

TOP STORY

DELHI, SUNDAY 16, MARCH 2025

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Samantha Ruth Prabhu to release first film under her production banner

US imposes sanctions on Thai officials after Uyghur men deported to China

Nitish Reddy clears fitness test set to join Sunrisers Hyderabad camp ahead of IPL

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RBI directs IndusInd Bank to complete remedial action this month

WEATHER
Sunrise 6:33 AM
Sunset 6:29 PM
Moonrise 6:39 PM
Moonset 6:56 AM
Today's Prediction Maximum 33°C Minimum 20°C
Tomorrow's Prediction Maximum 31°C Minimum 20°C

Blast outside Amritsar temple, ISI role suspected

Punjab Police said it suspects the role of Pakistan's spy agency Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) in the attack on Thakur Dwar temple and vowed to apprehend the culprits soon.

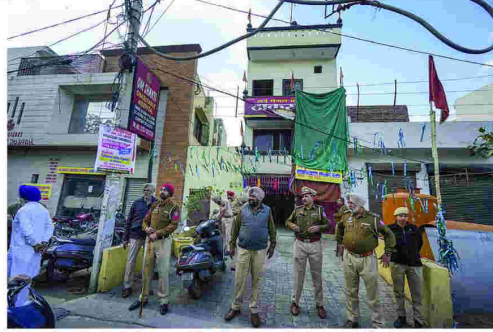
Amritsar
A blast occurred outside a temple in Amritsar around midnight when an unidentified attacker who came on a motorcycle hurled an explosive device towards the building, damaging a portion of its wall and shattering window panes, officials said on Saturday.

Punjab Police said it suspects the role of Pakistan's spy agency Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) in the attack on Thakur Dwar temple and vowed to apprehend the culprits soon.

There have been many incidents of explosions targeting police posts in Amritsar and Gurdaspur in the past four months but this is the first such attack on a temple.

While no one was hurt in the incident, which was captured on CCTV, the explosion caused panic among residents in the Khandwala area of Amritsar.

Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann said the Amritsar incident was



a handiwork of fissiparous forces that want to destabilise the peace but they will never succeed in their design.

Opposition parties alleged that it was proof of the 'collapse' of the law and order under the Aam Aadmi Party government.

The Bharatiya Janata Party sought a Central Bureau of Investigation probe into the incident

while Congress leader Partap Bajwa demanded the resignation of CM Mann who holds Home portfolio.

Amritsar Police Commissioner Gurpreet Singh Bhullar said the police were informed about the incident at around 2 am on Saturday by the temple priest.

CCTV footage of the incident showed two unidentified persons coming

to the temple on a motorcycle which had a flag. One person got down and, after a while, hurled an explosive device towards the temple. The two then fled from the site and the blast occurred.

Security has been stepped up around the explosion site and the police have covered the damaged wall with a green net.

Bhullar said police teams were trying to

trace the men involved in the blast and they would be nabbed soon.

"Our teams are following them. Like we had traced earlier incidents, this incident will also be traced," he said.

He suspected the role of Pakistan's ISI behind the incident.

"I want to warn all the youths not to fall into the trap of Pakistan's ISI. All the previous incidents have been traced and the accused have been arrested. It came to the fore that the accused belonged to economically weaker families and they did all for the money."

"I want to warn them not to destroy their lives. The police will take strictest action against them," said Bhullar.

Unconfirmed reports claimed that a grenade was used in the attack.

A forensic team has collected samples from the spot, Bhullar said, adding the nature of explosives will be ascertained after necessary examination.

CONTD ON PAGE-2

Justice Joymalya Bagchi to be sworn in as SC judge on March 17



New Delhi
Justice Joymalya Bagchi, a judge of the Calcutta High Court, will on Monday be sworn in as a Supreme Court judge.

Chief Justice of India (CJI) Sanjay Khanna will administer the oath of office to Justice Bagchi in the presence of other Supreme Court judges at a ceremony on the apex court premises.

Once Justice Bagchi takes oath, the Supreme Court will have 33 judges against its sanctioned strength of 34.

Justice Bagchi will have a tenure of more than six years in the top court, during which he will also serve as the CJI.

Born on October 3, 1966, Justice Bagchi will assume the office of CJI upon the retirement of Justice KV Viswanathan on May 25, 2031. His tenure will last till his retirement on October 2, 2031.

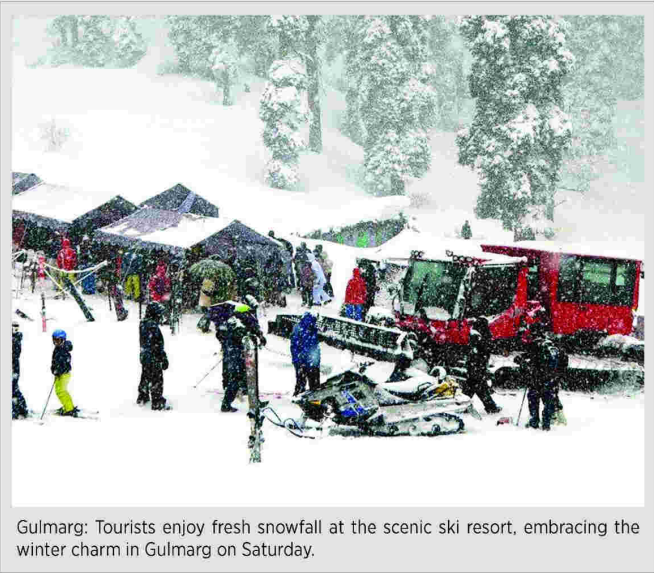


Justice Bagchi's name was cleared by the central government on March 10 for appointment as a Supreme Court judge.

On March 6, a five-member collegium headed by CJI Khanna recommended his name for Supreme Court judgeship.

The collegium - also comprising Justice BR Gavai, Justice Surya Kant, Justice Abhay S Oka and Justice Vikram Nath - noted that no Calcutta High Court judge had since to become the CJI since the retirement of Justice Altamas Kabir on July 18, 2013.

Justice Bagchi was appointed a judge in the Calcutta High Court on August 27, 2011. He was transferred to the Andhra Pradesh High Court on January 4, 2021. Agency



Gulmarg: Tourists enjoy fresh snowfall at the scenic ski resort, embracing the winter charm in Gulmarg on Saturday.

Dance or face suspension: Lalu's son tells cop

Patna
Maverick RJD leader Tej Pratap Yadav found himself at the centre of a fresh controversy on Saturday when a policeman was commanded by the former Bihar minister to perform a 'thumka' (pelvic thrust) or face suspension.

The lurid drama unfolded at the official residence of Yadav, the elder son of former chief ministers Lalu Prasad and Rabri Devi, during holi celebrations.

In a style reminiscent of the 'kapda faad Holi' that his father used to organise, Yadav tore off clothes of supporters who poured in to greet him, and also drove a scooter on the streets adjoining his house, screaming "Happy Holi Palu Chacha", a taunt obviously aimed at Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, who has aligned with and dumped the RJD twice.

One of the videos of his revelry that has



gone viral on social media show the Hasanpur MLA really seated on a sofa, placed on a makeshift stage, holding a mike.

"Ae sipahi, ae Deepak, abhi ek gana bajenge jis par tumko thumka lagana padega. Nahin lagoge to tumko suspend kar denge. Bura na maano Holi hai (Hey policeman Deepak.... we are going to play a song on which you shall perform a pelvic thrust. If you do not, you will be suspended. Don't mind. It's Holi)", Yadav can be heard as saying before a musical band bursts into a devotional song that is often played during the festival of colours in Bihar. Agency

Slapped several times, forced to sign: Ranya Rao

Bengaluru
Kannada actress Harshavardhini Ranya, a key accused in the gold smuggling case, has alleged that officials of the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) assaulted her and forced her to sign blank and typed papers.

In a letter addressed to the Additional Director General of the DRI in Bengaluru on March 6, Ranya claimed that a false case had been foisted on her.

She stated that she was wrongly accused of carrying more than 14kg of gold upon her return from Dubai.

"Your officers did not permit me to explain that I am innocent in this matter," alleged Harshavardhini Ranya, also known as Ranya Rao.

The actress further claimed that from the time she was detained until she was produced before the court, she was slapped in the face 10 to 15 times.

"Despite repeated hitting and slapping, I refused to sign the statement they prepared."

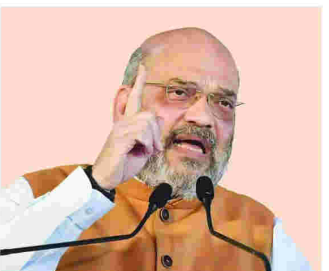
She also alleged that she was forced to sign 50 to 60 typed papers and around 40 blank sheets.

"One of the officers told me, 'If you don't sign, we will expose your father's name and identity, even though we know he is not involved,' the model-actor claimed. Ranya is the step-daughter of DGP-rank officer K Ramachandra Rao, who currently serves as the Managing Director of the Karnataka State Police Housing and Infrastructure Development Corporation. She has also acted in films, including 'Maanikya'. Agency

I was beaten up, jailed in Assam, recalls Amit Shah

Guwahati
Recalling his detention during Hiteswar Saikia's tenure as Assam Chief Minister, Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Saturday said that during the Congress government in Assam, he was beaten up and had jail food for seven days in the state.

Speaking at the inaugural ceremony of Lachit Barphukan Police Academy in Dergaon, Shah attacked Congress and said that the Congress did not allow peace in Assam. "I have also been beaten up by the Congress



government in Assam. Hiteswar Saikia was the Chief Minister of Assam and we used to raise slogans against former PM Indira Gandhi that

'Assam ki galiyan suni hai, Indira Gandhi khooni hai'. I too had jail food for seven days in Assam and people from all over the country came to save Assam. Today Assam is moving ahead on the path of development," Shah said.

Hiteswar Saikia served as the chief minister of Assam for two terms from 1983 to 1985 and then from 1991 to 1996.

He further said that Assam's Lachit Barphukan police academy will become the top one in the country in the next five years.

CONTD ON PAGE-2

NASA, SpaceX launch mission to bring Suni, Butch home

Washington
SpaceX and NASA have launched a mission to bring back United States astronauts Sunita Williams and Butch Wilmore from the International Space Station (ISS), where they have been stranded for nine months.

The lift-off took place at 7:03 ET on Friday, with a Falcon 9 rocket carrying a Dragon spacecraft on the Crew-10 mission.

The mission also launched four crew members to the ISS: NASA astronauts Anne McClain and Nichole Ayers, JAXA (Japan



Aerospace Exploration Agency) astronaut Takuya Onishi, and Roscosmos cosmonaut Kirill Peskov

man space transportation system and the 11th flight with a crew aboard to the ISS station through NASA's Commercial Crew Program, including the Demo-2 test flight.

Sunita Williams and Butch Wilmore have been stranded on the ISS for nine months after reaching there in June last year. They were supposed to stay there for about a week.

Ahead of the launch, US Secretary of Defense Pete Hegseth shared a video message expressing support for NASA's SpaceX Crew-10. Agency

Blast outside Amritsar temple, ISI role suspected

CONT FROM PAGE-1 Bhullar said the police have taken CCTV footage from nearby cameras.

At the time of the attack, the priest of the temple was sleeping inside the temple and woke up to the sound of the explosion.

Chief Minister Mann said many attempts have been made from time to time to disturb Punjab but the state police has taken timely action against such elements.

"Punjab is completely safe in terms of law and order," he told reporters in Chandigarh.

He stressed that mutual brotherhood and peace would be maintained in the state.

Being a border state, a number of forces inimical to the state have been chalking out nefarious designs to disturb the hard-earned peace of Punjab, Mann later said in a statement.

However, he said that the vigilant Punjab Police has always foiled such attempts.

Mann said the Amritsar incident was also the handiwork of the fissiparous forces that want to destabilise the peace, progress and prosperity of the state. He said that the state government will never allow these forces to succeed in their nefarious designs and all their conspiracies will be foiled.

Mann also stressed that the law and order situation in Punjab is much better than in other states.

The Congress, the BJP and the Shiromani Akali Dal targeted the AAP government after the incident.

"I strongly condemn the bomb attack on Thakur Dwarra temple, Khandwala in Amritsar. AAP government fails to check repeated incidents of blasts in the border city. Deteriorating law and order in Punjab is a matter of serious concern," Union Minister Ravneet Singh Bittu said on X.

Punjab Congress chief Amrinder Singh Raja Warring also condemned the incident, saying this time a temple was targeted.

Yet another grenade attack in Amritsar, this time targeting a temple in the Khandwala area. There is an atmosphere of fear prevailing in Punjab, and people are genuinely feeling insecure. It's high time the @AAP Punjab government wakes up from its deep slumber and takes action," said Warring in a post on X.

Senior Akali leader Bikram Singh Majithia said it was a 'law and order failure'.

Another Shiromani Akali Dal leader Daljit Singh Cheema sought a judicial probe into the incident to identify the perpetrators and unearth the conspiracy, aimed at disturbing peace and communal harmony in the state.

"This is the 19th such blast in the area and is proof of the complete collapse of law and order in the state," said Cheema.

