

"The commission is holding meetings with officials concerned here. We may also visit the incident spot later in the day," an official said earlier in the day.

In the afternoon, the panel visited Sangam Nose, where the stampede took place, and were accompanied by Meha Adhikari Vijay Kiran Anand, DIG Vaibhav Krishna, and SSP Rajesh Dovedi, who kept briefing the panel members.

The panel moved around the area in heavy security comprising scores of personnel from the Rapid Action Force, holding a rope in a cordon for the commission members and officers.

The panel was formed in the wake of an early Wednesday stampede that killed 30 devotees at Sangam Nose where they had gone for a dip on the occasion of Mauni Amavasya.

The commission has a month to wrap up its investigation but will try to expedite it, Kumar, the panel head, said on Thursday.

According to police, the stampede broke out as the crowd jumped barricades, crushing those waiting for their turn on the other side.

The judicial panel's visit comes even as millions of devotees flocked to the Maha Kumbh to partake in the Hindu pilgrimage held once every 12 years on the banks of Triveni Sangam - the confluence of Ganga, Yamuna, and mythical Saraswati.

Deenbandhu Sir Chhotu Ram struggled for welfare of various sections throughout his life: Haryana CM

Komal Ramola
Chandigarh

Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini said that the Haryana Government is committed to making the state a model in terms of development and public welfare by following the principles of Deenbandhu Sir Chhotu Ram. Acknowledging the legacy of Bahadur Azam Choudhary Chhotu Ram, he said that the leader dedicated his life to the welfare of farmers, labourers, and the poor. His efforts were focused on advocating for the interests of farmers, labourers, and petty shopkeepers.

The Chief Minister was addressing a gathering as the chief guest on the 144th birth anniversary of Bahadur Azam Choudhary Chhotu



Ram in Rohtak on Friday. He paid floral tributes to Choudhary Chhotu Ram by laying flowers at his memorial located in the Jat Shikshan Sansthan campus. Education Minister Sh Mahipal Dhandha also paid his respects to Sir Chhotu Ram.

Nayab Singh Saini announced a discretionary

grant of Rs. 31 lakh to the Jat Shikshan Sansthan. Education Minister Mahipal Dhandha also announced Rs. 21 lakh grant to the institution. Regarding the institution's demands, the Chief Minister said that once the institution deposits the matching grant as per the rules for the hostel at Maharani Kishori

Mahila Mahavidyalaya, the government will allocate Rs. 10 crore for the project. He also assured that the feasibility of the other demands raised by the institution would be examined.

The Chief Minister further said that the life of Choudhary Chhotu Ram serves as a message that with determination and hard work, no challenge is insurmountable. He described Sir Chhotu Ram as a multi-talented, thoughtful, wise, and principled individual who dedicated his life to the upliftment and dignity of the poor, Scheduled Castes, and other marginalized communities. He was affectionately known as Deenbandhu, due to his unwavering support for the underprivileged.

Nayab Singh Saini highlighted that Chaudhary Chhotu Ram had launched the Jat Gazette newspaper to voice the concerns of farmers. He also introduced the Agricultural Produce Market Act to ensure fair prices for crops, helping farmers secure better economic outcomes.

Under his leadership, farmers were freed from debts, and their mortgaged lands were returned to them. Chaudhary Chhotu Ram placed a strong emphasis on the expansion of irrigation facilities, recognizing their importance for agricultural growth. He also played a pivotal role in the approval of the Bhakra Dam project, making a significant contribution to its realization.

Army foils infiltration bid along LoC in J-K's Poonch two LeT terrorists killed

Jammu

Two heavily armed terrorists affiliated with Pakistan-based Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) were killed in a gunfight as Army troops scuttled a major infiltration attempt along the Line of Control in Jammu and Kashmir's Poonch district, officials said on Friday.

The incident took place in the Khari Karmara area of the Poonch district on Thursday and a massive search operation was underway when the last reports were received this afternoon, they said.

"Terrorist movement was detected last night at the Line of Control in the Poonch sector. Alert troops swiftly engaged the infiltrating terrorists, triggering an intense and heavy fire-fight," the Army's Jammu-based White Knight Corps said in a post on X.

The Army said the operation continued through the night, leading to the neutralization of two terrorists. The search of the area thus far has resulted in the recovery of a number of weapons and war-like stores, it said.

General Officer Commanding-in-Chief of Udhampur-based Northern Command Lt Gen M V Sachindra Kumar complimented the White Knight Corps for their swift action and precise execution in neutralising two terrorists and recovery of war-like stores in Poonch.

Currently, two of the five BJP Lok Sabha MPs from Haryana belong to the backward class and hold ministerial positions in Prime Minister Narendra Modi's cabinet. In addition, one MP from the backward class represents Haryana in the Rajya Sabha.



With a focus on the holistic development of these communities, the State government established the Haryana Backward Classes Commission. Based on the Commission's recommendations, the government has introduced 5 percent reservation for Backward Class-B and 8 percent reservation for Backward Class-A in Panchayati Raj Institutions and Municipalities.

The present BJP government is dedicated to the grassroots development and empowerment of communities that were once only treated as vote banks by previous governments.

prevented tension between supporters of the two leaders

Haryana Government undertakes 'Unique Initiatives' for upliftment of Backward Classes

Chandigarh

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the BJP leadership have entrusted Nayab Singh Saini, a member of the backward class, with the responsibility of Chief Minister of Haryana for the second time.

Nayab Singh Saini, a dedicated party worker, has become a prominent leader for his community both in the state and nationwide. Known for his simplicity, humility, and approachable nature, Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini has earned admiration even from opposition members, who frequently praise him at social events. His popularity extends beyond Haryana, with people from states governed by parties other than the BJP also honouring him.

