



Miss Universe Victoria Kjaer Theiliving visits India, unveils historic Miss Universe India 2025 Crown



Pakistan govt accuses India of involvement in destabilising Balochistan

Riyan Parag to lead RR in first 3 IPL games; regular skipper Samson's role limited



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MARKET	
SENSEX	NIFTY
76348.06	76348.06
899.01	899.01
GOLD	SILVER
88,674.00	99,416.00
72.00	-508.00

WEATHER	
Sunrise	6:25 AM
Sunset	6:33 PM
Moonrise	12:08 AM
Moonset	10:16 AM
Today's Prediction	
Maximum	Minimum
33°C	17°C
Tomorrow's Prediction	
33°C	19°C

30 Naxalites cop killed in two encounters in Chhattisgarh

Union Home Minister Amit Shah said the security forces have achieved another big success in their march to make the country Naxal-free with the two encounters.

Bijapur/Kanker
In a fresh offensive against Naxals, security forces killed at least 30 members of the banned CPI (Maoist) in two separate encounters in Chhattisgarh's Bastar region on Thursday, officials said.

While 26 Naxalites were killed in Bijapur district, four Maoists were gunned down in Kanker by a joint team of the BSF and District Reserve Guard (DRG) personnel of the state police.



A police jawan was also killed in the encounter in Bijapur, the officials said.

Union Home Minister Amit Shah said the security forces have achieved another big success in their march to make the

country Naxal-free with the two encounters. "The Modi government is moving forward with a ruthless approach against Naxalites and is adopting a zero tolerance policy against those Naxalites who are not surrendering despite all the facilities being offered to them, ranging from surrender to inclusion. The country is going to be Naxal-free by March 31 next year," Shah wrote on X in Hindi.

CONT'D ON PAGE-2

India ranks 118th in World Happiness Report Afghanistan last

London
India ranked 118th in the World Happiness Report 2025 published Thursday, up from the 126th position in the previous year but below countries such as Nepal, Pakistan, Ukraine and Palestine. The 13th edition of the annual report, released coinciding with the International Day of Happiness that falls on March 20 each year, focuses on the impact of caring and sharing on people's happiness, including how sharing a meal increases happiness. Finland is ranked as the happiest country in the world for the eighth



consecutive year and other Nordic countries – Denmark, Iceland and Sweden – continued to remain in the top four, in that order. The United Kingdom is at the 23rd position, the US is 44th and China stands at 68th position in the list of 147 countries this year. The State of Palestine is ranked 108th (103 in 2024) while Ukraine is at 111 rank (105 in 2024). Agency

Elon Musk's X sues union govt over alleged censorship and IT Act violations



Bengaluru
Social media giant 'X' (formerly Twitter), owned by US billionaire Elon Musk, has filed a lawsuit in the Karnataka High Court against Government of India, challenging what it called unlawful content regulation and arbitrary censorship.

It raised concerns over the Centre's interpretation of the Information Technology (IT) Act, particularly its use of Section 79(3)(b), which 'X' argues violates Supreme Court rulings and undermines free expression online.

The lawsuit alleged the government is using the said section to create a parallel content-blocking mechanism, bypassing the structured legal process outlined in Section 69A.

'X' claimed this approach contradicts the Supreme Court's 2015 ruling in the Shreya Singhal case, which established that content can only be blocked through a proper judicial process or the legally defined route under Section 69A. According to the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting (I&B), Section 79(3)(b) mandates online platforms to remove illegal content

HIGHLIGHT
The lawsuit alleged the government is using the said section to create a parallel content-blocking mechanism, bypassing the structured legal process outlined in Section 69A.

when directed by either a court order or a government notification.

If a platform fails to comply within 36 hours, it risks losing its safe harbor protection under Section 79(1) and could be held accountable under various laws, including the Indian Penal Code (IPC).

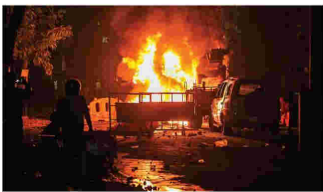
However, X has contested this interpretation, arguing that the provision does not grant the government independent authority to block content.

Instead, it accused authorities of misusing the law to impose arbitrary censorship without following due process.

Under Section 69A of the IT Act, the government has the power to block public access to digital content if it is deemed a threat to national security, sovereignty, or public order. However, this process is regulated by the 2009 Information Technology (Procedure and Safeguards for Blocking for Access of Information by Public) Rules, which require a structured review process before blocking decisions are made. Agency

Sedition among charges in 4 fresh FIRs; curfew partially lifted

Nagpur
Police have booked Fahim Khan, key accused in the Nagpur violence, and five others on charges of sedition and spreading misinformation on social media, officials said on Thursday, adding that curfew was lifted or relaxed in parts of the city three days after the violence.



Maulana Shahabuddin Razvi, a Bareilly sect cleric, wrote to Union home minister Amit Shah, seeking a ban on the film 'Chhava', alleging it was inciting communal tensions and was directly responsible for the Nagpur violence.

Amid demand from right-wing organisations that Mughal Emperor Aurangzeb's tomb at Khultabad in Maharashtra's Sambhajinagar district be removed, the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) has put up tin sheets on two sides of the 18th century

structure. The Archeological Survey of India (ASI), as per the directive of the Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar district administration, has put up tin sheets on two sides of Aurangzeb's tomb at Khultabad, an official said. Agency

ATTENTION TAXPAYERS !

e-Verification Scheme, 2021

Any objection to the displayed financial transaction in AIS?

We will verify from the source

DISAGREE

AGREE

- Check financial transactions available in AIS tab of your income tax account at www.incometax.gov.in
- If you agree with information, return of income can be updated u/s 139(8A) of the IT Act, 1961, subject to eligibility
- If you disagree, raise an objection. We will check with the source
- If the mismatch continues, notice under the e-Verification Scheme may be issued
- Your response to the notice may help in closure of the matter
- All proceedings are conducted electronically under e-Verification Scheme

Helpline
18001034215

FAQs on e-Verification Scheme, 2021
{Available on QR code and
<https://incometaxindia.gov.in/news/faqs-e-verification-scheme2021.pdf>}

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30 Naxalites cop killed in two encounters in Chhattisgarh

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An official said a gunfight broke out around 7 am in a forest along the border of Bijapur and Dantewada districts when a joint team of security personnel was out on an anti-Naxalite operation in Gangoles police station area in Bijapur.

The bodies of 26 Naxalites besides firearms and explosives were recovered from the spot, Inspector General of Police, Bastar Range Sundarraj P told PTI.

A jawar of the DRG unit was also killed in the gunfight, he said.

Another encounter took place in the morning in a forest along the border of Kanker and Narayanpur districts when a joint team of the DRG and Border Security Force (BSF) was out on an anti-Naxal operation, Kanker Superintendent of Police Indira Kalyan Etesela said.

The bodies of four Naxalites and automatic weapons were recovered following the action, he said.

Search operations were underway at both the encounter sites, police said.

With the latest action, 113 Naxalites have been killed in encounters in the state so far this year. Of them, 97 were eliminated in the Bastar division comprising seven districts including Bijapur and Kanker.

According to a statement issued by the Union Home Minister in New Delhi, as many as 104 Naxalites were arrested in different parts of the country and 164 have surrendered in 2025 so far.

In 2024, 290 Naxalites were neutralized, 1,090 were arrested, and 681 surrendered. A total of 15 top Naxal leaders have been neutralized so far.

Between 2004 and 2014, there were a total of 16,463 incidents of Naxal violence. However, during the tenure of the Narendra Modi government from 2014 to 2024, the number of violent incidents decreased by 53 per cent, dropping to 7,744, the statement said.

Similarly, the number of casualties of security forces decreased by 73 per cent, from 1,851 to 509, and the number of civilian casualties decreased by 70 per cent, dropping from 4,766 to 1,495.

In 2014, there were a total of 66 fortified police stations, but under the Modi government's tenure their number has increased to 612, the statement said.

Not the one who changes game midway: CM Omar in J-K Assembly

Jammu:

A mid speculation that he is moving close to the BJP, Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Thursday said he is not the one who starts one game and ends up playing another, and asserted that he has just changed his tactics.

Abdullah said he is not afraid of talking on any issue and also challenged the BJP to prove that his party ever insulted the last Dogra king Maharaja Hari Singh.

Winding up the discussion on 'demands for grants' concerning his departments in the Legislative Assembly, the chief minister expressed confidence of emerging victorious at the end of his term, as he targeted opposition BJP for repeatedly raking up the August 2019 developments in the House.

"The intelligent captain and player is the one who adapts to the situation and changes his tactics and not the game. I have not changed the game as I still wear the white cricketing uniform."

"I was doing fast bowling because the Australian pitches support the pace but the BCCI pitches are meant for spin and now I am bowling spin deliveries. The purpose is that we emerge victorious," Abdullah said amid



Abdullah said he is not afraid of talking on any issue and also challenged the BJP to prove that his party ever insulted the last Dogra king Maharaja Hari Singh.

trumping of desks by the chief minister said though he is looking for spring outside, some things are not going to change inside the House - the verbal duels, ruckus and allegations.

"We are the ones who are not afraid of talking on any issue. Our track record says that we never escape a question and we are not the ones who demand questionnaires before an interview. We are not the ones who meet their favourites only. We are the ones who are always ready to face tough questions and give straight forward replies," he said.

After hearing the speech from the opposition benches, he said Article 370 in 2019, the chief minister said though he is looking for spring outside, some things are not going to change inside the House - the verbal duels, ruckus and allegations.

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it is futile to bring a prepared speech because most of their talk revolves around two or three issues.

"The LoP talked about equality in J&K after the August 5 development. I want to ask whether he feels that this assembly is at par with other assemblies in the country. Keep your hand on your heart and tell us whether we are equal to our neighbouring states," he said.

Abdullah said then there was a talk about insulting the Maharaja. "When you do not have anything else to speak, they level this allegation. (BJP's R S) Pathania accused us of insulting Maharaja. The fact is that it was they

Abdullah said he is not afraid of talking on any issue and also challenged the BJP to prove that his party ever insulted the last Dogra king Maharaja Hari Singh.

(BJP) which changed the map of his state and also the state subject laws which he had enacted to safeguard Jammu from Punjab investors."

"Pathania is a lawyer...tell us under which law you were practising in the court before 2019. The Ranbir Penal Code which was named after Maharaja Ranbir Singh. But today, you are no longer practising under RPC," Abdullah said, as LoP Sharma quipped that now he (Pathania) is practising under 'Bharat'.

"You people have changed the name so will do the same when you start speaking next time. You are advising others to remain silent during your speech but what are you doing yourself? I heard the speeches of 50 members from both sides," the chief minister said.

He said it is very easy for him to keep aside all departments and make a political speech but "that will be unjust with this house and with my own responsibilities."

Punjab Budget session starting Friday likely to be stormy affair

Chandigarh:

The Punjab Assembly budget session commencing on Friday is likely to be a stormy affair with opposition parties trying to corner the ruling AAP on several issues including law and order, detention of farmer leaders, rising state debt and non-implementation of poll promises.

"The session will begin with the Governor's address, followed by obituary references. The budget session will be held from March 21-28.

The discussion on the governor's address will take place on March 24. The state budget for 2025-26 will be presented on March 26 and discussion on budget estimates will take place on March 27.

Congress MLA Sukhwinder Singh Kotli said several issues will be raised such as "deteriorating" law

and order, rising debt and non-implementation of the AAP's poll promise of giving monthly Rs 1,000 to women.

He slammed the Bhagwant Mann government for allegedly "betraying" the farmers by detaining them when they were returning after a meeting with the central ministers in Chandigarh.

"You (AAP) government" backstabbed the farmers. You called them for the meeting and, thereafter, you detained them. What do you want to prove by doing so?" said the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) leader.

"Earlier, they (AAP leaders) were saying that the roads were closed by the Haryana government. Then why CM Bhagwant Mann did not protest outside the residence of the Haryana chief minister for opening the roads," he said.

Another Nitish-Rabri spat inside Bihar Council

Patna:

Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar on Thursday belittled his predecessor Rabri Devi, asserting that she was appointed to the seat of power by her husband Lalu Prasad upon "suspension".

Kumar referred to the RJD supremo's resignation in 1997 after a CBI charge sheet in the fodder scam, while interjecting during a debate inside the state legislature.

A heated exchange was witnessed on the floor of the Legislative Council where members of the ruling NDA and the RJD-led Mahagathabandhan traded charges on the worsening law and order situation.

Kumar said, "We look into any incident of crime that takes place and bring the guilty to justice. But these people, who did nothing worthwhile in power and were unable to handle Hindu-Muslim tensions, are after publicity".



Rabri Devi, a home-maker turned politician who is now the leader of the opposition in the Council, rose to register her protest, asserting that she could speak of achievements of her eight-year-long tenure as the chief minister.

Kumar ticked her off with the Magahi phrase "rhobda na tohra kush maloom hai (you stay out of this. You know nothing about these matters)".

The JD(U) supremo, thereafter, resumed in Hindi and said, "Her husband made her the chief minister when he

was placed under suspension (sic), it all remained in the family. They did nothing while in power. Their propensity for mischief led me to snap ties".

Kumar had tied up with the RJD in 2022, when he had dumped the BJP, vowing to dislodge the saffron party from power at the Centre. However, just a few months ahead of the 2024 Lok Sabha polls, he returned to the NDA, stripping the RJD of power and Rabri Devi's sons Tejashwi Yadav and Tej Pratap Yadav of their Cabinet berths.

ty is not there and we have been sold. A Sri Lankan cricketer was given land in Kathua but he withdrew. We have been saying from day one that it is not Kashmir which faces the threat but the Jammu region. The road to Kashmir goes through Jammu," he said.

When the LoP said they are capable of dealing with it, the chief minister said "we have a concern because you're not (capable)" and advised him to go through the history when Maharaja introduced the state subject laws to protect the people of Jammu from Punjab investors

"I do not have the habit of making a running commentary. I will do the same when you start speaking next time. You are advising others to remain silent during your speech but what are you doing yourself? I heard the speeches of 50 members from both sides," the chief minister said.

He said it is very easy for him to keep aside all departments and make a political speech but "that will be unjust with this house and with my own responsibilities."

Notably, it was the third occasion during the ongoing session for Kumar to engage in a verbal duel with Rabri Devi.

Although Kumar sat down after a few minutes of fulminations, the House witnessed more mudslinging, with minister Ashok Choudhary alleging that when the RJD ruled Bihar, its senior leaders were implicated in kidnapping for ransom.

This infuriated Rabri Devi, who got up to remind Choudhary that as a former Congress leader, he had served in her cabinet and accused him and his wife of involvement in "hirauni" (the business of demanding ransom).

The performer obliged and the CM shook hands, surrounded by ministers and officials.

The Kumar returned to the stage and the national anthem was played.

Ayush Ministry initiates sensitisation drive for heatwave prevention

New Delhi:

In the wake of rising temperatures and with the India Meteorological Department (IMD) issuing advisories to various regions, the Ayush Ministry has initiated a nationwide sensitisation drive through its network of institutions spread across the country.

The efforts aim to spread awareness about heatwave preventive measures.

Institutes and organisations under the Ministry of Ayush are conducting a range of activities to educate citizens about heatwave prevention, including awareness sessions, an official statement said.

The drive emphasises tips and traditional wellness practices backed up by scientific evidence to help citizens stay safe during extreme heat-



wave conditions, it stated.

The Jananagar-based Institute of Teaching and Research in Ayurveda (ITRA) has taken proactive steps to shield the local population from the damaging effects of warming temperatures.

As part of its ongoing commitment to public health, ITRA conducted a vital activity on March

20 to educate and protect residents, particularly those who visit its Outpatient Department (OPD) from the risks associated with heat epidemics, the statement said.

Educational pamphlets were dispersed throughout the ITRA Hospital and the surrounding area during the campaign.

These bilingual booklets provide important tips and practical guidance on preventing heat-related illnesses, such as drinking lots of water, avoiding direct sunlight during peak hours and recognising the early warning signs of heat stress.

The programme's objective is to provide people with the knowledge

An Addendum from Public Health Advisory under Director General of Health Services regarding prevention of heatwave has also been issued.

It asked people to drink plenty of water throughout the day to keep the body hydrated and incorporate naturally cooling drinks into the routine, such as coconut water, lemon juice or fruit-based drinks. These help to lower body temperature and keep one refreshed.

It called for avoiding direct sunlight to prevent heatstroke and sunburn, eating light meals, taking midday naps and dressing in full-sleeved, loose-fitting clothes made from fabrics like cotton for better protection against direct sunlight and helps to keep one cool.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Public at large is hereby informed that my client Mr. Prashant Sharma who is the owner of Plot area measuring 360 sq. mts (Doc No. 262, 263, 264 and 265) is situated in the area of Village Shalaha, Panchayat Dohri, Tehsil Jalandhar, District Jalandhar. The said Plot area is being used for agricultural purpose. The said Plot area is being used for agricultural purpose. The said Plot area is being used for agricultural purpose.

PUBLIC NOTICE

"General Public is hereby informed that I, Vikas Malhotra, do hereby declare that I am the owner of the property situated at Plot No. 262, 263, 264 and 265, situated in the area of Village Shalaha, Panchayat Dohri, Tehsil Jalandhar, District Jalandhar. The said Plot area is being used for agricultural purpose. The said Plot area is being used for agricultural purpose. The said Plot area is being used for agricultural purpose."

PRAGYARSHIAN ADVOCATE
Enat. No. 0772/02
L-17, GF, Kirti Colony,
New Delhi-48, 996006418

NEWS IN BRIEF

Construction work on Chilla elevated road begins

Noida
Work on Chilla elevated road connecting Delhi to Noida started on Thursday. Noida Authority CEO Laksh M performed its Bhoombi Pujan. It has to be completed in three years with a cost of Rs 624.9 crore.

