

TOP STORY

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Chhetri's return gives national team hope but reflects badly on Indian football



European leaders downplay scepticism from Trump about NATO solidarity

Radhika Apte to make directorial debut with action-fantasy film 'Koyta'



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Innovation in Governance: Delhi Assembly takes paperless route with NeVA

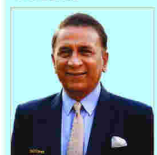
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CM Yogi distributes interest-free loans to Young Entrepreneurs in Agra



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Rohit must aim for bigger scores, can take game away from opposition: Gavaskar



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Two-Day Global Road Infratech Summit & Expo Concludes with Focus on Sustainable Infrastructure and Safer Roads

MARKET	
SENSEX	NIFTY
7432.58	2252.50
-7.51	7.80
GOLD	SILVER
85,550.00	96,793.00
-84.00	-1,348.00

WEATHER	
Sunrise	6:40 AM
Sunset	6:26 PM
Moonrise	12:46 PM
Moonset	3:33 AM
Today's Prediction	
Maximum	29°C
Minimum	16°C
Tomorrow's Prediction	
30°C	17°C

Trump threatens new Russia sanctions over Ukraine attacks

■ After suspending U.S. aid to Kyiv, Trump warns of large-scale sanctions unless a ceasefire and peace deal are reached, urging Russia and Ukraine to negotiate immediately.

Washington — President Donald Trump on Friday threatened new sanctions and tariffs on Russia over its bombardments of Ukraine, after previously suspending US aid to Kyiv in a stated bid to encourage diplomacy.

His comments, published on the Truth Social platform, came hours after Russia launched a "massive" drone and missile attack on Ukrainian energy facilities Friday.

"Based on the fact that Russia is absolutely 'pounding' Ukraine on the battlefield right now, I am strongly considering large scale Banking Sanctions, Sanctions, and Tariffs on Russia until a Cease Fire and FINAL SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT ON PEACE IS REACHED," Trump wrote.

"To Russia and Ukraine, get to the table right now, before it is too late," he added.

A senior White House official echoed this message on Friday.

"President Trump is adamant that we need



to get everybody to the table, and we could do that with carrots, and we can do that with sticks," Kevin Hassett, director of the president's National Economic Council told reporters.

Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelensky renewed calls for a mutual halt to aerial attacks on critical infrastructure following the latest Russian attack.

His proposal to halt aerial bombardments on energy facilities builds on growing rhetoric

from Kyiv, Washington and Moscow on halting the war, now in its fourth year.

The Ukrainian leader said the first steps to establishing real peace should be stopping both Russian and Ukrainian aerial and naval attacks.

"Ukraine is ready to go the way of peace, and it is Ukraine that wants peace from the very first second of this war. The task is to force Russia to stop the war," he wrote in a post on social media.

Ukraine's allies abroad have voiced support for Zelensky's truce proposal and on Friday Turkish leader Recep Tayyip Erdogan, who recently hosted the Ukrainian leader, also gave it his backing.

The Kremlin has previously ruled out a temporary ceasefire in Ukraine.

"We support the idea of establishing a ceasefire as soon as possible and stopping attacks in the air and at sea as a confidence-building measure between the parties," Erdogan told an online

meeting. The Russian defence ministry confirmed on Friday it had carried out "precision" strikes on energy facilities, claiming they support the Ukrainian military.

Russia is "targeting facilities linked to Ukraine's military-industrial complex," Russian President Vladimir Putin's spokesman Dmitry Peskov said.

The Ukrainian air force said it had deployed French Mirage fighter jets — delivered to Ukraine last month — for the first time to repel the aerial onslaught.

The fighter jets along with air-defence units shot down 34 of the missiles and 100 drones.

DTEK, the largest private energy supplier in Ukraine, said its facilities in the Black Sea region of Odesa were targeted for a fourth night in a row.

And it said that gas facilities in the central Poltava region had "ceased operations" after being struck in the overnight attack.

CONTD ON PAGE-2

US SC rejects Tahawwur Rana's plea against extradition; files fresh one

London — Mumbai terror attack accused Tahawwur Rana has submitted a renewed application to Chief Justice John Roberts seeking a stay of his extradition to India after the US Supreme Court rejected his emergency bid.

Rana, 64, a Canadian national of Pakistani origin, is currently lodged in the Metropolitan Detention Center in Los Angeles.

He had submitted an 'Emergency Application For Stay Pending Litigation of Petition For Writ of Habeas Corpus' on February 27 with Elena Kagan, Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States and Circuit Justice for the Ninth Circuit.

A note dated March 6 on the Supreme Court website said that 'Application denied by Justice Kagan'.

Rana has now renewed his 'Emergency Application for Stay Pending Litigation of Petition for Writ of Habeas Corpus' previously addressed to Justice Kagan, and requests that the renewed application be directed to Chief Justice Roberts, according to the submis-



sion by Rana's lawyers on Thursday posted on the court's website.

In his emergency application, Rana had sought a stay of his extradition and surrender to India pending litigation (including exhaustion of all appeals) on the merits of his February 13 petition.

In that petition, Rana argued that his extradition to India violates United States law and the United Nations Convention Against Torture "because there are substantial grounds for believing that, if extradited to India, the petitioner will be in danger of being subjected to torture".

"The likelihood of torture in this case is even higher than as petitioner faces acute risk as a Muslim of Pakistani origin charged in the Mumbai attacks," the application said.

CONTD ON PAGE-2

Railways to set up permanent waiting zones at 60 stations to ease passenger rush



Ahishbek Byhaut New Delhi:

A high-level meeting led by Minister of Railways Ashwini Vaishnaw held on Friday with a focus on improving crowd control at train and railway stations.

"The Railway minister in the meeting took key decisions to enhance safety and manage large crowds effectively.

According to railway officials, the decision has been taken to establish Permanent

waiting areas outside 60 stations that frequently experience heavy crowds.

"These areas were successfully used during the 2024 festival season at stations like Surat Udhna, Patna, and New Delhi. Similar measures were also implemented during the Mahakumbh at nine locations in the Prayag area, which restricted passenger access to the platforms until trains arrived. However, complete access control will be enforced at these

60 stations," an official said.

Passengers with confirmed tickets will receive direct access to platforms, while those without tickets or on the waiting list will wait in the designated outside areas. And unauthorized entry points will be sealed, the official added.

Apart from this, it has also been decided to construct new wide foot-over-bridges (FOBs) measuring 12 meters and 6 meters as they

HIGHLIGHT

■ Construction of new wide foot-over-bridges (FOBs), installation of many cameras for better crowd management.

■ War rooms will be set up at major stations to manage crowd situations with staff from all departments.

CONTD ON PAGE-2

Duplicate voter I-cards issue to be addressed in 3 months: EC

New Delhi — Amid allegations of a cover-up over duplicate voter identity card numbers, the Election Commission on Friday said it will address the "decades-long" matter in the next three months.

The Trinamool Congress flagged the issue of duplicate voter identity card numbers in different states and accused the EC of a cover-up.

TMC MP Saket Gokhale said the Election Commission has finally admitted and accepted their guilt that duplicate Electoral Photo to Identity Card (EPIC) numbers have been allocated to multiple people. "This is a scam and answers must be given," he posted on X.

In a statement, the poll authority said India's electoral rolls are the biggest database of electors across the globe



with over 99 crore registered voters.

"As regards the issue of duplicate Electoral Photo Identity Card numbers, the Commission has already taken cognisance of the matter. Irrespective of an EPIC number, an elector who is linked to the electoral roll of a particular polling station can cast his vote at that polling station only and nowhere else," it asserted.

The poll authority said it has now decided to resolve this "long-pending issue" after detailed discussions within the technical teams and concerned state chief electoral officers in the

HIGHLIGHT

■ The Trinamool Congress flagged the issue of duplicate voter identity card numbers in different states and accused the EC of a cover-up.

next three months by ensuring a "unique national EPIC number" to the existing electors having a duplicate EPIC number. The new system will be applicable for future electors as well, it added.

Explaining the procedure related to the updation of electoral rolls, the EC said at every booth, political parties also have the right to appoint booth-level agents who have a right to verify the electoral roll of the concerned booth and raise a complaint for the anomaly, if any.

Agency

SC refuses stay on Adani's Dharavi redevelopment project

New Delhi — The Supreme Court on Friday refused to order a status quo on Dharavi redevelopment project in Mumbai.

A bench of Chief Justice Sanjiv Khanna and Justice Sanjay Kumar sought responses from the Maharashtra government and Adani Properties Pvt Ltd, which was awarded the tender for the project, on a petition challenging a December 20, 2024 verdict of the Bombay high court.

The high court had ordered the developer to clear the decks for redevelopment of the slums in Dharavi and upheld the tender awarded to the Adani Group for the project, ruling there was no "arbitrariness, unreasonableness or perversity" in the decision.

The high court in the process dismissed the plea of UAE-based Seclink Technologies Corporation challenging the state government's decision to award the mega redevelopment project to Adani Properties Pvt Ltd, which had made a Rs 5,069-crore offer. Seclink Technologies

Corporation emerged as the highest bidder for the project first in 2018 with its Rs 7,200-crore offer, but the tender was later scrapped by the government.



The Adani group had emerged as the highest bidder for the 259-hectare Dharavi redevelopment project in the heart of Mumbai and bagged it with its Rs 5,069-crore

offer in the 2022 tender process.

The corporation moved against the high court decision.

While issuing notice on its plea, the bench directed Adani Properties Pvt Ltd to make payments for the project through a single bank account.

After the bench issued notice on the plea, senior advocate C Aryama Sundaram appearing for Seclink Technologies Corporation urged the court to order a status quo. Agency

India demands action against those involved in Jaishankar's security breach

London — India on Friday pressed the UK to take action against the pro-Khalistan elements involved in the breach of External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar's security in London and said that the incident reflected the "lucifer" accorded to such forces.

A pro-Khalistani protester attempted to breach barricades, while others shouted anti-India slogans as External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar left Chatham House after concluding an interactive session at the institute on Wednesday evening. "We have conveyed



our deep concern to the UK authorities about the breach of security arrangements by UK-based separatist and extremist elements during the external affairs minister's visit," external affairs ministry spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal

said. "There is a larger context to the incident. It brings out the licence accorded to such forces, as well as indifference to their intimidation, threats, and other actions aimed at impeding our legitimate diplomatic activities in the UK," he said.

In a statement, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) spokesperson condemned the provocative actions of separatist and extremist elements, emphasizing that India deprecates the misuse of democratic freedoms and expects the host government to uphold its diplomatic obligations. Agency

Trump threatens new Russia sanctions over Ukraine attacks

CONT FROM PAGE 1 State gas company Natgaz also said its production facilities had been damaged, without giving details.

Authorities in at least five Ukrainian regions said Russia had targeted energy facilities. The latest Russian air assault came after EU leaders, shaken by the prospect of US disengagement, agreed to boost the bloc's defences.

US, Ukrainian officials to meet EU chiefs on Friday briefed several NATO partners including Britain and Turkey -- about the outcome of a meeting on defence of the bloc's leaders in Brussels a day earlier.

"Our cooperation with likeminded NATO partners is vital for international security. For Ukraine, for stepping up our joint efforts on defence," Antonio Costa, who heads the body representing EU member states, said in a post on X.

Washington said talks with Kyiv were back on track to secure a ceasefire with Moscow -- after a public falling out between Trump and Zelensky last Friday.

US and Ukrainian officials were expected to meet Tuesday in Saudi Arabia, a senior Kyiv official said, with Zelensky voicing hope for a "meaningful meeting".

Zelensky himself will travel to Saudi Arabia on Monday for talks with Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman.

