



Kane Williamson feels LSG's "flawless execution" played its part in famous victory against SRH

Pakistan govt plans to counter extremist narratives through films dramas

When three pillars of democracy work together good governance happens: UP CM



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Investors' wealth swells by Rs 25.90 lakh cr in FY25 as markets log over 5 pc gains

MARKET	
SENSEX	NIFTY
77414.92	23519.35
-191.51	-72.60
GOLD SILVER	
88,925.00	100,698.00
541.00	-615.00

WEATHER	
Sunrise	6:16 AM
Sunset	6:38 PM
Moonrise	6:01 AM
Moonset	6:40 PM
Today's Prediction	
Maximum	Minimum
30°C	16°C
Tomorrow's Prediction	
33°C	18°C

144 dead, over 700 injured in Myanmar earthquake

The building in the north of the Thai capital was reduced to a tangle of rubble and twisted metal in seconds after the 7.7-magnitude quake, which had its epicentre in Myanmar.

BANGKOK
A powerful earthquake rocked Myanmar and neighboring Thailand on Friday, destroying buildings, a bridge and a dam. At least 144 people were killed in Myanmar, where photos and video from two hard-hit cities showed extensive damage. At least eight died in the Thai capital, where a high-rise under construction collapsed. The 7.7 magnitude quake, with an epicenter near Mandalay, Myanmar's second largest city, struck at midday and was followed by a strong 6.4 magnitude aftershock.



people were killed and 730 others were injured. "The death toll and injuries are expected to rise," Senior Gen. Min Aung Hlaing said.

"India is ready to offer 'all possible assistance' to Myanmar and Thailand, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said Friday.

"Praying for the safety and wellbeing of everyone," Modi wrote on social media platform X. "India stands ready

to offer all possible assistance. In this regard, asked our authorities to be on standby."

The Indian Embassy in Thailand said that they are closely monitoring the situation. "After powerful earthquake tremors recorded in Bangkok and in other parts of Thailand, the Embassy is closely monitoring the situation in coordination with the Thai authorities. So far, no untoward incident

involving any Indian citizen has been reported. In case of any emergency, Indian nationals in Thailand are advised to contact the emergency number +66 618819218. All members of the Indian Embassy in Bangkok and Consulate in Chiang Mai are safe," the embassy said in a post on X.

Photos from the capitol of Naypyidaw showed multiple buildings used to house civil servants destroyed by the quake,

and rescue crews pulling victims from the rubble. Myanmar's government said blood was in high demand in the hardest-hit areas. Images of buckled and cracked roads in Mandalay and damaged highways as well as the dam raised further concerns about how rescuers would even reach some areas in a country already enduring a widespread humanitarian crisis.

Near Bangkok's popular Chatuchak market, a 33-story building under construction, with a crane on top, crumpled into a cloud of dust, and onlookers could be seen screaming and running in a video posted on social media.

The sound of sirens echoed throughout central Bangkok and vehicles filled the streets, leaving some of the city's already congested streets gridlocked. The elevated rapid transit system and subway shut down.

CONT'D ON PAGE-2

Delhi judge in cash row transferred to Allahabad HC

New Delhi/Prayagraj

The government Friday notified the transfer of Delhi High Court judge Yashwant Varma to his parent Allahabad High Court, the order coming amid a row over alleged discovery of a huge amount of cash from his official residence here.

The law ministry issued the notification announcing his transfer. Recommending his repatriation to the government on Monday, the Supreme Court Collegium had asserted the move was separate from an in-house probe ordered by the top court over the alleged discovery of cash from Justice Varma's residence after a fire incident around 11.35 on the night of Holi, March 14.

Following the incident, Chief Justice of India Sanjay Khanna had directed the Delhi High Court to withdraw judicial work from the judge. On Friday, the Supreme Court said the chief justice of the Allahabad High Court was asked not to assign any judicial work for now to Justice Varma upon assuming charge there.

The chief justice of Al-



lhabad High Court for the time being has been asked not to assign any judicial work to Justice Yashwant Varma, when he assumes charge as a judge of the Allahabad High Court," an apex court press release said. In a related development, the Bar Association president in Prayagraj on Friday strongly criticised the transfer of Justice Varma to the Allahabad High Court and called it the "darkest day for India's judiciary" and announced that the association's members will boycott the swearing-in ceremony.

On March 21, the Supreme Court said Delhi High Court Chief Justice D K Upadhyaya had initiated an in-house inquiry against Justice Varma and there was a separate proposal to transfer the judge. Agency

SC's big backing for free speech, quashes FIR against Congress MP

New Delhi
The Supreme Court on Friday said words of a poem recited in the background of a clip uploaded by Congress MP Imran Pratapgarhi did not promote disharmony or hatred but encouraged people to desist from resorting to violence and face injustice with love.

In an affidavit before the Gujarat High Court, the Congress leader said the poem in question, based on publicly available information, including searches on ChatGPT, belonged to either Faiz Ahmed Faiz or Habib Jalib.

The video carried the recitation of a poem uploaded on X by the Congress MP and it was alleged to carry words that pitted communities against one another aside from hurting religious sentiments.

A bench of Justices Abhay S Oka and Ujjal Bhuyan said the poem had



nothing to do with religion, caste, community or any particular group.

"The poem's words do not bring about or promote disharmony or feelings of hatred or ill-will. It only seeks to challenge the injustice made by the ruler. It is impossible to say that the words used by the appellant disturb or are likely to disturb public tranquility," the bench said.

The court went on, "By no stretch of imagination, does it promote en-

mity between different groups. We fail to understand how the statements therein are detrimental to national unity and how the statements will affect national unity. On its plain reading, the poem does not purport to affect anyone's religious feelings."

Referring to Section 196 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023, the court said neither clause (a) nor clause (b) of the provision are attracted. Agency

SC rejects plea seeking FIR in cash recovery incident

New Delhi

The Supreme Court rejecting a plea for FIR into the alleged discovery of burnt cash wads from the official residence of Delhi High Court judge Yashwant Varma has brought into focus its 1991 verdict virtually granting immunity to judges.

A five-judge Constitution bench in the K Veeraswami v. Union of India, directed no criminal case should be registered against a judge of the high court, chief justice of a high court or a judge of the Supreme Court unless the chief justice of India was consulted in the matter.

Under the Constitution, only President and Governors are granted immunity from criminal prosecution. The 1991 verdict granted a virtual immu-



nity to judges of constitutional courts and held, "...no criminal case shall be registered...against Judge of the High Court, Chief Justice of High Court or Judge of the Supreme Court unless the CJI is consulted..."

It added, "Due regard must be given by the Government to the opinion expressed by the Chief Justice. If the Chief Justice is of

HIGHLIGHT

A bench headed by Justice Abhay S Oka termed as "premature" the plea against Justice Varma and said an in-house inquiry was in progress and there would be several options open to the CJI after probe's conclusion.

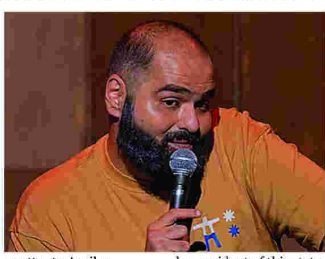
opinion that it is not a fit case for proceeding under the Act, the case shall not be registered. If the CJI himself is the person against whom the allegations of criminal misconduct are received the Government shall consult any other Judge or Judges of the SC."

On Friday, a bench headed by Justice Abhay S Oka termed as "pre-

mature" the plea against Justice Varma and said an in-house inquiry was in progress and there would be several options open to the CJI after probe's conclusion. While dealing with a case of alleged sexual harassment, the top court in 2014 laid down the in-house procedure to probe allegations against a judge of constitutional courts. Agency

Kunal Kamra granted anticipatory bail in Shinde remark case

Chennai
The Madras high court on Friday granted interim anticipatory bail to comedian Kunal Kamra, who is facing the heat over his jokes on Maharashtra deputy Chief Minister Eknath Shinde. The court granted Kamra the relief on the condition that he should execute a bond to the satisfaction of the judicial magistrate at Vanur in Villupuram district in Tamil Nadu.



Justice Sunder Mohan also issued notice to 2nd Respondent (R2-Khar Police) and posted the

petitioner, who is residing in Villupuram district, apprehends arrest in the case registered on the file of R-2 against him.

Counsel for the petitioner submitted that the allegation against the petitioner was that he made certain remarks in a standup comedy on deputy Chief Minister, called "Naya Bharath."

According to the prosecution it harmed the reputation of the deputy CM.

Counsel further submitted that the allegation does not warrant custodial interrogation.

The judge noted the

petitioner was unable to seek anticipatory bail in Maharashtra.

Counsel for the petitioner submitted that a life threat was made against him by party-men and the ministers. He sought anticipatory bail to enable him to approach court in Maharashtra.

Citing a judgment of the Supreme Court, the judge said the petitioner prima facie satisfied as to why he was unable to approach a court in Maharashtra immediately. Hence, he directed issuing notice to R 2. Agency

HC orders CBI to submit police diary in RG Kar doctor's murder case

Kolkata

The Calcutta high court on Friday directed the Central Bureau of Investigation to submit the case diary initially prepared by the Kolkata police in connection with the rape-murder of an on-duty doctor at RG Kar Medical College and Hospital.

A single-judge bench of Justice Tirthankar Ghosh also instructed the CBI to present a list of individuals interviewed in the case at the next hearing scheduled for April 23. The CBI submitted a sealed status report on its ongoing probe into the incident, where the



doctor's body was discovered in the seminar room of the hospital on August 9, 2024.

