



Don't have a plan, just want to go with the flow: Actor Shreya Chaudhry



Third federal judge blocks Trump's birthright citizenship order

Rahul coming below Axar raises eyebrows, where does it leave Pant?



FILM

PAGE-12

WORLD

PAGE-7

CRICKET

PAGE-10

3 DELHI
Hema Malini unveils statue of Lord Krishna

4 DELHI
BJP MPs chant 'Modi, Modi' slogans in LS, RS over party's victory in Delhi polls

5 NATIONAL
Strong India can work for better world order: Rajnath

8 STATE
Maha Kumbh Large number of devotees head to Kashi Ayodhya after holy dip at Sangam

9 BUSINESS
India Open to Energy Imports, Gas Prices to Fall in 2026: Puri

11 SPORTS
Dev Meena shatters pole vault record on way to winning gold in National Games

MARKET

SENSEX	NIFTY
77311.80	23381.60
-548.39	-178.35
GOLD	SILVER
85,774.00	95,373.00
886.00	40.00

WEATHER

Sunrise	7:04 AM
Sunset	6:08 PM
Moonrise	5:00 PM
Moonset	6:58 AM
Today's Prediction	
Maximum	25°C
Minimum	12°C
Tomorrow's Prediction	
27°C	13°C

After Biren's resignation, BJP scouts for next Manipur CM

Manipur BJP in-charge Sambit Patra holds closed-door meetings with each of the party's MLAs barring seven from the Kuki-Zo community in Imphal; armed forces personnel have been deployed across Imphal in anticipation of protests

New Delhi
A day after Manipur Chief Minister N Biren Singh tendered his resignation, state BJP in-charge Sambit Patra on Monday held closed-door meetings with several BJP legislators at a hotel in Imphal to decide the next course of action, party sources said.

According to the sources, Patra met Speaker Thokchom Satyabrata, municipal administration housing development minister Y Khemchand, education minister Thounaojam Basanta Kumar Singh and BJP MLA Th Radheshyam. Three among them are known for their strained relationship with Singh.

The BJP legislators are expected to hold more meetings over the next 48 hours, either within the state or elsewhere, they added.

Meanwhile, security has been tightened across the state capital, especially in sensitive ar-



reas such as Sanjenthong, Singjamei, Moirangkhom, Keisampat, and Kangla Gate.

Manipur Congress president K Meghachandra welcomed Singh's resignation but opposed any move to impose President's rule in the state.

"Congress wants a new leader and a new government. We oppose any plans to impose President's rule in the state because people's mandate must be respected by the Union govern-

ment," Meghachandra told reporters. He added, "Singh knew he would be defeated in the no-confidence motion in the assembly. He should have resigned long ago. It is his administrative failure that has plunged the state into turmoil."

The state's budget session, scheduled for Monday, was scrapped following Singh's resignation. The opposition had planned to bring a no-confidence motion against Singh during the session.

The National People's Party (NPP) also welcomed Singh's resignation and reaffirmed its commitment to cooperating with the BJP to restore peace and normalcy in the state. NPP legislative party leader Sheikh Noorul Hassan told reporters, "We withdrew support from the Singh government because we lost faith in his leadership due to his failure to restore peace and stability in the state. His resigna-

tion is a welcome step toward achieving that goal."

He further added, "As part of the NDA alliance at the Centre, we will continue to cooperate and work with the BJP in the coming days to bring the state back to complete normalcy."

The NPP, which has seven legislators in the 60-member assembly, withdrew its support from the Biren Singh-led government in November last year.

Reacting to Singh's resignation, Kuki student leader M Thengmang Haokip said the step should have been taken long ago.

"Singh was scared of the proposed no-confidence motion. The government of Manipur was bound to collapse. The next step will be re-election or alternatively, President's rule," he added.

Amidst rumblings within the state BJP seeking a change of leadership in the strife-torn

CONTD ON PAGE-2

Donald Trump's metal tariffs put India exports at risk

New Delhi
Metal stocks dropped on Monday following the US decision to impose an additional 25 per cent tariff on all steel and aluminium imports as announced by President Donald Trump.

Shares of National Aluminium Company tumbled 4.83 per cent, SAIL tumbled 4.67 per cent, Vedanta declined 4.31 per cent, NMDC fell by 3.95 per cent and Tata Steel went lower by 3.11 per cent on the BSE.

The stock of JSW Steel dipped 2.20 per cent, Hindalco (1.87 per cent), Jindal Stainless (1.61 per cent) and Jindal Steel & Power (0.72 per cent).

The BSE metal index tanked 2.63 per cent. Trump on Sunday said he will announce the new tariffs for steel and aluminium imports on Monday.

Trump also reaffirmed that he would announce "reciprocal tariffs" — probably Tuesday or Wednesday — meaning that the US would impose import duties on products in cases where another country has levied duties on US goods, said news reports.

"Nifty declined 0.8 per



cent to close at 23,382 level on account of weak market sentiments after President Donald Trump announced plans to impose reciprocal tariffs on countries levying duties on US goods. He also proposed 25 per cent tariffs on all steel and aluminium imports to the US which led to broad-based sell-off in metal stocks, reflecting fears of lower demand and pricing pressure due to the new tariffs."

Siddhartha Khemka, Head - Research, Wealth Management at Motilal Oswal Financial Services Ltd, said. The 30-share BSE Sensex dropped 548.39 points or 0.70 per cent to settle at 77,311.80 on Monday. The NSE Nifty declined 178.35 points or 0.76 per cent to 23,381.60.

Agency

PM Modi arrives in France to attend AI summit, hold talks with President Macron

Paris
Prime Minister Narendra Modi arrived in France on Monday on a three-day visit during which he will co-chair an AI Action Summit with French President Emmanuel Macron and hold bilateral talks with him.

In the evening, Modi will attend a dinner hosted by President Macron at the Elysée Palace in honour of visiting Heads of Government and State.

The dinner is also likely to be attended by CEOs from the tech domain and a number of other distinguished invitees to the summit.

On Tuesday, Prime Minister Modi will co-chair the AI Action Summit along with President Macron.

Modi and Macron will also hold discussions in both restricted and delegation formats and address the India-France CEO's Forum.

On Wednesday, the



two leaders will visit Mazargues War Cemetery, maintained by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission in Marseille, to pay tribute to the sacrifices made by Indian soldiers in World War I.

They will inaugurate the newest Consulate General of India in Marseille.

Modi and Macron will visit Cadarache, the site of the International Thermonuclear Experimental Reactor (ITER), a high-science project.

This is Modi's sixth visit to France, according to officials.

From France, Modi will travel to the US on the second leg of his two-nation tour.

At a special briefing on February 7, Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri had outlined the broad itinerary of the prime minister's visit to France.

Modi will reach Paris on Monday and attend a dinner hosted by Macron at the Elysée Palace, which is likely to be attended by a large number of CEOs from the tech domain along with other distinguished invitees to the summit.

Agency

US visit to build on successes in bilateral ties in Trump's first term PM Modi

New Delhi
Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Monday his visit to the US will be an opportunity to build upon the successes in collaboration between the two countries in President Donald Trump's first term.

In his departure statement ahead of his visit to France and the US, he said it will also help develop an agenda to further elevate and deepen India's partnership with the US, including in areas of technology, trade, defence, energy, and supply chain resilience. Noting that it will be their first meeting since Trump's inauguration



as president for a second term, he said, "We will work together for the mutual benefit of the people of our two countries and shape a better future for the world."

He said, "I look forward to meeting my friend, President Trump. I have a very warm recollection of working together in his first term in building a Compre-

hensive Global Strategic Partnership between India and the US."

Modi will be visiting France from February 10 to February 12 before flying to the US from there on a two-day trip.

Modi said he is visiting France at the invitation of President Emmanuel Macron.

He looked forward to co-chairing the AI Action Summit, a gathering of the world leaders and global tech CEOs, where they will exchange views on collaborative approach to AI technology for innovation and larger public good in an inclusive, secure and trustworthy manner, he added. Agency

Delhi CM should be chosen from newly-elected MLAs: Section of BJP leaders

New Delhi
The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) is keeping its cards close to its chest regarding who will be the next Chief Minister of Delhi. Over 48 hours have passed since the party's historic win in the Delhi election, but only the topmost brass of BJP knows the name of the person who will take over from outgoing CM Atishi.

Earlier there were speculations that Delhi MPs like Manoj Tiwari, Bansun Swaraj and former minister Smriti Irani are in the line. However, local BJP leaders



claim that the next CM will be selected from the party's newly elected 48 MLAs in Delhi.

In other words, no one will be "para-dropped" from the top. As per the convention, the party appoints centrist observers to oversee proceedings where the leader of the legis-

lative party, the CM, is selected. So far, there is no word on when that meeting will take place. The press is expected to be set in motion after

Prime Minister Narendra Modi returns from his tour to France and the US.

On Sunday, Atishi handed over her resignation to Lt Governor VK Saxena. The L-G has asked her to continue till the formation of the new government.

CONTD ON PAGE-2

After Biren's resignation, BJP scouts for next Manipur CM

CONT FROM PAGE-1

stated, Singh on Sunday tendered his resignation to Governor Ajay Kumar Bhalla at the Raj Bhavan.

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 came hours after Singh returned from Delhi after meeting Union Home Minister Amit Shah.

Singh had been defying the opposition's demand to step down as CM of the ethnic violence-hit state where trouble broke out 21 months ago in May 2023.

Last week, a new controversy erupted over 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 civilisational history over thousands of years," the letter added.

Delhi CM should be chosen from newly-elected MLAs: Section of BJP leaders

CONT FROM PAGE-1

There is also buzz that BJP may opt for a woman CM this time, which has put MLAs like Shikha Roy, who defeated Shaardha Bhardwaj in Greater Kailash I, Rekha Gupta, Poonam Sharma, and Neelam Sahelwar in the spotlight. If BJP chooses a woman CM, she will become the fourth woman to take the reins in the national capital, after Sushma Swaraj, Sheila Dikshit, and Atishi. Of them, only Dikshit completed her term. The late Congress leader also holds the record for the longest-serving CM of Delhi with a total tenure of 15 years and 25 days.

Before making a final decision, BJP has to consider various caste and community permutations and combinations. The party is known to spring surprises while making such decisions, and this time may be no different. Political factors like caste and community play a key role in such decisions, and for long, already has Brahmin CMCs in Rajasthan and Maharashtra, OBCs in Haryana and MP, and Kshatriya in Uttar Pradesh. Therefore, in Delhi it could be someone from the Jat community or perhaps a Sikh with Punjab in mind.

SC seeks Centre, ECI response on lifetime bar for MPs/MLAs after conviction

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Monday asked the Centre to file its response on the plea challenging the constitutional validity of Sections 8 and 9 of the Representation of the People Act (RP Act) 1951, which govern MP/MLA's disqualification due to convictions.

A bench of Justices Dipankar Datta and Manmohan asked Centre to file its affidavit on the plea, failing which the court may proceed to decide the matter without government response.

It also sought assistance of Attorney General R Venkataramani on the plea seeking a permanent ban on those convicted of criminal offences from contesting elections to the state, for a period of six years from the date of their release from prison.

Section 9 of the RP Act disqualifies those persons dismissed from government service for corruption or disloyalty to the state, for a period of five years after the

date of dismissal. On the issue relating to the expeditious disposal of criminal cases against lawmakers, the bench said it would be inappropriate for a two-judge bench to reopen the issue, given that a three-judge bench had already delivered a judgment on November 9, 2023 on the issue.

The apex court directed that the issue be placed before the Chief Justice of India for consideration by a larger bench.

The bench, however, said it will decide the issue concerning the disqualification of convicted politicians and sought responses from the Union of India and the Election Commission.



A bench of Justices Dipankar Datta and Manmohan asked Centre to file its affidavit on the plea, failing which the court may proceed to decide the matter without government response.

The top court now listed the matter after three weeks. The top court was hearing a PIL filed by advocate Ashwini Upadhyay seeking lifelong disqualification of MPs, and MLAs, along with a demand for a one-year timeline for deciding criminal cases against government members.

During the hearing, senior advocate Vijay Hansaria, appearing as amicus curiae to assist the court, highlighted major roadblocks, including special MP/MLA courts handling other matters, excessive adjournments, and lack of strict procedural

enforcement. Senior advocate Vikas Singh, representing the petitioner, asked the bench to address the re-entry of convicted persons into politics.

He submitted that allowing those convicted of heinous crimes to return after a short sentence defeats democratic integrity. Singh further criticised political parties for repeatedly fielding candidates with criminal records.

The senior advocate further submitted, "Our democracy has matured over 75 years, yet 46-48 per cent of elected representatives have serious charges, including rape and murder. Parliament could not have intended such individuals to govern".

Upadhyay approached the top court seeking speedy disposal of cases against MPs and MLAs and debarment of the convicted persons. As of now, convicted politicians are banned from polls for six years.

Navneet Education Limited Introduces 'Navneet AI'

■ Aims to Enhance the Teaching Experience for Educators Across India

New Delhi: Navneet Education Limited, a leader in the education sector, is excited to announce the launch of Navneet AI, an innovative platform designed to empower teachers with easy access to knowledge and resources. Navneet AI offers an extensive catalogue of educational materials, Navneet AI's tools will help teachers deliver lessons more effectively by offering an interactive, user-friendly platform to create quizzes, homework, PPTs, Flashcards, summaries and more.

For decades, teachers and students across India have relied on Navneet's renowned educational resources, including the popular Navneet Digests, comprehensive workbooks, Navneet 21 Most Likely Question Sets, Pre-Primary and various Children's books. Navneet AI is based on 50,000+ Navneet resources and delivers interactive output to make classes more engaging and effective. By empowering teachers with a powerful tool to enhance classroom experiences, Navneet Ed-



Navneet Education Limited aims to bridge traditional educational resources with modern technology.

Our goal with Navneet AI is to make learning resources more accessible and adaptable to the needs of today's educators," said Devish Gala, Director - Branding, Marketing and Sales at Navneet Education Limited. "By integrating digital technology with trusted content, we support teachers in their mission to inspire young minds. Navneet AI represents our commitment to staying current with technological advancements and catering to

evolving educational demands." Harshil Gala, CEO TopTech, Navneet Education Limited said, "With Navneet AI, we are revolutionizing the way education is delivered, making learning more interactive and engaging for both teachers and students. At Navneet, we have always been at the forefront of innovation in education, and with this tool, we are taking a bold step towards the future, where technology empowers educators and enhances student learning outcomes like never before."

Navneet AI is India's

BJP member Dubey demands probe of USAID-funded outfits in India

New Delhi: BJP member Nishikant Dubey on Monday demanded that the government probe organisations funded by USAID in India, alleging that most such outfits worked to create unrest in the country and had links with the Congress party.

Raising the issue during Zero Hour in Lok Sabha, Dubey claimed the USAID funded organisations carried out protests against the Agri-minister initiative of the government, backed caste census, and supported naxalism in the country.

Several Congress members rose in protest against Dubey's remarks and sought to raise a point of order in the Lok Sabha, but were disallowed by presiding officer Sandhya Ray who said such provisions do not apply to Zero Hour proceedings.

Dubey said US President Donald Trump has shut down USAID

which spent money only to bring down governments all over the world.

Later, Congress members met Speaker Om Birla to register their objections to Dubey being allowed to make unsubstantiated claims in the House.

Congress member Saptagiri Ulaka from Koraput raised the issue of railway connectivity in south Odisha. Congress member Mohammad Jawed from Kishanganj in Bihar demanded that the Surjapuri community be included in the central list of OBCs.

Congress member Namdeo Kirsan from Gadchiroli-Chimur in Maharashtra demanded that the central pension scheme for old artistes be reinstated.

BJP member Bhartruhari Mahtab from Cuttack in Odisha demanded that freedom fighters be given free first class pass to travel

Invertis University collaborates for in-campus exam certifications of Microsoft & Adobe & partners with LinkedIn learning to boost Student Careers

Bareilly

Invertis University, a NAAC-accredited institution, is now offering Microsoft and Adobe certification exams on campus, giving students the opportunity to earn globally recognized credentials that will enhance their career prospects. No need to travel to distant centres—students can now conveniently take these industry-leading certification exams right on campus.

As part of its commitment to digital learning, Invertis has also partnered with LinkedIn Learning, providing students with free access to over 16,000 courses. With personalized recommendations, students can gain valuable skills that will help them stand out to future employers. Plus, they can showcase these newly acquired skills on their LinkedIn profiles, further boosting their employability.



With more than 6,000 successful placements and international academic partnerships with esteemed institutions like Livingstone College (USA) and the University of South Carolina Upstate (USA), Invertis is dedicated to providing students with global

exposure and career opportunities. Students can also apply for paid internships in countries like Dubai, Mauritius, France, Sweden, and more.

