



India's ace all-rounder Deepthi Sharma to lead UP Warriorz in Season 3 of WPL

Imran Khan's PTI rules out possibility of resumption of dialogue with government

'Sanam Teri Kasam' re-release: Film collects Rs 11.36 crore at box office



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WEATHER

Sunrise	7:04 AM
Sunset	6:08 PM
Moonrise	3:57 PM
Moonset	6:20 AM
Today's Prediction	
Maximum	26°C
Minimum	13°C
Tomorrow's Prediction	
	27°C
	13°C

Biren Singh resigns as Manipur CM on eve of assembly session

Biren Singh submits his resignation to Governor Ajay Kumar Bhalla; accompanied by Bharatiya Janata Party in charge for Manipur Sambit Patra and BJP State President A Sharda Devi

Imphal
Amidst rumblings within the state BJP seeking a change of leadership, Manipur Chief Minister N Biren Singh on Sunday tendered his resignation to Governor Ajay Kumar Bhalla at the Raj Bhavan in Imphal, officials said.

The governor accepted Singh's resignation, along with that of his council of ministers, and requested that he continue in office until alternative arrangements are made. The development comes hours after he returned from Delhi. Earlier this week, a new controversy erupted after the Supreme Court sought a sealed-cover forensic report on the authenticity of leaked audio clips alleging the role of Singh in the ethnic violence.

The tapes reportedly included conversations where Singh allegedly suggested that Meitei groups were allowed to loot arms and ammunition from the state government during the



unrest, which has so far claimed 250 lives. In his resignation letter, Singh said, "It has been an honour to serve the people of Manipur thus far. I am extremely grateful to the central government for time actions, interventions, developmental work and implementation of various projects for safeguarding the interests of every single Manipuri." "My sincere request to the central government

through your good office is to continue with the same. I take the opportunity to enumerate the most important ones of them ... To maintain the territorial integrity of Manipur which has a rich and diverse civilizational history over thousands of years," the letter added.

Singh in his resignation letter also requested the Centre to continue the "crackdown on border infiltration and to

formulate policy for the deportation of the illegal immigrants and the fight against drugs and narco terrorism." On Saturday, Singh convened a meeting with BJP-led ruling alliance MLAs at the CM Secretariat.

The meeting was held in the wake of the opposition Congress seeking to move a no-confidence motion against the government led by Singh during the Assembly session starting Febru-

Manipur CM's resignation 'belated', people now await visit by 'frequent-flier PM' - Congress

ary 10. It was not immediately clear whether the BJP will appoint a new CM. Top BJP leader Sambit Patra is camping in Manipur.

The Congress was prompted to react that the resignation was "belated" and said people of the state were now awaiting a visit by "our frequent-flier Prime Minister" Narendra Modi. BJP sources on the other side expressed hope that his resignation will help boost the efforts being helmed by the Centre to broker peace between the two main ethnic communities in the state. Noting that former home secretary Ajay Bhalla was appointed the state's governor in December last with an apparent aim to accelerate peace and security measures, they said

CONTD ON PAGE-2

Delhi swearing-in likely after PM Modi's US visit

New Delhi
With the BJP returning to power in Delhi after 27 years, the swearing-in ceremony is expected next week following Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to the United States on February 12-13.

The BJP is expected to stake claim to power next week after PM Modi returns from a foreign visit, party leaders said.

The saffron party swept the February 5 assembly elections in the national capital, winning 48 of 70 seats, ending the Arvind Kejriwal-led Aam Aadmi Party's 12-year rule in Delhi.

However, buzz over the BJP's chief ministerial pick has intensified, with several names emerging to lead the party's first government in Delhi in nearly three decades.

A notification by the assembly secretariat issued a day before read,

"In exercise of the power conferred upon me by sub-section (2)(b) of section 6 of the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi Act, 1991, I, Vinai Kumar



Saxena, Lieutenant Governor of Delhi, hereby dissolve the Seventh Legislative Assembly of the National Capital Territory of Delhi with effect from February 8, 2025."

The BJP returned to power in Delhi after more than 26 years, winning 48 of the 70 assembly seats. The AAP won 22 seats while the Congress drew a blank in the polls held on February 5.

Atishi took oath as chief minister in September last year after AAP convener and her predecessor Arvind Kejriwal resigned from the post amid corruption allegations against him.

AAP spokesperson Priyanka Kakkar on Sunday said the party will play the role of a "constructive opposition" in Delhi. Agency



Fighter jets and other aircraft at the static display area at Yelahanka Air Force Station on the eve of Aero India 2025 in Bengaluru on Sunday.

31 Naxalites, 2 cops killed in encounter in Chhattisgarh

Bijapur (Chhattisgarh)
In a major operation against the Left Wing Extremism, security forces gunned down 31 Naxalites during a fierce encounter in Chhattisgarh's Bijapur district on Sunday, police said.

Two security personnel were also killed and many others injured in the face-off, they said. More than 650 security personnel entered the Indravati National Park area from different sides and eliminated 31 Naxalites in their den, Chhattisgarh's Deputy Chief Minister Vijay Sharma said.

Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai said the end of Naxalism in the country and the state is certain. Under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah, the state will get rid of Naxalism by March 2026, he added.

With this incident,



81 Naxalites have been gunned down by security forces in separate encounters in Chhattisgarh so far this year.

The latest gunfight took place at a forest in Indravati National Park area in the morning when a joint team of personnel from different security forces was on an anti-Naxalite operation, Inspector General of Police, Bastar Range, Sundarraj J said.

Personnel belonging to the District Reserve Guard (DRG), Special

Task Force (STF) and Bastar Fighters, all units of the state police, were involved in the operation, he said.

"So far, bodies of 31 Naxalites clad in 'uniform' have been recovered from the encounter site. Besides, a huge cache of weapons, including AK-47, INSAS, SLR and 303 rifles and Barrel Grenade Launchers (BGL), and explosives have also been seized from the site," the official said.

CONTD ON PAGE-2

Punjab man dies while travelling to US illegally

Washington
A man from Punjab's Ajmalia died of cardiac arrest in Guatemala during a journey to the United States illegally, the state's NRI Affairs Minister Kuldeep Singh Dhaliwal said on Sunday.

Expressing grief over Gurbpreet Singh's death, the minister advised youths not to make attempts to travel abroad through unauthorised routes and to instead earn skill education in India.

It is learnt that Gurbpreet's family paid Rs 16.5 lakh to agents for taking him to the US. The incident came

HIGHLIGHT

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people through a 'dunki' route -- an illegal and risky pathway used by migrants to enter America.

The incident came

days after 104 illegal Indian immigrants, including 30 from Punjab, were deported onboard a US military aircraft on February 5.

Dhaliwal visited the residence of Gurbpreet and expressed condolences to his family.

He assured the deceased's family that the government would make every effort to bring his body back to Punjab. The minister said that instead of spending money on trying to go abroad through illegal routes by spending huge sums, youths can set up businesses in the state with the same money. Agency

67 of 70 Congress candidates lose deposits in Delhi

New Delhi
Congress candidates lost their security deposits on all but three seats in the Delhi assembly polls as nearly 80 per cent of all contenders, including those contesting independently, forfeited their deposits.

All the candidates of the Aam Aadmi Party, the Bharatiya Janata Party and its allies, the Janata Dal-United and the Lok Janshakti Party-Ram Vilas managed to save their security deposits after the election results were declared on Saturday.

Out of the 699 candidates in the fray, 555 (79.39 per cent) candidates forfeited their deposits in the February 5



polls. It was a sorry state of affairs for the Congress that not only drew a blank in terms of seats for a third time in a row, but 67 of its candidates also lost their security deposits.

The Congress, which

ruled Delhi for three consecutive terms till 2013, had fielded candidates in all 70 constituencies.

Only three Congress candidates—Abhishek Dutt from Kasturba Nagar, the only leader from the party to finish sec-

ond, Rohit Choudhary from Nanjoli Jat and Devendra Yadav from Badli -- managed to save their security deposits.

Shifa-ur-Rehman Khan of the All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen, which contested two seats, also managed

to save his security deposit in Okhla.

According to the Representation of the People Act, 1951, any candidate from the general category contesting an election is required to deposit Rs 10,000 with the Election Commission as a security deposit.

For candidates from Scheduled Castes and Tribes, the amount required to be deposited is Rs 5,000.

According to electoral law, the deposit will have to be forfeited if the candidate is not elected and the number of valid votes polled by him or her does not exceed one-sixth of the total number of valid votes polled by all the candidates. Agency

Biren Singh resigns as Manipur CM on eve of assembly session

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Singh's resignation will help the process and convey the Centre's sincerity in bridging the ethnic divide.

A source said that Singh was also losing support among BJP MLAs, many of whom have met party leaders in Delhi to convey their unhappiness with his continuation. The state assembly session is scheduled to begin on February 10, and there was concern that some party MLAs might embarrass the government by targeting their own leaders.

In his letter to the governor, the CM also urged the central government "to continue the stringent and fool-proof revised mechanism of Free Movement Regime (FMR) with the objective of bringing stringently applied time bound and faster border which is underway." Meanwhile, state BJP president A Sharda said: "We are yet to receive further instructions from the party."

"She asserted that Singh worked tirelessly for the development and integrity of the state. He has been trying to bring peace in the state since the ethnic violence broke out on May 3, 2023. The BJP will continue to work hard for the integrity of the state," Sharda added. On Saturday, Singh convened a meeting with BJP-led ruling alliance MLAs at the CM Secretariat.

The meeting was held in the wake of the opposition Congress seeking to move a no-confidence motion against the government led by Singh. On February 3, a bench comprising Chief Justice Sanjay Khanna and Justice Sanjay Kumar sought a report from the Central Forensic Science Laboratory (CFSL) within six weeks and posted the plea by the Kuki Organisation for Human Rights Trust (KOHUR) on March 24.

31 Naxalites, 2 cops killed in encounter in Chhattisgarh

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Two security personnel, one belonging to the state DRG and the other from the STF, were killed in the gunfight and two others suffered injuries, he said.

The two injured jawans, reported to be out of danger, were being airlifted to a better medical facility for treatment, he said. Reinforcement has been rushed to the spot and search operation is still underway in the area, he added.

CM Sai said that under the leadership of PM Modi and Union Minister Amit Shah, the state will get rid of Naxalism by March 2026.

Security forces have been continuously getting success in this direction and moving rapidly towards achieving the goal. The end of Naxalism, which is like "cancer", from the country and the state is certain, he said in a statement.

"The sacrifice of our soldiers will not go in vain. I pray to God for the departed souls to rest in peace and provide strength to the bereaved families, and for the speedy recovery of the injured jawans," Sai said.

Advt Contact: 9818-799941

Govt has taken note of 'objections' on US treatment of Indian deportees: Khattar

Union minister Manohar Lal Khattar on Sunday said the government has taken note of the "objections raised by everyone" over the manner in which illegal Indian immigrants were recently deported from the US.

There has been an uproar over the deportation of illegal Indian immigrants by the US in handcuffs during their 40-hour flight onboard a military aircraft.

The US military aircraft carrying 104 illegal Indian immigrants landed in Amritsar on February 5.