The court had transferred the case from Kolkata Police to the CBI on August 13. The CBI counsel said he also brought the case diary as directed by the court during the previous hearing. During the hearing, Agency

the court inquired whether the crime involved gang rape and if the CBI had identified additional suspects. Deputy solicitor general Rajdeep Majumdar, appearing for the CBI, said the case did not fall under Section 70 (gang rape) of Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS). Agency

NEWS IN BRIEF

NDMC property tax offices to remain open on March 29 to 31

Staff Reporter
New Delhi

The New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC) has decided to open its property tax collection counters as well as tax office from Saturday to Monday i.e. 29th to 31st March, 2025 to assist the taxpayers in depositing their tax dues.

Accordingly, the NDMC has announced that the tax department at headquarters - Palika Kendra at Sansad Marg and three tax collection counters at different locations - Gole Market, RK Puram and Sansad Marg in New Delhi area shall remain open from Saturday to Monday i.e. 29th to 31st March, 2025 due to end of Financial Year 2024-2025 for collection of property tax.

The NDMC has designated three payment collection counters for payment collection i.e. Shaheed Bhagat Singh Place cash counter at Gole Market, Palika Bhawan cash counter at RK Puram and Palika Kendra cash counter at Sansad Marg.

These NDMC collection counters will also entertain the payments from residents / service users / electricity and water consumers of the NDMC area for their outstanding electricity and water bills and estate properties dues.

Further, the residents / tax payers / service users of the NDMC area may also make their payments through online mode as per their convenience.

Buying land in Gr Noida becomes costlier

Noida

Buying land in Greater Noida has become costlier as the Yamuna Expressway Industrial Development Authority (YEIDA) in its board meeting has taken a decision in this regard.

The Yamuna Authority has prepared a budget proposal of Rs 8,500 crore for the financial year 2025-26, which includes allocation of funds for development projects, land acquisition, rural development and income and expenditure of the authority.

The board meeting was chaired by principal secretary Alok Kumar, in which this proposal has been approved. Under this, the rates of residential, industrial and institutional category properties have been revised, which has been increased by 12 to 15 percent.

According to the new rates, the rate of residential property has increased to Rs 35,000 per square meter, while the rate of industrial category property has been fixed at Rs 9,550 per square meter.

Along with the revision of property rates, the authority has also drawn a development blueprint in which emphasis has been laid on the overall development of the area. Apart from this, taking a big decision in the interest of farmers, the authority had proposed to allow the merger/division of seven percent population plots received in exchange for land acquisition, which was approved. This step has been taken in the direction of fulfilling the long-standing demand of the farmers.

CM Rekha Gupta rips into AAP, promises a transparent BJP era

Gupta talked about her political journey, recalling how she started as a student leader at Delhi University before rising through the ranks of municipal politics.

New Delhi

Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta said on her vision for the national capital while launching a sharp attack on the previous AAP government, accusing it of prioritising propaganda over governance. She pledged to bring transparency and efficiency to Delhi's administration.

Speaking at the Times Now Summit 2025, Gupta talked about her political journey, recalling how she started as a student leader at Delhi University before rising through the ranks of municipal politics.

She said that she never expected to become the chief minister and her primary goal had always been to serve as an MLA.

However, when the opportunity came, she accepted the responsibility with dedication.

Hitting out at AAP's "much-publicised education reforms", she called them an "ingrid missile" and alleged they lacked structure and real impact.

She dismissed schemes like the Happiness Curriculum, Deshbhakti Curriculum, and Business Blasters as "publicity-driven initiatives that did little to improve actual learning". She alleged that Rs 72 crore was spent on the Happiness Curriculum and another Rs 80 crore on advertising it, while classrooms remained in a poor condition.

She announced plans to align Delhi's education system with the National Education Policy (NEP) and introduce structured coaching for competitive exams



like NEET, JEE, CLAT, and CA to ensure students from government schools have equal opportunities. Similarly, on healthcare, Gupta criticised AAP's Mohalla Clinic model, calling it a "poorly planned initiative" that lacked adequate infrastructure.

She promised a shift towards strengthening hospitals and medical institutions rather than relying on what she described as a "fragmented approach to healthcare".

Regarding the CM house built during Arvind Kejriwal's tenure, she said, "I have not been allotted a house yet. I'm currently running my office on the street in front of my home, meeting the public there, sitting on a chair in the lane. But the reason for not moving into that house... I feel that the crores of rupees spent on that house do not justify a chief minister sleeping on a luxurious bed. Instead, that money could have built homes for those still sleeping under flyovers today."

Accusing AAP of "massive corruption", she pointed to alleged scams in liquor policy, classroom construction, and DTC buses.

She argued that despite receiving the biggest electoral mandate in Delhi's history, the Kejriwal-led government "failed" to deliver substantial improvements in governance.

Outlining her roadmap for Delhi, Gupta said her administration would focus on education, healthcare, infrastructure, and public welfare. She promised that the governance under her leadership would be driven by real work rather than media campaigns. With the BJP back in power in Delhi after 28 years, she emphasised that her government's priority would be to rebuild trust and deliver tangible results for the people.

Speaking about her journey, she said, "Throughout my journey — from student leader to the chief minister — I have always believed in taking bold, progressive steps to drive meaningful change."

"It feels really good; there's a sense of pride. Perhaps the God has given me this opportunity, and the party, along with our honourable prime minister, has entrusted me with such a huge responsibility. So, I too want to think and work for the betterment of Delhi."

On becoming Delhi's chief minister, she said, "No, not at all! I never thought I would become the chief minister. My dream was to become tirelessly towards it. I contested elections in 2015."

Reaffirming the government's commitment to cow protection, Sood assured that the upcoming Bill would comprehensively address the welfare concerns for cows. The law is expected to streamline rescue operations, ensure proper rehabilitation, and impose strict penalties for those found guilty of mistreating cattle.

The initiative aligns with the larger vision of preserving and upholding traditional values while ensuring that stray cows receive the care and protection they deserve. With this move, the Delhi government aims to set a precedent in animal welfare legislation and create a more structured approach to handling stray cattle in the capital.

The Bill is expected to be tabled in the Delhi Assembly soon, and discussions with various departments are underway to finalize its provisions before presentation.

GDA auctioned 26 vacant plots of commercial & residential in Ghaziabad



Shiv Kumar, New Delhi

The Ghaziabad Development Authority on Friday auctioned 26 vacant commercial and residential plots at Hindi Bhawan, Lohia Nagar, Ghaziabad.

The auction included plots for convenient shopping, housing, multiplexes, old age homes, community centres, educational, institutional nursing homes, and an auto stand. In total, 26 plots were auctioned, including 6 residential plots from the Indirapuram Extension Scheme, 8 shopping plots from the Indirapuram Scheme, and several other specific plots from different schemes.

The event was overseen by the Additional Secretary, with other key officials present. Chief Engineer in charge, Special Executive Officer/Commercial in charge, Assistant Engineers, Accountant, Senior Assistant were also present.

The CAG report revealed serious mismanagement and financial irregularities within the Delhi Transport Corporation (DTC), as stated by Transport Minister Dr. Pankaj Kumar Singh during Delhi Legislative Assembly session on Friday.

Addressing the Delhi Legislative Assembly, the Minister criticized the previous government for negligence that led to a decline in public transport services. Despite spending around ₹52 crore on installing CCTV cameras in DTC buses, these cameras remain non-functional due to incomplete testing, the Minister added.

The Minister informed that Delhi assembly speaker has between 2015 and 2022, DTC incurred over ₹14,000 crore in operational losses, with its total deficit rising from approximately ₹25,300 crore in 2015-16 to around ₹60,750 crore in 2021-22. The burden of interest costs also increased significantly during this period.

The Minister accused the previous government of mis-

Delhi govt. plans to introduce stronger law for stray cow protection: Ashish Sood

Ashish Sood, New Delhi

In a significant move aimed at strengthening the protection of stray cows, the Delhi government is planning to introduce a new and stringent law. The announcement was made by Delhi Government's Home Minister, Ashish Sood, highlighting the administration's commitment to ensuring the welfare and safety of cattle in the city.

The proposed legislation seeks to incorporate suggestions from various stakeholders, including members of the Delhi Assembly, to enhance its effectiveness. Sood emphasized that the initiative is driven by the values and sentiments of the people of Delhi, who deeply respect Sanatan principles and advocate for the protection of cows.

To make the law more robust, the government is considering adding specific clauses from the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS). Additionally, inputs from the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) and the Public Works Department (PWD) are being taken into account to ensure comprehensive measures for cow protection.

"The government is considering adding BNS clauses and input from the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) and the Public Works Department (PWD)

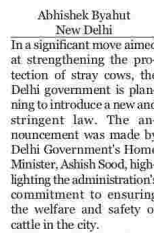
to prevent a water crisis in Delhi and address grievances effectively in summer, the government will appoint nodal officers in four divisions, Water Minister Parvesh Verma said on Friday.

These officers will ensure prompt resolution of complaints regarding water supply, he said. Speaking on the government's summer action plan, Verma said daily review meetings are being held to tackle water shortages in critical areas. He emphasised that preparations are being made in advance for regions facing acute water scarcity.

"Our summer action plan is fully prepared. We hold meetings every two to three days to

assess the situation, address complaints and review preparations," Verma said.