At Invertis University, the focus is on holistic development by blending academics, industry expertise,

50 per cent of the urban population are entitled to subsidized food grains, but the beneficiary quota is still determined based on the outdated 2011 Census.

"For the first time in independent history, the decennial census has been delayed by more than four years. Originally scheduled for 2021, there is still no clarity as to when the census will be conducted. The Budget allocations reveal that the updated census is unlikely to be conducted this year as well. Around 14 crore eligible Indians are thus being deprived of their rightful benefit under the NFSA," she added.

She urged the Centre to prioritise the completion of the census to ensure that deserving individuals receive their rightful benefits.

"It is imperative that the government prioritises the completion of the census as soon as possible and ensures that all the deserving individuals receive the benefits guaranteed to them under the NFSA. Food security is not a privilege it's a fundamental right," she said.

She said that under the NFSA, 75 per cent of the rural population and

70 per cent of the urban population are entitled to subsidized food grains, but the beneficiary quota is still determined based on the outdated 2011 Census.

Speaking in the Rajya Sabha, Sonia Gandhi highlighted the four-year delay in conducting the census and expressed concerns that it is unlikely to be conducted this year as well.

"The National Food Security Act (NFSA) introduced by the UPA government in September 2013 was a landmark initiative aimed at ensuring food and nutritional security to the country's 140 crore population. This legislation plays a crucial role in protecting millions of vulnerable households, particularly during the Covid 19 crisis. It is this act that provides the basis for the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana," the CPP Chairperson said.

She said that under the NFSA, 75 per cent of the rural population and

70 per cent of the urban population are entitled to subsidized food grains, but the beneficiary quota is still determined based on the outdated 2011 Census.

"For the first time in independent history, the decennial census has been delayed by more than four years. Originally scheduled for 2021, there is still no clarity as to when the census will be conducted. The Budget allocations reveal that the updated census is unlikely to be conducted this year as well. Around 14 crore eligible Indians are thus being deprived of their rightful benefit under the NFSA," she added.

She urged the Centre to prioritise the completion of the census to ensure that deserving individuals receive their rightful benefits.

"It is imperative that the government prioritises the completion of the census as soon as possible and ensures that all the deserving individuals receive the benefits guaranteed to them under the NFSA. Food security is not a privilege it's a fundamental right," she said.

She said that under the NFSA, 75 per cent of the rural population and

70 per cent of the urban population are entitled to subsidized food grains, but the beneficiary quota is still determined based on the outdated 2011 Census.

Dharmendra Pradhan praises PM Modi's 'Pariksha Pe Charcha'

New Delhi: Union Minister for Education Dharmendra Pradhan on Monday praised Prime Minister Narendra Modi for his concern about student welfare during the ongoing 'Pariksha Pe Charcha' initiative.

Pradhan emphasized that despite the extensive work done by PM Modi for the country's growth, his focus on alleviating the exam-related stress of young students is significant.

Pradhan also lauded media persons, Pradhan stated, "It is no small matter that despite doing a lot of work for the country, Prime Minister Narendra Modi is concerned about the exam stress of young students. I thank him on behalf of the Education Ministry and all the guardians."

This year's 'Pariksha Pe Charcha' also saw the inclusion of renowned social experts. Pradhan explained, "This time several renowned social experts spoke on mental health, concentration... All of these will have separate episodes and eight telecasts will act as a guide for the examinees." These episodes, according to the Minister, are designed to provide valuable advice to students during exam season, helping them manage mental well-being and focus during their preparations.

During his interaction with students during the 8th edition of Pariksha Pe Charcha, PM Modi advised them to turn their failures into lessons. Highlighting the significance of technology, he encouraged students to understand and make optimal use of it.

"A student's life does not stop if they fail an exam. One must decide whether they want to succeed in life or books... You should turn your failures into your teachers... You are fortunate to be born in an era of technology, and our focus should be to understand technology and have an optimum utilization of it," PM Modi said.

During the interaction, he emphasised the importance of holistic development, saying that students cannot grow if they are confined to textbooks.

AdvvContact: 9818-799941

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Sureish Kumar S/o Shri Chatterjee, residing at VPO-Damanpur, Bokak, Haryana-124001, presently at New Delhi, do hereby solemnly affirm and declare as under:

- That I am Citizen of India.
- That I am resident of above-mentioned address.
- That I am working as ASI (GD) having CISE No.82233243.
- That PRAMILA is my wife & her date of birth is 01/01/1972 which is my wife's correct name and date of birth.
- That as per my wife's Aadhaar Card, Voter ID Card and Pan Card, her name is written as PRAMILA.
- That as per my service record my wife's name is written as PRAMILA DEVI & her date of birth is written as 03/05/1976 which is my wife's incorrect name and date of birth.
- That I am requested to the Competent Authority kindly correct my wife's name and date of birth as PRAMILA and 01/01/1972 respectively instead of PRAMILA DEVI and 03/05/1976 in your record.

BJP MPs chant 'Modi, Modi' slogans in LS, RS over party's victory in Delhi polls

New Delhi
The victory of the BJP in the Delhi Assembly polls was hailed by ruling party members with chanting of "Modi, Modi" slogans in both houses of Parliament on Monday. Soon after the Lok Sabha met for the day, members of the BJP got up and called out "Modi, Modi" slogans, with the Congress MPs objecting to the same. The sloganeering by the treasury benches continued for a brief while before Speaker Om Birla called for the Question Hour.



Congress member Gaurav Gogoi and Trinamool Congress MP Kalyan Banerjee were also seen raising some issues. When proceedings of the Upper House started at 11 am, euphoric BJP members immediately started sloganeering in support of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. However, the sloganeering was paused for a while when Chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar extended birthday greetings to BJP member Sanjay Seth and then again started immediately thereafter. BJP members started chanting "Delhi ke dil me Modi hai, Desh ke dil me Modi hai". This was objected to by the opposition members including Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge. Congress whip in Rajya Sabha Jaitam Ramesh also stood up and raised objections saying it was against democracy.

Dhankhar pacified the members from both sides and called for the laying of papers, but BJP members again started chanting 'Modi Modi'. At this, Kharge told Dhankhar: "This has happened three times. What are you doing?" Responding to him, Dhankhar said, "I am addressing it". Immediately after the laying of papers was over, Dhankhar made an appeal to the members and said he would not appreciate any disturbances. "We are the council of states. We are the House of elders. It is required of us to patiently hear anyone who has been legitimately given the floor by the chairman. I will not appreciate any disturbance. There are occasions when people are euphoric and otherwise also."

"This House has to send a very sober message that it is meant for expression, dialogue and we will uphold it. I am sure that the leader of the House and the leader of the opposition will extend their warmest cooperation to me," the chairman said, with Leader of the House J P Nadda nodding in affirmation. After that the chairman called Congress leader Sonia Gandhi for her zero hour submission in the House over people deprived of entitlements under the National Food Security Act 2013. 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.

CEO Noida visited various areas of the city to inspect beautification work



Ajeet Kumar Noida
The Chief Executive Officer of Noida, Lokesh M., visited various areas of the city to inspect the progress of beautification work near Sky-mark in Sector-98 and the development of the food zone. The CEO also directed the beautification of the Master Green Belt on both sides of the office building under construction, the green belt in front of Sky-mark, and the green belt in front of Windsor Grand Sector-126. The CEO instructed the garden department to complete high-level beautification and lighting works. He also directed the relocation of a toilet constructed on the site based on BOT and the shifting of the electricity line passing through the site. The garden department was also instructed to plant trees in the food zone to make it suitable for summer seating. The CEO also directed the beautification of the Master Green Belt on both sides of the office building under construction, the green belt in front of Sky-mark, and the green belt in front of Windsor Grand Sector-126.

Revolutionizing Aging: Priya Living Expands to India

Now, Priya Living is bringing its innovative approach home to India—offering a new vision for elderhood as the most fulfilling stage of life.

New Delhi
Founded in Silicon Valley in 2013 by Arun Paul, Priya Living has reimaged senior living in the United States, creating vibrant communities where aging is embraced with joy, creativity, and purpose. Now, Priya Living is bringing its innovative approach home to India—offering a new vision for elderhood as the most fulfilling stage of life.

"Priya Living is deeply personal to me," said Arun Paul, Founder of Priya Living. "It is a tribute to my parents, who left everything behind in India to give me a life of opportunity in the United States. Their sacrifices, their resilience, and their enduring connection to India inspired me to create Priya Living. Now, I want to reconnect the Indian diaspora with their roots while also addressing the growing need for a fresh, dynamic approach to aging in India itself." Arun Paul, Founder of Priya Living said. Priya Living's communities are designed as more than just residences—they are thriving hubs of culture, learning, and connection.

15th All India Police Commando Competition begins at CRPF camp in Gurugram



Gurugram
The 15th All India Police Commando Competition commenced on Monday with a grand opening ceremony at the Group Centre, Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) in Gurugram here. GP Singh, Director General, CRPF, inaugurated the event, marking the beginning of an intense showcase of skill, endurance, and teamwork among the nation's elite commandos. Addressing the participants, Singh emphasized that the competition is more than just a challenge—it serves as an opportunity for commandos to build stronger bonds, enhance teamwork, and empower their weakest members to reach their full potential. He highlighted that commandos excel in real-life missions, delivering success across diverse theaters with unparalleled skill, courage, and dedication. This year, 21 teams—

comprising 663 personnel, including 44 gazetted officers from the Central Armed Police Forces and State Police—are competing in one of the most demanding tests of physical and tactical proficiency. Last year's edition was hosted in Visakhapatnam, where the Andhra Pradesh Commando team clinched the title. The 2023 edition was organized by the National Security Guard (NSG). Notably, this marks the first time that CRPF is hosting the prestigious event.

Delhi HC proposes unified app for toilet complaints, directs meeting of all civic agencies

New Delhi
To effectively handle grievances about malfunctioning toilets in the city, the Delhi High Court proposed the creation of a single, unified app. The court emphasized that if the app is utilized by all relevant agencies—MCD, NDMC, and DDA—it would significantly streamline the complaint lodging process for citizens and facilitate efficient redressal of these issues. In this regard, the bench of Justice Devendra Kumar Upadhyaya and Justice Tushar Rao Gedela directed that a meeting of the Acting Vice Chairman of the Delhi Development Authority and the Municipal Commissioners of NDMC and MCD be convened to discuss the prospects of developing a common app. We expect that all three agencies will make earnest efforts to work out a solution for developing this app, in order to simplify the process of lodging complaints, said the bench. During the hearing, the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) stated that they have launched an app for receiving complaints related to public toilet grievances. However, the petitioner's counsel pointed out that there is no mention of this app on the toilets, nor any information provided to the public on

Delhi HC seeks NIA stand after separatist leader seeks call facility in jail



New Delhi
The Delhi High Court on Monday sought the stand of Bihar jail authorities and the NIA on a plea by separatist leader Naveem Ahmad Khan against the withdrawal of call and "e-mu-laqat" facilities in Tihar. Justice Sachin Datta issued notice to the NIA and Tihar prison authorities for their responses. Advocate Tara Narula, appearing for the petitioner, argued telephone facilities were "arbitrarily" withdrawn starting November 2023 under the pretext that National Investigation Agency (NIA) did not provide a no objection certificate. The NIA counsel said the agency would file its response. In his plea, Khan said there was no reason to deny him the facility, provided to other inmates under the Delhi Prison Rules. "The petitioner was earlier lodged in Central Jail 8/9, Tihar Jail, for nearly

Delhi police celebrated the first anniversary of SMITA therapy centre



Staff Reporter New Delhi
The Police Families Welfare Society (PFWS) of Delhi Police celebrated the first anniversary of SMITA, a therapy centre for special children of Delhi Police personnel, at Malviya Nagar Police Colony on January 31, 2025. The event was graced, as the Chief Guest, by Sonal Shah, eminent educationist and social worker, who had inaugurated SMITA last year. The Chief Guest distributed a token of affection and interacted with therapists and special children. She expressed immense satisfaction over the progress made over the past year at SMITA, resulting in much higher levels of self-confidence in our special children. Ritu Arora, President PFWS, highlighted SMITA's commitment to redefining care for special children, focusing not just on therapy but on building supportive relationships. SMITA has grown from serving 20 children with three therapists in the beginning, to 52 children with six therapists on its first anniversary. The event featured an audio-visual presentation, showcasing the centre's milestones, followed by soul-stirring cultural performances by special children. Parents shared heartfelt stories of the positive impact of SMITA on their children's daily lives. Generous contributions from Seva Bharti has provided special equipment for the children and MOUs were signed with Sahyog Care 4 U and BSES to fund salaries of therapists for one year, ensuring continuous care. An additional MoU was exchanged with IACT Education Pvt. Ltd., which will provide English classes for police families. Our respected donors and facilitators, Sushil Gupta, from 'Seva Bharti', Shekhar Mahajan, founder, NGO, 'Sahyog Care 4 U', Sh. Amar Sinha, executive director, BSES; Deepak Shankar, senior executive and vice president, BSES; and Sh. Anshul Pandit, chairman, Pratham Foundation Trust, was felicitated by the Chief Guest for their valuable contributions and support. The Chief Guest, Sonal Shah, described 'Smita-Therapy Centre' as the opportunity for the special children to thrive, overcoming challenges, developing new skills, and discovering their potential. She appreciated the team of therapists and staff members at the centre and congratulated PFWS and the team for their unwavering support extended towards the police families.

Delhi police to file FIR against AAP MLA Amanatullah Khan



New Delhi
The Delhi Police is in the process of filing an FIR against Aam Aadmi Party MLA Amanatullah Khan and others on Monday for allegedly helping an attempted murder accused flee from the police. Earlier today, a team of police officials arrived at the residence of the MLA Khan, in connection with allegations against him and his supporters. Firoz, an office bearer with the MLA said that the Police asked them to open the doors of his residence, but left soon after without telling what the matter might be. "We don't know what the matter is. We work in the office. When the Police came here, the doors were shut. They told us to open the doors for them to check. We facilitated them but there is nothing inside. They are now leaving...They have not disclosed what the matter is," he said. According to the police, a crime branch team went to Jamia Nagar area to arrest the accused in a 2018 attempted murder case, Shavez Khan, but had then allegedly found that the accused had fled from the place. The Police are in the process of tracing Amanatullah Khan and interrogate him regarding the accused fleeing custody. Further investigation into the matter is currently ongoing. Amanatullah Khan is the newly elected AAP MLA from Okhla, winning the constituency by 88,943 votes. He beat out Bharatiya Janata Party candidate Manish Chaudhary by a margin of 23,639 votes. Yesterday, after the BJP's decisive victory, Khan blamed the Congress and all-India Majlis-e-Ittehad-ul-Muslimeen (AIMM) for his party's defeat. He alleged that both parties had contested the elections not to win but to defeat AAP and "Congress put all its strength to defeat AAP." He said, "BJP has benefitted from Congress, Congress and AIMM did not fight to win, they only wanted to defeat AAP. They have a very crucial role in the defeat of AAP...Congress put all its strength to defeat AAP..."

Days after Delhi rout Kejriwal to meet CM Mann Punjab AAP MLAs on Tuesday

Chandigarh: AAP supreme Arvind Kejriwal will hold a meeting with Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann and party MLAs on Tuesday in the national capital on Tuesday to discuss the Delhi assembly polls outcome, party sources said on Monday.

The meeting comes two days after the Aam Aadmi Party's rout in Delhi, where the BJP is set to form the government after a gap of more than 26 years.

While the BJP won 48 seats in the 70-member House, the AAP secured 22, and the Congress drew a blank in the polls held on February 5.

Before the elections, the entire Punjab unit of AAP, including Mann, Cabinet ministers, MPs and MLAs, aggressively campaigned in Delhi for the AAP nominees.

They spoke about the works done in Punjab, including giving 50,000 government jobs, free 300 units of power, opening of 850 'Aam Aadmi Clinics' on the lines of Delhi's 'Mohalla Clinics', and buying a private thermal power plant.

Mann, who was the party's star campaigner, took out roadshows in Delhi to showcase his government's works to seek votes for the AAP candidates.

The defeat in Delhi has come as a blow for the AAP with the opposition leaders predicting a similar "downfall" for the party in Punjab, where just three of its 13 nominees won the Lok Sabha elections in 2024.

The AAP stormed to power in Punjab in 2022 by winning 92 seats in the 117-member House.

3 New Criminal Laws to Be Implemented in Haryana by Feb 28, Says CM Saini

Chandigarh: The three new criminal laws will be implemented in Haryana by the end of this month, Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini said on Monday.

The Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita and the Bharatiya Sakshya Adhinyaya, replacing the colonial-era Indian Penal Code, Code of Criminal Procedure and the Indian Evidence Act of 1872, respectively, came into effect on July 1 after the laws were passed by Parliament.

After chairing a meeting with officials about the implementation of the three laws, Saini said on X, "Three new criminal laws will be implemented in Haryana by February 28."

"Chaired an important meeting with officials regarding the three new criminal laws to be implemented in the state and the progress of development works," he also said in the post.

Those present in the meeting included Rajesh Khullar the chief secretary to the Haryana chief minister, Vivek Joshi the chief secretary, Sumita Misra the additional chief secretary of the home department and state police chief Shatruijeet Kapur.

Pariksha Pe Charcha with Haryana CM and students

Komal Ramola Chandigarh: Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini on Monday praised Prime Minister Narendra Modi's 'Pariksha Pe Charcha' initiative for encouraging children to approach exams without stress.

"Children should go ahead for exams without any stress from anyone," he said.

He further appreciated PM Modi's initiative and called it a good move to help children stay stress-free with the board examinations knocking at the door.

"PM Modi's 'Pariksha Pe Charcha' is a good initiative to make children stress-free... PM Modi spoke to children in 21 sections regarding different topics... I thank the PM for boosting the confidence of our children," Saini added.

Earlier today, PM Modi said that he had a wonderful interaction



with young students on different aspects of stress-free exams.

In a post on X, he urged them to watch 'Pariksha Pe Charcha', his annual program where he interacts with students on various aspects of stress-free exams. This year's session, the eighth edition, was held at Sunder Nursery in the national capital.

During the session, PM Modi highlighted

the importance of nutrition and enquired about students' food and lifestyle choices. He advised them to take 'Surya Snan' (sunbath).

Emphasising the role of nutrition in growth, the PM said, "Your growth depends on what, when, how, and why you eat."

He shared an anecdote, recalling a visit to a family where a child avoided eating millet

roti, believing it would darken his skin, and instead preferred rice.

Speaking further, he stated, "The absence of illness does not mean we are healthy. Sleep is also dependent on nutrition. Medical science also focuses on sleep. Everyone should spend time in the morning sun."

Discussing ways to handle exam pressure, PM Modi said, "Unfortunately, there is

"PM Modi's 'Pariksha Pe Charcha' is a good initiative to make children stress-free... PM Modi spoke to children in 21 sections regarding different topics... I thank the PM for boosting the confidence of our children," Saini added.

a common belief that if someone does not score well in the 10th or 12th grade, their life is ruined."

"Our society creates a tense atmosphere at home over low grades. You may have pressure, but you must prepare without worrying about it and keep challenging yourself."

Since 2018, PM Modi has been holding the annual event to interact with school students, teachers, and parents to share tips on remaining stress-free during the board exams.

Army conducts patrolling in snow-covered Doda

Doda: Amid a thick blanket of snow and temperatures dropping below -5 degrees Celsius, Indian Army personnel are conducting patrolling operations in the upper reaches of Jammu and Kashmir's (J-K) Doda district, ensuring the region's security, officials said on Monday.

The region has witnessed multiple terrorist attacks in the past. The Army's vigilant presence has been instrumental in monitoring and preventing terrorist activities, ensuring the safety of the local population.

In response to past militant attacks, security forces have intensified surveillance, adopting a proactive approach to locate and neutralize foreign terrorists.

The Army's counter-terrorism operations in Doda have yielded positive results, further reinforcing security in the region.

On Sunday, the Doda Police conducted a mock drill to enhance emergency preparedness and security.

Additional Superintendent of Police (SP) Doda Shakeel Raheem Bhatt said that the district was divided into three zones to assess police preparedness in handling emergencies.

"We had divided Doda into three zones to conduct mock drills and check our preparedness to deal with emergencies," Bhatt told ANI.

He expressed gratitude for the cooperation of the public, shopkeepers and tourists, assuring them that there was no need to panic.

"We are very glad that shopkeepers, the public, and tourists cooperated with us. People do not need to panic about the situations. The police are here for them and with them. If any discrepancies arise, we will make sure to help the public," he added.

Recently, an ex-serviceman was shot dead by terrorists in the Behibagh area of South Kashmir's Kulgam district. His wife and niece were also injured in the attack.

Itija Mufti's two PSOs suspended after her Kathua visit: Mehbooba

Jammu: PDP president Mehbooba Mufti on Monday said two personal security officers (PSOs) of her daughter Itija Mufti have been placed under suspension after the young leader's unscheduled visit to Kathua to meet the family of a youth, who died by suicide after police torture.

Makhan Din (25), a Gujjar youth from Billaig area of Kathua, ended his life by consuming insecticide at his home on Tuesday evening and recorded the act on a video claiming innocence. He denied any connection with terrorists, prompting separate probes by the police and the local administration.

On her return to Jammu after her visit on Sunday, Itija demanded a judicial inquiry into the incident along with the killing of a truck driver. Wassem Mir, who was shot dead by the Army after he jumped a check-post in Baramulla district of north Kashmir on Wednesday.

"Ironic and unfair



that Itija's two PSOs ensure security and dignity for the people, remains a silent observer. They thus are not only shirking from their responsibility but also thereby normalizing these unjust and abnormal actions," Mehbooba said.

Itija was not allowed to move out of the Jammu Circuit house by the police to address a press conference on Sunday evening.

Itija's visit to Kathua comes a day after she claimed that she and her mother had been placed under house arrest in Srinagar.

Meanwhile, she said there has been no reported action against those responsible for the deaths of Mir or Din.

"The ruling NC (National Conference) government, which came to power promising to

Security forces recover arms and ammunition in Kupwara

Kupwara: Security forces on Monday conducted an operation in Jammu and Kashmir's Kupwara district and recovered two AK series Rifles, ammunition and other war-like stores.

The joint operation was carried out by the Chinat Corps of the Indian Army and Jammu and Kashmir Police at Badi Mohalla, Amrui, Kupwara.

Taking to social media post on X, Chinat Corps wrote, "OP GREEN HOUSE, Kupwara. On 10 Feb 2025, based on specific intelligence inputs, a Joint Search Operation was launched by #IndianArmy and #JmUKmRPolice at Badi Mohalla, Amrui, Kupwara. During search, 02xAK series Rifles, ammunition and other war-like stores have been recovered. Operation is in progress."

The Operation Green House is currently in progress. Meanwhile, Indian Army personnel conducted patrolling operations in the upper reaches of Jammu and Kashmir's (J-K) Doda district amid a thick blanket of snow and temperatures dropping below -5 degrees Cel-



sus to ensure the region's security, officials said on Monday.

The region has witnessed multiple terrorist attacks in the past. The Army's vigilant presence has been instrumental in monitoring and preventing terrorist activities, ensuring the safety of the local population.

In response to past militant attacks, security forces have intensified surveillance, adopting a proactive approach to locate and neutralize foreign terrorists.

The Army's counter-terrorism operations in Doda have yielded positive results, further

reinforcing security in the region.

On Sunday, the Doda Police conducted a mock drill to enhance emergency preparedness and security.

Additional Superintendent of Police (SP) Doda Shakeel Raheem Bhatt said that the district was divided into three zones to assess police preparedness in handling emergencies.

"We had divided Doda into three zones to conduct mock drills and check our preparedness to deal with emergencies," Bhatt said.

He expressed gratitude for the coop-

eration of the public, shopkeepers and tourists, assuring them that there was no need to panic.

"We are very glad that shopkeepers, the public, and tourists cooperated with us. People do not need to panic about the situations. The police are here for them and with them. If any discrepancies arise, we will make sure to help the public," he added.

Recently, an ex-serviceman was shot dead by terrorists in the Behibagh area of South Kashmir's Kulgam district. His wife and niece were also injured in the attack.

SGPC removes Giani Harpreet Singh as Jathedar of Takht Sri Damdama Sahib

Amritsar: The Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee (SGPC) has terminated the services of Giani Harpreet Singh as Jathedar of Takht Damdama Sahib, effective immediately. This decision was made during SGPC's executive body meeting held at its headquarters in Amritsar.

SGPC president Harjinder Singh Dhali, who chaired the meeting, refrained from talking to the media. SGPC secretary Par-tap Singh confirmed that Giani Harpreet Singh's removal was based on a complaint filed against him. The head granthi of Takht Damdama Sahib, Giani Jagtar Singh, will take over his responsibilities for the time being.

Advertisement For the time being, the head granthi of Takht Damdama Sahib, Giani Jagtar Singh,



would continue to hold the charge. The report submitted by the SGPC panel held Giani Harpreet Singh guilty of the allegations levelled against him. It was accepted by the majority of the executive members and the decision was taken to terminate his services in the light of keeping the sanctity of the Takht," he said.

The complaint, filed by Gurbpreet Singh, a resident of Sri Muktsar Sahib, on December 16 alleged misconduct by Giani Harpreet Singh. An SGPC panel, com-

prising senior vice-president Raghujit Singh Virk, general secretary Sher Singh Mandwala, and executive member Daljit Singh Bhinder, was formed to investigate the allegations.

Giani Harpreet Singh's services were initially suspended for a fortnight, which was later extended for a month. The SGPC panel's report found him guilty of the allegations, leading to his termination.

However, three opposition members - Paramjit Singh Raipur,

Jaswant Singh Purain, and Amrik Singh - walked out of the meeting in protest, alleging that the decision was politically motivated. They claimed that the majority of executive members belonging to the Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) influenced the decision.

They alleged that terminating Giani Harpreet Singh was a 'hidden' agenda and the members were not given prior intimation about this issue 'officially'.

Paramjit Singh Raipur stated that the December 2 directives of the five high priests, which Giani Harpreet Singh participated in, may have contributed to his removal. They also expressed concerns that the probe report was not provided to them in writing and appeared to be one-sided.

Tourists enjoy Shikara rides on Dal Lake in Srinagar amid winter chill

Srinagar: Tourists in Srinagar embraced the winter chill as they enjoyed Shikara rides on the Dal Lake amid the bitter cold on Monday.

According to the IMD, Srinagar recorded a minimum temperature of 3.0 degrees Celsius and a maximum temperature of 10.0 degrees Celsius today.

Tourists explored the city's scenic beauty and appealed to people to visit the place.

A tourist said, "We are feeling extremely happy here. We are taking precautions amid the cold. Although it is cold the picturesque views are amazing. We appeal to people to visit the place."

Tourists could be seen bundled up in warm clothing as they soaked in the breathtaking views of snow-covered mountains in the backdrop. Houseboats lined



along the lake's edge added to the picturesque setting, with some emitting plumes of smoke from chimneys, indicating the warmth inside.

The bustling markets near the lake, featuring vendors selling winter delicacies and traditional Kashmiri handicrafts, highlighted the tourism boost despite the cold.

The visuals effectively capture the essence of Srinagar's winter allure, drawing visitors to experience

its seasonal beauty. Despite the chill, tourists are flocking to the region, enjoying the weather and the scenic views that winter brings to the picturesque valley.

Earlier, snowfall in Baderwah of Doda district drew in tourists from across the country, enthralling them with its scenic beauty.

Tourists, both young and old, were seen throwing snowballs at each other in a light-hearted manner.

Contact for Advc: 9810799941



By Dr. Anil Singh,
Editor, STAR Views

Budget Session : A strategic move by the Govt amid Opposition's Limited Resistance

ized the Aam Aadmi Party's traditional stronghold in Delhi, allowing the BJP to make unprecedented gains. This historical context provided a backdrop to the ongoing budget discussions in Parliament, reinforcing the government's commitment to a people-centric financial roadmap.

Speaker Om Birla's Steady Leadership: Despite the high political temperature, Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla ensured that the House functioned smoothly. His firm yet composed handling of debates, disruptions, and parliamentary procedures maintained order throughout the session. Unlike previous sessions marred by frequent adjournments, Birla's leadership ensured that the proceedings continued without major chaos. Even when the opposition attempted to stall discussions on critical issues, his balanced approach facilitated meaningful debates.

Parliamentary decorum was largely maintained, and the Speaker's insistence on discipline ensured that the government's key agenda, particularly budget discussions, moved forward without unnecessary delays. His role in fostering a conducive environment for discussions will likely be remembered as one of the highlights of this session.

The Historical Budget That Led to Delhi Victory:

One of the most notable aspects of this session is how the government leveraged past budgetary allocations to secure political victories, particularly in the Delhi Assembly elections. The Union Budget preceding the Delhi elections played a crucial role in swaying voters through strategic welfare measures. The increased allocation for urban development, expansion of metro rail networks, better sanitation initiatives, and targeted benefits for middle-class and lower-income groups resonated with the electorate. The government's emphasis on infrastructure development, free ration schemes, and direct benefit transfers cemented the BJP's appeal among Delhi voters.

Unlike previous elections where local issues dominated, the BJP successfully converted a national economic roadmap into a local electoral advantage. The impact of this budget was evident as it neutral-



speech carried a strong political undertone as well, positioning the BJP as the only party with a clear roadmap for India's progress.

Opposition members found themselves on the defensive as Modi's speech systematically countered their arguments. He pointed out how previous governments failed to implement effective economic policies, contrasting them with the current administration's achievements. His address in the Rajya Sabha was equally impactful, leaving the opposition with little room to maneuver.

Opposition's Struggles: Deportation Issue and Kumbh Controversy:

The opposition, lacking a comprehensive counter-narrative to the government's budget and policy framework, focused primarily on two contentious issues—deportation of illegal immigrants and the Kumbh Mela arrangements.

Illegal Immigrants Deportation

The deportation of illegal immigrants has been a hot-button issue, with the government taking a firm stance on national security. The opposition attempted to portray this as a humanitarian crisis, questioning the government's approach. However, the government remained steadfast in its position, emphasizing that the move was necessary to safeguard the interests of Indian citizens and maintain national integrity. The ruling party successfully positioned this step as a

corrective measure against unchecked illegal migration, thereby limiting the opposition's ability to gain traction on the issue.

Kumbh Mela and Opposition's Stand: The opposition also raised concerns regarding the Kumbh Mela arrangements, alleging mismanagement and inadequate facilities. However, these criticisms failed to gain widespread support, as the government showcased extensive preparations, improved infrastructure, and meticulous planning for the mega religious event. The opposition's attempt to corner the government on this issue appeared weak, as the ruling party successfully projected itself as the guardian of cultural and religious traditions.

Opposition's Critique of the Budget:

In addition to the above issues, opposition leaders have voiced significant criticisms of the Union Budget 2025-26. Former Finance Minister P. Chidambaram described the budget as "politically driven," suggesting it was crafted with upcoming elections in mind. He remarked, "It is obvious that the Budget was politically driven. I shall not elaborate on that."

Chidambaram also expressed concerns over reduced allocations to the Ministry of External Affairs, stating, "I suspect that someone is doing an Elon Musk on external affairs ministry. Somebody must explain, are we shrinking our world presence? Are we closing down our embassies?"

Other opposition leaders echoed these sentiments. Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge criticized the budget for neglecting non-NDA-ruled states, labeling it "anti-people" and asserting that it failed to provide justice to various regions.

Rahul Gandhi, Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha, accused the government of applying a "band-aid for bullet wounds," implying that the budget offers superficial solutions to deep-rooted economic challenges. He criticized the government's focus on headline-grabbing schemes while failing to address pressing concerns such as unemployment, agrarian distress, and the rising cost of living.

Trinamool Congress (TMC) leader Derek O'Brien also joined the opposition chorus, stating that the budget lacked vision and was designed more as a campaign document than a policy roadmap. "This is an election budget, not an economic one. Where is the long-term strategy for job creation? Where is the real commitment to federalism?" he questioned.

Key Takeaways from the Session:

Government's Focused Approach: The ruling party remained focused on economic development, national security, and infrastructure growth, effectively countering opposition criticisms.

Opposition's Limited Impact: With only two major issues—illegal immigrant deportation and Kumbh

Mela—dominating their agenda, the opposition struggled to challenge the government's narrative.

Effective Parliamentary Management: Speaker Om Birla ensured smooth proceedings, preventing major disruptions.

PM Modi's Strong Leadership: His speeches reaffirmed the BJP's vision and strategic positioning ahead of future elections.

Opposition's Counterarguments: While the opposition raised concerns about the political nature of the budget, lack of allocations to certain sectors, and unemployment, they were unable to significantly alter the government's narrative.

A Way Forward:

The Budget Session of 2025 has once again underscored the government's ability to steer economic and political discourse in its favor. With a well-structured budget, a proactive government model, and a strong parliamentary presence, the ruling party has managed to keep the opposition on the back foot. Speaker Om Birla's impartial yet firm handling of the House facilitated smooth discussions, while Prime Minister Narendra Modi's powerful speeches reinforced the government's vision for the future.

