

Three caught in Uttam Nagar while splitting loot from house theft

New Delhi

Delhi Police arrested three people from their hideout in Uttam Nagar here while they were dividing stolen goods from a house theft, officials said on Monday.

The accused were identified as Arjun alias Toto (23), Chamun alias Shooter (22) and Sameer (21), they said. On February 17 Rajpal, who works as a showroom helper in Janakpuri, lodged an FIR saying that his home had been burgled. He alleged that gold and silver jewellery along with an LED TV were stolen, a police officer said.

A police team examined CCTV footage from the scene, in which three burglars were seen carrying stolen goods, he said.

A clear image of one of the suspects was obtained and circulated among informers, leading to the identification of Sameer, he added.

The police team conducted a raid at a house in Uttam Nagar, and the three accused were caught while they were dividing the stolen items, the officer said.

During interrogation, the accused revealed that the three lived in the same neighbourhood and had dropped out of school before completing eighth grade, he said. They took to crime for easy money. Arjun has cases of robbery and possession of illegal arms registered against him at Uttam Nagar police station, he added.

DTC's liabilities rose to Rs 37 000 cr in 5 yrs: report

New Delhi

The Delhi Transport Corporation's (DTC) liabilities rose from Rs 28,263 crore in 2015-16 to Rs 65,274 crore in 2021-22, as it incurred operational losses of more than Rs 14,000 crore during the same period, according to a CAG report tabled in the Assembly on Monday.

Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta tabled the report on the functioning of the DTC for the year ending March 31, 2022, in the budget session.

The report highlighted that the public transporter had not prepared any Business Plan or Perspective Plan, nor signed any MoU with the state government to set physical and financial targets to contain its working losses.

The transporter was also found not to have set benchmark to assess its performance as against other state transport undertakings.

The DTC did not conduct any study on profitability/sustainability even though it was incurring losses continuously, the report noted.

Between 2015 and 2023, DTC's bus fleet reduced from 4,344 to 3,937 buses. It could procure only 300 electric buses, or EBs, during 2021-22 and 2022-23,



despite the availability of funds from the government. "There was a delay in the addition of EBs in the fleet for which a penalty amounting to Rs 29.86 crore for delayed delivery was not imposed on the operators," the report said.

On the depleting fleet, the report said the number of low floor coverage buses in DTC during 2015-22 increased from 0.13 per cent (five buses) to 17.44 per cent (656 buses), which further increased to 44.96 per cent (1,770 buses) by March 31, 2023, of its total fleet. The proportion of overage buses will continue to rise if the DTC does not make sincere efforts to procure or add new buses, it added.

The operational efficiency of the DTC vis-à-vis all India

Delhi Police solves elderly couple murder case with arrest of second accused

New Delhi

The police have solved the robbery cum murder case of an elderly couple in north-west Delhi with the arrest of the second accused, an official said on Monday.

The arrested persons have been identified as Ravi (27), a resident of Uttam Nagar, and Deepak alias Pankaj (41), a resident of Karan Vihar, the police official said.

While Ravi was arrested earlier on March 19 from his residence, Deepak was arrested on March 22 from an old-age home in Dwarka.

Police have also recovered Rs 30,000 in cash, a stolen gold bangle, a ham-



dered in their house at Koh Enclave with their caretaker, Deepak, missing.

During the probe, it was found that the elderly couple had been living alone. Further, their son, Manpreet, told police that Ravi, who had earlier worked as an attendant for his parents, recently sent Deepak in his place.

Police then conducted a raid and apprehended Ravi from his residence.

During interrogation, he revealed that he and Deepak had conspired to send Deepak as an attendant to gain access to the victims' house and steal money, the official said.

Delhi Govt is dedicated to managing electricity prices: Delhi Power Minister



Staff Reporter New Delhi

The Minister of Power for Delhi, Ashish Sood on Monday administered the oath to Justice (Retd.) Umesh Kumar as the new Chairman of the Delhi Electricity Regulatory Commission (DERC).

The ceremony was held at the Delhi Secretariat and attended by senior officials, including the Chief Secretary and Power Secretary.

The Minister congratulated Shri Kumar and expressed trust in his ability to strengthen the power sector in Delhi.

Minister of Power for Delhi, Ashish Sood highlighted the importance of addressing electricity issues as summer approaches and stressed the need for better coordination with power distribution companies to benefit residents.

The minister said that Delhi Govt is dedicated to managing electricity prices for the

people of Delhi. Ashish Sood criticized the previous Aam Aadmi Party government for leaving a debt of ₹27,000 crore in the form of Regulatory Assets, which was a result of their inefficiency. "This debt allows power companies to recover costs from the citizens," he said Sood emphasized that the BJP government will prevent any additional financial burden on Delhi residents concerning electricity prices. He reaffirmed their commitment to controlling these prices under the guidance of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chief Minister Smt. Rekha Gupta.

Kumar, who previously served as a judge on the Allahabad High Court, will oversee the regulatory body's work in setting electricity tariffs and promoting competition in the power market.

Delhi govt to prepare action report on school conditions: Education Minister

New Delhi

Delhi Education Minister on Monday informed the Assembly that an action report would be prepared on the deteriorating condition of schools in the national capital.

Speaking at the ongoing Delhi Assembly Budget Session, Minister Ashish Sood addressed concerns raised by various MLAs regarding school infrastructure.

A five-time BJP MLA from Gandhi Nagar, Arvinder Singh Lovely, high-

lighted the poor condition of a school on Brahmapuri Main Road and said several schools in the Trans-Yamuna region were in a similar state.

He urged the minister to provide details of such schools, to which Sood assured that the necessary information would be collected and presented in the House.

Similarly, BJP MLA Kulwant Rana pointed out the dilapidated condition of a school in Sahab Haderi.

Sabka Saath-Sabka Vikas

Years of Excellence

- First in attracting domestic & international tourists
- Pucca houses for 56 Lakh+ Families
- First in implementing PM Kisan Samman Nidhi
- 1.86 Crore LPG connections under PM Ujjwala Yojana
- First in providing PM SVANidhi loans to street vendors
- Construction of 2.75 Crore toilets

Uttar Pradesh No. 1

- Free ration to 15 Crore individuals
- PM Matru Vandana assistance to 60 Lakh mothers
- Free electricity connections to 1.58 Crore households
- Free medical treatment up to ₹5 Lakh for 9 Crore people
- 9.57 Crore individuals with Jan Dhan bank accounts
- Gharani certificates to 1 Crore families

Nurturing Farmers, Cultivating Prosperity

- Inaugural Cabinet's First Decision: ₹36,359 Crore crop loan waiver, 94 Lakh Farmers benefitted
- Foodgrain Production: Increased from 557.46 Lakh MT in 2016-17 to 668.39 Lakh MT (20% rise) in 2023-24
- Irrigation Capacity: Increased from 82.58 Lakh hectares in 2017 to 131 Lakh hectares, 976 projects completed
- Record Sugarcane Payment: ₹2.80 Lakh Crore paid since 2017, which is ₹66,000 Crore more than the total payments made in the last 22 years
- Sugar Mills: 3 new sugar mills, 6 mills revamped and expansion of 38 sugar mills
- Grain Procurement: Middlemen removed, ₹43,424 Crore disbursed for wheat procurement and ₹88,746 Crore for paddy procurement
- Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi Yojana: ₹80,000 Crore+ transferred to 2.86 Crore farmers
- 73,924 solar pumps installed under PM KUSUM Yojana

Uttar Pradesh on the Fast Track to Development

- 6 expressways operational, 11 under construction, Uttar Pradesh will account for 55% of the country's expressway network upon completion of Ganga Expressway
- Expressway length increased by 491 kilometers till 2017 to 1,225 kilometers by 2024
- 32,000 kilometers+ new roads constructed, 25,000 kilometers of roads widened/strengthened
- Number of Airports increased from four till 2017 to 21 Airports till 2024, including 5 International airports
- India's largest Jewar Airport nearly complete, set to become the nation's biggest air cargo hub
- Inland waterway operational from Haldia to Varanasi, expansion work ongoing from Prayagraj-Ayodhya

Empowering Women, Elevating Nation

- 20% reservation for women in police force with 1.38 Lakh+ women secured Govt. jobs
- 1 Crore+ women employed through 10 Lakh+ self-help groups
- Women Workforce: Increased from 14.2% in 2017 to 35.1%
- Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana: Free LPG connections to 1.86 Crore families, along with free LPG cylinder refills during Holi and Diwali
- Mukhyamantri Kanya Samagal Yojana: 22.11 Lakh girls benefited
- Nirashrit Mahila Pension Yojana: 33.55 Lakh women benefitted
- Mukhyamantri Sansukh Vivah Yojana: 4.22 Lakh couples tied the knot, financial assistance increased from ₹51,000 to ₹1 Lakh
- Increase in honorarium for Anganwadi workers and helpers, 3.73 Lakh women benefitted
- B.C. Sakhi: 39,000+ women facilitated transactions worth ₹31,626 Crore, earned ₹85.81 Crore dividends

Creating Employment, Inspiring Youth

- Per capita income increased from ₹46,000 in 2017 to ₹1,24,000 in 2024
- Unemployment rate: 18% youth unemployed in 2016, now reduced to 3% in 2024
- Fair and transparent recruitment process: 8.5 Lakh+ government jobs, 3.75 Lakh+ contract jobs
- 2 Crore+ jobs in private sector and MSMEs, 2.54 Lakh+ jobs through ODP scheme
- Employment to 2.27 Lakh+ youth under Mukhyamantri Yuva Swarozgar Yojana
- Aim to train 10 Lakh new entrepreneurs under Mukhyamantri Yuva Udyami Vikas Abhiyan

Driving Progress through Inclusive Growth

- 3,215 Annapurna Bhawans constructed, while work under way on 1,630 bhawans
- ₹708.49 Crore scholarships to 32,49,854 Scheduled Caste (Pre-Matric) students
- ₹9,662.25 Crore scholarships to 89,31,203 Scheduled Caste (Post-Matric) students
- ₹1,28,627.48 Crore scholarships to 62,79,579 Backward Class (Pre-Matric) students
- ₹7,62,524.03 Crore scholarships to 1,31,05,263 Backward Class (Post-Matric) students
- ₹221.95 Crore scholarships to 8,58,750 General Category (Pre-Matric) students
- ₹5,499.86 Crore scholarships to 48,13,347 General Category (Post-Matric) students

Ensuring Basic Amenities, Enhancing Lives

- Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana: Free ration to 15 Crore individuals
- Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana: 56 Lakh+ houses constructed
- PM SVANidhi Yojana: ₹3000 Crore+ loans to 1,80,000+ street vendors
- Har Ghar Jal Yojana: Access to potable tap water provided to 2.36 Crore+ families
- MSNREGA: Leads in providing 100 days of employment by generating 200 Crore mandays

Building a Healthier Future

- Ayushman Bharat: Free treatment up to ₹5 lakh for 9 crore people
- 80 medical colleges operational, MBBS seats increased by 11,300
- AIIMS in Gorakhpur and Raebareilly, and AI Medical University in Lucknow
- Mahayogi Guru Goraknath AYUSH University in Gorakhpur
- 22,681 Arogya Mandirs

Nurturing Young Minds

- Construction of Atal Residential Schools in 18 divisional headquarters
- CM Model Composite Schools in 57 districts
- State Universities operational in Allahgarh, Azamgarh, Saharanpur, Mirzapur, Balrampur, and Moradabad
- Dr. Rajendra Prasad National Law University in Prayagraj
- Sainik School, Forestry College, and NCC Training Academy in Gorakhpur
- Veterinary Science Colleges in Gorakhpur and Chandauli

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Excavation to begin in Agroha after 44 Years: Dr. Arvind Sharma

Haryana Chief Minister to Inaugurate Excavation following budget announcement

Shiv Kumar
New Delhi

In a historic development, excavation work at the ancient city of Agroha, the capital of Maharaja Agrasen, is set to resume after 44 years, said Haryana's Minister of Heritage and Tourism, Dr. Arvind Sharma in New Delhi.

The project will be inaugurated on March 25 by Haryana's Chief Minister, Nayab Singh Saini, he further said.

Dr. Sharma emphasized that Agroha, situated on the historic trade route between Takshashila and Mathura, holds immense archaeological significance. The excavation, which follows similar efforts at Rakhigarhi, aims to provide substantial evidence of Haryana's role in the Indus-Sarasvati civilization and its global trade



and cultural connections. The study is expected to shed light on India's ancient urban planning system and showcase the evolution of cultural, trade, and human lifestyles through various historical periods.

The excavation project at Agroha will also incorporate an educational initiative. Dr. Sharma announced that

alongside the archaeological dig, a training camp for students from the Postgraduate Diploma in Archaeology (2025 batch) of the Pt. Deendayal Upadhyaya Institute of Archaeology, ASI, will be launched. This initiative is intended to provide hands-on training in excavation techniques and archaeological research.

The excavation will be a joint effort by the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) and the Department of Archaeology & Museums, Haryana. Their primary objective is to explore Agroha's trade links with the external world. Dr. Sharma highlighted that the previous excavations conducted between 1978 and 1981 uncovered evidence of early historic urban planning. The new phase of excavation will build upon these findings to reconstruct Agroha's role as a major regional trade center in ancient times.

The study will analyze cultural variations over different historical periods and assess their continuity. By examining settlement patterns and material remains, archaeologists aim to establish concrete connections between Agroha and

other ancient trade centers worldwide.

Dr. Sharma further disclosed that the Haryana government has allocated funds in the state budget for this excavation and for the development of several tourist attractions at Agroha. These include a site museum, an interpretation center, a light and sound show, and a planetarium. These initiatives are expected to enhance the public's understanding of Agroha's historical significance and attract cultural tourism to the region. The excavation inauguration will take place on March 25 at 2 PM, in the presence of key government officials, ASI representatives, and local authorities.

Leading the excavation efforts will be Kamel Abhul Kabi, the Superintending Archaeologist of ASI's

Chandigarh Circle. The project will be co-directed by Arakshi Pradhan, Assistant Superintending Archaeologist of ASI Chandigarh Circle, and Banani Bhattacharya, Deputy Director of the Department of Archaeology & Museums, Haryana. A dedicated team of 15 experts from ASI and the Department of Archaeology & Museums will be involved in the year-long project. This excavation marks a significant step in uncovering the ancient past of Agroha and understanding its contributions to trade, culture, and urban development in India. The findings from this project are expected to offer new insights into the historical trade connections of the region and reinforce Haryana's importance in India's rich archaeological heritage.

Odisha diverted around 244 square kilometres, followed by Telangana at 114.22 square kilometres, Gujarat at 99.85 square kilometres and Arunachal Pradesh at 94.95 square kilometres.

Rajasthan, which has one of the lowest forest covers, diverted 87.96 square kilometres for forest land for non-forest use during these 10 years.

Maharashtra diverted around 85 square kilometres, Jharkhand 83.53 square kilometres, Chhattisgarh

79.25 square kilometres and Uttar Pradesh 79.59 square kilometres. Uttarakhand diverted 64.71 square kilometres of forest land during this period for non-forest use while Andhra Pradesh diverted 54.55 square kilometres. According to the biennial India State of Forest Report, the country's forest cover rose from 6,98,732.36 (6.98 lakh) square kilometres in 2013 to 7,15,342.61 (7.15

Staff Reporter
New Delhi

Review of poor air quality, restriction under the Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP) stage-I have been invoked in the National Capital Region (NCR).

Delhi's daily average Air Quality Index (AQI) clocked 206 ('Poor' category), as per the daily AQI bulletin provided by the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB).

In wake of the average/overall air quality of Delhi recording 'Poor' air quality category ranging between 201-300, the sub-committee for invoking actions under the GRAP of the Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM) in NCR and adjoining areas met on Monday to take stock of the current air quality scenario of Delhi-NCR. The AQI of Delhi has shown increasing trend due to variable surface wind and unfavourable meteorological conditions in Delhi-NCR. The AQI of Delhi has been recorded as 206 for 24.03.2025 (in 'Poor' category). Further, the forecast by IMD/ITM predicts AQI to remain in this range. As

per the unanimous decision of the sub-committee on GRAP, all 27 actions as envisaged under Stage-I of GRAP - 'Poor' air quality (DELHI AQI ranging between 201-300), to be implemented in earnest by all the agencies concerned in NCR, with immediate effect.

Various agencies responsible for implementing measures under the GRAP including Pollution Control Boards (PCBs) of NCR states and Delhi Pollution Control Committee (DPPC) have been asked to ensure strict implementation of actions of Stage-I under GRAP during this period.

