

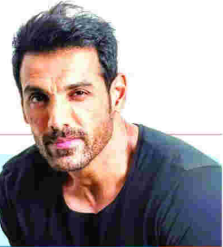


Robin Uthappa, Lalchand Rajput reunite ahead of India-New Zealand clash in Dubai



Zelenskyy arrives in the UK ahead of scheduled meet with Starmer

My career was built on criticism, I enjoy it, says John Abraham



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Nifty valuation decent and reasonable; markets may see some small correction: Goyal

WEATHER	
Sunrise	6:46 AM
Sunset	6:22 PM
Moonrise	8:06 AM
Moonset	9:03 PM
Today's Prediction	
Maximum	28°C
Minimum	14°C
Tomorrow's Prediction	
Maximum	29°C
Minimum	17°C

U'khand avalanche: 4 labourers die, 50 rescued; 5 still trapped

Indian Army doctors have performed life-saving surgeries, and helicopter operations from the Joshimath helipad are ongoing.

The Central Army Command is working to provide all necessary assistance, including UAVs and radars, once the weather and road conditions improve.

Dehradun
Fifty workers have been pulled out of snow from the site of an avalanche-hit Border Roads Organisation camp in the Mana village in Uttarakhand's Chamoli district, but four of them died on Saturday as rescuers raced against time to save the remaining five.



The avalanche hit the BRO camp between Mana and Badrinath between 5:30 am and 6 am on Friday, burying 55 workers inside eight containers and a shed, according to the Army. Thirty-three of them were rescued by Friday night.

Rain and snowfall hampered the rescue efforts on Friday and the operation was suspended as the night fell.

As the weather cleared up on Saturday morning, the Army and Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) personnel based in Mana resumed the rescue operation. District Disaster Management Officer N K Joshi

There were eight containers at the BRO camp, of which five have been traced while three are missing. A large number of the labourers rescued so far were found in the five containers. Lt Gen Sengupta said.

Located three kilometres from Badrinath, Mana is the last village on the India-Tibet border at a height of 3,200 metres.

Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami conducted an aerial survey of the affected area and directed officials to speed up the rescue operation. Prime Minister Narendra Modi spoke to Dhami and assured him of full support.

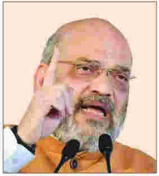
The Uttarakhand chief minister interacted with an injured labourer who was being airlifted to Jyotirmath for treatment. In a post on X, he said, "Took stock of the situation by conducting an aerial survey of the avalanche area near Mana in Chamoli district."

LI Gen Sengupta said movement by road is impossible since it is clogged with snow. The Badrinath-Joshimath highway is blocked at 15-20 places, he said.

Ensure free movement in Manipur from March 8: Shah

Aims to bring normalcy in the state

New Delhi
Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Saturday directed security forces to ensure the free movement of people on all routes in Manipur from March 8 and also called for strict action against those creating obstructions.



The direction was given here by Shah at a high-level meeting, where the security situation of Manipur was discussed there.

The order bears significance as travel through the areas inhabited by Imphal valley-based Meiteis and neighbouring hills-based Kukis was totally prohibited since ethnic violence broke out between the two communities in May 2023.

While Kukis travel mostly through Mizoram to go outside the state, the Meiteis do not go to the hills dominated by the Kukis.

This confidence building step came 10 days after Governor Ajay Kumar Bhalla ordered those holding illegal and looted arms to surrender before the security posts.

Chairing the review meeting, Shah also said

the Centre remains fully committed to restoring lasting peace in the state and is providing all necessary assistance in this regard.

The home minister directed that free movement of people should be ensured on all roads of Manipur from March 8, according to an official statement.

He also said that strict action should be taken against those creating obstructions on the roads.

This was the first such meeting held after the imposition of President's rule in the north-eastern state, which has been witnessing ethnic violence since May 2023. Over 250 people have lost their lives in the violence. Agency

No fuel for 15+ year old vehicles in Delhi from April 1

New Delhi
To curb pollution in the national capital, vehicles older than 15 years old will not be allowed to get fuel after March 31, Delhi Minister Manjinder Singh Sirsa announced after holding a meeting with officials here on the issue of pollution.



The Minister for Environment, Forest and Wild Life, Sirsa, also announced that a team would be formed to identify the vehicles and bar their entry and exit into the city. He added that Delhi Airport, multi-story structures and other big offices must install anti-smog guns to control pollution at their respective places.

"After 31st March, fuel will not be given to

15-year-old vehicles... There are some big hotels, some big office complexes, Delhi airport, big construction sites in Delhi. We are going to make it mandatory for all of them to immediately install anti-smog guns to control pollution at their places. We are going to make it mandatory for all the high-rise

GST Collections Rise 9.1% to Rs 1.84 Lakh Cr in February



New Delhi
Gross GST collections rose by 9.1 per cent to about Rs 1.84 lakh crore in February, boosted by domestic consumption and indicating potential economic revival.

As per the official data released on Saturday, on a gross basis, mop up from Central GST stood at Rs 35,204 crore, State GST at Rs 43,704 crore, Integrated GST at Rs 90,870 crore and compensation cess of Rs 13,868 crore.

GST revenues from domestic transactions jumped 10.2 per cent to Rs 1.42 lakh crore while that from imports grew 5.4 per cent to Rs 41,702 crore during February.

Total refunds issued during February were Rs 20,889 crore, a 17.3 per cent increase over the year-ago period. Net

GST collections during February 2025 grew 8.1 per cent to about Rs 1.63 lakh crore.

Gross and net GST revenues in February 2024 were Rs 1.68 lakh crore and Rs 1.50 lakh crore, respectively.

The gross GST collections in February 2025, at Rs 1.84 lakh crore are, however, lower than Rs 1.96 lakh crore collected in January 2025.

EY Tax Partner Saurabh Agarwal said the robust GST collection figures indicate that the Indian economy is withstanding global economic challenges.

"The consistent rise in domestic GST revenue compared to import-related collections points to the effective implementation of the Atma Nirbhar Bharat policies.

CONTO ON PAGE-2

India, European Union Accelerate FTA Talks: Target Year-End Deal

New Delhi
With India and the EU setting the year-end deadline to conclude a free trade agreement, teams from both sides held discussions on Saturday to accelerate efforts towards a balanced and mutually beneficial pact.



The meeting was held between Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal and EU Commissioner for Trade and Economic Security Maros Sefcovic in Mumbai along with officials from both sides.

"Our discussions focused on accelerating efforts towards a balanced and mutually ben-

eficial free trade agreement. Looking forward to deepening economic ties and fostering a prosperous India-EU partnership," Goyal said in a post on X.

On February 28, Prime Minister Narendra Modi

and European Commission Vice President Ursula von der Leyen agreed to seal a much-awaited free trade deal by this year amid rising concerns over US President Donald Trump's policy on tariffs.

HIGHLIGHT
India and the EU are pushing to finalize a free trade agreement by year-end. Discussions focused on accelerating progress towards a balanced and mutually beneficial pact. The agreement aims to boost bilateral trade and investments.

The two sides are scheduled to hold the tenth round of negotiations for the FTA from March 10-14 in Brussels. Further strengthening of economic ties between the two is crucial

in light of the threat from US President Donald Trump to impose higher tariffs. In the current uncertain global economic situation, India is the fastest-growing major economy. It is projected to grow at 6.4 per cent in 2024-25.

In June 2022, India and the 27-nation EU bloc resumed the negotiations after a gap of over eight years. It stalled in 2013 due to differences over the level of opening up of the markets.

Besides demanding significant duty cuts in automobiles, the EU wants tax reduction in wines, spirits and a strong intellectual property regime. Agency

India to remain fastest growing major economy with 6.5% growth in FY26: IMF

New Delhi
Multilateral financing agency International Monetary Fund (IMF) has said that India will retain its position as the fastest-growing major economy by clocking a GDP growth of 6.5 per cent in 2025-26, on the back of robust private investment and macroeconomic stability.



India's strong economic performance, the IMF said, provides an opportunity for the country to advance critical and challenging structural reforms to realise the goal of advanced economy by 2047.

"Real GDP is expected

to grow at 6.5 per cent in 2024-25 and 2025-26, supported by robust growth in private consumption on the back of sustained macroeconomic and financial stability.

According to the second advance estimate released by the Indian

HIGHLIGHT
India's strong economic performance, the IMF said, provides an opportunity for the country to advance critical and challenging structural reforms to realise the goal of advanced economy by 2047.

government, the country's economy is expected to clock a growth rate of 6.5 per cent during 2024-25. Headline inflation is expected to converge to target as food price shocks wane," the IMF said after Article IV consultations with India. Agency

U'khand avalanche: 4 labourers die, 50 rescued; 5 still trapped

CONT FROM PAGE-1
Of the 55 workers originally trapped in the avalanche, four are from Uttar Pradesh's Mathura. Their family members expressed full faith that the Uttarakhand government would rescue the workers safely.

The mother of a worker, Vivek, said that he got married two years ago and is the father of a girl. His mother hoped that Vivek would be rescued soon.

Meanwhile, family members of Ram Sujjan Singh from Rasra in Uttar Pradesh's Ballia said they have not received any information about him. He had gone to Chamoli in January 2024 and worked as a supervisor there, his son said.

"They (the local administration) do not have any information about how my father is," he said, adding that he last spoke to his father on Monday.

Singh has been named in the official list of the 55 workers who were buried under snow. However, Ballia Superintendent of Police Omveer Singh said he was not aware about Ram Sujjan Singh being among the trapped workers.

Earlier in the day, Chamoli District Magistrate Sandeep Tiwari said 11 of the rescued labourers were brought to the Army hospital in Jyotirmath.

"Of them, one is critical, some have fractures and others have minor injuries. Vitals of all of them except one are stable and necessary investigations are being done by specialist doctors at the hospital," he said.

GST Collections Rise 9.1% to Rs 1.84 Lakh Cr in February

CONT FROM PAGE-1

"Furthermore, the government's increased disbursement of domestic and export refunds, including those related to inverted duty structures, demonstrates its commitment to easing working capital pressures on businesses," Agarwal said.

KPMG, Indirect Tax Head & Partner, Abhishek Jain said, "GST collections growth of 10.2 per cent on domestic supplies and overall growth of 9.1 per cent indicates a potential revival of economy for Q4. If the Maha Kumbh effect comes into play, next month's revenue growth could be even better".

Deloitte India Partner MS Mani said while GST collections in large manufacturing and consuming states like Haryana, UP, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, MP, Karnataka have shown handsome increases in the range of 10-20 per cent, a detailed evaluation on the reasons for the low growth in the range of 1-4 per cent in Telangana, Gujarat, Assam, AP and Odisha could provide reasons on the factors responsible for growth in GST collections".

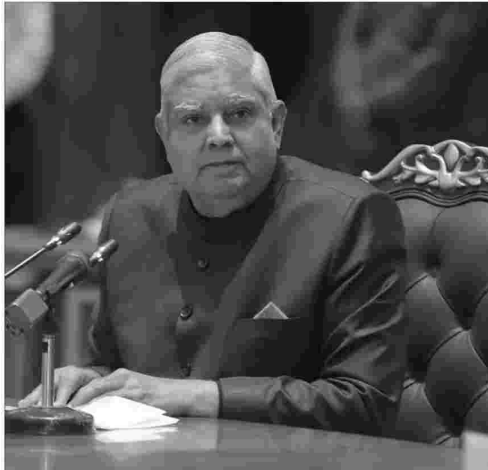
Tax Connect Advisory Services LLP Partner Vivek Jalan said this year's GST collection is almost on target and that is one of the reasons for revised estimates pegging fiscal deficit for FY24-25 lower at 4.8 per cent, below the budgeted 4.9 per cent.