BJP national general secretary Tarun Chugh sought a CBI investigation to expose the forces attempting to disturb law and order in Punjab. Expressing serious concern over the repeated attacks, Chugh said the AAP government has 'completely failed to control nefarious elements in the state'.

Congress didn't allow peace in Assam PM Modi restored it developed infra: Shah

Dergaon (Assam): Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Saturday alleged that the Congress did not allow peace to prevail in Assam, but PM Narendra Modi restored it, developed infrastructure and ensured employment for the youth of the north-eastern state.

Shah was speaking after inaugurating the first phase of the revamped Lachit Barphukan Police Academy at Dergaon in Golaghat district. He also laid the foundation for the second phase.

"Over 10,000 youths have laid down arms and joined the mainstream in Assam, with peace returning to the state during the last 10 years. Assam, which was known for agitation, violence and insurgency, now has the most modern semiconductor industry. An amount of Rs 27,000 crore is being invested here for a semiconductor unit, which is going to change the future of Assam," he asserted.

Shah also said while these projects worth Rs 8 crore lakh will create such an environment that youths from across the country will come here for jobs," the home minister said.

Under the Narendra Modi-led government, the Bodo Peace Accord in 2020, Karbi Accord in 2021, Adivasi Peace Accord in 2022 and the peace pact with the ULFA in 2023 were signed, he said.

Agreements to settle border disputes with Meghalaya and Arunachal Pradesh have also been signed, Shah said.



Shah was speaking after inaugurating the first phase of the revamped Lachit Barphukan Police Academy at Dergaon in Golaghat district. He also laid the foundation for the second phase.

Slamming the previous Congress governments, Shah alleged that there was no peace and infrastructure development, and no grants given to Assam, which witnessed agitation and violence.

Recalling his visit to Assam during his student days, he said, "I had faced lathicharge. It was during the government of Hiteswar Saikia (of the Congress). I have spent seven days in jail in Assam."

Claiming that the situation in the state has undergone a sea-change under the BJP-

led governments in the past few years, he said, "The saffron party had promised peace to the people and we have delivered it."

He said the increase in conviction rate from 5 per cent to 25 per cent in the last three years is indicative of the improved situation, adding that the figure will cross the national average soon.

"Policing in Assam was earlier for fighting terrorists, but now it is people-centric," Shah said.

The home minister also said the fact that over 2,000 police personnel from Goa and Manipur have been trained in Assam in recent times proves the restoration of peace in this northeastern state.

He mentioned that the Lachit Barphukan Police Academy will be the top police training centre in the country in the next five years.

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Eat Right Campus Certification Program: FoSTaC Training Held at Daulat Ram College

New Delhi:

In a significant step toward enhancing food safety in educational institutions, Daulatram College, Delhi University, hosted a comprehensive Food Safety Training and Certification (FoSTaC) session.

Organized under the Eat Right India initiative by the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) and supported by Tita Pak under its CSR initiatives, the training aimed to raise awareness about food safety regulations and equip food handlers with essential hygiene and standards practices.

FoSTaC training session saw active participation from food handlers of the college canteen, hostel mess, and students from three Delhi University colleges—Ramjas College, College of Vocational Studies, and Daulatram College—who have registered for the prestigious Eat Right Campus certification.

The training was conducted by Grow Well Foundation in the ongoing journey of Eat Right Campus certification.

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CONT FROM PAGE-1

"In the coming five years, the police academy will become the best police academy in the whole country. I thank Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma for naming it after Lachit Barphukan. Brave warrior Lachit Barphukan helped Assam to be victorious against the Mughals... Lachit Barphukan was limited to the state of Assam only but today the biography of Lachit Barphukan is being taught in 23 languages and is inspiring students," he added.

Shah further said that Assam's conviction rate up from 5 per cent to 25 per cent in three years and will cross the national average soon.

"Modi government to bring in Rs 3 lakh crore infra projects in Assam in addition to Rs 5 lakh crore proposed investment at recent biz summit," he said.

Shah inaugurated the first phase of the revamped police academy named after Lachit Barphukan in Assam's Golaghat district.

The home minister was accompanied by Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma and Union minister Sarbananda Sonowal, among others.

Sarma said, "Taking forward Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi Ji's focus on SMART policing, the Lachit Barphukan Police Academy will house a weapon simulator to prepare our forces for real world combat scenarios without the hazards & costs involved and ensure their basic training."

Shah arrived in Dergaon on Friday evening for a three-day tour of two northeastern states -- Assam and Mizoram.

The home minister will attend the final session of the 57th Annual Conference of the All Bodo Students Union (ABSU) in Kokrajhar of Assam on March 16.

Agency

Country confronted with forces trying to destroy Constitution Nagaland: Congress

Dimapur:

The Nagaland Congress on Saturday expressed concern over forces undermining the Constitution by pushing policies that conflict with the interests of citizens.

Speaking at the launch of the Congress membership drive, NPCC working president C. Ajok Jamir said, "As far as secularism is concerned, the very existence of our way of life and belief is threatened by some of the policies which have been propagated for almost 14 years."

"Congress is the only potential party which can be a vanguard for protecting the interest of the Constitution and of the people, Jamir added.

"To ensure better understanding, unity and progress, it is the duty of every citizen of the state to take a stand when we are confronted with the onslaught of a government which is going against the very principle of the Constitution," he said.

Yet another grenade attack in Amritsar, this time targeting a temple in the Khandwala area. There is an atmosphere of fear prevailing in Punjab, and people are genuinely feeling insecure. It's high time the @AAP Punjab government wakes up from its deep slumber and takes action," said Warring in a post on X.

Senior Akali leader Bikram Singh Majithia said it was a 'law and order failure'.

Another Shiromani Akali Dal leader Daljit Singh Cheema sought a judicial probe into the incident to identify the perpetrators and unearth the conspiracy, aimed at disturbing peace and communal harmony in the state.

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BJP national general secretary Tarun Chugh sought a CBI investigation to expose the forces attempting to disturb law and order in Punjab.

Expressing serious concern over the repeated attacks, Chugh said the AAP government has 'completely failed to control nefarious elements in the state'.

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Referring to the recent arrest of two female online journalists for allegedly circulating a video on social media with "derogatory and abusive" content against the Congress government and Revanth Reddy, he warned that stringent action would be taken, as per the law, against those engaging in "defamatory propaganda under the guise of journalism."

He said that leaders of journalists' unions should define a journalist and a list of (mainstream) journalists.

The CM also said that he had submitted a letter to Prime Minister Modi,

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Frequency of Rahul's visits to Vietnam very curious: BJP

New Delhi:

The BJP claimed on Saturday that Rahul Gandhi is spending more time in Vietnam than his constituency, and said the Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha needs to explain his "extraordinary fondness" for that country.

"Where is Rahul Gandhi? I heard he has gone to Vietnam," BJP leader and former Union minister Ravi Shankar Prasad said at a press conference, where he attacked the Karnataka government for its decision to give four per cent quota in government contracts to Muslims.

Prasad said Gandhi was in the Southeast Asian country during the new year as well, claiming that he has spent nearly 22 days there.

"He does not spend so many days in his constituency. What is the reason of his so much love for Vietnam suddenly," the BJP leader asked.

Gandhi is the Leader of Opposition and should be available in India, he said.

"Rahul Gandhi needs to explain his extraordinary fondness for Vietnam. The frequency of his visit to that country is very curious."

Gandhi's foreign trips



have long been a source of BJP's political attacks on him as the ruling party has sought to paint him as a unserious politician unfit for the cut and thrust of domestic politics.

The BJP's IT department head Amit Malviya noted that the details of Gandhi's frequent foreign travels are neither disclosed to Parliament nor made public, as he asked the

Congress to clarify the issue.

In a post on X, he said, "As the Leader of the Opposition, Rahul Gandhi holds a crucial position, and his numerous clandestine trips abroad—especially while Parliament is in session—raise serious questions about propriety and national security."

The Congress has, in turn, accused the BJP of politicising his private visits, and has said that he as an individual has a right to travel abroad.

Gandhi's visit to Vietnam following the death of former prime minister and Congress leader Manmohan Singh on December 26 last year had also drawn criticism from the BJP.

Malviya had then said that while the country was mourning Singh's demise, Gandhi had flown to Vietnam to ring in the new year.

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Telangana CM slams KCR for attending assembly only twice in 15 months

Hyderabad:

Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy on Saturday criticised opposition BRS leader K Chandrashekar Rao for attending assembly sessions only twice in the past 15 months and challenged him to a debate on the loss suffered by the state in utilising Krishna waters.

In a marathon reply to the motion of thanks to the Governor's address to the legislature, he said since December 2023, when the Congress government assumed office, Rao had drawn a salary of over Rs 57 lakh as an MLA and opposition leader.

"The opposition leader, who takes a government salary, has left the people to their fate," he said.

Revanth Reddy also criticised the BRS for objecting to his frequent visits to Delhi and stated that he believes in maintaining cordial relations between the Centre and the states, as envisaged in the Constitution.

"The Centre is a union of states and the country's Prime Minister

is indeed like an elder brother to any Chief Minister," he said.

Revanth Reddy also criticised the BRS for objecting to his frequent visits to Delhi and stated that he believes in maintaining cordial relations between the Centre and the states, as envisaged in the Constitution.



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Referring to the recent arrest of two female online journalists for allegedly circulating a video on social media with "derogatory and abusive" content against the Congress government and Revanth Reddy, he warned that stringent action would be taken, as per the law, against those engaging in "defamatory propaganda under the guise of journalism."

He said that leaders of journalists' unions should define a journalist and a list of (mainstream) journalists.

The CM also said that he had submitted a letter to Prime Minister Modi,

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Rekha Gupta shares 'brother-sister' bond with Parvesh Verma

New Delhi
Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta on Saturday said she shares a brother-sister bond with her Cabinet colleague Parvesh Verma, son of former chief minister late Sahib Singh Verma.

Pointing out that it didn't matter who held the chief minister's chair, Gupta vowed to fulfil the late BJP leader's dreams for Delhi together with Parvesh Verma.

After paying tributes to Sahib Singh Verma on his 82nd birth anniversary at his memorial in Mundka, Gupta said Parvesh Verma could also have been made the chief minister and she a minister, and things would have been just the same for her.

"In Indian society, the elder sister is often entrusted with responsibility first," Gupta said, welcoming the fact that the "sister" is now the chief minister of Delhi, while the "brother" is serving as a minister.

The BJP won the February 5 Assembly polls to end the 10-year rule of the Arvind Kejriwal-led Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) and form government



in the capital after more than 26 years.

After the announcement of election results on February 8, Parvesh Verma was seen as a front-runner for the chief minister's post.

Gupta, who was flanked by Parvesh Verma, said she shared a brother-sister bond with while one of Sahib Singh Verma's children was the chief minister, the other was a minister.

Gupta also praised the late leader's contributions to Delhi's development and expressed her commitment to carry forward his work.

"We will work together like a brother and sister to

Born on March 15, 1943, in Mundka village, Sahib Singh Verma served as the fourth chief minister of Delhi from February 27, 1996, to October 12, 1998. He passed away on June 30, 2007, at the age of 64.

carry forward the unfinished work of Sahib Singh Verma," Gupta said, describing the late leader as a guiding force in everyone's life, including her own.

Recalling an incident, Gupta said when she became the president of Delhi University Students Union (DUSU), Sahib Singh, who was the chief minister at the time, called her to congratulate and encourage her.

Highlighting his father's vision for long-term development projects, Parvesh Verma said, "We aim to undertake work which will be beneficial not just for five years, but for the next 50 years."

Delhi CM receives feedback from farmers ahead of budget session assures assistance

New Delhi
Chief Minister Rekha Gupta on Saturday got feedback from the Delhi farmers ahead of the budget of the BJP government to be tabled on March 25 and assured them of solving all their problems.

In an interaction held at the Delhi Secretariat, the farmers raised the demands for the implementation of a land polling policy with immediate effect, subsidy on fertilisers and seeds, and saving standing crops in different villages from inundation due to overflowing

drains in the rainy season.

They also said that the diesel-run tractors of farmers were seized after completing 10 years, and demanded the government to allow the use of tractors for farming purposes up to 20 years.

Besides the chief minister, PWD minister Parvesh Verma was also present in the interaction session.

Gupta said that the previous governments did nothing for farmers and neglected their needs but the double-engine government of the BJP will address every issue faced by them.

"Each suggestion received from the farmers will be looked into and all the problems will be resolved," she said.

The Delhi government with the help of the Centre will make every effort to ensure property in rural areas and villages of Delhi, she added.

The five-day budget session of the Delhi Assembly will begin on March 25. The BJP government headed by Rekha Gupta will table a Vksit Delhi budget for 2025-26.

MCD's south zone launches weekly cleanliness campaign

New Delhi
The Municipal Corporation of Delhi's south zone launched a weekly cleanliness campaign from the Bhati ward in the Chhatrapur Assembly segment on Saturday to turn hygiene into a community-driven movement.

The 'Cleanliness Every Saturday Hygiene Every Day' campaign will see one ward in the south zone undergo a cleanliness drive every Saturday.