It is to be noted that work on the said project was also started in 2019. Then CM Yogi Adityanath had laid the foundation stone of the scheme. But the work was stopped due to lack of funds. About Rs 79 crore was spent on the construction of the elevated road. Under the scheme, this six-lane elevated is to be built on 296 pillars. The construction company, the UP Bridge Corporation Limited, awarded the work to contractor company MG Construction on 17 December 2024. About 5 lakh drivers will benefit from this elevated road stretch daily. The contractor will have three years to complete the construction. The elevated road is to be 5.9 km long. In the initial phase of the scheme, its total cost was Rs 605 crore.

In this way, the traffic jam from Chilla border to the expressway via the link road will end. This road will connect to the Mayur Vihar flyover behind Chilla. This will create a new link to go to the expressway. This will benefit about 10 lakh people daily. Loops will be made at six places to climb up and down the elevated road.

GreNo Authority expedites efforts to settle leaseback cases

Noida
The Greater Noida Authority has started preparations for settlement of 854 new leaseback cases. Roster has been issued for village-wise hearing in camps till 14th April.

Actually, the farmers affected by land acquisition have been agitating for a long time raising their demands. After the government took cognizance of this matter, the authority has expedited the process to resolve the farmers' issues.

Grish Kumar Jha, special executive officer of the authority, said that a roster has been prepared to hear 854 new cases of leaseback of 41 villages. By hearing sequentially, it will be decided how correct the claim being made by the farmers is. A detailed report of this will be recorded and placed in the board meeting.

According to the official concerned, after the government approved the 1451 leaseback cases related to the government order of 2010, leaseback of 371 farmers has been done so far.

The land records department of the authority has so far set up camps in 60 out of 78 villages to provide the benefit of six percent population land to the farmers affected by land acquisition. Out of these, the eligibility list of 3015 farmers of 42 villages for six percent developed land has been prepared and published. According to the official concerned, the eligibility list of the remaining 112 farmers will also be published this month. Preparations are underway to resolve 854 new leaseback cases. Roster has been issued for its hearing. Village wise hearing will be done till 14th April. After completion of the hearing, it will be placed in the board meeting, said Saunhya Srivastava, ACEO, Greater Noida Authority.

Mahila Samridhi Yojana to be implemented after budget: Delhi BJP chief

New Delhi
Delhi BJP president Virendra Sachdeva on Thursday said the financial aid under the Mahila Samridhi Yojana will be provided to women in the national capital after the budget is passed in the assembly.

Sachdeva, who was responding to AAP's criticism over alleged delay in the scheme's implementation, said it was the Aam Aadmi Party that "misled" women in Delhi and Punjab by failing to deliver on the monthly allowance.



"(Arvind) Kejriwal is well aware that the BJP government will ensure proper provisions in the 2025-26 budget to implement the Mahila Samridhi Yojana. Once this happens, it will be impossible for him to mislead the women of Punjab any further," he said.

The Aam Aadmi Party has been targeting the new BJP government over the implementation of the scheme since the latter formed the government in Delhi last month.

The Delhi government will table its maiden budget on March 25 during the assembly's five-day budget session.

Addressing a press conference earlier in the day, AAP leader Atishi sought to know when will women in Delhi receive the Rs 2,500 monthly financial assistance under the Mahila Samridhi Yojana as promised by the ruling BJP.

Atishi, who is the Leader of Opposition in the Delhi Assembly, wondered if the BJP government will provide Rs 2,500 to nearly 48 lakh women in the capital aged above 18 years, or re-

strict the benefit to less than 1 per cent of the figure by putting in various riders.

Claiming that the BJP government formed a committee 12 days ago, which is yet to do anything, the former Delhi chief minister asked when will registration for the scheme begin and money be credited to the accounts of the beneficiary women.

The BJP government has approved Rs 5,100 crore for providing Rs 2,500 monthly assistance to women from poor families in Delhi.

A committee of ministers

headed by Chief Minister Rekha Gupta has been formed to oversee the implementation of the scheme, which was a key election promise of the saffron party ahead of the February 5 Delhi polls.

Atishi said the BJP was using delaying tactics instead of fulfilling its promise.

"The only task the BJP government in Delhi seems to have is to abuse Arvind Kejriwal and AAP from morning to night. They had ample time for this in the last Assembly session, where

instead of presenting a vision, action plan, or timeline for the people of Delhi, they spent the entire session targeting Arvind Kejriwal and AAP."

Responding to her remarks, Sachdeva charged, "To avoid accountability for the Mahila Samman allowance in Punjab, Kejriwal is getting controversial statements issued through Atishi."

Sachdeva said that while presenting Delhi's budget for 2024-25 when the AAP was in power, Atishi announced a monthly allowance of Rs 1,000 per woman. However, not even

them, leading to their massive defeat in the recently concluded assembly elections, he said.

In 2021-22 (during the poll campaign for assembly polls in Punjab), to grab power, Kejriwal lured Punjab's women with the promise of an allowance but they are now completely disillusioned, he claimed.

The BJP ended the AAP's ten-year rule in Delhi while top AAP leaders, including Kejriwal, lost the elections.

'When will women in Delhi receive Rs 2 500 monthly honorarium': Atishi

New Delhi
Senior AAP leader Atishi on Thursday sought to know when will women in Delhi receive the Rs 2,500 monthly financial assistance under the Mahila Samridhi Yojana as promised by the ruling BJP in the national capital.

Addressing a press conference, Atishi, who's the Leader of Opposition in Delhi Assembly, wondered if the BJP government will provide Rs 2,500 to nearly 48 lakh women in the capital aged above 18 years, or restrict the benefit to less than 1 per cent of the figure by putting in various riders.

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Delhi Health Minister Flags Off Dental Clinics on Wheels



New Delhi
Health Minister Dr. Pankaj Kumar Singh on Thursday launched six Mobile Dental Clinics.

This initiative, created under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and in partnership with the Maulana Azad Institute of Dental Sciences, aims to provide dental care directly to the citizens of Delhi, especially those in underprivileged communities.

The mobile clinics are fully air-conditioned and technologically advanced, offering free dental examinations, treatments, and health awareness programs.

Dr. Singh highlighted the program's goal to increase access to essential dental care, particularly for those who may not afford it.

He expressed the importance of oral health and the need for greater public awareness about dental issues, emphasizing that a healthy lifestyle starts with proper dental care.

Each mobile clinic is equipped with modern dental tools, including chairs, X-ray units, and sterilization units, allowing for comprehensive dental services. Patients will receive free treatments like fluoride applications and basic restorations. The clinics will operate throughout various neighborhoods in Delhi, including slums and crowded areas, ensuring that every citizen can access quality dental care. Dental professionals will staff the clinics to provide services like oral screenings and pain management.

Additionally, the mobile units include educational resources like smart TVs to teach patients about good oral hygiene. In his speech, Dr. Singh also examined hospital services and reinforced the government's commitment to improving healthcare for all citizens.

The new initiative aligns with the National Oral Health Program, aiming to provide integrated dental care. It will cooperate with local dispensaries and schools to reach vulnerable populations. In addition, Dr. Singh launched an E-Library under the 'One Nation One Subscription' scheme, which grants free access to a wealth of educational materials for students and medical professionals.

Man arrested for defrauding women on dating Apps



Ravi Dalmiya
New Delhi
The Cyber Police of West Delhi have arrested Ankit Singh, a highly educated fraudster from Uttarakhnad, for deceiving women through dating apps and extracting large sums of money from them. Singh, who holds a master's degree in computer science, posed as an immigration officer at an airport to gain the trust of his victims.

According to police, Singh operated this fraudulent scheme for over six months, during which he managed to siphon Rs 38 lakh into his bank account. In addition to financial fraud, he was found in possession of a substantial collection of explicit photographs and videos of his victims, which he allegedly used for blackmail and manipulation.

Singh primarily targeted vulnerable women, particularly those undergoing personal or marital distress. He befriended them through dating applications and soon shifted the conversation to WhatsApp, where he established a deeper emotional connection. Once he gained their trust, he fabricated urgent financial needs and persuaded them to transfer money to him under various pretexts.

One of the victims, a woman embroiled in a marital dispute, lodged a complaint that led to his arrest. She had transferred Rs 9.50 lakh to Singh, even taking

out a bank loan to support him. When she later asked for repayment, Singh began making excuses and eventually cut off communication, raising her suspicions. She then approached the Cyber Police, which launched an investigation into his activities.

The authorities utilized advanced technical surveillance techniques to track Singh's activities and uncover incriminating evidence. During the investigation, police discovered 410 WhatsApp chat records with different women, indicating the extensive reach of his fraudulent activities. Singh used multiple mobile numbers to interact with victims across the country, consistently changing his contact details to evade detection.

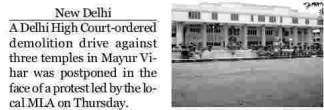
Acting on this information, a specialized police team, led by DCP West Vichitra Veer and comprising officers from the Cyber Thana, traced Singh's location to Hardwar. He was apprehended in a well-coordinated operation, during which law enforcement recovered two mobile phones, three debit cards, and three SIM cards that he used for his deceptive activities.

Authorities are now working to identify additional victims who may have fallen prey to Singh's schemes. Given the scale of his operations and the number of affected individuals, the investigation remains ongoing.

"This case highlights the increasing trend of online fraud and the need for vigilance while interacting on digital platforms. We urge individuals to verify identities before engaging in financial transactions and report any suspicious activities to the police," said DCP Vichitra Veer.

The police have also urged women who may have interacted with Singh or sent him money to come forward and assist in the ongoing investigation. Legal proceedings against him are being pursued, with authorities considering charges related to financial fraud, impersonation, and cybercrime.

Temple demolition in Delhi's Mayur Vihar deferred after MLA-led outrage



New Delhi
A Delhi High Court-ordered demolition drive against three temples in Mayur Vihar was postponed in the face of a protest led by the local MLA on Thursday.

A team of DDA accompanied by police reached the east Delhi locality around 4 am Thursday to reach Kali Mandir, Amarnath Mandir, and Badrinath Mandir - supposedly built in a green belt in the area's Phase 2.

"As per the High Court's order, the DDA team, along with police, reached Mayur Vihar Phase 2 in the Patparganj Assembly. But we were already there, trying to ensure the temple remained safe," Patparganj MLA Ravinder Singh Negi said on X.

MCD cracks down on illegal encroachments in Sultanpuri reclaims public land



New Delhi
The Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD), in collaboration with the Delhi Police, launched a large-scale anti-encroachment drive in Sultanpuri on Thursday, removing unauthorized structures and reclaiming public land.

According to an official statement from the MCD, the operation focused on an abandoned community toilet complex in the area's P-block, which had been illegally occupied, obstructing public movement and raising sanitation and safety concerns.

"The action aimed at reclaiming public spaces unlawfully occupied by unauthorized individuals, ensuring

PUBLIC NOTICE

BE IT KNOWN TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC THAT MY CLIENT VISHAL MEHAN AND KIRAN, P/O. S-8 J BLOCK, JAGANPUR PURI, NORTH-WEST DELHI, NEW SABI MANDI, DELHI-110033, HAVE DISOWNED THEIR SON RAHUL AGGARWAL. ALONG WITH HIS WIFE MS. SIKHA SINGH AND SEVERED ALL SORTS OF RELATIONSHIP WITH THEM. MY CLIENTS HAVE WANTED TO REMOVE THEM FROM THEIR HOUSE AND DISOWNED HIM FROM ALL THEIR MOVEABLE AND IMMOVEABLE PROPERTIES. IF ANYBODY KEEPS ANY RELATION OR DEALS WITH RAHUL AGGARWAL AND MS. SIKHA SINGHAL IN ANY MANNER WHATSOEVER, HE/SHE WOULD BE DOING SOLELY AT HIS/HER OWN RISK AND CONSEQUENCES AND MY CLIENTS SHALL NOT BE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE ACT/DEED OF SH. RAHUL AGGARWAL AND HIS WIFE MS. SIKHA SINGHAL. **ADVOCATE: DR. RAJESH CHAND** Office: 44/150, Murshli Ram Colony, Mukherjee Nagar, Delhi - 110009

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE is hereby given that my client Smt. F. Felsiya is purchasing a Property Bearing No. -1450, Kh. No. 62/1552/243/1 & 238/17, situated in the Area of village Chowki (Meharajpur) known as Ganesh Pura - A, Tri Nagar New Delhi, having area of 60 SQ.YDS. The ownership of the said property is in the name of Smt. Sumitra Devi and the same is transferred by Smt. Simla Devi Bansal through General Power of Attorney. If anybody has any objection's upon said property/ it's ownership & Title/ its Sale and Mortgage/ Litigation, kindly inform the undersigned in writing within 7 days of Publication of the Notice, failing which the property would be considered as unencumbered and no objection will be entertained thereafter. **Rachit Goel (Advocate)** 211 B, G-4, Keshav Puram, New Delhi-110035

PUBLIC NOTICE

MY CLIENT MR. RAJENDER SINGH RANA AND HIS WIFE URMILA BATH R/O. H. No. 36/2A, NAGAL, THAKARAN, DELHI-39 from all movable. We hereby sever all our relations and debar our son from all movable & immovable property as he is beyond our control and misbehaving with us. Anybody dealing with him will do so at his own cost, risk and responsibility.

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform public at large that my client SONPAL (UD No.63/86-5905-6108) SON OF JAGDEESH aged 54 years resident of R-220, G-BLOCK, SITA PURI, GALI NO. 12, ULI NO. 12, PART-2, NEW DELHI-110029, have off her family relations and have disowned her son SHUBHAM (UID No.7084-8193-2093) and his wife POONAM from his Moveable & Immoveable Properties due to his disobedient and quarrelsome nature and my client shall not be responsible for any act of SHUBHAM (UID No. 7084-8193-2093) in any manner in future, started from 20th March 2025 onwards. **ANIL KUMAR (ADVOCATE)** C-8A, STARPUR PART-1 NEW DELHI-110045

PUBLIC NOTICE

Know all men by these publication that my Chand Myia S/O Late Alok Ali and his wife Smt. Samina Begum Both R/o H.No. 710 KH NO.7/9 VILLAGE NANGLOI HARSHUL BLOCK PREM NAGAR P-1 DELHI-110043 severed all of his social relations with their son Kadir Khan his wife Gulafsha and their Daughter Maysha Khan due to constant harassment and mental torture by the Son and their daughter in law towards my clients and also debarred and disowned them from all movable and immovable properties of my clients. My clients shall not be responsible for any act or conduct of their said son and his wife in future. **NAVEED RAJPUT ADVOCATE** DELHI HIGH COURT, CH. NO. T-1D, TEHSIL LANE, TIS HAZARI COURTS, DELHI.

NORTHERN RAILWAY TENDER NOTICE

The Dy. Chief Electrical Engineer (Const), Northern Railway Shivalaj Bridge, New Delhi is on behalf of the President of India inviting e-bidder for the following work:

Name of work: Identification work in connection with construction of 20 Unit Type-1V lifts for MR and RLDA at Sarangaj Nagar, Chandigarh, New Delhi

Completion period of 09 months. Approx. Cost of ₹ 1,00,86,621.64 lakh

Bid Security to be deposited ₹ 2,00,400/-

Date & Time for submission of tender: Tender will be updated upto 11:30 hrs on 11.04.2025 date on IREIS web site i.e. www.ireis.gov.in The tenders can be opened on 11.04.2025 at 11:30 hrs on 11.04.2025

Detailed description of the work is available on Northern Railway web site at www.northernrailway.gov.in. Above tender's document will be available for download on IREIS web site i.e. www.ireis.gov.in from 28.03.2025 to 11.04.2025. At the end of the tender period, the sealed bids of all bidders are given in tender document. The detailed tender notice also can be seen on the IREIS website.

Tender No. 17-BE/DEL/DYCEE/IT/544. Dated: 20.03.2025 871/2025

SERVING CUSTOMER WITH A SMILE

Jamia violence Can't allow amendment plea without hearing cops says Delhi HC

New Delhi
The Delhi High Court on Thursday said it would hear the police before deciding a plea to include certain prayers in a case related to violence in Jamia Millia Islamia in December 2019.

A bench of Justices Chandrabhushan Singh and Anup Jairam Bhambhani said there was a procedure followed in the proceedings as per which an order could be passed only after hearing both the sides.

The police, it said, had raised serious objections to the petitioners' application seeking to amend the prayers in the petition.

"We cannot hear the matter on lodging of FIR unless we allow the amendment application. First we have to allow this amendment application. For allowing this application there is serious opposition taken by the state and that side has to be heard before passing any order," the bench said.

The court said if the amendment application was allowed only then it would



permit the petitioners to argue on the prayer seeking lodging of FIR.

Several petitions were filed in the aftermath of the violence before the high court, seeking directions for setting up a special investigation team (SIT), commission of inquiry or a fact-finding committee, for medical treatment, grant of compensation and registration of FIRs against the erring police officers.

The petitioners include lawyers, Jamia students, residents of Okhla area, where the university is located, and the Imam of Jama Masjid mosque opposite Parliament.

In one of the petitions, the petitioners filed an amendment plea seeking inclusion of a prayer to direct the 'Centre to treat this petition as information to the police and to register an FIR forthwith in respect of criminal offences committed by

the police".

It further asks to "arrest and prosecute the police personnel concerned".

public prosecutor Rajat Nair, representing Delhi Police, said several prayers made in the batch of petitions were rendered infructuous as the incident took place in 2019.