India nowhere in international commercial arbitration: VP Dhankhar

New Delhi: Lamenting that India was nowhere in international commercial arbitration, Vice-President Jagdeep Dhankhar on Saturday said it was time to look beyond retired judges as arbitrators.

"On self-assessment, without fear of contradiction, I can say we are nowhere. We are nowhere in the minds of people having commercial relationships with us if it is international commercial arbitration," the Vice-President said, addressing the inaugural session of a colloquium on "International Arbitration: Indian Perspective" organised by India International Arbitration Centre here.

Emphasising the need for participation of domain experts in arbitration, he referred to a former Chief Justice of India's remarks that the arbitral process in the



country has become an "old boys' club".

The Vice-President, however, said, "I should not be mis-

understood... even for a moment. Retired judges of this country are an asset to the arbitral process. They

lend credibility to us. I know some of the former chief justices and judges being absolutely appreciated

The Vice-President, however, said, "I should not be misunderstood... even for a moment. Retired judges of this country are an asset to the arbitral process."

globally for international commercial arbitration.... But there are areas where the arbitral tribunal needs to be supplemented by experts in the field of oceanography, in aviation, in infrastructure and what not. And the disputes are relatable to the experience which is sectoral."

He said, "Unfortunately, we have taken in this country a very myopic view of arbitration as if it is adjudication. It is much beyond adjudication. It is not conventional adjudication as historically evaluated globally."

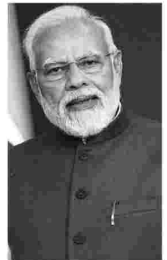
Dhankhar also sought to highlight the misuse of Article 136 - which provided

for Special Leave Petition (SLP) to be filed in the Supreme Court against any judgment or order, saying it was supposed to be a "narrow slit" but was now hurting the arbitral process due to its wide use.

"Article 136 intervention was supposed to be a narrow-slit. The wall has been demolished with anything and everything under the sun, including what a magistrate has to do, what a session judge has to do, what a district judge has to do, what a high court judge has to do," the Vice President said, adding the "wall demolition" was hurting arbitral process.

"All I am suggesting in all humility and as the concerned citizen of this country is that the issue which you are debating is of critical importance to micro, small industries. They want facile, easy arbitral process," he said.

India is becoming land of infinite innovations: PM Modi



New Delhi:

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday said that the land that gave the world the concept of zero, is now becoming the land of infinite innovations, adding that India was not only innovating but also "Indovating," meaning innovating the Indian way.

PM Modi highlighted that India is creating solutions that are affordable, accessible, and adaptable, and offering these solutions to the world without gatekeeping.

"When the world needed a secure and cost-effective digital payment system, India developed the UPI (Unified Payments Interface) system," he said.

PM Modi said that Professor Carlos Montes was impressed by the people-friendly nature of UPI technology and mentioned that today, countries like France, UAE, and Singapore are integrating UPI into their financial ecosystems.

He also mentioned that many countries are signing agreements to connect with India's digital public infrastructure, India Stack.

"During the COVID-19 pandemic, India's vaccine demonstrated the country's quality healthcare solutions to the world," PM said.

The Prime Minister highlighted that the Aarogya Setu app was made open source to benefit the world.

He emphasized that India is a major space power and is helping other countries achieve their space aspirations.

PM Modi stated that India is working on AI for public good and sharing its experience and expertise with the world.

Minister of Railways inspects bullet train site, praises 'Make in India' effort

Nadiad:

Minister of Railways Ashwini Vaishnaw inspected the steel bridge site of the National High-Speed Rail Project at Nadiad on Saturday. The 200-meter-long bridge comprises two spans of 100 meters each and will be launched over National Highway 48 (connecting Delhi, Mumbai, and Chennai) near Nadiad.

This 14.3 m wide and 14.6 m high steel bridge weighs around 1500 MT (each span) and was fabricated at the Salasar workshop near Hapur, U.P.

Talking to ANI about this site, Vaishnaw said that the fabrication of steel girder components was successfully completed at the Salasar plant in Hapur using 100 per cent Indian steel. The steel was sourced from leading manufacturers like TATA, JSW, and SAIL, ensuring high-quality material for the project. This highlights India's self-reliance in infrastructure development and commitment to the

"Make in India" initiative.

He further said that to enhance construction speed, specialized "TTHSB" bolts were used in the assembly of the steel girder. These high-strength bolts were entirely produced at the Unbrako factory in Bhopal, showcasing the involvement of advanced Indian manufacturing in critical infrastructure projects.

Vaishnaw said that the 'C5' paint system, known for its 20-year service life, was used for durability. The paint materials were manufactured across India in Nippon factories, ensuring long-lasting protection against environmental factors and enhancing the lifespan of the steel bridges.

MAGEBA manufactured metal-encased elastomeric bearings at its Kolkata plant to support the girder. These bearings play a crucial role in absorbing shocks and movements, ensuring the stability and longevity of the bridge structures, he added.

Borrower not 'consumer' under Consumer Protection Act if loan taken for profit: SC

New Delhi:

A borrower cannot be called a "consumer" under the Consumer Protection Act if the loan was taken from the bank for a profit-generating exercise, the Supreme Court has said.

A bench of Justices Sudhanshu Dhulia and Prashant Kumar Mishra was hearing an appeal filed by the Central Bank of India against an order of the National Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission (NCDRC).

The NCDRC had directed the bank to pay a compensation of Rs 75 lakh along with litigation cost to the Ad Bureau Advertising Pvt Limited for the alleged incorrect reporting of the borrower as a defaulter to the Credit Information Bureau of India Limited (CIBIL).

In this case, the Central Bank had sanctioned a loan of Rs 10 crore to the Ad Bureau for the post-production of the Rajinikanth-starrer Kochadaiyan.

After the bureau de-



faulted on payments, a litigation was initiated before the Debts Recovery Tribunal and the matter was finalised by one-time payment of Rs 3.56 crore.

The Ad Bureau contended that despite paying the amount as per the one-time settlement, the bank marked it as a defaulter to the CIBIL, which resulted in its reputational damage and business loss.

The company then approached the NCDRC alleging deficiency of service on

the part of the bank.

The NCDRC allowed the Ad Bureau's petition (Consumer Complaint) and directed the bank to pay a compensation of Rs 75 lakh and issue a certificate stating that the loan account was settled and no outstanding dues remained.

The top court said, "We are cognisant of the fact that respondent No. 1 (company) would not be excluded from the definition of consumer merely on account of the fact that it is a commercial entity/enterprise."

"But what has weighed with us in coming to the conclusion that in the instant case, respondent No. 1 cannot be said to be a 'consumer' is the fact that the transaction in question i.e. obtaining a project loan did have a close nexus with a profit-generating activity and in fact, the dominant purpose for getting this loan sanctioned was to generate profits upon successful post-production of the movie titled 'Kochadaiyan,' the bench said.

CBI concludes arguments on charges against Lalu Yadav in 'IRCTC scam'

New Delhi:

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) on Saturday concluded its arguments on charges against former Railway Minister Lalu Prasad Yadav, Rabri Devi, Tejaswi Yadav, former Minister Prem Chand Gupta, and other accused in the case. The case is related to alleged corruption in the tender of IRCTC hotels.

The Special public prosecutor for CBI argued that there was Corruption and conspiracy on the part of the accused persons in the allotment of two IRCTC hotel maintenance contracts.

Special CBI judge Vishal Gogte noted the submissions of the SPP for CBI. Matter has been listed for arguments by counsel for the accused.

The court is hearing the arguments on the charge on a daily basis from February 28, till March 7. SPP D P Singh,



alongwith with Advocate Manu Mishra, argued that there was Corruption and conspiracy in the allotment of maintenance contracts for two hotels of IRCTC to a private company.

The CBI said there is sufficient material to frame charges against all accused persons. This case is connected with

the period when Lalu Prasad Yadav was the Railway Minister from 2004 to 2009.

It is alleged that Vinay and Vinay Kochar, a private firm, awarded the maintenance contract of two IRCTC hotels, BNR Ranch and BNR Puri, to Sujata Hotel.

The CBI has alleged that in return for this

deal, Lalu Prasad Yadav received three acres of prime land through a benami company.

On July 7, 2017, the CBI filed an FIR against Lalu. The agency also raided 12 locations linked to Lalu and his family members in Patna, New Delhi, Ranchi and Gurgaon.

Nadda flags off Rath and vans to raise awareness about 'Jan Aushadhi Kendras'

New Delhi:

Union Health and Family Welfare Minister JP Nadda on Saturday flagged off a rath and 10 vans to spread awareness about Jan Aushadhi Kendras in Delhi-NCR and promote access to effective and affordable medicines.

The vehicles were flagged off as part of the Jan Aushadhi Week being celebrated from March 1 to 7.

"This initiative aims to provide accessible, quality healthcare through affordable generic medicines. The vehicles will tour Delhi-NCR to spread awareness about Jan Aushadhi Kendras and promote access to effective, affordable medicines," Nadda posted on X.

This Jan Aushadhi week was celebrated under Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana (PMB-JP), a flagship part of the scheme initiated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The scheme



aims to provide accessible, quality healthcare to Indian citizens by making affordable generic medicines available.

Nadda, along with Minister of State (MoS) Health Anupriya Patel, flagged off the chariot and ten other vehicles of the PMBJP scheme.

"We have an ambitious target that under the leadership of PM and by 2027, we will reach 25,000 Jan Aushadhi centres. We started with

80 centres, and today, there are 15,000 centres. We will increase it to 20,000 by the end of this year," Nadda said.

MoS Anupriya Patel said that multiple events will be organized during the period to create awareness among the people regarding Jan Aushadhi. She also stated that under the program, the cost of medicines will also be reduced by providing alternatives.

High-rise buildings, hotels, commercial complexes to mandatorily install anti-smog guns, announces Delhi govt

New Delhi Delhi Environment Minister Manjinder Singh Sirsa on Saturday said that all high-rise buildings, hotels, commercial complexes and major establishments such as airports and construction sites must install anti-smog guns to curb air pollution levels.



Sirsa directed all departments concerned to prepare a detailed roadmap to tackle pollution and sought data on the contribution of key sites, including Delhi Airport, to the city's air pollution.

Chairing a high-level meeting with the officials from the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) and the New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC), Sirsa emphasised the need for stringent pollution control measures. The MCD has been asked to provide a detailed list of existing and under-construction high-rise buildings, which will be subject to new pollution control norms.

Additionally, the minister highlighted the need for cloud seeding as a potential measure to combat pollution during peak smog months and said that all necessary permissions and formalities would be completed on a priority basis.

He also said that leading institutions like IIT Delhi will be involved in pollution control efforts. Sirsa stressed that before holding others accountable, new laws would be introduced to strengthen pollution control measures.

