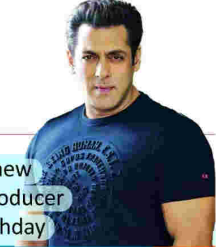




Jaspal Rana will continue as my coach, says Manu Bhaker



Kremlin official says Trump-Putin meeting unlikely next week



Salman Khan shares new poster of 'Sikandar' on producer Sajid Nadiadwala's birthday

3 DELHI
Stage, tent ready, but groom is missing: AAP's dig at BJP's Delhi dilemma

4 DELHI
Manohar Lal Khattar opens Delhi Metro's first vertical solar plant

7 NATIONAL
Defence industry in India at cusp of massive expansion: Defence secy

8 STATE
'Accusations or unparliamentary conduct cannot solve problems': UP CM Adityanath

9 BUSINESS
India Company Registrations: 28 Lakh Companies, 65% Active

10 CRICKET
Champions Trophy set to start amid debate on relevance of 50-over cricket

MARKET

SENSEX	NIFTY
75967.39	22945.30
-29.47	-14.20
GOLD	SILVER
86,095.00	96,820.00
1,040.00	1,240.00

WEATHER

Sunrise	6:57 AM
Sunset	6:14 PM
Moonrise	11:27 PM
Moonset	10:19 AM
Today's Prediction	
Maximum	27°C
Minimum	15°C
Tomorrow's Prediction	
26°C	13°C

India, Qatar exchange agreement on establishment of strategic partnership

India and Qatar on Tuesday also exchanged an agreement on establishment of strategic partnership between the two countries.

New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi Tuesday held wide-ranging talks with Amir of Qatar Sheikh Tamim Bin Hamad Al-Thani as the two leaders decided to elevate India-Qatar relations to a "strategic partnership" with focus on trade, investments, technology, energy and people-to-people ties, further cementing the "deep and traditional relationship" between the two countries.



They also exchanged views on "regional and global issues" of mutual interest, the Ministry of External Affairs said.

The Amir of Qatar's two-day visit comes at the invitation of Modi. This is his second state visit to India. He earlier visited India in March 2015.

His visit will provide "further momentum to our growing multifaceted partnership", the MEA had said ahead of the visit that began on Monday.

Earlier in the day, the Amir of Qatar was accorded a ceremonial guard of honour at the Rashtrapati Bhavan

as President Droupadi Murmu welcomed the visiting leader. Modi was also present on the occasion.

Later, Modi and the Amir held talks at the Hyderabad House covering a range of bilateral issues.

India and Qatar on Tuesday also exchanged an agreement on establishment of strategic partnership between the two countries.

The documents were exchanged between Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Qatar, Sheikh Moham-

med bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim Al Thani and External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar, in the presence of Prime Minister Modi and the Amir of Qatar here.

"India-Qatar, further cementing the deep & traditional relationship. PM @narendramodi & HH Sheikh @TamimbinHamad Al-Thani, Amir of the State of Qatar held wide-ranging talks at Hyderabad House today. Both leaders decided to elevate India-Qatar relations to a Strategic Partnership with focus on trade, en-

ergy, investments, innovation, technology, food security, culture & people-to-people ties. They also exchanged views on regional and global issues of mutual interest," MEA Spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said in a post on X.

India and Qatar have deep-rooted historical ties of friendship, trust and mutual respect. In recent years, the ties between the two countries, including in the areas of trade, investment, energy, technology, culture and people-to-people relations, have contin-

ued to strengthen, the MEA earlier said.

As the two leaders held talks at the Hyderabad House, the MEA in a post on X said, a "new milestone" was on the cards of this "special India-Qatar partnership". A revised agreement for avoidance of double taxation and prevention of fiscal evasion with respect to taxes on income, between India and Qatar, was also exchanged, it was announced during the exchange of agreements ceremony held at the Hyderabad House.

Prime Minister of Qatar and Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman exchanged the agreement.

The Amir of Qatar arrived here on Monday evening, his visit coming almost a year after Modi had visited the Gulf nation in February 2024.

Extending a rare gesture of hospitality, Modi received the Amir at the Delhi airport on Monday evening. He welcomed him with a warm hand-shake and hug, displaying the bonhomie between the two leaders.

CONTD ON PAGE-2

SC to hear pleas against CEC, ECs appointments on Feb 19



New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Tuesday said it would on February 19 take up on "priority basis" the pleas against the appointments of the chief election commissioner (CEC) and election commissioners (EC) under the 2023 law.

A bench of Justices Surya Kant and N Kottiswar Singh was informed by advocate Prashant Bhushan, appearing for an NGO, that despite the Constitution bench verdict of 2023 directing selection and appointment of the CEC and ECs through a panel including the Chief Justice of India, the government excluded the CJJ and made a "mockery of democracy".

He said, "The matter is listed on February 19 but it is listed as item number 41. The government has appointed the CEC and EC as per 2023 law disregarding the view taken by a constitution bench. Kindly take up on top of the board as the matter requires urgent consideration."

Advocate Varun Thakur, appearing for petitioner Jaya Thakur, said three appointments were made by the government under the new law, which was under challenge.

The bench assured Bhushan and other parties that after some urgent listed matters, it would take up the petitions for hearing on February 19.

On February 17, the government appointed EC Gyanesh Kumar as the next CEC.

Kumar is the first CEC to be appointed under the new law and his term would run till January 26, 2029, days before the EC is expected to announce the schedule of the next Lok Sabha election.

Vivek Joshi, a 1989-batch Haryana-cadre IAS officer, was appointed as an election commissioner.

Born on May 21, 1966, Joshi (58) would serve in the poll panel till 2031.

According to the law, a CEC or an EC retires at 65 or can have a tenure in the poll panel for six years.

Agencies

SC protects Allahbadia from arrest, raps him for comments on YouTube show

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Tuesday protected influencer Ranveer Allahbadia from arrest over his distasteful comments during a YouTube show while severely castigating him for the remarks it described as "showing a perverted mind".

Several FIRs have been filed against Allahbadia, popularly known as BeerBiceps, for the comment on parents and sex on comedian Samay Raina's YouTube show "India's Got Latent".

A furious court at the outset berated Allahbadia for his "unacceptable comments" on the show and said, "... there is something dirty in his mind which has been vomited on the YouTube show."

"The words you have used will make daughters, sisters, parents and even the society



with Justice N Kottiswar Singh.

However, the bench agreed to the submissions of senior advocate Abhinav Chandrachud, representing the influencer, that Allahbadia be protected from arrest keeping in mind the filing of multiple FIRs on the same issue as well as the death threats against him.

"Are you defending the kind of language he has used?" Justice Surya Kant asked Chandrachud, who conceded that he himself was "disgusted".

CONTD ON PAGE-2

BJP MLAs set to meet on today to choose Delhi CM

New Delhi: The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) legislators are set to meet on Wednesday (February 19) to decide on the next chief minister of Delhi. The party secured a significant victory in the Delhi Assembly elections, winning 48 out of 70 seats. The current assembly's tenure ends on February 23.



Party sources said the BJP legislature party meeting will take place around 3:30 pm on Wednesday following which the name of the CM will be announced. The new Delhi CM and the council of ministers will then take oath at the iconic Ramliya Maidan on Thursday.

The Aam Aadmi Party has criticised the BJP for taking "10 days to decide on a chief minister and cabinet". Former Delhi Chief Minister Atishi said,

HIGHLIGHT
Many within the party believe that the BJP leadership could opt for a "dark horse" as Delhi's next CM like they did in Rajasthan, Haryana, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha and Chhattisgarh. "It is now evident that the BJP lacks a clear CM candidate. It is also clear that Prime Minister Modi does not have confidence in the 48 elected MLAs." Agency

VVIP chopper scam case: Christian Michel gets bail

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Tuesday granted bail to alleged middleman Christian Michel James in the purported Rs 3,600-crore AgustaWestland case being probed by the Central Bureau of Investigation.

A bench of Justices Vikram Nath and Sandeep Mehta observed James was in custody for the past six years while the investigation in the matter was still underway. James, however, can-



not walk out of jail as he faces a related money laundering case and his bail plea is pending in the Delhi High Court. "Petitioner was extradited in 2018 and has been in custody for more than 6 years now. According to CBI despite filing two chargesheets and a supplementary chargesheet, the investigation is still ongoing.

We are inclined to grant bail on such terms and conditions as determined by the trial court. The CBI will make appropriate request to the trial court for imposing necessary conditions," said the bench.

The top court said James would be released on bail, subject to terms and conditions decided by the trial court.

The counsel for the CBI sought time saying the additional solicitor general was unavailable for arguments.

CONTD ON PAGE-2

India, Qatar exchange agreement on establishment of strategic partnership

CONT FROM PAGE-1
Went to the airport to welcome my brother, Amir of Qatar II H Sheikh Tamim Bin Hamad Al Thani. Wishing him a fruitful stay in India and looking forward to our meeting tomorrow," the prime minister said in a post on X on Monday.

The Amir of Qatar will be accompanied by a high-level delegation, including ministers, senior officials and business leaders, the MEA earlier said.

External Affairs Minister Jaishankar had called on the Amir of Qatar, hours after his arrival in Delhi, and said he was confident that the visiting leader's talks with Prime Minister Modi on Tuesday will "deepen our close bonds of friendship".

During Prime Minister Modi's visit to Doha last year, technology, investment, energy, trade, all aspects were discussed at length with a view to look at them, assess them from a strategic perspective, the then foreign secretary Vinay Kwatra had told reporters in February 2024. "The visit will set the stage, lay the basis for a stronger, deeper, more extensive, wide-ranging partnership between India and Qatar," he had said.

The MEA on Saturday said the Indian community residing in Qatar forms the largest expatriate group in that country and is "appreciated for its positive contribution in the progress and development of Qatar".

SC protects Allahbadia from arrest, raps him for comments on YouTube show

CONT FROM PAGE-1
The senior lawyer, however, said the question was whether the remarks constituted a criminal offence as profanity per se would not amount to obscenity. "If you can try to attain cheap publicity by saying these kinds of things, there might be others also who might want to get cheap publicity by making threats," the bench said.

The bench directed that no further FIRs shall be lodged against him for his comments during the YouTube show, "India's Got Latent". The top court also restrained Allahbadia and his associate influencers on the controversial YouTube show from airing any other episode till further orders. It directed Allahbadia to deposit his passport at the Thane police station and said he shall not leave the country without the prior permission of the court.

The bench directed Allahbadia to cooperate in the probe of the FIRs lodged at Maharashtra and Assam.

Chandrachud referred to Allahbadia's right to life and said he cannot be prosecuted in several places for the same act.

Advt Contact:
9818-799941

Former CEC Rajiv Kumar bids farewell to ECI, describes it as 'place of worship of democracy'

New Delhi: Rajiv Kumar, who served as the 25th Chief Election Commissioner of India, bid farewell to the Election Commission of India on Tuesday, describing it as "the place of worship of democracy."

He expressed optimism about the institution's future, stating that it would "rise higher than where it stands today" under the leadership of the incoming team.

Kumar emphasised the pivotal role of voters and political parties in strengthening India's democracy and extended his best wishes to all voters.

Rajiv Kumar said, "This building is the place of worship of democracy. Through great hard work, it has amassed heritage in the last 75 years. I am very hopeful that in the time to come, this will rise higher than where it stands today. This is

going to very capable hands. The new team will take it even higher. "The country's democracy will remain strong and intact and will earn honour before the world. I hope that people will remember and learn lessons from Indian elections. The

biggest contribution towards this is by the voters and political parties. I wish all the best to everyone, all voters," he said.

Meanwhile, Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar will take charge as the new Chief Election Commissioner of India tomorrow, February 19, 2025.



RAJIV KUMAR
CHIEF ELECTION COMMISSIONER

The Election Commission of India (ECI) on Monday bid farewell to the Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) of India, Rajiv Kumar, who will be demitting the office on February 18.

According to the statement released by the Commission, Kumar joined the ECI as Election Commissioner on

September 1, 2020, and assumed charge as the 25th CEC of India on May 15, 2022.

His tenure spanning 4.5 years in the Commission was characterised by silent yet deep-rooted reforms across various domains spanning structural, technological, capacity development, communication, international cooperation and administration.

Kumar, during his tenure, had completed one full electoral cycle with the conduct of elections in 31 states and Union Territory, the Presidential and Vice Presidential elections in 2022, Lok Sabha elections of 2024 and Rajya Sabha

renewals—a rare and monumental feat in electoral management. The elections were conducted peacefully with near-zero reprints and incidents of violence, the Commission stated.

In his farewell address, CEC Kumar thanked the 15 million polling officials for their dedication to upholding democratic values. He asserted that the trust of close to nearly a billion voters was unfazed by motivated and uncorroborated attacks on India's democratic institutions.

As a proponent of technology, Kumar outlined a path for strengthening the conduct of elections while guarding against the threats of cyber-attacks and misinformation on social media. He lauded the voters for their vibrant participation, especially women voters and said that the electoral process is marching towards more inclusivity.

He expressed optimism about the institution's future, stating that it would "rise higher than where it stands today" under the leadership of the incoming team.

September 1, 2020, and assumed charge as the 25th CEC of India on May 15, 2022.

His tenure spanning 4.5 years in the Commission was characterised by silent yet deep-rooted reforms across various domains spanning structural, technological, capacity development, communication, international cooperation and administration.

Kumar, during his tenure, had completed one full electoral cycle with the conduct of elections in 31 states and Union Territory, the Presidential and Vice Presidential elections in 2022, Lok Sabha elections of 2024 and Rajya Sabha

renewals—a rare and monumental feat in electoral management. The elections were conducted peacefully with near-zero reprints and incidents of violence, the Commission stated.

In his farewell address, CEC Kumar thanked the 15 million polling officials for their dedication to upholding democratic values. He asserted that the trust of close to nearly a billion voters was unfazed by motivated and uncorroborated attacks on India's democratic institutions.

As a proponent of technology, Kumar outlined a path for strengthening the conduct of elections while guarding against the threats of cyber-attacks and misinformation on social media. He lauded the voters for their vibrant participation, especially women voters and said that the electoral process is marching towards more inclusivity.

He expressed optimism about the institution's future, stating that it would "rise higher than where it stands today" under the leadership of the incoming team.

September 1, 2020, and assumed charge as the 25th CEC of India on May 15, 2022.

His tenure spanning 4.5 years in the Commission was characterised by silent yet deep-rooted reforms across various domains spanning structural, technological, capacity development, communication, international cooperation and administration.

Kumar, during his tenure, had completed one full electoral cycle with the conduct of elections in 31 states and Union Territory, the Presidential and Vice Presidential elections in 2022, Lok Sabha elections of 2024 and Rajya Sabha

renewals—a rare and monumental feat in electoral management. The elections were conducted peacefully with near-zero reprints and incidents of violence, the Commission stated.

In his farewell address, CEC Kumar thanked the 15 million polling officials for their dedication to upholding democratic values. He asserted that the trust of close to nearly a billion voters was unfazed by motivated and uncorroborated attacks on India's democratic institutions.

As a proponent of technology, Kumar outlined a path for strengthening the conduct of elections while guarding against the threats of cyber-attacks and misinformation on social media. He lauded the voters for their vibrant participation, especially women voters and said that the electoral process is marching towards more inclusivity.

He expressed optimism about the institution's future, stating that it would "rise higher than where it stands today" under the leadership of the incoming team.

September 1, 2020, and assumed charge as the 25th CEC of India on May 15, 2022.

His tenure spanning 4.5 years in the Commission was characterised by silent yet deep-rooted reforms across various domains spanning structural, technological, capacity development, communication, international cooperation and administration.

Kumar, during his tenure, had completed one full electoral cycle with the conduct of elections in 31 states and Union Territory, the Presidential and Vice Presidential elections in 2022, Lok Sabha elections of 2024 and Rajya Sabha

renewals—a rare and monumental feat in electoral management. The elections were conducted peacefully with near-zero reprints and incidents of violence, the Commission stated.

In his farewell address, CEC Kumar thanked the 15 million polling officials for their dedication to upholding democratic values. He asserted that the trust of close to nearly a billion voters was unfazed by motivated and uncorroborated attacks on India's democratic institutions.

As a proponent of technology, Kumar outlined a path for strengthening the conduct of elections while guarding against the threats of cyber-attacks and misinformation on social media. He lauded the voters for their vibrant participation, especially women voters and said that the electoral process is marching towards more inclusivity.

He expressed optimism about the institution's future, stating that it would "rise higher than where it stands today" under the leadership of the incoming team.

September 1, 2020, and assumed charge as the 25th CEC of India on May 15, 2022.

His tenure spanning 4.5 years in the Commission was characterised by silent yet deep-rooted reforms across various domains spanning structural, technological, capacity development, communication, international cooperation and administration.

Kumar, during his tenure, had completed one full electoral cycle with the conduct of elections in 31 states and Union Territory, the Presidential and Vice Presidential elections in 2022, Lok Sabha elections of 2024 and Rajya Sabha

MP HC allows 'trial run' of Union Carbide waste disposal at Pithampur

Jabalpur: The Madhya Pradesh High Court on Tuesday allowed the state government to carry out a trial run of the disposal of 40-year-old chemical waste from the defunct Union Carbide factory in Bhopal in Pithampur area of Dhar district.

The incineration at a disposal plant inside the industrial area of Pithampur will be carried out in three phases from February 27. Advocate General Prashant Singh told reporters here after a court hearing.

The government on Tuesday filed a compliance report, sought by the high court in January, about the steps it had taken for creating public awareness about the waste disposal process, he said.

Locals in Pithampur are fiercely opposed to the planned disposal, near their town, of the waste linked to the 1984 Bhopal Gas Tragedy which killed more than 5,000 people.

It has carried out an awareness campaign and now a trial run of the disposal should be allowed, the government requested the court.

As per the HC order, the trial run will be carried out in three phases, with 10 tons of waste being disposed of in each phase, said advocate general Singh who represented the government.

In the phase of the trial, waste will be disposed of at a rate of 135 kilograms per hour. It will be accelerated to 180 kg per hour and 270 kg per hour in the second and third phases, he said.

As per the HC's directions, the first trial run will take place on February 27, the second on March 4, followed by the third on a date yet unspecified, the advocate general added.

"A memory for the ages"

Former PM Sunak, who is in India, had previously witnessed the fifth and final T20I match of the series between India and England at the iconic Wankhede Stadium in Mumbai on February 2. He watched the match along with his father-in-law Narayan Murthy.

He said that these thrust areas were hitherto ignored by the previous state governments due which Punjab has lagged behind in pace of development. However, Bhagwant Singh Mann said that this is the roadmap of Ranga Punjab, which is being carved out with the active support of the common man.

The Chief Minister who interacted with the people to get their feedback said that the appointment of regular Tehsildar in the tehsil will be done very soon.

When the bench showed its inclination to grant bail, the CBI's lawyer said the plea was filed only in terms of seeking bail on medical grounds.

The court subsequently questioned the delay in the investigation and the trial in the case.

It said given the speed, the trial would not conclude in 25 years.

Advocates Aljo K Joseph and Vishnu Shankar, representing James, referred to his six-year long incarceration.

The top court on December sought the CBI's response on his plea and issued notice to the agency.

The alleged scam relates to the irregularities following the purchase of 12 VVIP helicopters from chopper design and manufacturing company AgustaWestland.