BJP councillor and MCD Standing Committee Member Sunder Singh Tanwar, South Zone Deputy Commissioner Badal Kumar and hundreds of sanitation workers took part in the drive, promoting awareness about the importance of hygiene, an official statement said. Speaking about the initiative, Kumar said, "Citizen participation is essential for any cleanliness campaign to succeed. If everyone commits to keeping their surroundings clean, our city can become more beautiful. This isn't just about a one-day drive, it's about fostering a long-term habit of cleanliness."

Echoing the sentiment, Tanwar said, "Cleanliness is not just the government's responsibility, it's a collective duty. Without public involvement, achieving a truly clean city will remain a challenge. We want this campaign to become a mass movement."

Following the cleanliness drive, the MCD also organised a 'Holi Milan' event to honour sanitation workers, the statement added.

NCRTC to introduce co-working spaces at Ghaziabad Namo Bharat station



New Delhi
The National Capital Region Transport Corporation is set to launch Metro-Desk, a co-working space at the Ghaziabad Namo Bharat Station, an official statement said on Saturday.

This initiative aims to transform transit spaces into business-friendly hubs, marking a first-of-its-kind co-working model within the Namo Bharat network, the statement read.

Designed to cater to professionals, entrepreneurs and small businesses in Ghaziabad and nearby areas, the workspace will be located in the station's concourse area, it stated.

It will feature 42 open workstations, 12 private cabins, and two meeting rooms, accommodating up to 42 individuals and 11 companies at a time, it read.

It also mentioned that the facility will offer high-speed internet, plug-and-play workstations, and modern amenities to ensure seamless productivity.

Ghaziabad Namo Bharat Station, positioned at Meerut Tiraha Mor, sits at the crossroads of the Ghaziabad-Meerut route and benefits from its proximity to Shahid Sthal Delhi Metro Station, it

NCRTC to introduce co-working spaces at Ghaziabad Namo Bharat station

stated.

According to the statement, the heavy footfall in this area makes it an ideal location for a co-working space, reducing commute time and offering easy accessibility for professionals.

The facility will integrate smart access through biometric entry and digital key cards, along with a dedicated digital platform for reservations, membership management and cashless transactions, it stated.

Additional features will include video conferencing setups, wireless screen sharing, tech-enabled brainstorming zones, and reliable fibre-optic connectivity for seamless virtual meetings, it said.

NCRTC is also allocating commercial spaces within and around Namo Bharat stations to enhance passenger amenities and generate non-fare revenue, it stated.

Currently, Namo Bharat operates on a 55-km stretch from New Ashok Nagar to Meerut South, covering eleven stations. The full 82-km corridor, including the Meerut Metro, is expected to be completed by 2025, it added.

5 held for stealing copper cables from metro tracks

New Delhi
Delhi Police has arrested five professional thieves involved in at least seven incidents of copper cables theft from metro tracks, an official said on Friday.

The arrested individuals have been identified as Md Karimulla (24), Md Anas (21), Md Junaid (25), Md

Alam (25) and Suraj Singh (25), all residents of Shebeen Bagh and Sarita Vihar, he said.

They were allegedly involved in at least seven theft cases registered across multiple metro police stations, including Azadpur, Nehru Place, Shastri Park and Okhla Vihar, he added.

KIND ATTENTION RAIL PASSENGERS! POST HOLI FESTIVAL SPECIAL TRAINS-2025

For the convenience of passengers Railways have decided to run several post Holi Festival Special trains from Delhi area stations, the date wise list of the same is as under:-

SPECIAL TRAINS RUNNING ON 16.03.2025 (SUNDAY) FROM DELHI AREA TERMINALS

Spl. Train No.	Station From	Dept. Time	Station To	Arr. Time	Stoppages
04020	Anand Vihar (T)	19:30	Barauni Jn.	18:00	Ghaziabad, Moradabad, Bareilly, Lucknow Jn., Rae Bareilly Jn., Maia Belha Devi Dham Pratappgarh, Varanasi, Aunrihar Jn., Ghazipur City, Ballia, Suraimpur, Chhapra & Hajipur 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
04068	Anand Vihar (T)	14:00	Bhagalpur	13:30	Govindpur, Prayagraj Jn., Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Jn., Buxar, Ara, Danapur, Patna Jn., Bakhtiyarpur Jn., Mokama, Hathidah Jn., Luckeesarai Jn., Kuli Jn., Abhaipur, Jamalpur Jn. & Sultanganj Stations
02436	New Delhi (Vande Bharat Spl.)	08:30	Patna Jn. (Vande Bharat Spl.)	20:10	Ghaziabad, Aligarh, Kanpur Central, Prayagraj Jn., Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Jn., Buxar & Ara 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, Narkatlagan Jn., Raxaul Jn., Baraigania, Sitamarhi, Janakpur Road, Darbhanga Jn., Sakri Jn., Jhanjhanpur, Ghoghricha, Nirmali, Saraygarh, Supaul & Garh Barwari Stations
05220	Anand Vihar (T)	06:00	Muzaffarpur Jn.	00:45	Govindpur, Prayagraj Jn., Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Jn., Buxar, Ara, Danapur, Patliputra, Sonpur Jn. & Hajipur Jn. Stations
02962	Hazrat Nizamuddin	08:00	Sogaria	13:10	Malthura Jn., Bharatpur Jn., Bayana Jn., Hinduani City, Gangapur City & Sawai Madhopur Stn.
09726	Shakurbasti	15:50	Dahar Ka Balaji	22:50	Bahadurgarh, Aishah Bohar, Jhejar, Rewari Jn., Kund, Ateli, Namsal, Nizampur, Dabla, Maonda, Nim Ka Thana, Kanwat, Shri Madhopur, Ringas Jn., Govindgarh Malikpur, Chitram Sarnod & Nidhar Benar Stations
03698	Delhi Jn.	08:55	Gaya Jn.	00:30	Govindpur, Prayagraj Jn., Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Jn., Bhubua Road, Sasaram, Dehri On Sone & Anugrah Narayan Road Stations
02526	Anand Vihar (T)	17:20	Kamakhya Jn.	03:40	Aligarh Jn., Tundia Jn., Govindpur, Prayagraj Jn., Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Jn., Buxar, Ara, Danapur, Patliputra, Hajipur Jn., Barauni Jn., Begusarai, Khagaria Jn., Nalgopora, Sonpur Jn., Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Jn., Begusarai, New Jolepatti, New Cochin Behar, Tulanganj, Golekpur Jn., Gauripur, Bilsidara, Ahaypur, Assam & Goalpara Town Stations
03414	Delhi Jn.	13:35	Maldia Town	17:30	Kanpur Central, Prayagraj Jn., Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Jn., Buxar, Ara, Patna Jn., Patna Sahab, Fatuha, Khusrapur, Bakhtiyarpur Jn., Barh, Mokama, Hathidah Jn., Barhiya, Luckeesarai Jn., Kuli Jn., Kagra, Abhaipur, Dharaha, Jamalpur Jn., Barerup, Sultanganj, Bhagalpur, Khatlagan, Sahjanpur Jn., Barharwa Jn., New Farakka Jn. Stations
02962	Hazrat Nizamuddin	06:00	Sogaria	13:10	Ghaziabad, Aligarh Jn., Tundia Jn., Etawah Jn., Govindpur, Fatehpur, Prayagraj Jn., Shankargarh, Manikpur Jn., Satna, Muzbar & Katni Stations
01708	Anand Vihar (T)	18:05	Jabalpur Jn.	10:00	Govindpur, Prayagraj Jn., Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Jn., Buxar, Ara, Danapur & Patna Jn. Stations
02394	New Delhi	13:20	Rajendra Nagar	07:45	Govindpur, Prayagraj Jn., Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Jn., Buxar, Ara, Danapur & Patna Jn. Stations

SPECIAL TRAINS RUNNING ON 17.03.2025 (MONDAY) FROM DELHI AREA TERMINALS

Spl. Train No.	Station From	Dept. Time	Station To	Arr. Time	Stoppages
04081	New Delhi	23:45	Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra	11:40	Sonapat, Panipat Jn., Karnal, Kurukshetra Jn., Ambala Cantt. Jn., Dhandari Kalari, Jalandhar Cantt., Pathankot Cantt., Jammu Tawi & Moryat Captain Tushar Mahajan Stations
04208	New Delhi	20:20	Lucknow	06:00	Ghaziabad, Hapur, Moradabad, Bareilly, Shahjahanpur & Haridoli Stations
04024	Delhi Jn.	19:30	Varanasi Jn.	09:45	Ghaziabad, Moradabad, Lucknow, Raebareilly Jn. & Maia Belha Devi Dham Pratappgarh Jn. Stations
04064	New Delhi	09:30	Gaya Jn.	01:50	Govindpur, Prayagraj Jn., Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Jn., Bhubua Road, Sasaram & Dehri-on-Sone Stn.
04062	Delhi Jn.	23:55	Patna Jn.	16:40	Ghaziabad, Kanpur Central, Prayagraj Jn., Mirzapur, Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Jn., Buxar, Ara & Danapur Stations
04066	New Delhi	21:35	Saharsa Jn.	22:00	Govindpur, Prayagraj Jn., Mirzapur, Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Jn., Buxar, Ara, Danapur, Patliputra Jn., Sonpur, Hajipur Jn., Muzaffarpur Jn., Samastipur Jn., Dalsinghara, Barauni Jn., Begusarai, Bahaganjia Jn. & Mansi Jn. Stations
04010	Anand Vihar (T)	23:55	Jogbani	03:00	Ghaziabad, Moradabad, Bareilly, Shahjahanpur, Sitapur Jn., Gonda Jn., Basti, Gorakhpur Jn., Kaptanganj Jn., Bagaha, Narkatlagan Jn., Raxaul Jn., Baraigania, Sitamarhi, Janakpur Road, Darbhanga Jn., Sakri Jn., Jhanjhanpur, Ghoghricha, Nirmali, Saraygarh, Supaul & Garh Barwari Stations
04014	Anand Vihar (T)	05:00	Jaynagar	12:00	Moradabad Jn., Bareilly Jn., Lucknow, Raebareilly Jn., Amethi, Maia Belha Devi Dham Pratappgarh Jn., Varanasi Jn., Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Jn., Buxar, Ara, Danapur, Patliputra, Hajipur Jn., Muzaffarpur Jn., Samastipur Jn., Darbhanga Jn. & Madhubani Stations
02356	Anand Vihar (T)	23:30	Patna Jn.	18:35	Govindpur, Prayagraj Jn., Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Jn., Buxar, Ara & Danapur Stations
02394	New Delhi	13:20	Rajendra Nagar	07:45	Govindpur, Prayagraj Jn., Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Jn., Buxar, Ara, Danapur & Patna Jn. Stations
02398	Anand Vihar (T)	08:20	Gaya	00:30	Govindpur, Prayagraj Jn., Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Jn., Bhubua Road, Sasaram, Dehri-on-Sone & Anugraha N. Road Stations
03258	Anand Vihar (T)	05:00	Danapur	20:45	Kanpur Central, Prayagraj Jn., Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Jn., Buxar & Ara Stations
03012	Anand Vihar (T)	00:30	Howrah	03:00	Tundia Jn., Etawah Jn., Govindpur, Fatehpur, Prayagraj Jn., Mirzapur, Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Jn., Bhubua Road, Sasaram, Dehri On Sone, Anugraha N Road, Gaya, Koderma, Dhanbad, Asansol, Durgapur, Bardhaman & Bandel Jn. Stations
06074	Hazrat Nizamuddin	04:10	Thiruvananthapuram North	14:15	Malthura Jn., Agra Cantt Jn., Gwalior Jn., Virangana Lakshmbai Jhansi Jn., Bina Jn., Rani Kamalapati, Nagpur Jn., Balharshah, Warangal, Vijayawada Jn., Nilore, Gudur Jn., Renapur Jn., Tirupati, Chittoor, Kaptaji Jn., Jolapetaji Jn., Salem Jn., Erode Jn., Tiruppur, Poddar Jn., Palakkad Jn., Thrissur, Aluva, Ernakulam Town, Kottayam, Tiruvallur, Chengamur, Mavelikkara, Kavarattam Jn. & Kollam Jn. Stations