Kandhari said that while anti-smog guns and water sprinkling help manage pollution to some extent, they are not complete solutions.

Anti-smog guns are ineffective at construction sites, whereas water sprinkling can help control dust in such areas.

"Therefore, the government should introduce policies that bring impactful and lasting results," she added.

LG Saxena inaugurates NDMC flower festival

New Delhi Delhi Lieutenant Governor (LG) VK Saxena inaugurated the New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC) Flower Festival 2025 at Central Park in Connaught Place on Saturday.

The process for allocating official accommodations to the Chief Minister and ministers of the new BJP government in Delhi has been intensified, sources said on Saturday.

The Public Works Department has a few bungalows in Civil Lines near Raj Niwas and one each in Daryaganj and near BJP headquarters on DDU Marg.

The properties include bungalow number 2 in Raj Niwas Lane and bungalow number 115 on Ansari Road in Daryaganj.

"The bungalows near Civil Lines or some other in Lutyens' Delhi with exchange from central pool could be future residence of the new Chief Minister," a source claimed.

The PWD will have to arrange eight other accommodations for six members of the new Council of Ministers, as well as the Assembly Speaker and Deputy Speaker, sources said.

The ministers of the AAP government lived in the Civil Lines bungalow. Atishi who became Chief Minister after Kejriwal's resignation, lived in a bungalow on Mathura Road. As per rules the official accommodations have to be vacated within 11 days by the members of the previous government.

Delhi govt directs schools to admit students under EWS categories

New Delhi The Delhi government has directed all school heads to ensure that admissions for students under the Economically Weaker Section (EWS), Disadvantaged Group (DG) and Children with Special Needs (CWSN) categories are conducted through a fully computerised draw of lots, eliminating any manual intervention.

The PWD will have to arrange eight other accommodations for six members of the new Council of Ministers, as well as the Assembly Speaker and Deputy Speaker, sources said.

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In a circular dated February 27, the Directorate of Education (DoE) stated, "The admission process for EWS, DG, and CWSN categories in private unaided recognised schools at the entry-level classes (Nursery, KG, and Class 1) is conducted exclusively through a computerised draw of lots."

"This process is entirely automated, leaving no room for manual interference at any stage," the circular further emphasised.

The department also cautioned against individuals or institutions falsely claiming to influence or guarantee admissions under these categories, it read.

"The general public is informed that such claims are misleading, and people are advised to avoid engaging with such illegal entities," it stated.

The controversy began when AAP MLAs alleged that portraits of Dr BR Ambedkar and Bhagat Singh were removed from the Chief Minister's office. However, the BJP countered this claim by releasing an image showing the portraits were still present, just relocated to a side wall.

The suspension of several opposition MLAs from the Assembly has drawn criticism from the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP), which has accused the ruling BJP of attempting to silence dissent.

Process to allocate bungalows to Delhi CM, minister gathers pace

New Delhi The process for allocating official accommodations to the Chief Minister and ministers of the new BJP government in Delhi has been intensified, sources said on Saturday.

The Public Works Department has a few bungalows in Civil Lines near Raj Niwas and one each in Daryaganj and near BJP headquarters on DDU Marg.

The properties include bungalow number 2 in Raj Niwas Lane and bungalow number 115 on Ansari Road in Daryaganj.

Rahul Gandhi interacts with porters at New Delhi Railway Station

New Delhi Congress leader and Lok Sabha Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi interacted with the porters at the New Delhi Railway Station on Saturday.

Dipesh Meena, a porter at the New Delhi Railway Station, opened up about his experience of meeting Rahul Gandhi. He stated that the Rae Bareilly MP was there for about 40 minutes and listened to all their problems.

Earlier in 2023 also, the Congress MP paid a visit to the Anand Vihar Railway Station. During his visit, he wore a porter's uniform and carried a baggage on his head. Earlier on Friday,

"We are happy that Rahul Gandhi came to meet us. He listened to all our problems, and we hope that he will solve them. He stayed here for about 40 minutes and listened to us," porter Dipesh Meena said after Rahul Gandhi's visit to New Delhi Railway Station on Saturday.

Another porter said he was happy to meet Rahul and said that he affirmed hope that the Congress MP will be solving all the problems.

"Rahul Gandhi stayed here for 40 minutes. We told him all our demands, including Group D and medical facilities. We are happy that he came here", the porter said to ANI on Saturday.

This is not the first time Rahul Gandhi has visited a railway station and interacted with the local porters. Earlier in 2023, the Congress MP paid a visit to the Anand Vihar Railway Station. During his visit, he wore a porter's uniform and carried a baggage on his head. Earlier on Friday,

he interacted with porters at New Delhi Railway Station. During his visit, he wore a porter's uniform and carried a baggage on his head. Earlier on Friday,

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HOLI FESTIVAL SPECIAL TRAINS-2025

In order to clear extra rush of passengers during Holi Festival, Railways have decided to run the following Holi Special Trains as under:

Table with 4 columns: TRAIN NO., STATIONS, ARR. DEP., TRAIN NO. It lists Lokmanya Tilak Terminus Special Train (Bi-Weekly) with routes to Mau and Varanasi Jn.

Table with 4 columns: TRAIN NO., STATIONS, ARR. DEP., TRAIN NO. It lists Hazrat Nizamuddin - Pune Superfast Special Train (Weekly) with routes to Ghazipur City and Varanasi Jn.

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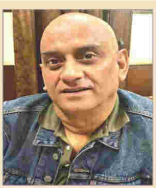
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Diplomacy Derailed: The Trump-Zelensky Clash and Its Global Reverberations



Dr Anil Singh, Editor, STAR Views

The much-anticipated meeting between U.S. President Donald Trump and Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky on February 28, 2025, at the White House was expected to reaffirm U.S. support for Ukraine and solidify a crucial minerals agreement. However, what transpired was a high-profile diplomatic debacle that exposed deep rifts between Washington and Kyiv, underscoring Trump's transactional approach to international relations. The heated exchange, culminating in the abrupt cancellation of agreements and press briefings, sent shockwaves through global diplomatic circles, reigniting concerns about America's commitment to its allies and the stability of the world order. This meeting, far from being a step toward reinforcing Western unity, instead highlighted the growing fragmentation of global alliances and the shifting contours of power in an increasingly multipolar world.

A Meeting Gone Awry: U.S.-Ukraine Rift in the Spotlight

The White House summit was originally set to finalize an agreement granting the U.S. access to Ukraine's rare earth minerals—critical for advanced technology, energy security, and defense manufacturing. The deal was seen as a strategic initiative to boost Ukraine's war-ravaged economy while securing a stable supply chain for American industries, reducing reliance on China. However, the diplomatic setting quickly turned hostile when U.S. Vice President J.D. Vance accused Zelensky of being "ungrateful" for past U.S. military and economic aid, characterizing his visit as "propaganda." This comment ignited tensions, with Trump seizing the opportunity to lecture Zelensky on American generosity, warning him against "gambling with World War III." The sharp rhetoric reflected Trump's broader skepticism about U.S. involvement in Ukraine and his longstanding demand that allies bear a greater share of the financial burden in global



conflicts. This confrontation underscored not just personal friction between the two leaders but a fundamental shift in U.S. foreign policy under Trump's administration—one that prioritizes economic nationalism over traditional alliance-based diplomacy.

The Fallout: Canceled Agreements and Press Conferences

The meeting's rapid deterioration had immediate consequences. The minerals deal, which had been framed as a breakthrough in U.S.-Ukraine cooperation, was abruptly scrapped. Furthermore, a scheduled joint press conference—expected to project solidarity—was canceled, symbolizing the widening chasm between Washington and Kyiv. Trump further escalated tensions by questioning Ukraine's sincerity in seeking peace, stating that Zelensky was "not ready for peace if America is involved," a remark that suggested the U.S. would not actively push for a prolonged military engagement in Ukraine. In response, Zelensky issued a carefully worded statement, expressing gratitude toward the American people but subtly criticizing the shifting stance of the U.S. administration. This public breakdown of diplomacy sent a clear signal to the world: the Trump administration was willing to disrupt long-standing partnerships if they did not align with its evolving geopolitical vision.

Implications for the New World Order: An Unstable Power Shift

The fallout from the meeting is not just a bilateral dispute; it is

emblematic of broader geopolitical tremors. Trump's transactional and often unilateral approach to diplomacy has repeatedly strained U.S. alliances, and this latest episode reinforces the idea that Washington's global commitments are no longer guaranteed. The shift from a consensus-driven approach to a more isolationist and nationalist stance is forcing allies to reconsider their own strategic priorities. This unpredictability has emboldened adversaries and weakened multilateral structures that have historically provided stability in global governance. By treating security guarantees and economic partnerships as leverage rather than long-term commitments, the Trump administration is reshaping the world order to fit its short-term goals, often at the cost of established diplomatic norms.

European Allies Around Ukraine: A Fracturing Transatlantic Alliance

The diplomatic debacle did not go unnoticed in Europe. Within hours, European leaders, including French President Emmanuel Macron and European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen, expressed strong solidarity with Ukraine. Macron praised Zelensky's "dignity and bravery," while von der Leyen reaffirmed the European Union's unwavering commitment to Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity. This swift European response revealed growing anxiety over America's unpredictable foreign policy trajectory. If Washington continues

to disengage, European nations will be forced to adopt a more self-reliant security framework, potentially leading to greater EU defense integration, reduced dependence on NATO, and a reevaluation of economic ties with both the U.S. and China. The Trump-Zelensky confrontation is, therefore, not just a bilateral fallout but a moment that could redefine the balance of power between the U.S. and its closest allies.

Russia's Strategic Advantage: Exploiting Western Disunity

While European leaders scrambled to reaffirm their commitment to Ukraine, the Kremlin viewed the White House clash as an opportunity. Russia has long sought to fracture the Western alliance, and Trump's apparent reluctance to maintain unwavering support for Kyiv plays directly into Moscow's strategic objectives. The perception that the U.S. might scale back its backing for Ukraine could embolden Russian President Vladimir Putin to escalate military operations, testing Western resolve. Moreover, the U.S.-Ukraine rift complicates NATO's strategy, as it injects uncertainty into Washington's role as the alliance's cornerstone. If U.S. support becomes conditional or transactional, Russia's calculus in the ongoing war may shift toward greater aggression, knowing that Western unity is not as ironclad as it once seemed.

Trump's Vision: Reshaping Global Dynamics to Fit His Agenda

The Trump-Zelensky meeting is a mi-

crocosm of the larger ideological battle over America's role in the world. Trump's vision prioritizes economic deals and military burden-sharing over ideological commitments to democracy and stability. His approach represents a stark departure from the post-World War II international order, which was built on alliances, predictability, and shared values. Instead, Trump's strategy introduces uncertainty, keeping allies and rivals alike on edge. This unpredictability may serve short-term U.S. interests in negotiating better economic deals, but it risks long-term geopolitical instability. The Trump doctrine is clear: the U.S. will engage globally only when it directly benefits American economic or strategic interests, and all relationships—including those with close allies—are subject to renegotiation.