The double-engine government is leaving no stone unturned for the welfare of the backward class. This community, associated with Lord Vishwakarma, the creator of the universe, has preserved its crafts and skills

across generations—ranging from pottery, jewelry-making, and stitching to idol crafting and home construction. To promote their economic growth, Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the 'PM Vishwakarma Yojana', which provides affordable loans to members of backward classes to help further their businesses. Under Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini's leadership, the Haryana government has raised the income limit for the creamy layer of backward classes from Rs6 lakh to Rs8 lakh annually.

This move will aid in the educational, social, and economic upliftment of backward classes and encourage OBC youth to pursue government jobs. Following the central government's approach, this annual income cap excludes salary and agricultural income, benefiting thousands in the OBC category.

Apart from this, OBC certificates can now be obtained online from home. The state government is also prioritizing the filling of backlog vacancies for backward classes in Group A and B through a special recruitment drive, offering OBC youth better employment opportunities.

The Haryana government is offering scholarships ranging from Rs 12,000 to Rs 20,000 for OBC students, ensuring that financial constraints do not hinder their education. The current Haryana Government has implemented numerous welfare measures for the educational, social, and economic upliftment of backward classes and encourage OBC youth to pursue government jobs. Following the central government's approach, this annual income cap excludes salary and agricultural income, benefiting thousands in the OBC category.

foremost responsibility is to rise above personal considerations to help maintain peace between all communities," Kumar, an independent MLA from Khanpur, told reporters after being detained by the police.

The political rivalry between Champion and Kumar took a violent turn last Sunday when the former BJP MLA arrived at the Khanpur MLA's camp office in the latter's absence and fired several rounds at it. He also abused Kumar's supporters there and threatened them.

When Kumar came to know about the incident, he also tried to retaliate. He was seen in a viral video running with a pistol in hand in an aggressive mood. However, his supporters claimed him down.

Both of them were taken into custody the same day, but Kumar was let off on bail while Champion was

sent to 14 days judicial custody.

This angered the Gujjar community to which Champion belongs. Terming it as "biased action" against the former MLA, the Gujjar community members gathered in large numbers at his residence in Landhara on January 29 to demand his release within two days. They even threatened to intensify their agitation from February 5 if he was not released.

prevented tension between supporters of the two leaders from escalating, said an official at the Doiwala Police

Uttarakhand Khanpur MLA detained on way to Laksar to address rally

Dehradun

Khanpur MLA Umesh Kumar was detained on Friday while he was en route to Laksar in Haridwar district to address a rally convened to protest the recent firing at his camp office by former MLA Pranav Singh Champion, police said.

The independent legislator was detained from Lachhwa toll plaza and brought to the Doiwala Police Station as a precautionary measure to



from escalating, said an official at the Doiwala Police

Station. The rally had been convened by him to mobilise public opinion against the firing at his camp office in Khanpur by the former BJP MLA, who was sent to 14 days judicial custody by a court in Roorkee on January 27 following the incident.

"It will disappoint people gathered in Laksar for the Mahapanchayat as their leader could not reach the venue but a leader's first and

prevented tension between supporters of the two leaders

prevented tension between supporters of the two leaders

ICC unveils men's Champions Trophy 2025 campaign featuring MS Dhoni

The International Cricket Council (ICC) kicked off their Men's Champions Trophy 2025 campaign by highlighting the event's 'all or nothing' format. With the world's top-eight teams competing in intense must-win encounters, every match result directly impacts their qualification chances

Dubai [UAE]
The International Cricket Council (ICC) kicked off their Men's Champions Trophy 2025 campaign by highlighting the event's 'all or nothing' format. With the world's top-eight teams competing in intense must-win encounters, every match result directly impacts their qualification chances.

Built on the insight of 'Har Match Door-Die', Star Sports Network's campaign set the stage for one of cricket's most anticipated competitions, beginning with a film featuring 2013 winning skipper, MS Dhoni, as per the ICC press release.

Dhoni, known for his usually calm demeanour, appeared in a rather rare avatar, giving fans a perspective on the drama, intense competition, and high stakes that define the ICC Men's Champions Trophy 2025. As the last Indian captain to lift the ICC Men's Champions Trophy, his presence adds both nostalgia and motivation, reminding fans of India's glorious triumph.

The promo film opens with Dhoni sitting in a bathtub filled with ice, set against a snowy landscape, yet sweating under immense pressure - visually portraying the tournament's nerve-wracking intensity in the most 'Un-Dhoni' fashion. This striking visual symbolizes the tension that fans experience during the ICC Men's Champions Trophy. With his signature wit and calm demeanour, Dhoni captures the unforgetting nature of the competition with his dialogue, "Ek bhi match mein phisle, samjho tournament se nikke."

Speaking about the marquee tournament and the campaign film, MS Dhoni said as quoted by the ICC press release, "The ICC Men's Champions



Trophy has always been a special tournament to me—it's where the best in the world go toe-to-toe in high-stakes, do-or-die matches. While players can manage the pressure on-field, the excitement and nerves for fans are on another level. Being part of this film was nostalgic, but I'm thrilled to connect with fans, watching every game like one of them this time around."

Team India, led by Rohit Sharma, will kick off their ICC Men's Champions Trophy 2025 campaign against Bangladesh in Dubai on February 20. Their group stage fixtures also include a high-voltage clash against Pakistan on February 23, and New Zealand on March 2. The ICC Men's Champions Trophy will begin on February 19, with the final set for March 9.

Pakistan announce 15-member squad

Opener Saim Ayub failed to win the race against time after he couldn't feature in Pakistan's 15-member squad for the upcoming ICC Champions Trophy

2025 as announced by the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB).

The Men in Green won the last Champions Trophy event held in 2017. This time, Pakistan are hosting this 2025 edition, along with the UAE.

