

TOP STORY

DELHI, THURSDAY 13, MARCH 2025

VOL-11, ISSUE - 335, PAGES - 12, PRICE ₹ 3.50 | POSTAL REG. NO. UP/GBD-254/2022-2024



Still not over it: Samson on releasing close friend Buttler ahead of auction

UK PM Starmer says 'all options on the table' after Trump's steel aluminium tariffs

Playing intense character on screen is therapeutic, says Esha Deol

CRICKET PAGE-10 WORLD PAGE-9 FILM PAGE-12

3 DELHI
Fire-related deaths in Delhi drop by 67.57 pc in 2025 as compared to 2024

5 STATE
Ruckus in Haryana Assembly: BJP MLAs Clash, Congress Demands Probe

7 NATIONAL
Jal Shakti minister underscores need for tech-driven approach to conserve Ganga

8 STATE
HP govt to establish unified education system, announces new courses at Hamirpur College

9 BUSINESS
RBI invites applications for SROs in account aggregator ecosystem

11 SPORTS
Football legends Figo, Puyol, Morientes, Quaresma to star in 'Legends face-off'

| MARKET | |
|-------------|-----------|
| SENSEX | NIFTY |
| 74029.76 | 22470.50 |
| -72.56 | -27.40 |
| GOLD SILVER | |
| 86,640.00 | 99,350.00 |
| -46.00 | -126.00 |

| WEATHER | |
|-----------------------|---------|
| Sunrise | 6:34 AM |
| Sunset | 6:29 PM |
| Moonrise | 5:46 PM |
| Moonset | 6:30 AM |
| Today's Prediction | |
| Maximum | Minimum |
| 33°C | 20°C |
| Tomorrow's Prediction | |
| 32°C | 19°C |

Canada slaps \$20 bn retaliatory tariffs on US as global trade war heats up

Canada will impose USD 20.78 billion in retaliatory tariffs on the United States after US President Donald Trump increased levies on steel and aluminium imports, according to a Canadian official.

Ottawa
Canada will impose retaliatory tariffs on U.S. imported goods worth C\$29.8 billion (\$20 billion) effective on Thursday in response to U.S. President Donald Trump's steel and aluminium tariffs, Canada's Finance Minister Dominic LeBlanc said.



Trump's increased tariffs on steel and aluminium imports took effect on Wednesday as prior exemptions, duty-free quotas and product exclusions expired, and as his campaign to reorder global trade norms in favor of the U.S. gains momentum.

Canada is the biggest foreign supplier of steel and aluminium to the United States. "We will not stand idly by while our iconic steel and aluminium industries are being unfairly targeted," LeBlanc said. He said Canada would follow a dollar-for-dollar retaliation approach.

Canada's retaliation targets steel products worth C\$12.6 billion and aluminium products worth C\$3 billion as well

as additional imported U.S. goods worth C\$14.2 billion for a total of \$29.8 billion. They will go into effect at 12:01 a.m. (0401 GMT) Thursday.

Products affected by Canada's counter-tariffs include computers, sports equipment, and cast iron products, LeBlanc said at a news conference.

"These retaliatory tariffs are on top of those on C\$30 billion worth of U.S. goods Canada initially imposed on March

4 in response to broader tariffs from Trump.

"This is now the second round of unjustified tariffs leveled against Canadian and Canadian goods," Foreign Minister Melanie Joly said. "The excuse for the first round was exaggerated claims about our border... The latest excuse is national security, despite the fact that Canadian steel and aluminium add to America's security."

Joly said she would speak to U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio at

this week's G7 foreign minister's meeting in Quebec. She also said she would coordinate with European allies to put pressure on the United States.

Canadian officials are expected to meet with U.S. counterparts on Thursday. Canadian steel producer Algoma Steel (ASTLTO), opens new tab has paused exports of steel from Canada to the United States until Thursday, pending the meetings, the company's CEO Michael

Garcia said. The escalation of the U.S.-Canada trade war occurred as Prime Minister Justin Trudeau prepared to hand over power this week to his successor Mark Carney, who won the leadership race of the ruling Liberals on Sunday.

On Monday, Carney said he could not speak with Trump until he was sworn in as prime minister. Trump again on social media said he wanted Canada "to become our cherished Fifty First State."

"I'm ready to sit down with President Trump at the appropriate time, under a position where there's respect for Canadian sovereignty and we're working for a common approach, a much more comprehensive approach for trade," Carney said while touring a steel plant in Ontario.

"We are all going to be better off when the greatest economic and security partnership in the world is renewed, relaunched," he said. "We have a new government, but the same commitment."

Trump's 25 tariffs on all steel aluminum imports go into effect

Washington
President Donald Trump officially increased tariffs on all steel and aluminium imports to 25% on Wednesday, promising that the taxes would help create US factory jobs at a time when his saw-sawing tariff threats are jolting the stock market and raising fears of an economic slowdown.

Canada's retaliation targets steel products worth C\$12.6 billion and aluminium products worth C\$3 billion as well

The Republican president has separate tariffs on Canada, Mexico and China, with plans to also tax imports from the European Union, Brazil and South Korea



by charging "reciprocal" rates starting on April 2.

The EU announced its own countermeasures on Wednesday. European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen said that as the United States was "applying tariffs worth 28 billion dollars, we are responding with countermeasures worth 26 billion euros," or about \$28 billion.

Those measures, which cover not just steel and aluminium products but also textiles, home appliances and agricultural goods, are due to take effect on April 1. Agency

BJP sweeps Haryana civic polls, big setback for Congress

Komal Ramola Chandigarh
Less than six months after scoring a battlerick of wins in Haryana assembly elections, the ruling BJP swept the civic polls in the state on Wednesday, bagging nine of the ten mayoral seats.

In the outgoing municipal corporations, BJP had its mayors in seven civic bodies. The Congress, which was looking to turn around its electoral fortunes after suffering a defeat in the 2024 Assembly polls, failed to open its account. The opposition party lost in Sonapat, where it had its mayor, and Rohtak, considered a stronghold of its stalwart and former chief minister Bhupinder Singh Hooda.

Seven of the ten candidates who won the mayor's post are women, six



of them from the ruling BJP. Celebrations erupted in the BJP camp after the results, with party leaders in Chandigarh and other districts distributing sweets. There were early Holi festivities as jubilant BJP members applied 'gula' (colour) to each other. Prime Minister Naren-

dra Modi said the victory is an expression of people's unwavering faith in the development works of the state government headed by Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini.

"I want to assure people of the state that we will spare no effort in fulfilling their expectations and aspirations," he said on X.

India's Retail Inflation drops to 3.61% in Feb



New Delhi: Subdued food prices in February pulled down retail inflation below the Reserve Bank's median target of 4 per cent while the country's manufacturing sector pushed the key factory output index to 5 per cent in January, showed data released by the government on Wednesday.

The sharp decline in inflation has raised the prospects for another rate cut by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on April 9. If RBI reduces rate next month, it will be the second rate cut within two months.

Consumer Price Index (CPI)-based retail inflation slipped to seven-month low of 3.61 per cent in February mainly due to easing prices of vegetables, eggs, and other protein-rich items, creating space for the RBI to go for another cut in interest rate next

HIGHLIGHT

India's retail inflation eased to 3.61% in February, driven by lower vegetable and protein prices, paving the way for a possible interest rate cut by the Reserve Bank of India.

The headline inflation was at 4.26 per cent in January and 5.09 per cent in February 2024. The previous low was witnessed in July.

The RBI has been in the comfort zone of the RBI since November 2024.

The RBI, which has been mandated to ensure retail inflation remains at 4 per cent (+/- 2 per cent), has reduced the short-term lending rate (repo) by 25 basis points last month on easing concerns on the inflation front.

CONTO ON PAGE-2

India, Mauritius ink 8 pacts Modi unveils 'MAHASAGAR' vision

Port Louis
India and Mauritius on Wednesday elevated their ties to 'enhanced strategic partnership' and inked eight pacts to boost ties in several sectors, including maritime security, and promote trade in local currencies, even as Prime Minister Narendra Modi unveiled an ambitious vision for growth and security of the Global South.



On the second and final day of his two-day trip to Mauritius, Modi graced the national day celebrations of the island nation as the chief guest and announced a raft of development projects for the strategically-located country.

Following talks with his Mauritian counterpart Navinchandra Ramgoolam, Modi announced India's new vision for the Global South and named it 'MAHASAGAR' or

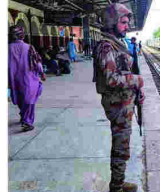
"Mutual and Holistic Advancement for Security and Growth Across Regions", a policy approach that came against the backdrop of China's relentless attempts to expand its influence in the Indian Ocean.

"We are committed to extend full cooperation in the security of Mauritius' Exclusive Economic Zone," the prime minister said.

In the meeting, Modi reiterated India's continued support and assistance to Mauritius in augmenting its defence and security needs given the shared objectives of the two nations in the region. Agency

Pakistan train attack 190 passengers rescued some hostages dead

Karachi/Islamabad
Security forces on Wednesday rescued 190 passengers from a hijacked train, killing at least 30 militants in Pakistan's restive Balochistan, as they battled to free the remaining hostages. Security sources said that some of the hostages were dead.



The Jaffar Express, carrying some 400 passengers in nine coaches, was going from Quetta to Peshawar when militants derailed it using explosives and hijacked it.

The Baloch Liberation Army claimed responsibility for the attack on Tuesday when they said they killed six soldiers.

However, there has been no confirmation from the Pakistani authorities on casualties. According to defence sources, the operation of the security forces against the terrorists has entered its final stages. A large number of hostage passengers, including

women and children, who were being used as human shields, have been rescued.

They added that the number of the passengers, who were killed at the beginning of the attack, was being determined. Agency

Over 500 Indians rescued from scam centers in Myanmar



Bangkok
The Indian Embassy here in close coordination with its counterpart at Yangon in neighbouring Myanmar has ensured repatriation of 549 Indians after rescuing them from scam centres operating in areas near the Myanmar-Thailand border, officials said on Wednesday.

The Indian nationals were repatriated through Mae Sot in Thailand to India on March 10 and 11 by two special flights, according to the Indian Embassy in Thailand.

"This is part of Government of India's sustained efforts to secure release and repatriation of Indian nationals who were lured with fake job offers and were made to work in scam-centres in the neighbouring countries of Thailand," the Embassy said in a post on X.

Earlier on Tuesday, the Indian Embassy at Yangon said in a post on X, "In coordination with Myanmar's Union authorities and local groups, 283 Indian nationals at scam compounds in the Myawaddy area of Myanmar were released and repatriated yesterday through Mae Sot in Thailand. Strongly reiterate our advice against such job offers." Agency

India's Retail Inflation drops to 3.61% in Feb

CONT FROM PAGE 1
The central bank is scheduled to announce the next set of bi-monthly monetary policy on April 9.
A significant decline in headline inflation and food inflation during February has been mainly attributed to decline in inflation of vegetables, egg, meat and fish, pulses and products, and milk and products.
Key items having lowest year-on-year inflation in February were ginger (-35.81 per cent), jeera (-28.77 per cent), tomato (-28.51 per cent), cauliflower (-21.19 per cent), garlic (-20.32 per cent).
On the other hand, top items with highest inflation were coconut oil (54.48 per cent), coconut (41.61 per cent), gold (35.56 per cent), silver (30.89 per cent), and onion (30.42 per cent).
The second set of data released by the National Statistics Office (NSO) showed that the growth in Index of Industrial Production (IIP), a measure of performance of industries, accelerated to 5 per cent in January 2025, driven by a rebound in manufacturing activity.
The government has also revised the December 2024 industrial output figure to 3.5 per cent from the provisional estimate of 3.2 per cent released in the previous month.
The expansion in IIP was at 4.2 per cent in January 2024.
In the April-January period this fiscal year, the IIP grew 4.2 per cent, slower than 6 per cent recorded in the year-ago period.
The manufacturing sector's output grew 5.5 per cent in January 2025, up from 3.6 per cent in the year-ago month.
Mining production growth declined to 4.4 per cent from 6 per cent year-on-year.
Power output growth slowed to 2.4 per cent in January 2025 from 5.6 per cent a year ago.
Industry body Assocham said the core macro number shows improvement in the midst of global tariff turmoil and would help India deal with the emerging challenges with confidence.
"The drop in CPI, well below the RBI's target of 4 per cent, would not only boost consumer demand, but would also help reduce cost of production for India and result in improvement in corporate balance sheet," said Assocham President Sanjay Nayar.
He said falling inflation should also help the RBI to further cut policy interest rate.
ICRA Chief Economist Aditi Nayar said the CPI inflation declined sharper than expected to a seven-month low, appreciably below the midpoint of the RBI's Monetary Policy Committee's medium-term target range, led by a welcome cooling in food inflation.
"However, we believe that the sequential uptick in vegetables inflation in March 2025 is likely to prevent a further softening in the food and beverages inflation print in the month, after the substantial cooling seen over the past four months," she said.

Advt Contact : 9818-799941

ICMR should study more about air pollution suggest ways to handle ill-effects: Par panel

New Delhi
A Parliamentary Committee has recommended the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) come up with an effective plan to study more about the ill-effects of air pollution and suggest ways to counter its adverse effects.
In its report presented in Rajya Sabha on Wednesday, the department related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Health and Family Welfare said air pollution was thought of as a threat in a handful of big cities like Delhi earlier. "But now, even small towns are affected."



In the report, the panel stated that the efforts initiated by ICMR to study the health implications of air pollution are taken note of. "However, it is apparent that we have rather uncharted paths to travel in this direction. Earlier, air pollution was thought of as a threat in a handful of big cities like Delhi. But now, even small towns are affected."

The committee underlined that the controls initiated by ICMR to study the health implications of air pollution are taken note of. "However, it is apparent that we have rather uncharted paths to travel in this direction. Earlier, air pollution was thought of as a threat in a handful of big cities like Delhi. But now, even small towns are affected," it said.

more Green House Gas Emission than previous year.
"The committee, therefore, feels that it is high time for India to establish an Environmental Health Regulatory Agency for Comprehensive and Cohesive Environmental Governance to control detrimental health effects of exposure to air, water and soil pollutants to prevent wide range of non-communicable diseases," it said.
It recommended the Department of Health

In its report presented in Rajya Sabha on Wednesday, the department related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Health and Family Welfare said air pollution was thought of as a threat in a handful of big cities like Delhi earlier. "But now, even small towns are affected."

Research (DHR) to undertake a detailed study of the report and come forward with necessary course of research to overcome the challenges as highlighted in the report.
As far as the ICMR findings on Covid-19 is concerned, the committee stated the agency should proactively continue to play the role of dispelling misconceptions about health-related matters through their well-documented research.
Studies of social relevance may be taken up suo motu and the research findings be published in lucid language discernible to the masses for their knowledge and keen faith.
Taking note that the study about sudden Covid deaths published in the Indian Journal of Medical Research, the committee suggested the DHR should give wider publicity to the outcomes of such studies in the public interest through social media platforms, community newsletters, blogs, etc.

Adopt innovative measures to counter security challenges: Chief of Air Staff



Thiruvananthapuram
Chief of Air Staff (CAS) Air Chief Marshal A P Singh visited the Southern Air Command (SAC) on Wednesday for a commanders' conference, where he emphasised the need to adopt innovative measures to counter growing security challenges.
The CAS was received at the SAC headquarters by Air Marshal B Manikantan, Air Officer Commanding-in-Chief, SAC, with a ceremonial guard of honour.
During his interaction with the commanders of Air Force stations under the SAC, Air Chief Marshal Singh highlighted the impact of emerging technologies, the need for capability enhancement, and the importance of harnessing human resources to their full potential, a Defence release said.
Singh also underscored the hybrid nature of future warfare, where conflicts are expected to span multiple domains, the release added.

Singh also underscored the hybrid nature of future warfare, where conflicts are expected to span multiple domains, the release added.

Syro-Malabar church backs BJP leader P C George amid 'Love Jihad' remarks row

Kottayam (Kerala)
The influential Syro-Malabar Church in Kerala on Wednesday expressed support for BJP leader P C George, who is facing criticism from the South Congress and key Congress allies, the Indian Union Muslim League (IUM), over his claim that 400 girls have been lost to 'love jihad' in Meenachil Taluk alone.
In a statement, the Syro-Malabar Church Public Affairs Commission said that George's remarks regarding "drug trafficking, love traps, and terrorist activities" at a conference organised in Pala under the leadership of the Temple Protection Commission of the Kerala Catholic Bishops Council (KCBC) were based on facts.
It urged the central and state governments to conduct "a high-level investigation" into the issues raised by George, ensuring the privacy and safety of the victims and their families.

that Deputy CM D K Shivakumar would become the Chief Minister by December. Ravi dismissed any connection. "These two things are entirely unrelated. What does this have to do with us having food together? This meeting was purely about sharing a meal."
"Won't politics be discussed when MLAs meet? Naturally, it will be, but not in the way you (the media) are assuming. Since we are all first-time MLAs, political experience can only be gained through discussions. We simply talked about the issues in each other's constituencies," he clarified.
Ravi also rejected speculation that the dinner was a step towards the political alignment of dominant Vokkaliga and Lingayat communities, given that the organisers belong to these groups. "We only meet for food," he reiterated.
Confirming Vijayendra's presence, Ravi said he attended the dinner for some time.

Why UP finance minister Khanna remains unmarried CM blames LPG shortages in past

Lucknow
Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Wednesday took a lighthearted dig at Suresh Khanna, suggesting that his cabinet colleagues did not get married to avoid being beaten with belan if he failed to get a gas cylinder for his home.

Adityanath was speaking at an event here for the distribution of subsidies for refilling cooking gas cylinders under the Centre's Ujjwala scheme. Khanna, who is 71 and unmarried, took the CM's remarks in good humour as the audience burst into laughter. He holds two key portfolios — finance and parliamentary affairs — in the Uttar Pradesh government.

Recalling the difficulties of obtaining a gas connection in the past, Adityanath, in a lighter vein, said that many people chose to remain unmarried to avoid the domestic repercussions of running out of cooking gas.
Pointing towards Khanna, the CM quipped, "Khanna ji is sitting here. Poor guy! He knew that if guests arrived during festivals and the gas cylinder ran out, it would be an embarrassment. How would one cook festive dishes? That's why people used to worry."
Adityanath, who shares a close rapport with Khanna, further



remarked, "Earlier, the situation was such that getting a gas connection or a cylinder was nearly impossible. Many people knew they wouldn't get a gas connection, and at home, they would get beaten up with belan (rolling pin). So, some decided not to marry at all."
The CM recalled how people who went out to arrange for gas cylinders either faced police action if they tried to use political influence or had to endure scolding at home.
"If you tried to act like a neta (leader) and get a cylinder, the police would beat you with their batons. If not that, then you would get scolded at home. To avoid both, some stayed unmarried," he added.
During the event, Adityanath announced a

subsidy for 1.86 crore eligible families under the Ujjwala Yojana.
Under the scheme, Rs 1,890 crore was directly transferred to beneficiaries' bank accounts as subsidy, the CM said. He distributed symbolic cheques to 10 women beneficiaries.
"Earlier, the gas connection was available by paying a bribe. Now, it is being given for free, the cylinder is also free on Holi and Diwali," he said.
"This time, Holi and Ramzan are coinciding, everyone will benefit from it and celebrate the festivals with joy and enthusiasm," Adityanath said.
He also said the "double-engine" government is committed to the welfare of the underprivileged.
Agency

Dinner meeting of first-time Karnataka MLAs sparks speculation curiosity

Bengaluru
The dinner meeting of about sixty first-time MLAs from various parties has sparked speculation and curiosity in Karnataka's political circles.
The gathering, attended by first-time MLAs from the BJP, JD(S), and Congress on Tuesday night, was organised under the aegis of Channagiri Congress MLA Basavaraju V Shivaganga, Mandya Congress MLA Ravikumar Gowda (Ravi Ganiga), and Tumakal JD(S) MLA Sharana Gowda Kandakur.