A Way Forward: Navigating the Uncertain Future of International Diplomacy

The Trump-Zelensky summit is a stark reminder of the shifting dynamics in international relations. The world is witnessing the erosion of traditional alliances and the rise of transactional diplomacy, where economic and security commitments are no longer taken for granted. As the U.S. under Trump continues to redefine its global role, allies must adapt by building independent strategic frameworks, while adversaries recalibrate their approaches to exploit Western divisions. The fallout from this meeting will reverberate far beyond Washington and Kyiv, shaping the geopolitical landscape for years to come. Whether this signals the decline of U.S. global leadership or merely a recalibration of its priorities remains an open question—but what is certain is that the era of predictable diplomacy is over.

(The writer is an Editor of STAR Views, New Delhi)

Breaking Time Sudoku

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

Solution, Sudoku

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

THE WISDOM TREE BY SUVEEN KUMAR

COVERED SIN

It's a bad news that one day your sin will be uncovered but the good news is that not all the sins and the bad news over this good news is that you don't know which ones will be uncovered and which ones will remain covered. Your life becomes miserable only with one sin uncovered. Imagine how miserable your life will be if all of your sins are uncovered. You are never strong enough to fight your own weakness and never weak enough to empower your own strengths. Life is far more than that we feel. We oppress it much more than it does to us, it overlooks much of our mistakes than we do to its. We know the rules of life but we never care to care for it, it lives with us in all the times but we never care to care for it, it takes our mistakes, it fades the pain away, it bears

the scars, it walks us through from ground to stars. But we take it for granted, make it suffer knowingly, fail it at important routines, push it to go extreme, force it to experiment with anything and everything, put it through to damaging situation, drive it in wrong direction. We sometimes behave with life as if it belongs to someone else, we sometimes are so cruel with life as if it is made of something else. Give your life a five star as a rating if you think it deserves it, give your life an excellent review if you think it deserves it, glorify it, magnify it, gratify it if you think it deserves it, don't overrate it just conflate it and give your life a life that it starts living for life.



Moral: Every sin is forgivable and every virtue is immortal.



By Dr Satyavan Saurabh

Pop culture liberating sexuality

Women have a fundamental right to participate fully and equally in every aspect of society. Yet, women and girls are underrepresented globally in areas such as the workplace, entertainment, and politics. This gender disparity reveals the slow pace of progress over time. The impact of patriarchal norms and traditions is pervasive and harmful, affecting the personal, financial, and future well-being of women and girls as well as their families and communities. In India, the influence of pop culture and entertainment media plays a significant role in shaping gender norms and social attitudes, as well as influencing perceptions about gender and legal discussions. While these media can bring about social change, they also perpetuate stereotypes. In our rapidly evolving world, pop culture has become an indispensable part of our lives. Movies, music, television programs, and social media shape our worldview and ex-

pectations. Particularly in relation to gender roles and stereotypes, such as the notion that girls should play with dolls while boys should play with cars.

Society's views on masculinity and femininity are heavily influenced by the media. For example, the Bollywood film *Kabir Singh* (2019) depicted a version of masculinity that glorified aggressive and dominating male behavior. Similarly, portrayals of professional roles in the media shape career aspirations. The film *Kargil Girl* (2020) encouraged the recruitment of women into the military, highlighting changes in gender roles. Entertainment media often promotes nationalistic discussions on gender justice, as seen in the Satyamev Jayate program, which brought forth issues such as domestic violence and female foeticide. Long-running television serials also establish familial gender roles and perpetuate the stereotypical

image of the obedient daughter-in-law commonly seen in Indian soap operas. The connection between mass movements and activism is often facilitated by media representation. The film *Chhapaak* (2020) highlighted the struggles of acid attack survivors and advocated for legal reforms, including stricter penalties under the IPC. Although popular culture has played a role in reinforcing discriminatory gender norms, it also has the power to challenge and change them. A notable example is the *Marvelous Mrs. Maisel*, set in the 1950s and 1960s, in which housewife Miriam Maisel discovers her talent for stand-up comedy. The series not only received critical acclaim but also raised important themes such as female empowerment, the pursuit of dreams, and freedom from societal expectations of the "ideal" housewife. This is one of many examples in popular culture.

Men and women often portray love from a controlling and possessive perspective. Some Bollywood songs perpetuate the image of the obsessive male lover. Action films often feature aggressive, dominant men as role models. Recent releases have prominently featured violent and authoritarian male protagonists. Women are typically portrayed in nurturing roles, while men are placed in positions of authority. However, the film *Tumhari Sulu* (2017) challenged these norms by showing the challenges women face in unconventional careers.

The media often promotes thinness and fair skin as the ideal of beauty, with advertisements for fair-skinned creams being prevalent, reflecting Bollywood's preference for fair-skinned actresses and the promotion of colorism. Additionally, homosexual characters are often exaggerated for humor, and some films trivialize same-sex attraction through

satirical portrayals. Although entertainment media has played a role in advancing social issues and raising gender awareness, it also promotes harmful narratives. For meaningful social change to take place in the future, a greater emphasis on gender-sensitive representation, diverse portrayals, and responsible storytelling is needed. Media and popular culture have a significant influence in shaping social attitudes towards women, gender equality, and social norms. Films, television, advertising, and social media can either reinforce stereotypes that hinder women's empowerment or serve as powerful agents for positive change.

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

Nowadays, our desires and perceptions are often influenced by the images and narratives we see in movies and on television. These portrayals are often heavily biased towards stereotypes. For example, an emphasis on conventionally attractive women can make girls and women want to look like them.

TOP STORY

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UP government to strengthen urban drainage system ahead of monsoon

■ The Uttar Pradesh government has intensified efforts to strengthen urban drainage systems ahead of monsoon to prevent waterlogging in cities and slum areas.

Lucknow
The Uttar Pradesh government has intensified efforts to strengthen urban drainage systems ahead of monsoon to prevent waterlogging in cities and slum areas.



Led by Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, the Uttar Pradesh government continues to prioritize urban development, ensuring that every citizen has access to essential amenities.

The Mukhyamantri Nagariya Aviksit Evam Malin Basti Vikas Yojana focuses not only on road and drainage construction but also on sanitation, clean drinking water, and other civic amenities.

Under this scheme, hundreds of projects have been

approved across the state so far, directly benefiting millions of people and enhancing their quality of life. The ongoing development projects under this scheme will not only improve traffic flow but also eliminate waterlogging issues in urban areas. This initiative aligns with PM Narendra Modi's vision of Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas and reflects the Yogi government's commitment to taking urban development in Uttar Pradesh to new heights.

The government's goal is not just to build roads and drainage systems but also to strengthen urban infrastructure in line with smart city standards.

To achieve this, Rs 65,416 lakh has been allocated for nine pending projects in Moradabad, including the construction of interlocking roads and drainage systems in Bank Colony, Bangla Gaon, and Basant Bahar. These projects will benefit thousands of residents who have long struggled with waterlogging and damaged roads, especially during the monsoon.

To address waterlogging and clogged drainage issues in Mathura, the Yogi government has initiated five major projects covering Mathura Municipal Corporation, Mathura-Vrindavan, Govardhan, Raya, and Baldeo.

A total of Rs 65.4 lakh has been approved for these projects, ensuring a sys-

tematic and efficient drainage system in the city.

In Ghaziabad, the government has released Rs 14,727 lakh for the construction of drainage systems and interlocking roads in Ward No. 2, Siddharth Vihar (Part-10). This area has long struggled with damaged roads and poor drainage, causing severe inconvenience to residents.

Once completed, the project will ease traffic movement and eliminate waterlogging problems.

Similarly, in Azamgarh, a budget of Rs 22,916 lakh has been allocated for the construction of roads and drainage systems in the Civil Lines area. This region is a key urban hub that frequently suffers from flooded and damaged roads during the monsoon season.

The initiative is expected to bring major relief to residents, improving infrastructure and quality of life in the area.

UP gov't takes major strides to boost chemical-free natural farming

Chandigarh
The Uttar Pradesh government has prioritized the welfare of farmers and the promotion of sustainable farming practices.

Alongside expanding natural farming initiatives, the government provides substantial financial support and incentives to farmers, guiding them from seed to market.

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath personally advocates for natural farming at every possible platform.

In a significant move, the government has decided to implement natural farming within a 5-kilometer radius on both banks of the Ganga and local rivers.

To facilitate this, 1,886 farming clusters will be established with a dedicated budget of Rs 270.62 crore. This action plan was recently approved in a state-level Agriculture Committee meeting.

Additionally, the cabinet has sanctioned Rs 1,191.51 crore for natural farming and the farm pond scheme, officials here on Saturday said.

The UP government's latest budget has also allocated



Rs 124 crore under the National Mission on Natural Farming to boost this initiative further.

The vision is to extend natural farming practices along the banks of all local rivers across Uttar Pradesh, ensuring a complete shift towards organic methods.

By replacing chemical fertilizers and toxic pesticides with organic alternatives, the government aims to prevent harmful leaching into rivers, thus protecting water bodies from pollution.

Notably, under the Namami Gange Yojana, chemical-free farming is already being promoted in 27 districts along the Ganga, with natural farming currently practiced in over 1,000 villages. Furthermore, the

Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana is being implemented across 54 districts to support this transformation.

The government also envisions Bundelkhand—a region severely affected by stray cattle—as Uttar Pradesh's hub for natural farming. Since the Yogi government's natural farming has expanded significantly, covering nearly 5,000 clusters and engaging over 18,000 farmers across 10,000 hectares.

Under Namami Gange, natural farming is practised on 3,500 hectares across 6,300 clusters, with more than one lakh farmers actively involved. As a result, the Indo-Gangetic plains—one of the world's most fertile regions—now host the largest organic farming area in the state.

Experts at the Organic Farming Kumbh (2017), held at the India Expo Centre and Mart, Greater Noida, organized by the Organic Farming Association of India, recommended designating the Ganga plains for organic farming, citing the region's naturally replenishing soil fertility, enhanced annually by floods.

UP gov't intensifies action against land encroachments

Lucknow

The Yogi government has intensified its crackdown on land encroachments, ensuring that government land remains free from illegal occupation. Under Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath's zero-tolerance policy against land mafias, more than 68,000 hectares of encroached land have been reclaimed across Uttar Pradesh.

To prevent re-encroachment, an innovative initiative has been launched in Shravasti, where the district administration is installing plaques on government land with complete ownership details. This step, aligned with CM Yogi's vision, will ensure transparency and protection of public land. The Shravasti model is set to become a benchmark for similar efforts across the state.

Shravasti District Magistrate Ajay Kumar Dwivedi stated that, under the guidance of CM Yogi Adityanath, continuous action is being taken to free government land from illegal encroachments. As part of this effort, plaques are now being installed on vacant government lands, clearly marking them as government-owned. Strict action will be taken against anyone attempting illegal occupation.

He further explained that in 397 Gram Panchayats, several such government lands exist only in official records, making them vulnerable to encroachment. The plaques will include details such as land type, category, area, Gram Sabha and Gata number, eliminating any chances of false ownership claims.

He informed that the total number of government ghats in the three tehsils of Shravasti, Ikouma, Jammunha and Bhinga is 1,49,239. The total area of these ghats is 26650.8177 hectares. Before 2017, due to the negligence of the previous government, illegal land encroachments had become a major challenge.

In many cases, influential individuals and land mafias had occupied government land, causing revenue losses and obstructing development projects. Recognizing this issue, the Yogi government took decisive steps to reclaim government land from encroachers, ensuring better governance and land security.

