



Starc's five-for, Du Plessis' fifty propel DC to second straight win

12 terrorists killed in drone strikes by Pakistani forces nine civilian deaths

IAS, IPS Officers to Mentor Govt School Students in Punjab: CM Mann

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Our festivals show unity in diversity in country, says PM Modi

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India's merchandise exports may fall slightly to USD 435 billion in 2024-25: GTRI

WEATHER

Sunrise	6:14 AM
Sunset	6:39 PM
Moonrise	7:13 AM
Moonset	9:01 PM
Today's Prediction	
Maximum	19°C
Minimum	15°C
Tomorrow's Prediction	
Maximum	35°C
Minimum	20°C

RSS banyan tree of India's immortal culture and modernisation: PM Modi

Modi praises RSS volunteers, says cadre Modi became the second sitting PM to visit the working selflessly across the country. RSS headquarters in Nagpur.

Nagpur
In his first visit to the Rashtriya Swamisedhak Sangh (RSS) headquarters after becoming the prime minister 11 years ago, Narendra Modi on Sunday described the Sangh as the 'banyan tree' of India's immortal culture.

Modi became the second sitting PM to visit the RSS headquarters in Nagpur. Atal Bihari Vajpayee had visited it in 2000 during his third term as PM, an RSS official said. This is also Modi's third term in the top post.

In a jam-packed schedule in Nagpur since early morning, Modi visited the Dr Hedgewar Smriti Mandir at RSS headquarters and paid homage to the founding fathers of the Sangh. He also visited Deekshabhoomi, where Dr Babasaheb Ambedkar embraced Buddhism in 1956.

Modi also laid the foundation stone of Madhav Netralaya Premium Centre, a new extension building of Madhav Netralaya Eye Institute & Research



Centre, named after late RSS chief Madhavrao Golwalkar.

Speaking after laying the foundation stone of Madhav Netralaya Premium Centre, Modi said RSS volunteers are working selflessly in various spheres and parts of the country.

"RSS is the banyan tree of India's immortal culture and modernisation whose ideals and principles are to pro-

tect the national consciousness," Modi said. "This large vatruksh is not an ordinary one," he said, adding the RSS is synonymous to service.

Modi said the 'tapasya' of RSS with its 'sangathan' and 'samarpan' in the last 100 years is showing fruits as the country approaches its target of 'Viksit Bharat' in 2047.

The 1925-47 was a

crisis period as the country was fighting for independence and now, after 100 years, the RSS is stepping into another milestone, he said.

"(The time span from) 2025 to 2047 is important because big goals are ahead of us. We have to lay the foundation stone of the next 1,000 years of a strong and developed India," Modi said.

The nation is celebrat-

ing 75 years of the Constitution this year and the RSS is completing 100 years (of its formation), he noted.

Addressing the audience, Mohan Bhagwat said the Madhav Netralaya worked hard for several years for people's welfare. It is inspired by the Sangh's ideology of selfless service, he said.

"It doesn't look good that people are bereft of health facilities and hence, the RSS volunteers have selflessly worked to provide vision to the needy at the Madhav Netralaya," he said.

The RSS volunteers don't seek anything for themselves but work for others in the society, Bhagwat said. Service is life's mission for the RSS, he added. Modi visited the Dr Hedgewar Smriti Mandir in Reshimbagh area in the morning and paid tributes at the memorials dedicated to RSS founder Keshav Baliram Hedgewar and second sarsanghchalak (chief) M S Golwalkar.

CONTO ON PAGE-2

1 killed 7 injured as Bengaluru-Kamakhyā AC Express derails in Odisha



Cuttack

One person was killed and seven others injured as an express train derailed in Odisha's Cuttack district on Sunday, officials said.

Eleven coaches of the SMVT Bengaluru-Kamakhyā AC Express derailed at Nirgundi near Manguli at 11.54 am, Chief Public Relations Officer (CPRO) of the East Coast Railway Ashok Kumar Mishra said.