Although there has been speculation linking this meeting to the ongoing power struggle within the ruling party in the state, as well as to a possible caste-based political alignment—the organisers downplayed it—stating that they met purely for a meal and had been casually holding such gatherings during every Assembly session, whether in Bengaluru or Belagavi.
State BJP president and first-time MLA from Shikaripura, B Y Vijayendra, is also said to have attended the dinner meeting.
"This is not the first such gathering. It has been about two years since we won, and this is the sixth or seventh time we have met over a meal. We, the first-time winners—about sixty of us—come together in a non-partisan manner," Ravi said, with Shiva-



ganga by his side.
Speaking to reporters, he added, "All of us meet whenever the Assembly session is on. If having a meal together is wrong, you (the media) will also be invited next time—without cameras—so you can see for yourselves what we discuss."
When asked about the timing of the meeting amid the state's power struggles, Ravi said that any curiosity surrounding it was limited to the media.
"We regularly meet whenever there is a session, whether in Bengaluru or Belagavi. We met last time as well. This time, Sharana Gowda Kandakur wanted to host, so Shivaganga and I organised it. We all came together and enjoyed the food. Almost all first-time MLAs from the BJP, JD(S), and Congress attended, except for about ten of them," he said.

Responding to a question about the meeting being linked to Shivaganga's recent statement

Indrani Mukerjea seeks clarity on daughter Vidhi's status as witness

Mumbai
Indrani Mukerjea, a prime accused in the Sheena Bora murder case, on Wednesday made a submission in a special court seeking clarity from the CBI on whether her daughter, Vidhi Mukerjea, has been dropped as a witness in the case, so that she could meet her.
The request made through her lawyer came a day after the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) submitted a list of 69 witnesses, which did not include Vidhi's name.
The CBI asserted its commitment to a speedy trial but did not directly address the status of Vidhi, the daughter of Indrani and her former

husband and co-accused Sanjeev Khanna, as a witness. The prosecution is expected to present its submissions on Thursday.
"Though the list didn't mention Vidhi, the CBI said, "these witnesses will be examined on priority basis and other prosecution witnesses may be examined only when there would be need to keep in view the testimony of aforesaid witnesses".
In 2022, when Vidhi had sought permission to meet her mother, the CBI opposed the plea, stating that she was an important witness and that her testimony had yet to be recorded.
At the time, the special court had rejected

Indrani's plea, citing Indrani's bail conditions, which prohibited contact with witnesses yet to be examined.
Indrani's lawyer, Ran-



jeet Sangle, told the court that the CBI was not clarifying whether Vidhi will be made a witness or not.
"I (Indrani) have not been able to meet my daughter, who wants to stay with me and take care of me. I am unable to meet her. Let me know if Vidhi is going to be examined, so I can meet her," Indrani stated in her submission through lawyer.
"I will die without being able to meet my daughter... this is causing great prejudice to us and inconvenience to the court," he added.
The murder of Sheena Bora, Indrani's daughter from an earlier relationship, was allegedly carried out in April 2012.

Bora, aged 24, was allegedly strangled to death by Indrani, her driver Shyamvar Rai, and her former husband Sanjeev Khanna. Her body was then buried and disposed of in a forest in Raigad district.
The crime came to light in 2015 when Rai, who later turned approver in the case, revealed details following his arrest in another case.
Former media executive Indrani and Khanna were arrested in August 2015, and Peter Mukerjea, Indrani's ex-husband and media baron, was arrested three months later. All the accused are currently out on bail.

LOST & FOUND
1 Kapsara Kaman 3/3, Tikah, Sector 8, Rohini North West Delhi-110085, has been lost DEA property paper on 13/02/2025. Name: Sh. Tikah, aash chakra property No DE-155-B-1 G/F Jagore Garden New Delhi 110027. Finder: plz contact upper address contact No 9933341158.

PUBLIC NOTICE
Ravi Kumar son of Shri Shiv Shankar I, Army No. 10026353N, Bihman, resident of village Saksampan, Tehsil Daseri, District Dholpur, hereby state on my affidavit that in the Army records, my father's name is Shiv Shankar Singh and my mother's name is Urmila Devi, which is wrong. Hence, my father's correct name is Shiv Shankar and my mother's correct name is Urmila. Hence, these names should be corrected in my Army records.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Delhi records second hottest day of year so far at 33.5 deg C

New Delhi
Delhi experienced its second hottest day of the year so far on Wednesday with the maximum temperature settling at 33.5 degrees Celsius, a notch above normal, according to the India Meteorological Department (IMD).
The capital recorded its hottest day of the year so far on Tuesday as the mercury soared to 34.8 degrees Celsius — 6.4 notches above normal.
The minimum temperature on Wednesday settled at 17.2 degrees Celsius, 2.1 notches above normal. The humidity levels in the city fluctuated between 77 and 36 per cent.

The IMD has forecast partly cloudy skies on Thursday with the possibility of drizzle towards the night. The minimum and maximum temperatures are expected to settle around 18 degrees Celsius and 34 degrees Celsius, respectively.

Delhi's Air Quality Index (AQI) stood at 228 in the 'poor' category, according to the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB).

An AQI between 0 and 50 is considered 'good', 51-100 'satisfactory', 101-200 'moderate', 201-300 'poor', 301-400 'very poor' and 401-500 'severe'.

GreNo Authority makes special water arrangements for Holi

Noida
The Greater Noida Authority to supply water three times on the occasion of Holi on Friday, March 14, 2025.

As per the instructions of the Greater Noida Authority CEO NG Ravi Kumar, water supply will be made available three times on the day of Holi so that the city residents do not face any kind of problem.

Greater Noida Authority CEO Prerna Singh said that water supply will be made in three phases on March 14. On Holi, water supply will be done from 7:00 am to 9:30 am, from 12:00 pm to 4:00 pm and then from 7:00 pm to 9:30 pm.

If there is water shortage in any area, then water will be supplied through tankers. Along with this, an appeal has also been made to save water. Greater Noida Authority CEO NG Ravi Kumar has appealed to all Greater Noida residents to save water and not waste it.

Gangster charged under MCOCA arrested in Delhi

New Delhi
An alleged member of Saddam Gauri-Salman Tyagi gang charged in multiple cases, including MCOCA, was arrested after cutting the iron grill of his house, Delhi Police said on Wednesday.

Accused Manish Malhotra alias Sunny is a proclaimed offender wanted for five years in connection with multiple cases under MCOCA and other serious offences, police said.

During the visit, Sood took steps of civic concerns, including those related to power supply, clean drinking water, road and sewerage maintenance, garbage disposal, street lighting, and the presence of hanging electrical wires in the area.
"As an MLA, it is my duty to understand the problems in my constituency and work

Woman 2 daughters found dead inside room in Badarpur, police suspect suicide

■ The three decomposed bodies were found after neighbours reported a foul smell emanating from their residence, a police officer said, adding that no suicide note has been recovered from the house so far.

New Delhi

A 42-year-old woman and her two daughters were found dead at their home in southeast Delhi's Molarband on Wednesday, with initial investigations suggesting that they committed suicide due to financial distress, police said.

The three decomposed bodies were found after neighbours reported a foul smell emanating from their residence, a police officer said, adding that no suicide note has been recovered from the house so far.

Police received a PCR call on Wednesday afternoon from Molarband, with the caller informing



that a strong odour was coming from House Number 43 on the second floor in street number 16, where the mother and daughters resided, he said.

Responding immediately, Assistant Commissioner of Police (ACP) and Station House Officer, Badarpur rushed to the spot and found the bodies of — Pooja (42), her 18-year-old daughter, and her younger daughter, aged around 8-9 years —, he

added.
The three had white foam coming out of their mouths, suggesting the consumption of a poisonous substance, a senior police officer said.

Initial observations suggest that the bodies were around four to five days old. Preliminary investigations suggest financial distress as a possible reason behind the alleged suicide, he said.

Locals informed that the family had not paid rent for the past two months, which might have contributed to their decision of allegedly killing themselves, police said.

The crime team was called to the scene, and forensic experts examined the site for evidence. The bodies have been sent for postmortem which will confirm the exact cause of death, they said.

The officer said initial investigation suggest that Pooja was staying alone with her daughters and her husband has not been seen for the last few years.
"We got to know that her husband works as a driver in Gurugram in Haryana. But someone also told us that he had died a few months back. We are verifying all the facts," the officer said.

He said that investigation also suggest that her daughters were not going to school from last few

months.
He further said that police teams are also checking CCTV footage to know where the woman was last seen and from where did she purchase the poisonous substance.

"The bodies are totally in a decomposed condition. Crime teams will visit the scene of crime again to collect more evidence from the spot. So far no assault marks are seen on the body," he said, adding postmortem report will ascertain the cause of death.

Further investigation in the matter is underway, with police probing all angles, including financial hardships, the officer added.

Further investigation in the matter is underway, with police probing all angles, including financial hardships, the officer added.

Delhi Minister Focuses on Eco-Friendly Industrial Growth

New Delhi

Delhi industries minister Manjinder Singh Sirsa on Wednesday instructed officials to focus on minimising environmental harm from industrial waste and boosting industrial infrastructure in the city.

In a review meeting with officers of the department, the minister said he will conduct weekly meetings for prompt monitoring and decision making, as per an industries department statement.

"Our government is fully committed to ensure industrial growth while protecting the environment. We are taking concrete steps to minimise industrial waste and improve infrastructure so that businesses can thrive responsibly. Sustainable development is the cornerstone of our Prime Minister's vision for Viksit Delhi," Sirsa, who also holds the environment



portfolio, said.
The minister discussed a proposed new industrial policy, status of ongoing greenfield projects, and emphasised on employment generation and infrastructure development, it said.

A key focus of the meeting was to minimise the environmental impact of industrial waste and ensure responsible waste management practices, it said.

The minister instructed officials to expedite necessary approvals and infrastructure development while maintaining strict environmental compliance.
He also directed officials to implement policies that encourage new businesses, thereby generating employment opportunities for the people of Delhi.

The minister stressed the need for the highest quality waste management, electricity supply, water availability, drainage systems, and road infrastructure for industrial zones to ensure a smooth and sustainable industrial ecosystem.

Fire-related deaths in Delhi drop by 67.57 pc in 2025 as compared to 2024

New Delhi

Fire-related fatalities in the national capital have seen a sharp decline in 2025, with a 67.57 per cent reduction compared to the same period in 2024, according to data from the Delhi Fire Services.

From January 1 to March 11, a total of 12 people lost their lives in fire incidents, a significant drop from the 37 deaths recorded during the same timeframe last year.

Despite the decline, tragic incidents continue to occur. On Tuesday, three men, including two brothers, were charred to death after a massive fire gutted a makeshift tent near AKG Enclave at Anand Vihar in East Delhi.

According to the data, the Delhi Fire Services received 1,204 fire-related calls in January 2024, resulting in 15 deaths. In February, 992 calls were recorded, claiming 16 lives, while six more people lost their lives in fire incidents until March 11 this year.
However, this year has witnessed a notable drop in both fire incidents and casualties.
"There has been a sharp decline in the number of fire-related calls and deaths till March 11. Our department received 938 calls in January, in which six people lost their lives. In February, we handled 1,076 calls, with two fatalities. By March 11, we had received 455 calls, in which four people lost their lives," a senior Delhi Fire Services official said.

According to the data, a total of 116 people lost their lives in various fire-related incidents in 2024. The breakdown is as follows: 16 people lost their lives in January, 16 in February, 12 in March, 4 in April, 7 in May, 29 in June, 1 in July, 5 in August, 8 in September, 8 in October, 11 in November, and 4 in December.

Man held after his video of rash driving on busy road circulates on social media

Noida

A man was arrested after a video of him driving recklessly in Noida's Sector 16 market was circulated on social media, police said on Wednesday.

The accused, Sachin Kumar Lohia, from New Delhi, was seen in the video recklessly driving through the market, hitting multiple parked motorcycles and knocking down two people on an Activa scooter before fleeing the scene, they said.

Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP) Ram Badan Singh said the incident occurred when Lohia had gone to a car market in Sector 16 to install speakers in his Thar and got into an argument with a shopkeeper.

4 illegal Bangladeshi immigrants held for running fake dollar exchange scheme

New Delhi

The Delhi Police has dismantled a cheating syndicate known as the 'Dollar Gang' with the arrest of four illegal immigrants from Bangladesh involved in multiple fraud cases, an official said on Wednesday.

The gang operated in structured teams, with members assigned specific roles. "Tez Baaz" lured victims, "Mistri" negotiated deals, "Pagal" swapped fake currency for real money, "Thekedar" financed operations, and "Pahredaar" ensured the gang's safety.

The case came to light when a complainant was duped of Rs 2 lakh in a fake dollar exchange scheme. The victim was approached at Dhaula Kuan by an unidentified man offering to exchange a large number of US dollar notes at a discounted rate, the officer said.

Temporarily by the offer, the complainant agreed to the deal and met the accused at Samrat Cinema in Shakurpur on February 16. Instead of genuine currency, the victim was handed a bag filled with newspapers, handkerchiefs, and soap bars disguised as money," Deputy Commissioner of Police



(Northwest) Bisham Singh said.
Following the complaint, an FIR was lodged at Subhash Place Police Station, and a special team was formed to investigate the matter. After analyzing CCTV footage and conducting technical surveillance, investigators traced the accused to Dhandhahera village in Gurugram, Haryana.

A well-planned operation led to the arrest of four key members of the gang, identified as Salim Khan (41) from West Bengal, Ali Hasan (36), previously involved in a cheating case, Kalam (28), a resident of West Bengal, and Dholu Sheikh (38), also previously involved in a cheating case, the DCP said.

"All four accused were found to be illegal Bangladeshi migrants using fake Aadhaar cards for identification. The Delhi Police has informed the UIDAI for Aadhaar cancellation and the FRRO for deportation proceedings," DCP Singh said.

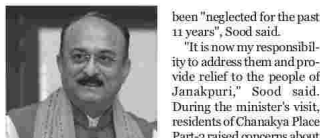
Police said they recovered eight US dollar notes, Rs 40,300 in cash, two rolls of newspaper used for deception, and 11 mobile phones from their possession. Police added that the crackdown has helped solve at least four cheating cases. Further investigation is underway to identify other members and ensure the deportation of the illegal migrants.

Delhi minister visits Janakpuri directs officials to resolve people's issues

New Delhi

Delhi Home Minister Ashish Sood on Wednesday visited his Assembly constituency Janakpuri and engaged with the locals to understand their concerns, officials said.

During the visit, Sood took steps of civic concerns, including those related to power supply, clean drinking water, road and sewerage maintenance, garbage disposal, street lighting, and the presence of hanging electrical wires in the area.
"As an MLA, it is my duty to understand the problems in my constituency and work



towards resolving them," he said.
The area has been plagued by several issues, including water supply, sewage, broken roads, and unmanaged electrical wires, which have

been "neglected for the past 11 years", Sood said.
"It is now my responsibility to address them and provide relief to the people of Janakpuri," Sood said.

During the minister's visit, residents of Chanakya Place Part-2 raised concerns about outdated transformers, hanging electrical cables, inadequate street lighting, and frequent power outages in the area.

Sood met an elderly woman from the area who lost her son last year and was struggling to receive her pension.

Delhi Police busts gang which stole nearly 100 luxury cars in 10 months

New Delhi

Three members of a gang that stole 90 to 100 high-end cars in just 10 months were arrested from the national capital, Delhi Police said on Wednesday.

The accused have been identified as Monu, 45, Vishal, 40, and the leader of the gang, a 42-year-old Ravi, they said.

Deputy Commissioner of Police (Dwarka) Ankit Singh said the thieves would steal three specific car brands — Hyundai Creta, Maruti Brez-

za, and Toyota Fortuner — usually from outside parks and gyms.

Police have so far recovered five of the stolen cars, he said.

The officer said the gang operated in the early morning and used computers to override the vehicles' security systems.

The gang exploited modern On-Board Diagnostic (OBD) technology, which allows authorised technicians to access a car's mainframe, the DCP said.

PUBLIC NOTICE

My Client's GULSHAN BEGUM W/O Late AKBAR KHAN Plot No. 61-56, Inner Enclave Phase-2 Kirti Suleman Nagar Delhi-110086, sever all relations and dear her SON "SAMIEER" and his wife "RUK-SANA" from all moveable and immovable properties due to their disobedience and being out of control. My Client and her family member will not be responsible for their any actions in future.
MAMTA DONGARIA & MAMTA DONGARIA ADVOCATES
CH. NO. 110, LAWYERS CHAMBER BUILDING ROHINI COURT, ROHINI, DELHI-110085

PUBLIC NOTICE

The public in general is hereby informed that MONIKA AGGARWAL W/O SANJAY AGGARWAL & SIKKI AGGARWAL W/O MANOJ AGGARWAL B-107/1, 265-266, Shaktipur Colony, Shakurbasti, Delhi-110034 has entered into an agreement to sale dated 11-02-2025 for property at WZ-427-A & 427-B FLOOR, MAGAS COLONY, SHAKURBASTI, DELHI-110034, built up flat with car parking, admeasuring 133 sq. yards with all easements, mortgages, etc. (if any) thereinafter referred to as 'the said property' representing them to be the true, actual owner in possession of the said property free from all encumbrances, liens, mortgages, acquisition etc. with my clients i.e. MANOJ KUMAR GUPTA S/O Late SHAMBHU DAVAL & LAJPTA W/O MANOJ KUMAR GUPTA, BOTH R/O M-583, SHAKURPUR J.J. COLONY, DELHI-110034, and they have paid substantial consideration under that agreement. Any person/body/corporate authority/financial institution having any rights, title, claims or interest in the said property by way of sale, inheritance, possession, succession, acquisition, mortgage, etc. or gift or otherwise howsoever in respect of the same, shall intimate the objections in writing to the undersigned with the supporting documents thereof within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice or else any such claims or interest by anyone shall not be considered and shall be deemed to have been waived and/or abandoned for all intents and purposes. And my clients shall proceed to conclude the agreement to sale and no claim shall be entertained thereafter. Claims without documentary proofs and/or objections directly published in newspaper shall not be considered. For more details, please refer to the RAJIV KUMAR AGGARWAL ADVOCATE 138 1st Floor, Pul Market Teliwara Delhi-06

PUBLIC NOTICE

I am giving this public notice as per the instruction of My client Avas Financiers Ltd. Branch, Hapur. Whereas Mrs. Yashoda Devi W/o Bani Singh has applied for loan with my institution with egn. of her property a residential house no. 13/1482 having area 336.21 sq. meter, out of khara no. 537 situated Mohalla Indra Colony Ward no. 03, Garhmukteshwar & Distt. Hapur. Whereas above property owned by Mrs. Yashoda Devi vide Sale deed dated 08.05.2020 registered at Sr. No. 2554 & 2555. Now Mrs. Yashoda Devi declared that one previous sale deed dated 14.05.2015 Sr. No. 4092 in the title of chain of 13 years has been lost. Which FR lodged by her on date 10.03.2025 via online e-trans hence original sale deed dated 14.05.2015 Sr. No. 4092 is not possible to deposit in the bank. Hence we are giving this legal public notice to all the banks/institution/any person/have any right or interest or objection or claim of any type in this matter then contact with evidences within 7 days of publication to below address & contact no. otherwise after 7 days any objection or claim will not be accept & Avas Financiers Ltd. Branch, Hapur. will provide the housing loan over the said property. Address: Avas Financiers Ltd. Branch, Hapur. By Rajendra Kumar Sani Advocate Shop No-21, 1st Floor, Dr. Bheem Rao Jadhav Shopping Complex, Zila Panchayat Market, Near Distt. Court Hapur. Mobile No. 9872745222 RAJENDRA KUMAR SANI Advocate Reg. No. 6687/06-21, First Floor Zila Panchayat Market, Hapur

EASTERN RAILWAY

Advanced Tender Notice No. KPAER-OT-42-24-25, Dated: 10.03.2025, Tender Notice for E-Tender Invites by Dy. Chief Electrical Engineer, Eastern Railway, Kancharapara Workshop, North 24 Parganas, West Bengal, Pin-743145 for the following work: Tender No. KPAER-OT-42-24-25, Description: "Rehabilitation of Aluminium Foil 5400 KVA transformer for electric locomotives, Cu to Al Tender Value: Rs. 2,55,00,950.00 only inclusive of GST & all other charges. Date & time of opening of tender: 31.03.2025 at 15:00 hrs. Period of completion: 24 months. The tender document and other details can be obtained from the website: www.irps.gov.in The bidding for the tender is to be submitted through e-tendering on above website. Manual offers are not allowed against this tender and any manual offer received shall not be accepted and will be summarily rejected. (MSC-3770224-25) Tender Notices are also available at Website: www.irps.gov.in For more details, please refer to the website: www.irps.gov.in Follow us at @EasternRailway @easternrailwayheadquarter