CONT FROM PAGE-1

Minor girl well aware of 'bad touch' says HC refuses to quash ex-Army officer's imprisonment

Mumbai: The Bombay High Court has refused to quash a court martial order sentencing a former Lieutenant Colonel to five years' imprisonment for sexually assaulting an 11-year-old girl, noting the victim was well aware of the "bad touch".

The girl's demonstration in court regarding the specific manner in which the accused behaved with her once her father left the room was depicted with immense clarity, a division bench of Justices Ravati Mohite Dore and Neela Gokhale said on Monday.

The bench dismissed a petition filed by the accused, challenging the January 2024 order passed by the Armed Forces Tribunal (AFT) confining the five-year imprisonment imposed on him by the General Court Martial (GCM).

In March 2021, the GCM of the Army held him guilty for committing aggravated sexual assault on a minor girl and sexual harassment under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act.

He was sentenced to the minimum punishment of five years' imprisonment.

The former Army officer in his plea in the HC claimed he had no ill intention and that he touched the girl and asked for a kiss only out of "grandfatherly/fatherly" love for the child.

The high court, however, refused to accept this contention and said the victim girl's instinct of identifying a bad touch of the accused must be believed.

The victim in her statement before the GCM has totally denied the suggestion that the accused had not touched her with any bad intent and that it was in the nature of a touch of a parent or grandfather, the HC said.

He said that people of the state had seen this for the first time that a Chief Minister of state is visiting the government offices. Bhagwant Singh Mann said that the aim is just to ensure the well works are being done in



the minimum punishment of five years' imprisonment.

The former Army officer in his plea in the HC claimed he had no ill intention and that he touched the girl and asked for a kiss only out of "grandfatherly/fatherly" love for the child.

The high court, however, refused to accept this contention and said the victim girl's instinct of identifying a bad touch of the accused must be believed.

The victim in her statement before the GCM has totally denied the suggestion that the accused had not touched her with any bad intent and that it was in the nature of a touch of a parent or grandfather, the HC said.

He said that people of the state had seen this for the first time that a Chief Minister of state is visiting the government offices. Bhagwant Singh Mann said that the aim is just to ensure the well works are being done in



a smooth and hassle free state by ensuring citizen centric services to them by all means.

The Chief Minister said that this is not aimed at any sort of fault finding of officers but the motive is to further streamline the things in the government offices.

He said that people of the state had seen this for the first time that a Chief Minister of state is visiting the government offices. Bhagwant Singh Mann said that the aim is just to ensure the well works are being done in

Former UK Prime Minister Rishi Sunak visits Parliament with his family

New Delhi: Former Prime Minister Rishi Sunak of the United Kingdom, Rishi Sunak, visited Parliament House with his wife, two daughters, Krishna and Anoushka, on Tuesday.

The Sunak family was accompanied by Rajya Sabha member Sudha Murthy.

Secretary General, Lok Sabha, Upal Kumar Singh welcomed Sunak and his family. During their visit, the Sunak family explored the Parliament House Complex, admiring its architectural grandeur. They visited notable sites like the galleries, chambers, Constitution Hall, and Samvidhan Sadan.

This visit is part of Sunak's recent engagements in India. On Monday, External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar met former Prime Minister of the UK, Rishi Sunak, in Delhi.

Jaishankar said he appreciated Sunak's support in strengthening India-UK relations.

In a post on X, he said, "Nice to meet former UK PM Rishi Sunak in Delhi today. Appreciate



his constant support for strengthening India-UK relations."

Earlier, Sunak, along with his family, visited the Fatehpur Sikri monument in Uttar Pradesh's Agra on Sunday.

He was accompanied by his wife, Akshata Murthy; mother-in-law Sudha Murthy; and his two daughters, Anoushka and Krishna. Sunak warmly waved at people who had gathered there to catch their glimpse.

Earlier on Saturday, Rishi Sunak visited the Taj Mahal along with

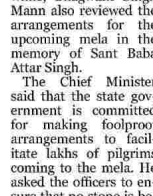


his constant support for strengthening India-UK relations."

Earlier, Sunak, along with his family, visited the Fatehpur Sikri monument in Uttar Pradesh's Agra on Sunday.

He was accompanied by his wife, Akshata Murthy; mother-in-law Sudha Murthy; and his two daughters, Anoushka and Krishna. Sunak warmly waved at people who had gathered there to catch their glimpse.

Earlier on Saturday, Rishi Sunak visited the Taj Mahal along with



his constant support for strengthening India-UK relations."

Earlier, Sunak, along with his family, visited the Fatehpur Sikri monument in Uttar Pradesh's Agra on Sunday.

He was accompanied by his wife, Akshata Murthy; mother-in-law Sudha Murthy; and his two daughters, Anoushka and Krishna. Sunak warmly waved at people who had gathered there to catch their glimpse.

Earlier on Saturday, Rishi Sunak visited the Taj Mahal along with

his constant support for strengthening India-UK relations."

Earlier, Sunak, along with his family, visited the Fatehpur Sikri monument in Uttar Pradesh's Agra on Sunday.

He was accompanied by his wife, Akshata Murthy; mother-in-law Sudha Murthy; and his two daughters, Anoushka and Krishna. Sunak warmly waved at people who had gathered there to catch their glimpse.

Earlier on Saturday, Rishi Sunak visited the Taj Mahal along with

his constant support for strengthening India-UK relations."

Earlier, Sunak, along with his family, visited the Fatehpur Sikri monument in Uttar Pradesh's Agra on Sunday.



his constant support for strengthening India-UK relations."

Earlier, Sunak, along with his family, visited the Fatehpur Sikri monument in Uttar Pradesh's Agra on Sunday.

He was accompanied by his wife, Akshata Murthy; mother-in-law Sudha Murthy; and his two daughters, Anoushka and Krishna. Sunak warmly waved at people who had gathered there to catch their glimpse.

Earlier on Saturday, Rishi Sunak visited the Taj Mahal along with

his constant support for strengthening India-UK relations."

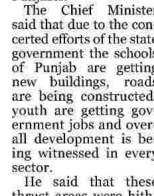
Earlier, Sunak, along with his family, visited the Fatehpur Sikri monument in Uttar Pradesh's Agra on Sunday.

He was accompanied by his wife, Akshata Murthy; mother-in-law Sudha Murthy; and his two daughters, Anoushka and Krishna. Sunak warmly waved at people who had gathered there to catch their glimpse.

Earlier on Saturday, Rishi Sunak visited the Taj Mahal along with

his constant support for strengthening India-UK relations."

Earlier, Sunak, along with his family, visited the Fatehpur Sikri monument in Uttar Pradesh's Agra on Sunday.



his constant support for strengthening India-UK relations."

Earlier, Sunak, along with his family, visited the Fatehpur Sikri monument in Uttar Pradesh's Agra on Sunday.

He was accompanied by his wife, Akshata Murthy; mother-in-law Sudha Murthy; and his two daughters, Anoushka and Krishna. Sunak warmly waved at people who had gathered there to catch their glimpse.

Earlier on Saturday, Rishi Sunak visited the Taj Mahal along with

his constant support for strengthening India-UK relations."

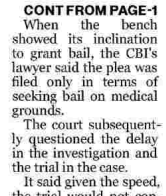
Earlier, Sunak, along with his family, visited the Fatehpur Sikri monument in Uttar Pradesh's Agra on Sunday.

He was accompanied by his wife, Akshata Murthy; mother-in-law Sudha Murthy; and his two daughters, Anoushka and Krishna. Sunak warmly waved at people who had gathered there to catch their glimpse.

Earlier on Saturday, Rishi Sunak visited the Taj Mahal along with

his constant support for strengthening India-UK relations."

Earlier, Sunak, along with his family, visited the Fatehpur Sikri monument in Uttar Pradesh's Agra on Sunday.



his constant support for strengthening India-UK relations."

Earlier, Sunak, along with his family, visited the Fatehpur Sikri monument in Uttar Pradesh's Agra on Sunday.

He was accompanied by his wife, Akshata Murthy; mother-in-law Sudha Murthy; and his two daughters, Anoushka and Krishna. Sunak warmly waved at people who had gathered there to catch their glimpse.

Earlier on Saturday, Rishi Sunak visited the Taj Mahal along with

NEWS IN BRIEF

Transport dept. seizes 19 vehicles

Ghaziabad
The transport department on Tuesday launched a drive against commercial vehicles running on the roads without permit and without paying dues.

In the campaign, enforcement officer Rajeshwar Kushwaha took action against 19 vehicles and seized them. Validity period of many vehicles' documents were also found expired. The one-time settlement scheme (OTS) of the government ended on February 5. Under this, defaulters were given the benefit of 100 per cent waiver in fines.

More than 1500 vehicle owners took advantage of the OTS. After the end of the scheme, the transport department has started taking strict action against defaulters and vehicles running without permit.

Massive security deployment for Delhi's oath-taking ceremony

New Delhi
In preparation for Delhi's new chief minister's oath-taking ceremony, authorities are setting up an extensive security network involving over 5,000 personnel at Ramliha Maidan. The event is slated for February 20, promising tight security measures.

Among the deployed are more than 10 paramilitary force companies, tasked with maintaining law and order, along with managing traffic flow throughout the day. This large-scale deployment highlights the significance of the event as it sees the swearing-in of Delhi's chief minister and council of ministers.

The ceremony, expected at 4:30 pm, will draw top BJP dignitaries, including chief ministers from various party-led states. Security measures include multiple layers of barricades, commandos, quick reaction teams, PCR vans, and SWAT units, covering over 2,500 areas, supported by first-aid kiosks and snipers at vantage points.

"BJP is working to fulfil the wishes of people": BJP leader Tarun Chugh

New Delhi
Ahead of the swearing in ceremony of the new Chief Minister of Delhi, Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader Tarun Chugh said that BJP was working to fulfill the wishes of the people.

He further said that the party had been receiving calls from people to be a part of the event and stated that the people of Delhi had blessed the Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

"A historic event will take place at Delhi's Ramliha Ground on February 20... Every person in Delhi is excited. People are contacting us and saying that they want to be a part of this historic event. BJP is working to fulfill the wishes of the people of Delhi... the people of Delhi have blessed the PM..." Chugh said.

However, the opposition AAP has taken a dig at the BJP claiming that the party has made the stage ready but has not announced who will be the CM yet.

"In this country, governments of different parties have been formed in different states but for the first time it is being seen that the 'baraat' is ready, but nobody knows who will be the

Stage, tent ready, but groom is missing: AAP's dig at BJP's Delhi dilemma

■ Taking a dig at the BJP for its inability to decide on the choice of the chief minister after 10 days of its historic victory in the Delhi Assembly elections, the AAP compared the party's situation with a wedding where the stage and the tent are ready, but a groom is yet to be found.

New Delhi
Taking a dig at the BJP for its inability to decide on the choice of the chief minister after 10 days of its historic victory in the Delhi Assembly elections, the AAP compared the party's situation with a wedding where the stage and the tent are ready, but a groom is yet to be found.

The party was referring to the saffron party's preparations for a swearing-in ceremony without announcing the chief ministerial pick.



"The wedding procession and stage are set, but

no one knows who the groom is. Whether the BJP is struggling to decide or hiding something," AAP

Delhi State Convener Gopal Rai said on Tuesday.

Pointing out that usually, after an election, the winning party selects its leader before staking claim to form a government, the AAP leader said the BJP is making all the preparations without revealing who will lead its team.

"Traditionally, after elections, the winning party convenes a meeting of its MLAs to select a leader before staking its claim to form a government. Along with this, the list of ministers is submitted to the

governor or the president. After their approval, the swearing-in date is announced. But here, everything is in place, except for the chief minister. No one knows who it will be," he wondered. The AAP Delhi State convener said that the BJP is capable of anything, but this delay might just be the first among many unusual records it will set in the next five years. "The BJP is unpredictable. They can do anything. At this rate, they are on track to set many more records in the next five years," he added.

Youth apprehended for drug trafficking in North East Delhi



New Delhi
Police have arrested a youth for drug trafficking and seized 500 tablets of Buprenorphine and 50 injections of Pheniramine maleate (generally used as pain relievers) from his possession.

According to Deputy Commissioner of Police (North East) Prashant Priva Gautam on Tuesday, the team got a tip-off that the offender was supplying banned injectable drugs and tablets on his scooter in Khureji Khas area of the Capital.

Based on the information, a raid was conducted at the spot and a suspect was questioned. During the scrutiny of the vehicle of the suspect, the cops found approximately 500 tablets of Buprenorphine and 50 injections of Pheniramine Maleate, the DCP added.

Upon being interrogated, the accused could not give a satisfactory answer regarding the possession of the

banned drugs. Subsequently, the police took him into custody.

A case under section 22 (illegal possession of psychotropic substance) of the Narcotic Drugs And Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act was registered against the accused and an investigation of the case was taken up.

Earlier on February 14, the Crime Branch team of the Delhi Police had apprehended 90 offenders and registered 89 cases under the NDPS Act in a major crackdown on the narcotics offenders under the seventh edition of Operation 'Kavach'. During the crackdown, coordinated raids were conducted at 284 locations in the city in over 24 hours in which 235 grams of heroin, 43 kg of ganja, 199 grams of cocaine, and 2,07,600 tablets of Alprazolam drug were seized, stated Special Commissioner of Police (crime) Devesh Chandra Srivastava.

Speeding Audi hits scooter in Delhi's Lodhi Road one critical another injured

New Delhi
A speeding Audi struck a scooter in Delhi's Lodhi Road area, injuring two people, one of whom is in critical condition, police said on Tuesday.

The victims, identified as Naitik and Abhishek, were rushed to the hospital by the car's occupants, where police detained both of them.

Naitik's condition is stable, whereas Abhishek's condition is critical, said Additional Deputy Commissioner of Police (South) Achin Garg.

The accident occurred near the Jorhbagh Post Office when the red Audi, being driven recklessly at high speed, crashed into the scooter before ram-



ing into a tree, police said.

"A police control room (PCR) call was received at 11:45 am, alerting police about the crash," said Garg.

According to the police, two young men — aged 19

and 21 — were inside the luxury car at the time of the incident. Both are students.

Naitik and Abhishek were returning home after visiting their grandmother when the accident occurred, police said.

Delhi LG chairs high level meeting regarding Summer Action Plan

New Delhi
Delhi Lieutenant Governor V K Saxena chaired a high level meeting on Tuesday with top officials of various departments of the Delhi government, including officials from the Delhi Jal Board.

The meeting, held at the LG Secretariat, discussed the Summer Action Plan to be made for the people of Delhi so they do not face any water problems with the incoming increasing heat.

According to the statement released by the LG's office, a plan to talk with Haryana was also discussed so that there is no water shortage in the months from May to June.

Earlier on February 16, following a meeting between the LG and the Chief Secretary of the national capital, an immediate directive was issued to clean the Yamuna River. Trash skimmers, weed harvesters, and dredge utility vehicles were deployed to the river.

According to a statement from the LG's office, there is a 'four-pronged strategy' to tackle the issue of pollution in the Yamuna.

Certain vehicles, including fire tenders, ambulances,

Delhi Police implements 12-hour traffic restrictions on Chandni Chowk Road



harse vans, vehicles transporting pregnant women or patients in need of medical transport, enforcement vehicles (North DMC and Delhi Police), and maintenance vehicles (from North DMC, Delhi Police, BSES Yamuna Power Ltd., Public Works Department, CPWD, Delhi Jal Board, Indraprastha Gas Ltd., and bank currency vans with security vehicles) will be allowed access through HC Sen Marg and Khari Baoli, the advisory stated.

Motorists are urged to exercise patience, follow traffic regulations, and cooperate with traffic officers to ensure a smooth flow of traffic, the advisory concluded.

Prez grants prosecution sanction against AAP leader Satyendar Jain

New Delhi
President Droupadi Murmu has granted the sanction to prosecute AAP leader and former Delhi minister Satyendar Jain in a money-laundering case being investigated by the Enforcement Directorate, sources said on Tuesday.

The sanction against the 60-year-old former Delhi health minister was sought under section 218 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Surak-

sha Sanhita.

The Ministry of Home Affairs had requested the President for providing sanction to prosecute Jain on the basis of an Enforcement Directorate (ED) investigation and the presence of "adequate proof", sources said.

Section 218 of the BNSS governs the prosecution of public servants and judges. It outlines the procedure for bringing charges against

the accused for alleged offenses committed while performing his or her official duties.

The ED is now expected to file a fresh supplementary chargesheet informing the court about the approval of the prosecution sanction of the President, sources said.

The federal agency booked Jain in a money-laundering case linked to alleged hawala dealings, and arrested him in May 2022.

PUBLIC NOTICE

General public is hereby informed that Mrs. Lalita Devi W/o Mr. Sumit Kumar is the owner of Residential Plot area measuring 75 sq. yards, Part of Kharsa no.152, village (Iahbas Pargna & Tehsil Dabri, Dist. Gurgaon) Budh Nagar, U.P. by virtue of Gift Deed dt. 15.02.2025 doc. No. 1600 executed by Mr. Sumit Kumar S/o Mfr. Sahab Lal, Sr-II-Neida, and said property to be financed by AU Small Finance Bank Ltd, if anybody has any charge/interest/title/third Party in the said property of any kind of dispute kindly inform the undersigned in writing and with proof within 7 days on the below mentioned address, failing which and I am aware that in case default with the mortgage property that all borrower / Owners are responsible for the same. **SatendraGautam Advocate** Shop no. 3, Property no. 126, Lal Kauna Ghaziabad, U.P

PUBLIC NOTICE

General public is hereby informed that 1. Smt. Geeta Arora (50% Undivided) W/o Sh. Lokesh Kumar 2. Smt. Asha Grotta (50% Undivided) W/o Sh. Sri Banwari Lal are the owner of First Floor, Property Bearing No. 12, known as C-12, area measuring 53 sq. Yds., Out of Entire Area 106 sq. yds., Situated at Abadi of Hazara Park, Chander Nagar, in the area of Village Khureji Khas, Illaga Shahdara, Delhi, by virtue of Sale Deed Date 04.07.2023 executed by Smt. Harjeet Kaur Alias Harji Kaur W/o Lt. Sh. Prahlad Singh, Doc. No. 6207, Vol. No. 10736, on pages 180 to 188, on dated 05.07.2023 in S.R.-VIII, New Delhi, and in the property chain SMC issued by Concern Authority in the name of Sh. Prahlad Singh S/o Sh. Pratap Singh and A/S & will dated 18.10.1972 executed by Sh. Khazan Singh S/o Sh. Dayal Singh are not available/ misplaced by seller and same to be sold to Smt. Manju W/o Sh. Ram Kumar and on file FIR already lodged LR No:2596285/2025 and said property to be financed by Satin Housing Finance Limited, branch Delhi if anybody has any charge/interest/title/third Party in the said property of any kind of dispute kindly inform the undersigned in writing and with proof within 7 days on the below mentioned address, failing which and I am aware that in case default with the mortgage property that all borrower / Owners are responsible for the same. **SatendraGautam Advocate** Shop no. 3, Property no. 126, Lal Kauna Ghaziabad, U.P

PUBLIC NOTICE

MY CLIENT MR. YASH JAIN S/O MR. PARDEEP KUMAR (PROPOSED OWNER) ARE PURCHASED THE PROPERTY FROM MR. PARDEEP KUMAR S/O MR. UMRAO SINGH (CURRENT OWNER) OWNER OF BUILT UP PROPERTY NO. T-84, LAND AREA MEASURING 74 YDS. (40.1/2' X 16.1/2') PART OF KH. NO. 244, SITUATED IN THE COLONY KNOWN AS INDIRA COLONY IN THE AREA OF VILLAGE NARELA DELHI. THROUGH REGISTERED NOTARIZED GPA & REGD. WILL DATED 15.03.2001 EXECUTED BY MRS. SUSHMA PARASHAR W/O MR. KRISHAN KUMAR PARASHAR VIDE REG. VIDE REGN. NO. 7904, VOL. NO. 3785, BOOK NO. 4, PAGES NO. 116-117, ON DATED 15.03.2001 AT SR-V/D, THE ABOVE-MENTIONED PROPERTY IS GOING TO BE MORTGAGED WITH BAJAJ HOUSING FINANCE LTD. IF ANY PERSON / BANK / FINANCIAL INSTITUTION HAVING ANY CLAIM / RIGHT, LIEN, ANY OBJECTION WHATSOEVER IN REGARD TO THE ABOVE PROPERTY, SHOULD NOTIFIED TO THE UNDERSIGNED/ADV. ALONG WITH DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE UNDER ADDRESS THROUGH REGISTERED WITHIN 7 DAYS FROM THE DATE OF PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE FAILING WHICH ANY CLAIM, LIEN OR OBJECTION SHALL BE DEEMED TO HAVE BEEN WAIVED. **VISHAL MEHAN, E-713, KARKARDOOMA COLONY, DELHI-110092**

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is for general information that I, MODI SUREKHABEN W/O MODI MULCHAND BHAI Permanent R/O 7/4, MODIVAS, DANTWADA, PO DANTWADA, DIST. BANASKANTHA, GUJARAT-385055 and present R/o QTR NO.-6,D7TYPE-2,BLOCK-1,OLD CONSFT-22BN, FTB,TIRRI CAMP, NEW DELHI-110062 declare that name of mine has been wrongly written as SUREKHA MODI in my minor daughter name KINJAL MODI aged 16 years in her 10th class educational documents. The actual name of mine is MODI SUREKHABEN which may be amended accordingly.

