

TOP STORY



Steve Smith announces ODI retirement after 170 matches

Terrorist responsible for 2021 Kabul airport bombing being extradited to face justice in US: President Trump

50,000 more government jobs to be given to youth, says Punjab CM



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MARKET	
SENSEX	NIFTY
72730.23	22337.30
740.30	254.65
GOLD	SILVER
86,002.00	97,493.00
-24.00	1,237.00

WEATHER	
Sunrise	6:42 AM
Sunset	6:24 PM
Moonrise	10:51 AM
Moonset	1:37 AM
Today's Prediction	
Maximum	Minimum
27°C	13°C
Tomorrow's Prediction	
27°C	12°C

Trump announces reciprocal tariffs against India from April

■ US President Donald Trump defends tariffs, says India imposes over 100 per cent auto tariff, calls trade policies of EU, China, Brazil, Mexico, and Canada 'unfair'

■ This comes just weeks after PM Narendra Modi's visit to the US raised hopes among Indian industry that a trade deal with America could help New Delhi secure relief from sweeping tariffs

Washington
United States President Donald Trump criticised the high tariffs charged by India and other countries, terming them as "very unfair" and announced reciprocal tariffs from April 2 on nations that impose levies on American goods.

Trump made these remarks in an address to the Joint Session of the Congress on Tuesday. It was the first address of his second term in the White House. On January 20, Trump was sworn in as the 47th President of the US.

"If you don't make your product in America, however, under the Trump administration, you will pay a tariff and in some cases, a rather large one," Trump said. "Other countries have used tariffs against us for decades and now it's our turn to start using them against those other countries. On average, the European Union, China, Brazil, India, Mexico and Canada — have you heard



of them? And countless other nations charge us tremendously higher tariffs than we charge them," Trump said. "It's very unfair. India charges us auto tariffs higher than 100 per cent."

In February, President Trump said that his administration would "soon" impose reciprocal tariffs on countries such

as India and China, reiterating what he had said during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to the US capital last month.

Trump has made it clear to Prime Minister Modi that India will not be spared from Washington's reciprocal tariffs and emphasised that "nobody can argue with me" on tariff structure.

"China's average tariff on our products is twice what we charge them. And South Korea's average tariff is four times higher. Think of that. Four times higher. And we give so much help militarily and in so many other ways to South Korea. But that's what happens. This is happening by friend and foe," Trump said.

"We've been ripped off for decades by nearly every country on earth, and we will not let that happen any longer," Trump said.

Asserting that this system is "not fair to the United States" and never was, Trump said that reciprocal tariffs will kick in from April 2.

"Whatever they tariff us, other countries, we will tariff them. That's reciprocal, back and forth," Trump said amid applause from Republican lawmakers.

"Whatever they tax us, we will tax them. If they do non-monetary tariffs to keep us out of their market, then we will do non-monetary barriers to keep them out of our market. There's a lot of that. They don't even allow us in their market. We will take in trillions and trillions of dollars and create jobs like we have never seen before," Trump said.

He added that "I did it with China, and I did it with others and the Biden administration

CONTD ON PAGE-2

Fadnavis vows to put Azmi in jail as Akhilesh backs his MLA



Mumbai
Samajwadi Party MLA Abu Asim Azmi, suspended from the Maharashtra assembly over his remarks praising Mughal emperor Aurangzeb, will be '100 per cent' put in jail, Chief Minister Minister Devendra Fadnavis said in the legislative council.

Members of the treasury benches asserted in the assembly that Aurangzeb's praise amounted to insult of Maratha king Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj and his warrior-son Chhatrapati Sambhaji Maharaj, both revered figures in Maharashtra.

Azmi, suspended from the assembly till the ongoing budget session ends on March 26, pro-

tested against the action, saying he has been punished despite retracting his controversial remarks.

In the legislative council, when Fadnavis was asked by Leader of Opposition Ambadas Danve of the Shiv Sena-Uddhav Balasahab Thackeray why Azmi was not jailed by his remarks, he said the MLA from Mankhurd-Shivaji Nagar in Mumbai will be '100 per cent' put in jail.

Shiv Sena-UBT Thackeray, an MLC, asserted no one should dare speak against national icons and it is the government's responsibility to take strict action against those who make offensive remarks against them. Agency

U.S. SC rejects Trump bid to freeze \$2 billion in foreign aid

Washington
The justices said the federal judge who ordered the resumption of payments for contracts with the USAID and State Department "should clarify what obligations the Government must fulfill"

Washington: A divided Supreme Court on Wednesday rejected the Trump administration's request to keep billions of dollars in foreign aid approved by Congress frozen.

However, the court did not immediately say when the money must be released, allowing the White House to continue to dispute the issue in lower courts.

The ruling was 5-4. The order was unsigned but four conservative justices dissented — Samuel Alito, Clarence Thomas, Neil Gorsuch and Brett Kavanaugh. That put five justices in the majority,



Chief Justice John Roberts, Amy Coney Barrett, Elena Kagan, Sonia Sotomayor and Ketanji Brown Jackson.

The majority noted that given a court-ordered deadline to spend the money last week had already passed, the lower courts should "clarify what obligations the government must fulfill to ensure compliance with the temporary restraining order."

In a strongly worded dissent, Alito wrote that he was "stunned" by the court's decision to

permit the lower-court judge to order the administration to unfreeze the foreign aid at issue in the case.

Alito added: "A federal court has many tools to address a party's supposed nonfeasance. Self-aggrandizement of its jurisdiction is not one of them."

While the ruling was 5-4, it was "extremely modest," said Steve Vladeck, CNN Supreme Court analyst and professor at Georgetown University Law Center. Agency

New Zealand rout South Africa; face India in final

Lahore
Rachin Ravindra and Kane Williamson struck commanding centuries as New Zealand hammered South Africa by 50 runs in a high-scoring semi-final to set up a summit clash with India in the Champions Trophy, here on Wednesday.

Ravindra played a brilliant knock of 108 runs off 101 balls, laced with 13 fours and a six, while Williamson struck 102 off 94 balls, including 10 fours and two sixes, after skipper Mitchell Santner opted to bat.

Daryl Mitchell (49 off 37 balls), Glenn Phillips (49 not out off 27 balls) and Michael Bracewell (16 off 12 balls) then capitalized on the solid foundation, adding 112 runs in the final 10 overs to power New Zealand to a massive total



of 362/6 -- the highest score in Champions Trophy history.

Only twice has a higher target been successfully chased in ODIs—both by South Africa—but this time it was not to be as the Proteas were restricted to 312 for 9 in pursuit of the record

target, despite a scintillating century from Daryll Miller (100 not out off 67 balls) and fighting fifties by Rassie van der Dussen (69) and skipper Temba Bavuma (56).

Santner (3/43) was the most successful New Zealand bowler, as he, along with the other

spinners—Michael Bracewell (1/53), Glenn Phillips (2/27) and Ravindra (1/20)—tightened the screws in the middle overs.

New Zealand will now face former champions India in the final on Sunday in Dubai. Agency

U.S. pauses intelligence sharing with Ukraine

Washington
The U.S. has paused its intelligence sharing with Ukraine, cutting off the flow of vital information that has helped the war-torn nation target Russian invaders, but Trump administration officials said Wednesday that positive talks between Washington and Kyiv mean it may only be a short suspension.

Information about Russia's intentions and military movements has been critical to Ukraine's defense and a strong indication of support from the U.S. and other Western allies. The suspension comes after Trump paused military aid to Ukraine and is another



sign of how he has transformed America's relationship with close allies. "We have taken a step back and are pausing and reviewing all aspects of this relationship," national security adviser Mike Waltz said

Wednesday. Comments from top Trump administration officials suggest the decision is part of the broader negotiations between Trump and Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy to negotiate a

HIGHLIGHT

Central Intelligence Agency director says the pause "on the military front and the intelligence front" was temporary, and the United States will again "work shoulder to shoulder with Ukraine"

peace deal with Russia, and that intelligence could begin flowing to Ukraine again soon. CIA Director John Ratcliffe called the suspension a "pause" and said it came after the disastrous meeting between Trump and Zelenskyy in the Oval Office

last week. Ratcliffe said Trump wanted to know that Zelenskyy was serious about peace.

"On the military front and the intelligence front, the pause that allowed that to happen will go away, and I think we'll work shoulder to shoulder with Ukraine as we have," Ratcliffe said.

U.S. intelligence assistance is vital for Ukraine to track Russian troop movements and select targets. Ukrainians use the information when operating U.S.-supplied High Mobility Artillery Rocket Systems, or HIMARS, and the U.S. Army Tactical Missile System, known as AT-ACMS. Agency

LS delimitation: TN CM Stalin moots Joint Action Committee of MPs

Chennai
Stepping up the pressure on Centre, Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M K Stalin on Wednesday proposed that the 1971 Census be the basis for delimitation of Parliamentary constituencies for 30 years starting 2026 and favoured a Joint Action Committee (JAC) involving all southern states to press for related demands.

At an all-party meeting on delimitation here that was attended by main opposition AIADMK among others, Stalin, moving a resolution, said that in the event of increase in the number of seats in Parliament,



the 1971 Census should be the basis for it and that appropriate Constitutional amendment should be done. Also, the 1971 population data should be the basis for delimitation

of LS seats for 30 years from 2026 and Prime Minister Narendra Modi should make an assurance in the Parliament, he asserted.

The JAC is to take forward such demands and create awareness among the people and the meet unanimously opposed delimitation exercise based on population, which will be a "threat to federalism and the rights of southern states to political representation."

Tamil Nadu's present representative percentage in Parliament, which is 7.18, should not be changed under any circumstances. Agency

Trump announces reciprocal tariffs against India from April 2

CONT FROM PAGE-1 couldn't do anything about it because it was so much money they couldn't do anything about it.

He added that the US has very large deficits with both Mexico and Canada.

"But even more importantly, they have allowed fantasy to come into our country at levels never seen before, killing hundreds of thousands of our citizens and many very young, beautiful people, destroying families. Nobody's ever seen anything like it. They are in effect receiving subsidies of hundreds of billions of dollars. We pay subsidies to Canada and to Mexico of hundreds of billions of dollars. And the United States will not be doing that any longer. We are not going to do it any longer."

Trump is implementing a 25 per cent additional tariff on imports from Canada and Mexico and a 10 per cent additional tariff on imports from China. In a retaliatory action, Canada said that effective March 4, 2025, it is imposing 25 per cent tariffs on USD 30 billion in goods imported from the United States.

Mexico said it will announce reciprocal action on Sunday.

China also announced it will impose additional tariffs of up to 15 per cent on imports of key US farm products.

In the past, Trump has called India "tariff king" and a "big abuser".

Last month, during a joint press conference with Prime Minister Modi in the White House, Trump had said that India has "been very strong on tariffs", and "I don't blame them, necessarily, but it's a different way of doing business. It's very hard to sell into India because they have trade barriers, very strong tariffs."

Trump had noted that as a signal of good faith, Modi had recently announced the reductions to India's "unfair, very strong tariffs" that limit US access into the Indian market very strongly.

Advt Contact: 9818-799941

DRDO conducts high-altitude trials of integrated life-support system for pilots onboard Tejas jets

New Delhi: The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has successfully conducted high-altitude trials of an indigenous life support system for pilots onboard Tejas light combat aircraft.

The defence ministry said cutting-edge life support systems have been designed to generate and regulate breathable oxygen for pilots during flight, eliminating dependence on traditional cylinder-based oxygen.

The trials were conducted on Tuesday. With appropriate modifications, the system can also be adapted for use in MiG-29K and other aircraft, the ministry said.

"The Defence Bio-Engineering & Electro Medical Laboratory, a Bengaluru-based lab under the DRDO successfully conducted high-altitude trials of the Indigenous On-Board Oxygen Generating System (OBOGS)-based Integrated Life Support System (ILSS) for the LCA Tejas aircraft on March 4," the it said.



LCA Tejas aircraft on March 4, the it said. The ILSS underwent rigorous testing on the LCA-prototype vehicle-3 aircraft of Hindustan

Aeronautics Limited (HAL) meeting stringent aeromedical standards in varied flight conditions, including altitudes of up to 50,000 feet above mean sea level and high-G maneuvers, it added.

"Following flight clearance from Centre for Military Airworthiness & Certification (CEMILAC), the system successfully met all specified parameters," the ministry said in a statement.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh congratulated

ed the DRDO, the Indian Air Force, public sector undertakings, and industry partners on the "remarkable achievement".

Singh emphasised that this development reinforces India's commitment to cutting-edge defence technologies and aligns with the vision of "Viksit Bharat 2047".

The system has been manufactured by L&T as a development cum production partner of the DRDO, reflecting a significant collaboration between the premier defence research institution and defence industries.

The ILSS has 90 per cent indigenous content, furthering India's self-reliance in aerospace technology, according to the ministry.

Secretary, Department of Defence R&D and Chairman DRDO, Samir V Kamat lauded the DRDO team, the IAF, and industry

"Abu Azmi should be permanently suspended": Uddhav Thackeray



Mumbai: Shiv Sena (UBT) chief Uddhav Thackeray supported the suspension of Samajwadi Party Maharashtra MLA Abu Azmi from the budget session, saying that the "suspension should be permanent."

"He should be permanently suspended. It should not just be for the Budget Session, the suspension should be permanent," Thackeray told reporters on Wednesday.

Shiv Sena (UBT) chief also reacted to Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav's 'X' post on Abu Azmi's suspension, saying that "Let him object if he wants to. The entire Maharashtra has raised an objection against him. If he wants, he should make him contest from there (UP). He does not know the truth."

Earlier, Akhilesh Yadav criticized the suspension of party leader Abu Azmi, alleging that ideological differences on such actions undermines democratic values.

ECI provides digital push for continuous capacity building of functionaries at all levels

New Delhi: The two-day conference of Chief Electoral Officer (CEOs) of all States and Union Territories at the India International Institute of Democracy and Election Management (IIDEM) concluded here in Delhi on Wednesday.

The outcome of the conference will take the shape of key deliverables, namely animated video, audiobook, e-book, and integrated dashboard for each of the identified 28 stakeholders as per the existing statutory framework and ECI instructions issued from time to time, the ECI said in a release.

According to the ECI release, adopting a modern approach to capacity building, a capsule of animated videos will be produced for each stakeholder, comprehensively covering all aspects of elections related to them. These animated videos will be a handy way for each stakeholder for self-paced continuous learning.

In line with CEC Gyanesh Kumar's vision and conviction to deploy technology to bring in system efficiencies in elections, it was decided

that a unified IT architecture with a customised dashboard would be devised to facilitate different stakeholders. The single window platform would streamline the input and output flow of information with role-based access. This will smoothen communication between the functionaries with in-built cross-verification to minimise any human error.

On the second day of the conference, CEC Gyanesh Kumar along with ECS Sukbir Singh Sandhu & Vivek Joshi reviewed the actionable points presented by each CEO for timely delivery of key deliverables. Each CEO has been assigned a distinct stakeholder.

The sessions also signalled a renewed energy to be channelled into strengthening communication at CEO & DEO level for quick response to misinformation and local issues within their domain. CEOs also discussed the need to enhance reach on social media for continuous engagement with voters, in the fast evolving media landscape, the ECI said in its release.

New Court Building Inaugurated to Strengthen Judicial System in Bulandshahr

Avnish Tyagi Bulandshahr:

In a significant development aimed at strengthening the judicial system in Bulandshahr, the Chief Justice of the Allahabad High Court, Justice Arun Bhasali, virtually inaugurated the newly constructed court building in the district court premises on Wednesday evening. The virtual inauguration was followed by a formal ribbon-cutting ceremony, led by the Administrative Judge of the Allahabad High Court, Justice JJ Munir, and District Judge Manjit Singh Shayoran, after the completion of traditional rituals.

The newly constructed court building, built at an estimated cost of Rs 41.15 crore, consists of 19 rooms, designed to enhance judicial efficiency and infrastructure in the district. The structure aims to facilitate better court proceedings, ensuring timely justice for litigants by providing improved facilities and better working conditions for judicial officers and legal professionals.

The construction of the building was undertaken by Unit 7, C&DS, Pradesh Jal Nigam (Urban), Meerut. The entire project was completed within the stipulated timeline, ensuring that all necessary requirements for a modern judicial facility were met.

The event witnessed the presence of several prominent judicial figures. Senior Judge of the Allahabad High Court and Chairman of the Infrastructure Committee, Justice Manoj Kumar Gupta, attended the ceremony, further emphasizing the importance of the occasion. His participation highlighted the judiciary's commitment to enhancing infrastructure and efficiency across the state's judicial network.