The court enquired from senior advocate Colin Gonsalves, appearing for petitioner Nabila Hasan, about her locus to file the plea.

"How you have filed this petition for lodging of FIR against police officials on behalf of all the students who were injured? Who has given the authority to you? Where is your locus?" the bench asked.

It added, "These are basic questions which have to be addressed first. This is a gross misuse of the process of law".

their bones while blinding one of them.

Police went to the girl students' hostel and beat them up and also went into the library, he said.

The court posted the hearing on April 24.

The court was hearing a batch of petitions related to the violence that broke out in Jamia Millia Islamia following anti-CAA protests in December 2019.

The petitioners claimed there was a need for the constitution of an SIT which was independent of the police and the Central government to probe the alleged

brutalities committed on the students by the police force. They have said that such a move would "reassure the public" and restore people's faith in the system.

The police, however, opposed the plea saying the reliefs couldn't be granted for chargesheets had been filed in connection with the violence cases.

Reliefs were sought by the petitioners before the subordinate court concerned, it added.

Jamia Millia Islamia hikes fees by up to 41 pc across courses for 2025-26



New Delhi
Delhi's Jamia Millia Islamia has announced a fee hike for the academic year 2025-26, with increases ranging from 16 to 41 per cent across various courses.

A comparison of the latest prospectus with that of the previous year reveals a sharp rise in tuition fees.

The Department of Persian has seen a 41.41 per cent increase, with fees rising from Rs 6,700 to Rs 9,475 per year.

The Department of Arabic follows closely, with a 37.15 per cent hike, pushing annual fees from Rs 7,200 to Rs 9,875.

Similarly, foreign language programmes, including BA (Hons) in Turkish and other languages, have also witnessed a 37.15 per cent fee rise.

Social sciences programmes, including MA and BA (Hons) in political science, four-year BA (multidisciplinary) and BCom (Hons), now cost Rs 9,875 per year, reflecting a 32.99 per cent increase from the previous Rs 7,425.

Science programmes, including BSc (multidisciplinary), geography, mathematics and physics,

have undergone a 34.29 per cent hike, raising fees from Rs 7,800 to Rs 10,475 per year.

The fees for professional courses have also been increased. BTech programmes have seen a 19.04 per cent hike, increasing from Rs 16,150 to Rs 19,225 per year, while MTech programmes now cost Rs 21,375 per year, marking a 16.48 per cent rise.

Law programmes, including LLM (regular) and BA LLB (Hons), have seen a 19 per cent hike, raising fees from Rs 15,000 to Rs 17,850 annually.

With all programmes witnessing an increase in tuition fees, students may face additional financial strain.

Meanwhile, the university has also announced the launch of 14 new courses and expanded its use of Common University Entrance Test (CUET) scores for admissions.

This year, 25 programmes — including nine undergraduate, five post-graduate, eight diploma, and three advanced diploma courses — will admit students based on CUET merit, up from 20 last year.

Case against Kapil Mishra Delhi court calls for report on material from X

New Delhi
A Delhi court on Thursday directed Delhi Police to file a detailed report over the material collected from microblogging site X, formerly Twitter, in a case against Delhi minister Kapil Mishra.

Mishra is accused of posting objectionable statements from his X handle on January 23, 2020, in connection with then Delhi legislative assembly elections.

Based on a complaint of the returning officer, an FIR was registered against him.

Additional chief judicial magistrate Vaibhav Chaurasiya directed the DCP north-west Delhi to file the report by April 18.

During the hearing, the judge exempted Mishra from personally appearing in court on his plea of being occupied with cabinet meetings on the upcoming budget sessions.

A special court on March 7 dismissed his plea against the summons issued to him for making "objectionable statements" and violating the model code of conduct in 2020. Special judge Jitendra Singh observed the Election Commission of India was under a constitutional obligation to prevent the candidates from indulging in "vitriolic vituperation with impunity, vilification and contaminating the atmosphere for free and fair election". The judge said there was no complete agreement with the magisterial court that the complaint filed by the returning officer was sufficient to take cognisance of the offence under Section 125 (promoting enmity between classes in connection with election) of the Representation of the People (RP) Act.

Delhi Speaker flags officers' apathy in letter to Chief Secretary

New Delhi
Delhi Assembly Speaker Vijender Gupta has written to Chief Secretary Dharmendra seeking his intervention in bringing in line some officers who allegedly have not been responding to communications from MLAs.

In his letter on Wednesday, Gupta sought the top city bureaucrat's attention to the procedure and protocol to be adhered to by the government officers while dealing with the members of the Assembly.

"A few instances have been brought to my notice where the communications of the Members in the form of letters, phone calls or messages have not even been acknowledged by the concerned officer," Gupta said in the letter, terming it a "serious" matter.

Gupta said he expected that all administrative secretaries, head of departments, Delhi Police, DDA, and other agencies would be asked to follow a strict compliance to the norms.

The Speaker also sought to be updated about action taken in the matter.

The Central Secretariat Manual of Office Procedure lays down instructions for prompt disposal of references from Members of Parliament and State Legislatures.

Taxi driver held for killing 22-year-old woman in Chhawla

Ravi Dalmiya
New Delhi
A girl's body was found in a canal in the Chhawla area of Delhi, leading to the arrest of a boy named Asif, who is suspected of murder, said the police on Thursday.

The girl, 22 years old, had been missing from Seemapuri and was confirmed dead by police.

The police stated that Asif, a taxi driver and known to the girl, picked her up on March 12, but



they had a disagreement that resulted in him strangling her body in the canal.

A murder case was opened at the Chhawla police station after the incident was reported, and the girl's kidnapping was noted in Seemapuri.

Her body surfaced on March 17 due to water swelling, prompting people to alert the police.

A murder case was opened at the Chhawla police station after the incident was reported, and the girl's kidnapping was noted in Seemapuri.

3 criminals held after gunfight in Delhi's Rohini

New Delhi
Three criminals were arrested after a brief exchange of fire with police in Delhi's Rohini area, officials said on Wednesday.

Acting on a tip-off, the police set up a trap on Pansali Road in Begampur to nab the three history-shedders — Govind alias Kohli (33), Krishna alias Kinha, and Daud alias Sameer, they said.

They arrived in a car and the police intercepted them. The three men were asked to surrender but they opened fire on the police team.

Govind and Krishna sustained bullet injuries on their legs during firing by the policemen, an officer said, adding that they are undergoing treatment at BSA Hospital. The three



criminals fired around five rounds.

He said that Daud was arrested and two pistols were recovered from his possession. The car which was being used by the accused was stolen from Netaji Subhas Place, the officer said.

Govind has 70 cases registered against him, Krishna has 16, and Daud is involved in 10 criminal cases, he said. Further details are awaited.

Delhi Water Minister Pravesh Verma introduced a new plan under Summer Action Plan

Staff Reporter
New Delhi
Delhi Water Minister Pravesh Verma has introduced a new plan under the Summer Action Plan that involves weekly meetings with officials from the Delhi Jal Board (DJB).

These meetings aim to improve water supply, enhance the sewer system, and increase transparency in water distribution for residents during the summer months. The initiative is designed to reduce illegal water connections and minimize losses within the system.

In the first meeting, the team reviewed progress over the past week and created an action plan for the following week. Officials received instructions to improve water supply, prevent leaks, fix sewer blockages, and boost overall water management.

Minister Verma emphasized the importance of making legal water connections more accessible, noting that current high



rates discourage people from opting for them.

He announced plans to revise these rates and implement a deadline for residents to obtain legal connections, with penalties for those who do not comply.

To improve transparency, a new tender for GPS-fitted tankers was announced. This will help track water supply trips and ensure proper documentation of supply points.

Delhi govt orders takeover of University College of Medical Sciences from DU after HC verdict

New Delhi
The Delhi government has ordered the takeover of the University College of Medical Sciences (UCMS) from the Delhi University following a ruling by the high court.

Located in the Dilshad Garden area here, the UCMS was established in 1971 as a constituent college of the DU. It offers various medical and paramedical courses. The Guru Teg Bahadur Hospital is the associated teaching hospital with 1,526 beds.

Delhi's health and family welfare department issued an order on March 18 formalising the transfer, stating that all assets, staff and financial control of the UCMS will now be under the city government.

The decision follows a long-pending request from the Delhi government. The order notes that while approving the takeover, the



beutenant governor had remarked, "This is a long-pending request of the Delhi government. Though there are issues related to taking over on the 'as is where is' basis, creation of posts, funding etc., these will have to be addressed. However, as long as there are no legal impediments, I approve the proposal in view of its importance for the hospital and for Delhi."

The legal battle over the takeover was going on since 2016, when the UCMS Teachers' Association and Karamchari Union challenged it in the Delhi High

cy, a new tender for GPS-fitted tankers was announced. This will help track water supply trips and ensure proper documentation of supply points.

The number of tanker trips during the summer will also be increased to 16 per day to strengthen water delivery.

Additionally, Verma stressed monitoring water outflow from underground reservoirs to better estimate revenue and losses.

The government is committed to enhancing water supply and sewer management, expecting visible improvements soon. A special monitoring system will be established to oversee water distribution and quickly address any issues that arise.

The court had initially granted a stay, but on February 19, 2024, it vacated the order, clearing the way for the Government of the National Capital Territory of Delhi (GNCTD) to assume control.

Following this, the Delhi government has ordered that "all the assets and liabilities, including land, buildings, equipment, machines, records and infrastructure, shall stand transferred to the Government of NCT of Delhi in the Department of Health and Family Welfare with effect from above date on as is where is basis".

Two arrested for armed robbery at retired DU professor's house in Delhi

New Delhi
Two people have been arrested in connection with an armed robbery at a retired Delhi University professor's house in Ashok Vihar here, an official said on Thursday.

The accused have been identified as Suraj alias Akhil (32), and Sachin (29), both residents of Uttar Pradesh's Gautam Budh Nagar, he said.

They planned the robbery with the help of Sachin's girlfriend, who worked as a domestic help in the professor's house.



Police said the suspects abandoned the stolen car near Wazirpur and hired a cab to escape. CCTV footage from the crime scene helped in their identification.

Based on technical surveillance and human intelligence, police tracked the accused to Gautam Budh Nagar and conducted raids at their hideouts, he added.

Suraj was apprehended near Crossing Republic Mall

house, he said. The accused held the victims hostage, tied them with torn bedsheets, and looted the house before fleeing in the retired professor's car, the police said.

Suraj has 17 cases, including robbery and attempt to murder, registered against him while Sachin is involved in 14 cases, they said.

The police said they have recovered a portion of the stolen items, including a gold chain, silver coins, silver bowls, and cash worth Rs 8,200. The stolen car has also been seized.

The accused have been booked under Section 31(1) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) and further investigation is underway to trace their absconding associates, the official added.

Haryana forces remove barricades to clear roads

Chandigarh
Following the eviction of protesting farmers from the Shambhu and Khanauri border points, Haryana security personnel on Thursday started removing cemented barricades, which were erected to prevent the Punjab farmers from heading to Delhi.

At the Shambhu and Khanauri borders, JCB and other machines have been deployed to remove the concrete blocks to clear the Shambhu-Ambala and Sangur-Jind roads, which remained closed for over a year after the protesting farmers camped there.

The Haryana security officials had fortified the state borders with Punjab with cement blocks, iron nails and barbed wire to scuttle any attempt by the farmers to move towards the capital as part of their 'Delhi Chalo' programme.

Punjab Police also resumed its operation to dismantle the remaining temporary structures on the Punjab side of the Shambhu and the Khanauri border points on Thursday to clear the roads.

CM Saini releases Rs. 151 Cr to 36,000 families under Pradhan Mantri Gramin Awaz Yojana

Komal Ramola
Chandigarh
Haryana Chief Minister Sh. Nayab Singh Saini on Thursday released the first installment of Rs. 151 crore to 36,000 eligible families in the state as financial assistance for constructing pucca houses under the Pradhan Mantri Gramin Awaz Yojana. Each beneficiary received Rs. 45,000 in this initial phase.

The amount was transferred during a program held at the Haryana Assembly amid the ongoing budget session. Deputy Commissioners and Chief Executive Officers of Zila Parishads joined the event virtually.

Congratulating the beneficiaries, Chief Minister Saini emphasized that having a home is a significant aspiration for underprivileged families. He stated that with the commencement of 36,000 new homes, a brighter future is being created for these families. He highlighted that as people progress, both the state and the country advance collectively.

The Chief Minister reaffirmed the government's commitment to



Haryana Chief Minister, Sh. Nayab Singh Saini virtually releasing the first installment of financial assistance to eligible beneficiaries under Pradhan Mantri Awaz Yojana - Gramin at Chandigarh on March 20, 2025.

its pledge of providing five lakh houses to underprivileged families in both urban and rural areas. He credited the "double-engine government" for making steady progress towards this goal, referring to the synergy between the central and state governments. He explained that while the Pradhan Mantri Gramin Awaz Yojana provides financial assistance for house construction, the Mukhyamantri Awaz Yojana is facilitating land allotments in Haryana.

Providing an update on the Pradhan Mantri Awaz Yojana-Gramin, the Chief Minister stated that 28,815 homes have already been

allocated in rural areas, with an additional 4,238 houses under construction. So far, Rs. 414.32 crore has been disbursed to beneficiaries. Under the Mukhyamantri Gramin Awaz Yojana 2.0, 100-square-yard plots have been allotted to 4,532 beneficiaries across 62 villages. He also announced the launch of a dedicated portal where families yet to benefit from the scheme can register for assistance.

In the urban sector, 76,141 beneficiaries have received financial aid for house construction under the Pradhan Mantri Awaz Yojana-Urban. Meanwhile, under the

Mukhyamantri Awaz Yojana-Urban, 15,256 families in 14 cities have been allotted 30-square-yard plots for house construction. Basic infrastructure, including sewerage, water supply, roads, and electricity, is being developed in these areas. Additionally, a booking portal for 15,696 plots in 16 cities was launched on March 17, 2025. One lakh applications have been submitted under Pradhan Mantri Awaz Yojana 2.0 Urban, and the verification process is ongoing, with financial assistance to be disbursed soon.

Recognizing the housing needs of mi-

grant workers in industrial areas, the government has announced plans to construct residential complexes, including dormitories and single-room accommodations, in industrial estates. A total of 1,600 flats will be built in Sonapat as part of a rental housing scheme. The Chief Minister directed officials to conduct awareness drives to ensure maximum registration of eligible families under these housing schemes. He reiterated the government's commitment to fulfilling Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of providing a home for every citizen in the country.

Punjab Police to transport 7 aides of Amritpal Singh from Assam

Dibrugarh (Assam)
Pro-Khalistan radical preacher Amritpal Singh's seven accomplices, who were released from Dibrugarh Central Jail in Assam following the withdrawal of NSA charges against them and re-arrested in another case by Punjab Police, will be flown to the northern state on Thursday, officials said.

Punjab Police re-arrested them for attacking a police station on the outskirts of Amritsar in 2023 and got a transit remand from a local court here. "All seven detainees will be flown to Punjab under tight security. Punjab Police has secured their transit remand and are now completing the legal transfer process from Dibrugarh Central Jail," a senior official said.

A 25-member Punjab Police team has been camping in Dibrugarh for the past few days to facilitate the transfer of Singh's accomplices, who have been imprisoned along with the Waris Punjab De (WPD) leader here for nearly two years.

"They will be taken to Punjab on two different commercial flights. Three of them have already been brought to Mohanbari Airport here for their onward journey by an IndiGo flight, scheduled to depart shortly," the official said.

The remaining four will also be sent on a different flight later in the day, he added. The seven are Kulwant Singh, Harjeet Singh, Gurmeet Singh, Bhagwant Singh alias Pradhan Mantri Bajke, Daljit Singh Kalsi and Basant Singh.

All of them were released from Dibrugarh Central Jail in batches during the last three days as their detention

period in the National Security Act (NSA) expired.

Following their release, the Punjab Police re-arrested them before the court in Dibrugarh and sought transit remand, he added.

The Punjab Police team, led by SP Harinder Singh Gill, was engaged in completing the legal formalities in Dibrugarh, to proceed with the transfer.

The remaining three detainees, including Amritpal Singh, are also likely to be transferred by mid-2025, the official said.

Ten members of the pro-Khalistan outfit, including Amritpal who is now an Independent MP, and one of his uncles, who have been housed in the Dibrugarh central jail since March 2023 after they were arrested under the NSA from different parts of Punjab following a crackdown on the outfit.

In 2024, their detention period under the NSA was extended by a year.

Amritpal Singh along with Papalpreet Singh and Varinder Singh Johal will continue to be held under NSA here, with their detention scheduled to expire in June.

The radical preacher had contested the 2024 Lok Sabha elections as an Independent candidate and won from the Khadoor Sahib seat in Punjab.

His seven aides are being taken back after the Punjab government decided not to reinvoke the NSA at the end of their detention period. DGP Gaurav Yadav had said on Sunday.

They would be formally arrested in the 2025 Ajnala police station accident and face the law, he had added.

Two ITI Trainees drown in Thalaut, search operations underway

Rajan Panchhi
Mandi

In a tragic incident, two trainees from the Industrial Training Institute (ITI) Thalaut drowned in the river near Thalaut in Mandi district. The unfortunate incident took place in the afternoon when the two students had reportedly gone to the river to take a bath. Their clothes were later found lying on the riverbank, raising fears that they had been swept away by the strong currents of the deep water.

As soon as the news of the incident spread, the local administration and police rushed to the scene and initiated a search and rescue operation. Despite their relentless efforts, no trace of the two students had been found till late evening. The rescue teams, along with local volunteers, are working tirelessly in an attempt to locate them.