NORTHERN RAILWAY
Invitation of Tender through E-Tendering (E-Procurement System)
NIT No. SR-2024-25-WV
Name of work with its location: Civil work in connection with Provision of EI in lieu of mechanical Cables of 7x3 (DAP) cat in the section of SSE/ W/M/TQ under ADR/WCM. Similar nature of work: Any Civil work other than track work. Ref: 1798834/97
Approx Cost of work: Rs. 1798834/97
Earliest Date of submission of tender: 14.03.2025 (Tender to be accepted as EMD for tender invited on REFS as per Railway Boards letter no 201025/CE-4/CT/51 dated 31.08.2016)
Rs.240000.00
Completion period of work: 06 Months
Date and time for submission of tender and opening of tender: Upto 15.00 hrs. on 14.03.2025 Opening of tender at 15:00 hrs. On 14.03.2025
Website particulars notice board location: complete details of tender can be seen and address of the office from where the tender form can be purchased etc.
Date: 18.02.2025
Serving Customers With A Smile

Manohar Lal Khattar opens Delhi Metro's first vertical solar plant

Union Housing and Urban Affairs Minister Manohar Lal, on Tuesday, inaugurated India's first vertical bi-facial solar plant on Metro Viaduct at the Okhla Vihar Metro station and 1MW rooftop solar power plant installed at the Khyber Pass depot.

Union Housing and Urban Affairs Minister Manohar Lal, on Tuesday, inaugurated India's first vertical bi-facial solar plant on Metro Viaduct at the Okhla Vihar Metro station and 1MW rooftop solar power plant installed at the Khyber Pass depot.



Union Housing and Urban Affairs Minister Manohar Lal, on Tuesday, inaugurated India's first vertical bi-facial solar plant on Metro Viaduct at the Okhla Vihar Metro station and 1MW rooftop solar power plant installed at the Khyber Pass depot.

ence, Union Minister Manohar Lal asserted that pollution reduction, water conservation, and eco-friendly mobility are not just governmental responsibilities but collective duties.

The way forward is clear: balance progress with environmental responsibility, ensuring a cleaner, healthier world for future generations, he said. "Swachh Bharat Mission was once mocked but has transformed India's landscape, proving that national efforts towards cleanliness and sustainability yield global recognition," the Union minister added. He said urbanisation and industrialisation have increased pollution, but initiatives such as the Delhi Metro have significantly reduced environmental im-

act, demonstrating that thoughtful infrastructure can drive progress while protecting nature.

The minister said energy efficiency and clean power are the need of the hour. "Transitioning from thermal to renewable energy, utilising solar rooftops, and implementing regenerative braking in metros exemplify the shift toward a greener future. Technological advancements, like vertical solar panels and energy-efficient LED systems, paved the way for sustainable urban living. Furthermore, responsible consumption—whether in air conditioning usage or minimising wastage—can have a profound impact on energy conservation," the Union housing and urban affairs minister said.

The inauguration was done by the Union Minister in the 5th International Conference on Green Metro Systems — The Future of Urban Mobility here.

The bi-facial panels are designed to capture sunlight from both sides. It will take the advantage of the metro's elevated structure for solar energy generation without occupying any additional land. This is an innovative step in making metro rail operations more sustainable and contributes to renewable energy goals.

organised the 5th International Conference on Green Metro Systems — The Future of Urban Mobility here. Tokhan Sahu, Union Minister of State, Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, and officials from the IGBC and Indian Metros among others were present on the occasion. Addressing the conference, Union Minister Manohar Lal asserted that pollution reduction, water conservation, and eco-friendly mobility are not just governmental responsibilities but collective duties.

The way forward is clear: balance progress with environmental responsibility, ensuring a cleaner, healthier world for future generations, he said. "Swachh Bharat Mission was once mocked but has transformed India's landscape, proving that national efforts towards cleanliness and sustainability yield global recognition," the Union minister added. He said urbanisation and industrialisation have increased pollution, but initiatives such as the Delhi Metro have significantly reduced environmental im-

Noida airport signs pact with IT firm for tech infra

The Noida International Airport Limited (NIAL) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with IT service provider company, Kyndryl, for the development and management of IT technology infrastructure.



Under this agreement, the company will have to provide 24-hour round-the-clock IT support with advanced technology for airport operations. The Kyndryl operates in more than 60 countries. This company specialises in the design, construction and management of complex IT systems. The company's job at Noida International Airport is to establish a strong and secure IT system, reduce cyber risk here. Also, the IT based system here will have to be understood and operated while reducing its risk. So that the passengers coming here can get the benefit of digital

services without any inconvenience. The Noida International Airport is a green field airport. Therefore, the company concerned will help in smoothing and integrating the systems for all the activities related to digital apps and IT for the passengers. This will include handling the real-time system as well as operating the infrastructure to prevent factors affecting the

operations. As part of the partnership, the company will use Kyndryl Bridge. This is an AI-powered platform. This AI will monitor the airport's IT health 24/7. This system will help in detecting potential problems before they escalate. So that passengers do not face any kind of problem. Apart from this, the Kyndryl will also create a strong mechanism for cyber threats.

LYC stages protest demanding Vaishnav's resignation

The Indian Youth Congress (LYC) on Tuesday staged a protest seeking the resignation of Railways Minister Ashwini Vaishnav over the loss of lives in a stampede at the New Delhi Railway Station last week.

Members of the Congress youth wing while holding aloft placards held the demonstration in front of his office. They also burnt the effigy of the minister. LYC national president Uday Bhanu Chib said the stampede was not an accident but a "genocide".

Referring to the tragic incident, he said, "It was the failure of the railway administration. The scene there was heart-wrenching. Who is responsible for this massacre of devotees? Even after such a big accident, a narrative was created that everything is under control."

Attacking the Railways minister, Chib said, "When people were dying in the stampede, Ashwini Vaishnav was busy hiding the death figures. The Railways minister of this country is only busy making reads. He has no moral right to remain in his post, he should resign as soon as possible."

Echoing similar sentiments, Delhi Pradesh Youth Congress president Akshay Lakra said, "The government gave advertisements and called people to Maha Kumbh. In such a situation, when people are going to Kumbh, who is responsible for their safety? The people who have lost their lives are our own people. But the Railways Minister is busy hiding the death figures. He is not doing anything for the public."

"To go to the festival of faith Maha Kumbh, the public expects from the government that there will be proper arrangements for transportation, deployment of police administration, and crowd management. But if the government cannot make such arrangements for the public, then why are these people sitting in power? Ashwini Vaishnav should take responsibility for this accident and immediately resign from his post," Lakra said. It may be mentioned that the Delhi unit of the Congress on Monday filed a complaint with the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) urging to constitute an inquiry committee to carry out on-the-spot inquiry into the recent stampede.

LG VK Saxena felicitates Kaanchan Azad for outstanding performance during Delhi polls



Kaanchan Azad, OSD (Media) was conferred with a State Award for 'Best Electoral Practices for his Outstanding Performance in Media Management' during the Delhi Legislative Assembly Election by Lieutenant Governor VK Saxena.

Kaanchan Azad, OSD (Media) was conferred with a State Award for 'Best Electoral Practices for his Outstanding Performance in Media Management' during the Delhi Legislative Assembly Election by Lieutenant Governor VK Saxena.

Azad was honoured for his outstanding media

outreach and awareness campaigns during the Delhi Legislative Assembly Election 2025 wherein he played a crucial role in publishing 500 news articles aimed at educating and engaging Delhi's citizens about the election process.

Currently serving as the Officer on Special Duty and Spokesperson in the office of the Chief Electoral Officer, Delhi, Azad has been instrumental in executing impactful media campaigns to promote electoral literacy and participation.

Chandni Chowk city's pride, efforts needed to maintain it, says Delhi HC

New Delhi: The Delhi High Court on Tuesday said Chandni Chowk was the "pride" of the city and called for efforts by all agencies to ensure its upkeep.

A bench of Chief Justice D K Upadhyaya and Justice Tushar Rao Gedela underlined the "poor upkeep" and "negligence" on the part of the agencies in the area even after its redevelopment.

"Please take the issue seriously. Highest level officers will be involved. We will not be satisfied with subordinate officers. It is the pride of Delhi," it said. "Urgent attention of all the authorities was needed to make sure that Chandni Chowk did not lose its character as a historical and cultural place, it added. Calling it "our heritage", the bench stressed on protecting the "very concept" of Chandni Chowk and said all stakeholders should come together instead of depending on the agencies. The court proposed setting up of a committee of the "highest" ranking officials of city administration for the preparation of a roadmap saying the existing committee overseeing the upkeep



was not functioning properly. "This (current) committee does not appear to be functioning properly. Merely conducting meetings and not implementing its decisions will perhaps not suffice. We have to secure not only the existence of shopkeepers but also the very concept of Chandni Chowk. It is our heritage. So everyone should come together. Merely depending on agencies will not do," it said. The court went on, "Concerted efforts of all agencies — municipal corporation concerned, Delhi Police, PWD, traffic police, local civil administration, department of urban development of Delhi and Shahjahanabad Redevelopment Corporation and Delhi Urban Shelter Improvement Board was required."

We propose a committee comprising officers of the highest level of all the agencies to prepare a roadmap for maintaining the area, it added. The order came on a PIL of Chandni Chowk Sarv Vyapar Mandal which claimed a "highly neglected, disturbing and pathetic state of affairs" in the area under the Chandni Chowk Redevelopment Project from Lal Quila Road up to Fateh Puri Masjid and its surrounding areas including municipal corporations, Delhi Police, PWD, traffic police, local civil administration, department of urban development of Delhi and Shahjahanabad Redevelopment Corporation and Delhi Urban Shelter Improvement Board was required."

and lack of attention on the part of authorities. The bench suggested the shopkeepers themselves should participate and volunteer in maintaining the area. Chandni Chowk, it noted, had commercial importance, attracting lakhs of tourists from across the world. The Delhi government counsel said the authorities were maintaining the area but required a community-based effort. The court implored the Delhi Hindustani Mercantile Association in the case and asked all parties to file their stand over the setting up of the high-level committee. Chandni Chowk Sarv Vyapar Mandal, among other issues, has raised problems such as damage to the infrastructure, lack of maintenance and hygiene, public spaces occupied by homeless, vagabonds, drug addicts and stray cattle in the PIL. There is illegal and unregulated vending activities and encroachments in the no-hawking and no-vending zones and thousands of unregulated rickshaws ply on Chandni Chowk Road, it added.

Delhi riots 2020: Court stays order of FIR against SHO for alleged hate crime

A sessions court in Delhi has stayed a magistrate court's order for the registration of an FIR against the station house officer (SHO) and other police personnel of a local police station for alleged hate crime during the 2020 Delhi riots.

The SHO had approached the Karkadonna sessions court against the order passed by the Magistrate on January 18, 2024. Additional Sessions Judge (ASJ) Sameer Bajpai stayed the order passed by the Magistrate court noting that before passing the direction a sanction for registration of FIR was not obtained as the revisionist is an SHO. The sessions court said that after going through the record and hearing submissions of the counsel, the court is of the view that the whole purpose of the present petition will be frustrated, if the operation of the impugned order is not stayed by the court. "Accordingly, considering the facts on record, the operation of the impugned



The SHO had approached the Karkadonna sessions court against the order passed by the Magistrate on January 18, 2024.

order dated 18.01.2025 is stayed," ASJ Bajpai said in the order of February 1, 2025. Advocate Sanjay Gupta, counsel for Salender Tomar, had argued that order of 18.01.2025, whereby, the ld. trial court has ordered for registration of an FIR against the revisionist u/s 295(a)/323/342/506 IPC is totally perverse and illegal. It is further submitted that the said order is an example of 'double jeopardy' as another FIR was already registered over the same incident at Police Station Bhajanpura, in which another respondent is a witness and as per law there cannot be a second FIR in

the same incident. The direction has been passed on a complaint filed by Mohd. Waseem for registration of FIR against the police officials and others. The complainant, Waseem alleged that while attempting to escape from the rioting area he fell down and the police personnel started abusing and beating him. HE alleged that SHO of the Jyoti Nagar police station directed his fellow policemen to throw him where the others were lying on the ground. The complainant, Waseem, further alleged that four policemen started beating them and asked them to sing the national anthem and chant slogans of Jai Shri Ram and Vande Mataram. A man named Faizan subsequently died. It was also submitted that on July 23, 2024, the Delhi High Court had directed the CBI to investigate the case properly and also against the police officials and as such the trial court was not competent to order the registration of another FIR when the same allegations are already sub-

judice before the High Court in a petition filed by Kismatun, the mother of the deceased Faizan. On January 18, Judicial Magistrate First Class gave a direction for registration of FIR against the then SHO of the Jyoti Nagar Police Station and other police personnel over hate crime and forcing the complainant to sing the national anthem during the Delhi riots 2020. Judicial Magistrate First Class Udhav Kumar Jain while giving the direction had said that they cannot be protected under the garb of sanction as alleged offences committed by them cannot be said to have been committed while acting or purporting to act in the discharge of their official duty. "Thus, FIR be registered under sections 295-A (deliberate and malicious injury caused by a religion or religious belief), 323, 342, 506 IPC against the SHO PS Jyoti Nagar (Mr. Tomar) who was holding the said post in February-March 2020," the court had ordered on January 18.

Gr. Noida Authority to set up Material Recovery Facility for separating plastic

The Greater Noida Authority is going to set up a Material Recovery Facility Centre (MRFC) in industrial sector Ecotech-12 for separating plastic, polythene and paper from dry waste.

An agreement has been signed between the Greater Noida Authority and the Environment and Education Centre. The capacity of this centre will be five TPD (tonnes per day). This will solve the problem of garbage disposal to some extent. To make Greater Noida number one in terms of cleanliness, the authority has planned to dispose 100% garbage. The authority will be responsible for delivering the dry waste from homes to the centre. Plastic and polythene will be recycled and chips will be made by cutting them into small pieces. Paper will be recycled and cardboard will be made. The authority plans to establish more such centres in the city so that minimum garbage reaches the garbage disposal centre. Secondly, another advantage of this will be that dry



An agreement has been signed between the Greater Noida Authority and the Environment and Education Centre. The capacity of this centre will be five TPD (tonnes per day). This will solve the problem of garbage disposal to some extent. To make Greater Noida number one in terms of cleanliness, the authority has planned to dispose 100% garbage. The authority will be responsible for delivering the dry waste from homes to the centre. Plastic and polythene will be recycled and chips will be made by cutting them into small pieces. Paper will be recycled and cardboard will be made. The authority plans to establish more such centres in the city so that minimum garbage reaches the garbage disposal centre. Secondly, another advantage of this will be that dry

and wet waste will reach separately. Along with setting up the centre, people will also be made aware that dry and wet waste should be kept separately at home. This will make disposal easier. According to the representative of the organisation, Rohit Maskara, people doing junk business will also be connected to this centre. The plastic, paper etc. collected by them will be purchased and recycled. To make this initiative successful, people will be made aware to keep wet and dry waste separately. A Material Recovery Facility Centre will be set up to separate plastic, polythene and paper from dry waste. An agreement has been signed with the Environment and Education Centre for this. A plan has been made to dispose all types of waste including dry and wet. Work on this has been started, said Srilakshmi VS, ACEO, the Greater Noida Authority.

PLPB and Surbana Jurong Collaborate for Industrial Park in Patiala

Patiala: PLPB, a renowned real estate and infrastructure development company, has partnered with Singapore's Surbana Jurong to develop the ambitious PLPB Industrial Park in Patiala, Punjab. This collaboration was officially sealed in Singapore in a ceremony attended by a real estate delegation from the CII Learning Mission, as announced by PLPB on Tuesday.

PLPB IndusPark, a vast 150-acre greenfield development, will be strategically located near Rajpura in Patiala district. It promises direct access to the Amritsar-Kolkata Industrial Corridor, enhancing logistics and supply chain efficiencies specifically designed for SMEs and MSMEs. Surbana Jurong is a leader in urban and infrastructure consulting, known for projects like Singapore Changi Airport.

The industrial park aims to attract global investments with its sustainable infrastructure, fostering job creation and industry growth in Punjab. PLPB's CEO, Sumit Singla, expressed excitement over the partnership with Surbana Jurong, viewing it as a pivotal step in Punjab's industrial sector, poised to set up a globally competitive manufacturing hub. This initiative aligns with the central and state government's commitment to innovation and economic development.

Ukhand HC orders demolition of dilapidated buildings near Kalagarh Dam

Dehradun: Uttarakhand High Court ordered Pauri Garhwal's district magistrate and the director of Jim Corbett Tiger Reserve to demolish the dilapidated buildings near the Kalagarh Dam.

The Kalagarh Welfare and Upliftment Committee had filed a Public Interest Litigation (PIL) to protect the interests of people living in various buildings in the Kalagarh Dam area, which falls in the core area of Corbett Tiger Reserve.

Pauri District Magistrate Ashish Chauhan on Monday informed the HC that certain norms have been adopted for the rehabilitation of occupants living in various buildings in the dam area under which people having alternate accommodation will not be entitled for rehabilitation, while Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand governments have decided to rehabilitate 213 occupants in a spirit of philanthropy.

