



I am not retiring from ODI format, don't spread rumours: Rohit Sharma

EAM S. Jaishankar wraps UK visit after 'injecting fresh momentum' into partnership

Will be acting and then take on direction, says Kunal Kemmu



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WEATHER	
Sunrise	6:39 AM
Sunset	6:26 PM
Moonrise	1:49 PM
Moonset	4:19 AM
Today's Prediction	
Maximum	31°C
Minimum	18°C
Tomorrow's Prediction	
Maximum	32°C
Minimum	19°C

Pradhan alleges U-turn on NEP, Stalin says 'control your tongue'

The controversy stems from Tamil Nadu's refusal to implement the NEP, a sweeping overhaul of India's education system that has been opposed by several non-BJP-ruled states -- including Karnataka and Kerala.

New Delhi Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan on Monday slammed the Tamil Nadu government for its stand on three-language policy under the National Education Policy (NEP), accusing it of 'ruining the future of the students' in the state for politics, drawing a sharp retort from Chief Minister M K Stalin, who asked him to 'control his tongue'.



They are doing politics," Pradhan said in a hard-hitting attack against the Stalin government amidst its stiff opposition to the alleged imposition of Hindi in the state under the NEP, claiming that Tamil Nadu will not tolerate 'Hindi colonialism' replacing British colonialism.

Shortly after Pradhan's comments in Parliament, Stalin took to social media to launch a scathing attack against the Union minister, who he accused of speaking with 'arrogance as if he was a king' and asked him to 'control his tongue'.

"You are deceiving Tamil Nadu by withholding its rightful funds, yet you call Tamil Nadu MPs uncivilised? You are insulting the people of Tamil Nadu. Does the Hon'ble Prime Minister, Thiru. Narendra Modi accepts this?" he said.

Referring to Pradhan's letter to him that outlined Tamil Nadu's rejection of the NEP, 3-language policy and PM SHRI MoU, he said the DMK government functioned by respecting

the views of the people, unlike the BJP leaders who were bound by 'words from Nagpur'.

"Just answer if you could release the funds rightfully meant for Tamil Nadu students, which have been collected from our own tax contributions, or not?" the chief minister said in a social media post responding to the central minister.

Earlier in his reply, Pradhan said the DMK-led Tamil Nadu government has changed its stand on implementing the centrally-sponsored

scheme PM SHRI, which envisages strengthening the schools managed by central, state, or local bodies.

The state concerned has to sign an MoU with the central government that it would implement the NEP 2020 and in return, the central government provides the funds.

"The Tamil Nadu government had initially agreed to sign the MoU and several (DMK) MPs, who came to see me, conveyed this to me. But now they have changed their stand. Many non-BJP-ruled states, including Karnataka and Himachal Pradesh, have signed the agreement," he said.

He further said, 'but they made a U-turn. They are making mischief with the lives of the students. They are misleading the people and doing injustice to the students of Tamil Nadu. They are undemocratic'.

Pradhan said Stalin had also agreed initially 'but suddenly some super CM appeared and they took a U-Turn. They just want to do politics'.

Modi in Mauritius: Focus on Security & Economic Integrity



New Delhi Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi is set to embark on a two-day state visit to Mauritius from March 11 to 12, aiming to bolster bilateral ties through enhanced maritime security cooperation and measures to combat financial crimes.

The visit coincides with Mauritius' 57th National Day celebrations, where PM Modi will serve as the chief guest. A focal point of the visit is the signing of a technical agreement between the Indian Navy and Mauritius authorities to facilitate the exchange of white shipping information. This accord is designed to improve maritime domain awareness by enabling both nations to monitor and share data on commercial shipping vessels, thereby enhancing the safety of trading

corridors and aiding in the prevention of illegal activities. Additionally, the Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services and the Mauritius Prime Minister's Office are expected to formalize a memorandum of understanding (MoU). This MoU will establish a framework for collaboration in maritime zone management, ocean observation, and research, further solidifying the maritime partnership between the two countries.

In a bid to strengthen efforts against financial malfeasance, India's Enforcement Directorate and Mauritius' Financial Crime Commission plan to sign an MoU focused on combating financial crimes. This agreement aims to enhance cooperation in intelligence sharing and technical

Oppn walks out on question of voter list discrepancies

New Delhi Opposition parties led by the Congress on Monday demanded a detailed discussion in Parliament on the doubts that have arisen on the integrity of the electoral process after alleged discrepancies in voter lists, with Rahul Gandhi raising the issue in the Lok Sabha.



Speaking during Zero Hour in the lower house, Gandhi said that the voter lists "are being questioned across the country" and the entire opposition has been demanding a discussion on the matter.

"Questions have been raised by the opposition in one voice in every state, including Maharashtra," he said.

The Samajwadi Party, Aam Aadmi Party and the RJD also said that it is an extremely serious matter and Parliament

needs to take it up. Congress president and the Leader of Opposition in Rajya Sabha Mallikarjun Kharge sought to raise the issue during Zero Hour but was not allowed after which the opposition walked out in protest.

"The abrupt and unwarranted deletion of voters, the presence of duplicate EPIC numbers, and other such crucial issues affecting the in-

tegrity of our electoral process require urgent attention and discussion in Parliament," Kharge said in a post on X.

"Given the serious threat these large-scale irregularities pose to the free and fair conduct of elections in our country, it is imperative for the Modi government to allow a comprehensive discussion on the matter in Parliament," he also said.

Fashion Show in Gulmarg Sparks Outrage in J&K Assembly

Jammu/New Delhi Outrage over a fashion show in Gulmarg found wide echo in the Jammu and Kashmir assembly on Monday with Chief Minister Omar Abdullah saying his government had no role in the event organised at a private hotel and would not have given its permission even if it was not Ramzan.



At the centre of the controversy over the show, which Kashmir's chief priest Mirwaiz Umar Farooq dubbed obscene, were designer duo Shivan & Narresh. As the issue over the March 7 fashion walk through the snow-meadows in Gulmarg escalated, they expressed deep regret.

The Delhi-based designers, whose full names are Shivan Bhati-

ya and Narresh Kukreja, had showcased their skiwear collection to mark the 13th anniversary of their label.

"Our sole intention was to celebrate creativity and appreciate the feedback from our community. We remain committed to being more mindful and respectful," the designers said in a state-

ment on Sunday night. The apology did little to assuage the anger. A day after Abdullah asked for a report on the matter, he said in the assembly that those who organised the fashion show had not applied their mind, shown disregard to public sentiment and paid no attention to

tures and traditions is at our heart, and we acknowledge the concerns raised. We sincerely apologise for any unintended discomfort and appreciate the feedback from our community. We remain committed to being more mindful and respectful," the designers said in a state-

ment on Sunday night. The apology did little to assuage the anger. A day after Abdullah asked for a report on the matter, he said in the assembly that those who organised the fashion show had not applied their mind, shown disregard to public sentiment and paid no attention to

ED raids Bhupesh Baghel's son others in Chhattisgarh liquor 'scam' case

Raipur The Enforcement Directorate on Monday raided the premises of former Chhattisgarh chief minister and senior Congress leader Bhupesh Baghel as part of a money laundering investigation against his son in the alleged liquor scam case and seized about Rs 30 lakh apart from some documents, official sources said.



close associate Laxmi Narayan Bansal alias

Pappu Bansal and others under the provisions of

the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA). The raids began around 7 am and the ED search party was accompanied by a security team of the CRPF, the sources said.

Chaitanya Baghel shares the Bhilai accommodation with his father and hence the premises are being covered. He (Chaitanya Baghel) is suspected to be the "recipient" of the proceeds of crime of the liquor scam, they said.

About Rs 30 lakh in cash was seized before the eight-hour-long search ended in the

evening, the sources said, adding the ED also brought a cash counting machine the former chief minister's residence.

The senior Baghel later told reporters that the ED officials "took with them about Rs 33 lakh in cash but no gold or jewellery was seized".

The former chief minister said he asked the ED officials about the ECIR (Enforcement Case Information Report, the ED's equivalent of a police FIR) number of the case but they said "there was no ECIR number."

Air India flight forced to return to Chicago due to clogged toilets

New Delhi: Delhi-bound Air India flight on March 6 was forced to return to Chicago after all but one of its toilets allegedly became clogged and inoperable. A video surfaced on social media on Monday, showing the commotion in the flight with passengers on-board crowding one section of the plane.



According to news agency, Air India Flight AI126 remained airborne for around 10 hours on March 6 due to the issue. The flight was over Greenland on March 5 when the incident occurred, leaving

around 300 passengers to share just one toilet in the business class section, according to a report by The New York Post.

The flight was operated with a Boeing 777-337 ER aircraft, which has 10 lavatories, including two for first-class passengers. The aircraft has a little over 340 seats, including first, business, and economy classes. What did Air India say? An Air India spokesperson said the flight returned due to a "technical issue" and that alternative arrangements were made for the passengers.

Pradhan alleges U-turn on NEP, Stalin says 'control your tongue'

Short clips from courts circulated for sensationalism: SC Justice B R Gavai

Oppn walks out on question of voter list discrepancies

COURT FROM PAGE-1
"Today is March 10. We still have 20 days left in March," he said, indicating the time left for the Tamil Nadu government to sign the MoU on PM SHRI.

Taking strong exception to the minister's remarks, the DMK members raised slogans against the central government in the House. Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla asked the agitating members to return to their seats and allow the House to function normally.

Birla said he had allowed the opposition members to pose questions and subsequently, the minister had replied. "But now you are doing this (protests). This is not good. You are setting a wrong precedent. Don't violate parliamentary procedures," he said.

However, the DMK members ignored his pleas and continued their protests. The Congress and other opposition parties also joined them. After some time, Birla adjourned the House till noon.

When the House resumed at noon, DMK member Kanimozhi told the House that she was "very pained and hurt" by a particular word used by the minister.

Responding to Kanimozhi, Pradhan said, "My esteemed colleague, one of my dearest sisters and senior member, honourable Kanimozhi has raised two points. According to her, I have used a word which I should not have used for the members from Tamil Nadu, Tamil Nadu government and people of Tamil Nadu."

"Let's not mix it. Let me withdraw it. I withdraw my word if it has hurt anyone. I have no issues with that," he said.

Advt Contact:
9818-799941

New Delhi: Supreme Court Justice B R Gavai, next in line to be the CJI, has flagged the circulation of edited hearing clips on social media to sensationalise legal proceedings and said the judiciary might have to formulate guidelines over live-streaming of courts.

Speaking at an event in Kenya, Justice Gavai said, clips of the court proceedings were edited without context and shared on social media platforms.

He was speaking on Technology within the Judiciary. "I would highlight another concern from the Indian experience. Short clips from court hearings are often circulated on social media, sometimes in a way that sensationalises the proceedings. These clips, when taken out of context, can lead to misinformation,



misinterpretation of judicial discussions, and inaccurate reporting." He pointed out several content creators, including YouTubers, re-uploaded short excerpts from the hearing as their own content, raising concerns over intellectual property rights and ownership of judicial recordings.

"The unauthorised use and potential monetisation of such content blur the lines between public access and ethical broadcasting," Justice Gavai added.

The judge said managing such challenges was an emerging issue for the judiciary and courts

might have to establish guidelines on the usage of live-streamed proceedings. Striking a balance between transparency, public awareness, and the responsible use of court content will be critical in addressing these ethical concerns, he added.

Speaking at an event in Kenya, Justice Gavai said, clips of the court proceedings were edited without context and shared on social media platforms.

and modernise existing systems for improved functionality. Solutions based on artificial intelligence are transforming various aspects of the judiciary," he said.

The judge underlined the significant risks surrounding the use of AI in legal research referring to instances where a platform like ChatGPT generated "fake case citations and fabricated legal facts".

He said, "While AI can process vast amounts of legal data and provide quick summaries, it lacks the ability to verify sources with human-level discernment. This has led to situations where lawyers and researchers unwittingly used AI-generated information, have unknowingly cited non-existent cases or misleading legal precedents, resulting in professional embarrassment and potential legal consequences."

SMSGHM to organise 100 Days World Cultural Festival; 80 countries to participate

New Delhi: Sri Madhusudan Sai is a humanitarian leader whose mission of service and spirituality spans 80 countries. Since 2012, he has dedicated his life to uplifting millions through free nutrition, education, and healthcare initiatives under the Sri Madhusudan Sai Global Humanitarian Mission.

Guided by the ancient Indian principle of *vasudhaiva kutumbakam* ("One World One Family"), Sri Madhusudan Sai envisions a world where nations, societies, and individuals support one another as family.

Through his tireless efforts and inspiring leadership, he has created a model of selfless service that touches lives across continents. SMSGHM is organising the 100 Days World Cultural Festival that will involve a participation from 80 countries honouring selfless service across nations, uniting people in a spirit of harmony and collective progress.

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Sabarimala darshan route changed for devotees

Thiruvananthapuram: Continuing the long-pending demand of Sabarimala devotees, the Travancore Devaswom Board (TDB) has decided to change the 'Darshan' route at Sabarimala, allowing devotees to have darshan directly as they climb the holy 18 steps at Sandhanam.

TDB president P S Prasanth announced that this change would be implemented on a trial basis from March 15 during the monthly pooja and would continue for 12 days during the Vishu Pooja.

"If it proves successful, this change will be made permanent during the next Mandalam-Makaravilakku season," Prasanth said. He said that the Board had received numerous requests, including thousands of letters from devotees, urging a revision of the route to facilitate a better darshan experience upon climbing the 18 holy



steps. "Currently, devotees who ascend the holy steps are directed to a bridge, where they wait in a queue before proceeding to the other side for darshan. This setup allows them barely five seconds for darshan, and nearly 80 per cent of the lakhs of devotees visiting Sabarimala do not get a satisfactory experience," Prasanth explained at a press conference.

The decision was taken after obtaining permission from the Temple Tantri and holding detailed discussions with stakeholders. "With the new arrangement, each devotee



will get approximately 20 to 25 seconds for darshan," Prasanth added. To involve Ayyappa devotees in the temple's development, the Board will also organise a global Ayyappa devotees' meet at Pamba.

Prasanth highlighted that the Board lacks sufficient funds for development projects at Sabarimala, and the meet would provide an opportunity for devotees to eagerly contribute.

PUBLIC NOTICE
Be it known to all that my client SH. KUNDAN LAL S/O SH. LATE SRI CHAND R/O VILLAGE-JHILI, BULLI BULLI, JHILUHLI GHUMAN BERA, SOUTH WEST DELHI, 110073 has severed all relations with his son NAMED SH. PRASHANT MAURYA S/O SH. KUNDAN LAL R/O PLOT NO4 STREET NO 8 PHASE DC CONTENT SHELGE GUPTA MARKET NAALFARGAH SOUTH WEST DELHI 110043 and has disowned & disinherited him from all his movable and immovable property due to immorality, involvement in criminal activity and out of control of my client. Whosoever deals with him in any manner, shall do so at his/her own risk and consequences and my client shall not be held liable for that.

SHWETA PRAJAPATI & ASSOCIATES
Advocate
Office at: G/L No. 759, LAWYERS CHAMBER BLOCK, DWARKA COURTS SEC-10, NEW DELHI-110075
Ph. No. 9819351997

PUBLIC NOTICE
General public at large is informed that my client Sh. Ranish Chand Aggarwal, S/o Late Sh. Ram Nivas Aggarwal, R/o 172/Upper Ground Floor, Block C-1, Janak Puri, New Delhi-110058. My client has severed all relations with his son, namely Sh. Samrah Aggarwal and his wife namely Smt. Shivaji Aggarwal and also his daughter namely Baby Pishla Aggarwal, presently residing at United Kingdom and also my client has disowned & disinherited his son and his wife, his all legal heirs, successors, attorneys from all his movable and immovable properties with immediate effect because of their bad behavior and misconduct. My client has voluntarily and knowingly disowned both as they are beyond my client's control & supervision; as he cut all ties with them eternally disowning them from my client's inheritance. Henceforth if anyone dealing with my client's son and his wife he/she shall be doing so at his/her own risks and consequences. And, my client shall not be responsible for any act of his son and his wife in any manner.

Advocate
Anita Saha

PUBLIC NOTICE

IT IS INFORMED TO THE PUBLIC AT LARGE THAT MY CLIENT NAMED Smt. SUDHA (U/P) 6702 7210 2893/ W/O PRAHLAD P/O HOUSE NO-271, P.O. NO-56, BAWALA PANA, MALIK PUR, VILLAGE RAJEST, DISTRICT DELHI 110073. EVICT THIS SON NAMED SUNNY DAGAR (U/P: 3182/802/187) FROM ALL THEIR MOVABLE & IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES AND HAVE SEVERED ALL TYPES OF RELATIONSHIP WITH THEM DUE TO THEIR QUARREL/SOME TEMPERAMENT/CONDUCT AND ILLEGAL ACTS.

SHIVSHER ADVOCATE
Office Address: Laxmi Garden, Tada Mani, Tada Road, Najafgarh-110043
Mob: 9813713279

PUBLIC NOTICE

All concerned are hereby inform through this public notice that my clients Sh. Mahesh Chander Mishra S/o Balraj Ram Mishra R/o Moolana Market, Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh-206217 and Smt. Rani Mishra W/o Mahesh Chander Mishra R/o RZ-78A343 Gali No-18 Shiv Puri West Sector South West Delhi 110045 have disowned and debarred and set aside all relation with their sons Mahender Mishra S/o Mahesh Chander Mishra and his wife Nidhi Mishra W/o Mahender Mishra and Jaender Mishra S/o Sh. Mahesh Chander Mishra and his wife Gungun Mishra W/o Jaender Mishra from their movable and immovable properties, as the above said sons and the wife of my clients, shall not be responsible for any of their acts, deeds and things in whatsoever in my manner and if anyone deal with them, shall be held responsible for his/her own risk, cost and consequences.