Railways to set up permanent waiting zones at 60 stations to ease passenger rush

CONT FROM PAGE 1 proved effective during the Mahakumbh. Additionally, many cameras will be installed for better crowd monitoring, said the official.

"In the meeting, it has decided to set up war rooms at major stations to manage crowd situations with staff from all departments. New communication equipment, including digital devices and systems, will also be provided," said an official.

US SC rejects Tahawwur Rana's plea against extradition; files fresh one

CONT FROM PAGE 1 The application also said that his 'severe medical conditions' warranted extradition to Indian detention facilities 'a de facto' death sentence in this case.

It cited medical records from July 2024 that confirm Rana has multiple acute and life-threatening diagnoses, including multiple documented heart attacks, Parkinson's disease with cognitive decline, a mass suggestive of bladder cancer, stage 3 chronic kidney disease, and a history of chronic asthma, and multiple COVID-19 infections.

"Accordingly, petitioner certainly has raised a credible, if not compelling, factual case that there are indeed substantial grounds for believing he would be in danger of torture if surrendered to Indian authorities.

"Further, because of his Muslim religion, his Pakistani origin, his status as a former member of the Pakistani Army, the relation of the putative charges to the 2008 Mumbai attacks, and his chronic health con-

International Women's Day 2025: Empowering Women and Girls for an Inclusive Future

ATS/N Delhi s the world comes together to celebrate International Women's Day (IWD) on March 8, the focus remains on recognizing the achievements of women across diverse spheres. This year's theme, "For ALL Women and Girls: Rights, Equality, Empowerment," emphasizes the need to foster an inclusive future by unlocking equal rights, power, and opportunities for all. Special attention is being given to empowering young women and adolescent girls, recognizing them as key drivers of change.

Women in Leadership and Mental Well-being The last two decades have witnessed a surge in the number of women in leadership positions across industries, including technology and entrepreneurship. However, the constant juggle between professional and personal responsibilities has often led to increased stress and burnout, making mental well-being a crucial aspect of empowerment.

Dr. Jyoti Kapoor, Founder-Director of Manashali Wellness, stressed the importance of self-care for women navigating multiple responsibilities. She highlighted the role of regular exercise, a balanced diet, and quality sleep in maintaining energy levels, while also advocating for setting boundaries at work and home to prevent exhaus-



Dr. Jyoti Kapoor, Founder-Director, Manashali Wellness

tion. "Delegating tasks helps reduce overload, and mindfulness techniques such as meditation or deep breathing can significantly alleviate stress. Building a strong support system, whether through family, friends, or a professional network, is essential for emotional relief," she said. Dr. Kapoor also underscored the necessity of normalizing discussions around mental health in families, workplaces, and social circles to create a judgment-free environment where women can prioritize their well-being without fear.

The Need for Skill Development and Gender Inclusion Alongside mental well-being, skill development is critical, particularly for women in rural areas, to ensure economic independence. Despite progress, the gender gap in confidence and opportunities persists, especially in smaller cities where male dominance in workplaces remains a challenge.

Riddhi Bhagat, Founder of Binge on Baked (BoB), emphasized the collective responsibility to create a more inclusive world for women. "Even today, women do not receive the same level of confidence as men when managing certain affairs, particularly in tier-two and tier-three cities. Women must stand up against injustice and bring change



Dr. Sushma Chawla, Founder-President, Hope Ek ASHA

within themselves. Clarity in career aspirations, persistence, and the belief in their capabilities are key. While success may take longer for women due to societal expectations, they can still effectively manage their personal and professional lives. The universe works in your favor when you want, she asserted.

Women as Change-makers in Society Women continue to demonstrate resilience and determination in various sectors, breaking barriers and driving social change. From silent revolutions in rural areas to competitive achievements in urban settings, their contribu-

tions are accelerating progress toward a more equitable society.

Dr. Sushma Chawla, Founder-President of Hope Ek ASHA, highlighted the pivotal role women play in social care and empowerment. "At Hope Ek ASHA, women serve as the torchbearers, running the organization and taking on the challenging task of caring for people with dementia with deep empathy and confidence. Kudos to the changemakers who continue to break barriers! I feel truly fortunate to be part of this women-led team," she said.

Mamta Shankar, Whole Time Member (Economics) at the Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRA), acknowledged the increasing participation of women in financial planning, particularly in securing their retirement.

"For years, financial security in old age was largely seen as a man's responsibility, but today, women are rewriting this narrative. The rising involvement of women in retirement planning has empowered them to build a secure and promising future. As of March 31, 2024, women constituted 45% of total subscribers under the National Pension System (NPS) and Atal Pension Yojana (APY). PFRA remains committed to ensuring that our pension offerings are accessible and beneficial for all women and girls.

Cooperative Department should become the ideal model of Digital India: Ravindra Indraj Singh



Staff Reporter New Delhi

Minister of Social Welfare, SC/ST Welfare, Elections and Cooperation Ravindra Indraj Singh on Friday visited the office of Registrar Cooperative Societies at Sansad Marg.

He highlighted that 2025 will be the International Year of Cooperatives and stressed the need for digitization to align with the vision of Digital India encouraged by Prime Minister Modi.

Applications should be processed within the set time limits. During his visit, Ravindra reviewed departmental records and examined the administration, registration, operations of cooperative societies, and pending cases.

He instructed officials to work with dedication and transparency, simplify processes, and focus on providing timely services to the public.

Indian Railways has announced plans to equip women members of the Railway Protection Force (RPF) with chilli spray cans on occasion of International Women's Day, according to a statement released by RPF.

This non-lethal tool aims to help these personnel address challenges, particularly in protecting women passengers traveling alone or with children, thereby ensuring safer journeys for women.

Delhi Environment Minister launched a workshop on Bio-Medical Waste Mgmt

Staff Reporter New Delhi Environment Minister Manjinder Singh Sirsa on Friday launched a workshop on Bio-Medical Waste Management in New Delhi, organized by the Delhi Pollution Control Committee (DPCC) and the Center for Occupational and Environmental Health (COEH).

The event aimed to inform healthcare representatives about bio-medical waste regulations, best practices, and encouraging effective waste management strategies.

Minister Sirsa praised healthcare institutions for their responsible waste disposal efforts and highlighted the importance of proper bio-medical waste management for both environmental protection and public health.

He pointed out that improper segregation of hazardous and non-hazardous waste leads to increased risks to public health and the environment. Emphasizing scientific disposal methods, he called for better

waste segregation, collection, and treatment to reduce adverse impacts on health workers and the environment. The workshop discussed that Delhi generates around 31.2 metric tons of bio-medical waste daily and stressed compliance with the Bio-medical Waste Management Rules 2016.

The city has two bio-medical waste treatment facilities with a capacity of 62.8 metric tons per day. However, the need for ongoing monitoring, regular audits, and expanding treatment facilities was highlighted to avoid illegal disposal and pollution.

Twenty government hospitals were recognized for their excellent waste management practices. Minister Sirsa concluded by underscoring the need for a collaborative approach among government agencies, healthcare institutions, and citizens to enhance environmental protection and promote a sustainable future.

Programme held on Women's Day



Staff Reporter New Delhi

The International Women's Day and Holi Man programme were organised by the NDMC Women Employees Welfare Association and the NDMC Welfare Department. The event aimed to honour the achievements of female employees and promote women empowerment.

NDMC vice-chairman Kuljeet Singh Chahal participated in these programmes. Among others MP Bansuri Swaraj, Sarita Tomar, NDMC member/patron, Rashmi Singh, IAS (commissioner, Jammu & Kashmir), and Aarti Upadhyay (entrepreneur/social worker) along with other NDMC council members DP Singh and Anil Valmiki were present on the occasion.

Chahal in his address emphasised the importance of International Women's Day and acknowledged the crucial role and contributions of women in society. He highlighted the key initiatives taken by Prime Minister Narendra Modi for women's development and empowerment.

He remarked that by introducing 33% reservation for women in politics, the Prime Minister has set a new benchmark for women's empowerment. He stated that under the visionary leadership of Prime Minister Modi, India is taking historic strides in women's empowerment, ensuring greater representation and opportunities for women in all spheres of society.

Female employees from various NDMC departments, including department heads, security personnel, sanitation workers, healthcare professionals, and administrative staff, were honoured for their exceptional contributions. All guests together presented shields to these women, recognising their hard work and dedication.

Police rescued 4-year-old boy kidnapped from Old Delhi railway station

Staff Reporter New Delhi

Government Railway Police (GRP) at Old Delhi Railway Station on Friday successfully rescued a four year old boy who was kidnapped from the railway station on March, 03.

According to Railway police, On March 4, 2025, a mother reported to the Government Railway Police (GRP) at Old Delhi Railway Station that her 4-year-old son was kidnapped from platform 16 on March 3rd at around 6:00 AM.

The child was playing near the escalator when an unknown person took him away. The GRP acted quickly, registered a case, and investigated the incident. They successfully rescued the child from Anand Vihar Railway Station and arrested the accused. The child has been safely reunited with his mother.

SATISH KUMAR ADVOCATE DELHI HIGH COURT CHAMBER NO.706, DWARKA COURT, NEW DELHI PH:9891876972

GENERAL PUBLIC IS HEREBY informed that My client Sh. Yogender Singh S/O Rishi Singh New Delhi 110043 has severed his all relations and has disowned their son Ramender Chaudhan and Omender Chaudhan and their wives Swati Chaudhan and Rabita Yadav respectively from his movable and immovable properties due to their quarrelsome and disobedient nature. So my client shall not be responsible for any act of their sons Ramender Chaudhan and Omender Chaudhan and their wives Swati Chaudhan and Rabita Yadav if anyone do so then he/she will do so at his/her own risk.

Innovation in Governance: Delhi Assembly takes paperless route with NeVA

With an aim of 100 days target of the New BJP led government in Delhi, Speaker Vijender Gupta held an important meeting with officials from the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs to discuss the implementation of the National e-Vidhan Application (NeVA) in the Delhi Assembly.

Abhishek Byhant
New Delhi

Speaker of the Legislative Assembly of the National Capital Territory (NCT) Delhi, Vijender Gupta on Friday held an important meeting with officials from the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs to discuss the implementation of the National e-Vidhan Application (NeVA) in the Delhi Assembly.

The NeVA team, led by Additional Secretary Dr. Satya Prakash, presented the application's key features.

NeVA will serve as a digital platform, transitioning all legislative work to a paperless system. This includes functions like notices, ministerial replies, legislative procedures, discussions, committee reports, and access to a digital library.



iveness of the legislative process.

Vijender Gupta stressed the need for quick progress and set a goal for successful implementation within 100 days.

He highlighted the "One India, One Application" vision of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and called for enhanced digital governance in assemblies for better functioning, transparency, and accountability.

He noted that the e-Vidhan project had been delayed for ten years due to previous administration issues but is now focused on swift completion, aiming for a fully digital and eco-friendly legislative system.

NDMC attaches seven properties in Khan Market

Delhi BJP criticized AAP party for not taking action against illegal activities in spa centers & hotels

Staff Reporter
New Delhi

wani Kumar to enforce the Shop Act by removing

flashy electric signboards at spa centers and replac-

ing them with standard ones.

Delhi BJP spokesperson Praveen Shankar Kapoor criticized the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) for not taking action against illegal activities in spa centers and hotels during their 10 years in power, including two and a half years in municipal corporation control.

He pointed out that the Delhi Police has been the only force actively addressing these issues.

Kapoor mentioned that it was only after BJP MLA Neeraj Basoya spoke about the problems caused by spa centers in the assembly that Mayor Mahesh Khinchi took notice.

He also urged Municipal Commissioner Ash-



New Delhi

The New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC) on Friday attached seven shop-cum-flat properties in the upscale Khan Market over non-payment of property tax.