Following the inauguration, Justice JJ Munir, accompanied by District Judge Manjit Singh Shayoran, inspected the newly built facility to ensure that all aspects of the construction were in accordance with judicial requirements. Their thorough review underscored the importance of creating a conducive environment for both legal practitioners and citizens seeking justice.

The inauguration of the modern court building and highlighted the judiciary's dedication to providing improved infrastructure for the betterment of the legal system.



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PUBLIC NOTICE

THE PUBLIC AT LARGE TAKE NOTICE THAT MY CLIENT SMT. RAJKUMARI COUSHI RAILLOR HOUSE NO. 274-A, BLOCK-1, EXTENSION, ARIYAN GARDENS, UTTAM NAGAR, WEST DELHI, DELHI-110059 HEREBY DISMISSES HER SON (SH. PAPPU SINGH) & DAUGHTER-IN-LAW (SMT. NEHA) FROM ALL HER PROPERTIES MOVABLE AND IMMovable HEREAFTER OF HER DAUGHTER-IN-LAW'S BAD CHARACTER AND UNCONTROLLABLE BEHAVIOUR. THE SAID PERSONS WOULD THEREFORE BE NO LONGER SON AND DAUGHTER-IN-LAW OF MY CLIENT. THE SAID PERSONS WILL NOT INHERIT ANY PROPERTY OF MY CLIENT. AFTER THE DEATH OF MY CLIENT MY CLIENT SHALL NOT BE RESPONSIBLE FOR ANY QUARREL, CRIMINAL/CIVIL CASE, OR OTHER ACTS OF THEM OR FOR ANY DEBTS INCURRED BY THEM.

Ja! Singh Yadav Advocate, C/o No. 628, Lawyer's Chamber Block, Dwarka Court Complex, New Delhi-75. Mob. 9891592456

PUBLIC NOTICE

Information is given to general public: It is hereby notified that ARJUN GAITAM who is/was purchasing the RESIDENTIAL PLOT AREA MEASURING 38 SQ. YARDS (i.e. 31.77 SQ. METERS) (G/T OF KHANSA NO. 1603, SITUATED AT SUBHASH PARK, IN THE VILLAGE LOHI (CHAKHANDI BAHAKH, TEHSIL, LOHI, DISTRICT GHAZIABAD, from Mr. Suresh Sharma S/o Mr. Mohan Lal Sharma who was the owner of property by virtue of Sale Deed dated 13.05.2024 (Doc. No. 8795) executed by Mr. Banti S/o Mr. Lakshman. Intend to mortgage the same against the financial assistance from Hero Housing Finance Limited. The OPA (Hood Relation) dated 25.02.2024 executed by Mrs. Raj Bala w/o Late Mr. Laxman in favour of Mr. Banti S/o Mr. Lakshman as Doc. No. 7240, which has been executed Outside Territorial Jurisdiction. To comply the requirements of BANKING, we give this public notice that the person(s) having any objection regarding ownership and/or creating mortgage of the said property should be requested to intimate in writing to the undersigned within 07 days at below address.

NCR LAW ASSOCIATES Advocates & Consultants A-98, Sector-9, New Vija Nagar, Ghaziabad, (U.P.)-201009 Mob. Nos. 9999721152

Gujarat CM inaugurates SemiConnect Conference; eight MoUs signed

Gandhinagar (Gujarat): Gujarat Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel affirmed that Gujarat is poised to play a pivotal role in the global semiconductor demand-supply chain.

In this context, he added that in this era of modern development, it is impossible to imagine industrial progress without semiconductors. Gujarat, with several state-of-the-art facilities related to electronics and semiconductors, has become the top choice for setting up semiconductor units in the country.

The Chief Minister was addressing the inauguration of the Gujarat SemiConnect Conference 2025 and exhibition, organised by the state government's Science and Technology Department in Gandhinagar.



by the Gujarat CMO, this three-day conference is witnessing the participation of more than 1,500 delegates from various countries and India, along with over 250 exhibitors. In the presence of the Chief Minister, the conference saw the signing of eight MoUs for investments in the semiconductor and fab sector, the launch of the Semiconductor Supply Chain Com-

mission, and the laying of the e-foundation stone for a hospital, an international school, and a fire station to be built in Dholera.

The Chief Minister stated that under the leadership of the Prime Minister, India's global position in emerging fields like semiconductors, artificial intelligence, machine learning, and drone technology is strengthening day

by day. He also highlighted that Gujarat has launched the Gujarat State Electronics Mission in line with the Indian government's vision to develop a strong electronics manufacturing ecosystem.

He added that Gujarat had already implemented a dedicated Semiconductor Policy in 2022. Not only that but recognizing the vast growth potential of the semiconductor industry in Dholera, Gujarat has started developing it as the country's first greenfield smart city with plug-and-play facilities.

The Chief Minister also provided details about the Global Capability Center Policy, which has been announced to promote AI, machine learning, and analytics technology, industries, and startups in Gujarat.

Highlighting Gujarat's rapid progress in developing high-tech manpower in the semiconductor sector, he noted that Gujarat has emerged as a global hub in fields like textiles, pharmaceuticals, diamonds, chemicals and petrochemicals, ceramics, and renewable energy. He further stated that Gujarat, the land of opportunities, aims to become a centre for a high-tech manufacturing revolution through global collaboration in innovation, unlocking limitless development possibilities.

Extending his best wishes for the success of the conference, the Chief Minister expressed hope that the discussions, panel discussions, and outcomes of the three-day conference would become a milestone in taking the semiconductor sector to new heights.

Women forced to mortgage their gold jewellery under Modi govt: Kharge

New Delhi: Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge on Wednesday said women have been forced to "mortgage" their gold jewellery under Prime Minister Narendra Modi-led government at the Centre.

Recalling Prime Minister's "snatching mangalsutra" remarks during the 2024 Lok Sabha elections, Kharge said, "Narendra Modi ji, you talked about 'stealing the mangalsutra'. That has now come true. Under your rule, women have been forced to mortgage their gold jewellery."

Notably, Modi during the general elections had said that Congress was snatching "mangalsutra" of women as part of its intention to redistribute wealth.

"Between 2019 and 2024, four crore women have taken loans worth Rs 4.7 lakh crore by mortgaging their gold. Gold loans will account for 38 per cent of the total loans taken by women in 2024. RBI data in February 2025 showed that gold loans increased by a massive 71.3 per cent in a year," the Congress chief said.

Kharge, who is also the Leader of Opposition in Rajya Sabha while attacking the Prime Minister said, "First you made the women's 'stridhan' disappear by implementing demonetization, now due to inflation and falling household savings, they are forced to mortgage their most valuable thing - their jewellery."

He also accused the Prime Minister of worsening the condition of the economy to such an extent that the middle-class families who bought two-wheelers are now unable to pay their loans.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Flats to be allotted online in Yamuna city from March 10

There is still a chance to buy a flat in sector-22D of the Yamuna Expressway Industrial Development Authority (YEIDA) area.

Anyone can buy a flat on the basis of first come first serve. The last date to book a flat under the scheme is March 31.

At present, 58 flats are left, which have been surrendered by the allottees. These include flats of all three categories including 17 flats of 99.86 square meter, 25 of 54.75 square meter and 16 flats of 29.75 square meter are vacant.

This may be the last chance for people to buy a flat at affordable rate. Preparations are underway to increase the land prices in the authority area from April.

Notice issued to society for violation of pollution norms

The Uttar Pradesh Pollution Control Board (UP PCB) has issued a notice to the management of Ajnara Homes Society in Greater Noida West for not showing the no objection certificate (NOC) for the Sewage Treatment Plant (STP) and diesel generator (DG) set.

The UP PCB has repeatedly asked the society to show the NOC, asserting if this is not done, action will be taken by imposing a fine. The Pollution Control Board team inspected Ajnara Homes Society on March 3 on the complaint of local people.

During the inspection, samples of water being treated in the STP have been sent to the Ghaziabad laboratory for testing. In two DGs operating in the society, though chimneys were found to be higher than the towers, the chimney in one DG set was found to be operating without gas or without retrofitted as per the instructions of the Commission for Air Quality Monitoring (CAQM).

The Greater Noida Authority had inspected the society last week. During the inspection, the garbage accumulated in the basement of the society was not being disposed of properly. The authority had imposed a fine of Rs 100800 on the management.

Transport Minister directs to run intense drive against unregistered vehicles on Delhi's roads

Abhishek Byahut New Delhi Delhi Transport Minister Dr. Pankaj Kumar Singh on Wednesday reviewed the transport department's operations with senior officials present, including those from the Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) and the Delhi Transport Corporation (DTC).

He announced a campaign against unregistered vehicles on Delhi's roads to combat vehicle encroachment.

During the meeting, Dr. Singh presented a 100-day plan to improve the city's transport infrastructure in



line with the 'Viksit Delhi' vision of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. He instructed actions

against fuel stations supplying fuel to vehicles without valid fitness certificates and emphasized that

the Minister called for more manpower in the enforcement department and highlighted the need for better road safety compliance.

He also reviewed the progress of live tracking for public transport, including commercial vehicles, and urged officials to speed up its implementation to boost passenger security.

The DTC was directed to create a plan to address its financial losses, while the Delhi Transport Infrastructure Development Corporation (DTIDC) was praised for its financial management.

The government plans to launch three new inter-

state bus terminals at Tikri Border, Mundka, and Narela to reduce congestion and improve connectivity.

Dr. Singh also evaluated major metro expansion projects and urged for the swift completion of important corridors. He assessed the implementation of the Delhi Electric Vehicle (EV) policy and called for revised targets.

The Minister criticized the previous government's inefficiency and stressed a proactive approach to modernizing Delhi's transport network, affirming the commitment to enhancing safety and sustainability in public transport.

PUBLIC NOTICE

My client Sh. Harichand, S/o Lt. Sh. Babu Lal and Smt. Shakuntala W/o Sh. Sh. Harichand, Both R/o J.No.85, Railway Road, Shadi Nagar, Azadpur, Village Sujanpur Pur, North West Delhi-110033, has disowned/debarred their son Prakash, daughter-in-law Somwati W/o Prakash and grandson Master Chitransh, from all their movable, immovable property and have severed all connections due to their disrespect, misbehavior and out of control. Anybody dealing with them, my client shall not be responsible for their act and conduct.

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is hereby informed to the general public on behalf of my client Mr. Anand Vihar Termination, Badi, Ballabhgarh, Delhi-110092 has severed relationship with his father Sh. Sanjay Jain from all his movable and immovable properties for being unloving, pernicious and uncaring towards him. My client has also severed and disowned all the relations with him. If anyone deals with him, he/she/they may do so at his/her/their own risk, cost and consequences. My client shall not be responsible for the acts, deeds and misdeeds of their abandoned father in future.

GreNo Authority carries out anti-encroachment drive

The Greater Noida Authority on Wednesday carried out anti-encroachment drive on the notified area in village Tilpata Karanwas and freed about 10.6 sq mtr of land from encroachment.

The colonisers were trying to do illegal plotting on this land. The police team was also present during the said anti-encroachment drive. The value of the freed land is estimated to be more than Rs 22 crore.

In this connection, the team of the authority took action in Tilpata Karanwas on Wednesday. GreNo Authority CEO N. Prerna Singh said that an illegal colony was

Anti-encroachment drive carried out near Yamuna floodplain in Delhi

An anti-encroachment drive was carried out on Wednesday near the Yamuna floodplain area in Delhi's north-east Shastrri Park, leading to protests from local residents against the authority.

"To maintain law and order and prevent any disruptions during the demolition, a heavy police force was deployed, along with paramilitary personnel," a senior police official said.

Pinly Kashyap (21), a five-month pregnant woman with a one-and-a-half-year-old daughter to take care of, said, "Where will I go with my child in this condition? We don't have enough money to rent a house or a room. My husband earns only Rs

Anti-encroachment drive carried out near Yamuna floodplain in Delhi

12,000 a month and, in a city like Delhi, it is extremely difficult to afford rent, along with other expenses." Her husband works as a shopkeeper in Greater Kailash. Seema, in her 50s, has lived under the fear of displacement. That fear has now become a reality.



Authorities had issued an eviction notice on Sunday to residents of the locality near the Old Iron Bridge, instructing them to vacate their homes by Monday. The demolition drive, part of the Yamuna beautification project, was scheduled for Tuesday and Wednesday.

According to a local, around 200 families residing there were served the eviction notice on March 2.

stant fear that someone might come and ask us to leave. We are poor, where will we go with our children? If we could afford to pay rent, we would not have been living here," she said.

Delhi CM inspects Shalimar Bagh, directs officials to resolve civic issues promptly

Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta took stock of the civic issues faced by the residents of Shalimar Bagh on Wednesday and directed officials of different agencies to take immediate action for their resolution.

Inspecting the BW Block of Shalimar Bagh, she emphasised the need for taking up urgent restoration work wherever necessary and instructed the authorities to complete a plantation drive within a month.

"Even the minor issues of the public will be addressed with full commitment. Each officer's responsibility and accountability will be clearly defined to ensure swift resolution," Gupta said.

In a post on X, the chief minister said, "Reached the site in BW Block of Shalimar Bagh along with officials of the Jal Board, MCD, and PWD. Listened to the problems of the locals and gave strict instructions to officials to resolve them quickly. We are fully committed to solving even the smallest problems of the public."

Delhi CM met with women's organizations & educationists to discuss Viksit Delhi budget

Women's safety, financial assistance, increasing women's participation, better education, CCTV cameras, and availability of toilets etc. were the main topics raised by women.

Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta on Wednesday met with various women's organisations to discuss the Viksit Delhi budget, focusing on important topics like women's safety, financial support, increased participation, better education, installation of CCTV cameras, and availability of toilets.

The women expressed their concerns during the Mahila Samvad at Delhi Vidhan Sabha, and CM Gupta assured that promises in the Sankalp Patra would be fulfilled effectively.

Gupta appreciated the open dialogue and highlighted the importance of addressing women's needs



in shaping the Developed Delhi Budget. She mentioned the government's commitment to complete unfinished tasks in health, education, and special facilities for women. Additionally, she announced plans for similar programs over the next three days, aiming to engage with families in slums and connect with youth and other stakeholders.

Gupta is dedicated to improving the living standards of all citizens, especially women, by creating a budget that meets diverse community needs.

Furthermore, CM Gupta also met with education experts at the Delhi Secretariat to discuss improvements to the education system, aspiring to make it the best in the country. Participants shared their suggestions for enhancing education, and Gupta viewed the discussions as a positive step.

She noted that public input is being taken seriously, with many ideas coming through email and WhatsApp for budget consideration. Gupta reassured that the upcoming budget will prioritize the needs of Delhi's people and strengthen the education system.

1,300 tonnes of refuse extracted from Yamuna: Parvesh Verma

Delhi Irrigation and Flood Control Minister Parvesh Verma on Wednesday inspected the Yamuna cleaning campaign and held a review meeting with officials to assess the progress, discussing future plans.

He inspected the ongoing cleaning campaign from Boat Club, Signature Bridge and TIO Chhath Ghat.

Verma stated that the Bharatiya Janata Party's (BJP) double-engine government was executing a well-planned roadmap and a concrete action plan for Yamuna's cleaning and conservation. He highlighted that after the BJP's victory in Delhi, the Yamuna cleaning drive was accelerated, leading to the removal of 1,300 metric tons of waste from the river so far.

Naxal operative living as house-hold nabbed in North West Delhi

The Crime Branch of the Delhi Police has arrested a 23-year-old woman Naxalite operative who had been living in Pitampura under a false identity and working as a house cleaner, officials said on Wednesday.

The accused, identified as "R" (changed name), is a resident of Kudaburu village in Jharkhand's West Singhbhum district. She was wanted in a case registered by the Sonna police.

According to Delhi Crime Branch officials, "R" had undergone rigorous and intense training for five years and was involved in three encounters with the Jharkhand police in 2018, 2019, and 2020.

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NORTHERN RAILWAY

Applications are invited under scheme of 'One Station One Product' for setting up:

- A. Total Seven (07) Stall at: Delhi, Ghaziabad, Samalkha, Sonapat, Meerut Cantt., Bahadurgarh & Gurgaon stations. B. Total Twenty Six (26) Trolley at: Anand Vihar Termination, Badi, Ballabhgarh, Delhi Kishanganj, Deoband, Fardabada Jakhai, Jind, Mansa, Narwana, Tohana, Khatauli, Muradnagar, Narela, Okhla, Palam, Sakoti Tanda, Shamli, Tapri, Tughlakabad, Julana, Sampla, Delhi Safdarjung, Tialik Bridge & Medinagar stations.

