



Cyber Cell summons Ranveer Allahbadia over 'India's Got Latent' row



"Lot of anxieties in some parts of the world," EAM Jaishankar

Williamson signs with Middlesex, to represent club in T20 Blast, County Championship

FILM

PAGE-12 WORLD

PAGE-9 CRICKET

PAGE-10

3 DELHI
 'If it is Lt Guv has to do everything, impose President's Rule': AAP
 Gopal Rai



7 NATIONAL
 SC notice to UP authorities on contempt petition over razing mosque in Kushinagar

8 STATE
 530 million devotees have taken holy dip in Triveni Sangam so far: Yogi



9 BUSINESS
 Skill Ministry & Intel Partner to Empower Young Innovators

11 SPORTS
 Indian Women's Hockey Team aims to return to winning ways

MARKET	
SENSEX	NIFTY
75996.86	22959.50
57.65	30.25
GOLD	SILVER
85,057.00	95,502.00
370.00	-84.00

WEATHER	
Sunrise	6:58 AM
Sunset	6:14 PM
Moonrise	11:27 PM
Moonset	10:19 AM
Today's Prediction	
Maximum	25°C
Minimum	12°C
Tomorrow's Prediction	
27°C	15°C

Gyanesh Kumar likely to be new CEC, PM-led panel clears name

A 1988-batch IAS officer from Kerala cadre, Kumar is the senior-most Election Commissioner

New Delhi
 Gyanesh Kumar, who was appointed the Election Commissioner in March 2024, is likely to succeed Rajiv Kumar as the new Chief Election Commissioner.

Sources privy to developments said the name of Kumar, considered close to Union Home Minister Amit Shah, was cleared by the Selection Committee for the CEC led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and consisting of Shah and Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi.

A 1988-batch IAS officer from the Kerala cadre, Kumar is the senior-most Election Commissioner, the other being S.S. Sandhu, who was also appointed in March 2024.

The final appointment would be subject to notification which is expected any time now. Rajiv Kumar demits office on February 18.

Importantly, once confirmed, Gyanesh Kumar will be the first appointment of CEC under



the new CEC and Other Election Commissioners Bill, 2023, which came into force in December 2023 and is currently facing a legal challenge in the Supreme Court.

The apex court is to hear the case on February 19, with Rahul Gandhi attending the Selection Committee meeting today only to demand that the same be postponed for two to three weeks to enable the top court to hear the case.

The Supreme Court is set to hear petitions that have challenged the CEC and Other Election Com-

missioners Bill, 2023, on grounds that the Selection Committee is biased in the Executive's favour with the three members comprising the Prime Minister, a Union Minister named by the government and the Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha.

The Congress, later articulating the party's stand on the issue, said the government did not need to operate on ego and could have postponed the meeting for a few weeks and waited for the Supreme Court judgment.

Congress leader Abhishek Singhvi said the party demanded that the Centre file an early hearing and disposal application in the case before the Supreme Court.

The Supreme Court had on March 2, 2023, passed a judgment saying it was important for a level-playing field that the committee to select the CEC and Election Commissioners should have the Prime Minister, Chief Justice of India and Leader of Opposition, Agency

Sam Pitroda's remark on 'India-China' stokes row



New Delhi
 The Bharatiya Janata Party on Monday cited Indian Overseas Congress leader Sam Pitroda's reported comments downplayed Chinese threat to India to target the opposition party, claiming that his remarks are in line with his leaders' statements in support of China.

Addressing a press conference, BJP spokesperson Sudhanshu Trivedi claimed that what Pitroda has said symbolises the mindset of the Congress.

He has openly acknowledged the Congress agreement with the China's ruling party, the BJP leader said.

Pitroda was reported to have said that he does not understand the threat India faces from China, claiming that it is often blown out of proportion.

It is a blow to India's

HIGHLIGHT
 Sam Pitroda was reported to have said that he does not understand the threat India faces from China, claiming that it is often blown out of proportion.

prestige, Trivedi said, claiming it appears from his comments that as if India is the aggressor.

The BJP spokesperson and Rajya Sabha MP also took up the issue of funding from the US-based ground into India for "voter turnout" and the ruling party's allegation against Congress MP Gaurav Gogoi for links to Pakistan to hit out at the opposition party.

Asserting that there is no escape route for the Congress now, he said the opposition party must come out with a clarification. Agency

SC puts off pleas on Places of Worship Act to April

New Delhi
 The Supreme Court on Monday adjourned for April the hearing of pleas filed challenging the validity of Places of Worship (Special Provisions) Act 1991, which preserves the character of religious places as they existed on August 15, 1947.

A bench of Chief Justice of India Sanjay Khanna and Justice PV Sanjay Kumar posted the matter for hearing in the week commencing April 1.

CJI Khanna, who was sitting in a two-judge combination for the day, said that the matter requires a three-judge bench and also expressed concern over the growing petitions and applications related to the Act.

In the morning, the bench said, "It won't be taken today. It's a three-judge bench matter. We are in a two-judge bench combination today."



CJI Khanna remarked that the case would be heard "sometime in March".

The CJI also took exception to many intervention applications being filed in the case and also similar writ petitions either challenging the impugned Act or seeking implementation of the Act and said there should be a limit to such applications.

Later in the day, the bench then passed a short order clarifying that all fresh petitions in the case would stand dismissed but these petitioners would have the liberty to file applications raising new grounds in the pending matter.

Indian National Congress Party, CPI(ML), All India Majlis-e-Ittehad-ul-Muslimeen (AIMIM) head Asaduddin Owaisi, Jamiat Ulama-I-Hind, India Muslim Personal Law Board, Committee of Management Anjuman Intezamia Masjid which manages the mosque in the Gyanvapi complex, Shahi Idgah mosque committee of Mathura -- among others filed applications in the top court against the petitions challenging the validity of certain provisions of a 1991 law.

CONTD ON PAGE-2

SC reinstates Solan mayor, terms her disqualification 'political goondaism'

New Delhi
 The Supreme Court on Monday reinstated Solan Mayor Usha Sharma in her post for the remainder of her tenure, saying her disqualification was a case of "political goondaism".

The matter was heard by a bench comprising justices Surya Kant and N. Kotiswar Singh. The apex court made its August 20, 2024 order absolute. The apex court had stayed her disqualification while terming her removal "a case of male bias".

"The interim order of August 20, 2024, is made absolute. Any interference with the order will invite consequences," said the bench while adjourning the matter after a year.

During the hearing, a counsel, representing Sharma, urged the apex court to make its interim order of last year



absolute and informed the bench her tenure will be completed next year. A counsel, representing the respondents, tried to interject. At this juncture, the bench said it does not want to pass any strictures in the order at present, as it is a case of "political goondaism".

The apex court in August last year had issued notice on a plea filed by Sharma and former mayor Poonam Grover. The petitioners moved the apex court against the June 2024 order of the high court upholding their disqualification. The apex court had kept in abeyance the fresh election for the post of the mayor of Solan in Himachal Pradesh till further orders.

HIGHLIGHT
 Mayor Usha Sharma and ex-mayor Poonam Grover were disqualified by government for defying party directions during election of mayor and deputy mayor held on December 7, 2023.

"Meanwhile, the operation of the order dated June 10, 2024, disqualifying the petitioners as councillors of ward no.12 and ward no.8 of the Municipal Corporation, Solan, Himachal Pradesh, as well as the operation of the impugned judgement of the high court dated June 25, 2024, shall remain stayed. Resultantly, the first petitioner shall be allowed to continue and perform her duties as mayor of the municipal corporation, Solan, Himachal Pradesh, till further orders," it had said. Agency

Next Delhi CM likely to take oath at Ramlila Maidan on February 20

New Delhi
 After the 27-year-long wait, the Bharatiya Janata Party is set to return to the national capital as the oath-taking ceremony of the next Delhi Chief Minister is likely to take place on February 20 at Ramlila Maidan, a Party top source said.

The party formed the government in Delhi after defeating the Aam Aadmi Party in the recent assembly elections, securing 48 out of 70 seats. However, the suspense over the CM of Delhi still remains as the party has yet to make an



announcement. Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Home Min-

ister Amit Shah, Chief Ministers from BJP-ruled states, NDA lead-

ers, Union Ministers, and other prominent figures will attend the

ceremony, a Party top source said.

The final rehearsal for the oath-taking ceremony at Ramlila Ground is scheduled for tomorrow at 11 AM. According to recent updates, the BJP MLAs will meet on February 19 to elect the new Delhi CM, and the oath-taking ceremony will be held on February 20 at 4:30 pm party top source said.

BJP leaders and police personnel will inspect the final arrangements tomorrow. Preparations for the oath-taking ceremony of Delhi's new

New Delhi

India's exports declined for the third month in a row in January by 2.38 per cent to USD 37.32 billion due to volatility in petroleum prices and global uncertainties.

The trade deficit widened to USD 222.99 billion as imports rose by 10.28 per cent year-on-year to USD 59.42 billion in January, according to the Commerce Ministry data.

Cumulatively, during April-January this fiscal, exports rose by 1.39 per cent to USD 358.91 billion and imports by 7.43 per cent to USD 601.9 billion.



Trade deficit, the difference between imports and exports, during the ten-month period widened to USD 242.99 billion.

While the deficit was USD 21.94 billion in December and USD 16.55 billion in January last year.

Commerce Secretary Sunil Barthwal told reporters that despite economic uncertainties in the world, India's exports are doing better in both goods and services sectors.

He said that sectors like electronics, pharmaceuticals, rice and gems and jewellery are registering healthy growth rates during the month under review.

"Despite conflicts, and tariff retaliation around the world, we are doing well," Barthwal said, adding India's goods and services exports would cross USD 800 billion in 2025-25. Agency

'If it is Lt Governor has to do everything, impose President's Rule': AAP Gopal Rai

Rai took a jab at the BJP, urging the party to focus on fulfilling the promises they made to the people of Delhi, saying, "BJP should head towards fulfilling whatever promises they made..."

New Delhi
The cleaning process of the Yamuna river at ITO, Delhi, is currently underway, sparking a political controversy.



ident's Rule. People have elected a government. CM and government will carry out their responsibility."

Rai further questioned the timing of the Lt Governor's actions, adding, "Which power group of BJP is active behind the sudden activism of Lt Governor regarding this is something only they would be able to

He strongly reiterated, "But this is the responsibility of the government, people of Delhi have elected them."
In his statement, Rai also took a jab at the BJP, urging the party to focus on fulfilling the promises they made to the people of Delhi, saying, "BJP should head towards fulfilling whatever promises they made..."

pressed deep sorrow over the loss of lives and injuries caused by a stampede at New Delhi Railway Station. The LG said that he is personally monitoring the operations to ensure that all necessary steps are being taken to support the affected families.

Union Home Minister Amit Shah, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, and Minister for Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari on Sunday also expressed grief over the deaths caused by a stampede at New Delhi Railway Station on Saturday.

15 people including 3 children lost their lives while as 10 were injured in the stampede that occurred at the New Delhi Railway station.

"BJP should decide whether they are running the govt or not": Atishi



New Delhi
Former Delhi CM and AAP leader Atishi has criticized the BJP for its lack of clarity on governance in the capital, questioning whether the party is running the government.

"BJP cannot run the government in Delhi, Narendra Modi knows that not even one of his 48 MLAs can run the government. He can only loot the money of the people of Delhi," she remarked.

"After being in power for 15 years in the Delhi Municipal Corporation, all the BJP Councillors looted the people and the MCD," she claimed.

Chief National Spokesperson AAP of AAP, Priyanka Kakkar, also from AAP, weighed in, "Why should the people of Delhi be worried about the internal strife of BJP? When BJP is taking 10 days to give a Chief Minister and cabinet, imagine how much time they will take to take any decision for the people of Delhi?"

The BJP won a historic mandate in Delhi polls, returning to power in the national capital after 27 years by ousting AAP. It secured a two-thirds majority bagging 48 out of 70 seats, while AAP's tally saw a massive drop at 22 from its previous tally of 62.

SC slams MCD over illegal construction in Chandni Chowk

New Delhi
The Supreme Court on Monday slammed the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) for its failure to crack down on the alleged illegal and unauthorised commercial construction in Chandni Chowk here.



During the hearing when the MCD counsel told the apex court that the alleged unauthorised construction was removed pursuant to orders passed by the Delhi High Court, the bench remarked whether the Corporation is being run by builders.

A bench of Justices Surya Kant and N Kottiswar Singh indicated directing a CBI probe into the alleged illegal and unauthorised commercial construction in the area.

"We are inclined to (direct) CBI to investigate in Chandni Chowk. Builders constructed like that and you shut your eyes?" asked Justice Kant from the counsel representing the MCD.

The apex court asked MCD to respond as to why a deeper probe should not be ordered and posted the matter for hearing after a week.

The top court is hearing a petition challenging two orders of the Delhi High Court relating to the removal of unauthorised construction in the Chandni Chowk area.

Old tree uprooted at Dhaula Kuan's Jheel Park after 4.0-magnitude earthquake

New Delhi
A 20-25-year-old tree was uprooted at Jheel Park in Dhaula Kuan, located at the epicentre of this morning's 4.0-magnitude earthquake. Caretakers of the park confirmed the damage caused by the tremors.



Director of the National Centre for Seismology (NCS), Dr OP Mishra, on Monday, assured residents of the national capital that there is nothing to worry about as after-shocks of lesser magnitude are "natural" and will heal by the earthquake of magnitude 4.0 that had struck Delhi early Monday.

Strong tremors were felt in Delhi and its surrounding areas at 5.36 am today after a 4.0-magnitude earthquake which jolted the national capital. It originated just 5 km below the earth's surface. Caretaker Mahavesh said, "I reported for duty at 9 a.m. today when I saw the uprooted tree. This is a 20-25-year-old tree. This must have happened due to the earthquake because there was nothing like wind or thunderstorms or anything here. Workers said that when they had a round at the park after

under a seismic zone. "Delhi has been experiencing minor earthquakes. This earthquake occurred in Dhaula Kuan. In 2007, an earthquake of 4.7 magnitude had occurred there. There is nothing to worry about. It is a seismic zone there," Mishra said.

Elaborating on the cause of the earthquake, the NCS Director said, "The earthquake occurred due to in-situ material heterogeneity... After 4.0 magnitude, the after-shocks will be less by 1.2 magnitudes; it is natural as it will heal it."

Hours after the earthquake hit Delhi, tremors were felt in Bihar at around 8.02 am on Monday, and it originated from just 10 km under the Earth's surface. No casualties or damage have been reported so far.

Mishra also referred to BJP's years in power at the Delhi Municipal Corporation, accusing its councillors of corruption.

AAP's Avadh Ojha pledges to continue serving people

New Delhi
AAP leader Avadh Ojha addressed a press conference, reaffirming his commitment to politics and serving the people of Delhi.

Ojha had contested the Pratyagjan Assembly constituency and lost to BJP's Ravinder Singh Negi by over 21,000 votes.

Ojha thanked the people for their "tremendous love and blessings," stating that he has no intention of stepping back from politics.

"I contested the election from Pratyagjan Assembly constituency and the people gave me tremendous love and blessings. I have no intention of stepping back from politics. I will continue to serve the people through politics," Ojha said.

He also criticised BJP for its inability to choose a leader among its 48 MLAs. "BJP is not able to choose a person from its 48 MLAs who can lead them. They have no policy and no face," Ojha remarked.

Tight Security at New Delhi Railway Station post stampede

New Delhi
Tight security measures are in place at the New Delhi Railway Station, prohibiting anyone from loitering on the foot overbridge without a valid reason, an official said on Monday.



Railway Protection Force (RPF) said. The officer further said that many trains heading to various Prayagraj will be monitored and teams will also check the number of people

A stampede at the New Delhi Railway Station claimed 18 lives on Saturday night, police said.

"We have seen several people waiting or standing on the foot overbridge without any reason, causing delays for other passengers trying to reach different platforms. Now, no one will be allowed to stand on the foot overbridge without a valid reason," a senior officer of the

on the platforms to avoid any stampede-like situation. "From platform number 16 to platform number 13, we have deployed security personnel to monitor every train coach and manage heavy

rush. Besides that, emergency response teams will be on standby in case of any requirement," said the officer.

Delhi Police along with the Railway Protection Force (RPF) and Government Railway Police (GRP) has deployed additional personnel to manage rush at the station, which remained overcrowded on Sunday with thousands of passengers struggling to board trains amid heavy rush, an officer said.

"We have set up barricades, intensified patrolling and deployed quick reaction teams to prevent any further incident. CCTV surveillance has also been enhanced, with

control rooms monitoring real-time footage for crowd control," the officer said.

Another senior police officer said that usually now the police will not allow people to stand on the foot overbridge without any reason.

Announcements are being made to guide the commuters and avoid panic situations, he said.

Saturday's stampede occurred at around 10 pm when a surge of passengers, confused by a mix-up in train

announcements, rushed towards platform 16 via a narrow stairway.

Trapped between those trying to move up and others trying to descend, the crowd turned into a human bottleneck. Within minutes, panic spread and people began falling, leading to a horrifying crush.

The congestion remained largely unchanged on Sunday, with thousands still jostling for space on platforms and foot overbridges.