LOST AND FOUND

1 Adish Srivastava S/o Mr. Rajimani R/o R-16, Near Modern School, Sector -11, Noida, Gautam Buddha Nagar, Uttar Pradesh-201301 have lost my Original Sale Deed dated 04.04.2018, Original Gift Deed dated 20.03.2021 & Original Sale Deed dated 04.08.2003 in respect of Property No.G-5, Entire Base-ment, Green Park Extension, New Delhi. Finders may contact at above address.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Hereby informed that my client, Umesh Pandey, S/o Sh. Sri Kant Pandey, R/o C-29A, Hastal Vihar, VTC, Uttam Nagar, New Delhi-110059, Aadhar Card No. 3248 8387 4630, And his Gaon address: Gram Post Vsav Khan, Jila Bakser, Bihar, Pin 802129, has debarred & disowned to his Daughter Ms. Varsha Kumar, 18 year old from all his movable & immovable properties due to their wrong and illegal activities & society. If anybody dealing with them, he/she shall be himself/herself responsible. I state. My client shall not be responsible in any acts & deal of them in any manner.

PUBLIC NOTICE

GENERAL PUBLIC AT LARGE IS INFORMED THAT MY CLIENT MS SANTOSH DEVI W/O S.H. LATE RAJIB SINGH, R/O 518, SECTOR A-5, POCKET 7 NARULA MAAMOO PUR NARELA NORTH WEST DELHI-110040, AGED 54 YEARS HAS DISOWNED AND DEBARRED HER MARRIED SON AJIT SINGH S/O S.H. RAJIB SINGH AND HER DAUGHTER IN LAW SHRUTI W/O AJIT SINGH R/O 518, SECTOR A-5, POCKET 7 NARULA MAAMOO PUR NARELA NORTH WEST DELHI-110040, FROM ALL HER MOVABLE AND IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES AND ALSO SEVERED ALL RELATIONS WITH HIM. IF ANYBODY DEALS WITH HIM, HE/SHE WILL BE AT HIS/HER OWN RISK AND MY CLIENTS WILL NOT BE RESPONSIBLE FOR HIS ANY ACT OR MISDEED OR MISCONDUCT.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Be it known that my client Sh. Dharmender Yadav S/O. Sh. Bhacendra Lal Yadav and Smt. R/O House Riya Dev W/o. Sh. Dharmender Yadav both No. W-53/291, soniya Gandhi Camp, Naraina Vihar, New Delhi-110022 has Yadav debarred and disinherited his son Shubham properties from all his movable & immovable either self-acquired or ancestral situated all over India due to misconduct, disobedience misbehavior and attitude and he is separately living from my clients. My clients will not be responsible and not liable for any act done by son Shubham Yadav. If anybody deal with them in any manner, they will be responsible for their own cost and risk.

PUBLIC NOTICE

General public is hereby informed that Mr. Ankit Bhatia S/o Mr. Sant Ram @ Santu Bhatia is the owner of Residential Two Storey House area 100 sq. yds., part of Khara no. 98, at Village Yakubpur, Pargana Tehsil Daudi, Gautam Budh Nagar, U.P. by virtue of Gift Deed dt. 22.03.2025, doc. No. 3901 executed by Mr. Santu S/O Late Mr. Tugal Bhatia in Sri-Noida, and said property to be financed by AU Small Finance Bank Ltd, if anybody has any change/interest/Title/Right Party in the said property of any kind, please kindly inform the undersigned in writing and with proof on the below mentioned address, failing which in future, he/she may do so at his own cost, risk and consequences. My client is not at all liable for the acts done by her daughter.

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform to public at large that my client Sh. SHER S/O Sh. Ahmad Ali & Mrs. NAZAMA W/O Sh. Sher Ali R/O Flat No.400, Pocket-13, DDA IG FLATS, PALAM COLONY, NEW DELHI-110045, have severed all their relationship from her daughter namely Ms. UZMA, and have disowned from their movable and immovable properties, due to her disrespectful behavior. Henceforth, my client shall not be responsible for any acts and deeds done by her in future. If anybody deals with them, he/she may do so at his own cost, risk and consequences. My client is not at all liable for the acts done by her daughter.

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Forest land more than Delhi's total area diverted for development projects in 10 years Govt data

New Delhi
India has diverted 1,734 square kilometres of forest land, significantly larger (much more) than the total geographical area of Delhi, for development activities in 10 years, according to government data.

In response to a question in the Lok Sabha, Union Environment Minister Bhubendra Nath Tiwari said 1,73,396.87 (1.73 lakh) hectares of forest land had been approved for non-forest use, including infrastructure projects, under the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980, between



2014-15 and 2023-24. Madhya Pradesh, which has the largest forest cover in the country at 77,073 square kilometres, diverted the most forest land -- 885.52 square kilometres -- during this period.

CAG report flags financial mismanagement in DTC sparks political row in Delhi Assembly

New Delhi
The Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) report on the DTC triggered a heated debate in the Delhi Assembly on Monday, with the BJP leaders alleging corruption and financial mismanagement during the AAP's tenure.

Delhi Minister Manjinder Singh Sirsa claimed that the report exposed large-scale corruption by the previous Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) government. "Arvind Kejriwal came to power promising to end corruption, but every CAG report reveals more mismanagement under his rule. The number of DTC bus routes has declined from 814 to 468, leaving poor commuters stranded," he said.

Sirsa claimed that the operational cost of the Delhi Transport Corporation (DTC) buses has risen sharply. "Earlier, DTC operated at Rs 243 per kilometre, but now the cost has more than doubled to Rs 487 per kilometre," he said.

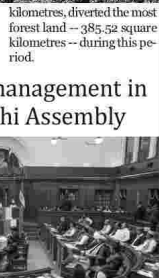


BJP MLA Harish Khurana alleged that DTC's operating cost had skyrocketed, but every CAG report reveals more mismanagement under his rule.

Khurana also highlighted a decline in the number of DTC buses. "In 2015, there were 4,344 buses in the fleet, but by 2022, the number had dropped to 3,937 despite a growing population. Meanwhile, DTC's losses have ballooned to Rs 8,498 crore as of 2022-23," he said.

Another allegation raised was regarding pending dues from private bus operators. "The government rented out spaces to private cluster bus operators, but Rs 295 crore in rent remains unpaid. No action was taken to recover this amount," Khurana added.

During the discussion, Leader of Opposition Atishi requested that the debate be postponed until Wednesday, citing insufficient time to study the report. "The report was tabled just an hour ago. Members need time to analyze it thoroughly before discussion," she said.



Advocate for the Applicant - Urvi S. Patel, CMA SC NO. 266/2024. In the Court of Hon'ble 20th Additional Senior Civil Judge, B. K. Jaiswal, New District Court Building, Dist. Vaishali, Bihar. For Appearance - B. 98, 2nd Floor, New District Court Building, Vaishali, Bihar-804007. Applicants - 1) Mr. Aditya Srivastava 2) Mrs. Latha Gopalakrishnan. Next Date: 28/03/2025.

The deceased in her Last Will and Testament Dated 11th August, 2023 bearing Registration No. 5242 had nominated Mr. Aditya Srivastava and Mrs. Latha Gopalakrishnan (Present Applicant) as the Executors of her Will to administer the estate of the deceased and to fulfill the terms of the said Will. They are hereby invited to file the above mentioned Application for Grant of Probate if any person has any objection against the grant of probate of the said Will, they are hereby invited to file their objection in writing with proof on the date of publication of the Present Public Notice and failure to file objections within the prescribed period shall result in the Hon'ble Court deciding the Application for Grant of Probate in accordance with the Law.

Prepared on: Date: 24/02/2025
Checked by: Sd/- Bench Clerk
Sd/- Registrar
(S. C. Ramani)

EASTERN RAILWAY

TENDER NOTICE No. W/LH/29-2024-25. Dated: 15.03.2025. E-Tender (Open Tender) is invited online by Dy. CME/Elect. C & W Workshop, Eastern Railway, Howrah-711004 from Tenderers having technical capabilities for the following work: Name of the Work: Supply, installation, Commissioning & testing of Diesel Engine - Alternator set for high capacity Power Gen set per RDSO Spec. No. RDSO/PE/SPEC/AC/0084-2008 (Rev-1) or latest. Engine to comply with CRFB emission norms and latest approved RDSO Item No. 787 of 2024-25 (573 of 2023-24) = 06 Nos. Approx. cost of Works: Rs. 4,69,05,000. Earnest Money: Rs. 3,84,50,000. Tender Closing Date & Time: 11.04.2025 at 14.00 hrs. Website where complete Details of Tender is available: www.irreps.gov.in

GDA launches major crackdown on illegal constructions in Gzd

Shiv Kumar
Ghaziabad
The Ghaziabad Development Authority (GDA) launched a large-scale campaign against illegal constructions here on Sunday. The drive, initiated under the direct orders of the Vice Chairman of the GDA, targeted unauthorized structures erected by private developers in multiple locations across the city.

As part of the crackdown, GDA officials demolished unauthorized boundary walls, roads, and electric poles that had been illegally set up in areas developed by individuals identified as Virendra Chaudhary and Pramod Sharma. The affected illegal encroachments were spread over approximately 20 bighas and 9 bighas of land, respectively. The areas primarily impacted by the demolition drive included Surya Garden, Indira Enclave, and City Park, located along the NDRF Road in Ghaziabad.

To ensure the smooth execution of the demoli-

tion, a team of GDA officials, including engineers and enforcement officers, was accompanied by local police personnel. Despite facing stiff resistance from local developers and affected parties, the demolition proceeded as planned, with security forces maintaining law and order at the site.

A senior GDA official overseeing the operation emphasized that the authority remains committed to upholding urban development regulations and taking strict action against illegal constructions. "Encroachments and unauthorized developments will not be tolerated. We are conducting systematic inspections across the city, and any violations found will face immediate legal consequences," the official stated. This latest action is part of GDA's ongoing efforts to curb illegal land encroachments and unauthorized construction activities that have been proliferating in various parts of Ghaziabad.

NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY

E-Procurement Tender Notice No. JRSYD/CMM/2025/01 Date: 21.03.2025
On behalf of the Procurement, The Dy. Chief Material Manager, General Store Deptt., Jhansi are invite the following E-procurement tender:
Tender No.: E1246261 EMD : E1484391

Description	Qty.
Supply, installation & commissioning of 100 Bolt Point as per Specification (Annuity) (Warranty Period: 30 Months after the date of delivery) (Specification: ITP, Stage Imp. No. Stages: II) Item Type: Goods (Supply)	05 Nos.
Post warranty annual maintenance (AMC) contract for 100 Bolt Point as per Specification (Warranty Period: Months after the date of delivery, AMC Period: 5 years, Rate of AMC: 8% Start After Year: 1) Item Type: Services (AMC) (Warranty Period: Months after the date of delivery, AMC Period: 5 years, Rate of AMC: 8% Start After Year: 1) Item Type: AMC	05 Nos.

Tender Opening Date: 11.04.2025

Note: 1. The complete information of above E-Procurement Tender are available on IRREPS website as <http://www.irreps.gov.in> & Bids other than in the form of E-bid shall not be accepted against above tenders for this purpose vendors are required to get themselves registered with IRREPS Website and obtain valid digital signature certificate issued by CCA under IIT act 2000. 3. Rules entered into financial rate page and duly signed digital signature shall only be considered rates and any other financial entry in any other form/letter had if attached by vendor shall be original straight way ignore and shall not be considered. 52125 (AS)

NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY

Letter No.- DRMC/AGRA/NR/AE-AUCTION - Dated: 24-03-2025
On Behalf of the Procurement, The Dy. Chief Material Manager, North Central Railway-Agra Invites E- Auction as per category given as under:-

Category / Publicity	Catalogue No. : ADVT/AGRA-24-14	
Asset Details	E-Auction Start Date and Time	E-Auction End Date and Time
Commercial/publicity with Hoarding Unoplot at Agra FT circulating Area, Zone III	Date: -09.04.2025 Time :- 11:00	Date: -09.04.2025 Time :- 11:30
Commercial/publicity with LED at Agra FT Railway station (platforms and concourse areas)	Date: -09.04.2025 Time :- 11:10	Date: -09.04.2025 Time :- 11:40

Note:- Prospective bidders are requested to visit E-Auction Listing Module on IRREPS website (www.irreps.gov.in). The Lot-wise details are available therein under the above mentioned Catalogue Number. 52925(AS)

NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY

TENDER NOTICE No. AGC-ELG-136-2024-25 Date: 21.03.2025
Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer (General) N.C. Railway, Agra on behalf of President of India invites "Open Tender" through online (E-Tendering) for the following works:
Tender No.: AGC-ELG-136-2024-25 Approx. Cost of the work: Rs. 26,95,52,85
Name of work with its location & Completion Period: Electrification work for Replacement of DCT at Mathura (225 kV) & Kosi Kanak (225 kV) & Hoidal (190 kV) stations with pipeline arrangements.
Completion Period : 06 months
For full details and submission of bid please see the Indian Railways website www.irreps.gov.in Tenders can only be submitted through web portal www.irreps.gov.in up to 15.04.2025

NORTHERN RAILWAY

NOTICE FOR E-AUCTION
Senior Divisional Commercial Manager/Freight, Delhi Division, Northern Railway, in terms of Railway Board letter no. 2022/CTC/FM/1004 dated 13.06.2022, invites bids through e-auction (www.irreps.gov.in) for leasing of parcel space of SLR compartments for a period of two years on per lot and include-given below:-

S. No. / Date of Auction	Assets to be auctioned
1. 22.03.2025 at 10:30 AM	12015 (F1), 12050 (F1), 12314 (F1), 12456 (F1), 12608 (F1), 14087 (F1), F2, R1), 14089 (F1), F2, R1), 14303 (F1), F2, R1), 14316 (F2), 15005 (F2), 15060 (F1), F2, R1), 54076 (F1), F2, R1), 54076 (F1), F2, R1), 54076 (F1), F2, R1), 14316 (F1), 14521 (F1), F2, R1), 14601 (F1), 20423 (F1), R1), 22188 (F1), F2, R1), 22401 (F1), 22438 (F1).
2. 26.03.2025 at 10:30 AM	12265 (F1), 12430 (F1), 12463 (F1), 12584 (F1), 12754 (F1), 14036 (F1), F2, R1), 14035 (F1), F2, R1), 14152 (F1), 15328 (F1), 22914 (F1), 22423 (F1), 22429 (F1), 22463 (F1), 22522 (F1).
3. 03.04.2025 at 10:30 AM	12034 (F1), 12191 (F1), F2, R1), 12457 (F1), F2, R1), 12953 (F1) (Wednesday, Thursday, Saturday and Sunday), 12363 (F1) (Monday, Tuesday and Friday), 14941 (R1) (Sunday), 14507 (F1), F2, R1), 15035 (F1), R1), 15328 (F1), 22914 (F1), 22423 (F1), 22429 (F1), 22463 (F1), 22522 (F1).
4. 04.04.2025 at 10:30 AM	12005 (F1), 12038 (F1), 12055 (F1), 12097 (F1), 12090 (F1) (Monday and Tuesday), 12191 (R1), 14008 (F1), 14014 (F1), 14331 (F1), F2, R1), 14714 (F1), 20482 (F1), 21208 (R1), 22421 (F2, R1), 22950 (F1), 22986 (F1).
5. 07.04.2025 at 10:30 AM	12011 (F1), 12013 (F1), 12017 (F1), 12041 (F1), 12045 (F1), 12066 (F1), 12148 (F1), F2, R1), 12428 (F1), 12448 (F1), 14521 (F1), F2, R1), 14601 (F1), 20423 (F1), 22188 (F1), 22401 (F1), 22438 (F1), 12485 (F1), 12481 (F1), 12612 (F1), 14041 (F1), 14063 (F2), 14212 (F1), 14305 (F1), 14306 (F1), F2, R1), 14731 (F1), 20938 (F1), 22946 (F1), 22454 (F1), F2, R1).