- The period for setting up of stall at Ghaziabad, Samalkha, Sonapat, Gurgaon, Bahadurgarh & Meerut Cantt. stations per stall will be 90 days. The period for setting up of Trolley at stations mentioned in (B) above will be 30 days per stall.

- Registration fee for NSG 1, 2, 3 & 4 stations will be charged @ rate of Rs. 2000 for each stall of thirty days and for NSG 5 (Badi, Delhi Kishanganj, Deoband, Jakhai, Jind, Mansa, Narwana, Tohana, Muradnagar, Khatauli, Okhla, Shamli, Tapri, Meerut Cantt., Julana, Sampla, Shivaji Bridge, Tialik Bridge & Delhi Safdarjung) & NSG 6 (Sakoti Tanda) registration fee will be charged @ rate of Rs. 1000 for each stall of thirty days.

- The following are the eligibility criteria for participation viz. a) Holder of Artisans/Weaver ID card issued by Development Commissioner/Handicraft, Development Commissioner/Handloom, or by the requisite state/Central Government Authority. b) Individual artisans/weavers/craftsmen enrolled/registered with Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India Limited (TRIFED)/National Handloom Development Corporation (NHDC)/Khadi/Village Industries Commission (KVIC)/associated with Social Organizations, State Govt. bodies and associated with registered micro enterprises on the Udyam Portal of the Ministry of MSME and NGOs etc. c) Self Help Groups registered with PMEGP (Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme). d) Marginalized or weaker sections of society. e) No separate logo shall be allowed.

- The applicant will have to submit an undertaking to the Station Superintendent indicating that no activity would be undertaken to adversely affect the train operations, passenger safety and image of the Railways.

- Applications should be addressed and can be submitted to Station Superintendent at station by the applicant till 15:00 hrs of 11.03.2025, which will be opened on same day. Station Superintendent will make priority roster of all approved participants and priority will be established through a draw of lots conducted at the station in the presence of all approved applicants by the Station Manager/Sectional CMI and nominated Finance representative.

- The One Station One Product scheme shall be governed by Railway Board's Commercial Circular No. 12 of 2022 and 09 of 2023 respectively available at website www.indianrailways.gov.in and URL: https://indianrailways.gov.in/railwayboard/uploads/directorate/traffic_comm/Comm_Cir_2022/OSOP%20Policy.pdf and https://indianrailways.gov.in/railwayboard/uploads/directorate/traffic_comm/Comm_Cir_2023/CC%20%2009%20of%202023.pdf

For any queries applicant may contact Station Superintendent or CMI of the respective stations. 715/2025

Serving Customers With A Smile

यमुना एक्सप्रेसवे औद्योगिक विकास प्राधिकरण YEMA EXPRWAY AUTHORITY. Request for Proposal (RFP) for Selection of Consultant for EIA Study and Obtaining Environment Clearances for Film City and EMC-2 (Sector-10) in YEIDA region. Detailed RFP document is available on the E-Procurement Portal of Government of UP (https://etender.up.nic.in) from 10/03/2025. The authority seeks Selection of consultant for EIA Study and obtaining Environment Clearances for Film City and EMC-2 (Sector-10) in YEIDA region. Interested Applicants are required to submit their proposal online on the E-procurement website on or before 31/03/2025, 1700 hrs (IST). In case of any queries, the Bidders are invited to contact on the following email id: yeida.planning@gmail.com

Delhi HC declines Intervention on stampede refunds, advises legal alternatives

New Delhi
The Delhi High Court on Wednesday declined an application related to the non-issuance of refunds to individuals who were unable to board their train due to a stampede at the New Delhi railway station. Instead, the court advised the impellers to seek the appropriate legal remedies available to them.

The application was filed by individuals who were prevented from boarding the train on the day of the incident and did not receive ticket reimbursements.

Justices Devendra Kumar Upadhyay and Tushar Rao Gedela presided over the bench, noting that the issues raised were of a private nature and various remedies were available for such matters. They further emphasized that the purpose of a Public Interest Litigation (PIL) is to enforce specific



provisions, and any grievances against the railway authority constitute a personal cause of action. After some arguments, the counsel representing the impellers withdrew the application and sought permission to pursue the appropriate legal remedies for their grievance. The court granted this request, stating, "The PIL, alleged to be the stampede on Platform No. 16 was caused by overcrowding due to multiple long-distance trains arriving and departing simultaneously on the Delhi-Prayagraj route during the Mahakumbh. It claims that the stampede resulted from administrative negligence and violated the fundamental right to life under Article 21 of the Constitution. The bench of Justice De-

with the liberty as prayed for."

The Delhi High Court on February 19 sought a response from the Railways regarding a Public Interest Litigation (PIL) over the stampede at New Delhi Railway Station during peak hours, which resulted in the loss of 18 lives. The PIL, alleged to be the stampede on Platform No. 16 was caused by overcrowding due to multiple long-distance trains arriving and departing simultaneously on the Delhi-Prayagraj route during the Mahakumbh. It claims that the stampede resulted from administrative negligence and violated the fundamental right to life under Article 21 of the Constitution. The bench of Justice De-

venra Kumar Upadhyay and Justice Tushar Rao Gedela directed that the Railway Board undertake this examination and subsequently file a short affidavit detailing the steps to be taken. The next date of hearing is March 26.

est level.

The plea moved by Arth Vidhi, a group of Lawyers and entrepreneurs, through Advocates Aditya Trivedi and Shubhi Pastor, argued that the Railways violated their own legislative duties as outlined in Sections 57 and 147 of the Railways Act, 1989. Section 57 mandates that every railway administration must fix the maximum number of passengers allowed in each compartment of every type of carriage. Section 147 requires platform tickets for entry into railway stations when a person does not have a valid reservation.

The petition emphasized that these rules should have been strictly enforced due to the ongoing Mahakumbh in Prayagraj, Uttar Pradesh. It also highlighted that these rules are not enforced even under normal circumstances, leading to crowded trains and platforms.

On Monday, Chief Minister Rekha Gupta said that the Budget for 'Viksit Delhi' will be presented in the Assembly between March 24 and 26, in which the government will strive to take suggestions from all sections of the society. Addressing a press conference in the national capital, Chief Minister Gupta

"Will be budget of Delhi people": Kapil Mishra

New Delhi
Delhi Minister Kapil Mishra on Wednesday emphasized that the upcoming budget of the national capital will be the budget of the people of Delhi in which all the suggestions from all sections will be inducted.

"It is CM Rekha Gupta's decision that the budget be prepared after consulting the people of Delhi. She is meeting women, and after that, she will meet businessmen in Delhi. We will look at the suggestions received from everyone and then include them in the budget. This will be the budget of the people of Delhi," Mishra said.

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emphasized that the budget will be a 'Viksit Delhi' budget, prioritizing Delhi's development. "The Viksit Delhi Budget 2025-26 will be presented between March 24 and March 26. The government will strive to take all sections of society along for the development of Delhi, incorporating their suggestions," the Chief Minister said.

Gupta said, "Financial assistance for women, expansion of health services, promoting public transport, reducing pollution, cleaning the Yamuna, employment, welfare of senior citizens, and other important issues were part of our manifesto. Our aim now is to take into account the priorities of the people of Delhi and prepare the Budget outline accordingly."

Instructions have been given to officials of all departments to include the suggestions of all stakeholders to increase public participation and incorporate them into the budget.

CBI arrests Nigerian national in email fraud case



New Delhi
The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has arrested a Nigerian national in connection with an ongoing investigation of a case related to email fraud. The accused has been identified as Adia Okoh alias Oia Francis Eshizogie, a proclaimed offender, the agency said in a statement on Wednesday.

The CBI said in a statement that initially the agency registered the case in January 2012 under sections 419, 420 read with 511 and 120-B of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) and sections 66A (b) & (c) of the Information Technology Act, 2000 against unknown persons.

It was alleged that the complainant had received a fraudulent email on June 2011, falsely claiming that his email ID had won GBP 7,50,000 from the Orthodox Church Foundation. The fraudsters sought personal details and attempted to deceive the complainant into transferring Rs 16,700 to a State Bank of India account. Accused Osin Daniel was arrested in the case but another accused, Adia Okoh had evaded arrest, the agency said.

Chargesheet was filed against Adia Okoh and Osin Daniel alias Ogbebor Emmanuel Richard in December 2015.

Accused Adia Okoh was declared a proclaimed offender by the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate, Tis Hazari Court, New Delhi, in October 2016. Look Out Circulars (LOCs) were also issued against him. The CBI had earlier received a tip-off regarding the movement of accused Adia Okoh, with him being subsequently detained at the Mumbai airport while attempting to flee India. The accused is being brought to Delhi on transit remand and will be produced before the Rouse Avenue Courts, New Delhi, for further legal proceedings, it added.

Delhi HC notices on plea highlights need for independent Rouse Avenue Court website

New Delhi
The Delhi High Court has issued a notice on a petition call for the creation and establishment of a dedicated website for the Rouse Avenue Court. The plea, brought forth by lawyer Abhinav Garg, highlights the operational challenges faced due to the absence of such a site.

The plea stated that unlike other courts in the Central District, Rouse Avenue Court lacks an independent online presence, which creates significant difficulties for the legal community and litigants who depend on digital platforms for accessing court-related information.

Justice Sachin Datta has sought responses from the District Judge (Headquarters) of Tis Hazari Courts, the Ministry of Law and Justice, and the National Informatics Centre regarding this issue.

The petition emphasises that the Central District's current website fails to mention or provide direct references to the Rouse Avenue Court.

This omission leads to confusion among advocates and litigants seeking relevant details or accessing court services. The lack of a dedicated website hampers effective communication and access to vital resources, such as case status, notifications, circulars, and e-filing information.

The petitioner asserts that the creation of a separate website for Rouse Avenue Court is essential for streamlining operations, improving accessibility, and ensuring the smooth functioning of the judicial process in this particular court.

Budget of Delhi will fulfil expectations of people: Delhi CM

New Delhi
Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta on Wednesday said that the budget of Delhi will fulfil the expectations of people and for this purpose she will herself meet women, families, youth and professionals from different sectors.

Addressing a press conference, Delhi CM Rekha Gupta said, "I will go and meet sisters and families in slum areas, I will talk to them regarding the expectations they have from this



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In the presidency of Acharya Lokesh & guidance of Sri Sri Ravi Shankar and Morari Bapuji national committee of saints for world peace and harmony is formed



At World Peace Centre inauguration, former President Kovind formally announced the formation of national committee of saints to establish peace and harmony. On the occasion of the inauguration ceremony of the newly built World Peace Center by Ahimsa Vishva Bharti, in the presence of former President Ram Nath Kovind, Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini, it was decided to form a national committee of saints to establish world peace and harmony.

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The Dentist's Advice: Best Practices for Oral Hygiene Celebrating Dentist's Day

New Delhi
Problem-free oral health is essential for overall well-being. On this Dentist's Day, we bring you expert-recommended oral care tips to keep your smile healthy and bright. Dr. Sonia Datta, a renowned public health dentistry expert with over 27 years of experience, emphasises that following a proper oral care routine helps maintain strong teeth while reducing the risk of long-term complications. Poor dental hygiene has even been linked to conditions like heart disease and diabetes, making it crucial to adopt effective daily habits.

Dr. Sonia Datta recommends a structured daily oral care routine for optimal dental health: Brushing Twice a Day - Using a clinically tested toothpaste like Dabur Red Paste helps remove plaque and bacteria while strengthening enamel. Using an Antibacterial Mouthwash - A mouthwash with Ayurvedic ingredients like pudina and clove helps combat oral bacteria and supports fresh breath.



Staying Hydrated - Drinking water throughout the day washes away food particles and supports saliva production, which naturally protects teeth. Brushing is the foundation of good oral hygiene, but doing it incorrectly can leave plaque behind or even damage enamel. Dentists suggest: Using a soft-bristled toothbrush to prevent gum irritation; Brushing for at least two minutes, covering all tooth surfaces, including the tongue; Replacing the toothbrush every 2-3 months for optimal effectiveness.

Delhi Court reserves order on custody parole sought by MP Rashid Engineer

New Delhi
The Delhi's Patiala House Court on Wednesday reserved order on the custody parole sought by Baramulla MP Rashid Engineer to attend the Parliament Session. He has sought a custody parole to attend Parliament sessions from March 10 to April 4.

Special Judge (NIA) Chanderjit Singh reserved order for March 7 after hearing submissions of counsel for Rashid Engineer and NIA. Advocate Vikhyat Oberoi, alongwith Nishita Gupta, appeared for Rashid Engineer and argued that he is not a threat. He was given custody parole earlier also, and there were three extensions.

On the point of security arrangements, it was submitted that jail security would take him to the parliament and leave him there. Security personnel in civil clothes can go inside.

It was further submitted that in the last session, he was granted custody parole for two days on February 11 and 13.

"There will be no hindrance if he goes there. He can attend Parliament in custody parole," the counsel argued. Rashid's counsel further argued, "I am not a security threat." He argued Rashid as

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a parliamentarian represented 45 per cent of Kashmir and so he could be allowed to represent his constituency.

Advocate Gautam Khazanchi, special counsel for NIA, opposed the plea. He submitted that the law is settled in the Suresh Kalmada case, and they have no statutory right to attend parliament until they are in detention.

Rashid Engineer is accused and is running in judicial custody in a case filed by the NIA. His regular bail application is pending before the special NIA at Patiala House Court. The court has asked the counsel to file written submissions.

Meanwhile, he has moved an application through Advocate Vikhyat Oberoi to seek interim bail or interim custody parole to attend the upcoming Parliament Session from March 10 to April 4, 2025.



al Ranking Framework (NIRF) Institutes. The argument presented is that this criterion not only

Delhi High Court issues notice on PIL challenging EPFO recruitment criteria

New Delhi
The Delhi High Court on Wednesday issued a notice on a Public Interest Litigation (PIL) that challenges the recruitment process for Young Professionals by the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO).

The petition claims that EPFO allocates a special weightage of 15 to 30 marks out of a total of 100 if a candidate has completed their law degree from one of the top 40 National Institution-

discriminates against institutions functioning under the Central and various State Governments that do not fall within the top 40 NIRF Institutes but also constitutes a violation of Fundamental Rights.

The Bench of Justice Devendra Kumar Upadhyay and Justice Tushar Rao Gedela issued a notice to the concerned Ministry of Central Government and has scheduled the hearing for April 23.

Shivdham project in Mandi will be completed at any cost: Jairam Thakur

Jairam Thakur made this statement while participating in the closing ceremony of the International Mandi Shivratri Festival. Governor Shiv Pratap Shukla was also present at the event, along with thousands of devotees and around 45 deities who participated in the grand procession.

The announcement was made on the last day of the seven-day International Mandi Shivratri Festival, during the grand procession and religious rituals at the Raj Madhav Rai Temple.

The event took place in Mandi, Himachal Pradesh, often referred to as 'Choti Kashi' due to its rich religious heritage.

Thakur highlighted that the Shivratri festival is a significant religious event, often compared to Dev Maha Kumbh. He reiterated that making Mandi a major religious tourist destination, with Shivdham as a central attraction, was a vision inspired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Thakur stated that efforts were being made to give the Shivratri festival an international identity and to develop Mandi into a prominent religious tourism hub. Despite challenges, he pledged to ensure that the Shivdham project progresses, either by pressuring the present government or by implementing it once his party returns to power.

The event concluded with Thakur and Governor Shukla offering prayers at the Bhoomath temple and bidding farewell to the deities. The festival witnessed a massive turnout, with long queues of devotees seeking blessings from more than 250 gods and goddesses present at the celebrations.

Education is the driving force behind the most significant transformations in society: VP Khankhar

Komal Ramola Chandigarh:

Vice-President Jageed Dhankhar said on Wednesday that education is the driving force behind the most significant transformations in society. Youth should be free from fear and should not be afraid of failure. Failure is not the end, it is the key to success. Most people do not succeed in their first attempt, and that should not define them as failures. Keep your thinking high and showcase your true potential.

Dhankhar was speaking as the chief guest at the convocation ceremony of Mata Harki Devi Educational Institute in village Odha, Sirsa, and Jannayak Chaudhary Devi Lal Vidyapeeth in Sirsa.

On his arrival, the Vice-President, along with his wife Dr Sudesh Dhankhar, was warmly welcomed by Cabinet Minister Ranbir Ganga and Trust Chairman and former MLA Abhay Singh Chautala, and other dignitaries.

During the ceremony, he felicitated the gold medalist students, ac-



knowledging their hard work and dedication. In a symbolic gesture of promoting environmental consciousness, he also planted a sapling as part of the Ek Ped Ma Ke Naam Abhiyan. He paid tribute to the legacy of Late Chaudhary Devi Lal, former Deputy Prime Minister, by offering flowers at his statue.