SPECIAL TRAINS RUNNING ON 18.03.2025 (TUESDAY) FROM DELHI AREA TERMINALS

Spl. Train No.	Station From	Dept. Time	Station To	Arr. Time	Stoppages
04070	Anand Vihar (T)	00:20	Rajgir	19:50	Govindpur, Prayagraj Jn., Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Jn., Buxar, Ara, Patna Jn., Bakhtiyarpur Jn. & Bihar Sharif Jn. Stations
04030	Anand Vihar (T)	09:00	Muzaffarpur Jn.	06:00	Moradabad, Bareilly, Shahjahanpur, Sitapur Jn., Gonda Jn., Gorakhpur Jn., Kaptanganj Jn., Narkatlagan Jn., Sakri Jn. & Barudhami Mohai Stations
04016	Anand Vihar (T)	11:40	Sitamarhi	15:45	Ghaziabad, Moradabad, Bareilly, Shahjahanpur, Lucknow Jn., Rae Bareilly Jn., Maia Belha Devi Dham Pratappgarh Jn., Varanasi, Aunrihar Jn., Ghazipur City, Ballia, Suraimpur, Chhapra, Sonpur Jn., Hajipur Jn. & Muzaffarpur 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
05578	Anand Vihar (T)	05:15	Saharsa Jn.	10:30	Ghaziabad, Moradabad, Bareilly, Shahjahanpur, Sitapur Jn., Gonda Jn., Basti, Gorakhpur Jn., Kaptanganj Jn., Bagaha, Narkatlagan Jn., Raxaul Jn., Baraigania, Sitamarhi, Janakpur Road, Darbhanga Jn., Sakri Jn., Jhanjhanpur, Ghoghricha, Nirmali, Saraygarh, Supaul & Garh Barwari Stations
02394	New Delhi	13:20	Rajendra Nagar	07:45	Govindpur, Prayagraj Jn., Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Jn., Buxar, Ara, Danapur & Patna Jn. Stations
03698	Delhi Jn.	08:55	Gaya Jn.	00:30	Govindpur, Prayagraj Jn., Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Jn., Bhubua Road, Sasaram, Dehri On Sone & Anugrah Narayan Road Stations
03010	Anand Vihar (T)	00:30	Howrah Jn.	03:00	Tundia Jn., Etawah Jn., Govindpur, Fatehpur, Prayagraj Jn., Mirzapur, Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Jn., Bhubua Road, Sasaram, Dehri On Sone, Anugraha N Road, Gaya, Koderma, Dhanbad, Asansol Jn., Durgapur, Bardhaman & Bandel Stations
03436	Anand Vihar (T)	15:45	Maldia Town	23:30	Govindpur, Prayagraj Jn., Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Jn., Buxar, Ara, Patna Jn., Bakhtiyarpur Jn., Mokama, Kuli Jn., Abhaipur, Jamalpur Jn., Sultanjan, Bhagalpur, Khatlagan, Pirpani, Sahjanpur Jn., Barharwa Jn. & New Farakka Jn. Stations
04146	Delhi Jn.	09:30	Subedarganj	19:40	Aligarh Jn., Tundia Jn., Etawah, Govindpur & Fatehpur Stations
05204	Anand Vihar (T)	09:20	Muzaffarpur Jn.	05:00	Govindpur, Prayagraj Jn., Pt. Deen Upadhyaya Jn., Buxar, Ara, Danapur, Patliputra, Sonpur Jn. & Hajipur Jn. Stations
07708	Hazrat Nizamuddin	03:15	Charlapalli	09:30	Agra Cantt., Virangana Lakshmbai (Jhansi), Bina Jn., Rani Kamalapati (Bhopal), Nagpur, Chandrapur, Balharshah, Sirpur, Kaghaznagar, Mancherial, Riemagundam & Kazipet Jn. Stations
04012	Delhi Jn.	19:30	Darbhanga	16:30	Ghaziabad, Moradabad, Bareilly, Lucknow, Gonda, Basti, Gorakhpur Jn., Narkatlagan, Raxaul, Bahigania, Sitamarhi & Janakpur Road Stations

SPECIAL TRAINS RUNNING ON 19.03.2025 (WEDNESDAY) FROM DELHI AREA TERMINALS

Spl. Train No.	Station From	Dept. Time	Station To	Arr. Time	Stoppages
04068	Anand Vihar (T)	14:00	Bhagalpur	13:30	Govindpur, Prayagraj Jn., Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Jn., Buxar, Ara, Danapur, Patna Jn., Bakhtiyarpur Jn., Mokama, Hathidah Jn., Luckeesarai Jn., Kuli Jn., Abhaipur, Jamalpur Jn. & Sultanganj Stations
02436	New Delhi	08:30	Patna Jn.	20:10	Ghaziabad, Aligarh, Kanpur Central, Prayagraj Jn., Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Jn., Buxar & Ara 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, Narkatlagan Jn., Raxaul Jn., Baraigania, Sitamarhi, Janakpur Road, Darbhanga Jn., Sakri Jn., Jhanjhanpur, Ghoghricha, Nirmali, Saraygarh, Supaul & Garh Barwari Stations
02394	New Delhi	13:20	Rajendra Nagar	07:45	Govindpur, Prayagraj Jn., Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Jn., Buxar, Ara, Danapur & Patna Jn. Stations
05306	Anand Vihar (T)	00:20	Chhapra	22:50	Etawah, Kanpur Central, Aishbagh, Badshahganj, Barabanki Jn., Gonda Jn., Manikpur Jn., Mokama, Basili, Khalilabad, Gorakhpur, Kaptanganj Jn., Padrauna, Tamkuli Road, Thawe Jn. & Siwan Jn. Stations
03698	Delhi Jn.	08:55	Gaya Jn.	00:30	Govindpur, Prayagraj Jn., Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Jn., Bhubua Road, Sasaram, Dehri On Sone & Anugrah Narayan Road Stations
03414	Delhi Jn.	13:35	Maldia Town	17:30	Kanpur Central, Prayagraj Jn., Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Jn., Buxar, Ara, Patna Jn., Patna Sahab, Fatuha, Khusrapur, Bakhtiyarpur Jn., Barh, Mokama, Hathidah Jn., Barhiya, Luckeesarai Jn., Kuli Jn., Kagra, Abhaipur, Dharaha, Jamalpur Jn., Barerup, Sultanjan, Bhagalpur, Khatlagan, Sahjanpur Jn., Barharwa Jn., New Farakka Jn.
09004	Delhi Jn.	13:05	Mumbai Central	13:30	Delhi Cantt., Gurgaon, Rewari Jn., Alwar, Bandikui Jn., Gandhinagar, Jaipur, Jaisalpur Jn., Kishanganj, Ajmer Jn., Beawar, Marwar Jn., Falna, Pindwara, Abu Road, Palampur Jn., Mahesana Jn., Sabarmati BG, Vadodara Jn., Udhna Jn., Valsad, Vapi & Borivali 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 NTEs App.

The case came to light after the Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) reported thefts of copper cables on February 3 and 6 near metro tracks under the jurisdiction of Azadpur Metro Police Station," said Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP), Missioner, Hareshwar V. Swami.

KIND ATTENTION RAIL PASSENGERS!
POST HOLI FESTIVAL SPECIAL TRAINS-2025

For the convenience of passengers Railways have decided to run several post Holi Festival Special trains from Delhi area stations, the date wise list of the same is as under:-

SPECIAL TRAINS RUNNING ON 16.03.2025 (SUNDAY) FROM DELHI AREA TERMINALS

Spl. Train No.	Station From	Dept. Time	Station To	Arr. Time	Stoppages
04020	Anand Vihar (T)	19:30	Barauni Jn.	18:00	Ghaziabad, Moradabad, Bareilly, Lucknow Jn., Rae Bareilly Jn., Maia Belha Devi Dham Pratappgarh, Varanasi, Aunrihar Jn., Ghazipur City, Ballia, Suraimpur, Chhapra & Hajipur 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
04068	Anand Vihar (T)	14:00	Bhagalpur	13:30	Govindpur, Prayagraj Jn., Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Jn., Buxar, Ara, Danapur, Patna Jn., Bakhtiyarpur Jn., Mokama, Hathidah Jn., Luckeesarai Jn., Kuli Jn., Abhaipur, Jamalpur Jn. & Sultanganj Stations
02436	New Delhi (Vande Bharat Spl.)	08:30	Patna Jn. (Vande Bharat Spl.)	20:10	Ghaziabad, Aligarh, Kanpur Central, Prayagraj Jn., Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Jn., Buxar & Ara 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, Narkatlagan Jn., Raxaul Jn., Baraigania, Sitamarhi, Janakpur Road, Darbhanga Jn., Sakri Jn., Jhanjhanpur, Ghoghricha, Nirmali, Saraygarh, Supaul & Garh Barwari Stations
05220	Anand Vihar (T)	06:00	Muzaffarpur Jn.	00:45	Govindpur, Prayagraj Jn., Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Jn., Buxar, Ara, Danapur, Patliputra, Sonpur Jn. & Hajipur Jn. Stations
02962	Hazrat Nizamuddin	08:00	Sogaria	13:10	Malthura Jn., Bharatpur Jn., Bayana Jn., Hinduani City, Gangapur City & Sawai Madhopur Stn.
09726	Shakurbasti	15:50	Dahar Ka Balaji	22:50	Bahadurgarh, Aishah Bohar, Jhejar, Rewari Jn., Kund, Ateli, Namsal, Nizampur, Dabla, Maonda, Nim Ka Thana, Kanwat, Shri Madhopur, Ringas Jn., Govindgarh Malikpur, Chitram Sarnod & Nidhar Benar Stations
03698	Delhi Jn.	08:55	Gaya Jn.	00:30	Govindpur, Prayagraj Jn., Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Jn., Bhubua Road, Sasaram, Dehri On Sone & Anugrah Narayan Road Stations
02526	Anand Vihar (T)	17:20	Kamakhya Jn.	03:40	Aligarh Jn., Tundia Jn., Govindpur, Prayagraj Jn., Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Jn., Buxar, Ara, Danapur, Patliputra, Hajipur Jn., Barauni Jn., Begusarai, Khagaria Jn., Nalgopora, Sonpur Jn., Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Jn., Begusarai, New Jolepatti, New Cochin Behar, Tulanganj, Golekpur Jn., Gauripur, Bilsidara, Ahaypur, Assam & Goalpara Town Stations
03414	Delhi Jn.	13:35	Maldia Town	17:30	Kanpur Central, Prayagraj Jn., Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Jn., Buxar, Ara, Patna Jn., Patna Sahab, Fatuha, Khusrapur, Bakhtiyarpur Jn., Barh, Mokama, Hathidah Jn., Barhiya, Luckeesarai Jn., Kuli Jn., Kagra, Abhaipur, Dharaha, Jamalpur Jn., Barerup, Sultanganj, Bhagalpur, Khatlagan, Sahjanpur Jn., Barharwa Jn., New Farakka Jn. Stations
02962	Hazrat Nizamuddin	06:00	Sogaria	13:10	Ghaziabad, Aligarh Jn., Tundia Jn., Etawah Jn., Govindpur, Fatehpur, Prayagraj Jn., Shankargarh, Manikpur Jn., Satna, Muzbar & Katni Stations
01708	Anand Vihar (T)	18:05	Jabalpur Jn.	10:00	Govindpur, Prayagraj Jn., Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Jn., Buxar, Ara, Danapur & Patna Jn. Stations
02394	New Delhi	13:20	Rajendra Nagar	07:45	Govindpur, Prayagraj Jn., Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Jn., Buxar, Ara, Danapur & Patna Jn. Stations

SPECIAL TRAINS RUNNING ON 17.03.2025 (MONDAY) FROM DELHI AREA TERMINALS

Spl.

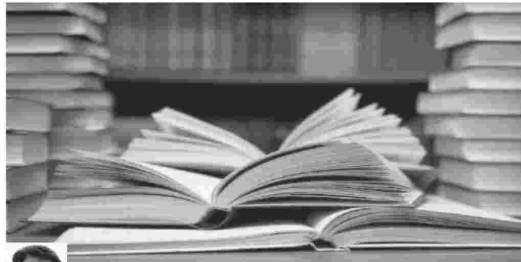
Theft in literature becomes a crutch for fame



By Dr Satyavan Saurabh

Plagiarism has become a major challenge in the literary field, where the ideas, words, or works of one author are claimed by another author without proper acknowledgment. This act not only violates literary ethics but also undermines the originality and creativity of the true author. The issue of copy-paste is becoming increasingly prevalent in Hindi literature, especially in this digital age, where articles, poems, and stories are easily available online. Plagiarism involves taking someone else's literature without giving credit or making minor changes to it and presenting it as one's own. This practice violates the rights of the original authors and suppresses creativity and originality. Some individuals go to the extent of claiming the literature of others as their own. One form of plagiarism involves changing the characters of the story and marketing it as an original work. This misdeed also involves people who present the famous works of established authors as their own, often trying to gain recognition and fame in the literary field.

Plagiarism occurs when someone presents another author's words as their own without giving permission or proper credit. This also includes situations



डॉ. सत्यवान सौरभ, चिंतक एवं स्तंभकार, हरियाणा

where an author reuses his or her own previously published literary work without proper citation. Additionally, if someone makes minor changes to someone else's content while keeping the original ideas and structure intact, that is also considered plagiarism. This problem is prevalent in various newspapers and magazines, and unfortunately, it continues to this day. There are many forms of plagiarism, and even duplication can be seen as creative theft. For example, many Hindi writers republish their works in various publications during festivals such as Holi or Diwali. The lack of a strong review culture has made plagiarism a disturbing aspect of literature. Nowadays, anyone can get a work published

without any scrutiny, leading to a situation where the original author is left out. It has become common for 'private' courses to take the works of famous authors and publish them under their own name. Criticism alone seems insufficient to end this practice. Plagiarism is not just a crutch for new writers or those seeking fame; even established Hindi writers make slight changes to others' works and pass them off as their own. There have been many instances of plagiarism in literary discussions, in which some writers have been accused of including parts of famous books in their works, which ultimately harmed their reputation.