EASTERN RAILWAY
Tender Notice No. : OADCT/18024-25 (Open), dated 12.02.2025, 4-Tenders (Open) are invited by Divisional Railway Manager, Eastern Railway, Asansol, Pin-713001 for the following work: Case No: OADT/18024-25 Name of the work: Open tender for TRSP work using PORS machine in the jurisdiction of AEN/2/Asansol under Sr. DEN/1/Asansol Tender value: ₹ 60,41,211.23. Earnest Money: ₹ 1,96,800. Completion period for the work: 09 months. Date and time of closing: 13.03.2025 at 12.00 hrs. Complete details can be seen in the Railway's website www.regs.gov.in (ASN/SS/2024-25) Tender Notice is also available at website: www.eadrail.in

IGL to provide charging facility for electric vehicles at Noida Airport

Noida
The Indraprastha Gas Limited (IGL) will provide charging facility for electric vehicles along with gas at both its stations at the Noida airport.



At the airside station. There will also be a rest room facility for passengers. The IGL will supply gas directly through the pipeline to both its CNG stations being set up at the airport, because people have to face problems of gas running out and low pressure when gas is

The official concerned of the IGL said that the IGL has started work on CNG station and EV charging point at the airport. The work of CNG stations will be completed by May. Keeping in mind the convenience of passengers coming to the Noida airport, Indraprastha Gas Limited and the Yamuna International Airport Pvt. Ltd. had recently signed an agreement to set up two CNG stations.

According to the IGL, the station to be built near

the entry pass on the western side of the airport will have a capacity of 33,600 kg per day and the station to be built on the airside will have a capacity of 16,800 kg per day.

supplied through containers. The company has started work both inside and outside the airport. A network of 24 km pipelines will be laid to provide PNG gas to the terminal building, kitchen and other establishments in the airport premises.

New Noida Industrial Development Authority
MAIN ADMINISTRATIVE BUILDING, SECTOR-6, NOIDA, G.B. NAGAR (U.P.)
Website: www.noidaauthority.gov.in

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

(A) Fresh-Tender Work

S. No.	Jobs No	Name of the Work	Tender Amount (Rs. Lacs)
1.	34/DG/MSM (WC-3)/2024-25	M/o Drain (C/o RCC drain and footpath work near City Centre Underpass), Noida.	25.04
2.	15/DG/MSM (WC-5)/2024-25	M/o Building (R/o Toilet and Boundary wall etc. work in Market in D-211, Sector-61), Noida.	10.52

The above tenders can be uploaded by dated 03.03.2025 up to 5.00 PM. Pre-qualification shall be opened/downloaded on date 04.03.2025 at 11.00 AM.

(B) Re-Tender Work

S. No.	Jobs No	Name of the Work	Tender Amount (Rs. Lacs)
3.	24/DG/MSM (WC-7)/ET/2024-25	D/o Village (C/o C.C. Road and drain in front of Navyagaon Community Centre in Village Iltabans), Noida.	25.59
4.	13/SM(WC-4)/ET/2024-25	D/o and Maintenance of Village (Beautification of Pond situated between UGR and Community Centre in Village Chhajras Sector-63), Noida.	29.65
5.	05/DG/MSM (WC-2)/2024-25	M/o Building (C/o Record room in Sector-19 Office for Work Circle-2, 4 & 8 Sector-19), Noida.	18.08

The above tenders can be uploaded by dated 24.02.2025 up to 5.00 PM. Pre-qualification shall be opened/downloaded on dated 25.02.2025 at 11.00 AM.

महत्त्वपूर्ण सूचना - नवीन नोइदा औद्योगिक विकास प्राधिकरण के अधिनियमित क्षेत्र में भारत के सर्वोच्च न्यायालय एवं उच्च न्यायालय अधीनस्थ क्षेत्र विकास अधिनियम, 1976 के अन्तर्गत कानूनन या किसी भी प्रकार का अन्य विनियमन मुक्त तरह से और बिना किसी भी प्रकार के अनाधिकारिक जवाब के कि इस प्रकार की सेवा को प्रदान करने के लिए निम्नलिखित सूचना में सूचना/अभिलेख/दस्तावेज/प्रस्तावना/क्यान्डिडेट/कॉन्डिडेट/कॉन्डिडेट/कॉन्डिडेट के रूप में सूचनाएं प्रदान की जा सकती हैं।

Office: Sector-06, Noida

By General Manager (Civil) NOIDA

CLEAN, GREEN, SAFE & SECURE NOIDA

Delhi HC asks Satyender Jain to respond to ED's plea to defer PMLA trial hearing in DA case

New Delhi
The Delhi High Court issued a notice on Monday, seeking a response from Aam Aadmi Party leader Satyender Jain regarding the Enforcement Directorate's plea to defer the trial court hearing in money laundering case related to disproportionate assets.

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) stated that since the CBI recently filed a supplementary chargesheet indicating a higher quantum of money involved than previously probed, the ED may also file a supplementary prosecution complaint soon.



Therefore, the ED requested the trial court hearing in the money laundering case be deferred. The ED

was represented by special counsel Zohab Hossain. Acknowledging the submission, Justice Vikas Ma-

hajan scheduled the hearing for March 3, 2025. During the hearing, Senior Advocate N Hariharan, repre-

sented Satyender Jain, indicated that he would clarify his stance in his written response.

Earlier, Satyender Jain moved the Delhi High Court for deferment of trial court hearing stating that the investigation in the case is still ongoing and has not yet concluded.

Jain through a plea submitted that the investigation is continuing, and, thus, it would be in the interest of justice that arguments on charge are heard only once the investigation is complete.

If the investigating agency has material that may exculpate the accused in any man-

ner, the court is bound to consider such material at the time of forming a prima facie view.

It was further stated that as per the status report of the CBI in the predicate offence, further investigation regarding multiple transactions by collection of records from numerous departments and examination of witnesses from different strata of society is to be conducted and it involves voluminous records.

The outcome of the further investigation would be significant concerning the proceeds of the crime.

The trial court earlier

granted bail to Satyender Jain in a money laundering case, noting Jain's prolonged incarceration of 18 months as a factor in its decision.

Jain was arrested by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) in May 2022, with the agency accusing him of laundering the proceeds of crime through four companies allegedly connected to him.

The money laundering case, originating from the CBI investigation, was initiated against Satyender Jain after the Enforcement Directorate (ED) began probing money laundering charges through three companies allegedly linked to him.

What Role Does Egg Freezing Play in Protecting Fertility?

New Delhi
Dr. Muskaan Chhabra, Egg freezing, also known as oocyte cryopreservation, is a rapidly growing option for individuals looking to protect their fertility.

This process allows women to preserve their eggs at a younger, healthier age, ensuring that they have the opportunity to conceive later in life, even when age-related fertility decline or medical treatments could pose risks.

"Egg freezing plays a crucial role in protecting fertility by offering individuals the opportunity to preserve their eggs at a healthy age, before potential fertility risks arise. Whether due to medical treatments like chemotherapy, career or personal choices, or the natural aging process, freezing eggs provides a safety net for future family-building," shares Dr. Muskaan Chhabra, IVF Specialist at Birla Fertility & IVF, Lajpat Nagar.

The reasons people choose egg freezing are diverse. Some women opt for it due to medical reasons, such as undergoing chemotherapy or radiation, which can impact fertility. Others may choose it to delay pregnancy for personal or professional reasons, such as focusing on career or finding the right partner. The natural aging process also significantly affects a woman's egg quality, and freezing eggs at a younger age offers a safety net against this.

Delhi Cong seeks NHRC probe into ND Railway Station stampede



New Delhi
The Delhi Congress has filed a complaint with the NHRC seeking a probe into the tragedy at the New Delhi Railway Station.

Following the direction of Delhi Pradesh Congress Committee president Devender Yadav, the complaint was filed with the NHRC by the legal and human rights department of the DPCC, urging the NHRC to constitute an inquiry committee to probe the death of many innocent passengers in a stampede at the New Delhi Railway Station on February 15, 2025.

Yadav, in his complaint, pointed out that the tragedy happened due to the irresponsibility of the railway authorities and security forces as they took no step to manage the swelling

crowd despite the fact that a large number of passengers bound for Prayagraj to take holy bath in the Maha Kumbh festival had assembled at the New Delhi railway station, along with hundreds of passengers bound for other destinations by other trains, but the railway authorities made no arrangement for crowd control in platforms, resulting in the tragic stampede. He also wondered how could the railways sell 1500 tickets per hour for passengers bound for Prayagraj without making the necessary arrangements for train coaches or crowd management.

Yadav said that he has demanded that the NHRC probe should fix responsibility and ensure that strict, quick action is taken against the erring officials responsible for the tragedy.

CRPF deployed at New Delhi Railway station to manage crowd situations after stampede

New Delhi
The Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) and Delhi Police were deployed on Monday at the New Delhi Railway station to manage the crowd situation.

CRPF will also be cooperating with the Delhi Police for additional help, as per official sources. Inspection is being carried out at the station by senior officers of CRPF.

This comes after a stampede took place at the New Delhi Railway station and claimed 18 lives leaving several injured.

As per Delhi Police, the confusion happened because of the announcement of the



trains having the same initial name starting with 'Prayagraj'. Police further said that the announcement of the Prayagraj Special arriving at Platform 16 led to confusion because Prayagraj Express

was already at Platform 14. BJP MP Dinesh Sharma expressed his deep concerns over the loss of lives and urged the opposition to refrain from seeking political gains.

"I would say that it is a very sad incident. The government is concerned about this issue. The railway department, as well as the central government, has done relief work, and whatever help could be given, they are also doing it," Sharma said.

He further said that it was sad to see that opposition leaders were only looking for their political advantage.

"The only sad thing is that since the Kumbh had not even started, the opposition has been in search of some sad incident. This is sad that the opposition people start looking for their political benefit in sad incidents. I

would say that Rahul ji, Akhilesh ji and all the opposition leaders should not do such things. Do not seek political gains from Kumbh, Sanatan, and tragic events. You have many issues to raise, but the way you try to defame (Maha Kumbh) is sad. Everyone should stand together in this tragic event. Everyone should stand with the families who are affected....," he further said.

The Indian Railways has announced compensation of Rs10 lakh for the families of the deceased, Rs 2.5 lakh for those seriously injured, and Rs 1 lakh for those with minor injuries.

Companies start setting up plants in Smart Integrated Industrial Township, Gr. Noida

Noida
Nine new companies have started setting up plants in the Smart Integrated Industrial Township developed under the Delhi Mumbai Industrial Corridor (DMIC) in Greater Noida. Production will begin in these plants in the next two years. This will create about 15,000 jobs.

Currently, four companies are engaged in production in the township. The Integrated Industrial

Township is a joint venture of the DMIC and the Greater Noida Authority. So far, plots have been allotted to 18 companies in this township which is being developed in about 750 acre.

According to an official concerned of the Integrated Industrial Township Greater Noida Limited (IIT-GNL), nine companies have started the work of setting up plants on the site after completing all the formalities.

Most of these are electronic companies. It is expected that production will start in the next two years.

About 18 companies which have been allotted plots in the township are expected to invest Rs 5000 crore and provide direct employment to 18,400 people. There are 43 industrial plots in the township. The process of allocating the remaining plots is underway. Many foreign companies are interested in investing here.

Preparations are underway to promote commercial activities along with industrial activities in the township. For this, a scheme of commercial plots will be launched. After the start of production in the companies, the need for commercial activities is being felt here.

So far, plots have been allotted to 18 companies in the Integrated Industrial Township.

Authorities monitoring situation in New Delhi after earthquake: Govt



New Delhi
Union Minister Jitendra Singh on Monday said that authorities and professional experts were keeping a close watch and monitoring situations in New Delhi after tremors of earthquake were felt.

He also appealed people to stay calm and exercise precautions and preparedness for all possible aftershocks.

Taking to social media X, the Union Minister wrote in a post "Following the Earthquake tremors felt this morning in and around Delhi at about 5:36 AM, the authorities are keeping a close watch and professional experts as well officials in the Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES) are constantly monitoring. However, it is advised to stay calm and, exercise safety precautions and preparedness for possible aftershocks, if any."

The Union Minister also said that regular updates were being shared by the departments through different social media channels and communication channels.

"Meanwhile, regular updates are being shared by the department through its different communication channels and social media handles," the post further read.

Caretaker Mahaveer said, "I reported for duty at 9 a.m. today when I saw the uprooted tree. This is a 20-25-year-old tree. This must have happened due to the earthquake because there was nothing like wind or thunderstorms or anything here. Workers said that when they had a round at the park after the earthquake, they found the tree uprooted."

Another caretaker of Jheel Park Janki Devi said, "We did not find any other damage but just an uprooted tree...The earthquake was felt around 5:30 am; there were very strong tremors. Then it was found that the tree was uprooted due to that..."

Director of the National Centre for Seismology (NCS), Dr OP Mishra, on Monday, assured residents of the national capital that there is nothing to worry about as aftershocks of lesser magnitude are "natural" and will heal by the earthquake of magnitude 4.0 that had struck Delhi early Monday.

FIR filed against Pakistan national allegedly linked to Cong MP Gogoi's wife

New Delhi
The Assam Police has registered a case against Pakistani national Ali Tauqueer Sheikh, and others under sections of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita and Unlawful Activities Prevention Act, state Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma said on Monday.

This was done following a decision of the state cabinet held on February 16, the Assam Chief Minister said.

Assam Police's Criminal Investigation Department (CID) registered the FIR as a CID case PS Case No. 05/2025 U/S 48/152/61/197 (1) BNS, 2023 RW Sec. 13 (1) UA (P) Act.

Talking to his social media platform X, Assam CM Sarma wrote, "In pursuance of the Cabinet decision taken yesterday, Assam Police has lodged an FIR and the same had been registered against Ali Tauqueer Sheikh and unknown others."

Yesterday, the Assam Cabinet had directed the state DGP to register a case against Ali Sheikh and conduct a probe on 'anti-India agenda'.

Chief Minister Sarma challenged Congress MP Gourav Gogoi over the latter's remarks about appropriate legal action on the allegations relating to his wife, saying "this will expedite the process of inquiry."



Answering a query from ANI during a press conference regarding Gourav Gogoi's remarks of taking "appropriate action" in wake of allegations against his wife and him, the Assam CM welcomed any decision to move court and also said the matter needs to be probed seriously.

"India is a democratic country. Everybody can take appropriate action. If he goes to the Court, it will be very good. Then many matters which today we cannot speak of, we can speak before the judge...If he decides to go to the court, we will welcome that and this will expedite the process of inquiry. If anybody is innocent, they will be declared innocent by the court of law. We have no objection to it but this matter needs to be investigated very seriously," the Chief Minister said.

The resolution adopted by the Assam cabinet said "following scrutiny of Ali Sheikh's social media activity and information available in the public domain, it appears that he has been in contact with Elizabeth Gogoi a British national and wife of Gourav Gogoi."

Sarma said Assam cabinet has directed the Assam DGP to register a case against Ali Sheikh under appropriate provisions of BNS and other relevant laws.

The Assam cabinet has also given directions for an extensive inquiry to be conducted to ascertain "whether these activities are part of a large conspiracy and to identify any sympathiser or associate within Assam and across India who may be aiding Mr Sheikh's anti-India agenda..."

The Assam Cabinet noted

that the State of Assam has historically remained a hotspot for ISI sponsored activities, necessitating heightened vigilance and decisive action.

Sarma read from the resolution and said in recent days, multiple news reports, social media posts and other information in the public domain has surfaced regarding certain comments made by a Pakistani national, Ali Tauqueer Sheikh, aimed at disrupting communal harmony in Assam.

"Additionally, a perusal of his social media activity included exhaustive commentary on India's internal affairs and Parliamentary matters, raising serious concerns...Closer examination of information from public domain reveal that Ali Sheikh is an influential individual with pervasive roots in Govt of Pakistan and its leadership, having even represented the Islamic Republic of Pakistan in the international forum," he said.

The resolution said in the light of these facts and given the historical attempts of Pakistani State and non-State actors, to destabilise Assam, the state government "takes Ali Sheikh's attempt to interfere in the domestic matters of Assam and India with utmost seriousness."

BJP's Shahnawaz Hussain criticizes Lalu Yadav for politicizing Delhi railway station stampede

New Delhi
BJP leader Syed Shahnawaz Hussain on Monday expressed disappointment over RJD chief Lalu Yadav's statement on the New Delhi stampede incident. He criticized the leader and his son Tejashwi Yadav for politicizing the tragedy, which claimed the lives of 18 people and left many others injured.

BJP leader Syed Shahnawaz Hussain said, "The statement of Lalu Yadav and Tejashwi Yadav is very unfortunate. They wait for an incident to happen and to politics on it. A very sad incident has happened. A much larger crowd had gathered than expected. A full investigation is going on... We are all sad that many people from Bihar were killed and injured in this. Lalu Yadav and Tejashwi Yadav do not have any issue, so they are doing politics on this incident."

Former Union Railway Minister and RJD Chief Lalu Prasad Yadav, on Sunday, said that the Railway's mismanagement led to the stampede at the New Delhi railway station that claimed the lives of at least 18 people.

RJD Chief Lalu Prasad said, "The incident is very unfortunate and I offer my condolences to the victims. This is a mismanagement



by the Railway that led to the loss of so many lives. The Railway Minister should take responsibility." When asked about his suggestion regarding crowd management for the Mahakumbh, he said, "Kumbh ka kahan koi matlab hai. Fault hai kumbh (Kumbh has no meaning, Kumbh is useless)."