Further, Dhankhar laid the foundation stone for the Smriti Sangrahalaya, which will be built in the memory of the late former Chief Minister Ch Om Prakash Chautala.

Dhankhar spoke passionately about India's growth and the immense opportunities available for the youth. 'India's leap is visible

in every field, and today there are boundless possibilities for our young generation. It is essential for them to be aware of their rights and responsibilities towards society,' he added.

Drawing inspiration from iconic leaders, the Vice-President referenced former Prime Minister Lal Bahadur

Shastri's slogan of 'Jai Jawan-Jai Kisan, and the contributions of Atal Bihari Vajpayee, who added 'Jai Vigyan' to the slogan. Further, he highlighted Prime Minister Narendra Modi's extension of the slogan to include 'Jai Anusandhan'. The energetic land of Haryana contributes immensely to the

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nation's strength, and India's name resonates globally because of Haryana's youth. Along with Jai Jawan, Jai Kisan, Jai Vigyan, Jai Anusandhan, let us also say 'Jai Pahalwan'. Haryana's identity is inseparable, it remains a center of energy and vigor, he added.

The Vice-President also emphasised the importance of transforming the rural economy, a vision that he believes will be realized by the youth. He paid tribute to Chaudhary Devi Lal's philosophy, which was dedicated to uplifting villages, the poor, and farmers. 'I firmly believe that a developed India is not just a dream but a tangible goal,' he said.

Punjab Police bust drug smuggling network operated by US-based

Chandigarh:

In a major blow to trans-border smuggling amidst the ongoing 'Yudh Nishan Virudh' campaign launched on the directions of Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann, Amritsar Rural Police has recovered a 23-kg heroin consignment from the village Devi Daspora in Jandiola.

Divulging details, Director General of Police (DGP) Punjab Gaurav Yadav on Wednesday said that preliminary investigation has revealed that the consignment is linked to a smuggling network operated by USA-based smuggler Jasmit Singh alias Lucky.

In this case, accused Sahilpreet Singh alias Karan of village Devi Daspora, who retrieved the consignment, has been nominated, he said, adding that multiple police teams are actively working to arrest him.

The DGP said that further investigations are underway to trace both backward and forward linkages in the smuggling network.

Governor Launches Short Film Against Drug Abuse

Rajan Panchhi MANDI:

In a significant step towards combating the rising menace of drug abuse, particularly the use of Chhitta (synthetic drugs), Governor Shiv Pratap Shukla launched a short film titled Chhitta at the Circuit House in Mandi district on Wednesday. Directed by Deepak Mattu, the film aims to raise awareness among the youth about the dangers of drug addiction through music and impactful storytelling.

Inspired by the Governor's ongoing campaign, Nasha Mukti Himachal (Drug-Free Himachal), Deepak Mattu took the initiative to create this film as part of a larger fight against substance abuse. The song and music for the film have been composed by Mattu himself, while Shashi Chautala directed the video. The film features performances by Sonali, Monika, and Mukul. Sponsored by the Mandi Municipal Corporation as part of its anti-drug campaign, the four-min-



ute film delivers a compelling message against drug abuse.

The Governor congratulated Deepak Mattu and his team for their commendable effort and expressed hope that the film would significantly contribute to raising awareness in society. He emphasized the need for proactive involvement of the youth in such initiatives, stating, "If the youth themselves come forward to fight this battle, we can eradicate drugs from society."

Shri Shukla further stressed the importance of spreading

awareness about the harmful effects of drugs at every level. He remarked, "If society becomes aware, the demand for drugs will decrease, eventually breaking the supply chain. Collective efforts and cooperation of all sections of society are the need of the hour to root out this social vice."

MLA Chander Shekhar, Secretary to Governor C.P. Verma, Deputy Commissioner Apoorv Devgan, Mayor of Municipal Corporation Mandi Virender Sharma, and other dignitaries were also present on the occasion.

50,000 more government jobs to be given to youth: Punjab CM

Chandigarh:

Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann on Wednesday said his government will soon provide 50,000 more jobs to the youth.

He said the state government has already given 51,000 jobs in various government departments.

Mann was addressing an event where he handed over appointment letters to 763 newly appointed government employees. The state government has given 51,655 jobs to the youth in the state during the last three years, he said.

"Today is a red letter day for these youth who have got jobs in the cooperation, health and family welfare and higher education and languages departments," he added. The state government has crossed the figure of giving 51,000 government jobs in a transparent manner to the youth, he said, adding that very soon these the figures will cross one lakh government jobs.



He further said the state government is trying its best to ensure that maximum youth get jobs so that they do not fall prey to the social menaces.

Unemployment is the root cause of several social problems due to which the state government is focusing on eradicating this malady, the CM said.

He said a foolproof mechanism has been adopted for the entire recruitment process due to which not even a single appointment out of these nearly 51,000 jobs has been challenged so far in his

court.

It is a proud moment for the government of Punjab that these youths have been given government jobs completely on the basis of merit, he noted. "It is a momentous occasion when these youths are becoming part of the family of the Punjab government," he said, expressing hope that they will become an active partner in the socio-economic development of the state by joining the respective departments.

Mann said for the first time in the his-

tory of the state, any government has given a record number of more than 51,000 jobs to the youth in 36 months of coming into power.

All the jobs have been given completely on the basis of merit, he added.

The state government is ensuring that no one from the state migrates abroad, said Mann, adding that due to strenuous efforts of the state government, reverse migration is already being witnessed and youth are returning from abroad to serve here.

Governor Presides Over Closing Ceremony of International Shivratri Fair in Mandi

Rajan Panchhi MANDI:

Himachal Governor Shiv Pratap Shukla presided over the closing ceremony of the week-long International Shivratri Fair in Mandi on Wednesday.

Addressing the gathering, the Governor highlighted the cultural and spiritual significance of the festival, describing it as a vibrant reflection of the state's rich heritage, faith, and traditions. He emphasized that Shivratri is not just a festival but a symbol of devotion, penance, and faith, with Lord Shiva representing both creation and destruction. "Shiva's Trishul inspires us to follow the path of truth, righteousness, and justice, while his Damru symbolizes the eternal cycle of creation and dissolution,"



he added. Referring to Himachal Pradesh as Devbhoomi, the Governor lauded Mandi, often known as Choti Kashi, for its spiritual heritage and numerous temples dedicated to Lord Shiva and other deities. He said that the festival serves as a platform to promote the culture, music, dance, and handicrafts, playing a crucial role in preserv-

ing the state's glorious traditions. The Governor praised the district administration for preserving the ancient tradition of Jaleb (traditional procession) and ensuring proper arrangements for visiting deities, pilgrims, and musicians. He noted that the presence of over 192 deities enhanced the grandeur of the event.

Emphasizing the festival's role in promoting religious tourism and boosting local trade and handicrafts, the Governor stressed the importance of environmental conservation and infrastructure development. He called for a comprehensive plan to develop religious sites in the state. The Governor also urged the youth to uphold their cultural roots and appealed to people to rise above social evils like untouchability and discrimination to build a united and prosperous state. "Lord Shiva, known as Vishwanath, signifies the oneness of nature and the divine. True worship of Shiva is possible only by respecting nature and fulfilling our social and moral responsibilities," he remarked.

CM Nayab Singh Saini Directs Proposal for Establishing IIT Campus in Haryana

Komal Ramola Chandigarh:

Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini has directed officials to prepare a proposal for the establishment of an Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) campus in the state. The proposal will be sent to the Central Government, and the state government has assured the provision of necessary land for this initiative.

Chairing a meeting of the Higher Education Department, the Chief Minister emphasized that the IIT would provide students with high-quality, world-class technical education, equipping them with the skills and knowledge required for careers in engineering and technology.

During the meeting, attended by Haryana Education Minister Mahipal Dhandra, Minister of State for Sports Gaurav Gautam, Chief Secretary Anurag Rastogi, and Chief Principal Secretary to the Chief Minister Rajesh Khullar, along with Vice Chancellors and Registrars of state universities and District Education Officers, the Chief Minister stressed the importance of education, research, innovation, and skill development.



He encouraged Vice Chancellors to not only focus on academic excellence but also allocate separate funds for research and

innovation. He encouraged universities to motivate students to establish startups, highlighting the success of many young entrepreneurs who have achieved financial success with minimal investment.

The Chief Minister also stated that the government is committed to the internationalization of higher education by upgrading university infrastructure to world-class standards. This would enable uni-

versities in Haryana to accommodate a larger number of foreign students, further enhancing the state's academic reputation.

Recognizing the need for skill development, CM Saini highlighted the state's efforts in fostering a conducive environment for industries. Haryana has become a preferred destination for Indian and international companies, creating a demand for skilled professionals.



Dr. Babita Chaudhary

Maha kumbh Mela: India's Grand Confluence of Faith and Unity-A Sociological Reflection

The Maha Kumbh Mela, a pilgrimage that draws over 450 million people, is often hailed as the world's largest human gathering. Yet, beneath its spiritual veneer lies a sociological marvel—a fleeting civilization where hierarchies dissolve, altruism thrives, and time itself bends. This grand spiritual event holds immense religious significance, drawing not only devotees from across the country but also pilgrims from around the world. Maha Kumbh is considered the ultimate confluence of all major Hindu rituals and traditions. At first glance, the Kumbh Mela might appear to be a ritualistic pilgrimage, a momentary pause where millions dip into the holy rivers to wash away sins and attain spiritual liberation. Yet, beneath this veneer of piety lies a deep-seated cultural narrative. The event is an ancient ritual that encapsulates centuries of collective memory, myths, and legends—a continuous reminder of India's quest for meaning in a chaotic world. As sociologists observe, the act of congregating at the confluence of sacred rivers transforms personal spirituality into a communal experience, a shared ritual of faith and renewal that transcends individual belief systems.

Liminality and Communitas: The Suspension of Social Stratification

The Maha Kumbh Mela operates as a dynamic arena where India's social fabric is both displayed and redefined. In its temporary cities that spring up along the riverbanks, traditional hierarchies are both challenged and reaffirmed. The festival becomes a melting pot where age-old caste distinctions, regional identities, and even modern socio-economic divides are momentarily blurred. Here, the lines between the pious ascetic, the devout seeker,

and the curious traveler intersect. Anthropologist Victor Turner's concept of "liminality"—a transitional phase where societal norms are suspended—finds vivid expression at the Kumbh. For weeks, the mela becomes a liminal space where caste, class, and creed blur. A CEO and a farmer bathe in the same waters; a Dalit and a Brahmin share meals in community kitchens (langars). Turner termed this egalitarian bonding communitas, a temporary but transformative unity. Here, the rigid hierarchies of everyday India dissolve, revealing a latent capacity for radical equality. The Kumbh Mela is an opportunity where we meet with specific saint groups (Naga Baba, Moini Baba, Kankari Baba, Manchan Wale Baba etc), understand their daily routines, and the sacred intermingles with the everyday, including their methods of prayer, deep meditation, and the discourses on attaining salvation and living life, given by various ascetics. It is a place where everyone is filled with a sense of collective unity.

Collective Effervescence: A Living Tapestry of India's Soul.

Emile Durkheim's notion of "collective effervescence"—the electric energy of communal rituals pulses through the Kumbh. The synchronized bathing rites, chants, and processions generate a transcendent solidarity. Pilgrims shed individual identities to become part of a cosmic whole, mirroring Durkheim's idea that religion is society worshipping itself. This collective high isn't just spiritual, it's a social glue, mending fissures in a diverse nation. In the heart of India, where myth meets modernity and the sacred intermingles with the everyday, the Maha Kumbh Mela emerges not merely as a religious congregation, but as an extraordinary social phenomenon—a sprawling canvas upon which the myriad hues of Indian society are vividly painted. To reach the Kumbh, pilgrims have to walk several kilometers, where people from children to the elderly cover this distance without feeling tired. Drenched in the color of faith, most people are wrapped in saffron, which symbolizes peace and devotion, and in doing so, they forget their individual identities and appear united in collective harmony.

Cyclical Time and Social.

The Kumbh's 12-year cycle mirrors India's ancient rhythms of renewal. Unlike linear time, which progresses toward an uncertain future, the Kumbh's cyclicity offers a ritualized "reset." Communities fractured by modernity reunite, and generational stories are retold. This periodicity isn't nostalgia, it's a sociological balm, healing

temporal fractures and redefining continuity in a rapidly changing world. Beyond its immediate religious significance, the Kumbh Mela is a space where societal renewal is enacted daily. As millions journey to the sacred waters, they are not just seeking personal salvation but also participating in a symbolic cleansing of societal ills. The sheer scale of the event demands meticulous coordination and cooperation—elements that mirror the larger workings of democracy in action. In a country often characterized by its diversity and complexity, the Kumbh Mela stands as a microcosm of India's pluralistic society, where order emerges out of chaos through an intricate balance of tradition and modern administrative ingenuity.

Gender and the Quiet Subversions

Historically both men and women have always held esteemed positions. Looking back at the Vedic period, religious ceremonies were considered incomplete without the participation of women. Even in Hindu worship, the names of goddesses are inseparably linked with deities, such as Lakshmi-Ganesh, Sitara-Ram, and Radha-Krishna. Just as men are responsible for upholding Hindu traditions, women also play an equally vital role in preserving and practicing them at the grassroots level. Women have a significant presence in the observance of Hindu customs, rituals, and traditions. This devotion is clearly visible in the Maha Kumbh of 2025, where women have participated with great enthusiasm, alongside men. During this grand event, women religious leaders have taken part in rituals such as the Shahi Snan and the Akhara processions with the same fervor as male saints and Mahatmas. Pilgrims have not only sought blessings

from male saints but have also received divine guidance from female Mahatmas, demonstrating a break from traditional social barriers. The fact that the pilgrimage number strike so high can also be attributed to the active participation of women symbolizing their empowerment and societal progress.

Conclusion.

The event concludes on the auspicious occasion of Malahastivrat, dedicated to Lord Shiva, who shares an equal place of reverence with Goddess Parvati. Maha Kumbh is not just a religious festival—it is a celebration of faith, equality, and the timeless spiritual essence of India. The Kumbh Mela's true miracle isn't its scale but its social vision: a blueprint for harmony in a divided world. It reminds us that societies can, momentarily, choose cooperation over competition, shared purpose over self-interest. As climate crises and polarization threaten global stability, the Kumbh's ephemeral utopia whispers: "Another world is possible, even if only for 42 days." The Kumbh Mela is more than a pilgrimage; it is India's subconscious dreaming aloud. In its chaos, we find order; in its transience, permanence. To study it is to glimpse the soul of a civilization—not in its temples, but in its people's capacity to imagine, however briefly, a society built on sacred togetherness.

(The writer is an Assistant professor Maitreji college University of Delhi. Worked on multiple Social issues like Gender and work culture, Gender and Religion, Gender and Digital entrepreneurship etc. She can reach at: behaudhary@maitreji.du.ac.in)

Breaking Time Sudoku

What to do

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

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

Solution, Sudoku

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

THE WISDOM TREE BY SUVEEN KUMAR

YOU BETTER BE BETTER

You better be better because the worse is worse. There may be a rewarding journey but it doesn't have an end full of regrets. You better be better because there is already enough competition to be worse. If you are the one hates to be bad then all you have to do is to do that one thing that makes you good. There is no one who promotes the evil other than us and there is no one who attracts the evil other than us. We are not always the same as we are. The persons we are in the office and at home are the same, the persons we are as the shoppers and sellers are not the same, the persons we are as the makers and the breakers are not the same. At the one moment we want to stand for what is right and the at the another moment don't know what bite us we just can't stand what is right. Separate yourself by knowing yourself a little more than others, separate yourself by doing yourself a little favor than others, separate yourself by rising yourself a little higher than others and this way don't create a difference or gap rather



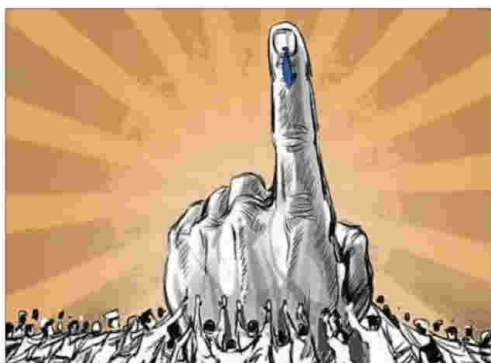
Moral: Your own definitions of being good and bad is only good as long as you never compare them with others.

Why are people not coming out to vote?