India on Friday said it has registered concerns with the US over the transportation of illegal im-



migrants in shackles and conveyed that this kind of treatment could have been avoided. Khattar said, "America

has deported people (to India) earlier also. This time, everyone had objections to the method, it (objection) has been

registered and the issue will be resolved by talks. This issue is not good for any country and the government will discuss it

There has been an uproar over the deportation of illegal Indian immigrants by the US in handcuffs during their 40-hour flight onboard a military aircraft.

further after giving due thought."

There has been a constant demand that deportation (of illegal immigrants) be carried out, the Union Minister for Housing and Urban Affairs said.

"There is a formality for it (deportation), it also has its own sensitivity as to when to do it, how to do it and in what manner," he said.

During the press conference here, the min-

ister was asked that when the US can deport people, why illegal immigrants from neighbouring Bangladesh, who are an economic burden on India, are not being sent back.

Khattar said this is a serious problem and the people should not go to any country illegally.

"Whether our people go or people from other countries come here, when such things happen, all countries engage in deportation. We have also deported many people from Assam," he said.

During the press conference, Khattar also informed about highlights of the General Budget for 2025-26 recently presented by Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman.

BJP govt. at the Centre attempts to weaken Constitution: Priyanka Gandhi

Wayanad (Kerala)

Continuing her criticism of the BJP-led NDA government at the Centre, Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra on Sunday alleged that, for the first time in history, a government is working to weaken both the Constitution and democracy of the country.

Addressing the party's booth-level leaders in Ernad Assembly constituency, the Wayanad MP said, "It's probably for the first time in our country's history, we have a government that is working to weaken the Constitution and the democracy."

"You must understand that today the fight we are fighting is not just a fight for our own politics and ideology but a fight for protecting the essence of India, everything that makes our nation what it is today," she added.

On the second day of her three-day visit to Wayanad, Priyanka addressed the issue of human-animal conflicts, stating that she would



write to both the Centre and state governments to allocate more funds, as adequate funding is essential for effective protection measures.

Later, speaking to reporters after the meeting on the human-animal conflict issue, she said she has already raised it once and will continue to raise it.

"It's something we need to look into, it's a complex issue as there is no easy solution. Defi-

guards, watchers, and others involved. She will attend another meeting at Thiruvambadi Assembly constituency in Kozhikode district later.

On Monday, she will hold meetings with booth-level leaders at Wandoor and Nilambur assembly constituencies and will also visit families of a few victims of wild animal attacks, Congress sources said.

This is her second visit to Wayanad after she won the Lok Sabha bypoll from there. Earlier, on January 28, Priyanka visited the high-range district to meet the family of a woman who was killed by a tiger on January 24 when she was out collecting office beans at the Priyadarshini Estate in Mananthavady village in Wayanad.

She also visited the family of N M Vijayan, former district officer-bearer of the party, who, along with his son, died by suicide in December last year.

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Probe transferred only in rare circumstance, hits morale of police: Delhi HC

New Delhi

Investigation into a criminal case is transferred from one agency to another only in rare and exceptional circumstances, as it hits at the morale of the police which must be avoided at all costs, the Delhi High Court has observed.

The high court said bald allegations are not sufficient for transfer of investigation to another probe agency.

"Transfer of investigation to another agency is only done in rare and exceptional cases such as cases where high officials of state authorities are involved. Accusations against an investigating officer alone are not sufficient to transfer investigation unless there is sufficient material to show that the investigating officer is mixed up with the accused," Justice Subramonium Prasad said.

The court passed the order on February 6 on petitions filed by several persons accused in a cheating case being probed by the Economic Offences Wing of Delhi Police, seeking to transfer the investigation to a superior agency like the CBI or the Special Cell.



The allegations in the criminal case were that monies of homebuyers and investors were siphoned out by the agency investigation was being conducted by the agency to unearth the money trail to find out where the monies have been actually parked.

The complainants in the case are helpless investors/homebuyers who have invested substantial amounts in the properties which are being constructed by the accused, the court noted.

It applied the parameters laid down by the Supreme Court, which say an investigation is transferred only when the court finds that a fair, honest and complete probe is not being carried out.

"In fact, transfer of investigation from the investigating agency hits at the morale of the police, which must be avoided at all costs," the high court said.

Navy Chiefs' Conclave 2025 deliberates over future of warfare, maritime strategy

New Delhi

The Indian Navy's Chiefs' Conclave 2025 took place at Naval Headquarters in New Delhi on February 8. The event brought together eight former Naval Chiefs to share their collective experience and knowledge, said the Navy.

"The Chiefs' Conclave 2025 aims to gain from the collective experience and knowledge of the eight former Naval Chiefs who are attending the #Conclave. They were presented with an operational update, including policy initiatives, technological, materiel, and operational logistics advancements, and

perspective plans at the new #NausenaBhawan," the Indian Navy said in a post on X.

The conclave featured operational updates, policy initiatives, and discussions on the future of warfare and maritime strategy.

"An exclusive session was also conducted to deliberate #Manthan on key issues of interest, fostering an open exchange of ideas on the future of warfare and #maritimestrategy in an evolving geo-political landscape and HR paradigms," the Navy said.

A book titled "Legacy of Leadership: Naval Chiefs through Time" was also released,

No Indian citizen will lose life after end of Naxalism by March 31, 2026: Shah

New Delhi

Union Home Minister Amit Shah said on Sunday that Naxals will be eradicated by March 31, 2026 and no citizen of the country has to lose his life due to it.

Shah said this after the security forces killed 31 Naxals in Chhattisgarh. "I also reiterate my resolve that before 31 March, 2026, we will completely eradicate Naxalism from the country so that no citizen of the country has to lose his life due to it," he wrote on X in Hindi.

The home minister said in the direction of making India Nax-

Stalin slams Centre over treatment meted out by US to deportees

Chennai

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M K Stalin has strongly criticised the BJP government at the Centre over the handcuffing and shackling of Indians deported by the US and slammed the Saffron party regime in Uttar Pradesh over the Mahakumbh stampede deaths, alleging improper safety arrangements.

Addressing a public meeting here to condemn the Prime Minister Narendra Modi-led Union government for "betraying" Tamil Nadu, Stalin accused the Centre of not releasing to Tamil Nadu its due share of funds and not extending a helping hand even when natural disasters struck the state.

The centre should correct itself, or else it will be corrected and if the union government does not change its attitude, it would lose respect every day in the people's court. On the Mahakumbh stampede deaths, the DMK chief alleged 48 persons died as proper safety arrangements had not been made. The BJP government there, however, maintained that deaths were only 30. The Chief Minister further said: "The media says the death toll is 48. Leaders from that state say that it could be even more. Samajwadi Party chief Anurag Thakur has alleged that bodies were removed using earth movers. A discussion on the matter was not allowed in the Parliament. You invited devotees to the Kumbh festival! Is it not the BJP government's duty to have provided them safety?"

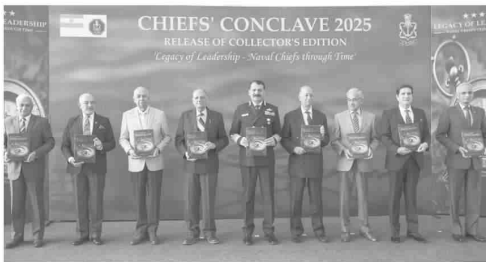
Chhattisgarh: Security forces have achieved a big success in Bijapur, Chhattisgarh

New Delhi

Security forces have achieved a big success in Bijapur, Chhattisgarh. He said that 31 Naxalites were killed in this operation and a huge amount of arms and explosives were also recovered.

Shah said the security forces have also lost two of its brave soldiers "in the effort to end anti-human Naxalism" and the country will always be indebted to these heroes.

"I express my heartfelt condolences to the families of the martyred soldiers," he said.



NEWS IN BRIEF

Yamuna Authority to build cowshed

Noida
A cowshed with a capacity of 500 cattle is going to be constructed here at Dhanauri village of Greater Noida at cost of Rs 5.23 crore to deal with the problem of stray cattle.
The Yamuna Development Authority will issue the tender for this project in the next seven days. Jeevar MLA Dharendra Singh said in a programme on Sunday that this project is being started on the demand of local villagers. About 4 years ago, farmers of Bhatta, Parasul, Mutaina, Sakka, Usmanpur, Mirzapur, Aachepur and Chandpur villages had complained to him about the problem of stray cattle.
According to the MLA, the construction of a cowshed at Dhanauri will not only provide protection to stray and destitute cattle, but will also provide relief to people from the problems caused by stray cattle in the surrounding rural areas. This cowshed will also bring positive changes in the animal husbandry and agricultural system of the region.

Okhla MLA Khan blames Congress for AAP loss

New Delhi
AAP's Okhla MLA Amanatullah Khan on Sunday blamed the Congress for the party's defeat in the Delhi polls, a charge rubbished by the grand old party.
AAP — which had won 62 assembly constituencies in 2020 and 67 in 2015 — saw its tally plunge to 22 as the BJP registered a landslide victory with 48 seats in the 70-member House.

Khan accused the Congress of prioritising AAP's defeat over its own electoral success.

"The Congress contested the election not to win but to ensure our defeat. Rahul Gandhi came to campaign in my constituency for the first time ever. It knew it had no chance of winning but was determined to make us lose," Khan said.

AAP and the Congress are constituents of the opposition INDIA bloc and had contested last year's Lok Sabha elections in an alliance in Delhi.

Alliance partners are supposed to support the strongest party in each state, Khan said.

"We were strong in Delhi, not the Congress. But its actions helped the BJP come to power. The Congress had nothing to lose but its strategy hurt secular voters the most," he added.

AAP secured 43.57 per cent of the votes polled while the BJP managed 45.56 per cent. The Congress' vote share stood at 6.34 per cent.

Atishi resigns as Delhi CM, LG asks her to continue till formation of new govt

New Delhi
Delhi Chief Minister Atishi handed over her resignation to Lt Governor V K Saxena on Sunday, a day after her Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) faced a crushing defeat in the assembly polls.
Atishi, who retained her Kalkaji seat, handed over her resignation to Saxena at Raj Niwas, officials said.
The LG's office said that Saxena has asked the outgoing CM to continue on the post till formation of a new government.
The BJP is expected to stake claim to power next week after Prime Minister Narendra Modi returns from a foreign visit, party leaders said.
"Hon'ble Lt Governor, Shri VK Saxena today received the resignation of Hon'ble CM, Ms Atishi. He asked her to continue in her position till the formation of the new government," Raj Niwas, Delhi posted from its official X handle.
The LG dissolved the Delhi Assembly effective from Saturday, February 8.
A notification by the assembly secretariat issued a



day before read, "In exercise of the power conferred upon me by sub-section (2)(b) of section 6 of the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi Act, 1991, I, Vinai Kumar Saxena, Lieutenant Governor of Delhi, hereby dissolve the Seventh Legislative Assembly of the National Capital Territory of Delhi with effect from February 8, 2025."
The BJP returned to power in Delhi after more than 26 years, winning 48 of the 70 assembly seats. The AAP won 22 seats while the Congress drew a blank in the polls held on February 5.
Atishi took oath as chief minister in September last year after AAP convenor

and her predecessor Arvind Kejriwal resigned from the post amid corruption allegations against him.
AAP spokesperson Priyanka Kakkar on Sunday said the party will play the role of a "constructive opposition" in Delhi.
"We accept the people's mandate with all humility. AAP is a party which understands, recognises and works on its mistakes. We will definitely look into the reason our vote share has reduced," she said.
"We will play the role of a constructive opposition and will make sure that we will hold the BJP accountable to the promises they have made for the people of Delhi," she added.