As the session progresses, the government appears well-positioned to continue its legislative agenda without major resistance. With the budget paving the way for long-term economic growth and electoral advantages, this session will be remembered as a politically and strategically significant moment in Indian parliamentary history. Whether the opposition's concerns gain traction outside Parliament remains to be seen, but within the House, the government has largely dominated the discourse.

About the Author

(The writer is an Editor, Star View)

Breaking Time Sudoku

What to do

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

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

Solution, Sudoku

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

THE WISDOM TREE

BY SUVEEN KUMAR

ONE LIFE - MILLION THINGS

When it is hard to decide what to do and what to leave, leave what you do and do what you leave, and then see what is it that you can't live without. Living for doing and doing for living will help you find out what is worth doing in this precious life. Doing everything that comes in hand and living for everything that you wish to live, only makes you nothing. You don't eat anything, do you? You don't drink anything, do you? So why you live everything and anything? What you make in your life, is not how your life is made, because life is not a thing, it is more valuable than anything and everything thing you ever make. Accomplish something so good in your life that you don't wish to get another life for doing the same thing again, accomplish something so good in life that you forget all bad that happened in your life, accomplish something so good in your life that life feels a

blessing not a regret.

Usually one thing that you want to decide in your life is not found until you have tried million things, the ultimate purpose of life is found by everyday trial, the only way to find your destiny is by traveling your journey. You will have to do number of things to find number one thing, you will have to live for number of people to find out who is worth doing for. The best way to come across the best thing in life is to go across everything in life, the best way to pick the best thing in your life is to drop all ordinary things from life. Don't be stuck if you can walk, don't be a dead if you can rock.



By Priyanka Saurabh

The practice of begging: A cry for help or a well-planned business?

The practice of public begging in India is common even after the implementation of extensive welfare programs such as MNREGA and SMILE. According to data, over 413 lakh people still engage in the practice, underscoring underlying socioeconomic vulnerabilities such as chronic poverty, low literacy, and lack of work opportunities despite government intervention. Older children are taught to beg, while infants are drugged to appear sick. Some have never stepped foot in a classroom, and many have dropped out of school, risking their future to make quick money. Recent statistics show how common school dropouts are in India, especially among adolescents. According to the Annual Status of Education Report 2023, 25 percent of children aged 18 struggle with basic reading skills, and

32.6 percent have dropped out of school. People with disabilities are taken advantage of because they are more likely to be targeted as beggars. When mental health conditions go untreated, people are caught in a cycle of exploitation and dependency.

There are over 400,000 regular beggars living in India; their plight stems from a variety of factors, including organized begging gangs, poverty, disability, and displacement due to natural disasters. By preying on the most vulnerable members of society and operating with near impunity, these syndicates have turned poverty into a profitable enterprise. With over 81,000 beggars, West Bengal is the state with the highest number of beggars in India, followed by Andhra Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh. Poverty, rural-urban migration, and lack of easily accessible support networks are some of the socio-economic factors contributing to the growing number of beggars in these regions. In India, the practice of begging persists due to ingrained socio-econom-

ic weaknesses despite the existence of several welfare programs. This is because welfare programs often fail due to poor implementation, corruption, and lack of awareness among recipients. Schemes like Smile, which provide shelter and livelihood support, are not well known to many beggars.

Particularly in rural and urban slums, people living in abject poverty have no choice but to resort to begging to survive. According to the 2011 census, even with poverty alleviation programs such as MNREGA, more than 413,000 people were begging. Individuals who beg often lack formal education and employable skills, which limits their access to formal employment opportunities. Vocational training offered under the Pradhan Mantri Kausal Vikas Yojana has not adequately reached beggars and other marginalized groups. Transgender people and people with disabilities are two examples of vulnerable groups who are neglected by society and excluded from mainstream economic opportunities.

Many are forced to beg at traffic signals as they are not accepted even despite transgender welfare programs. Vulnerable people are kidnapped by criminal networks, who then force them into begging, making it difficult to break this cycle. Police in Delhi rescued fifty children in 2023 who were forced into begging by a trafficking gang.

One of the main reasons why begging persists in India is that there is no centralized database that can allow for focused interventions to help rehabilitate begging individuals. The NHRC's suggestion to use municipal records to create a national database draws attention to the lack of reliable information about beggars. Generational poverty and dependence on begging persist when beggaring children are denied access to formal education. Due to a lack of outreach initiatives, many children are still not enrolled under the Right to Education Act 2009. Substance abuse and untreated mental health problems lead to people begging and living in poverty. The NHRC's advo-

ry highlights the lack of de-addiction and mental health counseling services in shelter homes under the SMILE program. Due to urban overcrowding caused by rural-to-urban migration due to unemployment, migrants are forced to resort to begging. Laws against begging are either draconian or inadequate to tackle organized crime and provide rehabilitation. For example, the Bombay Prevention of Begging Act criminalizes beggars rather than addressing the underlying issues that give rise to forced begging networks.

Policies to tackle begging in India To facilitate targeted welfare interventions and track their rehabilitation, a national database of beggars should be established and updated frequently. To identify beggars, municipal corporations can work with NGOs, as suggested by the National Human Rights Commission, using standardized survey forms. Enact special laws to prevent organized begging, punish offenders, and help victims get back on their feet. Adopting laws to make forced begging illegal,

as recommended by the National Human Rights Commission, will curb trafficking and exploitative organizations. To enable people to find respectable jobs or pursue self-employment opportunities, shelter homes should provide skill-based vocational training. Programs such as the Pradhan Mantri Kausal Vikas Yojana can work in collaboration with shelter homes to teach beggars skills in carpentry, tailoring, or other vocations that suit their aptitude. Provide mental health counseling services and mobile health units in shelters to address untreated illnesses, addictions, and disabilities.

TOP STORY

Dear Reader, If you have any news or you have any suggestion regarding our newspaper or you have any problem with any government department, you may contact us on 24 hour helpline no- 0120-4225517, 4241284 for Delhi & Ghaziabad (9582310372), for Noida (9818999898), Advertisement (9818799941), Circulation (08586925450)

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

FOR ADVERTISING IN
TOP STORY
PLEASE CONTACT:
9818799941

About the Author

(Priyanka Saurabh, Research Scholar in Political Science)

Strong India can work for better world order, says Rajnath

Bengaluru
Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Monday, said that peace can never be achieved in a weak state of security, and only by being strong, we will be able to work for a better world order.



Citing global uncertainties, he said that as a big country, India has always been an advocate of peace and stability.

Speaking after inaugurating the 15th edition of Aero India here, he also highlighted that the time has come for the private sector to become an equal partner in the defence industry.

"For us, there is no Indian security or Indian peace in isolation. Security, stability and peace are shared constructs that transcend national borders. The presence of our friends from foreign countries (at Aero India) is a testimony to the fact that our partners share our vision of One earth, One family, One future," Singh said.

He stressed the need to work together to deal with today's uncertainties and the new challenges emerging from today's perspectives.

"Peace can never be achieved in a weak state of security. The banyan tree of peace can stand only on the roots of strength. I believe that we all have to be strong together, only then will we be able to ensure peace. Only by

being strong, we will be able to work for a better world order," he said.

Further noting that in this environment of global uncertainty, India is a big country where there is peace and prosperity, the Defence Minister said, "If you assess the history of India, you will find that we have never attacked any country nor have we been involved in any great power rivalry."

"As a big country, India has always been an advocate of peace and stability. And when I am saying this, it is not just a matter of saying, but it is a matter of our fundamental ideal," he said.

Pointing at the theme for Aero India, 'The Runway To A Billion Opportunities', Singh said, "I believe that there cannot be a more suitable theme than this. It tells us that in our country of a billion plus people, personifying a billion opportunities, this

is our endeavour that, just like sectors like agriculture, infrastructure, industry etc., the defence in-

Aero show can be nothing less than that."

Aero India which starts today, has many objectives, he said. "The first important objective of Aero India is to showcase not only our industrial capability but also our technological advancements, to the world."

Stating that there is a bigger objective of strengthening our symbiotic relations with friendly nations, Singh said, today the platform of Aero India, has brought together, government representatives, industry leaders, air force officers, Scientists, Defence Sector Experts, Start-ups, Academia and other stakeholders from across the world.

"This confluence would be effective in bringing our partners closer together, ultimately benefiting us all," he added.

Noting that Maha Kumbh is underway in Uttar

Pradesh's Prayagraj and scores of people are taking a dip of faith and devotion there, the Defence Minister said, "I feel that another Maha Kumbh is beginning today in the form of Aero India. While on one hand the Prayagraj Kumbh is a Kumbh of soul searching, and the Maha Kumbh of Aero India is a Kumbh of research."

Highlighting that India is going through a transformational phase and that the country is fast moving from being a developing to a developed nation, the Defence Minister said, in every sector, we see radical improvement, and India has made a huge jump in sectors like physical infrastructure, digital infrastructure, Start-up ecosystem, industrial support base, MSMEs, innovation.

In the defence sector too there is a wave of innovation, he said.

Historically, the defence industrial sector was viewed as a non-economic sector in India, and it was not seen as a component of the national economy, but merely as an unavoidable necessity in view of national security, Singh said. However, he said, in the last two years the government brought about a paradigm shift in this.

"It is our endeavour that, just like sectors like agriculture, infrastructure, industry etc., the defence in-

dustrial sector should also be seen as an economic sector. This sector should be fully integrated with the overall economy. Overall, one of the main objectives of our campaign is also to do economic mainstreaming of the Defence Industrial Sector. Today, the Indian Defence Industrial sector is a motor, powering the growth engine of the Indian economy," he said.

In the last 10 years, the government has considered the defence sector as the top priority sector of the country, he said.

Stating that the budgetary allocation for the sector has improved, Singh pointed out that a record Rs 6.81 lakh crore has been allocated for this sector in 2025-26 fiscal. This is 9.53 per cent increase from last year.

The defence capital budget has also been increased to Rs 1.80 lakh crore for this fiscal, he added.

He also lauded the contribution of Bengaluru in strengthening the defence ecosystem.

India's domestic defence manufacturing is at a record level of over Rs 1.25 lakh crore, he further said, "Our defence export has crossed the record figure of Rs 21,000 crore for the first time. In the future, we are committed to making a significant increase in these figures."

India, France have shared interest focused on friendship: Macron

New Delhi
Ahead of his bilateral meeting with Prime Minister Narendra Modi in France, President Emmanuel Macron has said that the two countries have a "shared interest" focused on friendship.



Prime Minister Modi on Monday embarked on a two-nation tour that will first take him to France and then the US.

During his three-day visit to France starting Monday, Modi will co-chair the AI Action Summit with Macron in Paris, hold bilateral talks with him, and address business leaders.

In a video interview with India's Firstpost and French news network France24 in Paris, Macron shared his thoughts on artificial intelligence (AI) and its global impact, India-France ties, and his views on the US.

During the interaction, the French president highlighted India's strength in technology and education, a statement said.

"India is a training superpower — one million engineers a year, more than the US and Europe combined," he was quoted as saying in the statement.

"We have shared interest focused on friendship," the French president said.

In response to a query, he said, "We want to train our

talent so that they can go abroad, but they should also be at home."

At the beginning of the interview, Macron greeted the people of India in Hindi, saying, 'Bharat ke logon ko mera namaste', and ended it by saying 'Bahut shukriya' (many thanks).

At a special briefing in Delhi on February 7, India's Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri had shared the broad itinerary of the prime minister's visit to France.

Modi will attend a dinner hosted by Macron at the Elysée Palace in Paris on Monday, which is likely to be attended by a large number of CEOs from the tech domain along with other distinguished invitees to the summit.

On February 11, the prime minister will co-chair the

AI Action Summit, along with Macron.

He will also hold discussions in both restricted and delegation formats and address the India-France CEO's Forum, Misri told reporters.

The two leaders are also scheduled to visit the Mazarques War Cemetery maintained by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission in Marseille on Wednesday, and pay tributes to the sacrifices made by the Indian soldiers in World War I.

Last year, India and France celebrated the 25th anniversary of their strategic partnership, covering an entire gamut of issues, from defence and security, civil nuclear matters, space to trade, economy and commerce.

Leadership lessons to exams Vs knowledge PM's masterclass with students

New Delhi
Leadership lessons to meditation, exams Vs knowledge to focusing like a batsman in action—Prime Minister Narendra Modi touched upon host of issues in a free wheeling chat with school students during the annual 'Pariksha Pe Charcha' broadcast on Monday.



In a shift from the traditional town hall format, Modi preferred a more informal setting this time and held a more deeper and lively conversation with around 35 students at the Sunder Nursery here.

The nationwide broadcast of the event saw students, teachers, and parents tuning in from different parts of the country.

Modi told students 'gyan' (knowledge) and examinations are two different things. One should not view exams as be-all and end-all in life, he added.

During the interaction with students drawn from states and UTs from across the country, the prime minister said students should not be confined and allowed

to explore their passions. He asked students to use their time in a planned way for its effective management.

The prime minister spoke on issues such as 'master your time master your life, live in the moment, finding positives, nourish to flourish', with students quizzing him on different matters.

Urging parents to not view their children as models to show off, he said they should not compare them with others and instead support them.

"Unfortunately there is a common belief that if someone doesn't score well in

class 10 and 12 boards, their life is ruined. Our society creates a tense atmosphere at home over low grades. You may also be under pressure but prepare without worrying about it and keep challenging yourself," he said.

The prime minister highlighted the importance of good sleep and stressed that students should not consider that their lives will be spoilt if they do not score high marks.

He said students should handle pressure as batters do in a stadium amid the noise being made by spectators. They focus on the next ball ignoring the de-

mand for boundaries, he said, asking students to focus on their studies and not be pressured by exams.

Modi, however, asked them to challenge themselves and always try to do better than their previous results.

He emphasised on the need for nutrition and meditation.

Speaking on the issue of leadership, he said people take cue from the conduct of leaders and speeches alone do not help.

"Leadership is not imposed, people around you accept you. For this, you have to change yourself. To become a leader, it is very important to learn teamwork, patience and earning trust is very necessary," he said.

Asking the students what the definition of a leader is, PM Modi said, "It's someone wearing 'kurta-pyjama', a jacket, giving speeches on various platforms... that's not just the case. If anyone becomes a leader their job is not to correct other's mistakes. It's to make yourself an example."

20 CISF campuses to shift towards greener energy by 2025 end

New Delhi
In a significant step towards promoting renewable energy and sustainability, a total of 20 Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) campuses across India will shift towards greener energy at the end of this year.

In this regard, the CISF on Monday signed a Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) with NTPC Vidut Vapour Nigam Ltd (NVVN) for the installation of 5,278 KW rooftop solar power plants across 16 CISF campuses, situated in 11 states by October 31, 2025.

Of 16 CISF campuses, three solar power plants would be installed in Uttar Pradesh (5th RB Ghaziabad, SSG Greater Noida and Gp. headquarters in Prayagraj), followed by two in Madhya Pradesh (1st RB Barwaha and RTC Barwaha), and two in Rajasthan (9th RB Deoli and RTC Deoli), two in Chhattisgarh (3rd RB Bhanu and RTC Bhanu), one each in Tamil Nadu (4th RB Sivagangai), Jharkhand (2nd RB Ranchi), Karnataka (10th RB Bengaluru), Bihar (EZ-1 HQ Patna), Gujarat (Gp. HQ Ahmedabad), Odisha (KRTC Mundaoli), and Telan-

gana (NISA Hyderabad). This will be in addition to existing projects of capacity 1,990 KW installed at four CISF campuses namely RTC Arakonam in Tamil Nadu, Mahipalpur Campus in Delhi, RTC Behror in Rajasthan, and 8th RB Jaipur in Rajasthan.

"Upon completion of the new installations, the total installed solar power capacity across all CISF campuses will reach 5,278 KW. This initiative aligns with the Government of India's vision for energy security and a greener future," CISF Deputy Inspector General Ajay Dahiya said. The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has entrusted NVVN with the execution of the project under the Renewable Energy Service Company (RESCO) Model for the installation, operation, and maintenance of rooftop on-grid solar power plants across all Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs).

Under this model, the capital expenditure is borne by the executing firm, NVVN, while the department is required to pay only for the electricity generated, at a

fixed tariff rate, for the entire agreement period of 25 years. NVVN is expected to complete the installation and commence operations of the Solar Power Plant by October 31 this year.

The major shift towards renewable energy will significantly reduce reliance on fossil fuel-based electricity. Solar energy, being a clean, green, and renewable power source, plays a crucial role in minimizing carbon footprints and promoting environmental conservation. The lower tariff of solar energy compared to conventional electricity rates will lead to substantial cost savings for CISF over the years. Moreover, these rooftop solar plants will ensure a reliable, uninterrupted, and sustainable power supply to CISF establishments, enhancing energy efficiency and self-sufficiency.