The stampede happened around 10 pm on Saturday when thousands of devotees were heading to Prayagraj for the Maha Kumbh 2025 festival, causing severe overcrowding at the station. When asked about the next Chief Minister of Delhi, Syed Shahnawaz Hussain said, "There will be a meeting of the elected MLAs. After that, the central leadership and the parliamentary board will decide who will be the next Chief Minister of Delhi. Delhi will soon get a Chief Minister."

"Meanwhile, regular updates are being shared by the department through its different communication channels and social media handles," the post further read.

Caretaker Mahaveer said, "I reported for duty at 9 a.m. today when I saw the uprooted tree. This is a 20-25-year-old tree. This must have happened due to the earthquake because there was nothing like wind or thunderstorms or anything here. Workers said that when they had a round at the park after the earthquake, they found the tree uprooted."

Another caretaker of Jheel Park Janki Devi said, "We did not find any other damage but just an uprooted tree...The earthquake was felt around 5:30 am; there were very strong tremors. Then it was found that the tree was uprooted due to that..."

Director of the National Centre for Seismology (NCS), Dr OP Mishra, on Monday, assured residents of the national capital that there is nothing to worry about as aftershocks of lesser magnitude are "natural" and will heal by the earthquake of magnitude 4.0 that had struck Delhi early Monday.

Several children injured after school bus falls into canal

Kaithal: Several children were injured after a school bus fell into a canal in Haryana's Kaithal on Monday morning, as per officials.

According to Sub-Inspector Ramesh Chandra of Keorak Police Station, the incident was reported at around 8:15 am.

Chandra added that the bus was carrying a total of 12 people, including eight children. All the passengers were rescued safely and taken to a nearby hospital for treatment.

"We received information about this incident around 8:15 am that a school bus fell into a canal...we reached the spot and found out that there were 8 children present inside the bus. Other than that, the conductor, driver and two women were present inside the bus, so there were a total of 12 passengers. All of them were rescued safely and sent to a hospital for treatment. Children have suffered minor injuries...the cause of the accident will be understood after the investigation," Chandra said.

Rajouri witnesses development in areas close to LoC since ceasefire

Rajouri: Rajouri is witnessing significant development in its border areas after the ceasefire, particularly in Border Block Qila Darhal, which is situated close to the Line of Control (LoC).

In Nowshera Sub Division one of the panchayats in this block, Pokharni, is located exactly at the LoC's zero point and has faced shelling from Pakistan in the past, resulting in loss of lives and displacement of people.

However, since the ceasefire, the region has witnessed a surge in development activities.

BDO Qila Darhal Mohd Abrar Khan said, "A huge population stays here exactly at the border. Under the MGNREGA scheme, a lot of people are getting work here and development of this region is going on. This is a very underdeveloped area. Labourers have got work under MGNREGA. At the panchayat level, people make their plans and state their demands. Works like rural connectivity are approved by gram panchayat and then funds come from the government and employment is also generated."

"Bankers are also provided. A large part of the population is disabled due to firing. Bankers play a very good role in protecting them. Other than that there is Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana under which well-constructed houses are being built. Nearly 1500 houses have been built and work is going on for 300 houses," he added.

He further said, "The plan for next year has been prepared. Earlier there used to be too much firing but after the ceasefire, the region is seeing development," he added.

On February 16, the

VP Dhankhar Calls for Rural Economy Revitalization

Chandigarh: Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar on Monday called for the revitalization of rural economies through micro industries that add value to the livestock, produced, milk and dairy products.

"There must be evolution of a mechanism in a village or in a cluster of villages where you have micro industries at the farm that add value to the agro produce, that add value to the livestock, produced, milk produced. This will help evolve a sustainable society and the nutritional food value will certainly go up."

"What stops us from having entrepreneurial skills to produce ice creams, paneer, sweets, and the like in village clusters? This is very important because it will generate employment and satisfy rural youth," Dhankhar said.

Dhankhar was the chief guest at the inauguration of Advanced Entrepreneurship Skill Development Program (A-EDSP) on "Functional Foods, Nutraceuticals and their Safety" at National Agri-Food and



Biomufacturing Institute in Mohali.

Urging farmers to stay informed about advancements in technology and its potential benefits, he said, "A farmer is by and large clinging to his tractor. He wants to use the tractor for as long as it can last, ignoring the fact that new technology is becoming environment-friendly, fuel-efficient, multifunctional, and highly subsidized."

He said there has to be an awareness campaign to tell the farmers that you don't need anybody's help. "You only have to know your inner strength to change your

economy to a very high level. Form small groups, market your product at a price of your choice; you can."

"But by and large, I see farm produce is sold when it is not farmers' market, it is buyers' market. The government provides facilities to hold on to the stock by massive warehousing and cooperative movement. I can tell you the farm policies of the government are so helping the farmer."

"The farmer has to know about it. You (premier institutes like NABI, Mohali) can play

a great role because we cannot allow that our farmers get anything but the very best."

"No short-change for the farm sector, no short-change for the farmer that has to be our motto. Institutes like yours must have live connect with Krishi Vigyan Kendras, with Institutes of Indian Council of Agriculture Research," he further said.

Dhankhar said interest of farmers is in his heart.

"I am son of a farmer like there was a movie, Son of a Sardar. A son of the farmer will always commit himself to truth," he said.

Dhankhar was the chief guest at the inauguration of Advanced Entrepreneurship Skill Development Program (A-EDSP) on "Functional Foods, Nutraceuticals and their Safety" at National Agri-Food and Biomufacturing Institute in Mohali.

SGPC chief Harjinder Singh Dhami resigns on 'moral grounds'

Chandigarh: The president of Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee (SGPC), Harjinder Singh Dhami, resigned from his post with immediate effect on Monday.

Dhami's resignation came days after Akal Takht Jathedar Giani Ragbir Singh strongly condemned the dismissal of services of Giani Harpreet Singh as the jathedar of Dandama Sahib by the SGPC.

"Dhami said he is always committed to the Akal Takht, the highest temporal seat of Sikhs. Referring to a February 13 Facebook post of Jathedar Ragbir Singh on the termination of services of Giani Harpreet Singh, Dhami said he wrote that removing the letter was "highly condemnable" and "unfortunate," he further said.

Dhankhar said interest of farmers is in his heart. "I am son of a farmer like there was a movie, Son of a Sardar. A son of the farmer will always commit himself to truth," he said.

Dhmi also said he has written to the Akal Takht Jathedar to relieve him from his position in the seven-member committee formed to supervise the new membership drive of the Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD).

On February 13, Giani Ragbir Singh in a Facebook post condemned the dismissal of services of Giani Harpreet Singh as the jathedar of Takht Sri Dandama Sahib in Bathinda.

In the post, he said Giani Harpreet Singh's removal was "highly condemnable" and "unfortunate" which will harm the independent existence of the 'Takht Sahib'.

On December 10, the SGPC had dismissed the services of Giani Harpreet Singh as the jathedar of Takht Sri Dandama Sahib in Bathinda.

The decision was taken during an executive committee meeting of the SGPC.

The committee accepted a report by a three-member committee formed to probe the allegations against Giani Harpreet Singh in an 18-year-old domestic dispute matter.

State Govt schemes should be reached at grassroot level: CM Mann

Chandigarh: Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann on Monday called upon the newly inducted officers of the Punjab Civil Service (PCS) to discharge their duty with utmost dedication, commitment and integrity so that the benefits of flagship schemes of the state government are further percolated to people at grass root level.

The newly promoted PCS officers from A II and C register called on the Chief Minister here at his official residence.

Interacting with the officers, the Chief Minister, while congratulating the officers, said that it is a matter of immense pride that they have been selected for this coveted post adding that they should serve the people with missionary zeal.

Bhagwant Singh Mann hoped that the PCS officers will use their pen for helping the needy and underprivileged sections of society. He exhorted the officers to ensure maximum welfare of the public so that every section of society is benefited from it.

The Chief Minister advised the officers to render their services to the best of their ability for delivering the goals of good governance, effective delivery of citizen centric services and time-bound implementation of welfare and development schemes. He expressed hope that these officers, who already have a good experience of public service, will play a pivotal role in taking the state to the zenith of its glory.

Bhagwant Singh Mann envisioned that these officers will carve a niche for them with their hard work, sincerity, capability and professional acumen.

Bus carrying 44 deportees from Haryana arrives at Ambala

Ambala (Haryana): A bus carrying 44 people from Haryana who were deported from USA arrived at Ambala on Monday morning.

A relative of a deportee Sandeep (26) said that he had gone to US in the last week of November.

"My name is Rajesh. My relative's name is Sandeep, aged 26. He had gone there (US) in the last week of November and my last conversation with him was on January 25. His agent had dropped him at Mexico and he had taken Rs 65 lakhs... he faced issues while he was being taken... we received information through a Facebook channel that he was coming back..." Rajesh said speaking to ANI.

On February 16, the



advised the officers to render their services to the best of their ability for delivering the goals of good governance, effective delivery of citizen centric services and time-bound implementation of welfare and development schemes. He expressed hope that these officers, who already have a good experience of public service, will play a pivotal role in taking the state to the zenith of its glory.

Bhagwant Singh Mann envisioned that these officers will carve a niche for them with their hard work, sincerity, capability and professional acumen.

He exhorted the officers to ensure maximum welfare of the public so that every section of society is benefited from it.

Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann assured that the deportees would be treated properly and that all arrangements had been made.



The third batch arrived just after a day the second batch landed in Amritsar.

Congress MP Shashi Tharoor expressed dissatisfaction with the Americans choosing military aircraft for sending them back.

"I am not happy about the Americans choosing to send a military aircraft," Tharoor told ANI. "I have not seen any report on whether the returnees were also handcuffed and shackled. If they were, we should definitely protest," he added.

On Saturday, Punjab

CM Mann chairs review meeting of food & Supplies dept

Chandigarh: Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann on Monday asked the Department of Food & Civil Supplies to further expedite the process of liquidation/movement of the food grain stocks from the State so that no problem of storage of food grains arises in the coming seasons and procurement of grains takes place in a smooth and hassle free manner.

Chairing a high level meeting of the Food and Civil Supplies Department here at his official residence, the Chief Minister said that due to persistent shortage of storage space during the previous season, the procurement/lifting of grains from mandis was adversely affected. He said that the State government is already in process of creating new covered godowns to store 60 Lakh Metric Ton of grains in the State in the coming few months. Bhagwant Singh Mann said that Punjab produces grain for the National food security and the State government is duty bound that these issues will be duly raised with the Union government

in the coming days so that they are resolved at the earliest in the larger interest of the country. Meanwhile he said that shortfall of space has been identified only in districts of Amritsar, Tarn Taran, Patiala and Moga and all efforts are being made by district officials/field staff for alternative arrangements/contingency plans. Bhagwant Singh Mann reiterated the firm commitment of the State government to take every possible step for ensuring smooth and hassle free procurement and lifting of the grains in the coming procurement seasons too.

The Chief Minister said that these issues will be duly raised with the Union government

25, 171.86 LMT of paddy was stored in the State out of which 116.30 LMT of rice was deliverable. Till date, 25.74 LMT (29.02%) of the rice has been delivered and remaining 82.53 LMT has to be delivered by March 31, 2025. For the month of February, Bhagwant Singh Mann said that the state had requested for 1695 rice specials but FCI has planned only 197 rice specials for the month of February and till date only 109 rice specials have been provided.

The Chief Minister said that these issues will be duly raised with the Union government



ment is duty bound that these issues will be duly raised with the Union government

in the coming days so that they are resolved at the earliest in the larger interest of the country. Meanwhile he said that shortfall of space has been identified only in districts of Amritsar, Tarn Taran, Patiala and Moga and all efforts are being made by district officials/field staff for alternative arrangements/contingency plans. Bhagwant Singh Mann reiterated the firm commitment of the State government to take every possible step for ensuring smooth and hassle free procurement and lifting of the grains in the coming procurement seasons too.

The Chief Minister said that these issues will be duly raised with the Union government

25, 171.86 LMT of paddy was stored in the State out of which 116.30 LMT of rice was deliverable. Till date, 25.74 LMT (29.02%) of the rice has been delivered and remaining 82.53 LMT has to be delivered by March 31, 2025. For the month of February, Bhagwant Singh Mann said that the state had requested for 1695 rice specials but FCI has planned only 197 rice specials for the month of February and till date only 109 rice specials have been provided.

"Indian Army is giving a befitting reply": JK LG Manoj Sinha

Jammu: Jammu Kashmir Lieutenant Governor (LG) Manoj Sinha on Monday said that the Indian Army was giving a befitting reply to the Pakistani troops who violated ceasefire along the Line of Control (LoC) in Poonch.

Speaking to the media, Sinha also said that there was good coordination between the Jammu Kashmir Police and security forces.

"Indian Army is giving a befitting reply. There is good coordination between Jammu Kashmir Police and security forces and they have been instructed that terrorism has to be stopped at any cost and this system has to be ended..." Sinha said.

He further said that action would be taken the top priority would be to maintain peace in

the state.

"Whatever action is being taken in this regard, there will be no break in it, it will continue uninterrupted and I think that the top priority will be to maintain peace in Jammu and Kashmir," the LG further said.

The fire was opened at around 11 a.m. on Sunday prompting an immediate retaliation from the Indian Army. Officials confirmed to ANI, "Pakistan ke naam mein Pak hai par uski harkatein nahi pak hai..." a local said.



the state.

"Whatever action is being taken in this regard, there will be no break in it, it will continue uninterrupted and I think that the top priority will be to maintain peace in Jammu and Kashmir," the LG further said.

The fire was opened at around 11 a.m. on Sunday prompting an immediate retaliation from the Indian Army. Officials confirmed to ANI, "Pakistan ke naam mein Pak hai par uski harkatein nahi pak hai..." a local said.

He further said that action would be taken the top priority would be to maintain peace in

the state.

Advt Contact
9818799941



By DIKSHA

“Maha Kumbh: The Sacred Confluence of Faith, Devotion, and Management”

Maha Kumbh Mela known to occur after 144 years, with Kumbh Mela after 12 years and Ardh Kumbh after every 6 years which is currently underway in Prayagraj, UP with duration Jan 13 to Feb 26 is a star event in itself attracting huge crowds from the world, even attracting people with different religious identities where the only thing in common is witnessing the divine atmosphere, away from the materialism of the world in search of inner peace. It signifies that in spite of having different religions, the quest is the same that is seeking inner peace and to discover our real self. This also does justice to the phrase “Vasudev Kutumbakam” which originated in Maha Upanishad. Until now, more than 50 crore people have taken holy dip, which is more than the entire population of US and Brazil, fitting into a space smaller than Delhi.



that makes finding the exact location easier. The deployment of heavy police to ward off unsocial elements, with the threat of terrorist attack looming, even the para-military was called, underwater drones etc., displaying the far-sightedness of the administration. Even the clean waters of the river says a lot about the effort and the will of the administration. There has been no incident of any hygiene disruption or epidemic risk considering previous cholera outbreaks which were common in Kumbh, all this has been achieved through unique sewage treatment plants that use microbes to treat water.

January 29 posed a question mark on the efficiency of the Administration in hosting huge crowds, when it was re-

ported that around 90 people lost their lives and many injured in the stampede that occurred around midnight. TV screens were filled with moving images of people weeping about their loss. Though the Administration acted swiftly meeting the victims, announcing compensation and taking steps such as ending VIP culture, declaring no-vehicle zone in case of large crowds, deploying more para-military.

Administration should work on a mission-mode to avoid another such incident and also take other steps such as deploying more forces in order to give each police or military personnel adequate time to rest so that vigilance is not compromised. Also, waiting areas need to be created for people to rest instead of doing so on roads,

more drones are needed in air as well as water. Even as a spiritual congregation drawing crowds all over, with people immersing themselves not just in “Sangam Waters”, but also in a divine and pure atmosphere doing some soul searching with a one of its kind experience. Moreover, it can help to put India on world map for hosting some prestigious events such as FIFA world cup, olympics etc. It has also helped draw a lot of interest in our country as well as our ancient heritage even promoting recreational as well as spiritual tourism, which can further help India to form a good bonding with various countries through its use of soft power, instead of the usual hard power bargains.

Every pilgrim wishes to take holy dip at the Sangam resulting in huge crowd at Sangam Nose. By ensuring that holy Yamuna water flows into the Ganga through big visible pipes at an interval of 20 meter at Pontoon Bridge and holy Ganga water into Yamuna, pilgrims can experience the spiritual essence of Sangam without physically reaching the crowded confluence point. This would reduce crowd density at the Sangam Nose, preventing stampedes & accidents and fulfil the religious desire of devotees.

Managing such crowds in a single city is a herculean task to do with appreciation to UP's administration, with steps such as installing CCTV's at every corner, providing amenities such as dispensaries, washrooms, eateries etc. frequently for the ease of people, even attaching barcodes to poles that makes finding the exact location easier.