When using another author's work or ideas,

it is essential to give proper credit. Embrace original writing by expressing your own ideas and style, ensuring that new perspectives and creativity thrive in Hindi literature. Avoid unintentionally copying the work of others. Hindi writers should secure copyrights for their creations to protect their intellectual property. Maintain literary ethics, and both writers and readers should unite against plagiarism by advocating originality. Critics play a vital role in the fight against plagiarism. Sadly, many editors in the publishing industry do not fully understand the nuances of literature. This lack of understanding of the history of the text further adds to the irony of the issue. To effectively evaluate

original literary works, anyone working as an editor of columns or magazines must have a strong foundation and knowledge in literature. The growing problem of plagiarism and copy-paste in Hindi literature is worrying, but effective measures can be taken to deal with it. It is necessary to promote awareness and follow ethical standards to maintain the uniqueness of literature and protect the rights of authors. By ensuring originality in literary works, we can pave the way for a bright future of Hindi literature. Plagiarism undermines the honesty of authors and reduces the authenticity of literary works. Preserving originality is important to promote innovation and encourage free expression in the literary world. Therefore, all authors should strive to keep their work creative and original while maintaining ethical practices.

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

A debate has recently erupted over the selection of a song by a writer from Haryana as the state anthem, which has been accused of plagiarism. Other writers have expressed their concern over the matter and brought it to the attention of the state's Chief Minister.

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 one correct solution.

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

Solution, Sudoku

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

THE WISDOM TREE BY SUVEEN KUMAR

SHARE YOUR TIME

If you are not willing to share your time with people, you should not expect them share their happiness with you. You have some spiritual existence when you give sometime to yourself and you have some social existence when you give some time to people, not having time, not using time and not giving time are three different things however for may of us it is a same thing, share your time to someone who needs it the most and sometimes it is you and sometimes it other, you are not wealthy of time if you have a lot of it, you are wealthy of time when you use it best of it. if you have time then give it, use it else it will be lost, we all are made of time but only a few of us are made by time, time is the only medium to share anything and everything, no matter how small or how big it is, no matter how long or how quick it is, the longevity of the relationship depends upon

the amount of time we share and the intensity of the relationship depends upon the amount of attention we share, time is most important and absolutely free thing to share, all it cost is some life, sharing time is sharing your life, if your life is important, your time is important but if your life is important, the relationship is mistaken, you can't have both worlds if you don't live in there equally.

the reason we don't value time even after listening its importance, finding its importance and realizing its importance because we get it for free, Time is a blank paper, before you sell it make sure it is precious.



Moral: Save relationship and spend time, don't spend relationship and save time.

India's Roadmap to Economic Power

Skill is the ability to do something well through learning, practice, and experience. Innovation is the process of creating new ideas, methods or products to improve the existing ones. Innovation comes from creativity and thinking differently to find better solutions. Strengthening both skill and innovation will drive technological advancements and fuel economic growth.

Countries having developed skills and urge to further enhance them as per demand of the market has made them technologically stronger and economically powerful in the world. These countries do not merely make claims but take action as per their will and requirement that shapes the world.

India too is moving on the path of progress since Independence but even then our country is lagging behind economic giants like the U.S., China, Japan, and Germany. As of 2024 (Wikipedia data), India holds the fifth-largest economy (\$4.27 trillion), behind the U.S. (\$30.34 trillion) and China (\$19.53 trillion). Russia, at 11th place, has a marginal (current) GDP of less than \$2.2 trillion.

Now, to bridge this huge gap, India has to prioritize its needs and goals. Needless to say, we had made a tremendous progress in every sector but yet fail to compete the exponential growth of economy of many leading countries of the world. It's a bitter truth, We must accept it and work hard, firstly, to attain self-sufficiency and secondly to become a potential exporter in major sectors than importer in various sectors. This is feasible only if demand oriented new skills are identified, developed and incor-



porated for modernizing industries of different sectors. India is far behind, in the advancement of many skills, innovations and technological developments, in most of the sectors. We must accept this hard reality. The reasons may be one or many, but the undeniable truth is that mastering diverse skills is the only way to navigate emerging geopolitical crises and compete in the global market for wealth and power.

A nation can become self-reliant only when its industries are competitive globally, ensuring profitability while maintaining innovation and expansion both nationally and internationally. So our foremost focus should be on skill development, innovation and enrichment in technology advancements as per the need.

Since India stands at a crucial juncture where quality skills, entrepreneurship, and the utilization of modern technology can transform industries into highly profitable ventures.

By adopting time-saving, cost-effective and demand-oriented skills, businesses can devel-

op and grow in the international market. The key lies in creating unique, attractive and high-quality products that appeal to consumers while ensuring affordability.

India can sustain long-term economic growth, create millions of jobs and strengthen its position as a leading global economy by nurturing an entrepreneurial mindset among youths, promoting financial literacy and making strategic investments in infrastructure and digital transformation.

It is well said that a robust economy demands continuous innovations, ultra modern skills, industrial expansion and dedication of youth in strengthening India's global economy. The New Education Policy (NEP) 2020 is a crucial step in fostering skill-based learning, improving employability, and increasing global competitiveness.

Strengthening research institutions and investing in cutting-edge technologies such as artificial intelligence, quantum computing, space exploration and local manufacturing will propel India's economic growth and global standing. Encouraging scientific research and technological advancement in sectors such as healthcare, infrastructure, and cybersecurity will further solidify India's economic position.

A strong economy requires both a growing public sector and a dynamic private sector. Healthy competition, teamwork, and fair profits will drive national progress. Encouraging entrepreneurship and supporting small businesses will boost industrial output. Reducing reliance on imports will strengthen the economy. Investing in infrastructure, modern agriculture, and renewable energy will further improve economic stability.

A shift from a consumption-driven to a production-based economy is essential. Promoting local manufacturing, innovation hubs, and high-quality standards will help India compete globally. Strengthening vocational education, digital literacy, and financial inclusion will create a skilled workforce ready for global challenges. Adopting new technologies like blockchain, automation, and green energy will modernize industries and enhance effi-

India too is moving on the path of progress since Independence but even then our country is lagging behind economic giants like the U.S., China, Japan, and Germany.

TOP STORY

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Explosion targets temple in Amritsar

opposition slams AAP government

■ Punjab Police said it suspects the role of Pakistan's spy agency Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) in the attack on Thakur Dwar temple and vowed to apprehend the culprits soon.

Amritsar
A blast occurred outside a temple in Amritsar around midnight when an unidentified attacker who came on a motorcycle hurled an explosive device towards the building, damaging a portion of its wall and shattering window panes, officials said on Saturday.

Punjab Police said it suspects the role of Pakistan's spy agency Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) in the attack on Thakur Dwar temple and vowed to apprehend the culprits soon.

There have been many incidents of explosions targeting police posts in Amritsar and Gurdaspur in the past four months but this is the first such attack on a temple.

While no one was hurt in the incident which was captured on CCTV, the explosion caused panic among residents in the Khandwala area of Amritsar.

Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann said the Amritsar incident was a handiwork of fissiparous forces that want to destabilise the peace but they will never succeed in their design.

Opposition parties alleged that it was proof of the "collapse" of the law and order under the AAP government.

Amritsar Police Commis-



sioner Gurpreet Singh Bhullar said the police were informed about the incident at around 2 am on Saturday by the temple priest.

CCTV footage of the incident showed two unidentified persons coming to the temple on a motorcycle which had a flag. One person got down and, after a while, hurled a explosive device towards the temple. The two then fled from the site and the blast occurred.

Security has been stepped up around the explosion site and the police have covered the damaged wall with a green net.

Bhullar said police teams were trying to trace the men involved in the blast and they would be nabbed soon. "Our teams are following

them. Like we had traced earlier incidents, this incite will also be traced," he said.

He suspected the role of Pakistan's ISI behind the incident.

"I want to warn all the youths not to fall into the trap of Pakistan's ISI. All the previous incidents have been traced and the accused have been arrested. It came to the fore that the accused belonged to economically weaker families and they did all for the money.

"I want to warn them not to destroy their lives. The police will take strictest action against them," said Bhullar. Unconfirmed reports claimed a grenade was used in the attack.

A forensic team has col-

lected samples from the spot. Bhullar said, adding the nature of explosives will be ascertained after necessary examination.

Bhullar said the police have captured CCTV footage from different nearby cameras.

At the time of the attack, the priest of the temple was sleeping inside the temple and woke up to the sound of the explosion.

Chief Minister Mann said many attempts have been made from time to time to disturb Punjab but the state police has taken timely action against such elements.

"Punjab is completely safe in terms of law and order," he told reporters in Chandigarh. He stressed that mutual

brotherhood and peace would be maintained in the state.

Being a border state, a number of forces inimical to the state have been chalking out nefarious designs to disrupt the hard-earned peace of Punjab, Mann later said in a statement.

However, he said that the vigilant Punjab Police has always foiled such attempts.

Mann said the Amritsar incident was also the handiwork of the fissiparous forces that want to destabilise the peace, progress and prosperity of the state.

He said that the state government will never allow these forces to succeed in their nefarious designs and all their conspiracies will be foiled.

Mann also stressed that the law and order situation in Punjab is much better than in other states.

The Congress, the BJP and the Shivrajni Akali Dal targeted the AAP government after the incident.

"I strongly condemn the bomb attack on Thakur Dwar temple, Khandwala in Amritsar. AAP government fails to check repeated incidents of blasts in the border city. Deteriorating law and order in Punjab is a matter of serious concern," Union Minister Ravi Prakash Singh said on X.

Punjab Congress chief

Amrinder Singh Raja Warring also condemned the incident, saying this time a temple was targeted.

"Yet another grenade attack in Amritsar, this time targeting a temple in the Khandwala area. There is an atmosphere of fear prevailing in Punjab, and people are genuinely feeling insecure. It's high time the @AAP Punjab government wakes up from its deep slumber and takes action," said Warring in a post on X.

Senior Akali leader Bireen Singh Majithia said it was a "law and order failure."

Another SAD leader Diljit Singh Cheema sought a judicial probe into the incident to identify the perpetrators and unearth the conspiracy, aimed at disturbing peace and communal harmony in the state.

"This is the 13th such blast in the area and is proof of the complete collapse of law and order in the state," said Cheema.

BJP national general secretary Tarun Chugh sought a CBI investigation to expose the forces attempting to disturb law and order in Punjab.

Expressing serious concern over the repeated attacks, Chugh said the AAP government has "completely failed to control disruptive elements in the state."

UP CM Yogi orders crackdown on land encroachment

Gorakhpur

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, on Saturday, directed officials to take immediate action to reclaim illegally occupied land belonging to the poor and enforce strict measures against encroachers.

Emphasizing zero tolerance for land grabbing, he warned that those who unlawfully seize land or displace the vulnerable will face severe legal consequences. After celebrating Holi in Gorakhpur, CM Yogi attended the Janata Darshan program at Gorakhnath Temple on Saturday morning, addressing public grievances.

Seated outside the Mahant Digvijayanath Smriti Sahbagar, nearly 200 people shared their concerns with the Chief Minister. CM Yogi assured them that no injustice would be allowed under his leadership.

He instructed officials to resolve issues promptly and effectively, reaffirming the government's commitment to addressing the concerns of every distressed citizen. "Our government is dedicated to ensuring justice for all and fostering prosperity for every individual," he emphasized.

During the Janata Darshan program, a man raised concerns about land grabbers illegally occupying his property. In response, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath promptly directed police and administrative officials to take swift action and ensure the land was reclaimed.



Emphasizing a zero-tolerance policy on encroachment, he asserted that no one would be allowed to seize another person's land.

Many people approached CM Yogi seeking financial assistance for medical treatment. He assured them that the government would provide full support for their treatment. Handing over their applications to officials, he directed them to expedite necessary estimates and forward them for approval.

Addressing issues related to police and revenue departments, CM Yogi stressed transparency and fairness, ensuring that no one faces injustice. He instructed officials to handle each case with sensitivity and provide the necessary help to every victim.

Several attendees brought their children to the event, where CM Yogi interacted warmly with them, asking their names and inquiring about their schooling. He gifted them chocolates and encouraged them to study hard.

Criminal held following exchange of fire in Faridkot: Punjab Police

Chandigarh

Punjab Police on Saturday said it had nabbed an absconding operative of the foreign-based gangster Gaurav alias Lucky Patil and the Davinder Bambhha gang after a brief exchange of fire in Faridkot.

Manpreet Singh alias Mani, a native of Bahawalpur in Moga, was arrested in a joint operation by the Anti-Gangster Task Force (AGTF) and Faridkot Police, Director General of Police (DGP) Gaurav Yadav said.

Police also arrested his two accomplices, Jagmeet Singh alias Meeta of Chania in Faridkot and Akashdeep Singh of Mehna in Ferozpur, for providing him shelter and logistic support.

The development came shortly after Punjab Police arrested Mani's co-accused, Malkit Singh alias Manu, from Moga, after recovering a .32 caliber pistol along with four cartridges from his possession on Wednesday.