Important notes: 1. For more information, requirement and terms/conditions regarding these e-auctions, interested bidders are advised to visit https://www.irreps.gov.in/htmlhelpdesk/learnings_center.html (e-auction listing section). 2. Following assets are again being floated on Revised Full Price (RFP): a. 22951 (F1) & 22401 (F1) & 14241 (F1, R1) & 54076 (F1, F2, R1) & 22454 (F1, F2, R1). b. Railway Administration reserves the full and absolute rights to short terminate these contracts at any point of time and/or for taking any decision regarding the discontinuation/continuation of these contracts with modified/additional terms and conditions depending upon the construction/operational requirements of the train services. 9022025

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

EASTERN RAILWAY

TENDER NOTICE No. W/LH/29-2024-25. Dated: 15.03.2025. E-Tender (Open Tender) is invited online by Dy. CME/Elect. C & W Workshop, Eastern Railway, Howrah-711004 from Tenderers having technical capabilities for the following work: Name of the Work: Supply, installation, Commissioning & testing of Diesel Engine - Alternator set for high capacity Power Gen set per RDSO Spec. No. RDSO/PE/SPEC/AC/0084-2008 (Rev-1) or latest. Engine to comply with CRFB emission norms and latest approved RDSO Item No. 787 of 2024-25 (573 of 2023-24) = 06 Nos. Approx. cost of Works: Rs. 4,69,05,000. Earnest Money: Rs. 3,84,50,000. Tender Closing Date & Time: 11.04.2025 at 14.00 hrs. Website where complete Details of Tender is available: www.irreps.gov.in

MSIC-387/2024-25
Tender Notice are also available at Website www.irreps.gov.in

EASTERN RAILWAY

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@easternrailwayheadquarter

Deputy Speaker Rouri tables estimates committee report in Punjab Vidhan Sabha

Chandigarh:

During the ongoing session of the Punjab Vidhan Sabha, Deputy Speaker Jai Krishna Singh Rouri, serving as the Chairman of the Estimates Committee, presented the committee's report on the budget estimates for the Department of Forest and Wildlife Protection and the Department of Revenue and Rehabilitation. While tabling the report, Deputy Speaker Rouri stated that the committee had conducted a detailed review of the budgetary provisions, held extensive discussions with departmental officials, and submitted comprehensive recommendations to the House.

The report on the Revenue and Rehabilitation Department highlights key recommendations, including ensuring timely attendance of revenue officials in offices, strict monitoring of patwaris, and conducting surprise inspections to address delays in property transfers. Additionally, it suggests streamlining the land registration process by enhancing online services for public convenience.

Similarly, the report on the Department of Forest and Wildlife Protection emphasizes optimal utilization of budget allocations to improve efficiency. It also calls for the regularization of daily wage and contractual employees to enhance workforce stability and fair and transparent transfers of officials.

Furthermore, the committee has recommended large-scale afforestation efforts by planting native tree species such as Kikar, Tahli, Jang Karir, Jamun, Mango, Dek, Neem, Bohra, and Pipal on vacant government lands, riverbanks, canals, drains, and roadsides.

Deputy Speaker Rouri informed the House that 29 state government departments were selected for examination this year. The committee scrutinized records, conducted oral examinations of officials, and thoroughly reviewed financial estimates to ensure accountability and efficiency.

Mann-led Punjab govt has done exceptional work on war against drugs: Manish Sisodia

Chandigarh: AP senior leader and Punjab in-charge Manish Sisodia on Monday highlighted the "remarkable achievements" of the Bhagwant Mann-led government in the last three years and said it has done exceptional work as part of its ongoing war against drugs.

Sisodia emphasised the Aam Aadmi Party's unwavering commitment to eradicating drugs from Punjab, accelerating development, and fulfilling the promises made to the people of Punjab.

On being appointed as party's Punjab affairs in-charge, Sisodia expressed his gratitude to AAP's national convener Arvind Kejriwal for entrusting him with the responsibility of overseeing Punjab's progress.

According to a party statement, Sisodia acknowledged the groundbreaking work done by the Mann government "in clearing the mess left by previous administrations and setting Punjab on a path of rapid development".

Dr. Ravi Bhagat assumes charge as PS to Punjab CM

Komal Ramola

Chandigarh: Decorated IAS officer Dr. Ravi Bhagat officially assumed charge as the Principal Secretary to the Punjab Chief Minister on Monday. The ceremony took place at his office in the presence of senior state government officials.

A 2006-batch IAS officer, Dr. Ravi Bhagat has served the Punjab government in various capacities and is known for his innovative approach to improving citizen-centric services. With a doctorate in the geopolitics of MSP, he has held key positions, including Sub Divisional Magistrate of Malout (2008-2009) and Deputy Commissioner of Faridkot, Amritsar, and Ludhiana. His tenure also includes roles such as Chief Administrator of Punjab Urban Development Authority and GMADA, Secretary of the Mandi Board, CEO of e-Governance, Director of Public Relations, and Secretary of New and Renewable Energy Resources. Most recently, he served as Special



Principal Secretary to the Chief Minister since 2021.

Dr. Bhagat has been credited with introducing several innovations in health, education, social security, and mobile governance sectors. His contributions during the COVID-19 pandemic, which streamlined essential services, were widely acknowledged. Under his leadership, Punjab achieved two Guinness World Records: one in 2015, when 10,000 students participated in an anti-drug addiction campaign, and another in 2018, when 82 nationalities united to sing a song for peace.

Following his assumption of office, Dr. Bhagat chaired a meeting, emphasizing his commitment to ensuring the effective implementation of pro-people and development-oriented policies led by Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann. He reiterated the government's focus on key sectors such as education, health, and employment, assuring that the benefits of citizen-centric services would be delivered in a time-bound and efficient manner.



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government's top priority.

He underscored that the fight against drugs is not just a government initiative but a mission for the AAP.

He noted that the Mann government, under Kejriwal's guidance, has waged an aggressive war on drugs in Punjab.

"The results are already visible. In just one month, the government has made significant strides that previous administrations failed to achieve in decades," he added.

Sisodia assured the public that the Punjab government is working tirelessly to ensure that every village in the state becomes drug-free.

"The government will reach every nook and corner of Punjab, leaving no stone unturned in its mission to eradicate drugs," he said here.

Highlighting the developmental work undertaken by the Mann

government, Sisodia said, "The previous governments left Punjab in shambles, with rampant corruption, a crumbling education system, neglected healthcare, and skyrocketing unemployment."

"In just three years, the Mann government has cleared 20 years of this mess, and now Punjab is developing at rocket speed."

Sisodia cited the significant progress made in sectors like education, health, and employment under the AAP government.

He also said that "the recent surge in rapid decision-making and implementation of policies reflects the government's commitment to the welfare of the people."

Sisodia reaffirmed AAP's dedication to fulfilling the promises made during the elections.

"As the in-charge of Punjab, it is my responsibility to ensure that every promise made by Arvind Kejriwal and Bhagwant Mann is delivered.

Among those arrested are five drug smugglers, three drug hauler money couriers and three hauler traders, he said.

This major blow to the narco-terrorism hawala network comes amidst the ongoing anti-drugs campaign 'Yudh Nishan Virudh' launched by the Punjab government.

The arrested drug smugglers have been identified as Harjinder Singh alias Ajay (26) of Ram Talai, Amritsar; Harmanjit Singh alias Harry (27) of Guru Nanak Colony, Amritsar; Sagar (28) of Chelhartia, Amritsar; Laveep Singh (30) alias Lala of Hunsapura Kalan, Batala

11 held Rs 5 crore recovered as Punjab Police busts narco-terror hawala network

Chandigarh:

Anti-Narcotic Task Force (ANTF) of the Punjab Police with the support of the central agencies has arrested 11 people and recovered foreign currencies amounting to Rs 5.09 crore, Director General of Police Gaurav Yadav said here on Monday.

With this, the police have busted a narco-terror hawala network and the mastermind of this racket was found to be in contact with Pakistani drug smuggler.

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and Harbhaj Singh (30) alias Sheja of Kakkar, Amritsar, said an official statement.

While drug hauler money couriers have been identified as Saurav alias Saurav Mahajan (24) of Joda Phatak, Amritsar; Tanush (28) of Ghat Mandi Chowk, Amritsar and Harmander Singh (28) alias Harry of Damganj, Amritsar.

The arrested hawala traders have been identified as Ashok Kumar Sharma (60), an owner of Phagwara-based Sharma Forex Money Changer, and his accomplices Rajesh Kumar (50) of Mutiarpur Mohalla in Phagwara and Amit Bansal alias Sunil (47) of Sukhchain Nagar in Phagwara, it said.

DGP Yadav said the development came following two months of meticulous investigations and sustained follow-up of backward and forward linkages in the arrest of two individuals Harjinder Singh alias Ajay and Harmanjit Singh alias Harry after recovering 263 grams heroin and Rs 5.60 lakh drug money from their possession on January 21.

PM Modi to visit Haryana on Apr 14 to inaugurate Hisar airport

Komal Ramola

Chandigarh: Prime Minister Narendra Modi will visit Haryana on April 14 to inaugurate the Hisar airport and lay the foundation stone of a new 800-MW unit thermal power plant in the Yamunana district.

Giving details of the visit, Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini told reporters here that PM Modi will be the chief guest in a state-level function to be organised on the occasion of Dr B R Ambedkar's birth anniversary on April 14.

Whenever PM Modi has visited Haryana, he has given gifts to the state, said Saini, who was flanked by his ministers Krishan Kumar Bedi, Krishan Pal Panwar and Vipul Goel.

The prime minister will inaugurate and lay the foundation stone of two big projects, Saini said, adding that Modi will inaugurate Maharaja Agrasen Airport in Hisar to open commercial operations.

During his visit, the PM will also lay the foundation stone of a new 800-MW unit at the Deen Bandhu Chhotu Ram Thermal Power Plant (DCKTTP) in Yamunana district coming up for Rs 7,272 crore, he said.

The Hisar airport aims to strengthen regional connectivity and also stimulate economic growth while positioning the state as a key player in the aviation sector.

He said that an Integrated Aviation Hub is being developed over 7,200 acres in Hisar, with 4,200 acres allocated for the airport and 3,000 acres for an Integrated Manufacturing Cluster.

The airport's development is divided into three phases, with the first phase already completed, including a terminal building, at a cost of Rs. 50 crore. In the second phase, a 3,000-meter-long runway is being constructed, enabling operations of Airbus aircraft with up to 180 passengers, he said.

The CM stated that on June 13, 2024, a MoU was signed with Alliance Air to start air services to five cities: Aayodhya, Jammu, Jaipur, Ahmedabad, and Chandigarh.

The Airports Authority of India (AAI) applied for a license from the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) on January 23, 2025 and on March 13, 2025 DGCA has issued license



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to the AAL. About the Yamunana-gar power unit, Saini said the Union Ministry of Power has granted approval to Haryana Power Generation Corporation Limited (HPGCL) for setting up the third unit at the Yamunana-gar-based thermal power plant.

"This project is an expansion of the existing 2A-300 MW units at the facility. The project has a completion deadline of 52 months, with commercial operations expected to commence within 48 months, he said.

He said that with the addition of 800 MW unit, Haryana's domestic power generation ca-

Dallewal not detained Punjab govt tells HC

Chandigarh:

Senior farmer leader Jagjit Singh Dallewal is not being detained but admitted in a Patiala hospital, according to his own wish, the Punjab government submitted before the high court on Monday.

Punjab and Haryana High Court had on Friday issued a notice to the state government to file a reply and a status report on the fasting farmer leader's alleged detention.

The government informed the high court that the senior farmer leader was admitted in a private hospital in Patiala "as per his own wish as he has opted for hospitalisation, keeping in view his health condition" and added that he was free to leave.

A petition had been filed by a Ferozpur resident seeking Dallewal's release from "illegal detention" of po-



direction be issued for arranging a meeting of Dallewal with his family members on the hospital premises.

"At this stage, learned state counsel has submitted that as per the orders of the hon'ble apex court, the state is responsible for medical care of the alleged detainee," the high court said in its order.

"It has no objection in meeting the family members of the detainee in the hospital premises. Keeping in view the request of the counsel for the petitioner, the respondents are directed to ensure meeting of the family members of the alleged detainee in the hospital premises without any hindrance either from the side of respondents or the hospital authorities, however, by observing the protocol of the concerned hospital," it ordered.

He requested that

followed".

As the matter came up for hearing before the high court on Monday, the Punjab Police submitted that Dallewal had not been detained.

The reply by way of an affidavit was filed on behalf of the state.

The counsel for the petitioner submitted that the respondents (state) were not allowing Dallewal's family members to meet him in the hospital.

He requested that

Punjab Cong MLAs stage walk out twice after Khaira denied opportunity to speak in Assembly

Chandigarh:

Noisy scenes were witnessed in the Punjab Assembly on Monday with the Congress MLAs staging a walk out of the House twice after party MLA Sukhpal Singh Khaira was allegedly denied an opportunity to speak in the House.

Speaker Kulraj Singh Sandhwan and Khaira sparred after the latter was not given an opportunity to raise his issues while the former asserted that it was the discretion of the chair whom to be allowed to speak.

During the Zero Hour of the budget session, Bholath MLA Khaira sought Speaker Kulraj Singh Sandhwan's attention to allow him to raise issues in the House.

Leader of Opposition Partap Singh Bajwa also stood up in support of Khaira, urging the Speaker to allow him to speak.



"I urge you. He (Khaira) has been waiting to raise some important issues. Kindly allow him to speak," Bajwa asked the Speaker.

After Khaira kept demanding the Speaker to allow him to speak, Sandhwan told the MLA that it was his prerogative who is to be given an opportunity to speak in the House.

"Nobody can force the chair. It is the chair to see who is to speak," Sandhwan told Khaira and asked MLA Rana Indrapat Singh to speak.

Thereafter, Khaira sat down. A few minutes later, he again rose from his seat and demanded from the Speaker to allow him to raise farmer related issues.

The Speaker, however, allowed MLA Sandeep Jakhar to raise his issues.

When Khaira expressed his displeasure over not being allowed to speak, Sandhwan told him, "You are preventing an honourable member from putting forth issues of the people of Punjab."

"Is it only you (Khaira) who can raise issues of Punjab. Please sit down. Can you intimidate the chair," he asked Khaira.

Later, the Congress MLAs went to the well of the House before staging a walk out.

However, Congress MLAs Rana Gurpreet Singh and Harinder Singh Landi kept sitting for some time but later walked out.

Later in the day, during the discussion on the Governor's address, Bajwa again requested the Speaker to allow Khaira to take part in the debate after Congress MLA Pargat Singh shared his views.



By Priyanka Saurabh

Caesarean sections are increasing unnecessarily in hospitals

Did you know that caesarean delivery, or C-section, is the most commonly performed surgery in the world? The topic of caesarean section versus normal delivery is much debated, especially when it is being overused. Some consider it a "business model," while others see it as an achievement of medical science. A caesarean section is a surgical procedure that is performed when normal delivery is not possible or there is a risk to the health of the mother and baby. But nowadays it is being performed more than medically necessary in many places, especially in private hospitals, where it is seen as a quick and convenient solution. A caesarean in itself is not wrong, but when it is done for commercial gain or without a solid medical reason, then it becomes a matter of concern. It should be used with proper awareness and responsibility. In the last few years, the rate of caesarean has increased rapidly in many countries, including India.



According to the World Health Organization, a caesarean is necessary in only 10-15% of cases, but in many countries this rate has reached 50% or more. In India, this rate has been seen to be up to 50-80% in many private hospitals. According to the report of Niti Aayog, the rate of caesarean deliveries in private hospitals in India was found to be 40-50%, while in

government hospitals it was about 20-25%. In schemes like the Health Insurance Scheme and Janani-Shishu Suraksha Karyakram, surgery is done on patients without need because in such schemes either incentives are given or and responsibility. In these cases related to caesarean, hernia, gallbladder, appendix, etc., there are more. This is sad, because in such cases, pregnant women are exploited the most. The cost of a caesarean delivery is 2-5 times more than a normal delivery, due to which hospitals make more profit. While normal deliveries can take hours, caesareans can be completed in a fixed time, allowing hospitals and doctors to perform more deliveries in less time. Some doctors

prefer to schedule deliveries in private hospitals as per their convenience. Some women are so scared of labor pain that they agree to have a caesarean themselves. Sometimes patients are scared and told that the baby is in danger, due to which they are forced to go for a caesarean. A caesarean is necessary in many cases, such as when the position of the baby is not right, such as in a breech position. There are complications during delivery, such as placenta previa and umbilical cord entrapment. The mother has a serious health problem, such as high blood pressure, diabetes, or heart disease. The baby is lacking oxygen, and immediate delivery is necessary. A caesarean has already been done, and normal

strictly enforce rules so that unnecessary caesareans are reduced. Give priority to normal delivery unless a caesarean is necessary for medical reasons. Practice yoga, eat right, and exercise during pregnancy to increase the chances of normal delivery. Hospitals should make their caesarean and normal delivery rates public. Women should develop the habit of consulting another doctor if they can understand the doctor's decision and do not hesitate to ask questions. Hospitals should be encouraged to promote normal delivery. To curb the increasing cases of caesarean delivery, a district in Telangana has made a three-minute short film, 'Caesarean La Koo Katheredham' (Let us reduce caesarean delivery). To avoid pain, many women choose caesarean instead of normal delivery, which is wrong. A caesarean is only justified if it is necessary for the safety of the mother and the baby. Unnecessary surgery should be avoided, as it can be more challenging for the mother physically and mentally. (Priyanka Saurabh, Research Scholar in Political Science)

It is true that some private hospitals are performing unnecessary caesareans for more profits, but it would not be fair to blame everyone. The solution requires awareness among women, moral responsibility of doctors, and government regulations. There are some questions whose answers need to be found together. Has it increased according to the need of women, or has it become a source of income for hospitals? Are doctors performing unnecessary caesareans for their own convenience? Are women themselves preferring caesareans because they want to avoid pain? Are women induced to undergo caesareans without giving them proper information about their options? A caesarean is not wrong in itself, but when it is done for commercial gain or without solid medical reasons, then it becomes a matter of concern.