Uttarakhand HC previously had sought a survey report on the said area, following which officials from the Revenue Department, Forest Department, and Irrigation Department along with police conducted a joint inspection on February 12.

The team also included the additional district magistrate of Pauri Garhwal and the sub-divisional magistrate of Kotdwara.

People in Haryana lost Rs 72.84 cr to cyber frauds in January: Police

Komal Ramola Chandigarh: People in Haryana lost Rs 72.84 crore to cyber frauds in January this year, the police said, adding that the amount was Rs 14 crore less compared to January 2024 when cybercriminals defrauded people of Rs 86.18 crore.

The police attributed the success to their awareness campaigns and said they had put 433 more cybercriminals behind bars in January this year, compared to January 2024. "As a result of the prompt action of the Haryana Police, a significant increase has also been recorded in the amount saved from cybercriminals in January 2025 compared to January 2024. Taking strict action against cybercriminals, the Haryana Police has arrested four times more criminals in January 2025. While 138 cyber accused were arrested in January 2024, this year, a total of 571 accused (130 from Haryana, 441 from other states) have been arrested," DGP Shatrugh



jeet Kapur said in a statement.

Issuing an appeal to the public, DGP Kapur said, "In this era of technology, most people are active on online platforms. If anyone calls and introduces themselves as an officer of the CBI, ED, or police and talks about digital arrest, be immediately alert because no investigating agency does this kind of thing. People should

not fall into the trap of fake share trading being broadcast on social media platforms. Before investing, be sure to officially confirm the company and website."

"Additionally, people should not answer a WhatsApp video and audio calls coming from abroad, especially from Cambodia, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, etc. They should be cautious of fake advertise-

ments appearing on Telegram and Google. The Haryana Police is continuously running awareness campaigns on print and social media to educate the public about the methods adopted by cyber criminals. The only way to avoid cyber crime is through caution and vigilance, so people should be vigilant and contact helpline number 1930 immediately if they

The first six hours are crucial if one falls prey to a cyber fraud, the Haryana police say in their advice on dealing with various scams, including 'digital arrests'.

is any apprehension of cyber crime."

"The Haryana Police, which was at the 23rd position in the country in September 2023 in terms of the rate of blocked amounts in cyber fraud, has now reached the first position. The rate of blocked amounts in cyber fraud and the recovery being done by the cyber police stations, which was seven per cent of the defrauded amount in September 2023, increased to 36 per cent in December 2024, the highest in the country. If a complainant files a complaint within six hours of cyber fraud, up to 70 per cent of the defrauded amount is being blocked. It is the highest success rate in the entire country," DGP Kapur further said in the statement.

UP Dy CM KP Maurya terms SP "Party of goons and rioters"

Lucknow: Uttar Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister Keshav Prasad Maurya on Tuesday launched a scathing attack on the Samajwadi Party, echoing Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath's sentiments.

Maurya alleged that the Samajwadi Party's true history is marred by violence and lawlessness, stating that it's a party of "goons and rioters."

Maurya said, "Samajwadi Party's actual history is something else. It is not a party that is working to serve the state. Samajwadi Party is the party of goons and rioters."

This comes after Samajwadi Party leaders protested in front of the state legislative assembly against the deaths which happened during the Mahakumbh stampede on the day the budget session of the Uttar Pradesh Assembly got underway. They also raised slogans of 'Go Government' during the assembly session.

The deputy chief minister claimed that this incident brought dishonor to the Constitution and insulted the state of Uttar Pradesh. He demanded that the Samajwadi Party apologise to the

governor for their actions.

"The governor had to stop his speech midway because of them. They have insulted UP and brought dishonour to the Constitution. They need to apologise to the Governor. Whatever CM said is absolutely right..." said Maurya. The Uttar Pradesh Budget session for 2025-26 commenced on Tuesday. Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath appealed to the opposition to cooperate so that the session can run peacefully till March 5.

"It is not only the responsibility of the government but also of the opposition to conduct the session peacefully. The double-engine BJP government has set unprecedented standards for Uttar Pradesh's development in the last eight years. This is reflected in the discussions inside the House. Naturally, the frustrated and disappointed opposition tries to avoid these discussions and disrupt proceedings. If the opposition contributes to a meaningful debate, this can be a highly productive session," CM Yogi Adityanath said.

National Education Policy 2020 will bring big change in country: Haryana Governor

Chandigarh: Haryana Governor Bandaru Dattatreya on Tuesday said the National Education Policy 2020 is going to bring a big change in the country.

This will give new guidance to the young generation through innovation, technology, research, education, culture and moral values, the Governor said.

"When all the students move forward with new thinking, then by the year 2047, a developed India of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's dreams will definitely be created," Dattatreya said.

He is also the Chancellor of Kurukshetra University and was addressing the students after giving PhD, post-graduate and graduate degrees at the 34th convocation of Kurukshetra University in Haryana's Kurukshetra.

While congratulating the students who received degrees and gold medals, Dattatreya said the bright future of the country can be seen in these students.

After this 34th convocation, a new journey will begin in the lives of all the students. Parents and teachers will have a lot of expectations from this journey, he said.

He said many challenges will come up in this new path. All the students have to face these challenges and achieve their goals. To achieve this, the students will have to move forward with hard work and honesty, he said.

According to an official statement, Governor Dattatreya felicitated Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini with the honorary degree of Doctor of Literature "for his outstanding contribution in the social and political field."

Former ISRO chairman Dr S. Somanath,



who did remarkable work in the field of science and increased India's pride in space, was also honoured with an honorary degree and Goyal Peace Prize by the university, the statement said.

Nayab Singh Saini said it is Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision is that when we celebrate 100 years of India's Independence, our country should become a developed nation.

He said the youth will have the most important contribution in making a "Viksit Bharat" by the year 2047. Therefore, the youth have to become mentally, physically and morally strong and achieve the goals of life, he said.

Dr. Vivek Joshi appointed new Election Commissioner of India

Chandigarh: Dr. Vivek Joshi, a distinguished 1989-batch IAS officer from the Haryana cadre, has been appointed as the new Election Commissioner of India.

The announcement came after a selection committee, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, recommended Dr. Joshi's name for the esteemed position. He will join the three-member Election Commission, which includes Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Sh Gyanesh Prakash and fellow Election Commissioner Sukhbir Singh Sandhu.

Dr. Joshi, who has been serving as the Haryana Chief Secretary since November 1, 2024, following the retirement of TVSN Prasad, brings with him a wealth of experience in public administration. He was repatriated to Haryana in October 2024 at the request of the state government and subsequently appointed to the role of Chief Secretary.

Prior to his appointment in Haryana, Dr.



Joshi had an extensive tenure in central deputation to 2006 and again from 2010 to 2017, and from 2019 to 2024.

Before his central deputation to the Government of India, he served as Secretary of the Department of Personnel and Training in the Union Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances, and Pensions. His illustrious career also saw him holding the position of Secretary in the Department of Financial Services and as the Registrar General & Census Commissioner of India in the Ministry of Home Affairs. His tenure with the Government of In-

Hisar, Jind, and Panchkula, among other positions.

As Haryana's Chief Secretary, Dr. Joshi has been at the forefront of several key initiatives aimed at improving governance and public welfare. One such initiative was the "Swachh Haryana Mission," launched in December 2024. The campaign, which ran until January 31, 2025, focused on enhancing cleanliness in government offices across the state, optimizing office spaces, and disposing of outdated materials.

Dr. Joshi holds a degree in Mechanical Engineering from IIT Roorkee and a PhD in International Economics from the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies in Geneva, Switzerland. His remarkable academic and professional background positions him as an asset to the Election Commission, where his leadership and expertise will be significant in ensuring the smooth functioning of the country's electoral processes.

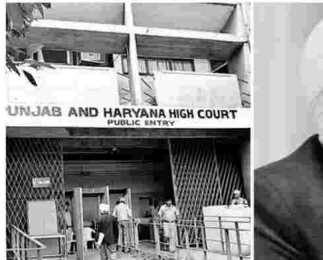
HC asks Punjab govt to decide representation over illegal travel agents

Chandigarh: The Punjab and Haryana High Court has asked the Punjab government to decide on a representation seeking action against illegal travel agents duping innocents by illegally sending them abroad.

A bench of Chief Justice Sheel Nagu and Justice Harmeet Singh Grewal passed the direction while disposing of the plea of advocate Kanwar Pal Singh on February 17.

The petitioner further sought setting up of "emigration check posts" and an upgraded list of "certified recruiting agents".

The plea was filed in the wake of the deportation of several illegal Indian immigrants from the US recently and sought directions for



immediate steps to establish the check posts in all of Punjab under the Emigration Act, 1983 to streamline the procedure of emigration and prevent illegal immigration.

"The incident like the recent major deportation of illegal immi-

grants of India by the USA, caused losses of crores of rupees to the people of Punjab," said the petitioner.

He also sought directions for upgrading the list of "certified recruiting agents and permitted employers established outside India" so

that people could have an easy access to the emigration process and prevent people from falling victim to fake travel agents.

He sought directions for immediate action against all such fake travel agents operating in the state under the

Punjab Prevention of Human Smuggling Act to ensure the prevention of human trafficking via "donkey routes".

Advocate Dheeraj Jain, who represented the Centre, said the court asked the petitioner to submit his representation to the state and the Central government authorities within a month.

The state and the Centre were directed to consider the representation and take a decision on the matter, Jain said.

The counsel said the Protector of Emigrants in Chandigarh has forwarded a total of 127 complaints over the unscrupulous agents to the Punjab government for action in the past year.

Of the complaints, 57 were received from victims, he said. Notably, after the first

Rajasthan budget to be presented Wednesday, says Dy CM Diya Kumari

Jaipur: Rajasthan Deputy CM Diya Kumari on Tuesday said that the state budget would be presented on February 19.

"Rajasthan budget will be presented in a day's time. With the blessings of the Prime Minister, under the leadership of Chief Minister, double engine government in Rajasthan will present a very good budget and will have everything for everyone..." Kumari said while speaking to the media.

Taking to social media X, the Deputy CM shared photos of her finalizing the budget.

"Rajasthan Budget 2025-26 finalised," the post read. Meanwhile, on February 16, CM Bhajanlal Sharma held a meeting to review the development work in Jaipur at the Chief Minister's residence on Sunday.

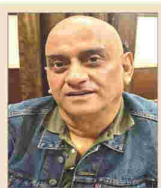
During the review meeting, CM Sharma directed all the District Collectors of Jaipur division to send a

report of the pending cases regarding the announcements of the previous Budget year 2024-25 within three days.

He said that the District Collectors will be responsible for implementing Budget-related announcements, and in this regard, the problems should be resolved by conducting a spot inspection. CM directed the officials to issue all the necessary approvals by the end of February after conducting a technical examination of the pending cases.

In the meeting, the District Collectors also suggested other points, including drinking water, electricity, roads, health, education, tourism, and transport facilities for the upcoming Budget 2025-26. In this regard, the Chief Minister directed that the District Collector inspect the spot and determine the status of these works based on the prescribed parameters and utility.

Maharashtra's Political Landscape: Devendra Fadnavis & the Dynamics of Coalition Governance



Dr Anil Singh, Editor, STAR Views

Maharashtra, India's economic powerhouse, has witnessed significant political shifts in recent years. Central to these developments is Devendra Fadnavis, who, after a series of political maneuvers, assumed the role of Chief Minister for the second time on December 5, 2024. Leading a coalition government under the Maha Yuti alliance, Fadnavis faces the intricate task of managing diverse political partners while steering the state's development agenda.

The Rise of Maha Yuti and Fadnavis's Leadership

The Maha Yuti alliance, comprising the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), Shiv Sena (led by Eknath Shinde), and a faction of the Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) under Ajit Pawar, secured a decisive victory in the 2024 Maharashtra Legislative Assembly elections. The coalition won 235 out of 288 seats, reflecting a robust mandate from the electorate. This victory not only underscored the alliance's political strategy but also highlighted Fadnavis's pivotal role in consolidating support across party lines.

Fadnavis's political acumen has been evident since his early days in Maharashtra's political arena. His ability to navigate complex political

terrain, coupled with his strategic foresight, has positioned him as a linchpin in the state's governance. His tenure has been marked by efforts to balance regional aspirations with national objectives, ensuring that Maharashtra remains aligned with central policies while addressing local concerns.

Navigating Coalition Complexities:

Leading a coalition government presents intricate challenges, especially when it involves parties with distinct ideologies and regional interests. Fadnavis's leadership is characterized by a blend of assertiveness and diplomacy, aiming to maintain cohesion within the alliance. However, reports suggest that his governance style, particularly the "your minister, my bureaucrat" model, has caused discomfort among alliance partners. This approach, where ministers from coalition partners are paired with bureaucrats aligned with the Chief Minister's office, has led to tensions, as it potentially undermines the autonomy of ministers from allied parties.

Managing such dynamics requires Fadnavis to exercise adept negotiation skills, ensuring that the coalition's collective agenda is prioritized while respecting the individual party mandates. The inclusion of Deputy Chief Ministers Eknath

Shinde and Ajit Pawar adds layers to the power-sharing arrangement, necessitating continuous dialogue and compromise to sustain governmental stability.

Central-State Synergy: Fadnavis's Strategic Positioning:

Fadnavis's tenure is also marked by his efforts to align Maharashtra's policies with the central government's vision. This alignment is evident in the state's emphasis on infrastructure development and economic reforms, mirroring national priorities. By positioning Maharashtra as a key player in India's growth narrative, Fadnavis ensures that the state benefits from central initiatives and investments.

However, this close association with central leadership requires a delicate balance. Fadnavis must address regional sentiments and ensure that Maharashtra's unique cultural and economic landscape is preserved, even as it integrates with broader national objectives. This balancing act is crucial in maintaining public support and ensuring the coalition's longevity.

Developmental Agenda: Ambitious Projects and Their Prospects: Under Fadnavis's leadership, Maharashtra has embarked on an ambitious developmental trajectory. The state

currently has infrastructure projects worth ₹8 lakh crore under various stages of implementation, the highest in any Indian state. These projects span sectors such as transportation, urban development, and energy, aiming to bolster Maharashtra's economic landscape and improve the quality of life for its residents.

Notable among these initiatives is the collaboration with JSW Group, which has committed to investing ₹3 trillion (approximately \$3.47 billion) in the state. This investment focuses on expanding electric vehicle production, lithium-ion battery manufacturing, steel production, and renewable energy projects. Such collaborations are poised to generate employment opportunities and position Maharashtra as a hub for sustainable industrial growth.

However, the success of these projects hinges on effective implementation and addressing potential challenges. Concerns have been raised regarding specific initiatives, such as the ₹28,500 crore road project, where the state's planning department highlighted issues related to funding models and long-term financial implications. Ensuring transparency, securing necessary clearances, and maintaining fiscal prudence are essential to the fruition of these developmental endeavors.

A Way Forward:

Devendra Fadnavis's second term as Maharashtra's Chief Minister is emblematic of a complex political landscape shaped by coalition dynamics and ambitious developmental goals. His leadership is characterized by strategic alliances, a focus on infrastructure growth, and efforts to harmonize state policies with national objectives. Navigating the intricacies of coalition governance requires continuous engagement with alliance partners, addressing their concerns, and fostering a collaborative environment.

The success of Maharashtra's developmental projects under this administration will depend on meticulous planning, stakeholder engagement, and unwavering commitment to public welfare. As Fadnavis steers the state through this multifaceted political and economic landscape, his ability to balance diverse interests will be pivotal in shaping Maharashtra's future trajectory.

(The write is an Editor, STAR Views)

Breaking Time Sudoku

What to do

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

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

Solution, Sudoku

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

THE WISDOM TREE BY SUVEEN KUMAR

LEARN YOURSELF

Learn yourself, from yourself, by yourself and for yourself. You are the best library of experience, your are the best institution of life-lessons, you are the best transformation of taken actions. Learn yourself and from yourself, keeping in mind that your learning will keep changing but so will you, keeping in mind your experience will keep changing but so will you. Be your master, be your disciple. Your learning will not be perfect, your journey will not be perfect, you will not always make the right move, you will not always know the right thing, yet learn yourself learn from yourself. Your own learning will confuse you, your own learning will mislead you, your own learning will deceive you but it is not about you it is about learning, this is how it is, so learn yourself learn

from yourself. You are the biggest responsibility of you, you have the biggest authority of you. Hold yourself as everyone else is busy holding themselves, make yourself as everybody else is busy making themselves and race yourself as everybody is busy racing themselves. Be the best version of yours, give the best reason of yours and live the best vision of yours. You are wrong when you are wrong but you are right when you know you are wrong. You have some years to live and it is fine if you have some goals and it is also fine if you don't have any. The purpose of your life is not to achieve but to live. The biggest achievement in life is to live right. Wronging your whole life will not give you the satisfaction of achieving something right.

Moral : Treat yourself as a master until you find your master.

TOP STORY

Dear Reader, If you have any news or you have any suggestion regarding our newspaper or you have any problem with any government department, you may contact us on 24 hour helpline no- 0120-4225517, 4241284 for Delhi & Ghaziabad (9582310372), for Noida (981899989), Advertisement (9818799941), Circulation (08586923450)

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

Why are Indian students leaving the country to become doctors?



By Dr Satyavan Saurabh

There has been a rise in the number of medical students leaving India to study abroad, with over 30,000 students going abroad every year. According to data from the National Medical Commission, only 16 percent of foreign medical graduates pass the Foreign Medical Graduate Examination screening test. Due to NEET competition, high tuition and a lack of domestic seats, India's healthcare system is plagued, leading to an increasing reliance on foreign education. With low tuition costs, streamlined admission processes, and recognized degrees, many countries are preferred destinations for travel. Due to these factors, an increasing number of students are bridging the gap by pursuing medical education outside India, guaranteeing that they can still fulfill their aspirations of becoming a doctor. Indian students prefer international medical courses due to the easy application and admission process. Students can study English or a foreign language. Tuition costs around Rs 200,000 to Rs 300,000 every year. No capitation fee is required. Many international universities have received recognition from the World Health Organization and the Medical Council of India. Students are exposed to a multicultural setting that broadens their life experiences and knowledge. With good educational quality, their degrees are recognized across international borders. Indian medical students are increasingly leaving the country due to intense competition for domestic seats. Students in India seek options abroad due to fierce competition, often in countries

where medical regulations are lax.

Since India has only one medical seat for every 22 applicants, more than 20,000 students are forced to study abroad each year in countries such as China, Russia, and Ukraine. But the uneven quality of curriculum at many international medical schools affects students' employability and agility. Foreign graduates' access to India's healthcare system is limited because they must pass the Foreign Medical Graduate Examination and complete an internship. Of the 32,000 Indian students who took the Foreign Medical Graduate Examination last year, only 4,000 qualified. For these students and families, high tuition costs, unstable economies, and security threats in some countries are burdensome. The conflict between Russia and Ukraine led to the displacement of more than 24,000 Indian medical students, resulting in financial losses and an uncertain academic future. India's shortage of doctors is getting worse as more foreign-trained medical professionals choose to practice abroad because of better opportunities there. The first change is to expand the number of medical seats to meet the domestic demand for medical education. 10,000 more medical seats will be added in 2025; India has a five-year target of 75,000 additional seats. Affordable medical colleges must be established to increase access to education in underprivileged areas. Access to medical education has increased by

opening new government medical colleges and expanding AIIMS in tier-2 and tier-3 cities.