A senior NDMC official stated, "We have attached seven shop-cum-flat properties in Khan Market and after attaching the properties, the civic body has given a notice of five days to the owner to pay the due property tax."

Making Delhi green and clean city a priority L-G Saxena



New Delhi

Delhi Lieutenant Governor V K Saxena inaugurated the Amrut Biodiversity Park here on Friday and stated that providing a greener and cleaner city to the people will be his priority.

After inaugurating the park, he mentioned that around a year and a half ago, the place was in a terrible state, full of dirt and neglect. "It was cleaned up, and today it has been transformed into a beautiful park."

"We aim to provide the people of Delhi with a clean and refreshing environment while also increasing green spaces in the city. We are also considering setting up a small cafe in the park where joggers and visitors can take a break and relax," Saxena said.

Following Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of a cleaner and greener Delhi, we are working hard toward this goal with several new projects already in progress," he added.

plants have been planted, which will further enhance the beauty of the park in the coming years."

Speaking about the cleaning of the Yamuna, the L-G said it was progressing at full speed. Chief Minister Rekha Gupta and other ministers are continuously monitoring the work being carried out in mission mode, he added.

Developed as part of the Yamuna floodplain restoration scheme by the Delhi Development Authority, the Amrut Biodiversity Park spans over 90 hectares on the eastern bank of the Yamuna River, according to a statement.

Given the site's susceptibility to flooding, the park's landscape features have been strategically designed to manage stormwater, reduce flood risks, and improve the local water table through natural filtration, it stated.

To foster public engagement with nature, two public interfaces have been established along NH-24, near the CWG Village. These areas offer amenities that connect visitors with the natural environment, even during flood-induced inundation periods, the statement added.

Delhi govt to open Janaushadhi Kendras near hospitals: CM Gupta

Abhishek Byhant
New Delhi

Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta on Friday visited the Jan Aushadhi Kendra in Ashok Vihar for Jan Aushadhi Diwas.

She announced that the Delhi government will roll out the Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Jan Aushadhi Pariyojana (PMBJP) to establish Jan Aushadhi Kendras throughout the city, aiming to provide affordable medicines.

CM Gupta criticized the previous government for not implementing the scheme, which denied residents access to its benefits.

"Our government plans to ensure that citizens can obtain high-quality medicines and medical products at much lower prices, particularly benefiting economically weaker sections. Important medicines for serious illnesses like cancer and diabetes will be available at reduced costs, and sanitary napkins for women will be priced at ₹1, promoting hygiene," Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta said.



She announced that the Delhi government will roll out the Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Jan Aushadhi Pariyojana (PMBJP) to establish Jan Aushadhi Kendras throughout the city, aiming to provide affordable medicines.

CM Gupta also revealed that, as directed by the Delhi High Court, at least one Jan Aushadhi Kendra will be set up within 500 meters of each government hospital.

These centers will offer WHO certified products at 50-70% lower prices and will help local hospitals in emergencies.

She thanked Prime Minister Narendra Modi for the initiative, stating it will make healthcare more affordable.



Government of Haryana

Heartiest Greetings

on the occasion of

International Women's Day

March 8, 2025

नारी शक्ति से विकसित भारत



महिलाओं का सम्मान प्रदेश की शान

#SheBuildsBharat

Information, Public Relations & Languages Department, Haryana

Scan the QR code to join the WhatsApp channel of Information and Public Relations Department, Haryana





By Dr. Anil Singh, Editor, STAR Views

Bihar's Political Battlefield: A High-Stakes Election with National Ramifications

As Bihar gears up for its upcoming Assembly elections in November 2025, the state has become a battleground where every major political force is throwing its weight behind an intense contest. The ruling National Democratic Alliance (NDA), led by Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, faces a determined opposition in the form of the Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) and the Congress. Meanwhile, the increasing assertiveness of Hindu fundamentalist groups, including figures like Vageshwar Baba, Dharmendra, and Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) chief Mohan Bhagwat, is shaping the ideological landscape of the election. With caste equations, religious mobilization, and development promises dominating the discourse, the Bihar elections hold significant implications not just for the state but for national politics in the years to come.

Chief Minister Nitish Kumar has built a reputation as Bihar's most astute political survivor. Having switched alliances between the NDA and the opposition multiple times, he now leads a government backed by the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) after parting ways with the Mahagathbandhan (Grand Alliance).



tics. Whether Nitish can maneuver these complexities and retain his grip on power will be a major subplot of the election.

BJP's Aggressive Push; The Role of Hindutva and RSS:

The BJP, riding high on its Hindutva agenda, has significantly expanded its presence in Bihar beyond its traditional urban strongholds. The active role of the RSS, under the leadership of Mohan Bhagwat, has strengthened the party's ideological base, especially among the youth and upper-caste voters. Religious figures like Vageshwar Baba and Dharmendra have been openly rallying support, giving the election a sharp communal edge.

The BJP has also been making inroads into the Other Backward Classes (OBC) vote bank, historically a stronghold of Nitish Kumar and Lalu Prasad Yadav. The party's aggressive campaign, backed by the charisma of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, is expected to play a crucial role in mobilizing voters. If BJP manages to dominate within the NDA, it could shift Bihar's power dynamics in the long run, reducing Nitish Kumar's political significance.

RJD's Fight for Revival Under Tejaswini Yadav:

The Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD), led by Tejaswini Yadav, is making a determined effort to reclaim its lost ground. With Lalu Prasad Yadav still the party's ideologi-

cal figurehead, the RJD is focusing on its traditional Muslim-Yadav (MY) vote bank while attempting to attract disillusioned youth and backward caste voters.

Tejaswini's campaign revolves around unemployment, economic distress, and the failures of the Nitish government in delivering on its promises. However, the party continues to struggle with its historical baggage of "Jungle Raj," a term used by critics to describe the lawlessness during Lalu Yadav's tenure. The biggest challenge for the RJD is to counter the BJP's Hindutva push while also consolidating its core voter base against a fragmented opposition.

Congress; A Minor Player Trying to Stay Relevant:

The Congress, once a dominant force in Bihar, now plays a secondary role in the state's politics. Despite being a part of the opposition alliance, the party lacks strong leadership and a dedicated voter base in the state. Its campaign largely revolves around national issues such as inflation, economic downturn, and alleged attacks on democratic institutions. However, in a state where regional parties dominate, Congress struggles to carve out a distinct identity.

Nevertheless, the party hopes to capitalize on discontent against the BJP-led central government, especially among minorities and Dalits. The election will test whether

the Congress can regain some political relevance in Bihar or remain a marginal player dependent on coalition politics.

The Role of Caste and Religion in Electoral Strategy:

Caste and religion continue to be the two most significant factors in Bihar's electoral politics. While Hindutva forces are attempting to consolidate the Hindu vote, parties like RJD and Congress are banking on caste-based alliances to counter the BJP's influence. The Mahadalis, Extremely Backward Classes (EBCs), and Pasmanda Muslims are emerging as key voting blocs that could tilt the scales in a closely contested election.

With figures like Vageshwar Baba and Dharmendra playing an active role in religious mobilization, the BJP is pushing a strong nationalist narrative. Meanwhile, the opposition is attempting to rally backward castes and minorities to counter the saffron wave. The battle for caste dominance in Bihar is as intense as ever, with each party trying to rework old alliances to secure a winning formula.

Impact of Bihar Elections on National Politics:

The Bihar elections are not just about the state; they have wider implications for national politics. If the BJP manages to secure a decisive victory, it will further cement its dominance in the Hindi heartland and strengthen its prospects for the 2029 Lok Sabha elections. A

BJP-led government in Bihar with a weakened Nitish Kumar could pave the way for a complete saffronization of the state's political landscape.

On the other hand, a strong performance by the RJD-Congress alliance could signal a revival of opposition politics in North India. It would also provide momentum for opposition forces ahead of future battles in Uttar Pradesh and other key states. Bihar's elections, therefore, serve as a crucial test for both the ruling party and the opposition in shaping the political narrative for years to come.

The Road Ahead for Bihar:

As the election draws closer, Bihar's political drama is set to intensify, with each party deploying its best strategies to secure a win. Nitish Kumar faces his toughest challenge yet, as he tries to navigate a complex alliance with the BJP while dealing with anti-incumbency. The BJP's aggressive push, backed by the RSS and Hindutva forces, is reshaping the state's electoral dynamics. Meanwhile, the RJD and Congress are battling hard to remain politically relevant.

The outcome of Bihar's assembly elections will not only determine the future of governance in the state but will also influence the broader national political landscape. Whether Bihar witnesses a continuation of Nitish Kumar's leadership, a complete takeover by the BJP, or a resurgence of the opposition, the results will set the stage for India's evolving political trajectory in the years ahead.

About the Author

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

Breaking Time Sudoku

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

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

Solution, Sudoku

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

THE WISDOM TREE BY SUVEEN KUMAR

YOU BETTER BE BETTER

You better be better because the worse is worsened. 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 competitions 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 detracts 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 insure showing

that once you belonged to them. People say, philosophy can't fix people's problems, well neither can maths as it is always busy solving its own problems. Philosophy is a fresher training, a revisit of learning, a set of life's rules in a communicative language. People can solve people problems. Every person has many persons in him. If the good inside you is weaker than the bad inside you, take a help of a stronger good in side someone. If you make your own rules you better have your own games, if you want to enjoy the both worlds you better conquer both of them, if you want to be your own master you better have a self-control one over another. How you want every second of your life to be, how you want every word of your story to be, how you want inch of your image to be will always depend on who you hear most, the most of your life, good you or bad you.



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



By DIKSHA

Shifting Dynamics of U.S. Foreign Policy under Trump

Cameras zoomed in, temperatures soared, and the world watched in astonishment as what was meant to be a pivotal step toward a peace accord erupted into a fiery confrontation between U.S. President Trump and Ukrainian President Zelenskyy. In a moment of high drama, Trump dismissed Zelenskyy as an "unelected leader and a dictator", while Zelenskyy retaliated, accusing Trump of residing in a Russian disinformation bubble.

Such an exchange would have once been unimaginable, given the unwavering U.S. support for Ukraine and its staunch opposition to Russia. However, under Trump 2.0, Washington has embarked on a diplomatic reset with Moscow, pressuring Kyiv to sign a minerals deal that would see the U.S. claim 50% of the revenue from Ukraine's rare earth mineral sales - justified as compensation for billions spent on Ukraine's security.

Simultaneously, Trump's administration is redefining global alliances, seeking areas of cooperation with Russia while alienating European allies by insisting they shoulder their own defense costs instead of relying



on American funding. Rooted in his business-oriented mindset, Trump's foreign policy is transactional, prioritizing short-term economic gains over traditional long-term hegemonic strategies. This shift has resulted in the freezing of numerous U.S. aid and development programs, including those combating AIDS and Malaria in Africa. Even famine-stricken populations in Ethiopia, desperately in need of humanitarian relief, have been left in dire straits.

Further, solidifying his break from global consensus, Trump has withdrawn the U.S. from the Paris Agreement, going so far as to erase the term "climate change" from government websites. Given that the U.S. is one of the world's largest contributors to greenhouse

gas emissions, its abdication of environmental responsibility has dealt a severe blow to global efforts against climate change.

On the economic front, Trump has ignited trade wars with key allies and rivals alike - including Canada, Mexico, and China - with plans to impose heavy tariffs on India as well. The resulting market turmoil has sent shockwaves through the global economy, fostering an atmosphere of uncertainty and instability.

The U.S. policy of resetting ties with Russia is a strategic move, as an isolated Russia was increasingly drawn into the Russia-China nexus - an alignment that did not favor India, given China's expansionist ambitions. Improved U.S.-Russia relations

benefit India, which maintains strong strategic partnerships with both nations. However, Washington's pressure on India to remove tariffs on key goods, such as automobiles, has sent shockwaves through domestic industries, raising concerns about economic sovereignty.