CISF remains dedicated to environmental conservation, cost efficiency and self-reliance in energy consumption, making this initiative a pivotal step in India's journey toward a cleaner and more sustainable future.

India committed to eliminating Lymphatic Filariasis by 2027: Nadda

New Delhi
The government is committed to making India Lymphatic Filariasis-free by 2027, Union Health Minister J P Nadda said on Monday while seeking active community involvement to achieve the goal. Nadda was speaking at the launch of the nationwide Mass Drug Administration (MDA) campaign for Lymphatic Filariasis (LF) elimination through a video conference with state health ministers and senior officers of 13 identified LF endemic states.

The campaign covers 111 endemic districts across 13 states with door-to-door administration of filaria prevention medications. Noting that Lymphatic Filariasis incapacitates people and deteriorates their quality of life, Nadda called for the implementation of a five-pronged strategy to ensure the disease is eliminated much ahead of the Sustainable Development Goal of 2030.

"From February 10 onward, these medicines will be made available free of cost to a population of over 17.5 crore across endemic districts. It is imperative that residents in these areas consume the medicines, protecting themselves and their families from this debilitating disease," he said.

Highlighting the importance of achieving high coverage, he underlined, "the endemic districts must ensure that over 90 per cent of the eligible population consume anti-filaria medicines. Our collective commitment and determination will help transform lives and ensure a future free from Lymphatic Filariasis."

He urged the states and UTs to monitor the campaign at a state level to ensure early diagnosis of affected people and also sought personal involvement of the political and administrative leadership at the identified state/district levels for the same.

Aero India IAF metal birds leave audience spellbound on inaugural day

Bengaluru
The metal birds of the Indian Air Force soared with a thunderous roar in the clear sky marking the beginning of the 15th edition of the biennial Aero India 2025 here on Monday.

The audience were left spellbound as the aircraft performed breathtaking manoeuvres in the midair at the Yelahanka Air Force station.

The five-day event is considered one of the biggest such shows in Asia where several countries and firms take part and showcase their products and prowess in the aerospace sector.

Leading the team, Air Chief Marshal A P Singh took part in the first sortie of the event with the Tejas formation. He flew in the com-

bat aircraft Tejas, indigenously developed by the Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL).

The Shakti formation by the women pilots who flew Rafale, demonstrated the increasing role of women in the Indian Air Force.

The audience were awestruck as the Surya Kiran Aerobatic Team (SKAT) of the Indian Air Force (IAF) displayed various formations.

Using the BAE Systems Hawk Mk 132 aircraft, the team flew nine aircraft in close formation.

The SKAT drew a tricolour and a heart pierced by the cupid's arrow.

by the Jaguar aircraft and Trishul formation by the three Sukhoi aircraft.

The HAL's Light Utility Helicopters too impressed the visitors with their aerobatics. These helicopters have been quite helpful for the defence forces deployed in high-altitude locations.

The interesting aspect of this event is that the US combat aircraft Lockheed Martin F35 and Russia's Sukhoi-SU-57 are taking part in the Aero India show together. "For the first time in history, Aero India 2025 will witness the participation of two of the world's most advanced fifth-generation fighter aircraft - the Russian Su-57 and the American F-35 Lightning II," a government statement said.

PM Modi tells students to challenge themselves but not take exam pressure

New Delhi
Prime Minister Narendra Modi interacted with students on a host of issues such as nutrition, mastering pressure and leadership as the eighth edition of his annual 'Pariksha Pe Charcha' was broadcast on Monday.

Modi told students 'gyan' (knowledge) and examinations are two different things. One should not view exams as be-all and end-all in life, he added.

In a lively interaction with students drawn from states and UTs from across the country, the prime minister said students should not be confined and allowed to explore their passions.

He asked students to use their time in a planned way for its effective management.



The prime minister spoke on issues such as 'master your time master your life, live in the moment, finding positives, nourish to flourish', with students quizzing him on different matters.

In a shift from the traditional town hall format, Modi

not compare them with others and instead support them.

The prime minister highlighted the importance of good sleep and stressed that students should not consider that their lives will be spoilt if they do not score high marks.

He said students should handle pressure as batters do in a stadium amid the noise being made by spectators. They focus on the next ball ignoring the demand for boundaries, he said, asking students to focus on their studies and not be pressured by exams.

Modi, however, asked them to challenge themselves and always try to do better than their previous results.

Man kills sister toddler niece over property dispute

Etawah (UP): A man allegedly shot dead his sister and three-year-old niece over a property dispute here, police said on Monday.

The incident took place in the Mahera Chungi locality of the city late on Sunday night when Harshvardhan, son of retired chief medical officer Lavkush Chauhan, fatally shot his sister Jyoti (40) and three-year-old niece Tashu, Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Sanjay Kumar Verma said.

Jyoti was living at her maternal home with her daughter for the past three years, he said.

On hearing the gun shots, the family members rushed to the room and found the mother and daughter lying in a pool of blood, the SSP said.

At the time of the incident, Jyoti's father Lavkush Chauhan was on the first floor, while Jyoti, her husband Rahul, their daughter Tashu and Harshvardhan's wife were on the ground floor.

Rahul told the police that Harshvardhan came to the room with his two sons and fired shots which killed Jyoti and Tashu on the spot, while he somehow managed to escape.

Jyoti got married to Rahul in Lucknow in 2019, and had been living with Chauhan for the past three years to take care of her father. Her husband Rahul used to visit the house frequently, Chauhan told the police.

The problem arose after Chauhan transferred his house and farmland in the name of Jyoti, which made Harshvardhan furious and led to frequent quarrels at home, police said.

Drunk man tries to rape 80-year-old woman in Amethi

Amethi (UP): Uttar Pradesh Police has arrested a man for allegedly trying to rape an 80-year-old woman in a drunken state at a village in the Amethi police station area, officials said on Monday.

According to a complaint lodged by the victim's daughter-in-law, the incident took place on the night of February 7 when the family had gone to attend a wedding, leaving the elderly woman at home.

In their absence, a 24-year-old man from the same village entered the house in an inebriated state, tied the hands and legs of the woman, stuffed a cloth in her mouth, and tried to rape her, the complainant said.

As the neighbours reached the spot after hearing noise from the house, the man fled. Amethi police station SHO Brijesh Singh said that based on the complaint, police have booked the accused under Section 64 (1) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) and taken him into custody.

A detailed probe into the matter is underway, the SHO said.

For Advt Contact 9818799941

Maha Kumbh Large number of devotees head to Kashi Ayodhya after holy dip at Sangam

Prayagraj/Varanasi: Endorsed by challenges, lakhs of devotees thronging the Maha Kumbh for a holy dip at the Sangam are now heading towards Kashi and Ayodhya, officials said.

According to government data, an average of 1.44 crore people are taking a holy bath at the Maha Kumbh every day.

Dr Sushma, who arrived in Prayagraj from Ranchi with her son on Monday, said, "After taking a dip in the Sangam and visiting the fair, we will head to Kashi for Lord Shiva's darshan and later proceed to Ayodhya."

Similarly, 74-year-old Ketari Devi from Ara, Bihar, said, "We saw on TV and mobile that this Maha Kumbh is happening after 144 years. After taking a holy dip, we will visit Kashi. Despite the huge crowd, we hope that we will get his darshan."

Nishant Abhishek, who travelled from Mumbai, added, "We've heard that apart from Prayagraj, Kashi and Ayodhya are also witnessing heavy crowds. But this is a rare opportunity to visit all the three places during Maha Kumbh."



We will also go to Ayodhya.

ACP (Traffic) Shalendra Singh said that a significant number of devotees are heading to devotees Varnasi and Ayodhya after their visit to the Maha Kumbh. ADCP (Traffic) Kuldeep Singh said that compared to the 2019 Kumbh, the crowd this time is much larger even on regular days, leading to frequent traffic congestion.

Due to the heavy rush outside the Prayagraj railway station, the Northern Railway's Lucknow division has temporarily closed it for passenger movement from 1:30 pm on February 9, to midnight on February 14, an official statement said.

However, eight other railway stations in the Maha Kumbh area continue to operate regular and special trains.

As per government figures, over 41 crore devotees have taken a dip at the Triveni Sangam till February 9. On February 10, by 10 am, over 63 lakh devotees had performed the ritual bath.

On key bathing days, the foothall has been record-breaking. On January 13 (Rauha Purnima), it was 1.70 crore while on January 14 (Makar Sankranti) it was 3.50 crore, and 7.64 crore (highest so far) took dip in the Sangam on Mauni Amavasya.

With an average of 1.44 crore people taking a dip daily, authorities are managing an unprecedented surge of pilgrims in the holy city.

In Varnasi, a large number of devotees returning from the

Police file FIR a day after 'beef biryani' on AMU lunch menu triggers row

Aligarh: A day after a notice to serve 'beef biryani' for lunch in the Aligarh Muslim University triggered a row, police on Monday registered an FIR in the matter against three persons, including two students and a chief provost of the varsity, officials said.

The FIR was lodged at the Civil Lines police station against Mohammad Faizullah and Mujassim Ahmad, both students, and F R Gauhara, provost for the Sir Shah Sulaiman Hall where the notice was put up, they said.

The FIR invokes sections 302 (uttering words etc. with deliberate intent to hurt religious feelings), 270 (public nuisance), and 353 (public mischief) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS).

Stating that the Karni Sena has submitted a memorandum in this regard, circle officer Abhay Pandey said, "We have taken the matter seriously and launched a probe."

Karni Sena's Uttar Pradesh chief Gyanendra Singh claimed a message had gone viral on social media announcing a 'beef par-

ty' in the Suleman Hall involving both teachers and students of AMU.

The act has hurt the religious sentiments of the Hindu students in AMU, he claimed, adding that Karni Sena demands strict action against all the accused who should be expelled from the university.

The notice, purportedly issued by two 'authorised' individuals of the Sulaiman Hall, said, "Sunday's lunch menu has been changed, and beef biryani will be served instead of chicken biryani as per demand."

Following an uproar over the notice, the AMU administration on Sunday clarified that it contained a "typing error" and assured that those responsible had been issued a show-cause notice.

Member of AMU's public relations department, Vibha Sharma, said, "The matter was brought to our attention. We found that the notice regarding the food menu. However, it contained a clear typing error. The notice was immediately withdrawn as it had no official signatures, raising doubts about its authenticity."

Manipur 8 of 9 firearms looted from IRB outpost recovered

Imphal:

Security forces have recovered eight of the nine firearms looted from an India Reserve Battalion (IRB) outpost in Manipur's Thoubal district, a police statement said on Monday.

The firearms, including three AKs and five SLRs, were recovered during a search operation in Ngamuk-hong foothills in the district and a hideout of banned outfit Kangleipak Communist Party was also busted in another subsequent operation, it said.

The operations were launched after around 30 armed miscreants equipped with sophisticated weapons, breached one police (IRB) outpost at Kakmayai in Thoubal district (on Saturday night) and overpowered the police personnel deployed at the post," the police statement said.

"The armed miscreants looted nine firearms, including six SLR and 3 AKs, from the outpost and escaped," it said.



Security personnel had managed to detain one of the miscreants, identified as Hijam Ningthem Singh (49) who was later identified as a member of KCP, the statement said.

During further course of investigation search operations at different locations, police on Sunday recovered three AKs and five SLRs out of the nine looted firearms from Ngamuk-hong foothill area, it

said. Further, as a part of follow-up operations, security forces also conducted huge combing operations in Ningel, Malom, Thoubal and Langthel in Thoubal district during which one hideout of KCP was busted in Langthel Chingkhong area.

INSAS and AK cartridges, 11 hand grenades, one 9mm pistol, bullet-proof vests and other articles were recovered from the hideout.

Uttarakhand CM Dhama takes holy dip in Sangam with family

Mahakumbh Nagar/Dehradun:

Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhama on Monday took a holy dip in the Sangam along with his mother, wife and son, and described it as an emotional and divine experience that will forever remain etched in his heart.

"Had the great fortune of taking a dip with my family in the most sacred and holy Triveni Sangam of Mother Ganga, Mother Yamuna and Mother Saraswati during Maha Kumbh-2025," Dhama said in a post in Hindi on X.

Describing it as an "unforgettable moment", Dhama said he gained a unique experience of spiritual purity and divinity after bathing in the holy waters at the confluence of the three ancient rivers.

According to an official statement, Dhama also spoke about the preparations for the 2027 Kumbh in Haridwar, stating that planning is underway to make it as historic and well-organ-



ised as the Maha Kumbh in Prayagraj.

Every possible facility would be provided to ensure a grand and divine experience for the devotees, the chief minister assured.

"Maha Kumbh has been connecting crores of people with religion and culture through the spiritual and cultural importance of Sanatan Dharma, maintaining its integrity for centuries.

"It is not only a symbol of spiritual consciousness but also of nation-

al unity, integrity and universal brotherhood which inspires humanity towards moral values and world welfare," Dhama said.

In a separate post, the chief minister shared the experience of taking his mother for a holy dip in the Sangam, saying he was short of words to describe it.

"Today, I had the good fortune of taking my mother for a dip in the holy waters of Triveni Sangam in Prayagraj. It was one of those

priceless and emotional moments in my life that cannot be put into words. It will forever remain etched my heart," Dhama said.

"It is mentioned in the Vedas, scriptures and Puranas that no living being can ever repay the debt of a mother because she is the first source with which our existence is connected. Mother's love is infinite, her affection is immeasurable, and her blessings are inexhaustible," he added.

Maha Kumbh President Murmu takes holy dip at Sangam

Maha Kumbh Nagar (UP):

President Droupadi Murmu on Monday took a holy dip at the Triveni Sangam, and said the huge gathering of faith and belief at the Maha Kumbh is a living symbol of India's rich cultural heritage.

After the dip in Sangam, Murmu offered a coconut to River Ganga and prayers to the Sun.

Later in a post on X, she said, "Today I had the good fortune of bathing in the holy confluence of Maa Ganga, Yamuna and the stream Saraswati in the divine atmosphere of Prayagraj Maha Kumbh."

The president said the Maha Kumbh gives the message of unity and spirituality to humanity. "This huge gathering of faith and belief is a wonderful and living symbol of India's rich cultural heritage. Maha



Kumbh gives the message of unity and spirituality to humanity. I pray to Maa Ganga that she keeps her blessings on everyone and keeps spreading happiness and peace in everyone's life," she added.

On her way to Sangam, the president fed grains to the migratory Siberian birds flocking the river.

Officials said while going by boat to Sangam Ghat, Chief Minister

Yogi Adityanath told President Murmu that the green coloured water coming from one side was that of the Yamuna river while the yellow coloured water on the other side was that of the Ganga river.

"We are going to the confluence of these two rivers," the chief minister said.

The president also offered prayers at the Akshayvat and Bade Hanuman Temple.

Governor Anandiben Patel and Chief Minister Adityanath earlier received the

President on her arrival in Prayagraj, officials said.

Maha Kumbh, which began on January 13, is the world's largest spiritual and cultural gathering, attracting devotees from across the globe. It will continue until Maharashtra's Chief Minister Eknath Shinde's arrival in Prayagraj on February 26.

Akhilesh flays Adityanath govt over traffic chaos in Prayagraj

Lucknow:

Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav on Monday criticised the Uttar Pradesh government over the severe traffic congestion in Prayagraj, claiming it has led to a shortage of essential commodities and an inconvenienced devotees visiting the Maha Kumbh Mela.

Hitting out at Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, Yadav said no responsible minister or person is seen controlling the situation in Prayagraj.

The chief minister has proved to be a "complete failure", along with this the deputy chief minister while many well-known ministers related to Prayagraj are missing, the SP chief said.

"Due to traffic jam everywhere in Prayagraj, neither food grains, vegetables, spices are avail-

able nor medicines, petrol-diesel. Due to this, the condition of crores of hungry, thirsty, tired and exhausted devotees stuck in Prayagraj and Maha Kumbh premises and on the roads leading to Prayagraj is getting worse every hour. This is a very serious situation," Yadav said in a post on X.

He also posted a video with the post in which people are sharing their experiences and pointing out at the chaos.

"Just like in states, when the constitutional system fails, the command is given to someone else, similarly, seeing the chaos in Maha Kumbh, a capable person should be given the command of governance. Incompetent people can spread false propaganda, not true system," he added.

In another post, the

former chief minister said, "People stuck in traffic jam are imprisoned in their vehicles for hours. There is no place even for women to meet their daily needs. There is no arrangement to take care of those who are faintly hungry and thirsty." Yadav alleged highlighting the situation in Prayagraj.