Chandigarh health dept organizes walkathon for 100 days TB elimination campaign

Komal Ramola Chandigarh

As part of the 100 Days TB Elimination Campaign on TB Mukti Bharat Abhiyan, the Chandigarh Health Department organized a Walkathon at Sukhna Lake, Chandigarh to raise awareness about Tuberculosis (TB) and encourage community participation in the fight against the disease.

The Walkathon was flagged off by Dr. Sushil K. Mahi, Medical Superintendent, GMSH-16, Chandigarh, along with Dr. Paramjit Singh, DMS, GMSH-16, and Dr. Rajesh Rana, State TB Officer,

Chandigarh. The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from around 250 students from various colleges, who carried banners and posters to spread awareness about TB.

The primary objective of the Walkathon was to promote awareness, reduce stigma, and encourage public engagement in the nationwide effort to eliminate TB. During the event, students actively distributed vital TB-related information, including pamphlets containing details of TB, services provided by the Government of India, details about Nikshay Shivirs, the 100

Days TB-Free India Campaign, and the role of Nikshay Mitras in supporting TB patients.

The Walkathon concluded with the Nikshay Shapath, reaffirming the commitment to a TB-free India, followed by slogans like "Together, We Can End TB from India" and "TB Harega, Desh Jeetega." The participating students demonstrated great enthusiasm and pledged their support for the TB Mukti Bharat Campaign. The Chandigarh Health Department continues its unwavering efforts towards eliminating TB and ensuring a healthier future for all.

DM & Police Commissioner should run a campaign to free Gram Panchayat land from encroachment: Minister Dharmpal Singh

Rajesh Tomar/Akash Jain Agra

Minister Animal Husbandry and Dairy Development, Political Pension Department, Uttar Pradesh, Dharmpal Singh has asked the District Magistrate and Police Commissioner to run a campaign to free Gram Panchayat land from encroachment.

During a review meeting held in the Circuit House on Saturday under the chairmanship of Minister regarding freeing the pasture lands under the Animal Husbandry Department and the district from encroachment and sowing fodder/ protection of desitute cattle etc.

The Minister first of all personally talked to all the Block Development Officers and the concerned Veterinary Officer to know the amenities.

The Minister give strict in-



structions that in case of negligence, now the responsibility of both the concerned BDO and the veterinary officer will be fixed equally and strict action will be taken.

The Minister sought information about dead cows in the desitute cow shelter in the district and gave strict instructions that the death of cows should not be hidden, their last rites should be performed as per the rules with dignity.

The minister said that by connecting the society, com-

mon people, public representatives, women self-help groups with the cowsheds, effective work should be done on the ground to make the cowshed self-reliant.

The Minister directed the District Magistrate and Police Commissioner to run a campaign in the district to free the pasture and village society land from illegal occupation and sow green fodder on it.

He said that green fodder has been sown on more than 110 hectares of land in Agra district, which has also been

appreciated by the Chief Secretary of the state.

The Minister directed that there will be no shortage of funds for the protection of cows by the government, sufficient amount of money is being pressed and paid on time, instructed to increase the number of large and temporary gushalhas in the district as per the requirement.

The Minister directed the Chief Veterinary Officer to coordinate and start the said work, especially in the villages and inhabited areas situated along the expressways, highways, main roads, so that accidents involving cows do not occur.

The Minister directed to speed up ear tagging for identification of stray cows, so that it will be possible to identify which animal belongs to whom, and to promote sexed sperm for improved breed improvement.

Punjab Police busts illegal weapon smuggling module

Chandigarh
Amidst the ongoing drive to make Punjab a safe and secure state, the Counter Intelligence (CI) Amritsar has busted an illegal weapon smuggling module with the arrest of one associate of Jaggu Bhagwanpuria Gang and recovered six .32 bore pistols along with 10 cartridges in his possession.

Director General of Police (DGP) Punjab Gaurav Yadav said on Saturday

at least eight criminal cases pertaining to attempt to murder, snatching, NPS act, and violations of the Arms Act.

Sharing operation details, DGP Gaurav Yadav said that a team of CI Amritsar received a reliable input that accused Gurbaz Singh and his accomplice are active members of Jaggu Bhagwanpuria Gang and they are in possession of illegal weapons, which will be used by them



for committing criminal acts in the border state.

Information further revealed that Gurbaz Singh is expected to deliver weapons to someone near Church in the area of Indian Institute of Management Amritsar at Amritsar-Tarn Taran Bypass Highway, he said, while adding that acting swiftly police teams conducted raid in the aforesaid area and successfully arrested the accused after recovering arms

and ammunition from his possession. The DGP said that preliminary investigations have revealed the recovered firearms were smuggled from Madhya Pradesh for use in carrying out criminal activities in Punjab.

He said that Police teams have also identified the key member of this module, who is in direct contact with gangster Jaggu Bhagwanpuria, and raids are

being conducted to nab him.

Further investigations are in progress to trace the supply chain and other persons involved in the illegal arms trade, he added. A case FIR No. 10 dated 28.2.25 has been registered under Section 25 of the Arms Act and 61(2) and 111 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) at Police Station State Special Operations Cell (SSOC), Amritsar.

Mahakumbh of social organizations held in Panchkula on World NGO Day

Komal Ramola Panchkula

Government and non-government organizations have a role in the upliftment of society, such organizations play an important role in bringing backward people from the society to the mainstream of society.

Private and non-private organizations dedicated to the country and society make their incomparable contribution in various fields, but they do not bring their name forward anywhere and neither do they take any kind of credit.

By gathering the organizations working day and night for the upliftment of the society on one platform on World NGO Day, The Lion Club of Panchkula Champi-



ons not only set a unique example but also honored all the NGOs by giving them letters of appreciation and gave a message that they have an important role in the society and for this they deserve congratulations. Setting a unique example in the society, The Lion Club of Panchkula Champions organized an Excellence Award Ceremony.

The award ceremony was

organized at Sector 1 PWD Rest House in Panchkula.

The program was chaired and conducted by Dr. Surendra Singla, Political Advisor to the Chief Minister of Haryana at the Excellence Award Ceremony. Tarun Bhandari was present as the chief guest and DIG Vijay Dethal, Additional Director IIT Sanjeev Sharma, DSP Mamta Chaudhary were present as special

guests.

Club President Naveen Kansal welcomed the Chief Guest and Vashisth Guests along with the 56 organizations participating in the program. Lions Club District Governor Lion Vinet Goyal and Multiple Coordinator Lion Raman Gupta inaugurated the program by lighting the lamp by the Chief Guest and Vashisth Guests. Chief Guest Tarun Bhandari congratulated the officials of 56 organizations of Panchkula area for the various social service programs done by their organizations and honor everyone with a certificate of honor. During the ceremony, the children of Sai Ki Pathshala gave their performance on devotional and patriotic songs.

Mandi's Mahashivratri Festival painted in international colors

Rajan Panchhi Mandi

An international cultural parade was organized in Mandi on the third day of the Chhoti Kashi International Mahashivratri Festival.

Minister of Town and Country Planning, Technical Education, Vocational and Industrial Training Rajesh Dharmani flagged off the parade. The cultural parade started from the entrance of the Deputy Commissioner's office and went through Seri Manch and Indra Market complex and concluded at the same place. In which artists from abroad participated prominently and displayed the culture of their respective countries. Apart from this, artists from the northern states of India also participated in the cultural parade.

On this occasion, Rajesh Dharmani said that such



events are a powerful medium of cultural exchange between different countries. Appreciating this initiative of the Chhoti Kashi International Mahashivratri Festival Organizing Committee, he said that through the cultural parade, we have got an opportunity to see the culture of the country and abroad closely. Its organization will lead to cultural exchange and the fragrance of the Dev culture here will spread throughout India and abroad.

Artists from abroad from Ukraine, Thailand, Sri Lan-

ka, Malaysia and Kazakhstan, artists from Jammu and Kashmir, Punjab, Haryana, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh of North India and artists from Pangri and Bhamour of Chamba, Shimla, Lahaul-Spiti, Kullu, Sirmaur of Himachal participated in the cultural parade.

Artists from Mandayya Kala Manch, Sangest Sadan, Amar Yuvak Mandal, Sanjalp Yuvak Mandal of Mandi district also participated in this cultural parade. 20 cultural groups from North India and Himachal presented a rich cultural glimpse of their respective regions.

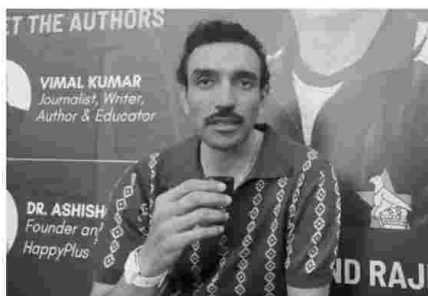
During artists from different countries performed various types of folk and danced their respective countries in traditional costumes. To see this, a crowd of people gathered in Seri Manch and Indra Market.

Robin Uthappa, Lalchand Rajput reunite ahead of India-New Zealand clash in Dubai

Dubai
Ahead of the crucial India-New Zealand match in Dubai on Sunday, former India opener Robin Uthappa and current UAE head coach Lalchand Rajput shared their insights on India's perceived 'home' advantage and the significance of maintaining momentum in the ICC Champions Trophy.

Addressing whether India enjoys a 'home advantage' in Dubai, as the tournament hosts are Pakistan, but India did not play due to political tension, Uthappa stated at the launch of a book - *Life Lessons from Cricket*, "I will not say it's a home advantage, but there is definitely an advantage of familiarity. I heard an interview where former India opener Wasim Jaffer was saying that there could have been one match in Abu Dhabi, one in Dubai, and one in Sharjah, and definitely that could have been done so that other teams couldn't find a reason to complain. However, we must ask why didn't we go to Pakistan? Because of the geo-political situation. And each country has their right to decide if they don't want to travel to a particular nation. And for that, if one country ends up playing in one venue, then so be it."

India could have complained that



had they played on flat Pakistani pitches, their record could have been nicer. Each batsman would have got an opportunity to score (heavily). You may say whatever, but at the end of the day, cricket is a contest between bat and ball, and the team which plays well on that day wins. And those who complain, you can sense their mental state. It becomes so obvious," he added. When asked whether India should have a preferred semifinal opponent, Uthappa dismissed the idea,

emphasizing that a confident team should focus on its own strengths rather than external factors.

"Genuinely, as a cricketer, it does not matter to us who is going to be our opponent. We as a team should focus on our form, strength, and mood, which is more important than who we are going to face or the pitches we are going to play on. It doesn't matter much. Any team which is confident and in form would never think on those lines. They will concentrate on what we are going to do to win the game," he said.

Rajput acknowledged that playing all matches at a single venue does provide an advantage but noted the differences in pitch conditions across locations.

"See, there is definitely an advantage as one team is playing all matches in one venue. But if you look closely, Pakistani pitches are flat, while Dubai is on the slower side, and it will take some effort to get used to these conditions quickly," he said.

Despite India's qualification, Rajput emphasized that no match should be considered meaningless, as maintaining rhythm is crucial.

"See, for a coach, there is nothing called an inconsequential game, as you want your team to win every match and want to play your best players unless there is an injury or workload management. When you are having a good run, it's important to maintain the momentum," he said.