This shift in global power dynamics poses a significant challenge not just to India but to many nations wary of China's expansionist and revisionist ambitions. A U.S. retreat from global leadership risks accelerating Beijing's influence, with consequences that could reshape the international order to the detriment of democratic and strategic interests worldwide.

Trump represents a faction within the U.S. that is increasingly uninterested in serving broader global interests or even those of traditional allies, instead prioritizing a narrow "America First" agenda. His administration's demand that Taiwan pay for its own defense exemplifies this inward-looking approach. While such policies may reduce U.S. financial burdens, they create a geopolitical vacuum - one that China is eager to fill. Beijing has already intensified its financial outreach to Africa and other regions, leveraging its Belt and Road Initiative to offer loans to nations that, upon default, find themselves surrendering strategic assets such as ports and land.

TOP STORY

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CM Yogi distributes interest-free loans to Young Entrepreneurs in Agra

Rajesh Tomar/Akash Jain
Agra

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath distributed interest-free, guarantee-free loans amounting to ₹50 crore to 1,000 young entrepreneurs under the CM Yuva Udyami Vikas Abhiyan during his visit to Agra on Friday. He also handed out toolkits to trainees under the One District One Product (ODOP) initiative, reinforcing the state government's commitment to fostering entrepreneurship and skill development.

Upon his arrival at Kheria Airport, the Chief Minister was greeted warmly by district officials and local representatives. He then proceeded to the Circuit House premises, where a grand welcome awaited him at the divisional loan distribution program. Young entrepreneurs and dignitaries applauded his entry, reflecting the enthusiasm surrounding the initiative.

The event commenced with a welcome speech by Regional MLA Dr. G.S. Dharmesh, followed by Minister of MSME, Khadi & Village Industries, Silk Industry, Handloom, and Textile Industry Rakesh Sachan. Highlighting the importance of the CM Yuva Udyami



CM Yogi Adityanath distributing loans to young entrepreneurs in Agra.

Vikas Abhiyan, Sachan emphasized that the scheme was conceptualized as per the Chief Minister's vision of empowering educated and skilled youth. He noted that 56% of Uttar Pradesh's population comprises young individuals, and the program aims to make them self-reliant by providing them with financial support without the burden of interest or guarantees. Since its launch on January 24, over two lakh youth have registered, signaling the massive impact of the initiative.

Union Minister of State Prof. S.P. Singh Baghel lauded the Chief Minister for his efforts and emphasized the need for IT-based industries in Agra. He pointed out the challenges posed by the

NGT, TIZ, and Supreme Court regarding industrial development in the region and stressed the importance of overcoming these obstacles.

A short film showcasing the development of small and medium industries, industrial corridors, and expressways in Uttar Pradesh was screened at the event. This was followed by the distribution of loan cheques of ₹5 lakh each to young entrepreneurs by the Chief Minister and other public representatives. Additionally, a statue of Shri Giriraj Mahanaj, crafted from cow dung, was presented to the Chief Minister by Tourism and Culture Minister Jaiveer Singh.

During his address, Yogi

Adityanath energized the audience by chanting "Bharat Mata ki Jai" and "Vande Mataram" while invoking Lord Vrindavan Bihari Lal, Shri Radha Rani, and Yamuna Mata. He extended Holi greetings and highlighted Uttar Pradesh's growing global recognition. He credited Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership for the country's development over the past decade, asserting that the new India is characterized by inclusivity, security, and equal opportunities for all.

He further pointed out the immense economic impact of the Maha Kumbh, where an investment of ₹7,500 crore led to a significant economic boost of ₹3.5 lakh crore. He outlined the

development of five major pilgrimage corridors, including Prayagraj to Ayodhya-Gorakhpur, Prayagraj to Vrindavan-Vishakhapatnam, Prayagraj to Shrinagapur-Lucknow-Naimisharanya, and Prayagraj to Agra-Mathura-Vrindavan-Shukraarth, enhancing both religious tourism and economic activity.

Reaffirming the progress of Uttar Pradesh, the Chief Minister stated that the state is no longer lagging but is a leader in heritage and development. With a youth population of nearly 60%, he emphasized that the government is committed to harnessing their potential through initiatives like the CM Yuva Udyami Vikas Abhiyan. The program, launched on January 24, 2025, has already received 1.5 lakh applications, with 25,000 approvals and 10,000 disbursements. The Chief Minister outlined his vision to provide loans to one lakh young entrepreneurs by March 31, with another lakh targeted for April 1 onward.

Before addressing the gathering, Yogi Adityanath visited a stall set up by entrepreneurs and banks, closely inspecting machines and innovations while encouraging further business growth.

Fake desi ghee manufacturing factory busted in Bulandshahr



Avnish Tyagi Bulandshahr

In a major crackdown, the Food Safety Department in Bulandshahr has busted a factory engaged in manufacturing and distributing adulterated desi ghee. The factory, operating without proper regulations, was found with counterfeit ghee worth over ₹60 lakh.

On Friday, a team led by Food Safety Commissioner Vinit Kumar raided Parshwanath Industries in Sarai Chhabila village. During the raid, officials discovered large quantities of fake desi ghee being packaged under the Parshwanath brand. Additionally, a stockpile of empty wrappers falsely labeled with a Faridabad, Haryana manufacturing address was seized.

Authorities found desi ghee being packed in 15-kilogram tins and 1-kilogram tetra packs. Inside

the facility, three large steel silos contained 10,000 kilograms of adulterated ghee, valued at approximately ₹50-60 lakh.

The Food Safety Department collected five samples, including three of desi ghee and two of synthetic essence, for further testing. Officials, with assistance from the GST Department, are tracking the factory's supply chain to determine where the counterfeit ghee was being distributed.

Meanwhile, in a parallel operation, another team inspected Raja Dairy in Giridhari Nagar, collecting a milk sample for testing. Additionally, samples were taken from a milk collection center in Hasanpur village. In Shikarpur, officials gathered samples of gulab jamun, besan laddoo, and barfi from various sweet shops.

PUBLIC NOTICE

General public is hereby informed that Mr. Santosh Devi W/o Mr. Suneel Kumar is the owner of House No. 567, area 50 sq. yds., part of Khara No. 3948/3, 138/1 (M), at Samarganj, in the village Mahayana, Pargana & Tehsil & Dist. Meerut, U.P. by virtue of Sale Deed dt. 14.10.2022, doc. No. 3947, executed by Mrs. Tohida W/o Mr. Yashpal & Mrs. Nagma W/o Mr. Mohd. Chand & Mrs. Sameena W/o Mr. Rajuddin in SR-Dhulana, Hapur, and said property to be financed by AU Small Finance Bank Ltd. If anybody has any change/interest/hold/lien/Party in the said property of any kind of dispute kindly inform the undersigned in writing and with proof within 15 days from the below mentioned address, failing which and I am aware that in case default with the mortgage property any person/department/owners are responsible for the same. **Satendra Gautam Advocate** Shop No. 3, Property No. 126, Lal Kuna Ghaziabad, U.P.

PUBLIC NOTICE

To know all men that my clients Shri. Rajesh Khushia S/o Sh. P. L. Ahuja and his wife Smt. Rita Ahuja both R/o H. No. 80, 3d Floor, Block-G, Near Mandir, Baij Nagar, Ramnagar, West Delhi-110015 have discovered and debarred their son Sh. Dalsh Ahuja from their all moveable and immovable properties and my clients have also severed their all relations with him due to his disobedience and bad behaviour and my clients shall not be responsible for any of his act, conduct and if any person/department/owners shall deal with him on his own risk, cost and consequences. **Rajesh Kumar Advocate** Chamber No. 8-9, 8GS Block TS Hazari Courts Delhi-110054

PUBLIC NOTICE

MY CLIENT SUNIL/S/O SH. BALLEET R/O C-279-A, AMAN VIHAR, KIRARI SULEMAN NAGAR, NORTH WEST DELHI-110086 SERVED ALL RELATIVES AND DEBARRED HIS SON ROHIT AND HIS WIFE RINKA FROM ENTIRE MOVABLE/IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES AND ASSETS DUE TO THEIR ANGRY AND HOSTILE BEHAVIOUR. MY CLIENT SHALL NOT BE RESPONSIBLE FOR THEIR ANY ACT, DEBTS AND DEEDS IN FUTURE. **ATUL SAREEN ADVOCATE** CHAMBER NO. K-67-A, TS HAZARI COURTS, DELHI-110054

PUBLIC NOTICE

My clients RAKESH KUMAR HIS WIFE DHANWANTI and their son NAVEEN and his wife BABITA all R/O R-80A, 1 BLOCK, NEAR RAJIV GANDHI PARK, GOKUL VIHAR, DELHI-110086 have severed all their relations and debarred their son/brat/daughter named CHIRAG and his wife ANJALI from all their moveable, immovable properties due to their misconduct/ misdeeds. My be responsible for their any clients shall not act. **ATUL SAREEN ADVOCATE** CHAMBER NO. 307 LAWYERS CHAMBER ROHINI COURTS, DELHI-110085

EASTERN RAILWAY

Tender Notice No. 222-S/W/I/11-2025 Following e-tender is invited online by the Divisional Engineer/HQ, Eastern Railway, Control Building, DRM Building, Katzer Street, Sealdah, Kolkata-700014 for the following work:- **Tender No. TR-255-24-25.** Name of the work: At B.R. Singh Hospital: Development of Caters and corridor including Stair work including at 2nd floor of Metro Block including all other ancillary work under SSE/WB/R. Singh Hospital in the jurisdiction of Assistant Engineer/W/I/Sealdah. **Tender value: ₹ 1,08,45,453.40. Earnest Money Deposited: ₹ 2,04,200.** **Completion period for the work: 09 (ninet) months. Date and time of closing of tender: 02.04.2025 at 15:00 hrs.** The tender documents and other details are at www.reps.gov.in. The bidding for the tender is to be submitted through the e-tendering on above website. Manual offers will be summarily rejected. Date and time of opening of tender is 02.04.2025 at 15:00 hrs. **Tender Notices are also available at website: www.sealdah.gov.in & www.eprs.gov.in** **Follow us at: [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/easternrailway) [Instagram](https://www.instagram.com/easternrailway) [YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/easternrailway) [LinkedIn](https://www.linkedin.com/easternrailway)**

Haryana govt committed to welfare of soldiers: Ranbir Gangwa

Komal Ramola Chandigarh

Haryana's Public Works and Public Health Engineering Minister, Ranbir Gangwa, reaffirmed the state government's commitment to the welfare of soldiers and their families. Today, he handed over the appointment letter for the post of Junior Engineer (JE) to Kumari Neeraj, the sister of martyred soldier Nishant Malik, who lost his life during an encounter with militants in the Rajouri-Poonch area of Jammu and Kashmir in 2022. Hansi MLA, Vinod Bhayana, was also present on the occasion.

Addressing journalists at his office in the Haryana Civil Secretariat, Minister Ranbir Gangwa emphasized that the Haryana government is dedicated to honoring brave soldiers and supporting their families. He highlighted that the family of martyr Nishant Malik had been provided financial assistance of Rs 50 lakh as per the state government's policy. Additionally, in recognition



Minister Ranbir Gangwa presenting an appointment letter to Kumari Neeraj.

of her qualifications, his sister has now been appointed to the post of JE (Civil) in the Public Works Department.