Advocate
Anita Saha

EASTERN RAILWAY

Bid Number : GEM/2025/981781; **Date:** 05.03.2025. Bids are invited by Sr. Divisional Mechanical Engineer(EHM & FRT), Eastern Railway, DRM Building, Near Railway Station, Howrah-711011 for the following work: Item Category : Custom Bid for Services - Maintenance/overhaul/overhaul of LRU, BED, BLY, UPA, HMB, BBAE, BHR, MUJ, PDA, MYM, BRHM, HGY, ADST, RO, RSLR, PRAE, BZL stations and surrounding area by outside agencies including reg picking from track disposal of garbage/waste from VAT to ; Similar Category : Cleaning, Sanitation and Disinfection Services-Outcome Based; **Estimated Bid Value (Rs) :** 3,25,82,281.48; **EMD Details :** **Advisory Bank :** State Bank of India; **CMS Amount (Rs) :** 1,32,920.00; **Arbitration Clause :** No; **Mediation clause :** No; **Contract Period :** 2 Year(s); **Bid Offer Validity (From the date of opening of bids) :** 90 Days; **Bid Date/Time :** 14.03.2025, at 14.00 hrs; **Bid Opening Date/Time :** 14.03.2025 at 14.30 hrs. **Office Name :** Howrah Division; **Minimum Average Annual Turnover of the bidder (for 3 years) :** 183 Lakh(s); **Years of past Experience Required for award of contract :** 3 Years; **Past Experience of Similar Services Required :** Yes; **MSE Exemption for Years of Experience and Turnover :** No; **Startup Exemption for Years of Experience and Turnover :** No; **Document required from seller :** Yes; **Documents to be submitted by bidder :** Certificate (Registered in ATO); **In case any bidder is seeking exemption from Experience/Turnover Criteria, the supporting documents to prove his eligibility for exemption must be uploaded for evaluation by the buyer; Do you want to show documents uploaded by bidder to all bidders participating in AOT? :** Yes; **Bid to be enabled :** No; **Type of Bid :** Two Packet Bid; **Time allowed for Technical Clarifications during technical evaluation :** 2 Days; **Evaluation Method :** **Total value plus evaluation; ePBG Details :** **Advisory Bank :** State Bank of India; **ePBG Percentage (%) :** 5.00; **Durability of ePBG required (Months) :** 30.

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Bharat Web3 Association Launches 100 Day Crypto SAFE Campaign

New Delhi: Bharat Web3 Association (BWA), India's foremost industry body for Web3 companies, launched its 100-day social media campaign, Crypto SAFE Campaign (S.A.F.E: Secure Asset & Financial Education). The initiative is designed to educate and empower users on responsible investing, digital hygiene, cybersecurity, and the critical importance of "Do Your Own Research" (DYOR) within the rapidly evolving Web3 ecosystem.

Since its launch on 10th February, BWA has been disseminating key information in easily digestible formats through its social media handles. The themes vary across understanding crypto-asset risks, recognizing common scams (e.g., phishing, rug pulls), practicing secure wallet management, and the importance of DYOR. One of the main aims of the campaign is to make crypto and Web3 investors aware of the risks of taking unsolicited financial tips from social media platforms and fake profiles masquerading as exchange founders.



Disclaimer: Crypto products and NFTs are unregulated and can be highly risky. There may be no regulatory recourse for any loss from such transactions.

Consumer protection remains a critical pillar of the digital economy, and BWA is committed to ensuring that users, businesses, and stakeholders are well-equipped to navigate the evolving Web3 landscape responsibly. According to a report by cyber intelligence firm CloudSEK, India ranked as the second most targeted country for cyber attacks globally in 2024, with 95 Indian entities falling victim to data theft incidents. In addition

This is a Consumer Awareness Campaign led by BWA to educate and empower users in the Web3 and VDA space

Crypto SAFE Campaign (S.A.F.E: Secure Asset & Financial Education) campaign is designed to empower users to navigate the digital landscape safely and responsibly. By emphasizing informed decision-making, cybersecurity best practices, and the necessity of independent research, we aim to protect our community. Additionally, we are raising awareness about cybercrime reporting via the dedicated hotline 1930 to help prevent others from falling victim to scams.

"We're building something that's revolutionary here but with that comes immense responsibility. Crypto markets, like any other asset class, demand understanding, due diligence, and unwavering vigilance. At CoinDCX, the safety and security of consumer funds always comes first."

Notify posts of teachers for children with special needs: SC to states UTs

New Delhi: The Supreme Court has directed states and union territories to notify by March 28 the number of sanctioned posts of teachers to educate children with special needs.

A bench of Justices Sudhanshu Dhulia and K Vinod Chandran observed despite its 2021 judgment, none of the states or UTs made appointments on such sanctioned posts.

In fact, a large majority of the states didn't even identify the sanctioned posts required in the state, despite there being figures relating to children with special needs, the court said.

"Each state and UT shall come out with notifications with the number of posts that they have sanctioned for teachers who have to impart education to children with special needs," it added.

The March 7 order said after the posts were sanctioned and notified preferably within three weeks - on or before March 28, 2025 - at least

two newspapers "having wide circulation" would carry ads in the respective states aside from the websites of the education department and the state government concerned.

The bench was hearing a plea filed by Rajneesh Kumar Pandey, through advocate Prashant Shukla, claiming a death of special educator in Uttar Pradesh and other states.

The petition filed by 17 teachers, who claim to have undertaken the required training to teach children with special needs, said to make Right to Education a success, it was essential to appoint qualified professionals in each school to help kids prepare for life challenges.

The top court said the selection and appointment should be made of qualified or competent or eligible teachers only.

It came on record that in several states and union territories, adhoc contractual teachers were imparting education and conducting classes of such children.

NDMC unveils summer action plan focuses on water supply grievance redressal

New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC) Vice Chairman Kuljeet Singh Chahal on Monday unveiled the civic body's 'Summer Action Plan', outlining measures to ensure efficient water supply, address grievances and prevent waterlogging in the city.

NDMC Vice Chairman said that under the 'Summer Action Plan 2025,' several initiatives, including new water distribution schemes, additional tankers, pipeline improvements, and continuous water quality monitoring, have been implemented to ensure uninterrupted supply, an official statement of NDMC said.



A 24x7 reserved water supply has been ensured for Rashtrapati Bhavan and Parliament House, while emergency tanker deployment will be available if needed, it reads.

Chahal assured that no citizen in the NDMC area would face a water crisis, it added.

"To strengthen water distribution, NDMC has coordinated efforts with the Delhi Government and Delhi Jal Board (DJB). The NDMC area currently serves 18,366 water consumers, including 3,509 commercial connections, 11,846 domestic connections, and 3,011 other types of connections. Water is supplied from four major treatment plants—Chandrawal, Wazirabad, Haiderpur, and Sonia Vihar—receiving approximately 125 million litres per day (MLD) from DJB and 2.08 MLD from tube wells," the statement said.

According to the statement, the existing fleet consists of 10 large tankers with a 9,000-litre capacity, 23 water trailers with a 5,000-litre capacity, and two tractor-tankers.

Efforts have also been made to improve storage and distribution efficiency by repairing and maintaining 24 underground reservoirs (UGRs) and boosting stations across the NDMC area. Key reservoirs include Kalibari Control Room, Jor Bagh UGR, and Vinay Marg UGR.

In addition, the council is focused on maintaining water quality through regular pipeline cleaning, ammonia level monitoring in Yamuna water, and routine sample testing.

To modernize the water supply network, NDMC has initiated the replacement of old and damaged pipelines, strengthened connections, and enhanced the pipeline infrastructure in coordination with DJB.

"Special attention is being given to water-stressed areas such as Gol Market, Rashtrapati Bhavan, Parliament House, North Block, South Block, RML Hospital, Mandir Marg, and Connaught Place.

NDMC is also expanding water access to 34 slum clusters under the 'Har Ghar Jal' initiative. The project, undertaken under the AM-RU 2.0 scheme, will provide piped water connections to 9,386 households at a cost of

Rs 7.15 crore. Chahal urged citizens to support water conservation efforts, emphasizing that while NDMC is ensuring an uninterrupted supply, responsible water usage remains essential.

Protest by Ghazipur residents against 32-year-old man's murder; Chokes NH-24

Ravi Dalmiya
New Delhi

A 32-year-old man was shot dead near Phool Market Ghazipur near on National Highway-24 in East Delhi in the early hours of Monday due to a rivalry between two sparring groups of the area, the Delhi Police reported that he was taken to LBS Hospital, where he was declared dead.



CCTV footage to identify the shooters and have so far detained two suspects. They confirmed that five individuals were involved in the murder, and multiple teams are actively working on the case.

DCP Abhishek Dhania assured the victim's family that strict action would be taken against the attackers.

While the family protest caused significant traffic issues on NH-24, the DCP spoke with them to facilitate the clearing of the roadway, which was also affecting ambulances. Eventually, the jam was cleared after discussions with the family.

Transport Minister Dr. Pankaj Singh reviewed progress on electric vehicle (EV) adoption

Staff Reporter
New Delhi

In New Delhi, under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the Transport Minister Dr. Pankaj Kumar Singh reviewed progress on electric vehicle (EV) adoption and announced key points of the new Delhi EV Policy 2.0.



The aim is to speed up the city's shift to electric mobility, making Delhi a leader in EV adoption in India. The discussions focused on proposed subsidies to support the new policy.

Shri Singh emphasized that the new policy will strengthen Delhi's sustainable transport efforts and help reduce air pollution. The policy proposes to transition all CNG auto-rickshaws, taxis, and light commercial vehicles to EVs gradually. The government plans a full switch to e-buses to enhance public transport sustainability.

To promote EV adoption, the policy suggests providing purchase incentives for electric two-wheelers, three-wheelers, light commercial vehicles, and e-trucks, alongside scrapping and retrofitting incentives to encourage moving away from internal combustion engine vehicles.

Infrastructure is a key focus, with plans for public charging points. New buildings and public areas will need charging stations, and there will be capital subsidies for private charging stations and fast-charging corridors on major roads. A State EV Fund will be created to fund incentives, backed by green levies and fees. The policy also emphasizes fleet electrification for commercial transport, compliance regulations, job creation, and skills development in collaboration with local universities.

A dedicated Delhi Clean Mobility Centre will ensure the effective implementation of the policy. Since the initial EV policy, Delhi has seen growth in registered EVs and charging infrastructure.

KIND ATTENTION RAIL PASSENGERS! HOLI FESTIVAL SPECIAL TRAINS-2025

For the Convenience of Rail passengers during HOLI FESTIVAL-2025, Railways are operating several Special Trains in addition to regular trains. The date wise list of Special Trains from Delhi area terminals is given below:-

SPECIAL TRAINS RUNNING ON 11.03.2025 (TUESDAY) FROM DELHI AREA TERMINALS						
Spl. Train No.	Station From	Dept. Time	Station To	Arr. Time	Stoppages	
04012	Delhi Jn	19:30	Darbhanga	16:30	Ghaziabad, Moradabad, Bareilly, Lucknow, Gonda, Basti, Gorakhpur Jn, Narkatiaganj, Raxaul, Bagraina, Sitamarhi and Janakpur Road stations.	
04062	Delhi Jn.	23:55	Patna Jn.	16:40	Ghaziabad, Kanpur Central, Prayagraj Jn., Mirzapur, Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Jn., Buxar, Ara & Danapur stations	
03698	Delhi Jn.	06:55	Gaya Jn.	00:30	Govindpuri, Prayagraj Jn., Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Jn., Bhabua Road, Sasaram, Dehri On Sone and Anugrah Narayan Road stations.	
04404	Delhi Jn	20:40	Ringas Jn	04:10	Delhi Sarai Rohilla, Delhi Cantt, Gurgaon, Patauli Road, Rewari Jn., Mahendragarh, Loharu, Jhunjhunu & Sikar Jn Stations.	
02436	New Delhi	06:30	Patna Jn	20:10	Ghaziabad, Aligarh, Kanpur Central, Prayagraj Jn., Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Jn., Buxar and Ara stations.	
02394	New Delhi	13:20	Rajendra Nagar	07:45	Govindpuri, Prayagraj Jn., Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Jn., Buxar, Ara, Danapur & Patna Jn stations.	
04070	Anand Vihar (T)	00:20	Rajgir	19:50	Govindpuri, Prayagraj Jn., Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Jn., Buxar, Ara, Patna Jn., Bakhtiyarpur Jn. & Bihar Sharif Jn. Stations	
04030	Anand Vihar (T)	09:00	Muzaffarpur Jn.	06:00	Moradabad, Bareilly, Shahjehanpur, Sitapur Jn., Gonda Jn., Gorakhpur, Kaptanganj Jn., Narkatiaganj Jn., Sagauli Jn & Bapum Mithani stations	
05578	Anand Vihar (T)	05:15	Saharsa Jn	10:30	Ghaziabad, Moradabad, Bareilly, Shahjehanpur, Sitapur Jn., Gonda Jn, Basti, Gorakhpur Jn, Kaptanganj Jn, Bagaha, Narkatiaganj Jn, Raxaul Jn, Bagraina, Sitamarhi, Janakpur Road, Darbhanga Jn, Sakri Jn, Jhunjharpur, Ghogardaha, Nirmali, Saraygarh, Supaul & Garh Baruari stations.	
04016	Anand Vihar (T)	00:30	Sitamarhi	02:00	Ghaziabad, Moradabad, Bareilly, Shahjehanpur, Lucknow, Raebareilly, Maa Belha Devi Dham Pratappah, Varanasi Jn, Aunhar, Ghazipur City, Ballia, Suraimanpur, Chhapra, Sonpur, Hajipur Jn & Muzaffarpur Jn (Reverse) Stations.	
05204	Anand Vihar (T)	09:20	Muzaffarpur Jn.	05:00	Govindpuri, Prayagraj Jn., Pt. Deen Upadhyaya Jn., Buxar, Ara, Danapur, Patliputra, Sonpur Jn & Hajipur Jn Stations.	

SPECIAL TRAINS RUNNING ON 12.03.2025 (WEDNESDAY) FROM DELHI AREA TERMINALS						
Spl. Train No.	Station From	Dept. Time	Station To	Arr. Time	Stoppages	
04062	Delhi Jn.	23:55	Patna Jn.	16:40	Ghaziabad, Kanpur Central, Prayagraj Jn., Mirzapur, Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Jn., Buxar, Ara & Danapur stations	
03698	Delhi Jn.	06:55	Gaya Jn.	00:30	Govindpuri, Prayagraj Jn., Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Jn., Bhabua Road, Sasaram, Dehri On Sone and Anugrah Narayan Road stations.	
09004	Delhi Jn	13:05	Mumbai Central	13:30	Delhi Cantt, Gurgaon, Rewari Jn, Alwar, Bandikui Jn, Gandhinagar Jaipur, Jaipur Jn, Kishangarh, Ajmer Jn, Beawar, Marwar Jn, Faina, Pindwara, Abu Road, Palanpur Jn, Mahesana Jn, Sabarmati Bg, Vadodara Jn, Udhna Jn, Valsad, Vapi & Borivali stations	
04081	New Delhi	23:45	Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra	11:40	Sonipat, Panipat, Karnal, Kurukshetra Jn, Ambala Cantt, Dhandari Kalan, Jalandhar Cantt, Pathankot Cantt, Jammu Tawi and Marthi Captain Tushar Mahajan stations.	
04068	New Delhi	14:00	Bhagalpur	13:30	Govindpuri, Prayagraj Jn., Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Jn., Buxar, Ara, Danapur, Patna Jn., Bakhtiyarpur Jn, Mokama, Hathidah Jn, Luckeesarai Jn, Kiul Jn, Abhinapur, Jamalpur Jn & Sultanganj Stations.	
02436	New Delhi	06:30	Patna Jn	20:10	Ghaziabad, Aligarh, Kanpur Central, Prayagraj Jn., Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Jn., Buxar and Ara stations.	
02394	New Delhi	13:20	Rajendra Nagar	07:45	Govindpuri, Prayagraj Jn., Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Jn., Buxar, Ara, Danapur & Patna Jn stations.	
05578	Anand Vihar (T)	05:15	Saharsa Jn	10:30	Ghaziabad, Moradabad, Bareilly, Shahjehanpur, Sitapur Jn., Gonda Jn, Basti, Gorakhpur Jn, Kaptanganj Jn, Bagaha, Narkatiaganj Jn, Raxaul Jn, Bagraina, Sitamarhi, Janakpur Road, Darbhanga Jn, Sakri Jn, Jhunjharpur, Ghogardaha, Nirmali, Saraygarh, Supaul & Garh Baruari stations.	
05306	Anand Vihar (T)	22:10	Chhapra	22:50	Etawah, Kanpur Central, Aishbagh, Badshahnagar, Barabanki Jn, Gonda Jn, Mankapur Jn, Babhan, Basti, Khalilabad, Gorakhpur, Kaptanganj Jn, Padrauna, Tamkuhi Road, Thawe Jn & Siwan Jn	

SPECIAL TRAINS RUNNING ON 13.03.2025 (THURSDAY) FROM DELHI AREA TERMINALS						
Spl. Train No.	Station From	Dept. Time	Station To	Arr. Time	Stoppages	
04024	Delhi Jn	19:30	Varanasi Jn	09:45	Ghaziabad, Moradabad, Lucknow, Raebareilly Jn and Maa Belha Devi Dham Pratappah Jn. stations.	
04026	Delhi Jn	23:05	Raxaul Jn.	19:00	Ghaziabad, Hapur, Moradabad, Bareilly, Shahjehanpur, Sitapur, Gonda Jn., Gorakhpur and Narkatiaganj Jn stations.	
04062	Delhi Jn.	23:55	Patna Jn.	16:40	Ghaziabad, Kanpur Central, Prayagraj Jn., Mirzapur, Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Jn., Buxar, Ara & Danapur stations	
03698	Delhi Jn.	06:55	Gaya Jn.	00:30	Govindpuri, Prayagraj Jn., Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Jn., Bhabua Road, Sasaram, Dehri On Sone and Anugrah Narayan Road stations.	
04064	New Delhi	09:30	Gaya Jn	01:50	Govindpuri, Prayagraj Jn., Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Jn., Bhabua Road, Sasaram and Dehri-on-Sone stations	
04066	New Delhi	21:35	Saharsa Jn.	22:00	Govindpuri, Prayagraj Jn., Mirzapur, Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Jn., Buxar, Ara, Danapur, Patliputra Jn., Sonpur, Hajipur Jn, Muzaffarpur Jn, Samastipur Jn, Dalsinghara, Barauni Jn, Begusarai, Khagaria Jn. & Mansi Jn stations	
02436	New Delhi	06:30	Patna Jn	20:10	Ghaziabad, Aligarh, Kanpur Central, Prayagraj Jn., Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Jn., Buxar and Ara stations.	
02394	New Delhi	13:20	Rajendra Nagar	07:45	Govindpuri, Prayagraj Jn., Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Jn., Buxar, Ara, Danapur and Patna Jn Stations.	
04014	New Delhi	10:30	Jaynagar	15:15	Moradabad Jn, Bareilly Jn, Lucknow, Raebareilly Jn, Amethi, Maa Belha Devi Dham, Varanasi, Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Jn., Buxar, Ara, Danapur Patliputra, Hajipur Jn, Muzaffarpur Jn, Samastipur Jn, Darbhanga Jn & Madhubani stations	
04028	Anand Vihar (T)	23:55	Jogbani	03:00	Ghaziabad, Moradabad Jn, Bareilly Jn, Shahjehanpur, Sitapur, Gonda Jn., Basti, Gorakhpur, Deoria Sadar, Siwan Jn, Chhapra, Sonpur Jn, Hajipur Jn, Shahpur Patoree, Barauni Jn, Begu Sarai, Khagaria Jn., Naugachia, Kalthar Jn, Purnea, Araria & Forbesganj stns.	
05578	Anand Vihar (T)	05:15	Saharsa Jn	10:30	Ghaziabad, Moradabad, Bareilly, Shahjehanpur, Sitapur Jn., Gonda Jn, Basti, Gorakhpur Jn, Kaptanganj Jn, Bagaha, Narkatiaganj Jn, Raxaul Jn, Bagraina, Sitamarhi, Janakpur Road, Darbhanga Jn, Sakri Jn, Jhunjharpur, Ghogardaha, Nirmali, Saraygarh, Supaul & Garh Baruari stations.	
05114	Anand Vihar (T)	16:00	Chhapra	14:00	Moradabad, Bareilly, Shahjehanpur, Sitapur, Burhwal, Gonda Jn, Basti, Khalilabad, Gorakhpur Jn, Kaptanganj Jn, Padrauna, Tamkuhi Road, Thawe Jn, Dighwa Dubauli, Mashrak & Chhapra Kacheri Stations.	
03012	Anand Vihar (T)	00:30	Howrah	30:00	Tundla Jn, Etawah Jn, Govindpuri, Fatehpur, Prayagraj Jn., Mirzapur, Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Jn., Bhabua Road, Sasaram, Dehri On Sone, Anugraha Narayan Road, Gaya, Koderma, Dhanbad, Asansol, Durgapur, Bardhaman & Bandel stations.	
01708	Anand Vihar (T)	18:05	Jabalpur Jn.	10:00	Ghaziabad, Aligarh Jn, Tundla Jn, Etawah Jn, Govindpuri, Fatehpur, Prayagraj Jn., Shankargarh, Manikpur Jn, Satna, Maihar & Katni stations.	
08761	Hazrat Nizamuddin	12:30	Durg	13:50	Mathura Jn, Agra Cantt, Virangana Lakshmbai (Jhanshi), Saugor, Damoh, Katni Murwara, Umaria, Shahdol, Anuppur Jn, Pendra Road, Usalapur & Raipur Jn stations.	