Mohammad Rizwan will lead the team, having done so since Babar Azam stepped down from the role after the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup in 2023. This is the first 50-over ICC tournament since then. Rising star batter Saim Ayub is a notable absentee, having sustained an ankle injury in Pakistan's New Year's Test in Cape Town, South Africa.

"We understand how much he was looking forward to the ICC Champions Trophy 2025 and recognise how devastating it must be for him to miss a global event, especially when he is in such exceptional batting form. However, as a valuable asset to our team, we are committed to prioritising his long-term health over making any rushed decisions," Asad Shafiq, a member of the National Selection

Committee explained as quoted by the ICC official website.

Top-order batter Abdullah Shafiq has also missed the cut, paving the way for Babar to secure one of the top-order roles.

Veteran Fakhr Zaman has been brought in the mix, having played a monumental role in the 2017 Champions Trophy final. He scored his maiden ODI ton (114 off 106 deliveries) at The Oval, London, as Pakistan beat India by 180 runs to claim the silverware.

Also recalled to the squad are Faheem Ashraf, Khushdil Shah, and Saud Shakeel.

"Fakhar's opening partner could be either Babar Azam or Saud Shakeel, depending on various factors such as conditions, opposition and match strategy. Both players are highly capable at the top of the order, with Babar being particularly seasoned in the role, regularly opening in T20Is and also excelling in the Cape Town Test by scoring two half-centuries in Saim Ayub's absence," Shafiq said.

The same squad will feature in the tri-series against South Africa and New Zealand in the lead-up to the Champions Trophy.

They'll play in the tournament opener against New Zealand, in Karachi, before hype reaches fever-pitch for their hotly anticipated showdown with India in Dubai.

Aaqib Javed will continue his role as Irwin Coach, stepping in after Gary Kirsten's departure last October.

They'll play in the tournament opener against New Zealand, in Karachi, before hype reaches fever-pitch for their hotly anticipated showdown with India in Dubai.



"We struggled to impose our game, some faced Indian spinners for first time: Jos Buttler

Sachin Tendulkar to get BCCI Lifetime Achievement Award



Mumbai
The legendary Sachin Tendulkar, whose batting records and impact on international cricket have stood the test of time, will be conferred with the BCCI's Lifetime Achievement Award at the Board's annual gala here on Saturday.

The 51-year-old Tendulkar, who played 664 international games for India, holds the record for the highest number of Test and ODI runs in the history of the game.

"Yes, he will be the recipient of the C K Nayudu Lifetime Achievement Award for the year 2024," a Board source said.

Tendulkar's 200 Test and 463 ODI appearances are also the highest by any player in the history of the game. He amassed 15,921 Test runs besides a whopping 18,426 in ODIs.

However, he played only one T20 International in his stellar career. In 2023, the lifetime honour was bestowed on former India head coach Ravi Shastri and wicket-keeping great Farokh Engineer.

Considered the greatest batter of his era, Tendulkar will be the 31st recipient of the award, which was instituted in 1994 in the honour of India's first captain Col. C K Nayudu, who also served the game as an administrator.

Nayudu had a 47-year-long first-class career between 1916 and 1963, which is a world record.

The 51-year-old Tendulkar, who played 664 international games for India, holds the record for the highest number of Test and ODI runs in the history of the game.

was also a key member of India's 2011 World Cup-winning team, which was his record sixth and last appearance in the showpiece.

At his peak, the diminutive right-hander could bring the nation to a standstill by simply walking out to bat. His dismissal was the most sought after among opposition teams, who did not hesitate to say that Tendulkar was the only Indian batter who could intimidate them.

Overall, Tendulkar will be the 31st recipient of the award, which was instituted in 1994 in the honour of India's first captain Col. C K Nayudu, who also served the game as an administrator.

Nayudu had a 47-year-long first-class career between 1916 and 1963, which is a world record.

Gukesh to meet Wei Yi in Tata Steel Chess Tournament's home stretch



Wijk Aan Zee
On top of the table with a slender lead, world champion D Gukesh will take on Wei Yi of China in the 11th round of Tata Steel Chess Tournament, aiming to continue his unbeaten streak and claim the season's first title.

With five victories and five draws, Gukesh has remained unbeaten in the first major tournament of the year and if he adds another 1.5 points in the last three rounds, it should be enough to lift the title.

With 7.5 points, Gukesh is in pole position, half a point ahead of Nodirbek Abdusattorov of Uzbekistan and a full point more than compatriot R Praggnanandhaa.

Yet to play two white games out of last three, Gukesh has to meet Jordan van Foreest of Holland in the penultimate round and then finally an out of sorts Arjun Erigaisi.

Both Abdusattorov and Praggnanandhaa have two black games left which makes Gukesh a huge favourite to win his maiden title here. It may be recalled that the Indian had lost in tiebreaker to Wei Yi last year after trying for the top spot.

Not only a victory here, what is also at stake for Gukesh is the 2800 rating barrier and he will be the third Indian to achieve it after Viswanathan Anand and Arjun if he can. He is at 2794 points in live ratings.

Praggnanandhaa will meet pre-empt rating favourite Fabiano Caruana of United States while Abdusattorov has to tackle the solid defenses of Vincent Keymer of Germany in the other key clashes of the 11th round.

It has been tough for the remaining three Indians in the Masters section as Harikrishna has scored 4.5 points while Arjun and Leon Luke Mendonca are at the bottom of the table with three points each. These three will have to work hard in the remaining rounds to finish better in the final standings.

In the challengers section, R Vaishali is on five points out of a possible 10 and has shown brilliance in patches. Divya Deshmukhi is on two points and needs a pullback. This section is led by Czech Grandmaster Nguyen Thai Dai Van on 7.5 points with Erwin L'Ami of Holland in close pursuit a half point behind.