By Priyanka Saurabh

Increasing cases of rape due to false promises of marriage

The new report of the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) states that every year, several thousand rape cases are registered under the guise of false marriage vows. The judgment given by the Allahabad High Court in the Atul Gautam case in 2025 raises the question of how judicial interpretations affect the autonomy and legal protection of women. Rape and consenting to sex are clearly different. In these situations, the court must carefully consider whether the complainant had a genuine desire to marry the victim or if he had any ulterior motive and made a false promise to this effect only to satisfy his lust as the latter is considered deception or fraud. Additionally, there is a difference between not keeping a false promise and breaking it. A promise made by the accused without the intention to enter the prosecutrix into sexual activity will not be valid as rape. The prosecutrix may consent to sexual relations with the accused based on her love and passion for him rather than on a false impression created by the accused. Alternatively, the accused may be unable to marry her despite having the intention to do so due to unforeseen or uncontrollable circumstances. These situations need to be handled differently. A case of rape is clear only if the complainant has a malicious intent or ulterior motive.

The Atul Gautam v. Allahabad High Court decision violates the Supreme Court guidelines. This decision is in contrast to the Aparna Bhatt v. State of Madhya Pradesh decision of 2021, which forbids the accused and the victim from communicating while on bail to avoid secondary trauma. The Supreme Court ruled that to guarantee a fair trial, bail requirements should not compel communication between the accused and the survivor. The idea that marriage is a remedy for rape and not a punishment also perpetuate gender stereotypes.



ment for the crime is reinforced by such bail requirements, which put the social compact ahead of the rule of law. Similar words were used while granting bail in Rama Shankar v. State of Uttar Pradesh (2022), which weakened the prosecution's case against the defendant. The survivor may be forced into marriage by the accused in order to obtain bail, resulting in continued abuse within the legal system. Abhishek v. State of Uttar Pradesh (2024) created a coercive dynamic by granting bail to the accused in exchange for a promise of marriage, rather than guaranteeing justice. Which forces the survivor to depend on the accused instead of getting proper rehabilitation support. The state's obligation to provide housing, education, and counseling to survivors and children was highlighted by the Court in the Juvenile's Right to Privacy (2024). The purpose of bail is not to enforce social duties but to guarantee temporary freedom while the case is pending.

Women's autonomy and the continuation of the “honor” ideology are affected by these judicial decisions, which also reinforce

gender stereotypes. Such decisions make rape less of a crime and more of a loss of chastity, reinforcing the patriarchal notion that a woman's dignity is tied to marriage. Courts have, in many past decisions, equated a victim's rehabilitation with marriage, failing to acknowledge rape as a violation of bodily autonomy. Courts undermine women's autonomy by pressuring victims to marry offenders and promoting abuse and control under legal protection. Courts that consider marriage as a remedy ignore the victim's lack of consent, which means that coercion can be legally justified. Women are often forced to stay in “compromise marriages” with their abusers despite continued trauma and safety risks. Violating Article 21, which protects women's autonomy and dignity, such decisions violate women's constitutional rights by forcing them into relationships against their will. According to the Supreme Court, forced marriages violate Article 21, causing victims to face more exploitation instead of justice.

These judgments perpetuate the notion that marriage can resolve sexual

violence, turning these incidents into civil disputes rather than serious crimes. Victims in conservative rural areas are often pressured by courts to marry the accused. To ensure that justice is not compromised by social pressure, courts should follow established rules that prohibit marriage from being a condition of bail. In the Aparna Bhat case (2021), the Supreme Court ruled that bail requirements that force victims into relationships or perpetuate gender stereotypes should be avoided. The state should improve welfare programs by providing monetary support, counseling, legal aid, and skill-building courses to help victims become self-reliant. Integrated support services are provided by the One Stop Centre scheme; however, for maximum impact, this needs to be improved and expanded. To ensure that judicial discretion does not threaten victims' rights, legislative amendments should specifically prohibit the practice of granting bail on the condition of marriage. Provide gender-sensitive training to judges to ensure that legal interpretations uphold constitutional principles rather than patriarchal bi-

ases. Victims' rights and gender justice should be incorporated into judicial training courses, such as those conducted by the National Judicial Academy.

To ensure speedy justice, speedy trials will eliminate the need for lengthy legal battles to force victims into settlements. Although the 2019 Nirbhaya Fund was set aside for fast-track courts, many of them still remain underutilized as a result of a lack of resources and administrative bottlenecks. Such judicial decisions risk undermining women's rights and thus reinforcing patriarchal norms. A well-thought-out legal strategy is needed to distinguish between the complexity of the relationship and the intent to defraud. Justice can be delivered by strengthening legal protections and providing gender-sensitive judicial training, in line with India's commitment to gender equality.

About the Author

(Priyanka Saurabh, Research Scholar in Political Science)

Breaking Time Sudoku

What to do

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

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

Solution, Sudoku

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

THE WISDOM TREE

BY SUVEEN KUMAR

GOOD TIMES, BAD TIMES

Bad times any way stay longer than the good times but when bad times are mixed with good times, they become immortal, unforgettable and inerasable, because good times are the only times that makes us forget how painful this life is and when bad times are mixed with those moments, then all you are left is a life full of pain. In the want of giving someone momentary pain, don't make someone's life hell forever. It is natural to cheat but don't cheat in the time when all he needs is your loyalty, it is natural to hurt but don't hurt that deep that it couldn't be healed, it is natural to leave but don't leave at the time when he needs you the most, it is natural to be clever but don't be clever when he needs your innocence.

act like one. A man is not only made of flesh and blood but feelings too. A man without feelings is not even a living creature. Bad times are poisonous, the overdose of them is sure to kill someone. Don't serve smile with bitterness, bliss with curse and better with worse. If not man then God certainly knows the difference between being clever and being wise and as long as God understands it, it doesn't matter who else doesn't. Don't help someone today to rule them one day, don't care someone today to worry them one day, don't set someone free to bind them one day, don't bring someone close to push them away one day.

Moral: Don't serve two things mixed as it leaves none of them pure.

You are not a man-eater so should not



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 (9582310379), 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

SC notice to UP authorities on contempt petition over razing mosque in Kushinagar

New Delhi
The Supreme Court on Monday issued notice to the concerned authorities of the Uttar Pradesh government on a contempt petition for demolishing part of the Madni mosque in the state's Kushinagar district.

The plea said demolition action at a mosque in Kushinagar, was in alleged violation of November 13, 2024, order restraining demolition actions across the country without prior notice and opportunity of hearing.



A bench of Justices B R Gawai and A G Masih issued a notice to concerned authorities and asked them to respond as to why contempt of court proceedings should not be initiated against them.

The bench while hearing a contempt petition ordered that until further orders, there shall be no demolition of the structure.

"It is submitted (by the petitioner) that the structure in question was constructed on private land owned by the petitioners.

The construction which was found to be non-sanctioned was removed by the petitioners themselves. It is submitted that in these premises, the demolition which was made is in egregious contempt of the directions issued by this court," it added while issuing notice to officials and seeking their response in two weeks.

A portion of Madni Mosque in Uttar Pradesh's Kushinagar district, which was allegedly built on 'encroached' land, was demolished by bulldozers earlier this month.

The caretaker of the mosque has claimed that the Muslim community had purchased land around ago for the purpose of constructing the mosque and that there was no encroachment.

The mosque committee challenged the demolition in the High Court and secured a stay order until February 8, however, with the order expiring on February 9, authorities initiated the demolition drive.

On November 13 last year, the top court delivered a judgement and laid down pan-India guidelines saying no property should be demolished without a prior show cause notice and the affected must be given 15 days to respond.

It passed a slew of directions in its November 2024 verdict and made clear that they would not be applicable if there was an unauthorised structure in a public place such as a road, street, footpath, abutting railway line or any river or water body and also in cases where there was an order for demolition made by a court of law.

Cong distances itself from Sam Pitroda's statements



New Delhi
Congress General Secretary Jairam Ramesh on Monday clarified that senior leader Sam Pitroda's statement on China is "not the view" of the Indian National Congress.

Taking to X, Jaitam Ramesh wrote, "The views reportedly expressed by Mr. Sam Pitroda on China are most definitely NOT the views of the Indian National Congress.

The clarification from the party's communication in charge came amid the heavy backlash of Bharatiya Janata Party.

Ramesh said that Congress has repeatedly raised questions about PM Modi's approach to China, "including the PM's public clean chit to it on June 19, 2020."

"China remains our foremost foreign policy, external security, as well as economic challenge. The INC has repeatedly raised questions on the Modi Govt's approach to China, including the PM's public clean chit to it on June 19, 2020. Our most recent statement on China was on 28th January 2025. It is also extremely regrettable that Parliament is being denied an opportunity to discuss the situation and express a collective resolve to meet these challenges effectively," Ramesh wrote on X.

Earlier, BJP's national spokesperson Sudhanshu Trivedi lashed out at Congress over Sam Pitroda's statement on China saying that his statements are an "insult" to the soldiers who

lost their lives in Galwan. "Sam Pitroda has openly revealed the Congress party's agreement with China. The serious thing is that the kind of thing Sam Pitroda has said is a very deep blow to India's identity, diplomacy and sovereignty. Rahul Gandhi has also given many similar statements abroad... Some time ago, on his foreign tour, he had said that China has solved the problem of unemployment very well," Trivedi said in a press conference.

"This is an insult to our Galwan Martyrs. Our 20 soldiers were martyred in Galwan and after that, if your overseas President speaks such language, then it is condemnable," Trivedi added.

Gullas College of Medicine Host Indo-Philippines Cultural Education Exchange Summit Celebrating Friendship

New Delhi
Gullas College of Medicine hosted the Indo-Philippines Cultural Education Exchange Summit to commemorate 75 years of diplomatic ties between the two nations. The event took place at the GCMI Auditorium, Gov. M Cuenco Ave., Baniad, Mandaue City, Philippines, under the theme: "A Union Fostering Global Connections: Integrating Education, Healthcare, Culture, and Tourism for a Sustainable Future."

The Summit holds deep significance for both Filipino and Indian communities, celebrating a shared history of cooperation since the Treaty of Friendship signed on July 11, 1952. The event was graced by



Honourable Excellency Harsh Kumar Jain, Ambassador of India to the Philippines, as the Chief Guest.

H.E. Harsh Kumar Jain, Ambassador of India to the Philippines, remarked "The Indo-Philippines relationship is built on mutual respect, shared values, and a common vision for progress. As we mark 75 years of diplomatic ties, initiatives like the Indo-Philippines Cultural Education Exchange Summit deepen our collaboration in education, healthcare, and culture. The unveiling of the Thiruvalluvar statue at Gullas Medical College reflects

our shared reverence for knowledge and wisdom." Dr. David K Pillai, Chief Executive Consultant, Gullas College of Medicine, also mentioned, "It is such a privilege to celebrate 75 years of bilateral relations between the Philippines and India. Over the years, this relationship has grown stronger through a rich exchange of culture, literature, and education. The Philippines has established itself as a premier destination for students seeking world-class medical education, and with the recent reforms tabled in the Senate allowing students from any country to practice in the Philippines, this marks a significant milestone—especially for Indian medical aspirants. I am confident that this will open new avenues for bright Indian students, further strengthening academic ties and paving the way for a future of excellence in medical education."

Mr. Kadwin Pillai, CEO, Transworld Educare Pvt Ltd and Kings International Ltd, added: "We at Transworld Educare and Kings International extend our sincere gratitude to the Government of the Philippines and its Ministry of Education for commemorating Indo-Philippines 75 years of friendship at such a grand scale. The unveiling of the Thiruvalluvar statue is not just a tribute to a literary icon but a significant gesture of respect towards Tamil heritage and the people of India.

PIL in SC over New Delhi Railway Station stampede

New Delhi
A PIL has been filed in the Supreme Court in the wake of the recent stampede at the New Delhi Railway Station, seeking to constitute an expert committee to frame guidelines and suggest measures to prevent such incidents in the future.

The PIL sought direction from the Union and State governments to collectively constitute an expert committee to frame guidelines and measures to prevent the incidents of stampedes.

The plea filed by advocate Vishal Tiwari sought direction from Indian Railways to take measures for the safety of passengers at railway stations and platforms by widening corridors, constructing broader over-bridges and platforms, and ensuring easy access to platforms through ramps and escalators. During peak hours, any changes to arrival or departure platforms should be strictly avoided.

"Unlashing barriers, ropes, and crowd control gates to manage passenger flow is essential and not to distribute tickets at a time above the number of passengers who may gather and accommodate on a railway station as per to the space available," the plea stated.

The petitioner also sought directions to the Union and the states to implement the report made by the National Disaster Management Authority in 2014 titled "Managing Crowd at Events and Venues of Mass Gathering."

The stampede occurred due to a last-minute change of the departure platform of the train to Prayagraj, said the petitioner, adding that such incidents have also occurred previously as well at railway stations.

"These recurring tragedies highlight the urgent need for enhanced crowd management and safety measures at significant transport hubs such as New Delhi Railway Station," submitted the plea.

It further stated, "The government and railway ministry are very well aware that when Maha Kumbh is going on and lakhs of people are boarding from the railway stations from all states. Then the railways should have made adequate arrangements and safety measures. There have been many videos on social media and news reports that show the chaotic condition at the railway stations where the people are suffering. The bogies are seen fully filled, not leaving an inch of space and people are packed like in a sack."

Unacademy: JEE Main 2025 Session 1 Results Break Record Again

New Delhi
Unacademy, India's leading EdTech platform, has once again set new benchmarks with the JEE Main 2025 Session 1 results. A remarkable 920+ students from Unacademy have achieved above 99 percentile, reinforcing the effectiveness of its hybrid learning model that seamlessly integrates online and offline education.

Sumit Jain, Co-founder at Unacademy, expressed his enthusiasm about the outstanding results, stating, "Our learners have once again demonstrated their caliber and perseverance. These results reflect the dedication of our educators, the strength of our study materials, and the impact of our hybrid learning model. We are confident that this is just the beginning, and our students will continue to break records in JEE, NEET, and other competitive examinations."

Among the top scorers, Saurav secured 100 percentile, followed closely by



Ujwal Kesari (99.999%), Samudra Sarkar (99.992%), Srijan Agarwal (99.98%), Yash Kumar (99.98%), and numerous other exceptional learners who have showcased their dedication and hard work.

With a commitment to providing top-tier education, Unacademy continues to expand its reach, now boasting over 75 centers across more than 50 cities in India. The platform remains steadfast in its mission to empower students with exceptional resources, expert mentorship, and comprehensive academic support, enabling them to achieve their dreams of securing top ranks in competitive exams.

Union Govt committed to implementing NEP: Pradhan

New Delhi
Following the allegations of the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) government of language imposition and funds not being released for the implementation of the National Education Policy (NEP) in Tamil Nadu, Union Education Minister Dharmendra said that the Central government is committed to implementing National Education Policy.

Dharmendra Pradhan said, "To create competition among students, to create a level-playing field, we have to come to a common platform. NEP is the new aspirational common platform. I respect all languages. This NEP, envisioned by PM Modi is giving emphasis to the mother tongue."

He further said that though Tamil was one of the oldest languages there was nothing wrong if students in Tamil Nadu receive a multilingual education.

"Tamil is one of the oldest languages of our civilisation. But what is wrong if a student in Tamil Nadu will learn multilingual aspect in education? It can be Tamil, English and other Indian lan-



guages. There is no imposition of Hindi or any other language on them. Some friends in Tamil Nadu are doing politics. But Govt of India is committed to implementing NEP and there are certain conditions with NEP," the Minister said.

The Education Minister further said that certain political parties were not in favour of implementing NEP due to their political interests, although education is not the concurrent list.

Earlier Tamil Nadu Deputy Chief Minister and DMK leader Udhayanidhi Stalin on Monday hit out at the BJP-led Union government, which he alleged was attempting a Hindi imposition on the Southern state.

"The Union Government has not allotted funds to us in the union budget and even Tamil Nadu's name is not there in the budget. After the cyclonic disaster happened in Tamil Nadu, we asked for funds from the central government to release funds, but they still have not allotted it; only SDRF funds were given to us. Tamil Nadu people are watching their actions and when the time comes, they will reply to them," Stalin said.

"Education was in the state list before and it is in the concurrent list now. The Union government is trying to impose Hindi and our Chief Minister will not accept it. The Union government is trying to impose Hindi on us and please don't impose Hindi on us," the Deputy Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu added.

DMK leader Saravanan Annadurai also hit out at Tamil Nadu BJP chief K Annamalai for supporting Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan's statement on the New Education Policy (NEP) and refused the need to study Hindi.

"Annamalai is indebted to the RSS high command, who have made him the Tamil Nadu chief... He was made the chief of TN BJP so that he could be a puppet in those hands. If he understands Tamil Nadu's history, he will oppose the three-language formula," Annadurai said.

"We don't want Hindi. Why should we read Hindi? What's the use of studying Hindi? Will it make us become a doctor...? Why should we read Hindi? So that we can understand what the Prime Minister says? We should read Hindi because we can converse with North Indian immigrants who are flocking to the state of Tamil Nadu. People here are well educated and migrating to the USA, London, European countries, Australia, China and other countries. There is

absolutely no use in studying Hindi," he added.

DMK MP Kamimozhi said, "All those in the BJP should understand the difference between taking a language as a preferred language and studying it when there is no other way and when there is a need to study it."

"Before the BJP came to power, they were teaching German, but now they are forcing Sanskrit to be studied. What is the benefit of studying Sanskrit? Language imposition, dominance imposition, and all these are what the Union government is doing. That is why we are opposing this language imposition, Hindi imposition," she added.