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Engineer steals Rs 5 lakh cash from property dealer's car held

Gurugram
A 31-year-old engineer has been arrested for allegedly stealing Rs 5 lakh cash from a property dealer's car which was parked in a housing society in New Palam Vihar here, police said.

On Saturday, the property dealer filed a complaint that Rs 5 lakh were stolen from his car which was parked in the society's parking lot.

An FIR was registered at Bahjehra Police Station and Denish alias Kulla was arrested on Sunday from near a shopping mall in Bahjehra, they said.

During interrogation, Denish revealed when the property dealer's car entered the society, he noticed some bags kept in his car. After some time, he opened the vehicle and stole the cash and goods kept inside," a Gurugram police spokesperson said.

Jharkhand native Denish works at a private company in Gurugram and lives in the same locality as the property dealer, the police said.

The stolen cash, three mobile phones and two laptops were recovered from the possession of Denish, they said.

Police have taken the accused on five days of police remand after being produced in a city court, they added.

Part of abandoned building collapses in Delhi, 1 dead

New Delhi
A 24-year-old man died after the balcony of an abandoned building collapsed in southwest Delhi's Mahavir Enclave on Monday, a Delhi Fire Services official said.

A call regarding the collapse was received at 1.55 pm. Four fire tenders and rescue teams were immediately dispatched, the official said.

"We received another call at 3.10 pm that one person got buried under the debris. He was brought out and rushed to the DDU Hospital with critical injuries. However, he died on the way," the officer said.

The deceased has been identified as Md Kashif. He was passing by the area when the incident happened, the officer said.

Upon reaching the spot, it was found that the building was abandoned and very old with four feet terrace protruding out with construction over it, Deputy Commissioner of Police (Dwarka) Ankit Singh said.

It was not immediately known how old is the building.

2 engineers held for killing auto driver in Gurugram

Gurugram
Two engineers have been arrested for allegedly beating to death a 21-year-old auto rickshaw driver in DLF Phase 3 area after an argument, police said on Monday.

The accused have been identified as Jaideep and Mani Shankar, they said.

On Saturday, the two men were going to Jaideep's apartment after having dinner. When they reached their destination, they came across an auto rickshaw driver, Sonu, standing on the street with his vehicle in a drunken state, they said.

When Jaideep asked Sonu to park his auto on the side, the auto driver started hurling abuses at the engineer, they said.

Congress slams AAP-led MCD for cutting project funds scheme closures

New Delhi
The Congress on Monday accused the AAP-led MCD of shutting down key municipal schemes and slashing funds in crucial sectors.

During a discussion on the Municipal Corporation of Delhi's (MCD) budget, Congress councillors slammed the AAP-led civic body for "financial mismanagement and neglect of essential public services".

Congress councillor Nazia Danish said the AAP-led MCD presented a misleading financial picture of the civic body, raising concerns over governance and transparency.

She noted that the AAP-led Delhi government had allocated Rs 202.40 crore for urban development in the 2019-20 fiscal.

However, following this allocation, it abruptly shut down 11 important municipal schemes. These projects, she said, were crucial for the development of urban villages, unauthorised



and authorised colonies, redevelopment areas, gardens, parks, community buildings and dhobi ghats.

Areas such as Narela, Najafgarh and high-rise townships were among those affected, she claimed.

The shutting down of these projects, worth Rs 110 crore, severely inconvenienced residents, she said.

Danish also accused the Delhi government of discontinuing funds allocated to the civic body for transport-related development in 2021.

Calling for urgent infrastructure improvements in MCD schools, she emphasised the need for adequate resources such as books, computers and essential academic materials.

Danish laid stress on the importance of hiring trained and qualified teachers to ensure students receive quality education and highlighted the need for better school buildings, classrooms and sanitation facilities.

The Congress councillor proposed continued sprinkling of water to control dust pollution, strict prohibition on burning waste, expansion of green belts, and increase in the number of electric vehicles.

She emphasised the need for better drainage management, cleaning of the Yamuna and the establishment of additional water treatment plants.

Danish highlighted that during the tenure of the Congress government in Delhi between 1998 and 2013, the civic body had received substantial financial assistance for medical services.

However, during the past decade, the AAP government, which governed the national capital between 2015 and 2025, significantly reduced that funding.

Data clearly reflects this drastic decline in financial support, affecting the availability of medical services in MCD-run facilities, Danish said.

She called for an increase in the number of doctors and nurses in MCD-run hospitals and dispensaries while also ensuring the availability of essential medicines and medical equipment.

She proposed the introduction of telemedicine services and online appointment booking facilities.

She also stressed on the importance of regular waste management and disease prevention campaigns across Delhi.

Danish suggested developing digital health records for medical centres and launching an online portal for citizens to consult doctors.

She also called for free medical check-ups and vaccination campaigns for pregnant women and newborns and emphasised the need to strengthen and modernise Anganwadi centres to improve maternal and child health care.

The MCD presented a budget of Rs 17,000 crore in February.

Trifurcated in 2012 into north, south and east corporations, the MCD was re-united in 2022. AAP gained control of the House in the elections held that year.

GreNo Authority to Demolish 1,500 Houses and Shops in Shahberi



Noida
The Greater Noida Authority has decided to demolish 1,500 houses and shops in Shahberi to make way for the construction of an elevated road from Sector-4, Shahberi village, Greater Noida West, to Crossing Near, Ghaziabad.

The Greater Noida Authority has completed its survey work. During the survey, the team identified 1,500 houses and shops that obstruct the construction of the elevated road. Preparations are now underway to demolish these structures.

Approximately 10,000 people living in the Shahberi area will be affected by this development. During the survey, the team also consulted social workers and political representatives from the area.

Everyone has welcomed this step taken by the authority. Residents of Shahberi believe that the construction of the elevated road will help alleviate traffic congestion in the area.

The people whose houses and shops will be demolished will receive compensation. It is being reported that they will be compensated based on the current market rate. However, the authority has not yet provided any official clarification regarding this, but a decision is expected soon.

Recently, a team from the Central Road Research Institute (CRRI) conducted a field inspection and study related to the project and started preparing the Detailed Project Report (DPR). After conducting a traffic survey, the team submitted its report to the authority. The report suggested two possible designs for the elevated road near Shahberi village—one featuring an 800-meter-long, 14-meter-wide elevated

road, and the other featuring an 800-meter-long, 16-meter-wide elevated road. The authority has approved the 16-meter-wide flyover. This proposal will be sent to the government for approval after the board meeting.

GST Dy Commissioner in Noida commits suicide by jumping from 15th floor Apartment



Amar Saini
Noida

Sanjay Singh, a Deputy Commissioner in the GST department, committed suicide by jumping from the 15th floor of his apartment in Noida on Monday morning.

Singh was posted in Noida GST department.

He died at the scene and was later declared dead at a hospital. Singh was battling advanced cancer and had been under significant stress because of his illness.

The suicide took place in the Sector-75 Apex Society, attracting the attention of nearby residents.

The local police have sent his body for postmortem and are investigating the incident, reviewing CCTV footage for more information. No suicide note was found, and the family has not filed any complaints.

The matter is under investigation by Noida Sector-13 police station.

Singh is survived by his wife and two sons, one of whom works in Gurugram, while the other studies in Greater Noida.

Women's empowerment is essential for a Strong India: Speaker of Delhi Assembly



Staff Reporter
New Delhi

A significant event took place at a university in New Delhi on International Women's Day, where Vi-jender Gupta, the Speaker of the Delhi Legislative Assembly, was the chief guest.

He spoke about the importance of women's empowerment, stating that it is a collective responsibility and essential for the progress of the nation.

Gupta highlighted that women are the backbone of society and that achieving gender equality is crucial for a country's economic and social strength. He stressed that this year's theme, "Accelerate Action," calls for faster steps to promote equality and safety for women.

Gupta noted the remarkable achievements of Indian women across various sectors, eliminating traditional roles and actively contributing in fields like education, science, sports, and entrepreneurship.

He recognized the positive changes brought about by government initiatives and increased social awareness, which have significantly improved women's status in society. He shared that the sex ratio in India improved from 918 in 2014 to 933 in 2022, and women's workforce participation rose from 23% in 2013-18 to 42% in 2020-24.

Moreover, the number of female officers in the Indian Armed Forces has grown 3.5 times since 2015.

Gupta also highlighted key government initiatives benefiting women, such as the fact that 56% of accounts opened under the Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana are in women's names, and 70% of loans under the Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana have gone to women entrepreneurs.

He mentioned that over 10 crore women received free LPG connections through the Ujjwala Yojana, and 4 crore houses have gone to women under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana. Furthermore, the Women's Reservation Bill has improved women's political representation.

Manjinder Singh Sirsa launched a project to improve public facilities & sanitation in Shyam Nagar



Staff Reporter
New Delhi

On March 10, 2025, the Minister of Food Supply, Environment & Industry in Delhi, Manjinder Singh Sirsa, launched a project to improve public facilities and sanitation in Shyam Nagar.

This project includes the upgrading of roads and drainage systems and the renovation of a Sulabh Shauchalaya near Pacific Mall. These upgrades aim to improve hygiene, mobility, and the overall living conditions for local residents.

The government also plans to enhance street lighting and provide clean water.

The Minister held discussions with officials from the BSES power distribution company and the

PUBLIC NOTICE
It is for general information that I, AASHISH GUPTA S/O B D GUPTA R/O Flat No. 5, Express View Apartment, Sector-93, Noida, Gautam Buddha Nagar, Uttar Pradesh-201301 do hereby declare that name of mine has been wrongly written as ASHISH GUPTA in my Driving License (DL-No- HR07 1995402739). My correct name is AASHISH GUPTA as mentioned in my PAN Card (DL-NO 2025) which may be amended accordingly.

PUBLIC NOTICE
General public at large is hereby informed that my client Ms. Babita W/o Late Sh. Jai Bhagwan R/O H.No-26, Harijan Basti, Garh Randhwa, Delhi-110092, has severed all his relations with his son Vansh Kumar and has also debarred and disowned him from all the movable and immovable properties and shall not be liable for any act and omission done by him. If any person deals with him, he/she shall be doing so at his own risks, costs and consequences and the same shall not be binding on my client in any manner, whatsoever.
YOGESH CHAUDHARY (ADVOCATE)
OFF-AT CHAMBER NO-1202, LAWYERS BLDG, DISTRICT COURT ROHINI, DELHI-110085.

PUBLIC NOTICE
Be it known to all that my client Smt Sarda Yadav, W/o Bablu AASHISH GUPTA S/O B D GUPTA R/O Flat No. 5, Express View Apartment, Sector-93, Noida, Gautam Buddha Nagar, Uttar Pradesh-201301 do hereby declare that name of mine has been wrongly written as ASHISH GUPTA in my Driving License (DL-No- HR07 1995402739). My correct name is AASHISH GUPTA as mentioned in my PAN Card (DL-NO 2025) which may be amended accordingly.

PUBLIC NOTICE
BE IT TO KNOW to the public at large that my client Sh. Rooda Ram, S/o Sh. Lala Ram, Mrs. Vinla W/o Sh. Rooda Ram, all resident of Sh. Rooda Ram, 3 Raju Nagar East, Begunur - North-West, Delhi-110086 have severed their all connections from Mrs. Mamta Daugh-ter of Sh. Rooda Ram and Mrs. Vinla who have been living sepa-rately. Any person dealing with Mrs. Mamta shall be doing so at their risk and consequences and Mrs. Rooda Ram shall not be held respon-sible in any manner. My client Sh. Rooda Ram and Mrs. Vinla hereby disown and disinherit Mrs. Mamta and she shall have no right, title or interest of any nature in movable and immovable property of my client Sh. Rooda Ram and Mrs. Vinla.

DHARMENDER SINGH SEHWAG (ADVOCATE)
B-34C RAJU NAGAR PHASE 2, ROHINI SECTOR 22, DELHI-110086

PUBLIC NOTICE
This is to inform public at large that my client i.e. Syed Abdul Shaid, Son of Abdul Rehman, Resident of 2353, 3rd Floor, Gali Ambiya Wall House Dharan, Jansahajid, Darya Ganj, Delhi-110008 have cut off his family relations and have dis-own-ed his son namely Mohd Su-fyan from his immovable and mov-able properties, due to his disobe-dient and quarrelsome nature as he is indulged in anti social activi-ties. Moreover, my client namely Syed Abdul Shaid shall not be re-sponsible of any illegal act/fabi-lities/dues of his son namely Mohd Su-fyan, Son of Syed Abdul Shaid, Resident of 2353, 3rd Floor, Gali Ambiya Wall House Dharan, Jansahajid, Darya Ganj, Delhi-110002 in any manner, whatsoever.
ABDULLAH SHAHD (ADVOCATE)
CHAMBER NO. B-109, B.G.S. BLOCK, T3 HAZARI COURT, DELHI

Punjab man who died in Telangana tunnel collapse was sole breadwinner of family

Tarn Taran (Punjab): Gurpreet Singh, whose body was pulled out from the partially collapsed Srisailem Left Bank Canal (SLBC) tunnel in Telangana, was the sole breadwinner of his family, relatives said on Monday.

Singh, a resident of Punjab's Tarn Taran district, is survived by his wife, two minor daughters aged 13 and 16, and mother, they said.

Singh, who worked as a Tunnel Boring Machine (TBM) operator for Robbins Co, was among the eight men trapped inside the tunnel after its partial collapse on February 22.

The body of Singh (40) was recovered from the tunnel on Sunday. Rescue operations continued on Monday to locate the remaining seven persons.

His body was extricated following "very careful" digging and other efforts for more than 48 hours. It was buried under silt at a depth of about 10 feet, officials said.

Meanwhile, Singh's family members at his native place Cheema Kalan village here were inconsolable while villagers were coming in to express their condolences.

His cousin Pargat Singh Cheema said Singh is survived by his two minor daughters aged 13 and 16, wife Ravinder Kaur and mother Darshan Kaur.

Singh had been working with the company for the last two decades and was the only earning member in the family, Cheema said.

Telangana Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy has already announced an ex-gratia payment of Rs 25 lakh to Singh's family.

The eight persons -- engineers and labourers -- got trapped in the SLBC tunnel project after a portion of it collapsed on February 22.

Experts from the NDRF, Indian Army, Navy and other agencies were making relentless efforts to pull them out to safety.

Contact for Advt: 9818799941

Haryana STF cracks down on organized crime, significant drop in crime rates

Komal Ramola Chandigarh:

Haryana Chief Minister Navab Singh Saini highlighted the impressive achievements of the Haryana Special Task Force (STF) in combating organized crime between 2020 and 2024. Addressing the Haryana Vidhan Sabha during the ongoing budget session, he stated that the STF had successfully apprehended 1,997 accused, including 542 most-wanted criminals, 256 gangsters and gang members, and 1,199 offenders involved in heinous crimes such as kidnapping, contract killing, extortion, robbery, and dacoity.

The Chief Minister noted that the STF had launched extensive crackdowns on criminal gangs across the state, resulting in the arrest of 325 offenders in 2020, 227 in 2021, 388 in 2022, 421 in 2023, and 636 in 2024. Alongside these arrests, law enforcement officials seized a large cache of illegal



firearms, including 217 pistols, seven revolvers, 272 country-made pistols, 47 magazines, and over 2,000 cartridges from the offenders.

In a major breakthrough, Haryana witnessed a substantial reduction in crimes against women in 2024. Cases of crime against women fell by 19.6%, with 9,488 cases registered, com-

pared to 11,814 cases in 2023. The number of rape cases also saw a sharp decline of 23.3%, while gang rape incidents decreased by 19.8%.

The Chief Minister further revealed that the number of murder cases in 2024 had dropped to 966, marking an 8.9% reduction from 1,061 cases in 2023. Crimes registered under the SC/

ST Act also witnessed a notable decline of 30.7%, falling from 1,516 cases in 2023 to 1,049 in 2024.

Saini attributed the overall drop in crime rates to the increased presence of police personnel, strict monitoring, and relentless efforts by law enforcement agencies to ensure public safety. Between 2019 and December 2024, a total

The Chief Minister noted that the STF had launched extensive crackdowns on criminal gangs across the state, resulting in the arrest of 325 offenders in 2020, 227 in 2021, 388 in 2022, 421 in 2023, and 636 in 2024.

of 119,011 FIRs were lodged across Haryana, covering serious crimes such as murder, rape, kidnapping, robbery, and crimes against Scheduled Castes and Tribes. Of the 6,338 murder cases registered during this period, 95.23% were solved, leading to the arrest of 12,966 accused. Similarly, 97.67% of the 22,994 kidnapping cases and 96.02% of the 2,594 robbery cases reported in the past five years were successfully worked out.

The Haryana Government continues to enforce a "zero tolerance for crime" policy,

empowering law enforcement agencies to maintain law and order effectively. Various initiatives have been implemented to enhance safety, including increasing police manpower, creating specialized units to tackle heinous crimes, and modernizing the police force with advanced technology and training. These measures aim to curb violent crimes, crimes against women, and property-related offenses.