Private investment must be encouraged while maintaining high-quality instruction and reasonable costs. Institutions such as the Caribbean and Manipal College of Medical Sciences (Nepal) demonstrate that Indian institutions can grow domestically under a public-private partnership model. Reducing reliance on NEET is important by implementing more open admission processes and multiple entry routes. Bridge courses and alternative admission systems have been suggested by the National Medical Commission in an attempt to broaden selection criteria. International campuses must be promoted by Indian universities to serve Indian students. The international expansion of the IITs and the Manipal Group suggests a model in which Indian medical schools operate internationally under Indian regulations.

To strengthen medical education and internships, we must implement reforms that guarantee the provision of high-quality healthcare. Bringing Indian medical education at par with international standards and mandating internships in rural areas is needed. To emphasize patient care and practical skills, the Competency-Based Medical Education (CBME) curriculum was implemented in 2019. Investing in state-of-the-art laboratories, clinical experience, and medical facility training is a must. Modernization labs and

e-learning platforms for medical colleges are needed through AIIMS and NMC reforms. Regular assessment of specific initiatives, such as funding models and long-term financial implications. Ensuring transparency, securing necessary clearances, and maintaining fiscal prudence are essential to the fruition of these developmental endeavors.

The National Exit Test (NEXT), administered by the NMC, seeks to standardize licensing exams for medical graduates from both India and abroad. Providing better working conditions, incentives, and higher salaries in both urban and rural areas is essential. The Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana (PMSSY) seeks to establish medical institutions in underprivileged areas. Using technology to increase access to training and healthcare is imperative. Healthcare delivery in remote areas has improved thanks to the e-Sanjeevani telemedicine initiative, which has enabled over 14 crore consultations. A three-pronged strategy to increase medical seats, regulate private college tuition, and strengthen FMG integration is essential. The NMC's 2023 reforms regarding faculty and seat distribution are positive steps. Also, encouraging rural service and creating public-private partnerships can improve quality and access while guaranteeing India's independence. I have nothing but to say about the migration to get medical education from India. In India, medical education is extremely expensive. The barriers to entry are irrational. I feel that many more students are capable of becoming doctors. India desperately needs more doctors, especially those willing to work

in the rural areas of the country. Medical education in Central Asia is not bad, given the achievements of those countries in healthcare.

Colleges there will function more effectively and sustainably if they use Indian student enrollment to increase capacity utilization and generate additional income. If this helps a group of Indian students become doctors, it is a win-win situation for both parties. There is also the possibility of failure. Some people may not be able to meet the requirements to work in India. Some sub-agents or private contractors may withhold some relevant information in an attempt to attract more students. Then there may be emergency situations, such as the COVID-19 pandemic in China or the war in Ukraine. These may result in a group of students suffering significant losses. The Indian government's policy is not very good at helping students even in emergency situations. The only action the Indian government has taken with regard to medical education abroad is to make the qualifying examination for practicing in India more stringent. The question of how tough such an examination should be is controversial. The main issue is whether there are enough qualified medical professionals in India or whether it is aimed at preventing people from pursuing medical education abroad.

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

Defence industry in India at cusp of massive expansion: Defence secy

Defence secy recalled that the Ministry of Defence recently declared 2025 as the "year of reforms", saying the objective is to make systems and procedures more efficient, streamlined in order to deliver timely outcomes.

New Delhi
The defence industry in India is at the "cusp of a massive expansion", Defence Secretary Rajesh Kumar Singh said on Monday even as he suggested that public-private-partnership would be "critical" in making the country a hub for advanced manufacturing in the sector.



In his address at a defence conclave here late evening, he also said the intention of the government is to build a "technologically advanced" and "combat-ready force" that can effectively address the "complexities of modern warfare".
The event was hosted by Axis Bank to bring together different stakeholders, including government officials, industry members, financial institutions, among others under one roof.
Singh said the conclave fosters collaboration among different stakeholders from the defence industry ecosystem, including those who would finance them. Creating a unified platform for discussions on 'Atmanirbhar Bharat', empowering the defence ecosystem is a "critical issue" right now, he added.

Rs 6.21 lakh crore that will go up by 9.5 per cent to 6.81 lakh crore in 2025-26.
And we should be spending over the next decade, something between USD 20-25 billion, perhaps even USD 30 billion per annum, "as per our modernisation initiatives", he added.
Earlier in his address, the top official in the ministry underlined that the industrial ecosystem is being envisioned where "incubency advantage would not prevail over the ability of startups of agile private sector entrepreneurs", to bring into the ecosystem and to bring in disruptive technologies.
In this direction, the Ministry of Defence intends to work towards "streamlining our acquisition process, reduce timelines of various activities without impacting the integrity of the system", with the intention of ensuring faster contract awards, greater visibility to the industry regarding procurements on the anvil, and all-round efforts to deliver projects and fulfil contracts on time.
"Additionally, enhancing self-reliance in production with focus on 'Atmanirbhar Bharat', as enunciated by our honourable Prime Minister repeatedly, requires an integrated approach by the government, financial institutions and by the industry," he said.
"We are partners in this process, and we need to enhance our interactions through engagements like today's. Strengthening collaboration to accelerate indigenous defence production and establishing a robust defence ecosystem requires collaboration between the military and the civilian sector, supporting the industry to create cutting-edge defence technologies by investing in research and development will strengthen our strategic capabilities," Singh said.
Sanjeev Kumar, Secretary, Department of Defence Production in the defence ministry; Michael Williamson, president, Lockheed Martin International also addressed the gathering in a separate session during the conclave.
Williamson in his address, said, "We face an increasingly complex and threatening geopolitical environment."
US-based Lockheed Martin has been associated with India for over seven decades and a trusted partner for the country for over three decades, he said.

"It is an ongoing effort which we sort of need to continue to focus on. It is also in line with our priorities of modernising and reforming the defence ecosystem in our quest for 'Atmanirbhar' or strategic self-reliance," the defence secretary said.
He recalled that the Ministry of Defence recently declared 2025 as the "year of reforms", saying the objective is to make systems and procedures more efficient, streamlined in order to deliver timely outcomes.
"The intention is to build a technologically advanced and combat-ready force that can effectively address the complexities of modern warfare," he said.
In his address, Singh emphasised about working together with different stakeholders to create a robust defence ecosystem.
Relaxation in the FDI policies and industrial licensing procedures are other elements that will propel the growth in the Indian domestic defence industry, he said.
"Our exports have increased to Rs 21,000 crore, almost a 30 times jump in the last ten years. It is very obvious that the defence industry in India is at the cusp of a massive expansion," the

defence secretary said.
The current industrial ecosystem of India, which comprises various defence PSUs, licensed companies and MSMEs are the "pillars of this expanding industrial base", he added.
"Our focus has to be on reducing industry barriers for new players and new technologies. So that our defence industrial ecosystem becomes adaptive, agile, and capable of responding quickly to the changing nature of warfare, as we have seen in recent geopolitical conflicts," he said.
Citing the defence budget figures, Singh said, it was

SC slams states, UTs for not filing status reports

New Delhi
The Supreme Court on Tuesday pulled up several states and union territories for not filing status reports over the implementation of the domestic violence law while allowing them four more weeks subject to the payment of Rs 5,000 as costs.



A bench of Justices B V Nagarathna and Prasanna B Varale took note when the petitioner's counsel said several states and UTs did not file their status reports despite the top court's direction.
"The counsel for the respective states have sought for some more time to file status reports. Hence, four more weeks are granted to file status reports subject to payment of cost of Rs 5,000 to the Supreme Court mediation centre," the bench said.
The counsel for the respective states have sought for some more time to file status reports. Hence, four more weeks are granted to file status reports subject to payment of cost of Rs 5,000 to the Supreme Court mediation centre," the bench said.
The bench noted Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Meghalaya, Odisha, Telangana, West Bengal and Assam were among the defaulters.
UTs of Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu, Jammu and Kashmir, Ladakh and Lakshadweep also did not file the status reports, it was further informed.
"Pay cost of Rs 5,000 and file it. If you don't file it, next time it will double," said Justice Nagarathna.
The bench posted the matter on March 25. In its December 2 2024 order, the apex court said the status report had to be filed with regard to implementation of the Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005.
On January 17, the top court extended the time for filing of the status reports by the states and UTs till February 14.
While hearing the matter in November last year, the apex court said the prayers in the petition were essentially for the implementation of the 2005 law.
While issuing notices, the top court said the obligation for the implementation of the law not only rested with the Centre but also with the respective state governments.
The plea sought directions to the authorities for the proper enforcement and implementation of the provisions of the 2005 Act aside from directions for adequate appointments, notification and establishment of protection officers, service providers and shelter homes as directed under the Act.
The plea also sought initiation and strict implementation of awareness campaigns related to crime against women.

'Visionless' Modi Government tanked economy: Kharge

New Delhi
Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge on Tuesday termed as ironical the claim of Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman that the Indian economy is giving good returns, and said a "visionless" Modi government has tanked the economy and ruined the lives of Indians.
"Nothing can be more ironical than Modi Sarkar's FM saying that our Economy is delivering 'Good Returns', he said in a post on X.
Kharge said Rs 45 lakh crore has been wiped out from the Indian stock markets so far in 2025 and Nifty 50 firms have shown the worst quarterly profit growth in five years.
"Foreign Investors have sold over Rs 1.56 lakh crore of stocks since October last year, including nearly Rs 1 lakh crore in 2025 itself, which has led to wiping out wealth of small and medium investors," the Congress chief said.
"Rupee at 87, means Trade Deficit is sky-high. Imports have risen by 62.21



The Congress chief also said India is staring at a global tariff war.
"Our Manufacturing Sector is drowning, Make in India and PLI Schemes have failed, youth unemployment has NO solution, Price Rise is extinguishing savings, Consumption is falling and there is no respite from Budget, Rural wages have seen ZERO growth, the Rupee has depreciated by 43% in the past 10 years and forced oil-gas buy would burden our import bills," he said.
"A visionless, rudderless and policyless Modi Sarkar has tanked the Indian Economy, ruining the lives of Indians," Kharge charged.
Seeking to assuage concerns over foreign institutional investors (FII) selling Indian equities lately, Sitharaman on Monday attributed the action to profit booking.
She said the Indian economy is one where the investors are bagging better returns which leads to profit booking.
"The Modi Government has forgone a Corporate Tax revenue of Rs 1 Lakh Crore in past 10 years, in anticipation that they will create jobs, but 8 out of 9 companies that have benefitted from the cut in Corporate taxes have REDUCED Jobs," he said.

India must maximize resource efficiency to become developed by 2047: Bhupender Yadav

TSN/New Delhi
Union Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav on Tuesday said India must maximize resource efficiency to achieve its goal of becoming a developed country by 2047.
Addressing the conclave on "Waste Recycling and Climate Change" here, Yadav urged industries to design products that support circularity and collectively adopt advanced recycling technologies.
He said recycling and reusing critical minerals could reduce India's dependence on other countries.
"We need to move away from the take-make-dispose mindset and adopt recycling and reuse as an alternative economic model," Yadav said.
The minister said the major challenge facing policymakers is how to sustain economic growth while protecting natural resources.
He said recycling and reuse are the solutions.



"If we want to make India a developed country by 2047, we must minimize waste and maximize resource efficiency," the minister said.
Yadav said that India's circular economy could be worth USD 2 trillion by 2050 and create 10 million jobs.
He said that industries should ensure circularity in product design and work collectively to embrace advanced recycling technologies.
"This is not just about one company. The industry as a whole must come forward. This will ensure higher recovery rates and better material utilization," he said.
Meanwhile, Union Environment Minister Ananddeep Garg said India is one of the fastest-developing countries and its resource consumption is rising. This will also lead to increased waste generation, he added.
India currently generates 1.6 million tonnes of electronic waste, 1.15 million tonnes of battery waste, 1.3 million tonnes of used oil, 1.52 million tonnes of waste tyres, 4.1 million tonnes of plastic waste, 10 million tonnes of end-of-life vehicle waste and 300 million tonnes of metal scrap.
However, he said, the country recycles only 33 per cent of e-waste, 2 per cent of construction and demolition waste, 15 per cent of used oil, 3 per cent of end-of-life vehicle waste and 14 per cent of metal scrap.

Indian Navy platforms arrive in Indonesia to participate in IFR and Exercise Komodo

Sayan Chatterjee
New Delhi
To demonstrate its commitment to regional maritime cooperation, the Indian Navy has deployed INS Shardul and a long-range maritime surveillance P8I aircraft to participate in the prestigious Indonesian Navy International Fleet Review (IFR) 2025. The event, scheduled from 15 to 22 February 2025, will be reviewed by the Hon'ble President of Indonesia and will include naval forces from around the globe.
The IFR 2025 serves as a critical platform for fostering naval diplomacy, enhancing interoperability, and promoting collaborative maritime security. During the week-long



event, the Indian Navy contingent will participate alongside its international counterparts in various high-level activities alongside their international counterparts, including the International Maritime Security Symposium and tactical floor games.
In addition to professional engagements, the Indian Navy crew will participate in community-driven events such as a city parade, baby turtle release, coral and mangrove plantation, and beach cleaning drives. These activities highlight the Navy's commitment to environmental conservation and emphasize the broader objective of fostering goodwill among maritime nations.
Post-IFR, INS Shardul and the P8I aircraft will join Exercise Komodo, a multilateral naval exercise designed to strengthen regional maritime interoperability and enhance mutual understanding among participating nations.
The participation of Indian Navy assets in these events follows the recent engagement of INS Mumbai and a P8I aircraft in the LA PEROUSE exercises held in Indonesia in January 2025. The growing maritime ties between

Application of 3 new criminals laws in J K largely successful: Omar Abdullah

New Delhi
Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Tuesday said the three new criminal laws have been "by and large" implemented successfully in the Union Territory and it was important that the citizens are made aware about the provisions of the new Acts.
Abdullah was speaking to reporters outside the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) office after participating in a review meeting of the three laws that was chaired by Union Home Minister Amit Shah.
Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha and other senior officers were also part of the meeting.
"The meeting discussed the shortcomings and the areas to work upon for the smooth implementation of



the three laws in Jammu and Kashmir," Abdullah said.
The home minister (Shah) said in the meeting that so far a similar exercise has been completed for 11 states and UTs, he added.
"In case of Jammu and Kashmir, so far, the implementation of the new laws has been by and large successful except a few instances. These issues will be addressed," Abdullah said.
The chief minister added that while the implementation of the new laws was "not the responsibility" of the elected government, but it was important that people were made aware about their contents and proceedings as these are new laws.
"We will have to make efforts for making people aware about these three criminal laws, be it colleges, universities or other places, he said.
Abdullah said there was no discussion on the law and order issue in the UT, adding that this done when he met Shah at the Parliament recently.
"This meeting was different from the security review meeting," he said.

Intensive TB Campaign identifies 89,967 patients

Lucknow: In a major achievement for Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath-led Uttar Pradesh government, health workers have identified 89,967 tuberculosis (TB) patients across the state's 75 districts in the first 69 days of the 100-day TB campaign. Led by CM Yogi Adityanath, the campaign has reached 74% of the high-risk population, with over 12.5 lakh individuals receiving TB prevention medicine.

Notably, the Yogi government has set a target of making the state TB-free by the end of this year. To achieve this, the 100-day intensive campaign is being carried out statewide.

Dr. Shaileendra Bhatnagar, State Tuberculosis Officer, stated that TB Preventive Treatment (TPT) is being provided to prevent asymptomatic individuals from contracting TB. As part of this effort, 12,65,376 people have been given TPT so far.

He further informed that so far, 89,967 TB patients have been identified, with 73,231 already beginning treatment. Over 2.45 crore people have been screened across 75 districts, targeting a high-risk population of approximately 3.5 crore.

Screenings were based on potential TB symptoms, with X-ray, NT, and microscopic examinations being conducted. A total of 4,78,763 Nikshay camps for TB screening were organized during this campaign, with an average of 4,809 camps being held each day.

Row over replacing Urdu with Sanskrit in govt schools in BJP-ruled Rajasthan

Jaipur: Orders replacing Urdu with Sanskrit as the third language in some government schools in Rajasthan followed by a minister's remarks that many Urdu teachers secured jobs with fake degrees has created a row in the BJP-ruled state. Rajasthan's education department had recently issued an order to Mahatma Gandhi Government School (RAC Battalion), Jaipur, to suspend classes offering Urdu as the third language and introduce it as an option.

A few days later, a government senior secondary school in Bikaner received a similar communication for replacing the language.

Amid growing resentment against the twin orders, a fresh controversy broke out on Monday after Minister of State for Home Jawahar Singh Bedham purportedly said that many Urdu teachers in the state secured jobs with fake degrees.

"The previous (Congress) government removed Sanskrit teachers and posted Urdu teachers in their place. Now, we don't know Urdu and no one even studies that subject, which is why we will discontinue the posts of Urdu teachers and provide the kind of education that people want here," Bedham said during an event held in Bharatpur on Monday which circulated in the social circles.

Rajasthan's Urdu Teachers' Association termed the minister's remarks baseless and irresponsible.

'Accusations or unparliamentary conduct cannot solve problems': UP CM Adityanath

Lucknow: Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Tuesday expressed hope that the opposition, frustrated by electoral defeat, would not disrupt the Budget Session but rather contribute positively to the smooth conduct of legislative proceedings.

Speaking to reporters ahead of the start of the Budget Session (2025-26), Adityanath said the governor's address and the presentation of the budget are crucial events where every member, including the opposition, can put forth their views effectively.

"Accusations or unparliamentary conduct cannot solve problems," he added.

The chief minister assured that the government is fully prepared to respond factually to any issue the opposition raises.

He said that the assembly should serve as a platform for meaningful discussions rather than being marred by baseless accusations or unruly conduct.

Ruckus in UP Assembly during Governor's address

Lucknow: Samajwadi Party and Congress MLAs raised the 'Go Back Governor' slogan in the Uttar Pradesh state assembly as Governor Anandiben Patel addressed the assembly.

Meanwhile, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath appealed the opposition to cooperate so that the session can run peacefully till March 5.

CM Yogi Adityanath said, "It is not only the responsibility of the government but also the responsibility of the opposition to run the session smoothly. The standards that the double-engine BJP government has set in the last about 8 years for the development of UP are unprecedented. Its glimpse is seen through the speech as well as through the discussions inside the House. Naturally, the frustrated and disappointed opposition tries to run away from discussing these issues and tries to create obstacles in the proceedings of the House. If the opposition helps



Adityanath expressed confidence that the governor's address would mark the beginning of a disciplined and constructive approach from the opposition.

"We hope to see the opposition and all members conduct themselves in a manner that strengthens public faith in democratic values," he said.

The chief minister stated that the session would commence with the governor's address followed by discussions on it.

The Uttar Pradesh Budget for 2025-26 will be presented on February 20.

He said that the session, scheduled from February 18 to March 5, would cover key legislative business, including the passage of the state budget, deliberations on grants, and discussions on public welfare and development issues.

Adityanath highlighted that rarely in Uttar Pradesh's history has the assembly been convened for such an extended duration.

He stressed that ensuring the smooth conduct of proceedings is not just the ruling party's responsibility but also that of the opposition.

"The House should be

a platform for discussion and debate," he asserted.