New Delhi
A day after the AAP was ousted from power in Delhi, party supremo Arvind Kejriwal on Sunday met its 22 newly elected MLAs at his Ferozshah Road residence here and asked them to work for the people.
Addressing reporters after the meeting, outgoing Chief Minister Atishi, who is among the 22 AAP leaders who weathered the BJP storm, said the party will play the role of a constructive opposition and ensure that the saffron party delivers on its promises.
Kejriwal directed the newly elected MLAs to serve the people and solve their problems, she said.
"The AAP will play the role of a constructive op-

Kejriwal meets newly elected AAP MLAs, asks them to work for people

position and ensure that the BJP pays Rs 2,500 per month to women by March 8 as was promised by it, provides 300 units of free electricity and continues other facilities for the people," she said.
The MLAs will ensure that the BJP does not discontinue the free services and facilities that the AAP government provided in the last 10 years, she added.
Atishi said the leader of opposition will be nominated during the legislative party meeting of the AAP in the coming days.
The BJP won 48 of the 70 assembly seats, returning to power in Delhi after more than 26 years and dislodging the AAP after a decade.

BJP candidates hold victory rallies, distribute sweets



New Delhi
A day after the BJP returned to power in Delhi, the party's winning candidates held thanksgiving rallies in their respective constituencies on Sunday.
The candidates celebrated their success by distributing sweets, cutting cakes and thanking voters for supporting them.
The BJP returned to power in Delhi after more than 26 years, winning 48 of the 70 assembly seats on Saturday. The AAP won 22 seats while the Congress drew a blank in the polls held on February 5.
BJP's Moti Nagar MLA-elect Hariish Khurana took out a rally in his constituency.

"I am here in Moti Nagar to thank the people who have shown immense trust in me. I assure them that I will work honestly for their welfare, focusing on issues like public toilets and water supply," he said.

Satish Upadhyay, who won from Malviya Nagar, led a victory procession that saw his supporters dancing to drum beats. He also visited a temple and cut a cake.

"The people have supported us and this rally is our way of showing gratitude. We will work tirelessly for them," he said.
Parvash Verma, who emerged as the BJP's 'giant slayer' by defeating AAP convenor and former chief minister Arvind Kejriwal in New Delhi constituency,

related to attempted murder and crimes against women. In the 2020 election, 37 candidates who had emerged victorious declared serious criminal cases.

One newly-elected MLA in 2025 has declared cases related to attempted murder while two others are facing charges of crimes against women.

A party-wise breakdown shows that 16 of the BJP's 48 MLAs and 15 of AAP's 22 lawmakers have criminal cases against their names. Seven MLAs from the BJP and 10 from AAP are facing serious criminal charges. The assembly election results were announced on Saturday. According to the analysis, the 70 newly-elected lawmakers have total as-

People endorsed PM Modi's guarantees: Hry CM Saini

Shiv Kumar
New Delhi
Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini on Sunday said the people of Delhi endorsed Prime Minister Narendra Modi's guarantees, and asserted that the national capital would now stride firmly towards a "Viksit Bharat".
The prime minister's policies will now be implemented in Delhi, ensuring that the people benefit from welfare schemes such as Ayushman Bharat and access to clean drinking water, he added.
Addressing a press conference at Haryana Bhawan, the BJP leader said the people of Delhi responded to AAP supremo Arvind Kejriwal's "deceitful promises" by voting him out of power.
The BJP swept to power in Delhi after more than 26 years, winning 48 of the 70 assembly seats. AAP won 22 seats while the Congress drew a blank in the polls held on February 5.
The people will also oust the "AAP-da (disaster)" from power in Punjab, like they



part they played in it. He also acknowledged the senior leadership's role while crediting Modi for the saffron party's victory.
Taking a swipe at Kejriwal, the Haryana chief minister said the people of Delhi freed themselves from the clutches of a leader who had misled them.
He alleged that the former

Delhi chief minister made false promises and conjured up illusions of development but did nothing for the people.
Kejriwal repeatedly promised to clean the Yamuna by 2025 but, when he failed to deliver, resorted to making false accusations against Haryana, Saini said.
The BJP leader had been taking jibes at Kejriwal after the AAP supremo alleged that Haryana was "mixing poison" in the water supplied to the national capital through the river.
Kejriwal had promised to transform Delhi's roads into those resembling Paris, the Haryana chief minister said and claimed that he discovered long traffic jams and damaged road surfaces while campaigning in the city.
The Yamuna was also ignored, Saini alleged.
Kejriwal had claimed he would turn children from poor families into doctors and engineers but focused instead on opening liquor shops, he said.
Now, under the prime

minister's leadership, Delhi will once again join the development race, he asserted.
"This is Modi's guarantee — if he says something, he delivers," the Haryana chief minister said.
Noting that Delhi would progress alongside a "Viksit Bharat", he said the Yamuna riverfront would be beautified to such an extent that people would prefer visiting it over the Kartavya Path and the India Gate.
The prime minister has committed to cleaning and beautifying the Yamuna, and extensive work will be conducted expeditiously to eliminate pollution, Saini said.
The Haryana chief minister also promised that metro services would be expanded, electric vehicles promoted, and several other initiatives implemented to improve Delhi's infrastructure and environment.

distributed sweets and was seen feeding them to many passersby including children.

MLA-elect from Rajouri Garden Manjinder Singh Sirda attributed the BJP's victory to people's trust in Prime Minister Narendra Modi.
"For 12 years, people were deceived by false promises. Now, they have chosen development and change under Modi's leadership. This victory belongs to Delhi, the people and our prime minister," Sirda said. BJP's Tarvinder Singh Marwah, who won from Jangpura, claimed that during the election campaign, leaders of rival parties tried to sway voters by offering them money but people chose Modi's guarantee.
"The AAP leader (Manish Sisodia) called me a goon, distributed money and deployed 300 to 400 workers in Jangpura. All the prominent leaders wanted Sisodia to win this seat and yet people trusted me and Modi's guarantee. Now, it is our responsibility to fulfil our promises and work for the welfare of Delhi," he said.

BJP leaders pay courtesy visit to Delhi LG after Atishi resigns as Delhi CM

New Delhi
Moments after Atishi tendered her resignation as Chief Minister of Delhi, a group of victorious candidates of BJP paid a courtesy visit to Lieutenant Governor VK Saxena.
Parvash Verma, who won from the New Delhi Assembly seat, Arvinder Singh Lovely, elected from the Gandhi Nagar Constituency, and Kailash Gahlot, the winner from Bijwasan seat, were among the leaders who met Saxena at Raj Niwas, the official residence of the Delhi Lieutenant Governor.
Speaking to reporters, Kailash Gahlot said, "I am here just for a courtesy meeting with the LG."
Arvinder Singh Lovely, while leaving the Raj Niwas, also said, "It was just a courtesy meeting."
BJP candidate Parvash Verma defeated AAP's Arvind Kejriwal by a margin of 4,089 votes, while Arvinder Singh Lovely defeated AAP's Naveen Chaudhary by 12,748 votes. Kailash Gahlot won against AAP's Surender Bhardwaj with a margin of 11,276 votes.
Earlier in the day, Atishi resigned as Delhi Chief Minister following AAP's defeat in the assembly elections.
The AAP leader submitted her resignation to Delhi LG Saxena at Raj Niwas on Sunday morning. Atishi, 43, had been serving as the Chief

Revamping Yamuna riverfront top priority: Parvash Verma

New Delhi
BJP leader Parvash Verma, who is one of the key contenders for the Delhi chief minister's post, on Sunday said that developing the Yamuna riverfront will be a key priority for his party.
Talking to reporters after paying homage to his father and former chief minister Sahib Singh Verma in his native village in Mundka here, he said the previous government had neglected rural areas of Delhi and the roads are in a bad condition.
"Revamping the Yamuna riverfront will be one of our main priorities," Verma said.
He also said that he is committed to completing the unfinished works of his father.
Expressing gratitude for the support received by the BJP in Delhi, he said, "With the blessings of the people of Delhi and the efforts of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, we will work towards building a beautiful Delhi that takes care of all sections of society."
Verma's political career skyrocketed with his stupendous victory over AAP supremo Arvind Kejriwal from New Delhi by 4,089 votes, positioning him as a potential claimant to the top post in the upcoming BJP government.

Cook beaten to death inside Delhi bus over spilled food

New Delhi
A cook was beaten to death inside a bus in the north-west Delhi's Bavana area for allegedly spilling food on a seat, police said on Sunday.
The man, Manoj alias Babu, was beaten by three of the RTV bus and his two helpers, one of whom shoved an iron rod in his private part, they said.
When Manoj became unconscious, the three dumped him near Bavana flyover and fled.
Police said they have arrested one of the assailants, while two others remain at large.
Manoj, a native of Narela, worked as a wedding cook.
On the night of February 1, he and a colleague of his, Dinesh, attended a wedding in Sultanpur Dabas.

Delhi polls: Fewer MLAs with criminal cases; average asset value surges

New Delhi
Thirty-one of the 70 candidates elected to the eighth Delhi Assembly have declared criminal cases against their names, according to poll rights body ADR.
The figure is lower than the 43 MLAs in the seventh assembly who had declared criminal cases.
related to attempted murder and crimes against women. In the 2020 election, 37 candidates who had emerged victorious declared serious criminal cases.
One newly-elected MLA in 2025 has declared cases related to attempted murder while two others are facing charges of crimes against women.
A party-wise breakdown shows that 16 of the BJP's 48 MLAs and 15 of AAP's 22 lawmakers have criminal cases against their names. Seven MLAs from the BJP and 10 from AAP are facing serious criminal charges. The assembly election results were announced on Saturday. According to the analysis, the 70 newly-elected lawmakers have total as-

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notified that my client Mohd. Iqbal S/o Mohd. Obais R/o House No. 363, Block-G, Inder Enclave, Ph-2, Kirari Suleman Nagar, Delhi-110086, Aadhaar No. 5798-765-5785, who is going to purchase a Residential Built-up Property Bearing no. XVII/436, 2nd Floor, R/HS, area measuring 60 Sq. Yards, out of area measuring 120 Sq. Yards, situated at Rashtriya Bagh, Kishan Ganj, Delhi-110007 (hereinafter called said property/premises) from Sh. Kant Kumar Chawla & Sh. Satish Kumar Chawla both are S/o Late Sh. Sardari Lal, who got the ownership rights upon the above mentioned property through Regd. Will dated 09.01.2009, executed by Late Smt. Kamla Devi W/o Late Sh. Sardari Lal in favour of Sh. Satish Kumar and Sh. Kant Kumar S/o Late Sh. Sardari Lal in respect of said property, which is registered as Regd. Will doc. No. 53, Srd., further Late Smt. Kamla Devi got ownership rights upon the said property through Sale Deed dated 30.08.1996, executed by Sh. Swarn Lal Chona S/o Sh. 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By Dr Satyavan Saurabh

India's domestic workers: Why are they marginalized?