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.

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

Solution, Sudoku

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

THE WISDOM TREE

BY SUVEEN KUMAR

LIFE IS A SERVICE

What you wanted to become tells you what you think you would serve the best, and what you have become tells you how you have served the best. Life is a service. This starts from you and ends to people. Life is doing a favour that you do to yourself and to others. Either you become a king or subject, service is the only option you have. No matter how you serve, what you serve, who you serve, but the service is the ultimate act you do. It is every important to develop a sense of service in us if we want to be served. Life is a service, and a service is life. Be careful what you serve because every service deserves some wages that you can't deny. If you serve sin you will get your wages as sin, if you serve virtue you will get

your wages as virtue. Sin is too poor to buy virtue and virtue is too pure to touch sin.

Sense of service brings humility to accept responsibility to take and ability to perform. Serve everyday by every way possible, serve everyone with exception of none, serve everything with exception of nothing. The purpose of a service is to accelerate or decelerate someone's act. The true pleasure in life is serving, sometimes serving yourself and sometimes serving others. Some people like to serve others more than they themselves whereas some people like to serve themselves more than others and there is absolutely no harm unless you are serving yourself at the cost of others.



Moral: The best form of service is engaging each other in service each other for the supreme God.

Urban Farming: Cultivating cities, nourishing communities

Urban farming, the practice of cultivating, processing, and distributing food within urban areas, is emerging as a powerful tool to enhance food security, environmental sustainability, and economic resilience. As urban populations continue to grow, the need for innovative agricultural solutions becomes crucial. By integrating agriculture into cities, urban farming minimizes food transportation costs, reduces carbon footprints, and provides fresh, nutritious food to urban dwellers. Globally, urban farming has seen significant expansion, with cities like New York, Tokyo, and Paris integrating vertical farms and rooftop gardens into their urban landscapes. In India, Mumbai, Delhi, and Bengaluru are witnessing a rise in urban farming initiatives, transforming vacant spaces into productive green zones. According to the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), urban farms currently supply nearly 20% of the world's food, and this figure is expected to rise with increasing urbanization. Potential of urban farming Urban farming is more than just a sustainable food trend, it is a necessity. In urban environments where space is limited, techniques such as vertical farming, hydroponics, aquaponics, and rooftop gardening provide efficient food production solutions.

efficient food production solutions. It improves food security by providing direct access to fresh produce, reduces environmental impact by lowering carbon emissions, and creates economic opportunities by generating employment and promoting agribusiness. It also plays a key role in climate resilience by mitigating urban heat islands and fostering green urban spaces. As part of smart city missions, urban farming helps build self-sustaining food ecosystems and reduces dependence on external food supplies. Additionally, urban farming promotes the production of chemical-free food, reducing the dependency on synthetic pesticides and fertilizers, thereby improving public health and food quality. With the increasing concerns over food contamination and the excessive use of harmful chemicals in large-scale agricultural production, urban farming ensures safer and healthier food choices. Urban farming models are practiced through various models, each suited to different urban environments. Some of the most effective models include backyard gardens, tactical gardens, rooftop gardens, green walls, vertical farming, urban beekeeping, aquaponics, community and allotment gardens, and street landscaping.

These models enable urban dwellers to maximize space while ensuring efficient food production. Cities like Singapore and Amsterdam have successfully implemented high-tech indoor farming and vertical agriculture, setting benchmarks for sustainable urban food production. From a Global perspective, urban agriculture is gaining momentum worldwide. Some leading initiatives include vertical farms in New York such as Bowery Farming, workplace-integrated urban farming in Tokyo's Pasona Urban Farm, Europe's largest rooftop farm Nature Urbaine in Paris, hydroponic districts in Shanghai's Sunqiao Urban Agricultural District, and high-tech rooftop farms in Singapore that provide over 90% of its leafy greens. In India, cities like Mumbai, Chennai, and Hyderabad are embracing rooftop greenhouses and hydroponic farms to counteract urban food shortages. The Indian government's National Urban Livelihoods Mission (NULM) has also promoted urban farming as a means of sustainable employment generation. Food security and sustainable nutrition Urban farming plays a crucial role in strengthening food security by ensuring a steady supply of locally grown fresh produce, reducing dependency on distant agricultural regions,

and mitigating disruptions in food supply chains. In times of crises such as pandemics, climate shocks, and logistical breakdowns, urban farming provides resilience to urban populations by offering a decentralized food production system. Moreover, since urban farms often employ organic and sustainable practices, they help in the reduction of chemical-inputs, ensuring chemical-free food that is rich in nutrients and free from harmful pesticides and residues. The proximity of urban farms to consumers also eliminates the need for excessive storage, refrigeration, and preservatives, which often degrade food quality. The right way to practice urban farming For urban farming to be successful, it requires careful planning and sustainable practices. Choosing the right location with adequate sunlight and water access, adopting innovative growth mediums like hydroponics, and utilizing eco-friendly fertilizers help ensure long-term sustainability. Engaging the community is also crucial in maintaining and expanding urban farming initiatives. Challenges & opportunities While urban farming offers numerous benefits, it also faces challenges such as land constraints, regulatory barriers, and high initial costs.

However, advancements in smart agriculture, climate-controlled greenhouses, and precision farming provide opportunities for overcoming these challenges. Increased government support, technological innovations, and public awareness can further strengthen the urban farming movement. The future of urban farming As urbanization accelerates, urban farming will play a pivotal role in reshaping sustainable cities. By integrating technology, fostering community partnerships, and promoting eco-friendly practices, urban agriculture can revolutionize the way we produce and consume food. Urban farming is not just a trend but a necessity for ensuring food security, reducing environmental impact, and creating resilient urban communities. By cultivating cities and nourishing communities, we pave the way for a greener, healthier future.

Urban farming is more than just a sustainable food trend, it is a necessity. In urban environments where space is limited, techniques such as vertical farming, hydroponics, aquaponics, and rooftop gardening provide efficient food production solutions.

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Pressure to perform extreme competition burdens students mental health, says SC

New Delhi
The Supreme Court on Monday said the "relentless pressure" to perform in a purely score-based education system and the "extreme competition" for limited seats in premier educational institutions put a "terrifying burden" on students' mental health.

A bench of Justices J B Pardiwala and R Mahadevan was cognisant of the rising incidents of student suicides on college campuses and in higher educational institutions when it said it was high time to formulate comprehensive guidelines to mitigate the underlying causes contributing to such students' distress.

"Universities must acknowledge their role not just as centres of learning but as institutions responsible for the well-being and holistic development of their students," the bench said.

The court went on, "The failure to do so would mean failing the very purpose of education - to uplift, empower, and transform lives."

The bench constituted a National Task Force (NTF) to address the mental health concerns of students and prevent incidents of suicides and said the duty of colleges was not just to ensure academic excellence of the stu-



dent but also their mental well-being. Similarly, the court expected them not to just exercise authority and control over students but also provide support in times of distress.

The bench said the nation had already suffered the tragic loss of numerous students - young individuals with immense potential who could have gone on to become successful professionals.

"However, due to the absence of adequate institutional support, they were driven to take the extreme step of ending their own lives. These distressing incidents not only highlight sys-

temic failures but also expose a severe lack of institutional empathy and accountability on the part of educational institutions," it said.

When academic environments failed to address discrimination, harassment and mental health concerns effectively, the court said, they contributed to a culture of neglect, having devastating consequences.

Referring to some incidents of suicide by students, the bench said these were not isolated one-off occurrences but were only a few of the many which had taken place over a period of time owing to a multitude of reasons like ragging, ac-

ademic pressure, caste-based discrimination, sexual harassment etc.

According to the 210th report of the Law Commission of India, suicide was identified as one of the most significant factors contributing to the premature and unnatural cessation of human life, it added.

The bench said the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) report for the year 2021 highlights the grim reality of over 13,000 students having lost their lives by committing suicide in the country which is almost twice the already disturbing number a decade ago.

According to the NCRB re-

port titled student suicides accounted for 7.6 per cent of the total suicides in India in 2022 with 1.2 per cent of total suicides attributable to professional or career problems whereas 1.2 per cent failed in examination.

News reports said to have showed caste-based discrimination being rampant and pervasive, even in prestigious educational institutions, aggravating the sense of alienation among students from marginalised communities.

"Caste-based discrimination on college campuses is in clear violation of Article 15 of the Constitution which prohibits discrimination on the ground of caste," it said.

The bench said, "The relentless pressure to perform in a purely score-based education system, coupled with the extreme competition for limited seats in premier educational institutions, places a terrifying burden on the students' mental health."

The court said universities assumed the role of a parent when a student left home and came to study on their campuses.

"As per the principle of 'loco parentis' when a student at the adolescent age or childhood is sent to school by the parents, it is also the duty of the school authorities

to play the role of parents in safeguarding the interest and welfare of the students," the bench said.

Former apex court judge Justice S Ravindra Bhat would be the chairperson of NTF, which will also have Dr Alok Sarin, consultant psychiatrist of Sitaram Bhatia Institute of Science and Research, New Delhi, as one of its members.

The bench said the NTF includes representatives from diverse fields to ensure an interdisciplinary approach to tackling the issue of commission of suicides in higher educational institutions.

The bench directed the Centre to deposit Rs 20 lakh with the registry within two weeks as an outlay for the initial operations of the NTF.

The directions came on an appeal filed by the parents of two deceased students against a January 2024 order of the Delhi High Court which refused to direct the police to register an FIR in connection with the suicide by the two students. It directed Delhi Police to register an FIR on the complaints of the family members of two students who died by suicide while studying at the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Delhi, in 2023.

Murmu asks tribals to be educated and take benefits of welfare schemes



Bhubaneswar/Nayagarh
President Droupadi Murmu on Monday called upon tribal men and women to take benefits of various welfare schemes for them, emphasising that this would be possible if they were educated.

The President, who is on a two-day visit to the state, said this while addressing the foundation day ceremony of Bharatiya Biswasu Sabar Samaj, an association of Sabar tribes in Odisha.

The foundation is named after ancient Sabar King Biswasu, who was considered the first servitor of Lord Vishnu, worshipped in a cave in the name of Shree Nilamadhav before taking the form of Lord Jagannath.

Beginning her speech by chanting 'Jai Jagannath, Jai Nilamadhav and Biswasu Zindabad', the President said a nature-friendly lifestyle is a characteristic of Indian culture and it is also an integral part of tribal life.

"Tribal brothers and sisters worship forests, trees etc as gods. According to tribal beliefs, the souls of their ancestors reside in the forest. This belief is a great mantra of forest protection," she said.

Noting that the government is implementing various schemes for empowerment of tribal people and preserving and promoting their art and culture, the President urged them to be aware of the welfare schemes and take benefit of them.

"The government schemes would be successful only with people's cooperation and participation. If you (tribals) are not aware of the schemes, you cannot get the benefits. And you can be aware of the schemes if educated. Therefore, I urge you to be educated and aware," Murmu said to the community to which she belonged.

Spellbound by the natural beauty of Kantilo area in Nayagarh district with hills and rivers, she said it has the potential to become a popular tourist destination.

She expressed confidence that the development of infrastructure in this area will attract tourists and pilgrims. It will also boost the economy of the area, Murmu said, urging all to contribute to development of this place and area.

"Everyone should come forward to shape the possibilities of Nayagarh in various fields like agriculture, handicrafts, tourism and others," Murmu said and thanked Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi, who while addressing the gathering before her said his government would take all steps for the development of Kantilo.

Earlier, Murmu visited the Shree Nilamadhav temple and offered prayer. She was accompanied by Governor Hari Babu Kamhampati and Majhi. The temple is located at Kantilo on the banks of Mahanadi. "The President offered 'aarti', the priest said, adding that this marks the first-ever visit of a sitting President to the shrine in independent India.

The temple is situated near two hills and is surrounded by dense forests. In ancient times, Shree Nilamadhav was worshipped by the Sabar tribe. Today, a shrine dedicated to Shree Nilamadhav is also located to the right of the Maha Lakshmi temple within the Puri temple complex.

According to Bhaskar Mishra, a researcher in Shree Jagannath culture, it is believed that Lord Vishnu was originally worshipped as Shree Nilamadhav before the idol of Lord Jagannath was created and installed at the Puri temple.

After her arrival in the state earlier in the day, she participated at a Yagna being held at Kaliaipali, the village of Sabar Raja Biswasu, and unveiled his statue.

Murmu will leave for Delhi at 9:20 AM on Tuesday, officials said.

Exercise 'Varuna' achieved its aim of enhanced jointmanship Indian Navy

New Delhi
India-France bilateral exercise 'Varuna', held from March 19-22, achieved its aim of enhanced jointmanship and reinforced the shared commitment to upholding the principles of a rules-based maritime order, Indian Navy officials said on Monday.

Also, the complex drills provided invaluable operational experience, strengthening the collective capacity to address contemporary maritime security challenges, a Navy spokesperson said.

The 23rd edition of the bilateral naval exercise, a testament to the enduring maritime partnership between India and France, featured complex manoeuvres by platforms across sub-surface, surface and air domains.

This edition of the exercise achieved a higher degree of operational coordination between the two navies than the previous editions, he said.

French Aircraft Carrier Charles de Gaulle and INS Vikrant took part in it. "The exercise achieved its aim of enhanced jointmanship and reinforced the shared commitment to upholding the principles of a rules-based maritime order and promoting stability in the Indo-Pacific," the official said.

It facilitated the critical exchange of best practices, fostering a deeper understanding of each other's operational doctrines and enhancing the two navies' ability to operate seamlessly in complex maritime environments, he said.

Since its inception, the 'Varuna' exercise has been a cornerstone of India-France defence relations, with both countries recognising the importance of maritime security and collaborative defence efforts.

France and India share a strong commitment to safeguarding global sea lanes and addressing shared maritime security challenges. He structured drills were designed to further fine-tune tactical and operational proficiency in complex scenarios.

SC orders reservation for women lawyers in bar bodies of district courts of Karnataka

New Delhi
The Supreme Court on Monday reserved for women the post of treasurer along with 30 per cent seats in the executive committee of the council of bar bodies of district courts of Karnataka.

A bench of Justices Surya Kant and N Kottiswar Singh said its direction passed by the Advocate Association of Bengaluru will apply as it is in the case of district courts of Karnataka.

The top court's order came after women lawyers from Bengaluru sought a similar direction passed by the court on January 24 in the case of the Advocate Association of Bengaluru, where the court had reserved 33 per cent of seats for women advocates.

The counsel appearing for women lawyers said that for the high court bar associa-



tion, the election was held and the post of treasurer was won by a woman candidate.

On January 24, exercising its plenary powers, the top court reserved for women lawyers the post of treasurer in the Advocate Association of Bengaluru (AAB).

The court had invoked its powers under Article 142, saying it was "high time" to

provide women reservation in different elected bodies of advocates and there were no express provisions in the memorandum and by-laws earmarking seats for women candidates of the association.

The bench directed the high-powered committee constituted to oversee the election and the chief returning officer for the bar

body polls to extend the date for inviting nominations and if required, the election to be deferred for a few days.

However, such a decision will be at the discretion of the committee and the chief returning officer, it had said.

The top court had ordered the committee and the returning officer to also consider adequate representation of the women advocates in the governing council of the Advocates Association of Bengaluru to ensure at least 30 per cent of the elected members of the council were women candidates with 10 years of practice experience.

The main petition filed by women lawyers sought the implementation of directions on women reservation issued in the case of Delhi High Court Bar Association, where the court last year di-

rected for reserving seats for women lawyers including the post of treasurer.

It had said there was no legal impediment in providing the reservation to women lawyers.

The top court had earlier directed reserving the treasurer's post and 30 per cent seats for women lawyers in the executive committee of Delhi Sales Tax Bar Association and Delhi Tax Bar Association.

On January 20, the top court directed that 33 per cent of seats would be reserved for women lawyers in the election of the National Green Tribunal Bar Association.

The top court, in December last year, directed reserving three posts for women lawyers in the DHC-BA election.