"We can never fully repay the sacrifices of our soldiers. However, the Haryana government is running several welfare schemes for the families of those who protect the nation," said Minister Gangwa. He also noted that, under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the central government is taking significant steps for soldiers' welfare, while Haryana's Chief Minister, Naib Singh Saini, has tak-

en several initiatives to support them. The Minister further stated that the Haryana government has increased financial assistance for the families of martyred soldiers from Rs 50 lakh to Rs 1 crore. Additionally, efforts are being made to provide government jobs to their family members to ensure their economic stability.

Hansi MLA, Vinod Bhayana, also expressed his unwavering support for the families of martyred soldiers, emphasizing that their sacrifices can never be forgotten.

Build India Expo 2025 to be Held at Pragati Maidan from March 19 to 21

Gorakhpur

The much-anticipated Build India Expo 2025 is set to take place from March 19 to 21 at Bharat Mandapam, Pragati Maidan, New Delhi. The announcement was made in a press release by Er. Ajay Kumar Jaiswal, Convener of the Indian Industries Association (IIA), Gorakhpur Chapter.

According to Er. Jaiswal, the expo is expected to attract a significant number of buyers, business representatives, and investors from both national and international markets. The exhibi-

tion will prominently feature products under the One District One Product (ODOP) initiative, along with exportable items from various districts of Uttar Pradesh. This provides a valuable opportunity for entrepreneurs to introduce their products to a broader audience and expand their reach.

The Uttar Pradesh government, under the Market Development Assistance (MDA) Scheme and ODOP initiative, is offering substantial support to entrepreneurs participating in

the event. Special incentives, including up to 75% reimbursement on stall charges, logistics costs, and travel expenses, will be provided to selected participants. These benefits aim to encourage wider participation and facilitate business growth on an international scale.

With confirmed participation from representatives of over 30 countries, the expo is set to serve as a major networking and trade platform for traders, industrialists, and buyers. The event is expected to

enhance the global recognition of ODOP businesses, allowing them to establish a foothold in international markets.

Encouraging entrepreneurs to seize this opportunity, Er. Jaiswal urged interested businesses to take advantage of the expo and elevate their enterprises to new heights.

For further details and participation inquiries, entrepreneurs can reach out to the concerned authorities through the Indian Industries Association.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Inform to all of you as per the instruction of my client PNB HFL branch, Bulandshahr. Whereas Mr. Rakesh Kumar S/O Mohan Lal has applied for loan with our institution via eqn. of his property a residential house municipal no. 2559 having area 100 sq. yards, out of khara no. 1307 situated at Mohalla Saray Jhajjar Sikandarabad Distt. Bulandshahr. Whereas above property owned by him vide gift deed dated 12.08.2024 Sr. No. 4679 from Mrs. Leelawati urf Leela W/o Mohanlal Yadav. In the title of chain previous sale deed dated 24.07.1996 Sr. No. 3899 has been last which FIR lodged by the applicant online on the date 07.03.2025. Hence the above sale deed dated 24.07.1996 Sr. No. 3899 is not possible to deposit in original. Hence, we are giving this legal public notice if any person/authority/bank have any right or interest or objection or claim of any type in this matter then contact with evidence within 7 days of publication to below address & contact no. otherwise after 7 days any objection or claim will not be accepted & my client will provide the housing loan based on the said property.

Address:- PNB HFL branch, Bulandshahr By Rajendra Kumar Saini Advocate Shop No-21, 1st Floor, Dr. Bheem Rao Ambedkar Shopping Complex, Zila Panchayat Market, Near Distt. Court Hapur. Mobile No. 989724522. **RAJENDRA KUMAR SAINI Advocate** Reg. No. 6687/06 21, First Floor Zila Panchayat Market, Hapur

CAPSI Launched Nari Rakshak Teams (NRT) & Women Safety App

New Delhi

The Central Association of Private Security Industry (CAPSI) and ASIS International, New Delhi (ASIS) are proud to jointly host the International Women's Day Celebrations on March 7, 2025, at 1:00 PM at the Constitution Club of India, Rafi Marg, New Delhi.

The event honored outstanding professionals who have demonstrated courage, resilience, and dedication in making society safer and more secure. CAPSI recognized women who have shown extraordinary strength in overcoming adversity, taken bold actions to protect themselves and others, and led impactful initiatives focused on safety, empowerment, and social change. Those who have made significant contributions to their family's well-being and security, along with individuals who have gone beyond their professional



Women participating in Nari Rakshak Teams (NRT) training.

responsibilities to create a remarkable impact, were also recognized. Launch of the Nari Rakshak Teams (NRT) & Women Safety App. We are proud to introduce the Women Safety App, developed under the leadership of Wg. Cdr. Sonika Tanwar (Retd), designed to enhance women's safety and security. The launch was followed by a live demonstration showcasing its features and functionality. Additionally, CAPSI

signed an MoU with Kavach Defence System to provide specialized self-defense training for women, covering defense techniques against chokes, grabs, and holds. Protection strategies against molestation, eye-teasing, and mugging. Handling domestic violence situations effectively. Using common objects as weapons for self-defense. Safety protocols in public spaces, cabs, parking lots, and while traveling solo.

The winners in the business category include Astrome Technologies, advancing wireless telecommunication services in rural and remote areas using India's first commercial product in E-band spectrum, Chara Technologies, developing rare-Earth magnet-free electric motor systems for EVs and industrial machinery. Indra Water, utilising a decentralised and modular water treatment system to recycle sewage/ industrial wastewater and Skyroot Aerospace, providing cost-effective and on-demand access to space for global satellite operators.

Marico Innovation Foundation Honours Seven Game-Changing Innovators

New Delhi

Marico Innovation Foundation (MIIF), a leader in driving impactful innovations in India, successfully hosted the 10th edition of the Indian Innovation Icons at the Jio World Convention Centre, today. Seven game-changing innovators were identified through two rigorous jury rounds led by business and social impact experts. Selected from over 1,000 entries spanning diverse sectors, the winners are revolutionising industries with their breakthrough ideas.

The winners in the business category include Astrome Technologies, advancing wireless telecommunication services in rural and remote areas using India's first commercial product in E-band spectrum, Chara Technologies, developing rare-Earth magnet-free electric motor systems for EVs and industrial machinery. Indra Water, utilising a decentralised and modular water treatment system to recycle sewage/ industrial wastewater and Skyroot Aerospace, providing cost-effective and on-demand access to space for global satellite operators.

Additionally, an online token system has been introduced in all cooperative sugar mills of the state, ensuring transparency in the sugarcane weighing process and preventing farmers from standing in long queues. To provide financial assistance to livestock farmers, the Haryana government has approved 1,91,000 livestock credit cards, distributing loans worth ₹2,757 crore under this scheme. This will help livestock farmers expand their businesses. Furthermore, ₹151 crore was allocated for the maintenance and fodder extension of gaushalas (cow shelters), along with approval for constructing 51 new sheds to provide better facilities for the animals in these shelters. To strengthen water conservation and irrigation systems, the Haryana government has accelerated work on several major dam projects. Through the construction of

Haryana govt boosts farmers, women, and youth with key welfare schemes in 2024

Shiv Kumar Chandigarh

The Haryana government has implemented the 'Mukhyamantri Dugh Utpadak Yojana' to encourage dairy producers, under which an additional amount of ₹51 crore was provided in 2024. The main objective of this scheme is to promote animal husbandry, encourage milk production, and increase farmers' income.

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Renuka, Kishau, and Lakshwar-Vyasi dams, Haryana will receive 47.81% of the total stored water, helping to address the water crisis and improve irrigation capacity. The Adi Badri Dam project is expected to be completed by June 2027, ensuring Haryana gets its rightful share of water from the Ravi-Bear rivers. Additionally, the government is committed to completing the Sutlej-Yamuna Link (SYL) canal project to provide adequate irrigation water to farmers. Under the Amrit Sarovar Mission, 2,215 ponds have been renovated to promote water conservation.

To economically empower women, the government launched the 'Lakshmi Didi' scheme, aiming to make ₹5 lakh women self-reliant. So far, 2 lakh women have been empowered under this initiative. Additionally, under the 'Nano Drone Didi' scheme, 100 women were trained to operate drones and provided with drones worth up to ₹8 lakh for free, enabling them to assist in agricultural activities with advanced technology.

The Haryana government increased the wages of Anganwadi workers and helpers, with an increment of ₹750 per month for workers and ₹400 per month for helpers.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Invitation of tender through E-Tendering (E-Procurement) The Divisional Engineer-IV, Northern Railway, Delhi Division for and on behalf of President of India invites E-tender on prescribed form for the following work: Name of work: Hiring of vehicles for day to day maintenance of track for one year in its location (the section of ADEEN/JRL). (1) Rs. 1,39,99,938.50 (2) Rs. 2,20,00,000.00 Bidding Start date for work no. Up to 18:00 hrs on 07.03.2025 opening of tender at 18:30 hrs on 28.03.2025. Following e-tender is invited online by the Divisional Engineer/HQ, Eastern Railway, Control Building, DRM Building, Katzer Street, Sealdah, Kolkata-700014 for the following work:- **Tender No. TR-255-24-25.** Name of the work: At B.R. Singh Hospital: Development of Caters and corridor including Stair work including at 2nd floor of Metro Block including all other ancillary work under SSE/WB/R. Singh Hospital in the jurisdiction of Assistant Engineer/W/I/Sealdah. **Tender value: ₹ 1,08,45,453.40. Earnest Money Deposited: ₹ 2,04,200.** **Completion period for the work: 09 (ninet) months. Date and time of closing of tender: 02.04.2025 at 15:00 hrs.** The tender documents and other details are at www.reps.gov.in. The bidding for the tender is to be submitted through the e-tendering on above website. Manual offers will be summarily rejected. Date and time of opening of tender is 02.04.2025 at 15:00 hrs. **Tender Notices are also available at website: www.sealdah.gov.in & www.eprs.gov.in** **Follow us at: [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/easternrailway) [Instagram](https://www.instagram.com/easternrailway) [YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/easternrailway) [LinkedIn](https://www.linkedin.com/easternrailway)**

NORTHERN RAILWAY

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“My dream is to help India win World Cup”:
India all-rounder Sayali Satghare



Chhetri's return gives national team hope but reflects badly on Indian football

■ No amount of praise is too high for the man who has served the national team with distinction for nearly two decades, eventually ending his glorious career as India's highest-ever goal scorer with 94 strikes to his name.

New Delhi
Described as "a wise decision" by the sport's national federation, Sunil Chhetri's return from international retirement at 40 actually reflects badly on Indian football, for it lays bare the paucity of quality strikers in a country of over 1.4 billion.

No amount of praise is too high for the man who has served the national team with distinction for nearly two decades, eventually ending his glorious career as India's highest-ever goal scorer with 94 strikes to his name.

When he called time on his international career in May last year, Chhetri was the world's third leading scorer among active players, behind Portuguese superstar Cristiano Ronaldo and Argentine icon Lionel Messi.

But Chhetri's long list of achievements in the sport is one thing, and his coming out of retirement less than a year after he decided to leave the scene, is another, and Thursday's surprise announcement certainly carries a negative connotation.

According to the All India Football Federation (AIFF), he was coaxed out of retirement by national team head coach Manolo Márquez, who urged him to join his old teammates for the crucial final round of the AFC Asian Cup 2027 qualifiers.

People in the top rung of the AIFF are convinced that the right move has been made by head coach, who is also doing duty as FC Goa's gaffer in the ongoing Indian Super League.

Since his retirement, he had



continued playing for Bengaluru FC in the ISL. He has so far scored 12 goals from 23 matches this season to become its highest Indian goal-scorer, and it is this performance graph that has driven Márquez to get in touch with Chhetri.

His form in the ISL, in which he has also made two assists besides finding the back of the net a dozen times, has also impressed AIFF president Kalyan Chaudhary.