Cuttack's District Collector Dattatraya Bhausaheb Shinde, who oversaw the rescue operation, said, "One person died and seven others were injured in the accident."

He said that some passengers also fell ill after the accident because of the heatwave conditions prevailing in the area.

"They were treated at a temporary health camp

set up at the accident site. Some people who received minor injuries in the accident were also given first aid, declared fit to travel. Around 15 people were given first aid at the health camp," he said.

Shinde said the seven people, whose injuries were serious, were admitted to the state-run SCB Medical College and Hospital (SCB MCH) in Cuttack. "All of them are stable," he said.

SCB MCH's Administrative Officer Subhas Chandra Ray said, "The one person who died is a male. Among the seven injured, three are men and four women."

An officer of the Odisha Fire Service, which along with the NDRI assisted the railways following the accident, said the rescue operation has been completed. Agency

AFSPA extended for six months in Manipur, parts of Nagaland, Arunachal

New Delhi
The Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act, which gives armed forces operating in disturbed areas sweeping powers and immunity from prosecution unless approved by the Centre, was on Sunday extended for six months in Manipur, except the jurisdictions of 13 police stations, in view of the law and order situation there.

"The AFSPA, under which a particular state or some areas are declared 'disturbed', has also been extended to eight districts in Nagaland and 21 police station areas in five other districts of the state for six months, according to a notification issued by the Union home ministry.

The law was also extended to Tirap, Changlang and Longleng districts in Nagaland and three police station areas in Namsai district in the state for



six months beginning April 1 after a review of the law and order situation in these northeastern states.

The AFSPA, often criticised as draconian law, gives armed forces operating in disturbed areas sweeping powers to search, arrest and open fire if they deem it necessary.

"Whereas the central government after review of the law and order situation in the state of Manipur, in exercise of the powers conferred by Section 3 of the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act, 1958 (28 of 1958) declares the entire state of Manipur, excluding the areas falling un-

HIGHLIGHT

Sweeping powers for armed forces retained; select areas exempted in Manipur, Nagaland, and Arunachal Pradesh

IndiGo faces Rs 944 crore tax penalty, calls it 'erroneous'



New Delhi

The Income Tax Department has imposed a penalty of Rs 944.20 crore on InterGlobe Aviation, the parent company of IndiGo, for the assessment year 2021-22. IndiGo, India's largest airline, received the order on Saturday and has strongly contested the decision, calling it "erroneous and frivolous."

In a regulatory filing on Sunday, IndiGo clarified that the penalty was based on a misunderstanding by the Income Tax Authority. The authority mistakenly believed that IndiGo's appeal before the Commissioner of Income Tax (Appeals) [CIT(A)] had been dismissed, whereas the appeal remains active and pending adjudication. IndiGo asserted that the order was not under the law and confirmed its intent to challenge the penalty through appropriate legal channels.

IndiGo has assured stakeholders that the penalty order will not have any significant impact on its financials, operations, or other activities. The airline remains committed to contesting the order and is exploring all legal remedies to address the situation. Agency

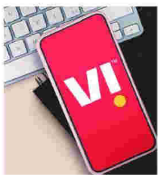


The Indian Air Force will participate in the multi-nation Air Exercise INIOCHOS-25 from 31 March 2025 to 11 April 2025 at Andravida Air Base, Greece, on Sunday.

Govt to raise stake in Voda Idea to 49 pc with fresh share acquisition worth Rs 37 000 cr

New Delhi
Government stake in Vodafone Idea will more than double to 48.99 per cent as it is set to acquire shares worth Rs 36,950 crore in lieu of outstanding spectrum auction dues, the company said in a regulatory filing on Sunday.