The two missing students have been identified as Dharmendra Thakur, son of Geetanand, a resident of Murah, Balichowki in Mandi district, and Ghanshyam Singh, son of Danya Ram, a resident of Kahar, Post Office, Khalwahar, Balichowki, Mandi district. Both were undergoing train-

ing on OTG at the Larjee office as part of their coursework.

Eyewitness accounts suggest that the students, unaware of the river's depth and the treacherous currents, ventured into the water and were pulled under. The swift-moving water made it difficult for them to stay afloat, resulting in their tragic disappearance.

Local residents, police personnel, and emergency response teams have continued their efforts to locate the students. Divers and rescue boats have been deployed, and a thorough search of the river is being conducted to retrieve the missing bodies. The families of the students have been informed, and they are anxiously awaiting further developments.

This incident has sent shockwaves through the ITI community and the entire region, raising concerns about safety measures near water bodies. Authorities are urging people, especially students and tourists, to exercise extreme caution while venturing near rivers and other natural water sources, especially during unpredictable weather conditions and strong water currents.

Assault on colonel in Patiala Family meets Punjab governor seeks CBI probe

Chandigarh
The family of an Army colonel, who has accused 12 police officials of thrashing him and his son over a parking dispute in Patiala, on Thursday met the Punjab governor here, seeking a CBI probe into the matter.

The family also rejected the magistrate's probe into the matter ordered by the Punjab government on Thursday.

The colonel's wife Jaswinder Kaur Bath, her son and another relative on Thursday evening met Punjab Governor Gulab Chand Kataria at Raj Bhavan here.

The colonel's wife Jaswinder Kaur Bath, her son and another relative on Thursday evening met Punjab Governor Gulab Chand Kataria at Raj Bhavan here.

On Thursday, the state government appointed IAS officer Paramvir Singh, who is the commissioner of Patiala municipal corporation, as an inquiry officer to probe the incident after the family expressed dissatisfaction with the ongoing probe.

The incident took place on the intervening night of March 13 and 14, when Army Colonel Bath and his son were at a roadside eatery near Government Rajindra

Komal Ramola
Chandigarh

Haryana Chief Minister Naib Singh Saini has asserted that the people here rejected the Congress in the recent civic elections. Speaking to reporters after the budget session, the Chief Minister addressed various issues, including the state's financial health, infrastructure development, and power supply.

During his interaction, the Chief Minister stated that he would respond to queries on the budget on the floor of the House on March 27. He emphasized that the opposition must attend the session and listen to his statement in its entirety. He accused the opposition of attempting to mislead the public regarding the budget for the financial year 2025-26, calling their claims indecent and misleading.

Highlighting the state's financial position, Saini clarified that the outstanding loans taken by the state government remain at 6.67 percent of the prescribed limit. He pointed out that this percentage has remained unchanged since 2014-15, countering the opposition's claims of fiscal mismanagement.



Responding to the Congress's remark in the Assembly that the state government is a "full stop," Saini retorted that the people themselves have put a full stop to the Congress in the civic elections. He declared that under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the state is witnessing three times the development compared to the previous government.

Reflecting on the progress made over the past decade, the Chief Minister highlighted the expansion of infrastructure and services in Haryana. He noted that there is now a well-established network of roads across

the state, medical colleges have been opened in every district, and a new college has been set up within 20 kilometers for girls. The capacity of hospitals has also been doubled to enhance healthcare services.

In addition, he stressed that the government has made significant strides in ensuring clean and accessible drinking water for all households. He recalled that during the Congress regime, women had to walk up to two kilometers to fetch water. However, under the current double-engine government, led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, this hardship has been

eliminated, and now every household has access to clean drinking water.

Speaking on the issue of electricity supply, Saini reaffirmed his government's commitment to providing uninterrupted power. He revealed that 24-hour electricity supply is now ensured in approximately 5,600 villages. He reiterated that Modi's vision is to make India a developed nation by 2047, and Haryana will play an integral role in fulfilling this mission.

Addressing the ongoing situation at the Shambhu and Khanauri borders in Punjab, where farmers have been protesting, the Chief Minister stated that the Central government is actively engaging in discussions with the farmers to resolve their issues. He assured that further dialogue is scheduled, and urged people to remain patient as solutions are being worked out.

Additionally, the Chief Minister confirmed that the swearing-in ceremony of newly elected mayors and councilors in the civic elections is planned to be held in Panchkula.

Traffic resumes at Shambhu border Khanauri set to open angry farmers protest

Chandigarh
A day after Punjab Police detained protesting farmers and demolished their temporary structures, traffic resumed on the Shambhu-Ambala Highway on Thursday after more than a year, and Khanauri border point is also set to open, with Haryana Police removing roadblocks on their side of the road.

The road clearance exercise continued even as angry farmers held protests at several places in Punjab including Moga, Tarn Taran, Muktsar and Faridkot against the last evening crackdown on the protesters. A group of farmers, including women, entered into a scuffle with police personnel in Moga while on their way to hold a protest outside the deputy commissioner's office. Meanwhile, in a state-



ment issued in Delhi, the Aam Aadmi Party reaffirmed its support to farmers but emphasised the urgent need to reopen key roads to protect Punjab's economy. The protesting farmers lashed out at the AAP government for detaining their leaders and removing protesters from the Shambhu and Khanauri border points, where they had been camping since February 13 last year after their march to Delhi was thwarted by security personnel.

As the protests got stretched, farmers built temporary structures on the highway to accommodate protesters and sustain their agitation. Haryana Police had fortified the border points with cement blocks, iron nails and barbed wire to scuttle any attempt by the farmers from Punjab to move towards the national capital. Thus, the traffic on the Shambhu-Ambala and Sangur-Jind roads remained closed for over a year. Agency

COURT ROOM NO. 31 AT MAZGAON
IN THE CITY CIVIL COURT AT GREATER BOMBAY
COMMERCIAL SUIT NO. 19052 OF 2025

(Under Order V, Rule 20 (1A) of the Civil Procedure Code 1908 for paper Publication)
Plaintiff(s): 21.12.2023
Date of Filing: 22.12.2023
Case No.: 122-48751/100, Age No. PLAINTIFF

Under Order V, Rule 2 of the Civil Procedure Code 1908 for the publication of Commercial Courts Act 2016
Plaintiff(s) Summons to answer plaintiff Under section 27 Order V, Rule 1, 5, 7 & 8 and Order VIII Rule of the Civil Procedure Code 1908

RPV LIFE SCIENCES LIMITED, incorporated under the Companies Act, 1956 having registered office address at "RPV House", 463 D D Avenue, Sector 15, Vashi, Mumbai - 400303, Maharashtra, India. (Plaintiff)
Contact No.: 022-48751/100, Age No. PLAINTIFF

VERSUS

BYRAN PHARMACEUTICALS (Sole Proprietor)
G.S. Ashwini Complex, D-1, Green Park, New Delhi-110016
email: byranpharmaceuticals@gmail.com
Contact No.: +91 7292089977, Age No. PLAINTIFF

2. MRS. LAXMI KANDPAL, (Sole Proprietor) C/o Naveen Chandras Kandpal, C-401, Sector 3, Raj Vihar, Vasundhara, Near Water Tank, Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh - 201012
email: byranpharmaceuticals@gmail.com
Contact No.: +91 7292089977, Age Adult

TO,
Mrs. Laxmi Kandpal, (Sole Proprietor) of Byran Pharmaceuticals, address at: C/o Naveen Chandras Kandpal, C-401, Sector 3, Raj Vihar, Vasundhara, Near Water Tank, Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh - 201012

Also at:
G.S. Ashwini Complex, D-1, Green Park, New Delhi-110016
The defendant(s) above named.
As per order dated on 19.12.2024 and 07.03.2025 in the court room no. 31, Sht. V. S. Hingna.

Whereas the aforesaid Plaintiff has filed a plaint in this Hon'ble Court against you and you hereby summoned to file a written statement within 30 days of the service of the present summons and in case you fail to file a written statement within the period of 30 days, you shall be allowed to file the written statement on such other day, as may be specified by the Hon'ble Court, for the reasons to be recorded in writing and on payment of such costs as the court may deem fit, but which shall not later than 120 days from the date of service of summons. On expiry of One Hundred and Twenty Days form the date of service of summons, you shall forfeit the right to file a written statement and the court shall not allow the written statement to be taken on record.

THE PLAINTIFF THEREFORE PRAYS:

(a) For Judgment and Decree in favour of the Plaintiff and against the Defendant, for the principal amount of Rs. 12,08,01,24 (Nine Lakhs, Twenty Six Thousand and Eighty One Point Two Four only).

(b) For Judgment and Decree in favour of the Plaintiff and against the Defendant, interest on the principal amount @ of 18% from the date of filing of suit which is about Rs. 2,36,113.00. (Two Lakhs Thirty-Six Thousand and One Hundred and Thirteen only) thereon.

(c) For judgment and Decree in favour of the Plaintiff and against the Defendant, for interest at the rate of 18 % per annum further from the date of filing of suit till realization.

(d) For Judgment and Decree in favour of the Plaintiff and against the Defendant, for the court order expenses; and/or any other relief as deemed fit by the Hon'ble Court. You are hereby summoned to appear in this court in person or by an Advocate able to answer all material questions relating to Suit, or who shall be accompanied by some other person able to answer all such questions to answer the above named plaintiff and as the suit is filed for the final disposal, you must produce all your witness on that day, and you are hereby required to take notice that the default in your appearance on the day before mentioned, will be treated as admission and determination of your liability and you bring with you any document in your possession or power containing evidence relating to the merits of the plaintiff's case or upon which you intend to rely on support of your case and in particular the plaintiff's following documents:
Given this under hand and seal and this Hon'ble Court.
Dated this 13th Day of March 2025

Sd/-
For Registrar,
City Civil Court, Bombay

MOHITRAJ J. JADHAV
ADVOCATE FOR THE PLAINTIFF
325, FORT FOUNDATION, 2650 MAGDAS MASTER ROAD, BAKE HOUSE LANE, KALAGODHA, FORT, MUMBAI-400011
MOB: +91 9890411900 (MUMBAI) MOB: +91 9896312024 (DELHI)
Email: mohitraj.jadav@gmail.com

NOTE:
The next date in this suit is 26.03.2025 please check this status and next further date of the suit on the official website of the City Civil and Session Court, Greater Mumbai



By DIKSHA

ONE NATION ONE ELECTION



Currently, around 5-6 elections are held annually and when local elections are included, the number increases significantly, leading to a substantial rise in election-related expenditure. Experts argue that frequent elections result in a wastage of taxpayers' money and cause policy paralysis due to the repeated imposition of the Model Code of Conduct (MCC).

The Government of India constituted a High-Level Committee on One Nation One Election headed by former President Ram Nath Kovind on 23rd September 2023 to examine the feasibility of holding simultaneous elections for the Lok Sabha, State Legislative Assemblies and Local Bodies. This system, which was the norm until the 3rd Lok Sabha in 1967, was later disrupted due to the imposition of President's Rule in various States and the premature dissolution of the Lok Sabha in 1970, leading to staggered elections.

Imli has also argued that frequent elections divert attention from governance, while synchronizing elections would enable Legislators to focus more effectively on key issues in their constituencies.

However, critics contend that simultaneous elections could undermine federalism, as they may shift focus from local issues to national concerns, thereby violating the basic structure of the Constitution. A study suggests that when elections are held together, there is a 77% likelihood that voters will choose the same party for both state and national elections, potentially diminishing the role of regional parties. Former Chief Election Commissioner S.Y. Quraishi has also criticized the proposal, arguing that it could blur the distinction between national and local elections, thereby weakening India's federal structure.

When India achieved independence, our forefathers prioritized ac-

countability over political stability by adopting a parliamentary form of government. Additionally, frequent elections enhance political accountability, ensuring that political leaders remain engaged with the electorate and responsive to public concerns. This system, while making it difficult to take unpopular but necessary decisions, ensures a level playing field for smaller regional parties, which rely heavily on grassroots, door-to-door campaigns. In contrast, simultaneous elections could shift electoral influence towards social media-driven campaigns, potentially benefiting larger parties with more resources.

Furthermore, frequent elections generate employment opportunities for a large number of workers, a crucial factor in a country where unemployment remains a pressing concern. Despite these challenges, proponents argue that a unified election cycle would enable Governments to prioritize broader policy objec-

tives over regional political conflicts, facilitating smoother implementation of central policies like the National Education Policy (NEP) and reducing tensions arising from different reservation demands from different regions and sectionist movements.

The High-Level Committee submitted its report in 2024, and the Union Cabinet approved it on 18th September 2024, marking a significant step toward electoral reform. The committee consulted 47 political parties, of which 32 supported the implementation of One Nation, One Election (ONOE). Additionally, it sought the opinions of former Chief Justices of India and several High Court Chief Justices. Industry bodies such as FICCI, CII and ASSOCHAM also endorsed the proposal, emphasizing its potential to enhance economic stability by reducing the disruptions and costs associated with frequent elections. Public opinion was also taken into account, with over 80% of 21,500 respondents

expressing support for ONOE.

The committee proposed Amendments to Articles 82A and 324A of the Indian Constitution to facilitate simultaneous elections for the Lok Sabha, State Assemblies and Local Bodies. It recommended a two-phase implementation: Phase 1 would synchronize Lok Sabha and State Legislative Assembly elections, while Phase 2 would align Municipal and Panchayat elections with the Lok Sabha and State Legislative elections within 100 days. Furthermore, the committee suggested introducing a single EPIC ID for all elections, addressing concerns raised by West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee regarding voter duplication.

While concerns about reduced political accountability remain valid, the Government can introduce reforms such as the right to recall to address these issues. Additionally, empowering the Election Commission of India (ECI) with greater authority and ensuring a level playing field for all political parties - whether in terms of campaign financing or access to social media - would be crucial in maintaining the democratic integrity of the electoral process. Also concerns about its implementation when a State goes into President's Rule should be considered.

Breaking Time Sudoku

What to do

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

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

Solution, Sudoku

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

THE WISDOM TREE BY SUVEEN KUMAR

HEART DOESN'T KNOW EVERYTHING

Don't just listen to your heart as it has no idea how the world works, don't just act what your mind says as it never remains on its words, don't just follow your soul as it doesn't realize that we are not in the material world. Listen to your heart when you have to deal with your inner world, listen to your mind when you have to deal with the outer world and listen to your soul when you have no wish to care for the material world. Don't degrade yourself when you have no wish to upgrade, don't separate yourself when you have no wish to connect and don't stray yourself when you have no wish to walk away. Life is very difficult to live when you don't feel comfortable with yourself, life gets more difficult to live when

you get cosy with others, life is even difficult to live when you don't want to live and you have to, life gets double difficult to live when you want to live but you can't. Life is to live yet not sure to live, life is to serve yet not the way you wish. Don't get comfortable with uncomfortable and don't feel uncomfortable with comfortable. It's easy to say when you know something, it's easy to listen to when someone makes some sense, it's easy to remember when someone doesn't leave your mind and it is easy to forget when someone doesn't turn on your heart.

Moral: Don't just think different and do different but sometimes beyond your wish also wish different.



TOP STORY

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About the Author

Dr. Satyawan Saurabh, Research Scientist, Political Science, Delhi University

The growing problem of pesticide residues in food



By Dr Satyawan Saurabh

Pesticide residues in food are small amounts of pesticides that remain on or within foods after they have been used on crops. These residues can potentially pose health risks, depending on the specific pesticide and its concentration. India is one of the top consumers of pesticides globally, using them extensively in agriculture to protect crops from pests and diseases. However, the detection of pesticide residues in food has emerged as a significant health issue. Research shows that most foods in India contain these residues, some of which have levels higher than safe limits. This situation raises serious health concerns and highlights the need for better food safety regulations and greater public awareness. The recent appeal by the Union Minister of State for Health and Family Welfare for a comprehensive national strategy for monitoring pesticide residues in food is important to enhance public health and food safety in India. Contamination of food with pesticides poses a serious health risk, which is further worsened by modern farming practices and reckless use of chemicals. Although several regulatory measures are in place, there are gaps in monitoring, enforcement and public education, which require stronger govern-

ment action at both the central and state levels.

Reports from the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) and various independent studies show that pesticide residues have been found in more than 50% of food samples tested in India. Some foods, such as vegetables, fruits, cereals, pulses and spices, have been found to contain pesticides in excess of the maximum residue limits (MRLs) set by regulatory bodies. Pesticides are used on crops to control insects, fungi and weeds and can be transported through water, soil and air, affecting nearby crops. Additionally, some pesticides are used to prevent spoilage during storage and transportation. Common fruits and vegetables such as apples, grapes, strawberries, spinach, tomatoes and potatoes often contain significant residues of pesticides. Staple foods such as rice, wheat, lentils and chickpeas may also contain harmful pesticides. Spices such as turmeric, coriander and cumin can sometimes contain pesticide levels above safe limits. Consuming food with pesticide residues can cause a variety of health problems, which vary depending on the amount and duration of exposure. Short-term effects can include nausea, dizziness, headaches and allergic reactions, while long-term exposure can result in serious conditions such as cancer, hormonal imbalances, neurological disorders and developmental problems in children.



Long-term exposure to pesticide residues in food causes a number of health problems, including cancer, neurological problems, hormonal disruption, reproductive challenges, and a weakened immune system. Pesticides also pollute our soil, water, and air, which has a negative impact on biodiversity. The continued presence of banned pesticides in farming fields contributes to soil degradation in the long term. Additionally, harmful chemicals used in agriculture can harm pollinators such as bees, disrupt ecological balance, and reduce crop yields. Children and pregnant women are particularly at risk from these toxins. Over time, pesticides can accumulate in the human body, potentially resulting in chronic health conditions. The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India monitors pesticide residues in food through the Food Safety and Standards (Contaminants, Toxins and Residues) Regulations, 2011, which sets maximum residue limits (MRLs) for various pesticides based on scientific assessment of risk. However, enforcement

of these regulations is challenging due to the widespread use of pesticides and inadequate monitoring. Recently, the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India has introduced specific maximum residue limits for spices and culinary herbs to enhance food safety. Continuous efforts are being made to align national standards with international guidelines, such as those established by the Codex Alimentarius Commission.