Indian Navy launches two key maritime initiatives: IOS Sagar & AIKEYME

Abhishek Bhatnagar

The Indian Navy has further solidified its commitment to maritime security and regional cooperation with the launch of two major initiatives - the Indian Ocean Ship (IOS) Sagar and Africa India Key Maritime Engagement (AIKEYME). These initiatives align with India's overarching vision of "Security and Growth for All in the Region" (SAGAR), which has been a guiding principle for India's maritime diplomacy over the past decade.

Announcing the initiatives at a press conference held at KOTA House in New Delhi, a senior Navy official highlighted the Indian Navy's expanding role in fostering maritime partnerships across the Indian Ocean Region (IOR). "The Navy has been involved in various initiatives, including joint exercises, coordinated patrols, information sharing, humanitarian efforts, and capacity building," the official said.

As SAGAR enters its second decade, the Indian Navy is taking a step forward with

the introduction of a complementary initiative - Mutual and Holistic Advancement for Security Across the Regions (MA-HASAGAR). Within this framework, IOS Sagar and AIKEYME will be key pillars in enhancing maritime cooperation, particularly with nations in the IOR and Africa.

IOS Sagar is aimed at enhancing maritime cooperation and capacity-building among Indian Ocean littoral states. As part of this initiative, the Indian Navy will deploy the INS Sunayna, which will operate in the Southwest Indian Ocean Region with a multinational crew. Sailors from nine partner nations - Comoros, Kenya, Madagascar, Maldives, Mauritius, Mozambique, Seychelles, Sri Lanka, and South Africa - will join Indian naval personnel onboard.

Planned for deployment in April 2025, INS Sunayna will make several port calls in the region, engaging in joint activities with local maritime forces. The initiative also includes coordinated surveillance of Exclusive Economic Zones (EEZs)

in Tanzania, Mozambique, Mauritius, and Seychelles to bolster regional maritime security. To further deepen cooperation, selected crew members from participating nations will undergo two weeks of intensive naval training at various Indian Navy training schools in Kochi. The program will cover aspects of naval operations, seamanship, surveillance tactics, and maritime domain awareness, ensuring skill enhancement for partner countries' naval personnel.

The AIKEYME initiative focuses on strengthening maritime security cooperation between India and African nations, particularly in addressing critical concerns such as piracy, illegal fishing, and other maritime threats. This multilateral engagement will feature a range of cooperative measures including information sharing, maritime surveillance, and tactical exercises.

Curtains Close on a Spectacle of Art: Indo-Georgian Festival 2025 Wraps Up in Gujarat

Gandhinagar

The Indo-Georgian Festival 2025, organised by the Swarnim Startup and Innovation University in Gandhinagar, Gujarat, recently concluded with captivating and soul-stirring theatrical performances and workshops. Organised by Swarnim Startup and Innovation University, Gujarat, in collaboration with the NGO Cultural Diversity for Peaceful Future (NGOCDFP), and the Ministry of Culture, Georgia, in association with Medilink Hospitals, the two-day festival held on March 20-21, celebrated cultural exchange and artistic collaboration between India and Georgia.

Swarnim Startup and Innovation University is a leading institution in Gujarat known for fostering entrepreneurship, innovation, and international collaborations.

The festival, a cultural confluence of performing artists showcased theatre performances by some 56 artists from Georgia's most renowned state theatres, interactive sessions, and workshops, celebrating the rich cultural and artistic heritage



of both nations.

The idea behind organising the festival was to encourage global collaboration between patrons of Swarnim Startup and Innovation University and those in Georgia, by promoting and celebrating cultural diversity.

The closing ceremony was graced by dignitaries including Alpesh Thakor, MLA, Gandhinagar South constituency of Gujarat; Shilpa Agarwal, Co-founder, Medilink Hospital & Research Centre; Nikoloz Tskulakidze, renowned Georgian actor and Doctor of Arts; Nino Kobaze, Representative of the Ministry of Culture, Georgia, and Head of the Department of Theatres; and Darpan Prasher, Chair-

man, NGOCDFP, and recipient of the Pravasi Bharatiya Samman Award 2021.

During the keynote address, Alpesh Thakor, MLA, Gandhinagar South, said, "Events like these brought together two cultures and provided a valuable opportunity to understand each other's traditions. Such events contributed to the vision of 'Viksit Bharat' (Developed India), which was championed by our Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, who is admired across borders for his vision. This was more than just an event; it served as a bridge between two cultures and symbolised culture. Through initiatives like these, we could deepen our understanding of one

another's cultures and boost global business. We believed in 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam' - the concept that the world is one family, which promoted global peace and unity."

The closing day featured two thought-provoking plays - 'Kvarkvare and 12 Angry Men' - each offering perspectives on power, ambition, and identity.

At least 1,000 attendees participated in the programme, which included board members of Swarnim University, faculty and staff members, students, and special invitees.

The Indo-Georgian Festival 2025 set the stage for continued cultural collaboration, fostering deeper ties between India and Georgia.

In his concluding remarks, Rishabh Jain, President, Swarnim Group, said, "This was not merely an integration of two cultures, but of two countries. This festival embodied the principle of 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam' - the world is one family. India was emerging as a developed nation, driven by the vision of our Prime Minister.

Statue of Rana Sanga to be Installed in front of Agra gate in Sikri: MP Rajkumar Chahar

Akash Jain

Agra: Fatehpur Sikri MP and BJP Kisan Morcha National President, Rajkumar Chahar, has announced plans to install a statue of the legendary Mewar king, Rana Sanga (Rana Sangram Singh), in front of Agra Gate in Fatehpur Sikri. The statue will be funded through Chahar's MP fund and additional public contributions.

MP Chahar has formally written to Divisional Commissioner Shailendra Kumar Singh, requesting the allocation of a suitable space for the statue in the designated area. In his letter, Chahar highlighted the historical significance of Rana Sanga's bravery against the Mughal ruler Babur, which took place on March 16, 1527, in the fields of Khanwa—situated between Fatehpur Sikri in Agra and Rupsah in Bharatpur, Rajasthan.

The MP has assured that the project will be completed with a combination of government funding and public support. He emphasized the importance of honoring Rana Sanga's bravery and his contributions to Indian history.

Rana Sanga's legacy has been at the center of public discourse in recent days due to a controversial statement made by Samajwadi Party MP Ramjilal Suman in the Rajya Sabha. Suman's remarks have sparked widespread criticism and backlash, further amplifying discussions around the historical figure.

Chahar's initiative to install the statue is being seen as a significant step in recognizing Rana Sanga's role in Indian history and preserving his legacy for future generations.

Advt Contact
9818799941

Unemployment down per capita GDP up since 2017: UP CM Adityanath

Lucknow: Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Monday highlighted Uttar Pradesh's economic progress and welfare initiatives as he marked eight years of the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) government in the state.

He noted that the unemployment rate had significantly dropped, per capita income had risen, and UP was on its way to becoming a USD 1 trillion economy.

"The unemployment rate in Uttar Pradesh has come down to less than 3 per cent now from 19 per cent in 2016," Adityanath said at a press conference in Lucknow. He added that per capita income, which was Rs 46,000 in 2017, has now reached Rs 1,24,000, showcasing a strong economic turnaround.

Adityanath stated that Uttar Pradesh had transformed from a deficit economy into a revenue-surplus state.

"We have not imposed any additional taxes on the public, yet we have delivered significant economic results," he said. The state's banking sector has also expanded,



ed, with banking transactions now totalling Rs 29.66 lakh crore.

Highlighting infrastructure development, he said that UP, once known for its potholes, is now recognised as the state with the highest number of expressways. "Today, if you search on Google, UP is ranked as the state with the most expressways," he remarked. He also pointed out that the state leads in metro operations and is home to country's first rapid rail service.

The chief minister announced plans to create State Development Regions over key cities like Lucknow, Varanasi and Kanpur, similar to the National Capital

Region (NCR), to boost urban expansion and economic activity.

According to Adityanath, UP has made significant strides in poverty alleviation. "Fifteen crore people in the state receive free ration, 56 lakh families have been provided housing and 1.06 crore women and senior citizens receive pensions," he said. The state also leads in Direct Benefit Transfers (DBT), ensuring financial aid reaches beneficiaries efficiently, he added.

The CM said the launch of the Zero Poverty Scheme in the new financial year is aimed at eradicating extreme poverty in the state.

He noted that the unemployment rate had significantly dropped, per capita income had risen, and UP was on its way to becoming a USD 1 trillion economy.

tor, Adityanath highlighted a significant expansion in medical education.

"Before 2017, Uttar Pradesh had only 12 medical colleges. In the past eight years, we have established 80 medical colleges, including 44 government and 36 private institutions," he said. He also mentioned that previously, many nursing and paramedical colleges were non-functional, but they are now operational.

Adityanath reiterated his government's commitment to making Uttar Pradesh a USD 1 trillion economy. "With the steps we have taken under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, we are confident that Uttar Pradesh will soon become a USD 1 trillion economy," he said.

Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla Visits MP Rajkumar Chahar's Residence in Agra



By Akash Jain

Agra: Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla visited Agra to attend the "45th Rabi All India Oilseeds Seminar" organized by the Uttar Pradesh Oil Millers Association. Alongside the seminar, he participated in various programs throughout the day.

Speaker Om Birla visited the residence of Fatehpur Sikri MP Rajkumar Chahar at Kheria Mod. During his visit, he sought blessings from MP Chahar's mother and interacted with his family members. The Speaker spent approximately 50 minutes at the residence, engaging in discussions with local leaders and dignitaries.

Several prominent political figures and dignitaries were present during the visit, including Minister Prof. S.P. Singh Baghel,

Minister Dr. Rakesh Garg, Mayor Hemlata Diwakar, State General Secretary Rampratap Singh Chauhan, Former Minister Udaybhan Singh, Dr. Rambabu Harit, MLA Chhotela Verma, Bhagwan Singh Kushwaha, Vijay Shivhare, Anjula Singh Mahaur, Regional Vice President Avdhesh Rawat, District President Prashant Poolia, Metropolitan President Rajkumar Gupta, and several others.

The visit was marked by discussions on regional development, political matters, and community issues. Speaker Om Birla's presence in Agra was seen as a significant moment for local leaders and party members, highlighting the importance of grassroots-level political engagement.

Shri Mathur Chaturvedi Mahaparishad expands presence nationally

Mathura:

Shri Mathur Chaturvedi Mahaparishad, a rapidly growing national organization dedicated to the upliftment and unity of the Mathur Chaturvedi Brahmin community, held an important district executive meeting and expansion program in Mathura. The event, held at the revered premises of the community's Kuldesh, Shri Mahavidya, featured the distribution of appointment letters and the formation of a new 51-member district executive committee.

The program commenced with the chanting of Vedic mantras, the lighting of the sacred lamp, and prayers dedicated to Mahavidya Devi. The event was graced by prominent community leaders, including National Patron Shri Sukhdev Chaturvedi, National President Neeraj Chaturvedi, National General Secretary Nitish Chaturvedi, National Spokesperson Kantanath Chaturvedi, and several other senior officials and dignitaries.

Addressing the gathering, National President Neeraj Chaturvedi emphasized the organization's steady growth



since its inception two years ago. With presence in 50 districts across 22 states and a network of nearly 50,000 families, the Mahaparishad continues to strengthen its commitment to community welfare.

National Spokesperson Kantanath Chaturvedi outlined key initiatives, including efforts in education, healthcare, and self-employment. A major highlight was the Sukanya Yojana, which supports the education of underprivileged girls and provides financial assistance of ₹1 lakh for their marriage under the Kanya Daan

scheme. National General Secretary Nitish Chaturvedi spoke about the organization's life membership campaign aimed at integrating every family into the mainstream. He reaffirmed the motto, "Every Home, Mahaparishad," as a guiding principle for expansion.

National Minister Ashish Chaturvedi discussed the role of local branches in ensuring eligible families benefit from government welfare schemes, while National Joint Minister Shailendra Nath Chaturvedi shared plans to connect youth with self-employment opportunities.

Shimla school withdraws pre-Eid celebration directive after threat from right-wing group

Shimla:

A private school here on Monday withdrew its decision asking students to wear 'kurta-pajama' with a small cap and bring 'roti' roll with 'paneer', 'sevaiyan' and dry fruits for Eid-ul-Fitr celebrations after it sparked a row.

The school was forced to roll back its decision after a local right-wing organisation, Dev Bhoomi Sangarsh Samiti, warned to hold protests outside the educational institution. Some religious outfits and commoners also expressed their concern over the matter on social media.

The private English-medium Auckland House School issued the directions to the students for March 28, the last Friday before the Eid-ul-Fitr celebrations. However, the decision did not go well with the Dev Bhoomi Sangarsh Samiti which termed the directions as against the principle of secularism enshrined in the Constitution. It warned to "gherao" the school and take legal action against it if the decision was not



withdrawn. Members of the Samiti alleged that an attempt was "unfortunately" being made to promote Islam in Himachal Pradesh and warned to launch an agitation if the decision was not taken back.

The school authorities withdrew its decision and said "safety and well-being of our children is our highest priority".

They said, "The planned Eid-ul-Fitr celebrations for classes nursery to 2 was a part of their efforts to help young students appreciate India's cultural diversity -- just as we celebrate Holi, Diwali and Christmas." "It was intended purely as a cultural learn-

ing experience, with no religious rituals and enforcement and participation was entirely voluntary," a communication to the parents said. In view of the recent misrepresentation and concern around potential disruption, the school has decided to withdraw the event to maintain peace and secure the environment and the students should attend the school in regular uniform as usual, it added.

Reacting to the controversy, Education Minister Rohit Thakur said Himachal Pradesh is known for its communal harmony and goodwill and "we will ensure that this remains intact". "The school being named is being established, reputed convent institution here and the message from the school administration was issued solely with the intent of maintaining communal harmony," he said and added, "Our social fabric must remain intact, with respect for all religions and such matters should be put to rest."

Later, in a statement issued here, the school authorities said Auckland House School has always celebrated cultural and religious festivals such as Holi, Eid, Diwali, Gurpurab and Christmas not as a religious mandate but as a tribute to the pluralistic spirit of India to foster empathy, understanding and respect among children from all backgrounds. "It has come to our notice that certain individuals have posted false, misleading and communally inflammatory messages regarding our institution on social media platforms and we strongly condemn attempts to misrepresent these celebrations as religious propaganda," it said.

Cancer Patients Recovering Through Ayurveda and Natural Medicine!

Meerut:

Modern cancer treatments such as chemotherapy and radiation are not the only options for patients. Many individuals are successfully defeating this life-threatening disease using natural healing methods.

In India, HIIMS (Hospital and Institute of Integrated Medical Science) — one of the country's largest Ayurvedic and natural medicine hospital groups — is treating thousands of cancer patients who are experiencing remarkable recoveries. On March 23, 2025, at HIIMS Muradnagar, several patients shared their inspiring journeys of defeating cancer through natural therapies in front of national media representatives. Many of these patients had been declared untreatable by conventional medicine. However, after adopting HIIMS' natural treat-



ment protocols, they not only overcame cancer but also regained full health without any side effects.

During the event, numerous patients testified that instead of undergoing chemotherapy and radiation, they followed treatments recommended by HIIMS, including Fever Therapy, DIP Diet, Zero-Volt Therapy, Panchakarma Therapy, "Time as Medicine," Ayurveda,

and Homeopathy. They reported complete recovery without harmful side effects.

The event was led by Dr. Biswaroop Roy Chowdhury and Acharya Manish, who discussed HIIMS' integrative treatment approach and emphasized the need to reconsider conventional cancer treatments. Acharya Manish explained that traditional medical systems primarily focus

on suppressing symptoms, whereas HIIMS' approach strengthens the body's natural immunity. He stressed that cancer treatment should target its root cause rather than merely controlling symptoms, which often exacerbates the disease.

Dr. Biswaroop Roy Chowdhury also unveiled his new book, "Rabbit-Tortoise Model for Cancer Cure," pre-

sented scientific evidence and research findings that challenge the effectiveness of chemotherapy and radiation. He argued that these treatments can, in some cases, worsen cancer rather than cure it. Rejecting the notion that cancer is a "death sentence," he highlighted that the medical industry has instilled unnecessary fear around the disease. In reality, he stated, cancer can be completely cured through natural medicine.

Nishamani Behera from Odisha was diagnosed with cancer near her eye, leading to tissue decay and infestation by maggots. Doctors recommended immediate surgery to remove the eye, along with chemotherapy. However, she rejected conventional treatments and opted for DIP Diet, Fever Therapy, and Zero-Volt

Therapy at HIIMS, ultimately achieving complete recovery.

Pratibha Samal from Dubai, who had ovarian cancer, adopted Panchakarma and Ayurvedic therapies, successfully defeating the disease.

Chanderwati from Haryana, diagnosed with lung cancer, healed completely using breathing exercises and herbal therapy prescribed by HIIMS.