Malkit Singh, along with Mani, executed an attack on his rival in village Kapura in Moga, resulting in the murder of one individual and a woman sustaining a bullet injury to her leg on February 19, DGP Yadav said.

Both arrested persons were also involved in a firing incident that took place at Raja Dhaba in Jagraon on February 26, which was orchestrated by the foreign-based gangster Lucky Patil, he added.

The DGP said that further investigations are underway to establish backward and forward linkages in this case.

Sharing operational details, Additional Director General of Police (ADGP) AGTF, Promod Ban, said that following the arrest of Malkit alias Manu, AGTF teams gathered clues from his interrogation and zeroed in on his accomplice, Mani, in the Faridkot area.

Bilaspur shooting incident has exposed complete lawlessness in HP: LoP

Rajan Panchhi Mandi/Shimla

Former Chief Minister and Leader of the Opposition Jairam Thakur has alleged that the Bilaspur shooting incident that injured Congress MLA and his PSO has exposed complete collapse of law and order in Himachal Pradesh.

In a statement on Saturday, Thakur blamed the Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu led Congress government of lacking seriousness in improving the law and order situation, which has led to incidents like the Bilaspur shooting.

Thakur emphasized that this is not the first time such an incident has occurred in Bilaspur.

Previously, a similar incident took place, but the police failed to take strict action, he said, demanding the government to take



Thakur emphasized that this is not the first time such an incident has occurred in Bilaspur.

immediate and strict action to prevent such incidents in the future.

He said that a thorough probe should be ordered to uncover the conspiracy

behind the incident. He also emphasized that the police should focus on maintaining law and order instead of spying on opposition leaders and their offices.

Charging Sukhu of using CID to spy on opposition leaders, their activities and offices, Thakur said that the Chief Minister should instead focus on maintaining law and order.

Haryana CM directs strict measures for flood control & Yamuna cleanliness

Komal Ramola Chandigarh

Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini has instructed all Deputy Commissioners to ensure the desilting of drains and canals in their respective areas and to take effective measures to prevent waterlogging ahead of the upcoming monsoon season. Chairing the 56th meeting of the Haryana State Drought Relief and Flood Control Board, the Chief Minister emphasized the need for robust infrastructure in cities and villages to prevent floodwaters from entering homes and agricultural fields.

The Chief Minister stressed the importance of constructing stone studs, stone steining, remodeling drains, and setting up permanent pump houses. He also highlighted the need for laying pipelines in low-lying areas and ensuring the prop-



er outfall of floodwater. An online portal will be created to monitor the functionality of flood control structures, and Deputy Commissioners will be responsible for surveying all existing stone studs. Strict action, including FIR registration, will be taken against contractors found negligent in maintaining these structures.

Additionally, the Chief Minister directed the desilting of all major canals in the state and the timely repair of

old canals. He instructed officials to prepare a priority list for these projects and ensure that all pending work is completed promptly. He emphasized that these cleanliness and maintenance efforts should be implemented uniformly across all regions to ensure balanced development throughout Haryana.

During the meeting, the Haryana State Drought Relief and Flood Control Board approved 352 flood control schemes amounting to Rs

657.99 crore, funded through both the State Head and the Haryana Water Resources Authority (HwRA). The Chief Minister directed that short-term schemes and the procurement of pumps be completed by June 30, while medium and long-term projects proposed by the Irrigation and Water Resources Department will be taken up following a pre-flood review meeting in May. Officials reported that 619 flood control schemes have been completed, while work is in progress on 302 additional schemes. The meeting also reviewed the procurement of pumps, motors, and pipelines for de-watering waterlogged areas with high subsurface water levels.

In a strong directive, the Chief Minister ordered that no sewage water or polluted drain should be discharged into the Yamuna River.

Chandigarh

Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann on Saturday said foreign-trained teachers are acting as a catalyst of the "education revolution" in the state by further improving the standard of education.

He flagged off a batch of 72 teachers here for training in Finland.

Mann said education, health and power had acquired a centre stage in the political agenda of the political parties due to the concerted efforts of the AAP and its national convener Arvind Kejriwal.

Prior to this, none of the political parties had ever

bothered about these core sectors that have been most important for a common man, he said.

It is a matter of immense pride and satisfaction that



Punjab has hitherto sent 234 principals and education officers for a five-day leadership development programme to Singapore and 72 primary cadre teachers to Turkey, Finland.

Mann said apart from this, three batches of 152 headmaster and education

officers were sent to IIM Ahmedabad.

During training, these teachers are equipped with modern teaching practices prevalent abroad and after their return, they share practices with students and their colleagues thereby ensuring that students get acquainted with the

pattern of study abroad.

Mann said this is a path breaking initiative which is rejuvenating the entire education system of state for the well-being of students with these teachers actually acting as agents of change in the education sector by ensuring quality education to students.

He said this out of box idea is giving major thrust to the "education revolution" in the state by bringing the much needed qualitative change in the education system of the state.

These teachers are selected purely on the basis of merit and in a transparent manner so that only deserving teachers get a chance to go abroad, he said.

Mann said only those teachers who are recommended by at least to students taught by them are selected for this training programme abroad.

3 Babbar Khalsa International operatives held from Bihar says Punjab Police

Chandigarh

The Punjab Police on Saturday claimed to have busted a narco-terror module linked to the banned terrorist outfit Babbar Khalsa International (BKI) with the arrest of three of its key operatives from Bihar while they were attempting to flee to Nepal.

Director General of Police (DGP) Gaurav Yadav said those arrested have been identified as Karandeep Yadav (21), Mukesh Kumar (29) and Sajjan Singh (24), all residents of Khandwala Chiehartia in Amritsar.

Three mobile phones and Nepali currency notes were seized from them, the Punjab Police chief said.

The development came following investigations and sustained follow-up of backward and forward

linkages in the arrest of Joban Singh and Gurbaksh Singh after recovering 290 grams of heroin from their possession.

Yadav said preliminary investigations revealed that the arrested accused were working on the directions of Pakistan-based BKI mastermind Harwinder Rinda.

The DGP said the arrested individuals, who were residing in Amritsar's Khandwala and Chiehartia areas, were apprehended from Madhepur in Bihar when they were planning to flee to Nepal.

"The trio are being brought back to Punjab for further interrogation," he added.

The probe has revealed that Karandeep Yadav had delivered the grenades and weapons that were recovered from Tarn Taran in January this year, he said.

Kejriwal arrives in Amritsar after 10-day Vipassana in Hoshiarpur

Amritsar/Hoshiarpur

AAP national convener and former Delhi chief minister Arvind Kejriwal arrived here on Saturday after completing 10-day Vipassana meditation session in Hoshiarpur.

Kejriwal took part in the session at the Dhamma Dhaba Vipassana Centre (DDVC) in Anandgarh village.

Party sources said he will stay in Amritsar till Monday.

Kejriwal is staying at the residence of former cabinet minister and MLA Dr. Indarbir Nijjar.

Party sources further said Kejriwal along with Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann on Sunday will pay obeisance at the Golden Temple, Durgiana Temple and Valmiki Thirth Sital here on the completion of three years of the AAP government in Punjab.

SPORT

Kolkata Knight Riders aim for back-to-back IPL titles under new leadership

Kolkata
The defending champions Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR) are gearing up for the upcoming Indian Premier League (IPL) 2025 season with a renewed sense of purpose under fresh leadership.

In a recent press conference, new captain Ajinkya Rahane, mentor Dwayne Bravo, head coach Chandrakant Pandit, and vice-captain Venkatesh Iyer shared their thoughts on the upcoming season and the team's preparations.

Rahane, who takes over as captain of the reigning champions, expressed his gratitude for the opportunity. "It's an honour for me to lead this wonderful franchise. I'm really thankful and grateful to the management for giving me this opportunity," said Rahane, as quoted by the KKR press release.

The experienced batter acknowledged the challenge of defending the title but remained focused on the immediate future.

"For me, it is always about keeping it simple... We will obviously give our best this season," Rahane added.

When asked about his batting position, Rahane emphasized a team-first mentality. "I have always played wherever the team wanted me to play. Team thinking has always come first."



Mentor Dwayne Bravo outlined his approach to continuing the team's success. "It would be disrespectful of me to try to change some of the good things from the last season," Bravo explained.

He also expressed his enthusiasm about working with team owner Shah Rukh Khan. "It's good to have a boss like Shah Rukh who is definitely really invested in the game... That energy and that vibe, I'm going to try to bring that here as well."

Vice-captain Venkatesh Iyer, who commanded a significant price at the

auction, was excited about working with Bravo.

"He's been the most successful T20 player in history, so he brings a lot of experience to the table," said Iyer. "Nothing can beat experience. He's played so many games; he's won so many games for West Indies and the franchises that he's played for," Iyer said as the KKR press release added.

When questioned about handling the pressure of his price tag, Iyer took a pragmatic approach. "It exists. You can't ignore it altogether, but when the

TATA IPL slants, it really doesn't matter. You're a part of playing XI, a part of a team that is going out there to win."

Head coach Chandrakant Pandit, who has worked with Rahane previously, spoke about the team's preparation for their opening match against Royal Challengers Bengaluru on March 22.

"Every match is different, and we have been preparing since the Mumbai camp and now we have started the camp here as well... we are going to play as hard as possible," Chandrakant Pandit said.

Regarding the team composition, Pandit highlighted the confidence gained from international experience. "The advantage that we're going to get is the confidence level that they're going to carry from the international level to KKR."

"The team is looking forward to playing at their home ground, with Rahane noting: 'It's good to be back at Eden Gardens and we always love to play at Eden Gardens. The atmosphere, the energy, the passion which all the fans have.'"

With a strong core of retained players, experienced leadership, and the backing of passionate fans at Eden Gardens, KKR appears well-positioned to defend their title in the upcoming TATA IPL 2025 season.

Nitish Reddy clears fitness test set to join Sunrisers Hyderabad camp ahead of IPL

New Delhi
Sunrisers Hyderabad (SRH) has received a significant boost ahead of the Indian Premier League (IPL) 2025 season, as all-rounder Nitish Reddy has successfully cleared a fitness test after recovering from a side strain injury.

Reddy previously suffered a side strain injury but is now completely healed. Although he was excluded from India's Champions Trophy squad due to his injury, he passed the necessary Yo-Yo test; his score was 18, according to ESPN cricinfo press release.

Reddy's return to fitness is welcome news for SRH, which was defeated in the final against Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR) last year. With Reddy's addition, SRH gains batting depth and more bowling options, making them a stronger contender for the IPL 2025 title.

The IPL 2025 season is scheduled to commence on March 22, and Sunrisers Hyderabad will be eager to resolve the incomplete matters. They were defeated in the final against KKR last year in what became a lopsided match.



Reddy, who was retained by SRH in the mega-auction 2025, is expected to join the team's pre-tournament camp starting on Sunday. He had an impressive 2024 IPL season, scoring 303 runs in 13 matches with a strike rate of 142.2 and taking three wickets, added

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Avani Prashanth emerges the top Indian in Australian Women's Classic

Coffs Harbour
It was a tough day for the Indian duo in the opening round of the 2025 Australian Women's Classic. Rookie Avani Prashanth with 2-over 72 was the best at Tied-55th, while Pranavi Urs (73) and Diksha Dagar (74) were further behind in T-79th and T-88th places. They were also hit by a lack of any practice rounds at a course which took a beating because of a cyclone, according to the Australian Women's Classic press release.

Welsh rookie Darcy Harry, Sweden's Moa Folke and Austria's Emma Spitz are the early leaders after the trio opened with superb 6-under 64 each at Coffs Harbour Golf Club.

It has been a tough two weeks for the Ladies European Tour (LET) and WPGA Tour after last week's event was canceled due to Cyclone Alfred in New South Wales. This week, the tournament has been reduced to 54 holes. The 132 players in the field got their first look at the course in round one.

Avani, a multiple winner on the Hero Women's Pro Tour, while being an amateur, has now turned pro, and in her first event as a pro in Morocco, she was T-16. She had two bogeys and no birdies on the Par-70 course.

Pranavi, who missed the cut in her first event of 2025 in Saudi, had two birdies against five bogeys, while Diksha, who was the runner-up in Morocco, had just one birdie against five bogeys in her 74.

But for Harry, Folke and Spitz, a lack of practice was no hindrance as all three made scorching starts on Friday to lead by two shots.

Darcy Harry got the ball rolling as she lit up the putter, converting four birdies to go out in 30 (-4). The 21-year-old, competing in only her second LET event, followed this up with back-to-back birdies at the 11th and 12th. Despite dropping a shot at the par-4 13th, Harry bounced back well with birdies on the 14th to post a 64 (-6).

Two groups behind, Folke led a charge of her own, putting on a greenless display of fairway and green hitting. After being one-under par at the turn Folke capitalised on her great target play, rolling in birdies at the 10th, 11th, 12th, 14th and 15th to fire a bogey-free scorecard.

Spitz joined the leaders thanks to seven birdies, including four in a row on her back-nine at the 3rd, 4th, 5th and 6th. After missing the green short on her final hole, the par-4 9th, the Olympian was close to chipping in to take the outright lead.