"Sometimes, when you qualify and make changes, and if we lose, then in the next game there is the same kind of pattern (like lack of rhythm), and hence, when you are having a good time, we have to finish—we should always be on top," he added.

PCB 'considering' domestic players for T20I series in New Zealand

Lahore
 The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) has decided to give the domestic players the opportunity to play in the upcoming T20I series against New Zealand after Pakistan's shambolic run in the ongoing Champions Trophy. Geo News reported citing sources.

Sources informed Geo News that domestic players have been asked to travel to Lahore for the selection process for the five T20Is against the Blackcaps, beginning on March 16. In addition, a meeting will be held between the young cricketers and board officials.

With the T20 World Cup set to be held next year in India and Sri Lanka, the decision to send domestic players to New Zealand could turn out to be PCB's long-term strategy for the marquee event.

In addition to the recent development, former wicketkeeper-batter Rashid Latif suggested a list of young players who should be considered for the upcoming series. Hassan Nawaz, Ali Raza, Abdul Samad, Akif Javed and Muhammad Nafay were some of the players he recommended.

His other recommendations for the probable squad included Muhammad Harris, Sufyan Mueed, Arafat Minhas, Irfan Khan Niazi, Zaman Khan, Mohammad Wasim, Abbas Afridi, Jahandad Khan, Agha Salman, Abrar



Ahmed, Omair Bin Yousuf and Khushdil Shah.

Notably, some reports claim that Pakistan players are considering opting out of their white-ball tour of New Zealand. The players are considering taking a "break" from the white-ball tour, which consists of five T20Is and three ODIs.

The recent changes in Pakistan's camp stem from their dreadful run in the Champions Trophy. As a global cricket event returned to Pakistan after nearly three decades, New Zealand stepped up to spoil the party.

The Blackcaps, buoyed by their success in the ODI tri-nation series, forced Pakistan to concede a 60-run deficit.

With Pakistan's campaign in jeopardy and signs pointing towards the defending champions leaving their party early, the high-voltage encounter against India became a must-win affair.

India's U19 T20 WC skipper Niki's memorable journey

Bengaluru
 India's Under-19 T20 World Cup-winning captain Niki Prasad opened up on her team's second successive world title win and her debut stint in the Women's Premier League (WPL), which she feels will help India win plenty of senior-level trophies in future in women's cricket.

In an interview with ANI, Niki spoke about team India's second successive U19 Women's T20 World Cup win, sharing the locker room with inaugural U19 WC-winning skipper Shafali Verma and Australian legend Meg Lanning in the WPL for Delhi Capitals (DC), her learnings from both tournaments, etc.

Speaking about lifting the ICC U19 Women's World Cup after defeating South Africa by nine wickets in the title clash earlier in February, Niki said that while the first title win was special, the second one felt even more special as the team pulled off back-to-back title wins.

"It definitely feels very special, and I am really proud of my team and really happy that we won the World Cup again. And obviously, winning the first World Cup is quite special, but winning it for the second time is even more special. You have done it back to back. And that feeling is, you can't describe that feeling, but it is a very happy moment," she said.

Speaking about her learnings from the tournament, Niki said that one thing that the tournament taught her that a team cannot win matches consistently by relying on just one player or two, rather its effort of all 11 players that helps a team win regularly.

"There was involvement from all our players and we wanted to express ourselves. And that is what we kept doing throughout the tournament. And that is one thing which I have learned that, you know, you always need to go out there on the field and really have that mindset of dominating and really showing what you can do," she added.

The tournament created several stars for India, such as the top-rungetter Gongadi Trisha (309 runs in seven matches at an average of over 77, with a century and fifty at a strike rate of over 147), G Kamalini (143 runs in seven matches at an average of 35.75 with two fifties) and spin duo of Vaishnavi Sharma (17 wickets in six matches at an average of 4.35 with best figures of 5/5) and Aayushi Shukla (14 wickets in seven matches at an average of 5.71 with best figures of 4/8).

Speaking about her interaction with Shafali, the winning captain of first edition of the tournament, Niki recalled that the explosive batter asked her to enjoy and have fun as a captain and as a team, express themselves freely.

"After winning, after I came to DC, I got a very grand welcome by them and by very big players."

Recklessness in powerplay costs England again, skittled out for 179 against SA

Karachi
 In yet another shambolic and reckless batting display, England was wiped out for 179 runs in their final league stage ICC Champions Trophy match against South Africa at Karachi on Saturday, that highlighted a big issue with their batting that has gone awry after the days of former captain Eoin Morgan which changed the way Three Lions played their white-ball cricket.

A powerful spell by Iankey pacer Marco Jansen (3/39 in seven overs) left England without their top order within the first seven overs. A statistic has emerged that proves only one thing: England has retained the philosophy of bold and attacking cricket of their World Cup-winning skipper Morgan, but the execution has been missing for the most part.

Since 2024-start in ODIs, England has been absolutely reckless in their first ten overs of batting. While the first powerplay encourages teams to take risks and make use of batting-friendly conditions and fielding settings to have a hit, the Three Lions seem to have abused this freedom too much.

Within the first ten overs of their batting in ODIs since 2024, England has attacked 51.6 per cent of times, losing 23 wickets while averaging just 27.73. A key player behind this reckless attacking is perhaps their opener Phil Salt,



who has scored just 30 runs in three innings during this Champions Trophy and averages 31.87 after his first 31 innings in ODIs, during which he has made 988 runs with a century and five fifties at a strike rate of 114.75.

England has performed way better while rotating the strike in the first ten overs, doing it 24.5 per cent of times and losing just three wickets at an average of 56.33.

While England is vulnerable to playing too recklessly, they have also showcased a defensive style 21 per cent of times, throwing away three wickets at an average of 7.66. While attempting no shots 1.9 per cent of times, they do not lose a wicket.

Of the 20 teams, they have played the highest percentage of attacking shots in this phase, and the lowest in terms of balls defended or no shot offered, as per Cricbuzz.

U19 Women's T20 WC winning skipper Niki hails Virat's century against Pakistan

Bengaluru
 India's U19 Women's T20 World Cup winning captain Niki Prasad hailed legendary India batter Virat Kohli for his fine knock against Pakistan in the ongoing ICC Champions Trophy, lauding the 36-year-old for his ability to make memorable comebacks after every setback.

Vintage 'King Kohli' was at work again while chasing 242 against Pakistan in Dubai during the Champions Trophy, giving fans another taste of 'Chase Master' he has been over the years.

During his knock, he went on to touch many milestones, such as scoring his first ICC Champions Trophy run, reaching 14,000 ODI runs and becoming the third player to do so and surpassing Australian great Ricky Ponting to become the third-highest run-getter in international cricket.

Speaking to ANI, Niki said during an interview, "They call him GOAT (Greatest of All Time) for a reason. The way he comes back after every failure, it is not everyone can do that so easily. And I feel he is not afraid to make any mistakes to have that failure because that just makes him even more stronger. And it is seen whenever he bats and whenever he's hungry for something, it is seen."

So far in the ICC Champions Trophy, Virat has scored 122 runs in two matches at an average of 122.00, with



plenty of senior-level trophies in future in women's cricket.

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Olympic champ Neeraj Chopra pledges support for 'FIT India Sundays on Cycle'

New Delhi
 Two-time Olympic medalist Neeraj Chopra echoed Prime Minister Narendra Modi's clarion call to countryside for maintaining an active lifestyle in the fight against obesity by participating in "FIT India Sundays on Cycle."

In a social media post, the javelin star said that cycling is a great way to remain fit and one should try their best to take out time every Sunday for own well-being.

"Namaste Fit India Sundays on Cycle is a fantastic way to improve one's fitness and to contribute towards controlling pollution. So, I would like to tell you that please include in cycling every Sunday, if you are not able to find time every day," Neeraj posted on his Instagram handle.

This cycling drive was kickstarted on December 17, 2024 by Union Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports Dr Mansukh Mandavya with the overall objective of "Daily dose of health, adha ghanta rot" (Fitness dose of fitness for 30 minutes) and a way to find a solution to pollution, as per a press release from Sports Authority of India (SAI).

The Prime Minister during his recent address to the nation through 'Mann ki Baat' had highlighted the importance of having a balanced diet and cutting the intake of oil by a minimum of 10 per



cent to fight obesity. PM Modi had launched the FIT India Mission as a people's movement back in 2019.

Following the PM's clarion call, this weekend's cycling initiative (March 2, 2025) is themed around fighting obe-



city. 2007 T20 World Cup winning bowler Joginder Sharma along with international squash stars Ramit Tandon and Anahat Singh will ride with 600 cyclists, comprising officers from several Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs), from Major Dhyan Chand National Stadium to Vijay Chowk near Raisina Hill via Kartavya Path and back to spread the message of #FightObesity and #PollutionKaSolution.

Till now, 'FIT India Sundays on Cycle' has been organised nationwide across 4200-plus locations, witnessing the participation of more than 2 lakh individuals. The movement also promotes environment-friendly practices to decrease air pollution levels across the country.

Previously, the Indian Army jawans, Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF), Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) and prominent sports stars like Lovlina Borgohain, Sangram Singh, Shanley Singh, Nitu Ghanghas, Sweta Bora, Padma Shri awardee Prashanti Singh, former basketball captain and coach Divya Singh, Paris Paralympics bronze medalist Rubina Francis and Simran Sharma (para world champion) have participated in the cycling initiative.

Renowned actors Rahul Bose, Amit Sial and Gul Panag have also taken part in the 'Sundays on Cycle' event to date.

Minnu Mani on Delhi Capitals' performance against Mumbai Indians

Bengaluru
 An all-around effort led the Delhi Capitals to a dominant nine-wicket win over the Mumbai Indians in their sixth match of the WPL 2025 at the M. Chinnaswamy Stadium on Friday.

Minnu Mani and Jess Jonassen bagged three wickets each, restricting Mumbai Indians to 123/9 in 20 overs. Delhi Capitals then chased the target in just 14.3 overs, courtesy of Meg Lanning's unbeaten 60 off 49 balls and Shafali Verma's 43 off 28. This victory took them to the top of the points table with four wins, two losses, and eight points.

Reflecting on the performance, Mani, who returned with stunning figures of 3/17 in three overs, said they performed well in all departments.

"The efforts of the entire team came together nicely on the field. We always keep things simple and stick to our plans in every match. Whatever strategies we make, we ensure they are executed well on the ground. It was the same approach today, nothing new," she said, according to a release.

The 25-year-old player from Wayanad, Kerala, has been a part of Delhi Capitals since the inception of the WPL. She went on to make her T20I debut in the same year and became the first woman from Kerala to play for India.

Speaking about her journey and



learnings so far, Mani said, "The senior players in the team have been very helpful. Compared to my first and second year, my bowling has improved a lot. They have guided me on how to bowl according to the situation and the batter, what kind of length and line to use, when to make changes, and how to adapt. I've learned all these things from them, including how to manage myself during the game."

When asked about playing under the captaincy of the legendary Meg Lanning, Mani said, "I admire Meg Lanning a lot, and playing under her has helped me learn so many new things. She is always supportive of all the players, both on and off the field. Whenever we discuss something or ask her for advice, she always has an plethora of insights and ideas to share. It has been a truly special experience to play alongside her."