India lacks advanced testing laboratories capable of detecting pesticide residues on a large scale. Most testing facilities are located in urban centres, complicating the monitoring of agricultural produce in rural areas. The Food Safety and Standards Act 2006 establishes maximum residue limits (MRLs) for pesticides, but adherence to these standards is often low. Many pesticides banned in other countries are still legally permitted in India. Farmers and traders often resort to chemical sprays to artificially ripen fruits, such as using carbide on mangoes. Additionally, harmful sub-

stances such as formalin are used to preserve fish and meat, posing long-term health risks to consumers. Milk, pulses and vegetables are particularly vulnerable to contamination with chemicals that aim to improve their appearance and shelf life. Many farmers are not well aware of safe pesticide practices and continue to use highly toxic, banned chemicals. Consumers lack awareness of proper washing techniques or alternative methods to reduce pesticide exposure. Although demand for organic food is growing, its reliability is often questioned due to inadequate certification processes. Testing and monitoring agencies are plagued by corruption, which allows unsafe food products to infiltrate the market. Many businesses evade regulations through bribery, making it challenging for officials to maintain food safety standards.

Consumers can take a variety of steps to avoid exposure to harmful pesticide residues. Start by washing fruits and vegetables thoroughly under running water; peeling them can reduce

residue levels even further. Soaking produce in a solution of water with vinegar or salt can also help remove pesticide residues. Cooking can break down some pesticide residues, reducing their effect. Generally, organic foods have lower levels of synthetic pesticide residues than conventionally grown alternatives. Some commodities, such as bananas, avocados, and onions, naturally contain low pesticide residues. A comprehensive strategy is needed to ensure food safety in India. Strict regulations and monitoring are essential; government agencies must effectively enforce maximum residue limits (MRLs) and regularly test food products. Promoting the use of biopesticides and integrated pest management (IPM) can help reduce reliance on chemical pesticides. Increasing awareness among people about the risks associated with pesticides and safe food handling practices can further reduce the risk. The Pesticide Management Bill, 2020 should be prioritised and fully implemented to phase out harmful pesticides. It is also important to review the list of approved pesticides and ban pesticides that are considered hazardous and have been banned in other countries.

Acid attack survivors can move state legal services authority for compensation: SC

■ The bench said the delay in the disbursement of the compensation to acid attack survivors will be brought to its notice.

New Delhi
The Supreme Court on Thursday said acid attack survivors could approach their respective state legal services authority in case there was a delay in receiving compensation.



A bench comprising Chief Justice Sanjiv Khanna and Justice Sanjay Kumar took note of the submissions of the counsel of Mumbai-based NGO Acid Survivors Sahas Foundation that such survivors were finding it tough to receive compensation from authorities in Maharashtra.

The order, among other things, said acid attack survivors should receive free treatment in both public and private hospitals and compensated with a minimum of Rs 3 lakh by the state government concerned as aftercare and rehabilitation cost.

“Just get in touch with the state legal services authorities (SLSAs),” the CJ said.

The plea, filed through advocate Shashank Tripathi, underscored the continuing struggles of acid attack survivors despite the court’s efforts to regulate acid sales, punish perpetrators, and provide medical, psychological, and social rehabilitation.

The bench added, “The victims will be at liberty to approach the state legal services authorities in case of delay in payment of compensation.”

The SLSAs were further directed to maintain a chart, including details of the time the survivors or their family members sought the compensation and the day they received it.

The bench said the delay in the disbursement of the compensation to acid attack survivors will be brought to its notice.

Observing the Centre and 11 states hadn’t filed their replies to the petition, the court granted them four weeks and posted the hearing in the May 5 week.

The hearing related to a 2023 PIL of the NGO seeking the strict implementation of the court’s directions issued in the famous *Laxmi v. Union of India* in 2014.

along with the Rs 3 lakh minimum compensation under the Victim Compensation Scheme 2016, many survivors hadn’t received adequate financial relief, it added.

Several survivors, the plea said, were still awaiting the monetary compensation years after their attacks, leaving them financially vulnerable.

The plea said despite amendments and schemes being notified, systemic inefficiencies came in the way of benefits for survivors, who were forced to go through complex bureaucratic processes to claim their rights.

Private hospitals continued to demand advance payments before providing emergency care, despite the court’s directions and the high cost of reconstructive surgeries remained a barrier for many survivors, it added.

Soon after the House met in the morning, Chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar allowed the laying of papers and some reports of the parliamentary standing committees, after which he adjourned the House for about an hour.

He said he wanted to meet leaders of political parties over what he witnessed in the House. Without sharing details of what he witnessed, Dhankhar adjourned the proceedings till noon.

“I will be calling a meeting of floor leaders in my chambers at 11:30 am today. I would share with the members what I have seen in the House a while ago,” he said soon after listed papers were laid on the floor of the House.

While the chairman did not cite any reason for the adjournment, the issue of DMK members wearing T-shirts with slogans written on them was objected to by the chairman.

Some of the DMK MPs attended the House proceedings wearing T-shirts with the slogan “Delimitation - Tamil Nadu will fight, Tamil Nadu will win”, which was objected to by the Chair.

Some MPs also donned stoles that played upon Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan’s remarks on DMK MPs’ protest in Lok Sabha against the three-language formula of National Education Policy (NEP), and had the word “uncivilised” written on it, with the first two alphabets ‘U’ and ‘N’ having been crossed.

As the deadline over the issue continued, when the House reassembled at noon, Deputy Chairman Harivaran announced that the proceedings had been adjourned again for another 15 minutes.

At 12:15 pm, he again came amid the deadlock and announced that the House stood adjourned till 2 pm.

As soon as it reconvened at 2 pm, the deputy chairman announced that the House stood adjourned for the day.

The House stands adjourned to meet at 11 am on Friday, 21st March. Deputy Chairman Harivaran informed members.

During the meeting with floor leaders of various parties, the chairman sought their cooperation and urged the DMK members not to wear T-shirts that were against the rules. However, the DMK members were unrepentant and did not budge.

During the meeting, floor leaders of various parties assured the chairman that they were in favour of smooth functioning of the House.

The DMK MPs, however, said the government had failed to explain the issue of delimitation, which might lead to the representation of the southern states going down. They also refused to change the T-shirts and said they were ready to be suspended if the Chairman wanted to take action against them.

Seeking to avoid any uproar in the House over the issue, the Chair announced the adjournment of the House for the day.

RS adjourned over DMK MPs wearing T-shirts fails to transact business



New Delhi
Rajya Sabha failed to transact any significant business on Thursday and was adjourned for the day after witnessing three adjournments over a row on some DMK members wearing T-shirts with slogans written on them.

This is the first day during the second part of the Budget Session when the House was adjourned without transacting any business except for the laying of papers.

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Shining a light on discrimination: Rahul pushes for caste census

New Delhi
Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Thursday said caste census is an important step towards bringing out the “truth of inequality and discrimination”, and asserted that “we will keep fighting” as BR Ambedkar’s dream of ensuring rightful share is still incomplete.



griha, he said.

Gandhi made the remarks in a post along with a video of his interaction with former UGC chairman and academic Sukhdeo Thorat.

“It was not just a fight for the right to water, but for equality and respect. This fight for ‘rightful share’, which began 98 years ago, is still going on,” Gandhi said.

“I had a detailed discussion with Prof Thorat, a well-known academician, economist, expert on Dalit issues and member of the study committee on caste census in Telangana, on the Mahad Satyagraha and the ongoing struggle of Dalits for access to administration, education, businesses and resources,” the leader of opposition in the Lok Sabha said.

Caste census is an important step towards bringing out the “truth of inequality and discrimination”, which its opponents do not want to be out in public, he said.

On March 20, 1927, Ambedkar had directly challenged caste discrimination through the Mahad Satyagraha and the ongoing struggle of Dalits for access to administration, education, businesses and resources,” the leader of opposition in the Lok Sabha said.

“Babasaheb’s dream is still incomplete. His fight is not just for the past, it is a fight for today as well - we will fight it with all our might,” Gandhi said.

In the video, Gandhi discussed the importance of the Mahad Satyagraha with Thorat, and also the struggle of Dalits for access to governance, education, bureaucracy and resources.

“As per the information available with the Ministry, the number of Indian prisoners, including undertrials, in foreign prisons at present is 10,152,” he said.

Indo-German partnership in science education stronger than ever, says Philipp Ackermann

New Delhi
Indo-German partnership in science and education is “stronger than ever” and it is one of the building blocks of the bilateral ties, Ambassador of Germany to India Philipp Ackermann has said.



Delhi from March 16-22, the statement said.

Heads of leading German universities and representatives of academic institutions are visiting Hyderabad and New Delhi this month to enhance institutional partnerships and explore new academic collaborations between the two countries, according to an official statement issued on Thursday.

“The visit brings together 20 heads of leading German universities and representatives of academic institutions in Hyderabad and New Delhi to enhance institutional partnerships and explore new academic collaborations between Germany and India,” it said.

These institutions will be engaged in high level visits to Indian universities and research institutions, and jubilee celebrations of the Regional Office of DAAD in India.

Another highlight was the inaugural ceremony of an Indo-German collaboration project at the PSG German School of Technology, which fosters academic and research cooperation and exploring new opportunities in education and research, it said.

DAAD - German Academic Exchange Service - is marking its centenary this year.

The Indo-German Forum: Research, Innovation and Transfer will serve as the pivotal gathering, where 250 representatives of German and Indian higher education and research institutions will convene, the DAAD Regional Office said.

Indo-German partnership in science and education is stronger than ever.

Organised by the DWIH, New Delhi and DAAD Regional Office, this forum will reinforce the Indo-German ties, fostering academic and research cooperation and exploring new opportunities in education and research, it said.

The DAAD’s jubilee will also be celebrated to mark 65 years of DAAD presence in India and a century of DAAD’s commitment to building bridges through education and research.

25 Indians awarded death sentence in UAE judgement yet to be implemented: Govt

New Delhi
The number of Indian nationals who have been awarded a death sentence in the UAE, but the judgement is yet to be implemented, stands at 25, the government informed Parliament on Thursday.



The government attaches high priority to the safety, security and well-being of Indian nationals in foreign countries, including those in the foreign jails, the minister said.

Minister of State for External Affairs Kirti Vardhan Singh said this in a written response to a query in Rajya Sabha.

The Ministry of External Affairs was asked whether many Indians are languishing in prison for years in foreign countries, as also details of Indians who are awaiting capital punishment in foreign countries, and efforts made by the Indian government to save their lives.

“The government attaches high priority to the safety, security and well-being of Indian nationals in foreign countries, including those in the foreign jails, the minister said.

Singh shared tabulated data pertaining to eight countries, and the number of Indian nationals who have been awarded death sentence, but the judgement is yet to be implemented.

According to data, the figures stand as 25 (UAE), 11 (Saudi Arabia), six (Malaysia), three (Kuwait), and one each for Indonesia, Qatar, the US, and Yemen.

“Indian Missions/Posts abroad provide all possible assistance to Indian nationals who have been sentenced, including with death sentences by the foreign courts,” Indian Missions/Posts also provide consular access by visiting the jails and follows up their cases with Courts, Jails, Public Prosecutors and other concerned agencies.

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The DAAD’s jubilee will also be celebrated to mark 65 years of DAAD presence in India and a century of DAAD’s commitment to building bridges through education and research.

“As per the information available with the Ministry, the number of Indian prisoners, including undertrials, in foreign prisons at present is 10,152,” he said.

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New Delhi
Rajya Sabha failed to transact any significant business on Thursday and was adjourned for the day after witnessing three adjournments over a row on some DMK members wearing T-shirts with slogans written on them.

This is the first day during the second part of the Budget Session when the House was adjourned without transacting any business except for the laying of papers.

Soon after the House met in the morning, Chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar allowed the laying of papers and some reports of the parliamentary standing committees, after which he adjourned the House for about an hour.

He said he wanted to meet leaders of political parties over what he witnessed in the House. Without sharing details of what he witnessed, Dhankhar adjourned the proceedings till noon.

“I will be calling a meeting of floor leaders in my chambers at 11:30 am today. I would share with the members what I have seen in the House a while ago,” he said soon after listed papers were laid on the floor of the House.

While the chairman did not cite any reason for the adjournment, the issue of DMK members wearing T-shirts with slogans written on them was objected to by the chairman.

Some of the DMK MPs attended the House proceedings wearing T-shirts with the slogan “Delimitation - Tamil Nadu will fight, Tamil Nadu will win”, which was objected to by the Chair.

Some MPs also donned stoles that played upon Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan’s remarks on DMK MPs’ protest in Lok Sabha against the three-language formula of National Education Policy (NEP), and had the word “uncivilised” written on it, with the first two alphabets ‘U’ and ‘N’ having been crossed.

As the deadline over the issue continued, when the House reassembled at noon, Deputy Chairman Harivaran announced that the proceedings had been adjourned again for another 15 minutes.

At 12:15 pm, he again came amid the deadlock and announced that the House stood adjourned till 2 pm.

As soon as it reconvened at 2 pm, the deputy chairman announced that the House stood adjourned for the day.

The House stands adjourned to meet at 11 am on Friday, 21st March. Deputy Chairman Harivaran informed members.

During the meeting with floor leaders of various parties, the chairman sought their cooperation and urged the DMK members not to wear T-shirts that were against the rules. However, the DMK members were unrepentant and did not budge.

During the meeting, floor leaders of various parties assured the chairman that they were in favour of smooth functioning of the House.

The DMK MPs, however, said the government had failed to explain the issue of delimitation, which might lead to the representation of the southern states going down. They also refused to change the T-shirts and said they were ready to be suspended if the Chairman wanted to take action against them.

Seeking to avoid any uproar in the House over the issue, the Chair announced the adjournment of the House for the day.

“As per the information available with the Ministry, the number of Indian prisoners, including undertrials, in foreign prisons at present is 10,152,” he said.

Society Must Strike at Chitta to Save Youth: N.R. Thakur

Rajan Panchhi
Mandi:

Raising concerns over the increasing menace of drug addiction among youth, District Child Protection Officer Mandi, N.R. Thakur, emphasized the urgent need to tackle the growing influence of Chitta (a synthetic drug) before it devastates the younger generation. Addressing an awareness camp organized by the District Child Protection Unit Mandi in Nela Ward, Thakur warned that if parents and society fail to intervene in time, many children will fall into the dark abyss of drugs with little chance of return.

"Today, our youth are getting trapped in the clutches of drugs, which are ruining their lives. Chitta is claiming lives every day, while mobile addiction is further isolating children, pushing them towards loneliness and depression," said Thakur. He stressed that any form of addiction leads to destruction and called upon the society to unite in the battle against drugs.

Thakur also highlighted the importance of love, care, proper treatment, and strict counseling to rescue children from the web of addiction. Additionally, he spoke about tackling social evils like child labour, child marriage, child begging, and child exploitation, urging public cooperation in eradicating these issues.

Speaking at the event, Nela Ward Councillor Rajendra Mohan and Municipal Corporation resource person Vishal urged attendees to fight against the causes of drug addiction and strengthen preventive measures. They emphasized that saving the youth from substance abuse should be a top priority for everyone. The camp saw the participation of hundreds of women, and Councillor Rajendra Mohan, who chaired the event, lauded the community's commitment to tackling social issues.

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Mere grabbing of breast breaking pyjama string don't amount to rape: Allahabad HC

Pravrajai:
The Allahabad High Court has ruled that mere grabbing of the breast and breaking of the string of a 'pyjama' do not amount to offence of rape but such offence falls under the ambit of assault or use of criminal force against any woman with the intent to disrobe or compel her to be naked.

The order was passed by Justice Ram Manohar Narayan Mishra on a revision petition filed by two persons who moved the court, challenging the order of a Special Judge of Kasganj by which the court had summoned them under Section 376 of IPC apart from other sections.

According to facts of the case, an application was moved before the court of Special Judge, POC SO Act, alleging that around 5:00 pm on November 10, 2021, she (informant) was returning from the home of her sister-in-law (husband's sister) along with her minor daughter aged about 14 years.

Accused Pawan, Akash and Ashok, who were her village men, met her on the way on a muddy road and asked where she was coming from. When she



replied she was coming from her sister-in-law's place, accused Pawan offered a lift to her daughter, assuring her that he would drop her at her residence. Relying on his assurance, she permitted her daughter to accompany him on his motorcycle.

The accused persons stopped their motorcycle on the muddy way to her village and started grabbing her breasts. Akash dragged her and tried to take her beneath the culvert and broke the string of her pyjama.

Two persons reached the spot on hearing the cries of her daughter. The accused persons threatened them with life by pointing a counterfeit-made pistol and fled

the place. After recording the statement of the victim and the witnesses, the court summoned the accused for offence of rape.

After going through the materials on record, the court found, "In the present case, the allegation against accused Pawan and Akash is that they grabbed the breasts of the victim and Akash tried to bring down the lower garment of the victim and for that purpose, they had broken string of her lower garments and tried to drag her beneath the culvert, but due to intervention of witnesses they left the victim and fled away from the place of incident.

"This fact is not sufficient to draw an infer-



The order was passed by Justice Ram Manohar Narayan Mishra on a revision petition filed by two persons who moved the court, challenging the order of a Special Judge of Kasganj by which the

victim," the court said.