During the session, Chief Minister Saini also spoke about the significant development strides made in the Meewat region over the past decade. He announced that a meeting of the Meewat Development Board (MDB) would be convened soon to accelerate progress further. Comparing the current state of development to pre-2014 conditions, he emphasized that improvements in healthcare, water supply, road infrastructure, and education were evident.

Punjab SKM holds protests outside residences of AAP MLAs

Chandigarh:

The Samyukta Kisan Morcha (SKM) on Monday held protests in various parts of Punjab against the ruling government over thwarting their attempts to hold an agitation in Chandigarh a few days ago.

The protesting farmers staged sit-ins in front of the residences and offices of various AAP MLAs, including minister Mohinder Bhagat in Jalandhar, MLAs Narinder Kaur Bharaj in Sangrur, Dev Mann in Nabha, Amansher Singh Sherry Kalsi in Batala and Manjit Singh in Moga.

They slammed the Punjab government for 'detaining' several farmer leaders ahead of their March 5 protest programme.

"We are holding our protests peacefully," said farmer leader Ravneet Bera, who was sitting outside MLA Kulwant Singh's office in Mohali along with other farmers.

The SKM, a conglomerate of over 30 farmer bodies, had planned a week-long 'dharna' in Chandigarh from March 5 to demand, among multiple requests, the purchase of six crops at minimum support price by the state government.

Tourism in border areas revived after ceasefire in J-K: Omar Abdullah

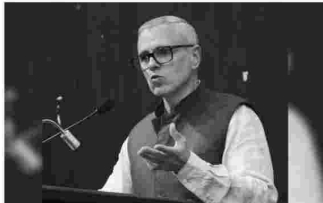
Jammu:

Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Monday said tourism activities in the frontier areas of the Union Territory have revived after a ceasefire along the line of control (LoC) and international border (IB).

Replying to a supplementary question raised by National Conference member Sajad Shafi in the Legislative Assembly here regarding his Uri constituency, Abdullah said as the border areas are slowly opening after the ceasefire, tourism is witnessing a positive trend due to the prevailing peace in the region.

Shafi also used the opportunity to inform the House about Abdullah's birthday. Most of the members from the treasury and opposition benches wished the chief minister who acknowledged the greetings and thanked the members.

"It is true that Uri has huge border tourism potential. Tourists have started visiting areas like Uri and are eager to explore places such as Aman Setu and other scenic locations. Our priority is to enhance



tourism infrastructure in these regions," the chief minister, who also holds the tourism portfolio, said.

In response to a starred question from the member, he said the feasibility of establishing a zipline or a cable car project from Lagama to Baba Fareed Garkote in Uri constituency would be assessed by the Tourism Department.

However, he clarified that no such proposal was currently under consideration.

The chief minister said the development of locations such as Rustum and Nambala Waterfalls, with their inclusion under the Border Tourism Programme, would be considered in the future subject to feasibility and availability of resources.

Highlighting the potential of adventure tourism, he noted that Bihnam and Limber Waterfall and Limber Wildlife Sanctuary are well known for attracting adventure enthusiasts.

The Tourism Department has undertaken several initiatives for the holistic development of these areas, he said.

The chief minister said while the department does not directly operate paragliding activities, it facilitates them through private adventure tourism operators.

Additionally, capacity-building programmes are conducted for aspiring trainers and permissions for paragliding are granted after a feasibility survey, he said.

Indian-origin drug lord wanted by FBI arrested in Ludhiana: Punjab Police

Chandigarh:

Punjab police on Monday said it has arrested an Indian-origin transnational drug lord, wanted by the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) in connection with one of the largest narcotics seizures in the US, in Ludhiana.

Shehnaaz Singh, also known as Shawn Bhinder, had been operating under the guise of a transportation business in Canada since 2014 and allegedly facilitated the movement of drugs from Colombia to the US and Canada via Mexico, the police said.

After a crackdown by the FBI, Bhinder, a native of village Mandiala in Batala who had been residing in Brampton in Canada, managed to give a slip to the FBI sleuths and clandestinely landed in India, Director General of Police (DGP) Gaurav Yadav said adding that the Punjab Police successfully tracked and arrested him from the jurisdiction of Ludhiana.

He was wanted by the FBI in one of the largest drug seizures in the US on February 26,



2025, where the agency had arrested six of his associates and seized 391 kg methamphetamine, 109 kg cocaine, four sophisticated weapons and vehicles from his possession.

The six arrested by the FBI were identified as Amritpal Singh alias Amritpal Batth gang in the case, leading to the recovery of a significant cache of arms and ammunition from their possession.

The arrest came amid Punjab government's ongoing 'Yudh Nashian Virudh' (war against drugs) campaign, launched on February 25.

The DGP said Bhinder was also wanted in an Arms Act case registered in December 2024. The Tarn Taran Police had arrested five members of the notorious Jaggu Bhagwanpuria and Amritpal Batth gang in the case, leading to the recovery of a significant cache of arms and ammunition from their possession.

Deputy Inspector General of Police (Ferozepur Range) Swapan Sharma accompanied by Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Tarn Taran Abhimanyu Rana said preliminary investigations revealed that Bhinder played a key role in transporting large consignments of drugs across international borders using trucks and trailers.

He said it was found during interrogation that "accused Shawn Bhinder, operating under the guise of a legitimate transportation business in Canada since 2014, allegedly facilitated the movement of drugs from Colombia to the US and Canada via Mexico".

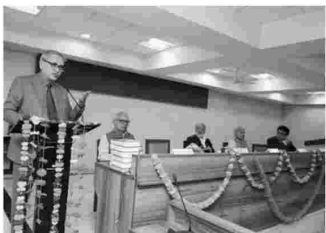
Haryana withdraws Bill on travel agents to bring new legislation

Chandigarh:

The Haryana government on Monday withdrew the Haryana Registration and Regulation of the Travel Agents Bill, 2024 after certain observations by the Centre. It intends to send a fresh bill after incorporating provisions enshrined in the newly enacted criminal laws.

An official resolution was placed before the Assembly to withdraw the Bill which was passed by the state Assembly a year ago to establish a framework to ensure transparency, accountability and integrity of travel agents.

It also aimed at checking and curbing the 'illegal and fraudulent activities' of the travel agents to safeguard the interest of the residents of Haryana, according



to the official resolution placed before the state Assembly here on Monday by Parliamentary Affairs Minister Mahipal Dhanda.

According to the resolution, the 2024 Bill was presented to the Haryana governor for giving his assent. The governor reserved the bill for the consideration of the President of India.

"...whereas, the Haryana Registration and Regulation of the Travel Agents Bill, 2024 was sent to the Union Home Ministry for assent of the President of India. The Ministry of Home Affairs sought the comments from the State Government on observations of the MHA, Union Ministry of Tourism and Ministry of Cor-

porate Affairs received through Secretary to Governor, Haryana," the resolution stated. It said while the matter was under consideration of the state government, three new criminal laws were implemented from July 1, 2024.

"After due deliberations, it was decided to withdraw the Bill and request the Union Ministry of Home Affairs to return the Haryana Registration and Regulation of the Travel Agents Bill, 2024, as the State of Haryana intends to send a fresh Bill after incorporating provisions enshrined in the newly enacted criminal laws as well as addressing the observations of Government of India," according to the resolution.

Prez Murmu Launches 'Spiritual Education Project' to Foster Holistic Well-being

Komal Ramola Chandigarh:

President of India, Droupadi Murmu, inaugurated the 'Spiritual Education Project for Holistic Well-being' as part of the Golden Jubilee celebrations of Prajapita Brahmakumaris Ishwariya Vishwavidyalaya in Hissar. Emphasizing the significance of spirituality in holistic development, she extended her heartfelt congratulations and best wishes to all associated with the initiative.

Addressing the gathering, the President attributed the institution's 50-year journey of success to the spiritual blessings of Pitashree Prajapita Brahma Baba. She paid homage to his sacred energy and acknowledged the invaluable contribution of



Brahma Kumaris to society through their relentless commitment to sacrifice and penance. She highlighted that their efforts have paved new pathways for physical, psychological, and spiritual progress.

Reflecting on the spiritual heritage of Haryana, the President recalled the message of the Shrimad Bhagavad Gita. She emphasized the teachings of Yogeshwar Shri Krishna, who imparted wisdom on main-

taining equanimity in all circumstances and encouraged selfless devotion to duty. Drawing parallels between the struggles of the Pandavas against the Kauravas and an individual's battle with internal and external adversities, she underscored the need for spiritual energy to navigate life's challenges.

President Murmu asserted that spirituality transcends man-made boundaries and binds humanity together. She stressed that social, economic, scientific, cultural, and political systems rooted in spirituality remain ethical and sustainable. She lauded the Brahma Kumaris centres for their global outreach, imparting spiritual, social, and economic education across 150 countries.



By DIKSHA

"Empowered Women, Empowered Nation"

On March 8, International Women's Day, instead of celebrating women's achievements, India was confronted with the tragic news of an Israeli tourist being gang-raped while stargazing on the banks of the Tungabhadra River. This incident underscores the persistent concerns regarding women's safety and security in the country.

Historically, during the Later Vedic period, women in India enjoyed equal rights and had representation in Sabhas and Samitis. However, as society became more materialistic in subsequent eras, the subjugation of women increased, with them being increasingly seen as objects of pleasure. Crimes against women were often perpetrated as acts of revenge, not just in village disputes but also during conflicts such as the Indo-Pak wars.

Historically, during the Later Vedic period, women in India enjoyed equal rights and had representation in Sabhas and Samitis. However, as society became more materialistic in subsequent eras, the subjugation of women increased, with them being increasingly seen as objects of pleasure. Crimes against women were often perpetrated as acts of revenge, not just in village disputes but also during conflicts such as the Indo-Pak wars.

The British Colonial period, despite its oppressive nature, introduced reforms that aimed to liberate women from certain societal bondages. Legislations such as the Abolition of Sati Act, the Dowry Prohibition Act and laws against female infanticide were enacted to protect women's rights. Post-Independence, the Indian Government continued this progression



by incorporating empowering Articles into the Constitution. These included provisions for maternity leave, equal pay for equal work to address economic disparities and special provisions for the advancement of women.

Various schemes and initiatives have been launched to support and empower women, such as scholarships for female students, Sarva Shakti Abhiyan, Beti Bachao Beti Padhao, Mudra Yojana, support for women's Self-Help Groups (SHGs), Roshni scheme and Nai Manzil. These efforts have yielded positive outcomes such as per the National Family Health Survey (NFHS-4) conducted in 2015-16, the sex ratio of

the total population was 991 females per 1,000 males, with an urban ratio of 956 and a rural ratio of 926, also as per the 2017 demographic profile, the literacy rate in India was 71.2%, with male literacy at 81.3% and female literacy at 60.6%, and increased women participation in STEM fields. India has historically had one of the lowest percentages of female representation in parliament globally. As of 2023, women constituted less than 15% of the Lok Sabha members. The passage of the Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam aims to increase this representation to at least 33%, marking a significant step toward women's empowerment. Prime Minister Narendra Modi aptly stated,

"Progress of women always gives strength to the empowerment of the nation".

Despite the enactment of laws such as the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act and the Criminal Law (Amendment) Act, 2013, addressing rape and harassment, women's safety and security remain pressing concerns. Challenges in implementation and prolonged court cases often hinder justice. There have been instances where accused individuals, after being released on bail, re-offend, highlighting systemic failures in preventing recidivism. To address these issues effectively, it is imperative to ensure strict implementation of existing laws, expedite legal proceedings to deliver timely justice, as "justice delayed is justice denied", assess the behaviour of the accused using observational and psycho-analytical tools before granting bail, monitor individuals post-bail to prevent repeat offenses.

By implementing these measures, India can create a safer environment for women, thereby strengthening the Nation's overall empowerment and progress. India today has many successful role models across var-

ious fields such as in Sports: Saina Nehwal and M.C. Mary Kom, Entertainment & Beauty: Priyanka Chopra as an international icon, Business: Vineta Singh, co-founder of Sugar Cosmetics, Self-Help Groups (SHGs): Women-led ventures like Lijjat Papad, Administration: Kiran Bedi, India's first female IPS officer, Para Sports: Avani Lekhara, India's first female Paralympic gold medalist, Dr. Ritu Karidhal - Rocket Woman of India having played a crucial role in Chandrayaan-3 and Mangalyaan (India's Mars Orbiter Mission), Politics: Leaders like Mamata Banerjee and Rekha Gupta. Ongoing awareness efforts, such as the initiative in Pipli Village, Rajasthan, where residents plant 1,001 saplings to celebrate the birth of a girl and deposit a sum in her name, play a crucial role in fostering gender equality. Expanding such initiatives will empower girls, provide them with a secure future and contribute to the nation's overall progress.

As Michelle Obama aptly remarked, "No country can ever truly flourish if it stifles the potential of its women and deprives itself of the contributions of half its citizens."

Breaking Time Sudoku

What to do

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

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

A DREAM DIFFERING TRUTH VS. A REALISATION BEYOND RELAPSE

This creation is but a dream, declares sanatana dhama. In the Bhagavad Gita, Lord Krishna explains that the cycle of creation and dissolution corresponds to Lord Brahma's day and night. Brahma's sleep during his night is the dissolution of the world, and his waking up during his day is a new creation. In this sense, creation is what Brahma sees as happening, like scenes that are playing on a screen. The moment he shuts his eyes to sleep, the entire creation disappears.



Sadguru Sri Madhusudan Sai

our experiences - both good and bad, are but a dream.

We seem to suffer in this world because we do not realise that our life itself is a dream. All our fears and anxieties or achievements and accolades, are but an illusion. It is only through this realisation that we can wake up from the dream that we are living. The dream may continue as we are playing on a screen. The moment he shuts his eyes to sleep, the entire creation disappears.

There is a way to find our anchor in eternity amidst all the ephemeral, by seeking that alone which is permanent. There is an unmanifest, imperishable, supreme abode which cannot be seen, touched, tasted or smelt. It is the Highest, and once we attain that, we would never be entangled by this world of maya (illusion). That Highest Truth, which is the only Truth, is called Divinity or Consciousness or God.

As humans, it is our singular privilege to know and experience this Divinity as our Truth. Once we attain that, there is no relapsing to being a mere human. It is like mercury, which once converted to gold, cannot become mercury again. It is like coal, which once converted to diamond, cannot become coal again. We may be born a man, but we can choose to live as God and die with that realisation so that we never have to be entangled over again. Go for it!

However, by looking at this wider picture of creation and dissolution, we may infer that the earthly occurrences that we are tied to are relatively insignificant. Another inference is that this whole creation is an illusion. The world as we see it is but Brahma's dream. When he wakes up, we are born in his dream. Thus, our earthly existence is itself a dream. All

illusion. It is only through this realisation that we can wake up from the dream that we are living. The dream may continue as we are playing on a screen. The moment he shuts his eyes to sleep, the entire creation disappears.

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By Santosh Sharma

Tamil Nadu's fight against Hindi imposition

Tamil Nadu's resistance to the imposition of Hindi is deeply rooted in its linguistic identity, cultural pride, and political ideology. The opposition to Hindi is not a recent phenomenon but has been an ongoing struggle that dates back to the British colonial period and continued well after India's independence. The people of Tamil Nadu perceive Hindi imposition as more than just a linguistic issue; it is seen as a threat to their rich cultural heritage and an attempt to undermine the Tamil language, which boasts a literary history spanning over two thousand years.

The people of Tamil Nadu perceive Hindi imposition as more than just a linguistic issue; it is seen as a threat to their rich cultural heritage and an attempt to undermine the Tamil language, which boasts a literary history spanning over two thousand years.

One of the earliest and most significant moments of resistance emerged between 1937 and 1940 when C. Rajagopalachari, then the Congress Chief Minister of the Madras Presidency, made Hindi a compulsory subject in schools. This decision sparked immediate opposition, particularly from the Justice Party and Periyar E.V. Ramasamy, the leader of the Self-Respect Movement. The resistance stemmed from fears that the introduction of Hindi would marginalize Tamil and erode the state's linguistic identity. Many also viewed it as an attempt by North Indian elites to assert cultural dominance over Tamil Nadu. The Justice Party and Periyar argued that Hindi imposition was a tool to reinforce Brahminical supremacy, which clashed with the ideals of the Dravidian movement, which sought to challenge caste hierarchies and promote social equality.

The anti-Hindi agitation led to widespread protests, arrests, and even deaths as activists fought against the policy. The intensity of the resistance eventually forced the British Governor of Madras to withdraw the policy in 1940, marking a significant victory for Tamil Nadu's linguistic rights.

However, the most defining chapter in Tamil Nadu's anti-Hindi struggle came in 1965 when the Indian government sought to implement the Official Languages Act of 1963, which aimed to replace English with Hindi as the sole official language of India. This move ignited massive protests across Tamil Nadu, as non-Hindi speakers feared that the policy would create disadvantages in education, employment, and governance. Many in Tamil Nadu saw the move as an existential threat, fearing that it would diminish opportunities for those who did not speak Hindi. The Dravidian parties, particularly the DMK, played a crucial role in mobilizing public sentiment against the policy, framing it as an attack on Tamil identity and regional autonomy.

The agitation led to violent demonstrations, the self-immolations, and widespread student protests, resulting in the deaths of over 60 people. The sheer scale of the resistance compelled Prime Minister Lal Bahadur Shastri to assure that English would continue to be used as an associate official language alongside Hindi. This outcome had a lasting impact on India's language policy, securing the continued use of English and further strengthening Tamil Nadu's opposition to Hindi imposition.

Following the agitation, Tamil Nadu took decisive policy measures to protect its linguistic interests. Unlike other states, it refused to implement the central government's Three-Language Formula, which required students to learn Hindi along with English and the regional language. Instead, Tamil Nadu adopted a Two-Language Formula, prioritizing Tamil and English while rejecting the compulsory inclusion of Hindi in schools. This policy remains in place even today, ensuring that students in Tamil Nadu are not forced to learn Hindi. The 1965 agitation also marked a turning point in Tamil Nadu's political landscape, leading to the rise of Dravidian parties. The DMK, which had championed the anti-Hindi cause, gained significant political power and continued to reinforce linguistic pride through policy decisions that prioritized Tamil and English in education, administration, and public communication.

The resistance to Hindi imposition has continued into the 21st century, particularly with the introduction of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020. The policy, which proposes a Three-Language Formula, was met with strong opposition from political leaders in Tamil Nadu across party lines. Both the ruling DMK and the opposition AIADMK rejected the policy, arguing that it was an indirect attempt to introduce Hindi into the state's education system. Tamil Nadu remains firm in its commitment to the Two-Language Formula, reinforcing Tamil and English in schools while resisting any attempts to make Hindi mandatory. The state government

continues to challenge national policies that promote Hindi, viewing them as a threat to Tamil Nadu's linguistic and cultural autonomy.