K Annamalai on Sunday had slammed Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin for his stance against the three-language formula in education.

"Private schools where the sons, daughters or grand-children of Tamil Nadu ministers, including the Chief Minister, study can teach trilingualism. Shouldn't government schools teach our children study trilingualism—Tamil, English and a third Indian language?" Annamalai said in a post on X.

"There will be no impact. How can they form the government? Can the BJP form the government while we are here? The people have now recognised the BJP," Lahu Yadav said.

The Bihar Legislative Assembly election for all 243 constituencies is scheduled to be held in October or November this year. The last assembly elections were held in October-November 2020.

PM Modi to address public rally in Bhagalpur ahead of Bihar elections

Bhagalpur
Prime Minister Narendra Modi will visit Bhagalpur on February 24th at 11 AM to address a public rally ahead of the 2025 Bihar elections, at the Airport Ground.

Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar will accompany the Prime Minister, and the rally is expected to witness the participation of around 5 lakh farmers.

The event will feature the



Kisan Samman Nidhi distribution and a public meet-

ing. As part of the program, Prime Minister Narendra Modi will release the 19th instalment of Kisan Samman Nidhi, prioritizing the welfare, happiness, and prosperity of farmers.

Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader Sahana Jaiswal said that the rally will witness the presence of senior NDA leaders and people from 13 districts, including Bhagalpur, Munger, Begusarai, and others.

BJP leaders are optimistic about winning 200+ seats in Bihar, citing the strong NDA alliance and double-engine government under PM Modi and Nitish Kumar's leadership.

"Just like Delhi, we will win Bihar upcoming elections too," Hussain said.

The BJP, JD(U), Lok Janshakti Party (Ram Vilas), Hindustan Awam Morcha and the Rashtriya Lok Morcha are constituents of the

National Democratic Alliance (NDA) in Bihar.

Earlier, Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) Chief Lalu Prasad Yadav downplayed the impact of the Delhi election results on Bihar, asserting that the BJP stands no chance of forming a government in the state.

Speaking to the media, Yadav claimed that the people have now recognised the Bharatiya Janata

Assam police files FIR against Pak national Ali Tauqueer Sheikh

Guwahati: The Assam Police has lodged an FIR against Ali Tauqueer Sheikh and others for alleged comments on India's internal affairs and parliamentary matters aimed at disrupting communal harmony and the nation's interest. Following allegations of his close link with Congress MP Gaurav Gogoi's British wife Elizabeth Colburn, CM Himanta Biswa Sarma said on Monday.

"In pursuance of the Cabinet decision taken yesterday, Assam Police has lodged an FIR and the same had been registered as CID PS Case No 05/2025 U/S 48/152/61/197(1) BNS, 2023 RW Sec.13(1) UA(P) Act against Ali Tauqueer Sheikh and unknown others", the chief minister posted on X.

The Assam Cabinet on Sunday had decided not to register any case against the Congress MP or his British spouse, who the BJP has accused of having 87 links, but instructed the DGP to file an FIR against Pakistani national Ali Tauqueer Sheikh.

The chief minister had said the state government will write to the Centre for forcing Colburn's participation in Lok Sabha campaigns, despite being a British citizen, in the erstwhile Kaliabor constituency, which was won by Gogoi twice.

Assam CM Sarma announces Rs 27 cr for renovation of rural roads in Kokrajhar

Kokrajhar: Ahead of the historic Budget and Assembly Session of the Assam Legislative Assembly in Kokrajhar, Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma announced Rs 27 crores for the renovation of rural roads in Kokrajhar.

In a post on X, the government of BTR said, "Ahead of the historic first-ever Budget and Assembly Session of the Assam Legislative Assembly in Kokrajhar, CM Dr Himanta Biswa and CM Pramod Boro BTR inspected road infrastructure in the Jarbadi-Dighli area leading to Saralpara. During the visit, CM Himanta Biswa Sarma conducted a comprehensive review of the ongoing road development projects and announced a commitment of Rs 27 crores for the renovation of rural roads in Kokrajhar."

"This significant support reflects the joint efforts of the Assam Government and BTR leadership in enhancing connectivity, accelerating infrastructure development, and improving rural livelihoods," the X post of the Govt of BTR further said.

CM Sarma arrived to a warm welcome in Kokrajhar on Monday morning to attend a historic sitting of the state Assembly outside Guwahati.

Assam Legislative Assembly session is being held outside the capital city for one day for the first time in the state's history.

The first day of the Budget session of the Assam Legislative Assembly is being held at the Bodoland Territorial Council (BTC) assembly in Kokrajhar on Monday, sending a message of peace.

530 million devotees have taken holy dip in Triveni Sangam so far: Yogi Adityanath

Lucknow: A huge footfall of devotees gathered at Mahakumbh, Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath said that so far, 53 crore devotees have taken a holy dip in the Triveni Sangam and this process will continue for the next nine days.

CM Yogi Adityanath said, "This moment is even more important for us when Mahakumbh is being organised here, which has become the world's largest spiritual and cultural event to date. So far, 53 crore devotees have taken a holy dip in the Triveni Sangam and this process will continue for the next nine days."

He further said that this is the potential of the country and people got opportunity to visit Uttar Pradesh.

He further said, "Under the leadership of PM Modi, for the first time the faith of the country got respect. The wait of 500 years is over and now we can go to Ayodhya to offer prayers to Lord Ram. In 2016-17, when there was no BJP government in the state, the number of devotees coming to Ayodhya was only 2 lakh 35 thousand, and in 2024, this number is more than 14 to 15 crore devotees. This is the result of the contribution of the devotees."

Devotees continued to arrive at Mahakumbh 2025 to take a holy dip at Triveni Sangam on the 36th day of the festival on Monday. Over 52 crore devotees have taken a holy dip so far at the world's largest human gathering.

A massive influx of devotees was seen at the Prayagraj Railway station on Monday.

Police officials were constantly vigilant to manage the overwhelming crowd.

The Director General of Central Reserve Police Force, G P Singh reviewed the security arrangements for Prayagraj's Mahakumbh on Sunday, also appreciated how there is a 'fine synergy' between the Uttar Pradesh Police, CRPF and all other agencies involved.

The X account of CRPF mentioned, "In Prayagraj, DG GP Singh assessed security arrangements for Mahakumbh, guiding CRPF officials on balancing vigilance with seamless public assistance."

"He appreciated the fine synergy between UP Police, CRPF, and all agencies involved while commending their hard work so far in maintaining security," the post added.

"To ease the extra rush of passengers during the Mahakumbh Mela and in the backdrop of the recent stampede at New Delhi Railway Station, Northern Railway has decided to run four special trains to facilitate smooth travel for devotees and travellers."

The four special trains are Train No 04420: New Delhi to Prayagraj Jn, departing at 19:00 hours, with a route via New Delhi-Ghaziabad-Moradabad-Bareilly-Lucknow-Raebareilly-Jn-Phaphamau Jn; Train No 04422: New Delhi to Prayagraj Jn, departing at 21:00 hours, following the same route as Train No. 04420; Train No 04424: Anand Vihar Terminal to Prayagraj Jn, departing at 20:00 hours, with a route via Ghaziabad-Moradabad-Bareilly-Lucknow-Raebareilly-Phaphamau; and Train No 04418: New Delhi to Darbhanga Jn, departing at 15:00 hours, with a route via New Delhi-Ghaziabad-Chhapra-Buzurg-Kanpur-Lucknow-Phaphamau-Varanasi-Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Jn-Patliputra Jn-Darbhanga.

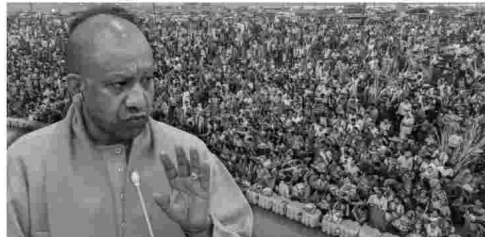
Meanwhile, I had to face many false cases and go to jail many times, yet I did not let my steps stop and continued helping people," he said.

Ending his letter, he wrote, "If I am leaving this world, the biggest reason for this is Dr Sanjay Kumar Nishad and his sons Praveen Kumar Nishad and (Engineer) Shrawan Kumar Nishad and my wicked traitor friend Jai Prakash Nishad. I am saying again that if I wanted to kill, I could have killed these traitors anytime, but I did not want to become a murderer."

"If I have made any mistake with anyone knowingly or unknowingly in my social and political life, then you people please forgive me and take care of my family. Forgive me mother, Anjali, Bhayia, Didi," he said.

Superintendent of Police Somendra Meena said the case is being investigated.

Police force is deployed on the spot. Further action will be taken based on the post-mortem report, he added.



CM Yogi further said that this is the potential of the country and people got opportunity to visit Uttar Pradesh.

04420: New Delhi to Prayagraj Jn, departing at 19:00 hours, with a route via New Delhi-Ghaziabad-Moradabad-Bareilly-Lucknow-Raebareilly-Jn-Phaphamau Jn; Train No 04422: New Delhi to Prayagraj Jn, departing at 21:00 hours, following the same route as Train No. 04420; Train No 04424: Anand Vihar Terminal to Prayagraj Jn, departing at 20:00 hours, with a route via Ghaziabad-Moradabad-Bareilly-Lucknow-Raebareilly-Phaphamau; and Train No 04418: New Delhi to Darbhanga Jn, departing at 15:00 hours, with a route via New Delhi-Ghaziabad-Chhapra-Buzurg-Kanpur-Lucknow-Phaphamau-Varanasi-Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Jn-Patliputra Jn-Darbhanga.

CM Dhama attends workshop organized by NITI Aayog in Dehradun

Dehradun: Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhama on Monday participated in the workshop organized by NITI Aayog on the topic of 'Sustainable Management and Climate Adaptation Strategies for Sustainable Development in the Indian Himalayan Region' in Dehradun.

Speaking at the workshop, Chief Minister Dhama talked about the increasing probability caused by climate change, especially regarding the state's water resources.

He emphasized that the continuous drying up of water sources, such as drains and streams, was a significant concern for the state and the larger Himalayan region. "Climate change is a big problem for us, a big challenge too. Our water sources, our drains, streams, all of these are drying up continuously, and their sources are getting reduced," Dhama said.

CM Dhama shared the state government's efforts to address water scarcity as he said, "We are already making efforts for the revival of these water sources in Uttarakhand, and through Spring and River Rejuvenation Authority (SARA), we are working to revive about 5500 such sources."

Dhama also emphasized the importance of river rejuvenation projects in Uttarakhand. As he said, "The transfer of Kosi, Ganges, Gomti, and Garuda rivers will ensure drinking water and irrigation for 2 lakh rural populations across 625 villages. This project will be a milestone in our efforts to conserve our water resources."

He stressed the importance of collective action in the coming times to protect and



Kannauj (Uttar Pradesh): Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav on Monday urged the Uttar Pradesh government to extend the dates for Mahakumbh, saying that many devotees have not visited the holy congregation because of "bad" facilities and recent incidents.

Yadav also accused the Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath-led government of hiding the death toll of the stampede that happened in Prayagraj on January 29.

Speaking to press, Yadav said, "As per the information received nowadays from people who have returned from there, the facilities there are really bad. CM had said that they are making arrangements for 100 crore people but that many people haven't even gone, only a few crores have gone but still, all the facilities have gone down the hill, stampede happened, till now, the actual death toll has not come out."

"People spent hours on the road during night due to long traffic jams, so many people lost lives in various accidents. I demand that the time of Kumbh should be extended," Yadav added.

30 people reportedly lost their lives at the stampede that occurred on the occasion of the Mauni Amavasya bathing ritual on January 29.

After Mauni Amavasya stampede, another incident of stampede happened in New Delhi Railway Station on Saturday around 10 pm when thousands of devotees were heading to Prayagraj for the Mahakumbh 2025 festival and some to other destinations in that direction, causing severe overcrowding at the station. Around 18 people died in the incident.

Delhi Police has said that confusion over the trains led to the stampede. The confusion happened because of the announcement of the trains having the same name starting with 'Prayagraj' and platforms they were supposed to be at.

Police further said that the announcement of the Prayagraj Special arriving at Platform 16 led to confusion because Prayagraj Express was already at Platform 14.

"People who couldn't reach their train at Platform 14 thought their train was arriving at Platform 16, leading to the stampede," police said.

Mahakumbh 2025, which commenced on Paush Purnima (January 13, 2025), is the world's largest spiritual and cultural gathering, attracting devotees from across the globe. The grand event will continue till Mahashivratri on February 26.

Over 52 crore devotees have taken holy dip so far at the world's largest human gathering as of Monday morning.

Akhilesh urges to extend Mahakumbh dates, slams UP govt for "bad" facilities

Kannauj (Uttar Pradesh): Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav on Monday urged the Uttar Pradesh government to extend the dates for Mahakumbh, saying that many devotees have not visited the holy congregation because of "bad" facilities and recent incidents.

Yadav also accused the Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath-led government of hiding the death toll of the stampede that happened in Prayagraj on January 29.

Speaking to press, Yadav said, "As per the information received nowadays from people who have returned from there, the facilities there are really bad. CM had said that they are making arrangements for 100 crore people but that many people haven't even gone, only a few crores have gone but still, all the facilities have gone down the hill, stampede happened, till now, the actual death toll has not come out."

"People spent hours on the road during night due to long traffic jams, so many people lost lives in various accidents. I demand that the time of Kumbh should be extended," Yadav added.

30 people reportedly lost their lives at the stampede that occurred on the occasion of the Mauni Amavasya bathing ritual on January 29.

After Mauni Amavasya stampede, another incident of stampede happened in New Delhi Railway Station on Saturday around 10 pm when thousands of devotees were heading to Prayagraj for the Mahakumbh 2025 festival and some to other destinations in that direction, causing severe overcrowding at the station. Around 18 people died in the incident.

Delhi Police has said that confusion over the trains led to the stampede. The confusion happened because of the announcement of the trains having the same name starting with 'Prayagraj' and platforms they were supposed to be at.

Police further said that the announcement of the Prayagraj Special arriving at Platform 16 led to confusion because Prayagraj Express was already at Platform 14.

Meanwhile, I had to face many false cases and go to jail many times, yet I did not let my steps stop and continued helping people," he said.

Ending his letter, he wrote, "If I am leaving this world, the biggest reason for this is Dr Sanjay Kumar Nishad and his sons Praveen Kumar Nishad and (Engineer) Shrawan Kumar Nishad and my wicked traitor friend Jai Prakash Nishad. I am saying again that if I wanted to kill, I could have killed these traitors anytime, but I did not want to become a murderer."

"If I have made any mistake with anyone knowingly or unknowingly in my social and political life, then you people please forgive me and take care of my family. Forgive me mother, Anjali, Bhayia, Didi," he said.

Superintendent of Police Somendra Meena said the case is being investigated.

Police force is deployed on the spot. Further action will be taken based on the post-mortem report, he added.



Kannauj (Uttar Pradesh): Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav on Monday urged the Uttar Pradesh government to extend the dates for Mahakumbh, saying that many devotees have not visited the holy congregation because of "bad" facilities and recent incidents.

Yadav also accused the Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath-led government of hiding the death toll of the stampede that happened in Prayagraj on January 29.

Speaking to press, Yadav said, "As per the information received nowadays from people who have returned from there, the facilities there are really bad. CM had said that they are making arrangements for 100 crore people but that many people haven't even gone, only a few crores have gone but still, all the facilities have gone down the hill, stampede happened, till now, the actual death toll has not come out."

"People spent hours on the road during night due to long traffic jams, so many people lost lives in various accidents. I demand that the time of Kumbh should be extended," Yadav added.

30 people reportedly lost their lives at the stampede that occurred on the occasion of the Mauni Amavasya bathing ritual on January 29.

After Mauni Amavasya stampede, another incident of stampede happened in New Delhi Railway Station on Saturday around 10 pm when thousands of devotees were heading to Prayagraj for the Mahakumbh 2025 festival and some to other destinations in that direction, causing severe overcrowding at the station. Around 18 people died in the incident.

Delhi Police has said that confusion over the trains led to the stampede. The confusion happened because of the announcement of the trains having the same name starting with 'Prayagraj' and platforms they were supposed to be at.

Police further said that the announcement of the Prayagraj Special arriving at Platform 16 led to confusion because Prayagraj Express was already at Platform 14.

BJP MPs, other VIPs continue to arrive at ongoing Mahakumbh Mela

Prayagraj: A steady stream of VIPs continue to arrive at the ongoing Mahakumbh 2025 being held in Prayagraj.

Ajay Bhatt, Uttarakhand's BJP leader applauded the state Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath and Prime Minister Narendra Modi for the arrangements made.

"I am very happy with the arrangements made here. The CM Yogi Adityanath and Prime Minister Narendra Modi have made really good arrangements..." Bhatt said.

Talking about the mishaps that occurred during the massive celebrations, he said, "See these mishaps keep occurring during such grand celebrations. The fact that so many people are coming to the Kumbh Mela is a very big deal... this is the country's unity that is bringing the people here to take a dip. I want to



thank CM Yogi who made sure the arrangements were good and no one is troubled by anything. I want to thank every worker here who have made sure to make every arrangement here..." Pardihi said speaking to ANI.