In India, the majority of domestic workers are women, who form a large part of the unorganized labor force. According to recent estimates, the number of domestic workers varies from official estimates of 4.2 million to unofficial estimates of over 50 million. In January 2025, the Supreme Court drew attention to the widespread exploitation of domestic workers and the lack of legal protections for them and ordered the central government to examine the possibility of passing a separate law to protect their rights. The Supreme Court ordered the central government to enact a separate law for domestic workers. The Minimum Wages Act and the Equal Remuneration Act, among other labor laws, do not apply to domestic workers. A separate law could offer organized regulation. Because there is no official framework, domestic workers often work without any set wages and are subject to arbitrary treatment. Employers do not consider their homes a "workplace" or themselves an "employer," making domestic work largely informal and unregulated. Since their work is not officially recorded, workers cannot be granted basic rights such as social security or minimum wages. Women now make up the majority of those employed in domestic work, which has become undervalued in society. This inequality on the basis of gender can be addressed by a special law. Due to social undervaluation, women are often paid less for domestic work than men. Domestic work conditions vary by region. A committed law can take into account regional



issues and solutions. Regulations in Kerala and Delhi have attempted to address regional issues such as wage rates and employment registration in different ways. Clear procedures to uphold workers' rights and provide legal recourse in case of violations could be mandated by a separate law. Without employment documentation, domestic workers may find it difficult to receive their wages, which can result in exploitation. Exploitation of domestic workers in India through low wages is one of their challenges. The low wages that domestic workers often receive are inadequate for the amount of labor they perform. The absence of minimum wage regulation makes this problem even worse. Domestic workers in Mumbai may struggle to meet their basic living expenses despite long workdays if their pay falls below the minimum wage. Due to

the lack of legal protection from harassment or unfair treatment, domestic workers are particularly susceptible to abuse. The worker in Delhi may face physical or verbal abuse, but since there is no formal contract, they have no legal protection. Since domestic work is performed in private homes, regulations become more complex, and the power differential between employers and employees increases. Since employees are often laid off without warning, there is a lack of job security, which exacerbates financial instability. After years of service, an employee can be suddenly fired without pay, leaving them with no financial support or legal options. Since domestic work is socially undervalued as "women's work" and often associated with marginalized communities, it renders workers voiceless and invisible. Rural migrant women may

face social stigma and struggle to be accepted as legal employees. A specific legal framework can help address vulnerabilities. A specific law can set a minimum wage, guaranteeing that workers receive fair compensation commensurate with their working hours and duties. A national law could establish a uniform minimum wage for workers across all states, guaranteeing that cooking, cleaning, and caregiving tasks are consistently paid for. A well-defined legal framework, with processes for resolving grievances, would enable workers to receive protection from harassment and abuse. The law could make employment contracts mandatory to prevent exploitation and provide workers with a legal basis to resist abuse. A national framework could improve workers' financial and health security by providing health insurance,

and other social benefits. Workers in Kerala currently receive some benefits, but national legislation could guarantee consistent access to social protection for all domestic workers in India. To ensure that both parties are aware of their rights and responsibilities and to prevent exploitation, a law could require employers to register their workers.

Unions representing domestic workers have pushed for registration as a way to prevent termination and provide legal aid when needed. Domestic work and care can be valued and acknowledged by a specific legal framework, increasing social recognition of domestic workers. Apart from ensuring that domestic work is socially valued and fairly remunerated, the law can also require respectful working conditions. Taking into account programs such as the Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana and the Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Maan-Dhan Yojana, a specific legal framework for domestic workers should be created. This will ensure better safety at the workplace, enforce a minimum wage, and provide necessary social protection. Through resolving power inequalities, improving working conditions, and ultimately advancing their economic stability and human dignity, this law will empower domestic workers.

About the Author

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

While domestic work should be socially valued and remunerated appropriately, the law may also require respectable working conditions. Taking into account programs such as the National Health Insurance Scheme and the Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Maan-Dhan Yojana, a specific legal framework for domestic workers should be created. This will ensure better safety at the workplace, enforce minimum wages, and provide necessary social protection. This law will empower domestic workers by resolving power inequalities, improving working conditions, and ultimately enhancing their economic stability and human dignity.

Breaking Time Sudoku

What to do

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

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

Solution, Sudoku

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

THE WISDOM TREE BY SUVEEN KUMAR

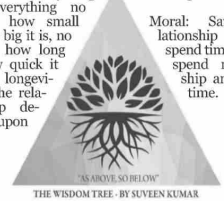
SHARE YOUR TIME

If you are not willing to share your time with people, you should not expect them share their happiness with you, you have some spiritual existence when you give something to yourself and you have some social existence when you give some time to people, not having time, not using time and not giving time are three different things however for many of us it is a same thing, share your time to someone who needs it the most and sometimes it is you and sometimes it other, you are not wealthy of time if you have a lot of it, you are wealthy of time when you use it best of it. If you have time then give it, use it else will be lost, we all are made of time but only a few of us are made by time, time is the only medium to share anything and everything no matter how small or how big it is, no matter how long or how quick it is, the longevity of the relationship depends upon

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

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

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



Union Budget and Inclusive Growth

The Economic Survey 2024 predicted a complete analysis of India's economic growth performance in lieu of global uncertainty. While it highlights India's resilience and stable macroeconomic indicators, it also highlights key structural challenges that the Indian economy faced during the 2024-25 financial year. These challenges include a slowdown of private investment, the manufacturing sector remains vulnerable to external shocks and persistent rural-urban disparities. In order to address the above challenges, the current budget aimed at accelerating inclusive growth, stimulating private sector investments, uplifting household sentiments, and augmenting the spending power of India's rural and urban masses. In this current budget, the foundation of development to achieve inclusive growth is spread over ten comprehensive areas, which include stimulating agricultural growth and productivity, enhancing rural development and resilience, working towards inclusive growth, augmenting manufacturing productivity for advancing Make in India, creating a conducive environment for Ministry of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises (MSMEs), facilitating employment-led development, investing in people, economy and innovation, ensuring energy efficiency, increasing exports and fostering innovation. To achieve fruitful results in the above ten areas, the budget considers agriculture, MSME, investment,

and exports as four powerful engines of the development journey of the Indian economy. The budget stated that reform is fuel, whereas inclusivity is spirit, and Viksit Bharat is the final destination. Agriculture as the first engine of growth the Prime Minister Dhan-Dhaanya Krishi Yojana targeted to enhance agricultural productivity, implement crop diversification and sustainable agriculture processes, expand post-harvest storage at the panchayat and block level, advanced irrigation facilities, and simplify availability of long-term and short-term credit. The proposed scheme is expected to benefit 1.7 crore farmers. A wide-ranging multi-sectoral 'Rural Prosperity and Resilience' programme will be launched in cooperation with states. This will address the unemployment situation in agriculture through training, investment, innovation, and uplifting the rural economy. The goal is to create sufficient job opportunities in rural areas to reduce migration to a greater extent. A complete initiative to enhance production, optimize supply chains, facilitate processing, and ensure profitable pricing for farmers will be implemented in collaboration with state governments. Institutional structures for the implementation and engagement of farmer-producer organizations and cooperatives will be established. A National Mission on High Yielding Seeds will be on track with the goal of improving the research environment, developing and spreading seeds that have

a high yield, are resistant to pests, and can withstand climate change, and making more than 100 different seed kinds commercially available. The Government would establish a framework to sustainably exploit fisheries in the Indian Exclusive Economic Zone and High Seas, particularly emphasizing the Andaman & Nicobar and Lakshadweep Islands, to unleash the marine sector's hidden potential. Kisan Credit Cards (KCCs) were given to farmers in order to create inclusive growth in rural areas. These cards provide short-term loans to 77 million farmers, fishers, and dairy producers. The loan cap under the Modified Interest Subvention Scheme would be increased from ₹3 lakh to ₹5 lakh for loans obtained via the KCC. India Post will be restructured into a significant public logistics entity. This will address the increasing demands of engineers, emerging entrepreneurs, women, self-help groups, MSMEs, and large enterprises. India's 10 million registered MSMEs, employing 75 million individuals and contributing 36% to manufacturing, are establishing the nation as a worldwide hub. In order to improve efficiency, technological advancement, and capital accessibility, investment and turnover thresholds for MSMEs will be increased to 2.5 and 2 times, respectively, to facilitate their growth and job creation. The Government will launch tailored credit cards with a maximum of ₹5 lakh for micro firms registered on the Udyam platform. In the inaugural year, 1 million

such cards will be distributed. A new initiative will be introduced for 5 lakh women, as well as first-time entrepreneurs from Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. This would offer them loans of up to ₹2 crore over the next five years. The initiative will integrate insights from the effective Stand-Up India program. Online training for entrepreneurship and managerial skills will also be conducted. The Government will establish a National Manufacturing Mission, including small, medium, and large firms, to advance "Make in India" through policy support, implementation roadmaps, and a governance and monitoring structure for central ministries and states. This budget will also emphasize clean tech manufacturing for a sustainable environment and society. Tourism will also play a bigger role in inclusive growth in the budget, which compromises the top 50 tourism destinations in the country, which will be developed in collaboration with states using a competitive approach. States would give land for the construction of essential infrastructure. This budget also allocated performance-linked incentives to governments for efficient destination management, encompassing visitor amenities, cleanliness, and marketing initiatives. Medical tourism and healthcare in India will be advanced through collaboration with the business sector, alongside capacity building and streamlined visa regulations.

Among other major initiatives for inclusive growth, this budget emphasized establishing fifty thousand Atal Tinkering in government schools to foster inquisitiveness, invention, and a scientific approach among youth. Further broadband connectivity will be extended to all government secondary schools and basic health centres in rural regions under the Bharatnet initiative. Five National Centres of Excellence for skill development would be established, leveraging global experience and collaborations to prepare our youth with the necessary skills for "Make for India, Make for the World" manufacturing. The collaborations will encompass curriculum development, trainer training, a skills certification framework, and regular evaluations. This budget also announced reforms in the power, urban, mining and energy sectors. Finally, great relief has been given to taxpayers of our country to bring back aggregate demand and keep it on track, creating a natural investment climate for India as well as foreign investors, which would promote inclusive growth in the Indian economy to reduce income inequalities.

Agriculture as the first engine of growth the Prime Minister Dhan-Dhaanya Krishi Yojana targeted to enhance agricultural productivity, implement crop diversification and sustainable agriculture processes, expand post-harvest storage at the panchayat and block level, advanced irrigation facilities, and simplify availability of long-term and short-term credit. The proposed scheme is expected to benefit 1.7 crore farmers.

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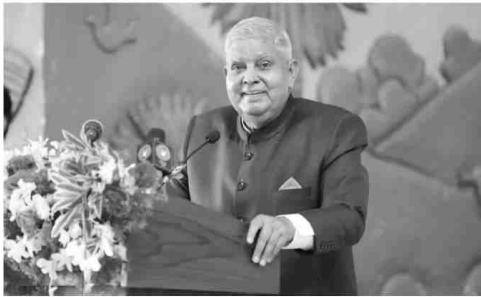
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No one can undermine farmers' role in India's journey towards development: VP Dhankhar

Jaipur
Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar on Sunday said that no one can undermine the role of farmers in India's journey towards development.