By Dr Satyavan Saurabh

The power of politics and democracy lies in the Electronic Voting Machine (EVM). After all, voting represents significant power, and it is important for every voter to recognize this. The nation is ours, and so is our democracy. In this democratic setup, the vote has the greatest power. With this power, we shape our future and that of our children. Therefore, it is the duty of every person above the age of 18 to participate in elections. Choosing not to vote is essentially a renege on this democratic obligation. Every voter must make an effort to engage in the electoral process despite their busy lives. Just as people take out time to visit places of worship to pray for happiness and prosperity, we must view Parliament as the holy of holies of our democracy. Elections are a celebration of this democracy, and fulfilling our responsibility of voting is equally important. Unfortunately, voting has become less of a priority for many voters, especially the youth, who are the future of our country. They often fail to engage with the democratic process with true enthusiasm and patriotism. Many working people, after enjoying voting day with their families, but for young people, voting



often takes a backseat. Their mindset is, "If I have time during the holiday fun, I will vote," and if they find long queues at polling stations, they may abandon the idea altogether. This trend shows that voting is not a priority for the younger generation, and despite the efforts of elders to explain the importance of civic duty, their advice often goes unheeded. This is a significant factor contributing to voter turnout decline. The state of politics has deteriorated to such an extent that voters often question their choice in leaders. A politician may stay with a party for many years, enjoying the benefits of power, but when they sense a possible defeat

in the upcoming elections, they switch parties and start criticizing the very organization they have been a part of for so long. This behavior has eroded voters' trust in their leaders, which is troubling for our democratic system. Seventy-five years after independence, India, the world's largest and oldest democracy, is facing global concerns about waning faith in democracy. Are citizens feeling oppressed by alleged political autocracy and missing the British Raj? Is there a waning interest in the electoral process crucial to democracy? These burning questions are being raised across various segments of society, highlighted by the sig-

political direction of our country; otherwise, we run the risk of repeating the old saying, "What good does it do to regret now that the bird has eaten the crop?"

It is important to give priority to principles in politics. Political actions should always keep the national good in mind. Before changing parties, we should think about how this decision will affect our supporters. Leaders can change quickly, but winning voters takes time. To increase voter turnout, leaders must respect the sentiments of voters and avoid playing with their emotions. To strengthen democracy, strong ideals need to be established in politics, which can significantly increase voter participation. We need to create an environment where voters are motivated to vote voluntarily. This can only be achieved by improving the political system. To improve the political scenario, we must ensure that opportunistic leaders are kept away so that the feeling of respect for the party increases among the public.

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

Are citizens feeling oppressed by the perceived political autocracy and reminiscing about the British Raj? Is interest in the electoral process crucial to democracy waning? These burning questions are being raised across various segments of society, highlighted by the significant drop in voter turnout in elections.

TOP STORY

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PM Urges Investment in People, Innovation for Job Creation

New Delhi

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday urged all stakeholders to come together and invest in people for skill development, nurturing talent and promoting innovation which are essential for job creation and boosting the economy.

Participating in post-Budget webinar on employment, Modi said the government has provided skill training to 3 crore youth since 2014 and decided to upgrade 1,000 ITIs and set up five centres of excellence.

He stated that capacity building and talent nurturing act as a foundation stone for national development and in the next phase of growth, greater investment in these sectors is essential. "The vision of invest-



ment in people stands on three pillars - education, healthcare, and skill development," he said adding that today, India's education system is undergoing a transformation.

All stakeholders must come forward, as they are key to the success of the Indian economy, he said.

currently a USD 3.8 trillion economy and is set to become a USD 5 trillion economy soon," he added.

He said the government has launched the PM Internship Scheme to provide new opportunities and practical skills to youth.

"We must ensure that businesses at every scale actively participate in this scheme. In this year's budget, we announced 10,000 additional medical seats, with a target of adding 75,000 seats in the medical field over the next 5 years," he said.

Modi also talked about the government's decision to give infrastructure status to the tourism sector, saying that it will generate jobs for youth.

He urged industry to invest in the health sector and also talked about the po-

tential of medical tourism to create jobs.

"To cater to a larger population, planned urbanisation is essential. We have decided to allocate Rs 1 lakh crore to the Urban Challenge Fund. The private sector, especially the real estate industry, must focus on planned urbanisation," he said.

The government has given importance to skill development at par with the infrastructure sector, he added.

AI, he said could contribute lakhs of crores to the economy. "In this direction, we have allocated Rs 500 crore for AI-driven education and research in the budget."

He also stated that India will set up National Large Language Model for development of AI capacity.

Cabinet Approves Affordable Generic Vet Medicines Under LHDC Program

New Delhi

The Cabinet on Wednesday approved changes to the Rs 3,880 crore Livestock Health and Disease Control Programme to include distribution of high-quality and affordable generic veterinary medicines to farmers.

The total budget provided for the Livestock Health and Disease Control Programme (LHDCP) was Rs 3,880 crore for 2024-25 and 2025-26.

"A decision related to livestock health has been taken in the Cabinet. High-quality medicines will be pro-



vided under the pashu aushadhi component of the scheme," I&B Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw briefed media after the Cabinet meeting chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

generic veterinary medicines will be distributed through PM Kisan Samridhi Kendras and Cooperatives.

Vaishnaw said traditional knowledge of veterinary medicines will also be revived and documented as part of the scheme.

The Cabinet approved a provision of Rs 75 crore from total budget allocation for supplying good quality and affordable generic veterinary medicine and incentive for sale of medicines under Pashu Aushadhi component.

The scheme has three components - National

Cabinet Approves Generic Veterinary Medicines for Livestock

New Delhi

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"A decision related to livestock health has been taken in the Cabinet.

High-quality medicines will be provided under the Pashu Aushadhi component of the scheme," I&B Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw told reporters after the Union Cabinet meeting chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi here.

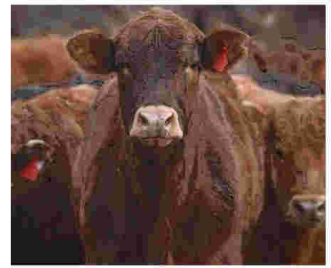
Pashu Aushadhi is the new component added to the LHDCP scheme, an official statement said.

The minister said Pashu Aushadhi would be similar to Jan Aushadhi Yojana. The generic veterinary medicines will be distributed through PM Kisan Samridhi Kendras and Cooperatives.

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Livestock Health and Disease Control Programme focuses on the prevention of diseases like Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD), Brucellosis, Peste des Petits Ruminants (PPR), Cerebrospinal Fluid (CSF), Lumpy Skin Disease, etc, through immunization.

The Scheme also supports door-step delivery of livestock health care and improving the availability of generic veterinary medicine.

The minister stated that nine states are ready to be declared as FMD-free zones. These states include: Punjab, Haryana, Uttarakhand, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Gujarat and Maharashtra.

India is the world's largest milk producer. Being FMD-free and having a systematic and well-documented vaccination programme will help in the export of milk and milk products in a significant way and improve farmers' income, he added.

The LHDCP will help in the prevention and control of livestock diseases through vaccination, surveillance and upgradation of healthcare facilities.

Also, the scheme will improve productivity, generate employment, encourage entrepreneurship in rural areas and prevent economic losses of farmers due to disease burden.

Uttarakhand Outperforms HP in Industrial Growth: EAC-PM Paper

New Delhi

Uttarakhand performed better than Himachal Pradesh over the last two decades as it opted for planned industrialisation in designated Industrial Estates as compared to its neighbour which asked the companies to buy land directly from farmers, an EAC-PM Working Paper said on Wednesday.

The paper titled "The Great Convergence: A Case Study of Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh (2000 to 2020)" also said that the growth in the manufacturing sector had a multiplier effect on the overall economy of Uttarakhand, and its tax base.

Co-authored by Shamika Ravi (Member, EAC-PM) and Alok Kumar (Principal Secretary, Industrial Development & MSME, Government of UP), the paper compares the growth and economic transformation of Uttarakhand (UK) to that of HP over a period of two decades, examining the impact of Union Government's Concessional Industrial Package (CIP) for Hill States announced in 2003.

With identical industrial policies but distinct and differential land policies - the trajectories for economic growth of UK & HP resulted in different long-term outcomes. UK better leveraged the benefits of CIP, it said.

The paper said that both the hilly states announced near identical industrial policies in response to the central government's offer, except one critical difference - town planning and land policy - where the two states adopted two entirely distinct approaches.

While HP took the usual route of permitting industries to buy land directly from farmers, through private negotiation liberally allowing land use encroachments and providing support for creating infrastructure around the new industrial clusters, UK opted for a planned industrialisation in designated Industrial Estates complete with infrastructure facilities provided and financed by the State Government.

Given their respective strategies, UK witnessed growth in its industrial economy by 9.5 times while HP witnessed a modest 4.6 times.

Railway Ministry ropes in RRB for all departmental promotional exam

New Delhi

In a significant move, the Railway Ministry has roped in the Railway Recruitment Board (RRB) to hold all departmental promotional examinations through a centralised computer-based test, officials said on Wednesday.

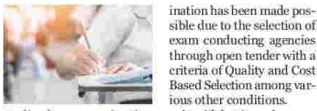
The decision comes a day after the CBI arrested 26 railway officials of Eastern Railway in Uttar Pradesh's Mughal Sarai for allegedly leaking papers of a departmental examination and seized Rs 1.17 crore cash during its raids.

Before the Ministry's decision, the departmental promotion exams were held by railway divisions and zones internally and of late several allegations of corruption and use of unfair means were reported in these exams.

"Today, a high-level meeting was conducted by the Railway Board. It has been decided that all departmental promotion examinations will be done by RRB/centralised examination through CBT," a press statement from the Railway Ministry said.

It added, "All zonal railways will make a calendar for the examination. All the examinations will be conducted on the basis of a calendar only." The Ministry said that the responsibility has been handed over to RRB after considering its long experience of transparent, fair and highly appreciated examinations conducted in recent years.

"From 2015 to till date, more than 7.7 crore candidates have appeared in exams through computer-based tests without any paper-leakage, impersonation, remote log-in and use of spy devices," the Ministry said.



It said that in such examinations conducted by RRB, the railway team conducts the auditing of examination centres where bathroom outside is not permitted, there is 100 per cent CCTV coverage and recording is done two hours pre-exam and one hour post exam among other things.

"Venue/centre of examination is made available only four days before the exam. The exam centre is allotted through a computerised randomised generation avoiding manual intervention.

"In the examination centres, checking & frisking of candidates is done with hand-held metal detectors," the Ministry said, detailing several other steps taken to ensure fairness in holding the examinations.

It said that the fair exam-

Kedarnath & Hemkund Sahib Ji Ropeway Projects Approved - Rs 6,811 Crore

Pawan Lalchand

The government on Wednesday approved two ropeway projects in Uttarakhand - Sonprayag to Kedarnath (22.9 km) and Govindghat to Hemkund Sahib Ji (12.4 km) - at a total cost of Rs 6,811 crore.

The timeline for construction of these two ambitious projects is 4-6 years.

The decisions of the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) were announced by Information and Broadcasting Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw.

The construction of a 12.9-km ropeway from Sonprayag to Kedarnath will be done on the design, build, finance, operate and transfer (DBFOT) mode at a total cost of Rs 4,081.28 crore.

The ropeway is planned to be developed in public-private partnership and will be based on the most advanced Tri-cable Detachable Gondola (3S) technology having the capacity to



carry 1,800 passengers per hour per direction (PPH PD), which could ferry 18,000 passengers per day. Vaishnaw informed that the 12.4-km ropeway project from Govindghat to Hemkund Sahib Ji too will be developed on DBFOT mode at a total capital cost of Rs 2,730.13 crore.

Currently, the journey to Hemkund Sahib Ji is a

challenging 21-km uphill trek from Govindghat and is covered on foot or by ponies or palanquins. The proposed ropeway is planned to provide convenience to pilgrims visiting the Hemkund Sahib Ji and the tourists visiting the Valley of Flowers, and will ensure all-weather last-mile connectivity between Govindghat and Hemkund Sahib Ji.

The journey to the Kedarnath temple is a challenging 16-km uphill trek from Gaurikund and is currently covered on foot or by ponies, palanquins and helicopter. The proposed ropeway is planned to provide convenience to pilgrims visiting the temple and ensure all-weather connectivity between Sonprayag and Kedarnath.

Will put across porters' demands to government and fight for their rights, says Rahul Gandhi

New Delhi

Drawing attention to the financial difficulties faced by railway porters, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Wednesday said they risked their lives to help people during the stampede at the New Delhi Railway Station last month and yet their voice was not being heard.

The former Congress president, who posted on his YouTube channel a video of his recent interaction with porters at the New Delhi Railway Station, asserted that he would fight for their rights.



Gandhi also urged people to share suggestions on the 'Awaaz Bharat Ki' portal to improve crowd management and strengthen security.

"We will listen to the voice of India!" he said on X.

The increasing number of stampedes at railway stations and other public places is a matter of great concern, Gandhi said, noting that many innocent people lose their lives or get injured in such incidents.

"We need to think together about how to prevent such tragedies," he said. In his post accompanying the video of his interaction with porters, Gandhi said, "A few days ago, I reached New Delhi Railway Station and met the porter

Current multilateral system failing to mitigate climate change: India

New Delhi

India on Wednesday said the current multilateral system is failing to address global challenges like climate change and called for urgent reforms in global governance that put equity, justice and action remain central to climate negotiations.

Addressing TERI's World Sustainable Development Summit, Union Environment Minister Bhupendra Patel said it is still technically possible to keep global warming within the 1.5-degree Celsius limit, but this would require developed countries to fulfil their commitments on financial and technological support.

"Global challenges demand global solutions. The current multilateral system is failing to address transboundary issues like climate change. We need urgent, structural reforms to global governance that put equity, justice and action at the core of climate negotiations," Yadav said.

He added that the proposed USD 300 billion per year under the New Collective Quantified Goal on Climate Finance (NCQG) by 2035 is far below the required USD 1.3 trillion, leaving developing countries underfunded in their climate efforts.

Citing the 2024 UNEP Emissions Gap Report, he said: "It is still technically possible for us to stay on the 1.5-degree Celsius pathway, with solar energy, wind power and forests offering tremendous potential for significant and rapid reductions in emissions.

"However, to fully unlock this potential, we must act with urgency and developed countries should honour and fulfil their obligations, in particular, on means of implementation," the minister said. He stressed that countries must strengthen their climate action plans, known as Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), by including measures that maximise social, economic and environmental benefits, with stronger international cooperation as the foundation.

Prayagraj students turn Swachh Mahakumbh vision into reality

UP Economy Outpaces National Average: CM Yogi

Lucknow: Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Wednesday said that Uttar Pradesh's economic growth has outpaced the national average and the state budget for the next fiscal is a tool to take development to the last mile.

Presenting a comprehensive overview of the state's economy in the Legislative Council, Yogi asserted that the budget reflects the government's strong commitment to accelerating economic growth while increasing per capita income.

"In 2023-24, India's GDP grew at a rate of 9.6 per cent, while Uttar Pradesh's GDP increased by 11.6 per cent," he said, highlighting the state's rapid economic expansion.

He noted that the state budget is Rs 8,08,736 crore, describing it as not merely an expenditure plan but a tool to ensure development reaches the last mile. He also pointed out that this budget is 2.5 times larger than that of 2016-17 (when Sa-



majwadi Party was in power) and 10 per cent higher than the previous fiscal year. "This reflects our strong commitment to accelerating economic growth while increasing per capita income. Rs 2.25 lakh crore has been allocated solely for capital expenditure, ensuring rapid development. Compared to 2016-17, per capita income has nearly doubled," he stated.

Targeting the opposition, particularly the Samajwadi Party (SP),

Adityanath remarked that they often question the rationale behind increasing the budget size.

"The budget is not just about increasing expenditure; it is also about maintaining financial discipline. Even the Reserve Bank of India has set limits for fiscal deficit management. Our fiscal deficit stands at 2.97 per cent of the state's GDP, well within the 3 per cent threshold. This is despite the fact that we have not imposed any new taxes in the last eight years.

In fact, we reduced VAT on petrol and diesel, demonstrating our commitment and political will," he said.

The CM further stated that corruption has been curbed, and all departments have been adequately funded to ensure holistic development. Referring to past financial mismanagement under SP rule, he quipped, "Gone are the days when just Re 1 was allocated for projects worth Rs 100 crore. When we came to power, we had to spend thousands of

Yogi asserted that the budget reflects the government's strong commitment to accelerating economic growth while increasing per capita income.

crores just to clear the mess left behind by previous governments."

The CM emphasized that in the past eight years, Uttar Pradesh has set an example of financial transparency and discipline.