Ambika Puri from Chandigarh, who battled leukemia, fully recovered by following a plant-based diet and herbal detox therapy. HIIMS' treatment philosophy revolves around detoxifying the body, boosting immunity, and restoring cellular health. The institute employs Panchakarma, DIP Diet, Zero-Volt Therapy, Yoga, and Sunlight Therapy as part of its holistic approach.

Vimal Negi's death sparks demand for CBI investigation: Jairam Thakur

Rajan Panchhi

Mandi: Crime in Himachal Pradesh spiraled out of control, with the police appearing to be more focused on political interests rather than law enforcement, claimed Leader of Opposition Jairam Thakur. Addressing the media, Thakur stated that the law-and-order situation in the state is deteriorating at an alarming rate, and the government has left the security of its citizens to fate.

Referring to the mysterious disappearance and subsequent death of Vimal Negi, a high-ranking officer, Thakur raised serious concerns about the police's lack of urgency in the case. He alleged that when Negi went missing, the authorities showed minimal interest in tracing him. Frustrated with the inaction, Negi's family had to personally approach the Chief Minister multiple times to request acce-



ation of the search operation. Eventually, they were compelled to declare a reward of one lakh rupees for anyone who could provide information regarding his whereabouts.

According to the post-mortem report, Negi had died five days before his body was recovered, yet he had been missing for nine days. This discrepancy has raised significant questions—where was he during those three to four missing days? Why did the police fail to locate him in that time? The circumstances surrounding his death point towards a deeper conspiracy, and Thakur demanded a CBI inquiry to ensure the truth is uncovered and accountability is established.

Thailand's PM faces a no-confidence vote over alleged influence by her father

Bangkok: Thai Prime Minister Paetongtarn Shinawatra on Monday faced a no-confidence motion in parliament as the opposition alleged she was being unduly influenced by her father, a former prime minister, and is mismanaging the country.

Paetongtarn, who took office last year, is expected to survive her first no-confidence vote on Wednesday with the backing of her ruling coalition that makes up the majority of the House of Representatives.

The head of the opposition in parliament, Natthaphong Ruengpanayuwat, said Paetongtarn had failed to address many of the country's chronic problems including the slumping economy, air pollution, crimes and corruption. He said her administration was serving the interests of her family and her father, former Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra, a popular but highly controversial political figure.

Paetongtarn heads the Pheu Thai Party, the latest in a string of populist parties affiliated with Thaksin, who was ousted in a 2006 military coup, fled into exile and recently returned to Thailand.

For Advt Contact:
9818-799941

Philippine defence chief calls China's claims in South China Sea 'biggest fiction lie'

Manila: The Philippine defence chief on Monday called China's expansive claims in the South China Sea as "the biggest fiction and lie" that no Southeast Asian country would accept and said that Chinese President Xi Jinping's aggressive policies have undermined the international goodwill fostered by his predecessors.

Defence Secretary Gilberto Teodoro fired off his latest tirade against China's increasingly assertive actions in the region on the same day that the Philippine coast guard separately reported new incidents involving Chinese forces in the Scarborough Shoal, a hotly disputed fishing atoll in the disputed waterway.

A Chinese military helicopter appeared to have tailed, but didn't closely approach a Philippine lightplane undertaking a routine patrol on Monday over Scarborough.



Chinese forces have separately installed a new floating barrier to prevent Filipino fishermen from entering a lagoon in the shoal, which lies off the northwestern Philippines. Philippine coast guard Commodore Jay Tarriela told an online news briefing.

There was no immediate comment from Chinese officials, but in the past, they have repeatedly asserted that Beijing has had sovereign control over the Scarborough Shoal and most of the South China Sea since ancient times.

An international arbitration panel invalidated China's expansive claims in a 2016 ruling based on the 1982 UN Convention of the Law of the Sea, but Beijing refused to participate in the Philippines-initiated arbitration and continues to defy the decision.

In a speech marking the anniversary of the Philippine military's Western Command on Palawan province, which faces the South China Sea, Teodoro underscored the need for a "stronger national defence posture" and continued security engagement with allied countries to address the threat posed by Chinese aggression in the waterway, a key global trade route.

"No ASEAN country accepts the legitimacy of that 10-dash line, because that is the biggest fiction and lie that can be sold to any right-thinking person," Teodoro told Filipino forces.

He was referring to the Association of South-east Asian Nations, a 10-nation regional bloc that has been negotiating a nonaggression pact called the "code of conduct" with China to prevent the territorial conflicts from spiralling out of control.

While the White House said "energy and infrastructure" would be covered, the Kremlin declared that the agreement referred more narrowly to "energy infrastructure". Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said he would also like railways and ports to be protected.

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov emphasized Friday that the agreement reached between Trump and Putin referred only to energy facilities, adding that the Russian military is fulfilling Putin's order to halt such attacks for 30 days.

Russia developing 'privileged strategic partnership' with India Lavrov

Moscow: Russia is developing "privileged strategic partnership" with India, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov said on Monday.

Lavrov said at an event that Russia is actively expanding ties with countries like China, India, Iran, North Korea and Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) countries, the state-run TASS news agency reported on Monday.

"We prioritize boosting ties with the majority of global states," he said at a meeting of the board of trustees of the Alexander Gorchakov Public Diplomacy Fund.

"The relations of comprehensive partnership and strategic cooperation with the People's Republic of China boast an unprecedented level of mutual trust. Particularly privileged strategic partnership is developing with India," the top Russian diplomat said.

Lavrov added that serious progress has been reached in expanding and deepening of friendships with such states as Iran and North Korea. Moscow puts special emphasis on strengthening of all areas of cooperation with allies and partners among CIS member states, including within the framework of the Commonwealth, as well as the Collective Security Treaty Organization and the Eurasian Economic Union, Lavrov said.

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US Russian negotiators launch ceasefire talks in Saudi Arabia

Kyiv: US and Russian negotiators on Monday sat down for talks in Saudi Arabia on a partial ceasefire in Ukraine, hours after a round of negotiations between US and Ukrainian delegations, Russian news reports said.

The state Tass and RIA-Novosti news agencies said the negotiations had begun in the capital Riyadh. The meeting is expected to be followed by another contact between US and Ukraine negotiators.

The separate meetings are set to discuss details of a pause in long-range attacks from both Russia and Ukraine against energy facilities and civilian infrastructure, as well as a halt on attacks in the Black Sea to ensure safe commercial shipping.

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Sebi Fines 6 for Non-Genuine Trades on BSE

New Delhi: Markets regulator Sebi on Monday imposed fines totalling Rs 35 lakh on seven individuals for indulging in non-genuine trades in the illiquid stock options segment on the BSE.

The regulator levied a penalty of Rs 5 lakh each on Daxeshkumar Natvarlal Patel, Sattu Yadav, Mukesh Agarwal, Ratan Lal, Sat Devi, Sohan Lal Dugar and Raj Agwal.

The orders came after the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) observed large-scale reversal of trades in the illiquid stock options segment of BSE, leading to the creation of artificial volume.

Thereafter, the markets watchdog conducted an investigation into the trading activities of certain entities in illiquid stock options on BSE for the period April 2014 to September 2015.

According to Sebi, reversal trades are the trades in which an entity reverses its buy or sell positions in a contract with subsequent sell or buy positions with the same counterparty.

BUSINESS

Rs 17,000 Cr Investment in Speciality Steel PLI Scheme

New Delhi: A total of 25 companies signed 42 agreements with the government to manufacture high-end steel at an estimated investment of Rs 17,000 crore under the second round of the PLI Scheme for speciality steel, an official statement said on Monday.

In January, Union Minister of Steel and Heavy Industries HD Kumaraswamy launched the second round of the PLI scheme for speciality steel, termed PLI Scheme 1.1.

"The second round has seen greater enthusiasm, with 25 companies submitting 42 applications, committing investments worth Rs 17,000 crore," the Ministry of Steel said.

The companies signed memorandums of understanding (MoUs) with the Ministry of Steel to produce five types of high-grade steel.

In the first round, 44 applications were submitted by 23 companies, with incentives already disbursed for one project.

"Domestically, we are not manufacturing speciality steel, but I personally request our steelmakers to invest in speciality steel plants. If you succeed in producing speciality steel domestically, it will boost capacity and production in the country," Kumaraswamy said.

"The PLI scheme is a major step towards realizing the Prime Minister's (Narendra Modi) vision of self-reliance. India is the second-largest producer and consumer of steel, yet we still import certain high-grade varieties. This scheme aims to bridge that gap by promoting domestic production."

PLI Scheme 1.1 covers five product categories in line with the existing PLI scheme, namely coated/plated steel products, high strength/wear-resistant steel, speciality rails, alloy steel products & steel wires and electrical steel.

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SEBI Forms Committee to Review Conflict of Interest

Mumbai: The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) will set up a committee to review provisions for its members to disclose conflict of interest, months after the capital markets regulator's former head was accused of holding back on investigations against Adani group because of conflict of interest.

SEBI in its first meeting under new chairman Tuhin Kanta Pandey on Monday decided to set up a high-level committee to conduct a detailed review of conflict of interest and disclosure norms related to property, investments and liabilities of board members and officials.

The panel will comprise eminent persons and experts with relevant backgrounds and experience in constitutional or statutory or



regulatory bodies, government/public sector, private sector and academia, Pandey said adding names of members of the committee will be announced in due course.

Pandey's predecessor Madhabi Puri Buch, who demitted office at the end of February, had come under attack last

year from now-shuttered Hindenburg Research which alleged that she and her husband held "hidden" holdings in Bermuda and Mauritius entities also drawn upon by the older brother of Adani group founder Gautam Adani, which possibly held the agency back from investigating fraud charges against

the powerful conglomerate.

Both Buch and the Adani group had denied all allegations. Buch and her husband had stated that they "strongly deny the baseless allegations and insinuations made in the report".

Pandey, who revived the regulator providing press conferences after

board decisions, said that the last time the disclosure norms were made was in 2008 and a review was necessary to build trust in the institution.

"The objective of the high-level committee is to comprehensively review and make recommendations for enhancing the existing framework for managing conflict of interest, disclosures and related matters to ensure the high standard of transparency, accountability and ethical conduct of members and officials of the board," he added.

Pandey mentioned that the committee will be formed soon, once the members provide their consent, and emphasized that the panel will be constituted independently from Sebi, while the markets regulator providing secretarial support.

According to Sebi, reversal trades are the trades in which an entity reverses its buy or sell positions in a contract with subsequent sell or buy positions with the same counterparty.

The reversal trades are alleged to be non-genuine trades as they lack basic trading rationale and allegedly lead to a false or misleading appearance of trading, leading to the generation of artificial volume, the regulator said in the order.

"The trading behaviour of the noticee (six individuals) confirms that such trades were not normal, indicating that the trades executed... were not genuine trades and being non-genuine, create appearance of artificial trading volumes in respective contract," Sebi said.

Sensex Surges 6 Days, Investors Gain Rs 27.10 Lakh Cr

New Delhi: Markets investors became richer by Rs 27.10 lakh crore as the BSE benchmark Sensex continued to rally for the sixth trading day, surging nearly 6 per cent during this period.

On Monday, the 30-share BSE bellwether gauge jumped 1,078.87 points or 1.40 per cent to settle at an over six-week high of 77,984.38. During the day, the benchmark zoomed 1,201.72 points or 1.56 per cent to 78,273.

The BSE benchmark gauge jumped 4,155.47 points or 5.62 per cent



in six trading days. Tracking the optimism in equities,

the market capitalisation of BSE-listed firms zoomed Rs

27,10,918.98 crore to Rs 4,18,29,351.91 crore (USD 4.87 trillion) dur-

ing this period. "Benchmark indices extended gains for the sixth straight session on Monday, on positive global cues, building on the positive momentum from last week as bargain hunting continued. Broader mid and smallcaps as well as all major sectors ended the day with strong gains in a continued broad-based rebound," Satish Chandra Aluri, Analyst, Lemmon Markets Desk, said.

He further said that after posting the best weekly gain in more than 4 years, last week,

benchmarks continued their uptrend supported by positive global cues as Trump appeared to soften tone on reciprocal tariffs set to take effect on April 2.

"Continued foreign buying seen in recent sessions as USD weakens also lifted expectations of renewed buying interest after valuation correction," Aluri added. From the Sensex pack, NTPC, Kotak Mahindra Bank, State Bank of India, Tech Mahindra, Power Grid, Bajaj Finserv, Axis Bank, HCL Tech, Reliance Industries and Bajaj Finance

were the biggest gainers.

Titan, IndusInd Bank, Zomato, Mahindra & Mahindra, Bharti Airtel, Nestle and Infosys were the laggards. The BSE midcap gauge jumped 1.32 per cent and smallcap index climbed 1.77 per cent. All BSE sectoral indices ended higher, with bank rally 2.53 per cent, utilities (2.42 per cent), power (2.31 per cent), industrials (2 per cent), financial services (1.97 per cent), capital goods (1.95 per cent) and realty (1.51 per cent).

Cricket

Iyer aims to build on captaincy credentials as Punjab Kings open against Gujarat Titans

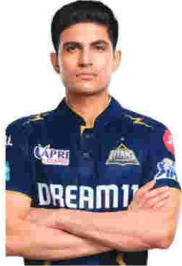
Ahmedabad

Skinner Shreyas Iyer will lean on his captaincy credentials as he looks to turn around the fortunes of perennial under-performers Punjab Kings in this IPL, opening the season with a clash against Gujarat Titans here on Tuesday.

Iyer enjoyed huge success leading Kolkata Knight Riders to the IPL title last year, four years after guiding Delhi Capitals to the 2020 IPL final, and now faces the challenge of ending Punjab's 18-year-long wait for their maiden IPL title.

The Punjab team reached the semi-finals in 2018 and made it to the final once in 2014, but despite numerous squad changes and leadership shifts, they have failed to break into the top 5 in the last four editions, even after rebounding to Punjab Kings from Kings XI Punjab.

However, with Iyer at the helm, Punjab has a captain with proven leadership credentials. He will also reunite with coach Ricky Ponting at Punjab, providing the ideal platform to make a fresh start.



On the other hand, Shubman Gill, who is the vice-captain of India's ODI team, endured a tough season as GT captain, with the team finishing in 8th spot in 2024 after a title win and runner-up finishes in 2022 and 2023 under Hardik Pandya.

Both Gill and Iyer are in great form, having played crucial roles in India's Champions Trophy-winning campaign in Dubai earlier this month.

Iyer finished as India's top run-



scorer in the Champions Trophy with 243 runs in five games, while Gill also struck a century in the opening match against Bangladesh and contributed significantly to India's triumph.

As for team dynamics, GT's batting strength will rely on a solid start from Gill and England's wicketkeeper-batter Jos Buttler, who will be looking to bounce back from recent poor form.

The middle-order will be in the hands of West Indian Sherane

Rutherford, Sai Sudharsan, and Masood Shahruxh Khan, with all-rounders Rashid Khan, Rahul Tewatia, Glenn Phillips, Washington Sundar, and Mahipal Lomror expected to contribute.

On the bowling front, Mohammed Siraj will look to make a big impact and return to the national reckoning after missing out of the Champions Trophy, while Kagiso Rabada, Prasidh Krishna, South African Gerald Coetzee, and veteran Ishant Sharma will provide added firepower to GT's pace attack.

GT's spin department will be led by Rashid Khan with left-arm spinner Sai Kishore providing valuable support.

Punjab Kings, on the other hand, will depend on skipper Iyer, Josh Inglis, Prabhsinran Singh, Marcus Stoinis, and Glenn Maxwell for their batting. The Punjab outfit also boasts a strong line-up of all-rounders in Azmatullah Omarzai, Stoinis, Marco Jansen, Shahank Singh, and Musheer Khan. The pace bowling department will be led by Arshdeep Singh, who will be itching to get back in action after not getting a game in the Champions

Trophy. He will have Lockie Ferguson, Kuldeep Sen, and Yash Thakur in the pace unit, while leg-spinner Yuzvendra Chahal and left-arm spinner Harpreet Brar will offer a successful season.

Teams (from): Gujarat Giants: Shubman Gill (c), Anuj Rawat, Jos Buttler, Kumar Kushagra, Sherane Rutherford, Sai Sudharsan, M Shahruxh Khan, Rashid Khan, Karim Janat, Mahipal Lomror, Glenn Phillips, Nishant Sindhu, Manav Suthar, Rahul Tewatia, Washington Sundar, Arshad Khan, Gerald Coetzee, Gurnoor Brar, Kulwant Kheirvani, Mohammed Siraj, Prasidh Krishna, Kagiso Rabada, Sai Kishore, Ishant Sharma, Jayant Yadav.