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Ashish Sood, New Delhi

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PUBLIC NOTICE

General public is hereby informed that Mrs. Arti W/o Mr. Pankaj Gupta is the owner of residential property bearing Nagar Palika no. 193, area 50 sq. yds., Mohalla Chah Doba Palkhwa, Pargna Dasra, Tehsil Dhaulana, Dist. Hapur, U.P. by virtue of Sale Deed dt. 31.01.2020, doc. No. 1046 executed by Mrs. Rekha Sharma in SR-Dhauana, Hapur, and said property to be financed by AU Small Finance Bank Ltd, if anybody has any charge/interest/title/third Party in the said property of any kind of dispute kindly inform the undersigned in writing and with proof within 15 days on the below mentioned address, failing which and I am aware that in case default with the mortgage property that all borrower / Owners are responsible for the same. **SatvendraGautam Advocate** Shop no. 3, Property no. 126, Lal Kauna Ghaziabad, U.P.

PUBLIC NOTICE

General public is hereby informed that Mrs. Sukhbir W/o Mr. Kalyan Singh is the owner of residential Plot land area 1000 sq. yds., part of Khara no. 168min, at village Iltahab near Angel Public School near Sec-68, Pargna & Tehsil Dadri, Noida, Dist. Gautam Budh Nagar, U.P. by virtue of Gift Deed dt. 07.03.2025, doc. No. 3239 executed by Mr. Kalyan Singh SR-I-Noida, Gautam udh Nagar, and said property to be financed by AU Small Finance Bank Ltd, if anybody has any charge/interest/title/third Party in the said property of any kind of dispute kindly inform the undersigned in writing and with proof within 07 days on the below mentioned address, failing which and I am aware that in case default with the mortgage property that all borrower / Owners are responsible for the same. **SatvendraGautam Advocate** Shop no. 3, Property no. 126, Lal Kauna Ghaziabad, U.P.

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is inform all of you that Nadeem Khan S/o Haseen Khan is raising loan via EOM of his property a residential plot area 105.39 sq. meter part of Khara no. 1758 situated Mohalla Maddaya Rafatpura city Dist. Amroha from S.B.F.C.F. Finance Ltd. in the title of chain previous sale deed dated 23.05.2017 Sr. No. 4755 has been lost which FIR lodged online on informed by this public notice if any person/department/bank have any right/objection or claim in the same matter than contact to below address or mobile no. with evidence within 5 days of publication otherwise any objection or claim will not be accept & S.B.F.C.F. Finance Ltd. will be providing the loan over the said property. Address:- S.B.F.C.F. Finance Ltd. Branch Hapur By Rajendra Kumar Saini Shop No-21, 1st Floor, Dr. Bheem Rao Ambedkar Shopping Complex, Zila Panchayat Market, Hapur Dist. Court Hapur. **RAJENDRA KUMAR SAINI Advocate** Reg. No. 6687/06 21, First Floor, Zila Panchayat Market, Hapur Mobile No. 9897274522

PUBLIC NOTICE

Be it known to public in large that my clientless Smt. Dhankiaru age about 86 yrs w/o Late. Sh. Dhara Singh R/o H. No. 29/30, Chhajra Ram Colony, Kamruddin Nagar Nangloi, Niothi West Delhi has debarred, disowned and disinherited her daughter in law Smt. Sunita Gupta age about 56 year w/o Late Sh. Baljit Singh, her grand son namey Sh. Harvinder Sangwan age about 31 years & her Grand daughter in law Smt. Divya age about 29 years from her moveable and immovable assets and severed all relations with them. Any one deal with them shall do entirely at their own risks, costs, consequences and responsibilities. **RAVI KANT (ADVOCATE)** En. No. D/3665-B/2014 Advocate Ch. No. K-134, Tis Hazari Courts, Delhi-110054

New Okhla Industrial Development Authority
Administrative Building, Sector-8, Noida-201301 (U.P.)
Website: www.noidaauthorityonline.in

E-TENDER NOTICE
E-Tenders are invited from firms/companies registered with UPLC Lucknow for the following jobs against which bids can be uploaded and same shall be opened/downloaded as per schedule mentioned. The details and conditions of all tenders are available on Noida Authority's official website: www.noidaauthorityonline.in & <https://etender.up.nic.in>. Please ensure to see these websites for any changes/ amendments and corrigendum etc.

1. 10/MANAGER SYSTEM/COM.ACCESSORIES/2024-25, Procurement of Computer Accessories cost Rs. 14.12 Lacs Inclusive of GST
Which can be uploaded by date 04/04/2025 upto 5.00 PM. Pre-qualification shall be opened/downloaded on date 07/04/2025 at 11.00 AM. **Manager (System)**

CLEAN, GREEN, SAFE & SECURE NOIDA

NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY
TENDER NOTICE No. AGC-ELG-T-32-2024-25 Date: 27.03.2025

E-Tender Notice
Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer (General) N.C. Railway, Jhansi for and behalf of India invites "Open Tender" through on line (E-Tendering) for the following work:

Tender No.: AGC-ELG-T-32-2024-25. **Name of work with its location & Completion Period:** Electrification work for Provision of bore well and Over OHT for PFs with pipeline arrangements MURD (110KLV), IK (50KLV), PPEA (50KLV) & HK (50 KLV) stations in DHR-BKI section & FARD (100KLV) & JDMR (50 KLV) in BHA-ETW section and provision of 03 nos. hand pumps at platform of NHB, TEL & BIDA Halt stations in DHR-BKI section.

Approx. Cost of the work: ₹ 25,10,382.00 **Completion period:** 09 months
For full details and submission of bid please see the Indian Railways website www.irps.gov.in Tenders can only be submitted through web portal www.irps.gov.in upto 15:00 hrs on 25.04.2025. 564225 (MCD)
EJ North central railways @ CPRONCR @ www.northcentralrailways.gov.in

NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY
E-TENDER NOTICE

Divisional Railway Manager (Works) N.C. Railway, Jhansi for and behalf of President of India invites sealed "Open Tender" through on line (E-Tendering) for the following work:

E-Tender No.: JHS-ENGG-E-2025-46
Description of work: JHANSI DIVISION - 8S2 - GTM - CTR (P) - 36.51 T km & JHANSI DIVISION - GTM - BZM CTR (P) - 32.3 T km
Approx Cost: 106404157.86 **Earnest Money:** 1682000

Date of closing tender: 15/04/2025 at 12:00 hrs.
Date of completion/period from issue acceptance letter: 15 Months.

• Tender on line can be submitted up to 15:00 hrs on 18.04.2025.
• For full details and submission of bid please see the Indian Railways website www.irps.gov.in upto 15:00 hrs on 25.04.2025. 564225 (MCD)
EJ North central railways @ www.northcentralrailways.gov.in @ CPRONCR

NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY
E-TENDER NOTICE

Divisional Railway Manager (Works) N.C. Railway, Jhansi for and behalf of President of India invites sealed "Open Tender" through on line (E-Tendering) for the following work:

E-Tender No.: JHS-ENGG-C-2025-45 **Approx Cost:** 2319774.00

Description of work: Maintenance of Park, Landscaping & Horticulture work at Chai, PWR and other stations on PRR-ENR section for the periods of 15 years under ADEN/CNBJurisdiction.

Earnest Money: 47800.00 **Date of closing tender:** 28.04.2025 at 15:00 hrs.
Date of completion/period from issue acceptance letter: 24 Months

• Tender on line can be submitted up to 15:00 hrs on 28.04.2025. For full details and submission of bid please see the Indian Railways website www.irps.gov.in upto 15:00 hrs on 25.04.2025. 564225 (MCD)
EJ North central railways @ www.northcentralrailways.gov.in @ CPRONCR



By DIKSHA

Starlink's Entry into India: Partnership with Safeguards

Airtel and Jio signed an agreement with SpaceX to bring Starlink services to India, but later clashed with the company publicly over whether satellite spectrum should be auctioned or allocated administratively. SpaceX has been awaiting approval to enter India since 2022, facing administrative hurdles.



STARLINK

Starlink is a satellite internet system consisting of around 7,000 satellites in a constellation orbiting in low Earth orbit, with plans to expand the fleet to approximately 35,000. It offers high speeds of around 100 megabits per second and provides extensive coverage, even in remote areas where broadband connectivity is weak, while also reducing latency. Unlike fiber connections, which require cables to be laid, Starlink only requires a dish to be installed to receive satellite signals. However, it is more expensive than traditional broadband options and comes with high upfront costs. It is particularly useful in cases of natural disasters or calamities, where traditional broadband infrastructure is damaged. During the Russia-Ukraine war, when infrastructure was bombed, Starlink proved to be a crucial asset, enabling the country to maintain military operations seamlessly.

Despite its many advantages, scientists have raised concerns about light pollution, as the brightness of satellites in both optical and radio wavelengths could severely impact scientific observations. There is also a potential long-term risk of space debris, triggering Kessler Syndrome. However, SpaceX has refuted these concerns, stating that its satellites are launched into lower orbits and that any failed satellites will de-orbit within five years without propulsion.

India has the second-largest internet-connected population in the world, trailing only China, with approximately 955 million broadband users - 95% of whom are mobile broadband subscribers. As a "mobile-first" digital economy, India still faces significant gaps in traditional broadband infrastructure, particularly in rural areas. Internet penetration remains low in remote regions, where Starlink has the potential to bridge the connectivity divide. Additionally, given India's vulnerability to natural disasters, satellite internet access could serve as a critical communication lifeline during crises.

Following Prime Minister Modi's highly publicized visit to the United States and his decisive discussions with SpaceX founder Elon Musk - where he likely conveyed India's concerns - Indian authorities ultimately agreed to allocate the spectrum administratively to Starlink. This paved the way for two of the country's leading telecom operators to formalize agreements with the satellite internet giant.