"There was a time when no one was willing to give us loans or invest in the state. Today, banks line up to finance our projects. The perception of Uttar Pradesh has changed nationwide," he said, adding that NITI Aayog has ranked the state among the leading states in financial discipline.

He also highlighted that despite having a population of 25 crore, UP is a revenue-surplus state, unlike in the past when it struggled to attract investments.

HP records 12K cyber frauds duping Rs 114 crore

Top Story News
Shimla:

The Himachal Pradesh Cyber Crime Cell has reported approximately 12,000 cases of online fraud, with victims losing a staggering Rs 114 crore. The agency has successfully recovered Rs 15 crore for the affected individuals. For its exemplary efforts, the Cyber Crime Cell was honored with the prestigious Skoch Award 2024.

The CY Station Data Centre, operating under the Cyber Crime Cell, has been at the forefront of addressing cyber fraud. The centre, which functions 24/7, received 1,10,794 calls related to cybercrime in 2024 alone. Of these, 19% were from women, and 2% were from children. The Customer Service Support Centre (CSSC) team maintained a 100% response rate, ensuring all complaints were promptly uploaded to the National Cyber Crime Reporting Portal (NCRP) for immediate action.

Deputy Inspector General (DIG) of Cyber Crime, Mohit Chawla, highlighted the centre's efficient coordination with banks and real-time integration with the NCRP portal, which enabled the recovery of Rs 15 crore out of the total Rs 114 crore lost by victims.

The centre, staffed by 21 personnel, including 9 women, has been praised as a "game changer" in combating cybercrime.

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The CY Station Data Centre operates through eight specialized verticals, including the Bank Coordination Centre (BCC) and the Cyber Training & Research Centre (CTRC), which provide technical support and training to mitigate cyber threats. The centre's efforts have earned it the Skoch Award, one of India's highest civilian honors, recognizing its contribution to socio-economic change through cybercrime prevention.

Director General of Police (DGP), State CID Himachal Pradesh, SR Ojha, congratulated the CY Station team for their achievements and encouraged them to continue their vital work in safeguarding citizens from cyber fraud.

SJPNL and SUEZ India Provided Training to Employees Under National Safety Week



Shimla: The 54th National Safety Week was inaugurated under the joint aegis of Shimla Jal Prambandhan Nigam Limited (SJPNL) and SUEZ India. On this occasion, a special program was organized at the Dhalli office, where employees of both companies were made aware of the importance of workplace safety.

The program commenced with a flag hoisting ceremony, which was conducted by SJPNL Junior Engineer Anil Kumar Sharma. Following this, all employees and officials took a safety oath, pledging to adhere to

all workplace safety norms and avoid any kind of negligence.

A special safety training session was also conducted as part of the Safety Week, in which employees were informed about safety measures, ways to prevent potential hazards, and handling emergency situations. Employees of SUEZ India and SJPNL actively participated in the program and resolved to make safety an integral part of their work culture.

As part of National Safety Week, various training sessions and safety awareness programs will be organized until March 10. In

the coming days, employees will receive detailed training on the use of modern safety equipment, fire safety systems, emergency evacuation procedures, and risk management to ensure they are prepared for any unforeseen situations.

The week-long event will conclude with a closing ceremony on March 10, where special discussions on workplace safety will take place. Employees who have demonstrated outstanding safety practices may be honored during the ceremony to further strengthen the culture of workplace safety.

Prayagraj students turn Swachh Mahakumbh vision into reality

Prayagraj:

The Cleanliness campaign initiated by Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath at the conclusion of Mahakumbh in Prayagraj is now being actively continued by local citizens and students. As part of this effort, students and teachers of Lala Manmohan Das Intermediate College organized a cleanliness drive in Sector 18 of the Kumbh Mela area.

The initiative aims to reinforce the commitment to a Swachh Mahakumbh, ensuring that the spirit of sanitation and environmental responsibility remains strong even after the event's conclusion.

More than 100 NCC, Scout, and Guide students actively participated in the Cleanliness campaign, taking up brooms to collect polythene and other waste from drains and open spaces. Alongside their efforts, they also spread awareness by forming a human chain to deliver the message of cleanliness.



College Principal Dr. Niranjan Kumar Singh, Sector Magistrate, and several teachers also joined the initiative. Encouraging the students, Dr. Singh emphasized that cleanliness is not just a campaign but a fundamental value in life.

Highlighting the scale of the effort, Dr. Niranjan Kumar Sin-

gh noted that while high-level cleanliness management was carried out for crores of devotees, during Mahakumbh, certain areas still had accumulated polythene and waste, which needed to be removed for environmental sustainability. He added that such initiatives help instill the habit of cleanli-

ness among students and play a crucial role in keeping the Ganga banks clean.

The students of Lala Manmohan Das Inter College, situated along the Ganga in Jhansi, took a pledge to continue the Swachhata Abhivyan in the future and to spread awareness about cleanliness in society.

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Yogi govt to develop Sangam into a premier year-round global tourist hub

Prayagraj:

The Mahakumbh 2025, held on the banks of Triveni Sangam, made history with the arrival of over 66 crore devotees during its 45-day span. The massive turnout has prompted the fair administration to draft a new roadmap for the Sangam area post-Mahakumbh.

Considering the steady influx of devotees, the administration has initiated plans to revamp Sangam and its surroundings with enhanced facilities. According to ADM Mela Vivek Chaturvedi, the infrastructure established during Mahakumbh will remain intact until the next Ardh Kumbh in 2037.

"Facilities such as lighting, water ATMs, checked walkways,



parking areas, police presence, mobile toilets, changing rooms, and more will continue to serve devotees. Additionally, round-the-clock services, including taxi facilities and food courts, will be introduced, supported by a fresh budget allocation," he informed.

Vivek Chaturvedi

Vivek Chaturvedi also revealed plans to introduce regular aarti ceremonies at the concrete ghats, inspired by the tradition at Varanasi's ghats, to enrich the spiritual experience for devotees further.

with Kumbh City, Ayodhya, and Kashi. The unceasing flow of devotees, especially after the third and final Amrit Snan on Basant Panchami and even after Maha Shivratri, reflects the profound sentiment of the Sanatan faith.

Vijaykant from Delhi, who visited Sangam with his family, shared that he took a holy dip during the Amrit Kal of Mahakumbh and re-

turned with the same devotion even as the crowds thinned.

Similarly, Shashikant Madeshiya from Damoh, Madhya Pradesh, expressed that the waters of Triveni Sangam hold the same sanctity for him even after the event.

Efforts to track the number of tourists visiting the Sangam area began last year. The corridors of various temples developed within the city during Mahakumbh are expected to become new tourist attractions, ensuring a steady flow of visitors year-round.

The overwhelming response to the Hanuman Mandir Corridor and Akshay Vat Corridor near Sangam suggests a "mini Mahakumbh" atmosphere will persist throughout the year.

Lucknow:

Maharashtra Samajwadi Party (SP) MLA Abu Azmi's remarks praising Mughal emperor Aurangzeb have sparked a political storm in Uttar Pradesh.

During the Legislative Council's budget debate here on Wednesday, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath slammed the SP, demanding Azmi's immediate suspension and urging the party to send him to UP.

Issuing a stern warning, Yogi asserted that UP does not hesitate to deal with such individuals. The controversy erupted after Abu Azmi called Aurangzeb a "great administrator."

In response, the Chief Minister lashed out at the SP in the UP Legislative Council, accusing it of abandoning India's cultural heritage and straying from the principles

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of its founding thinker, Dr Ram Manohar Lohia. Yogi highlighted that Dr Lohia had identified Shri Ram, Shri Krishna, and Lord Shiva as the pillars of India's unity. Still, the SP, he claimed, was now idolising a tyrant like Aurangzeb.

Recalling historical events, Yogi narrated how Aurangzeb had imprisoned his father Shah Jahan in Agra Fort, leaving him suffering for every water drop.

He urged SP leaders to read Shah Jahan's biography, available in Patna's library, mentioning that Shah Jahan himself had remarked that a Hindu who serves his elderly parents and performs annual shradha rituals is far nobler than Aurangzeb. The Chief Minister, however, added that those who "behave like Aurangzeb may take pride in it."

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath accused the Samajwadi Party of undermining India's faith by glorifying Aurangzeb, a ruler known for imposing the jizya tax, destroying temples, and attempting to Islamise the country.

Yogi remarked that no civilised Muslim would name his son Aurangzeb, knowing his ruthless legacy of imprisoning his father and denying him even a drop of water.

China hikes defence budget to USD 249 billion amid hectic military modernisation

Beijing: China on Wednesday announced a 7.2 per cent increase of its national defence budget totalling to USD 249 billion this year amid its hectic efforts to modernise armed forces, including fast paced development of warships and new generation fighter jets.

The planned defence expenditure for the country is 1.78 trillion yuan (about USD 249 billion) this year, according to a draft budget report submitted to China's Parliament by Premier Li Qiang, state-run Xinhua news agency reported.

Last year, China increased its defence budget by 7.2 per cent to about USD 232 billion (1.67 trillion yuan). China has the world's second-largest military budget after the US whose latest defence spending amounted to over USD 890 billion as proposed by President Donald Trump.

The Chinese defence spending is amounted to three times that of India's Rs 681, 210 crore (USD 78.8 billion).

China's defence budget figures are viewed by critics with scepticism in the light of massive military modernisation, including building aircraft carriers, rapid construction of advanced naval ships and modern stealth aircraft being carried out at a feverish pitch by the Chinese military.

Terrorist responsible for 2021 Kabul airport bombing being extradited to face justice in US: President Trump

Washington: US President Donald Trump said a "top terrorist" responsible for the August 2021 bombing at Kabul airport as American forces withdrew from Afghanistan has been apprehended and is being brought to the country to face justice.

Trump said three and a half years ago, ISIS terrorists killed 13 American service members and countless others in the Abbey Gate bombing during the "disastrous and incompetent withdrawal" from Afghanistan.

"America is once again standing strong against the forces of radical Islamic terrorism," Trump said Tuesday night in an address to the Joint Session of Congress, the first of his second term in the White House.

A report in CNN said that a White House official confirmed that Mohammad Sharifullah, allegedly involved in the planning of the attack, was being extradited to



the US. "Not that they were withdrawing, it was the way they withdrew. Perhaps the most embarrassing moment in the history of our country," Trump said.

"Tonight, I am pleased to announce that we have just apprehended the top terrorist responsible for that atrocity and he is right now on his way here to face the swift sword of American justice," Trump said as

members of the Republican Party broke into an applause and gave the President a standing ovation.

Trump thanked the Government of Pakistan for "helping arrest this monster". The August 26, 2021 suicide bombing attack at Hamid Karzai International Airport's Abbey Gate killed 13 US service members and roughly 170 Afghan civilians, injuring many others,

coming just days after the Taliban took over Kabul.

Trump described the day of the attack as a "horrible day", saying "Such incompetence was shown that when (Russian President Vladimir) Putin saw what happened, I guess he said, 'Wow, maybe this is my chance'. That's how bad it was. Should have never happened. Grossly incompetent people," Trump said.

"America is once again standing strong against the forces of radical Islamic terrorism," Trump said Tuesday night in an address to the Joint Session of Congress, the first of his second term in the White House.

Minutes after Trump made the announcement during his address in the US Capitol, FBI Director Kash Patel said in a post on X "As President Trump just announced, I can report that tonight the FBI, DOJ, and CIA have extradited one of the terrorists responsible for the murder of the 13 American soldiers at Abbey Gate during the disastrous Afghanistan withdrawal. One step closer to justice for these American heroes and their families."

During his address, Trump acknowledged Patel, voicing appreciation for his work.

Judge denies Elon Musk's request to block OpenAI for-profit conversion

OAKLAND: A federal judge has denied Elon Musk's request for a court order blocking OpenAI from converting itself to a for-profit company but said she could expedite a trial to consider Musk's claims against the ChatGPT maker and its CEO.

US District Judge Yvonne Gonzalez Rogers ruled late Tuesday that "Musk has not demonstrated likelihood of success on the merits" in his request for a preliminary injunction. She offered to hold a trial in her California courtroom as soon as this fall, "giving the public interest at stake and potential for harm if a conversion contrary to law occurred."

An early OpenAI investor, began a legal offensive against the ChatGPT maker and CEO Sam Altman a year ago, suing for breach of contract over what he said was the betrayal of its founding aims as a nonprofit.

escalated the legal dispute late last year, adding new claims and defendants, including Microsoft, and asking for a court

order that would stop OpenAI's plans to convert itself into a for-profit business. Musk also added his own AI company, xAI, as a plaintiff, claiming that OpenAI was unfairly stifling business competition.

A group of investors more recently made an unsolicited USD 97.4 billion bid to buy a controlling stake in the nonprofit — a move that undermined Musk's claim of irreparable harm, the judge wrote.

She said it welcomed the court's decision. "This has always been about competition," a statement from the company said. "Elon's own emails show that he wanted to merge a for-profit OpenAI into Tesla. That would have been great for his personal benefit, but not for our mission or US interests."

Alleges in the lawsuit that the companies are violating the terms of his foundational contributions to the charity. He had invested about USD 45 million in the startup from its founding until 2018, his lawyer has said.

Indian-origin nurse attacked by patient in Florida, could lose eyesight

HOUSTON: A 67-year-old Indian-origin nurse was repeatedly punched in the face by a patient at a Florida hospital in a possible hate crime that could lead to her losing her eyesight, local media has reported.

Nurse Leela Lal, also known as Leelamma Lal, was assaulted and "every bone of her face broken" by Stephen Eric Scanlebury, a 33-year-old patient she was tending to in the psychiatric



ward at the Palms West Hospital in West Palm Beach, Florida on February 18, police said.

A local court, a police officer testified that

a video clip showed Scanlebury saying, "Indians are bad" and "I just beat the (expletive) out of an Indian doctor".

news channel WPTV.com said.

Lal was taken by helicopter to St Mary's Medical Centre in West Palm Beach.

She said it received a video from a viewer that showed the suspect walking shirtless on a nearby prominent road with what looked to be ECG leads still attached to his chest, and it also showed hospital staff and law enforcement following the man onto the busy highway before the deputies took him into custody.

faces a charge of attempted second-degree murder in the attack and also faces a hate crime enhancement, which could result in harsher penalties if he is convicted, the media said.

Scanlebury reported after the incident that HCA Florida HealthCare, which runs the Palm West Hospital, said the attack occurred "within a matter of seconds" and was "witnessed by multiple people" and added that

probable cause affidavit filed by law enforcement described Lal's injury as "critical" and said, "Essentially every bone in the victim's face is broken and the victim is likely to lose the use of both eyes."

of the extent of the victim's injuries, she was unable to provide a statement to investigators, the WPTV said.

WPTV report about the court proceedings on February 27 said that witnesses from

the hospital, as well as responding deputies, took the stand and revealed that video from inside the hospital showed the victim was attacked in a roughly one to two-minute time frame.

Following the attack, Palm Beach County Deputy Sgt Beth Newcomb testified that she observed Scanlebury say, "Indians are bad" and "I just beat the (expletive) out of an Indian doctor," it added.

BUSINESS

CEA Issues Guidelines for Efficient Fiber Optic Utilization

New Delhi: The Central Electricity Authority (CEA) has issued guidelines to promote efficient allocation, sharing, and utilization of optical fibers that will contribute to a better resource management across the power sector.

These guidelines aim to provide a clear and standardized framework for the allocation and sharing of fiber cores of Optical Ground Wire (OPGW)/Under Ground Fiber Optic (UGFO) Cable for power system applications, a power ministry statement said.

It said the guidelines establish a structured approach to fiber allocation, safeguarding power system communication needs and mitigating future conflicts.

A well-defined framework has been outlined to facilitate the sharing of spare fiber capacity among various stakeholders, including Central Transmission Utilities (CTUs), State Transmission Utilities (STUs), Transmission Service Providers

(TSPs), and other entities.

Leasing of spare fibers for non-grid applications is permitted provided it doesn't compromise future grid requirements.

All leasing contracts to include a termination clause, mandating maximum of 18-month notice period to reclaim fiber cores for grid applications whenever required.

The guidelines emphasize the need for assessment of future grid communication needs and adherence to applicable CEA/CERC/SERC regulations.

Utilities will be encouraged to plan and install OPGW with 48/96 fiber cores to provide sufficient capacity for last-mile connectivity, future expansions, and L1LO requirements, leveraging the Right of Way (ROW) effectively.

A comprehensive database to be maintained to monitor the allocation and utilization of OPGW fibers, ensuring transparency and accountability.