Punjab Kings: Shreyas Iyer (c), Priyansh Arya, Pyla Avinash, Harpreet Singh, Josh Inglis, Prabhsinran Singh, Vishnu Vinod, Nehal Wadhwa, Azmatullah Omarzai, Aaron Hardie, Marco Jansen, Glenn Maxwell, Musheer Khan, Shashank Singh, Marcus Stoinis, Suryansh Shedge, Arshdeep Singh, Xavier Bartlett, Yuzvendra Chahal, Harpreet Brar, Kuldeep Sen, Vijaykumar Vyshak, Yash Thakur.



Poor death bowling and lack of support for Root cost England, says Jos Buttler



Rachin Ravindra credits spin depth for CSK's win over MI

Chennai

Chennai Super Kings hero Rachin Ravindra credited the team's spinners, led by the "world-class" Ravichandran Ashwin, for their comprehensive win over Mumbai Indians, saying the depth in spin gives them the right balance, covering any off-days from individual bowlers.

While Ashwin delivered a tidy 1/31, it was Afghanistan's Nour Ahmad who stole the limelight with a brilliant 4 for 18, helping restrict MI to 155-9.

"Ash (Ashwin) is a world-class performer. I played a bit against him, he brings a lot of experience, he brings a lot of his cricket knowledge, the way he speaks about spin bowling, the tips he gives," Ravindra said at the post-match press conference after CSK's four-wicket win.

"He reads the game, he is a great thinker of the game. It's an honour to share the field with lot of these guys, greats of Indian game, guys I have grown up watching," he said.

"We have got a good spin depth, the balance of the team is nice. If someone is not having a great day the sixth bowler comes in." Chasing 156, Ravindra remained unbeaten on 65 off 45 balls and shared 67 runs for the second wicket with skipper Ruturaj Gaikwad (53 off 26) to lay the foundation for the win on Sunday night.

"It's always an honour to open for CSK, the history of it and you look back at the heroes like the Hussey's, the Watson's, the McCullum's. These guys have done so well. So it's great to be in this role but I will take game by game. It's a long tournament so..." Ravindra said.

CSK lost a few wickets in the middle to be reduced to 116/5 but Ravindra and Jadda (17) then steadied the ship to take them to 152 for 6. Lavishing praise on his skipper Gaikwad and Jadda, Ravindra said: "Ruthi is an amazing player, the way he showed his class out there, scoring and hitting beautiful shots he did. It was fractionally a tricky wicket but I think it was a good wicket in general."

"Mumbai bowled quite well. The dew wasn't a factor but the way he played showed his skill and class and made my job a bit easier," he said. "Jadda's experience speaks for itself. He is a class all-rounder and the way he finished lot of games in the past, his calmness is great and his clarity. He knows his team well, he knows the conditions well and sharing the crease with him was amazing." The Chepak crowd had hoped for the legendary Mahendra Singh Dhoni to finish the game, but it was Ravindra who sealed the win with a six off Kiwi teammate Mitchell Santner to take CSK home.

"It's difficult to soak in the moment, you are simply focussed on winning the game for the team but it's hard to ignore when Dhoni comes in, the noise and whistles. It was cool to share the crease with him for the first time," he said.

Tamim Iqbal undergoes angioplasty after heart attack

New Delhi

Former Bangladesh captain Tamim Iqbal on Monday underwent angioplasty after suffering a heart attack during a Dhaka Premier Division Cricket League match in Dhaka.

According to a report in ESPN-cricinfo, the incident occurred in the first innings of the 50-over-a-side contest between Mohammedan Sporting Club and Shinepukur Cricket Club when the 36-year-old Iqbal felt pain in his chest.

Tamim, who was leading Mohammedan, fielded for just one over before being rushed to a nearby hospital.

"Initially, a helicopter was arranged for Tamim's movement to the hospital, but he could not be flown from the BKSP ground in Savar. He was later taken to the Fazilatunnesa Hospital," the report quoted match referee Debabrata Paul as saying.

The treating doctors later issued an official medical bulletin. "He returned to us in a critical condition. We can call it a heart attack, and we subsequently did an angiogram and angioplasty to remove the blockage. The medical procedure has gone smoothly. He is currently under observation."

"The swift coordination between the medical staff at BKSP and the hospital ensured Tamim was treated quickly," the bulletin read.

The Bangladesh Cricket Board had cancelled a scheduled hour meeting this afternoon after the development. BCB president Faruque Ahmed is at



the hospital, along with other members.

Iqbal had announced his retirement from international cricket for the second time in January this year. Earlier, in July 2023, he had made a similar announcement during an emotional press conference but reversed his decision within 24 hours following an intervention from then Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.

Iqbal, who last featured for the national team in 2023, has played 70 Tests and 243 ODIs, scoring 5,344 runs and 8,357 runs respectively for Bangladesh. He has also accumulated 1,758 runs in 78 T20Is.

Musheer Khan ready to implement lessons from Shreyas Iyer and Ricky Ponting in IPL

New Delhi

A long injury lay-off behind him, young all-rounder Musheer Khan is determined to put into action all that he has learnt from Punjab Kings captain Shreyas Iyer and head coach Ricky Ponting in the IPL.

The 20-year-old Mumbai all-rounder Musheer is set for return to top flight cricket following a car accident last September, in which he had suffered a fracture to his neck region while playing in the Duleep Trophy.

Having recovered completely, Musheer is determined to make an impact in his maiden IPL season and wants to implement all that he has observed skipper Iyer in the domestic circuit from close quarters.

"When I was in the Ranji Trophy with Shreyas bhai last year (2023-24), it was the first time I met him up close," Musheer told PTI Videos in an exclusive interview.

"I observed him, his attitude and confidence level were very high. He is very positive and I have never seen him speak negatively. I also talked to him about power-hitting, he told me a few things that I keep in my mind while batting," Musheer added.

The young all-rounder also picked up batting tips from Australian great Ponting, whom Musheer has managed to impress in their initial exchanges.

"First of all, we are having a lot of fun with Ricky sir. Just like I told you about Iyer bhai, he also is the same," he said.



"His attitude, the way he speaks, and his mindset are all incredible. I have spoken to him a lot about batting. His pull shot was very good, so I asked him about it and he shared some insights," Musheer added, "He is always involved in the ground with us, noticing every small mistake and correcting us. I will try to learn from him as much as possible." But for Musheer, legendary Sachin Tendulkar and Daniel Vettori are his idols and he wants to emulate their feats on the field.

"My main idol is Daniel Vettori for bowling and Sachin Tendulkar for batting," he said. "I try to pay a lot of attention on the way you have not kept against somebody, I'd be like them, but I try to be a little like them in my game," Musheer added. A right-handed batter and left-arm spinner, Musheer said he has worked hard on improving his white-

ball skills after dazzling in Ranji Trophy circuit for Mumbai, helping them win the 2023-24 title.

"I was doing very well in red-ball cricket, but when I came to white-ball cricket, I made a lot of changes to my batting with my father," he said.

"I have changed my technique and my mindset. I have worked on how I can take advantage of the powerplay, take the game as long as possible by maintaining a good run rate. Only thing left now is to implement it in the match." Musheer said he has also put in efforts to bring necessary changes while bowling in T20s.

"The length in T20 cricket is very different. I have worked on that a lot. Before coming here, I played many matches. Even before my injury, I played a lot of local tournaments in Mumbai. So, in bowling, whatever weapons I have, I have practiced them all," he said.

With his elder brother Sarfaraz Khan in the Indian Test team mix, Musheer said he wants to be prepared for the future.

"When we are at home, we talk about cricket and what's happening around us. He shares his past experience and advises me to keep myself prepared, whether I get an opportunity or not," he said.

"As our father says, we need to focus on the process and move step by step. We don't have to think too far ahead. We will give 100 per cent, then 200 per cent, and after that, we will trust our fate," he added.

Quick timing, great hands, good vision: Hayden praises Dhoni after stumping of Suryakumar

Chennai

Mahendra Singh Dhoni's lightning-quick reflexes behind the stumps to get rid of Suryakumar Yadav during an IPL match here have left former Australian opener Matthew Hayden gushing about the former Indian captain's abilities, despite not being in his prime.

Dhoni, 43, is nearing the end of his career, having hung up his international boots five years ago and playing just as a player for the Chennai Super Kings after leading the team to five IPL titles.

However, Dhoni showcased his brilliance once again on Sunday when he whipped off the balls in an instant off Nour Ahmad's delivery, sending Suryakumar back to the pavilion.

"He (Dhoni) was on fire," Hayden, the former Australia batter and Dhoni's team-mate at CSK till 2010, said on ESPNcricinfo's T2o Time Out.

"I mean Nour Ahmad was firing down the leg side and it was just a movement across the ball. They're difficult when you're sitting there sort of partially obscured by the batsman.



"Then the stumping was just superb, just such quick timing, great hands, good vision. He's still got it." The stumping of Suryakumar (29) was a crucial moment in the game as

CSK broke a 51-run stand and eventually restricted Mumbai Indians to 155-9. CSK chased down the target with four wickets in hand and five balls to spare at Chepak.

"The stumping from MSD (MS Dhoni) was out of the world," said Nour during the post-match presentation.

"It feels great to have someone like Mahi Bhai behind the stumps, it is a great support for me." As per Star Sports, the stumping was executed in just 0.12 seconds.

Piyush Chawla, former India and CSK spinner, believes Dhoni must have practiced with Nour during pre-season camp to perfect the stumping.

"It does happen, it is a challenge if you have not kept against somebody," he said.

"But I'm sure in the camp, he must have kept a lot of balls because if he's keeping for somebody new, he especially takes that person to the stumps and says, you bowl a few balls."

"(It has) not (happened) with me because I have bowled against him so many times and bowled to him in the nets also. But whenever somebody new comes, especially a wristspinner, he just makes sure he's keeping 10-12 balls so that he gets used to the wrist position."

Rejecting speculation that he is the back-room decision-maker in Chennai Super Kings despite handing over captaincy to Ruturaj Gaikwad, the talismanic Mahendra Singh Dhoni said he is instead focussed on reinventing himself and his strokes to "stay relevant" in the IPL.

Speaking to "JioStar" after CSK's four-wicket win over Mumbai Indians in their hung-opener on Sunday night here, Dhoni spoke about the team dynamics under Gaikwad, his own form and also the regional commentary being done in the ongoing league.

"...batsmen are now willing to take risks. They believe that with proper cricketing shots, they can play big strokes, and at the same time, they're improving with their shot selection...whether it's a reverse sweep against a fast bowler, a sweep, or a reverse sweep against a pacer."

"I am no different, I have to adapt as well. This is what is required of me for where I am batting. You have to try and stay relevant," Dhoni said.

"The way we played T20 in 2008 and the way we played IPL last year, it's very different. Earlier, there was

a lot of turn in the wickets. Wickets were two-paced. Now, India's wickets are becoming much better; they are more batter-friendly," he explained.

The 43-year-old, under whom CSK won five IPL titles, handed over the leadership to Gaikwad at the beginning of the 2024 season. He said although he discusses things with Gaikwad, he refrains from persuading him to follow his advice.

"Ruturaj has been part of us for quite some time. His temperament is very good, he's very calm, very composed. So those were the reasons we considered him for leadership."

"Before the start of the tournament, I also told him, 'If I give you advice, it doesn't mean you have to follow it. I will try to stay away as much as possible.' During the season, a lot of people speculated that I was making the decisions in the background," Dhoni recalled.

"But the fact is, he was making 99 per cent of the decisions. The most important calls — bowling changes, field placements — were all his. I was just helping him out. He did a brilliant job of handling the players," he added.



Ban on Indian kabaddi federation will be lifted next month: international body chief Tiwari

New Delhi
In a respite for Indian kabaddi players, the international governing body of the sport is set to lift suspension imposed on the national federation next month after the court-appointed administrator handed over the charge to the 'elected body'.

International Kabaddi Federation (IKF) President Vinod Kumar Tiwari said that the ban will be lifted after an executive council meeting scheduled next month. The IKF had banned the Amateur Kabaddi Federation of India (AKFI) in July last year after the 'elected body' was not allowed to take charge.

"The court-appointed administrator has handed over the charge to the AKFI office bearers who were elected in December 2023. The AKFI office bearers have started functioning from AKFI office at JLN Stadium," Tiwari said in an interview.

"So, the ban on AKFI will be lifted. We will have our executive board meeting of the (IKF) next month and the ban will be officially lifted." In a February 6 order, the Supreme Court had asked Justice (Retd.) S P Garg, the AKFI administrator, to hand over control of the federation to the office bearers elected in December 2023.

The SC division bench had, however, clarified that it hadn't recognised the elected body of the federation yet, but was passing the order to allow participation of Indian players in the senior Asian Kabaddi Championship-2025 scheduled in Iran from February 20 to 25.

The top court passed the order after two national kabaddi players — Priyanka and Pooja — sought direction to AKFI for sending them to Asian Kabaddi



di Championship in Iran.

Tiwari said the IKF had already allowed the Indian players' participation in the Asian Championships.

Earlier in 2019, the Delhi High Court made Justice (Retd.) Garg as the AKFI administrator after quashing appointment of former federation chief Janardan Singh Gahlot as 'Life President' and election of his wife as president.

In the December 2023 elections held under the charge of Garg, Vibhor Vineet Jain was elected AKFI president and Ji-

tendra Thakur as general secretary. But the outcome of the election was kept subject to a petition before the High Court.

That meant that Garg continued to be in charge of the AKFI affairs, leading to the ban imposed on the national federation by the IKF.

"It's for AKFI to take action against team that took part in World Cup in UK last week, the IKF declared that the Kabaddi World Cup being held in London is not an 'authorised' event and asked the AKFI to act against the team

that had gone to take part in the tournament."

Kabaddi World Cup 2025 is being held in the West Midlands from March 17 to 23. The tournament is being hosted by the England Kabaddi Association and the British Kabaddi League (BKL) under the aegis of World Kabaddi Federation, a parallel international governing body of the sport.

"It's a free world, so in a sense you can't stop anybody from taking part in tournaments. But that World Cup is not

recognised by the IKF and the Indian team that had gone was not sent by AKFI. Only thing we can do is send teams authorised by AKFI.

"It's for the AKFI to take action against the team that had gone to England for the unauthorised World Cup," Tiwari, who is also Deputy Director General of Olympic Council of Asia, admitted that things also got worse after the AKFI remained inactive for the past many years. "We did mistakes also, we have not held any tournament in the last eight years. The fulcrum of kabaddi (in the world) is India but there were no national championships or World or Asian championships in India as AKFI has been run by a court-appointed administrator.

"But things will get back to normal from now onwards. We will conduct 2-3 World Championships consecutively," IKF planning to stage PKL style kabaddi leagues in Qatar, Thailand

Tiwari said the IKF is planning to begin leagues in Qatar and Thailand this year to spread the sport with an aim to include it in the Olympics in future.

"Wherever there are Indians, kabaddi is popular. But we are trying to spread the sport to other countries and areas. That is important to popularise the sport if we have to take it to the Olympics.

"We are in discussion to have a masters championships in Qatar involving 7-8 teams. We are also starting a league in Thailand to be competed among players of South East Asia. All these will be franchise-based leagues and most likely starting this year." Asked about likely franchise owners, he said most of them would be from India.

Father of Jakob Ingebrigtsen denies abuse allegations as trial starts

Norway
Gjert Ingebrigtsen, father and former coach of Norwegian runner Jakob Ingebrigtsen, pleaded not guilty on Monday as his trial began in which he stands accused of physically abusing two of his children, including the two-times Olympic champion.

The 59-year-old faces up to six years in prison, with the trial expected to run until May 16 at the South-Rogaland District Court in the city of Sandnes, Norway.

Norwegian police pressed charges against the elder Ingebrigtsen last year, accusing him of abusing two of his seven children, including Jakob for several years.

The police started their investigation back in October 2023 when Jakob and his fellow athlete brothers, Filip and Henrik, accused their father of physical violence and abusive behaviour in a Norwegian newspaper column.

The charge against Gjert for the abuse of his daughter was filed at the end of April 2024. He was also charged with abusing Jakob six months later.

Jakob accused his father of several incidents of abuse, according to Norwegian media, including slapping him twice in 2008 and kicking him in the stomach after he fell off a scooter in 2009.

Gjert announced in 2022 that he was stepping down as coach not long after Jakob won Olympic gold in the 1,500 metres in Tokyo, prompting widespread speculation in Norway over their rift.

WFI President Sanjay Singh elected as bureau member of UWW-Asia

Amman
WFI President Sanjay Kumar Singh was on Monday elected as a bureau member of United World Wrestling (UWW)-Asia, the national federation has announced.

The election took place during the UWW-Asia General Assembly in Amman on Monday, a day before the start of the Asian Championships.