The deal presents a mutually beneficial outcome: for Musk, it unlocks access to India's lucrative \$25 billion market while potentially setting a precedent for other developing nations to overcome their reservations and collaborate with Starlink. For India, the partnership ensures seamless internet connectivity in remote and underserved regions. However, given Starlink's overwhelming dominance in the satellite internet sector, the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has opted for a cautious approach, granting only a five-year operating license instead of the 25-year term Musk had requested. By doing so, India has strategically safeguarded its interests - curbing Starlink's unchecked expansion while simultaneously leveraging its technology for national benefit.

Breaking Time Sudoku

What to do

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

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

Solution, Sudoku

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

THE WISDOM TREE

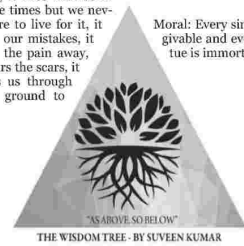
BY SUVEEN KUMAR

COVERED SIN

It's a bad news that one day your sin will be uncovered but the good news is that not all the sins and the bad news over this good news is that you don't know which ones will be uncovered and which ones will remain covered. Your life becomes miserable only with one sin uncovered, imagine how miserable your life will be if all of your sins are uncovered. You are never strong enough to fight your own weakness and never weak enough to empower your own strengths. Life is far forgiving that we feel. We oppress it much more than it does to us, it overlooks much of our mistakes than we do to us. We know the rules of life but we never care to care for it, it lives with us in all the times but we never care to live for it, it takes our mistakes, it fades the pain away, it bears the scars, it walks us through from ground to

stars. But we take it for granted, make it suffer knowingly, fail it at important routines, push it to go extreme, force it to experiment with anything and everything, put it through to damaging situation, drive it to wrong direction. We sometimes behave with life as if it belongs to someone else, we sometimes are so cruel with life as if it is made of something else. Give your life a five star as a rating if you think it deserves it, give your life an excellent review if you think it deserves it, glorify it, magnify it, gratify it if you think it deserves it, don't underrate it don't overrate it just condone it and give your life a life that it starts living for life.

Moral: Every sin is forgivable and every virtue is immortal.



THE WISDOM TREE - BY SUVEEN KUMAR



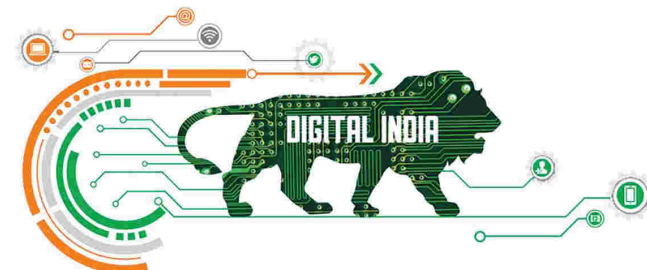
By Priyanka Saurabh

The shackles of ideas in digital India

Section 79 provides intermediary protection to digital platforms, but recent government intervention has challenged this protection. Government surveillance on OTT platforms, takedown orders on social media, and strict compliance with IT Rules 2021 are restricting digital freedom of expression. Fear of censorship and self-regulation has led platforms to remove more content, thereby affecting diversity of views. However, some degree of regulation is necessary to prevent misinformation and cybercrimes. This is why it is important to strike a balance between freedom of expression and platform accountability. India must adopt a transparent and equitable digital policy, learning from balanced models like Europe's Digital Services Act and the US's Section 230. In this ever-changing flow of information, while digital platforms are playing the role of a wide expanse of ideas, the restrictions imposed on them raise a new question mark. In this era of oscillation between freedom of expression and the rigor of regulation, Section 79 of the Information Technology Act, 2000 (IT Act) forms an important backdrop.

Section 79: Shield of arbitration or sword of regulation?

Section 79 of the IT Act provides shield to digital platforms that insulates them from liability for content submitted by users, provided that they act as mere messengers and not regulators. When informed of any illegal content, take steps to remove it in accordance with the rules. Comply with the provisions of the latest



IT Rules, 2021. However, recent government moves have attempted to chip away at this shield to some extent, where a constant struggle between freedom of expression and the power of regulation is visible.

Measures such as censorship and content takedowns cast a dark shadow on artistic freedom, journalism, and political criticism. Fearing self-regulation, many platforms themselves begin removing more content, which affects the diversity of dialogue. Restricting freedom of access to information hampers innovation and intellectual discourse. It is necessary to eliminate content that spreads misinformation, hatred, and malice on digital platforms.

Some degree of regulation is inevitable to ensure the safety of users. Platforms should play a more active role in preventing cybercrimes, online harassment, and fake news. Platforms should follow community standards and fairness policies to create a safe digital environment without stifling the expression of views.

The need for balance: finding the middle way. In any democratic society, a balance is necessary between freedom of expression and the responsibility of digital platforms. For this, protection of expression should be ensured un-

der Article 19(1)(a) of the Constitution. A fair and transparent content moderation system should be developed. An independent regulatory body should be formed for OTT and social media platforms. There should be a clear definition of digital rights and responsibilities.

Ensure a continuous dialogue between technical experts, civil society, and legislators. Develop a fair and transparent appeals mechanism for digital platforms so that users can register their objections. Make data transparency reports on content moderation and censorship publicly available.

Global context and India's position. The European Union's "Digital Services Act" is a perfect example, which sets balanced responsibilities for online platforms. In the US, "Section 230" provides platforms a balance between freedom of expression and accountability. India needs to develop a framework that not only protects freedom of expression but also ensures digital security and accountability. It is necessary to develop an effective digital policy in collaboration with the government, judiciary,

and civil society. In this ocean of information, where ideas are dynamic like waves, the need for a balance between regulation and freedom increases even more. Section 79 of the IT Act provides protection to digital platforms, but recent government interventions show that this protection shield is being limited. If the government adopts an inclusive and prudent approach, India's digital landscape can move in a free, safe, and equitable direction.

The power of Digital India lies in the freedom of expression of its citizens. If the government, digital platforms, and society adopt a balanced strategy, this technological age can empower the basic spirit of democracy and make India a leader in the global digital revolution. If the government, digital platforms, and society adopt a balanced strategy, India can become a leader in the digital revolution, where expression remains free and safe.

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About the Author

(Priyanka Saurabh, Research Scholar in Political Science)

Punjab Strengthens Governance with Reinforced 'AAP DI SARKAR, AAP DE DWAR' Program

■ Finance Minister Cheema highlighted that the new directive mandates Deputy Commissioners to conduct regular visits to villages within their respective jurisdictions.

Komal Ramola
Chandigarh

In a major push towards effective governance, the Punjab government has introduced new directives under the 'AAP DI SARKAR, AAP DE DWAR' program, reinforcing its commitment to addressing public concerns at the grassroots level. Announcing the directives on Friday, Finance Minister Advocate Harpal Singh Cheema stated that Chief Secretary, Punjab, under the guidance of Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann, has instructed all Deputy Commissioners to take proactive steps in governance and public engagement.

Speaking at a press conference at Punjab Bhawan, Finance Minister Cheema highlighted that the new directive mandates Deputy Commissioners to conduct regular visits to villages within their respective jurisdictions.



These visits will take place four days a week—Saturday, Sunday, Monday, and Tuesday—ensuring direct interaction with residents. "Officials are encouraged to cover three to four villages each day to systematically reach all villages within two to three months," he said.

Elaborating on the core objectives of these visits, Finance Minister Cheema emphasized that Deputy Commissioners will directly engage with villagers, providing them with a platform to voice grievances and offer feedback on local governance. "These officials will assess the

performance of village-level government functionaries, including teachers and healthcare professionals, while also motivating communities to maintain cleanliness," he added. Additionally, they will support the state's 'Yudd Nashian Virudh' campaign and encourage

youth participation in sports and social development activities, aiming to channelize young individuals' energy for societal progress.

Cheema stated that structured planning is crucial for the success of these visits. Officials will schedule their visits in advance and notify villages accordingly. "This initiative is designed to facilitate prompt grievance redressal and ensure that government services are delivered directly to citizens' doorsteps. Public meetings will be organized during these visits to foster direct communication, document grievances, and address issues efficiently," he said.

Highlighting the importance of inter-departmental coordination, the Finance Minister explained that feedback gathered from villagers will be shared with relevant departments for swift action. "Officials are required to compile detailed reports doc-

umenting grievances, actions taken, and suggested remedial measures. These reports will be submitted to both the Department of Removal of Public Grievances and the Chief Secretary's office for review," he noted.

Reaffirming the Punjab government's commitment to its people, Finance Minister Cheema stated that Deputy Commissioners have been instructed to adopt a proactive approach in addressing public concerns. "These concerted efforts will yield tangible benefits, ensuring that citizens' voices are heard and their issues are resolved efficiently," he concluded.

The reinforced 'AAP DI SARKAR, AAP DE DWAR' program reflects the Punjab government's dedication to transparent and effective governance, paving the way for comprehensive progress and enhanced public welfare.

Government to Utilize Entire Budget for Haryana's Welfare



Komal Ramola
Chandigarh
Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini has assured that every penny of the state's budget, amounting to over Rs. 2,05 lakh crore, will be spent on the welfare of Haryana's people. Expressing his gratitude to all members for their constructive contributions, he highlighted that this year's budget session was one of the longest in Haryana's history, spanning 13 sittings over 12 days with 60 hours of discussions.

Addressing media persons at the Assembly premises following the conclusion of the budget session, the Chief Minister noted that he had presented his first budget as Finance Minister on March 17. The budget was debated for 8 hours and 26 minutes, during which 23 opposition members spoke for 4 hours and 35 minutes, while 21 ruling party MLAs contributed for 3 hours and 35 minutes. Two independent MLAs also shared their views for 15 minutes.