NDDB, Sustain Plus to install 10,000 biogas plants in 15 states in next 4 yrs

Bengaluru: Around 10,000 biogas plants will be installed across 15 states, including Uttar Pradesh, over the next four years as part of a circular dairy programme to be implemented jointly by the National Dairy Development Board (NDDB) and Bangalore-based NGO Sustain Plus.

"We have signed MoUs with over 26 milk unions across 15 states in India, with dairy cooperative network acting as a powerful platform for scale, this model can be replicated across states, making India's dairy sector not just the world's largest, but also among the most sustainable," Sustain Plus Director Ganesh Neelam in a statement.

Sustain Plus is a collaborative platform founded by Social Alpha, CInI and SELCO Foundation, dedicated to deploying sustainable innovations to improve rural livelihoods



in India.

Neelam said the latest partnership with NDDB aims to empower dairy farmers, particularly women, by providing access to clean cooking fuel and nutrient-rich

bio-slurry for soil enrichment.

The circular dairy programme, launched recently in the presence of Cooperation Minister Amit Shah, targets to create climate-smart

dairy villages and build scalable and sustainable farming practices across India.

The setting of 10,000 biogas plants is expected to generate 3 lakh tonnes of organic slurry annual-

ly, improving soil health and reducing the need for chemical fertilisers.

They will also produce more than 7 million cubic metres of biogas every year, providing clean cooking fuel to 10,000 rural households.

In addition, the programme will enable the production of nearly 60,000 tonnes of Phosphate Rich Organic Manure (PROM) each year, replacing an equivalent quantity of chemical phosphate fertilisers, further supporting affordable and sustainable farming practices.

By integrating biogas plants, solar-powered dairy operations and efficient milk collection systems, the programme will help reduce input costs, improve soil health for dairy farmers, provide clean cooking fuel to rural households, and create new income opportunities through organic fertiliser and carbon credits, the statement said.

India Aims for 70% Women in Workforce by 2047: Labour Secretary

New Delhi: The government will walk the talk on Viksit Bharat by 2047 with 70 per cent women in the workforce, Union Labour Secretary Sumita Dawra said on Wednesday as she highlighted the importance of mentorship for women entrepreneurs.

Addressing a CII conference on women in the services sector, she also said looking ahead there are sectors which hold great potential for women to participate further. She suggested enhancing education for them under National Education Policy.

For women entrepreneurs and startups she called for increasing venture capital support. "For women entrepreneurs, it (venture capital support) is very critical. Mentorship for women to be in leadership and decision-making roles. While we have provision, we also must have mentorship for women where it is needed," she said.

About challenges faced by women in the services sector, she said there could be biases which prevent their entry in the workforce. There could be wage disparities, even in the leadership roles, job security concerns and issues like balancing domestic and professional responsibility.

Data shows that about 45 per cent women cite childcare and domestic commitments as reasons for not participating in the workforce, she noted adding that in the last 25 years, there is an enhanced engagement of women in economic activities.

India's Quantum Computing Strategy: NITI Aayog Paper

New Delhi: India needs to look at a multi-pronged approach to ensure national security in the quantum computing era as well as have bilateral partnerships for rapid adoption of emerging technologies, according to a NITI Aayog research paper released on Wednesday.

The NITI Frontier Tech Hub (NITI-FTH) in partnership with Data Security Council of India released the paper on the rapid evolution of quantum computing, its implications on national security and what is needed for India



to get ahead of the curve to shape its trajectory. NITI Aayog CEO B V R Subrahmanyam released the paper.

The paper said a strategic framework is essential to navigate the opportunities and threats posed by quantum computing.

"A proactive, multi-pronged approach will ensure national security

remains resilient in the quantum era," it said and called for establishing bilateral partnerships for rapid adoption, especially the modalities that offer scalability.

The NITI-FTH has been established as a Frontier Tech Action Tank to accelerate India's transition into a Frontier Tech Nation.

In his foreword to the paper, Subrahmanyam said leadership in the quantum computing domain will require more than just technological prowess and emphasised the need for deep collaboration between the government,

industry and academia as well as investments in indigenous capabilities.

The government had launched the National Quantum Mission (NQM) in April 2023 with a budget outlay of Rs 6,003 crore to develop an indigenous quantum technology ecosystem.

Niti Frontier Tech Hub, the government think tank said is committed to shaping India's path towards a Viksit Bharat by 2047.

The Hub will engage with experts to establish a clear sector-specific vision and set of imperatives for India by

2035, which is roughly the midpoint from now to 2047.

The paper said quantum computing is evolving rapidly, posing both opportunities and challenges for national security.

It explores the global quantum race, latest technological breakthroughs and the potential impact on national security. It also provides recommendations for enhancing India's preparedness.

As per the paper, quantum technologies are set to redefine national security priorities across multiple do-

Cricket

Steve Smith announces ODI retirement after 170 matches

Melbourne
Aussie star batsman Steve Smith has officially bid farewell to One-Day International (ODI) cricket, bringing an end to a distinguished 30-over career following Australia's four-wicket loss to India in the ICC Champions Trophy semi-final in Dubai.

Despite stepping away from ODIs, the 35-year-old will be available to represent Australia in Test and T20 cricket. His decision to be there for the shortest format could be influenced by a potential opportunity to compete in the 2028 Los Angeles Olympics, where cricket will feature in the form of T20s.

"It has been a great ride and I have loved every minute of it," Smith said in a release, as quoted from the official website of cricket.com.au.

Smith informed his teammates about his decision following the semi-final defeat and later explained that the timing felt right.

"It feels like the right time to make way," Smith said.

"There have been so many amazing times and wonderful memories. Winning two World Cups was a great highlight along with the many fantastic teammates who shared the journey," he added.

"Now is a great opportunity for people to start preparing for the 2027 ODI World Cup so it feels like the right time to make way," he said.

"Test cricket remains a priority and



I am really looking forward to the World Test Championship final, the West Indies in the winter and then England at home. I feel I still have a lot to contribute on that stage," Smith noted.

Smith's ODI career spanned 170 matches, making him Australia's 16th most-capped player in the format. With 5,800 runs at an average of 43.28 and

a strike rate of 86.96 per 100 balls faced, he leaves the game as the country's 12th-highest run-scorer in ODIs. His tally includes 12 centuries and 35 fifties, with a career-best knock of 164 against New Zealand at the SCG in 2016.

Of the 11 Australian players who have scored more ODI runs than Smith, only David Warner (strike rate 97.26) and Adam Gilchrist (96.89) have done

so at a quicker pace.

Smith also captained Australia in 64 ODIs, maintaining a 50% win record. Under his leadership, Australia secured series victories against England and India in his first year as full-time captain, won the Chappell-Hadlee Trophy, and triumphed in a tri-series featuring South Africa and West Indies in 2016. More recently, he led Australia to a 3-0 series sweep over West Indies in Pat Cummins' absence during the 2023-24 home season.

A proven performer on the biggest stages, Smith was a vital part of Australia's World Cup-winning squads in 2015 and 2023. In the 2015 final against New Zealand at the MCG, he sealed the victory with the winning runs. Four years later, he played a key role in the 2019 World Cup, marking his return to international cricket alongside David Warner after a 12-month ban.

His contributions in ICC tournaments were fittingly highlighted in his final ODI match, where he top-scored for Australia with 73 off 96 balls before being bowled by Mohammed Shami.

While Smith's only World Cup century came in the 2015 semi-final against India at the SCG, he holds the record for the most World Cup half-centuries by an Australian batter, with 10—surpassing Michael Clarke and Adam Gilchrist's tally of eight.

Defensively, he was also one of Australia's most reliable fielders, taking 90 catches in ODIs at an average of 0.53

per innings. Among Australian players with at least 70 ODI catches, only Glenn Maxwell (0.61) and Mike Hussey (0.57) have better ratios. His remarkable one-handed catches, including a stunning effort to dismiss BJ Watling in the same match where he scored his career-high 164, remain etched in memory.

Smith's retirement marks the beginning of a transition for Australia's ODI setup as they prepare for the 2027 World Cup in South Africa, Zimbabwe, and Namibia. His long-time teammate David Warner has already stepped away from international cricket, and several key players from the 2023 World Cup-winning squad were missing from the Champions Trophy semi-final, including Cummins (ankle), Josh Hazlewood (hip), Mitchell Marsh (back), and Mitchell Starc (personal reasons). Additionally, Marcus Stoinis announced his ODI retirement last month.

With veterans like Glenn Maxwell (36), Alex Carey (33), and Adam Zampa (32) approaching the later stages of their careers, Australia is in the midst of a rebuilding phase.

National Selection Panel chair George Bailey acknowledged Smith's contributions, stating, "We fully understand and support Steve's decision to retire from One-Day International cricket," as quoted from the official website of cricket.com.au.

"Steve has said on many occasions he

is approaching the remainder of his playing career on a series-by-series basis, a position which hasn't changed and one Cricket Australia supports," Bailey said.

"His record as a batter across 170 games is exemplary and to leave the format as a two-time World Cup winner cements his legacy as one of the great Australian ODI players," the statement added.

"From an NSP standpoint, Steve remains fully committed to Test cricket and is an integral member of our leadership within that team," the statement noted.

Cricket Australia's CEO Todd Greenberg also congratulated Smith on his achievements, highlighting his impact on Australian cricket.

"Congratulations to Steve on an amazing One-Day International career during which he has made a vast contribution to Australia's performances in the 50-over format," he said, as quoted from the official website of cricket.com.au.

"Right up until his final ODI innings Steve exhibited an incredible ability to accumulate runs in all conditions and his astute leadership has been crucial in the team's ongoing success including the 2015 and 2023 ICC World Cup victories," he added.

"We're fortunate Steve still has much to offer in the 120 arenas and I look forward to witnessing the next stage of one of cricket's great careers," he noted.

Virat Kohli praises Anant Ambani's wildlife conservation efforts at Vantara



New Delhi
Star India batter Virat Kohli hailed Anant Ambani and his team for their commitment to wildlife conservation at Vantara, a unique rescue and rehabilitation initiative.

"Vantara," spearheaded by Anant Ambani, focuses on rescuing and rehabilitating animals while ensuring their well-being in a safe and sustainable environment. The initiative has received appreciation from various quarters for its dedication to wildlife conservation.

In a post on X, Virat said, "Anant Ambani and his entire team at Vantara are making a remarkable difference in wildlife welfare. Their dedication to rescue, rehabilitation, and conservation is shaping a more sustainable and compassionate ecosystem. #Vantara @narendramodi"

Earlier, Tendulkar also praised Ambani and Vantara.

Taking to X, Tendulkar shared his admiration for the project, echoing the sentiments of Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who had recently visited the facility.

"I felt the same as Hon'ble PM @narendramodi ji, when I was in Vantara earlier. The passion and commitment of Anant and his team towards wildlife conservation is commendable. The rescued and rehabilitated animals at Vantara touch you in a unique way, and I look forward to visiting this beautiful place again," he said.

The Prime Minister Modi had earlier praised Vantara's efforts in wildlife preservation, describing it as a significant step toward ecological sustainability and animal welfare.

"Inaugurated Vantara, a unique wildlife conservation, rescue, and rehabilitation initiative, which provides a safe haven for animals while pro-

moting ecological sustainability and wildlife welfare. I commend Anant Ambani and his entire team for this very compassionate effort," PM Modi said in a post on X.

During his visit, PM Modi shared glimpses of the initiative, which provides a safe haven for injured, abandoned, or abused animals, while promoting wildlife welfare and ecological balance.

Among the various animals at Vantara, the Prime Minister highlighted a case of an elephant that had been a victim of an acid attack, noting that the animal was being treated with the utmost care.

PM Modi also spoke about other elephants, one of which was blinded by its own Mahout, while another was struck by a speeding truck. He questioned the cruelty and negligence shown toward these animals, calling for an end to such irresponsibility and urging kindness toward all creatures.

"At Vantara, I saw an elephant which was the victim of an acid attack. The elephant was being treated with the utmost care. There were other elephants too, which were blinded and that too ironically by their Mahout. Another elephant was hit by a speeding truck. This underscores an important question—how can people be so careless and cruel? Let us put an end to such irresponsibility and focus on kindness towards animals," PM Modi posted on X.

The Prime Minister also drew attention to other distressing cases, including a lioness who had been hit by a vehicle, suffering severe spinal injuries, and a leopard cub that had been abandoned by its family. Both animals received proper care and rehabilitation at Vantara, which gave them a new chance at life.

Run-fest in Gurugram as Supreme Spartans, Dynamic Daredevils, Mightly Mavericks secure wins

Gurugram
An Elite Cricket Tournament being played in Gurugram witnessed a high-scoring spectacle this weekend, as Supreme Spartans, Mightly Mavericks and Dynamic Daredevils registered thrilling victories in their respective matches, according to a release from Servotech Sports Elite Cricket Tournament.

The Servotech Sports Elite Cricket Tournament has been delivering intense cricketing action with young and seasoned players competing at the highest level.

The opening match of the weekend saw Dynamic Daredevils clinch a four-wicket win over Royal Rangers in a high-scoring chase. Batting first, Royal Rangers posted a formidable 227/4 in 20 overs, but the Daredevils successfully chased down the target with two balls to spare, showcasing their batting firepower.

The second match turned into a run-fest as Supreme Spartans put up a



staggering 296 runs in 20 overs, powered by a breathtaking century from Gaur Dhangra, who smashed 140 runs off 53 balls.

Chasing the mammoth total, Victory Vipers put up a valiant effort, with openers Keshav (146 off 62 balls) and

Sandeep Mehra (123 off 47 balls) scoring remarkable centuries. However, their efforts fell just short, handing Supreme Spartans a hard-fought win.

In the third match on Sunday, Mightly Mavericks defeated Victory Vipers by 98 runs. Batting first Mightly Mavericks

scored 230/6 in the allotted 20 overs and then folded Victory Vipers for 132 inside 19 overs.

With the tournament heating up, Mightly Mavericks currently lead the points table with six points, followed closely by Dynamic Daredevils and Supreme Spartans, who have four points each. Travel Unravel and Royal Rangers have secured two points, while Elite Eagles, Victory Vipers, and Thunder Strikers are yet to register a win.

The Servotech Sports Elite Cricket Tournament, which commenced on February 15, is set to run through March. Through Servotech Sports Elite Cricket Tournament, young and budding cricketers are getting a chance to play matches with Ranji players. There are also many experienced players featuring in the tournament.

Notably, Servotech Siliguri Strikers, made waves in the Bengal Pro T20 League 2024, impressing fans with performances and showcasing the depth of talent nurtured by the organization.

Shreyas Iyer receives 'Fielder of the Match' medal following win over Australia in CT semis

Dubai
India batter Shreyas Iyer received the 'Fielder of the Match' medal from former India head coach and all-rounder Ravi Shastri following Men in Blue's win over Australia in the semifinal of the ICC Champions Trophy on Tuesday.

The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) posted a video of the medal ceremony. Iyer made a crucial fielding contribution by cutting short Alex Carey's threatening knock at 61 runs with a fine direct hit in the 48th over, preventing Australia from adding a lot of runs in the death overs and restricting them to a competitive 264 runs in 49.3 overs.

Before presenting the medal, India's fielding coach T Dilip highlighted how the knockout matches require "presence" and "awareness." "It demands a unit that does not just react, but makes things happen. The way we cut the angles, made second runs difficult, made them earn every run, that is proof of top-notch fielding effort," added the coach.

Following that, he introduced the contenders for the medal, Iyer, Ravindra Jadeja, Shubman Gill (for taking Travis Head's catch) and Virat Kohli (for plucking catches of Josh Inglis and Nathan Ellis).

After that Shastri arrived in the dressing room, to the delight of the Men in Blue, majority of who have played under his tenure as head coach. Shastri's charismatic and roaring voice was met with cheers from the team as he said, "individual brilliance will take you to a certain level. It will be a collective



team effort that will take you across the finishing line, when champions play."

Shastri finally presented the medal to Iyer.

Coming to the match, Australia won the toss and elected to bat first. After an early wicket of Cooper Connolly, Travis Head (39 in 33 balls), with four boundaries and two sixes) had a 50-run stand with Steve Smith. Smith carried on, with half-century stands against Marnus Labuschagne (29 in 36 balls, with two fours and a six) and Alex Carey (61 in 57 balls, with eight fours and a six).

Carey was there till the 48th over, until a fine direct hit from Shreyas Iyer ended his knock. Australia was skittled out for 264 in 49.3 overs.

Shami (3/48) was the top bowler for India, while Varun Chakravarthy (2/49) and Ravindra Jadeja (2/40)

also unleashed a spin web. Axar Patel and Hardik Pandya took a wicket each.