"Sunil's leadership qualities are unmatched. A player of his stature can motivate the entire team. His form too has been impeccable in the ISL, scoring 12 goals, and India can greatly benefit with a striker like him," Chaudhary said. Like Chaudhary, AIFF secretary general Anilkumar P too preferred to look at the positive side of the move, and so did the legendary IM Vijayan, who, however,

also rued the absence of a striker good enough to lead the team upfront.

"It's a wise decision on part of the head coach to include Sunil Chhetri based on the technical data we received from our experts," Anilkumar said.

"In the ongoing Indian Super League, Chhetri is performing consistently. His inclusion will definitely strengthen the Indian national team."

"We have some important matches coming up soon. We are fully aligned with the coach's decision and hopefully Chhetri can contribute much more to the national team so that we can move to the next level of the Asian Cup 2027," Anilkumar added.

Chhetri, who made his international debut in 2005 and left the scene as India's most-capped player, has been included in Márquez's list of 26 players

for the March FIFA international window.

Vijayan, an Indian football legend in his own right and currently the head of the AIFF's technical committee, sounded excited when asked to share his views on Chhetri's return.

"It's a good decision from the team's point of view. You are asking me that you are calling back a 40-year-old to play for national team, but there have been similar instances in the past."

"You look at Roger Milla, who came out of retirement (at 38) to help Cameroon qualify for the quarterfinals of 1990 World Cup. Age is not a factor, what matters is fitness, and Sunil remains extremely fit and he is also playing very well," Vijayan said.

However, he acknowledged that the lack of good strikers in India remains a problem.

"We have been trying so hard to find good strikers, but unfortunately, we have not succeeded so far. Most of the top strikers in the ISL are foreigners, so that is how it is." Chhetri's retirement had made headlines with FIFA, world football's global governing body, leading the outpouring of tributes for the Indian talisman.

FIFA had earlier in 2022 released a documentary on the long-serving Indian captain.

Titled 'Captain Fantastic', it had three parts — kick-off, mid-game and extra time.

Márquez, who took over the reins after Chhetri's retirement, has not any luck with his strikers as they have not really delivered.

Rohit must aim for bigger scores, can take game away from opposition: Gavaskar

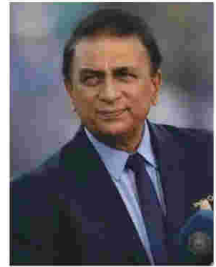
New Delhi
Legendary Sunil Gavaskar believes Rohit Sharma should not be content with scoring just 25-30 runs and must focus on building longer innings, as his presence at the crease can have a game-changing impact for India.

In ODI cricket, the Indian skipper has embraced an aggressive approach to give India quick starts, but this has often resulted in early dismissals.

His highest score in the ongoing Champions Trophy is 41 against Bangladesh in the opening game. "(If) He (Rohit Sharma) bats for even 25 overs, India will be around 180-200. Imagine if they have lost only a couple of wickets by then; just think what they could do. They could reach 350 or more," Gavaskar told India Today.

"He also needs to give it some thought. It's one thing to go out and play aggressively, but there has to be a bit of discretion somewhere to give himself the chance to bat for 25-30 overs. If he does that, he takes the game away from the opposition. That kind of impact is match winning." Rohit has managed scores of 20, 15, and 28 against Pakistan, New Zealand, and Australia respectively in the tournament.

"And I think, as a batter, are you happy with scoring 25-30 runs? You shouldn't be! So that is what I would say to him: your impact on the team will be even greater if you bat for 25 overs instead of just seven, eight, or nine overs," Gavaskar said.



Nasser Hussain backs NZ: India and New Zealand will face off again in the Champions Trophy final on Sunday, having played the final group A game in Dubai.

Former England captain Nasser Hussain has backed New Zealand to win, saying the Kiwis have some tough cricketers who won't choke under pressure.

"They will not bottle it, they won't choke. We were having dinner with [former Australia batter] Aaron Finch and he summed it up pretty well in saying New Zealand are never a side that beat themselves. And by that, he means that they will rock up, and they will put in a performance," he told Sky Sports.

"All the way through the New Zealand lineup they have some very, very tough cricketers who turn up to every single game and give it their absolute best — that's why they will always be there around semi-finals and finals."

UP Warriorz look to end campaign on a high, disrupt RCB's playoff hopes

Lucknow
Staring at elimination, UP Warriorz will hope for a stronger middle-order performance as they aim to derail Royal Challengers Bangalore's campaign and conclude their Women's Premier League season on a high when they face off here on Saturday.

It has been a tale of missed opportunities for UP Warriorz. Apart from a few individual flashes of brilliance, they have failed to fire collectively.

With just four points from seven matches, UPW are languishing at the bottom of the table and are only mathematically in contention.

Defending champions RCB have also endured a tough season, with four points from six games and are coming on the back of four defeats on the trot.

However, they have a game in hand over UP Warriorz, keeping their playoff hopes alive as Smriti Mandhana and Co will need to put their best foot forward.

The heartbreak of their Super Over loss in their last encounter will be still fresh in their minds, and they will be keen to settle the scores.

UP Warriorz batting order has been far from settled with frequent changes, especially at the top in the last three games.

"They have experimented with at least one overseas batter as an opener, but the strategy has yielded little success."

While India's Kiran Navgire has been a constant in the top-three with mixed results, Grace Harris had an impactful innings, and Georgia Voll produced a sensational knock against Mumbai Indians in their last match.

However, in their pursuit of a strong start, UP Warriorz's middle order has misfired as the team has struggled to post competitive totals or chase effectively.

"We are making back-to-back mistakes in the middle order. Our top and lower orders are doing well, but we need to focus on the middle order," said Deepthi Sharma, UP Warriorz captain, after the match. "We had a lot of expectations from the middle-order batters, and we hope for the best in the last game," UP Warriorz will take heart from the fact that their highest score of 180 came against RCB.

Shahdara District Police to Host 1st Women's Cricket Tournament on Int'l Women's Day

Staff Reporter
New Delhi

In a remarkable initiative to celebrate International Women's Day, the Shahdara District Police is proud to announce the 1st Women's Cricket Tournament at Yamuna Sports Complex, Vivek Vihar, Delhi. This pioneering event underscores the holistic role of women across all spheres of social and professional life, promoting empowerment, equality, and

community spirit. The tournament not only highlights the athletic talents of women but also serves as a tribute to their strength, resilience, and achievements in every domain. By creating this platform, Shahdara District Police aims to inspire more women to embrace sports and leadership roles, reinforcing the message that women belong everywhere from fields of play to positions of power.

NZ pacer Matt Henry doubtful for CT final against India due to shoulder niggle

Dubai

New Zealand pacer Matt Henry has been rendered doubtful for the Champions Trophy final against India owing to a shoulder niggle but coach Gary Stead is hopeful that the in-form bowler will recover in time for the clash on Sunday.

Henry leads the tournament's top wicket-takers' list with 10 scalps, including a 5/42 against India in their group match.

The 33-year-old injured himself

when he landed on his shoulder during the semifinal against South Africa in Lahore on Wednesday.

"Matt obviously landed on his shoulder and it was pretty uncomfortable. I guess the positive thing from our perspective is that he got back out there to bowl. We've had some scans done on him," Stead told reporters here on Friday.

The coach was hopeful that Henry would be ready in time for the final.

"We're going to give him every chance to be playing in this match, so still a little bit unknown at this stage."

"He's obviously pretty sore just from landing on the point of his shoulder, but yeah, hopefully he will be okay," he noted.

New Zealand lost only one match during the preliminary engagements, against India. Henry's figures in that game are the best of the tournament so far.

Kane Williamson vs Indian spinners, watch out for the battle within battle in CT final

Dubai

The showdown between Indian spinners and Kane Williamson will be intense on a gripping DCS pitch, but beyond the personal scores, it is also the potential to decide the outcome of the Champions Trophy final here on Sunday.

New Zealand is eager to end their 25-year-long wait for an ICC 50-over title after bagging the ICC Knockouts Trophy in Kenya, beating India by four wickets in 2000.

On the other hand, India are gunning for their second Champions Trophy since 2013 and they could be fielding four spinners and two pacers for the ICC showpiece final here on Sunday.

The title clash could be played on the same surface that was used in the match against Pakistan, where spinners had found some assistance.

In that context, Williamson's impeccable adaptability skills and technical nous is vital for New Zealand, and he had produced a masterclass while making an 81 in the final group match against India here a few days ago.

New Zealand coach Gary Stead thought that India will pursue the four-spinner strategy in the final as well, which he termed "challenging." "It's probably what we expect for them to play against us, but we have four spinners as well within our squad and we think we're pretty well balanced. But it's always a challenge. They are very, very good spinners, all of them in their own right."

"So, for us, it's just being clear on our plans and working out if there could be a match-up that we are deciding within our team that it's the right one for us to go after. So who



knows, they (Indian spinners) might have an off-day as well and that could be in our advantage," said Stead.

But Stead also knows that rather than waiting for an off-day from the well-stocked Indian spin unit, taking them head on is a better option.

"We have to adapt to what's going on within the match, but all our batsmen will have their individual plans around how they want to combat them." "It's true particularly against Varun Chakravarthy who has a bottomless bag of tricks — wrong uns, leg-breaks, scrambled seam deliveries, and seam-up ones which are faster."

In fact, he clean bowled Mitchell Santner with a 113 kmph seam-up delivery to end New Zealand's resistance in the league match here a few days back.

"Sometimes a little bit of bravery to take, I mean, those options are on, so

we're certainly up for that, up for that challenge and that's what India will bring. We know that they've got four very capable spinners," he added.

So, Stead will certainly pencil in Williamson big time in his plans to counter Indian slow bowlers as the 34-year-old has a remarkable career record against spinners in ODIs — 2952 runs at an average of 47 with a strike rate of 86.

"He's a guy that rises for the big occasion and he's done it many times for New Zealand in the past. Look, cricket's a game runs aren't guaranteed, but I know that Kane will be doing everything he can to prepare to score well and he's one of those unique individuals around the world that has that ability to adapt to different pitches."

"He seems to be able to do that faster than many other players, so fingers crossed from our perspective that Kane has a big day," said Stead.

After dream senior India debut, Sakshi focuses on speed to shine at Junior World Cup

New Delhi

Bolstered by a dream senior India debut at the Hockey Pro League, young forward Sakshi Rana is now working on her speed as she sets her sights on defending the gold medal at the Junior World Cup in Chile later this year.

The 17-year-old struck a sensational field goal against Spain on her debut, even as India went down 3-4 to Spain in Bhubaneswar.

Sakshi later played against Spain and Germany.

"I was waiting for the day of my debut for a long time so I was really happy about it. I wasn't nervous as such before the match because the seniors supported me and told me that there are no mistakes in your first game, hence, I could play freely," Sakshi said in a Hockey India release.

Sakshi's debut goal was a brilliant solo effort as she pressed effectively, timed her tackle perfectly to win the ball in a dangerous area, and then fired a backhand shot from inside the circle.

"My target was to score on my debut so I was very determined. When I made the effort and snatched the ball, I saw no one was around me and just took the shot. Everyone started shouting and I realised that I had scored a goal." Sakshi said her stint in Bhubaneswar made her realise the need to work on her speed during training.

"As I have played against foreign players in the Hockey India League and Pro League recently, I have realised it is all about speed now. I have to be quick on the field, especially since I am a forward, so I will be



working on that now," she said.

Sakshi was an integral part of the gold medal-winning Indian team at the Women's Junior Asia Cup last year.

"My focus is entirely on the Junior World Cup, and I'm training hard for it. With consistent practice and dedication, I believe I can contribute to India winning another medal," she said.

Initially named in the standby list, Sakshi is grateful that chief coach Harendra Singh recognised her potential and gave her a senior India debut against Spain.