Addressing the Akhil Mewar Region Jat Mahasabha in Chittorgarh, the vice-president said the farmers possess political strength and economic capability, adding they should not depend on anyone's help.

"When the economic situation of farmers improves, the country's situation improves. After all, farmers are the providers and they should not look to anyone or depend on anyone for help because farmers with their strong hands possess political strength and economic



capability," Dhankhar said. "No matter what happens, no matter how many obstacles arise, no one can undermine the role of farmers in India's journey towards development. Today's governance system bows to the farmers," he added.

Remembering the Jat reservation movement that took place 25 years ago, the vice-president urged that never forget the support and efforts of this society gave social justice.

Today the results of that effort are visible in the administrative services of the country and the state, he added.

Encouraging the farmers to take advantage of Agricultural Science Centers, Dhankhar said, "There are over 730 Agricultural Science Centers to help farmers. Don't leave them alone, go there and ask them. What services will you offer us? Learn about new technologies and government policies."

The vice-president emphasized the farmers' participation in trade and value addition of agricultural products. "Why isn't the farmer increasing the value of their products? Several businesses are running on the products of farmers. Like flour mills, oil mills and many more. We should collaborate and make sure the

farmer focuses on livestock. I feel great joy when dairies expand. There should be more growth in this sector," he said.

Urging the youth to engage in agricultural businesses, Dhankhar said, "My appeal is to farmers and to the sons and daughters of farmers agriculture production is the world's largest and most precious trade. Why are farmers not involved in the trade of their products? Why aren't they participating in it? Our youth is talented."

The vice-president urged that more farmers should take advantage of cooperatives, engage in other businesses and work diligently in agricultural production businesses as there will be long-term positive economic results.

Sikkim CM Prem Singh Tamang takes holy dip in Sangam



Triveni Sangam.

He was joined by a 135-member delegation from Sikkim, who also performed the sacred ritual at Sangam.

Chief Minister Tamang commended the exceptional arrangements made by the Prayagraj administration and extended his special thanks to Uttar Pradesh Governor Anandiben Patel and other officials. He offered prayers with the holy waters of Triveni Sangam, wishing for religion, peace, and harmony to prevail across the nation.

Huge rush of pilgrims for Mahakumbh leads to traffic jams in Prayagraj

Mahakumbh Nagar Prayagraj
The ongoing Mahakumbh continues to draw devotees from across the globe to witness and participate in one of the largest religious gatherings in the world.

Devotees are flocking to the Mahakumbh Mela Kshetra to take a sacred dip in the Triveni Sangam, experiencing the spiritual significance of this ancient and grand event.

Around 8.429 million devotees took holy dip at Mahakumbh 2025 on Sunday, the Uttar Pradesh government said.

More than 420 million devotees have taken a holy dip at Mahakumbh 2025 till now.

Mahakumbh 2025, which commenced on Pausa Purnima (January 13, 2025), is the world's largest spiritual and cultural gathering, attracting devotees from across the globe.

The grand event will continue till Mahashivratri on February 26. The event has already attracted millions of devotees from across the country and around the world and is expected to set new records for attendance and participation.

A day earlier, Rajasthan Chief Minister Bhajanlal Sharma, after taking a holy bath at Triveni Sangam, served prasad to devotees at Rajasthan Mandap here.

"On the auspicious occasion of Maha Kumbh-2025, the world's largest spiritual and cultural event, distributed food prasad to the devotees at Rajasthan Mandapam in Prayagraj and received their blessings," the Rajasthan CM said in a post on X.

"The divine stream of Triveni Sangam—may the infinite blessings of Maa Ganga, Maa Yamuna and Maa Saraswati always remain upon all of us; may everyone's life be filled with happiness, prosperity and well-being; this is my wish," CM Sharma added.

CM Bhajanlal Sharma, during the holy bath at Sangam, was accompanied by his Madhya Pradesh counterpart, CM Mohan Yadav.

The two Chief Ministers greeted each other at Triveni Sangam after taking the holy dip together. Triveni Sangam is the confluence of the Ganges, Yamuna, and the mythical Saraswati rivers in Prayagraj. After the holy dip, CM Yadav said Sangam has the blessings of Maa Ganga and Maa Yamuna and Prayagraj is the supreme place of all pilgrimages.

UP government cracks down on 14 X accounts for spreading misinformation

Lucknow
As part of its effort to curb misinformation and rumours pertaining to Mahakumbh 2025 on social media, the Uttar Pradesh government has identified and cracked down on 14 X accounts.

Under the directives of the UP Director General of Police, Prashant Kumar, social media platforms are being closely monitored to curb misinformation, and legal action is being taken against the offenders.

Police officials here on Sunday said that during surveillance, it was discovered that certain X accounts circulated an old video from Dhanbad, Jharkhand, falsely linking it to the Prayagraj Mahakumbh. The misleading posts claimed that "Yogi government's police is brutally beating devotees searching for their missing relatives in Mahakumbh."

Upon fact-checking, the video was traced to Dhanbad, Jharkhand, where the local police conducted a lathi-charge on 1st January 2025. The Kumbh Mela Police also refuted these claims through its official account.

The administration has deemed this an intentional attempt to malign the state government and police while inciting public disorder. As a result, 14 X accounts have been identified, an FIR has been registered at Kotwali Kumbh Mela, and legal proceedings have commenced.

The administration has warned that strict action would be taken against anyone spreading misleading information about Mahakumbh 2025. Efforts to identify and prosecute those responsible for circulating rumours on social media will continue.

UP Police urges the public to rely only on official sources for accurate information, avoiding misinformation.

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Akhilesh Yadav demands relaxation of vehicle tolls in UP for ongoing Mahakumbh

Lucknow
Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav on Sunday demanded the relaxation of vehicle tolls in Uttar Pradesh during the Mahakumbh, to reduce travel hindrances and the problem of traffic jams.

The former Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister took a dig at the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party, saying that if films can be made entertainment tax-free, then why not make vehicles toll-free during the 'grand' festival of Mahakumbh, in reference to the BJP government's decision to make certain movies tax-free in the past.

On the occasion of Mahakumbh, vehicles should be made toll-free in UP. This will reduce travel hindrances and also the problem of traffic jams. When films can be made entertainment tax-free, then why not make vehicles toll-free during the grand festival of Mahakumbh?" Akhilesh Yadav said in a post on X.

Earlier, posters outside the Samajwadi Party's Lucknow office were seen making bold predictions about the party's chief Akhilesh Yadav.

The poster claimed that he would bring significant political changes in 2027 and organise a grand Ardhkumbh in 2032. The posters feature Akhilesh's portrait, showcasing him taking a holy dip at Mahakumbh in Prayagraj, which he did on January 26.

The poster stated, "27 mein aayenge Akhilesh, 32 mein bhavya Ardhkumbh karayenge vishesh."

Earlier on January 26, Yadav took a holy dip at the Triveni Sangam during the ongoing Mahakumbh in Prayagraj.

Akhilesh Yadav has also been continuously targeting the Uttar Pradesh government over the stampede that occurred at the Mahakumbh Mela during the second Shahi Snan on Mouni Amawasya, claiming at least 30 lives and injuring around

60 individuals.

Yadav demanded transparency regarding the fatalities at the Mahakumbh stampede, urging the government to present accurate figures on the deaths, treatment of the injured, and arrangements made for the event.

Participating in the debate on the motion of thanks on the President's Address, Akhilesh called for an all-party meeting to clarify the situation and recommended that disaster management and the lost and found centre be handed over to the Army.

"While the government is continuously giving budget figures, please also give the figures of those who died in Mahakumbh. I demand an all-party meeting should be



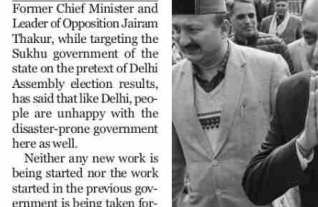
called to clarify the arrangements for Mahakumbh. The responsibility of Mahakumbh disaster management and the lost and found centre should be given to the Army. The figures for the deaths in the Mahakumbh accident, treatment of the injured, availability of medicines, doctors, food, water, and transport should be presented in the Parliament," he said.

Yadav also pressed for strict punitive action against those responsible for the tragedy and those who concealed the facts, questioning the government's decision to suppress the numbers.

"Log punye kamane aaye aur apno ke shav lekar gaye hai (People came to earn merit, but they left with the bodies of their loved ones)," the SP Chief said.

He mentioned that the "miraculous thing" is that the bodies of the devotees were found, but the government was not ready to acknowledge this.

"When information surfaced that some people had lost their lives, what did the government do? They used government helicopters to shower flowers. Is this our Sanatan tradition?" he asked.



Whatever he says, he also fulfills it. He said that the people of Delhi have given their decision that they want to go with the central government for development and similarly now the people of Himachal are also eagerly seeking change so that the state can develop with the double engine government.

people of Delhi have given their decision that they want to go with the central government for development and similarly now the people of Himachal are also eagerly seeking change so that

the double engine government. He said that development has been eclipsed even in Mandi district, which has ten assembly constituencies. The work that was started in our government was not allowed to move forward by this government and no new budget is being given to the district. The two-year term of the government has been completed but the Chief Minister has not yet come to review the development work in Mandi district.

He said that the financial crisis in the state is continuously deepening due to the Chief Minister's stubbornness to change the system. Neither development work is progressing nor the government is able to start new work. Now the Chief Minister has stopped going to the assembly constituencies.

Hindu temples must be freed from government control, says VHP

Mahakumbh Nagar
The Vishva Hindu Parishad (VHP) has firmly resolved to free Hindu temples from government control under all circumstances.

A resolution to this effect was adopted following a three-day Kendriya meeting that ended at the Mahakumbh here on Sunday. Around 950 delegates from India and abroad attended the meeting and also formulated a comprehensive action plan to achieve this objective.

VHP's international president Alok Kumar stated on Sunday that in the first phase of the Mandir Mukti Movement, VHP activists, along with other Hindu organisations, will submit representations to the chief ministers of each state, demanding the handover of Hindu temples to the Hindu society.

He further stated that large public gatherings would be organised in North and South Bharat to reinforce these demands.

In the second phase of the movement, influential individuals will hold meetings in state capitals and major cities to generate widespread public support for the cause, he said.

In states where this issue is gaining traction, VHP international



president also said that the meeting unanimously agreed that temple management should have complete independence and that any external control over temple administration would be unacceptable.

He clarified that under the Mandir Mukti Movement, the VHP is focusing solely on temples currently under government control and not on other temples. The VHP firmly believes that temple funds should be utilised exclusively for Hindu religious purposes. For this, a transparent system of accounts and auditing must be implemented, he said, adding that the entire Hindu society should be involved in temple management and that temple trusts must also

have representation for women and SC/ST communities.

The VHP president emphasised that there would be no reduction in the salaries of priests, purohits, and other temple staff and that their wages should not be lower than the minimum wage set by the government.

He also mentioned that when meeting state chief ministers, a draft of a specially designed Temple Liberation Law for each respective state would be presented.