During the run chase, India lost skipper Rohit Sharma (28 in 29 balls, with three fours and a six) and Shubman Gill (8) early and were reduced to 43/2. From then on, a 91-run partnership between Virat and Shreyas Iyer (45 in 62 balls, with three fours) brought India back into the game. Virat also had a brief 44-run stand with Axar Patel (27 in 39 balls, with four and six) and a 47-run stand with KL Rahul (42 in 34 balls, with two fours and two sixes). Hardik delivered a brief and fiery cameo, scoring 28 in 24 balls, with a four and three sixes, helping India seal a win. India finished at 267/6 in 48.1 overs.

Nathan Ellis (2/48) and Adam Zampa (2/60) were the top bowlers for Australia.

KL Rahul masters middle order: adapting, excelling, delivering for India

Dubai
Since becoming a full-time member 5 in ODIs, KL Rahul has expanded his range as a middle-order batter. Since 2020, he has averaged 61.52 in that position—higher than anyone else with a minimum of 20 innings, including Heinrich Klaasen, whose average is nearly seven points lower. However, leading up to the Champions Trophy, India wanted to introduce variety in their right-hand-heavy lineup and decided to promote Axar Patel to No. 5. As a result, Rahul shifted down to No. 6 but has quickly adapted, working extensively on his power-hitting.

"Yeah, I do enjoy batting at the top, I mean I won't lie," Rahul told Star Sports, as quoted from ESPN-Cricinfo.

"It's after opening the batting in Australia in Test matches and having to face that attack in Australia and you know how red-ball [cricket] is much harder. I opened the batting there and then to come here and bat low seems a bit different, but this is how I've played white-ball cricket in the last four-five years," he added.

"So, I'm quite used to going up and down the order so I'm just happy getting a chance to play in the middle and whatever role is given, I think it's really helped me understand my game a lot more and I've had to work on boundary hitting a lot more in the last year or so because the last ODI we played in Sri Lanka I batted at No. 6, so I know that's where I'll be batting and [we] needed a left-hander in the top order," he noted.

"You'll only realize how much MS Dhoni is missed when he goes."
Former England captain Morgan





India's star table tennis player Achanta Sharath Kamal set to retire after WTT Contender Chennai

Chennai (Tamil Nadu) India's most decorated table tennis player Achanta Sharath Kamal announced his retirement from the sport, declaring that the WTT Star Contender Chennai 2025, which is slated to take place from March 25, will be his last as a professional player.

In an emotional message, the Khel Ratna recipient said the hometown hero had begun his career in Chennai and would end it here, with the prestigious Star Contender serving as his swansong.



Competing amongst a roster of global stars, the WTT Star Contender Chennai, co-organised by Stupa and Ultimate Table Tennis (UTT), will serve as a fitting farewell for Sharath, who has redefined India's stature within the sport and inspired countless others.

The Padma Shri and Arjuna Awardee will be one of four players in the men's singles leading India's charge. Sharath will also partner with Snehit Suravajjala in the men's doubles, starting in the qualifying round.

"For over two decades, I have lived my dream representing my country, feeling the weight of the flag on my chest and giving my all on the table. It all started in Chennai in a small hall, with nothing but a racket and a dream. I never imagined this journey would take me to places I had only dreamt of. This is it,

importantly, to you, the fans who believed in me even when I doubted myself. Thank you for every cheer, every chant, and every message of your support. You have made this journey unforgettable. This is not the end; the game has always been a part of me, and I will always be a part of the game," Sharath added.

Sharath's final career act unfolds in Chennai, completing his journey. His legacy persists through Tamil Nadu's grassroots programs and growing sports infrastructure, as noted by Dr Atulya Misra IAS, who praised the state's rich table tennis heritage and the importance of WTT Star Contender Chennai, attracting top players from nearly 20 countries.

"Tamil Nadu is doing very well in table tennis; there are 3000 competitive table tennis players in the state, one of the largest numbers anywhere in the country. At the WTT Star Contender, we'll have some of the best players from all over the world. The best players from India will be here. It will be a huge spectacle," he said. "Our honourable Chief Minister and Deputy Chief Minister are interested in building a very strong sports infrastructure here. We are also planning to put up a Centre of Excellence for table tennis with the help of Sharath," he said.

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Indian contingent set for World Winter Games

New Delhi Special Olympics Bharat, on Wednesday, organised a grand send-off ceremony for the 49-member contingent (comprising 30 athletes and 19 support staff members) ready to represent India at the Special Olympics World Winter Games 2025 in Turin, Italy at the Major Dhyan Chand National Stadium, New Delhi.

The ceremony was graced by the Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports, and Minister of Labour and Employment, Mansukh Mandaviya, President of Special Olympics Bharat, Dr Mallika Nadra and Executive Director of Special Olympics Bharat, Dr V.K. Mahendru.

The Special Olympics Winter World Games, scheduled to take place in Italy from March 8 to March 15 will see 30 players from Team India, participating across 6 sports disciplines - Alpine Skiing, Cross Country Skiing, Floorball, Short-track Speed Skating, Snowboarding and Snowshoes. Special Olympics World Winter Games will bring together 1500 athletes from 102 countries, who will compete in 8 sports disciplines.

The present dignitaries offered the Indian athletes their best wishes, and motivated them with their words as they get ready to make the nation proud with their success on the global stage. Athletes were also honoured with garlands and were gifted traditional Himachali Woolen Camps as a symbol of good luck at the end of the ceremony. Mandaviya said, "Our incredible Indian athletes participating in the Special Olympics World Games embody the spirit of determination, resilience, and excellence. Your dedication and passion inspire the nation, proving that true strength lies in the courage to push boundaries. The entire nation is extremely excited to witness you all in action. Fly the tricolour high with your success, the entire country is backing you."

"Our athletes are an inspiration to the nation, showcasing the power of determination and sportsmanship. We have seen your entire journey and how you overcame every struggle and challenge that was thrown your way to reach this pedestal.

Yuva All Stars Championship, 2025 welcomes six invitational youth teams

Haridwar (Uttarakhand) Yuva Mumbai, Yuva Paltan, Yuva Yodhas, Warriorz K.C, Jai pur Pink Cubs and Junior Steelers are the six teams who will join the teams from the Yuva Kabaddi Series (YKS) division rounds for the upcoming Yuva All Stars Championship 2025, a first of its kind tournament in the kabaddi ecosystem, which will begin on March 6, 2025 here at Vandana Kataria Indoor Stadium, in Haridwar, as per release a release Yuva All Stars Championship.

The tournament format will feature 12 teams divided into Pool A and Pool B. The pool distribution is based on rankings from the division rounds of the 11th edition of the Yuva Kabaddi Series (YKS).

In December 2024 and January 2025, the 11th edition of the Yuva Kabaddi Series (YKS) was played, and six teams qualified for the upcoming Yuva All Stars Championship 2025.

The six professional teams include Yuva Mumbai (Unilazer Ventures Pvt. Ltd.), Yuva Paltan (Insuretek Sports Pvt. Ltd.), Yuva Yodhas (GMR League Games Pvt. Ltd.) Warriorz KC, Jaipur



Yuva All Stars Championship 2025 also has a massive prize pool of Rs1,32,59,000, making it one of the most rewarding battlegrounds for emerging talent. The champions will take home Rs15,00,000, while the runners-up will receive Rs5,00,000.

The tournament also ensures financial incentives for every match, with winning teams earning Rs65,000 per match and losing teams receiving Rs30,000 per match, accumulating to a total of Rs1,05,45,000 across 111 matches.

In addition to the team rewards, standout players will be recognized through match awards across 112 matches, including Star Raider of the Match, Star Defender of the Match, and Yuva Star Player of the Match, each receiving Rs1,500, totalling Rs1,64,000.

The tournament also features special accolades, with the Star Raider, Star Defender, and Yuva Star Player of the Tournament each being awarded Rs50,000, summing up to Rs1,50,000. Furthermore, six additional tournament awards of Rs10,000 each will add another Rs60,000 to the prize pool.

Speaking about the six new teams, Vikas Gautam, CEO of the Yuva Kabaddi Series, said, "With the introduction of elite franchise-backed teams, we are elevating the competition and providing a platform where future stars can shine. This tournament is about nurturing talent, pushing boundaries, and taking the sport to new heights. We are excited to witness the passion and grit of these athletes as they battle for glory," as quoted from a release from Yuva All Stars Championship.

Four matches will be held daily, and the Championship will conclude with a grand finale on April 4, 2025.

AFC Challenge League: East Bengal FC take on FC Arkadag in QF first leg

Kolkata East Bengal FC are gearing up to take on FC Arkadag of Turkmenistan in the first leg of the AFC Challenge League quarter-final at the Vivekananda Yuba Bharati Krirangan in Kolkata on Wednesday, as per the official website of ISL. The Red and Gold Brigade topped Group A with two wins and a draw when they travelled to Bhutan for the group-stage fixtures in October-November. Their strong performance in the tournament reignited hope after a shaky start to their Indian Super League (ISL) campaign, helping them reshape their season.

Currently, East Bengal FC are on a four-match unbeaten run, securing three wins and a draw. However, their latest result - a 1-1 draw against Bengaluru FC in Kolkata on Sunday - ended their push for an ISL playoff spot. Now, eager to turn disappointment into determination, the team will shift its focus to making a deep run in continental competition.

Gujarat: MoS Raksha Khadse graces Australia-India Sports Excellence forum

Gandhinagar (Gujarat) Union Minister of State for Youth Affairs and Sports, Raksha Khadse, inaugurated the Australia-India Sports Excellence Forum at GIFT City, Gandhinagar, Gujarat, on Wednesday.

The two-day forum is a first-of-its-kind initiative aimed at strengthening sports cooperation between the two nations.

Australian High Commissioner to India, Philip Green, Gujarat Minister Harsh Sanghavi, and other dignitaries were also present at the event, a press release from the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports stated.

Australian elite sports decision-makers, Indian and Australian sporting institutions, higher education providers, and industry stakeholders were present in the morning session. The forum's main aim is to explore opportunities for collaboration in Olympic and Paralympic bids, talent development, sports science, and event management.

MoS Raksha Khadse emphasized the growing partnership between India and Australia in sports beyond cricket and hockey, highlighting talent development, private sector engagement, sports science, and trade in sporting industries as key areas of cooperation.

"A passion for sports is a common thread that connects India and Australia. Through this historic forum, we are expanding this partnership beyond cricket and hockey into elite athlete development, sports infrastructure, and investment in sporting industries.

Sri Lankan N Thangaraja takes round one lead courtesy his 65 at Ahmedabad Open 2025



Ahmedabad (Gujarat) Sri Lankan N Thangaraja took the round one lead courtesy his brilliant seven-under 65 at the INR 1 crore Ahmedabad Open 2025 being played at the Kensville Golf & Country Club near Ahmedabad, according to a release by Ahmedabad Open.

Italy's Michele Ortolani was second at four-under 68.

The Delhi duo of Anshul Kabthiyal and Kapil Kumar and Chandigarh's Harendra Gupta tied third with scores of two-under 70.

N Thangaraja, who finished third at last week's PGTI event in Raipur, continued his good form on Tuesday. Starting from the 10th tee, Thangaraja collected an eagle and two birdies at the expense of a bogey on the back-nine.

The 43-year-old four-time winner on the PGTI then had an even better front-nine where he scored four birdies. Thanga sank two 30-footers and landed a chip within inches on the front-tee. However, the highlight of his round was the extraordinary punch shot from the trees on the seventh that stopped three feet from the flag.

Thanga said, "It was a very windy day but I handled it well. I hit 13 greens in regulation and my putting was excellent. The best moment of the day was the punch shot from the trees on the seventh where I did not have a full swing and was just looking to find the edge of the green. However, that incredible shot saw the ball stop merely three feet from the pin," as quoted from Ahmedabad Open.

"I'm carrying the confidence from last week's performance. Scoring a 65 in such tough conditions adds to my self-belief going forward in the tournament," he added.

Michele Ortolani's short-game held his round together as he made several up and downs. Ortolani, fresh from a runner-up finish on the Asian Development Tour (ADT) recently, made five birdies and a bogey on Tuesday. His round featured a great bunker shot on the 14th that landed inches from the hole and led to a birdie.

Vaun Parikh's 73 made him the highest-placed among the Ahmedabad-based players as he occupied tied 14th place.

India's ambition to host the 2036 Olympics reflects our nation's growing strength and commitment to sports," she said.

With initiatives like Khelo India, TOPS, Fit India and ASMITA, we are working to build a robust sporting ecosystem under the visionary leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi ji," added the Minister.

The forum is designed to leverage Australian expertise in sports development and introduce best practices to India as it works towards its 2036 Olympics and Paralympics bid.

Discussions are centered around elite talent development, major sporting event management, diversity and inclusion, developmental pathways from grassroots level to elite level and sports science.

The key objectives include knowledge sharing on the Olympic and Paralympic Games organization, strengthening ties between Indian and Australian educational and sporting institutions, encouraging corporate investment and trade in sports-related industries, enhancing athlete performance through advanced sports science and technology and building a roadmap for the future, as stated in the release.

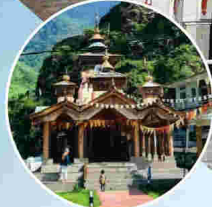
Highlighting Gujarat as a growing hub for sports infrastructure, Raksha Khadse expressed confidence in India's vision to become a sporting superpower.

माँ गंगा का शीतकालीन प्रवास गंगा मंदिर

मुखीमठ, मुखवा (उत्तरकाशी)



देवभूमि उत्तराखण्ड में शीतकालीन तीर्थाटन एवं पर्यटन



माँ यमुना का
शीतकालीन प्रवास
यमुना मंदिर
खरसाली (उत्तरकाशी)

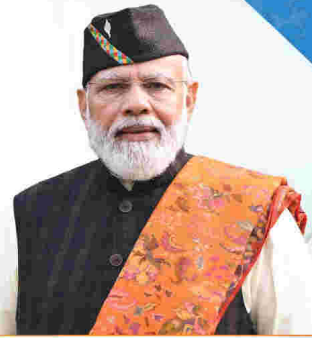


श्री केदारनाथ जी का
शीतकालीन प्रवास
आकाशेश्वर मन्दिर
ऊखीमठ (रुद्रप्रयाग)



श्री बदरीनाथ जी का
शीतकालीन प्रवास
योगध्यान बद्री मन्दिर
पांडुकेश्वर (वमोली)

मुखीमठ, मुखवा माँ गंगा का शीतकालीन प्रवास स्थान है। शीतकाल के दौरान गंगोत्री मन्दिर के कपाट बंद होने पर माँ गंगा की मूर्ति को गंगोत्री से मुखवा लाया जाता है और शीतकाल के दौरान इसी मन्दिर में माँ गंगा की पूजा की जाती है।



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माँ गंगा के शीतकालीन प्रवास

गंगा मंदिर

मुखवा, हर्षिल, उत्तरकाशी, उत्तराखण्ड
आगमन पर

प्रधानमंत्री श्री नरेन्द्र मोदी जी

का

हार्दिक स्वागत एवं अभिनन्दन

बृहस्पतिवार, दिनांक 06 मार्च, 2025 | प्रातः 09.00 बजे

माननीय प्रधानमंत्री श्री नरेन्द्र मोदी जी द्वारा

माँ गंगा मन्दिर में दर्शन एवं पूजा।

उत्तराखण्ड शीतकालीन पर्यटन प्रदर्शनी का अवलोकन।

रैलियों और पदयात्राओं को हरी झंडी दिखाकर रवानगी।

हर्षिल में सार्वजनिक समारोह।

कार्यक्रम का सीधा प्रसारण डीडी न्यूज पर

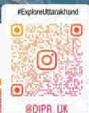
उत्तराखण्ड: एक अद्वितीय, रोमांचक और प्राकृतिक गंतव्य

- उत्तराखण्ड के पर्वत, कलकल बहती नदियां और मन को शान्ति पहुंचाने वाले मंदिरों से तीर्थयात्रियों व पर्यटकों को मिलता है प्राकृतिक एवं आध्यात्मिक शान्ति का अहसास।
- सर्दियों के महीने में शांत पहाड़ों के बीच ध्यान, योग और आत्म-चिंतन की अनुभूति से जीवन को मिलता है नया अनुभव।
- ओली, नैनीताल और मसूरी जैसे लोकप्रिय डेस्टिनेशन में स्कीइंग, पैराग्लाइडिंग, स्नोबोर्डिंग और स्नो ट्रेकिंग की सुविधा पर्यटकों के लिए रोमांचकारी।
- राष्ट्रीय उद्यान और वन्यजीव अभ्यारण्य के लिए विश्व प्रसिद्ध है देवभूमि उत्तराखण्ड।



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