PUBLIC NOTICE

For general information that I, RAJENDRA PRASAD DWIVEDI S/O RAM NIHOR DWIVEDI R/O G-113, DELHI NO. 4, SASTRI PARK, GARDHI MENDU BHAIAN PURA, NORTH EAST DELHI, DELHI-110055 declare that name of mine and my father has been wrongly written as RAJENDRA PRASAD DWIVEDI and RAM NIHOR DWIVEDI in my 10th class educational documents and name of my father has been wrongly written as RAM NIHOR DWIVEDI in my 12th class educational documents and R.N DWIVEDI in my Graduation Degree. The actual name of mine and my father are RAJENDRA PRASAD DWIVEDI and RAM NIHOR DWIVEDI, which may be amended accordingly. It is certified that I have complied with other legal requirements in this connection.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Please take notice that my client Sh. Surinder Kumar, aged about 62 yrs., S/O Late Sh. Bangali Babu and his wife Smt. Geeta age about 61 years both R/O H.No. C-9278, Yamuna Vihar, Bhajan Pura, North East, Delhi-110055, have disowned their son Mr. Anil Kumar Sharma (Aadhar No. 569043942069), daughter in law Mrs. Vandana Sharma (Aadhar No. 832889572825) W/o Sh. Anil Kumar Sharma due to their intolerable, rude and irresponsible and unruly behavior and have ended all their connections with them and confirm disavowment from their properties both moveable and immovable. They shall have no right title or interest in the moveable and immovable properties of my clients. My clients shall not be held liable for any kind of acts or omission, if any, committed by their son and daughter in law at any point of time hereinafter and any person dealing with him in any respect whatsoever shall do so at his/her/their own risk. UMESH SHINGH ADVOCATE CHAMBER NO. B-13, B.G.S. BLOCK, TS HAZARI COURTS, DELHI-110054

EASTERN RAILWAY

e-Tender Notice No. : AENSports GIL-10-TEK-24-25, Dated : 10.03.2025 E-Tender is invited by Chief Works Manager, Eastern Railway, Liluah, Howrah-711204 from required approved and eligible contractors of Railways and those of appropriate list of Dept. of Govt./Public sector undertaking for the under mentioned works:- SILENT TESTS @ AENSports-Sportsground-LIh; Name of Work : Upgradation of Workshop Sports Ground at Liluah workshop for multipurpose Sports facilities under CVM/LIh Workshop; Tender Value: Rs. 98,74,185.65; Cost of Tender Document: Nil; Bid Security (Rs.) : 1,97,500.00; Completion: Period: 210 Days; S.No. 2. Tender No. : AENWS-Sportsbuilding-LIh; Name of Work : Construction of Sports Association Building (Two storied) with Sports gallery and Sports Officers' Chamber etc. at Liluah under CVM/LIh; Tender Value: Rs. 40,71,169.42; Cost of Tender Document: Nil; Bid Security (Rs.) : 81,400.00; Completion: Period: 210 Days; Date and Time of Closing of Tender: 03.04.2025 up to 12.00 hrs. The tender list of tenders available at website https://www.irps.gov.in alongwith corrigendum (if any). Tenderer are requested to submit their offer on line on the above website. No manual offer will be accepted. (MSC-3802024-25) Tender Notices are also available at Website: www.irps.gov.in Follow us at @EasternRailway @easternrailwayheadquarter

BJP-led Delhi govt starts withdrawing courtcases filed by AAP regime against Centre LG

The BJP-led Delhi government has started withdrawing cases filed by the previous AAP regime against the Centre and the Lt Governor over matters of governance and administrative powers, official sources said on Wednesday.

In the interest of constitutional harmony involving the Delhi government, Centre and the LG office, it has been decided to withdraw all such cases by filing appropriate applications before the courts concerned, the sources said.

The cases withdrawn by the BJP government include a special leave petition filed by the previous government in the Supreme Court, challenging a high court order for the implementation of PM-Ayushman Bharat Health Infrastructure Mission (PM-ABHIM) scheme in Delhi.

The new government withdrew the petition, saying it was going ahead with the implementation of the PM-ABHIM scheme in Delhi.

The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) that ran the Delhi government in the last one



decade since 2015 indulged in a relentless battle with the BJP-led Centre and the office of the Lt Governor. Several court cases were filed by it against the Centre, challenging its authority in matters related to Delhi.

Despite the Supreme Court in its order in July 2018 upholding the constitutional status of Delhi as a Union Territory, litigation continued over administrative control on services matters involving transfer-posting of bureaucrats of the Delhi government, law enforcement and powers of the office of LG.

According to a list prepared by the law department, the cases being withdrawn include those filed by the previous AAP government challenging amendment in the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi (GNCTD) Act, 1991 by the Centre to empower the Lt Governor with authority over Services matters.

Another such case is the formation of LG-headed high-powered committees by the National Green Tribunal (NGT) for the Yamuna cleaning and removal of garbage mountains dumped at three landfills in the city.

As the AAP dispensation was engaged in a power tussle, cases were filed by it even against secretaries and heads of several departments.

The sources said all such cases were going to be withdrawn with the permission of the courts concerned. The government counsels will also likely file early hearing pleas so that these could be withdrawn to stop wastage of time and resources, they said.

NCRTC begins road renovation in Modinagar

New Delhi: The National Capital Region Transport Corporation (NCRTC) has started road renovation work in the Modinagar area, with repairs carried out in phases, the body said on Wednesday.

The road improvement work is on in areas like Kadarabad, Modinagar North, Modinagar South, and Muradnagar, extending up to the Eastern Peripheral Expressway at Duhai in Uttar Pradesh, it said in a statement.

As part of the construction of the Delhi-Ghaziabad-Meerut-Namo Bharat Corridor, the NCRTC is responsible for maintaining the roads beneath the viaduct.

"Due to heavy vehicular traffic and the absence of a proper drainage system, roads in this area frequently deteriorate, especially during the monsoon season."

Northern Railway increased its train services due to the Holi festival, operating 20 special trains

Staff Reporter
New Delhi

Northern Railway has increased its train services due to the Holi festival, operating 20 special trains from the Delhi region yesterday to help passengers travel home for the celebrations.

For the first time, pre-scheduled general unreserved special trains are running to the eastern part of the country during this festival. Today, more than 25 additional Holi special trains will be operated.

To manage the high number of travelers, Northern Railway has shared information about these special trains through newspapers, news bulletins, SMS, and WhatsApp targeting areas like Bihar and Jharkhand.

These services connect



major destinations such as Anand Vihar Terminal to Muzaffarpur, Delhi to Patna, New Delhi to Dibrugarh, and New Delhi to Barauni.

During this busy travel period, Northern Railway has put in place various measures to ensure smooth operations and passenger safety.

This includes creating comfortable waiting areas at

stations, implementing strict queue management, deploying more commercial staff and Railway Protection Force (RPF) personnel, and restricting movement at platform exits and entrances.

Overall, Indian Railways plans to run 1,200 Holi special trains across the country, with Northern Railway aiming for 400 of those.

Kaizen Institute India, AFCOM Holdings Partner to Drive Operational Excellence

New Delhi

Kaizen Institute India, a leading consulting firm specializing in Lean and Kaizen methodologies, has announced a strategic partnership with AFCOM HOLDINGS LIMITED to drive operational efficiency and embed a culture of continuous improvement.

This collaboration aims to integrate Kaizen principles into AFCOM's operations, ensuring streamlined processes, enhanced productivity, and long-term business resilience.

Kaizen Institute India is renowned for helping organizations achieve sustainable growth by eliminating waste, optimizing workflows, and fostering an excellence-driven mindset.

With a strong presence across industries, the institute—under the leadership of Mr. Jayanth Murthy, Co-

Kaizen Institute India is renowned for helping organizations achieve sustainable growth by eliminating waste, optimizing workflows, and fostering an excellence-driven mindset.

founder & Joint Managing Director—has played a pivotal role in business transformation across India.

AFCOM HOLDINGS LIMITED, a key player in logistics and cargo solutions, is committed to delivering world-class services through innovation and operational excellence.

Guided by the vision of Chairman Captain Deshpande Parasuraman, AFCOM strives to build a resilient, high-performance organization capable of adapting to evolving industry demands.

Delhi Police Busts Illegal Liquor, Drug Network; Nigerian Minor Among 9 Held

New Delhi

Delhi Police has apprehended nine people, including a Nigerian and a minor, in a series of operations aimed at dismantling illicit liquor and drug supply networks, an official said on Wednesday.

The accused have been identified as Nigerian national Oliver (46), Tuntun (23), Amit Singh (27), Sakshay Shah (83), Avinash (34), Anil Kumar alias Monu (37), and Sumil Singh Tanwar (34). A minor and a woman have also been apprehended, the official said.

"On the intervening night of Tuesday and Wednesday, police apprehended illicit liquor supplier Tuntun in the Gheera industrial area. During a search of his rented shop, illicit liquor meant for sale in Haryana was seized," said Deputy Commissioner of Police (Outer) Sachin Sharma.

'Delhi ill-equipped' in disaster management' DDMA says in meeting with CM LG

New Delhi

Delhi is "ill-equipped" in disaster management infrastructure and lacks a state disaster response force to deal with exigencies, the DDMA said in a meeting Wednesday.

The meeting also flagged the structural safety of four- to five-storeyed houses on extremely small plot sizes in unauthorized colonies that come under earthquake-prone areas.

The LG and the CM directed officers to present a comprehensive plan regarding flood management and summer heat action within a month.

The issues discussed in the meeting were hazard vulnerability and risk assessment of Delhi. Earthquake preparedness plan, urban flooding, extreme heat events and a related state heat action plan 2025, said a Raj Niw statement.

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 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. & Ma Belha Devi Dharm Pratappgarh Jn. Stations |
| 04026 | Delhi Jn. | 23:05 | Raxaul Jn. | 19:00 | Ghaziabad, Hapur, Moradabad, Bareilly, Shahjahanpur, Sitapur, Gonda Jn., Gorakhpur & Narkataganj 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. | 08:55 | Gaya Jn. | 00:30 | Govindpuri, Prayagraj Jn., Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Jn., Bhabua Road, Sasaram, Dehri On Sone & Anugrah Narayan Road Stations |
| 04064 | New Delhi | 09:30 | Gaya Jn. | 01:50 | Govindpuri, Prayagraj Jn., Pt. Deendayal Upadhyaya Jn., Bhabua Road, Sasaram & 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., Khatigraha Jn. & Manri Jn. Stations |
| 02436 | New Delhi | 08:30 | Patna Jn. | 20:10 | Ghaziabad, Aligarh, Kanpur Central, Prayagraj Jn., Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Jn., Buxar & 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 |
| 04078 | New Delhi | 14:45 | Katihar Jn. | 14:00 | Delhi Jn., Govindpuri, Prayagraj Jn., Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Jn., Buxar, Ara, Danapur, Patliputra, Hajipur Jn., Muzaffarpur, Barauni, Begusarai, Khatigraha & Manri Stations |
| 04084 | New Delhi | 19:15 | Kamakhya Jn. | 08:30 | Govindpuri, Prayagraj Jn., Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Jn., Buxar, Ara, Danapur, Patliputra, Sonpur, Hajipur Jn., Shahpur Patore, Barauni Jn., Begusarai, Khatigraha Jn., Manri Jn., Naugachia, Katihar Jn., Barsoi Jn., Kishanganj, New Jalpaiguri, New Cooch Behar, New Alipouria, New Bongaigaon, Berpetta Road & Rangia Jn. Stations |
| 04014 | Anand Vihar (T) | 05:00 | Jaynagar | 12:00 | Moradabad Jn., Bareilly Jn., Lucknow, Raebareilly Jn., Amethi, Ma Belha Devi Dharm Pratappgarh Jn., Varanasi Jn., 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., Shahjahanpur, Sitapur, Gonda Jn., Basti, Gorakhpur, Deoria Sadar, Siwan Jn., Chhapra, Sonpur Jn., Hajipur Jn., Shahpur Patore, Barauni Jn., Begusarai, Khatigraha Jn., Naugachia, Katihar Jn., Purnea Jn., Araria & Forbesganj Jn. Stations |
| 05578 | Anand Vihar (T) | 05:15 | Saharsa Jn. | 10:30 | Ghaziabad, Moradabad, Bareilly, Shahjahanpur, Sitapur Jn., Gonda Jn., Basti, Gorakhpur Jn., Kaptanganj Jn., Bagaha, Narkataganj Jn., Raxaul Jn., Bairagnia, Sitamarhi, Janakpur Road, Darbhanga Jn., Sakri Jn., Jhannagar, Ghogardaha, Nirmal, Sarayganj, Supaul & Garh Baruan Stations |
| 05114 | Anand Vihar (T) | 16:00 | Chhapra | 14:00 | Moradabad, Bareilly, Shahjahanpur, Sitapur, Buxar, Gonda Jn., Basti, Khatilabad, Gorakhpur Jn., Kaptanganj Jn., Padrauna, Tamkuhi Road, Thawe Jn., Digwa Dubauli, Masitrah & Chhapra Kacheri Stations |
| 03012 | Anand Vihar (T) | 00:30 | Howrah | 03:00 | Tundia Jn., Etawah Jn., Govindpuri, Fatehpur, Prayagraj Jn., Mirzapur, Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Jn., Bhabua Road, Sasaram, Dehri On Sone, Anugrah Narayan Road, Gaya, Koderma, Dhanbad, Asansol, Durgapur, Bardhaman & Bandel Jn. Stations |
| 01708 | Anand Vihar (T) | 18:05 | Jabalpur Jn. | 10:00 | Ghaziabad, Aligarh Jn., Tundia Jn., Etawah Jn., Govindpuri, Fatehpur, Prayagraj Jn., Shankargarh, Manikpur Jn., Satna, Malhar & Katni Stations |
| 04080 | Anand Vihar (T) | 19:00 | Jogbani | 23:00 | Govindpuri, Prayagraj Jn., Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Jn., Buxar, Ara, Danapur, Patliputra, Hajipur Jn., Shahpur Patore, Barauni Jn., Begusarai, Khatigraha Jn., Manri Jn., Naugachia, Katihar Jn., Purnea Jn., Araria Jn. & Forbesganj Jn. Stations |
| 04018 | Anand Vihar (T) | 09:00 | Muzaffarpur Jn. | 06:00 | Moradabad, Bareilly, Shahjahanpur, Sitapur Jn., Gonda Jn., Gorakhpur, Kaptanganj Jn., Narkataganj Jn., Sagauli Jn. & Bapudham Mothani Stations |
| 08761 | Hazrat Nizamuddin | 12:30 | Durg | 13:50 | Mathura Jn., Agra Cantt., Virangana Lakshmiabai (Jhansi), Saugor, Damoh, Katni Murwara, Umaria, Shahdol, Anuppur Jn., Pendra Road, Usalpur & Rajpur Jn. Stations |
| 09726 | Shakurbasti | 15:50 | Dahar Ka Balaji | 22:50 | Bahadurgarh, Aethal Bohar, Ahajjar, Rewari Jn., Kund, Ateki, Narnaul, Nizampur, Dabla, Maonda, Nim Ka Thana, Kanwat, Shri Madhopur, Ringsal Jn., Govindgarh Malkapur, Chomun Samod & Nindhar Benar Stations |

| SPECIAL TRAINS RUNNING ON 14.03.2025 (FRIDAY) 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., Narkataganj, Raxaul, Bairagnia, Sitamarhi & 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 |
| 05058 | Delhi Jn. | 14:00 | Gorakhpur Jn. | 06:25 | Ghaziabad, Moradabad, Bareilly, Sitapur Jn., Burhwal Jn., Gonda Jn., Basti, & Khatilabad Stations |
| 03698 | Delhi Jn. | 08:55 | Gaya Jn. | 00:30 | Govindpuri, Prayagraj Jn., Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Jn., Bhabua Road, Sasaram, Dehri On Sone & Anugrah Narayan Road Stations |
| 04146 | Delhi Jn. | 09:30 | Subedargarj | 19:40 | Aligarh Jn., Tundia Jn., Etawah, Govindpuri & Fatehpur Stations |
| 04022 | New Delhi | 14:00 | Gorakhpur Jn. | 05:00 | Ghaziabad, Moradabad, Bareilly, Shahjahanpur, Lucknow, Gonda Jn. & Basti Stations |
| 02436 | New Delhi | 08:30 | Patna Jn. | 20:10 | Ghaziabad, Aligarh, Kanpur Central, Prayagraj Jn., Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Jn., Buxar, Ara & Ara 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 |
| 04016 | Anand Vihar (T) | 00:30 | Sitamarhi | 02:00 | Ghaziabad, Moradabad, Bareilly, Shahjahanpur, Lucknow, Raebareilly, Ma Belha Devi Dharm Pratappgarh Jn., Varanasi Jn., Aurhhar, Ghazipur City, Ballia, Suraimanpur, Chhapra, Sonpur, Hajipur Jn. & Muzaffarpur Jn. Stations |
| 03256 | Anand Vihar (T) | 23:10 | Patna Jn. | 18:35 | Govindpuri, Prayagraj Jn., Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Jn., Buxar, Ara & Danapur Stations |
| 05578 | Anand Vihar (T) | 05:15 | Saharsa Jn. | 10:30 | Ghaziabad, Moradabad, Bareilly, Shahjahanpur, Sitapur Jn., Gonda Jn., Basti, Gorakhpur Jn., Kaptanganj Jn., Bagaha, Narkataganj Jn., Raxaul Jn., Bairagnia, Sitamarhi, Janakpur Road, Darbhanga Jn., Sakri Jn., Jhannagar, Ghogardaha, Nirmal, Sarayganj, Supaul & Garh Baruan Stations |
| 05204 | Anand Vihar (T) | 09:20 | Muzafferpur Jn. | 05:00 | Govindpuri, Prayagraj Jn., Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Jn., Buxar, Ara, Danapur, Patliputra, Sonpur Jn. & Hajipur Jn. Stations |
| 07708 | Hazrat Nizamuddin | 03:15 | Chariapalli | 09:30 | Agra Cantt., Virangana Lakshmiabai (Jhansi), Bina Jn., Rani Kamlapati (Bhopal), Nagpur, Chandrapur, Batharaha, Sipur Kaghaznagar, Manchryal, Ramagundam & Kapiltel Jn. Stations |
| 02982 | Hazrat Nizamuddin | 06:00 | Sogaria | 13:10 | Mathura Jn., Bharatpur Jn., Bayana Jn., Hindua City, Gangapur City & Sawai Madhopur Stations |
| 09726 | Shakurbasti | 15:50 | Dahar Ka Balaji | 22:50 | Bahadurgarh, Aethal Bohar, Ahajjar, Rewari Jn., Kund, Ateki, Narnaul, Nizampur, Dabla, Maonda, Nim Ka Thana, Kanwat, Shri Madhopur, Ringsal Jn., Govindgarh Malkapur, Chomun Samod & Nindhar Benar Stations |

| SPECIAL TRAINS RUNNING ON 15.03.2025 (SATURDAY) 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. & Ma Belha Devi Dharm Pratappgarh 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. | 08:55 | Gaya Jn. | 00:30 | Govindpuri, Prayagraj Jn., Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Jn., Bhabua Road, Sasaram, Dehri On Sone & 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., Kishanganh, Almer Jn., Beawar, Marwar Jn., Falga, Pindwara, Abu Road, Palanpur Jn., Mahesana Jn., Saraswati Bg., Vadtvara Jn., Udhna Jn., Valsad, Vapi & Borivali Stations |
| 04081 | New Delhi | 23:45 | Shri Mata Vaisno Devi Katra | 11:40 | Sonapat, Panipat, Karnal, Kunukhetra Jn., Ambala Cantt., Dhandari Kalan, Jalandhar Cantt., Pathankot Cantt., Jammu Tawi & Marly; Captain Tushar Mahajan Stations |
| 02436 | New Delhi | 08:30 | Patna Jn. | 20:10 | Ghaziabad, Aligarh, Kanpur Central, Prayagraj Jn., Buxar, Ara & 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 |
| 04030 | Anand Vihar (T) | 09:00 | Muzaffarpur Jn. | 06:00 | Moradabad, Bareilly, Shahjahanpur, Sitapur Jn., Gonda Jn., Gorakhpur Jn., Kaptanganj Jn., Narkataganj Jn., Sagauli Jn. & Bapudham Mothani Stations |
| 05284 | Anand Vihar (T) | 07:00 | Muzaffarpur Jn. | 04:50 | Moradabad, Shahjahanpur, Hardoi, Lucknow Jn., Gonda Jn., Basti, Gorakhpur Jn., Bagaha, Harinagar, Narkataganj Jn., Bethal, Sagauli Jn., Bapudham Mothani, Pipla, Chakia, Mehsi & Motpur Stations |
| 05306 | Anand Vihar (T) | 00:20 | Chhapra | 22:50 | Etawah, Kanpur Central, Aishbagh, Badshahnagar Barabanki Jn., Gonda Jn., Manjpur Jn., Bahthnan, Basti, Khatilabad, Gorakhpur, Kaptanganj Jn., Padrauna, Tamkuhi Road, Thawe Jn. & Siwan Jn. Stations |
| 01492 | Hazrat Nizamuddin | 22:10 | Pune Jn. | 23:55 | Mathura Jn., Sawai Madhopur, Bhawani Mandi, Ratlam Jn., Vadodara Jn., Udhna Jn., Valsad, Vapi, Palghar, Vasai Road, Bhiwandi Road, Kalyan Jn. & Lonavala Stations |
| 09726 | Shakurbasti | 15:50 | Dahar Ka Balaji | 22:50 | Bahadurgarh, Aethal Bohar, Ahajjar, Rewari Jn., Kund, Ateki, Narnaul, Nizampur, Dabla, Maonda, Nim Ka Thana, Kanwat, Shri Madhopur, Ringsal Jn., Govindgarh Malkapur, Chomun Samod & Nindhar Benar Stations |

For any kind of information & detailed time-table etc., passengers are requested to contact

RailMadad Helpline No. 139 or may visit Indian Railways website <https://enquiry.indianrail.gov.in> or NTEAS App.