"There is no arrangement for food and water for constables, class four employees or sanitation workers who are standing day and night faithfully hungry and thirsty." Yadav alleged highlighting the situation in Prayagraj.

B'desh Foreign Affairs Advisor likely to meet EAM Jaishankar in Muscat: Report

Dhaka: Bangladesh Foreign Affairs Adviser Md Touhid Hossain is likely to meet External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on the sidelines of the Indian Ocean Conference in Oman next week as part of efforts to prevent further strains in bilateral ties, according to a media report here on Monday.

The 8th Indian Ocean Conference (IOC 2025) is set to take place in Muscat on February 16-17, organised by the New Delhi-based research institute India Foundation in collaboration with Oman's foreign ministry, the conference serves as a key platform for regional dialogue.

Prothom Alo newspaper reported that the two leaders are scheduled to meet on the sidelines of the conference.

Diplomatic sources indicated on Sunday that Bangladesh may use this meeting to convey a message to prevent further strains in bilateral relations between the two countries.

Last month, the Indian foreign minister extended an invitation to Bangladesh's foreign adviser to participate in the conference, the report said.

If the planned meeting between Hossain and Jaishankar takes place, it will mark their second round of talks in five months.

Third federal judge blocks Trump's birthright citizenship order

CONCORD: A third federal judge on Monday blocked President Donald Trump's executive order ending birthright citizenship for the children of people who are in the U.S. illegally.

The ruling from U.S. District Judge Joseph N. Laplante in New Hampshire comes after two similar rulings by judges in Seattle and Maryland last week.

Laplante, who was nominated by Republican President George W. Bush, said he wasn't persuaded by the Trump administration's defense of the executive order. He said he would issue a longer preliminary injunction later explaining his reasoning.

A lawsuit filed by the American Civil Liberties Union contends that Trump's order violates the Constitution and "attempts to upend one of the most fundamental American constitutional



values." It was brought on behalf of immigrant rights groups with members who are pregnant and whose children could be affected by the order.

Trump's Republican administration asserts that children of non-citizens are not "subject to the jurisdiction" of the United States and therefore are not entitled to citizenship.

The administration is appealing the Seattle

judge's block on Trump's executive order.

At least nine lawsuits have been filed to challenge the birthright citizenship order.

In the case filed by four states in Seattle, U.S. District Judge John C. Coughenour said last week Trump administration was attempting to ignore the Constitution.

"The rule of law is, according to him, some-

thing to navigate around or something ignored, whether that be for political or personal gain," said Coughenour, who was appointed by Republican President Ronald Reagan. "In this courtroom and under my watch the rule of law is a bright beacon, which I intend to follow."

A federal judge in Maryland also blocked Trump's order in another case brought

The ruling from U.S. District Judge Joseph N. Laplante in New Hampshire comes after two similar rulings by judges in Seattle and Maryland last week.

by immigrants' rights groups and pregnant women whose soon-to-be-born children could be affected.

The Trump administration has not yet filed an appeal of the preliminary injunction issued by U.S. District Judge Deborah Boardman, who was appointed by Democratic President Joe Biden.

A federal judge in Boston also heard arguments last week in a suit filed by a group of 18 states. U.S. District Judge Leo Sorokin, who was appointed by Democratic President Barack Obama, did not immediately rule.

Romania president resigns before election re-run

BUCHAREST: Romanian President Klaus Iohannis on Monday announced he would resign following pressure for him to step down ahead of the re-run of an election that was voided over allegations of Russian interference.

Pressure had been growing on pro-European Iohannis, leader of liberals who had said he would remain in office until his successor is elected in May.

Romania's top court decided to cancel the presidential elections in December amid allegations of Russian meddling and after a previously little-known, far-right candidate won a surprise first-round victory.

"In order to spare Romania and the Romanian citizens from crisis... I resign from the office of president of Romania," Iohannis said, adding that he would officially stand down on Wednesday.

MPs on Monday launched a procedure to suspend Iohannis,

following two previous attempts by the opposition to start the process.

"In a few days, the Romanian Parliament will vote on my suspension and Romania will go into crisis.... This whole endeavour will have effects internally and unfortunately also externally," Iohannis said.

Far-right AUR party leader George Simion welcomed Iohannis' resignation.

"It's your (the people's) victory! Now it's time to get back round 2," Simion posted on Facebook.

Last month, tens of thousands of Romanians took to the streets in several protests called by the far-right to protest the vote cancellation, with some demanding for Iohannis to resign.

The far right gained an unprecedented third of the votes in the December parliamentary elections

Senate president and liberal leader, Ilie Bolojan, is expected to replace Iohannis.

23 Indians arrested in Nepal for allegedly running online gambling racket

KATHMANDU: In an operation led by SSP Vishwa Adhikari of the Kathmandu District Police Office, police arrested 23 individuals involved in online gambling during a raid conducted late Sunday night.

The operation, which continued until Monday morning, targeted a house in Ward No. 3 of Budhanilkantha Municipality, where suspects were allegedly running an online gambling (betting) racket. Preliminary investigations



revealed that most of the detainees are Indian nationals.

However, police are still verifying their identities as no official identification documents were found in their possession. The suspects were reportedly operating from the rented house late into the night.

"They don't appear to be highly educated. When questioned, all of them claimed to be Indian citizens. We are working to confirm their identities," said SSP Bishwo Adhikari of the

District Police Office. The suspects had rented a two-story house belonging to Dawa Dorje Sherpa in Budhanilkantha to run their illegal gambling operations. During the raid, police seized 88 mobile phones, 10 laptops, and Rs. 81,000 in cash.

It is unclear how much money was transacted through the mobile phones. Since the operation extended until Monday morning, author-

ities stated that a detailed analysis of the devices would reveal the total amount involved in the betting activities.

Operators Only, Masterminds Still at Large

Initial investigations suggest that the detained individuals were merely operators and not the masterminds behind the scheme. Police are still trying to identify the key planners of the operation.

This is not the first

time Nepali police have cracked down on such activities. Earlier, teams from the Central Investigation Bureau (CIB) and the Kathmandu Valley Crime Investigation Office raided houses involved in online gambling.

Investigations revealed that organized groups were running online scams and cryptocurrency trading schemes. In these cases, transactions exceeding Rs. 6 billion were uncovered.

BUSINESS

Centre Releases Rs 1.11 Lakh Cr Loan to States

New Delhi: The Centre has released about Rs 1.11 lakh crore loan to states during April-January under the scheme for special assistance to states for expenditure, Minister of State for Finance Pankaj Chaudhary said on Monday.

In the 2024-25 Budget, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman hiked the allocations for interest-free loans to states for capital expenditure, enabling states to spend more on infrastructure and specified reforms. The allocation was hiked to Rs 1.5 lakh crore, up from disbursement of Rs 1.10 lakh crore made in 2023-24.

In a written reply in the Lok Sabha, Chaudhary said under the scheme for special assistance to states for capital expenditure, the Centre has approved loans worth Rs 1.22 lakh crore till January 31. Of this, about Rs 1.11 lakh crore has been

released. Chaudhary said out of the total allocation of Rs 1.50 lakh crore, an amount of Rs 55,000 crore under Part-I of the scheme is untied. This amount has been allocated to the states in proportion to their share of central taxes and duties as per the award of the 15th Finance Commission.

The remaining amount of Rs 95,000 crore is inter-alia earmarked for reforms in certain citizen centric areas and taking up sector specific projects like development of iconic tourist centres on global scale, incentive for scrapping of old vehicles; stimulating industrial growth.

According to the data, the top beneficiary states so far in FY24 are Bihar (Rs 11,522 crore), followed by Uttar Pradesh (Rs 10,795 crore), Madhya Pradesh (Rs 10,166 crore), and West Bengal (Rs 9,729 crore).

India Open to Energy Imports, Gas Prices to Fall in 2026: Puri

New Delhi: Union Oil Minister Hardeep Singh Puri on Monday said that India is open to energy imports from all sources at the lowest rates and domestic oil marketing firms are looking for more gas which is expected to cost less in 2026.

Addressing a presser on Indian Energy Week 2025 beginning on Tuesday, Puri allayed fears of impact on energy supplies to India from Russia after US sanctions. "Today we have a situation that we have (increased) from 27 suppliers to 39 suppliers. We added Argentina among others. We are open to import from all sources."

"We issued tenders at the importation. Those tenders are open to any supplier. We buy from the cheapest source possible."

He also informed that domestic (oil marketing firms) companies are looking for more gas.



"We also expect the prices of gas (natural gas) to come down. My reading of the international market is that in 2026 you will begin to see a major increase in the availability of natural gas. We may get more gas from Qatar. Our companies are looking for more gas."

Puri stated that the LPG (liquefied petroleum gas) is more or less saturated in the country and

the idea is to take piped natural gas to every house as it is 30 per cent cheaper.

A top official said that Indian Oil, Bharat Petroleum and GAIL are considering the purchase of LNG (liquefied natural gas) and crude oil from the US.

The top official also stated that domestic firms may sign long-term contracts and may look to

invest in the US (energy projects).

This assumes significance in view of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to the US later this week where discussion on energy is likely on the agenda.

During the presser, Puri also said, "I will be surprised if sourcing of energy from the US does not figure in the discussions (of PM and Trump)."

Action to be taken if gold auction norms violated by banks NBFCs: FM

New Delhi: Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Monday said action will be taken in case there are violations of well laid down processes for auctioning of gold by banks and NBFCs when a borrower fails to pay the gold loan.

During Question Hour in Lok Sabha, she said Non Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs) and Scheduled Commercial Banks (SCBs) are guided by similar rules.

There are very well laid down and tight processes in place for auctioning of gold by NBFCs and banks in case a borrower fails to pay the gold loan. These processes are followed by NBFCs and banks, she told Lok Sabha.

There is a process for giving enough number of notices to bank account holders to say their servicing is not up to the mark. In the eventuality of a borrower not coming back to pay, the bank or NBFC will be forced to go for an auction, the minister said.

Sitharaman stressed that even while going for an auction, there are very well laid out procedures and tight processes.

"... if these processes are violated, indeed it is for us to act on but processes are... followed by the banks... I think if there are specific instances where laid out norms are violated, I am quite willing to take the details and act on it," she said.

India to host global road infrastructure summit and expo on March 6-7

New Delhi: About 300 eminent infrastructure and road safety experts from across the world will be taking part in a Two-day Global Road InfraTech Summit & Expo (GRIS) being organised in New Delhi on March 6-7, 2025 with the theme "Vision Zero: Sustainable InfraTech and Policy for Safer Roads".

The Two-day Global Road InfraTech Summit & Expo (GRIS) the event will showcase and emphasize road safety through improved infrastructure, innovative technology, and effective man-



agement, leading the charge in India's infrastructure and mobility revolution.

"GRIS-2025 being organised by the International Road Federation-India chapter (IRF-IOC) is thoughtfully crafted

and private organizations. The summit through the conference cum expo mode, aims to deliver a holistic experience that educates, inspires, and drives progress in the industry by seamlessly blending the formats," said Mr K K Kapila, President Emeritus, International Road Federation (IRF) a global road safety body working for better and safer roads worldwide.

"The summit with the theme "Vision Zero: Sustainable InfraTech and Policy for Safer Roads" represents a holistic approach to road safety, combining the latest technological advancements with innovative practices to create safer roads for everyone. By prioritizing safety in every aspect of road design, construction, and management, this theme seeks to move towards a future where road accidents become a rarity, ultimately aiming for zero fatalities," said Mr Kapila.

In tune with the Indian Government's thrust to fast track capacity building and connectivity across India, the global Road InfraTech Summit and Expo will focus on development, maintenance and safety aspects that will impact the future of road infrastructure and construction in India.

The expo creates an opportunity that brings together stakeholders from infrastructure companies, highway and road development authorities and organizations, road contractors, road consultants, smart city officials, road government associations and bodies as well as municipal corporations, road safety professionals etc, all under one roof." Said Akhilesh Srivastava, Convener of GRIS.

Some of the subjects that will be discussed at the summit will include Strengthening governing frameworks for safer infrastructure, integrating road safety into urban planning, traffic optimization with intelligent infrastructure, leveraging Intelligent Transport System technologies to enhance public transport and road safety.

Some of the subjects that will be discussed at the summit will include Strengthening governing frameworks for safer infrastructure, integrating road safety into urban planning, traffic optimization with intelligent infrastructure, leveraging Intelligent Transport System technologies to enhance public transport and road safety.

Cricket

KL Rahul coming below Axar Patel raises eyebrows, where does it leave Pant?

New Delhi
Towards the end of the second ODI between India and England in Cuttack, the broadcaster's camera briefly panned to Rishabh Pant sitting in the dug-out, wearing the sleeveless green fluorescent bib which is mandatory for the reserves. On the field, it was KL Rahul batting at No 6, an unusually low position for the man who has been preferred over Pant. Ravi Shastri, who was on air, didn't hold back while talking about what he felt about a specialist top-order batter like Rahul coming in at No.6 instead of bowling all-rounder Axar Patel, who was promoted to No.5 during the first two games.

Many in Indian cricket shared Shastri's sentiments and are also wondering where does it leave an explosive game-changer like Pant if the management remains firm on the left-right combination formula to promote Axar above Rahul. If ends justify the means, then head coach Gautam Gambhir stood vindicated after Axar scored 52 and 41 not out in the first two games even though he came in at a time when India were well on course for victory.

India would be thinking about the composition in the next game and Champions Trophy. There is Rishabh Pant sitting on the bench. There are certain questions to answer," Shastri said on air for host broadcasters Star Sports.

Legend 90 League: Richard Levi, Brendan Taylor fire Dubai Giants to first win

Rajpur
Delhi Royals secured a convincing victory while Dubai Giants also opened their account by defeating Gujarat in the ongoing Legend 90 League here at the Shaheed Veer Narayan Singh International Cricket Stadium.

The first match, which began at 4 PM on Sunday, saw Big Boys opting to bat first after winning the toss. However, they struggled against Delhi Royals' disciplined bowling attack. Despite crucial contributions from Naman Sharma (37) and Amardeep Sonkar (32), the team could only manage 115/6 in the allotted 15 overs, as the rest of the batting lineup failed to provide adequate support, as stated in a release from Legend 90 League.

Chasing a target of 116, Delhi Royals displayed an aggressive approach, putting up a 97-run partnership for the first wicket. Shikhar Dhawan smashed an unbeaten 50 off just 23 balls, hitting five fours and three sixes, while his partner Simmons continued his fine form with a blistering 57 off 29 balls, which included six fours and four sixes.

Dhawan was awarded the Player of the Match for his match-winning half-century. In the bowling department, Delhi's attack was in top form. Anureet Singh took two wickets, while Parvinder Awana, Lakhwinder Singh, Bipul Sharma, and Rajwinder Singh bagged one wicket each.

The second match, which started at 7 PM, saw Dubai Giants facing Gujarat Samp Army.

Dubai won the toss and opted to bowl first, a decision that worked in their favour. Gujarat's innings got off to a shaky start as Isuru Udana dismissed Cameron Delport for a duck in the very first over. However, Chirag Gandhi (48*) and Thirsara Perera (42) steadied the innings, helping Gujarat post a respectable total of 137/4 in 15 overs. However, the target proved insufficient against Dubai's batting firepower.

Dubai, desperate for a win after losing their first two matches, came out with a different intent. Opener and captain Richard Levi provided a solid start with a quickfire 34 at a strike rate of 200. Later, Kithururwan Vithanage (26) and Brendan Taylor (47 off 25 balls) ensured a comfortable 7-wicket victory for Dubai Giants.

Vikas Tokas, who took 2 wickets for 27 runs in 3 overs, was named Player of the Match for his impressive bowling performance.

On Monday, Chhattisgarh Warriors will lock horns with Big Boys while Rajasthan Kings will face Gujarat Samp Army here at the Shaheed Veer Narayan Singh International Cricket Stadium.



Pant's 871 runs at an average of just over 33 in 31 ODIs aren't exactly great numbers but cricket metrics over the years have changed. One also has to look at the kind of impact a player can make during certain passages of play. If Rahul is being seen as someone, who will come to bat after 30th or the 35th over in ODIs, there is every chance that Pant might make more impact than him. Rahul has had four knocks at No. 6 in which his tally is 42 runs off 46 balls. His highest score is 31. Pant has tallied 45 runs in two games. He also faced 46 balls in these two games with 28 being his highest score. Also, one has to wonder whether Rahul's

batting capabilities are being fully utilised at No.6. While Indian bowlers haven't let England off the hook in both ODIs, Rahul the batter, who scored more than 450 runs (452) in the 2023 ODI World Cup at No. 5, is coming at a position which is perhaps not suited to his style of play. "Gautam always looks at the team's requirements and he finds KL suitable at No.6 as it helps him keep left-right combination intact. Now Axar has scored runs at No.5 and it does leave Pant in a tricky place. "It will be tough to slot him in if this is the batting combination they are looking at," a former India player,

who has seen Gambhir's tactical moves from close quarters, said on conditions of anonymity. What has baffled many is how can Rahul, who has given his best at No. 5 and the opening slot in ODIs, be batting below a bowling all-rounder.