It said the allegations levelled against the accused Pawan and Akash, and the facts of the case hardly constitute an offence of attempt to rape in the case. To bring out a charge of attempt to rape the prosecution must establish that it had gone beyond the stage of preparation, it said.

"The difference between preparation and actual attempt to commit an offence consists chiefly in the greater degree of determination," the court added.

The court said, "On facts of the case a prima facie charge attempted to rape is not made out against the accused Pawan and Akash and instead they are liable to be summoned for a minor charge of Section 354(b) IPC i.e. assault or abuse a woman with intent to

There is no allegation that the accused tried to commit penetrative sexual assault against the

Meeting with recognized political parties concluded under the Chairmanship of DM



Akash Jain
Agra:

A meeting with all recognized political parties of the district was held at the Collectorate auditorium under the chairmanship of District Magistrate and District Election Officer, Mr. Arvind Mallappa Bangari, in accordance with the directives of the Election Commission of India.

During the meeting, it was informed that as of March 19, 2025, the total number of voters in all legislative assemblies of the district stands at 35,74,086. The electoral roll comprises 19,32,368 male voters, 16,41,593 female voters, and 125 transgender voters. The gender ratio was also

highlighted, with 850 females per 1,000 males. The District Election Officer emphasized that all political parties must appoint Booth Level Agents (BLA) and provide their lists at the earliest. He stressed the crucial role of BLAs in ensuring the accurate registration of eligible voters and rectifying any discrepancies in names, addresses, ages, and other details in coordination with Booth Level Officers (BLOs). According to the Election Commission's guidelines, a BLA can submit up to 10 forms at a time and a total of 30 forms during the revision period, along with the required documents.

It was also highlighted that the Election Commission has designated

four qualifying dates—January 1, April 1, July 1, and October 1—for electoral roll revision. During these periods, the list of claims and objections is made available to political parties and uploaded on the official website, agran.in.

In a meeting held on March 11, 2025, with recognized political parties for Assembly Constituencies 87-Agra Cantonment (SC), 88-Agra South, 89-Agra North, and 90-Agra Rural (SC), Mr. Siddharth Chaturvedi, District President of the Aam Aadmi Party, suggested that improved coordination between BLAs and BLOs would help in resolving voter list revision issues effectively.

Surprise Jail inspection: District Judge, Magistrate, Police Commissioner assess facilities

Akash Jain/Rajesh Tomar

Agra: In a surprise visit to Agra's Central Prison and District Jail, District Judge, Shri Vivek Sangal, District Magistrate Shri Arvind Mallappa Bangari, and Additional Police Commissioner Shri Sanjeev Tyagi conducted a thorough inspection of jail facilities, interacting with inmates and ensuring compliance with regulations.

The inspection covered various sections of the prison, including male and female barracks, the children's school, and the hospital. The officials examined the overall hygiene, food quality, and medical care available to inmates. Sick prisoners admitted to the jail hospital received personal attention, with authorities emphasizing the importance of regular health check-ups.

During the visit, the jail kitchen was scrutinized, and the officials personally tasted chapatis prepared for inmates to assess their quality. They directed jail authorities to main-



tain the highest hygiene standards during food preparation and ensure that nutritious meals are served.

Addressing legal aid concerns, the District Judge instructed the Jail Superintendent to appoint a nodal officer who would assist inmates in filing appeals, parole applications, and other legal matters. Additionally, he emphasized that government advocates should be made available for prisoners unable to afford legal assistance.

Skill development initiatives were also highlighted, with the officials appreciating various inmate-led voc-

Dr. Renu Singh leads 'Gauraiya Ki Udaan' campaign to raise awareness on World Sparrow Day

Hapur:
Every year, March 20 is observed as World Sparrow Day to draw attention to the declining population of sparrows and other common birds. The initiative aims to encourage conservation efforts and to educate people on the importance of maintaining a suitable habitat for these small yet significant creatures.

The dwindling number of sparrows in urban areas is not a result of their inability to reproduce but rather the loss of natural habitats due to rapid urbanization. In response, several social organizations have taken up the responsibility of spreading awareness and encouraging conservation measures.

One such initiative making a remarkable impact is the 'Gauraiya Ki Udaan' campaign led by Dr. Renu Singh in Hapur, Uttar Pradesh. A resident of Avias Vikas Colony on Meerut Road, Dr. Renu Singh has dedicated herself to the cause of sparrow conservation. For the past eight years, she and her team have been actively involved in distributing free nests to households, schools, and community spaces, aiming to provide a safe habitat for sparrows.

Dr. Renu Singh shared that the campaign began eight years ago with a simple yet effective goal—creating awareness and distributing nests at no cost to encourage people to take an active role in conservation. Over the years, her initiative has gained momentum, and to date, she has successfully distributed approximately 8,000 nests to people in Hapur and neighboring areas. According to her, the results have been encouraging, with an increase in the visibility of sparrows in the areas where these nests have been placed.

On the occasion of World Sparrow Day, Dr. Renu Singh and her team have planned a special distribution drive, where around 200 nests will be handed out for free. This effort is part of their ongoing mission to restore the sparrow population and remind people of their role in preserving biodiversity. Her husband, an ardent supporter of her work, recalled how sparrows had nearly vanished from their locality but have now started returning, thanks to her consistent efforts. Even children are actively participating in the initiative, which further strengthens community engagement in the cause.

UP govt recovered 64 000 acres from land mafia since 2017: CM

Bahraich:
Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Thursday highlighted that his government has resolved 33 lakh pending revenue-related cases in Uttar Pradesh since 2017, bringing relief to thousands of citizens.

Speaking at the inauguration of the new tehsil building in Miharpurwa (Motpur), he emphasized the importance of an efficient administrative system in ensuring justice and transparency in land-related matters.

Adityanath noted that before 2017, Uttar Pradesh had over 33 lakh unresolved revenue disputes, including cases of land mutation, demarcation, and usage rights.

"Such a backlog led to frequent disputes, violence, and illegal land grabbing, making life difficult for common citizens," he said. "Previous govern-



ments allowed corruption and dishonesty to thrive, leaving the poor without hope for justice. However, we set strict timelines for resolving cases at all administrative levels, from sub-divisional magistrates to tehsildars and revenue officers, ensuring accountability."

The chief minister further stated that the government's crack-

down on land mafia through the Anti-Land Mafia Task Force has resulted in the recovery of 64,000 acres of illegally occupied land.

He also pointed out that with improved law and order, Uttar Pradesh has become a major destination for investment.

Adityanath stressed that village-level govern-

ance has been strengthened through the establishment of Gram Sachivalayas (village secretariats) with internet connectivity.

"Now, villagers can obtain essential documents like income and residence certificates without having to visit distant offices. This initiative will ensure timely services at the grassroots level," he said.

During the event, Adityanath also inaugurated residential quarters for tehsil officials and employees, emphasizing that government officers should reside near their workplaces to facilitate efficient service delivery.

He also announced the digitization of land records to eliminate manipulation in land demarcation.

"Now, land measurement will be conducted digitally, ensuring transparency and fairness. No poor person will lose even an inch of their land due to fraudulent practices," he assured.

During the event, Adityanath also inaugurated residential quarters for tehsil officials and employees, emphasizing that government officers should reside near their workplaces to facilitate efficient service delivery.

"The goal is to ensure that officials are accessible to the people at all times," he said.

Reflecting on his previous visit to Bahraich after the monsoon, the chief minister recalled how a pack of wolves had created panic in

the region.

"Although wild animals generally do not harm people under normal circumstances, the situation had worsened, leading to tragic incidents, including the loss of children's lives. The state government had already categorized human-wildlife conflict as a disaster, and we promptly provided Rs 5 lakh in compensation to affected families from the disaster relief fund," he said.

Adityanath highlighted Bahraich's historical and geographical significance, calling it a land rich in resources, located between two rivers, with fertile soil and vast forests.

"Bahraich has immense tourism potential. A medical college has already been established here, and the victory memorial of Maharaja Sahadev is also ready for inauguration," he announced.

Meerut murder 'Killer' wife spends first night in prison shuns jail food

Meerut (UP):
Muskan Rastogi, who with her lover Sahil Shukla confessed to murdering and dismembering her husband, Saurabh Rajput, spent a restless night in Chaudhary Charan Singh district jail here, showing signs of extreme distress, jail officials confirmed.

Viresh Raj Sharma, senior jail superintendent, said, "Muskan and her lover, Sahil Shukla, were brought to the jail around 6 pm on Wednesday. Muskan was placed in the women's barrack (barrack number 18)."

"Muskan remained silent and did not interact with anyone.

She also did not eat the provided food," he added.

While jail sources said that Muskan cried throughout the night, the jail superintendent declined to comment on this.

The sources further claimed that Muskan and Sahil asked to be placed in adjacent barracks.

On Wednesday, the duo was presented in the court of the chief judicial magistrate and remanded to 14-day judicial custody. Outside the court, they were attacked by a group of lawyers, who physically assaulted them. Sahil's clothes were torn during the altercation, and police had to intervene to ensure their safety.

69 terrorists killed in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province in two months

Peshawar: As many as 69 terrorists associated with the banned TTP outfit were killed by Pakistan police in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province in different engagements from January 1 to March 15, official data released on Thursday said.

The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa police lost 26 policemen in the line of duty while fighting against terrorists during the same period, according to the data released by the Central Police Line here.

The banned Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) is a militant group having ideological similarities with Afghan Taliban. Pakistan has witnessed an uptick in terror activities recently, especially in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan provinces, after the TTP group ended its ceasefire with the government in November 2022.

Giving the break-up of those injured, the Central Police Line data said, 31 were injured in gunbattles.

The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa police faced 29 attacks on their installations in January, 24 in February and 15 till March 15 this year.

The number of attacks on police posts made in the same period are 16 while seven police stations were attacked too.

Similarly, police search parties were attacked nine times in the province, the report added.

Pakistan govt accuses India of involvement in destabilising Balochistan

Islamabad: Pakistan on Thursday accused India of fanning terrorism in the country, and said New Delhi's involvement in destabilising Balochistan "is very clear".

Foreign office spokesperson Shafiq Ali Khan also alleged that India has been running a "global assassination campaign sponsored from their country".

"Indian involvement is clear. They have been involved in terrorism in Pakistan. And secondly, it's not just Pakistan, they have been trying to destabilise the entire region, all South Asian countries," Khan told a weekly press briefing here.

"India's involvement in fanning terrorism in Pakistan, and its involvement in destabilising Balochistan is very clear to us," he said.

The remarks come days after Balochistan Liberation Army (BLA)



militants ambushed the Jaffar Express in Bolan district of Balochistan on March 11. The militants killed 21 passengers and four paramilitary soldiers before the Army eliminated all 33 terrorists on March 12.

Khan said that India never condemned the attack on Jaffar Express.

Pakistan had made a similar allegation last

week, triggering a sharp reaction from New Delhi.

"The whole world knows where the epicentre of global terrorism lies," External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar's remarks at the Raisina Dialogue in New Delhi, Foreign Office spokesperson Randeep Jaiswal said on March 14. "Pakistan should look inwards instead of pointing fingers and shifting the blame for its own internal

problems and failures on others."

Talking about the Indian External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar's remarks at the Raisina Dialogue in New Delhi, Foreign Office spokesperson Randeep Jaiswal said that Pakistan was alarmed that the frequency of Indian leadership's unwarranted assertions about Jammu and

Foreign office spokesperson Shafiq Ali Khan also alleged that India has been running a "global assassination campaign sponsored from their country".

Kashmir has increased.

"It was India that took the Jammu and Kashmir issue to the United Nations in 1948. Today, it has no right to blame the Security Council and its erstwhile members for the resolutions that were subsequently adopted," he said.

The spokesperson also said that Pakistan believes in peaceful co-existence. However, a peaceful settlement of the Jammu and Kashmir dispute, in accordance with the relevant UN Security Council Resolutions and aspirations of the Kashmiri people, is essential for a lasting peace in South Asia.

No bail reprieve for Sri Lankan police chief

Colombo: Deshabandu Tennakoon, the suspended Sri Lankan inspector general of police, was on Thursday refused bail in a case related to a shooting incident in 2023 and will now spend time in remand custody till April 3.

Tennakoon surrendered to the court on Wednesday after evading arrest for over two weeks.

The magistrate's court in the southern town of Matara refused bail to Tennakoon, who was remanded till Thursday after his surrender.

Officials said that he was kept in a special cell in isolation from the rest of the inmates at the Angunakolapelessa prison further south of Matara last night.

His lawyers pleaded bail yesterday but came up with stiff resistance from the state attorney who charged that Tennakoon had run a criminal ring while holding the position of police chief.

The police chief had two days ago lost his appeal at the Court of Appeal to prevent his arrest.

The Appeal Court refused his plea without a hearing. Tennakoon, under suspension since July 2024, was a fugitive and was hiding since the Magistrate's court in Matara on February 28 ordered his arrest over the December 2023 incident in the southern resort of Weligama.

As the inspector general, Tennakoon had sent police officers from the Colombo Crime Division (CCD) to the resort hotel in Weligama for a raid in connection with illegal drugs. However, the Weligama police, unaware of the undercover operation, opened fire at the CCD vehicle, killing an officer.

The police sought public support to arrest their chief while deploying six teams to hunt for Tennakoon after the Matara court order.

Tennakoon was suspended in July 2024 from functioning by the Supreme Court, which also ordered a hearing on the legality of his appointment after it received petitions regarding it.

Pak says ties with US registered 'positive momentum' in recent years

Islamabad: Pakistan said on Thursday that its ties with the United States registered "a positive momentum" in recent years.

Foreign Office spokesperson Shafiq Ali Khan, while addressing the weekly press briefing, was asked about a recent meeting between the US Chargé d'Affaires and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar.

"Pakistan-US bilateral relations have registered a positive momentum over the last



couple of years," Khan said. Terming it a regular

diplomatic engagement, he said Pakistan and the US continue to en-

gage with each other in diverse fields and consular affairs are an im-

portant component of the bilateral relations.

"Pakistan-US relations remain strong. This is a decades-long relationship. We have multi-dimensional relationships, people-to-people contacts, trade, investment, education, and then there is counter-terrorism, security cooperation," he said.

The spokesperson also said that there are layers of engagement between the two countries and counter-terrorism is one

aspect of it.

He also said that as far as the news relating to inclusion of Pakistan in any travel ban is concerned, the US authorities have termed the media reports as speculations.

"Officially, nothing has been conveyed to us so far," he said.

When asked about any change in the March 31 deadline for Afghan refugees' deportation, he said there was no change in it as "our concerned authorities have

informed that there is no change in the deadline".

He also reiterated Pakistan's call for Afghan authorities to act against the banned Tehreek-e-Taliban (Pakistan) and Daesh involved in carrying out terrorist activities in Pakistan.

He also said that the Torkham border had been reopened till April 15 as efforts would continue to seek a permanent solution to the issue in the meantime.

BUSINESS

Haveus Aerotech sets a New Benchmark with EASA certification across three key cities

New Delhi: Haveus Aerotech, a pioneering leader in the Indian aviation industry, is proud to announce that three of its locations—Delhi, Gurugram, and Bangalore—have received full approval from the European Union Aviation Safety Agency (EASA). This major milestone not only elevates Haveus Aerotech as the first MRO (Maintenance, Repair, and Overhaul) company in India with EASA approval across these prominent metro cities but also sets the stage for future growth and expansion.

In just 10 years, Haveus Aerotech has made incredible strides in the aviation sector, achieving this prestigious certification and solidifying its role as an industry leader. The company currently employs over 200 skilled and unskilled professionals, offering them diverse opportunities across multiple roles and disciplines. With plans to hire even more



talent in the near future, Haveus Aerotech is committed to providing employment opportunities, further benefiting both local and national economies. This growth is essential to meet the increasing demand for MRO services across India's expanding aviation sector.

Anshul Bhargava, Chairman & Managing Director of Haveus Aerotech, shared, "This is just the beginning. We have achieved much in a short span, but there is still a long road ahead. Our vision is deeply connected with the 'Make in India' initiative, which serves as the backbone of our operations. By expanding our workforce and ensuring we have the right skills in place, we are not only en-

hancing our capabilities but also contributing to national growth and job creation."

As Haveus Aerotech continues to expand its footprint, this EASA certification enhances its ability to provide instant, reliable support to both national and international airline operators. The company already operates successful MRO facilities in North and South India, and with upcoming facilities in Mumbai and Kolkata, it aims to deliver quicker turnaround times and unmatched service quality to airlines across the country and globally.

These new MRO locations will not only provide crucial support for India's aviation infrastructure but will also offer excellent opportunities for local job seekers. By setting up in key metro areas, Haveus Aerotech is ensuring that a wide range of employment opportunities will be available to both skilled professionals and unskilled workers, further fostering economic growth.

Sensex Surges 3.41%, Investors' Wealth Up Rs 17.43 Lakh Cr

New Delhi: Market investors' kitty swelled by Rs 17.43 lakh crore in four days of sharp rally in equities where the BSE benchmark Sensex jumped over 3 per cent.

On Thursday, the 30-share benchmark Sensex jumped 899.01 points or 1.19 per cent to settle at 76,348.06, regaining the 76,000 level. During the day, it soared 1,007.2 points or 1.33 per cent to 76,456.25.

In four days, the Sensex zoomed 2,519.15 points or 3.41 per cent. The market capitalisation of BSE-listed firms surged Rs 17,43,418.8 crore to Rs 4,08,61,851.73 crore (USD 4.73 trillion) in four days.