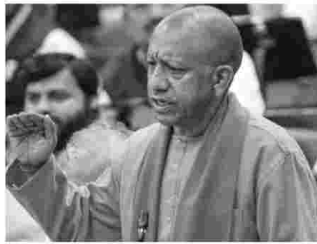
During the session, 10 calling attention motions on important issues were discussed. Additionally, 16 key bills focused on public welfare were debated and passed. The Chief Minister appreciated the Assembly Speaker Harvinder Kalyan for facilitating a comprehensive discussion, ensuring that all members had the opportunity to express

their views. He also assured that opposition suggestions related to the budget, bills, and the Governor's address had been taken into account.

In response to queries, the Chief Minister announced that Union Home and Cooperation Minister Amit Shah will inaugurate a new block at Maharaja Agrasen Medical College in Agroha, Haryana, on March 31. He emphasized that the medical college benefits not only Haryana but also people from neighboring states like Rajasthan and Punjab. Furthermore, on April 14, Prime Minister Narendra Modi will visit Haryana on the occasion of Bharat Ratna Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar's 131st anniversary and inaugurate two major projects for the state's development. The Chief Minister also revealed that several significant projects, including Kalpana Chawla Medical University in Katalai, an elevated railway track in Kurukshetra, Pandit Nekri Ram Sharma Medical College in Bhiwani, an airport, and Shaheed Smarak in Ambala, are awaiting administrative approval and will soon be dedicated to the public.

Chief Secretary Anurag Rastogi, Director General of Information, Public Relations, and Languages Department Mokrand Panthang, and Media Secretary Praveen Atrey were also present at the event.

When three pillars of democracy work together good governance happens: UP CM



Lucknow (UP)

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Friday said good governance happens when the three pillars of democracy—legislature, executive and judiciary—work together.

Addressing the inaugural session of the state-level 'Viksit Bharat Youth Parliament-2025' at the Vidhan Bhavan, the chief minister said that the youth should develop leadership skills and serve the nation by contributing to the three pillars.

"The entire system of the country is run by these three pillars. When all three work together, it helps in achieving the goal of good governance," Adityanath said.

Yuva Sansad aims to develop leadership qualities in every sphere of life, he said.

The chief minister asked the Youth Parliament participants to break away from the beaten track and try to do some good that becomes an inspiration for the society.

Assembly Speaker Satish Mahana, Legislative Council Chairman Kunwar Manvendra Singh and Minister of State for Sports (Independent Charge) Girish Chandra Yadav, among others, also spoke at the event.

Adityanath emphasised that the objective of the Youth Parliament is not merely to create political leaders but to instil leadership qualities in young minds, enabling them to contribute to society across various fields—the legislature, executive, judiciary, business, or any other domain.

"When you think beyond conventions and bring forth new ideas, you inspire society," he remarked.

He said, "The legislature formulates policies, the executive implements them, and the judiciary interprets the laws. Together, they en-

sure good governance." Addressing the youth, he underscored that legislators represent the people's voice, shaping policies and laws through structured discussions.

Adityanath highlighted that India's Constitution grants 140 crore citizens the right to vote without discrimination, ensuring equal democratic participation.

He stressed that while the Constitution empowers people with rights, it also reminds them of their duties.

Linking this to Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav, the Chief Minister reiterated Prime Minister Modi's vision of a Viksit Bharat by 2047. He urged the youth to embrace the Panch Pran to lead the nation toward this goal.

The chief minister also underscored the transformative role of technology in governance. Through e-Vidhan, the legislative process has become paperless, replacing documents with tablets to curb corruption.

He highlighted how DBT (direct benefit transfer) has ensured pensions and scholarships reach beneficiaries directly, eliminating middlemen.

Adityanath recalled his visit to Rameshwaram Dhanushkodi nearly 30 years ago, highlighting the lack of proper connectivity at the time.

"No transportation facilities were available, so I had to take a small truck. The roads were in such poor condition that it was the only way to reach the destination," he shared.

However, he noted that under Modi's leadership, infrastructure and connectivity have significantly improved.

Reflecting on Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam's life, the chief minister emphasised that success is never a straight

Bulandshahr gears up for Eid with tight security

Avnish Tyagi
Bulandshahr

Bulandshahr authorities have implemented strict security arrangements in light of the upcoming Eid festival to ensure peace and harmony across the district. The police and administrative officials are actively patrolling various areas, particularly those with a significant Muslim population and mixed community neighborhoods, to prevent any untoward incidents. The administration remains on high alert to maintain law and order during the celebrations.

On the occasion of Alvida Jama, the last Friday of Ramadan, District Magistrate Shruti Sharma and Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Shlok Kumar conducted an extensive security review in Sikandrabad and Gulaawalit towns. Special attention was given to sensitive areas, and thorough inspections were carried out to en-

sure that security measures are effectively in place. During the review, District Magistrate Shruti Sharma urged the public to celebrate the festival in an atmosphere of mutual harmony and cooperation. She appealed to citizens to immediately inform the police in case of any suspicious activity or attempts to disrupt peace.

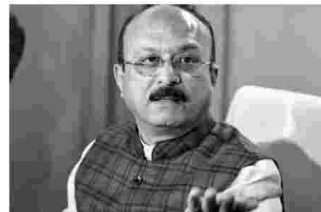
SSP Shlok Kumar issued a strict warning to potential troublemakers, emphasizing that stringent action would be taken against anyone found spreading rumors or



engaging in activities that could disturb communal harmony. He assured that miscreants would be identified and dealt with sternly as per the law.

To strengthen security arrangements, authorities have deployed drone cameras for continuous aerial surveillance. This measure aims to keep a close watch on densely populated areas and places where large gatherings are expected. The administration has stationed an adequate number of security personnel at all religious sites to prevent any security

24x7 control room has been established to handle electricity-related concerns: Ashish Sood



Staff Reporter
New Delhi

Ashish Sood, Delhi's Power Minister, responded to Arvind Kejriwal's comments about power outages in Jagatpur Extension, stating that electricity supply in the area has improved and that a recent power cut was minor.

He emphasized that his government is focused on reviewing the readiness of all electricity suppliers since taking office.

They anticipate that peak power demand may reach 9,000 MW this summer and are examining power purchase agreements with help from the Delhi Electricity Regulatory Commission.

Sood announced the establishment of a 24x7 control room for addressing electricity issues, along with a joint control room with DTL and DISCOMs for real-time monitoring of power loads.

This initiative aims to detect overloaded feeders and manage load distribution effectively. He challenged Kejriwal's claims of significant power outages in Burari, mentioning that inspectors had been sent to verify the conditions. Sood provided data showing 3,278 power cut incidents in January 2025 alone and offered to share ten years of outage statistics to contest Kejriwal's statements.

He accused Kejriwal and his aides of spreading misinformation and criticized Kejriwal for creating fear among the public for political reasons. Sood pointed out deficiencies in Kejriwal's administrative experience and detailed the high number of outages that occurred under the previous government, arguing that his party's statements accurately reflect the power supply situation in Delhi.

UP gov't to modernise Sanskrit schools under Project Alankar

Lucknow

The Uttar Pradesh government on Friday said it has taken a significant step toward upgrading non-government-aided secondary Sanskrit schools under Project Alankar.

As part of this initiative, 11 Sanskrit schools across seven districts in Uttar Pradesh will undergo classroom construction, renovation and the development of modern facilities such as science labs, smart classrooms and improved infrastructure, it said.

"This project aims to provide students with a better educational environment while promoting Sanskrit education and preserving India's rich knowledge traditions. The Yogi government remains committed to reviving and strengthening Sanskrit learning through continuous development efforts in the education sector," the government said in a statement.

"Notably, the Yogi government has allocated a Rs 100-crore budget for the modernisation of non-government-aided Sanskrit schools in the 2024-25 financial year. Under Project Alankar, several Sanskrit schools meeting the required minimum enrolment of 100 students will undergo new classroom construction, boundary wall development and improved



sanitation facilities. A government order has already been issued to implement these improvements," it added.

In Deoria, Durgee Ji Sanskrit Higher Secondary School, Ahiyapur, Barhaj will receive new classrooms, boundary walls and proper sanitation facilities. In Ayodhya, Shri Raghuvir Sanskrit Higher Secondary School, Swargadwar, will have two new classrooms, while Shri Bahwant Adarsh Sanskrit Higher Secondary School, Durgva, Devgarh, will undergo renovation of six classrooms and the construction of one new classroom, the government said.

In Gautam Buddha Nagar, Gurukul Higher Secondary Sanskrit School, Sikandrabad, Mandi Shyam Nagar, will have six classrooms and stairways built. In Azamgarh, Shri Dhar-

Removal of Jathedars issue raised in Punjab Assembly

Chandigarh

The issue of the removal of three jathedars (head of clergy) by the Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee (SGPC) was raised in the Punjab Assembly on Friday with ruling and opposition MLAs coming together to denounce the move which has "hurt every Sikh".

During the Zero Hour on the concluding day of the budget session of the Punjab Assembly, state cabinet minister Harjot Singh Bains said the removal of jathedars was a serious issue and demanded a discussion.

On March 7, the SGPC removed Giani Raghbir Singh as jathedar of Akal Takht, located in Amritsar, and said that in the face of growing challenges, his leadership was deemed "inadequate in guiding the 'Panth' (Sikh community)" and his "inconsistent approach weakened the Panth's unity." Giani Sultan Singh was also removed as the jathedar of Takht Kesgarh Sahib in Anandpur Sahib of Rupnagar district.