This is a young team, and we want to play fearless cricket: Salman Agha

New Delhi
Pakistan will play a five-match T-20 series in New Zealand, followed by three ODI matches. The series will begin with the T-20 series on March 16 at Christchurch Hagley Oval.

Salman Agha, Pakistan's newly appointed T20 captain, has highlighted the necessity of enhancing their mindset and strategy and the importance of playing "fearless" and "high-risk cricket." For repeatedly questioning the strike rate in T-20 cricket, Babar Azam and Mohammad Rizwan are out altogether, eyeing the T-20 World Cup next year.

Saim Ayub is still out due to his injury. Pakistan has a very new team for this series, so it will be difficult for them to play against the CT 2025 runner-ups. New Zealand will also be missing a few key players due to IPL 2025.

Fast bowler Matt Henry rejoins the squad after being absent for the Champions Trophy final versus India in Dubai. In the fast bowling lineup, Will O'Rourke and Kyle Jamieson will participate in the initial three matches as Kane Williamson has decided to skip the series.

Salman Agha has been named Pakistan's new T-20 captain, while Shadab Khan, who is making his T-20 return in this series, has been named as his deputy. Michael Bracewell has been named captain of New Zealand because



Mitchell Santner is unavailable due to his IPL commitments.

The surface at Hagley Oval is commonly recognised for benefiting batsmen. Teams that bat second have experienced a greater success rate at Hagley Oval in T20 internationals.

Before the series started, Kiwi skipper Michael Bracewell spoke about the new-looking Pakistan squad. He said new players are coming onto their team; they are unknown, but he felt that if they do everything according to plan, that'll be good for anyone against them.

"We've probably had a bit more of focus on ourselves. With a few new young players coming into the Pakistan side, there is a bit of the unknown. But I think as long as we know what we are trying to do, that'll be good enough for anyone that comes up against us," Michael Bracewell said, as per a quote from ESPNcricinfo.

"Only trophy she hasn't had...": DC aim to win maiden IPL crown for skipper Meg Lanning

Mumbai
Ahead of the Women's Premier League 2025 final against Mumbai Indians on Saturday at Mumbai, Delhi Capitals' left-arm spinner Jess Jonassen said that the team will try to win this trophy for skipper and opener Meg Lanning as this is the only trophy which she has not won in her cricketing career.

After narrowly missing out on the Women's Premier League (WPL) title twice, Meg Lanning-led Delhi Capitals side will lock horns with Harmanpreet Kaur's Mumbai Indians in the final of the ongoing Women's Premier League 2025 final in search of their maiden title at the Brabourne Stadium in Mumbai.

Speaking ahead of the clash, Jonassen said it would be very satisfying and relieving for everyone if the team goes on to lift the title.

"We've been so close the last two seasons and obviously for me as well being able to play a lot of cricket alongside Meg as well and with her captaining us it's sort of it's almost like the only trophy she hasn't had. So you almost want to get it for people like her, and I know that the group has worked so hard over these first few seasons, and yeah, it's been pretty heartbreaking the last two seasons to sort of leave our worst game for the biggest game of the year. So yeah, I think it would be really sat-



isfying and almost a relief if it happens," Jess Jonassen said in a video posted by Delhi Capitals on X.

The Australian left-arm spinner has taken 11 wickets in seven innings so far while playing for the Delhi Capitals in the ongoing WPL 2025, averaging 19 and best figures of 4/31.

On the other hand, the Delhi Capitals skipper is currently the fourth-highest run-scorer in the ongoing WPL 2025. The 21-year-old has scored 263 runs in eight innings at a strike rate of 117.93, an average of 37.57, three fifty, and a best score of 92.

DC directly qualified for the WPL 2025 final after topping the league

stage with 10 points, having won five times and lost three. They will head into Saturday's final on the back of a loss against the Gujarat Giants in their last league game.

The Mumbai Indians, on the other hand, finished second in the WPL 2025 standings behind Delhi Capitals on Net Run Rate (NRR). They will head into the final after beating the Gujarat Giants by 47 runs in the eliminator on Thursday.

Delhi Capitals and Mumbai Indians have met seven times in the WPL, with DC leading the charts 4-3. The Capitals also won both league-stage clashes this season.

India shine with 15 medals on Day 3 and 4 of Special Olympics World Winter Games

New Delhi
India's remarkable run at the Special Olympics Winter Games continued on day three and four, with the athletes adding as many as 15 more medals to the tally. With this latest achievement, India's total medal count has now risen to 24, building on the nine medals secured in the earlier events, as per the Special Olympics Bharat press release.

In Alpine Skiing, Deepak Thakur and Giridhar displayed exceptional skill to clinch gold medals in the Intermediate Super G M04 and M05 categories, respectively, while Abhishek Kumar secured a silver in the Novice Super G M01 category. Radha Devi also delivered a stellar performance, earning a silver medal in the Intermediate Super G F03 event.

Adding to India's success on the ice, Ziara Parter showcased impressive speed and determination to claim silver medals in the 111M F1 event and 222M F2 event of short-track speed skating, while Tanshu won a bronze in the 77M M2 category and a silver in the 500M M3 category.

The country's presence in Cross Country Skiing was also felt as Akriti put in a commendable effort to secure a bronze medal in the 50M



Classical Technique Final F03. India's Snowshoeing athletes also delivered some stellar performances, further boosting the medal count. Vasu Tiwari secured a gold medal in the 50M Race M03 category, while Jahangir and Tanya won silver medals in the 50M Race M04 and F02 categories, respectively. Shalini Chauhan added to the tally with a bronze in the 50M Race F03 category. In the 200M Race, Anil Kumar emerged victorious with a gold

medal in the M12 division, while Harleen Kaur clinched silver in the F12 division.

With these achievements, India's athletes continue to shine on the global stage, proving their resilience, hard work, and sporting spirit. Hosting around 1500 athletes from 102 countries, the Special Olympics World Winter Games aim to boost inclusivity in the world of sports, providing everybody an equal chance at gaining recognition.

M.R. Rao and Avni Juneja to headline Mumbai Walkathon

Mumbai
M.R. Rao, an 84-year-old walking enthusiast, and five-year-old Avni Juneja will be the key highlights of the Mumbai Walkathon, set to take place in suburban Juhu on Sunday, March 16. The event will be flagged off at JVPD Grounds, Juhu, guiding participants past Amitabh Bachchan's residence, towards Juhu Beach, and back.

The 84-year-old M.R. Rao and five-year-old Avni Juneja, both hailing from Mumbai, the capital of Maharashtra, will be the center of attention on Sunday. Their participation serves as an inspiring example for everyone, showcasing that walking is for all ages.

In this inaugural edition, women have outnumbered men in registrations across all three categories.

Bhavesh Trivedi, a quadriplegic runner, is Maharashtra's wheelchair rugby team captain and national champion. The first quadriplegic wheelchair athlete to participate in 57 long-distance runs, including two walkathon events.

The other participant is Nihad Panju, who holds the India Book of Records for completing the most half marathons and the fastest half marathon with Hemiplegia, setting new benchmarks in endurance



sports. Eight participants will celebrate their birthdays by joining the Walkathon and committing to year-round fitness. Ten participants with prosthetic legs will also showcase their determination and indomitable spirit.

A large number of participants have already registered for the grand event, which will feature different categories like the 10km Pro Walk, 5km family walk, and 3km fun walk.

Walking has several benefits, such as aiding in weight loss and helping to keep oneself fit.

“Hope that current federation will work honestly and will bring wrestling back on track”: Brij Bhushan Singh after revocation of ban on WFI



PM Modi to visit Sri Lanka next month

Colombo: Prime Minister Narendra Modi will arrive in Sri Lanka early next month to finalise agreements reached during President Anura Kumara Dissanayake's visit to Delhi last year, a minister said on Saturday.

Foreign Minister Vijitha Herath made the statement while responding to a question on budget allocation debate in the parliament here.

"We have maintained a close relationship with our neighbour India. Our first diplomatic visit was to India, where we reached several agreements on bilateral cooperation," Herath said.

"Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi will arrive here early April," he added.

Herath said that during PM Modi's visit, several new memoranda of understandings will be signed, in addition to the opening of the Sampur solar power station.

In 2023, the state power entity Ceylon Electricity Board and India's NTPC agreed to build a 135 MW solar power plant in Sampur town of eastern Trincomalee district.

Herath said the National People's Power (NPP) government's goodwill policy towards India has resulted in many benefits to the island nation, including several ongoing Indian projects.

"We will remain neutral on our foreign policy without taking any sides while working to maintain national interest," Herath said.

US imposes sanctions on Thai officials after Uyghur men deported to China

Washington: The US State Department on Friday announced sanctions on an unknown number of current and former Thai officials for their role in deporting at least 40 Uyghur men to China despite worries that they could be jailed or even face death there.

Secretary of State Marco Rubio said he was immediately moving to impose visa restrictions on current and former officials responsible for or complicit in the deportations. No Thai official has been named. The visa restrictions were not explained but can entail a denial of entry to the US.

"We are committed to combating China's efforts to pressure governments to forcibly return Uyghurs and other groups to China, where they are subject to torture and enforced disappearances," Rubio said in a statement.



The Thai Ministry of Foreign Affairs on Saturday said it had multiple times clarified with countries that have conveyed their concerns over the safety of the men that China assured they scheduled a trip to visit the men in China next week. A number of Thai journalists were invited to join them.

The Uyghurs are a Turkic, majority Muslim group native to Xinjiang in China's far west. After decades of conflict with Beijing over discrimination and suppression of their cultural identity, the Chinese government launched a brutal crackdown on the Uyghurs that some Western governments deem a genocide.

More than 300 Uyghurs fleeing China were detained in 2014 by Thai authorities. By February, 48 Uyghurs remained in Thai detention when authorities prepared to send

them back to China despite calls from Thai lawmakers and international officials not to do so. Rubio condemned the return "in the strongest possible terms," saying "Uyghurs have faced persecution, forced labour, and torture" in China.

"We are committed to combating China's efforts to pressure governments to forcibly return Uyghurs and other groups to China, where they are subject to torture and enforced disappearances," Rubio said in a statement.

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In Facebook posts, the Chinese Embassy in Bangkok said 40 Chinese nationals who had been "smuggled" were repatriated to Xinjiang on a chartered flight and they had "all returned home and reunited with their families after more than 10 years."

Israeli says it killed Hezbollah member in drone strike in south Lebanon



Beirut: An Israeli drone strike hit a car in south Lebanon on Saturday, killing one person who the Israeli military said was a member of Hezbollah.

State-run National News Agency did not give further details about the strike in the village of Bourj el-Mouk.

The airstrike was the latest in a wave of such attacks since a US-brokered ceasefire went into effect in late November ending the 14-month Israel-Hezbollah war.

The Israeli military said the Hezbollah member who was killed was active in the border village of Kfar Kila.

people to prison terms for giving digital information to Israel. Four judicial officials told The Associated Press Saturday that one of those sentenced received a 15-year prison term while the other was sentenced to 10 years in jail.

A third was set free for lack of evidence against him, the officials said on condition of anonymity because they were not authorised to share information with the media.

The officials said the two scanned the cellular telephones network in wide areas of Beirut and its southern suburbs that is home to Hezbollah's headquarters using sophisticated equipment.

9 militants killed in separate security operations in Pakistan

Peshawar: At least nine militants and two security personnel were killed in two separate engagements in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province of Pakistan, an ISPR statement said on Saturday.

Seven terrorists were killed when security forces conducted an intelligence-based operation in Mohmand district on Friday night, the ISPR said.



However, two soldiers were also killed during the intense fire

exchange, the statement said.

In another encounter in Maddi area of Dera Ismail Khan district, two terrorists were

killed in the exchange of fire between security personnel and militants, the statement said.

The ISPR said weapons and ammunition were also recovered from the possession of the killed militants, who were actively involved in numerous terrorist activities across the province.

It said sanitization operations were ongoing to eliminate the presence of any other militants in the area.

an uptick in terror activities recently, especially in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan provinces, after the banned Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) militant group ended its ceasefire with the government in November 2022.

February saw a marginal increase in terrorist attacks but a sharp surge in civilian casualties, according to a report published by an Islamabad-based think tank, Pakistan Institute

for Conflict and Security Studies (PICSS). According to PICSS, the country witnessed 79 terrorist attacks last month, resulting in the deaths of 55 civilians and 47 security personnel, while 45 civilians and 81 security personnel were injured.

Security forces, meanwhile, intensified counter-terrorism operations, eliminating 156 terrorists, injuring 20, and arresting 66, the report said.

BUSINESS

India's Deal Activity Surges to Record USD 7.2 Billion in February

New Delhi: India witnessed a record-breaking surge in deal activity in February, with 226 M&A and private equity deals totaling USD 7.2 billion - the highest monthly deal volume in the last three years, according to the DealTracker report of Grant Thornton Bharat.

"This represents a 67 per cent increase in volumes and a 5.4-fold increase in values compared to February 2024, while a 14 per cent increase over the previous month," it said.