Atmaram Bansal, Director AP Lepsi Medanta said that he was fortunate to visit Mahakumbh and take a dip in the Triveni Sangam.

"I am very happy and fortunate that I could

involved.

The X account of CRPF mentioned, "In Prayagraj, DG GP Singh assessed security arrangements for Mahakumbh, guiding CRPF officials on balancing vigilance with seamless public assistance."

"He appreciated the fine synergy between UP Police, CRPF, and all agencies involved while commending their hard work so far in maintaining security," the post added.

"To ease the extra rush of passengers during the Mahakumbh Mela and in the backdrop of the recent stampede at New Delhi Railway Station, Northern Railway has decided to run four special trains to facilitate smooth travel for devotees and travellers."

Police officials were constantly vigilant to manage the overwhelming crowd," Bansal said.

The Director General of Central Reserve Police Force, G P Singh reviewed the security arrangements for Prayagraj's Mahakumbh on Sunday, also appreciated how there is a 'fine synergy' between the Uttar Pradesh Police, CRPF and all other agencies

Man associated with Nishad Party commits suicide in UP's Maharajganj

Maharajganj (UP): A 29-year-old man associated with the Nishad Party committed suicide on Sunday by hanging himself at his house in Uttar Pradesh's Maharajganj district, police said on Monday.

The deceased has been identified as Dharmma Nishad (29), a resident of Narkatha village in Paniyara police station area of Maharajganj district.

The deceased recently made serious allegations against Nishad Party chief and Uttar Pradesh Minister Sanjay Nishad.

"I lost the battle of my life. This is my last message. Today after a lot of thinking, I have decided that this world is of no use to me. I tried to help as many people as I could according to my capacity and many times I even helped people beyond my capacity. Due to this, I made thousands of political and social enemies, yet I continued to raise the voice of the exploited, deprived and weak people of the society," he wrote in a lengthy Facebook post (in Hindi) on Sunday morning.

Meanwhile, I had to face many false cases and go to jail many times, yet I did not let my steps stop and continued helping people," he said.

Ending his letter, he wrote, "If I am leaving this world, the biggest reason for this is Dr Sanjay Kumar Nishad and his sons Praveen Kumar Nishad and (Engineer) Shrawan Kumar Nishad and my wicked traitor friend Jai Prakash Nishad. I am saying again that if I wanted to kill, I could have killed these traitors anytime, but I did not want to become a murderer."

"If I have made any mistake with anyone knowingly or unknowingly in my social and political life, then you people please forgive me and take care of my family. Forgive me mother, Anjali, Bhayia, Didi," he said.

Superintendent of Police Somendra Meena said the case is being investigated.

Police force is deployed on the spot. Further action will be taken based on the post-mortem report, he added.

These special trains are introduced to manage the increased passenger traffic during the Mela and provide added convenience to the travellers.

The four special trains are Train No 04420: New Delhi to Prayagraj Jn, departing at 19:00 hours, with a route via New Delhi-Ghaziabad-Moradabad-Bareilly-Lucknow-Raebareilly-Jn-Phaphamau Jn; Train No 04422: New Delhi to Prayagraj Jn, departing at 21:00 hours, following the same route as Train No. 04420; Train No 04424: Anand Vihar Terminal to Prayagraj Jn, departing at 20:00 hours, with a route via Ghaziabad-Moradabad-Bareilly-Lucknow-Raebareilly-Phaphamau; and Train No 04418: New Delhi to Darbhanga Jn, departing at 15:00 hours, with a route via New Delhi-Ghaziabad-Chhapra-Buzurg-Kanpur-Lucknow-Phaphamau-Varanasi-Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Jn-Patliputra Jn-Darbhanga.

Nawaz Sharif blames Imran Khan for Pakistan's economic woes

"Lot of anxieties in some parts of the world," EAM Jaishankar

China plays its Trump card

LAHORE
Pakistan's three-time prime minister Nawaz Sharif set his gun against former premier Imran Khan on Monday, saying the jailed politician is responsible for economic woes and other ills prevailing in the country.

Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) supremo Nawaz, whose younger brother Shehbaz Sharif and daughter Maryam Nawaz are running governments in the Centre and Punjab province under the umbrella of the powerful military, is currently keeping a low profile.

He recently met PML-N legislators from Punjab to listen to issues in their constituencies and blamed Pakistan's Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party supremo Imran Khan, who has been in jail in multiple cases since August 2023, for Pakistan's economic woes.

"The economy and national values were destroyed and democracy was stabbed in the back by a person (Imran Khan)," Nawaz told PML-N lawmakers. He said Khan had shaken the country's foundation after coming to power in 2018.

The PML-N supremo also held Khan, 72, responsible for bringing in "indecent and hostility in politics and destroying the national values."

"Corruption, economic downfall, and inflation are the so-called gifts of the PTI government," he said.

Agency

Muscat
External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar while speaking at the 8th Indian Ocean Conference panel discussion said that the happenings in the US, has caused anxiety in several parts of the world.

Jaishankar said that all countries have to assess the situation without being emotional and attached to habits.

"Clearly a lot of new things, some of which was predictable if we were tuned in to what was coming out of the US for the last year or before that, perhaps even longer. Obviously a lot of anxieties in some parts of the world, a lot of opportunities for many. I think what's important is to kind of assess it without getting too emotional or you know attached to your habits, understand that this is a change which is upon us whether we like



Jaishankar further said that US President Donald Trump wields immense power, and that something big was going to happen.

or not. It's happening by the way, we do like some parts of it definitely and then look to see where are the openings and the possibilities out there," he said.

Jaishankar also said that India has long struggled with the hegemony of the West.

"One of the issues we have struggled with in a way is a kind of hegemonism of the global West. I heard a lot of talk today about exter-

nal interference or political interference, but in a way the same thing was happening in the name of human rights and values. When we look at it there are no possibilities of evening out this conversation that many many practises which were supposedly universal which were not, we have now a greater ability to push back to say that well it may work that way where you're concerned, but that isn't so for every-

body," he said. He further said that when there is a push for universalism, there is expectation that it would come out of the people of New York.

"So I would argue in a way there's a greater opportunity in a more diversified world dis-federated world to have more democratic conversations. So the, the persistent push for universalism, that moment you believe is now

perhaps facing a severe pushback. I think that kind of globalisation there was an economic foundation to it, and there was an ideological superstructure to it. I think the superstructure definitely is challenged if not discredited. I think the foundation is being contested. So today when we say let's have more resilient, reliable supply chain, that's a polite way of saying I contest that model of globalisation where all roads lead to one geography. When you say that let's have an active debate, you're challenging the view that there is one truth and it has to come out of people in New York," he said.

Beijing
As newly installed President Donald Trump pursues his personal agenda in the White House, Chairman Xi Jinping and the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) elites must be rubbing their hands with glee. Trump and his senior officials are alarming or snubbing one country after another, thus providing China multiple opportunities to advance its own authoritarian cause. With regularity, the almost buffoonish actions of Trump are lowering respect for the USA around the world. Whether it is threats to seize control of the Panama Canal or Greenland, Trump is making a mockery of the rule of law. In language reminiscent of China's leaders, the American second-term president has not ruled out the use of force to "retake" the Panama Canal. Yet that is exactly what tsarist Vladimir Pu-

tin did in Ukraine, and what Xi is threatening to do to Taiwan. Both claim foreign territory as their own, and they deem conquest necessary to secure their national security interests. If it is okay for Trump to talk like this, then how can the world criticize Putin and Xi for similar ambitions? This is the quandary that Trump is creating for himself. One of Trump's first tasks was to suspend US Agency for International Development (USAID) funding for 90 days, as he moves it under the Department of State and shrinks its workforce. The USA funds 40 per cent of global foreign aid, so curbing its finances will badly disrupt humanitarian aid worldwide. Although couched in the language of saving money and demanding accountability, the USA is proving an unreliable partner and is giving China a golden opportunity to step up and expand its influence.

Pak journalist expresses concern over rising enforced disappearances

Islamabad
Pakistani journalist Hamid Mir expressed his deep concern about the rising cases of enforced disappearances in the country on Monday. His response came after a post from the official account of Voice of Baloch Missing Persons, which highlighted a troubling incident in Gwadar's tehsil Pasi.

According to the post, five individuals were arrested by security forces and taken to an un-

known location. Since their detention, they have been missing, raising serious concerns.

The original post stated: "In the district of Gwadar's tehsil Pasi, the forces have arrested four brothers-Wahid Majid, Hafeez Majid, Waseem Majid, and Nadeem Majid-along with a young man named Asim, and taken them to an unknown location. Since then, they have been missing, which is a matter of concern. We



condemn this action and demand the immediate recovery of all four brothers along with Asim." In response on plat-

form X, Hamid Mir remarked, "The detained young will not be presented in any court, and their disappearance will not be questioned on any TV channel because the issue of missing persons neither attracts ratings nor encouragement from the channel management. Everyone knows who is behind their disappearance. When the constitution itself is missing, who can protect citizens from disappearing?"

This exchange underscores the growing issue of enforced disappearances in Pakistan, where individuals are detained without legal proceed-

ings, leaving their families in a state of uncertainty and distress. Enforced disappearances in Balochistan have been a persistent and alarming issue, with many individuals, particularly activists, journalists, and political leaders, vanishing without a trace. These disappearances are often attributed to state agencies, with accusations that they target those speaking out against the government's policies or

advocating for Baloch rights. Victims are typically detained in secret, subjected to torture, and sometimes found dead or left without any formal charges. The lack of accountability, impunity for perpetrators, and the climate of fear have deepened the sense of injustice and further marginalised the Baloch community, contributing to ongoing unrest and human rights violations.

BUSINESS

Stock Market Rebounds; RIL, HDFC Bank Lead Gains

Mumbai
Stock markets snapped the eight-day losing run on Monday with benchmark Sensex closing higher by 37 points on the back of value buying in blue-chip stocks. HDFC Bank and Reliance Industries.

Helped by bag-end-buying, the 30-share BSE Sensex climbed 57.65 points or 0.08 per cent to settle at 75,996.86. During the day, the benchmark tanked 644.45 points or 0.84 per cent to 75,294.76. The NSE Nifty rebounded 30.25 points or 0.13 per cent to 22,959.50.

From the 30-share blue-chip pack, Bajaj Finserv, Power Grid, IndusInd Bank, Adani Ports, UltraTech Ce-

ment, HDFC Bank, Zomato and Tata Motors were among the major gainers.

Mahindra & Mahindra, Bharat Airtel, Tata Consultancy Services, Infosys, ICICI Bank, and ITC were the biggest laggards.

Foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) offloaded equities worth Rs 4,294.69 crore on Friday, according to exchange data.

The total outflow for FPIs has reached Rs 99,299 crore -- near Rs 1 lakh crore -- in 2025 so far, data with the depositories showed. FPIs pulled out Rs 21,272 crore in the first two weeks of this month, driven by global tensions after the US imposed tariffs on imports. This came following a net outflow of Rs 78,027 crore in Jan-

uary. In Asian markets, Seoul, Tokyo and Shanghai settled in the positive territory while Hong Kong ended lower.

European markets were trading higher. US markets ended mostly lower on Friday.

Global oil benchmark Brent crude climbed 0.21 per cent higher at USD 74.90 a barrel.

The BSE benchmark dropped 199.76 points or 0.26 per cent to settle at 75,939.21 on Friday. The Nifty declined 102.15 points or 0.44 per cent to 22,929.25.

In the last eight trading days, the BSE benchmark tanked 2,644.6 points or 3.36 per cent, and the Nifty slumped 810 points or 3.41 per cent.

Skill Ministry & Intel Partner to Empower Young Innovators

New Delhi

The Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship and American chip maker Intel on Monday announced the launch of 'AI for Entrepreneurship' micro-learning module for young innovators across India, aiming to skill 1 lakh youth through the programme.

The National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC), a public-private venture partnership (PPP) organisation under the administrative control of the Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship, is also a part of the initiative. The module aims to demystify artificial intelligence (AI) and foster



entrepreneurial thinking among young innovators across the country, according to a statement.

"This initiative embodies our commitment

to harness the power of AI to unlock potential, create jobs, and drive our nation towards a brighter, self-reliant future where talent and technology drive India's growth story," Minister for Skill Development and Entrepreneurship Jayant Chaudhary said.

"Collaboration with the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship provides this initiative the scale, reach and advances our commitment to bringing AI everywhere. Our goal is to skill 100,000 youth through this programme," said Gokul Subramanian, Intel India President & Vice President of Client Computing Group.

to fostering innovation, empowering individuals, and building a skilled workforce ready to shape the industries of tomorrow. Together,

Electoral Bonds in New Income Tax Bill: Experts Intrigued

New Delhi

Experts are intrigued by the new Income Tax Bill, 2025 retaining provisions related to electoral bonds, which were rendered unconstitutional by the Supreme Court last year, saying it could be because of legislative oversight or the government's intention to bring it back in some other form.

Electoral bonds have been mentioned in the new Income Tax Bill's Schedule VIII which deals with 'Income not to be included in the total income of political parties and electoral trusts'.

In a judgement passed on February 15 last year, the Supreme Court had scrapped the Centre's electoral bonds scheme of anonymous political funding, calling it "unconstitutional" as it was



"violative" of the right to freedom of speech and expression and right to information.

Under the existing Income Tax Act, 1961, donations received from companies and individuals through electoral bonds are exempt in the hands of political parties.

The government has brought in a new Income

Tax Bill to replace the 64-year-old I-T Act. The 622-page Bill is a simplified version of the existing Act which has become complicated over the years because of over 4,000 amendments.

About the electoral bond related provisions in the new I-T Bill, AMRG & Associates Senior Partner Rajat Mohan said the mention of elec-

toral bond provisions in the new Income Tax Bill could be because of a legislative oversight, or a deliberate move to keep the door open for a modified version of the scheme in the future.

"While the Supreme Court had strong and justified grounds for striking down the scheme, the concerns it highlighted can be ad-

ressed through structured dialogue and expert consultations. The government still retains the legislative authority to reintroduce a revised political donation framework, provided it aligns with constitutional principles and ensures transparency in electoral funding," he said.

Mohan said mentioning of the electoral bond in the new Bill may be a strategic decision by policymakers to leave room for future electoral

financing reforms. Shardul Amarchand Mangaldas and Co Partner Rohit Garg said the changes in the new income tax bill are merely structural in nature. There have been no major changes in the substantive provisions and the charging sections. Every provision which was not rendered obsolete has been carried forward into the new Act.

"While the SC has ordered SBI to stop issuing electoral bonds, amendments have to be made under the relevant laws to reflect the judgement. If ever in the future, electoral bonds are re-issued, they will be allowed as a deduction. However, the question regarding details of the donors being made public will have to be addressed under the relevant Acts, as I-T Act

merely deals with the taxability aspect," Garg added.

State Bank of India (SBI) has issued electoral bonds worth Rs 16,518 crore in 30 tranches since the inception of the scheme in 2018.

As per Schedule VIII, a political party has to meet six conditions for claiming tax exemptions on voluntary contributions received by them.

One of the conditions states that "no donation exceeding Rs 2,000 is received by such political party otherwise than by an account payee cheque drawn on a bank or an account payee bank draft or use of electronic clearing system through a bank account or through such other electronic mode as prescribed or through electoral bond".

India to US Reciprocal Tariffs

New Delhi

India will take a view regarding the reciprocal tariffs announced by US President Donald Trump, after finalisation of the law by America pertaining to these import duties, an official said.

The official said though they are aware of the elements of the reciprocal tariff bill, but on what shape it will take once it became an Act, "we are not clear".

"We do not know the contours of the reciprocal act... So we will take a call on that once that act comes into force," the official said, when asked if India is planning to challenge the USA's reciprocal tariffs in the World Trade Organisation (WTO).

International trade experts have opined that these duties "really shred" the WTO rule book.

The US has announced 25 per cent duty on steel and aluminium.

Another official explained that the reciprocal tariffs the US will impose is under a law they have introduced in their Congress and that the Bill is there with their select committee.

"We will see when it comes (into force)," the official said, adding that the commerce ministry is planning to hold stakeholder consultation with industry and "once tariffs are imposed, a cost benefit analysis will be done".

Advt Contact : 9818-799941

Cricket

Williamson signs with Middlesex, to represent club in T20 Blast, County Championship

London

Middlesex Cricket on Monday announced the signing of New Zealand star batter Kane Williamson for the 2025 season, during which he will don its colours for the T20 Blast and the County Championship.

The county club issued a statement regarding the same, saying, "Middlesex Cricket is today thrilled to announce that New Zealand's Kane Williamson, widely regarded as one of the greatest modern-day batters in the game, will be joining the Club for the 2025 season, and will feature in both the T20 Blast and the Rothesay County Championship."

The all-time leading Test run-scorer for New Zealand will be available for at least ten of Middlesex's 14 T20 Blast group fixtures, whilst also being available to play for the Club in at least five County Championship clashes in the second half of the season.

In an exceptional international career, in which he has captained his country in all formats, Williamson has made over 360 appearances for the Blackcaps, amassing over 18,000 runs, including 47 centuries. He averages an incredible 54.88 in Test cricket, 49.65 in ODI cricket, and 33.44 in the T20 format of the game.