Before these two jathedars, Giani Harpreet Singh was discharged from his duties as jathedar of Takht Sri Damdama Sahib in Talwandi Sabo, Bathinda district, in February.



Kane Williamson feels LSG's "flawless execution" played its part in famous victory against SRH

New Delhi

Former New Zealand captain Kane Williamson felt Lucknow Super Giants' "flawless" execution played an invaluable role in restricting Sunrisers Hyderabad to an "under-par" total and eventually soaring to a five-wicket win in the ongoing edition of the Indian Premier League (IPL) 2025.

LSG were well-versed in the chapter on restricting the hard-hitting Hyderabad to a modest total. The bowlers stuck to hitting the stump line, targeting yorker length and avoiding dispatching the ball in the arc of SRH batters.

On a placid strip, the Sunrisers limped to 190/9, a total that appeared to be competitive on paper but in reality couldn't fully test Lucknow's batting depth.

"I think it's one of the toughest assignments—to go to Hyderabad and take on SRH. But LSG was extremely well-prepared. They had the courage to execute their plan immediately. They bowled full and straight, actually, fuller than full—targeting the yorker length and occasionally missing on either side," Williamson said on Jio-Hostar.



"But in doing so, they limited SRH's scoring options, preventing them from dictating the game or throwing the opposition off their lengths and lines. Hats off to the leadership for the planning and thought process that went into it. The execution was flawless, which helped restrict SRH to what was perhaps an under-par total," he added.

One of the prime forces behind LSG's success with the ball was Shardul

Thakur. With a base price of Rs 2 crore, Shardul didn't see any paddle go up when his name popped up and eventually went unsold for the IPL 2025. He started preparing for his upcoming stint with Essex in the County Championship.

However, the Super Giants decided to bring him to their camp after a couple of injuries robbed them of their key speedsters. Since his return to IPL,

Shardul has been LSG's main weapon with the new ball.

On Thursday, the 33-year-old made early inroads by dismissing the young washbuckling southpaw duo Abhishek Sharma and Ishan Kishan in the second over.

He returned in the death overs, cleaned up SRH's tail end and registered scintillating figures of 4/34. He displaced Noor Ahmad from the top to get a hold of the purple cap with six wickets to his name.

"A fantastic last-minute addition for LSG, Shardul is an experienced international player, and opening the bowling against SRH in Hyderabad is no easy task. But he came in with a solid plan, aligned with the team's strategy, and executed it brilliantly," he said.

They bowled with variety, kept it really full, and brought in all possible modes of dismissal. It was a highly effective approach, and he did a fantastic job. Being named Man of the Match was well-deserved for such a special performance," he added.

In reply to SRH's 190, Nicholas Pooran's (70) relentless onslaught took the game away from hosts as LSG savoured five-wicket win in Hyderabad.

Hong Kong kicks off Rugby Sevens, Art Basel in tourism push



Hong Kong

Hong Kong is kicking off its most popular sporting event the Rugby Sevens on Friday and hosting international art fair Art Basel as part of a tourism drive that authorities hope will boost visits to the Asian financial hub.

The Chinese-controlled territory has seen tourists increasingly return since last year following three years of strict COVID-19 restrictions that led to an exodus of expatriates and dragged down visitor numbers.

In 2024, arrivals had rebounded to 68% of the record levels of 2018, but the city faces challenges in fully reviving the industry due to heightened air ticket prices and a worker shortage that have made it harder to compete with rival destinations such as Singapore, according to industry experts.

The Hong Kong government's "Super March" tourism promotions are designed to provide a major stimulus for the sector.

The Cathay Pacific and HSBC-sponsored Rugby Sevens event, held at the city's new Kai Tak stadium, has sold a record number of tickets, including all suites and corporate boxes, in an indicator of corporate demand, its organizer said.

The Sevens, which runs from Friday to Sunday, has seen strong overseas demand for hotels, with bookings during the period exceeding normal overseas growth rates by 20%, according to the Federation of Hong Kong Hotel Owners.

Art Basel, which is also being held from Friday to Sunday, has exceeded expectations with growth of more than 130% year-on-year driven by strong performances from East and Southeast

Asian countries, said Caspar Tsui, the federation's executive director.

Provisional visitor numbers for January and February rose 7% year-on-year according to the Hong Kong Tourism Board, which added that the number of non-mainland Chinese visitors surged 20% to 1.91 million.

The Philippines, Indonesia, Japan and South Korea all posted year-on-year growth of more than 30% for the first two months of this year, the tourism board said, adding that Australia showed an "exceptional boost of 34%" in tourist numbers to Hong Kong during that period.

In early April, the city is set to host a string of highly anticipated concerts by British rock band Coldplay. The group skipped Hong Kong in 2023 on its Asia tour as did American singer Taylor Swift, who performed multiple shows in Japan and Singapore.

Coldplay is set to play at the Kai Tak stadium where the Sevens will also be held. The 50,000-seat stadium is the city's first venue that is large enough to host big international acts and has been touted by the government and business executives as a catalyst for the former British colony.

"It's a game-changer for Hong Kong because we missed out on all the stars before, like Taylor Swift, and all the acts going to Singapore," said Alan Zeman, a prominent businessman and economic adviser to Hong Kong's leader John Lee.

He said Lan Kwai Fong, a nightlife strip in the city's financial district that is popular with international visitors and residents, has seen business up 8% to 10% at the start of March from February.

Champion Malinin leads off stellar short program



Boston

Defending champion Ilia Malinin pulled off the best performance of his career to take the lead after a stunning short program at the World Figure Skating Championships in Boston on Thursday.

American Malinin, undefeated this season, performed a historic six quadruple jumps in his free skate routine in winning last year, the first man to do so with a quad Axel.

Malinin began with a quad flip and made a combination of quad Lutz triple toe loops look easy to achieve a personal best and fourth highest ever short program score of 110.41 score, leading Japan's Yuma Kagiyama (107.09) ahead of Saturday's free skate.

"I don't even know how to feel right now. I felt really nervous—more than usual before but when the music came on I just went into a flow state and it just went from there," Malinin said.

Kagiyama, runner-up last year and three-times silver medalist, is expected to be Malinin's biggest challenger for gold. Kazakhstan's Mikhail Shadorov, this year's Four Continents winner, is in third place on 94.77.

Malinin clearly loved every moment on the ice, at one stage singing along with Running by NF, as the volume at TD Garden only grew louder, with the 20-year-old delighting the crowd with his signature "raspberry twist".

Kagiyama had the unenviable task of following Malinin, but skating to "The Sound of Silence" he put in a performance which also brought the crowd to their feet.

Kevin Aymoz of France moved safely though in fourth place, and was in tears after a performance which brought a standing ovation from the Boston crowd and ended with a season's best score of 93.63.

His compatriot Adam Siao Him Fa shook off a fall at the start of his routine to recover with an excellent triple Axel, and is down in ninth place with 87.22.

The Frenchman did, however, finish 19th in last year's short program, before coming back to take the bronze medal.

The medal-deciding pairs free skate is scheduled for later on Thursday, with 2023 world champions Riku Miura and Ryuichi Kihara of Japan leading Italy's Sara Conti and Niccolò Maci after Wednesday's short program.

MS Dhoni's Unbreakable Spirit, Honored by Men of Platinum

New Delhi

As the IPL season kicks off, cricket fever reaches its peak and Thala gears up to don the yellow jersey once again, igniting passion in fans across the country. For every MS Dhoni loyalist, it's more than just a game—it's an unbreakable bond, built on faith, resilience, and moments that live forever. This season, honour the legend and wear your fandom with pride by owning the exclusive Men of Platinum x MS Dhoni Signature Edition—crafted in rare platinum, a metal as enduring as the legacy of the sport's finest.

More than just jewellery, it's a way for fans to wear their loyalty, celebrate his legacy, and carry a piece of his unmatched spirit wherever they go. Crafted in 95% platinum, each piece is defined by clean, bold lines and a minimalist aesthetic, bearing Dhoni's signature etched in platinum as an emblem of his journey. Whether it's a bold bracelet, a sleek

chain, or a statement ring, each design redefines sophistication with its timeless appeal. This IPL season, up the ante on your game-day look with platinum jewellery that carries Dhoni's legendary spirit wherever you go.

Talking about the signature collection MS Dhoni shared, "Throughout my cricketing journey, every challenge, victory, and lesson has

shaped who I am—instilling values that continue to guide me, both in life and on the field. Platinum is rare, resilient, and built to last, just like the mindset needed to overcome every challenge. For me, wearing platinum jewellery is a reminder of endurance. That's what makes the collaboration with Men of Platinum special. Each piece in this collection goes far beyond fleeting trends. The collection is a symbol of timelessness—

one of perseverance, self-expression, and the drive to keep moving forward." Here's a look at some statement pieces from the Men of Platinum's MS Dhoni Signature Edition, designed to inspire the same greatness in those who wear it. Whether you're cheering from the stands, enjoying the thrill of the match at a lounge, or hosting an exclusive screening, your game-day look deserves an upgrade with pieces that reflect confidence, style, and an unbreakable winning spirit.

BCCI invites applications for spin bowling coach at Centre of Excellence

Mumbai

The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) has invited applications for the position of spin bowling coach at its state-of-the-art BCCI Centre of Excellence (COE) in Bengaluru on Friday, as per the BCCI Media Advisory.