The chief minister also pointed out the significant transformation in Uttar Pradesh's perception on a national and global scale under the BJP-led double-engine government over the past eight years.

"These achievements will be reflected in the governor's address and assembly discussions," he added.

The chief minister said while Uttar Pradesh is emerging as a center of attraction globally, a despondent opposition often tries to avoid discussions on such developments.

Adityanath said the governor's address and the presentation of the budget are crucial events where every member, including the opposition, can put forth their views effectively.

Himachal Pradesh Governor honoured Dr. Sonia Rawat with 'Best Social Service Excellence Award'



Shimla: Caz Brain Private Limited organized a grand 'Creators and Business Excellence Award 2025' program in Shimla, the capital of Himachal Pradesh.

Businessmen and creators from all over the country attended the program. Where His Excellency Governor of Himachal Pradesh Shiv Pratap Shukla honoured Dr. Sonia Rawat with the 'Best Social Service Excellence Award'.

Dr. Sonia Rawat was given this honour for doing better work in the field of social service. Dr. Sonia Rawat is the trustee of Hamara Samarpan Trust. Through her organisation, she has done better service in the health awareness campaign in the field of health care in different

parts of the country. It is very important to provide information about health in the backward areas of the country where health services are not good.

After being honoured by His Excellency the Governor in Shimla, Dr. Sonia Rawat said, "This honour is not mine but of all those people who are working for the welfare and betterment of the society. I will always put my heart and soul in making the people of the country aware about health. Today, this honour has boosted my morale further so that I will be able to serve more people better. Today, people need to be more aware about health, so that people's lives can run smoothly. Hamara Samarpan Trust is committed to its service.

CM Dhama launches e-Vidhan Sabha application at Vidhan Sabha Bhawan

Dehradun: Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhama, along with Uttarakhand Legislative Assembly Speaker Ritu Khanduri Bhushan, launched the e-Vidhan Sabha Application (NeVA) for the Legislative Assembly session at Vidhan Sabha Bhawan in Dehradun.

CM Dhama also paid a courtesy visit to Assembly Speaker Ritu Khanduri Bhushan in the Assembly premises.

The initiative aims to digitize legislative proceedings, enhancing transparency and efficiency in governance. Speaking on the occasion, CM Dhama emphasized the importance of adopting digital solutions to streamline assembly operations.

National e-Vidhan Application (NeVA) is one of the 44 Mission Mode Projects (MMPs) under the 'Digital India Programme' of the Government of India which aims to make the functioning of all the State Legislatures paperless by transforming them into 'Digital House'.



Inspired by PM Modi's visionary concept of 'One Nation, One Application, NeVA is a significant step towards making the Assembly proceedings entirely paperless.

Earlier on Monday, Pushkar Singh Dhama held a meeting on Monday at the Secretariat to discuss the Dehradun Elevated Corridor, where he directed officials to expedite the work on the Rispana and Bindal Corridor.

The Chief Minister has instructed the officials to request operation from the Center by connecting the Dehradun Elevated Corridor to the State Sector soon. In view of the rapid increase in the population and number of vehicles in Dehradun, the increase in the number of tourists and the possible increase in traffic after the construction of the Delhi-Dehradun

Expressway, the Chief Minister has directed to start the work of Dehradun Elevated Corridor soon.

The construction work of an 11 km long four-lane elevated corridor is to be done on the bed of the Rispana river and 15 km long on the bed of the Bindal river. The public services, power lines, high-tension lines, and sewer lines located inside these rivers are to be displaced outside the river.

Work on "Zero Tolerance" policy started to curb drug abuse: Apoorv Devgan

Rajan Punchhi Mandi: Work on "Zero Tolerance" has been started to curb drug abuse and the police administration must be implemented to break the supply chain.

Inaugrating a Narco Coordination Center and Nasha Mukti Bharat Abhiyan in the auditorium of Police Line Mandi, Deputy Commissioner Apoorv Devgan said that today's youth is easily attracted towards drugs. It is necessary for the society to come together to bring such persons back to the mainstream. While drug abuse darkens the future of the youth, it is also a worrying situation for our society.

He said that united efforts are being made to remove this trend of drug abuse with public participation in Mandi. For which SDM, DSP, SHO are running a campaign together at the lo-



cal level and cooperation will also be expected from the public representatives.

He said that whatever support is required from the police and administration by the public representatives and local people for the campaign, they will continue to get it. He also requested all the institutions of the district to cooperate in adopting a zero tolerance policy against drug abuse in the district.

He further said that

the officers who have not adopted schools yet, should also adopt schools soon and visit the schools from time to time and encourage the children not to take drugs.

He called upon all the departments to run special activities on drug prevention through their respective departments during the International Shivratri Festival. Devgan said that efforts will have to be made together to prevent today's

young generation from falling into the pit of drug abuse and they will have to be made aware about the evils of drug abuse and its ill effects on human life.

He called upon the young generation to stay away from drug abuse and use their energy in the reconstruction of the society. He also called upon the parents to keep an eye on the daily activities and behavior of the children and pay attention to protecting them from evils like drug abuse and make them aware.

Additional District Magistrate Dr. Madan Kumar said on this occasion that police and health department should inspect de-addiction centres from time to time. He said that there are 4 de-addiction centres running in the district, out of which one is government and 3 are working in private sector.

Agra Taj Mahotsav inaugurated by SP Singh Baghel



Akash Jain/Rajesh Tomar

Agra: Agra Taj Mahotsav has started from Tuesday, and continue till March 2. The Mahotsav, was inaugurated by Union Minister of State Professor SP Singh Baghel, Divisional Commissioner Shaileendra Singh, District Magistrate Arvind Mallappa Bangari, Chief Development Officer Pratibha Singh.

The main events will be held in Shilpgram from February 18 to March 2. Programs will be held from February 18 to February 27 at Auditorium. "I Love Agra Selfie Point and Yamuna Aarti Point, have been placed. Programs will be held in Atal Udyan on February 22-23, Fatehpur Sikri on February 23, Batehsar on February 22, Taj Nature Walk,

Keetham from February 28 to March 2.

There are a total of 376 stalls in the Taj Mahotsav. Marking has been done in front of every stall. ACP Taj Security Areeb Ahmed said that a total of 100 CCTVs and 60 security guards will be deployed along with the police administration in the Shilpgram premises. A temporary police post has been set up.

Turkiye detains 282 suspects in large-scale operation against PKK

Ankara: Turkish police have detained 282 suspects in the past five days in a large-scale operation targeting the banned Kurdistan Workers' Party, or PKK, Interior Minister Ali Yerlikaya said Tuesday.

The suspects were detained across 51 provinces, the minister said on the X social media platform. The detentions came despite renewed efforts between Ankara and the PKK to resolve a conflict that has claimed tens of thousands of lives. These efforts are expected to include a call by the PKK's imprisoned leader, Abdullah Ocalan, for his group to lay down arms.

Yerlikaya said those detained are suspected of providing financial support to the PKK, recruiting members, engaging in propaganda and participating in violent street protests.

Police seized two AK-47 assault rifles and other weapons during the raids, the minister said. Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan's government has widened a crackdown on the opposition in recent months, arresting journalists and politicians among others.

Several elected municipal mayors have been ousted from office and replaced with state appointed officials for alleged links to the PKK. The latest was on Saturday, when the mayor of Van municipality in eastern Turkey was removed from his post and replaced with the state-appointed governor.

Kremlin official says Trump-Putin meeting unlikely next week

Riyadh: The top diplomats from Russia and the U.S. met Tuesday in Saudi Arabia to discuss improving ties and negotiating an end to the war in Ukraine.

Talks that reflected a major and rapid change in American foreign policy under President Donald Trump. No Ukrainian officials were present at the meeting, which came as the beleaguered country is slowly but steadily losing ground against more numerous Russian troops in a grinding war that began nearly three years ago. President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said his country won't accept any outcome from this week's talks if Kyiv doesn't take part. European allies have also expressed concerns they are being sidelined.

Beyond Ukraine, the meeting — attended by U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio, Russian



Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov and other senior officials — had been expected to focus on thawing relations between the two countries, whose ties have fallen to their lowest level in decades. It was also meant to pave the way for a meeting between Trump and Russian President Vladimir Putin. After the talks wrapped, Putin's foreign affairs advisor, Yuri Ushakov, told Russia's Channel One that no date has been set yet

for that summit but that it was "unlikely" to take place next week.

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov told reporters on Monday that the talks will be primarily focused on "restoring the entire range of U.S.-Russian relations, as well as preparing possible talks on the Ukrainian settlement and organizing a meeting of the two presidents." U.S. State Department spokeswoman Tammy Bruce said the meeting

is aimed at determining how serious the Russians are about wanting peace and whether detailed negotiations can be started. The recent U.S. diplomatic blitz on the war has sent Ukraine and key allies scrambling to ensure a seat at the table amid concerns that Washington and Moscow could press ahead with a deal that won't be favorable to them. Kyiv's absence at Tuesday's talks has rankled

"The delegations of the two countries need to work closely together. We are ready for this, but it is still difficult to talk about a specific date for the meeting of the two leaders," Ushakov said.

many Ukrainians, and France called an emergency meeting of European Union countries and the U.K. on Monday to discuss the war. Bruce has said that even though Ukraine will not be at the table Tuesday, any actual peace negotiations will include the country. Kyiv's participation in such talks was a bedrock of U.S. policy under Trump's predecessor, Joe Biden, whose administration also led international efforts to isolate Russia over the war.

4 paramilitary personnel killed in Pak's Kurram; aid convoy attack toll rises to 2

Peshawar: Four paramilitary personnel were killed and five others injured when unknown militants attacked their squad in Pakistan's violence-hit Kurram, where an aid convoy was also targeted.

According to security officials, the militants ambushed the paramilitary Kurram Militia squad in Lower Kurram's Ochi area late on Monday, where an aid convoy carrying essential supplies was ambushed earlier in the day.

The injured and dead were shifted to a hospital, where the condition of one injured was stated to be critical. The military, which typically issues statements in such situations, has yet to comment. The attack on the aid convoy in sectarian violence-hit Kurram district in the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province killed a truck driver and injured 15 others. Late last night, another injured succumbed to injuries, taking the toll to two, according to officials.

The convoy, which was travelling from Thall to Kurram, was attacked at multiple locations along the route, prompting officials to turn the convoy of 64 vehicles back to Hangu as a precautionary measure. It is the latest in a series of violent incidents in Kurram, which has been a hotbed of violence for decades, with deep-seated tribal and sectarian conflicts often resulting in bloodshed and prolonged blockades. The latest wave of violence erupted in November 2023, when two police-escorted convoys were ambushed, killing at least 40 people. Since then, over 150 people have lost their lives in recurring clashes. A ceasefire deal was reached between the warring Sunni and Shia tribes on January 4 after sectarian clashes resulted in the killing of 133 people in the district between November 21 and December 2.

Musk has no formal decision-making authority: White House

Washington: Elon Musk is not an official employee of the Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE) and has "no formal authority to make government decisions", according to a White House court filing.

The world's richest man is widely seen as the de-facto head of DOGE, created by US President Donald Trump, which has sought drastically to reduce government spending including



with thousands of jobs. Trump had announced in November

that "the Great Elon Musk... will lead the Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE)".

According to the filing on Monday by Joshua Fisher, director of the Office of Administration, Musk "is an employee of the White House... as a non-career Special Government Employee" and a "Senior Advisor to the President." "Like other senior White House advisors, Mr. Musk has no actual

or formal authority to make government decisions himself. Mr. Musk can only advise the President and communicate the President's directives," Fisher said. "The U.S. DOGE Service is a component of the Executive Office of the President. The U.S. DOGE Service Temporary Organization is within the U.S. DOGE Service. Both are separate from the White House Office," he said in the filing.

"Mr. Musk is an employee of the White House Office. He is not an employee of the U.S. DOGE Service or U.S. DOGE Service Temporary Organization. Mr. Musk is not the Temporary Administrator," he added.

Fisher's filing was made in a case brought against Musk by 14 US states, including New Mexico. In a joint interview with Musk due to be broadcast on Fox

News later on Tuesday, Trump took aim at critics saying that the Tesla founder was the one running the White House. "I think nobody in history has ever gotten more bad publicity than me... But you know what I have learned Elon? That people are smart, they get it," Trump said in an excerpt of the interview. Musk added: "Yeah they do actually."

BUSINESS

Sensex, Nifty End Lower Amid Foreign Fund Outflows

Mumbai: Benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty ended marginally lower on Tuesday as uninterrupted foreign fund outflows and slowdown in corporate earnings continued to hit investors' sentiment. After a day's breather, the 30-share BSE benchmark Sensex ended 29.47 points or 0.04 per cent lower at 75,967.39. Intra-day, it dropped 465.85 points or 0.61 per cent to 75,531.01.

The NSE Nifty dipped 14.20 points or 0.06 per cent to settle at 22,945.30. From the Sensex pack, IndusInd Bank, Mahindra & Mahindra, UltraTech Cement, Hindustan Unilever, Sun Pharma, Tata Consultancy Services, ITC and Asian Paints were among the biggest laggards.

NTPC, Zomato, Tech Mahindra, Power Grid, Kotak Mahindra Bank and ICL Tech were among the gainers. Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) offloaded equities worth Rs 3,937.83 crore on Monday, according to exchange data.

"On Tuesday, the Indian blue-chip equity indices, Sensex and Nifty-50, closed with a slight decline, primarily due to a slowdown in earnings and concerns over ongoing foreign selling, which affected market sentiment," Ameya Ranadive, Chartered Market Technician, CFTe, Sr Technical Analyst, StoxBox, said.

In Asian markets, Seoul, Tokyo and Hong Kong settled in the positive territory while Shanghai ended lower. European markets were quoting mostly lower.

US markets were closed on Monday in observance of President's Day. Global oil benchmark Brent crude climbed 0.73 per cent to USD 75.77 a barrel.

The Sensex climbed 57.65 points or 0.08 per cent to settle at 75,996.86 on Monday, ending an eight-day losing run. The Nifty rebounded 30.25 points or 0.13 per cent to 22,959.50.

India Company Registrations: 28 Lakh Companies, 65% Active

New Delhi: More than 28 lakh companies are registered in the country and only 65 per cent of them or little over 18.1 lakh companies are active, according to official data.

Among those registered under the Companies Act, 2013, just 5,216 are foreign companies and out of those, 63 per cent or 3,281 entities were active at the end of January. Latest data from the corporate affairs ministry also showed that a total of 16,781 companies were registered with a collective paid up capital of Rs 816.14 crore last month.

"A total number of 28,05,354 companies were registered in the country as on 31st January, 2025, of which 65 per cent (18,17,222) companies stand active. There is an increase of 0.14 per cent in the total proportion of active companies with respect



to registered companies when compared to December 2024," the ministry said in its latest monthly information bulletin. As many as 9,49,934 companies have been shuttered. In terms of sectors, the maximum number of active companies were

in business services at 27 per cent, followed by manufacturing (20 per cent), trading and community, personal and social services (13 per cent).

The highest number of active companies were in Maharashtra, followed by Delhi, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal.

"An increase in the number of active companies is witnessed in the states of Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh and Delhi as compared to December 2024.

"Among the Union Territories, Jammu and Kashmir showed a rise of 112 companies in contrast to December

2024," the ministry said. As on January 31, there were 5,216 foreign companies registered in the country and out of them, 63 per cent or 3,281 entities were active.

"Of the 16 new overseas business entities that were registered with Ministry of Corporate Affairs during November 2024 - January 2025, 37.50 per cent were established in Kerala, 18.75 per cent in Tamil Nadu, 6.25 per cent in Andhra Pradesh, Haryana, Karnataka, Maharashtra and Telangana each," the ministry said.

India Unemployment Rate Dips to 6.4% in Q4 2024

New Delhi: The unemployment rate for people aged 15 years and above in urban areas dipped to 6.4 per cent in the October-December quarter, according to the National Sample Survey (NSSO).

Joblessness, or unemployment rate, is defined as the percentage of unemployed people in the labour force.

The unemployment rate in the December quarter of FY24 was 6.5 per cent. However, the rate stayed flat when compared sequentially. In the preceding July-September quarter of FY25, the rate of unemployment for people aged 15 years and above in urban areas was at the same level of 6.4 per cent, the 25th Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) showed.

The unemployment rate among females (aged 15 years and above) in urban areas declined to 8.1 per cent in October-December 2024 from 8.6 per cent in the same quarter a year ago. The rate was 8.4 per cent in July-September, 2024.

Among males, the unemployment rate in urban areas remained flat at 5.8 per cent in October-December 2024 as compared to the rate of the same quarter a year ago. The rate was 5.7 per cent in July-September, 2024.

Labour force participation rate in Current Weekly Status (CWS) in urban areas for people aged 15 years and above increased to 50.4 per cent in October-December from 49.9 per cent in the same quarter a year ago. The rate was 50.4 per cent in the July-September 2024.

AB InBev empowers 2,000+ farmers & produces 14,000+ tons of Barley in 2025

Farrukh Nagar: AB InBev India, the leading beer and beverage company, marked the 5th Annual Barley Growers Day, reaffirming its commitment to fostering a resilient and prosperous farming community through its pioneering SmartBarley Program. With over 2,000 farmers engaged, the initiative has significantly enhanced barley cultivation across Haryana, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh—regions that collectively contribute more than 50% of India's barley production. The event underscored



AB InBev's unwavering commitment to building thriving communities and resilient agricultural supply chains by em-

powering farmers with skills, connectivity, and financial stability. The event showcased a comprehensive display of crop management trials and innovative agricultural technologies, and success stories from more than 350 progressive farmers. Since its inaugural edition in Sirsa in 2016, which focused on upskilling and digital connectivity for 1,000 farmers, the program has evolved into a comprehensive agricultural transformation initiative.

A cornerstone of AB InBev's global Smart Agriculture initiative, the SmartBarley program has been instrumental in driving sustainable practices and

improving livelihoods in key barley-growing regions since 2009. The initiative has achieved remarkable success, delivering consistent yield improvements of 5-15% and maintaining an unprecedented 99% compliance rate with industry quality standards, demonstrating the power of combining traditional farming wisdom with modern agricultural innovation.

"The beer industry stands as a powerful catalyst for economic growth in India, uniquely positioned at the intersection of agriculture,

manufacturing, and hospitality," said Kartikeya Sharma, President, AB InBev India. "Our sector's strength lies in its inherently local and natural character, creating value from farm to glass. The impact extends far beyond direct employment - from empowering thousands of farmers through sustainable agriculture to energising an extensive network of suppliers, retailers, and hospitality partners. Through our SmartBarley Program, we're leveraging this multiplier effect

at scale, transforming barley cultivation into a cornerstone of rural prosperity while building a more sustainable and resilient agricultural future for India."

The SmartBarley Program has emerged as a transformative force in India's agricultural landscape, introducing innovative solutions to modernize barley cultivation. At its core, the initiative takes a multi-faceted approach to agricultural advancement, combining cutting-edge research in crop development with hands-on farmer education.

Cricket

Champions Trophy set to start amid debate on relevance of 50-over cricket

■ Eight teams will vie for a trophy, often talked up as tougher to win than the World Cup, and also to script a new chapter in their own cricketing story.

Dubai/Karachi

Intrigue, uncertainty, backstage drama. The ICC Champions Trophy has seen it all even before the curtains go up on the tournament and it would only get more stirring over the next three weeks, starting with the opening clash between Pakistan and New Zealand in Karachi.