He has twice previously played county cricket in England, with



Gloucestershire in 2011 and 2012 and with Yorkshire between 2013 and 2018, however he joins Middlesex having dominated world cricket in recent years and having featured in the ICC's World Test Team of the Year in seven of the last ten years.

In the T20 format of the game, he has featured across the globe in each of the world's biggest franchise competitions, representing both the Gu-

jarat Titans and the Sunrisers Hyderabad (SRH) in the Indian Premier League, the Barbados Tridents in the Caribbean Premier League (CPL), and Durban's Super Giants in the SA20, and is set to team up with Karachi Kings at this year's Pakistan Super League (PSL), starting in mid-April.

Whilst in the UK this summer, Williamson will also feature for Lon-

don Spirit in the Hundred, making Lord's his home in 2025 from May through to the end of September.

Speaking of Kane Williamson signing for Middlesex this year, Alan Coleman, the Club's Director of Cricket, commented:

"We are hugely excited about Kane joining Middlesex this summer and are looking forward to him making a positive impact in both our Blast and

Championship campaigns."

"To have secured one of the most talented players in the world game is a real coup, and we can't wait to welcome him to Lord's and to seeing him heading out with the three Seaxes on his chest."

"Having a player like Kane in the Middlesex dressing room will be a huge plus for the entire squad, and especially our younger players, who will benefit enormously from playing alongside one of the world's best," he concluded. On signing for Middlesex, Williamson himself commented: "I have played a bit of county cricket in the past, but not for a number of years now, so when this opportunity arose with Middlesex, it was a really exciting prospect."

"To be able to play for Middlesex - a fine club with a rich heritage - is really exciting and something that I'm really looking forward to being a part of. To play at Lord's, the Home of Cricket - which is one of my favourite grounds in the world for so many different reasons - is something I'm especially looking forward to also."

"There's a good balance of youth and experience in the Middlesex squad, which is great, and I am really excited to join up with the team, meet the players in the squad and helping out wherever I can," he concluded.

Nita Ambani opens up on process of scouting for Mumbai Indians ahead of IPL 2025

Boston

Ahead of the Indian Premier League (IPL) 2025, Mumbai Indians (MI) owner and Reliance Foundation Founder-Chairperson Nita Ambani on Monday opened up on how she scouted for new talent for the Mumbai Indians team and included Hardik Pandya, Krunal Pandya, Jasprit Bumrah and Tilak Varma in the team.

The 10-team cash-rich league will kickstart 12 days after the ICC Champions Trophy final at March 9 and will be played across 12 venues, which includes 10 home venues of each franchise plus (second venue for RR) and Dharamsala (second venue for Punjab Kings).

The 'El Clasico' of IPL, a clash between five-time champions Mumbai Indians (MI) and Chennai Super Kings (CSK), is set to take place in the evening at Chepauk on March 23 which will be the opening clash of both the teams in the competition.

"In IPL, we all have a fixed budget, so every team can spend a amount of money, so we had to think about new ways of getting talent... So I remember scouting for talent, and I used to go to every Ranji Trophy match and my scouts and I would go to all these domestic cricket matches. And one day, our scouts took two young, lanky, thin boys to the camp. I was talking to them, and they said that for three years, they've eaten nothing but Maggi. Noodles because they've had no money. But in them, I saw the spirit, the passion and the hunger that they wanted to make it big," Nita Ambani said during the keynote address at the Harvard India Conference on Indian Business, Policy & Culture.

"Those two brothers were Hardik Pandya and Krunal Pandya. In 2015, I bought Hardik Pandya at 10 thousand US dollars in the auction, and today, he's the proud captain of Mumbai Indians. The next year, our scouts got one young cricketer with an odd body language, and they said watch him bowl. We watched him he could just speak to the ball. That was our Bumrah and the rest is history. Last year, we launched Tilak Varma, and now he is a proud member of Team India. So I think Mumbai Indians is rightfully called the nursery of cricket in India," Nita Ambani added.

Speaking about the performance in the IPL so far, Bumrah has taken 165 wickets in 132 matches in the IPL, with an average of 22.51 and an economy rate of 7.30, making him the second-highest wicket-taker for the team after Lasith Malinga. He has two five and four-wicket hauls in the league.

MI skipper Hardik Pandya faced challenges throughout IPL 2024, with fans expressing their discontent by booing him at various venues, including the Wankhede Stadium in Mumbai. After being traded from the Gujarat Titans and succeeding Rohit as captain, he struggled with his performance, scoring only 216 runs at a strike rate of 143 and taking 11 wickets with an economy rate of 10.75.

Legend 90 League: Rajasthan Kings set up final showdown with Chhattisgarh Warriors



Rajpur

Rajasthan Kings stormed into the grand finale of the Legend 90 League with a dominant six-wicket victory over Delhi Royals in Qualifier 2 at the Shaheed Veer Narayan Singh International Cricket Stadium on Sunday, as per the Legend 90 League press release.

The Kings rode on Phil Mustard's unbeaten 53 off 34 balls and Rajat Singh's explosive 56 off 28 to chase down the target in a thrilling encounter.

Rajasthan Kings and Chhattisgarh Warriors will lock horns in the final of the Legend 90 League on Monday. The match will begin at 7:15 pm and will feature a closing ceremony with Bollywood star Tamannaah Bhatia's performance before the game.

Coming back to the game, battling first, Delhi Royals had a blistering start, with Lendl Simmons and Sharan Lumba setting the stage on fire. Lumba was the aggressor, smashing 60 off just 24 balls, including nine boundaries and three sixes. The opening pair stitched together a 90-run stand, putting the Royals in a commanding position early on.

However, the Kings fought back strongly, applying pressure in the middle overs. Simmons continued his charge, scoring 63 off 34 balls, but his innings was cut short in dramatic fashion when a rising delivery from Sudeep Tyagi struck him on the hel-

met, forcing him to retire hurt. This shift in momentum allowed Rajasthan Kings to tighten their grip on the game.

Despite the setback, Delhi captain Bipul Sharma played a late flourish, smashing three sixes in the final over to push the Royals to a competitive 167/5 in 15 overs.

Chasing 168, Rajasthan Kings had a steady start with Phil Mustard and Asad Pathan putting together a 45-run opening stand. However, the Royals struck back quickly, dismissing Pathan, Gaurav Tomar, and captain Faiz Fazal in quick succession, leaving Rajasthan at 74/3.

With pressure mounting, Rajat Singh stepped up alongside Mustard. Singh played a fearless knock, hammering 56 off 28 balls to bring Rajasthan back into contention. His attacking intent put the Royals' bowlers under immense pressure.

Even after his run-out in the penultimate over, the Kings needed 15 runs from the last eight balls. Mustard took charge at the crucial moment, smashing back-to-back sixes to complete his half-century and bring Rajasthan within touching distance of victory. With just three runs needed off the final over, the Kings comfortably sealed the chase with a six-wicket win. With this win, Rajasthan Kings have booked their place in the Legend 90 League final, where they will face Chhattisgarh Warriors on Monday.

PCB launches CT during opening ceremony at Dewan-e-Khas of Lahore Fort

Lahore

The 2025 ICC Champions Trophy was officially launched by the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) at the opening ceremony of the mega event at Dewan-e-Khas of Lahore Fort on Sunday, as per the ICC.

The Curtain Raiser event has successfully dialled up anticipation ahead of the tournament opener on February 19 between host nation Pakistan and fellow title contenders New Zealand.

Organisers lit Lahore Fort in all its glory, presenting a spectacular sight as a sign of what's coming right through the first Champions Trophy event since 2017.

It is hosts Pakistan that will look to defend their crown, having claimed the 2017 edition of the tournament in the United Kingdom. Members of the trophy-winning squad from 2017 played a central role at the Curtain Raiser at Lahore Fort, helping ignite some great memories. That Pakistan team beat India by 180 runs in the final at The Oval, London.

Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) Chair Mohsin Naqvi confirmed how ready and excited Pakistan is to host what is the first Champions Trophy tournament in eight years, la-



helling it a 'momentous occasion' for the nation and their cricket-adoring people.

"The ICC Champions Trophy 2025 will return to Pakistan for the first time in 29 years. This tournament is more than just cricket; it is an opportunity to showcase Pakistan's hospitality and passion," Naqvi said at the Curtain Raiser event as quoted by the ICC. Lahore Fort was carefully hand-picked as a perfectly symbolic location to officially light the torch for the tournament.

"The significance of the venue (it) not only represents Pakistan's rich

cultural heritage but also underscores the deep-rooted legacy of cricket in the nation. This is your moment to fill the stadiums," Naqvi continued, addressing the Pakistan fans who have been patiently waiting for an ICC event to return.

Pakistan has been grouped with New Zealand, India, and Bangladesh, while Australia, England, South Africa, and tournament debutants Afghanistan are on the other side of the draw.

The top two teams from each group will progress to the semi-finals.

WPL 2025: Gujarat Giants breeze past UP Warriorz to seal first win of season

Vadodra

A spirited performance from Priya Mishra and skipper Ashleigh Gardner helped Gujarat Giants prevail over UP Warriorz with a six-wicket triumph, sealing their first win in the Women's Premier League 2025 season on Sunday.

For the Giants, it all started with winning an important toss and putting the UP Warriorz into bat, considering the amount of dew that surrounded the field towards the latter half of the game.

While chasing a modest 144-run target, the Giants lost top-order batters Beth Mooney and Dayalan Hemalatha for ducks. Laura Wolvaardt (22) and skipper Ashleigh Gardner (52) steadied the sinking ship by stitching up a 55-run partnership.

Gardner led the batting attack from the front and delivered a quickfire fifty, which dented Warriorz's hopes of defending their target. UP Warriorz fought back against the run of play and dismissed Wolvaardt and Gardner.

But Deandra Dottin (33*) and Harleen Deol (34*) stayed at the crease to bring the Giants home with a six-wicket win with two overs to spare.

Sophie Devine to miss white ball series against Sri Lanka as she prioritizes her "well-being"

Wellington

New Zealand Cricket (NZC) on Monday confirmed that the national team skipper Sophie Devine will miss the upcoming white-ball series against Sri Lanka Women as she prioritizes her "well-being".

The news comes after the White Ferns captain opted to withdraw from the Super Smash and 2025 Women's Premier League last month, off the back of receiving professional advice.

"We are fully supportive of Sophie's decision to not take part in the upcoming series. Player wellbeing is our highest priority and it's important Sophie feels fit and well before returning to professional cricket," Head of Women's High Performance Liz Green said in a release from New Zealand Cricket as quoted by the ICC.

The White Ferns' series with Sri Lanka starts on March 4, featuring three One-Day Internationals (ODIs) and then two T20Is - all in New Zealand.

NZC will announce their squad for the white-ball series later this month. As captain, Sophie Devine played a key role in helping the White Ferns win last year's ICC Women's T20



World Cup in the UAE in October.

The all-rounder is on the cusp of a milestone, having amassed 5990 runs in Women's ODIs, averaging 31.66 with the bat in international 50-over cricket.

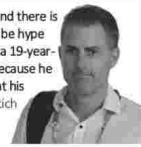
In the Super Smash for Wellington, Devine scored 38 runs and took eight wickets in five games. Her last appearance for Wellington was against Canterbury in Christchurch, where she delivered a match-winning performance with figures of 5/13.

Devine was also part of Royal Chal-

lengers Bengaluru's title-winning campaign last year and was retained by the franchise for this year's edition. In the 2024 season, she scored 136 runs and picked up six wickets in ten matches.

Since winning the Women's T20 World Cup with New Zealand last October, Devine has been a part of the White Ferns in ODIs against India. She also featured in the Women's Big Bash League for Perth Scorchers and played in the ODI series against Australia in December.

“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





Indian Women's Hockey Team aims to return to winning ways

Bhubaneswar (Odisha) The Indian Women's Hockey Team is eager to get back to winning ways as they prepare to face Spain in their next set of matches on 18th and 19th February at the Kalinga Hockey Stadium here, as per the Hockey India press release.

After a promising start with a thrilling 3-2 victory over England in their opener, the Salima Tete-led side narrowly missed out on a bonus point in their second game, losing 2-1 in a dramatic shootout after the match ended 2-2 in regulation time. Despite showing resilience, India currently sits in eighth place in the standings with four points from two games and will be looking to climb higher in the points table as they face a confident Spanish side.

India's performance against England offered glimpses of its potential, particularly in penalty corner conversions. In their opening match, they scored twice from three attempts. However, they failed to replicate that success in the second game, going for 3 in penalty corners.

Vice-captain Navneet Kaur, the team's top scorer so far, has been in fine form, scoring a goal in each of the



two games and providing stability to the Indian forward line. The team is focused on sharpening their skills in key areas like set-piece execution and defensive coordination as they prepare to take on Spain.

Spain, on the other hand, arrives on the back of two consecutive victories against Germany in the India leg of the FIH Pro League. They secured back-to-back 2-1 wins over the Germans,

boosting their confidence ahead of their encounters with India.

Despite their strong recent performances, Spain has had a mixed run overall, with just two wins and one shootout victory in the six games they've played so far. Currently placed fourth in the points table with eight points, Spain will be looking to further consolidate their position. Patricia Alvarez has been their standout play-

er, scoring twice to lead the team's goal tally.

For India, this upcoming double-header is not just about reclaiming momentum, but also about gaining crucial points which will set the tone for the rest of their campaign. The hosts will also look to capitalise on the home crowd's support and rectify the mistakes from their previous matches.

Speaking on the team's upcoming matches against Spain, India captain Salima Tete said as quoted by the Hockey India press release, "We're really looking forward to our games against Spain. They're a tricky team, and we know it's going to be a challenging contest. However, our team is ready for the challenge. We've analysed our performances against England and identified the areas where we need to improve, especially in converting penalty corners. We are focused on tightening our defense and making the most of our scoring opportunities."

"These games are crucial for us to gain momentum, and we are determined to return to winning ways. The team is motivated, and we will give our best to secure vital points," she added.

"Happy that cricket will be an Olympic sport": IOC member Nita Ambani



Boston Nita Ambani, an International Olympic Committee (IOC) member and the founder and chairperson of Reliance Foundation, expressed her feelings on the inclusion of Cricket in the upcoming 2028 Olympics, which are set to take place in Los Angeles, California, US.

In October last year, as an example of Indian cricket and its star batter Virat Kohli's global status as the face of the sport, a mention of the former Indian skipper was made during the International Olympic Committee (IOC) 141st session, during which the decision to include the sport in Olympics was taken.

"India is a sport-loving nation. For the Tokyo Olympics, the maximum viewership for the Olympic channel came from India, so imagine what would happen if we added cricket to it. So that's the time when my mind started ticking as to how do I convince the committee members to have cricket as an Olympic sport. Now, they were still in the belief that cricket is a five-day long cricket match... I informed them and this is going to be a win-win situation if you have cricket as an Olympic sport and you'll have the backing of probably two billion people. So I think that is the plug that I used and I'm so happy that now cricket will be an Olympic sport," Nita Ambani said during the keynote address at the Harvard India Conference on Indian Business, Policy & Culture.

Cricket will be a part of the Los Angeles Olympic Games in 2028 and will make its return after 128 years to the multi-sport extravaganza, announced the International Olympic Committee (IOC) on Monday.

The 2028 event will also include sports like baseball/softball, lacrosse, squash and flag football. The proposal from the Organising Committee of the Olympic Games Los Angeles 2028 to include these games in the programme was accepted at the ongoing 141st IOC session being held in Mumbai.

Cricket made its sole appearance at the 1900 Paris Olympics, in which Great Britain defeated France in the final. However, it is also played in the Commonwealth Games and Asian Games.

Nita Ambani also spoke about India's bid for the Olympics and how the country plans to make them the greenest and most sustainable Olympics.

Speaking about the Olympics, she said, "I believe that India must have the Olympics. We are going to be the third-largest economy in the world. If you look at the 10 largest economies of the world, nine countries have hosted the Olympics, but only India has not. So I find that really odd. We would wish to see the Olympics being hosted in our country. It will be our pride to host that. So that is the reason, I think the Prime Minister also mentioned that India will bid for the 2036 Olympics...I think we are planning to host a sustainable Olympics where we are planning to refurbish and reuse our existing stadiums and existing campuses. If we bid for it and get it, I assure you that we'll be the greenest Olympics ever...I think India is at the right time now to host the Olympics".

Indian Men's Hockey Team eyes winning momentum

Bhubaneswar After a mixed start to their FIH Pro League 2024-25 campaign, the Indian Men's Hockey Team, led by Captain Harmanpreet Singh, is ready to take on Germany in its upcoming matches at the Kalinga Hockey Stadium here.

Having bounced back from a 3-1 loss to Spain in their opener with a commanding 2-0 win in the second game, India are eager to continue their winning momentum against the German side, as per Hockey India press release.

With three points from two games, India currently sit in eighth place in the standings and will be looking to climb higher.

One key area of focus for the team is improving their penalty corner conversion rate. Despite winning seven penalty corners across their two games against Spain, India failed to convert any of these opportunities into goals. The hosts will aim to sharpen their execution in set-pieces as they prepare for the challenge ahead. Dilpreet Singh, Mandeep Singh, and Sukhjot Singh have each netted a goal for the Men in Blue so far in the tournament and will be looking to add to their tally against Germany.