"Benchmark indices got a Fed booster shot on Thursday extending gains for fourth straight session, after the US Fed kept the



forecast for two rate cuts in 2025 intact despite inflation risks from Trump's trade war. Broader mid and smallcaps also posted gains for the day. All major sectors also logged gains in broad-based rally with Nifty IT recovering from steep losses in recent weeks." Satish Chandra Aluri, Analyst, Lemonn Markets Desk, said. The US Fed is un-

doubtedly the driving force behind today's market rally as markets took comfort from the strong overnight gains in US indices, after Fed kept the projection for two rate cuts in 2025 unchanged, he added.

From the Sensex pack, Bharti Airtel, Titan, Tata Consultancy Services, Hindustan Unilever, Infosys, Nestle, Reliance Industries, Mahindra & Mahindra,

HDFC Bank and Tata Motors were the biggest gainers.

However, IndusInd Bank, Bajaj Finance and UltraTech Cement were the laggards.

The BSE smallcap gauge climbed 0.73 per cent and midcap index went up by 0.61 per cent.

All BSE sectoral indices ended higher where telecomunication jumped 1.94 per cent, tech (1.89 per cent), oil &

12.55 Lakh Toll Refunds in 2024: Govt

New Delhi: The government on Thursday said 12.55 lakh refunds were made in 2024 for faulty toll collections on National Highways. In a written reply to the Lok Sabha, Union Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari said penalties of more than Rs 2 crore have been levied so far on the user fee collecting agencies for incorrect user fee deduction cases.

"National Payment Corporation of India (NPCI), which provides the Central Clearing House (CCH) services of National Electronic Toll Collection (NETC) Programme, has reported 12.55 lakh transactions where refunds were made due to incorrect user fee (toll) deductions in the year 2024 out of a total of 410 crore FASTag transactions in the same year which represents 0.03 per cent of all FASTag transactions," Gadkari said.

He further said that toll agencies are found responsible for incorrect user fee deduction, as per Clause 15 of Contract Agreement, a 30-50x penalty on excess user fee will be imposed on the fee collecting agency.

Vehicles are sometimes charged toll fees even without travelling on a National Highway/Expressway when user fee-collecting agencies enter incorrect Vehicle Registration Number (VRN) in the system while manually creating VRN-based transactions. The double charge sometimes happens due to multiple readings by FASTag readers.

InterTech Showcasing Industry- Innovative Earthing Solutions at Build Bharat Expo 2025

New Delhi: InterTech, a pioneer in innovative earthing solutions, is actively participating in Build Bharat Expo 2025, currently underway from 19 to 21 March at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi. Leveraging this prestigious platform, InterTech is showcasing its cutting-edge, sustainable earthing solutions, reaffirming its commitment to electrical safety, efficiency, and innovation.

A key highlight of the event has been the visit of Uttar Pradesh Skill Development Minister, Shri Kapil Dev, to the InterTech booth. He commended



the company's efforts in providing advanced and reliable solutions that enhance electrical safety across industrial, commercial, and residential sectors.

Throughout the expo, InterTech is actively engaging with industry leaders, experts, and stakeholders, presenting its state-of-the-art prod-

ucts, including Marconite, the world's best conductive aggregate. Visitors are gaining valuable insights into how InterTech's solutions mitigate electri-

cal risks and enhance overall system reliability.

InterTech's presence at Build Bharat Expo 2025 underscores its customer-centric approach and unwavering commitment to safety. One of its key innovations includes earthing solutions that perform for over 50 years without requiring a single drop of water, making them an environmentally sustainable choice while conserving precious water resources. Live demonstrations, expert consultations, and interactive sessions are helping vis-

itors understand the critical role of low-impedance pathways for fault currents, which significantly reduce the risk of electrical accidents.

Expressing his enthusiasm for the event, Gurmohit Singh, Partner at InterTech, stated, "Build Bharat Expo 2025 provides an excellent platform to connect with industry professionals and reinforce the importance of safe and sustainable earthing solutions. Shri Kapil Dev Ji's appreciation of our efforts further strengthens our resolve to continue driv-

ing innovation in electrical safety."

InterTech's trusted solutions have been adopted by esteemed clients such as Indian Oil Corp, PGCL, Tata Steel, Indian Air Force, and Adani Power. The company's dedication to quality and reliability has resulted in an impressive 99% customer retention rate.

With the expo in full swing, InterTech looks forward to further engaging with industry professionals and customers, continuing its mission to enhance electrical infrastructure safety and efficiency worldwide.

Cricket

Mohammed Siraj backs lifting of saliva ban: 'It will help reverse swing'

Bengaluru

India pacer Mohammed Siraj on Thursday wholeheartedly welcomed the BCCI's decision to lift the saliva ban ahead of IPL 2025, saying it will help the bowlers find "reverse swing" even in benign conditions.

The BCCI removed the ban on use of saliva on the cricket ball after a majority of the team captains agreed to its proposal, making it the first major competition to do away with the restriction that was a consequence of the COVID-19 pandemic.

"It's very good for bowlers. It's excellent news for us bowlers because when the ball is not doing anything, applying saliva on the ball will increase the chances of finding some reverse swing," Siraj, who has joined Gujarat Titans this season, told PTI.

"It sometimes aids reverse swing because scrubbing the ball against the shirt will not help (to get reverse swing).

"But using saliva on the ball will help in maintaining (the shine on one side), and it is important," he added.

Excited to play under Gill, Siraj, who was released by the Royal Challengers Bengaluru ahead of last year's auction, rated Shubman Gill, his new skipper at GT, as a bowler's dream.

"It's a good feeling to join Gujarat ahead of the new season. Yeah, it was a bit emotional for me to leave RCB because Virat bhai had supported me a lot in tough times, but we have a fantastic team here under Gill.

"If you talk about Gill, then he is a bowler's captain. He never tries to stop you from trying something new or hinder your plans. We have made our test debut together (vs Australia in



2020) and we share a very good personal rapport too," he said.

Gujarat Titans have some top-of-the-shelf bowlers such as Kagiso Rabada, Rashid Khan, Ishant Sharma and Gerald Coetzee in their ranks, and Siraj said it will ease some burden off his shoulders.

"It is actually a great experience because it is such an experienced line-up and will foster some healthy competition, which is good for the team. These bowlers do not require much guidance and they know their plans.

"So in that sense, it's a blessing to have such bowlers in a competition like IPL because we have all kinds of bowlers, who have ticked all the right areas," said Siraj.

The 31-year-old will have to fill the big

shoes of Mohammed Shami as the veteran pacer has joined Sunrisers Hyderabad.

Siraj said it is a task he is excited about. "Look, Shami bhai has done a lot for India and Gujarat Titans. He has taken a lot of wickets and his ability to generate swing, and that wrist and seam position... they are unmatched.

"But my job is to take wickets for the team. I am confident about it, as I had done that in the past, I have seen Shami bhai taking wickets with the new ball at Motera and I will also try to get some wickets in the Power Play," he noted.

"Selection not in my hands" Siraj has missed a lot of cricket since playing the fifth Test against Australia at Sydney in early January.

Since then, the Hyderabad man has missed India's white ball home series against England and the victorious Champions Trophy campaign.

But he was not overly worried about it.

"Look, selection is not in my hands. I have only a cricket ball in my hands and I wanted to do as much as I can with that. I don't want to put pressure on myself thinking about selection, as I want to focus on my performance.

"Yeah as a player, it remains in the back of your mind that there is a tour of England and the Asia Cup but I don't really seriously think about it, as my focus is on IPL and doing well for Gujarat Titans and helping them win another IPL title," he said.

However, Siraj said he used the time away from the Indian team to work on his fitness and bowling skills.

"I have been playing for some years now, and usually, we don't get that much rest. But now that I have got some time off, I have worked on my fitness and bowling skills.

"I have worked really hard with how to bowl with new and old balls, and I wanted to work on my slower balls and yorkers. This time I really used to work on those areas, and let's see how things pan out for me in this IPL," he added. But now, Siraj will get a chance to work with Ashish Nehra, who has achieved a name for himself as an excellent coach, during his stint with GT.

"As a fast bowler, Ashu bhai has done a lot for Indian cricket, he was a genuine match winner for the country. I want to learn some things from him that I feel will improve me as a bowler.

"It's very important for me to add those new skill sets to my bowling such as bowling stumps to stumps line

"Wherever I come here in Bangalore I feel as if I am at my second home" Rajat Patidar at RCB unbox event



Riyan Parag to lead RR in first 3 IPL games; regular skipper Samson's role limited

New Delhi

Rising star Riyan Parag will lead Rajasthan Royals in their first three IPL games as regular captain Sanju Samson has been told to avoid wicket-keeping duties by the BCCI due to a finger surgery, which means that he will only be available as a batter in these games.

Samson's finger was fractured after a Jofra Archer delivery hit him during the T20 International against England in Mumbai, following which he had to undergo a minor surgery last month.

While he has been cleared to bat, it is understood that medical and sports science teams at the BCCI's Centre of Excellence in Bengaluru have told to give his fingers some more rest before he starts keeping wickets.

Therefore, the 23-year-old Parag will have the distinction of being one of the youngest captains in IPL. Virat Kohli holds the top position in that list having captained Royal Challengers Bengaluru as a 22-year-old.

"Rajasthan Royals have announced that Riyan Parag will lead the team for the first three matches of IPL 2025," RR said in a statement.

"The young all-rounder will take charge in the opening fixture against Sunrisers Hyderabad on March 23, followed by home encounters against defending champions Kolkata Knight Riders on March 26 and five-time champions Chennai Super Kings on March 30," the franchise stated.

Samson, an integral part of the Royals set-up, will remain a key contributor with the bat till he gets



cleared for wicket-keeping and fielding. He will return as captain once fully fit and could be used as an impact substitute in these three games.

The Royals management explained why the Assam cricketer got the nod ahead of another exciting and internationally more experienced Yashasvi Jaiswal.

"Rajasthan Royals' decision to hand Riyan the captaincy underscores the franchise's confidence in his leadership, a skill he has demonstrated through his tenure as Assam's domestic captain.

"Having been a crucial member of the Royals setup over the years, his understanding of the team's dynamic makes him well-equipped to step into this role for the initial phase of the tournament," the team said.

PCB to be richer by USD 10 million after hosting Champions Trophy

Lahore

The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) on Thursday claimed that it is set to earn approximately USD 10 million as profit by hosting the Champions Trophy, where the Indian team emerged champion.

PCB spokesperson, Aamir Mir and Chief Financial Officer (CFO) Javed Murtaza addressed media following reports that Board had suffered financial losses by hosting the ODI tournament and spending enormous amounts on upgrading stadiums in Karachi, Lahore and Rawalpindi for the event.

"All expenses for the tournament were covered by the ICC," Mir said adding that the PCB generated revenue through gate money and ticket sales. "Additionally, after the audit, we expect to receive another Rs 3 billion from the ICC," he added.

He also claimed that PCB had initially targeted Rs 2 billion in earnings from the Champions Trophy, but they surpassed this goal.

He also claimed that the PCB's total revenue for the 2023-24 fiscal year reached Rs 10 billion—a 40% increase from the previous year.

"With this financial strength, PCB now ranks among the top three richest cricket boards in the world," Mir said.

"The board has also paid Rs 40 million in taxes," he added.

Murtaza added that PCB chief Mohsin Naqvi played a key role in revising the fiscal targets, showing active involvement in improving the board's financial performance.

He said that the PCB had several financial investments and that the budget for stadium upgrades was set at Rs 18 billion.

For Phase one of the project, Rs 12 billion was allocated, and Rs 10.5 billion has already been spent, he said.

"The remaining funds will be used to further improve these and other stadiums, including those in Karachi, Faisalabad, and Rawalpindi," said Murtaza.

The CFO said that the PCB had completed major renovations in just four months, ensuring that venues now meet international standards.

"After 29 years, a major stadium upgrade project was undertaken, which was a significant task," Mir added.

KKR-LSG clash on April 6 set to be shifted to Guwahati for lack of security arrangements



Kolkata

Kolkata Knight Riders' home game against Lucknow Super Giants on April 6 is set to be shifted to Guwahati as police has expressed its inability to provide security for the IPL contest due to 'Ram Navami' celebrations in the city on the day, CAB president Snehasish Ganguly told PTI on Thursday.

BJP leader Suwendu Adhikari had announced that over 20,000 processions are being organised across West Bengal to celebrate the festival. "We have informed the BCCI to reschedule the match, but there is no scope for rescheduling the game in the city later and I'm now hearing that it's going to be shifted to Guwahati," Cricket Association of Bengal (CAB) President Ganguly said.

The clash between KKR and LSG, owned by RPSG Group chairman Sanjiv Goenka, was expected to draw a packed house, with both teams boasting strong local support.

An official statement from the IPL however is yet to arrive.

In season 2024 also, the IPL fixture between KKR and Rajasthan Royals had to be rescheduled due to lack of security arrangements on Ram Navami.

"I had several rounds of talks with the Kolkata Police and they said they won't be able to provide enough security on that day," Snehasish added.

"If there's no police protection, accommodating and managing a 65,000-strong crowd becomes impossible," Snehasish had said on Tuesday.

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Anil Chaudhary takes up commentary after working as umpire for 17 IPL seasons

New Delhi

Anil Chaudhary did the umpire's duty during the past 17 editions of the IPL but he has now slipped into the role of a commentator this season after turning 60 last week.

It effectively signalled his retirement from officiating the game. Chaudhary's farewell game happened to be the Ranji Trophy final between Kerala and Vidarbha last month at Nagpur and his last international appearance came in September 2023.

Overall, he officiated in 12 Tests, 49 ODIs and 64 T20s.

With retirement on the horizon, Chaudhary started planning for the future and got into regional commentary which has grown exponentially in the last two years.

He will be part of the Haryana's first in the IPL beginning March 22 with occasional stints in Hindi commentary.

"I have been commenting for the past three-four months. So, I was already in the transition phase. I have also been teaching umpiring and commentary via an online platform," he told PTI.

"As an umpire, I did around 15 games in a season, here I would be doing more than 50 (matches). On air, former cricketers look at the game in their own way and being an umpire I have a different perspective on the game. It is fun," said the Delhi-based umpire who had been officiating in the IPL since its inception in 2008.

Chaudhary leaves the umpiring profession a satisfied man though he could never make the ICC elite panel. The elite panel only has one Indian umpire since 2020 — Nitin Menon.

"I was an international umpire for more than 12 years. Have been doing IPL since 2008 and have done more than 200 games. Kuch na kuch toh reh jeta hain life mein," said Chaudhary, who feels proud about officiating in five Ranji finals and the Asia Cup final in 2022.

Obsession with bookish knowledge harming standard of Indian umpires

India has become the engine of the game globally but the country has failed to produce elite panel umpires consistently. Chaudhary listed out the reasons why Indians are not excelling as umpires.



"We take a lot of stress on the field. Sometimes, our umpires don't eat properly. We are focussing too much on theory when we should worry about the practical implementation part.

"Some get too technical, quoting the law all the time, that is not the best way to approach umpiring. Umpires who rely on bookish knowledge are harming the game. We need to understand the spirit of law. Just mugging up the law will not take you anywhere," said Chaudhary.

Do former players have a better chance at succeeding in the umpiring job? "I always say one who has played the game, even at the club level, will be more suited to umpiring than someone who has not played at all level.

"Also, in modern cricket, umpires need to be extremely fit. We have a lot of work to do on that front also." Calls off Kuldeep Yadav' bowling very tough, Kohli was never an issue

An international umpire often finds himself under extreme pressure created by players on the field. Chaudhary has worked extensively with the likes of M S Dhoni, Virat Kohli and current India ODI and Test captain Rohit Sharma.

Chaudhary recalled his interactions with the India greats.

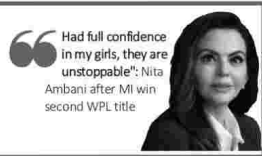
"We used to talk off the field as well, at the airport, at breakfast. That helps in building the rapport. Consistency in decision making is something that players notice.

"You can't earn their respect with just a small talk. With Virat, I had the advantage of knowing him since his younger days. We used to joke around a lot on the field. There were times he did not like my decisions but then later applauded when he got to know it was the right call.

"Rohit is such a fine human being and his batting technique is such that it is easy to make decisions when he is batting.

"With MS, he never talks unreasonable stuff. If he is saying something, it warrants your attention. Once Robin Uthappa was batting, he moved across the stumps and I gave a wide. MS said 'he was moving, he was right at the time (it was not wide)'. On left-arm wrist spinner Kuldeep Yadav, he added: 'Kuldeep is very challenging among Indians. His variations, the bounce and carry he generates makes it tricky. When he is in rhythm, it is very tough to pick him.

"Among international players, David Warner and Stuart Broad made life tough for me on field but it was a lot of fun at the same time," he signed off.



HP High Court directs BFI to allow Thakur's nomination in its polls

Shimla
Former sports minister Anurag Thakur's bid to contest the Boxing Federation of India's presidential election was brought back on track after the Himachal Pradesh High Court stayed his disqualification from the Electoral College and directed the BFI to extend the date of nominations to enable his candidature.

Thakur, who is also a Lok Sabha MP from Hamirpur, was declared ineligible in a March 7 notification by BFI President Ajay Singh. The reason cited was that he was not an elected member of the Himachal Pradesh Boxing Association, which he was seeking to represent in the EC.

However, Justice Ajay Mohan Goel on Thursday ruled that the Electoral College approved by Returning Officer R K Gauba on March 13, which left out Thakur, "is prima facie bad and not sustainable in law." "In this backdrop, balance of convenience is also in favour of the petitioners and if interim, as prayed for by the petitioners is not granted, then irreparable loss shall be caused to



them," the order stated.