"When he (Harendra Singh) told me I am playing, he said he is not selecting me, but my game. He told me I would get a chance to score and that the senior players would help me on the field. He even hugged me after my goal, which was a special moment for me," she recalled.

European leaders downplay scepticism from Trump about NATO solidarity

European Union leaders on Friday downplayed scepticism from US President Donald Trump about solidarity among NATO members a day after they backed plans to spend more on defence amid warring US support.



Council summit extraordinary Brussels, 8-9 Mar 2025

After European leaders committed Thursday to freeing up hundreds of billions of euros for security, Trump said he was "not so sure" that the military alliance would come to the United States' defence if the country were attacked.

"We are loyal and faithful allies," French President Emmanuel Macron said late Thursday in response, expressing "respect and friendship" toward US leaders and adding that France was "entitled to expect the same".

Maris Riekstins, Latvia's ambassador to NATO, stressed the military alliance remained the most important platform for addressing transatlantic security issues. He emphasised the commitment from his country — which shares a nearly 200-km (186-mile) border with Russia — to defence spending.

Trump's repeated warnings that he would make European allies face the threat of Russia alone has spurred countries that for decades filtered on defence spending to find ways to bolster their security and back Ukraine in its war against Russia.

On Thursday, EU leaders signed off on a move to loosen budget restrictions so that willing EU countries

could increase their military spending.

Following the emergency talks in Brussels, Trump again suggested that the US could abandon its NATO commitments if member countries didn't meet the alliance's defence spending targets. He expressed doubt that other allies will come to the defence of the US — though they have done so after the Sept 11, 2001 attacks, the only instance in which the Article 5 mutual defence guarantee was invoked.

The US president has criticised the alliance for years, arguing that European members have not contributed enough toward their own security.

In Spain, Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez said his country would raise defence spending to reach NATO's target faster than previously committed. But he did not specify when the eurozone's fourth-largest economy — and NATO laggard — would

hit the 2% of GDP military spending target.

Spain spent an estimated 1.28% of GDP on defence last year. Italy and Belgium also spent less than the 2% target last year, according to NATO members pledged in 2014 to spend at least 2% of GDP on defence, which 23 countries were expected to meet last year amid concerns about the war in Ukraine. Spain, which ranked last among NATO members for the share of GDP it contributed to the military, previously said it would reach that target by 2029.

Sánchez emphasised Spain's commitment to European security and to backing Ukraine — though he stated that the security threats faced by the southern European nation were of a different nature than what European allies on the bloc's eastern front face from Russia.

Still, he said, "it's clear that we all have to make an effort and an accelerated effort."

Though he did not name Trump, the Spanish leader on Thursday argued for a stronger, more unified Europe, saying that "while some (leaders) raise walls and tariffs, we build bridges and close trade agreements".

Meanwhile, Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni made comments that appeared to backtrack on previous support for Ukraine joining NATO. She argued that extending the alliance's mutual defence guarantees to Ukraine without granting it membership would ensure "stable, lasting and effective security".

Sweden on Friday marked its first anniversary as a member of NATO, with posts on social platform X from Prime Minister Ulf Kristersson and the Ministry for Foreign Affairs.

India, Ireland agree to set up Joint Economic Commission to boost trade ties



London

India and Ireland have agreed to set up a Joint Economic Commission to increase bilateral trade, investment and technology ties, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar announced after a meeting with his Irish counterpart in Dublin on Friday.

He met Tánaiste (foreign minister) Simon Harris over a working breakfast meeting at the Department of Foreign Affairs. The duo also clinched an "Action Plan" to enhance the India-Irish partnership as a highlight of the first visit by an Indian external affairs minister (EAM) to Ireland and the first high-level political visit from India since the visit of Prime Minister Narendra Modi in 2015.

"We discussed our bilateral cooperation, including a new Action Plan to reinvigorate ties. Agreed to set up a Joint Economic Commission (JEC) to increase our trade, investment and technology linkages," Jaishankar posted on social media.

"Exchanged views on the recent developments in our respective regions and globally, including the Ukraine conflict, West Asia, Afghanistan and the Indo-Pacific. Also spoke about India-EU cooperation and multilateralism," he said.

The government of Ireland said in a statement that

the JEC, once established, will serve as a vehicle to enhance internal cooperation and coordination, and strengthen the "likeminded partnership with one of the largest economies in the world".

"With two-way trade already at EURO 16 billion, we're committed to strengthening every opportunity for growth, investment, and collaboration," said Harris.

"I was pleased earlier this week to secure government approval for adoption of an Action Plan for enhancing Ireland's engagement with India. This is a clear demonstration of Ireland's commitment to deepening our engagement with India as a key bilateral partner," he said. The Irish minister said the first practical outworking towards this plan was the signing by both ministers of a memorandum of understanding (MoU) on diplomatic exchange of officials. "Minister Jaishankar and I also discussed a range of bilateral issues including Ireland and India's cultural and people-to-people links, our engagement with India as committed members of the European Union and global issues such as Russia's war of aggression in Ukraine, the situations in the Middle East and the Indo-Pacific region and common challenges such as climate change," said Harris.

Iran summons British envoy over baseless' allegations of interference

Tehran Iran's foreign ministry summoned the British ambassador over what it described as "baseless" accusations by UK officials against the government, Iran's state-run IRNA news agency said Friday.

IRNA said the ministry summoned Hugo Shorter, the British ambassador to Tehran, in response to the repeated baseless accusations by senior British offi-

cial and the allegation that Iran is attempting to interfere in the UK's internal affairs.

Iran's formal protest was conveyed to him, IRNA said.

On Tuesday, UK Security Minister Dan Jarvis announced that Britain will place the whole of the Iranian state — including Iran's intelligence services and the Revolutionary Guards — on the highest level on its foreign influence watchlist.

Kenyan govt's political pact with main opposition party draws criticism

Nairobi (Kenya)

Kenya's ruling and main opposition parties have signed an agreement that will see both sides involved in critical government policy making in what critics have described as an attempt to silence opposition.

President William Ruto and main opposition leader Raila Odinga signed the agreement on Friday as their supporters held a march around the capital, Nairobi.

Odinga, leader of the Orange Democratic Movement,



Friday's pact was not a 'new political formation'

but an agreement that would "help build the country." Ruto, who leads the United Democratic Alliance, said leaders had always made

"politically correct" decisions and not those that are good for the people of Kenya. He hailed Odinga for always making "difficult decisions" for the interest of other Kenyans.

"So basically there's no opposition party in parliament in Kenya?" political analyst Njanjala Nyabola posted on X.

The opposition Wiper Democratic Party leader Kabonyi Musyoka wrote on X that Friday's pact was "the biggest betrayal of Kenyans."

It is the fourth time Odinga — a five-time election loser — has signed a pact with a ruling president.

Odinga and Ruto said their pact was not aimed at distributing government positions, but instead it provided a framework for consultations on issues that affect Kenyans.

Odinga said it would "help ease tension in our country" and that the opposition had realised that it was not enough to "stand aside and criticise."

BUSINESS

TRANSITIONS® unveils GEN S™, an Ultra Dynamic Lenses

New Delhi EssilorLuxottica India has officially launched Transitions® GEN S™, a groundbreaking innovation in optical technology designed to redefine the eyewear experience. This next-generation lens offers a seamless blend of speed, style, and smart vision, catering to the dynamic lifestyles of modern consumers.

Transitions GEN S™ is the fastest darkening lens in the clear-to-dark photochromic category, delivering unparalleled responsiveness. Developed through extensive research and collaboration with wearers, the lens goes beyond conventional prescription eyewear, offering exceptional comfort, adaptability, and convenience.

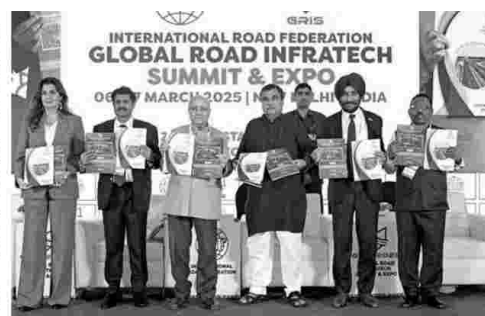
Commenting on the launch, Narasimhan Narayanan, President, EssilorLuxottica South Asia, emphasized the importance of light management in vision care. "Consumers deserve the best vision care possible, and light management plays a critical role in that. With Transitions GEN S, we have combined cutting-edge science and technology to create a revolutionary product that adapts intuitively to light, reacting quickly to meet the wearer's needs. Additionally, these lenses offer an elevated experience with a wider color palette, allowing wearers to personalize their eyewear to match any frame. This product represents a significant opportunity to enhance vision care, in coherence with our vision of 'See More, Be More,' and we believe Transitions GEN S will become a key recommendation for Eye Care Professionals."

Two-Day Global Road Infratech Summit & Expo Concludes with Focus on Sustainable Infrastructure and Safer Roads

New Delhi

The Two-Day Global Road Infratech Summit & Expo (GRIS) concluded in New Delhi with a strong emphasis on constructing sustainable infrastructure and enhancing road safety. The event brought together eminent infrastructure and road safety experts from around the world, highlighting the need for innovative solutions, best practices, and policies to transform India's road network for the future.

Speaking at the summit, Mr. K. K. Kapila, President Emeritus of the International Road Federation (IRF), underscored the importance of building safe, efficient, and sustainable roads. He emphasized that despite significant advancements in road infrastructure technology, In-



INTERNATIONAL ROAD FEDERATION GLOBAL ROAD INFRA TECH SUMMIT & EXPO 08-09 MARCH 2025 | NEW DELHI, INDIA

dia faces critical challenges in safety, sustainability, and innovation. Stressing the country's commitment to "Vision Zero," he called for collective efforts to achieve carbon neutrality and eliminate road fatalities.

The urgency of road safety was reinforced with alarming statistics, revealing that India records over 1.7 lakh road fatalities annually. While the global trend shows a 5% decline in road deaths, India has wit-

nessed a 10% increase, signaling the need for immediate, technology-driven, policy-backed, and infrastructure-led interventions to address this crisis.

The summit focused on key areas essential for the

future of India's road infrastructure. Experts discussed the development of green highways and climate-resilient road designs, along with the adoption of climate-adaptive materials and low-carbon technologies. Emphasis was placed on promoting the circular economy in road construction by incorporating the principles of reducing, recycling, and reusing materials.

Technology-driven road infrastructure emerged as another critical area of discussion. The deployment of Intelligent Transport Systems (ITS) with AI-based traffic management was highlighted as a crucial measure for improving efficiency. The integration of IoT-enabled road monitoring systems and the use of digital twins for infrastructure planning were ex-

plored as ways to enhance predictive maintenance and ensure road longevity. Additionally, the importance of developing EV-ready corridors and promoting sustainable mobility was emphasized.

Road safety remained a core concern throughout the summit, with discussions centered on the implementation of automated enforcement systems and smart road markings. The development of connected vehicle technologies was recognized as an effective means to improve road user safety. Additionally, experts highlighted the role of Safe Driving Scores (SDS) and behavioral monitoring through data-driven insights in encouraging responsible driving practices.

The summit called for stronger collaboration be-

tween policymakers, industry leaders, and academia to build a sustainable and safe road ecosystem. Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs) and policy incentives were identified as crucial mechanisms for large-scale infrastructure modernization, while global best practices and emerging technologies were recognized as key drivers for future infrastructure planning. Organized by the India Chapter of the International Road Federation (IRF), the event was inaugurated by Union Minister for Road Transport & Highways, Mr. Nitin Gadkari. With the participation of over 300 eminent road infrastructure experts, the summit reinforced India's commitment to advancing its road infrastructure in a safe, efficient, and sustainable manner.