Masters: Jordan van Foreest (Ned, 4) vs Arjun Erigaisi (Ind, 3); D Gukesh (Ind, 7.5) vs Wei Yi (Chn, 5.5); Fabiano Caruana (Usa, 5.5) vs R Praggnanandhaa (Ind, 6.5); Vincent Keymer (Ger, 4) vs Nodirbek Abdusattorov (Uzb, 7); Anish Giri (Ned, 5) vs Max Warmerdam (Ned, 3.5); Alexey Sarana (Srb, 5) vs P Harikrishna (Ind, 4.5); Vladimir Fedoseev (Slo, 6) vs Leon Luke Mendonca (Ind, 3).

Challengers:
Oro Faustino (Arg, 2.5) vs Nodirbek Yakubov (Uzb, 5); Lu Miaoyi (Chn, 5.5) vs Erwin L'Ami (Ned, 7); Nodirbek Kazymbek (Kaz, 5.5) vs Ediz Gurel (Tur, 5.5); R Vaishali (Ind, 5) vs Aydin Suleymanli (Aze, 6.5); Svane Fredrik (Ger, 6) vs Nguyen Thai Dai Van (Cze, 7.5); Irina Bulmaga (Rom, 1) vs Divya Deshmukhi (Ind, 2); Benjamin Bok (Ned, 6.5) vs Arthur Pijpers (Ned, 4.5).

Kohli's first Ranji Trophy innings in 13 years lasts 15 balls

New Delhi

Virat Kohli's first Ranji Trophy innings in 13 years lasted all of 15 balls, extending his lean run and fuelling the raging debate over his form.

For the 5000-odd crowd that assembled here to watch Kohli, it was fun while it lasted but when he had his off-stump rooted by Railways pacer Himanshu Sangwan in the 28th over of Delhi's first innings, a majority of them took no time to exit the Arun Jaitley Stadium.

The frequent chants of 'RCB, RCB' and 'Kohli, Kohli' dried up as the superstar took the long walk back to the dressing room, giving the railway employee Sangwan the most prized scalp of his career.

Ahead of first domestic red-ball appearance since November 2012, Kohli had trained with former India coach Sanjay Bangar to iron out flaws in his batting that crept up on the tour of Australia.

More specifically, it was the ball outside the off-stump that haunted the former India captain on the two-month long tour Down Under.

Kohli came out to bat to a loud reception following the leg before dismissal of Yash Dhillal at about 10.30am local time, which was an hour into day's play.

It was left-arm pacer Rahul Sharma that first got to bowl at the cricketer icon and with a spring in his stride, he



bowled a yorker down the leg-side only to realise that he overstepped.

Considering the batter in front, Rahul went for that little extra in his following ball and it turned out to be another one ball.

In the next over bowled by medium pacer Kunal Yadav, Kohli tried to assert himself and played and missed twice to a ball pitched on his vulnerable zone - wide outside the off-stump.

After collecting two singles, Kohli decided to dominate the opposition - right-arm pacer Sangwan in this particular over.

Standing way outside the crease, Kohli disdainfully dispatched Sangwan towards the straight boundary.

It was still the first session and the ball was doing a bit but in his attempt to dominate Sangwan, the very next ball, Kohli went for an expansive drive off a good length delivery but missed it completely to see his off-stump shattered.

The ball seamed back in contributing to Kohli's downfall. He had a quick look at the surface before trudging back to the pavilion and with him his sea of fans headed towards the exit door. The fans will return for Kohli's second essay which could be on day three.

Sangwan's wild celebration was on the expected lines. He had just taken the wicket of his life.

Mitchell Marsh out of Champions Trophy, in doubt for IPL due to back trouble

Sydney

Australia all-rounder Mitchell Marsh has been ruled out of next month's Champions Trophy and is also in doubt for the Indian Premier League after that owing to lower back pain that has "not responded sufficiently to rehabilitation".

Cricket Australia informed about Marsh's injury in a statement ruling him out of the Champions Trophy, which will be held in Pakistan and Dubai from February 19 to March 9. A few other reports suggest Marsh is also doubtful for the IPL.

"Mitchell Marsh has been ruled out of the upcoming ICC Men's Champions Trophy with ongoing lower back pain and dysfunction," CA said in a release.

"The National Selection Panel and Australian men's medical team ruled



Marsh out of the tournament with the injury which has not responded sufficiently to rehabilitation." "His lower back pain flared in recent weeks lead-

ing the NSP to make the longer-term decision for Marsh to complete a more extended period of rehabilitation," it added.

CA said the national selection panel will be meeting soon to name a replacement of Marsh, who was picked in the 15-member side for the competition alongside other all-rounders Aaron Hardie, Glenn Maxwell and Marcus Stoinis.

"Marsh will now undergo a period of further rest and rehabilitation as part of his return to play plan. The NSP will meet to decide on a replacement for Marsh in due course."

"The deadline for the final squads for the ICC Men's Champion's Trophy is prior to Wednesday 12 February," CA said.

The 33-year-old Marsh has been roped in by Lucknow Super Giants ahead of the 2025 edition of the IPL, which will start on March 23.

Two Indian-origin persons among victims of US air crash

Washington
At least two Indian-origin persons are among the 67 people killed in a midair collision between an Army helicopter and a jetliner at Washington's Ronald Reagan National Airport, according to media reports.

Vikesh Patel, a GE Aerospace engineer and Asra Hussain Raza, a Washington DC-based consultant were on the doomed American Airlines flight 5342 that collided with the Army helicopter as it approached the airport on Wednesday night. Site Patel, from Greater Cincinnati, had recently switched jobs at the company and was an MRO Transformational Leader who travelled around the country, according to his LinkedIn page.