Representatives from all states of the country, as well as from the United Kingdom, the United States, Canada, Germany, Hong Kong, Mauritius, South Africa, France, Thailand, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Bangladesh, Guyana, and other countries, attended this meeting.

During the meeting, the delegates expressed their commitments to Panch Parivartan (five key aspects)—environmental conservation, social harmony, family values, civic responsibilities, the spirit of Swadeshi, and self-respect—integrating these into moral values, conduct, and culture of society. Various major issues impacting the global Hindu community were also discussed.



India's ace all-rounder Deepti Sharma to lead UP Warriorz in Season 3 of WPL

Lucknow
The UP Warriorz are all geared up for Season 3 of the Women's Premier League (WPL), and have named a new captain. India's ace all-rounder Deepti Sharma, one of the mainstays of the UP Warriorz squad, was announced as captain, by the former India cricketer Suresh Raina, who also hails from Uttar Pradesh, as stated in a release from the franchise.

Deepti, who was born in Agra in Uttar Pradesh, will be the first UP Warriorz captain to lead the team out of their home stadium - the Ekana Cricket Stadium in Lucknow. For the first time in WPL, the Captain announcement was done live on broadcast during the Aml cricket live show just ahead of India's ODI against England.

Season 3 of the WPL marks the first time that the tournament will come to Lucknow, the home ground for the UP Warriorz, who will also be led by a cricketer from the home state. At the Ekana Cricket Stadium, the UP Warriorz will play the Gujarat Giants (March 3), Mumbai Indians (March 6) and Royal Challengers Bengaluru (March 8).

Deepti, who bats left-handed and is one of the best off-break bowlers in the women's game, has been an integral part of the UP Warriorz set-up since Season 1. For the newly appointed captain, Season 2 of the WPL was partic-



ularly memorable from a personal point of view as she became the first Indian bowler to take a hat-trick in the WPL, against the Delhi Capitals, before going on to receive the Most Valuable Player (MVP) award for the season as well.

She has played 17 games for the UP Warriorz, scoring 385 runs in 16 innings, with three half-centuries to her name, along with a highest score of 88 net out. With the ball, Deepti has

picked 19 wickets throughout the 17 games. That apart, Deepti was a crucial part of the London Spirit side, who won The Hundred in 2024. The India all-rounder has also played in the Women's Big Bash League, where she has represented the Melbourne Stars and the Sydney Thunder sides.

Deepti, who won the Asia Cup title with India in 2022, was also part of the squad that finished runners-up in the Women's T20 World Cup in 2020 in

Australia. In the India colours, the 27-year-old has played 124 T20Is, scoring 1086 runs from 79 innings, with two fifties to her name, and a highest score of 64.

With the ball, she has picked up 138 wickets and is the highest wicket-taker in T20Is for the Indian women's team. That apart, Deepti also became the first Indian across the men's and women's game to take 100 T20I wickets. She achieved this milestone during the 2023 Women's T20 World Cup.

Earlier in the first two seasons of the WPL, UP Warriorz, who were captained by the Australian Alyssa Healy made the playoffs in the first season. Speaking on the appointment, Deepti Sharma said that it was an honour for her to be named captain of the UP Warriorz.

"I am delighted and honoured to be named captain of the UP Warriorz, which is a team from my home state. The UP Warriorz has a fantastic squad, and we are confident that we will entertain our fans with the Warriorz brand of cricket, at the WPL this season as well. We can't wait to play in Lucknow in front of our home fans, and hope to inspire the next generation of women athletes," Deepti was quoted in a release from UP Warriorz as saying.

The UP Warriorz open their WPL Season 3 campaign against the Gujarat Giants on February 16 in Vadodara.

"Class and legacy of Babar is such...": Fakhar Zaman

Lahore
Opening batter Fakhar Zaman has come out in support of Pakistan's premier batter Babar Azam and backed him to find his lost form in the upcoming fixtures amid his dwindling form.

Since returning home from South Africa, Babar's form has fallen off a cliff. After firing three successive fifties in the two Tests in South Africa, Babar lost his mojo since encountering the West Indies in Multan last month.

Formats changed, but Babar continued to face scrutiny for his inconsistency. In the first match of the ODI tri-series between Pakistan and New Zealand, Babar opened alongside Fakhar but failed to deliver something meaningful.

In Pakistan's 331-run chase, Babar produced a scratchy 10(23) on the benign surface of the scenic Gaddafi Stadium. As Babar's other outing turned into a fiasco, he is still in search of that elusive century since his 151-run knock against Nepal in August 2023.

"It happens in cricket, but the class and legacy of Babar is such that you can not say much about one match, and you will see that he will perform in the upcoming matches," said Fakhar at the post-match press conference on Saturday, as quoted from Geo News.

It all started for Babar on the turning Multan strip in the first Test. In Pakistan's emphatic 127-run victory, Babar flopped with scores of 8(20) and 5(11).



In the second contest of the series, Babar's Achilles heel was exposed by the spin duo Gudkheles Motie and Kevin Sinclair. With just 1(5) in the first innings, Babar showed glimpses of his brilliance but eventually fell on 31(67). "And again, when it's your day, even your edge would dodge the keeper and run away for the boundary, but if it is not your day, then you must have seen how well they took the catch of Tayyab [Tahir]," said the left-handed batter.

In Pakistan's pursuit of 331, Fakhar waged a lone war while the rest of his compatriots fell one after another. He blitzed his way to 84 from a mere 69 deliveries, laced with seven fours and four towering sixes at a strike rate of 121.74. With Fakhar's dismissal, Pakistan's hopes of chasing down the target dashed away. The experienced south-paw was disappointed with the loss rather than missing out on a century.

Actors Amit Sial, Rahul Bose advocate balanced diet

New Delhi

As a tribute to our postmen who act as a bridge between various sections of society, well-known actor Amit Sial participated in 'FIT India Sundays on Cycle', in its ninth week, along with personnel from India Post, former India basketball captains Divya Singh and Prashanti Singh here at the Major Dhyan Chand National Stadium.

Popular for his dynamic roles in web series like Mirzapur and Maharani and several critically-acclaimed movies, Amit Sial along with 150-plus riders circled around the iconic India Gate C-Hexagon on bicycles to advocate the value of a balanced diet to fight obesity.

Launched by Union Sports Minister Mansukh Mandaviya on December 17, the cycling drive has assumed significance among both professional and amateur cyclists, promoting FIT India's motto of an active lifestyle to remain healthy - 'Fitness ka dose, aadha ghanta roz' (Daily dose of fitness for 30 minutes). Till now, the nationwide cycling drive has been organised across 3500 locations with approximate participation of 2 lakh individuals. The movement also promotes environment-friendly practices to decrease air pollution levels across the country.

"I am here at the beautiful Major Dhyan Chand National Stadium in New Delhi. Today, under the FIT India mission, which was launched by our Honourable Prime Minister, I along with the postmen & cycling enthusiasts did a bit of cycling. The weather was perfect, it was sunny and we cycled on the lovely roads of New Delhi. It was really fun as this was after a long time that I got an opportunity to ride a cycle on Delhi's roads," Amit Sial said later.

"The slogan for this campaign is #FightObesity. It is all about having a balanced diet and keeping oneself fit and healthy. This will not only emancipate your body but soul as well. According to our Hon'ble PM every Indian must keep a check on their food habits and their lifestyle. If parents follow this path to health and fitness, children will also make it a habit," he explained.

Former India basketball captain and coach Divya Singh said that every citizen should indulge in fit food to fight the menace of obesity. She also complimented the initiative where the postmen are being made ambassadors for propagating the message of healthy & fit lifestyle to each corner of the country.

"I joined the FIT India cycling event today with India Post personnel to fight obesity. I believe everyone should work out and come out of the house and have fit food to remain healthy and avoid obesity."

"Always good standing behind stumps": Alex Carey



Galle
After winning the two-match Test series against Sri Lanka, Australia wicketkeeper-batter Alex Carey shared his experience of standing behind the stumps on the bowling of the spinners in the two matches against the hosts in the longest format of the game.

An excellent performance from Australian spinners Matthew Kuhnemann and Nathan Lyon complemented Alex Carey as visitors defeated Sri Lanka by nine wickets in the second Test at Galle on Sunday.

After 14 years, Australia has finally managed to secure a series win in Sri Lanka and for the first time since 2006, they have clean swept a series in Asia.

"Congratulations to Dimuth. Outstanding career. Josh went down with a bit of a back spasm so I was elevated up the order. The platform was set up by the boys up the order. And Smudge again was outstanding in this innings, showing his class. I think the wicket allowed for that as

well - some expansive shots. It was a good wicket when the ball pitched on the good stuff. It's fun (wicket-keeping). Kusal did a great job as well. We've got some quality spinners in our lineup, always good standing behind the stumps," Alex Carey said in the post-match presentation.

During the second Test, Carey played an exceptional innings of 156 runs from 188 balls which was laced with 15 boundaries and two maximums.

With this innings, Carey overtook legendary Adam Gilchrist's record and became the first wicketkeeper-batter from his team to touch the 150-run mark in Asian conditions.

Earlier, the record for the highest score by an Aussie wicketkeeper-batter in Asia was held by Gilchrist, who scored 144 runs each in Bangladesh and Sri Lanka, his solitary centuries in these two nations, besides two tons in India.

Carey is now also the second wicketkeeper-batter from Australia besides Gilchrist to have a century in Asia.

Playoffs contenders Odisha FC, Punjab FC look to avoid consecutive losses

Bhubaneswar

Odisha FC will host Punjab FC in the Indian Super League (ISL) 2024-25 at the Kalinga Stadium in Bhubaneswar on Monday.

The Juggernauts will pursue recovering from their 2-1 setback to FC Goa in their previous match, where as Punjab FC will have their sights set on a league double over the opponents, since they had clinched a 2-1 win in the reverse fixture on September 20, 2024. A win here could mark the maiden time that Punjab FC defeated an opponent twice in the same season, as stated in a release from ISL.

Odisha FC have been on a turbulent ride of late, losing and drawing three each in their previous seven matches, struggling for consistency. They have netted 12 times in these seven games, and in the entirety of the season, the team has struck the woodwork on 13 instances - the most by any side. The hosts will bank on Diego Mauricio to produce heroics upfront, as he is one strike away from completing 10 goals for the fourth time in his ISL career.

In their most recent away game, Punjab FC were dealt with a 0-3 loss by the Mohun Bagan Super Giant. If they are unable to score again, it will be only the second time when they fail to find the back of the net in consecutive games in the ISL.

Both these sides are out of the top-six positions presently. Odisha FC are seventh in the standings with 25 points from 19 games due to six victories and seven draws, trailing sixth-placed Bengaluru FC by three points (28). Punjab FC are ninth with 23 points, but they have a game in hand, having featured in only 18 matches thus far. The two sides are well in contention to qualify for the playoffs but need to ensure that further time doesn't slip away before they begin getting a streak of positive outcomes



under their belt. Odisha FC have conceded multiple goals in their last two home games. If they do so again, it will be their outright longest streak of such a defensive track record in ISL history. Overall, they have kept just three clean sheets this season, which is the second-lowest in the league.