The opposition to Hindi imposition in Tamil Nadu is closely tied to the Dravidian movement, which has long sought to resist North Indian dominance over the South. Periyar E.V. Ramasamy, one of the movement's key figures, strongly opposed Hindi, believing that its imposition was an attempt to enforce North Indian and Brahminical hegemony over Tamil speakers. The anti-Hindi cause, championed by C.N. Annadurai, who later became Tamil Nadu's Chief Minister, continued to champion Tamil nationalism and fought against policies that sought to elevate Hindi over regional languages. Tamil Nadu takes immense pride in its linguistic heritage, with Tamil being one of the oldest languages in the world with a literary tradition spanning millennia. The state has actively worked to promote the Tamil language through various initiatives, such as Tamil Language Day celebrations, funding for Tamil research, and mandating Tamil signage in businesses. Tamil Nadu's efforts even led to the recognition of Tamil as a Classical Language in 2004, further reinforcing its importance in India's linguistic landscape.

Even today, Tamil Nadu remains resolute in its stance against the compulsory inclusion of Hindi in education and administration. Schools in the state continue to follow the Two-Language Formula, ensuring that Tamil and English remain the primary mediums of instruction. Political parties, regardless of their ideological differences, stand united

in opposing any attempts to enforce Hindi learning. The state government actively resists national policies like NEP 2020 that promote Hindi, reaffirming its commitment to linguistic autonomy.

The opposition to Hindi imposition in Tamil Nadu is not merely a language issue but a broader struggle for regional identity, cultural preservation, and political self-determination. Tamil Nadu sees Tamil as more than just a mode of communication—it is a symbol of its ancient heritage, pride, and distinct identity. The resistance is also shaped by historical struggles, as past attempts to impose Hindi resulted in violent agitations and sacrifices by Tamil activists. Moreover, the state believes that its Two-Language Formula, which prioritizes Tamil and English, equips its people with the linguistic tools needed for global opportunities without the necessity of Hindi.

In essence, Tamil Nadu's continued resistance to Hindi imposition reflects its deep-rooted commitment to preserving its cultural and linguistic identity. The state's firm stance is not simply about rejecting Hindi but about asserting its autonomy within the larger framework of Indian federalism. The influence of the Dravidian movement, historical grievances, and the desire to protect Tamil heritage ensure that this resistance remains a defining aspect of Tamil Nadu's socio-political landscape.

About the Author

(The writer is a senior journalist)

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Will push for comprehensive trade partnership with India New Zealand PM ahead of visit

New Delhi
Ahead of his trip to India, New Zealand Prime Minister Christopher Luxon has said that he will push for a comprehensive economic partnership with New Delhi and will explore ways to strengthen bilateral security ties.

Luxon is visiting India from March 16 to 20 in what will be his first trip to the country as the prime minister.

He will be accompanied by one of the largest delegations a New Zealand prime minister has ever travelled with.

The delegation will comprise ministers, senior business leaders, a community delegation of prominent Kiwi Indians and several parliamentarians.

"We're going to do everything we can to push trade really, really hard," Luxon told New Zealand media on Sunday.

"What I'm looking for



just a much more comprehensive economic partnership and how we'd move that forward," he said, adding, "I am determined that we are going to change the trading relationships with India big time."

In New Delhi, Luxon will hold wide-ranging talks with Prime Minister Narendra Modi to explore areas of co-

operation, deepen political and security ties and strengthen the economic relationship.

"India is an important power in the Indo-Pacific and I will discuss with Prime Minister Modi what more we can do together to maintain peace and prosperity in our region," the New Zealand PM said.

Luxon said travelling with a senior business delegation will help increase trade and business opportunities and promote New Zealand as an investment destination.

"The large and growing Indian diaspora make significant contributions to New Zealand. I am pleased to be travelling with a first-

of-its-kind community delegation, to highlight the importance of the people to people links we share, and to profile the best and brightest among Kiwi-Indians," he said.

Luxon will deliver the inaugural address at the Raisina Dialogue in New Delhi on March 17.

"New Zealand's relationship with India is more important than ever at this time of geopolitical uncertainty. I am confident my visit will achieve a step change in our engagement, as we continue to strengthen our mutual security and prosperity," Luxon said.

The New Zealand PM said strengthening ties with India is a key priority for him. "Since coming into office, I have signalled that strengthening our relationship with India is a key priority for my government."

"We've already made incredible progress over the last year as we invest in building a broad-based, sus-

tainable relationship with India, the world's fastest-growing major economy, and the place from which six per cent of New Zealand's population claim their heritage," he said.

The New Zealand PM hoped his visit will further strengthen the close links between the two countries.

Luxon will also visit Mumbai from March 19 to 20 before returning to Wellington.

The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) on Monday said Prime Minister Modi will host a lunch in honour of the visiting dignitary. Luxon will also call on President Droupadi Murmu.

Luxon's visit underscores the longstanding and enduring ties between India and New Zealand, the MEA said.

"It reaffirms the continued commitment of both countries to further strengthen the bilateral relationship across all sectors and deepen our close people-to-people ties," it said.

Opposition accuses govt of Railway Board Control

New Delhi
 Opposition members in the Rajya Sabha on Monday accused the government of trying to take control of the Railway Board through the Railways (Amendment) Bill, 2024, and alleged that it was avoiding scrutiny by a parliamentary panel.

Railways Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw moved the Railways (Amendment) Bill, 2024, for consideration in the Upper House. The bill, which was passed by the Lok Sabha in December last year, seeks to enhance the functioning and independence of the Railway Board.

With the inclusion of the Railway Board under the 1989 Railway Act, the appointment, qualifications, tenure and criteria for the Chairman and members of the Board will be the responsibility of the central government.

The Bill also includes provisions to appoint an independent regulator that will oversee matters like fare determination and ensure the competitiveness of the Railways.

"You have just gone for 'governmentalisation' of the Railway Board," Congress member Vivek K Tankha said while initiating discussion on the bill.

Alleging that under the proposed legislation there is no liberty and sovereignty of the Railway Board, he said, "The very freedom of the Railway Board is lost and the functional autonomy of the Railway Board is lost. It is nowhere to be seen."

Demanding that the Railway Board must be given autonomy, Tankha said, "If you are thinking about the modernisation of the Railways, then India cannot have a modern railway system if the Railway Board is not autonomous. If you are not empowering your institutions, if you are not allowing freedom of decision making



to your institutions, India is not going to become a developed country".

He also demanded accountability from the minister for accidents and stampedes at railway stations, including the recent one in the national capital.

Expressing similar sentiments, Sushmita Dev (TMC) said the proposed legislation is repealing the 1890 and 1905 Acts and "the provisions of 1905 Act have been inserted into the 1989 Railway Act", which is a "200 section Act and covers almost every subject and every issue in the Railways Ministry".

"Was it not the apt time for the Railway Minister to review that entire Act of (19)89, make amendments to it and then send that bill to an appropriate committee for scrutiny? Why is it that the government shy away from a standing committee, from a select committee?" Dev asked.

She further said, "There could only be one reason that these committees will actually compel the minister for a reality check, a reality that he is not comfortable with".

The TMC member said that in newspapers and TV channels, the word 'railway' is next to words like death, delay, congestion, stampede, extortion and accidents.

"...when the word railway becomes synonymous with these disastrous words I think this was the moment to scrutinise the Railway Minister," she said.

Shia cleric Kalbe Jawad slams parliamentary panel's process on Waqf bill calls for protests



New Delhi
 Shia cleric Maulana Syed Kalbe Jawad on Monday alleged that the process followed by Parliament's joint committee to gather suggestions on the Waqf bill was a "farce" and said protests against the proposed legislation would be organised to highlight the adverse effects it would have on Muslims' rights.

He also emphasised the importance of Waqfs and their special significance in the religious tenets of Islam, as well as the need to protect all existing Waqfs from the "deceitful and mala fide intentions" behind the Bill and the Parliament's joint committee that scrutinised it.

Jawad was addressing a press conference alongside Qanati Masjid (Jor Bagh) Shahji Imam Maulana Syed Mohd Qasim Zaidi and Anjum E Haideri general secretary Syed Bahadur Abbas Naqvi.

Jawad claimed that according to the Waqf (Amendment) Bill, 2024, any government property identified as Waqf property before or after the amendment would not be considered Waqf property.

"Any dispute regarding this will be decided by the collector and, until the collector resolves the dispute, the property will not be considered Waqf property. Although, it has been seen that the Waqfs of Hussainabad Trust are managed by the district magistrate in Lucknow who himself is involved in usurping Waqf properties," he alleged.

Jawad said a nationwide campaign would be launched and protests against the Bill organised. These protests will focus on discussing the implications of the Bill in detail, with the goal of educating the people, he said.

"The aim will be to raise awareness about how the Bill may affect the rights and lives of the Muslim

Jawad claimed that according to the Waqf (Amendment) Bill, 2024, any government property identified as Waqf property before or after the amendment would not be considered Waqf property.

community. It will also seek to involve communities from all regions, ensuring that everyone has the chance to understand the potential consequences of the Bill and take a stand," Jawad said. He emphasised that the invitation from the joint committee for objections and suggestions on the Bill was nothing but a "sham, and the entire exercise was a mere farce".

The 31-member panel on the Bill, after multiple sittings and hearings, had suggested several amendments to the proposed legislation even as the opposition members disagreed with the report and submitted dissent notes.

The panel's 655-page report was submitted to Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla on January 30.

The joint committee had adopted the report that contained changes suggested by members from the ruling BJP by a 15:11 majority vote. The move prompted the opposition to dub the exercise an attempt to destroy Waqf boards.

The Bill was referred to the joint committee on August 8 following its introduction in the Lok Sabha by Union Minority Affairs Minister Kiren Rijju.

Lok Sabha clears bill on legal framework for issuance of bills of lading for shipping goods

New Delhi
 The Lok Sabha on Monday passed 'The Bills of Lading' bill which seeks to provide a legal framework for the issuance of bills of lading with the government asserting that it will prevent any uncertainty amongst the investors.

Amendments moved by some opposition members were rejected by a voice vote. According to legislative think-tank PRS Legislative, a bill of lading refers to a document issued by a freight carrier to a shipper. It contains details such as the type, quantity, condition and des-



tinuation of goods being carried.

Responding to a debate on the bill, Ports and Shipping Minister Sarbananda Sonowal explained that the bill of lading is evidence of a contract and is a legal document. It actually is not a contract.

It seeks to replace the Indian Bills of Lading Act, 1856.

Number of widows of ex-servicemen stands at 7 40 766 as of Dec 31 2024: Govt

New Delhi
 As of December 31, 2024, the total number of widows of ex-servicemen in the country stands at 7,40,766, the government informed Parliament on Monday.

Minister of State for Defence Sanjay Seth said this in a written response to a query in the Rajya Sabha.

The defence ministry was also asked whether the government regularly revises the monthly assistance provided to these widows, and if so, the details thereof.

"The total number of widows of ex-servicemen in the country is 7,40,766 as on 31 December 2024," the Union minister said.

Sate-wise data of widows of ESM was also shared in his written response.

According to the data, 75,821 widows of ex-servicemen were registered in Punjab, 72,071 in Uttar Pradesh, 71,570 in Kerala, and 12,558 in Bihar, among other states and Union Territories.

The ministry was also asked whether other employment has been provided on compassionate grounds to war widows based on their educational qualifications, and if so, the details thereof.

The government reviews the welfare measures for war widows and families of armed forces personnel. "The monthly assistance to widows is being provided as a family pension. A review of family pension is carried out based on the recommendations of the Pay Commissions and acceptance of the same by the government. A Dearness Relief, which is assessed periodically, may result in an increase in the amount disbursed," Seth said.

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The ministry was also asked whether the government regularly revises the monthly assistance provided to these widows and whether the government has reviewed or plans to review welfare measures for war widows and families of armed forces personnel.

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Sukarya NGO's Spectacular Women's Day Event Celebrates Strength, Style, and Solidarity

Gurgaon
 On International Women's Day, Sukarya NGO organized a grand fundraiser, bringing together volunteers, children, and special guests to honour and celebrate womanhood. The event was a vibrant blend of fashion, cultural performances, and inspiring moments. A key highlight was a series of ramp walks showcasing diverse styles—from traditional Indian attire to Indo-western outfits. More than just a fashion display, these walks symbolized confidence, diversity, and empowerment. Children from the NGO participated with grace and enthusiasm, embodying self-expression and resilience. Energetic dance performances added to the grandeur, with vibrant choreography reflecting the strength and elegance that women balance in their daily lives. A deeply moving moment unfolded when Sukarya's esteemed Chairperson, Ms. Meera



A deeply moving moment unfolded when Sukarya's esteemed Chairperson, Ms. Meera Satpathy, took the stage. Her heartfelt speech resonated with the audience, emphasizing the importance of uplifting women and educating children.

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onated with the audience, emphasizing the importance of uplifting women and educating children. Her words created a powerful atmosphere, reinforcing the event's message of empowerment and solidarity. Sukarya's Women's Day event was more than a celebration—it was a tribute to the strength, grace, and resilience of women. From inspiring ramp walks and dynamic performances to

heartfelt speeches and meaningful conversations, the event beautifully honoured the essence of womanhood. The event was managed by Mrs. Naina Pankaj Kapoor, a woman entrepreneur and founder of Dreamsack by Naina Kapoor, an event management company. Her leadership aligned perfectly with the NGO's mission, marking a strong commitment to women's empowerment and leadership.

India should protect its national interest while negotiating with US RSS-affiliate SJM

New Delhi
 India should give priority to bilateral trade agreements over multilateral deals and protect its national interest, especially that of farmers and small entrepreneurs, while negotiating with the US amid President Donald Trump's 'frontal attack' on the global free trade system, the RSS-affiliate SJM said on Monday.

The Swadeshi Jagran Manch's (SJM) national council passed a resolution in this regard at its meeting in Raipur, Chhattisgarh, it



said in a statement. The two-day meeting, which deliberated on a host

of issues, including strengthening India's economy amid a changing geopolitical scenario and the Trump administration's policy of reciprocal tariffs, concluded on Monday.

"After taking over as US president, Donald Trump has launched a frontal attack on the global free trade system by announcing his intent to impose higher tariffs (on reciprocal basis) on imports from many countries around the world," the resolution said.

The move is intended to bring back manufacturing to the US so that the issue of unemployment is ad-

ressed, it said. "The national council of Swadeshi Jagran Manch strongly suggests that Bharat should enhance its foreign trade with bilateral trade agreements rather than multilateral trade agreements," the resolution said.

"However, while entering into bilateral trade agreements with the US and other countries, national interests should be protected, especially (the interests of) our farmers and small entrepreneurs," it added.

The resolution underlined that the Union government has been protecting the interests of farmers and their livelihood while negotiating trade agreements.

"This policy needs to continue," it said.

The SJM's resolution appreciated the government's efforts to enhance foreign trade in Indian Rupee and said the efforts should also be taken to ensure that foreign currency and payment systems like SWIFT are not allowed to be used as "pressure tactics".

Assam budget 'cash-for-vote' document has no vision claim oppn parties

Guwahati: Opposition parties criticised the Assam budget for the 2025-26 fiscal, alleging that it is a "cash-for-vote" document and has "no vision" for the future.

"They also claimed that it is 'not an inclusive budget' with many areas, receiving minimal coverage by schemes, and will 'empower none'."

Finance Minister Ajanta Neog presented in the assembly a Rs 2.63 lakh crore budget for the 2025-26 fiscal with a deficit of Rs 620.27 crore.

Leader of opposition and Congress MLA Debabrata Saikia claimed that the schemes included in the budget are designed with an eye on next year's assembly elections.

"Many schemes will be rolled out in October whereas the budget comes into force from April. These schemes are directly targeted at the election to woo voters. It is a cash-for-vote budget," he said.

Saikia also raised concern at the increasing debt of the government and claimed that the budget has "not addressed core issues like price rise, unemployment, etc."

AIUDF legislator Rafiqul Islam alleged that the budget was only meant for beneficiaries comprising certain segments like women and youth.

"There are discriminations among beneficiaries. Some districts are getting repeated mention in the budget, while many like Dhubri, Goalpara, Barpeta, Baksa, Chirang, Nagaon, Hailakandi, have limited mention," he claimed.

Islam also questioned the rationale behind launching some of the announced schemes from October and said, "These will be rolled out at the eleventh hour before the election to woo voters."

Independent MLA Akhil Gogoi criticised the budget for being dependent on external sources of revenue.

He pointed out that only about 30 per cent of the budget estimate will be covered by the state's own sources, with the rest coming from the Centre and loans.

"It is a budget which only creates beneficiaries but empowers none. It is a document with no vision for the future," Gogoi added.

UP gov't introduces comprehensive new policy to ensure rural sanitation in state

Lucknow: The Uttar Pradesh government on Monday said it has introduced a comprehensive new policy to enhance rural sanitation across the state significantly.

The policy seeks to ensure the effective operation and long-term maintenance of sanitation infrastructure in gram panchayats, aligning with the Swachh Bharat Mission's (Rural) goals, it said in a statement.

"Key focus areas include solid and liquid waste management, plastic waste disposal, faecal sludge management, and construction of biogas units under Gobardhan Yojana," the government said. "Additionally, efforts are being intensified to streamline construction and upkeep of individual and community toilets," it added.

The government said it has made substantial progress towards declaring all villages in the state as Open Defecation Free (ODF) Plus as a result of effective waste management initiatives funded by the Swachh Bharat Mission (Rural), the 15th



Central Finance Commission, the State Finance Commission, and MGN-REGA.

"A remarkable 85,827 out of the total 96,174 villages have been recognized as model ODF Plus villages," it noted.

"To further solidify these achievements, a drafting committee led by the Director of Panchayati Raj has developed a detailed policy draft in collaboration with development partners and relevant departments," it said.

The new policy aims to enhance waste management systems at the

gram panchayat level, ensuring that sanitation progress becomes sustainable and irreversible, the government said.

The most significant advantage of this policy is that it will empower gram panchayats to become self-reliant in managing sanitation, it added.

Detailed guidelines will be provided to panchayats for maintaining sanitation infrastructure, ensuring that toilets, waste management centers, and drainage systems remain fully functional, according to the statement.

Furthermore, install-

ing biogas units under the Gobardhan Yojana will promote clean energy production in rural areas, advancing the government's vision of sustainable development by converting waste into valuable resources, it said.

The government said unlike previous approaches that treated cleanliness as a one-time campaign, this policy aims to integrate sanitation into the routine governance of Gram Panchayats.

This transformation is expected to uplift the living standards of children, women, and entire village

The new policy aims to enhance waste management systems at the gram panchayat level, ensuring that sanitation progress becomes sustainable and irreversible

communities, it added.

"A robust plan for managing solid and liquid waste will help provide clean drinking water and a healthier environment, reducing the prevalence of diseases," it said.