In a statement to FOX19, Larry Culp, chairman and CEO of GE Aerospace, which is headquartered in Evendale, identified the employee on Thursday night as Patel.

"This is a tragedy not only for our industry but also for the GE Aerospace team as one of our cherished colleagues, Vikesh Patel, was onboard the flight," Culp said.

"Our hearts are with his family and all those impacted by this horrific accident."

He worked for GE Aerospace for more than a decade in several roles, including Senior Site Leader before his position changed.

Myanmar's military govt extends state of emergency by 6 months

Bangkok
Myanmar's military government on Friday announced another six-month extension of its mandate to rule in preparation for elections it has said will be held this year, as the country enters its fifth year of crisis.

However, it did not announce an exact date for the polls.

The military declared a state of emergency on February 1, 2021, when it arrested the country's leader, Aung San Suu Kyi, and top officials from her government in an army takeover which reversed years of progress toward democracy after five decades of earlier military rule.

The takeover sparked an armed resistance movement, with powerful ethnic minority militias and people's defense forces that support Myanmar's main opposition now controlling



The military declared a state of emergency on February 1, 2021, when it arrested the country's leader, Aung San Suu Kyi, and top officials from her government in an army takeover which reversed years of progress toward democracy after five decades of earlier military rule.

large parts of the country.

The military government is currently facing its greatest challenge since taking power and is on the defensive in much of the country. However, it is still able to hold onto much of central Myanmar and big cities including the capital, Naypyidaw.

State-run MRTV tele-

vision reported on Friday that the National Defence and Security Council decided unanimously to grant an extension of emergency rule after Senior Gen. Ming Aung Hlaing, the head of the military government, argued that more time was needed to restore stability to the country to hold national elections.

The council is nominally a constitutional administrative government body, but in practice is controlled by the military.

Under the army-drafted 2008 Constitution, the military was able to rule the country under a state of emergency for one year, followed by two possible six-month extensions before hold-

ing elections. However, the extension on Friday is the seventh.

Tom Andrews, a special rapporteur with the UN Human Rights Office, said in a statement on Thursday that four years of military oppression, violence and incompetence have cast Myanmar into an abyss. The United Nations has estimated that more than 3.5 million people have been displaced by the conflict.

Daughter of Indian immigrants among victims of US air crash

Washington
Asra Hussain Raza, the daughter of Indian immigrants, was among 67 people killed in a tragic midair collision between an Army helicopter and a jetliner at Ronald Reagan National Airport in the US, according to a media report.

The collision, deadliest aviation disaster in the US since 2001, happened when American Airlines Flight 5342 collided with the Army helicopter as it approached the airport on Wednesday night.

Raza, 26, was one of several victims killed, her father-in-law, Dr. Hashim Raza, told CNN.

A daughter of Indian immigrants, Raza graduated with honours in 2020 from Indiana University and married her college sweetheart in August 2023, Hashim said.

Raza was a Washington, DC-based consultant who travelled to Wichita twice a month

to work on a turnaround project for a hospital there, her father-in-law said.

She would often call him at the end of his late emergency room shifts to make sure he stayed awake on the drive home, he told CNN.

"She went out of her way for everybody," her father-in-law said.

The husband of Raza said his wife texted him that she was about to land, but by the time he got to the airport to pick her up, his life had changed forever.

"She said, 'We're landing in 20 minutes,'" Hamaad Raza said.

That was the last thing he heard from his wife.

"I was waiting and I started seeing a bunch of EMS vehicles speeding past me, like way too many than normal, and two, my texts weren't going through," Hamaad was quoted as saying by NBCWashington. Agency

Imran Khan's PTI rejects govt's offer to resume talks

Islamabad
The Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leadership rejected Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's offer to resume stalled talks with the government through a parliamentary panel to lower the country's political temperature.

Shehbaz addressed a cabinet meeting on Thursday and said the government was ready to form a parliamentary committee to advance talks with PTI after the

Imran Khan-founded party quit negotiations over the non-formation of a judicial commission to probe the events of May 9, 2023, and November 26, 2024, according to Geo News.

The offer came after the PTI abruptly quit the talks after holding three meetings with the ruling parties' negotiation committee, maintaining the government failed to constitute judicial commissions within the



Imran Khan speaking on the seven-day deadline in line with its "charter of demands".

and Leader of Opposition in the National Assembly Omar Ayub Khan said: "We reject Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's offer [to resume dialogue]."

Reiterating the party's demands, Ayub said the PTI formed a negotiation committee with sincerity to hold dialogue with the government.

"Our demands were clear," he said, calling for the release of PTI's all "political prisoners".

In a statement, Senator Irfan Siddiqui, the government's negotiation committee spokesperson, said the PTI exhibited a non-democratic and non-political mentality by unilaterally withdrawing from the talks.

"PTI lost a good opportunity towards [fulfillment] of their demands," he added.

Although the opposition party "missed this train", they should ben-

efit from the PM's latest offer, Siddiqui said.

Slamming the PTI for its agitational politics, the PTI-N senator said that neither the opposition party achieved its objective via sit-ins and long marches in the past nor will it this time.

Stressing the need for dialogue to defuse political tensions in the country, Siddiqui said the

government's problem was serious and meaningful negotiations.

BUSINESS

Personal Loan Credit Growth Moderates in December: RBI Data

Mumbai
Bank credit to personal loan segment moderated to 14.9 per cent year-on-year in December, largely due to decline in growth in 'other personal loans', 'vehicle loans' and 'credit card outstanding', according to Reserve Bank data released on Friday.

The RBI has released data on sectoral deployment of bank credit for December 2024 collected from 41 select commercial banks, accounting for about 95 per cent of the total non-food credit deployed by all commercial banks.

On a year-on-year (y-o-y) basis, growth in non-food bank credit as on the fortnight ended December 27, 2024 moderated to 12.4 per cent as compared to 15.8 per cent for the corresponding fortnight of the previous year.