Speaking about her journey and

China reopens Mt Everest area in Tibet after January earthquake

Beijing: China on Saturday reopened the scenic area of Mt Everest, known as Mount Qomolangma, in the Tibet Autonomous Region after it was closed to the public following the January earthquake. The area was closed on January 7 after a 6.8-magnitude quake struck Dingri, home to the northern base camp of the world's highest peak, Mount Qomolangma. The quake claimed 126 lives and left 188 others injured. The scenic area was closed on the same day for the safety of tourists and staff.

In the Tibetan language, Mount Everest is known as Mount Qomolangma which forms the part of the border between China and Nepal.

Both countries settled their border dispute in 1961 with the boundary line passing through the summit of Mount Everest.

The Mt Everest area had not been affected by the quake, with no obvious ice falls, avalanches or geological changes being observed, said Ma Weiqiang, director of Pakistan for offering Friday prayers, prohibited for them under law.

Police received a call that 27 Ahmadis were offering juma (Friday) prayers at their place of worship at Daska, Sialkot, some 100 kms from Lahore.

"Ahmadis' prayer leader Arshad Sahi was giving Friday sermon and was reading Islamic

Zelensky arrives in the UK ahead of scheduled meet with Starmer

LONDON: Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky will meet UK Prime Minister Keith Starmer in London on Saturday on the eve of a summit gathering 12 European leaders in the British capital, Starmer's office said. "The Prime Minister and President Zelensky will be meeting in Downing Street this afternoon," a spokeswoman said, as British media showed a plane bearing the Ukrainian flag touching down in an airport north of London.

Zelensky's plane with the Ukrainian flag on its tail landed at London Stansted Airport the morning after the diplomatic spat on live TV.

Zelensky had been due to meet with Starmer on Sunday, hours before taking part in a London summit of European leaders to discuss how to ensure a peaceful end to the war and provide security across the continent.



Zelensky's plane with the Ukrainian flag on its tail landed at London Stansted Airport the morning after the diplomatic spat on live TV.

But the timetable for their bilateral meeting was apparently sped up in the aftermath of the Washington visit. During an intense Oval Office meeting on

Friday, US President Donald Trump shouted at Zelensky, accusing him of risking millions of lives and warring that his actions might

lead to World War III. In response, Zelensky abruptly departed the White House without signing a crucial minerals agreement with the US, which Trump had insisted upon and implied was a prerequisite for continued support to Ukraine.

A CNN report said Trump and Zelensky went to separate rooms after their heated exchange, "with the Ukrainians wanting the talks to continue, The White House, however, made it clear it was time for them to go. Trump ordered that the Ukrainians be told to leave, according to a White House official."

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Trump-Zelensky row shows 'new age of infamy has begun': Germany

BERLIN: Germany's foreign minister said Saturday the "unspeakable" row between US President Donald Trump and his Ukrainian counterpart Volodymyr Zelensky in the White House resembled a "bad dream" as Kyiv's European allies rallied to its side. "Yesterday evening underlined that a new age of infamy has begun," Foreign Minister Annalena Baerbock said in a televised statement. "Many of you will have slept uneasily after seeing the unspeakable videos from the White House," she said, adding: "Honestly, I did too."

"Sadly this was not a bad dream, but a heavy reality," she said. She also urged that both Germany and the EU loosen their budget rules to facilitate support for Ukraine.

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Ukraine following the row which ended with Zelensky being thrown out of the White House.

"She said she would 'wholeheartedly push for more flexibility in the Stability and Growth Pact' of the EU as well as a 'fundamental reform of the debt brake' anchored in Germany's constitution, in order to enable more help for Kyiv."

Baerbock said such measures could help "Ukraine withstand Russia's aggression even if the US withdraws support, so that it can achieve a just peace and not a capitulation."

23 Ahmadis arrested for offering Friday prayers in Pakistan's Punjab

LAHORE: As many as 23 members of minority Ahmadi community were arrested in Punjab province of Pakistan for offering Friday prayers, prohibited for them under law. Police received a call that 27 Ahmadis were offering juma (Friday) prayers at their place of worship at Daska, Sialkot, some 100 kms from Lahore.



PTI on Saturday. "As local Muslims' sentiments were hurt, police registered an FIR

against those 27 Ahmadis under section 298 C of Pakistan Penal Code, Tanzeel said and added that 23 of them were arrested.

Section 298 C criminalizes Ahmadis who refer to themselves as Muslim.

Although Ahmadis consider themselves Muslims, Pakistan's Parliament in 1974 declared the community as non-Muslims. A decade later, they were not just banned from calling themselves Muslims but

were also barred from practising aspects of Islam. Jamaat-e-Ahmadiyya Pakistan (JAP) lambasted the police action against innocent Ahmadi men and children. "A group of Ahmadis had gathered for worship within private premises in Daska as per routine. Shortly after, religious extremists assembled outside and began chanting provocative slogans," it said.

Radical Islamist party Tehreek-e-Labbaki Pakistan (TLP) is reportedly behind the police action against Ahmadis. In response, the Ahmadis called the police. However, instead of ensuring their safety, the police took 23 Ahmadis, including children aged 11 and 14, into custody and transferred them to City Police Station, Daska.

Subsequently, JAP said, the religious extremists gathered outside the police station, chanting slogans and demanding the registration of cases against the detained Ahmadis.

"Under their pressure, the police registered a case and presented 23 Ahmadis before a magistrate, who then sent them to Sialkot Central Jail on judicial remand," it added. JAP spokesperson Amir Mahmood strongly condemned the rising hate campaign against Ahmadis and the state authorities' continued subjugation to extremist pressure.

BUSINESS

India to Lose Rs 20,000 Cr to Cybercrime in 2025: Report

New Delhi: Indian entities are expected to lose Rs 20,000 crore due to cyber crimes this year, cyber security intelligence firm CloudSEK said in a report.

The company claims to have done a detailed analysis of 200 companies across sectors, over 5,000 domain take-downs, data of about 16,000 brand abuse, official data from the Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (I4C) documenting nationwide cybercrime patterns and financial impacts etc for artificial intelligence based projection.

"The biggest revelation from our research is the sheer scale of financial losses of over Rs 20,000 crore due to cybercrime, of which Rs 9,000 crore is due to brand name abuse alone. The fact that brand abuse is implicated in nearly one-third of all cybercrime incidents and a staggering 70 per cent of high-value scams is a wake-up

call for India," Pavan Karthick M, Threat Intelligence Researcher at CloudSEK said.

Cybercrime complaints are expected to exceed 25 lakh, with 5 lakh explicitly mentioning brand impersonation.

"The white paper builds upon previous research documenting losses of Rs 11,333 crore in the first nine months of 2024 by I4C. By applying advanced predictive modelling techniques to comprehensive datasets, we project the trajectory of these losses into 2025, providing stakeholders with actionable intelligence to combat this growing threat," the report said.

According to the analysis done by CloudSEK Nexus platform, banking and financial services will bear the maximum brunt of the losses of around Rs 8,200 crore, followed by retail and e-commerce of Rs 5,800 crore and government services Rs 3,400 crore.

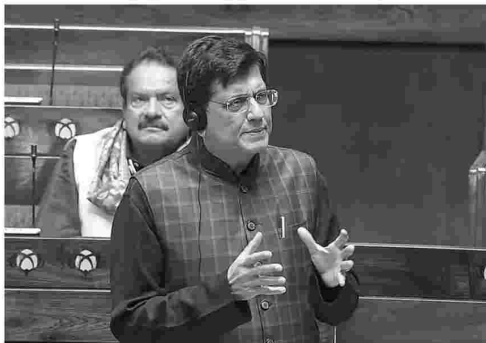
Nifty valuation decent and reasonable; markets may see some small correction: Goyal

Mumbai: After some sell-off during the week, Union Minister Piyush Goyal on Saturday opined that the 50-share benchmark Nifty's valuation is decent and reasonable.

Goyal, who oversees the commerce and industry portfolio, said that there can be some more correction in the ofiling for the Indian markets. A forward price-to-earnings ratio of 19 makes the Nifty valuations "decent" and "reasonable".

"Some of them (Nifty stocks) may have seen some downfall, but by and large the Nifty still reflects decent valuations," Goyal said, speaking at an event organised by mutual fund industry's lobby grouping Amfi here.

"At a P/E ratio of 19 for a developing nation which is the fastest growing country, (valuation) is still reasonable - some



small correction here or there may still happen," he added.

Goyal said that the ongoing correction in the markets should serve as a wake-up call for the ones who have not advised the small investors properly, and asked Amfi to ensure that it invests those who have given bad advice to

clients. He also suggested that MFs should not give up on their duty and commitment to the larger market, and not concentrate on the returns alone.

Goyal, a chartered accountant, said the last 2-3 years have been a period of crazy growth in the market where the prices of a lot of stocks were driven by a compulsion of the market to deploy funds that they were receiving, and also the fear of missing out.

All the stakeholders have to reflect on the happenings in the recent past, he said, stressing that we cannot ignore the

perils of the investment culture we have seen developing in some parts of the market.

He seemed to be particularly concerned with the activity in smaller companies and wondered how an auto dealer commanded huge valuations recently.

Without taking names, Goyal said a free trade agreement with one country is "almost done" and two more are chasing the government for a similar pact.

Earlier in the day, speaking at the Mumbai Tech Week, he said AI was used during the discussions on an FTA with the European Commission.

He also said that the fledgling AI field doesn't require an "industry status".

"The ghost of the industry tag has become very outdated," he said, adding that if you get the industry status, one can call inspectors to private houses.

Sitharaman Urges User-Friendly Govt. Accounts

New Delhi: Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Saturday asked civil accounts services officials to work towards making the government's annual accounts more approachable and user-friendly.

Addressing the 49th Civil Accounts Day event here, Sitharaman lauded the Indian Civil Accounts Service (ICAS) officers, led by the Controller General of Accounts (CGA) for the "silent technological evolution" in which states are finding a lot more ease of operation and



ease of getting their government business done by adopting the public financial management system (PFMS). "I would also like you to examine, in consultation with the CAG,

whether it would be possible to make the annual accounts more approachable and user-friendly and allow the citizens to analyse easily and generate customisable and simpler reports,"

Sitharaman said. She said that since a lot of digital integration has already taken place with the states, more research can be carried out based on the data set available with the CGA.

"If you're able to make the report a lot more user-friendly, that itself can generate a lot of interest in the work that you do," the Minister said.

Sitharaman also asked both the Expenditure Department and the CGA to ensure that the SNA Sparsh is smoothly rolled out for all schemes in the upcoming financial year.

"CGA should handhold states in seamless onboarding and transition from whichever (platform) they have to the SNA Sparsh and convince them about the benefits of this reform and quick adaptation," she said.

PFMS, which is developed and implemented by the Controller General of Accounts (CGA) under the Department of Expenditure, provides an IT platform and ensures end-to-end digital payments, collection of receipts, accounting. It ensures effective cash

management in the Central Government system through 'Just in time' transfer of funds and complete tracking of realisation of funds from its release to its credit into the bank account of intended beneficiaries.

The SNA module ensures better monitoring of availability and utilisation of funds released to states under centrally sponsored schemes (CSS). SNA SPARSH is a system which ensures quick release of funds to states for CSS.