Odisha FC have scored the second-most goals in the league (37 strikes in 19 games). While Mauricio has been at the forefront, finding the back of the net nine times, Jerry Mawihmingthanga and Mountada Fall have scored on five and four occasions too respectively.

This season, just 3.1 per cent of Punjab FC's total touches on the ball have come inside the opposition's box (296 out of 9587). It is the second-lowest in the league behind Hyderabad FC (2.8%), and it reflects in them being the fifth-least scoring team in the league, with 26 strikes to their name.

Punjab FC have won just once in their previous nine games, conceding 19 goals in the process. Their season

so far has been a story of two halves, with them having garnered six wins in the initial nine encounters of the campaign. Regardless, the team has a fair bit of time left (six games in the league stages) to challenge for the playoffs.

Odisha FC head coach Sergio Lobera explained his team's approach for the coming fixture.

"To ensure that the players recover mentally and physically is the most important thing. We are approaching the next game with excitement since it's a new opportunity for us," Lobera was quoted in a release from ISL as saying.

Punjab FC head coach Panagiotis Dilmeris insisted that his team is focused on getting all three points from the match.

"Everyone knows that it's a crucial game. We have six finals left and we are extremely concentrated on winning this game," Dilmeris said.

In their three ISL matches thus far, Odisha FC have won twice, whereas Punjab FC have emerged victorious once.

Corbin Bosch replaces injured Anrich Nortje in SA squad for CT

Johannesburg
Right-arm seamer Corbin Bosch is named as the replacement for Anrich Nortje in a 15-member squad for the upcoming ICC Men's Champions Trophy which is scheduled to take place in Pakistan and the United Arab Emirates from February 19 onwards.

Earlier in the last month, the fast bowler was ruled out of the upcoming ICC Championship Trophy which is scheduled to take place in Pakistan from February 19 after suffering a back injury. The extent of Nortje's injury was revealed after the pacer underwent scans.

Nortje also missed South Africa's previous participation in an ICC event - the Cricket World Cup in 2023 in In-



dia - due to a stress fracture in his back.

The 31-year-old's steady variation, bounce and pace have been pivotal in

South Africa's pace unit in the white-ball format, proven by his 36 wickets in 22 ODIs and 53 wickets in 42 T20Is.

The right-arm speedster's last outing in the ODI format came over 15 months ago, in the Proteas' second ODI against Australia in Bloemfontein.

Bosh made his international debut in December last year. He has played just one ODI and a Test so far.

Along with Bosch, South Africa have also added fast bowler Kwenza Maphaka in the squad as a travelling reserve. The two fast bowlers along with batter Tony de Zorzi will travel to Pakistan on Sunday to join the squad for the remainder of their ODI series.

The Proteas team are currently featuring in the tri-nation ODI series along with Pakistan and New Zealand in Pakistan. Their first match of the series is against the Kiwis side at the Gaddafi Stadium in Lahore on February 10 and after that, they will lock horns with Men in Green at the National Stadium, Karachi on February 12. If the team qualifies for the final, then they will be seen in action again on February 14 at Karachi.

Following the completion of the tri-nation ODI series, the Champions Trophy will begin. Group B features South Africa alongside Cricket World Cup 2023 champions Australia, Afghanistan, and England.

UK shadow ministers join protest against China's mega embassy plan

London: UK shadow ministers and fellow Opposition Conservative Party parliamentarians were among hundreds of protesters who descended upon the proposed site of China's so-called mega embassy in east London. Shadow justice secretary Robert Jenrick, shadow security minister Tom Tugendhat and former Tory leader Ian Duncan Smith joined groups representing Hong Kongers, Uyghurs and Tibetans at the site of the historic Royal Mint Court near the Tower of London.

Shadow ministers are members of the opposition who scrutinise the work of the government.

to UK media reports, the protesters wanted to register their opposition against a much-larger new embassy which they could be used as a "spy hub" if it is allowed permission to go ahead as one of China's largest diplomatic missions in Europe.

"We do not want this great historical building behind us — in the shadow of the Tower of London — to become a mega embassy of the Chinese Communist Party," Jenrick told the gathering.

"This is the wrong site. It is the wrong process and it is wrong for the national security of our country," said the former housing minister.

BUSINESS

Rs 2,000 Crore Investment to Boost Bengal Foundry Industry

Kolkata: The foundry industry in West Bengal will receive Rs 2,000 crore investment in new and brownfield expansions to boost capacity amid cost pressures and evolving demand trends, an official said on Sunday.

"West Bengal is witnessing a growth rate 50 per cent higher than the national average. Considering both large and MSME foundry expansions and greenfield projects, the cumulative investment will be Rs 2,000 crore, of which MSMEs will contribute Rs 400 crore," said Navneet B Agarwal, president of the Institute of Indian Foundrymen (IIF), in an interaction.

He was speaking on the occasion of the 73rd Indian Foundry Congress & International Foundry Exhibition, which returned to Kolkata after eight years.

"The foundry industry is facing challenges due to a slowdown in the automotive sector, but eastern India

Imran Khan's PTI rules out possibility of resumption of dialogue with government

Islamabad: Jailed former prime minister Imran Khan-founded Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf's Leader of Opposition in National Assembly, Omar Ayub Khan, has ruled out the possibility of resumption of the dialogue between the party and the government, a news report said on Sunday. "The chapter of talks is now closed," Geo News quoted Ayub as saying on Saturday.

Ayub said political negotiations were not based on mere wishes but required firm commitment which the government failed to demonstrate.

Censuring the coalition government's approach to talks, which now seem to have collapsed, the senior PTI leader said his party's committee had initiated discussions in good faith. "However, the other side neither dis-

played goodwill nor intent, leading to a deadlock."

Ayub's remarks come as negotiations between the PTI and the ruling government, which began in late December after months of heightened political tensions, failed to witness notable progress despite the two sides holding three negoti-

ated sessions. The PTI, which also presented its written charter of demands, refused to attend the fourth round of talks citing the government's failure to form a judicial commission to probe the May 9 riots in 2023 and November 2024 protests.

Since then, Khan's party has hinted at agitation and even held a rally in Swabi City of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa on Saturday to observe 'Black Day' to protest the alleged rigging of last year's general elections.



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Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur said the 'Black Day' was being marked in protest against the "historic theft of the people's mandate".

by either the government or the opposition.

He reiterated the speaker's role was to facilitate dialogue and that his chamber and residence remained accessible to all lawmakers.

Separately, echoing Ayub's remarks on the future of talks, Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) Senator Irfan Siddiqui said the government's negotiation committee had become "practically non-functional and ineffective".

In a statement on X, Siddiqui said regardless of whether the committee was formally dissolved, it was no longer operational.

Sri Lankan Navy arrests 14 Indian fishermen

Colombo: The Sri Lankan Navy arrested two boats carrying 14 fishermen from Rameswaram and Thangachadamal for allegedly violating the International Maritime Boundary Line (IMBL).

The arrested have been taken to Sri Lanka for legal proceedings, prompting a condemnation from the Rameswaram fishermen's association.

According to the fisheries department, as many as 470 boats from Rameswaram had ventured into the sea on Saturday while the fishermen were fishing near the IMBL.

As a cluster of fishermen reportedly entered Sri Lankan waters, a patrol unit of the Sri Lankan Navy chased away the Indian fishermen. As two boats remained in Sri Lankan waters, the Sri Lankan Navy caught them, along with 14 fishermen. The arrested are likely to be handed over to Mannar fisheries officials for further legal

proceedings. Fisheries department sources said two boats that ventured into the sea from Rameswaram were caught violating the IMBL. The first boat, owned by A John Bose of Thangachadamal, had an 11-member crew from Rameswaram and Pamban. The second boat, owned by S Sathan of Thangachadamal, had a three-member crew from the same village.

Details about the arrested fishermen have been sent to the concerned officials for further legal proceedings.

The fishermen's association from Rameswaram condemned the continued arrests of Indian fishermen by the Sri Lankan Navy and urged the Union government to take immediate action to secure the release of the fishermen and their boats. They also called for bilateral talks with Sri Lanka to address the ongoing issue.

Russia claims east Ukraine village near strategic town

Moscow: Russia said Sunday that its forces had captured the eastern Ukrainian village of Orikhovo-Vasylyivka near the strategic military hub of Chasiv Yar that Moscow is attempting to seize.

There is intensive fighting in the frontline town of Chasiv Yar, one of the last remaining urban areas blocking Russia from advancing further into the region, according to Russian military bloggers.



The Russian defence ministry said in a daily briefing that "as a result of decisive attack ac-

tions, the South group of troops liberated the settlement of Orikhovo-Vasilevka in the Donetsk region," using the Russian name for the village.

Orikhovo-Vasylyivka is located around 10 kilometres (six miles) north of Chasiv Yar and near the road to the Ukraine-held city of Sloviansk.

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India Aims to Boost FDI: Procedural Easing Planned

New Delhi: The government is looking at further easing of procedures in certain sectors to attract more foreign direct investments (FDI) into the country, a government official said.

The department for promotion of industry and internal trade (DPIIT) has held stakeholder consultations with different government departments, regulators, industry associations, advisory and law firms, pension funds, private equity and venture capitals.



The department sought their views on ways to further attract foreign direct investments into the country. "We have completed the consultations. The department has received suggestions on different

procedural easing. In the consultations, issues which were raised included permitting e-commerce players to receive FDI in inventory-based models of online trade for export purposes only; easing press note 3 by defining beneficial ownership; and some tweaking of the policy for single-brand retail trading.

Under this press note, government approval is mandatory for investors from countries sharing land borders with India in any direct. Foreign direct invest-

ment inflows into India have crossed the USD 1 trillion milestone in the April 2000-September 2024 period.

The key sectors attracting the maximum of these inflows include the services segment, computer software and hardware, telecommunications, trading, construction development, automobile, chemicals, and pharmaceuticals.

The investment in India rose by 45 per cent year-on-year to USD 29.79 billion in April-September this fiscal.

Experts suggested that steps such as implementing time-bound approvals for FDI applications, clear guidelines for approvals, and a seamless single-window clearance system will help India further improve its business climate for overseas players.

"India's FDI inflows are largely into brown-field projects, but the real opportunity lies in greenfield expansion. A plug-and-play infrastructure ecosystem, coupled with streamlined land acquisition processes, efficient dis-

pute resolution, and easy clearances can unlock India's full investment potential," Runki Majumdar, Economist, Deloitte India, said.

Rudra Kumar Pandey, Partner, Shardul Amarchand Mangaldas, said that at present, the approval process for FDI often involves cumbersome bureaucratic procedures, creating an environment of uncertainties — as generally speaking the overall timeline goes beyond six months and in some cases even 9-12 months.

ONGC's Mumbai High Sees Redemption in BP Deal

New Delhi: US giant Marathon Oil pledging investments and technology to raise output from Mumbai High oil and gas fields, companies such as Occidental Petroleum seeking a stake and at least two privatisation bids have seen final culmination in global energy giant BP signing up to lift output from India's prime field lying off the Mumbai coast.

State-owned Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) last month signed a technical service contract with BP to reverse declining output from the ageing field, according to statements by the two firms. BP has pledged to lift oil production by 44 per cent and gas output by 89 per cent from India's largest field in exchange for a fixed fee.