NORTHERN RAILWAY

visit us at: www.nr.indianrailways.gov.in

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

Please join us on

Akhilesh accuses BJP govt of protecting land mafia in UP

Lucknow: Samajwadi Party president Akhilesh Yadav on Wednesday alleged that the BJP government was protecting land mafia and criminals in Uttar Pradesh. Yadav, in a statement, said that under the BJP rule, land-grabbing incidents have surged, with the poor being harassed and forced to transfer their land under duress.

"BJP is the biggest land mafia party. Since coming to power, BJP leaders have been terrorising the poor and forcibly snatching their land," he said.

He alleged that land registrations in districts, including Ayazgah, exposed the reality of the government's land policies. "Now, even retired Army officers are not being spared. Land mafia are capturing their properties, assaulting them, and issuing threats. The law and order situation has hit rock bottom," he said.

The former UP chief minister cited the instance of a retired brigadier being allegedly attacked when he opposed the illegal occupation of his land.

"The situation is deteriorating daily, and land mafia are flourishing under government protection in every district," he alleged.

"The government itself is acquiring land from the poor and farmers at throwaway prices and handing it over to its favourites," he alleged.

The SP leader asserted that under the BJP rule, "anarchy prevails across the state," and the administration is acting under political pressure, ignoring the grievances of the poor and helpless.

"Public anger against the BJP's policies and governance is growing, and in the 2027 Assembly elections, the people will completely overthrow the BJP's arrogance of power," he said.

Ruckus in Haryana Assembly: BJP MLAs Clash, Congress Demands Probe

Chandigarh: The Haryana Assembly turned into a battleground on Tuesday as a heated verbal altercation erupted between two BJP legislators, including a minister, during discussions on the Governor's address. The dramatic exchange, though later expunged from the official records, has sparked intense political controversy, with the Opposition Congress demanding a thorough investigation into the matter.

Senior Congress MLA Ashok Arora strongly condemned the altercation, calling for the formation of a House committee to investigate the matter thoroughly. Additionally, he proposed that a sitting high court judge be appointed to probe the incident, highlighting the severity of the allegations exchanged between the two BJP members.

"The kind of language used in the House yesterday by the legislators was unacceptable. One MLA has levelled serious allegations against a minister," Arora stated. His remarks reflect growing concerns over the conduct of lawmakers within the Assembly and the potential implications of their accusations against each other.

Senior Congress leaders Bhupinder Singh Hooda and Raghuvir Singh Kadian backed Arora's demand for a probe. Hooda, a former Chief Minister of Haryana, went a step further, urging the Assembly to pass a resolution condemning the conduct of the BJP legislators involved in the spat. He stressed that the issue



was not just a matter of political rivalry but also one of upholding the dignity of the legislative body. However, Speaker Harvinder Kalyan dismissed the Opposition's demand for the confrontation was in 'bad taste' and rejected the demand for an inquiry. He pointed out that no formal complaint had been lodged regarding the incident, suggesting that the matter should not be blown out of proportion. Despite this, the Congress remained adamant, staging a brief walkout in protest after raising the issue during Zero Hour.

Speaker sought to prevent further escalation of the dispute within the House. Parliamentary Affairs Minister Mahipal Dhanda acknowledged that the confrontation was in 'bad taste' but rejected the demand for an inquiry. He pointed out that no formal complaint had been lodged regarding the incident, suggesting that the matter should not be blown out of proportion. Despite this, the Congress remained adamant, staging a brief walkout in protest after raising the issue during Zero Hour.

Senior Congress MLA Ashok Arora strongly condemned the altercation, calling for the formation of a House committee to investigate the matter thoroughly. Former Chief Minister Hooda emphasized two critical aspects of the matter—the potential action by the House and the government's response. "The entire House should pass a resolution condemning such behaviour," he insisted, underscoring the need for accountability within the Assembly.

Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Choudhary informed the Legislature Assembly while responding to a question from BJP's Rajiv Jastoria. He said that around 625 kanal of land has been identified for industrial estates in Kashmir, while proposals for 1,207 have been submitted for Jammu.

He further informed that a total of 1,869 acres of land has been proposed for industrial estates across Jammu, and in the past two years, 691 acres have been transferred for the same purpose in Kashmir. The government has granted 36 limestone mining leases, 24 gypsum mining leases, and 202 auctioned minor mineral blocks, he said.

As many as 8 mining leases have been reserved for J&K public sector undertakings, 6 on private land, 2 quarry licenses on private land, 1 cluster quarry on state land, and 23 quarry licenses for government projects, he added. "These measures aim to ensure the supply of key construction materials for various developmental projects across J&K," he said.

JK Govt Identifies Land for Industrial Estates in Kashmir & Jammu

The deputy chief minister informed the Legislature Assembly that the Rs 41.78 crore Maitra-Ramban bridge over the Chenab River will be completed by August 2026.

Responding to a query by National Conference leader Arjun Singh Raju, he said the project faced delays as the National Highway Authority of India did not allow its intersection with the Ramban flyover. The bridge is now being aligned with the old NH, raising its height by 8.5 meters and extending its span by 30 meters to 300 meters, he added.

The foundation work is complete, with gantry installation and casting in progress on the Maitra side. On the Ramban side, pier headwork and deck slab casting have begun.

Jailed Punjab MP Amritpal Singh granted leave of absence: Centre to HC

Chandigarh: Lok Sabha granted a 54-day leave of absence to jailed Punjab MP Amritpal Singh, the Punjab and Haryana High Court was informed by the Centre on Wednesday.

A bench of Chief Justice Sheel Nagu and Justice Sumeet Goel was informed by additional solicitor general Satya Pal Jain, who was appearing with advocate Dheeraj Jain, about the leave of absence granted to Singh. Singh, a radical Sikh leader, is currently lodged in Assam's Dibrugarh Jail under the National Security Act (NSA).

Advocate Dheeraj Jain said a 13-member committee, formed to examine the leave applications of MPs, recommended the cases of five MPs including Singh, to be placed on the floor of the house in Lok Sabha on March 10.

Jain said on March 11, Singh was granted the 54-day leave of absence from June 24, 2024 to July 2, 2024, from July 22, 2024 to August 9, 2024 and from November 25, 2024 to December 20, 2024.

Singh's counsel, he said, had withdrawn the request to allow



him to attend the Lok Sabha session.

On Singh's plea to meet officials regarding the Members of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme (MPLADS), Jain said the court gave him the liberty to make his representation before the appropriate authorities. In his petition before the high court, Amritpal had said even a member of Parliament under preventive detention had the right to attend the house sessions under the Constitution.

Singh contested last year's parliamentary polls as an independent candidate and was elected to the Lok Sabha from Punjab's Khadoor Sahib. Singh claimed of having been denied the constitutional right and being forced

to absent from the parliamentary proceedings with a "malicious intent" so that his Lok Sabha constituency seat went unrepresented. His plea argued the ploy was to get his seat vacant post 60 days of absence, having serious consequences for him and his constituency of nearly 19 lakh people.

An MP loses his membership of Parliament upon continuous absence from its sessions for 60 days in terms of Article 101 of the Constitution, Singh said.

The petitioner said on November 30 last year, he had requested the Lok Sabha speaker to allow him to attend Parliament sessions and was informed that he had been absent for 46 days from the parliamentary sittings.

Haryana CM Flags Off Ayodhya Darshan Bus Under Mukhyamantri Teerth Yatra Yojana

Komal Ramola Chandigarh:

Haryana Chief Minister, Nayab Singh Saini, flagged off a special bus to Ayodhya under the 'Mukhyamantri Teerth Darshan Yojana' from his residence, Sant Kabir Kutir, on Tuesday. The initiative aims to facilitate pilgrimage tours for senior citizens from Haryana, allowing them to visit sacred religious sites free of cost. The bus, carrying 46 pilgrims from Ambala and Panchkula, will take them to various revered destinations in Ayodhya, including Hanuman Garhi and the banks of the Sarayu River.

Before the bus's departure, the Chief Minister personally interacted with the passengers, inquiring about their well-being and extending his best wishes for their spiritual journey. He emphasized that the Haryana government is committed to implementing welfare schemes that benefit all sections of society. He highlighted the 'Mukhyamantri Teerth Darshan Yojana' as a significant step in this direction, aimed at



fulfilling the spiritual aspirations of senior citizens who may not have the means to undertake such pilgrimages on their own.

The scheme is designed to benefit elderly residents of Haryana who are above the age of 60 and have an annual income of up to Rs. 1.80 lakh. It provides them with free travel to important religious destinations, ensuring that financial constraints do not hinder their spiritual pursuits. So far, over 800 people have availed of this initiative, making

it a widely appreciated effort by the state government.

The Chief Minister reiterated the state's commitment to fostering inclusivity and well-being through various social welfare programs. He urged more eligible citizens to take advantage of the scheme by registering on the Mukhyamantri Teerth Darshan Yojana portal. He also assured that the government would continue to introduce similar initiatives to enhance the quality of life for senior citizens

and other underprivileged sections of society.

The flagging-off ceremony was attended by several dignitaries, including Additional Director of the Information, Public Relations, and Languages Department, Vivek Kalia, and Press Secretary, Praveen Atrey. Their presence highlighted the government's dedication to ensuring the successful implementation of the scheme and supporting such initiatives that promote social welfare and cultural heritage.

Contact for Advt: 9818799941

Nek Chand's granddaughter writes to PM seeking no more 'demolition' of Rock Garden

Chandigarh: The granddaughter of Nek Chand, the creator of the Rock Garden in Chandigarh, has written to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, saying she was deeply disturbed over the "tearing down" of a wall of the iconic venue, as she sought his intervention in the matter.

Amid opposition by local residents and environmentalists, the Chandigarh administration demolished a section of the iconic Rock Garden wall on the intervening night of March 8-9 for a road-widening project.

The road-widening work is aimed at decongesting the parking areas around the Punjab and Haryana High Court here.

The administration claimed the wall was originally built to en-



close the adjacent forested land, and was not part of the Rock Garden designed by Padma Shri awarded Nek Chand.

It was not integral to the Rock Garden itself, the administration said. The move triggered protests by several city residents, environmentalists and heritage conservationists, who were alleged that the city's

heritage was being "destroyed".

In her letter to the prime minister, Nek Chand's granddaughter Priyanka Saini said the creation that put Chandigarh on the world map is being "dismantled".

"A part of the Rock Garden's wall that was built by Nek Chand Ji has already been torn

down quietly, erasing history that cannot be rebuilt the same way," she said.

Essential materials stored for preserving Nek Chand's work have been discarded as waste, destroying the very foundation of its restoration process, Saini claimed.

She also alleged that decades-old trees, part of the Rock Garden's ecosystem, were being felled in the name of expansion.

Saini pointed out that the Rock Garden Society is currently managed by the Chandigarh administration members, with no representation from Nek Chand's family or others who truly understand and care about its preservation. "Nek Chand Ji dedicated 57 years of his life in building the artistic

marvel that is today. The Rock Garden attracts over 1.5 million visitors annually, generating (Rs) 2-3 crore in profit per year," she said.

Before sustainability became a movement, Nek Chand Ji showed the world how discarded waste could be transformed into art back in 1958, and destroying his work is a disservice to India's legacy of innovation and environmental consciousness, Saini said.

"Prime Minister Modi Ji, when you invited former French president Francois Hollande to Chandigarh in 2016, you brought him to Rock Garden to showcase the beauty and creativity of India. You walked through its archways, knowing its worth, knowing its significance.

Assam aims to utilise 90 pc of budget estimates in FY'26

Guwahati: Assam Finance Minister Ajanta Neog on Wednesday said the government has set a target of utilising 90 per cent of the budget estimates during 2025-26 financial year.

Replying to a discussion on the budget for the next fiscal in Assam Assembly, Neog said the government is following all RBI regulations in managing the state's fiscal health, including debt-GDP ratio.

"We are targeting to use 90 per cent of the budget allocation next fiscal. We need to look at the state holistically and develop all sections of the society," she added. According to the next fiscal's budget, which was presented by Neog on Monday, showed a receipt of Rs 1,55,428.75 crore under the consolidated fund of the state.

She told the House that the utilisation will touch around 85 per cent of the total budget estimates of Rs 1,43,891 crore during the current financial year.

"We have also taken debt as per the RBI limitation and there is no need for worry," Neog told Independent MLA Akhil Gogoi, who raised the issue of debts taken by the state.

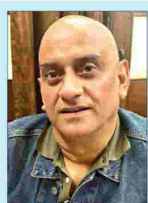
As per the budget, the debt-GDP ratio of Assam stood at 24.3 per cent in 2023-24.

Presenting the last full Budget of the second BJP-led government in Assam, Neog on Monday doled out a series of cash incentives to the public, mainly the youths and tea garden workers, and tax exemptions to the salaried section ahead of the state polls

next year. With a deficit of Rs 620.27 crore, she tabled a Rs 2.63 lakh crore Budget for the next financial year that proposed no new tax for the general public but gave additional relief to nearly 1.5 lakh salaried people.

The Finance Minister also announced to extend the tax holiday for green tea leaves for two more years to alleviate the challenges faced by the tea industry, while offering a one-time cash benefit of Rs 5,000 to 6.8 lakh garden workers.

Assembly elections in Assam are likely to take place during March-April next year, making this the last full budget of the Himanta Biswa Sarma-led second BJP government in the state.



By Dr. Anil Singh, Editor, STAR Views

Trump's Tariff Gamble: Economic Protectionism and the Risk of a Global Recession

imported raw materials now face increased production expenses, which they are passing on to consumers in the form of higher prices. This inflationary pressure has further strained an economy already grappling with post-pandemic instability and mounting federal debt.

RIISING COSTS AND INFLATIONARY PRESSURES

One of the biggest risks of Trump's tariff policy is its inflationary impact. By imposing heavy duties on imported goods, the cost of everything from cars to consumer electronics has risen sharply. The Federal Reserve, which had been attempting to stabilize inflation after aggressive rate hikes in 2023 and 2024, now finds itself in a difficult position. If inflation surges due to tariffs, the Fed may be forced to raise interest rates again, which could slow down economic growth and lead to higher unemployment.

TRUMP'S TARIFF STRATEGY: A RADICAL SHIFT

From the outset of his second term, Trump has sought to reverse what he describes as the economic "disasters" of the Biden administration. His primary argument is that under Biden, the U.S. became overly dependent on foreign imports, leading to trade imbalances and the loss of manufacturing jobs. To rectify this, Trump has drastically increased tariffs on Chinese goods, revived his previous trade war with the EU, and targeted industries like steel, electronics, and automobiles with new import duties. His administration justifies these measures as necessary to protect American workers and reduce reliance on global supply chains.

However, this shift toward economic nationalism is being met with skepticism. The immediate effect of higher tariffs has been a rise in costs for American businesses and consumers. U.S. companies that rely on



longed trade wars will shrink corporate profits, increase consumer prices, and lead to a slowdown in economic growth. The uncertainty surrounding Trump's economic direction has also made businesses hesitant to invest, delaying expansion plans and reducing hiring.

Furthermore, Trump's policies have created tension with key trading partners, leading to retaliatory tariffs from China and the European Union. Countries affected by U.S. tariffs have responded with countermeasures, making American exports more expensive abroad. This is particularly damaging for U.S. farmers and manufacturers, who depend on foreign markets to sell their goods. If trade tensions escalate further, the result could be a contraction in exports, further dampening economic growth.

IMPACT ON GLOBAL TRADE AND ECONOMIC STABILITY

The effects of Trump's tariff war are not confined to the U.S. economy; they are being felt globally. The World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) have both warned that protectionist poli-

cies could weaken global economic growth. Many countries that trade heavily with the U.S. are experiencing economic slowdowns, and emerging markets are particularly vulnerable to a downturn.

China, which has been a primary target of Trump's tariffs, is taking steps to diversify its trade relationships, reducing its dependence on U.S. imports. Meanwhile, European nations are exploring alternative economic alliances to bypass U.S. trade restrictions. If the tariff war persists, there is a real risk of a global recession, as businesses and consumers worldwide adjust to higher prices and reduced economic activity.

POLITICAL RAMIFICATIONS: TRUMP'S BLAME GAME

As economic pressures mount, Trump has sought to shift blame onto his predecessor, Joe Biden. He argues that his drastic measures are necessary to undo what he describes as the "economic failures" of the previous administration. Trump claims that Biden's handling of inflation, rising debt levels, and reliance on foreign trade agree-

ments put the U.S. in a weakened position, necessitating his aggressive interventions. However, many economists and policy analysts argue that Trump's policies are exacerbating economic instability rather than solving it. While it is true that Biden faced economic challenges, his administration had been steering the economy toward recovery through controlled inflation management and strategic trade agreements. Trump's rapid shift to protectionism has disrupted these efforts, leading to uncertainty in global markets.

CONCLUSION: THE UNCERTAIN FUTURE OF TRUMP'S ECONOMIC AGENDA

As Trump barrels forward with his protectionist economic policies, the future of the U.S. economy hangs in the balance. His tariffs may bring short-term gains in certain sectors, but the broader economic impact is proving detrimental. Rising prices, business uncertainty, market volatility, and trade wars are creating an unstable environment that could push the country into recession.

The global economic order is also being reshaped, with major economies reevaluating their trade policies and alliances. If the U.S. continues on this path, it risks isolating itself from international trade networks, diminishing its economic influence in the long run. The coming months will be crucial in determining whether Trump adjusts his strategy or doubles down on his aggressive approach. One thing is certain: the world is watching closely as America navigates this economic crossroad, with far-reaching consequences for global stability.

RECESSION FEARS: ARE WE HEADED FOR AN ECONOMIC DOWNTURN?