"This is not just a personal milestone but a testament to the growth and recognition of Indian wrestling at the global level. I look forward to working closely with UWW-Asia to promote and develop the sport across the continent," said Singh in a release.

According to WFI, Singh secured 22 votes out of 38, "demonstrating strong support from the Asian wrestling community."

ITF World Tennis Tour from March 31 in Bengaluru

Bengaluru
Some of the top international stars will descend to the city for the Men's M25 ITF World Tennis Tour, which will be held at the KSLTA courts here from March 31 to April 6.

The USD 30,000 tournament will be a tribute to former Karnataka Chief Minister late SM Krishna, who guided the association for two decades as its president between 1999 and 2020.

Krishna had also served as the Life President of the AITTA during 2015 till 2023.

"It is a very thoughtful initiative by Priravank Kharge (KSLTA vice-president) and the association to host a tournament in the name of late SM Krishna. I am very happy that his legacy will be carried forward by a young set of administrators," said DK Shivakumar, Deputy Chief Minister of Karnataka.

Charge, also the Minister of IT, BT, Science & Technology & Rural Development and Panchayat Raj, Govt of Karnataka, said: "SM Krishna's con-



tribution to tennis in Karnataka is unparalleled, as the KSLTA has grown from strength-to-strength and is now known to host some of the biggest ITF and ATP tournaments in the country. This tournament will be an annual event." The qualifying rounds of the tournament will be held on March 29 and 30 before the main round matches beginning from March 31.

Brazil coach aims to silence doubters with statement win over Argentina

Brasilia
Brazil can prove their critics wrong by ending their winless run against old foes Argentina, coach Dorival Jr said ahead of the World Cup qualifying clash between the two sides in Buenos Aires on Tuesday.

Brazil have not beaten the reigning world champions in six years, a run that extends to 16 years for matches hosted in Argentina.

However, after a late 2-1 victory over Colombia on Thursday in which Brazil returned to winning ways after successive draws, Dorival believed Tuesday's showdown could be the ideal situation to prove his side are still a force to be reckoned with.

"We will face the reigning champions of the world and South America, the most successful team in the world in recent years and we will go out there to win, to play our best football and beat them at their ground." Dorival told a press conference on Monday.



"We live in a country that loves to criticise, it's a shame but that's what I think. That we love to criticise and rarely get the respect when it deserves. But time puts everyone in their place."

"I understand how football works and I embrace the challenge of being under pressure. I believe in hard work, dedication, respect and seriousness in what we do. I've been in charge of the

national team for 15 years. You can put me accountable for my work in due time."

The last time Brazil won in Argentina was in 2009, a 3-1 victory in Santa Fe. Since their 2-0 win in the Copa America semi-final in 2019, Brazil have lost three of their last four games against their bitter rivals, all 1-0.

Dorival has so far failed to earn the trust of Brazil's demanding fans after winning seven of 15 games in charge since taking over in early 2024 after the team spent a year under two caretaker coaches as the Brazilian FA tried and failed to lure Italian Carlo Ancelotti from Real Madrid.

The win against Colombia lifted Brazil to third in South American qualifying with 21 points, one behind second-placed Ecuador and seven from leaders Argentina.

The top six qualify directly for the 2026 World Cup in the United States, Mexico and Canada.

Former CWG medallist B Sumeeth Reddy retires

New Delhi
India's doubles specialist B Sumeeth Reddy, a member of the 2022 Commonwealth Games mixed team silver medal-winning squad, has announced his retirement as an active badminton player to focus entirely on coaching.

The 33-year-old from Hyderabad, who formed the men's doubles pair with Manu Attri and also played mixed doubles with several shuttlers, including his wife N Sikki Reddy, made the announcement through social media on Sunday.

"RETIRED AND PROUD. Embracing the next chapter with gratitude and excitement. I thank my family, friends and well wishers for all the support," Sumeeth wrote in an Instagram post.

Sumeeth and Manu, who achieved the highest world ranking of 17, won the 2016 South Asian Games gold medal, qualified for the Rio Olympics, and were also part of the men's team at the Asia Team Championships in Hyderabad.

He represented India at the 2014 and 2018 Asian Games and won the 2015 Mexico City Grand Prix and 2016 Canada Open, along with finishing as runner-up at the US Open and Dutch Open in 2015.

Along with Ashwini Ponnappa, Sumeeth also finished second at the 2017 Syd Modi International. "I have always pushed my limits and wanted to achieve things that I



could not do in my career... But currently, even though at World Rank 25, I have started to believe that the best phase of my career is already behind me. Also, despite a few other circumstances, I have stepped down from my professional playing career," he said.

"Believe me, there will be a time in your career when you will have to stop playing professional sport, and

on that day you should be able to step aside with no regrets, knowing that you have given your 110% to become the best version of yourself," he wrote.

"Lastly I thank each and every well-wisher who has been part of my playing career. Looking to be part of more inspiring stories by guiding and motivating young players." Sumeeth had his share of setbacks,

including a spinal bone degeneration problem which forced the doctors to advise him to quit badminton as there were fears of a lower body paralysis.

"...the common advice that everyone gave is to stop professional sports and pursue an alternative career, as there was a concern of lower body paralysis. At this point, I was 20, left with no job and an uncertain body which needed wall support to walk," he recalled.

"Due to the pain, my back would collapse while standing or walking. The solution was to bare the pain, continue with rehab and hope for the best. With Sir Gopi's advice, I shifted to doubles.

"With the help of the cosmos and, with God's grace, I won my first National Championships in 2012. Ya I then get to play the International events. The shocking pain would carry with me for the next few years. As my back would suddenly have no strength to hold my upper body, during those years," Reddy, who opened his own badminton academy, the Sikki Sumeeth Badminton Academy in Hyderabad in 2021, also is part of India's coaching panel and has been trusted with the responsibility of the women's doubles players.

"...I started my coaching career as I will be a good asset to India in contributing towards making India a power house in world badminton."

Djokovic reclaims top ranking not his goal anymore

Saberia
Novak Djokovic said chasing the world number one ranking is not his main objective anymore and the 24-times Grand Slam champion will happily take major tournament victories over top spot in the twilight of his glittering career.

Djokovic has spent more than 400 weeks at number one and now sits fifth in the rankings, but the 37-year-old showed he cannot be written off and earned a record 411th ATP Masters 1000 match win on Sunday.

A 6-1-7-6(1) third round victory over Argentine lucky Camilo Ugo Carabelli at the Miami Open also put Djokovic a step closer to his 100th singles title and the Serbian said the top ranking did not matter as much.

"If it comes as a consequence of great results and titles that I win in a season, then that's amazing. But that's not my objective," Djokovic told reporters.

"My objective is to be able to play my best tennis at the Grand Slams and the tournaments where I participate. My schedule is revised, so obviously I'm not chasing ranking points.

"It's different nowadays, maybe, than it was a few years back (or) for most of my career, to be honest. I'm happy to win a Grand Slam and a big tournament rather than getting to number one. Right now that's more important for me."



Jimmy Connors with 109 and Roger Federer with 103 are the only men with more titles than Djokovic but he said climbing to the top of the list could be difficult.

"It would definitely be amazing to get to that record," Djokovic added. "Connors is someone that I truly admire and respect. He's always very supportive of me in public. I'm thankful for that. It would be amazing.

"But again, it's probably more difficult to achieve that nowadays for me than maybe it was some years ago. I'll go step by step. I'll see. I don't know how long I'm going to compete for. But I'm still enjoying myself when I play well."

Grimes shares update on Autism, ADHD diagnosis

Washington
Singer and songwriter Grimes shared that she was recently diagnosed with both autism and ADHD. She shared her health update on the social media handle.

Taking to X, she posted health news in a long message while calling out "mental health accounts" that she considered "extreme info hazards" on the platform, reported People.

"Got diagnosed w ADHD / autism this year and realized I'm prob dyslexic which is why I can't spell at all without spellcheck," wrote Grimes.

"I feel like, had we known this when I was a child, I would have worked so much less hard, been on



very hard for me but I'm glad I overcame them," she added, as per the outlet. The singer-producer born Claire Elise Boucher then wrote that her ADHD symptoms were "infinitely worse when I wasn't an avid reader," writing that those "trying to pathologize one of the best things a child can do to help with ADHD" is "so dark." Her note came in response to another X user who called "excessive reading" in children a "sign of dissociation," reported People.

The American Psychiatric Association notes that symptoms of ADHD — an abbreviation for attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder — include inattention, hyperactivity and impulsivity, reported

People.

"I think the nature of this uninformed social media mental health subculture is really a big concern," Grimes wrote. "Some are great ofc but a lot of these seem explicitly anti-civilizational and geared towards making people worse."

Grimes has been candid about her health in the past, revealing in a 2019 interview for a fashion campaign that she had part of her eyeball removed to improve her seasonal depression. At the time, the musician shared in an Instagram video for her Adidas by Stella McCartney team-up that the decision was part of her "360 approach" to her overall wellness, reported People.

Raid 2: Ajay Devgn's intense look from thriller out

Mumbai
Bollywood star Ajay Devgn's next film is 'Raid 2'.

Captivating the audience's attention, Ajay on Monday afternoon unveiled the first-look poster of his character IRS Amay Patnaik.

Ajay posed amid hordes of files in the backdrop, giving intense expressions.

"Naya Shehar. Naya File. Aur Amay Patnaik Ki Ek Nayi Raid. #Raid2 knocking at your doors in cinemas near you on 1st May, 2025," he captioned the post.

Raid 2 is produced by Bhushan Kumar, Kumar Mangat Pathak, Abhishek Pathak and Krishan Kumar. The film, which will be released on May 1, is presented by Gulshan Kumar and T-Series and is a Panorama Studios production.

Raj Kumar Gupta has helmed the film, which is the sequel to the 2018 crime thriller that captivated audiences with its gripping story of tax raids and corruption.

In the movie, Ajay will share screen space with Riteish Deshmukh, Vaani Kapoor and Rajat Kapoor.

'Raid' was released in 2018 and also starred Saurabh Shukla and Ileana D'Cruz. It was inspired by a real-life raid conducted by the officers of the Income Tax Department in the 1980s. Ileana played Ajay's wife in the movie.

Meanwhile, Ajay Devgn is currently basking in the suc-



cess of 'Singham Again', which is directed by Rohit Shetty.

In the film, he reprised the role of police officer Bajirao Singham whom he first essayed in the first part, which was released in 2011 and then again in 2014 in the second instalment of the 'Singham' franchise.

'Singham Again' also stars Kareena Kapoor Khan, Akshay Kumar, Tiger Shroff, Ranveer Singh, and Deepika Padukone, among others.



Harrry Sandhu drops his new romantic single 'Baby'

Mumbai
Punjabi singer Harrry Sandhu has released a new single, 'Baby.'

The song's video was shot in London, elevating the track's emotional depth as it presents a cinematic love story against the city's picturesque scenery.

Speaking about the inspiration behind the track, Harrry, in a press note, said, "'Baby' is more than just a song — it's a celebration of

love in its purest form. We've created something that pushes the boundaries of what Punjabi pop can be

while staying true to its roots. The production process was incredibly detailed, with months spent perfecting every element, from the traditional percussion arrangements to the modern synthesizer layers. Each sound has been carefully chosen to create an emotional connection with listeners, regardless of their cultural background."

Harrry Sandhu is best known for his hit tracks such as 'Joker', 'Yaar Ni Milyaa', 'Soch', and 'Bijlee Bijlee' among others.

Speaking about the inspiration behind the track, Harrry, in a press note, said, "'Baby' is more than just a song — it's a celebration of love in its purest form.

Musical Evening Review: An Unforgettable Classical Confluence

New Delhi
In a divine and melodious evening, the audience witnessed a captivating confluence of diverse styles of Indian classical music. This unique event was organized by Vivid Arts and Entertainment and Pioneer Arts Education Society, in collaboration with Arts and Mithunver Paravai. The event was presented by State Bank of India and supported by ONGC. The prestigious Ministry of Culture, Government of India, also extended its invaluable support, adding grandeur to this cultural celebration.



The evening commenced with a soulful solo recital by renowned violinist Dr. Ratish Tagde, accompanied by the versatile and accomplished tabla maestro V. Narhari. Dr. Tagde presented three distinct compositions in Rupak Taal (7 beats), Ek Taal (12 beats), and Druv Teen Taal (16 beats). His music flowed effortlessly, showcasing technical brilliance and emotional depth. V. Narhari's ac-

companiment transformed the tabla into more than just a percussive instrument—it became a medium of dialogue, where every beat, pause, and tempo shift conveyed a profound emotion.

This was followed by the much-anticipated performance of the celebrated Carnatic vocal duo, the Malladi Brothers—Sreeram Prasad and Ravi Kumar. They brought to life the immortal compositions of the Carnatic Trinity—Muthuswami Dikshitar, Shyama Shastri, and

Saint Tyagaraja—rendering each with dignity and devotion. Their recital concluded with a deeply spiritual composition of Annamacharya, which filled the atmosphere with a serene devotional aura.

The grand finale was a collaborative performance, where all the artists came together to present a mesmerizing jugalbandi of Raga Yamuna Kalyani and Raga Bhairavi. This moment marked a harmonious union of North and South Indian classical traditions, leaving

the audience spellbound.

The evening became a memorable celebration in the presence of classical music lovers, cultural luminaries, and distinguished members of the corporate community.

This presentation by Vivid Arts and Entertainment was not only a celebration of India's rich musical heritage but also a bridge connecting classical traditions with contemporary audiences. It was an experience the listeners will not just remember—they will cherish it for a lifetime.

'KGF' star Yash in Mumbai for shoot of 'Toxic'

Mumbai
Yash, best known for his power-packed performance in 'KGF', touched down in Mumbai on Monday. He is all set to begin the next schedule of 'Toxic: A Fairy Tale for Grown-Ups' here.

Yash happily posed for the shutterbugs outside the Mumbai airport. He looked uber cool in a rugged short beard and a crisp haircut, adding to the intrigue around his look in the film.

'Toxic: A Fairy Tale for Grown-Ups' is jointly produced by Venkat K Narayana and Yash under KVN Productions and Monster Mind Creations. It will hit the theatres on March 19, 2026.

Yash recently treated his fans to a short glimpse of 'Toxic', on the occasion of his 39th birthday.

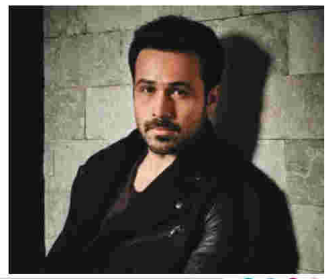
In the clip, Yash, impeccably dressed in a crisp white



suit while holding a cigar, makes a commanding entrance into a club filled with partygoers.

As the actor walks to the centre of the club, every gaze in the room is drawn to him. Brimming with bold and provocative moments, the teaser invites viewers into a captivating world.

The film went on floors on August 8 in Bengaluru last year. Geetu Mohandas is helming it.



Emraan Hashmi announces 'Awarapan 2' as birthday surprise for fans

Mumbai
Bollywood fans can brace themselves for a blast from the past as Emraan Hashmi and filmmaker Vishesh Bhatt have officially announced 'Awarapan 2' as the ultimate birthday surprise for

the actor's dedicated fanbase.

In a thrilling social media announcement, Emraan Hashmi and Vishesh Bhatt revealed that a sequel to the cult classic 'Awarapan' is in the works.

"Bas mujhe kuch aur der zinda rakh... #Awarapan2

in cinemas, 3rd April 2026," Emraan Hashmi captioned the post.

Titled 'Awarapan 2', the film is set to hit theatres on April 3, 2026.

The original 'Awarapan,' released in 2007, was a commercial success, with its songs, characters, and

emotional depth leaving an impact on audiences.

The film's legacy has endured, with fans demanding a sequel.

The film will be directed by Nitin Kakkar, written by Bilal Siddiqui, and produced by Vishesh Bhatt.

Sanam Teri Kasam 2 Release Date Announced



Mumbai
The most awaited sequel of a heart-touching love story is finally here. Released in 2016, the first part of Sanam Teri Kasam received very mixed reviews at the time of its release. However, it was re-released after 9 years making the collection of whooping 53 crore globally and making its way up in the list of blockbusters. After this huge success, the audiences are eagerly waiting for the next part of Sanam Teri Kasam.

Looks like fans got heard, as Sanam Teri Kasam 2 is officially announced. So when is it happening and who all are going to be a part of it? Let's have a look!

It has been announced via the official Instagram handle of the markers of Sanam Teri Kasam that the actor Harshvardhan Rane will be again seen as the male lead in the sequel. However, the female lead and the other cast have not been announced officially, there are speculations about Shradha Kapoor replacing the Pakistani actress Mavera Hocane as the female lead in the upcoming sequel.