This role is integral to the development and performance enhancement of India's spin bowling talent across all formats and age groups, including India Senior Teams (Men & Women), India A, U-23, U-19, U-16, and U-15 squads, and State association players training at the BCCI COE.

The spin bowling coach will work closely with the head cricket, BCCI COE, to design and deliver specialised coaching programs and assist in performance monitoring. The role also involves working closely with Selectors, National and State Coaches, Performance Analysts, and Strength and Conditioning experts to develop high-performance training plans.

The key responsibilities of the spin bowling coach will be to plan and execute training sessions for cricket squads at the COE, provide one-on-one technical coaching to players as required, develop and monitor individual player performance plans with measurable objectives, collaborate with other specialist coaches, selectors, and support staff to scout and develop talented spin bowlers, utilize advanced technologies like GPS-enabled devices and biomechanical analysis to enhance player performance and support injury rehabilitation protocols and certify players fit for competition.

BCCI also mentioned the qualification criteria which said that the



Former India Cricketer OR Former Indian First-Class Cricketer with minimum 75 FC matches and an outstanding track record of cricket coaching for a minimum of 3 years (in the last 7 years) with a High-Performance Centre/International/India A/India U-19/India Women/IPL team.

It includes BCCI COE Level 3 Performance Coach (or equivalent) with an outstanding track record of cricket coaching for a minimum of 3 years (in the last 7 years) with a High-Performance Centre/International/India A/India U-19/India Women/IPL/State team.

The qualification criteria includes BCCI COE Level 2 Coach (or equivalent) with an outstanding track record of cricket coaching for a minimum of 3 years (in the last 7 years) of a High-Performance Centre/International/India A/India U-19/India Women/IPL team.

Also to qualify, the candidate should have successful record in high-performance planning and monitoring, as well as designing and implementing player development plans and programmes in elite environments.

SAI Gandhinagar powerlifters dominate by bagging 10 medals, eye world championship glory

New Delhi

Powerlifting athletes from the Sports Authority of India (SAI) National Centre of Excellence (NCOE) in Gandhinagar put up a strong show in the second Khelo India Para Games, the second edition of which concluded in Delhi on Thursday (March 27).

The NCOE campers secured 10 medals, including seven golds in the para-powerlifting competition held at the JLN Stadium complex.

Leading the charge were Jhandu Kumar (men's 72kg), Jaspreet Kaur (women's 45kg), Seema Rani (women's 61kg) and Manish Kumar (men's 54kg), all of whom broke national records en-route to their gold medal triumphs. The trio of Jhandu, Jaspreet and Manish smashed their own national records created just a week back at the nationals in Noida.

Reflecting on the remarkable performance, SAI Gandhinagar's head powerlifting coach, Rajinder Singh Rahelu, a bronze medalist at the 2004 Summer Paralympics in the 56 kg category, told SAI Media, "Just before the Khelo India Para Games, we had the national championships where we won 12 medals, including 8 golds and 3 national records. This time, we secured 10 medals, including 7 gold and 3 silver, along with 4 national records. Broadly, we broke 7 national records within a week. The KIPG provides an international-level exposure, and now the competition fear is gone for our athletes. They are confident and will keep performing well."

The national record holders were joined on the top podium at the KIPG 2025 by fellow SAI Gandhinagar campers Gulfam Ahmed (59kg), Sandeesh BG (80kg) and Parmjeet Kumar (49kg). The silver medalists from the centre were Shiv Kumar (49kg), Ramubhai Babubhai (72kg), and Rahul Jograjiya (88kg).



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Established as an NCOE (National Centre of Excellence) in 2019, SAI Gandhinagar has grown into India's premier training facility for para-powerlifting. Highlighting the centre's steady progress over the years, Rahelu added, "Since 2016, when I joined SAI Gandhinagar, we have been steadily improving. By 2022, young athletes started coming regularly for training. The centre has transformed in the last 4-5 years. Earlier, we had only a modern fitness

centre, but now we have a dedicated powerlifting hall equipped with world-class facilities, air conditioning, and Eleiko sets used in international competitions. Our recovery facilities are also among the best."

"It has been a consistent step-by-step development, and SAI Gandhinagar is India's No.1 para-powerlifting centre in terms of facilities and equipment of international standards," Rahelu, also an Arjuna Award winner, explained.

With the success at KIPG 2025, the 51-year-old coach has set bigger goals for his wards, he said, "Our next immediate aim is to win at least 3-4 medals at the World Championships in Egypt this October. Currently, Parmjeet Kumar is the only Indian to have medalled at the World Championships, and he is also from our centre."

"With the Commonwealth and Asian Games coming up next year, we are gearing up with full dedication. We believe future Paralympic medalists will emerge from this centre, and we have the potential to create history. Our athletes are capable, and they will do well," Rahelu told SAI Media.

Monarchy supporters torch house try to break barricades in Kathmandu

Kathmandu: The Nepal police on Friday used tear gas and water cannons to disperse pro-monarchy demonstrators who torched a house and tried to break security barricades here, witnesses said. The police also fired blank rounds after the situation went uncontrollable in the Thinkune area where thousands of monarchists chanted slogans such as "Raja au desh bachau" (May King come to save the Country), "Down with corrupt government", and "We want monarchy back", demanding the restoration of the monarchy in Nepal.

The demonstrators carrying the national flags of Nepal and pictures of former king Gyanendra Shah torched the house in the Thinkune area and pelted stones as they clashed with police while trying to break barricades set up by them.

One person was injured in the clash, an eye-witness said. Hundreds of riot police personnel were deployed in Kathmandu to avert a clash as pro and anti-monarchy supporters held separate demonstrations. The police detained several youths for defying restrictions when demonstrators attempted to march towards New Baneshwor, a restricted area.

Lebanon Syria sign agreement on border demarcation easing tensions

Beirut: Lebanon and Syria have signed an agreement on border demarcation and to boost coordination between the two countries regarding security along their tense frontier, the Saudi Press Agency reported Friday. The deal signed by the Lebanese and Syrian defense ministers in Saudi Arabia late Thursday came after clashes in border areas earlier this month left several people dead and dozens wounded on both sides.

The plan for border demarcation also comes after the ouster in early December of the 54-year Assad family rule in Syria, leading to tensions along the frontier where Lebanon's Hezbollah group was active on both sides of the border during Syria's 14-year conflict.

Hezbollah has been fighting in Syria along-



side Assad during the conflict that has left half a million people dead. The deal also comes after the 14-month Israel-Hezbollah war that was attended by Saudi Defense Minister Khalid bin Salman and signed the deal. The Saudi agency said the Lebanese and Syrian ministers signed an agreement in which both sides agreed on the

"strategic importance to demarcate their border" and the formation of legal and specialised committees in different fields. It added that both countries agreed to "activate coordination mechanisms" to deal with any security challenges along the border. It said Saudi Arabia backs security and stability in both countries

The deal signed by the Lebanese and Syrian defense ministers in Saudi Arabia late Thursday came after clashes in border areas earlier this month left several people dead and dozens wounded on both sides.

and that boosts security in the region.

Over the past weeks, authorities on both sides of the nearly 400-kilometer (250-mile)-long border have been closing smuggling routes along the unmarked frontier.

Earlier this month, intense clashes broke out along the border after Syria's interim government accused militants from Lebanon's Hezbollah group of crossing into Syria, abducting three soldiers and killing them on Lebanese soil. The Lebanese government said the three killed were smugglers.

Pakistan repays loan worth USD 1 billion to Chinese bank

Islamabad: Pakistan has repaid a USD 1 billion commercial loan to the Industrial and Commercial Bank of China (ICBC) with the expectation of securing its refinancing soon, according to a media report.

This repayment has temporarily pulled down the country's already thin foreign exchange reserves to a six-month low of USD 10.6 billion, the report added.

The loan was originally provided by ICBC two years ago at a floating interest rate of approximately 7.5 per cent, reported The Express Tribune. The repayment was made in two equal tranches this month, according to Pakistani authorities.

Additionally, another loan tranche of USD 300 million by the ICBC will mature by mid-April, which the Pakistan government plans to retire in the same month, sources said.

Due to the second USD 500 million repayment in the third week of March, the central bank's reserves dropped to USD 10.6 billion, marking the lowest level in six months. The first USD 500 million tranche had been paid in early March and the central bank covered the gap by purchasing dollars from the market and receiving some foreign inflows. The central bank governor previously stated that USD 9 billion had been purchased from the market in 2024 to build foreign exchange reserves. Without these purchases, reserves would have been barely USD 2 billion, even with support from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) program.

The Finance Ministry was hopeful that ICBC would refinance the facility. They said that discussions have already begun but have not yet reached the point of interest rate determination. Pakistan is heavily dependent on China for financial support with Beijing consistently rolling over USD 4 billion in cash deposits, USD 6.5 billion in commercial loans and a USD 4.3 billion trade financing facility.

Pak govt plans to counter extremist narratives through films dramas

Islamabad: A high-level meeting, chaired by Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, has decided to counter extremist narratives through films and dramas, reinforcing the national stance against terrorism, Geo News reported on Friday.

The meeting, held at the Prime Minister's House here on Friday, was attended by civil and military leadership, along with representatives from all four prov-



Officials resolved to expose the perpetrators of the Jaffar Express attack and to aggressively counter anti-state campaigns on both traditional and digital media, Geo News reported, citing sources.

vinces. It was agreed that the National Action Plan (NAP) would be utilised to strengthen the national narrative, with authorities directed to develop an active and effective counter-narrative against terrorism and extremism. The participants also decided to prevent the dissemination of content

that threatens national security and harmony while ensuring better coordination among provinces. To engage the youth, films and dramas will incorporate national themes to effectively counter extremist propaganda.