Germany, who will be playing their first match of the India leg, are placed just above India in seventh place with four points from four games and they will be determined to turn their fortunes around. Although they have won only one match in the tournament so far, their attack has been spearheaded by Raphael Hartkopf, Gonzalo Peillat, and Thies Prinz, who have each scored two goals. Germany will aim to turn around their struggling campaign and secure vital points in this closely contested fixture.

The two sides last met during a two-match Test series in New Delhi in October 2024, where Germany won the first game 2-0, but India bounced back in the second with a thrilling 5-3 victory. However, Germany went on to claim the series through a shootout win, adding extra intensity to this latest matchup in the FIH Pro League.

Speaking on the upcoming matches, India captain Harmanpreet Singh stated as quoted by Hockey India press release, "We are looking forward to our games against Germany. They are a quality team, and we know we need to bring our best performance to the field."

"After the positive result against Spain, our confidence is high, but we know there's still work to be done. One of our main focuses is improving our penalty corner conversion, as it's crucial to make the most of those opportunities in tight matches.

23rd National Para Athletics Championships commence in Chennai

Chennai The much-awaited 23rd National Para Athletics Championship commenced today at Jawahar Nehru Stadium, Chennai, marking a historic first for the city. The prestigious event, held from February 17 to 20, is being actively supported by the Tamil Nadu Government and organized under the guidance of Deputy Chief Minister Udhayanidhi Stalin, who also serves as the State Minister for Sports.

The championship has drawn an impressive 1,476 para-athletes from across India, competing in 155 events under 30 teams, making it one of the largest para-athletics gatherings in the country. The event is being conducted smoothly with the efforts of the Paralympic Committee of India (PCI), led by Devendra Jhajharia, and the Tamil Nadu Paralympic Sports Association (TNPSA), headed by Chandrasekar Rajan.



Other key office bearers, including Satya Prakash Sangwan and Jayawant Ganda Hamanawar, have also contributed significantly to ensuring the seamless execution of the championship, as per a press release from TNPSA.

Crispin Chettri names 23-member squad for Pink Ladies Cup in UAE



New Delhi Indian senior women's team coach Crispin Chettri on Monday named a 23-member squad for the Pink Ladies Cup, a friendly tournament to be held in Sharjah, United Arab Emirates, from February 20 to 26, during the FIFA International Match Window, as per the AIFF official website.

India will face Jordan (February 20), Russia (February 23) and the Korean Republic (February 26). All matches will take place at the Al Hamriya Sports Club Stadium in Sharjah, UAE.

The Blue Tigresses had been training in Anantapur, Andhra Pradesh, after the conclusion of Round 6 of the Indian Women's League on February 7. India are using these friendly matches to prepare for the AFC Women's Asian Cup 2027. Qualifiers which will take place in May-June, 2025.

Crispin Chettri said, as quoted by the AIFF official website, "I think the Pink Ladies Cup will be an eye-opener for many of our players because they will get to know the standard. I think the Korean Republic are completely different from Russia. I watched their videos. Russia have a different kind of playing style. But when it comes to Ko-

rea, they are quick in transitions. So I think we have to adapt to two different kinds of playing styles. Playing against different sorts of teams like Jordan, Korea Republic and Russia will give us a good picture of creating a pool of players for playing against different teams."

India will depart for Sharjah on Tuesday, February 18. They will play their first match of the competition against Jordan on February 19, followed by their encounters against Russia (February 22) and the Korean Republic (February 25), respectively. All the matches of the Indian team will be played at Al Hamriya Sports Club Stadium in Sharjah.

India's 23-member squad for the Pink Ladies Cup in Sharjah, UAE:

Goalkeepers: Elangbam Panthoi Chanu, Payal Basude, Shreya Hooda. **Defenders:** Aruna Bag, Kiran Pinda, Martina Thokhom, Nirmala Devi Phanjoubam, Purima Kumari, Sanju, Shikhy Devi Hemam, Sweety Devi Nngangham. **Midfielders:** Babina Devi Lisham, Grace Dangmei, Mousumi Murmu, Priyadarshini Selladurai, Priyanka Devi Naorem, Ratanbala Devi Nongmaithem.

Speaking about the championship, PCI President Devendra Jhajharia said, "We are confident that this championship in Chennai will set new benchmarks for para-athletic competitions in India. With an impressive 1,476 para-athletes competing in 155 events, this tournament reflects the rapid growth and increasing competitiveness of para-sports in the country. With world-class facilities and a commitment to inclusivity, we are witnessing a new era for Indian para-athletics."

Adding further, TNPSA President Chandrasekar Rajan said, "The unwavering support from the Tamil Nadu Government has been instrumental in making this event a resounding success. This championship not only showcases extraordinary talent but also reinforces our commitment to empowering para-athletes nationwide."

Mehrajuddin Wadoo urges Mohammedan SC to play with more concentration

Kolkata Mohammedan SC assistant coach Mehrajuddin Wadoo urged more concentration and competitiveness from his players following their defeat to East Bengal FC in the Indian Super League (ISL) on Sunday.

The scoring opened with Naorem Mahesh Singh finding the net in the 27th minute, giving East Bengal FC an early lead. Saul Crespo doubled their advantage in the 65th minute. Though Mohammedan SC responded through Finna, who pulled one back in the 68th minute, East Bengal FC sealed the win with a late goal by David Lalhansanga, who scored against his former side in the 89th minute.

Wadoo discussed the reasons for their team's losses, mentioning their defensive lapses and the need for improvement as a team.

"We started well. We did not want to concede first (goal) and yet we conceded. So, that was a difference in the game. We were just trying to control the game, and suddenly we conceded a goal which could have been avoided, and also the second goal which could also have been avoided," he said at the post-match press conference.

"But I think the team fought very well, they conceded two, and they scored one. And they wanted to score one more, we could feel more chances, yet we could not convert. East Bengal, they got chances, and they converted all the chances, so that is the difference," he added.

Wadoo cited the team's collective responsibility, not just the defender's mistakes, for conceding Mahesh Singh's first goal in the 27th minute. "I don't want to say about only de-



Wadoo cited the team's collective responsibility, not just the defender's mistakes, for conceding Mahesh Singh's first goal in the 27th minute.

Forward Robi Hansda, who was impressive in Bengal's Santoshi Trophy triumph, came on as a substitute to make his ISL debut tonight. Hansda also provided the assist for the only goal tonight. Wadoo emphasized that Hansda needs to consistently focus on his improvements and performance to stay competitive as a striker in the game. He must evolve and adapt to help maintain his status and effectiveness on the field.

"Robi (Hansda) was good. He did a great job. He came in, he gave one assist, and Franca scored the goal. But I think there is always room to improve. He is with the ISL squad, he is with us, and he has to work hard because if he has to play (the number) nine in any team in ISL, he has to be extraordinary," he concluded.

NCW issues new hearing dates for Samay Raina, Ranveer Allahbadia

New Delhi
The National Commission for Women (NCW) has issued a new hearing date for Ranveer Allahbadia, Samay Raina, Apoorva Mukhija, Ashish Chanchlani and others after they failed to appear before the commission in person in connection to the ongoing 'India's Got Latent' show controversy.



The NCW said that many of those summoned cited concerns about their personal safety, prior foreign travel commitments, and other logistical challenges as reasons for their absence on February 17. The Commission said it has considered the reasons and has rescheduled the hearing to allow those individuals to comply with the summons.

The Commission said that Ranveer Allahbadia had informed it that he is receiving death threats and requested a new hearing date after three weeks. The Commission has accepted his request and rescheduled the hearing for March 6.

Apoorva Mukhija has communicated that she fears for her safety and can only attend the hearing virtually. Her lawyer, in an email said that Mukhija will attend in person once the situation stabilizes. The Commission has accepted her request and rescheduled the hearing for March 6.

Samay Raina, currently in the US for a pre-planned tour, assured the Commission that he will make himself available for a hearing upon returning to India. The Commission has accepted his request and rescheduled the hearing for March 6.

The Commission said it has accepted the request of Jaspreet Singh who said he is on tour in Paris and will return to India by March 10, 2025, at which point he will cooperate with the Commission's inquiry. The NCW has rescheduled the hearing for March 11.

Ashish Chanchlani did not attend the hearing in person; instead, his advocate appeared on his behalf and stated that Ashish was unwell. The Commission has accepted his request and rescheduled the hearing for March 6.

Mumbai
Maharashtra Cyber Cell has summoned YouTuber Ranveer Allahbadia to appear before it on February 24.

The Cyber Cell is investigating the case registered against Ranveer Allahbadia and others after he triggered an uproar with his offensive remarks on the show 'India's Got Latent.'

Comedian Samay Raina has also been asked to appear before the cyber cell tomorrow.

Multiple FIRs being registered against Allahbadia, Raina, and other participants of the show following the backlash after Allahbadia asked a contestant, "Would you rather watch your parents... or join in once and stop it forever?"

The National Commission for Women (NCW) has also investigated the matter and has issued summons to Allahbadia, Raina, and others. However, many of those

summoned failed to appear before the commission today, citing concerns about their personal safety, prior foreign travel commitments, and other logistical challenges.

The Commission said that Ranveer Allahbadia had informed it that he was receiving death threats and requested a new hearing date after three weeks. The Commission has accepted his request and rescheduled the hearing for March 6.

Apoorva Mukhija has communicated that she fears for her safety and can only attend the hearing virtually. Her lawyer, in an email said that Mukhija will attend in person once the situation stabilizes. The Commission has accepted her request and rescheduled the hearing for March 6.

The Commission said it has accepted Jaspreet Singh's request. Singh said he is on tour in Paris and will return to India by March 10, 2025, at which point he will cooperate with the Commission's

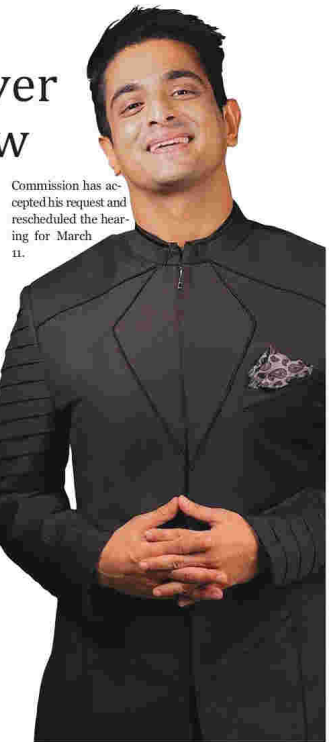
inquiry. The NCW has rescheduled the hearing for March 11.

Ashish Chanchlani did not attend the hearing in person; instead, his advocate appeared on his behalf and stated that Ashish was unwell. The Commission has accepted his request and rescheduled the hearing for March 6.

Tushar Poojari, the producer of 'India's Got Latent,' and Saurabh Bothra have failed to respond to the Commission's notice. NCW strongly condemned their lack of seriousness and issued a resumption for them for March 6, 2025.

Balraj Ghai informed the Commission that he is outside India and will respond once he returns. The Commission has accepted his request and rescheduled the hearing for March 11, 2025.

Samay Raina, currently in the US for a pre-planned tour, assured the Commission that he will make himself available for a hearing upon returning to India. The



Brenda Song recalls how once she was offered musical project, says "But I'm not a singer"

Washington
Actress Brenda Song opened up about a big career opportunity she turned down in her initial years. She revealed that she was once offered a musical project like many of her fellow former Disney stars.



"But I'm not a singer," said Song, explaining why she passed on the opportunity. "My last name may be Song, but God is fair — you do not want to hear me sing!" she shared at the Los Angeles premiere of her new Netflix comedy series *Running Point*, reported People.

She added, "I was like, 'Are you sure about that? You haven't heard me sing! I never say never, but I don't think anybody wants to hear

that." Song, who started her acting career at a very young age, was seen in several Dis-

ney projects, including *The Suite Life of Zack & Cody* and *Wendy Wu: Homecoming Warrior*. She also talked

about her start as a child star, which has led to the busy and fulfilling career she has now.

"Honestly, of course, I feel proud. Without any of that, I wouldn't be here. I worked so hard to be the woman I am today, and it's because of all of that. So I'm so incredibly proud," she said, as per the outlet.

"I just look back on everything with such a fond smile because it's such a beautiful time in my life," Song continued. "And it's so crazy that I've been doing this for so long, and I still love it so much."

Song shared that she feels "incredibly grateful" for the work she is doing at the moment and the way she has evolved over time as a woman and actor.

'Full Metal Jacket' actor Kevyn Howard passes away at 69

Washington
Kevyn Howard, the actor best known for playing Rafterman in the war movie *Full Metal Jacket*, passed away at the age of 69.

'Full Metal Jacket' is a 1987 war film directed and produced by Stanley Kubrick. It is based on a screenplay he co-wrote with Michael Herr and Gustav Hasford. It stars Matthew Modine, R. Lee Ermey, Vincent D'Onofrio, Adam Baldwin, Dorian Harewood, and Arliss Howard.

Howard's family informed that he died at a Las Vegas hospital surrounded by loved ones on Friday, as reported by People.

Howard was in the hospital weeks before his death due to respiratory issues, as per the outlet.

His official cause of death, however, has yet to be de-



termined, reported People.

Howard survived by his wife Tiffanie and stepdaughter Kayla, as well as his sister Kim and brother Kelsey.

Howard, who was born in Montreal, Canada, on January 27, 1956, appeared in several TV shows after moving to Los Angeles later in life

'Full Metal Jacket' actor Kevyn Howard passes away at 69



Sharon Stone in talks to join 'Euphoria' season 3

Washington
Actor and producer Sharon Stone is in talks to join the cast of the long-awaited third season of HBO's 'Euphoria,' sources informed, as per The Hollywood Reporter.

The veteran actress will join the popular drama, which also stars Zendaya, Jacob Elordi, Sydney Sweeney, Maude Apatow, Hunter Schafer, Alexa Demie, Eric Dane, and Colman Domingo.

Stone has starred in several films, including *Basic Instinct*, *Total Recall*, *Sliver*, and *Casino*, the latter directed by Martin Scorsese. Most recently, she worked alongside Bob Odenkirk in *No-body* 2.

Earlier this week, HBO revealed that shooting has begun for season three after a nearly three-year hiatus, as per The Hollywood Reporter.

Several new castmembers were also officially announced, including NFL star turned actor Marshawn Lynch (*Love Hunts*), Grammy winner Rosalía, Kadeem Hardison (*The Chi*, *A Different World*), Adewale Akinnuoye-Agbaje (*Lost*, *Suicide Squad*), Toby Wallace (FX's *Pistol*), Priscilla Delgado, James Landry Hebert, Darrell Britt-Gibson and Anna Van Patten. Akinnuoye-Agbaje and Wallace will be regulars, while the other actors will have "notable" guest roles, according to HBO, as per the outlet.



"A an overweight man with a microphone": Jelly Roll

Washington
Rapper and singer Jelly Roll expressed his gratitude for military service personnel and veterans at Prince Harry's *Invictus Games*.

During his performance at the Closing Ceremony for the *Invictus Games Vancouver Whistler 2025* at Rogers Arena in Vancouver, Canada, reported People.

Jelly Roll said, "I am honoured to stand in front of some of the greatest and strongest people across the entire world tonight. My name is Jason Jelly Roll DeFord and this song is called 'I Am Not Okay,'" as per the outlet.

He shared a special message with the crowd. "First of all, I would just like to

thank everybody with the *Invictus Games* for having me here tonight and letting me bring my form of therapeutic music to you. I know, whenever you go home after these 11 days of adrenaline and you finally sit down and in a few months from now when the world finally comes back around, I want you to know this," he continued. "If you ever hear that voice in your head saying you can't be anything but great, it's the voice of a liar!" he exclaimed, launching into his song "Liar," as per the outlet. His rousing performance came on the last day of the *Invictus Games Vancouver Whistler*, which kicked off on February 8.

Prince Harry, a former captain in the British Army, created the *Invictus Games* as an international sports tournament for wounded, injured, and sick veterans in London in 2014 to embrace the power of sport as a means of healing. The current cycle in Canada is the *Games*' seventh iteration, reported People.

"But I want to be clear right now about what's happening at this stage. I am an overweight man with a microphone. The real heroes are the athletes and the families that are in this building right now. I want you to

'The Man From Nowhere' actor Kim Sae-ron passes away at 24

Washington
South Korean actress Kim Sae-ron, known for her roles in 'A Brand New Life', 'The Man From Nowhere' has passed away. She was 24.

Kim was found dead in her home in Seoul on Sunday by a friend who had plans to meet with her, informed the police, as per The Hollywood Reporter.

Although the police said there were no signs of foul play yet, they were investigating the circumstances of her death, as per the outlet.

Born in 2000 in Seoul, Kim started her career as a child actor. According to reports, she became one of the youngest performers to be invited to Cannes for her role in 'A Brand New Life'.

She also starred in 'The Man From Nowhere' and the 2012 film 'The Neighbor'. Her other credits include the films *A Girl at My Door*



(2014), *Snowy Road* (2015) and *The Villagers* (2018) and the TV series *Mirror of the Witch* (2016) and *Bloodhounds* (2023). She won awards for her roles in *A Brand New Life*, *The Man From Nowhere*, *A Girl at My Door*, *Snowy Road* and *Mirror of the Witch*, as per the outlet.

In 2022, she crashed her car into a guardrail and a transformer and was found guilty of driving under the influence.