The Yogi Adityanath government aims to achieve complete sanitation in all gram panchayats by 2025, promising to improve health, preserve the environment, and boost the rural economy, the statement read.

The successful implementation of this policy will involve collaboration with various development organizations, technology partners, and social groups. This partnership-driven approach will enhance cleanliness and promote innovation and sustainable development in rural Uttar Pradesh, it added.

Rang Bhari Ekadashi' procession held in Sambhal under tight security

Sambhal (UP): A "Rang Bhari Ekadashi" procession ahead of Holi was held in Sambhal on Monday amid tight police security, officials said, adding that peace prevailed across the city.

The Shri Shyam Seva Samiti organised the procession, which passed through Arya Samaj Road. It featured over a dozen decorated tableaux, while devotees celebrated by throwing gulal (coloured powder). Given past tensions, heavy police deployment was ensured, with officials closely monitoring the event.

Sambhal's Additional Superintendent of Police (ASP) Shreshth Chandra said, "The Ekadashi procession is being carried out as per tradition, and peace is being maintained across the city. Adequate police force has been deployed, and all suspicious activities are being monitored through CCTV surveillance."

Security measures were heightened following the November 24 violence last year, when four people

were killed and several others injured during a court-ordered survey of the Shahi Jama Masjid. The survey was conducted after claims that the mosque was allegedly built over the ruins of a demolished Hindu temple during the Mughal era.

Shobhit Shastri, who participated in the procession, said, "The grand Shyam Baba procession on Rang Bhari Ekadashi is spreading joy and positivity with gulal and colours. The entire town is filled with enthusiasm for Lord Shyam's journey."

A resident Ajay Agarwal noted that the Shri Shyam Seva Samiti has been organising the Rang Bhari Ekadashi procession for over 50 years. "A special tableau of Baba Shyam was also part of the procession today," he said.

He added, "It is believed that those who participate in this procession receive special blessings from Baba Shyam. On Monday, the Baba Shyam palanquin will tour the entire city."

Public representatives must rise above self-interest: UP CM

Lucknow: Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Monday emphasised that a public representative must be committed to serving the people selflessly, rising above personal interests.

Highlighting the government's welfare initiatives, the chief minister said, "At present, our government is providing free ration to 15 crore people across Uttar Pradesh. Over 1.04 crore poor individuals, including destitute women, elderly citizens, and differently abled persons, are receiving an annual pension of Rs 12,000. Additionally, Rs 2.5 crore farmers in the state are benefiting from the PM Kisan Samman Nidhi scheme."

He further said that 56 lakh poor families have been provided homes, and in the latest budget, the government has pledged to eradicate poverty completely within the next two years by ensuring housing, health care, pensions, and employment for every underprivileged citizen.



Speaking at the Solar Dialogue and Development Exhibition in the Sarojini Nagar Assembly constituency, he lauded BJP leader and local MLA Rajeshwar Singh for his dedication, saying, "It is truly the beauty of democracy when an elected representative works at the grassroots level with such sincerity and commitment. This is what strengthens democracy."

Referring to MLA Rajeshwar Singh's journey from an Enforcement Directorate officer to a public servant, he said, "Often, bureaucrats lose direct connection with the people, but Rajeshwar Singh has maintained an active dialogue with citizens, ensuring the successful implementation of government schemes."

Along with Uttar Pradesh's first forensic institute, which will play a crucial role in criminal investigations."

The chief minister emphasised the importance of selfless public service, saying, "A dedicated representative with sensitivity can achieve a lot. However, to bring a real change, one must rise above personal gains and dedicate themselves to public welfare."

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Rajan Puncthi Mandi:

Renowned gynecologist Dr. Bandana Jaggi has been honored with the prestigious International Women Achievers Award in Vietnam on the occasion of International Women's Day. The award recognizes her exceptional contributions to the healthcare sector and her leadership in establishing Aastha Multispecialty Hospital as the most trusted medical institution in the region.

Dr. Bandana Jaggi, the Director of Aastha Multispecialty Hospital in Mandi, has played a pivotal role in transforming the hospital into a benchmark of excellence in patient care. Under her guidance, the hospital has gained immense trust among the residents of Himachal Pradesh, offering top-quality medical services with a compassionate approach. Her dedication and unwavering commitment to women's healthcare have set a new standard in gynecological practice.

Beyond her administrative role, Dr. Jaggi



is widely admired for her empathetic and patient-friendly approach. Many women often feel hesitant and anxious when visiting a gynecologist, but Dr. Jaggi has successfully bridged this gap with her warm and reassuring demeanor. She ensures that every patient feels comfortable, heard, and valued, creating an environment where women can

seek medical assistance without fear or discomfort. Her approach has encouraged numerous women to prioritize their health and seek timely medical intervention.

Dr. Jaggi's recognition with the International Women Achievers Award is a moment of immense pride for Mandi and the entire state of Himachal Pradesh. She

is the only gynecologist from the state to have received such a distinguished international honor in Vietnam. This accolade not only highlights her individual excellence but also places Himachal Pradesh on the global map for quality healthcare services. Her achievement serves as an inspiration for medical professionals across the country, reinforcing the importance of compassionate care and dedicated service in the field of medicine.

The prestigious award is a testament to Dr. Bandana Jaggi's hard work, vision, and relentless pursuit of medical excellence. It celebrates her dedication to improving women's healthcare and acknowledges her significant role in shaping the future of medical services in the region. With this international recognition, Dr. Jaggi continues to set an example for aspiring healthcare professionals and remains a beacon of hope for countless patients seeking compassionate and high-quality medical care.

U'khand CM holds review meeting ahead of Char Dham Yatra from April 30

Dehradun: Expecting an influx in the number of Char Dham Yatra devotees this year, Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami on Monday directed officials to complete all the arrangements in advance.

Ahead of the Char Dham Yatra which is scheduled to begin from April 30, Dhami held a meeting to review preparations for the annual pilgrimage.

Describing the Char Dham Yatra as the "life-line of the state" and "a major medium of economy", the CM said that keeping in mind the challenges faced last year, work should be done at every level to ensure a smooth and safe pilgrimage this year.

Last year, about 50 lakh devotees reached



the Char Dham -- Gangotri, Yamunotri, Kedarnath and Badrinath -- located in the Upper Garhwal Himalayan region.

Ahead of the yatra, more than three lakh devotees had already reached Uttarakhand due to which there were several kilometer long

queues of vehicles on the roads.

CM Dhami said the registration system for devotees should be further strengthened during the yatra, traffic management should be done in a better way, proper parking arrangements should be made on the routes and it

should be ensured that the devotees do not face unnecessary trouble.

The Char Dham Yatra is starting on 30 April on the occasion of Akshaya Tritiya when the doors of Gangotri and Yamunotri Dhams will be opened.

The portals of Kedarnath Dham will be

opened on 2 May and Badrinath Dham on 4 May.

Dhami also directed officials to ensure timely completion of the ongoing road construction work on the yatra routes. The chief minister also asked the officials to keep an eye on the sale of helicopter service tickets on the black market.

He said that proper arrangements for health screening tests should also be made, adequate toilet facilities on the yatra routes and cleanliness should be done, spreading the message of "Green Char Dham Yatra".

Devotees should also be encouraged not to use single-use plastic and keep mobile connectivity on the yatra routes.

Himachal BJP accuses Congress govt of colluding with private schools

Una: The BJP on Monday slammed the Himachal Pradesh government for allegedly shutting down public schools and said it seemed the Congress dispensation was colluding with privately-run institutions.

BJP state unit chief Rajeev Bindal told reporters in Una that the Congress used to claim it would provide five lakh permanent government jobs. "Where did these jobs go? There are unemployed people on the roads."

He claimed senior Congress leaders had opposed construction of institutes such as AIIMS. "Maybe the AIIMS is useless for them (Congress leaders) but it is a big gift from Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Health Minister JP Nadda for the public,"



Bindal said.

He also accused the Congress government of harming the state's people by rejecting the Centre's help.

Congress leaders in Himachal Pradesh do not see that the century government has sent funds for medical colleges and other institutes, such as a cancer hospital, Bindal claimed.

"I would like to say that whenever JP Nadda came to Himachal Pradesh, he always brought support from the Centre. However, Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu, his deputy Mukesh Agnihotri, Cabinet ministers and other Congress leaders have never thanked him," he added.

Syria announces end of military operation against Assad-linked gunmen

Damascus: Syria's interim government on Monday announced the end of a days-long military operation against insurgents loyal to ousted president Bashar Assad and his family in the worst fighting since the end of the 13-year civil war in December.

The Defence Ministry's announcement comes after a surprise attack by gunmen from the Alawite community on a police patrol near the port city of Latakia Thursday spiralled into widespread clashes across Syria's coastal region, during which monitoring groups said hundreds of civilians were killed.

Syria's new interim Islamist rulers are struggling to exert their authority across the country and reach political settlements with other minority communities, notably the Kurds of the northeast and the Druze in southern Syria.

"To the remaining remnants of the defeated regime and its fleeing officers, our message is clear and explicit," said Defence Ministry spokesman Col. Hassan Abdel-Ghani.

"If you return, we will also return, and you will find before you men who do not know how to retreat and who will not have mercy on those whose hands are stained with the blood of the innocent."

EAM S. Jaishankar wraps UK visit after 'injecting fresh momentum' into partnership

London: External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar concluded his UK visit after reaffirming the strong ties between India and the United Kingdom and injecting a fresh momentum into the comprehensive strategic partnership, a Ministry of External Affairs statement said on Monday.

Jaishankar concluded the visit with a tour of the Tottenham Hotspur Stadium hosted by his counterpart Foreign Secretary David Lammy. "A good match in great company," the external affairs minister said in a social media post on Sunday, the final day of his nearly week-long tour of the UK and Ireland.

He joined Lammy for a Tottenham versus Bournemouth football match at the stadium, which falls within the former's constituency of Tottenham in north London.

The statement, which



Jaishankar concluded the visit with a tour of the Tottenham Hotspur Stadium hosted by his counterpart Foreign Secretary David Lammy.

recapped Jaishankar's many high-level meetings, including "comprehensive" talks with Lammy at Chevening House, discussions with British Prime Minister Keir Starmer, Deputy Prime Minister Angela Rayner, Business and Trade Secretary Jonathan Reynolds, and Home Secretary Yvette Cooper.

The UK visit included the opening of the

new Consulate General of India in Belfast and Manchester and engagements with key stakeholders across government, businesses, academia, and the Indian diaspora.

"The visit reaffirmed the strong ties between India and the United Kingdom, injecting fresh momentum into the India-UK Comprehensive Strategic Partnership,"

the MEA said.

"It reinforced both nations' commitment to strengthening political, economic, and people-to-people collaboration in an evolving global landscape," the MEA said.

With specific reference to the EAM's talks with Starmer at 10 Downing Street last week, the ministry said that both leaders noted

the "positive momentum" in bilateral relations, particularly with the resumption of Free Trade Agreement (FTA) negotiations.

"They also recognised the strengthening of technology cooperation, deepening of people-to-people ties, and discussed key global issues, including the Ukraine conflict," the MEA said.

During his talks with Lammy, Jaishankar is said to have covered the full spectrum of India-UK relations, including strategic coordination, political cooperation, trade negotiations, education, technology, mobility, and people-to-people exchanges.

Russia expels 2 British diplomats from embassy in Moscow over espionage claims

Moscow: Russia said on Monday it was expelling two British diplomats based at the embassy in Moscow over spying allegations.

Russia's Federal Security Service, or FSB, said in a statement quoted by the state news agency RIA Novosti that the two diplomats had provided false personal data while seeking permission to enter the country and had engaged in alleged intelligence and subversive activities that threatened Russia's security. It didn't offer any evidence.

According to the RIA Novosti report, a decision has been made to revoke the diplomats' accreditations and they have been ordered to leave Russia within two weeks. The Russian Foreign Ministry said in a separate statement that it summoned a British embassy official.

"Moscow will not tolerate the activities of undeclared British intelligence officers on Russian territory," it said. There was no immediate response from the UK authorities.

The FSB last year expelled seven British diplomats of spying. Six expulsions were announced in September, and one more in November. The UK called the moves at the time "baseless."

The expulsions came amid soaring tensions over the war in Ukraine and after London decided to revoke the credentials of an attaché at the Russian Embassy and limit Moscow's diplomatic activities in Britain.

Last month, London expelled a Russian diplomat in response to the November expulsion. In May 2024, the UK expelled Russia's defence attaché in London, alleging he was an undeclared intelligence officer, and it closed several Russian diplomatic properties in Britain that it said were being used for spying. Days later Russia reciprocated and expelled Britain's defence attaché.

Court-martial convenes for Pentagon leaker already facing years behind bars

Bedford (US):

A military court-martial convened on Monday for Massachusetts Air National Guard member Jack Teixeira, who was sentenced in federal court to 15 years in prison for leaking highly classified military documents after the most consequential national security breach in years.

Teixeira pleaded guilty last year to six counts of willful retention and transmission of national defense information under the Espionage



Act. He faces additional military charges of disobeying orders and obstructing justice in the court-martial, held at Hanscom Air Force Base

in Massachusetts.

Military prosecutors said the court-martial is appropriate given that obeying orders is the "absolute core" of the military. Teixeira's lawyers argued that further action would amount to prosecuting him twice for the same offense.

The leaks exposed to the world unvarnished secret assessments of Russia's war in Ukraine, including information about troop movements in Ukraine, and the provision of supplies and

equipment to Ukrainian troops. Teixeira also admitted posting information about a US adversary's plans to harm US forces serving overseas.

Before he was sentenced in November in US District Court in Boston, Teixeira showed little emotion as he stood in court and apologised for his actions. The 22-year-old previously admitted he illegally collected some of the nation's most sensitive secrets and shared them with other users on the

social media platform Discord.

"I wanted to say I'm sorry for all the harm that I brought and caused," Teixeira said. "I understand all the responsibility and consequences fall upon my shoulders alone and accept whatever that will bring."

Afterward, Teixeira hugged one of his attorneys, looked toward his family and smiled before being led from court. His family left without commenting to

reporters, but his mother and others submitted letters to the court seeking leniency.

"I know Jack deeply regrets his actions and is ready to accept his punishment for his part in this situation," his mother, Dawn Dufault, wrote. "While I understand the severity of his charges and the importance of ensuring justice, I implore you, Your Honor, to consider Jack's true nature and his unique challenges, as I have observed over the years."

BUSINESS

TaskUs Celebrates Women's Day with Commitment to Equity

Mohali: TaskUs, Inc., a leading provider of outsourced digital services and next-generation customer experience solutions, marked International Women's Day with a strong reaffirmation of its commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion. The company, known for fostering an inclusive workplace culture, celebrated the achievements and contributions of women while emphasizing its ongoing initiatives to create opportunities for them to grow and thrive.

Ms. Sapna Bhambani, Senior Vice President of Operations - India at TaskUs, highlighted the importance of recognizing the resilience and strength of women in all spheres of life, particularly in the workplace. She stressed that the company's commitment to gender equality extends far beyond a single day of celebration, as TaskUs continually works toward creating an environment where women feel valued, empowered, and given

equal opportunities to lead and innovate.

As part of its dedication to advancing gender inclusivity, TaskUs has achieved significant milestones in workforce representation, with women comprising 49% of its global workforce and 46% of managerial positions. While these numbers reflect the progress made in fostering leadership opportunities for women, the company acknowledges that there is still much work to be done to achieve full equality.

TaskUs has also prioritized best-in-class employee benefits that extend beyond standard medical coverage. In India, employees enjoy additional perks such as paid birthdays leave and bereavement benefits. Furthermore, the company maintains inclusive hiring practices to support women, people with disabilities, and members of the LGBTQIA+ community, ensuring a diverse and dynamic workforce where talent and individuality are celebrated.

Gadkari Urges Industry to Stop Demanding Tax Cuts

New Delhi:

Union minister Nitin Gadkari on Monday asked the industry not to perennially demand a reduction in taxes as the government needs funds to implement welfare schemes for the poor.

Addressing an event here, the road transport and highways minister said the logistics cost in India will come down to 9 per cent within two years.

"Do not ask for reducing Goods and Services Tax (GST) and taxes, it is a continuous process which is going on. If we reduce the tax, you will ask for more, because this is human psychology," Gadkari, who is known for his frank views, said.

"...we want to reduce the taxation, but without taxation also, the



government can not run a welfare state," he added.

The minister added that it is the government's vision to take

the tax from the rich people and give benefits to the poor.

"So the government has also got its own limits," he said.

According to the minister, presently India's logistics cost is 14-16 per cent.

"I assure you that within two years...our

logistics cost will be 9 per cent. So we will be more competitive in the international market," he said.

In China, the logistics cost is 8 per cent and in the US and European countries, it is 12 per cent, the minister said.

Gadkari also emphasised that India Inc. needs to reduce the cost of production without compromising the quality.

The minister noted that by increasing capital investment, India is going to create more jobs.

"You are not only wealth creator but job creator...we need to advantage of this golden era," he said.

Further, Gadkari stressed the need to reduce imports and increase exports to make India a developed nation.

Air India Express Fleet Expands to 100 Planes

New Delhi:

Air India Express now has 100 planes in its fleet by inducting another Boeing 737-8 aircraft which operated its first flight on Bengaluru-Hindon route.

In a release on Monday, the airline said it will be operating over 500 daily flights by the end of this month across a fast-expanding network of 54 destinations across India, the Middle East and Southeast Asia.

From a fleet of 26 Boeing 737 NGs and 28 A320 aircraft in January 2022, when the airline was taken over by the Tata Group, the carrier's fleet has almost doubled its fleet to 100 aircraft, according to the release.

The 100th aircraft, featuring 'Chittara' tail art inspired by Karnataka's traditional mural painting, was flagged off by the airline's Managing Director Aloke Singh at Bengaluru's Kempegowda International Airport.

"In just over three years since privatisation, we integrated and merged the LCC (low cost carrier) airlines, while scaling up rapidly with a modern and fuel-efficient fleet, broad basing our domestic network, deepening and expanding our Middle East and Southeast Asia routes.

"Today, we have a formidable presence in the India market focused towards tier 2 and tier 3 cities, the emerging hot-spots of the economy, playing a pivotal role in the next stage of India's aviation growth story," Singh said.

More than a decade from the current 1.3% consumption by data centres

NSEFI Green Data Centre Coalition meets to prepare road map for Integrating Renewable Energy with Data Centres

New Delhi:

National Solar Energy Federation of India's (NSEFI) Green Data Centre Coalition, held its inception meeting in the national capital with key industry representatives to chalk out the future of Decarbonizing Data Centre Operations in India. The coalition, under the aegis of NSEFI, will be a dedicated platform for accelerating the greening of Data Centres and create a sustainable ecosystem for



them in their journey towards decarbonization in India.