According to the data, bank credit to agriculture and allied activities registered a growth of 12.5 per cent (y-o-y) as on the fortnight ended December 27, 2024 (19.4 per cent for the corresponding fortnight

of the previous year). Further, credit growth to industry remained almost flat at 7.4 per cent year-on-year.

Among major industries, outstanding credit to 'food processing', 'petroleum, coal products and nuclear fuels', and 'all engineering' recorded a higher growth. However, credit growth in the infrastructure segment decelerated.

"Credit to personal loans segment moderated to 14.9 per cent growth (y-o-y) as on the fortnight ended December 27, 2024 as compared with 17.6 per cent a year ago, largely due to decline in growth in 'other personal loans', 'vehicle loans' and 'credit card outstanding'," the Reserve Bank said.

However, 'housing' — the largest constituent of this segment — recorded accelerated growth on y-o-y basis.

In services sector too, credit growth moderated to 13.0 per cent (y-o-y) as on the fortnight ended December 27, 2024. The growth was 20 per cent for the corresponding fortnight of the previous year.

India Needs 8% Growth to Become Developed by 2047: CEA

New Delhi
India has to be prepared to take advantage of the conducive global situations to grow at a faster pace to achieve the goal of becoming a developed nation by 2047, Chief Economic Adviser V Anantha Nageswaran said on Friday.

Nageswaran attributed the slowdown in India's economic growth to global factors. According to the Economic Survey, India needs to grow at 8 per cent for up to two decades to become a developed nation by 2047.

Addressing a press conference after tabling of the Economic Survey 2024-25, he said the current relative slowdown in the Indian economy should be seen in context and 'India still remains the fastest growing large economy in the world'.

According to the NSO estimates, India's economic growth is expected to slip to 6.4 per cent in 2024-25. The Survey has projected a growth of 6.3 to 6.8 per cent for 2025-26.



Whenever the global exports growth picks up, in those years, it contributes another 0.5 to 1 per cent additional growth, which will take it (India's economic growth) to 7.5-8 per cent, and the agriculture sector itself can contribute one per cent of additional GDP growth, he said.

Nageswaran was responding to a question about whether it is feasible for India to become a developed nation by 2047, as the country's

economy is likely to expand by 6.3-6.8 per cent in the coming fiscal, much lower than what is needed to become a developed country.

According to him, Viksit Bharat's growth rate with respect to the nominal GDP growth rate in dollar terms required is around 10 per cent.

"And I think, it (10 per cent growth) is not something that will be achieved on an average year after year...there will years

when we will achieve more than that, there will be years, when we will achieve lower than that, depending on the global scenarios," the CEA said.

Nageswaran noted that it is not something that is a mechanical number that is applied exactly year after year as the global conditions will influence it in some years positively and negatively in some.

"We have to be prepared to take advantage of it in those conducive

Addressing a press conference after tabling of the Economic Survey 2024-25, he said the current relative slowdown in the Indian economy should be seen in context and 'India still remains the fastest growing large economy in the world'.

years while maintaining a certain minimum level of growth in those years when conditions are not favourable," he said.

The IMF projects India to be a USD 3 trillion economy by FY28 and USD 6.3 trillion by FY30, with an annual nominal growth rate of 10.2 per cent in USD terms.

Responding to a question on steps taken by the RBI to deal with the sliding Indian rupee, Nageswaran said the reasoned action taken by the Indian central bank with respect to the rupee or domestic liquidity are steps in the right direction.

India's Self-Employed Workforce Rising: Eco Survey

New Delhi
The percentage of self-employed individuals in India's workforce has increased to 58.4 per cent in 2023-24 from 52.2 per cent in 2017-18, indicating a rise in entrepreneurial activity and inclination towards flexible work options, the Economic Survey 2024-25 has said.

The pre-Budget document, tabled in Parliament on Friday, said India has experienced good employment growth in recent years, following the nation's sustained economic momentum.

"The proportion of self-employed workers in the workforce has risen from 52.2 per cent in 2017-18 to 58.4 per cent in 2023-24. The shift reflects growing entrepreneurial activity and a preference for flexible work arrangements," it noted.

Additionally, the decrease in casual workers from 24.9 per cent to 19.8 per cent during the same period also suggests a movement towards more structured forms of self-employment, it said.

Casual workers are individuals employed temporarily, typically hired only when their services are needed.

Among rural women, the share of 'own account workers/employers' increased from 19 per cent in 2017-18 to 31.2 per cent in 2023-24, indicating a significant move towards independent work and entrepreneurship.

National Seminar on Natural Farming organized in Delhi to encourage farmers

New Delhi
A National Seminar on Natural Farming was organized by Tapsil Jati Adibasi Prakatan Sainik Krishi Bikash Shilpa Kendra Organisation at the Constitution Club of India in New Delhi.

The seminar focused on the need for natural farming in India and the government's support for achieving its objective.

TJAPSKBKS and other members consisting of Farmers, Influencers, Agri-Technologist, from West Bengal and 15 other states of India. However, Ram Nath Thakur, Union State Minister for Agriculture and Farmers Welfare has sent his message through his Personal Secretary, Mr. K. K. Mishra, Advisor, NAC, TJAPSKBKS, gives focus on the need for 'Natural farming in India and the Government support for



achieving its objective.

The deliberations included the use of natural resources, promoting biodiversity, maintaining soil aeration, and adjusting crops based on local climate and conditions.

The visionary Prime Minister of India, Narendra Modi, aims to adopt natural farming by farmers, encouraging one crore farmers to adopt age-old farming techniques coupled with modern

ecological techniques and adaptation to climate change. The use of natural resources, enhancing soil health, and ensuring consumption of healthy and nutritious food free from pesticides and chemical fertilizers are key aspects of this mission.