Furthermore, digital media will be used to promote pro-state content and combat misinformation, including deepfake content, by providing verified information. The government

will also integrate terrorism awareness into the national curriculum to educate future generations about its dangers.

The government's initiative comes against the backdrop of rising terrorist attacks in the country, with Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan emerging as the worst-affected provinces, including deepfake content, by providing verified information. The government

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BUSINESS

Infinix Unveils NOTE 50x 5G+ with world's first MediaTek dimensity 7300 ULTIMATE processor

New Delhi: Infinix, the emerging smartphone brand, has officially launched the NOTE 50x 5G+, a groundbreaking device that redefines smartphone performance, design, and user experience. Priced at a special launch offer of INR 10,499, the device will be available for purchase on Flipkart starting April 3, 2025. The smartphone comes in three stylish colors—Sea Breeze Green (Vegan Leather), Titanium Grey, and Enchanted Purple (Metallic Finish)—catering to a diverse range of users.

The NOTE 50x 5G+ is the first smartphone in the world to feature the MediaTek Dimensity 7300 ULTIMATE Processor, setting new benchmarks for speed, gaming, and intelligent performance. Built on a 4nm architecture, the octa-core CPU is paired with a dedicated APU 655, ensuring ultra-fast

processing speeds and seamless multitasking. Gamers will benefit from up to 90 FPS in supported games, alongside features like Game Mode, Bypass Charging, and MediaTek HyperEngine optimizations for an enhanced gaming experience.

Next-Level Battery and Charging Capabilities

Powering the device is a 5500mAh semi-solid state battery, complemented by 45W fast charging support. This ensures long-lasting usage with minimal downtime, making it an ideal choice for power users.

The smartphone runs on the upgraded XOS 15 interface, featuring One-Tap Infinix AI that adapts to individual user preferences for a more intuitive and efficient experience.

Speaking on the launch, Anish Kapoor, CEO of Infinix India, stated,

Investors' wealth swells by Rs 25.90 lakh cr in FY25 as markets log over 5 pc gains

New Delhi: Investors became richer by Rs 25.90 lakh crore in the entire 2024-25 financial year, with the BSE benchmark Sensex climbing over 5 per cent, amid an overall optimistic trend in equities.

After a stellar show in 2023-24 fiscal, stock markets had a roller coaster ride in FY25. In the 2024-25 fiscal, the BSE bellwether Sensex gauge jumped 3,763.57 points or 5.10 per cent, and the NSE Nifty climbed 1,192.45 points or 5.34 per cent.

The market capitalisation of BSE-listed firms surged by Rs 25,90,546.73 crore to Rs 4,12,87,646.50 crore (USD 4.82 trillion) in FY25.

"FY25 proved to be an eye-opener for new market participants, marking a departure from the



continuous bull run they were accustomed to. While robust retail participation and domestic inflow drove a rally in the equity markets, FII turned cautious, selling off positions as valuations elevated due to the strong bull run and global uncertainties.

"Lower-than-expected corporate earnings particularly in the second half of FY25 further

compounded the pressure on valuations. At the fiscal year end, policy actions by the new Trump administration added another layer of volatility which intensified market corrections," Palka Arora Chopra, Director, Master Capital Services Ltd, said.

The Sensex hit its all-time high of 85,978.25 on September 27, last year.

Stock markets came under bear attack from October onwards amid worries over foreign investors fleeing the domestic market and stretched valuations of the equities.

In October 2024 alone, the BSE benchmark slumped 4,910.72 points or 5.82 per cent. But, heavy retail investors' participation played a significant role

in the overall market's positive trend this fiscal.

Also, a number of mainboard Initial Public Offerings (IPO) and listing of shares imparted optimism in the equity markets.

The major positive drivers behind the equity markets this fiscal were favourable election outcome and a surge in retail participation, according to Palka Arora.

"The election result boosted investors confidence by signalling political stability and continuation of the policies, which helped set a positive tone across the markets," she added.

On the last trading day of the 2024-25 fiscal on Friday, the 30-share BSE Sensex declined 191.51 points or 0.25 per cent to settle at 77,414.92 in a volatile trading session. The Nifty dropped 72.60 points or 0.31 per cent to 23,519.35.

Forex Reserves Surge to USD 658.8 Billion

Mumbai: The country's forex reserves jumped by USD 4,529 billion to USD 658.8 billion during the week ended March 21, the RBI said on Friday.

In the previous reporting week, the overall reserves had increased by USD 305 million to USD 654.27 billion.

This is the third consecutive week of rise in the kitty, which has been on a declining trend recently due to revaluation, along with forex market interventions by the RBI to help reduce volatilities in the rupee. The forex reserves had increased to an all-time high of USD 704.885 billion in September 2024.

For the week ended March 21, foreign currency assets, a major component of the reserves, increased by USD 1,669 billion to USD 558.856 billion, the data released on Friday showed.

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

Gold reserves increased by USD 2,883 billion to USD 77.275 billion during the week, the RBI said.

The Special Drawing Rights (SDRs) were down by USD 22 million to USD 18.24 billion, the apex bank said.

India's reserve position with the IMF was also down by USD 1 million to USD 4.429 billion in the reporting week, the apex bank data showed.

FICCI ladies organisation calls for stronger support to women entrepreneurs

New Delhi: The FICCI Ladies Organisation (FLO), the apex body for businesswomen in India, has emphasized the urgent need to step up efforts to support and strengthen women entrepreneurs, stating that their success is directly linked to the growth of the nation's economy.

Speaking at FLO's award ceremony for women-led MSMEs, FLO President Ms. Joyshree Das Verma highlighted a pressing concern revealed in the Economic Survey 2025: only 22% of MSMEs in India are women-owned.

"This is not just a statistic; it is a call to action. A call for us to



step up, support, and strengthen women entrepreneurs because

their success is the success of our economy," Ms. Verma stated.

She underscored FLO's commitment to empowering women

"This is not just a statistic; it is a call to action. A call for us to step up, support, and strengthen women entrepreneurs because their success is the success of our economy," Ms. Verma stated.

through skill development, policy advocacy, economic participation, and leadership mentoring. "Women-led MSMEs are catalysts for innovation, employment, and economic resilience. The more we support them, the stronger our nation becomes," she added. Highlighting the

significance of FLO's MSME Assist Cell, Ms. Verma said, "It is not just an initiative; it is a crucial platform that guides women entrepreneurs through financial management, compliance, and market access while equipping them with the right mentorship, resources, and opportunities to leverage government schemes. When we empower women entrepreneurs, we empower families, communities, and the economy at large."

The FLO MSME Awards received an overwhelming response this year, with 104 applications, reflecting the growing

ambition and talent within the FLO network. Ms. Verma lauded all participants, stating, "The competition was intense, and every applicant is a winner in their own right. These awards recognize a few, but every woman who took that step forward, who challenged norms and pursued her business dreams, is a part of India's entrepreneurial success story."

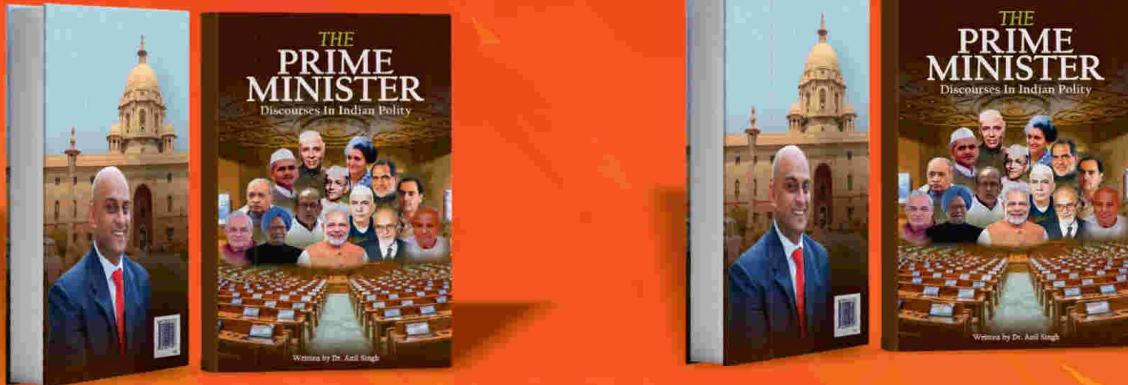
FLO continues its mission to foster an ecosystem that nurtures and uplifts women entrepreneurs, ensuring their greater participation in India's economic growth.

Advt Contact : 9818-799941

Book Release

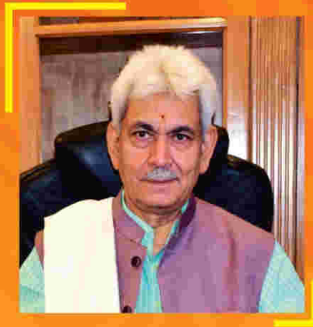
of

Dr. Anil Singh



“THE PRIME MINISTER: DISCOURSES IN INDIA POLITY”

by
Chief Guest



Hon'ble Shri Manoj Sinha

Lieutenant Governor,
Jammu & Kashmir

In the august presence of Guests of Honor



Prof. Yogesh Singh
Hon'ble Vice Chancellor,
University of Delhi



Shri Giriraj Singh
Hon'ble Minister of Textiles,
Government of India



Prof. Rekha Saxena
Senior Professor & Head,
Department of Political Science
University of Delhi

Thursday, 3rd April 2025 at 04:30 PM | Auditorium, Prime Minister's Museum (Teen Murti Bhavan) New Delhi