The government is already the single-largest shareholder in the debt-ridden Vodafone Idea with 22.6 per cent stake, and the fresh move will take its total holding more than the combined stake of the company's promoter firms - Vodafone and Aditya Birla Group. VIL promoters hold 14.76 per cent and 22.56



per cent stake in the company, respectively, at present. "The Ministry of Communications... in line with the September 2021 Reforms and Support Package for Telecom Sector has decided to convert the outstanding spectrum auction dues, including deferred dues repayable after expiry of the moratorium period,

HIGHLIGHT

The government is already the single-largest shareholder in the debt-ridden Vodafone Idea with 22.6 per cent stake

into equity shares to be issued to the Government of India. The total amount to be converted into equity shares is Rs 36,950 crore," the filing said.

Vodafone Idea (VIL) said it has been directed to issue 3,695 crore equity shares of the face value of Rs 10 each at an issue price of Rs 10 each within 30 days after issuance of necessary

CONTO ON PAGE-2

Shah sounds poll bugle in Bihar rally urges people to strengthen hands of PM Modi

Gopalganj (Bihar)

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Sunday sounded the bugle for Bihar assembly polls due later this year, urging the people to strengthen the hands of Prime Minister Narendra Modi by voting the BJP-led NDA back to power.

Addressing a rally in Gopalganj, a stronghold of the RJD, Shah also charged the opposition party's president Lalu Prasad and his wife Rabri Devi, both of whom had together ruled the state for 15 years, with running a 'jungle raj', alleging that



murders, kidnappings and dacoities became an industry in the state while they were in power.

It was the first public meeting addressed by Shah, regarded as the BJP's principal strate-

gist, in Bihar since last year's Lok Sabha polls.

"Major businessmen fled the state, worried about their own safety. Lalu also made Bihar infamous the world over because of his in-

volvement in the fodder scam," Shah claimed. Union minister said things began to improve when the BJP, in alliance with JD(U) headed by Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, formed a government in the state.

If the NDA returns to power later this year, Bihar's decades-old problem of annual floods will become a thing of the past, he said. "The people of Bihar have a choice to make between the Lalu-Rabri duo, representing the jungle raj, and development under Modi and Nitish," said the former BJP president. Agency

RSS banyan tree of India's immortal culture and modernisation: PM Modi

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The memorials are dedicated to the values of Indian culture, nationalism and the organisation, Modi wrote in Hindi in a message book at the venue.

"The memorial of the two strong pillars of RSS is an inspiration to lakhs of swayanseviks who have dedicated themselves to the service of the nation," the PM wrote.

"I am overwhelmed to visit the Smriti Mandir which cherishes the memories of Param Pujanya Dr Hedgewar and Pujya Guruji," he added. RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat, Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnis and Union minister Nitin Gadkari were present during Modi's visit to the Smriti Mandir.

"Visiting Smriti Mandir in Nagpur is a very special experience. Making today's visit even more special is the fact that it has happened on Varsha Pratipada, which is also the Jayanti of Param Pujya Doctor Sahab.

"Countless people like me derive inspiration and strength from the thoughts of Param Pujya Doctor Sahab and Pujya Guruji. It was an honour to pay homage to these two greats, who envisioned a strong, prosperous and culturally proud Bharat," Modi posted on X.

Govt to raise stake in Voda Idea to 49 pc with fresh share acquisition worth Rs 37 000 cr

CONT FROM PAGE-1

order from relevant authorities, including from Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi).

"Post the aforesaid issuance of equity shares, the Government of India shareholding in the Company will increase from existing 22.60 per cent to approximately 48.99 per cent. The promoters will continue to have operational control of the company," the filing said.

The spectrum and adjusted gross revenue (AGR) instalment due for FY26, including the 2015 spectrum auction shortfall, aggregated to Rs 32,723.5 crore.

The move follows a series of reliefs from the government to help the company remain afloat in the market to maintain competition.

"Geeton Ka Safar" Season 3 inaugurated by Dhindhora Music at Hindi Bhawan

Ghaziabad: Dhindhora Music launched the third season of "Geeton Ka Safar" with a grand event at Hindi Bhawan, Ghaziabad, celebrating the spirit of Indian music and providing a platform for emerging talent. The event was graced by several distinguished guests, including Shri Sunil Sharma, Cabinet Minister, and Mahanagar Adyakh Mayank Goyal. Shri Trilokh JI, Director of Doordarshan, was also present and emphasized the significance of the program in nurturing new musical talent.