The seminar emphasized the importance of educating, enhancing skills, creating demand for natural farms in all states, and creating a separate marketplace for them.



Sad as a fan but rooting for Vijay's political journey: Pooja Hegde

Mumbai Actor Pooja Hegde has voiced her thoughts on Tamil superstar Vijay's decision

him in Jana Nayakan, acknowledged that while she will miss seeing him on the big screen, she wholeheartedly supports his new journey. The actress who last worked with Vijay on *Beast* has mentioned that she feels elated to be a part of his third and probably last film before his moving full-time to politics.

I feel sad. But at the same time, I support his decision. I am rooting for him and wishing all the best to him in this new chapter," Hegde said in an interview.

Vijay, who recently launched his very own political party, Tamizhaga Vetri Kazhagam, last year, launched the title of his 69th film *Jana Nayakan* which leaves everyone astounded all over. The film is said to be the last one, and he will completely take public service as a full-time career.

with Vijay on *Beast* has mentioned that she feels elated to be a part of his third and probably last film before his moving full-time to politics.

In Deva, Hegde plays the role of Diya, an intrepid reporter who doesn't flinch at crossing the line and questioning authority. Reflecting on her role, she said, "As an investigative journalist, you need to ask difficult questions, even if it makes people uncomfortable. I channeled that determination into my performance."

She also disclosed that though she did not directly interact with journalists to prepare for the role, she was inspired by the *Academy Award*-winning film *Spotlight*. "I admired the way the journalists in that film pursued the truth. I also loved *Erin Brockovich*, even though she wasn't a journalist. The way she was determined to uncover the truth inspired me."

The *Prakash Jha*-directed show revolves around a self-proclaimed godman, named *Baba Nirala* (Deo), who leads an illegal empire of fraud, drugs, and prey on young women of his ashram.

The second chapter of the show's third season has been titled "Ek Badnaam Aashram". The first part was released in 2022.

At the streamer's slate announcement event on Thursday evening, Deol recalled that when *Jha* told him about the role, he was stunned and in disbelief.

"This is all because of *Prakash ji*, he saw something in me (as an actor). When he was narrating the story, I thought he would offer me the role of a police officer, played by *Darshan* and he did good work but when he told me he wanted me to play the role of *Baba*.

"I've always been striving to do something different and challenge myself, and *Prakash ji* gave me the opportunity in my hands. The way *Prakash ji* has written it, and the way every actor has performed in it has made the show so big," the "Animal" star said.

Amazon MX Player announces part two of 'Aashram' season three



Mumbai Actor Bobby Deol-starrer popular series 'Aashram' is set to return with the second part of season three, streaming service Amazon MX Player has announced.

The *Prakash Jha*-directed show revolves around a self-proclaimed godman, named *Baba Nirala* (Deo), who leads an illegal empire of fraud, drugs, and prey on young women of his ashram.

The second chapter of the show's third season has been titled "Ek Badnaam Aashram". The first part was released in 2022.

At the streamer's slate announcement event on Thursday evening, Deol recalled that when *Jha* told him about the role, he was stunned and in disbelief.

"This is all because of *Prakash ji*, he saw something in me (as an actor). When he was narrating the story, I thought he would offer me the role of a police officer, played by *Darshan* and he did good work but when he told me he wanted me to play the role of *Baba*.

"I've always been striving to do something different and challenge myself, and *Prakash ji* gave me the opportunity in my hands. The way *Prakash ji* has written it, and the way every actor has performed in it has made the show so big," the "Animal" star said.

Anantnag celebrates cultural heritage with Jashn-e-Chillai-Kalan event

Anantnag The District Administration of Anantnag organized the much-anticipated Jashn-e-Chillai-Kalan cultural event on Thursday at Wazirbagh, Anantnag, aiming to foster public outreach, celebrate cultural heritage, and provide a platform for local youth.

The event, which drew substantial participation from cultural enthusiasts and local residents reflected on the growing enthusiasm for community-based cultural activities.

Speaking to ANI, Ayan Sajjad, a performer and recipient of the National Children's Award, shared his excitement about the event.

"I am a singer from Anantnag and recently received the National Children's Award from the President, followed by a commendation from Prime Minister Modi," he said.

"It's a great honour to perform here at Wazirbagh. The event is bringing together so many people, with various stalls offering valuable information and entertainment. These types of events moti-

vate local youth to develop their skills and pursue their passions," he added.

Ayan also expressed his gratitude for the support from local authorities, particularly the District Commissioner, for making such initiatives possible. "It's a great opportunity for the youth here, and we hope to see more such events in the future," he said.

Another local performer highlighted the significance of the event for Anantnag's artistic community. "It's the first time I've performed here in Anantnag, and I'm thrilled to see the support for local artists. The district should continue to provide opportunities for hometown talent to be recognized and appreciated," he said.

The event featured performances by several renowned local artists, including popular comedy artist Anil Koul, young Sufi singer and *Rashtriya Bal Puraskar* awardee Aayan Sajjad, *Ishfaq Kawa*, and *Noor Mohammad*. The musical performances, including the *Band Pather*, captivated the audience and brought a festive spirit to the gathering.



Shabana Azmi's series 'Dabba Cartel' release on Netflix from February 28

New Delhi Streaming service Netflix on Friday announced that its latest thriller drama series "Dabba Cartel", featuring Shabana Azmi, Nimisha Sajayan, Shalini Pandey, Anjali Anand, and Jyotika, will make its debut on February 28.

Set in the Mumbai suburbs of Thane, the series is created by Shihani Akhtar, Vishnu Menon, Gaurav Kapur and Akanksha Seda, Netflix said in a press release.