"The coalition is Jointly Chaired by Vikram Sridharan, Director, Infrastructure and Pub-

lic Policy, Asia Pacific and Sharad Agarwal, CEO, Sify Infinit Spaces Limited. In its inception meeting, the Coalition Members discussed the

Road Map for leveraging India's abundant RE potential to support the growth of Data Centre Industry.

The Coalition will soon be coming out

with specific recommendations to be submitted to key Central Government Ministries. The Coalition, will also be convening meetings with States that have active Data Centre promotion policies.

Vikram Sridharan, Director Infrastructure and Public Policy, Asia Pacific and Japan at AWS says "India's energy demand is growing due to our increased utilization of advanced technology—from electric vehicles and smart appliances, to banking online and AI.

Amazon is committed to providing the essential services and goods our customers demand, while also working to power our operations more sustainably to meet our Climate Pledge commitment to become net-zero carbon by 2040. To support the decarbonization of our operations and contribute to India's energy transition, we have invested millions of dollars into renewable energy in the country. The Green Data Centre Coalition will be

an important avenue for the data centre industry in India to come together to realize a more sustainable digital future for India.

Charad Agarwal, CEO, Sify Infinit Spaces, "India is looking at least a decade long upward growth of capacity across all forms of data Centre. A parallel demand would be power that is expected to more than double from the current 1.3% consumption by data centres

Cricket

I am not retiring from ODI format, don't spread rumours, says Rohit Sharma

■ "I am not going to retire from this (ODI) format. Going forward please don't spread rumours," Rohit said at the post-match press conference

Dubai
India skipper Rohit Sharma has dismissed the speculations about his career after winning the ICC Champions Trophy, saying that he is not quitting the ODI format anytime soon.

Since the Australian tour, speculations were rife about Rohit's future in the team as well as his position as captain but a match-winning 76 in the final against New Zealand on Sunday has given him a new lease of life.

"I am not going to retire from this (ODI) format. Going forward please don't spread rumours," Rohit said at the post-match press conference after India beat New Zealand by four wickets to clinch the trophy.

He was expectedly quizzed about his future plans and he said that things will remain as it is.

"No future plans. Jo ho raha hain, woh chalta jayega (Whatever is happening will keep continuing)," Rohit added.

Rohit said his aggressive approach in the Power Play segment was a decision taken with a specific aim in mind.

The Mumbai man flew off the blocks in the first 10 overs making 49 before eventually getting out for an 83-ball 76.

"I haven't done anything different today as I have been doing in the last 3-4 matches. I know how important it is to make runs in Power Play because we have seen that after 10 overs, it becomes very difficult when the field spreads and spinners come." The nature of the Dubai pitch too played its part in him adopting a quick fire



approach to batting. "It becomes tough also because the pitch is already slow. So, it is very important for you to take chances from the top."

"I pick the bowler and where I can change him and where I can play the shot. In that, you may not see that many big runs. Today after that 10 overs, I changed my game a bit. I had to play for a long time," he added.

However, Rohit admitted that contributing to the team's win as a batter was a very satisfying experience.

"You get a lot of happiness when you win a match and you make a contribution in it, it feels even better. I made a lot of contributions in the 2019 World Cup, but we did not win."

"So, there was no fun in it. Even if you make a sudden run and win the match, you get more satisfaction and happiness. So, I think it was very important for me to do something

and contribute and keep the team in a winning position," he noted.

The demotion of KL Rahul to No. 6 has been discussed threadbare in recent times, but Rohit said the management is delighted to see the wicketkeeper batter making consistent efforts in his new role.

"It is very important for everyone to contribute in their own way. When we discussed KL's batting position, we discussed quite deeply about how calm he is when he is batting. The pressure doesn't get to him."

"We wanted that calmness in the middle order. Also, we wanted to use a left-hander (Axar Patel) in the middle. That actually worked out in both ways for us," he said.

Rohit said Rahul's contributions have been important for the team despite not scoring any big knocks.

"KL has been doing a lot of challenging work for the team for so

many years now. I am very happy with how he managed to pull through this tournament and bat in the pressure situation — both in the semifinals and this game as well."

"The contribution may not be 70-80, but those 30-40s are very important for the team. When you are chasing, it can get tough. But with KL being there, we know that he has got that mind where he keeps himself calm and keeps the dressing room also very calm," he explained.

The 37-year-old also praised Shreyas Iyer for playing significant knocks from No. 4.

"He is very, very important in that middle phase for us. The partnerships with all the batters who were batting with him... That semifinal against Australia, his alliance with Virat was very important. Even against Pakistan and New Zealand, the league game that we played was important."

"Even today, when I got out, our team's third wicket had fallen. And, at that time, we needed a partnership of 50 to 70 runs. Shreyas did that with Axar. So, when there are such performances, when you understand the conditions, and adapt to the conditions it feels good," he said.

Rohit dedicated the Champions Trophy triumph to the country.

"To the whole country because I know that our country has been so much behind us. When you win the finals of any tournament, and especially in India, we know that wherever we play, we get good support." So, winning this trophy makes the whole team so happy that we did it for our country," he signed off.

Way we played as team was incredible": Hardik Pandya after ICC Champions Trophy 2025 win



CT: Kohli headlines six Indians in ICC's 'Team of the Tournament'

Dubai

Five players from the title-winning Indian cricket team have been picked for the ICC Men's Champions Trophy 2025 Team of the Tournament.

The best XI of the tournament was announced by the International Cricket Council on Monday — a day after India beat New Zealand by four wickets in the Champions Trophy 2025 final in Dubai.

Four members of the New Zealand squad also made the team, including Player of the Tournament Rachin Ravindra and Mitchell Santner, who was named captain.

Two players from Afghanistan also made the cut after the Asian nation won their first-ever ICC Men's Champions Trophy match in their debut appearance.

Ravindra was an expected selection after he scored two centuries and topped the run-scoring charts with 263.

His knock of 112 against Bangladesh was instrumental in seeing New Zealand over the line and his 108 in the semi-final against South Africa saw him deliver on the big stage.

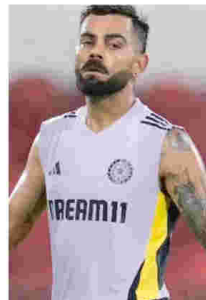
Afghanistan opener Ibrahim Zadran was chosen to partner Ravindra at the top of the order.

The 23-year-old more than left his mark on the tournament, scoring a brilliant match-winning knock of 177 — the highest-ever Champions Trophy score — against England in the group stage.

India's Virat Kohli slots in at number three after he finished fifth in the run-scoring charts with 218 at an average of 54.50.

Kohli made a memorable unbeaten century in his side's group-stage win over Pakistan and a crucial 84 in the semi-final success over world champions Australia.

Kohli's teammates Shreyas Iyer and



KL Rahul join him in the middle-order after impressive tournaments.

Iyer was India's top run-scorer, with two half-centuries helping him to 243 runs in total, while Rahul finished with an average of 42 and 34 in the semi-final and final respectively.

New Zealand's Glenn Phillips was selected at number six after a brilliant performance with the bat and in the field.

His diving one-handed catch to dismiss Shubman Gill in the final was one of his three sensational takes in the tournament. The 28-year-old also scored one half-century against Pakistan and took two wickets against South Africa in the semi-final to go alongside an unbeaten 49.

Azamullah Omarzai is the second Afghan in the team. The fast-bowling all-rounder had a fantastic tournament with both bat and ball and finished with seven wickets and 126 runs.

Santner was named as team captain after picking up nine wickets to finish joint second on the top wicket-takers list.

Ban direct, indirect ads related to tobacco, alcohol: Health Ministry to IPL

New Delhi

The Health Ministry has instructed the Indian Premier League (IPL) to ban all forms of tobacco and alcohol promotions, including surrogate advertisements, during the tournament, which begins on March 22.

Letter to IPL chairman Anur Dhumal, Director General of Health Services Atul Goel said that cricket players, who are role models for the youth of India, should not be directly or indirectly connected to any form of tobacco or alcohol advertising. "IPL should strictly implement the regulations banning all forms of tobacco/alcohol advertising, including surrogate advertisements, within the stadium premises where the games and related IPL games/events are held as well as during telecast sessions on national television," Goel wrote.

"The sale of tobacco/alcohol products in all affiliated events and sports facilities should also be prohibited.

ODI World Cup is some distance away but India need Rohit in this transition phase

Dubai

There were two instances during Rohit Sharma's lengthy post-tournament press conference on Sunday when the issue of his retirement cropped up.

The first time the subject was broached with him after a triumphant campaign in the Champions Trophy in Dubai, the Indian captain gave an open-ended answer, "No future plans, jaise chah raha hain, chalta rahega (the way it is going, it will continue that way)".

When he next mentioned the dreaded 'R' word, it was more voluntary and was an afterthought to a completely different question.

Advertisement
Just before concluding the press meet, he said, "One more thing, I'm not going to retire from this format, just to make sure that no rumours are spread moving forward."

Rohit's statement was a loaded one as the stress was on "this format", which is 50-over cricket.

He retired from T20s after the World Cup triumph in America last year, and questions remain over his future in Test cricket, with the Indian



team set to tour England this summer.

He spelt out his ambitions loud and clear and obviously, he has some unfinished business with an eye on the 2027 World Cup, which will be co-hosted by South Africa, Zimbabwe and Namibia.

The World Cup is still some distance away and the Indian skipper is a bonafide legend of the ODI format.

By laying emphasis on "this format", Rohit has made his intentions clear and as long as he is scoring runs, age wouldn't be a barrier although he would be close to 40 by the time the marquee event comes calling.

While ODI is still his preferred format, Rohit has in no way said that he doesn't want to play Test matches. In fact, except the Australia tour and the series before that against New Zealand at home, he has been the team's best Test batter.

Rohit's best overseas performance came against England during the 2021 series where he scored a century at the Oval.

Jasprit Bumrah has shown his mettle as a Test skipper but Rohit is still the most revered leader in the Indian dressing room.

Owing to Bumrah's fitness concerns

and the selectors' preference to groom Shubman Gill for some more time in the role of a deputy, Rohit remains the ideal candidate to continue leading the side as it goes through a transition phase.

Virat Kohli, Rohit's longtime teammate, aptly put it after the Champions Trophy final that the team's core is ready to play for the next eight years but it is his duty to put Indian cricket in good hands "as and when" he decides to call it a day.

The question is whether Rohit wants to continue playing the traditional five-day format in the new World Test Championship (WTC) cycle starting against England at Headingley from June 20.

If Rohit wants to play only the ODI format, then he can feature in a maximum 27 international 50-over matches until the next World Cup, which will be held in February-March.

As far as additional game time is concerned, he will also have the IPL besides playing the occasional Vijay Hazare Trophy matches.

In case Rohit doesn't play the Tests in England, then he would be featuring

in only nine international series of three ODIs each in the next two years from now.

The series are against Bangladesh (away, August, 2025), Australia (away, October 2025), South Africa (December, 2025, home), New Zealand (January, 2026, home), England (3 ODIs, away), Afghanistan (June, 2026, home), West Indies (September-October, 2026, home), New Zealand (October, 2026, away), and Sri Lanka (December, 2026, home).

Fitness will also be taken into account in the coming time.

While retirement is very much a cricketer's individual call, the counter point will be if the national selectors or the BCCI feel that they need to look at the bigger picture and have only one among Rohit and Virat in the ODI set-up going forward.

Waiting in the wings is the prolific Yashvir Jaiswal, who has a fabulous average of 52.82 and a strike-rate of 85.97 in 33 List A games, in which he has five hundreds including a double.

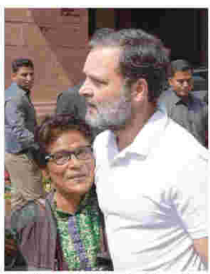
If the selectors are looking at Jaiswal for the 2027 World Cup, he would have to be played in these 27 games. It

NATIONAL

Rahul Gandhi: A Leader With a Humanitarian Heart

By Dr Anil Singh
New Delhi

Rahul Gandhi, often described as the quiet force within Indian politics, continues to stand apart from conventional political imagery through his deeply human approach. His personality is marked by an earnest sincerity towards common citizens, breaking the stereotype of the typical politician who remains distant and inaccessible. Time and again, Rahul has shown a preference for genuine interaction, often seen engaging thoughtfully with ordinary people like coolies, agricultural workers, and street vendors, resonating deeply with their challenges and aspirations.



Today, standing outside the Makar Dwar in Parliament, awaiting reactions from politicians on numerous burning issues, I personally witnessed a profound example of Rahul Gandhi's compassionate nature. Without any prompting, the leader of the opposition spontaneously stopped his vehicle and warmly embraced Ms. Shipra Das, the oldest and arguably most humble photojournalist present. Rahul Gandhi not only recognized Ms. Das but also re-

moved by human compassion and dignity rather than calculated political advantage.

Rahul Gandhi's interactions are often highlighted by his natural inclination to connect with those who are generally overlooked in society. From spending nights in the modest homes of villagers to sharing meals with laborers and farmers, Rahul consistently demonstrates that leadership isn't confined to the corridors of power but thrives within the humility and struggles of everyday life.

His empathetic nature can perhaps be traced back to his family legacy and his personal philosophy, shaped profoundly by the values of inclusiveness and equality. While Rahul Gandhi's political opponents often critique his methods, even they acknowledge that his interactions stem from genuine concern rather than electoral calculations. His outreach isn't staged—it emerges spontaneously from a belief that political leadership must embody true understanding and empathy for all societal segments.

Rahul Gandhi's affinity towards the underprivileged reflects his vision of pol-

itics as a means to uplift, empower, and humanize society. His interactions with the common people aren't momentary episodes captured for media optics but an ongoing narrative of his personal and political life, continually reinforcing the importance of compassion and sensitivity within governance.

The incident with Ms. Das was not just another act of kindness but a moment of powerful symbolism, encapsulating Rahul Gandhi's belief in respect and dignity for every individual. Such genuine actions challenge the cynicism that often clouds public perception of politicians. They offer hope and suggest that true leadership may still emerge from authentic human connections rather than orchestrated political drama.

In conclusion, Rahul Gandhi's humanitarian approach provides a refreshing model for political leadership. If more politicians adopted this sincere and empathetic style, the face of Indian politics—and indeed society—could profoundly transform. Rahul Gandhi, through these acts of genuine kindness, reminds us all that at the heart of leadership lies humanity.

Railways (Amendment) Bill 2025 Passed: Govt assures more efficiency, safety, & empowerment

Staff Reporter
New Delhi

The Rajya Sabha has passed the Railways (Amendment) Bill 2025, which aims to improve and modernize railway operations in India.

Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw discussed the bill's focus on increasing efficiency, enhancing safety, and promoting cooperative federalism.

He thanked the 25 Members of Parliament who contributed to the discussion, highlighting that the bill simplifies existing laws without reducing the powers of state governments.

It decentralizes authority by allowing general managers in railway zones to approve projects up to ₹1,000 crore.

Vaishnaw noted the government's commitment to railway development in all states, including those where the ruling party does not hold power. He pointed out that states like Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Odisha, and West Bengal received more budget allocations than in the past.

Key achievements in railway infra-

structure include the addition of over 34,000 kilometers of new tracks, the electrification of 45,000 kilometers, and the replacement of 50,000 kilometers of old tracks with better quality rails. Safety has also improved, with an increased budget for safety measures and a significant decline in rail fractures and incidents. The Kavach safety system has been introduced to enhance operational security.

In terms of employment, the NDA government has created over 5,02,000 jobs compared to 4,11,000 under the previous UPA government. Transport recruitment exams have attracted millions of candidates, and training programs for employees have gained high enrollment rates.

Additionally, passenger amenities have seen major upgrades, including the installation of 3,10,000 modern toilets in coaches and air-conditioning in 55,8 running rooms for loco pilots. New, advanced locomotives are being manufactured to improve working conditions.



Indian shuttlers face tough challenge at All England Championships amid injuries and form struggles

Birmingham
Grappled with injuries, health setbacks and poor form, Indian shuttlers will face one of their toughest challenges when they aim to capture the elusive All England Championships beginning here on Tuesday.

Since Prakash Padukone's historic win in 1980 and Pulela Gopichand's triumph in 2001, no Indian has managed to capture the coveted All England title — one of the sport's most prestigious crowns after the Olympics and World Championships. In the past two decades, Indian badminton has soared to new heights, with stars like PV Sindhu, Saina Nehwal, and Kidambi Srikanth claiming major titles. However, none have been able to conquer the All England Championships, despite their numerous successes on the world stage.

Saina and Lakshya Sen came close in 2015 and 2022, finishing as runners-up, while Treasa Jolly and Gayatri Gopichand reached the semifinals in consecutive editions.

Every year, the Indian contingent sets its sights on this historic title, and yet, the elusive crown continues to slip through their grasp.

This year, the challenge will be even greater as India's top shuttlers arrive in Birmingham with a host of difficulties, including injury concerns and inconsistent form.



After a disappointing Paris Olympics, the Indian shuttlers struggled to get off the mark in 2025. Sindhu faced injury woes, HS Prannoy made a slow recovery from a bout of chikungunya, Lakshya Sen has battled poor form, and Satwiksairaj Rankireddy is coping with the loss of his father who died last month. Sindhu, a two-time Olympic

medallist, is back after recovering from a hamstring injury that forced her withdrawal from last month's Asia Mixed Team Championships. The 29-year-old, who hired Indonesian coach Irwansyah Adi Pratama in January, will face Korea's Ga Eun Kim in the opening round. A potential second-round clash against China's Han Yue awaits, with

Indonesia's Gregoria Mariska Tunjung likely to challenge her in the quarterfinals. Lakshya, who was fourth at the Paris Olympics, enjoyed a semifinal run in the previous edition of the All England but has struggled in the new season with two first-round exits and a second-round finish. The 23-year-old, who claimed

bronze at the 2021 World Championships, will open his campaign against Japan's Koki Watanabe. A victory could set up a showdown with Indonesia's Jonatan Christie in the second round.

Prannoy, who has slipped to World No. 30 after a tough year, is yet to progress beyond the second round in 2025. The 32-year-old, who was hampered by chikungunya ahead of the Paris Olympics, will open his campaign against France's Toma Junior Popov.

In men's doubles, Asian Games champions Satwiksairaj and Chirag Shetty, who are seeded 7th, have been India's most consistent performers, with strong showings at Malaysia and India Opens this year. The Indian duo will open against Denmark's Daniel Lundgaard and Mads Vestergaard.

In women's doubles, World No. 9 Treasa Jolly and Gayatri Gopichand will meet Chinese Taipei's Shuo Yun Sung and Chien Hui Yu, while Ashwini Ponnappa and Tanisha Crasto will face another Taipei pair — Pei Shan Hsieh and En-Tzu Hung.

Among other competitors, Malvika Bansod will take on Jia Min Yeo of Singapore.