As many as 85 merger and acquisition (M&A) deals worth USD 4.8 billion were announced in February. Domestic deals constituted 68 per cent of M&A volumes and 78 per cent of total values. Outbound deals surged, while inbound deal values declined sharply.

"Despite global economic uncertainties, including declining foreign investments in Indian public markets and looming trade tariffs, Indian dealsecape demonstrated resilience, driven by robust domestic demand," it added.

Zen Technologies and Nitco Ltd were key acquirers, each acquiring four companies, contributing significantly to the volume growth, the report said.

Significant deals in February included ONGC-NTPC Green's USD 2.3 billion acquisition of Ayana Renewable Power.

The Praana Group's USD 755 million acquisition of Owens Corning's glass reinforcement business accounted for 89 per cent of the manufacturing sector's total value.

Media and entertainment segment saw a sharp uptick in sports and gaming deals, including Torrent Group's USD 872 million acquisition of Irelia Sports (Gujarat Titans).

Total 141 transactions worth USD 2.4 billion made up for the private equity (PE) deals, it said, adding this was the highest PE volume since May 2022, with continued month-on-month growth since November 2024.

RBI directs IndusInd Bank to complete remedial action this month

Mumbai: The Reserve Bank on Saturday asked IndusInd Bank's board to complete remedial action during the current quarter amid disclosure of a whopping Rs 2,100 crore discrepancy in accounting announced by the bank.

Earlier this week, IndusInd Bank disclosed a discrepancy in accounting with an estimated impact of 2.35 per cent of the bank's net worth. Soon after the disclosure, massive price correction in the bank's scrip was witnessed.

Basis the disclosures available in public domain, the bank has already engaged an external audit team to comprehensively review their current systems, and to assess and account for the actual impact expeditiously, RBI said in a statement.

"The Board and the management have been directed by Reserve



Bank to have the remedial action completed fully during the current quarter viz., Q4FY25, after making required disclosures to all stakeholders," it said.

As such, there is no need for depositors to react to the speculative reports at this juncture, the statement said.

The central bank assured customers and investors that the bank's financial health remains stable and is being monitored closely by it.

around September-October last year and the bank gave a preliminary update to the RBI about this last week. The final number will be known after the external agency, which the bank has appointed, finalises its report by early April, according to the bank.

Sharing financial parameters of the bank, RBI said it would like to state that the bank is well-capitalised and the financial position remains satisfactory.

As per auditor-reviewed financial results of the bank for the quarter ended December 31, 2024, the bank has maintained a comfortable Capital Adequacy Ratio of 16.46 per cent and Provision Coverage Ratio of 70.20 per cent.

The Liquidity Coverage Ratio (LCR) of the bank was at 113 per cent as on March 9, 2025, as against regulatory requirement of 100 per cent.

Forex kitty jumps sharpest in 2 yrs rises to USD 15.26 bn to USD 653.96 bn

Mumbai: In the sharpest jump in over two years, the country's foreign exchange reserves increased by USD 15,267 billion to USD 653,966 billion during the week ended March 7, the RBI has said.

The overall reserves had dropped by USD 1,81 billion to USD 638,698 billion in the previous week.

The reserves had been on a declining trend recently due to revaluation along with forex market interventions by RBI to help reduce volatilities in the rupee. The forex reserves had increased to an all-time high of USD 704,885 billion at end-September 2024.

The sharp rise during the week under review is being attributed to the USD 10 billion forex swap undertaken by the central bank on February 28, when it bought dollars against rupee to inject liquidity in the system.

During the week, foreign currency assets, a major component of the reserves, increased by USD 13,993 billion to USD 557,282 billion, the data released on Friday showed.

Expressed in dollar terms, the foreign currency assets include the effect of appreciation or depreciation of non-US units like the euro, pound and yen held in the foreign exchange reserves.

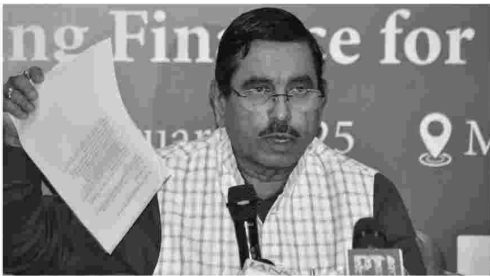
Gold reserves increased by USD 1,053 billion to USD 74,325 billion during the week, the RBI said.

The Special Drawing Rights (SDRs) were up by USD 212 million to USD 18.21 billion.

Sustainable Lifestyle Choices: Joshi Calls for Accessibility & Affordability

New Delhi: Food and Consumer Affairs Minister Pralhad Joshi on Saturday called for sustainable lifestyle options that are "available, accessible and affordable" for all consumers while protecting basic rights and needs.

In his recorded video speech telecast at a World Consumer Rights Day webinar, Joshi emphasized that sustainable lifestyles are essential to tackling "the interconnected crises of climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution."



rights and needs. He presents an opportunity for 'Sabka Saath Sabka Vikas', delivering solutions that benefit both

people and the planet," he said.

Consumer protection and fostering sustainability have been part of Indian culture from ancient times and formed the core of its administration, the minister added.

Joshi said the government has been at the forefront of fostering sustainability through responsible consumer policies.

"From the expansion of eco-labelling programmes to strengthening the regulatory framework against greenwashing, we are committed to ensuring that consumers are well-informed and protected against misleading claims."

He further said the government is actively working to make sustainable products more affordable and accessible.

"We are encouraging industries to adopt environment-friendly manufacturing processes and sustainable innovations," he said at the event, which focused on the theme "A Just Transition to Sustainable Lifestyles."

The government is working to move beyond consumer protection toward promoting "consumer interest" and "consumer care," Joshi said and mentioned the monitoring mechanisms aimed at controlling volatility in essential commodities.

"However, it is necessary that the consumers also understand their shared responsibilities towards society by fol-

lowing Mahatma Gandhi who talked about a zero-carbon lifestyle and calls for picking the most sustainable options in daily life choices," he added.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has given a call for the Mission LIFE which envisions replacing the prevalent "use-and-dispose" economy with a 'circular economy', defined by mindful and deliberate utilization, the minister noted.

Speaking on the occasion, Consumer Affairs Secretary Nidhi Khare said this year's theme is in sync with cultural values and ethos of the country.

Samantha Ruth Prabhu to release first film under her production banner

New Delhi Actor Samantha Ruth Prabhu on Saturday announced the first film under her production company Tralala Moving Pictures and it is titled "Shubam".

The upcoming film will have a theatrical release and is described as a "quirky comedy that promises a unique blend of humour and thrills, offering a fresh perspective on everyday issues," according to a press release.

The 37-year-old actor, who most recently starred in "Citadel: Honey Boney" alongside Varun Dhawan, announced the launch of

her production house in 2023 and it will be the first film for the company to release.

"This project embodies Tralala's vision of unique, thought-provoking cinema that leaves you wanting more and hopefully over time will help audiences identify and highlight content coming out of our Tralala banner. I'm really excited about 'Shubam' and I can't wait for audiences to see all our hard work take shape,"

Prabhu said in a statement. Penned by Vasanth Mariganti, the film is directed by Praveen Kandregula. It stars Harshith

Malgireddy, Shriya Kontham, Charan Peri, Shalini Konddepudi, Gavireddy Srinivas and Shravani.

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Sonu Sood asks audience to be 'kinder to debutants in film fraternity'

New Delhi Actor Sonu Sood on Saturday shared a note urging people to be more supportive of newcomers in the film industry.

Without naming any particular individual, the 51-year-old actor said everyone learns through experience and that it is crucial to encourage and uplift others.

"Be kind to debutants in the film fraternity and elsewhere. Nobody was perfect when they started. We all learn with experience. Only a handful get a second chance," Sood wrote.

Sood's remarks come just days after the release of "Nadaanivan" on Netflix, which marked the acting debut of Ibrahim Ali Khan, son of Saif Ali Khan.

Also starring Khushi Kapoor, the film received poor reviews from critics for its story, dialogues, and performances.

Sood said, "A good or bad performance in any vertical is the collective responsibility of every technician involved."

"We are all learners. Let's support and encourage them. Spread love," he added.

Jisshu Sengupta roped in for Akshay Kumar's 'Bhooth Bangla'

Mumbai Akshay Kumar's horror-comedy Bhooth Bangla has roped in actor Jisshu Sengupta for the upcoming film, which is directed by Priyadarshan.

The makers made the announcement on the occasion of Sengupta's birthday.

Taking to its Instagram account on Saturday, the makers shared a picture of the actor along with a birthday wish and also revealed

that he has joined the cast of the upcoming horror-comedy.

"Wishing the brilliant @senguptajisshu a very Happy Birthday! Excited to see him bring his magic to Bhooth Bangla. It's going to be a wild ride," read the post.

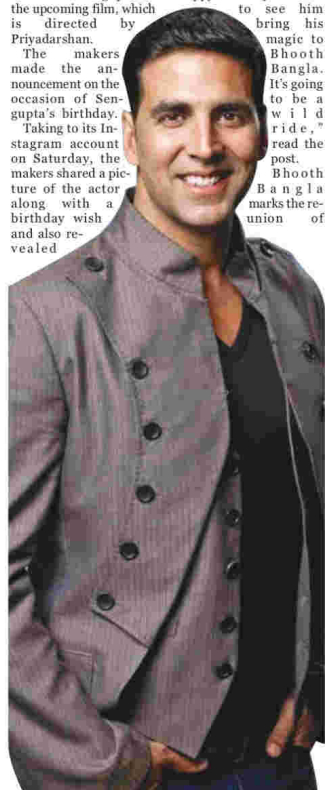
Bhooth Bangla marks the reunion of

Priyadarshan and Akshay Kumar after a long gap. The duo has previously delivered blockbuster films such as Hera Pheri, Bhagam Bhag, Garam Masala, De Dana Dan, and Bhool Bhulaiyaa, among others. Bhooth Bangla stars Tabu, Rajpal Yadav, Mithila Palkar, and Wamiqa Gabbi in crucial roles.

Meanwhile, the film will also witness a reunion of Akshay and Tabu after 25 years. The two were last seen together in Hera Pheri.

Bhooth Bangla is produced by Shobha Kapoor and Ekta R Kapoor's Balaji Telefilms, along with Akshay Kumar's production house, Cape of Good Films.

The film is slated for a theatrical release on April 2, 2026.



Salman Khan brings 10 Ka Dum to GRM Overseas Ltd's 10X Classic Chakki Fresh Atta with its Campaign "Better Half Ki Better Choice"

New Delhi GRM Overseas Limited or "GRM", a prominent FMCG player in India, is poised to transform the Wheat Flour market with its innovative campaign for 10X Classic Chakki Fresh Atta, featuring the company's recently appointed Brand Ambassador, Bollywood superstar Salman Khan.

GRM is focussed to guide consumers towards a health-

ier lifestyle by transitioning to superior quality, hygienic and healthier branded packaged Atta, from the traditional unpackaged, market-sourced Atta.

The company is committed to provide pure, unadulterated wheat flour that delivers consistent quality and enhanced nutrition for families across India. Mr. Atul Garg, Managing Director of GRM Overseas, said: "We are excited to announce the launch of an ambitious campaign for 10X Classic Chakki Fresh Atta, with the support of our new Brand Ambassador, Salman Khan.

GRM is focussed to guide consumers towards a healthier lifestyle by transitioning to superior quality, hygienic and healthier branded packaged Atta, from the traditional unpackaged, market-sourced Atta.



Salman Khan completes shooting for 'Sikandar'

New Delhi Bollywood star Salman Khan has wrapped shooting for his upcoming film "Sikandar", the makers said on Saturday.

"Sikandar" is directed by A R Murugadoss of "Ghajini" and "Holiday: A Soldier Is Never Off Duty" fame. Also starring Rashmika Mandanna, the film is slated to hit the screens on Eid.

According to a press release, the film was shot over a 90-day period in Mumbai, Hyderabad and other locations across the country.

The principal photography finished in the month of January. However, the actors had to work on some patchwork scenes and a promotional song in February and March, it added.

'Silver Is The New Gold' Celebrating 25 Glorious Years in Jaipur: PM on IIFA

Jaipur Marking a historic milestone, the International Indian Film Academy (IIFA) Weekend & Awards proudly celebrated its 25th-anniversary edition in the cultural heart of Rajasthan, Jaipur, with an inspiring message from the Honorable Prime Minister of India, SHRI NARENDRA MODI.



Under the theme 'Silver Is The New Gold', IIFA 2025 paid tribute to 25 glorious years of Indian cinema's leg-

acy and its profound global influence. The Prime Minister's message elevated the celebrations, acknowledging IIFA's remarkable journey in uniting the world through the magic of films.

Set against the breathtaking backdrop of Jaipur's rich heritage and regal grandeur, the Silver Jubilee Edition of IIFA was an awe-inspiring spectacle—a magnificent tribute to artistry, innovation,

and the enduring power of cinematic storytelling.

IIFA's landmark Silver Jubilee not only celebrated Indian cinema's extraordinary global impact but also brought together audiences and industry icons for an unforgettable cultural extravaganza.

Join us as we celebrate with the biggest names in Indian cinema, creating history once again!