Given the confluence of rising prices, slowing business investments, and increasing trade tensions, the likelihood of a U.S. recession is growing. Consumer confidence has already taken a hit, and corporate earnings reports suggest that businesses are bracing for a downturn. If Trump's tariff policies continue unchecked, the economy could enter a recession by late 2025 or early 2026.

The Federal Reserve may find itself in a pre-

About the Author

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



By Dr. Satyavan Saurabh

Are the politicians even giving advice on drinking cow dung?

• Politicians are breaking the limits of language; real issues are missing; politics has become a mess.

issues. In the past, politicians honored their commitments, and the sense of culture, civility, and decency that prevailed in politics has now disappeared. Nowadays, leaders often engage in personal attacks, crossing the limits of discourse. Language plays a vital role in politics; in a democracy, a leader's power is largely tied to his command over language. Since Independence, the political landscape has changed dramatically, as has the tone and style of accusations by politicians. Today, some leaders make derogatory comments against their opponents, while others use offensive language. Is there any sense of dignity left in our political arena? Before resorting to such language, these politicians seem oblivious to the potential repercussions for the country and its citizens. In an attempt to undermine their opponents, leaders often make statements that are not only meaningless but

also objectionable. Such comments tarnish the ideals of healthy and constructive politics. Are these negative influences acceptable in our political system? These statements also stain the very idea of healthy and good politics. Yet no action is taken on them. Are these stains good in politics?

Words like "cow dung drinkers" have been used by leaders in the Haryana Assembly. As elections approach, political parties often cross the limits of acceptable language. Party leaders speak their minds boldly, often speaking out loudly. Apart from allegations and counter-allegations on the election platform, personal attacks have now started happening in Parliament and Assemblies as well. For example, when MLA Rajkumar Gautam talked about adulterated jalebi being made in Gohana, Gohana MLA and Cabinet Minister Arvind Sharma retorted by saying

that if Gautam even drinks cow dung, he should not worry about the quality of jalebi. It is unfortunate that such people are doing trivial things at the cost of public money. We should think about how bad the language of those who shape the future of our country has become. Political discourse can improve only with aware voters. Amidst arguments and misconceptions, the meanings of words are getting distorted, which is a matter of great concern. It is evident that the dignity of language is being disregarded in today's political landscape, and all this is happening in the very houses that are meant to represent democracy. The choice of words by leaders raises many questions. They must understand that their followers will echo their rhetoric. This is not an isolated incident; many leaders have tainted the political arena with controversial remarks in the past. Political

differences are natural, but they are increasingly turning into outright discord. Leaders must remember that people like the late former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee had the skill to respond to the most vitriolic remarks with grace.

The deterioration of language is a measure of the declining political standards in today's times. The true caliber of a leader is often reflected in his choice of words. If political leaders are reading this, they must recognize that respect for language enhances their stature, while rudeness diminishes it. Suddenness may welcome personal jokes, but discerning voters—those who think independently—form a lasting impression of a leader that remains unchanged no matter how many positive things are said later. The deterioration of language in politics has eroded the ability to question,

as leaders see their statements as absolute truth. The eloquence of figures like Atal Bihari and Indira Gandhi still impresses people. Unfortunately, scathing attacks on opposition parties only create discord and unrest in society. It is important for the Election Commission to set standards that impose strict penalties on leaders who make inappropriate comments. The public must also ponder whether a leader who resorts to such harsh and abusive language deserves a place in the temple of democracy. In a democracy, leaders derive their power and authority from the people, which they can use as well as misuse.

About the Author

(Dr. Satyavan Saurabh, Research Scholar in Political Science, Delhi University)

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.

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

Solution, Sudoku

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

THE WISDOM TREE

BY SUVEEN KUMAR

VALUE OF PEOPLE

Some people in your life are as important as you are for yourself because most of you are made because of their kindness. People can always impact and affect life. It is always humble to thank who helped you get some rank when you could see nothing and were but blank. It is very human not to thank people for everything they do or have done and it is because sometimes unaid and understood is better than said and misunderstood. Sometimes we avoid thanking people because the moment we start becoming thankful they start becoming thankless, sometimes we don't thank people because we know that they want something in return. But we should never forget that gratitude doesn't expire. Some people in our life are worth more than you give credit to them, some people in life are far better you know them, some people in your life are way further you accept them, the experience of

better people impact the experience of better people in our life. Some people deserve to be loved back, to be heard back, to be live back and to be kept back, you should never leave harmless people for harmful people, you should always check back the nice people and run away from impolite people. You should always check in right people, check out wrong people. The value of people can be better understood from the one who values people, life with people can be better understood with one who lives with people, the beauty of people can be better understood who beautify people inside out, the strength of people can be better understood who stand with people. People are not different individuals you live with, they are different lives you live in.

Moral: If people are the reason of our pain, they only are reason of our happiness too.



TOP STORY

Dear Reader, If you have any news or you have any suggestion regarding our newspaper or you have any problem with any government department, you may contact us on 24 hour helpline no- 0120-4225517, 4241284 for Delhi & Ghaziabad (9582310372), for Noida (9818999899), A d v e r t i s e m e n t (9818799941), Circulation (08586025450)

Readers are recommended to make all necessary enquiries and seek appropriate advice before any advertisement and content published in this publication. The printer, publisher, editor and seller of the Top Story do not vouch for any claims. The publication is being sold on the condition and understanding that information given in this publication is merely for reference and must not be taken as having final authority of or binding in any way. We do not owe any responsibility for damage or loss to any person, a purchase of this production is not for the result of any action taken on the basis of this work. All disputes are subject to the exclusive jurisdiction of court and forums in Delhi/New Delhi only.

FOR ADVERTISING IN

TOP STORY
PLEASE CONTACT:
9818799941

Jal Shakti minister underscores need for tech-driven approach to conserve Ganga

New Delhi
Jal Shakti Minister C R Paatil on Wednesday stressed on the need to leverage geospatial technology, real-time monitoring systems and innovative conservation strategies to achieve long-term sustainability of the Ganga River, according to a statement by the Jal Shakti ministry.

Paatil suggested while chairing the 14th meeting of the Empowered Task Force (ETF) on Ganga conservation, reaffirming the government's commitment to making the river cleaner and more sustainable through an integrated and technology-driven approach.

He emphasised the importance of timely execution of projects, strict pollution control measures and enhanced inter-ministerial coordination.

The meeting saw participation from key stakeholders across ministries



and state governments, including Union Minister of State for Jal Shakti Raj Bhushan Chaudhary.

The meeting included a comprehensive review of the Namami Ganga Mission, which oversees 492 projects across 10 states with a total budget of Rs 40,121 crore.

Paatil highlighted the

successful completion of 397 projects worth Rs 19,478 crore.

The minister noted that 3,346 million litres per day (MLD) of sewage treatment capacity has been created and 4,543 km of sewerage network completed. These measures aim to prevent the discharge of untreated wastewater into the Ganga

and strengthen long-term pollution control mechanisms.

The ETF also reviewed compliance with Environmental Flow (e-Flow) norms as mandated by the 2018 gazette notification. This ensures regulated water flows from Dewprayag to Haridwar and up to Unnao district in Uttar

Pradesh.

A significant focus of the meeting was the government's ongoing efforts to curb industrial pollution.

Paatil reviewed the results of the seventh round of inspections covering 4,246 Grossly Polluting Industries (GPIs) along the Ganga Basin.

While 2,682 industries were found compliant with pollution control norms, the statement said stringent action has been taken against the violators.

The minister reiterated that strict industrial monitoring remains a top priority for restoring the Ganga's purity.

The meeting marked the inauguration of the Geographic Information System (GIS) Layer and Dashboard, a cutting-edge platform for real-time wetland monitoring.

Paatil emphasised the critical role of wetlands in flood buffering, biodiversity conservation and

groundwater recharge.

Additionally, the minister highlighted the adoption of drone and Light Detection and Ranging (LiDAR) technology for precise drain mapping along the Ganga main stem.

The ETF also reviewed progress on aquifer mapping in the Ganga-Yamuna Doab, particularly in the Prayagraj-Kanpur stretch.

The minister applauded the scientific advancements in water resource management, including the development of a 3D resistivity map of aquifers and a paleo-channel map.

These tools are instrumental in identifying 159 recharge sites to enhance groundwater reserves and sustain river flow.

Paatil urged all stakeholders to accelerate implementation efforts, ensuring the long-term protection of the Ganga's ecosystem while balancing ecological preservation with sustainable development.

MP budget full of 'empty promises' silent on raising 'Ladli Behna' aid: Congress

Bhopal
The opposition Congress on Wednesday termed the state's budget full of "empty promises" and accused the BJP government of keeping silent on increasing the aid under the popular Ladli Behna scheme.

Former chief minister Kamal Nath, state Congress president Jitu Patwari and assembly leader of opposition Umang Singh slammed the budget over jobs, and debt and alleged that the budget ignored farmers' interests.

Earlier in the day, Finance Minister Jagdish Devda presented a Rs 4.21 lakh crore budget for 2025-26 with no new taxes while announcing new schemes for the development of religious sites. The outlay is 15 per cent more compared to the last fiscal.

Though this was the second budget of the BJP government, the poll promises made by the party have not been fulfilled yet, Nath said in a statement.

The Congress leader said the sisters in the state have been waiting for the monthly assistance under the Ladli Behna programme to be raised from Rs 1,250 to Rs 3,000 but the government did not say a word about this election promise.

The number of Ladli Behna beneficiaries has been decreasing since the formation of the present government, he alleged. Under the Kanya Vihar Yojana, the number of beneficiaries has also decreased by 77 per cent in 2024-25 compared to 2023-24, he said.

While farmers were hoping that a minimum support price of Rs 2,700 and Rs 3,100 per quintal would be announced for wheat and paddy, respectively, in line with the BJP's election manifesto, the finance minister did not say a word about this either, alleged Nath.

Farmers in MP are struggling with the crises concerning fertilisers, seeds,

electricity and water, but no step has been taken through the budget in this direction, he said.

State Congress president and former minister Jitu Patwari called it a "deceptive" budget.

"There is no concrete plan for development in this budget. Rather, it has been prepared to increase debt, institutionalise commissions and strengthen corruption. This budget exposes the failures and anti-people policies of the BJP government," Patwari said in a statement.

Through this budget, the government has once again increased the debt limit, he said. The state is already in heavy debt, but the government is only concerned about corruption and commission.

The BJP government has promised 3 lakh jobs in 39 new industrial areas, but thousands of posts are lying vacant in government departments, he claimed. This is the same false promise that is made in every budget, he said.

He also targeted the ruling party over its promise to raise the Ladli Behna amount. "The real face of the BJP government has now come to the fore," he said, adding that the budget offers no relief to farmers.

Leader of opposition Singh said the budget will put a burden of more than Rs 50,000 on every person in the state. "The government is repaying debt by taking loans," he said in a media release.

He said the finance minister showed the sky and dreams to the people, but the government has no clear answer as to when these dreams would be fulfilled. The Congress leader also targeted the government over the announcement that 100 tribal villages would be given solar energy. "Is the government only seeing 100 villages, what will happen to the rest," asked the tribal leader.

NEP a 'saffron policy' delimitation exercise for BJP's benefit alleges TN CM Stalin



Chennai
Upping the ante against the Centre on the NEP, Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M K Stalin on Wednesday alleged that it was not the National Education Policy but a "saffron policy" aimed at developing Hindi and not the nation.

Addressing a public rally, Stalin also took on the Modi government on the delimitation exercise, claiming that it was attempting to "sustain power" by winning in northern states. The BJP was trying to increase the number of MPs in states of their influence and thereby develop party, but the DMK will stop it, he asserted.

Stalin's "saffron policy" jibe came a day after Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan accused the DMK-led state government of trying to score political brownies to "revive" the ruling party's fortunes, saying the DMK's "latest cacophony" on language imposition and its stance on NEP's three-language formula exposed their "hypocrisy".

"We oppose NEP as it will completely destroy Tamil Nadu's education growth. The NEP does not accept reservation that is social justice. This policy denies the assistance amount to SCs, STs and Other Backward Classes," Stalin alleged.

The chief minister said

SRMIST Rises in QS University World Rankings by Subject (2025), Strengthening Global Academic Excellence

Chennai
SRM Institute of Science and Technology (SRMIST) proudly announces its significant rise in the prestigious QS University World Rankings by Subject, further solidifying its position as a global leader in higher education.

This year, SRMIST has achieved a remarkable milestone, climbing 88 places to secure the 280th position in Engineering & Technology. The university has also been ranked in 11 subjects—the highest number of subject recognitions in its history. Notably, Mathematics has been included for the first time, placing SRMIST in the 451-500 rank band, underscoring its growing academic depth and excellence.

Prof. C. Muthamizhchelvan, Vice Chancellor of SRMIST's comments, "This recognition is a testament to the unwavering dedication of our students, faculty, and staff. It inspires us to continuously enhance our pedagogy, research, and learning methodologies, ensuring our academic programs align with global standards and make a meaningful impact on society."

SRMIST's steady ascent in these rankings reflects its unwavering commitment to excellence in education and research. Renowned for its emphasis on innovation, research, and quality teaching, the university provides students with a well-rounded education that integrates theoretical knowledge with practical application. This latest recognition by QS underscores SRMIST's ongoing

efforts to cultivate a dynamic academic environment that garners global recognition from both academia and industry.

The QS World University Rankings, conducted by QS Quacquarelli Symonds, assess universities globally based on key criteria, including academic reputation, employer reputation, faculty-student ratio, research impact, and international diversity. SRMIST's rise in the rankings reflects its commitment to research excellence, interdisciplinary learning, and international collaborations. The university provides students with access to global experiences, industry partnerships, and leadership development opportunities, ensuring they are well-equipped to navigate a rapidly evolving world. With a diverse academic portfolio spanning engineering, medicine, science, arts, and management, SRMIST is also at the forefront of research in emerging fields such as AI, robotics, and renewable energy.

The institution continues to invest in state-of-the-art infrastructure, faculty development, and student support services to sustain its pursuit of academic and professional excellence. This achievement represents a significant milestone in SRMIST's journey toward global recognition in education and research. As the university continues to evolve, it remains committed to fostering intellectual curiosity, innovation, and excellence, equipping students to make meaningful contributions to the world.

Don't impose Shaktipeeth Expressway, Oppn tells govt

Mumbai
Opposition in the Maharashtra legislative council on Wednesday urged the government not to impose the proposed Nagpur-Goa Shaktipeeth Expressway on farmers, but Chief Minister Devendra Fadnis said the project would bring a positive change in people's lives.

The issue was discussed in the Upper House of the state legislature, during which the opposition members cited objections raised by farmers in Kolhapur and Sangli districts over acquisition of their farmlands for the proposed project.

The Shaktipeeth Expressway, a 802-kilometre route proposes to connect Nagpur to Goa while linking various pilgrimage sites across Maharashtra. Farmers' concerns over land acquisition remain a key issue in its implementation.

Leader of Opposition in the House Ambadas Danve said, "We took part in a protest (over the project by farmers). Former chief minister had announced that the government would not carry out the project (amid opposition). So we need clarity on this stand."

Danve was referring to a protest held in Mumbai by farmers affected by the proposed expressway project.

Responding to it, CM Fadnis said, "The government's position is clear. We aim to construct roads... but not impose it."

He said several farmers along with Congress MLC Satish Patil and NCP MLA and minister Hasan Mushtif, had met him at the Kolhapur airport and submitted a statement signed by several farmers but none opposed it.

The Shaktipeeth Expressway is expected to positively impact five districts in Maharashtra, Fadnis said.

"Farmers want this route. It is not mere stubbornness. Just as the Samudhi Expressway changed the lives across 12 districts, this expressway will also bring change," he asserted.

NMDFC disbursed over Rs 2 347 cr concessional credit in 3 years for minorities Govt in LS

New Delhi
The National Minorities Development and Finance Corporation has disbursed concessional credit to the tune of Rs 2,347.15 crore during the last three years, thereby providing benefits to over 5.50 lakh eligible people from minority communities, the government informed the Lok Sabha on Wednesday.

In a written reply to a question, Ministry Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju said the NMDFC eligibility criteria for the dissemination of concessional credit states that persons should belong to a notified national minority, specifically Buddhists, Christians, Jains, Muslims, Parsis, and Sikhs, as defined by the National Commission for Minorities Act of 1992.

The eligibility also states that a person should be having an annual family income of up to Rs 3 lakh under Credit Line-1 and up to Rs 8 lakh under Credit Line-

2, according to the minister.

Applicants are required to submit necessary documentation to substantiate their fulfillment of the aforementioned eligibility criteria, he said.

"There is a multi-stage screening mechanism used by respective State Channelizing Agencies (SCAs) of NMDFC, encompassing document verification, background checks, and site inspections, to rigorously ascertain that credit support is effectively reaching genuine and deserving minority entrepreneurs," he said.

Furthermore, the sanctioned amount is released through Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) directly into the KYC-authenticated accounts of the beneficiaries, Rijiju said.

The National Minorities Development and Finance Corporation (NMDFC) has disbursed concessional credit to the tune of Rs 2,347.15 crore during the last three years, thereby providing benefits to 5,50,939 beneficiaries from minority communities, he said.

The NMDFC regularly engages independent third-party agencies to conduct impact studies across the country, he said.

These studies are carried out to assess the impact of NMDFC's schemes on targeted beneficiaries and evaluate the sustainability of projects and units financed under its loan programs, with respect to beneficiaries and units financed during the preceding two years.

As far as the NMDFC is concerned, it only implements schemes such as Term Loans, Micro Finance, Education Loans, and the Vistas Scheme to empower youth and women from minority communities by providing concessional loans for educational purposes and self-employment income generation ventures, Rijiju said.

AAP seeks govt's explanation over CAG report on Rs 2 604-cr 'loss' to Railways

New Delhi
Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) MP Sanjay Singh on Wednesday asked the government in Rajya Sabha to explain the loss of Rs 2,604 crore to the Indian Railways as pointed out in the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) report in 2024.

Participating during a discussion on the working of the Ministry of Railways, Singh said Rs 34.72 crore loss was due to payment of



interest on a loan for a development project in Mumbai's Bandra East which never materialised.

"Railways took a loan for

Referring to Railways Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw, who was present in the House, the AAP member said, "You give us an explanation for this if you have the time."

Over the rush in Railways during Maha Kumbh, Singh said during that period "people were carried like animals".

The government boasts about bullet trains and Vande Bharat, but "we feel

ashamed when we have seen people breaking the glass windows of AC bogies to board the train during the Kumbh."

Over the recent stampede that happened at the New Delhi Railway Station during Maha Kumbh in which 18 people lost their lives, Singh said this was an example of "mismanagement" and the Railway Minister was not even informed on time.

Karnataka CM backs DMK's campaign against LS constituency delimitation

Bengaluru
Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Wednesday extended support to the DMK-led opposition against the proposed delimitation of Parliamentary constituencies.

During a meeting with a delegation of DMK leaders here, the CM condemned the Centre's alleged attempt to "weaken

democracy and federalism."

Tamil Nadu Forest Minister K Ponnunandi and Rajya Sabha MP Mohammed Abdullah Ismail called on Siddaramaiah at his residence Cauvery to discuss the ongoing protests against the "anti-democratic and anti-southern state of the central government", a

The leaders deliberated on raising their voices against delimitation and other issues while expressing solidarity with the protest.

Earlier, Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M K Stalin also discussed the matter with Siddaramaiah over the phone, the CMO said.

Ancient sites encroached upon through 'land jihad' in Prayagraj: Yogi

Lucknow:

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has accused previous governments of allowing land mafias to illegally occupy historic religious sites in Prayagraj, including Akshay Vat, Mata Saraswati Koop, Patalpuri, Shringverpur, Dwadash Madhav, and Bhagwan Beni Madhav. Speaking at the 'Manthan: Kumbh and Beyond' Vichar Sangam program organized by Panchjanya and Organiser at Taj Hotel in Lucknow, he stated that these encroachments had severely affected the heritage and significance of these sacred places.

CM Yogi emphasized that during the Mahakumbh, the government reclaimed these sites, paving the way for their revitalization and ensuring year-round access for devotees. He highlighted that Prayagraj, the land of Maharishi Bharadwaj and the world's first Gurukul, was once controlled by land mafias under previous regimes.