The BP deal is exactly on lines of the one ONGC had in 1998-99 signed with Marathon Oil Corporation, according to company insiders and industry sources.

Just like BP, Marathon wasn't getting any stake in the field but only a pre-agreed share in the incremental oil and gas production over a defined baseline. But unlike BP, Marathon was to make its own investments in technologies, changes needed to boost output.

In the BP deal, ONGC will make all investments and the London-headquartered firm is only to give technical advice. For the first two years, BP will make fee for its advice and thereafter a share of the incremental oil and gas.

MP attracts Rs 1.8 Lakh Cr investment ahead of Summit

Bhopal: Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Mohan Yadav courted business leaders in countries ranging from the UK to Japan as well as Indian industrial houses in the last few weeks to get about Rs 1.8 lakh crore of investment commitments ahead of the state's global investors' summit later this month.

Strategically positioned in the heart of India, the state is leveraging its geographical advantage, pro-business policies, and robust infrastructure to cultivate an economic ecosystem that beckons global enterprises and visionary entrepreneurs.

Under Yadav, the state has embarked on a mission to redefine its industrial landscape through a series of groundbreaking investment initiatives. The chief minister undertook multiple foreign and regional visits



to secure substantial investment proposals and drive economic growth in the state, officials said. His six-day tour to the United Kingdom and Germany last year resulted in investment proposals worth Rs 78,000 crore, which will bolster sectors such as education, health, skill development, and technology.

During his visit to the UK, Madhya Pradesh secured investment proposals worth Rs 59,350 crore, while Germany contributed an additional Rs 18,090 crore.

"During the UK visit, the focused areas of the delegation were minerals, semiconductor, health, automobile, EV, renewable energy, education and food processing. In Germany, we have specially focused on technology research, green energy and industrial development," Yadav said.

The UK-based SRAM and MRAM Group has committed to investing Rs 25,000 crore in semiconductors and a science and technology park. Additionally, Heliopharmaceuticals has

proposed an investment of Rs 3,000 crore. Germany's Long House Partners has pledged Rs 14,000 crore in the technology and innovation sector, while AMS OSRAM has shown interest in investing Rs 1,500 crore in the semiconductor and electronics sector.

These investments align with Madhya Pradesh's focus areas, which include minerals, semiconductors, health, automobiles, electric vehicles, renewable energy, education, and food processing. Germany, in particular, has been targeted for investment in technology research, green energy, and industrial development.

Yadav also visited Japan on a four-day trip last month that was aimed at strengthening trade ties and attracting investment for the upcoming Global Investors Summit (GIS), scheduled for February 24-25 in Bhopal.

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Junaid Khan, Khushi Kapoor-starrer 'Loveyapa' earns Rs 3 crore in two days



Mumbai According to Sacnilk,

Junaid Khan and Khushi Kapoor starrer *Loveyapa* released in theaters on Friday, February 7 and is facing strong competition from the Himesh Reshammiya-led retro actioner *Badass Ravi Kumar* and Harshvardhan Rane-Mawra Hocane's re-released romantic drama *Sanam Teri Kasam*. The film has now amassed over Rs 2 crore at the domestic box office and below is the breakup.

As revealed by the film's makers, Junaid Khan and Khushi Kapoor's romantic film witnessed a jump on Saturday. According to the release, the film collected Rs 1.75 crore at the box office on Day 2. With an earning of Rs 1.25 crore on its opening day one, the film domestic box office total now stands at Rs 3 crore.

Loveyapa earned ₹1.50 crore at the domestic box office on its second day. The film has shown little growth from day one, where it collected ₹1.15 crore. The total collection now stands at a disappointing ₹2.65 crore—an amount insufficient to sustain the film's theatrical run for long. All eyes are now on Sunday, Day 3, to see if the film can turn things around.

Loveyapa faced direct competition from Himesh Reshammiya's *Badass Ravi Kumar* and Christopher Nolan's *Interstellar*, which was re-released in IMAX. Additionally, Sky Force and Emergency are also running in theaters. However, the Junaid Khan-led film has just a week to redeem itself, as *Chhaava*, releasing on February 14, is expected to overshadow all other films in its path.



'Sanam Teri Kasam' re-release: Film collects Rs 11.36 crore at box office

New Delhi Actor Harshvardhan Rane on Sunday thanked viewers for their love after his film *Sanam Teri Kasam* crossed its initial box office collection in just two days of re-release in theatres.

Also starring Pakistani actor Mawra Hocane, the romance drama released in 2016 but didn't perform well at the box office.

Directed by Radhika Rao and Vinay Sapru, the film was re-released in cinemas on Friday. It has earned Rs 11.36 crore by Saturday.

Rane shared the box office update on Instagram, expressing gratitude to the audience.



"ANOTHER DAY, ANOTHER RECORD!!! #SanamTerikasam is breaking records on its second day! Thank you for the love and support! #SanamTeriKasam #Day2 #BoxOffice #LoveStory #Bollywood #ReRelease," he wrote in the caption. According to the actor's posts, *Sanam Teri Kasam* collected Rs 5-14 crore (net) at the box

office on Friday and went on to earn Rs 6.22 crore on Saturday. The total collection of the film now stands at Rs 11.36 crore.

Mounted on a budget of Rs 25 crore, the film earned Rs 8 crore at the box office when it released in 2016.

Actors John Abraham and Arjun Rampal congratulated Rane on social media.

"Finally @harshvardhanrane you have got your due," wrote Abraham on his Instagram Story. Abraham produced 2022's *Tara vs Bilal* starring Rane.

"So so happy for @harshvardhanrane @deepakmukut @hunarmukut for this. Harshvardhan has been manifesting this since I have known him. A true example of if you desire something purely with a pure heart, the universe listens. #sanamterikasam (sic)," Rampal, who worked with Rane in 2018's *Palatan*, said.

Soham Rockstar Productions, one of the banners behind the film, last year announced the sequel of *Sanam Teri Kasam*.

Kareena posts note on 'assumptions of situations in life': You think you are smarter until...

Mumbai Actor Kareena Kapoor Khan has shared a cryptic post about how life foils all theories and assumptions that one may have when reality hits, weeks after her husband, actor Saif Ali Khan was attacked by an unknown assailant.

Saif was stabbed repeatedly by an intruder during a robbery attempt at his 12th-floor residence in Mumbai's Bandra area in the early hours of January 16. He was immediately rushed to the hospital and underwent surgery. He was discharged four days later.

"You'll never truly understand Marriages, Divorces, Anxieties, Child-

birth, Death of a loved one, Parenting. Until it actually happens to you, Theories and

After the attack on Saif, "The Buckingham Murders" actor shared a statement on social media addressing the incident, calling it "an incredibly challenging day for our family".

assumptions of situations in life are not realities. You think you are smarter than most until life humbles you when it's your turn" Kareena re-shared the post with a heart emoji on her

Instagram Story on Saturday.

After the attack on Saif, "The Buckingham Murders" actor shared a statement on social media addressing the incident, calling it "an incredibly challenging day for our family". "...We are still trying to process the events that have unfolded. As we navigate this difficult time, I respectfully and humbly request that the media and paparazzi refrain from the relentless speculation and coverage," she wrote.

When Saif was discharged from the hospital

on January 21, many clips surfaced online that showed the actor walking comfortably, which led many on social media to speculate about the seriousness of his injuries, a claim was quickly rubbished by his sister, jewellery designer Saba Pataudi.

Saif made his first public appearance since the knife attack at the Netflix slate announcement event last week where he said it feels "nice to be standing" in front of an audience.

At the showcase it was announced that the actor will next be seen in *Jewel Thief - The Heist Begins*, a Netflix movie along with *Paatal Lok* season two star Jaideep Ahlawat.



Kate Hudson wears Sabyasachi jewellery at Critics Choice Awards 2025

Los Angeles Indian designers once again captured global attention at the 30th Critics Choice Awards with their outstanding contributions to red-carpet fashion.

Among the most talked-about moments was Hollywood actress Kate Hudson's choice of accessories.

The actress stunned on-lookers at the 30th Critics Choice Awards by wearing a pair of statement earrings and The Bengal Tiger ring from Indian designer Sabyasachi's High Jewellery collection.

Hudson, who is known for her bold and elegant fashion choices, paired the intricate jewellery with a sophisticated look at the prestigious event.

She also donned a striking black silk faille dress from Thom Browne. The backless gown, which featured a silk satin bow detail, added a touch of drama to the red-carpet.

Meanwhile, Kate Hudson also took the opportunity to reflect on a much more personal matter. As she walked



the red carpet at the Critics Choice Awards in Santa Monica, California, Hudson shared her thoughts on the devastating wildfires that had ravaged the Pacific Palisades area, a community she calls home. "I grew up in the [Pacific] Palisades," she told E! News, adding, "I think it's something that you would never imagine you'd ever see in your lifetime or experience."

Amid the ongoing destruction, Hudson found solace in the relief efforts that had been initiated by the residents of Los Angeles.

"To me, it makes sense," she said, adding, "People who live in Los Angeles, we love Los Angeles, and everyone's just risen to the occasion. Now we just have to go through that, continue to support each other and rebuild."

David Schwimmer calls for Kanye West's ban from X over hate speech

Washington Actor David Schwimmer has taken a stand against Kanye West's controversial and antisemitic statements, urging Elon Musk to take immediate action and ban the rapper from X.

Schwimmer, known for his role in *Friends* and his outspoken advocacy against antisemitism, voiced his concerns on Instagram, as West continues to stir controversy with his offensive remarks on social media.

West, who has over 32 million followers on the platform, has been repeatedly posting disturbing content that includes praise for Adolf Hitler, endorsement of Nazi ideology, and promotion of hate symbols like the swastika.

These posts come on the heels of a highly criticized incident at the Grammy Awards, where West's wife, Bianca Censori, shocked the public by revealing her nude body in a transparent dress.

Following the red carpet stunt, West intensified his social media tirade, attacking marginalized groups and reigniting harmful, debunked beliefs.

In his post, Schwimmer directly addressed X owner Elon Musk, writing, "We can't stop a deranged bigot from spewing hate-filled, ignorant bile... but we CAN stop giving him a megaphone, Mr Musk."

The actor further emphasized the gravity of the situation, pointing out that West's platform allows him to influence millions of people, with a reach significantly larger than the entire Jewish population worldwide.

"Kanye West has 32.7 million followers on your platform, X. That's twice as many people than the number of Jews in existence. His sick hate speech results in REAL LIFE violence against Jews."

Schwimmer also drew attention to the hypocrisy within social media moderation. He noted that in recent years, such incendiary content would have led to account suspensions, yet West's account remains active.

West was banned from X for several months in late 2022 after posting similar offensive content, including a swastika, according to The Hollywood Reporter.



Anil Kapoor completes filming for 'Subedaar'

Mumbai Anil Kapoor took to social media on Sunday to announce that he has wrapped up the filming for his upcoming actioner *Subedaar*.

Anil posted a video on Instagram on Sunday showing photos of each crew member on the film. "We did it! *Subedaar* is a testament to the passion and commitment of every single cast and crew member. Your dedication and hard work brought this film to life, and I'm beyond grateful. Thank you for bringing your A-game every single day. I can't wait for the world to witness what we've created together in 2025."