Eight teams will vie for a trophy, often talked up as tougher to win than the World Cup, and also to script a new chapter in their own cricketing story. While India will fight it out in Dubai, others will be primarily based in Pakistan, which would get to host its first ICC event since the 1996 World Cup. Several barriers had to be hurdled over to cobble this tournament together after eight years. The tournament is also crucial amid the raging debate on the relevance of ODI cricket, which is struggling to find its space amid the rise of T20 cricket and the devotion for Test format.

Perhaps, no other cricketing event in the recent past has been harried so much by long-standing geopolitical tensions, stubbornness by administrative boards of two important participants, and the nail-biting anxiety over the readiness of venues in the main hosting nation.

The chaos has been an endearing throwback to the 90s when cricket in the sub-continent resembled a hastily organised party.

But all these pre-tournament jitters will be forgotten once the teams enter the field, and the first of them will be Pakistan and New Zealand.

If anyone needs a reminder, then Pakistan had won the last edition of the Champions Trophy in 2017.

The opening match in itself is a curious clash — a talented yet volatile Pakistan unsure of its own destiny against a team for which order is everything.

But the blue riband match of the tournament will be on February 23



When India take on Pakistan, ushering in customary waves of nostalgia, emotions, political grand-standing, and the social media battle.

That marquee showdown will be in Dubai as India remained steadfast in its refusal to set foot on Pakistani soil owing to security concerns.

Last dance of Kohli, Rohit? — But beyond such team equations, certain individual players would want this tournament to be a memorable one.

On top of the list are India's batting talismans Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma. They have been magnificent servants of the game over the last decade and half.

Few in modern era were able to match their achievements and aura. But now, these two titans have reached the last lap of a long race, and would want to bow out in a blaze of glory.

It's tough to imagine Kohli and Rohit being part of India's ODI set-up after the Champions Trophy irrespective of the outcome.

It might even impact their future in Test cricket, as a lukewarm outing here might force the selectors to mull over their role ahead of India's tour to England in June.

Similarly, a failure to win the Cham-

ions Trophy will bring the role of head coach Gautam Gambhir under scrutiny.

Gambhir might have received a temporary relief after India's domination over England in the recent home series, but not it wouldn't be enough to brush under the carpet, India's recent travails against New Zealand and Australia.

But a global trophy will certainly give him a much better ground to stand.

From a team perspective, India will be eager to wrest their first ICC trophy in the 50-over format after their triumph in the 2013 Champions Trophy under the enigmatic Mahendra Singh Dhoni. It will be a perfect parting gift to Kohli and Rohit and a welcome carpet to some young names such as Shubman Gill who are set to take India into the future. The challengers — India are playing a brand of ODI cricket that makes them instant favourites to win the tournament. They have adopted an aggressive approach and have a varied line-up, brimming with talent.

But such calculations can go wrong because of a bad moment or session, as it happened in the 2023 World Cup final when India succumbed to Australia after a middling batting effort.

The Aussies themselves are without

their premier pacers Pat Cummins, Mitchell Starc and Josh Hazlewood. But the two-time champions still pack a punch as they have a batting unit to meet the demands of ODI format.

Once a feared white-ball team, England have slipped a few rungs as age and form have caught up with some of their leading performers.

But do the likes of Jos Buttler, Joe Root and Liam Livingstone have one last tour left in them? Or will some of their new stars such as Harry Brook or Ben Duckett cut open a new path? New Zealand are also travelling on fresh avenue following the retirement of Trent Boult and Tim Southee.

Kane Williamson is their trump card and the Kiwis would hope that he fires for them to earn their maiden white ball ICC trophy.

South Africa too will have a similar goal. They had won ICC Knockouts Trophy in 1998, but not bagged anything in recent times and the Temba Bavuma-led side will be hoping for a reversal of fortune.

But for that to happen, the Proteas should coat their minds with steel in crunch situations.

It's applicable to Pakistan as well. If they can stop obsessing over the match against India and not treat it as the 'final frontier', then the home side is a dangerous opposition.

Their pace attack is top-notch and they have some batters like Fakhar Zaman and Salman Ali Agha who can turn on the heat on the rivals.

Afghanistan, who have transformed into a formidable white-ball outfit, also can put other teams under immense pressure through a squad that has Rashid Khan and Rahmanullah Gurbaz. Bangladesh now has receded to the periphery of cricketing consciousness, but can they pull off a stunner as they had done in the 2007 World Cup? It would be a fitting tribute to a tournament that has already gone through several disruptions.

India will feel Bumrah's absence very strongly, says Dhawan

Dubai

India will feel Jasprit Bumrah's absence "very strongly" in the Champions Trophy but they still have a great chance to win the tournament considering their recent form and a host of match-winners at their disposal, reckons former opener Shikhar Dhawan.

While the event starts in Pakistan on Wednesday, India start their campaign a day later with a match against neighbours Bangladesh at the Dubai International Cricket Stadium.

Pace spearhead Bumrah was ruled out of the tournament due to a lower back injury, having taken the maximum load during India's five-match Test series against Australia.

"My concern is they are going to miss Jasprit Bumrah, there is no doubt he will be a big absence and I think they will feel it very strongly," Dhawan wrote in an ICC column published on Tuesday.

"For me, he is the best bowler in the world, and his accuracy is hard to replicate. He is also a very calm character and that is crucial in a huge ICC event like this." Dhawan is, however, backing Shubman Gill and Harshit Rana to sizzle in the tournament.

"At the same time, Harshit Rana has come into the side and I think that is really exciting — keep an eye on him, I think he could have a breakout tournament."

"I like his attitude, he is a go-getter and he is not afraid of anything. He accepts challenges and we have seen in the England series that he is in form."

I am sure he will look to seize this opportunity and, if he does, he could provide a real X-factor for India."

Going by recent form and team strength, Dhawan found it hard to look beyond India when the discussion turned to title contenders.

"There are a lot of reasons to be optimistic for India. They have a very balanced side, especially with the bat — there is a nice blend of experience and youth."

Shubman Gill, in particular, is so



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



consistent and he has a big role to play. I think he will have a great tournament.

"Rohit Sharma has found form, Virat Kohli is there; they are a top side and will take some stopping."

Dhawan is also not ruling out teams such as South Africa, New Zealand, Australia and hosts Pakistan, to whom India lost in the title clash in the last edition in the UK.

"I really like South Africa in this tournament as well. They have played consistent cricket and have everything you need to win such a huge tournament — experience, strength-in-depth and X-factor players like Kagiso Rabada."

"I also like Pakistan, they will be hard to beat in home conditions, and also New Zealand — who are just always there or thereabouts."

"Australia has struggled in their series with Sri Lanka but they some great batters; Travis Head is in great form, and I'm really excited to see Steve Smith."

Dhawan is one of the most successful batters in the tournament's history having scored 701 runs in 10 innings at an average of 77.88. He hit three centuries in the tournament, with his best being 125 against Sri Lanka in 2017.

"The ICC Champions Trophy means a great deal to me. We won in 2013 and then reached the final in 2017, and both times I finished as leading run-scorer," he added.

Williamson recalls NZ's rivalry with Pakistan ahead of CT opener

New Delhi

New Zealand stalwart Kane Williamson took a trip down memory lane before the Champions Trophy opener and reminisced about his past encounter against Pakistan in Karachi.

After squaring off against the defending champions, Pakistan, in the ODI tri-nation series twice and sailing to victory on both occasions, New Zealand will face the Men in Green in the tournament opener on Wednesday.

Before taking the field in Karachi, Williamson recalled the cherished memories he had forged against Pakistan in recent years.

In a video posted by the ICC on Instagram on Tuesday, Williamson watched a dip of his mind-boggling catch to dismiss Pakistan opener Abdullah Shafique in the 2023 World Cup in India.

"In the moment, you're just trying to focus on what's important, where you need to be and to try to get there as quickly as possible and keep your head nice and still and hope that it goes in, and on that occasion, it did," Williamson said in a video posted by the ICC.

With his eyes fixated on the ball, Williamson sprinted back and took a stunning diving catch, showcasing a remarkable piece of athleticism.

"It was nice to be back on the field. A finger injury felt insignificant compared to a knee injury, which took six months to recover from. Taking that catch, I kind of dug into the ground," he added.

It was a high-stakes clash between New Zealand and Pakistan in the 2023 ODI World Cup in Bengaluru. New Zealand had sailed to a mammoth 401/6, courtesy of Rachin Ravindra's fiery 108(94).

However, Fakhar Zaman's scorching 126* kept Pakistan ahead of the DLS target before rain intervened in the mouth-watering affair. Williamson recalled the high-pressure match and felt rain had played a decisive role as Pakistan pulled off a 21-run victory via the DLS method.

India's bowling coach Morkel returns home due to family emergency

Dubai

India's bowling coach Morne Morkel has left for his home in South Africa due to a family emergency, reliable sources said on Tuesday.

Morkel, who was appointed for the job in September last year, had travelled to Dubai with the Indian team on Saturday, and also attended the side's first practice session ahead of the ICC Champions Trophy beginning on Wednesday.

The 40-year-old former South African pacer was, however, not around for the Indian team's second practice session on Monday.

The development comes just as India geared up to begin their campaign with a match against Bangladesh at Dubai International Cricket Stadium here on Thursday.

The Indian bowling attack for the ICC tournament comprises specialist pacers and one fast-bowling all-rounder in Hardik Pandya.

Pace spearhead Jasprit Bumrah was ruled out of the event due to lower back injury, leaving the task of shouldering the fast-bowling responsibility on Arshdeep Singh, Harshit Rana and Mohammed Shami, with Pandya being the fourth option.



The 40-year-old former South African pacer was, however, not around for the Indian team's second practice session on Monday.

Pakistan is the host nation of the tournament, but India will be playing all their matches in Dubai as per the hybrid model agreed by the concerned stakeholders.

The much-awaited match between India and Pakistan is scheduled to take place on Sunday.

They Made History: Our Naval Cricket Stars

Sayan Chatterjee

New Delhi

In a moment that will be etched in the annals of cricketing history, Vice Admiral Krishna Swaminathan, Vice Chief of the Naval Staff, felicitated Indian Navy cricketers Suraj Vashisht, PO, and Shubham Rohilla, PO, for their extraordinary achievement at the prestigious Ranji trophy. The duo's record-breaking, unbeaten 376-run chase against Odisha has secured their names in the record books and showcased the indomitable spirit of the Indian Navy on the cricket field.

The fourth-innings chase of 376 runs without the loss of a single wicket is now the highest in the history of first-class cricket. With unwavering determination and masterful strokes, Suraj Vashisht and Shubham Rohilla meticulously dismantled the Odisha bowling attack, delivering a performance that left cricket enthusiasts across the nation in awe.

Vice Admiral Swaminathan commended players, saying, "This historic feat is a testament to the discipline, perseverance, and fighting spirit that define our sailors and cricketers. We are immensely proud of Suraj and Shubham for their phenomenal performance."

The remarkable partnership was characterized by grit and grace, as the two cricketers displayed excep-



tional composure under pressure. Their achievement stands as a beacon of inspiration, not only for aspiring naval sportspeople but also for the broader cricketing community.

The Indian Navy takes immense pride in fostering talent beyond maritime excellence, and this cricketing triumph underscores the success of that mission. The entire Navy fraternity and cricket fans nationwide join in celebrating this glorious milestone.

Kohli, Rohit near endgame as India chase Champions Trophy glory

Dubai

India captain Rohit Sharma and superstar batsman Virat Kohli enter the Champions Trophy this week with intense focus on their dwindling powers and speculation over when they will retire.

The 37-year-old Rohit and Kohli, 36, got back among the runs to some degree in India's 3-0 ODI home sweep of England last week. But both have been nixed in long lean patches in Tests and have already retired from T20 cricket following last year's World Cup triumph.

Age is clearly catching up with the duo ahead of India's first match of the 50-over Champions Trophy, against Bangladesh on Thursday in Dubai. Neither player — both mainstays of a



formidable India team for more than 15 years — has said what their plans are.

But one Indian media report, citing anonymous sources at the cricket board,

said opener Rohit had been pressed to make a decision on his future by the time the tournament ends.

Rohit's Test career already looks over, the skipper having "rested" for the decisive, final Test against Australia.

"Hopefully they know when the right time to play is," India's 1983 World Cup-winning captain Kapil Dev said. "When they think it is not, they will call it off."

Following the bruising 3-1 Test defeat in Australia, India's board ordered contracted players to play domestic cricket.

But both flopped, with Rohit scoring three and 28 in his first and second innings for Mumbai in the Ranji Trophy and Kohli scoring six off 15 balls for Delhi. If the idea was to help them play their

way back into form, it did not work. Despite intense conjecture about their futures India head coach Gautam Gambhir said the two stalwarts will have "massive roles" to play at the Champions Trophy.

India, who will play their games in Dubai after refusing to visit neighbours and hosts Pakistan, are favourites to win the title for a third time. "Not confident" Rohit came into the England ODIs with just 31 runs in three matches in the Australia Test series defeat. He scored two in the first ODI against England before rolling back the years in the second with a 90-ball 119. Former India batsman Sanjay Manjrekar was sceptical that Rohit could push on from there.



Jaspal Rana will continue as my coach: Manu Bhaker

New Delhi
Double Olympic medalist shooter Manu Bhaker said Jaspal Rana will continue to be her "coach" despite the Drumcharya award being roped in as the high performance trainer for the pistol discipline by the National Rifle Association of India (NRAI) earlier in February.

Rana, a four-time Asian Games gold medalist, had had a falling out with Bhaker before the Tokyo Olympics, but they reconciled before the last year's Paris Games, where the latter made history by bagging two bronze medals.

Under Rana's personal guidance, Bhaker, who was struggling after the Tokyo Games, made a remarkable comeback and became the first Indian to win two medals in a single edition of the Olympics since Independence.

She won bronze medals in 10m air pistol and 10m air pistol mixed team events in Paris to create history.

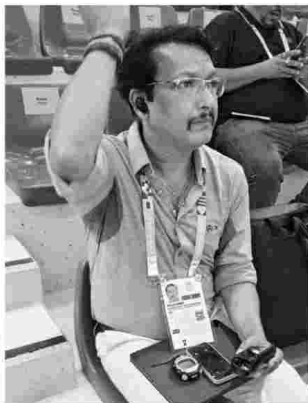
But it wouldn't have been possible without Rana's guidance and Bhaker agrees to it.

Rana now has been roped in as the high performance coach for pistol



shooters by the NRAI but Bhaker still considers him as her mentor.

"Honestly, I only have to say one thing, that he (Rana) is my coach — [that's] all I know and he is very



good at what he does. He is very, very talented and he has been a great coach for me," she said.

"All I know and all I can say is that he is my coach. Of course, he can be

anyone else's coach as well, but for me, he is my coach," Bhaker said after winning the BBC Sportswomen of the Year 2024 award at a glittering function in New Delhi on 17 February,

Monday night.

Rana had earlier served as the national coach for the juniors for about a decade, building a strong base for Indian shooting.

After the Paris Olympics, Bhaker took a long break and was working on her sore elbow.

Upon her return to the competitive circuit at the national trials here earlier this month, Bhaker finished second behind Rhythm Sangwan — but she was satisfied with her performance. "It was a pretty decent comeback. I am satisfied with what I have achieved in the trials," she said.

Talking about her future plans, Bhaker said: "We will be going for World Cups in April, and then we have some domestic competitions in June."

"It will be followed by another World Cup in Munich. Then we will have the World Championships, probably in late October or November. My target is the World Championships. I want to peak at the right time for the World Championships," she added.

The season-ending World Championships will be held in Cairo, Egypt, from 6–16 November 2025.

Real Kashmir move up the ladder as Namdhari pay the penalty

Srinagar
Real Kashmir FC scored a home win as they beat Namdhari FC 1-0 after an early strike by Paulo César in their I-League match here on Tuesday.

With five victories in the last seven games, the Snow Leopards have recovered from their poor form in the mid-season and re-announced themselves in the 2024-25 title race.

Brazilian striker Paulo César scored the only goal of the game from the penalty spot in the seventh minute.

Real Kashmir, who are the only side yet to lose at home this season (six wins and three draws), have overtaken Namdhari for second spot with 26 points in 15 matches.

On the other hand, the Punjab side are in a slump, winning just one of the last five games that has seriously dented their title chances.

Inter Kashi, who will meet SC Bengaluru later in the day, are currently in fourth place with 24 points from 14 matches. The result also ensured Churchill Brothers, who are at 28 points, will remain top of the table until the end of Round 15, at least.

Real Kashmir were their usual confident selves at home and began on the front foot, with Karim Samb earning the penalty after being tripped by Joseph Gordon. Paulo César stepped up and sent goalkeeper Jaspreet Singh the wrong way to score his sixth goal of the season and put the hosts ahead.

The Snow Leopards' lead would've been doubled in the 20th minute if not for a sensational last-ditch tackle by former Real Kashmir defender Lamine Moro.

Karim Samb, who was shipped through on goal by Asrar Rehber, rounded Jaspreet and seemingly had an open net to aim at until Moro executed an impeccable slide, nicking the ball off the Senegalese's feet barely a yard out of the goal.

Mohammad Inam, who scored Real Kashmir's winner against Gokulam Kerala in the previous round, looked lively again.

A few minutes before half-time, he cut through the middle and hit a powerful shot that was palmed away by Jaspreet. The attack was kept alive by the hosts and Asrar set up Karim Samb, whose first-time shot was blocked by Harpreet Singh as Namdhari continued to defend desperately.

The visitors had been rather blunt in attack in the first half and their talisman Cleodson Carvalho da Silva was aching to change that in the second. The Brazilian often lacked support in the final third and had to rely solely on himself. In the 62nd minute, he got half a sight of goal for the first time in the match after getting some space behind Aminou Bouba.

Zelezny's tweaks will take me to 90m mark soon: Neeraj Chopra



New Delhi

Two-time Olympic medal-winning javelin throw star Neeraj Chopra has revealed that his new coach Jan Zelezny has figured out mistakes in his technique and would now make some adjustments to his throwing routine to achieve the 90m mark that the Indian star is pursuing for a while.

The 26-year-old, while speaking to India Today, also opened up about his hush-hush wedding to former tennis player Himani Mor last month, saying that their relationship was a casual friendship at first "but slowly we fell in love".

Chopra has been trying hard to hit the 90m mark. His personal best stands at 89.94m which was achieved in 2022. His season begins in May with the Diamond League and would mark the competitive start of his partnership with Zelezny, a former Olympic and world champion who also holds the world record (98.48m).

"I believe a 90+ throw is happening soon. He (Jan Zelezny) has made some technical adjustments in my game," said Chopra.

"He (Zelezny) feels that his tweaks would help me. I've been able to understand what he expects from me. One of the mistakes that he told me about was how I was throwing very low even in Paris and that I was leaning towards the left."

"If I am able to incorporate those changes, I think I will get a lot better," he added.

But the Panipat-lad insisted that the milestone is still not as important as winning medals for the country.

"I want to do it myself. But, going to a competition and winning a medal against people who have previously thrown 90 meters is even more important. There's no point in throwing 90 meters and not winning."

"What if everyone throws 90+ there and despite throwing 90, you don't win? I want to throw more than 90 meters, everyone believes I can do that. Klaus (Bartoniak, his former coach) believed it, Zelezny believes it."