He pointed out that Akshay Vat had been inaccessible to devotees for 500 years due to colonial restrictions, while sites such as Mata Saraswati Koop and Patalpuri remained neglected. Similarly, Shringverpur, the site of Lord Ram and Nishadraj's friendship, had been encroached upon under "land jihad," and temples like Dwadash Madhav and Nagvasuki also fell victim to illegal occupation.

CM Yogi highlighted the transformation of the Mahakumbh, calling it a testament to the strength of Sanatan Dharma and India's cultural heritage. He said that the event successfully reshaped the global perception of Uttar Pradesh and demonstrated the inclusive nature of Sanatan Dharma, as evidenced by devotees irrespective of caste and region, took a holy dip together at the Triveni Sangam. "The world watched in amazement as the Mahakumbh reflected the spirit of Ek Bharat, Shreshtha Bharat (One India, Great India)," he said, emphasizing that Sanatan Dharma does not discriminate. He further stated that the event provided an opportunity to present Uttar Pradesh's positive image on the global stage.

HP govt to establish unified education system, announces new courses at Hamirpur College

Vishal Rana Hamirpur:

Chief Minister Thakur Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu, while presiding over the annual function of Ne-taji Subhash Chandra Bose Memorial College, Hamirpur, announced the introduction of MBA and MCA courses at the institution, along with postgraduate courses in History and Political Science from the next academic session. He also sanctioned the repair of the college's synthetic track and the construction of a hostel for 100 girl students.

The Chief Minister further declared that a co-educational government senior secondary school would be established in Hamirpur and developed as a Rajiv Gandhi Day Boarding School. Additionally, similar schools in Naudan and Bhoranj would commence operations next year, as part of a phased initiative to establish high-end schools in every Assembly constituency.

Highlighting the state's educational reforms, Sukhu stated that smart classrooms were being developed for students, and the



Education Department, along with other departments, was being monitored through the CM Dashboard. The government has launched a statewide anti-drug campaign over the past two months and adopted a zero-tolerance policy towards drug abuse, ensuring stringent punishment for drug mafias while implementing preventive measures for youth.

Reflecting on his personal connection with education, the Chief Minister remarked, "I come from a humble background and am committed to working for those who cannot

voice their concerns. My first visit after taking office was to the Tutikand orphanage, where I directed that children who lost their parents must regain confidence. To safeguard their interests, the government has enacted the country's first legislation ensuring state responsibility for their care. Furthermore, we have introduced free education for children of widows under the Mukhya Mantri Sukh Shiksha Yojana."

He criticized the previous BJP government for distributing Rs. 5,000 crore worth of freebies for political gains, arguing that

state resources should benefit all sections of society. He accused the previous administration of deteriorating educational quality by opening institutions without financial provisions and transferring teachers from existing schools, which degraded students' learning experience. Noting the decline in learning standards, he stated that some fifth-grade students struggled to read second-grade textbooks. The current government has initiated various reforms, including the rationalization of educational institutions, and will soon issue a notification

The Chief Minister further declared that a co-educational government senior secondary school would be established in Hamirpur and developed as a Rajiv Gandhi Day Boarding School.

establishing a unified Directorate of Education from pre-nursery to Class XII.

Sukhu further announced plans to rank colleges based on both academic and extra-curricular achievements to boost student confidence. He reaffirmed his commitment to securing a bright future for students, stating, "With strong determination, success follows naturally."

Discussing improvements in healthcare services, the Chief Minister noted that hospitals were still using outdated equipment, affecting service quality. The government is working to introduce high-end technology in public health institutions, with Rs. 85 crore allocated for a cancer hospital in Hamirpur.

BJP will raise its voice for every Himachali: Jairam Thakur

Rajan Puncthi MANDI:

Leader of Opposition Jairam Thakur has strongly criticized the state government, accusing it of making false claims and failing to deliver on its promises. He asserted that the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) will not remain silent if even a single resident of Himachal Pradesh suffers. "The government claims that it has completed work that hasn't even started. What could be more shocking than this? Even ruling party MLAs are unaware of where the so-called 'ideal health institutes' in their constituencies are located," Thakur said. He accused the Sukhu government of trying to take undue credit for health institutes and cancer care centers being developed by the central government.

Thakur further alleged that the government has failed on all fronts and is misleading the public. "The government has adopted a new tradition of lying about everything. Instead of benefiting 23 lakh women as promised, they are giving Samman Nidhi to just 30,000 women and claiming to have fulfilled their guarantee. Is this how guarantees are met?" he questioned. With two and a half

Opposition slams state government for unfulfilled promises and false claims

years of its tenure already ready over, the government has no significant achievements to showcase, Thakur added. He claimed that no one in the state is satisfied with its governance as no substantial work has been done.

The Leader of Opposition also criticized the government for its handling of temple funds and welfare schemes. "The government issued a notification to collect money from temples but has not yet returned it. To start the Sukh Shiksha Yojana, the Matri Vatsalya Yojana was scrapped. They merely rebranded an existing scheme and took credit for it. Even the Vatsalya Yojana, funded by the central government for the welfare of underprivileged children, remains neglected."

Thakur warned that the government cannot continue misleading the public with false data and must put an end to deceptive practices. "The opposition will strongly oppose any wrong decision by the government. That is our responsibility, and we will fulfill it," he asserted.

UP govt providing free LPG cylinder refills ahead of Holi: CM Adityanath

Lucknow:

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath announced on Wednesday that the state government is providing free LPG cylinder refills to beneficiaries of the Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana ahead of Holi and during Ramzan.

Speaking at a subsidy distribution programme in Lucknow, he said that Rs 1,890 crore is being released for 1.86 crore beneficiaries to ensure they can avail of the benefit before the festival.

He credited Prime Minister Narendra Modi for launching the initiative in 2016 and said that this campaign has provided free LPG connections to 10 crore families across the country, including nearly two crore in the state.

"Our government had promised to provide free gas cylinders to every Ujjwala beneficiary during Diwali and Holi. The state government ensures this by allocating Rs 1,890 crore per instalment, amounting to Rs 3,760 crore annually from the budget," the chief minister said, reiterating the state's com-



mitment to the scheme.

"Since both Holi and Ramzan are being observed, every beneficiary can avail of this scheme," he said, calling it a "gift from the government."

Highlighting the difficulties people faced before the Ujjwala scheme, Adityanath claimed that earlier, securing an LPG connection required paying bribes of up to Rs 25,000, and even after obtaining a connection, refills were hard to come by.

"Today, this scheme ensures that women do not have to suffer from harmful smoke while cooking," he emphasised. The chief minister also highlighted improve-

ments in the state's public distribution system and said there are now 80,000 quota ration shops in the state. He also underlined how electronic Point of Sale (ePOS) machines in these shops are curbing the malpractices in distributing rations, which wasn't the case before.

He added that with this, any attempt at manipulation is immediately detected, and strict action is taken. Mentioning the Centre's free ration scheme in his speech, Adityanath noted that 15 crore people in Uttar Pradesh are benefiting from it, which was launched four years ago.

MP Raj Kumar Chahar Demands Agra's Rightful Share of Water in Parliament

Akash Jain Agra:

The issue of Rajasthan obstructing Agra's rightful share of water by constructing dams has been strongly raised by MP Raj Kumar Chahar. The parliamentarian has vowed to secure Agra district's water rights in five major rivers, including the Utangan, Khari, and Kiwad rivers, and has already initiated steps in this direction.

On Wednesday, during Zero Hour in Parliament, Chahar voiced concerns over Agra's diminishing water supply. He stated that his parliamentary constituency, Fatehpur Sikri Lok Sabha, encompasses crucial rivers such as Chambal, Kiwad, Utangan, Khari, and Yamuna. However, the Kiwad, Utangan, and Khari rivers, which receive water from Rajasthan's dams, are not getting their fair share as per the water agreement. As a result, these rivers are on the brink of drying up. He also highlighted that Chambal and Yamuna rivers are facing a similar crisis, with inadequate water release compound-



ing the issue. Even ongoing cleanliness initiatives for the Yamuna have remained largely superficial, failing to make a significant impact.

The MP emphasized that sufficient water availability would serve as a lifeline for the entire region. With drastically reduced water levels, farmers are struggling with irrigation, and the situation is expected to worsen in the coming summer months. He urged the Rajasthan government to acknowledge Agra district's concerns and ensure that the right-ful water supply from its

dams is not blocked. Furthermore, he stressed the need to prioritize water conservation and cleanliness efforts for the Yamuna River in Agra.

Chahar, who also serves as the National President of the BJP Kisan Morcha, pointed out that the Chambal River enters his parliamentary constituency from Rajasthan. Previously, the river maintained an abundant flow throughout the year, but now it faces severe shortages. He noted that Bateshvara, a significant pilgrimage site in the region, is also being impacted due to insufficient

water in the Yamuna and Chambal rivers, leaving visiting pilgrims disappointed.

The MP urged Rajasthan to release Agra's due share of water from its dams and demanded an increase in water allocation for Agra from the Chambal River. Additionally, he called for immediate purification efforts for the Yamuna to ensure its water becomes suitable for consumption. His demands in Parliament underscore the urgent need for equitable water distribution and environmental sustainability in the region.

Gram Panchayats with population over 5,000 to become model solar villages

Akash Jain/Rajesh Tomar Agra:

In a significant step towards promoting renewable energy and self-sufficiency in rural areas, the central government has announced an initiative under the Pradhan Mantri Suryaghar Muft Yojana, wherein Gram Panchayats with a population exceeding 5,000 will compete to be designated as Model Solar Villages. These selected villages will receive a financial grant of ₹1 crore for the development of solar energy infrastructure, fostering sustainability and reducing dependence on conventional power sources.

District Economics & Statistics Officer and Project Officer of UPNE-DA, Mr. Nagendra Kumar Singh, informed



that a competition will be conducted among Gram Panchayats in the district to determine the best-performing village in terms of solar energy adoption. The chosen Gram Panchayat will be equipped with solar-powered village, setting an example for others in the state. This

initiative aligns with the government's vision of promoting renewable energy and ensuring sustainable electricity solutions for rural communities.

The Model Solar Village will be developed as a fully solar-powered village, with comprehensive solar energy solutions to meet the electricity

requirements of the entire community. As part of the initiative, every household in the selected Gram Panchayat will be provided with solar lighting systems, ensuring uninterrupted power supply for residents. Additionally, solar-powered water systems and pumps will be installed to support agricultural activities, reducing reliance on traditional electricity sources. The main roads and public spaces within the village will also be illuminated with solar-powered streetlights, enhancing safety and visibility during nighttime hours.

To ensure a fair selection process, applications from various development blocks will be reviewed by a district-level committee.

This committee will oversee the assessment and coordination of applications before final approval is granted. The financial aid of ₹1 crore allocated by the Government of India will be utilized for installing and maintaining the solar infrastructure within the chosen Gram Panchayat, making it a model for other villages to follow.

In addition to this initiative, the government has also directed that rooftop solar systems be installed in all government offices within the district. The installation will be carried out in proportion to the electricity load allocated to each office, further contributing to the overall goal of increasing solar energy adoption in the region.

UP govt to spend Rs 1 lakh per couple in mass weddings: CM Adityanath

Jaunpur:

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Wednesday announced that the state government will now spend Rs 1 lakh per couple under the Mukhyamantri Samuhik Vivah Yojana.

Besides this, meritorious female students will be provided with scooters, and from April 1, a rapid campaign will be launched to ensure coverage of all beneficiaries under government schemes.

He also revealed plans to include Jaunpur in the Smart City project soon.

Adityanath was speaking at the closing ceremony of the 'Jaunpur Mahotsav', held at the historic Shahi Qila complex.

During the event, he blessed 1,000 newlywed couples who tied the knot under the mass wedding programme



organised by the Social Welfare Department.

The chief minister emphasised that Jaunpur's youth should not have to migrate for employment.

"A 100-acre employment centre will be established here to provide training and make the youth self-reliant," he announced. He reiterated that the government is committed to supporting 'daughters' marriages by providing Rs 1 lakh assistance and

rewarding academically outstanding girls with scooters.

He said that when the scheme was launched, Rs 35,000 was given to couples.

Expressing gratitude to the people of Jaunpur, CM Adityanath acknowledged their contribution during the Maha Kumbh, where village and town panchayats arranged accommodation and meals for millions of pilgrims.

Pakistan train attack: China says ready to strengthen security cooperation with Pak

Beijing: A concerned China on Wednesday condemned the hijacking of a passenger train by militants in Pakistan's Balochistan province and expressed readiness to strengthen counter-terrorism cooperation with Islamabad.

"We noted the reports and strongly condemn this terrorist attack," Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Mao Ning told a media briefing here while replying to a question on the train hijacking by the Balochistan Liberation Army (BLA).

Mao said China firmly opposes terrorism in any form.

The Jaffar Express, carrying some 400 passengers in nine coaches, was going from Quetta to Peshawar when militants derailed it using explosives and hijacked it. Security forces rescued 190 passengers, killing 30 militants as they continued to battle insurgents for a second day Wednesday.

"We will continue to firmly support Pakistan in combating terrorism, maintaining solidarity and social stability, and protecting the safety of the people," Mao said.

"China stands ready to strengthen counter-terrorism and security cooperation with Pakistan and jointly keep the region peaceful, secure and stable," she said.

UK PM Starmer says 'all options on the table' after Trump's steel aluminium tariffs

London: Prime Minister Keir Starmer on Wednesday said the UK will keep "all options on the table" after US President Donald Trump imposed blanket 25 per cent tariffs on steel and aluminium imports from across the globe.

During the weekly Prime Minister's Questions (PMQs) session in the House of Commons, Starmer was asked by Liberal Democrat leader Sir Ed Davey about retaliatory moves as he urged him to be "more robust" in the face of American trade tariffs which would impact many UK businesses.

"The UK PM expressed disappointment at the latest White House actions, which are designed to champion US manufacturing by making foreign-made products less attractive."

"On the question of tariffs, like everybody else I'm disappointed



to see global tariffs in relation to steel and aluminium, but we will take a pragmatic approach," Starmer told Parliament.

"We are negotiating an economic deal which covers and will include tariffs if we succeed but we will keep all options on the table," he said.

His intervention came soon after his Secretary of State for Business and Trade, Jonathan Reynolds, issued a statement to say remained focussed

on "rapidly negotiating" a wider economic agreement with the US to eliminate additional tariffs and benefit UK businesses and economy.

"I will continue to engage closely and proactively with the US to press the case for UK business interests. We will keep all options on the table and won't hesitate to respond in the national interest," said Reynolds.

"Meanwhile we remain resolute in our

support for UK industry. This government is working with affected companies today, and I back industry's application to the Trade Remedies Authority to investigate what further steps might be necessary to protect UK producers," he added.

The tariffs threaten to make the cost of items as varied as cars and soft drink cans more expensive. Canada is the biggest exporter of both steel and aluminium to the US and expected to

The UK PM expressed disappointment at the latest White House actions, which are designed to champion US manufacturing by making foreign-made products less attractive.

be the worst hit. The European Union (EU) has already retaliated after President Ursula von der Leyen said tariffs bring uncertainty for the economy.

"Jobs are at stake, prices up, nobody needs that, on both sides, neither in the EU or the US," she said, adding that the economic bloc's retaliatory tariffs were "strong but proportionate" and that the EU remains "open to negotiations".

The EU tariffs on certain US products will be partially introduced on April 1 and fully in place by April 13.

Mauritian leaders hail PM Modi's announcement of new parliament building

Port Louis: Mauritian cabinet ministers and parliamentarians on Wednesday appreciated the announcement made by Prime Minister Narendra Modi regarding support for the construction of a new parliament building for Mauritius.

Modi described it as a "gift to Mauritius from the Mother of Democracy".

The present-day facade of the Mauritius Parliament building in Port Louis is over 200 years old.

Providing further details about the announcement, Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri said that India looks forward to receiving proposals from Mauritian authorities regarding the implementation.

"There is a set procedure for undertaking these kinds of projects. We will obviously look forward to receiving a proposal from the Mauritian authorities on the scope of the project, and

then we will decide the method of implementation in terms of design, consultancy, development, construction, and so forth," Misri said.

The declaration has elicited widespread praise from Mauritian leaders, who see it as a much-needed decision amid reports of constitutional amendments to increase the number of members in the National Assembly.

Maya Hanoomanjee, former Speaker of the National Assembly of Mauritius, described it as a decision that supports the country's requirements.

"It is a very good decision, especially in view of the fact that the new government has said it will review the constitution. Reviewing the constitution doesn't mean that we will need additional seats in Parliament, and it's always good to have more seating space for members," said Hanoomanjee, who also served as Mauritius' High Commissioner to India in the past.

US arms flow to Ukraine again as Kremlin mulls ceasefire proposal

Kyiv: US arms deliveries to Ukraine resumed Wednesday, officials said, a day after the Trump administration lifted its suspension of military aid for Kyiv in its fight against Russia's invasion, and Ukrainian officials signalled that they were open to a 30-day ceasefire backed by Washington.

Kremlin spokesperson Dmitry Peskov said Wednesday that it's important not to "get ahead



of the question of responding to the ceasefire proposal. He told reporters that Moscow is awaiting 'detailed information'

about it from the US and suggested that Russia must get that first before it can take a position. Arms deliveries to

Ukraine have already resumed through a Polish logistics centre, the foreign ministers of Ukraine and Poland announced Wednesday. The deliveries go through a NATO and US hub in the eastern Polish city of Rzeszow that has been used to ferry Western weapons into neighboring Ukraine about 70 km away.

The American military help is vital for Ukraine's shorthanded and weary army, which is having a tough time keeping Rus-

sia's bigger military force at bay. But for Moscow, more American aid spells potentially more difficulty in achieving its war aims and likely will be a tough sell in Moscow for Washington's peace efforts.

US Secretary of State Marco Rubio said Wednesday that Washington will pursue "multiple points of contacts" with Russia to see if President Vladimir Putin is ready to negotiate an end to the war. He declined to

give details.

"The ball is truly in their court," Rubio said at a refueling stopover in Shannon, Ireland on his way to talks in Canada with other Group of Seven leading industrialised nations.

Rubio said he hoped to see Russia stop attacks on Ukraine within the next few days as a first step.

"We don't think it's constructive to stand here today and say what we're going to do if Russia says no," Rubio said, adding he wanted to avoid state-

ments about Russia that "are abrasive in any way."

His comments came amid intensifying Russian effort to push Ukrainian forces out of its Kursk region that has yielded breakthroughs in recent days, Ukrainian soldiers told The Associated Press. The fighting has escalated as ceasefire talks come to a head, with Moscow intent on taking back its territory and Kyiv determined to hold onto it as a bargaining chip in any negotiations.

BUSINESS

Embracing the Power of a Multigenerational Workforce

New Delhi: A new report by GI Group Holding, The Multigenerational Edge: Shaping Tomorrow's Workplace, sheds light on the evolving workplace culture and the significant role of a multigenerational workforce in reshaping corporate strategies. The study provides key insights into how different generations influence leadership styles, work preferences, and employee engagement, offering actionable recommendations for business leaders to build adaptive and human-centric organizations.

The report highlights that workplace expectations vary across generations, with Conventionals (94%) and Gen X (78%) placing high value on work, whereas Millennials (61%) and Gen Z (59%) prioritize purpose beyond their jobs. This generational shift underlines a growing demand for flexibility, mission-driven careers, and seamless technology integration, compelling businesses to tailor workplace policies to attract

and retain talent. Workplace flexibility has emerged as a critical factor, with 80% of Gen Z and 72% of Millennials favoring hybrid work models. Additionally, 61% of Gen Z and 53% of Millennials would opt for fully remote work if given the choice, while 52% of Gen Z prefer compressed workweeks, prioritizing efficiency over longer hours. Nearly half of Gen Z (47%) and 65% of Millennials emphasize the importance of managing their own schedules, signaling a departure from rigid office structures. These findings indicate that companies must rethink their workplace models to accommodate the evolving expectations of younger employees.

Leadership engagement and accessibility also present notable generational disparities. While more than half of Gen X (54%) and Conventionals (50%) feel comfortable engaging with senior leadership, this number drops to 27% for Millennials and just 14% for Gen Z.