"KL has been outstanding at No.5 for India. He scored nearly 1300 runs (1259) and enjoys a strike-rate of near 100 (95.45) with an average close to 60. These are exceptional numbers and why do you want to reinvent the wheel?" aavid former national selector questioned the experiment. But then the counter argument could be that Axar's elevation has yielded tie-decided results. It's another matter that nobody yet knows whether Axar is a good enough candidate to be sent on days when India could be 20 for 3.

So why sent Rahul only in challenging conditions and not allow him to also get some easy runs like Axar? Another former India player, who has worked with Gambhir said that come what may, the former opener will play eight batters irrespective of format. "If you want batting till No. 8, you have got to play multi-skilled players and if Axar is playing then Pant can't play. And Axar will play in these conditions. "Hence not just it is an unfortunate situation for Pant, who is not finding a slot in the side, it is also going to be tough for Rahul as his game isn't suited for four drop," he said.

Jay Shah announces "Donate Organs, Save Lives" initiative ahead

Mumbai
International Cricket Council (ICC) chairman Jay Shah announced the awareness initiative "Donate Organs, Save Lives" ahead of the third ODI between India and England, which will take place at Narendra Modi Stadium in Ahmedabad on Wednesday.

Shah took to his official handle to make the announcement, while also talking about sport's power to "inspire, unite, and create lasting impact beyond the field." He urged everyone to make a step towards giving a "gift of life" to those in need and to "make a difference".

"On the occasion of the 3rd ODI between India and England in Ahmedabad on February 12th, we are proud to launch an awareness initiative - "Donate Organs, Save Lives." Sport has the power to inspire, unite, and create lasting impact beyond the field. Through this initiative, we urge everyone to take a step towards giving the greatest gift of all - the gift of life. One pledge, one decision, can save multiple lives. Let's come together and make a difference! #DonateOrgansSaveLives #INDvENG," posted Shah.

England is currently 2-0 behind in the series and have lost both the T20I and ODI series to India, marking a poor start for head coach Brendon McCullum as the team's white-ball coach with Jos Buttler.

Summarising the match, England won the toss and decided to bat first. Joe Root (69 runs from 72 balls, 6 fours) and Ben Duckett (65 runs from 56 balls, 10 fours) delivered masterful knocks, powering England to 304 in their first innings. Liam Livingstone (41 runs from 32 balls, 2 fours, and 2 sixes) and Jos Buttler (34 runs from 35



balls, 2 fours) also contributed, helping England surpass the 300-run mark. Ravindra Jadeja led the Indian bowling attack with a three-wicket haul in his 10-over spell. During the run chase, Rohit Sharma (119 runs from 90 balls, 12 fours, and 7 sixes) and Shubman Gill (60 runs from 52 balls, 9 fours, and 1 six) gave the hosts a strong start with a 136-run partnership. In the middle order, Shreyas Iyer (44 runs from 47 balls, 3 fours, and 1 six) and Axar Patel (41 runs from 43 balls, 4 fours) played crucial knocks to secure a four-wicket win for India.

England is currently 2-0 behind in the series and have lost both the T20I and ODI series to India, marking a poor start for head coach Brendon McCullum as the team's white-ball coach with Jos Buttler.

balls, 2 fours) also contributed, helping England surpass the 300-run mark. Ravindra Jadeja led the Indian bowling attack with a three-wicket haul in his 10-over spell. During the run chase, Rohit Sharma (119 runs from 90 balls, 12 fours, and 7 sixes) and Shubman Gill (60 runs from 52 balls, 9 fours, and 1 six) gave the hosts a strong start with a 136-run partnership. In the middle order, Shreyas Iyer (44 runs from 47 balls, 3 fours, and 1 six) and Axar Patel (41 runs from 43 balls, 4 fours) played crucial knocks to secure a four-wicket win for India.

Saim Ayub's absence will be "massive gap to fill" for Pakistan in CT: Ponting

Mumbai
Former cricketer Ricky Ponting on Monday opened up on star Pakistan batter Saim Ayub's absence from the Champions Trophy 2025 squad and said that the 22-year-old's place will be a "massive gap to fill" for the Men in Green.

The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) on Friday confirmed the omission of opener Saim Ayub from the upcoming Champions Trophy 2025. The tournament will be played in Pakistan and the United Arab Emirates.

Saim Ayub has been ruled out of games for the next two weeks as he is still recovering from his injury in England, as per the ICC.

While Ayub will miss Pakistan's ICC Champions Trophy defence at home, he has not yet been ruled out of the white-ball tour of New Zealand in March. Speaking at The ICC Review, Ponting showered praise on Ayub and called him a "high-quality" cricketer.

"Saim Ayub is a high-quality player,



and his absence is a massive gap to fill," Ponting was quoted by ICC as saying. Ayub made his ODI debut in 2024 against Australia, following that he has played nine 50-over matches and scored 515 runs at a strike rate of 105.53. The young batter slammed three centuries

Can Rohit Sharma deliver consistently? Sanjay Manjrekar weighs in on possibility

New Delhi
Former cricketer-turned-commentator Sanjay Manjrekar weighed in on India captain Rohit Sharma's proficiency in performing consistently as he did in 2019.

In 2019, Manjrekar was full of questions about his future, Rohit silenced his doubters and critics with a record-breaking century in the second ODI against England in Cuttack on Sunday.

After the swashbuckling display that left the spectators mesmerised, Manjrekar was quick to point out the amount of energy that knock consumed, considering the demanding nature of 50-over cricket. "You could see it took a lot out of him that inning. Fifty overs cricket can be physically very demanding for bowlers, fielders, and batters. Virat Kohli knows how physically draining it can be, and that is why his fitness level has allowed him to still get those hundreds by running the ones and twos," Manjrekar said on ESPNcricinfo.

He blended his power and endurance to perfection on his way to 119 off 90 deliveries. For his 32nd ODI century, Rohit adopted a different policy. Instead of going all guns blazing from the first ball, he fended off a couple of deliveries before unleashing his scorching attack.

Rohit's approach wasn't the one that he used to cause menace in the 2019 ODI World Cup. He was a class apart from the rest of his rivals and ended the tournament with 648 runs in nine matches.

Out of his nine appearances, Rohit hammered a century five times and a five so fifty, at a stunning average of 81.00 while striking at 98.33. Consis-



tency was the key to Rohit's success in 2019, and Manjrekar isn't sure about the Indian skipper replicating it in 2025.

"Rohit Sharma had a different template where he didn't have to run too much. It was amazing how he got his second double hundred. But at this stage of his career, when you watched him go through the whole process and get that big hundred, he wanted it. Whether he can do it day in and day out like he did in 2019, we will have to wait and see. I have my doubts. But both versions of Rohit Sharma 2019 and 2023 are excellent for Indian cricket," he said. Manjrekar went on to emphasise

the value of Rohit's knock on a personal and team aspect. According to the 59-year-old, Rohit's 119 was for the team's cause but it held much more value to him at a personal level.

"He wasn't just attacking or looking to give India a flyer as he did in the World Cup. But still, when he decides to pace his innings, it is incredible how easily he does it. He was very selective in the way he played his shots. I have a feeling maybe in the next match, he will play again the way he thought was the best for the team, but this one was more for himself. Obviously, he wanted the team to win, but this is the one he will say is for me," he added.

Ayub made his ODI debut in 2024 against Australia, following that he has played nine 50-over matches and scored 515 runs at a strike rate of 105.53. The young batter slammed three centuries and one half-century.

is very, very good. Led by Shaheen Afridi and Naseem Shah, who've been terrific in recent series, they have the pace and skill to trouble any batting lineup. Babar has been a bit up and down in recent years, but if the and Rizwan can bring their A-games, that's where Pakistan becomes incredibly dangerous," he added.

The Men in Green won the last



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

This India veteran feels Pakistan would reach Champions Trophy semis

Dubai

Armed with a fearsome pace attack and playing in home conditions, hosts Pakistan could be a force to reckon with in the Champions Trophy even though they will miss opener Saim Ayub, reckons former India coach Ravi Shastri. Defending champions Pakistan head into the Champions Trophy riding high on three consecutive ODI series victories over South Africa, Zimbabwe and Australia. "I think Pakistan are the kind of side that, with the exposure they've had in the last six to eight months in white-ball cricket, have put up some really strong performances, especially in South Africa," Shastri said The ICC Review.

Despite the absence of the injured Ayub, who has become a vital cog in the Pakistan side, Shastri remains confident in the team's depth. "They've missed Ayub at the top, and he's a crucial player. But Pakistan have enough depth to be dangerous, especially in home conditions. I would say they should qualify for the semi-finals and from there, it's anyone's game." Shastri is certain that, should Pakistan make it to the knockout stages, they will be a formidable threat to any team.

"Pakistan are still very, very dangerous, and if they qualify, they'll be doubly more dangerous." Echoing Shastri's thoughts, Australian legend Ricky Ponting focused on Pakistan's lethal pace attack that includes Shaheen Afridi, Naseem Shah, Haris Rauf, Mohammad Hasnain. "I agree with Ravi. Saim Ayub is a high-quality player, and his absence is a massive gap to fill,"



Ponting said. "But Pakistan's fast bowling brigade is very, very good. Led by Shaheen Afridi and Naseem Shah, who've been terrific in recent series, they have the pace and skill to trouble any batting line-up.

Since returning from South Africa, where he notched three consecutive fifties, former skipper Babar Azam's form has dipped. Ponting said his form will be crucial for Pakistan. "Babar has been a bit up and down in recent years, but if he and (Mohammad) Rizwan can bring their A-games, that's where Pakistan becomes incredibly dangerous," Ponting said. "They've still got enough high-quality players to beat any team on any given day. If they play well, they'll be right in it."

Ponting also acknowledged the added dimension that playing in front of a home crowd can bring. "The pressure of playing at home can work both ways. It can be a real motivator, especially with the home crowd behind you. That support can sometimes help you cross the line in big moments," Ponting said.

Champions Trophy event held in 2007. This time, Pakistan are hosting this 2025 edition, along with the UAE.

Mohammad Rizwan will lead the team, having done so since Babar Azam stepped down from the role after the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup in 2023. This is the first 50-over ICC tournament since then.

Pakistan will kick off their voyage in the Champions Trophy 2025 on February 19, when they take on New Zealand in Karachi. The Men in Green's second group stage match will be against India in Dubai on February 23. Rawalpindi will host Rizwan-led Pakistan's final group match against Bangladesh.

Pakistan squad: Mohammad Rizwan (c), Babar Azam, Fakhar Zaman, Kamran Ghulam, Saud Shakeel, Tayyab Tahir, Faheem Ashraf, Khushdil Shah, Salman Ali Agha, Usman Khan, Abrar Ahmed, Haris Rauf, Mohammad Hasnain, Naseem Shah, Shaheen Shah Afridi.

Dev Meena shatters pole vault record on way to winning gold in National Games

Dehradun
Dev Kumar Meena switched from 400m to pole vault just three years ago and he now appears to be in a big hurry to make up for the lost time. The 19-year-old from Madhya Pradesh broke the pole vault National record, raising it by one centimetre to 5.32m, while retaining the National Games gold medal at the Ganga Stadium on Monday. It was the first National record in athletics at the ongoing edition. In the process, he also improved his personal best by 12cm.

After sailing over Tamil Nadu's S. Siva's National record, Dev became a bit ambitious. He went for 5.40m next but kept kicking the bar down every time.

"It was my new Cuban coach Angel Garcia Esteban's decision to go for 5.40," he said. Ghanshyam Yadav has been coaching him for the last few years at the MP athletics academy and Esteban, a former Cuban National champion, will begin working on the youngster soon.

Meanwhile, Asian and Asian Games champion, Tajinderpal Singh Toor comfortably won the men's shot put gold with an opening effort of 19.74m.



"I've recovered from the injury which had been troubling me and I will begin focusing on the Worlds this year," said the Olympian, a former Asian record holder, who holds the National record (21.77m).

There was a big surprise in the women's hammer throw where UP's Anuksha Yadav improved her personal best by more than six metres as she broke the Games record and beat record-holder Tanya Chaudhary for

the gold. In women's triple jump, Punjab's Niharika Vashisht won her maiden gold in a National competition, shocking defending champion X.V. Sheena and another leading name, Poorva Sawant.

After rare loss, Gukesh eyes comeback against Caruana

Hamburg (Germany)
World champion D Gukesh will have his task cut out as he looks to stage a comeback against Fabiano Caruana of the USA in the Freestyle Grand Slam chess tournament here.

Gukesh suffered a rare setback in normal time control on Sunday, losing to Caruana in the first game of the quarterfinals.

The Indian is now under pressure to perform with his black pieces and draw level with Caruana who has been dreaming to be a world champion for a few years now.

The freestyle chess is built around 960 random positions shifting the initial position of the pieces from the base rank while the pawns remain intact.

The legendary Bobby Fischer was the first to advocate freestyle chess, and given the support the new format has received, it could well be the future of the sport.

Gukesh will have to fight hard, as his opening choices have come under scrutiny already while a whole new repertoire needs to be built. Caruana was almost staring at a defeat in the opening game of the quarters but will be looking at the return game with a lot of enthusiasm.

In the first game of the quarters, Gukesh was at the top of his game for



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



the major part, improving when it was necessary but the Indian failed to find a queen sacrifice in the latter stages of the middle game, and that cost him dearly.

As it happened in the game, Caruana was quick to take charge of the situation and did not give anything back. Meanwhile, Magnus Carlsen, the main protagonist behind the tour, continued from where he left and scored a fine win over Nodirbek Abdusattorov of Uzbekistan.

Alireza Firouzja of France lost to Vincent Keymer of Germany in the opener, and the irony is that the latter was chosen to be his first round opponent by the winner of the qualifier event.

In the other game of the quarters, Javokhir Sindarov of Uzbekistan played out a draw with Hikaru Nakamura while in the inconsequential ninth place decider, American Levon Aronian finally won his first game at the expense of Vladimir Fedoseev of Slovenia.

German Women's Hockey Team arrives in Bhubaneswar ahead of FIH Pro League

Germany finished runners-up in last season's Pro League behind the Netherlands, but they have struggled for form this year. With only two draws from four matches, they currently sit seventh in the standings with three points.

Bhubaneswar (Odisha)
The German Women's Hockey Team arrived at Biju Patnaik International Airport, Bhubaneswar on Monday ahead of their FIH Hockey Pro League 2024/25 fixtures in India, a release from Hockey India stated.

Led by Co-Captains Linnea Wiedemann and Sarah Strauss, Germany will take on Spain on 15 and 16 February before facing hosts India on 21 and 22 February.

Germany finished runners-up in last season's Pro League behind the Netherlands, but they have struggled for form this year. With only two draws from four matches, they currently sit seventh in the standings with three points.

Having conceded 13 goals already, they will be looking to tighten their defence ahead of the crucial upcoming games.

Speaking upon arrival, Co-Captain Wiedemann said that they are looking forward to playing at the Kalinga Stadium.

"The Kalinga Stadium always has an incredible atmosphere, and we are looking forward to playing here. We know facing India in front of their home crowd will be tough, but we will focus on our performance and give our best," Wiedemann was quoted in a release from Hockey India as saying.

Echoing her teammate's thoughts, Co-Captain Strauss added, "I feel great coming back to Bhubaneswar. We played here three years ago, and it was a wonderful experience. Some experienced players have returned from their post-Olympics break, giving us a fresh squad. We are focusing on team cohesion and looking to secure valuable points."

Earlier in the day, Both the Men's and Women's teams of Spain arrived together at the Biju Patnaik International Airport in Bhubaneswar, Odisha on Monday as they gear up for the FIH Hockey Pro League 2024/25 matches in India.

West Bengal, Maharashtra enter final of women's team TT event



Dehradun
Heavyweights West Bengal and Maharashtra set up a bumper title clash in the women's table tennis team event at the 38th National Games after registering convincing wins in their respective semifinals here on Monday.

Maharashtra blanked Haryana 3-0 in the first semifinal and West Bengal crushed Delhi by a similar margin in their last four clash.

Diya Parag Chitale opened Maharashtra's account with a hard-fought 3-1 (11-3 12-14 1-8 12-10) win over Haryana's Sneha Bhowmik in the first singles match.