Directed by Hitesh Bhatia, the show follows five ordinary women and how their low-key dabba service spirals into an unexpected venture: a high-stakes drug delivery op-

eration. "Dabba Cartel" marks an exciting new chapter for us as we collaborate with Netflix. This series is a dramatic tale of five everyday middle-class women reluctantly starting a drug cartel that ends up colliding with a massive pharma scandal that is under investigation," said producers Ritesh Sidhwani and Farhan Akhtar of Excel Entertainment.

Written by Vishnu Menon and Bhavna Kher, the series will also feature Gajraj Rao, Sai Tamhankar, Jisshu Sengupta, Lillete Dubey and Bhupendra Singh Jadawat.

Monika Shergill, Vice-President Content, Netflix India, said "Dabba Cartel" marks the streaming service's first

series collaboration with Excel Entertainment. "This is a story that follows five women from diverse backgrounds who transform a simple idea into a game-changing enterprise. At its core, Dabba Cartel explores the contrast of ambition and greed set in a middle-class housing society.

"With a power-packed ensemble cast led by the incomparable Shabana Azmi, Jyotika, Shalini Pandey, and Nimisha Sajayan, Dabba Cartel is a fresh and gripping blend of drama and suspense - where a single unexpected decision sets off far-reaching consequences for the women and their families," she added.

Mamta Kulkarni, Lakshmi Narayan Tripathi expelled from Kinnar Akhada

Ujjain Rishi Ajay Das, the founder of Kinnar Akhada, has expelled both Mamta Kulkarni and Acharya Mahamandaleshwar Lakshmi Narayan Tripathi from the Akhada.

The decision comes in the wake of the controversial appointment of Mamta Kulkarni, a former Bollywood actress with a checkered past, as Mahamandaleshwar.

Tripathi had allegedly appointed Kulkarni without the founder's consent, an act that has sparked considerable outrage.

According to a press release issued on January 30, 2025, Rishi Ajay Das noted, "As the founder of Kinnar Akhada, I am hereby relieving Acharya Mahamandaleshwar Lakshmi Narayan Tripathi from his position as Acharya Mahamandaleshwar of the Kinnar Akhada, effective immediately. This appointment was made with the goal of promoting religious activities and uplifting the transgender community, but he has deviated from these responsibilities."



The controversy revolves around an agreement Tripathi entered into with Juna Akhada in 2019, which Ajay Das claims was allegedly done without his approval. He further alleged that the contract between the two Akhadas was legally invalid due to the lack of his consent and signature.

Moreover, Ajay Das accused Tripathi of undermining the tenets of the Kinnar Akhada by allowing Mamta Kulkarni to join and take on the prestigious role of Mahamandaleshwar despite her past involvement in criminal activities.



"By giving such a person the title of Mahamandaleshwar, what kind of guru are you offering to Sanatan Dharma? This is a question of ethics," he wrote.

The founder emphasized that this appointment was not only unethical but also a betrayal of the Akhada's religious values.

The expulsion of both individuals has ignited debates within the spiritual community, with the President of the Akhil Bharatiya Akhada Parishad, Mahant Ravindra Puri, speaking out in support of Tripathi and Kulkarni.

Puri challenged the legitimacy of Ajay Das's decision, saying, "I want to ask, who is he (Rishi Ajay Das) to expel Laxmi Narayan Tripathi?"

Sean 'Diddy' Combs faces revised indictment in sex trafficking case

New York Federal prosecutors in New York have issued an updated indictment against music mogul Sean 'Diddy' Combs, alleging he orchestrated a wide-ranging criminal enterprise involving the trafficking and abuse of women through his business ventures.

As per *The Hollywood Reporter*, the superseding indictment, filed on Thursday, strengthens the government's case but does not introduce new charges.

The new indictment, which expands on the accusations in the initial September filing, highlights new details about the alleged racketeering conspiracy, including claims that Combs directed women into commercial sex acts.

While the charges remain largely the same, the revised document specifies that three women were reportedly coerced by the rap mogul into participating in forced sexual activities, according to *The Hollywood Reporter*.



In response, Combs' legal team dismissed the updated

indictment as lacking merit. His attorney, Marc Agnifilo, emphasized that there are no new criminal offenses included in the filing.

"The government's case remains flawed," Agnifilo noted, dismissing the prosecution's claims about two former girlfriends allegedly being coerced into prostitution, adding, "The government has added the ridiculous theory that two of Mr Combs' former girlfriends were not girlfriends at all but were prostitutes," as per reports obtained by *The Hollywood Reporter*.



Anil Kapoor pens heartfelt birthday message for Preity Zinta

Mumbai Actress Preity Zinta is celebrating her 50th birthday today. On this occasion, actor Anil Kapoor penned a heartfelt message for his co-actress and also wished her luck for IPL 2025.

Taking to his Instagram handle, Anil shared a throwback photo of him and actress Preity Zinta in which they were seen posing while hooking each other's hands.

Sharing the heartfelt message, Anil Kapoor wrote, "Happy Birthday, @realpz. Your warmth, kindness, and that radiant smile light up every room. Wishing you all the best for IPL 2025 and may you win the trophy this year!"

Apart from being a stellar actress in Bollywood, Preity also owns a cricket franchise in IPL, which goes by the name of *Kings XI Punjab*. Cricketer Shikhar Dhawan who has played for this team also extended his heartfelt wishes to the actress on her 50th birthday.

He wrote, "Many many happy returns of the day @realpz. Stay happy, healthy and blessed always!"

Indian cricketer Yuvraj Singh also wished the actress "Happy Birthday." He wrote, "Happy birthday Pzed! Loads of love and hope you have a wonderful year ahead"

Preity Zinta made her Bollywood debut with a supporting role in *Dil Se* (1998) and quickly became a beloved star with her versatility across romantic comedies and action thrillers.