RBI invites applications for SROs in account aggregator ecosystem

Mumbai: The RBI on Wednesday came out with a framework for recognising self-regulatory organisations for the account aggregator ecosystem which provides for eligibility criteria, and governance related aspects of SRO-AA.

Under the aegis of SRO-AA framework, the RBI also invited applications for recognition of self-regulatory organisation for the account aggregator ecosystem (SRO-AA).

"Interested applicants may submit their application through PRAVAAH portal, latest by June 15, 2025," the central bank said.

RBI had introduced the account aggregator (AA) framework in September 2016. The AA framework facilitates secure and seamless exchange of specified financial information through Non-Banking



Financial Company-Account Aggregators, which act as intermediaries between Financial Information Providers (FIPs) and Financial Information Users (FI-Us).

These FIPs and FI-Us fall under the purview of different financial sector regulators - RBI, Sebi, Irdai and Pfrda.

Further, Department of Revenue is deemed to be the regulator for Goods and Services Tax Network for the purpose of onboarding the AA ecosystem.

The RBI said the AA ecosystem is distinct in its complexity, involving exchange of data among a diverse array of Regulated Entities (REs) op-

erating under varied regulatory environments.

"This complexity necessitates frequent coordination among these REs to address various operational issues such as dispute resolution, standardised agreements, common services," it said.

Given its inherent diversity and to support its

smoother adoption and stabilisation, RBI added it is desirable to have a dedicated SRO for the account aggregator ecosystem.

According to the framework, primary responsibility of the SRO-AA towards its members would be to promote best business practices and controls.

The SRO-AA will have to establish minimum benchmarks and conventions for professional market conduct amongst its members.

"The SRO-AA is expected to operate with transparency, professionalism and independence, in order to foster greater confidence in the integrity of the ecosystem," it said.

Compliance with the highest standards of governance as prescribed in the Companies Act, 2013 is a pre-requisite for an effective SRO-AA.

Govt Launches 3 Initiatives for Steel R&D

New Delhi: Union Minister Bhupathiraju Srinivasa Varma on Wednesday launched three initiatives under the Steel Research & Technology Mission of India (SRTMI) to promote R&D in steel making in the country, according to an official statement.

SRTMI is a joint initiative of the Ministry of Steel and the domestic steel industry.

Varma, the Minister of State for Steel, launched the R&D schemes and SRTMI web portal to drive innovation and sustainability in the steel sector, the statement said.

The schemes were launched at the 'Catalysing R&D in the Indian Steel Sector' event, organised by the Ministry of Steel in the national capital.

The new R&D initiatives and SteelCollab portal will play a crucial role as India moves towards a 300 MT steel capacity by 2030, the minister said.

He also noted that there is a need to accelerate technology commercialisation and indigenous capital goods manufacturing.

In his address, Steel Secretary Sandeep Poudrick stressed the need for research tailored to India's unique industry structure, where 45 per cent of capacity lies in the secondary steel sector.

According to the statement, the first scheme - Challenge Method - aims to identify and solve critical industry-wide challenges of national interest, while the objective of the Open Innovation Method initiative is to support open research proposals from academia and researchers in collaboration with the industry.

Acer Inaugurates 250th Exclusive Store in Nehru Place, Delhi

New Delhi: Acer, a global leader in computing and technology, has reached a significant milestone with the grand opening of its 250th exclusive store in Nehru Place, New Delhi. This expansion marks a major step in Acer's commitment to making cutting-edge technology more accessible to consumers across India.

Strategically positioned in Nehru Place, India's largest IT hub, the new store aims to provide an immersive shopping experience for tech enthusiasts, professionals, and businesses. The state-of-the-art facility



showcases Acer's extensive range of high-performance laptops, gaming devices, and accessories,

offering interactive experiences for visitors under one roof.

The store is designed to enhance the retail experience with hands-on product demonstrations, personalized consulta-

Strategically positioned in Nehru Place, India's largest IT hub, the new store aims to provide an immersive shopping experience for tech enthusiasts, professionals, and businesses.

Harish Kohli, President & Managing Director of Acer India, commented on the milestone, stating, "This is more than just the opening of another store—it's a defining moment in Acer's journey in India. Our 250th exclusive store is a testament to our deep-rooted commitment to making world-class technology accessible to every Indian, from metro cities to tier-3 and tier-4 towns. This milestone is just the beginning, as we set our sights on 300+ stores this year, bringing Acer closer to customers everywhere." The opening of the

Nehru Place store is a crucial step in Acer's aggressive retail expansion strategy. With a vision to surpass 300 exclusive stores in India by the end of the year, the company is focused on extending its presence to tier-2, tier-3, and tier-4 cities, ensuring that emerging markets have the same access to premium technology and personalized service as metropolitan areas.

Acer's direct-to-consumer approach reinforces its omnichannel strategy, complemented by a strong online presence with an expanding offline network.

Cricket

Still not over it: Samson on releasing close friend Buttler ahead of auction

New Delhi

Rajasthan Royals captain Sanju Samson is still not over Jos Buttler no longer being part of the team, and if he had his way, he would do away with the rule of releasing players in the IPL. Samson and Buttler opened batting for Royals for seven years but they did not retain the Englishman ahead of the mega auction last year.

Buttler will play for Gujarat Titans in the upcoming IPL.

"The IPL gives you the opportunity to lead a team and play at the highest level, and it also allows you to build close friendships," Samson told Jostar. "Jos Buttler is one of my closest friends. We played together for seven years. During this time, our batting partnership time itself is so long that we got to know each other so well."

"He has been like an elder brother to me. Whenever I had a doubt, I would talk to him. When I became captain [in 2021], he was my vice-captain and helped me become a good captain." Samson said letting go of Buttler was one of the hardest decisions he has had to make. Royals had retained six players, including Samson, Yashvi Jaiswal, Rivan Pang, Dhruv Jurel, Shriman Hetmyer and Sandeep Sharma.

"Letting him go has been one of the



most challenging decisions for me. During the England series, I told him over dinner that I was still not over it. If I could change one thing in the IPL, I would change the rule of releasing players every three years," he said. "While it has its positives, on a personal level, you lose that connect, that relation you build over years. He was a part of the family. What more can I say?" While Buttler will not be

around in Royals dugout, Samson is happy about reuniting with head coach Rahul Dravid.

"Rahul sir was the one who spotted me from the trials. He came up to me and said, 'Can you play for my team?' From there to now, with me being the captain and he coming back - I'm very grateful, as we all are in the franchise, to have Rahul sir back," he said.

"I have played under him [at RR] as a player when he was the captain and I have played under him in the Indian team when he was the coach. But a captain-coach relationship is very special and I'm very much looking forward to learning a lot from him."

"He is a top-notch professional and makes sure everything is done properly. I was with him last month in Nagpur at RR's sports academy. From morning ten o'clock till evening five o'clock, he was standing in the heat, watching the batsmen bat and the bowlers bowl, interacting with them, discussing with the coaches. He is absolutely involved in each and everything." Royals signed 13-year-old Vaibhav Suryavanshi at the auction and that attracted a lot of attention. Samson said the teenager is ready for the big leap.

"He looks very confident. He was sitting sixes out of the ground in the morning. So what else can I do? I think it's all about understanding his strength, backing it and being around as an elder brother."

"He looks ready. I think it's all about keeping him in the best shape and in a relaxed environment, which RR is doing for, and then back him. You never know, in a couple of years he might end up playing for India as well."

India's absence in WTC final to cost Lord's £4 million in revenue



London

India's failure to qualify for the World Test Championship final is expected to cost Lord's nearly a million pounds in revenue when it hosts the five-day match in June.

After finishing as runners-up in the last two editions, India missed out on a spot in the summit clash, with Australia and South Africa now set to battle for the ultimate glory in Test cricket.

"Lord's is set to generate nearly £4 million less in revenue for the upcoming ICC World Test Championship final after India's failure to qualify," a report in The Times said.

"...the absence of India has significantly curtailed the financial windfall expected by Marylebone Cricket Club

(MCC), underscoring the financial influence of Indian cricket across the global game." Having spent most of the past year in the top two of the ICC World Test Championship standings, Rohit Sharma and his team slipped to third

place after losing a home series 0-3 to New Zealand, followed by a 1-3 defeat to Australia in the Border-Gavaskar Trophy series, thus missing out on the final. MCC had originally set premium ticket prices for the World Test Championship final, anticipating that India's participation would lead to a surge in ticket sales. However, once it became clear that India would not make it to the final, the MCC revised their strategy and reduced ticket prices.

"The decision to be flexible with prices for the World Test Championship final was taken this year, with tickets now being sold at between £40 and £90 - about £50 cheaper than they had originally been priced, accounting for the loss in revenue," the report said.

The MCC had faced criticism last year during England's Test series against Sri Lanka, when only 9,000 spectators attended the fourth day of the match, prompting them to reconsider their pricing strategy for this event.

Shubman Gill wins ICC Player of the Month award for February



In his five ODIs over the course of the month, Gill compiled 406 runs, averaging 101.50 at a strike rate of 94.19.

Dubai
Star India opener Shubman Gill was on Wednesday named the ICC Men's Player of the Month for February following his stellar performances, which includes his exploits in his team's title-winning Champions Trophy campaign.

Gill took home the award, beating competition from Australia's Steve Smith and New Zealand's Glenn Phillips.

In his five ODIs over the course of the month, Gill compiled 406 runs, averaging 101.50 at a strike rate of 94.19.

This included a stellar outing in the 3-0 series win over England, wherein Gill registered three consecutive scores of over fifty.

Gill began with a confident 87 in Nagpur and followed it up with a 60 in Cuttack. He finished in a grand style, smashing a hundred in Ahmedabad. His 112 came from merely 102 balls and included 14 fours and three sixes.

Gill was awarded player-of-the-month for this innings, and also took home the player-of-the-series award.

Continuing his golden run into the Champions Trophy, Gill hit an unbeaten 101 to lead India's chase in their tournament opener against Bangladesh here. He followed it up with a resolute 46 against Pakistan.

India won both of their opening matches in the Champions Trophy on the back of these knocks.

This is the third ICC Men's Player of the Month honour for Gill, who had previously won it twice in 2023 - January and September.

Rohit climbs to third, Gill retains top spot in ICC ODI rankings

Dubai

India captain Rohit Sharma jumped two places to third in the latest ICC ODI batter rankings following his stellar performance in the Champions Trophy final, while teammate Shubman Gill held on to the top spot.

Rohit smashed 76 from just 83 deliveries, helping India secure a four-wicket victory over New Zealand in the summit clash.

Star India batter Virat Kohli, who amassed 218 runs in the eight-team ICC tournament, slipped one place to fifth, while Shreyas Iyer remained steady at eighth, keeping four Indians in the top-10.

New Zealand trio of Daryl Mitchell (up one place to sixth), Rachin Ravindra (up 14 spots to 14th) and Glenn Phillips (up six runs to 24th) also made significant gains.

New Zealand captain and left-arm spinner Mitchell Santner was a big improver on the updated list for ODI bowlers.

Santner, who claimed nine wickets including two in the final, climbed six spots to second behind Sri Lankan off-spinner Maheesh Theekshana.

Indian duo - Kuldeep Yadav and Ravindra Jadeja - rose three places each to be inside the top-10 following their exploits at the Champions Trophy.

Left-arm wrist spinner Kuldeep



(up three spots to third) is a big improver on the back of his seven wickets for the tournament.

Left-arm spinner Jadeja moved up three places to 10th following his five wickets for India during their unbeaten run at the Champions Trophy.

Afghanistari star Azmatullah Omarzai maintains his lead at the top of the rankings for ODI all-rounders, though he does have some fresh competition from a trio of New Zealand players.

Santner rose one place to fourth overall, Michael Bracewell gained seven spots to move to seventh, while Rachin Ravindra climbed eight rungs to improve to eighth.

Rohit should get to decide own future, retirement speculation unwarranted, says Vengsarkar

New Delhi

The "unwarranted" speculation on Rohit Sharma's retirement during the Champions Trophy irked former captain Dilip Vengsarkar to no end as he believes greats like the current India skipper deserve time and space to decide on their future.

"After leading India to their second ICC title in nine months, Rohit himself dismissed all the speculations on his future, saying he is not retiring from the ODI format."

The 37-year-old Rohit has not yet committed to the 2027 ODI World Cup but Vengsarkar reckons his presence can only be good for the team.

"I am not an astrologer. A lot of matches to go till the 2027 World Cup. A lot will depend on his form and fitness. It is not fair to say anything at this stage but he has been outstanding as both captain and player."

"I don't know why people speculated (on his retirement), it's unwarranted. A player of his stature should get to decide about his future," Vengsarkar said.

Both in the 2024 T20 World Cup and the Champions Trophy, Rohit's cameos in challenging batting conditions were worth their weight in gold. In Dubai, he made sure India got the most out of the powerplay, especially in the high-pressure run chase against New Zealand in the final.

With Rohit going for his shots from ball one, the others could take time to adjust to the pace of the slow surface.



"The way he has been playing all this time is nothing short of exemplary. He has got three double hundreds in ODI. What more do I say about him."

"Guys like Virat and Rohit are big match players, bigger the platform the better the performance. It is very important from team's point of view. Their sheer presence is demoralising the opposition," said Vengsarkar, who is also a former chief selector who tracked both Rohit and Kohli in their early days.

It was a complete turnaround of fortunes for Rohit who had to drop himself in the final Test in Sydney due to an extended lean run.

Happy to see Iyer realising his potential. Runs from the likes of Shreyas Iyer and K L Rahul on slow pitches at Dubai contributed immensely to India's title-winning run.



Following a roller-coaster year when he won the IPL, and was dropped from the central contracts at the same time, Iyer has shown his value to the team. Vengsarkar could not be more pleased for the middle-order batter.

"Iyer did very well but I am not happy the way he got out in the final. He should have continued till the very end and finished the game. But happy to see him realise his potential."

"Kl. too played a few important innings on number six but still not convinced Axar Patel batting ahead of him at five. The left-hand right-hand combination could be the only reason." Vengsarkar also gave due credit to the selection panel led by Ajit Agarkar.

"Credit needs to go to the selectors as well. They stuck with Rohit after the Australia series. Even the decision to take five spinners in the squad proved to be a master stroke," he added.

Rohit might be eyeing 2027 ODI WC title before calling it quits: Ponting

Dubai

Australia legend Ricky Ponting believes Rohit Sharma is still going strong and a sense of unfinished business was behind his decision to continue playing and leading India in the go-over format until the 2027 ODI World Cup to be jointly hosted by South Africa, Zimbabwe and Namibia.

Barring the ODI World Cup, Rohit has won all ICC titles while captaining India. He came agonisingly close to laying his hands on the go-over world title at home in 2023, only to lose to Australia in the final.

Speaking on The ICC Review, the former Australia skipper said Rohit is pretty clear about his future goals.

"When you start getting to that point of your career, everyone's waiting for you to retire. And I don't know why, when you can still play as well as he's played (in the Champions Trophy final), I think he was just trying to put those questions to bed once and for all and say, 'no, I'm still playing well enough. I love playing in this team. I love leading this team.' And I think, the fact that he said that, to me, it means that he must have that goal in mind of



playing in the next (50-over) World Cup (in 2027)," Ponting stated.

Handed the responsibility of captaincy in 2021 at the age of 34, Rohit on Sunday clinched his second ICC title - following the T20 World Cup win last year - as India defeated New Zealand by four wickets to win the Champions Trophy here.

Chasing 252, Rohit, 38, led from the front with an 83-ball 76 at the top to set the platform for a comfortable win.

In the run-up to the tournament,

there were talks around Rohit's retirement from the ODI format after the Champions Trophy, as he had retired from T20is after winning the T20 World Cup.

But Rohit simply rejected the theories at the post-match press conference following the final.

"One more thing, I'm not going to retire from this format, just to make sure no more rumours are spread," Rohit told reporters after winning the player-of-the-match award.

Ponting said the urge to win the only missing ICC trophy in his cabinet, the ODI World Cup, might be behind Rohit's mind to prolong his career.

"I think probably the fact that they (India) lost the last one and he was captain, that might be the thing that's playing on the back of his mind," the Australian said.

"Just have one more crack at trying to win the T20 World Cup, the Champions Trophy, and the ODI World Cup."

"I mean when you see him play like he played in the Champions Trophy final, you wouldn't say that his time is up just yet," Ponting added.

Alana King wins February's ICC Women's Player of the Month award

Dubai

Australia spinner Alana King on Wednesday was awarded February's Player of the Month following her exceptional performance against England in Women's Ashes.

King beat out teammate Annabel Sutherland and Thailand's Thipatcha Putthawong for the monthly award, making it three straight months that Australian players have taken out the coveted accolade, with Sutherland (December 2024) and Beth Mooney (January 2025) the previous winners.

It was the first time King had been awarded the monthly ICC award, and the right-arm pacer tribute to her teammates.

"It's been a big summer for the girls, and we've obviously really pleased to have retained the Ashes the way we did. I was proud to have played a role in that success and will remember that series, in particular the Test match, for a long time. I was proud to have played a role in that success and will remember that series, in particular the Test match, for a long time. There's no bigger stage than an

Ashes Test on the MCG, and I'm so grateful to have been a part of it," King said, as quoted by ICC.

King played a pivotal role in Australia's dominant victory over England in the one-off Test match at the MCG.

She claimed a total of nine scalps for the match, conceding just 98 runs in total. The first innings saw the spinner claim 4-45, which helped bowl out England for 170.

After Australia took a mammoth 270-run lead, King once again brought her best in the second innings, claiming 5-53 as Australia bowled out England for 148.

Her game-changing bowling was instrumental in securing Australia's commanding innings and 122-run win.

In addition to her impact with the ball, King also contributed two catches and chipped in with three runs with the bat.

Her all-around performance was crucial in Australia's emphatic triumph in the one-off Women's Ashes Test and capping off a never-seen-before 16-0 result in the multi-format series.

"Mumbai Indians, with such experienced players, you wouldn't expect these errors": Mithali Raj





Football legends Figo, Puyol, Morientes, Quaresma to star in 'Legends face-off'

Mumbai (Maharashtra)
On April 6 at DY Patil Stadium, Navi Mumbai, the legends of Real Madrid and FC Barcelona will reignite their iconic battle in Legends Faceoff, an electrifying spectacle featuring some of the most celebrated names in world football, as per The Sports Front press release.

Among the football greats confirmed for this highly anticipated showdown are Luis Figo, Carles Puyol, Fernando Morientes, and Ricardo Quaresma, each a legend in their own right.

Luis Figo, a Ballon d'Or winner (2000) and a key figure in Portuguese football history, played for both FC Barcelona and Real Madrid, winning multiple La Liga titles and the 2002 UEFA Champions League with Los Blancos.

Carles Puyol, a defensive powerhouse for FC Barcelona and Spain, captained Barca to six La Liga titles and three UEFA Champions League trophies while also playing a crucial role in Spain's 2010 FIFA World Cup triumph and UEFA Euro 2008 victory.

Fernando Morientes, a prolific goalscorer, was instrumental in Real Madrid's dominance, securing three UEFA Champions League titles (1998, 2000, 2002) and representing Spain in two FIFA World Cups (1998, 2002) and UEFA Euro 2004.

Ricardo Quaresma, known for his flair



and creativity, was a key part of Portugal's UEFA Euro 2016-winning squad. The former FC Barcelona and FC Porto winger also won league titles in Portugal and Turkey, along with the UEFA Europa League with Porto (2011), cementing his reputation as one of the game's most skillful wingers.

Legends share their excitement ahead of the faceoff in Mumbai.

Luis Figo said, as quoted by The Sports Front press release, "India, I know you love football, and I can't wait to bring the magic to Mumbai. Let's make this an unforgettable night!"

Carles Puyol said, "India, I've seen

your passion for football from afar—now it's time to witness it up close. Can't wait to feel the energy in Mumbai!"

Fernando Morientes said, "I've played in some of the most electric stadiums in the world, and now it's time to experience India's football madness. See you soon, Mumbai!"

Ricardo Quaresma said, "I've heard incredible things about football fans in India. Excited to finally experience it in Mumbai!"