"...as an ad-interim measure, this Court stays the operation of Notice, dated 07.03.2025, as well as the rejection of nomination of one of the two nominated members...namely, Mr. Anurag Singh Thakur..." The court directed BFI to treat the names of Thakur and another HPBA official Rajesh Bhandari as "valid nomination for the Electoral College." It stated that the BFI President issued the March 7 order "without any authority and without any power".

"The court order paved the way for Thakur to contest the polls scheduled

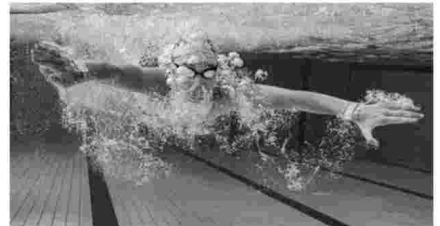
on March 28 as it directed the BFI to "extend the last date of submission of nomination" to enable him to file his papers.

Thakur has also been permitted to represent Himachal Pradesh in the Annual General Meeting and "fully participate therein." HPBA has maintained that Thakur is an elected Executive Council member of the state unit and has served "in different capacities including Chairman".

The BFI elections have been significantly delayed and mired in endless controversy. The body was originally supposed to hold elections before February 2 but swung into action only after the IOA appointed an ad-hoc committee. The body challenged the move in Delhi High Court, which put a stay on the ad-hoc panel.

The Himachal Pradesh High Court's order comes a day after the Delhi High Court too stayed the March 7 order but allowed the election process to proceed as planned with the final outcome dependent on its decision on the plea filed by the Delhi Amateur Boxing Association.

India to host 11th Asian Swimming C'ship in Ahmedabad



New Delhi
India will host the 11th Asian Swimming Championship at Ahmedabad's Naranpura Sports Complex from October 1 to 15, the national federation announced on Thursday.

Swimmers from Japan and South Korea are expected to compete at the continental meet, marking the event's first-ever edition in the country.

"We have received in-principle approval from the Gujarat government and Asia Aquatics. The MoU is in its early stages and should be signed by March or mid-April," Swimming Federation of India Secretary-General Monal Chokshi said.

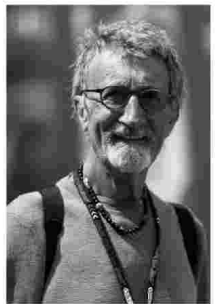
The 10th Asian Age Group Championships in 2019 was the last international swimming event hosted by India.

The championship will feature swimming, diving, artistic swimming, and water polo.

Ahmedabad remains central to India's 2036 Olympic bid, with the Naranpura Sports Complex - set for completion next month - designed as an Olympic-standard venue for multiple sports, including swimming and wrestling.

The national junior championship will serve as a test event for the Asian Championship.

Former F1 team boss Eddie Jordan dies of cancer at 76



London
Eddie Jordan, the charismatic Irish entrepreneur whose Formula One team gave Michael Schumacher a grand prix debut in 1991, has died of prostate cancer aged 76 at his home in South Africa, his family said on Thursday.

Jordan, who later became a television pundit, entered Formula One with his eponymous Silverstone-based team in 1991 and ran it until 2005. After multiple changes of name and ownership, it now competes as Aston Martin.

"EJ brought an abundance of charisma, energy and Irish charm everywhere he went. We all have a huge hole missing without his presence," the family said in a statement.

They said Jordan had died in the early hours in Cape Town with his family beside him.

Born on March 30, 1948, Jordan competed in motor racing's junior series before becoming a driver manager and then a team owner.

The F1 team and their lively publicity-seeking owner brought a "rock and roll" image to the sport but were also serious about their racing, punching above their weight in beating long-established rivals.

Germany's seven-times world champion Schumacher made his debut with them at the Belgian Grand Prix, and his brother Ralf raced for them in 1997 and 1998.

Britain's Damon Hill, the 1996 world champion with Williams, was a race winner with Jordan in 1998 before retiring the next year.

"He will be missed by so many people, but he leaves us with tonnes of great memories to keep us smiling through our sorrow," said the family statement.

Formula One chief executive Stefano Domenicali, a former Ferrari team boss, said he was deeply saddened.

"With his inexhaustible energy, he always knew how to make people smile, remaining genuine and brilliant at all times," said the Italian.

"Eddie has been a protagonist of an era of F1 and he will be deeply missed."

Boxing earns spot in Los Angeles 2028 Summer Games, says IOC



Pylos
Boxing was included on Thursday in the Los Angeles 2028 Olympics programme after a unanimous vote from the International Olympic Committee, ending years of doubt over the sport's Olympic future.

The IOC last month granted provisional recognition to World Boxing in a major step towards the sport's inclusion in the LA Games and Thursday's decision ensured the sport's Olympic presence would continue.

"I thank you for the approval of having boxing back. We can look forward to a great boxing tournament," IOC President Thomas Bach said.

The boxing competition at the Paris 2024 Games was run by the IOC after it stripped the International Boxing Association of recognition in 2023 over its failure to implement reforms on governance and finance.

The IOC had not included the sport on the initial LA 2028 programme, having urged national boxing federations to create a new global boxing body to replace the IBA.

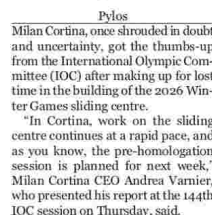
World Boxing, currently with more than 80 national federations as members, was launched in 2023.

"This is a great day for boxers, boxing and everyone connected with our sport at every level across the world," said World Boxing President Boris van der Vorst.

"This outcome has been achieved by a massive team effort... and would not have been possible without the hard work and commitment of all of the national federations, boxers, coaches, officials and boxing leaders that have worked together to enable this to happen."

"World Boxing understands that being part of the Olympic Games is a privilege and not a right and we are determined to be a trustworthy and reliable partner that will adhere to and uphold the values of the Olympic Movement," he said.

Milan Cortina gets IOC thumbs up as sliding centre building falls into schedule



Pylos
Milan Cortina, once shrouded in doubt and uncertainty, got the thumbs-up from the International Olympic Committee (IOC) after making up for lost time in the building of the 2026 Winter Games sliding centre.

"In Cortina, work on the sliding centre continues at a rapid pace, and as you know, the pre-homologation session is planned for next week," Milan Cortina CEO Andrea Varnier, who presented his report at the 144th IOC session on Thursday, said.

"This result, unthinkable, really unthinkable one year ago, is thanks to the incredible work done by SIMICO, the public agency in charge of infrastructure, and the fundamental cooperation with the IOC and the International Federation."

Outgoing IOC president Thomas Bach, whose successor will be elected later on Thursday, said he was satisfied with the report, which shook off worries that the sliding centre would not be ready in time for the February 6-22 Games.

Lake Placid, in the U.S., is the confirmed alternative for the centre, which will stage the bobsleigh, skeleton and luge events.



"It is a clear and encouraging report," Bach said.

"You are taking great pride in your capability to deliver successful events in the last minute, that you are enjoying in the running up to the Games that the rest of the world is very nervous."

"After these reports today I must tell you we are not nervous anymore. The trust in your capabilities remains and has even been reinforced today. We can look forward to brilliant fantastic Winter Games."

Varnier added that the rest of the preparations were also on schedule.

"As for the Milano Santa Giulia ice hockey arena, the timeline, of course, remains very tight, but we're very satisfied with the acceleration of the works in the last year," he said.

"We will remain confident in the ability and competence of the private developers who are in charge of the facility. Last but not least, at the Milano Ice Park, permanent works are complete."

LA 2028 Games organisers move to ease IOC concerns over visas



Pylos
Organisers of the Los Angeles 2028 Olympics on Thursday moved to ease concerns among International Olympic Committee members over visas and entry requirements for athletes and officials for those Games.

Since taking office on January 20, U.S. President Donald Trump has announced a number of immigration-related executive orders that focus on stricter border policy, tighter visa vetting procedures and a crackdown on undocumented migrants in the United States.

IOC members, including the President of the International Equestrian Federation Ingmar De Vos, asked LA 2028 Games chairman Casey Wasserman at the session in southern Greece about concerns about visas and entry requirements for athletes at the Games given the recent developments in the United States.

"We have had four different administrations, three different presidents in our bid process," Wasserman told the IOC session.

"All of them have affirmed and reaffirmed their commitment to both full access for everyone and the Olympic Charter.

Los Angeles was awarded the Games in 2017.

"The Commerce and the State Department under (former President Joe) Biden at the end, created an accelerated visa programme specifically for athletes," Wasserman said.

"And in my many conversations

Mclaren should win every race in 2025, says Mercedes' Russell



Shanghai
Mercedes' 2025 Formula One car should win every race, rival Mercedes driver George Russell said on Thursday, adding that the 2024 champions are further up the road than Red Bull's title winner was in 2023, during which it won all but one race.

"Their car is definitely capable of winning every race, and their car should win every race," the British driver told reporters ahead of the Chinese Grand Prix. "The gap they have on everybody this year is bigger than Red Bull has ever had."

Red Bull's 2023 car was arguably the most dominant in the sport's history, with the RB19 crossing the finishing line first on 21 out of 22 occasions and beating Mercedes to the constructors' championship by a record-breaking 451 points.

Mclaren locked out the front row in qualifying for last weekend's Australian Grand Prix, with Lando Norris nearly four tenths of a second quicker than Red Bull's four-time world champion Max Verstappen in third.

The 25-year-old driver went on to win the race and also set the fastest lap, and the Briton is already established as the title favourite.

Norris is looking for his first hat-trick of wins in China.

"(Mclaren) may struggle when it's cold, but they're clearly better than everyone else at cooling their tyres," Russell said, pointing to Las Vegas, a street track, as one of the "outlier circuits" where the team in papaya "potentially will struggle."

Mclaren's Oscar Piastri shrugged off

LA 2028 Games organisers move to ease IOC concerns over visas



"The Commerce and the State Department under (former President Joe) Biden at the end, created an accelerated visa programme specifically for athletes," Wasserman said.

"And in my many conversations

required for not just athletes but for delegations and the incredibly short timeframe on which to do those."

"The IOC has repeatedly said it was fully confident of the full support of Trump for the Games, with the president also in charge back in 2017 when the U.S. won the nod to host them."

"We will have a fully staffed desk at State (department) focusing just on this issue in the next 12 months to get prepared for this and I don't anticipate any problems from any country to come and participate and have their delegations in full force and be part of the Games in Los Angeles," Wasserman said.



Russell's remarks.

"George has come up with some funny things in the last couple of weeks," the Australian driver said.

"If he wants to write off his season after the first weekend, then I'll let him do that, but I think we're very aware that Melbourne was an exceptional weekend rather than what we're expecting to be the norm."

Red Bull's Max Verstappen also said he felt his team had worked to do it to break free from a chasing pack comprising of the Mercedes and Ferrari cars.

"I think the clear picture that you saw was McLaren was quite far ahead, because I don't think I'm an idiot in the wet," the Dutch driver said, referring to the Melbourne race's tricky conditions.

"I think, in general, (Red Bull) just need to be better as a whole, compared to McLaren, they're just good everywhere."

Miss Universe Victoria Kjaer Theilving visits India, unveils historic Miss Universe India 2025 Crown

New Delhi
Miss Universe 2024, Victoria Kjaer Theilving, is currently on a seven-day visit to India, where she is engaging in cultural exchanges and promoting India's influence on the global fashion industry. A grand press conference was organized at Andaaaz Hotel in Delhi, during which the crown for Miss Universe India 2025 was officially unveiled. This crown, adorned with priceless diamonds and jewels, is the most expensive crown in the history of Indian pageantry.



The press conference was attended by Miss Universe India Rhea Singha and the Director of Miss Universe India, Nikhil Anand, alongside Victoria Kjaer Theilving. The event marked a significant moment in India's pageant history, highlighting the nation's growing impact on international fashion and beauty competitions.

respect I have received. I sincerely thank the Miss Universe India team, Glamand Group, and Mr. Nikhil Anand for inviting me here. Traveling the world, I can see India's rising influence in the global fashion industry. Despite my short stay, I feel deeply connected to the people here as if I have known them for years. It truly feels like home."

Miss Universe India 2025 pageant, emphasizing its significance. He announced that this year's event would be more special than any previous edition, offering opportunities for over 500 students to volunteer and work with the Miss Universe India team.

"We are delighted to have Miss Universe Victoria Kjaer Theilving and representatives of the Miss Universe Organization with us in India. This year, state-level competitions will be held across all Indian states, and the national winner will represent India on the global stage at Miss Universe 2025 in Thailand. The Miss Universe platform fosters global cultural exchange and strengthens international relationships," he stated.

Nikhil Raj, another key figure in the Miss Universe India organization, reiterated that the 2025 edition would be exceptional, with extensive preparations underway to make it a memorable experience for all participants and audiences. Miss Universe India 2024, Rhea Singha, expressed her joy at welcoming her best friend and reigning Miss Universe to India. "The most beautiful girl in the universe is with us today. We will introduce Victoria to India's rich culture, diversity, cuisine, and heritage. The upcoming year promises wonderful opportunities. With dedication and hard work, no dream is too big to achieve."



Expressing her gratitude, Victoria Kjaer Theilving said, "I have come to India for the first time, and I am overwhelmed by the love and

FIR registered against Rana Daggubati, Vijay Deverakonda



Sanjana Sanghi visits Golden Temple

Hyderabad
The Telangana police have filed a First Information Report (FIR) against 25 celebrities and influencers, including popular figures like Rana Daggubati, Prakash Raj, Vijay Deverakonda, and Manchu Lakshmi, for allegedly promoting illegal betting and gambling apps through their social media platforms.

The FIR was filed at the Miyapur Police Station in Hyderabad following a petition by 32-year-old businessman PM Phanindra Sarma.

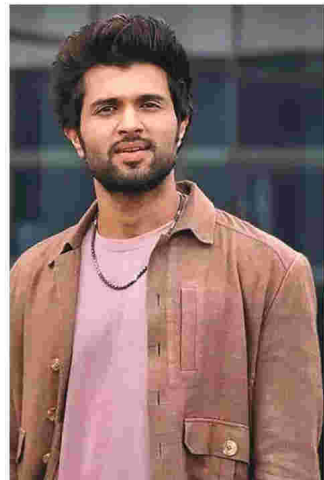
The complaint, lodged on March 19 this year highlights a disturbing trend of celebrities and influencers promoting illegal gambling apps that violate the Public Gambling Act of 1867.

Sarma claims that during a conversation with youth in his community on March 16, he discovered many individuals had been influenced to invest their money in these gambling apps, which were heavily advertised by social media personalities.

According to the complaint, these celebrities are allegedly accepting large

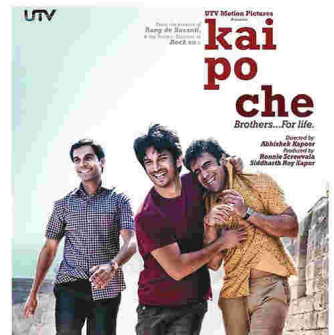


sums of money to promote various betting platforms, which encourage users to gamble their hard-earned money. Sarma himself was on the verge of investing in one of these platforms but re-



frained after his family warned him about the potential financial dangers. The police report lists several celebrities and influencers who are accused of promoting illegal gambling apps, including: Rana Daggubati Prakash Raj, Vijay Deverakonda, Manchu Lakshmi, Praneetha, Nidhi Agarwal, Ananya Nagella, Sri Hanumanthu, Sreemukhi, Varshini Sounderjan and many others.

Sushant Singh Rajput Movies On Netflix



Mumbai
Sushant Singh Rajput will always be remembered for his unmatched performances on the big screen. From his debut movie Kai Po Che to Bollywood blockbusters like PK, watching Sushant on screen was a true delight.

While we all still miss the gem we lost, here's a post in his remembrance. Let's explore some of the best Sushant Singh Rajput movies on Netflix to watch this weekend.

We all have loved Sushant Singh Rajput on television serials and award shows but as soon as he made his Bollywood debut with Kai Po Che in 2013, everyone saw a rising star in the making.

Ex-Eminem employee charged with leaking rapper's unreleased music

Washington
A former employee of Grammy-winning rapper Eminem, has been charged in connection with leaking the rapper's unreleased music online, according to a report in The Hollywood Reporter.

According to The Hollywood Reporter, US Attorney Julie Beck stated that Joseph Strange who worked for the artist from 2007 to 2021, faces serious charges, including criminal infringement of copyright and interstate transportation of stolen goods.

The charges stem from an investigation that began in January. An employee at Eminem's studio in Ferndale, Michigan, discovered



unreleased music by the rapper being sold on various websites. The FBI was contacted after the employee recognized the music as being taken directly from a hard drive at the studio. The tracks, which the rapper was still working on,

12th Bhilwara Sur Sangam set to delight classical music aficionados

New Delhi
The annual musical extravaganza, Bhilwara Sur Sangam, will make its return to the national capital on April 2.

The two-day classic music festival, now in its 12th edition, will be headlined by sitar maestro Parbhayan Chatterjee and father-son duo of the Banaras gharana Pandit Sajjan Mishra and Swaransh Mishra, who have mastered the art of Hindustani classical vocal.

"India boasts a wealth of cultural and musical heritage, which is exceptionally diverse and has



will also host performances by sarod exponent Pandit Prattyush Banerjee and a soulful vocal recital by eminent artist Pandit Ullhas Kashalkar. Over the years, Bhilwara Sur Sangam has hosted some of the best known maestros in Indian classical music, including the likes of Pandit Jasraj, Ustad Rashid Khan, Ustad Shujaat Khan, Pandit Hari Prasad Chaurasia, Ustad Shahid Parvez, Pandit Shiv Kumar Sharma and Sushri Kaushiki Chakraborty. The musical gala, set to be held at the Kamani Auditorium, will come to a close on April 3.