"It will come off if I can fix the javelin line. I am giving my 100 percent, and that is important for me," he added.

He also spoke about the groin injury that marred his season last year. Chopra has consulted a doctor recommended by Zelezny in Prague.

"Groin injury has been an issue for a long time. I wasn't able to give 100

"He (Zelezny) feels that his tweaks would help me. I've been able to understand what he expects from me. One of the mistakes that he told me about was how I was throwing very low even in Paris and that I was leaning towards the left."

percent in my technique because of my injury. I went to Zelezny's doctor in Prague, and he suggested some exercises. I am working on that, so hopefully it helps, and I am able to give my 100 percent," he said.

"This does not mean that I am resigning," she went on.

Mary Kom was elected to the panel in 2022 with table tennis stalwart A Sharath Kamal as vice-chairperson.

The commission also features two-time Olympic medal-winning shuttler PV Sindhu, former shot putter Om Prakash Karhana, Winter Olympian

Barcelona returned to the top of the Spanish league on goal difference after Robert Lewandowski's first-half penalty secured a 1-0 win over Rayo Vallecano. The Catalan club on Monday took advantage of weekend slip-ups by Real Madrid and Atlético Madrid to move onto 51 points, the same as Madrid and a point clear of Atlético. Madrid drew 1-1 at Osasuna on Saturday and Athletic was held by the same score at home by Celta Vigo.

Barcelona took the lead after 27 minutes when Pathe Cisse brought down 'go Mart'ez in the box, and a penalty was awarded after a video review. Lewandowski sent the keeper the wrong way from the spot. Both sides had chances to score after that. Augusto Batalla saved well from Lamine Yamal, who was playing the 100th game of his career, while at the other end Jorge De Frutos had the ball in the net for Rayo only to see it ruled out for offside.

Barcelona took the lead after 27 minutes when Pathe Cisse brought down 'go Mart'ez in the box, and a penalty was awarded after a video review. Lewandowski sent the keeper the wrong way from the spot. Both sides had chances to score after that. Augusto Batalla saved well from Lamine Yamal, who was playing the 100th game of his career, while at the other end Jorge De Frutos had the ball in the net for Rayo only to see it ruled out for offside.

Barcelona took the lead after 27 minutes when Pathe Cisse brought down 'go Mart'ez in the box, and a penalty was awarded after a video review. Lewandowski sent the keeper the wrong way from the spot. Both sides had chances to score after that. Augusto Batalla saved well from Lamine Yamal, who was playing the 100th game of his career, while at the other end Jorge De Frutos had the ball in the net for Rayo only to see it ruled out for offside.

Barcelona took the lead after 27 minutes when Pathe Cisse brought down 'go Mart'ez in the box, and a penalty was awarded after a video review. Lewandowski sent the keeper the wrong way from the spot. Both sides had chances to score after that. Augusto Batalla saved well from Lamine Yamal, who was playing the 100th game of his career, while at the other end Jorge De Frutos had the ball in the net for Rayo only to see it ruled out for offside.

I have not resigned, will complete tenure: Mary Kom denies quitting IOA panel

New Delhi
The Indian Olympic Association's athletes commission chairperson and boxing legend M C Mary Kom has denied reports that she has resigned from her position, insisting that she has been misunderstood and will complete her tenure in the panel.

The 42-year-old Manipuri, who is also a 2012 Olympics bronze-winner, had travelled to Haldwani for the National Games closing ceremony last week where she expressed her displeasure over being lodged at an "inferior hotel".

Mary Kom said her outburst has been misconstrued as resignation. "I have not resigned. I will complete my tenure (which ends in 2026)," she asserted.

"I was merely telling my fellow (athletes commission) members that if this kind of treatment happens again, I will consider resigning. I never said that I am resigning. IOA is my family and if I am unhappy over something, I have every right to express it."

"This does not mean that I am resigning," she went on.

Mary Kom was elected to the panel in 2022 with table tennis stalwart A Sharath Kamal as vice-chairperson.

The commission also features two-time Olympic medal-winning shuttler PV Sindhu, former shot putter Om Prakash Karhana, Winter Olympian

Barcelona returns to top of La Liga with 1-0 win over Rayo Vallecano



Barcelona returned to the top of the Spanish league on goal difference after Robert Lewandowski's first-half penalty secured a 1-0 win over Rayo Vallecano. The Catalan club on Monday took advantage of weekend slip-ups by Real Madrid and Atlético Madrid to move onto 51 points, the same as Madrid and a point clear of Atlético. Madrid drew 1-1 at Osasuna on Saturday and Athletic was held by the same score at home by Celta Vigo.

Barcelona took the lead after 27 minutes when Pathe Cisse brought down 'go Mart'ez in the box, and a penalty was awarded after a video review. Lewandowski sent the keeper the wrong way from the spot. Both sides had chances to score after that. Augusto Batalla saved well from Lamine Yamal, who was playing the 100th game of his career, while at the other end Jorge De Frutos had the ball in the net for Rayo only to see it ruled out for offside.

Barcelona took the lead after 27 minutes when Pathe Cisse brought down 'go Mart'ez in the box, and a penalty was awarded after a video review. Lewandowski sent the keeper the wrong way from the spot. Both sides had chances to score after that. Augusto Batalla saved well from Lamine Yamal, who was playing the 100th game of his career, while at the other end Jorge De Frutos had the ball in the net for Rayo only to see it ruled out for offside.



Shiva Keshavan, London Olympics bronze-winning shooter Gagan Nanang, rower Bajrang Lal, fencer Bhavani Devi, former women's hockey captain Rani Rampal, and Tokyo Olympics silver-winning weightlifter Mirabai Chaudhary.

"I don't know why is it that every time I raise my voice for something, it is misunderstood like this? Lot of my fellow athletes speak their mind on so many issues but nobody gets misunderstood," Mary Kom said.

"I was put up in a bad hotel when I went for the National Games closing ceremony despite the fact that a better hotel was available. If others could be accommodated, why not me? That was

the only question I asked," she insisted.

"Next thing I know, people are saying I have resigned. Where is the resignation? Has anyone seen it?" she asked.

Asked if she has had a word with IOA President PT Usha on this matter, Mary Kom said, "I haven't been able to connect with her because my phone was misplaced. But I will speak to her, I have good communication with her."

One of the most decorated Indian athletes, Mary Kom has been on the athletes forum of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) in the past and has a fairly good experience of the administrative side of sports.

Tennis: Teenager Joao Fonseca wins first ATP Tour title at Argentina Open

Buenos Aires
Teenager Joao Fonseca won his first ATP Tour title at the Argentina Open on Sunday, announcing himself as one of tennis' brightest talents.

The 18-year-old Brazilian became the 10th-youngest player to win an ATP Tour title as he stunned home favorite Francisco Cerúndolo 6-4, 7-6(1) in Buenos Aires, according to a CNN report.

The victory on clay also made Fonseca the second-youngest South American to win a title in the Open Era after Argentina's Guillermo Pérez Roldán in 1987.

"For me, this (moment) that I'm living is unbelievable," Fonseca said in his on-court interview after the match against Cerúndolo, adding: "My real dream is to play tennis. Of course, I want to be No. 1; of course, I want to win slams, titles, but my dream is just to play tennis and I'm living it."

Fonseca had never reached Sunday's final, his first on the ATP Tour, was remarkable enough. He saved two match points against Mariano Navone in the quarterfinals and also needed three sets to beat Laslo Djere and Federico Coria prior to facing Cerúndolo.

But Fonseca showed few signs of fatigue against the world No. 26. The pair exchanged breaks in the first two games of the match before Cerúndolo missed a gettable drive volley to go 4-3 behind.

Powered by his juggernaut forehand, Fonseca went on to claim the opening set with a crucial first ace of the match.



Another error from Cerúndolo, this time a wayward cross-court forehand, handed the teenager a break in the second set, but Fonseca was unable to serve out for the match on two occasions — at 5-4 and again at 6-5.

He rallied in the tie-break, however, and stormed into a commanding lead before completing the one-hour, 45-minute victory with a forehand winner.

At No. 99 in the world, Fonseca is the lowest-ranked champion in the history of the Argentina Open and the first man born in 2006 or later to win a tour-level title. He has risen to No. 68 in the

rankings with the win.

Having made his ATP Tour debut in 2023, Fonseca won the ATP Next Gen Finals — a tournament for the world's best male players aged 20 or younger — in December.

He then enjoyed the biggest upset of his career at the Australian Open a month later, defeating ninth-seed Andrey Rublev in the first round after coming through qualifying.

Overcoming the raucous home crowd to defeat Cerúndolo on Sunday, he said that he had moved "closer to my dream of becoming world No. 1."

Production begins on G D Naidu biopic starring R Madhavan



Chennai
Madhavan, one of the most celebrated and influential stars in Indian cinema, is set to leave an indelible mark with his portrayal of G.D. Naidu, the visionary scientist hailed as the "Edison of India." The biopic G.D. Naidu, directed by Krishnakumar Ramakumar, has been years in the making, with a comprehensive five-year research and development process. Madhavan shared the highly-anticipated first poster of the film on social media, expressing his excitement with the heartfelt caption, "Need all your blessings and good wishes." Alongside Madhavan, the film stars an impressive cast including, Jayaraman, Yogi Babu, Priyamani etc, with music by the talented Govind Vasantha. As production officially kicks off, Madhavan's commitment and passion ensure that G.D. Naidu's re-

markable journey will be brought to life in a way that will captivate and inspire audiences worldwide. Currently, Madhavan's Hisaab Barabar is the most searched movie on OTT platforms, further solidifying his status as one of the most keen followed and sought-after actors in the industry. His upcoming projects, including Aap Jaisa Koi alongside Fatima Sana Shaikh and Test, which is set to release on OTT, further showcase his remarkable versatility and consistent ability to deliver compelling performances across a diverse range of roles. With an ever-evolving filmography that seamlessly blends artistic brilliance with mass appeal, Madhavan continues to push the boundaries of his craft, reinforcing his reputation as an artist whose work not only entertains but leaves an everlasting impact on audiences across the globe.

Salman Khan shares new poster of 'Sikandar' on producer Sajid Nadiadwala's birthday

Mumbai
Sikandar, the highly anticipated film starring Salman Khan, is creating a lot of buzz among fans. The excitement has been building ever since the film was announced, and each new reveal has added to the anticipation. The movie, produced by Sajid Nadiadwala, promises to be an action-packed ride, and it marks another major collaboration between Salman Khan and the renowned producer. On Sajid Nadiadwala's birthday, the excitement reached new heights with the release of a fiery new poster of Sikandar. This new poster, which showcases Salman Khan in a powerful new look, has set the internet on fire. Fans were over-

joyed, and the film's production house acknowledged the overwhelming love by saying, "To all the amazing fans, your patience means the world to us. A little gift on #SajidNadiadwala's birthday, after the love we've received on Sikandar!" The excitement doesn't stop here. Fans are eagerly awaiting a big surprise on February 27th, which has only made the anticipation grow. While the first teaser

and poster had already caught the attention of viewers, this new poster adds another layer of intrigue. Although the plot of the film is still under wraps, the powerful visuals and Salman

Khan's intense look are sparking more curiosity. The filmmakers, along with Salman Khan, are carefully creating a sense of suspense, teasing fans with just enough to keep them hooked without revealing too much. With every new update, the wait for Sikandar becomes even more thrilling. Sikandar is set to release during Eid 2025, and fans are eagerly looking forward to seeing Salman Khan and Rashmika Mandanna on the big screen. Directed by A.R. Murugadoss and produced by Sajid Nadiadwala, the film is expected to be an explosive cinematic experience, with even more surprises to come!

The excitement doesn't stop here. Fans are eagerly awaiting a big surprise on February 27th, which has only made the anticipation grow. While the first teaser and poster had already caught the attention of viewers, this new poster adds another layer of intrigue.



Casting directors have freed Hindi cinema from stock characters: Shabana Azmi

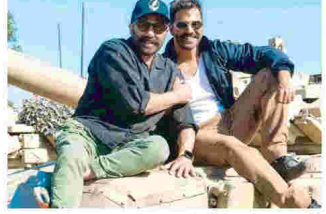


New Delhi
Shabana Azmi is one of the well-known veteran actresses. She was last seen in Rocky Rani Ki Prem Kahani Ali Bhatt's grandmother. During

the trailer launch of Dabba Cartel, Shabana Azmi reveals how casting directors have saved Bollywood from caricature casting. Shabana Azmi on casting directors in Bollywood. Talking about the conversations on Dabba Cartel sets, Shabana said, "Well, the simple answer to your question is No. We didn't discuss any of those. But for me, the advent of casting directors has brought a huge change. Because look at what the casting directors have done, its freed Hindi cinema from stock characters. Yeh Om Prakash ji kareng, yeh Shivraj ji kareng, etc. etc. we have just freed it. And we have got the most fascinating faces which are authentic. And what that does, I think

to mainstream actors is when you are surrounded, you know because acting is all about reacting. When you see you are surrounded by authentic characters you start to pull up your socks." She added, "This is one of my favourite examples I say, Rishi Kapoor ki jo Karz thi, itne saal pehle it was such a huge hit. You can see that he is not playing the guitar but he is strumming it. He is not doing anything with the chords. Today, it is impossible, I don't think any actor could get away with this. And that any actor would think it is okay, the actor would take the challenge and learn. So, I think this in itself is a growth in actors and the fact that we are now taking many more interesting faces.

Varun Dhawan drops BTS photo with Sunny Deol from Border 2 sets



Jhansi
Actor Varun Dhawan shared an adorable behind-the-scenes photo with actor Sunny Deol from the set of Border 2 on Tuesday. The shooting for the much-anticipated sequel of the 1997 epic is currently taking place in the rugged cantonment of Jhansi. In the photo shared by 'Badla' actor, the duo were seen sitting on a military tanker while posing for the photograph. Varun donned a white vest along with a blue shirt. He complimented his outfit with brown pants, black sports shoes, and sunglasses. Sunny Deol wore a blue shirt and green cargo for the photo. "Sunny dear, Hamara saab ji. #border2 #indianarmy Jan 2026" "T-Series, the official producer of Border 2, shared a picture of the whole team from the continent of Jhansi. It featured producers Bhusan Kumar, Nidhi Dutta, actor Sunny Deol and Varun Dhawan along with others. "Action, legacy, and patriotism! #SunnyDeol on the sets of #Border2 in the rugged cantonment of Jhansi, alongside #VarunDhawan, Producer

Director Anurag Singh. January 23, 2026—gear up for a saga of valour and sacrifice!" Directed by Anurag Singh, "Border 2" is set to be a grand cinematic spectacle with a star-studded ensemble cast that includes Sunny Deol reprising his legendary role, Varun Dhawan, Dilij Dosanjh, and Ahan Shetty. The original film, helmed by JP Dutta, was a landmark in Indian cinema, depicting the 1971 India-Pakistan war, and introduced audiences to unforgettable characters like Sunil Shetty's portrayal of BSF officer Bhairav Singh. A special moment in the sequel's development is the casting of Ahan Shetty, who steps into his father, Sunil Shetty's shoes. In a heartfelt Instagram post, Ahan shared his emotional connection to the Border franchise. "Border is more than a film—it's a legacy, an emotion, and a dream come true," Ahan wrote. Reflecting on his deep connection with the film, he added, "Ironic how life works—my journey with Border started 29 years ago, when mom visited dad on set while pregnant with me."



Saqib, Saba on working with Sudhir Mishra in 'Crime Beat'

Mumbai
Working with Sudhir Mishra on web series "Crime Beat" was a learning experience for actors Saqib Saleem and Saba Azad, who called the veteran director one of the "easiest guys" to be around and a "grounded" person with the energy levels of a newborn. Saleem and Azad play crime journalists in the upcoming ZEE5 show, which has Mishra on board as showrunner and co-director along with Sanjeev Kaul. Based on Somnath Batabyal's book "The Price You Pay", "Crime Beat" will start streaming from February 21.

Selena Gomez opens up on her relationship with Benny Blanco

Washington
Selena Gomez and Benny Blanco recently opened up about their relationship, how they met, and their engagement. Gomez said she didn't think that she had "life figured out in any way" but spoke about the importance of

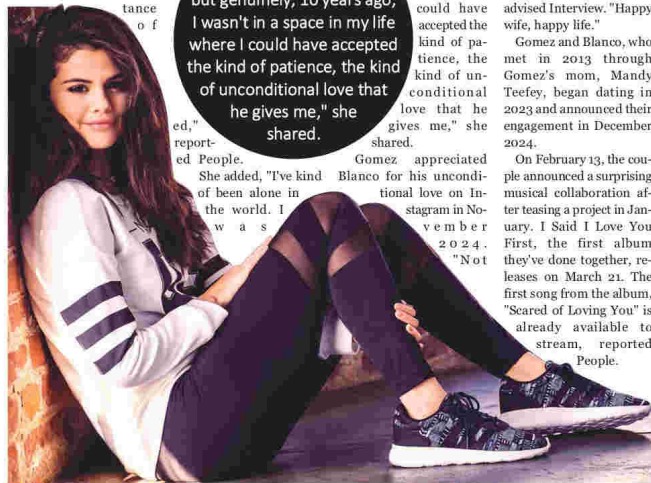
how Blanco, 36, treated her. "My perspective on it, in a simplistic way, is that I actually feel valued. I feel seen. I feel respected. And I think that's all I've ever really wanted."

alone for five years before we got together, and I think that really helped me appreciate someone like Ben."

only do you love me unconditionally... You always get me my Taco Bell Mexican pizza," she wrote alongside a picture of Blanco, reported People. Meanwhile, Blanco spoke about the importance of listening to your partner. "Find your best friend and don't settle," he advised Interview. "Happy wife, happy life."

"He gets so weirded out by me saying this, but genuinely, 10 years ago, I wasn't in a space in my life where I could have accepted the kind of patience, the kind of unconditional love that he gives me," she shared.

Gomez appreciated Blanco for his unconditional love on Instagram in November 2024. "Not



ed," reported People. She added, "I've kind of been alone in the world. I was a

On February 13, the couple announced a surprising musical collaboration after teasing a project in January. I Said I Love You First, the first album they've done together, releases on March 21. The first song from the album, "Scared of Loving You" is already available to stream, reported People.

While recalling her experience from the visit, Juhli Chawla said, "This morning has been the most beautiful morning in my life...I took a holy dip in the Sangam. I didn't want to leave that place. It was an amazing and beautiful experience."

Actress Juhli Chawla dip in Triveni Sangam, says "Most beautiful morning in my life"



Prayagraj
Actress Juhli Chawla took a holy dip in the Triveni Sangam at the ongoing Maha Kumbh in Prayagraj on Tuesday and called it the "most beautiful" experience of her life. Juhli Chawla, known for films like 'Qayamat Se Qayamat Tak', 'Hum Hain Rah Pyar Ke', 'Yes Boss', 'Darr' and 'Ishq' has joined the list of Bollywood celebrities who visited the ongoing Maha Kumbh Mela in Prayagraj. The actress also paid gratitude to the police and others for the grand arrangements at one of the largest spiritual gatherings in the world. While recalling her experience from the visit, Juhli Chawla said, "This morning has been the most beautiful morning in my life...I took a holy dip in the Sangam. I didn't want to leave that place. It was an amazing and beautiful experience."