Speaking about this landmark event, John Zaidi, CEO & Co-Founder of The Sports Front, said, as quoted by a press release, "At The Sports Front, we are

committed to creating world-class sporting experiences that bring global legends closer to fans. Legends Faceoff is a historic moment for Indian football, and we are thrilled to bring these iconic players to Mumbai. This match is not just about football; it's about celebrating the passion and love for the game that Indian fans have always shown. We can't wait for an unforgettable night on April 6th."

Speaking on the initiative, Anirudh Poddar, COO & CFO and CO-Founder of The Sports Front, said, "The excitement surrounding El Clasico Legends Mumbai has been incredible. With the lineup taking shape and fan engagement growing, we are set for an unforgettable night on April 6. This is just the beginning of something special for football in India."

Speaking on the association, Josep Maria Meseguer, Head of Barcelona Legends, said, "We truly appreciate India's efforts in bringing a historic match like El Clasico to Mumbai. Football holds a special place in the hearts of Indian fans, and events like these help strengthen the global football community. A special thanks to John Zaidi and The Sports Front team for their dedication and passion in making this possible. Their vision and hard work have created an incredible platform for fans to experience the magic of Barca Legends and Real Madrid Legends live."

James Maddison underscores "defining factor" behind Tottenham's struggle



London

Tottenham Hotspur star midfielder James Maddison outlined the factors behind the club's struggle in the ongoing Premier League season. He also addressed Tottenham Hotspur's chances of qualifying for the next round of the UEFA Europa League, considering their 3-0 deficit after the first leg against AZ Alkmaar.

It hasn't been a dream run for Tottenham in the ongoing Premier League campaign under head coach Ange Postecoglou. The Spurs are tottering in the 13th spot with 34 points in 28 matches.

It has been a season riddled with injuries. Last December, the club endured an injury crisis when all four senior centre-backs were unavailable due to injuries.

Maddison believes injury has been a massive factor behind their dwindling season. The 28-year-old knows Tottenham could have played better in certain moments of some games but admits injury has been a "defining" factor in their campaign.

"Well it's a massive factor, and I don't want to sound like I'm making loads of excuses, but when you have such a long period of time in the busiest part of the year where you miss (Guglielmo) Vicario, (Christian) Romero, (Micky) Van de Ven, (Destiny) Udogie, (Dominic) Solanke, Richarlison for long peri-

ods, not just one game or two games, it is a defining factor," Maddison told Sky Sports.

"Of course, we're not naive to not look in the mirror and think that we could have been better here, we could have been better there. Performances in certain games maybe could have been better, but it is a defining factor, and it's been a tough year for setbacks with injuries at this club. It's just factual," he added.

With Tottenham's current position in the standings, a spot in the top six appears to be a bleak hope for them. A successful quest in the UEFA Europa League is their best shot at continuing to play in European competition.

But Tottenham need to turn around a 3-0 deficit in the Round of 16 in their home stadium to keep their campaign alive. Maddison urged the fans to get behind the team on Friday as they aim to knock AZ Alkmaar out of the competition.

"Yeah, we know what it means to us, the fans, everyone, we're all on the same page. The first leg obviously wasn't good enough, tough conditions on a tough pitch to play the way we want to play, but it's only 1-0, they've got to come to the Tottenham Hotspur Stadium, and if the fans get behind us and have the place rocking like we know they can," he said.

Punjab FC's rising star: Viswajeet Yadav's journey from young footballer to DSC winner

New Delhi
At just 17 years old, Punjab FC's U-17 goalkeeper Viswajeet Yadav is already making a name for himself in football. He won the Dream Sports Championship U-17 Football Tournament in 2024, where he was also named the best goalkeeper of the tournament.

Viswajeet is now carving his path in the sport with his unconventional approach to goalkeeping. His journey in football began with a simple yet powerful inspiration, his father.

"My father played a huge role getting me into football," Viswajeet recalled, as quoted from a release by Dream Sports Championship season 1.

"Whether it was kicking the ball around in the room, watching matches together, or going for local games, those early moments planted the seed for my football journey," he added.

Though his father never played professionally, having given up the sport to support his family, he became the primary catalyst for Viswajeet's passion.

What sets Viswajeet apart is his unique style of goalkeeping. Unlike traditional keepers, he sees himself as a "sweeper keeper" who plays more like a midfielder.

"When the ball is at my feet, I'm different," he explained.

"I try to play through passes, I try to provide assists if I can," he added.

His admiration for goalkeepers like Manuel Neuer and Alisson stems from their exceptional ball distribution skills.

The young athlete's resilience was dramatically demonstrated during the Dream Sports Championship, where he played the final with a fractured right wrist.

"I had a fracture before the championship," he shared matter-of-factly.

"But I played the final round and even won the Golden Glove," he added.

Mental preparation is as crucial to Viswajeet as physical skill. His pre-match rituals involve yoga, meditation, and prayer. When facing high-pressure situations like penalty shootouts, he relies on positive self-talk.

"I always try to get into my opponent's mind," he said.

"I tell myself, 'I've done this before. I can save this,'" he noted.

The Dream Sports Championship - organised by the Dream Sports Foundation - has been transformative for Viswajeet.

"Before last year, we would only get to play 10 to 12 competitive matches," he explained.

"Now, we're playing 26 to 28 matches," he noted.

India Masters to play first semi-final of International Masters League on March 13

Raipur (Chhattisgarh)

Sri Lanka Masters, India Masters, West Indies Masters, and Australia Masters have qualified for the semi-finals of the inaugural International Masters League.

India Masters, who are second in the points table with eight points from their five league games, will play the first semi-final at Raipur on Thursday, March 13. They will play the team that finishes third in the points table.

Sri Lanka Masters, who have topped the points table with eight points and a superior NRR, will play the team that finished fourth at the league stage in the second semi-final on Friday, March 14, at Raipur.

The third and fourth places in the points table will become clear after the last league game between Australia Masters and England Masters, which will be played in Raipur later today.



day. Currently, the Australia Masters are at four points with one game to play, and the West Indies Masters are at six points after playing all their matches.

Manu Bhaker emphasizes the importance of fitness for a healthy life

Chandigarh (Haryana)

Olympic medalist shooter Manu Bhaker has always been a strong advocate for fitness and a healthy lifestyle. According to her, maintaining both mental and physical well-being is essential.

"Fit has to hit hard... There is nothing greater than fitness. Eating healthy and living a healthy lifestyle has been a tradition in our country. Our ancestors would work on farms and eat healthy, and that is why they were mentally and physically strong and healthy," she said.

She believes that staying healthy is not just about physical strength but also about mental resilience. In today's fast-paced life, people often neglect their health, which leads to various diseases and decreased efficiency.

"Mental and physical fitness is extremely important. Taking out some time from the routine is essential to live disease-free," she added.

She believes that prioritizing fitness is the key to longevity and peak performance.

Bhaker's journey has been nothing short of extraordinary. A prodigious talent who fell short at the Tokyo 2020 Olympics, Manu made history in Paris by becoming the first Indian to win two medals in a single edition of Olympics.

Bhaker opened India's medal tally in the Olympics after she secured third place in the women's individual 10m air pistol event, becoming the first-ever woman shooter to win an Olympic medal for India. Following that, Sarabjot Singh and Bhaker won the bronze medal in the 10m air pistol (mixed team) event, which was India's first-ever shooting team medal.

In her final event, she narrowly missed out on the historic grand treble and finished fourth in the women's 25m pistol shooting event. She missed out on



the opportunity to become the first Indian to win three medals at the Olympics.

The young shooter's sweet redemption came after a disappointing Tokyo Olympics campaign in 2021, where a malfunction in her gun cost her a medal. During the 10m air pistol qualification round during the Tokyo Olympics, her gun malfunctioned, which caused her to lose a lot of time. She was left with a very short amount of time to carry out her quota of shots. She missed the top-eight finish required to qualify for the final round and finished at the 12th spot. In the 25-metre pistol event, she failed to qualify further, finishing in the 15th spot. Her 10m air pistol mixed team event did not go well either, as she finishing in seventh overall.

Arshdeep opens up on senior debut experience following Hockey India Jugraj Singh award nomination

New Delhi

The 20-year-old forward Arshdeep Singh has recently been in the spotlight for his consistent performances, earning him his senior India debut at the FIH Hockey Pro League 2024/25 (Men) in Bhubaneswar. The federation has also recognised his talent and hard work as he has been nominated for the Hockey India Jugraj Singh Award for Upcoming Player of the Year (Men - Under 21).

Arshdeep has been nominated alongside his junior squad teammates, Amir Ali, Shardannand Tiwari and Arajjeet Singh Hundal.

Talking about the awards, he said as quoted by a Hockey India press release, "I did not expect to be nominated for such a prestigious award. I am honoured and grateful to Hockey India. Even if I do not win the award, this has highly motivated me to do better and work harder on my game."

About his debut, Arshdeep said, "My debut experience was very good. I got to play two matches and I learned a lot, especially how structured the top teams in the world are. Playing with the senior players has boosted my confidence and has motivated me to improve my game."

Arshdeep first made headlines during the 2024 Men's Junior Asia Cup in December last year as he scored six goals in the tournament and was impressive with the stick. "It was a very good tournament for me and I scored some good goals. Especially winning against Pakistan in the final was a special moment for me. I thought I would get a chance to play for the seniors after the Junior World Cup later this year, but



I did not expect to make it into the senior squad so early," he commented.

Although he did catch eyes during the Junior Asia Cup, Arshdeep Singh's breakout tournament was the Hockey India League (HIL) earlier this year, where he was named the Upcoming Player of the Year of the tournament. He was one of the first names in the Hyderabad Toofans team sheet and scored three goals to help his side reach the final.

Talking about his HIL experience, Arshdeep shared, "The atmosphere in my team, Hyderabad Toofans, was very positive, which is why I could play so freely and thrive in the tournament."

"I was with the team when I got to know that I have been selected in the national team. I called my mom first because it was truly a proud moment for me," he added.

Although it was a big day for Arshdeep when his name was in the lineup against Spain, he was more excited than nervous since the senior players in the squad helped him cope with the pre-match blues. "I was excited because I wanted to make the most of this chance. The senior players really helped me. Sukhjeet advised me to play freely and not think about the mistakes I make. He told me the way I react after making mistakes is more important."

"Captain Harmanpreet Singh told me he will try his best to win the match to make it memorable for me and told me to try my hardest to score a debut goal."

Arshdeep has now joined the junior squad camp in Bengaluru and is preparing for the Men's Junior Hockey World Cup, set to happen in December.



Playing intense character on screen is therapeutic: Esha Deol

Mumbai Working on "Tumko Meri Kasam" felt like homecoming, says actor Esha Deol, who returns to the big screen after a gap of almost a decade.

Directed by Vikram Bhatt and also starring Ishwak Singh, is loosely based on the life of Dr. Ajay Murdia, the founder of Indira IVF, a chain of fertility clinics.

"It's a won-

derful feeling returning to the big screen. I enjoyed doing web series and everything in the past couple of years and this is different and special because it is like homecoming," Deol said. The 43-year-old actor, known for her 2000 films like "Dhoom", "Yuva", "No Entry", "Just Married", said it was therapeutic to play an intense character of a defence lawyer in her new film.

"It is thrilling and therapeutic when you are able to do things with that intensity because you are doing it with a purpose... She is a defence lawyer and responsibly taking up a case which is

very complex. I enjoyed doing it," Deol said. After starring opposite Ajay Devgn in "Rudra: The Edge Of Darkness" and with Suniel Shetty in "Hunter: Tootega Nahi, Todega", both web series, Deol is returning to the big screen after her 2015 film "Kill Them Young".

The daughter of veteran actors Dharmendra and Hema Malini, Deol began her acting career in films with 2002 romantic film "Koi Mere Dil Se Poochhe".

Despite coming from a film family and being an actor, Deol said she is "terrible at socialising".

"I am terrible at putting

myself out there and going to parties and socialising. I never was able to do that and I still cannot do that. I have known certain people from back in the day who have kept in touch with me. They know I am interested in working again. So, they have me in their mind and when they feel that something interesting is there, they let me know. So, that is how I function," she added.

"Tumko Meri Kasam" also stars Anupam Kher and Adah Sharma. Presented by Mahesh Bhatt & Indira Entertainment, the film is scheduled to be released in theatres on March 21.

'Paatal Lok', 'Rocket Boys' put me on filmmakers' radar: Ishwak Singh

Mumbai Actor Ishwak Singh says his roles in the web series

"Paatal Lok" and "Rocket Boys" helped establish him as an actor in the film industry.

The New Delhi-born actor made his film debut with a small role in 2013's "Raanjhanaa" and featured in movies such as "Aligarh", "Tamasha", and "Veere Di Wedding".

Singh will next be seen in "Tumko Meri Kasam", a semi-biographical film on Dr. Ajay Murdia, the founder of Indira IVF, a chain of fertility clinics. It is directed by Vikram Bhatt and presented by Mahesh Bhatt & Indira Entertainment.

"It is all because of the shows I have done that filmmakers became aware of what my skill set is. They may have known about me because I was here and there doing stuff (in the industry) but I think it was not it wasn't until 'Paatal Lok', 'Rocket Boys' and shows like these that kind of got me on the map and on filmmakers' radar. They thought of casting me in films like these," he said.

"Tumko Meri Kasam" stars Singh in the lead role of a young Dr. Ajay Murdia. Despite facing challenges early on, the actor said he has always believed that the industry is "very fair".

"I have been getting my share (of work)... I have always felt that I got as much work as I was capable of at



SFI Hosts Satyam's Triptych 2025: A Grand Showcase of Design Creativity



Noida Satyam Fashion Institute (SFI), one of India's premier design institutions affiliated with SNDT Women's University, Mumbai, hosted its highly anticipated annual graduation show, Satyam's Triptych 2025, on the occasion of International Women's Day. The event was a spectacular celebration of creativity and innovation, featuring the pioneering designs of graduating students. Showcasing collections inspired by contemporary, historical, and cultural design eras, the students captivated the audience, earning standing ovations for their artistic excellence.

The evening was graced by esteemed dignitaries, industry experts, and leading designers. The distinguished panel included Dr. Shashikala G. Wanjari, Vice Chancellor of the National Institute of Educational Planning and Administration (NIEPA), New Delhi, as the Chief Guest.

The event was spearheaded by Dr. Sneha Singh, Chairperson of SGI, CA Dr. Pradeep Gupta, Secretary, Dr. Vandana Jaglan, Principal of SFI, and Dr. Neetu Malhotra, Vice Principal and Show Organizer. They extended their heartfelt congratulations to the graduating designers, encouraging them to embrace the future with confidence and creativity.

The evening featured mesmerizing collections reflecting diverse inspirations—fusion of heritage with modernity, sustainable fashion, and avant-garde experimental designs. Each ensemble told a unique story, celebrating the intersection of tradition and innovation in the fashion industry. The audience, which included industry professionals, students, and media personnel, was left awestruck by the originality and craftsmanship displayed on the runway.

As a tribute to International Women's Day, the event underscored the role of women in shaping the future of design. The platform provided young designers with the opportunity to showcase their talent to an audience of industry veterans, opening doors for potential collaborations and career opportunities.

With the success of Satyam's Triptych 2025, SFI once again reinforced its legacy of nurturing creative minds and producing industry-ready designers. The event was not just a fashion show but a testament to the power of design, culture, and innovation coming together to celebrate the future of fashion.

As the curtains closed on this grand celebration, the young designers embarked on their professional journeys, ready to leave their mark on the ever-evolving fashion landscape.

"You are always hungry to play different characters, to work with different filmmakers and formats. From comedy, horror to action, I would love to explore different genres. I love doing action, dance and music, musical kind of a thing," he said.

According to Singh, an actor doesn't need to knock every filmmaker's door for roles as his work speaks organically.

"Once you are out there working and people reach out to you. That is how the movie business works. It is not like you need to knock every door every day. Your work speaks for itself and that is the magic of this industry and our line of work. For me, it is just about wanting to give it my best and see how things happen organically," he said.

"Tumko Meri Kasam" is billed as a romantic drama which explores the subject of infertility and the actor said there is a need to normalise the subject in society.

"It's taboo in our society. We do not talk about it enough. People feel uncomfortable talking about it because it makes them look like they are not enough... The film would not only start a dialogue but also kind of normalise it. That is okay to go out and seek treatment (for) fertility," he said.

The film also stars Anupam Kher, Adah Sharma and Esha Deol. It is scheduled to be released in theatres on March 21.

'Days of Our Lives' actor Billy Flynn joins 'The Young And the Restless' cast

Washington Days of Our Lives actor Billy Flynn has joined the cast of CBS's long-running soap opera 'The Young and the Restless', as reported by Deadline.

As per the outlet, Flynn will debut on the show sometime in the spring.

Best known for his portrayal of Chad DiMera on 'Days of Our Lives', Flynn gained a significant fan following, particularly for his on-screen romance with Abigail Deveraux, played by Kate Mansi and Marci Miller. His final episode on Days of Our Lives is expected to air in ear-



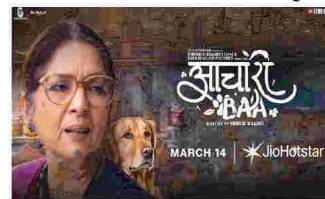
ly 2026. Reflecting on his time with the show, Flynn was grateful for the experience. "I am grateful for my years at Days. It changed my life in the best ways. I've always

Aachari Baa: Neena Gupta's Stirring Tale of Love, Loss, and an Unlikely Friendship

Chandigarh Get ready for an emotional rollercoaster as Aachari Baa, a moving tale of motherhood, resilience, and unexpected companionship, premieres exclusively on JioHotstar on March 14.

Directed by Hardik Gajjar and starring the legendary Neena Gupta, the film follows the journey of Ishnaviben Anopchand Vagadia, a strong-willed woman whose world revolves around her homemade pickles and an unshaken spirit. Presented by Jio Studios, Hardik Gajjar Films, and Baekbencher Pictures, Aachari Baa is produced by Jyoti Deshpande, Poonam Shroff, and Parth Gajjar.

After nearly a decade of



longing to reunite with her son, Baa is finally invited to Mumbai—only to discover she is not there for family

time but to dog-sit while they vacation abroad. Thrust into an unfamiliar city and an empty home, she finds her-

self in an unexpected companionship with Jenny, a playful dog she never wanted.

What begins as reluctance soon transforms into an enduring bond, teaching Baa that love, comfort, and connection can come from the most surprising places.

"This film is not just about the relationship between a grandmother and a dog—it's about the people we leave behind in the pursuit of our own lives," said director Hardik Gajjar.

Parmish Verma Unleashes High-Octane Soundtrack for JioHotstar's Kanneda



Chandigarh Speaking about the album, Parmish Verma expressed his deep connection with the project. "Music is the vehicle of Nimma's identity. The world of Kanneda is so vast, encapsulating so many emotions, that as an artist, it truly gave me an opportunity to dive into the music in a way I haven't before. It allowed me to explore a whole new world, experience the real power of rhythm, and understand how far, how high, and how deep music can go. I am very proud of this album; it perfectly complements Nimma's journey."

The highly anticipated series, Kanneda, boasts a stellar ensemble cast, including Mohammed Zeeshan Ayyub, Ranvir Shorey, Arunod Singh, Adar Malik, and Jasmin Bajwa. With a gripping narrative that delves into identity, ambition, power, and survival, combined with Verma's high-octane music, the series promises to be an unmissable experience for fans of Punjabi cinema and beyond.

Hope your life is framed with all the colors of love & happiness today & always.

Happy Holi

MANUFACTURERS & EXPORTERS OF THE FINEST LEATHER FOOTWEAR

dawar Corporate Headquarter
Dawar Footwear Industries
Agra - Delhi Road, 12m, NH-19, Sikandra Agra-282007, Uttar Pradesh, (India)

ACCREDITATIONS : SA 8000, ISO 9001, ISO 14001 and ISO 45001 | Sedex/SMETA & ICS

Contact us Ph: +91-562-350-2600 | shipping@dawargroup.com | sales@dawargroup.com | Find out more, visit www.dawargroup.com