Fift Int'l Packaging Summit Unveils Safe, Smart & Sustainable Innovations

New Delhi

The 5th International Summit for Packaging Industry (ISPI 2025) commenced inaugurated by Harsh Malhotra, Minister of State in the Ministry of Corporate Affairs and Ministry of Road Transport and Highways. Organized by the Indian Institute of Packaging (IIP), the three-day summit focuses on the theme "5S of Packaging — Safe, Secure, Standardised, Smart, and Sustainable."

The summit serves as a premier platform for industry leaders, experts, and innovators to discuss the latest trends and advancements in packaging technologies, conversion technologies, and automation. A key focus remains on sustainability and consumer safety, as the in-



Prof. (Dr.) Tanweer Alam, Additional Director & RO, IIP - Delhi

Delivering the Chief Guest Address, Harsh Malhotra emphasized the critical role packaging plays in preserving product safety and extending shelf life. He highlighted the necessity of robust packaging solutions, especially in India's fast-moving supply chain, where perishable goods frequently travel long distances. "In today's fast-paced supply chain, a significant volume of perishable goods is transported from southern to northern India. Without proper packaging, these items are at high risk of spoilage. Summits like this provide a valuable platform for emerging packaging companies to explore best practices and cutting-edge innovations that enhance product safety and longevity. Additionally, this conference will spotlight sustainable packaging solutions, a crucial focus at a time when environmental concerns and pollution are more pressing than ever," Malhotra stated.

Sunil Jain, Chairman, IIP, underscored the global recognition of Indian packaging companies, stressing the im-

portance of participating in international industry events to expand their reach. "Indian companies have achieved world-class standards with no compromises on quality and technology. This summit fosters collaboration and knowledge exchange, helping us identify best practices and explore strategic partnerships that drive innovation and growth," he remarked.

R. K. Mishra, IRS, Director, IIP, highlighted the fundamental role of packaging in protecting product integrity. "Every industry in India is interconnected with the packaging sector. Packaging ensures product quality during transportation, and any compromise — such as tampered packaging — can result in economic losses and consumer safety risks," he said.

Dabur Amla Hair Oil Launches Empowering 'I'm Big, I'm Brave, I'm Beautiful' Campaign

New Delhi

This Women's Day, Dabur Amla, India's most trusted hair oil brand, launches a compelling campaign that honors the courage, confidence, and resilience of women who challenge societal norms. The campaign, titled "I'm Big, I'm Brave, I'm Beautiful," acts as an anthem for women who carve out their own paths to success and embrace their journeys with strength and grace. For decades, Dabur Amla has been a vital part of women's lives, not only strengthening their hair but also boosting their confidence. This campaign embodies the brand's core philosophy — just as

strong roots allow hair to become long, strong values and self-belief enable women to rise above expectations. Through this initiative, Dabur Amla inspires women to embrace their identities unapologetically and redefine success on their own terms. Commenting on the campaign, Mr. Ankur Kumar, Head of Marketing at Dabur India Ltd., stated, "Dabur Amla has always drawn inspiration from the unwavering trust women place in us. This campaign is our tribute to the strength and courage of every woman who dares to shape her own journey."

Radhika Apte to make directorial debut with action-fantasy film 'Koyta'



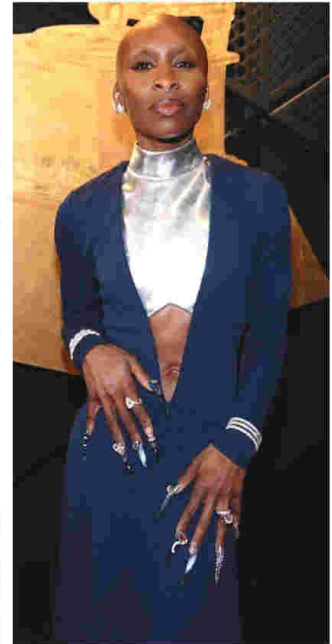
A Mumbai actor Radhika Apte is set to make her directorial debut with the action-fantasy film *Koyta* (Sickle), according to Variety. The film is produced by Bollywood filmmaker Vikramaditya Motwane. Motwane has previously worked on projects like *Black War*, which marked the debut of

Ranbir Kapoor's cousin Zahan Kapoor. The news was announced as part of the CineV-CHD Market lineup, which was revealed during the Cinevesture International Film Festival (CIFF), reported Variety. This year's lineup includes 22 different projects from both well-known and new filmmakers. According to Variety, *Koyta* will be in Hindi and Marathi. The story follows a young migrant sugarcane cutter who undergoes a

forced medical procedure that gives her superpowers. She then uses these powers to help free her family from debt. Meanwhile, on the work front, the actress will next be seen in the period thriller *Akka*, which also stars Keerthy Suresh. The first look for the series was unveiled in February at a grand Netflix event in Mumbai. The series is set in the 1980s in the fictional South Indian city of Permaru, where a matriarchal society

dominates. The story revolves around gangster queens whose reign is challenged when an outsider threatens their rule, leading to a violent battle for survival. Akka is written and directed by Dharmaraj Shetty and produced by Aditya Chopra, Yogendra Mogre, and Akshay Widhani under YRF Entertainment. Apart from Keerthy Suresh and Radhika Apte, the series also stars veteran actress Tanvi Azmi in a key role.

Cynthia Erivo boards action thriller 'Karoshi'



A Washington Academy Award-nominated actress Cynthia Erivo has signed on to star in Lionsgate's upcoming action thriller *'Karoshi'*. Erivo, who is currently in production on several high-profile projects, will join forces with Teo Yoo and Isabel May in the film, which is set to begin production in June, confirmed Deadline.

'Karoshi', directed by Takashi Doscher from his own script, is described as a corporate thriller with a samurai twist. While plot details and role specifics for Erivo, Yoo, and May are being kept under wraps, the film promises to deliver high-octane action and suspense.

'Karoshi' is being produced by 87Eleven Entertainment's Chad Stahelski, Alex Young, and Jason Spitz, through their deal with Lionsgate. Erivo, who recently wrapped up filming on the two-part *'Wicked'* movie adaptation, is set to appear in a slew of upcoming projects. She will star as a set of sextuplets in Season 2 of Peacock's *'Poker Face'*, and will also take on the role of Jesus in the Hollywood Bowl production of *'Jesus Christ Superstar'* this summer. In addition to her acting work, Erivo has also been busy in the music world, releasing a new single, *'Replay'*, which is the first off her upcoming album. She will also host the 2025 Tony Awards in June.

Kirron Kher pens adorable birthday note for "darling" husband Anupam Kher

Amupam Kher, wishing you a very happy and blessed birthday. God bless you with a healthy and happy life and many more years to follow. Years filled with creativity and joy. Lots of love," read the note in her post.

Anupam Kher has had a remarkable journey in the film industry. From his unforgettable debut in *'Saaransh'* (1984) to his upcoming directorial venture, *'Tanvi The Great'*, he has always pushed boundaries by reinventing himself and raising the bar.

Anupam Kher made his Indian cinema debut in Mahesh Bhatt's *'Saaransh'* at the age of 28, playing a 65-year-old grieving father. His powerful performance as BV Pradhan, a retired school teacher coping with the loss of his son, stunned audiences and critics alike.

Meanwhile, on the acting front, Kher was recently seen in *'Vijay 69'*, which tells the heartwarming story of a 69-year-old man named Vijay who defies societal expectations by training for a triathlon.



Alia Bhatt's 2014 film re-releases for Women's Day

F Mumbai fans of Alia Bhatt have a reason to celebrate, as her 2014 film *'Highway'* has returned to theatres to celebrate Women's Day. The film, directed by Intiaz Ali and produced by Nachdhwala Grandson Entertainment, will run in PVR and Inox cinemas from March 7 to March 13. In a press note shared by the film's team, producer Sajid Nadiadwala said, *'Highway'* remains one of our most cherished films and continues to receive immense love even today. It's a timeless classic that deserves to be revisited, featuring outstanding performances by Alia Bhatt and Randeep Hooda. I'm delighted that this Women's Day, audiences will have the chance to experience this beautiful film on the big screen once again." Just a couple of days ago, actor Randeep Hooda, who played Mahabir Bhati (one of the abductors) in the film also took a stroll down memory lane and recalled collaborating with Intiaz

Ali on *'Highway'*, which also starred Alia Bhatt. Expressing gratitude to Intiaz, Randeep, in a press note, shared, *'Highway'* is such a classic because it's a journey, and that too of love. A pure love that is doomed by the class divide in our country. It's just not acceptable in our society. Though Veera, being innocent about it, wants it, Mahabir, knowing the reality, resists, only to finally give in and pay the price with his life. *'Highway'* is a movie where 'living the part' started to take some tangible shape for me. I'm really grateful to Intiaz for letting that happen to me. It did spill over into my life as well at that time, and maybe Mahabir still lingers within me." He added, "It was a very depressing and bitter state of mind. In those days, I lived it more off-camera than what was captured. Over the years, I'm still learning to have more translate on camera and have less affliction of that in one's real life." Released 11 years ago,

'Highway' projected the ideas of 'bondage' and 'freedom' in a fresh light. Alia played a Delhi girl from a rich household, who gets abducted by Hooda, a Haryana truck driver in the film.

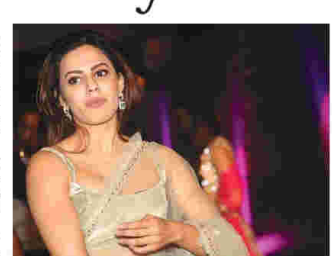


Ayushmann Khurrana Ventures into Haryanvi Pop with AI Twist

A New Delhi actor and singer Ayushmann Khurrana has ventured into the world of Haryanvi pop music through his latest collaboration with Warner Music India. His new EP, titled *'The Heartbreak Chhota'*, marks Khurrana's debut in singing Haryanvi tracks, supplemented by an AI-generated visualizer video, a pioneering step in Bollywood. The title track, penned by Kumar Joneja and Krishna Bharadwaj and composed by Jaya Rohilla and Gourav Dasgupta, showcases Khurrana's passion for the genre. Haryanvi consultant Vaibhav Dewan played a key role in the project. The EP also includes two additional tracks, *'Ho Gaya Pyar Re'* and *'Drive to Muthal'*.

Actress Ranya Rao sent to 3-day DRI custody

A Bengaluru Bengaluru court has granted the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) custody of Kannada actress Ranya Rao for three days in connection with a gold smuggling case. The order was issued on Friday by the Economic Offenses Court, presided over by Justice Vishwanath C. Gowdar. Rao, known for her roles in Kannada films like *Maanikyaa* and *Pataki*, was detained earlier this week by the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) at Kempegowda International Airport (KIA) in connection with an alleged gold smuggling case after returning from Dubai on March 2. Authorities allege that Rao was carrying 14.8 kilograms of gold, which she intended to smuggle into the country. On March 4, Rao was produced before a special court for financial offences and was remanded to judicial custody until March 18. Prior to her transfer to custody,



she underwent a medical examination at Bowring Hospital in Bengaluru. During questioning, Rao reportedly claimed that her trip to Dubai was for business purposes, though authorities allege that her visit was linked to the illegal importation of gold. Rao was arrested at Bengaluru International Airport, an image of her with swollen eyes and bruises began circulating on social media, leading to speculation that the actress might have been allegedly assaulted during or after her arrest at the airport. The Chairperson of the Karnataka State Commission for Women, Nagalakshmi Chaudhary, responded to the viral image on Friday and stated that the commission cannot conduct an investigation unless a formal complaint is filed. "Actually, someone has to file a complaint with us. The Women's Commission is not an authority to conduct an investigation," she said. Condemning any act of violence against Rao, Chaudhary stated, "Whoever has committed the assault should not have done so."