Swastika Ghosh notched a comfortable 3-0 (11-6 11-2 11-9) win over Prithoki Chakraborty to give Maha-

raashtra a 2-0 lead in the contest. Tamesha Sanjay Kotecha then sealed the first semifinal in her team's favour with a 3-1 (11-6 7-11 11-7 11-3) victory over Sreedatri Roy.

In the second semifinal, India player Ayhika Mukherjee began the proceedings on a positive note for Bengal, winning her match 3-1 (11-6 11-5 6-11 11-6) against Lakshita Narang.

Stiritha Mukherjee, who is also an India player and won medals in international tournaments like Ayhika, extended Bengal's lead with a 3-0 (11-8 13-11 11-6) sweep of Vanshika Bhargava.

Poymantee Baisya completed the task for her side with a 3-0 (12-10 11-5 11-6) win over Vanshika Mudgal.

Legend 90 League: Richard Levi, Brendan Taylor fire Dubai Giants to first win

Raipur
Delhi Royals secured a convincing victory while Dubai Giants also opened their account by defeating Gujarat in the ongoing Legend 90 League here at the Shaheed Veer Narayan Singh International Cricket Stadium.

The first match, which began at 4 PM on Sunday, saw Big Boys opting to bat first after winning the toss. However, they struggled against Delhi Royals' disciplined bowling attack.

Despite crucial contributions from Naman Sharma (37) and Amardeep Sonkar (32), the team could only manage 115/6 in the allotted 15 overs, as the rest of the batting lineup failed to provide adequate support, as stated in a release from Legend 90 League.

Chasing a target of 116, Delhi Royals displayed an aggressive approach, putting up a 97-run partnership for the first wicket. Shikhar Dhawan smashed an unbeaten 50 off just 23 balls, hitting five fours and three sixes, while his partner Simmons continued his fine form with a blistering 57 off 29 balls, which included six fours and four sixes.

Dhawan was awarded the Player of the Match for his match-winning half-century. In the bowling department, Delhi's attack was in top form. Anureet Singh took two wickets, while Parvinder Awana, Lakhwinder Singh, Bipul Sharma, and Rajwinder



Singh bagged one wicket each.

The second match, which started at 7 PM, saw Dubai Giants facing Gujarat Samp Army.

Dubai won the toss and opted to bowl first, a decision that worked in their favour. Gujarat's innings got off to a shaky start as Isuru Udana dismissed Cameron Delport for a duck in the very first over. However, Chirag Gandhi (48*) and Thisara Perera (42) steadied the innings, helping Gujarat post a respectable total of 137/4 in 15 overs. However, the target proved insufficient against Dubai's batting firepower.

Dubai, desperate for a win after losing their first two matches, came

out with a different intent. Opener and captain Richard Levi provided a solid start with a quickfire 34 at a strike rate of 200. Later, Kithuruwan Vithanage (26) and Brendan Taylor (47 off 25 balls) ensured a comfortable 7-wicket victory for Dubai Giants.

Vikas Tokas, who took 2 wickets for 27 runs in 3 overs, was named Player of the Match for his impressive bowling performance.

On Monday, Chhattisgarh Warriors will lock horns with Big Boys while Rajasthan Kings will face Gujarat Samp Army here at the Shaheed Veer Narayan Singh International Cricket Stadium.

Carlos Alcaraz expresses happiness following maiden indoor title win at Rotterdam

Rotterdam
Spanish tennis sensation Carlos Alcaraz expressed happiness after securing the Rotterdam Open singles title, which is his first-ever indoor tour-level title.

After 16 tour-level titles and four Grand Slams, Alcaraz's chase for a maiden indoor tour-level title came to an end on Sunday as he defeated Alex de Minaur in the summit clash 6-4, 3-6, 6-2. He became the first-ever Spanish to win the title in its 52-year-old history.

Taking to Instagram, Alcaraz wrote, "It means so much to me to win in Rotterdam! It has been a very special week! Thank you for the support from day one! Congratulations @alexde Minaur for the tournament and a tremendous battle today in the final!"

De Minaur made Alcaraz play a third decider set, but the 21-year-old kept his rhythm intact to get his 17th tour-level title in a match that lasted one hour and 54 minutes.

Following the match, as quoted by ATP's official website, Alcaaz said to his team after the win, "This week has been a really good week all together. Putting in really good work. Coming



here not feeling 100 per cent well with the cold but after every day I am feeling better and better. Rotterdam has been a really special week for me. I was going to say not only for the title... yeah for the title as well, but for the support that I received here since the first day."

"It was the first time that I was playing here and you made it like I have been playing this tournament for a long time," he added. Alcaraz had become the first player

to secure ATP 500 titles on clay, grass and hard courts and now has an indoor title finally. He has improved his record in tournament finals to 17-5. He also moved to 3-0 in the ATP head-to-head battle with De Minaur.

Alcaraz started his season with a quarterfinal finish in the Australian Open, losing to Novak Djokovic, but now has something to cheer about as it is his first trophy since beating Jannik Sinner at the Beijing Open last October.

Super Bowl: Philadelphia Eagles' deny Kansas City Chiefs hat-trick of titles

New Orleans
Philadelphia Eagles secured a memorable 40-22 win over the Kansas City Chiefs at the Super Bowl LIX on Sunday at New Orleans.

Eagles denied Chiefs' the record of becoming the first team ever to secure three successive Super Bowl titles and won their second title after 2017.

The dominant defence of Eagles held star player Patrick Mahomes and the two-time defending champions to 23 yards in the first half and secured a 24-point lead at half-time, before wrapping up the contest in their favour with an 18-point win.

Eagles quarterback Jalen Hurts, whose phone screen saver for the past two years had been a picture of him walking off defeated after the Super Bowl 2022 edition, had a redemption to remember as he was named the "Super Bowl MVP", throwing for 221 yards, rushing for 72 and making a total of three touchdowns.

After the match, Eagles coach Nick Sirianni was holding the Lombardi Trophy awarded to the winning team proudly.

"This is the ultimate team game. You can't be great without the greatness of others. Great performance by everybody -- offence, defence, special teams.

We did not really ever care what anyone thought about how we won, or their opinions. All we want to do is win," said the coach as quoted by ESPN.

Hurts, who was named as the MVP, said, "Defense wins the championship. We saw how they played today. We saw the difference they made in the game. They gave us opportunities, gave us short fields. And we are able to do what we do."

"The offence was able to score points and take advantage of opportunities, just enough to put points on the board, and the defence, the defence, they played how they played all year. I truly believe offence wins games and defence wins championships."

"Things come right on time. The last time around, it was not our time, it was not my time. Sometimes you have to accept that you have to wait your turn... As great as the performance was, it was not enough to win. Going through those emotions and processing those things, that experience, lit a great flame in me and enhanced my desire to win. It is, it is," he stated to say, sounding choked up. It has been a very unprecedented journey. The journey, it is always the beginning until it is the end, and I think you, it means a lot," he signed off.

“It is dedicated to faith”: Sudipto Sen on his film ‘Charak’

Mumbai
 Film director Sudipto Sen, who is known for his directorial projects like ‘The Kerala Story’ and ‘Bastar: The Naxal Story’, talked about his film ‘Charak: Fair of Faith’, which challenges the notions of faith and superstitions.



He said, “Faith is such a thing which forces a common man to do unusual work. It leads to creation as well as destruction at certain times. For me, faith is a dangerous business as it takes us away from logic and makes us victims of faith. Humne is film mein Vishwas word ko question kiya hai.”

So, I thought this is time to talk about superstition and thus it is dedicated to faith.”

For the director, cinema is not just meant for entertainment but also for spreading social message and it has played the role of transform-

ing society. Thus he is taking the film to the Berlin International Film Festival. “I want this film to reach the global audience and that is why taking it to Berlin as I want to see the response of the audience worldwide.”

The film stars Anjali Patil, Sahidur Rahaman, Subrat Dutta, Shashi Bhushan, Sreya Bhattacharya, Nalnees Neel, Koushik Kar, Sushmita Sur, Debidas Ghosh, Shankhdeep and Shounak Shyamal.

Don’t have a plan, just want to go with the flow: Actor Shreya Chaudhry

Mumbai
 Actor Shreya Chaudhry, best known for web series ‘Bandish Bandits’, says she doesn’t want to follow a conventional career path and is confident that right projects will continue to come her way.

The actor, whose credits include the ‘Commando’ series and the short film ‘Conditions Apply’, can be currently seen in the Prime Video film ‘The Mehta Boys’.

“I love watching big-ticket masala films but I’ve also grown up watching international and regional cinema like Telugu, Malayalam, Marathi Thai or Italian films. As an actor I want to do anything and everything. I don’t have a plan; I just want to go with the flow.”

“I feel lucky that I got to be part of projects like ‘Bandish Bandits’ and ‘The Mehta Boys’. I want to con-

tinued to work with people who are passionate about cinema,” Chaudhry said.

The actor said her career took a turn after the success of ‘Bandish Bandits’, also streaming on Prime Video. “I feel heard and seen as an actor post ‘Bandish Bandits’. It is a big deal for me. I want to be part of well-written stories, play characters in which I can dig my teeth, and work with some great people. I want to continue to be part of projects that excite me. It feels good to receive love for your work. It’s going to be onward and upward from here on,” she added.

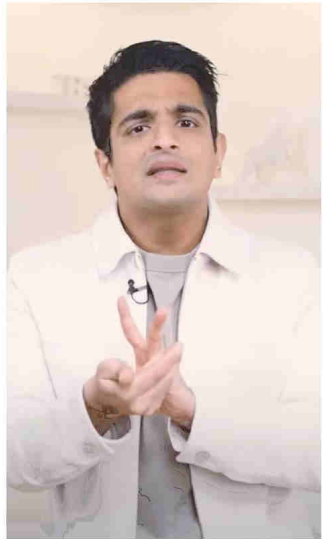
The first season of ‘Ban-

dish Bandits’, which was released in 2020 and also starred veteran actor Naseeruddin Shah, garnered an overwhelming

“I feel lucky that I got to be part of projects like ‘Bandish Bandits’ and ‘The Mehta Boys’. I want to continue to work with people who are passionate about cinema,” Chaudhry said.

response. The second chapter was released in December and opened to mixed reviews.

Chaudhry, who plays Zara in Boman Irani’s directorial debut feature ‘The Mehta Boys’, said she landed the film organically.



Facing huge backlash, Ranveer Allahbadia apologises

Mumbai
 YouTuber and podcaster Ranveer Allahbadia also known as BeerBiceps on Monday apologized for his “inappropriate” remarks that were made in an “insensitive” manner during the YouTube episode of the show ‘India’s Got Latent’ for which he received massive backlash.

Allahbadia shared a one-minute video on his X account apologising for his comments on the show. “I shouldn’t have said what I said on India’s got latent. I’m sorry,” he wrote.

A formal complaint was filed against Allahbadia, social media influencer Apoorva Makhija, comedian Samay Raina, and the organisers of the show ‘India’s Got Latent’ after alleged controversial and offensive remarks made on the show.

Allahbadia issued an apology in a video that he shared on his X account hours after facing backlash saying that

“comedy is not his forte” and that “it wasn’t cool.”

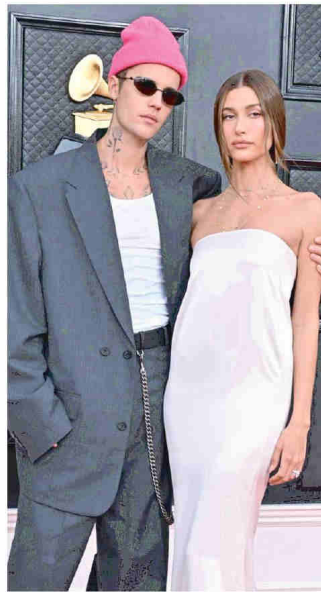
Admitting that his comments were “inappropriate,” the podcaster said, “My comment wasn’t just inappropriate, it wasn’t even funny. Comedy is not my forte, I am just here to say sorry.”

“Obviously, this is not how I wish to use it. I am not going to give any context, justification, or reasoning behind what happened. I am just here for an apology. I personally had a lapse in judgment. It wasn’t cool on my part,” he added.

He also addressed concerns about his influence on younger audiences, saying, “The podcast is watched by people of all ages. I don’t want to be the kind of person who takes that responsibility lightly. Family is the last thing that I would ever disrespect. I need to use this platform better. That has been my learning from this whole experience.”

I promise to get just better,” he said.

Justin Bieber silences divorce rumours with Hailey



Washington
 Canadian pop sensation Justin Bieber has put to rest swirling rumours about his marriage to model Hailey Bieber with a heartfelt Instagram post that showcases the couple enjoying a cosy dinner date together.

In a series of pictures shared on his social media, Justin and Hailey are seen laughing and relishing their time together, dispelling any concerns regarding their relationship.

The photos, which feature the couple in a candid moment, have reassured fans about the strength of their bond, especially after recent speculation about their marriage.

Other photos in the series hinted at Justin’s ongoing music projects, with some glimpses of what could potentially be new music in the works.

Hailey, who is no stranger to being in the public eye, showed her support by liking the post, further fueling the

message that their relationship remains strong and unshaken by external speculation.

For a while now, the 30-year-old artist has been at the centre of numerous headlines not related to his music career, but rather his personal life.

One of the most prominent subjects of discussion has been his marriage to Hailey Bieber, particularly after the couple faced a wave of divorce rumours that left fans concerned.

Recently, Justin Bieber addressed the issue directly, denying any involvement in the decision to unfollow Hailey on Instagram.

The pop star took to his Instagram Stories to clarify that his account had been tampered with, explaining, “Someone went on my account and unfollowed my wife.”

This post came after fans noticed the couple had briefly unfollowed each other on the platform, sparking speculation about their relationship.

Marvel’s ‘Thunderbolts’ new action-packed trailer released, to hit theatres on May 2

Washington
 The much-awaited trailer of Marvel Entertainment’s ‘Thunderbolts’ was released on the night of one of the biggest sporting events in the world—the Super Bowl on Sunday (Monday morning in India).

‘Thunderbolts’ is directed by Jake Schreier and stars an ensemble cast featuring Florence Pugh, Sebastian Stan, David Harbour, Wyatt Russell, Olga Kurylenko and Lewis Pullman in the lead roles.

The film is slated to hit theatres on May 2.

As per the trailer, the film follows the story of a few



misfits who are hired by Sebastian Stan (Winter Soldier) and are tasked with protecting the city in the absence of the Avengers. The video clip also fea-

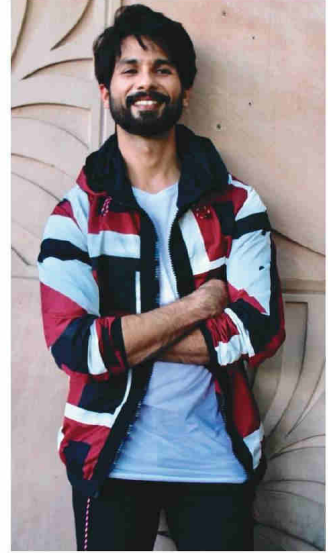
packed scenes and funny jokes, checking the compulsory notes for a Marvel-worthy movie.

The trailer begins with a court hearing in which actress Julia Louis-Dreyfus explains to the jury the importance of a protective unit in America as the ‘Avengers’ won’t be returning to protect them anymore.

It is followed by Sebastian Stan recruiting iconic Marvel characters—Yelena, Red Guardian, Ghost, Taskmaster and a US Agent.

‘Thunderbolts’ experienced delays due to the writers’ and actors’ strikes last year, resulting in a revised release date.

Shahid Kapoor’s ‘Teri Baaton Mein Aisa Uljha Jiya’ clocks one year



Mumbai
 s the film ‘Teri Baaton Mein Aisa Uljha Jiya’ starring Shahid Kapoor and Kriti Sanon marked a year of its release the lead actor shared a series of unseen behind-the-scenes footage during making of the film.

Taking to his Instagram handle on Sunday, Shahid shared a series of photos and videos which featured his candid moments with veteran actor Dharmendra who also played a prominent role in the film.

‘Teri Baaton Mein Aisa Uljha Jiya’ was written and directed by first-time film-

makers Amit Joshi and Aradhana Sah.

In one of the photos, the ‘Kabir Singh’ actor was seen hugging Dharmendra during the shoot of a scene. In another video, the behind-the-scenes footage of the title song ‘Teri Baaton Mein Aisa Uljha Jiya’ featured the fun moments between Kriti and Shahid. In one of the monochrome photos, the lead actors—Shahid and Kriti were seen posing for the camera which also signified their cute chemistry on the sets as seen in the film.

“TB to MAUJ ke din. #1YearAnniversary” wrote Shahid while posting photos and videos on Instagram.