In mixed doubles, India will be represented by three pairs — Rohan Kapoor and Ruthvika Shivani Gadde, Dhruv Kapila and Tanisha, and Sathish Karunakaran with Aadya Variyath.

Sukant Kadam clinches gold at Spanish Para Badminton International 2025 - II



New Delhi

India's para shuttlers delivered an outstanding performance at the Spanish Para Badminton International 2025 - II, with Sukant Kadam leading the charge. Sukant showcased exceptional form as he clinched the gold medal in the SL4 category, defeating fellow Indian Tarun in a commanding final match with a score of 21-13 and 21-10. In the semi-final, Sukant had earlier overpowered India's Naveen Sivakumar 21-11 and 21-13. He remained unbeaten throughout the tournament, making it a perfect and promising start to the new year. Speaking after his win, Sukant Kadam said, "I'm happy to start 2025 with a gold medal. Every match here was a learning experience, and I'm glad I could perform consistently. This win gives me great motivation for the rest of the season," as quoted from a release by Sukant Kadam.

India's dominance continued with Nitesh Kumar securing gold in the SL3 category after a hard-fought match against Japan's Fujiwara, winning 21-9 and 21-19. In the SH6 category, Nithyashree emerged victorious, defeating Poland's Szmigiel in the final to claim the top podium finish. In men's doubles, Nitesh Kumar and Tarun edged past India's Jagadeesh Dilli and Naveen Sivakumar in a thrilling three-set encounter, winning 21-14, 23-25, 22-20.

The mixed doubles events also saw a strong Indian presence. Krishna Nagar and Nithyashree triumphed over England's Shephard and Cheong with a dominant 21-14, 21-11 victory to clinch gold in the SH6 category. Nitesh Kumar, pairing with Manisha Ramadass, added another gold to India's tally in the SL3-SL5 category, defeating Sweden's Rickard Nilsson and Denmark's Hello Sofie Sagoy with a convincing score of 21-9 and 21-15.

Meanwhile, Alpha James fought hard in the women's singles final but had to settle for silver after going down to Switzerland's Ilvira Olgiate.

Lewis Hamilton has Ferrari fans dreaming as F1 waits for the movie



London

Lewis Hamilton winning a record eighth Formula One title in the red overalls of Ferrari at the age of 40 would be a story straight out of Hollywood, whose own Brad Pitt movie is scheduled to race across cinema screens in June. The Briton, a co-producer on the film directed by Joseph Kosinski of 'Top Gun: Maverick' fame, has fired up the fans as he seeks to bring a championship to Maranello for the first time since 2008.

Sunday's season-opener in Melbourne will be Hamilton's first race for the Italian glamour team, after winning his seven titles with McLaren and Mercedes, and already the level of excitement is off the scale.

One fan cut down a tree to get a better glimpse of the 105-times race winner driving for the first time at Ferrari's Fiorano test track.

An Instagram post on his first day at the factory, with Hamilton standing in a smart black suit and overcoat next to a Ferrari F40 car, drew 5.7 million likes from 39 million followers.

"Oh my God, he'll be the king of all kings," 1978 world champion Mario Andretti told Time magazine when asked about the chance of the Briton succeeding in what seems to some an improbable quest.

Hamilton was featured on the iconic red-bordered cover, standing shirtless in a white suit in front of a rearing black stallion.

"The old man is a state of mind," he told the magazine, a line he could have taken from Pitt, 61, who plays a 40-something driver. "Of course, your body ages. But I'm never going to be an old man."

The fairy-tale script is written, but it could easily be torn up and recast.

TOUGH TASK

The task, to secure a title he felt robbed of when a controversial change to the safety car procedure late in the 2021 Abu Dhabi Grand Prix handed Red Bull's Max Verstappen a first title, will be as tough as any Hamilton has faced.

Teammate Charles Leclerc, a Ferrari

protege and eight-times race winner who has driven for the team since 2019 and been blisteringly quick off the start, will fancy his chances if the car has title potential.

McLaren are the reigning constructors' champions and Hamilton's compatriot Lando Norris, runner-up to Verstappen last season with four wins, is installed as the bookmakers' favourite.

Australian Oscar Piastri, Norris's teammate, is another contender in what could be one of the closest seasons ever as well as the last before major rule changes and the start of a new engine era in 2026.

Some are predicting potentially more winners than the seven different drivers and four teams that enjoyed the spoils in 2024, with some teams set to end development early and focus on next year.

Then there is Verstappen, soon to become a father for the first time and bidding to join Ferrari's great and seven-times world champion Michael Schumacher as only the second driver to win five titles in a row.

"If the car's up to it, he'll get the job done," former F1 supremo Bernie Ecclestone told Reuters.

Verstappen, who has led the championship for more than 1,000 days since May 2022, has a new teammate in New Zealander Liam Lawson, promoted after 11 races from sister team Racing Bulls to replace under-performing Mexican Sergio Perez.

Lawson is the most experienced of a group of six starting a season for the first time, with Frenchman Isack Hadjar taking the vacant seat at Racing Bulls.

Briton Oliver Bearman is at Haas, Brazilian F2 champion Gabriel Bortoleto with Sauber, Australian Jack Doohan at Alpine and Italian Andrea Kimi Antonelli stepping into Hamilton's enormous shoes at Mercedes.

Horowood 18-year-old fares alongside George Russell will be another storyline of the season, as will star designer Adrian Newey's impact at Aston Martin since his move from Red Bull.

Hockey India announces nominations for 7th Annual Awards 2024

New Delhi

Hockey India on Monday officially announced the nominees for the 7th edition of the prestigious Hockey India 7th Annual Awards 2024, scheduled to take place on 15 March in New Delhi, with a record prize pool of approx. INR 12 crores, this year's ceremony is set to be the biggest yet, celebrating the finest performances in Indian hockey during the 2024 season, as per the Hockey India press release.

A total of 32 nominees across eight categories have made it to the final shortlist. These nominees, who have made notable contributions to the sport throughout the year, will be recognised and celebrated during the ceremony.

One of the key highlights is the coveted Hockey India Balbir Singh Sr. Award for Player of the Year, which will honour the best male and female players. Young players have also been given the spotlight, with the Hockey India Jugraj Singh Award for Upcoming Player of the Year (Men) and the Hockey India Asunta Lakra Award for Up-



coming Player of the Year (Women).

In addition, individual excellence across various positions will be recognised through awards such as the Hockey India Bajji Singh Award for Goalkeeper of the Year, the Hockey India Pargat Singh Award for Defender of the Year, the Hockey India Ajit Pal Singh Award for Midfielder of the Year, and the Hockey India Dhanraj Pillay Award for Forward of the Year.

The ceremony will also include several special awards, such as the Hockey India President Award for Out-

standing Achievement and the Hockey India Jaman Lal Sharma Award for Invaluable Contribution. Recognition will also be extended to officials with the Hockey India President Award for Umpire/Umpire Manager of the Year, the Hockey India President Award for Technical Official of the Year, and the Best Member Unit Award.

This year's Hockey India Annual Awards will be held on 15 March, commemorating the 50th anniversary of the Indian Men's Hockey Team's historic World Cup victory on the same date in 1975—their first and only title to date. Adding to the significance, 2025 marks 100 years of Indian hockey, as India became affiliated with the International Hockey Federation (FIH) on 7 November 1925, just a year after FIH's formation. This milestone year is a tribute to India's rich hockey legacy and its enduring impact on the sport.

India's Olympic bronze medal-winning team will be felicitated, along with the Men's and Women's teams that won the Asian Champions Trophy in 2024.

South Korea coach calls up bumper squad for World Cup qualifiers

Seoul

South Korea coach Hong Myung-bo has called up 28 players for home World Cup qualifiers against Oman and Jordan later this month, when the Taeguk warriors will look to lock up a spot at a 11th straight edition of the global showpiece.

South Korea could potentially clinch one of the two automatic tickets to the 2026 finals from Group B with two qualifiers to spare if they can beat Oman in Gwangju on March 20 and Jordan in Suwon five days later.

"The ideal scenario is to quickly secure qualification for the World Cup through these two home matches and then play friendly matches against European powerhouses," Hong told a news conference on Monday.

"Things won't always go the way we want them to, of course, but we will do our best to achieve that goal. Even if that doesn't work out, we'll make sure that the players feel comfortable and are not under too much pressure."

Regular captain Son Heung-min was named in the bumper squad along with fellow stalwarts Bayern Munich, centre half Kim Min-jae and Paris Saint-Germain winger Lee Kang-in.

Mumbai City need a point against Bengaluru FC to qualify for ISL play-offs

Bengaluru

Mumbai City FC will need a point against Bengaluru FC to qualify for the Indian Super League (ISL) play-offs when the two sides face each other here on Tuesday.

Placed seventh with 33 points, Mumbai City need just a draw to edge past the sixth-positioned Odisha FC (33 points) and finish on top-six.

The Islanders, however, are winless in their previous four games, drawing and losing twice each.

The Blues have already made the cut for the top-six, and are presently fourth in the standings with 38 points from 23 games.

The Blues have faced losses in three of their last four encounters against the Islanders, failing to find the back of the net through on the bounce, which are arguably unwanted records they will want to set clear before the playoffs begin.

Talismanic Sunil Chhetri, who has decided to come out of international retirement to help the national team qualify for the 2027 Asian Cup, has converted four spot-kick this season, and if he scores against Mumbai City FC, he will become the first player to reach 10 goals against the Islanders in the ISL.

The two sides have played 17



Placed seventh with 33 points, Mumbai City need just a draw to edge past the sixth-positioned Odisha FC (33 points) and finish on top-six.

matches so far, with Bengaluru FC winning six games and Mumbai City FC emerging victorious nine times. Two games have produced draws.

Bengaluru FC head coach Gerard Zaragoza said that the Islanders will present a tough challenge in the coming game.

"Mumbai City FC will play this match like one final. It's difficult to play against teams like this, but we want to win this game," he said. Mumbai City FC head coach Petr Kratky too acknowledged the strength of Bengaluru FC.

"Bengaluru FC are a good side. They have quality in them and there is a reason why they are in the playoffs," he said.



IIFA honoured us quite a few times in these 25 years: Filmmaker Rakesh Roshan

New Delhi
Filmmaker Rakesh Roshan says IIFA began in 2000, the same year his son Hrithik Roshan made his debut with "Kaho Naa... Pyaar Hai" and the gala has honoured them "quite a few times" over the years. Roshan was present at the green carpet of International Indian Film Academy (IIFA) Awards. He said it makes him happy that the event is celebrating its anniversary in the country. "IIFA came into the industry 25 years ago in 2000. And my son Hrithik Roshan also came in 2000 and with great luck, at the

first award function only his film 'Kaho Naa... Pyaar Hai' won many awards. We are very happy about that. And since then, IIFA has been honouring us quite a few times in these 25 years," he told reporters on Sunday. "They have taken us global and I am very happy that they are celebrating the 25th anniversary here in Jaipur because I love this place. I love Rajasthan. I have made a couple of films over here, 'Karan Arjun' and 'Koyla'. So I know this place very well. I love the food over here, the people and the costumes that they wear here. And it's a very

colourful place," he added. Hrithik's debut film featured the actor co-starring Ameesha Patel and went on to become a hit. It was also re-released in January in theatres on Hrithik's 51st birthday. Rakesh also spoke about the documentary "The Roshans" which explored the legacy and contributions to the cinema industry by musician Roshan Lal Nagrath, music director Rakesh Roshan, Rakesh and Hrithik. "I made 17 films and I never got so many phone calls and messages as I got for 'The Roshans'. And I am very happy that I could

make my father proud because today's generation didn't know about my father and today they know about my father. So I am very happy about that," he said. The filmmaker also shared an update on "Krish 4" and said he will make an announcement soon. "Very soon. I will announce it very soon." The film will be the fourth installment to the "Krish" franchise which began in 2003 with "Koi... Mil Gaya". The sequels were released in 2006 and 2013, featuring Hrithik in the role of a superhero Krish.

Film with Rani Mukerji didn't work out timewise: Shonali Bose



Mumbai
Filmmaker Shonali Bose says she met Bollywood star Rani Mukerji for a potential feature film, but it didn't work out due to conflicting timeliness. According to reports, Mukerji was set to feature in a family drama, to be directed by Bose and produced by Junglee Pictures, the banner behind movies such as "Raazi" and "Badhaai Ho". The director, whose latest work is Prime Video series "Ziddi Girls", said she would love to work with the actor in future. "When talks happen in the industry, that's when the media thinks something's hap-

pening... (But) People have different timelines... "When you just have a conversation and it's not even like 100 per cent (confirmed), people just want to jump. I met her and I love Rani. But the thing is, there is no collaboration right now because it didn't work out timewise. I'm sure we'll do something later," Bose said. Mukerji is set to reprise her role of the tough cop Shivani Shivaji Roy in "Mardaani 3", which is scheduled for a release in 2026. The film will be directed by Abhiraj Minawala and produced by the actor's husband Aditya Chopra under the Yash Raj Films banner.

Shah Rukh Khan sets stage on fire at IIFA 2025 with spectacular performance



Jaipur
Nostalgia met stardom at the 25th IIFA Awards when Shah Rukh Khan turned the clock back with a performance recalling his hit songs through the decades, reminding everyone why he continues to rule as one of India's biggest superstars. The actor's performance late Sunday was the most anticipated one at the silver jubilee edition of the International Indian Film Academy Awards, which was held in Jaipur, Rajasthan. And Shah Rukh did not disappoint.

His entry was preceded by a spectacular dance show, which lit up the sky with formations celebrating his journey in cinema with words like 'SRK' and 'The King'. The drones also painted a picture of Shah Rukh in his signature arms-wide-open style, sending the crowd into a frenzy.

It was a grand introduction befitting the King of Bollywood, and he arrived with the tune of 'Badshah' from his 1999 film of the same name playing in the backdrop.

The performance was a crash course into the many hits songs of his career such as "Tujhe Dekha To Ye Jaana" from his 1995 hit "Dilwale Dulhania Le Jayenge" to "Arey Re Arey" and "Chak Dhoon Dhoon" from 1997's "Dil To Pagal Hai".



Kajol to star in 'Maa', film to release in theatres on June 27

New Delhi
Bollywood star Kajol is set to feature in the upcoming mythological horror film "Maa", the makers announced on Monday. Vishal Furia, known for "Lapachhapi", "Criminal Justice" and "Chhorii", has directed the movie. It is slated to be released in cinema halls on June 27. "Maa", written by Saurabh Qandras, is produced by Kajol's husband Ajay Devgn, Jyoti Deshpande and co-produced by Kumar Mangat Pathak. Kajol shared the film announcement on her Instagram handle. "Hell is here... so is the Goddess! Battle begins on 27th June 2025, in cinemas near you. #Maa #Maa27June #jyotideshpande @kumarmangatpathak @furia_vishal @danishdevgn," she wrote.

The film "explores the timeless battle between good and evil, delivering spine-chilling suspense and intense drama," according to a press release. It also stars Ronit Roy, Indraneel Sengupta and Kherin Sharma in pivotal roles. Presented by Jio Studios and Devgn Films, "Maa" will be released in Hindi, Tamil, Telugu, and Bengali.

Will be acting and then take on direction, says Kunal Kemmu

Will be acting and then take on direction, says Kunal Kemmu

New Delhi
Actor-director Kunal Kemmu says he is set to get back to direction soon but acting remains his first love. Kemmu, known for films like "Malang", "Traffic Signal" and "Golmaal franchise", made his directorial debut with "Madgaon Express" last year. Starring Avinash Tiwary, Divyendu, Pratik Gandhi and Nora Fatehi, the film emerged as a box office hit and also made Kemmu the winner of 'Best Directorial Debut' award at the 25th edition of the International Indian Film Academy (IIFA) Awards. Kemmu, 41, said he will be back to act-

ing field before taking another directorial project. "I will be getting back into direction soon, and I also love acting; it's my first love. I will be acting in the coming months, and then I will be making my next (film). I am kind of going back into acting in the coming months," he told reporters at the IIFA. His latest work as an actor was in the 2023 film "Kangaroo Makhichoo" alongside Shweta Tripathi, Raju Srivastava and Rajiv Gupta. Kemmu also cheered for India's win at ICC Champions Trophy on Sunday. "I am so happy... I was watching it while I was stuck in traffic and I heard you all scream and I figured out that India has won... India has done such an amazing job and for the last few months they have been so active and they have done an amazing."



I am planning a film with Khushi: producer Boney Kapoor



Jaipur
Producer Boney Kapoor says making a film with his daughter Khushi Kapoor is on the cards and it could be the sequel to his late wife and superstar Sridevi's movie "Mom". Boney — whose upcoming production is "No Entry Mein Entry" — attended the 25th edition of the International Indian Film Academy (IIFA) Awards, which took place in Jaipur between March 8 and 9.

During his interaction with the reporters on the gala's green carpet, the 69-year-old producer on Sunday said he has seen all of Khushi's three films, including the latest "Nadaaniyan".

"I have watched Khushi's all three films 'Archies', 'Loveyapa', and 'Nadaaniyan' and now I am planning a film with her too. Besides 'No Entry Mein Entry', there would be a film with Khushi, and it could be 'Mom 2'."

"Mom" featured Sridevi, Sajal Ali, Akshaye Khanna and Nawazuddin Siddiqui. Directed by Ravi Udyawar, the crime-thriller released in 2017.

Boney also praised his other 'talented children' — actor Janvi Kapoor, his elder daughter with Sridevi, and actor Arjun Kapoor and social media personality Anshula Kapoor from his former late wife and producer Mona Shourie Kapoor.

I'm developing three stories, no actor locked: Kabir Khan on his next



Mumbai
Filmmaker Kabir Khan has made some of the biggest hits of Hindi cinema and fans are eagerly waiting for his next project. However, the filmmaker has recently shared an update on his future projects claiming that he is currently developing three stories. He also shared that he is in conversation with different actors but the cast is not locked yet. Kabir shared, "I'm developing three different stories. I'm in the writing stage, and honestly, no actor is locked.

As a director, I speak to a lot of actors, saying, 'Let's explore something,' and who would not want to work with Hrithik or Vicky or Salman?" The filmmaker added, "There are lots of ideas that we develop, but sometimes, it doesn't need to be your next film. It is possible that I develop an idea and talk to Vicky, Salman, or Hrithik, and they might do something else. So, lots of conversations are happening." However, there have been rumors that Kabir will collaborate with Salman Khan, Hrithik Roshan, and Vicky Kaushal on different movies.

The reports have suggested that the director's potential upcoming projects, including a post-apocalyptic thriller with Hrithik, a historical drama with Vicky, and a commercial film with Salman. Notably, Kabir has previously collaborated with Salman on three films including Ek Ta Tiger, Bajrang Bhaijan, and Tubelight. All the three films were a massive hit at the box office. However, the director is yet to work with Hrithik and Vicky. Kabir's last work can be seen in Chandu Champion. He served as a writer.