The SNA module currently includes 141 CSS, 4,972 state-linked

India Needs 7.3% Per Capita Growth to Reach 'Viksit Bharat' by 2047: Panagariya

New Delhi: The 16th Finance Commission Chairman Arvind Panagariya on Saturday said India's aim to become a developed nation by 2047 is a "realisable ambition" for which the country's per-capita income needs to grow at 7.3 per cent in real terms to USD 14,000 over the next 24 years.

India's per-capita income, in 2023-24 dollar terms, is about USD 2,570, which is very low compared to countries like South Korea, Taiwan, United States, and other European nations.

Speaking at the 49th Civil Accounts Day, Panagariya said with the existing technology, coupled with reasonable capital accumulation and skill acquisition, India has "enormous room" for "catching up" with the per-capita income of developed nations and meet World Bank's definition of USD 14,005 per capita income annually.

"Today, our per capita income in dollars is about USD 2,500. To get to USD 14,000 in 24 years or by 2047-48, what growth rate do I need for per capita income?... my per capita income from 2023-24 onward has to grow annually at 7.3 per cent," Panagariya said.

He further said that as per the estimates by the United Nations, population in India would grow 0.6 per cent by 2050. This would mean that to achieve that 7.3 per cent growth in per capita income, India's GDP will have to grow at 7.9 per cent during the next 24 years.

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He further said that as per the estimates by the United Nations, population in India would grow 0.6 per cent by 2050. This would mean that to achieve that 7.3 per cent growth in per capita income, India's GDP will have to grow at 7.9 per cent during the next 24 years.

Speaking at the 49th Civil Accounts Day, Panagariya said with the existing technology, coupled with reasonable capital accumulation and skill acquisition, India has "enormous room" for "catching up" with the per-capita income of developed nations and meet World Bank's definition of USD 14,005 per capita income annually.

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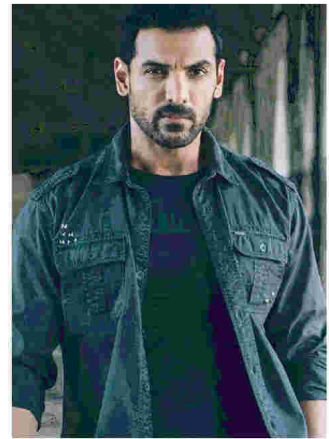


Don 3' will start shooting later this year: Farhan Akhtar

Mumbai Director-filmmaker Farhan Akhtar said he is determined to start filming for his much-awaited directorial "Don 3" later this year. The third part of the popular action franchise will see Bollywood star Ranveer Singh stepping into the iconic role of Don. The movie was officially announced in August

2023. "There is no delay, I'll start shooting 'Don 3' this year. I won't be able to do two films, 'Don 3' and 'Jee Le Zaraa' at the same time," Farhan, known for directing films like "Dil Chahta Hai", and "Lakshya", told reporters. Singh replaces superstar Shah Rukh Khan, who played Don in Farhan's 2006 movie, "Don" and its 2011 follow-up, "Don 2". The film also featured Priyanka Chopra Jonas as Khan's love interest, Roma. "Don 3" will feature Kiara Advani as the female lead. The franchise started after Excel Entertainment bought the rights to the Amitabh Bachchan-

starrer 1978 film of the same name, written by veteran writer duo Javed Akhtar and Salim Khan. Farhan said his other directorial venture, "Jee Le Zaraa", will take a while to begin filming. "It (Jee Le Zaraa) will depend on when the cast comes together. But right now, my focus is on 'Don 3'," he said. The film, themed on female friendships and road trips, will feature Priyanka Chopra Jonas, Katrina Kaif and Alia Bhatt. It was earlier scheduled to start production in 2022.



My career was built on criticism, I enjoy it: John Abraham

Mumbai Actor-producer John Abraham says he has often been written off in the industry in his over two-decade-long career but his audience has kept him going, something that he respects and wants to repay by telling good stories.

Abraham has hits in varied genres whether it is high-octane actioners like "Dhoom", "Race 2", "Satyameva Jayate", "Dishoom", and "Pathaan"; comedies such as "Garam Masala", "Dostana", "Housefull 2" or dramas like "Water", "No Smoking", "New York", "Madras Cafe", "Panna", and "Vedaa". "The actor, whose next release "The Diplomat" is inspired by true incidents, said the film will, hopefully, resonate with viewers in the brightest way possible. "People have, in the past, said that 'Panna' marked my low version because I'd disappeared for four years. These are obituaries that are written every day about me, and it's fine, I don't have a problem with it. My career has been built on criticism, I enjoy it," Abraham said in an interview. "The only thing that's kept me going in this is my audience. People in the trade, producers, critics they all judge you by numbers and I get all that, and I respect that. That's business. But the only people that have kept me going and have made me survive is my audience. And I made 'The Diplomat' for that audience," he added. The film industry had a terrible year in terms of box office and Abraham believes it is now important to focus on the basics that make any story click with the audience and that's writing. "My vision as a producer and as an actor is just to create good stories and reach out to a wider audience. Do I want the numbers? I want the Rs 100 crore, 200k, 300k and the 400 crores. We all want that, but we want that with good stories. That's the difference. "We as an audience and trade are putting too much stress into the bifurcation of how the money is being spent. We've to cut all this noise, go back to writing, go back to where we started from and why we wanted to make films." Admitting that he also has been "guilty" of prioritising box office, Abraham said he now recognises the significance of well-crafted stories.



Shreya Ghoshal's X account hacked

Mumbai

Actress Shreya Ghoshal on Saturday said that her X account has been hacked and warned fans not to access any link sent from her profile on the microblogging site. Ghoshal shared a post on her Instagram handle, saying that her X account was hacked on February 13, and she has been trying to get it restored ever since. "Hello fans and friends, My Twitter / X account is hacked since February 13th. I have tried everything in my capacity to reach out to the X team. But there has been no response beyond a few auto-generated responses, the 40-year-old singer wrote. Ghoshal said she can't even delete her account as she is unable to access it. "Please don't click on any link or believe any message written from that account. They are all spam and fishing links. I will update personally through a video if the account is recovered and is safe," she added. Earlier this year, actor Svara Bhasker's X account was hacked and was restored later.

Bobby Deol on playing villain roles: Want to break away from this image

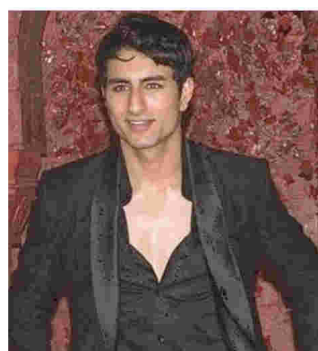
Mumbai He broke away from his hero image by playing a shady godman in "Aashram" and later a villain in "Animal". Now, Bobby Deol says he is trying to do it once again as he has been flooded with offers for negative characters. Deol, who also played antagonistic roles in "Race 3", "Love Hostel" and "Kanguva", said while it is exciting and challenging to portray villains, he wants to explore new and different roles. He credits filmmaker Prakash Jha for changing people's perception of him through the character of Baba Nirala in "Aashram". The show recently returned with the second part of its third season. "It changed my life, people saw me in a different light. They said, 'Oh, Bobby Deol can play an antagonist, or Bobby Deol can be like this or like that.' At that point in my life, no one was ready to believe that I could do that besides Prakashji. "But now I'm getting a positive reception to his recent performances has been motivating, said the actor, who completes 30 years in the industry this year. He made his acting debut with 1995's "Barsaat", co-starring Twinkle Khanna. "The characters I'm playing right now are outside my comfort zone. Initially, I felt shy about it because stepping into these roles meant pushing myself and working really hard. "There's always a bit of hesitation about how others will react to your work. But when the response is positive, it feels good. Deep down, every human being wants to be told they're good at what they do. And when you put in the hard work and receive so much love in return, it's just an amazing feeling," Deol also spoke about the Lord Bobby phenomenon, a humorous way for fans to honor his contribution to Hindi cinema and pop culture.

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Ibrahim Ali Khan, Khushi Kapoor's 'Nadaaniyan' trailer unveils

New Delhi Get ready to experience the magic and madness of first love with Netflix's upcoming original film, "Nadaaniyan". The highly anticipated trailer, launched on March 1, 2025, offers a glimpse into the whirlwind romance between Pia Jai Singh (Khushi Kapoor) and Arjun Mehta (Ibrahim Ali Khan), two individuals from different worlds who think they have everything under control until emotions catch up. Directed by Shauna Gautam and produced by Karan Johar, Apoorva Mehta, and Somen Mishra under Dharmatic Entertainment, "Nadaaniyan" promises to bring a rollercoaster ride of heartfelt emotions to Netflix on March 7, 2025. Sharing the trailer with fans on his Instagram handle, Karan Johar wrote, "It's a new semester of love & everyone's hoping to pass this test! Starring Ibrahim Ali Khan and Khushi Kapoor, watch Nadaaniyan, out 7 March, only on Netflix." The film marks the debut of Ibrahim Ali Khan alongside Khushi Kapoor and boasts an impressive cast, including Mahima Chaudhary, Suniel Shetty, Dia Mirza, and Jugal Hansraj in pivotal roles. The story revolves around Pia, a South Delhi diva determined to script her perfect love story, and Arjun, a middle-class overachiever with his sights set on becoming the debate team captain. Their worlds collide when Pia ropes Arjun into a transitional arrangement – posing as her boyfriend to pull off the perfect romantic facade. However, as real feelings



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sneak in, misunderstandings take over, leaving the duo questioning whether love can ever be scripted. Shauna Gautam, the director of "Nadaaniyan", shared her experience of working on the film and said in a press note, "Directing Nadaaniyan has been an incredibly special journey for me, especially as my first film. This story is close to my heart, capturing the innocence and often surprising nature of first love." She added, "Collaborating with Karan sir and Dharmatic Entertainment has been a dream, and their support has been invaluable in bringing this vision to life. Working with such an amazing cast, particularly Ibrahim in his debut role, has been an absolute joy."

Al Pacino to star in hostage thriller 'Dead Man's Wire'

Washington Academy Award-winning actor Al Pacino is set to star in the upcoming hostage thriller "Dead Man's Wire", directed by Academy Award nominee Gus Van Sant. According to Deadline, the film is based on the true story of a gripping hostage situation that captivated the world in 1977. The screenplay for "Dead Man's Wire" was penned by Austin Kolodney, and the film already boasts an impressive ensemble cast. Joining Pacino in the thriller are Bill Skarsgard, Dacre Montgomery, Myha'la, Cary Elwes, and Colman Domingo, all of whom were previously announced. The plot of "Dead Man's Wire" is based on the real-life events of February 8, 1977, when Anthony G "Tony" Kirtis, a 44-year-old man, entered the office of Richard O. Hall, the president of Meridian Mortgage Company, and took him hostage. Armed with a sawed-off

12-gauge shotgun wired to his own neck by a "dead man's wire," Tony demanded USD 5 million, immunity from charges, and a personal apology from the Hall family for cheating him out of money he believed was owed to him. This high-stakes standoff will be brought to life on screen by Van Sant, known for his previous work on films such as "Good Will Hunting" and "Milk". This marks the first collaboration between Pacino and Van Sant. Pacino, who won the Academy Award for Best Actor for his role in "Scent of a Woman", most recently appeared in "Knox Goes Away".