On this special occasion, Dhindhora Music's Chairman, Dr. Mahesh Kumar White, captivated the audience with his soulful perfor-

Our festivals show unity in diversity in country: PM Modi

New Delhi:

Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Sunday that various festivals being celebrated today and to be observed in the coming days are a pointer to the spirit of unity pervading India's diversity and asked people to continue to strengthen this feeling.

In his monthly Mann ki Baat broadcast, he said various states are celebrating their traditional new year on Sunday and many others will be celebrating in the coming days.

"Today the festival of Ugadi is being celebrated with great fervour in Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana. Today itself, Gudi Padwa is being celebrated in Maharashtra. In our country full of diversity, during the next few days, in different states, 'Rongali Bihu' will be celebrated in Assam, 'Poila Boishakh' in Bengal, 'Navreh' in Kashmir. Similarly, between 13th and 15th April, there will be joyous celebration

Indian SC first to shift from human-centric to eco-centric approach says judge

New Delhi:

Supreme Court judge Justice PS Narasimha on Sunday said that in international jurisprudence, India was the first country to shift from an anthropocentric approach to an eco-centric one.

An anthropocentric approach is based on the belief that human beings are the most important entity on earth, and other beings and things are valued primarily for their utility to humans.

The eco-centric approach, however, prioritises the well-being of the entire ecosystem and its components, viewing nature as valuable for its own sake, not just for human use.

The Supreme Court judge was speaking at the valedictory session of the two-day National Conference on Environment-2025 organised by the National Green Tribunal (NGT) at Vigyan Bhawan.

Vice-President Jagdeep Dhankhar was the chief guest at the event.

Highlighting the importance of such confer-



ences, Justice Narasimha said they brought together a large number of stakeholders who found a common vision to restore the environment.

"Conferences like this bring people together and enable sharing of thought, and the acceptance of new visions and ideas. After one such conference I borrowed an idea, and as an amicus (friend of the court), I submitted to the court that the anthropocentric approach to the environment is not suitable for us and there should be a shift to eco-centric thought."

"I think it is the first time that our Supreme Court accepted the submission. And in international jurisprudence, we were the first country, or rather the first court, to shift from anthropocentric to eco-centric approach," the judge said.

He said the shift happened also because of the country's culture, which never believed humans to be superior to the environment and instead viewed ecology as a living being, of which humans

are part of. "We have to keep reinforcing this spirit of unity, on our way ahead," the prime minister said. He noted that summer vacation in schools will also fall in a few weeks and said the long days of summer are a time for students to develop new hobbies and polish their skills.

He urged those offering various activities for students to use the hashtag of 'myholidays' and students and parents to share their experiences with 'holidaymemories' hashtag.

In his address, Modi stressed on the "catch the rain" campaign and asserted over 11 billion cubic metre water has been saved in the last seven to eight years through such practices.

"By conserving raindrops, we can save a lot of water from getting wasted. The last few years, under this campaign, unprecedented tasks related to water conservation have been undertaken in many parts of the coun-

try, through their tiny efforts, have managed to conserve 11 billion cubic metres of water, Modi said, lauding such efforts.

The prime minister urged people to join such efforts at the community level. "Noting that along with fitness, keeping a count is also becoming a habit, Modi cited the example of people keeping a count of the number of steps taken in a day, of the number of calories eaten in a day and of the number of calories burnt."

"Amidst all these counts, another countdown is about to begin. The countdown to the International Yoga Day. Now less than 100 days are left for Yoga Day. If you have not yet included yoga in your life, do it now - it is not too late yet," he said.

Noting that the first International Yoga Day was celebrated to years ago on June 21, 2015, Modi said now this day has taken the shape of a grand festival of yoga.

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AMOHA Galleria and Bikaner house present 'Fifth Dimensional Leap' Art Exhibition in New Delhi

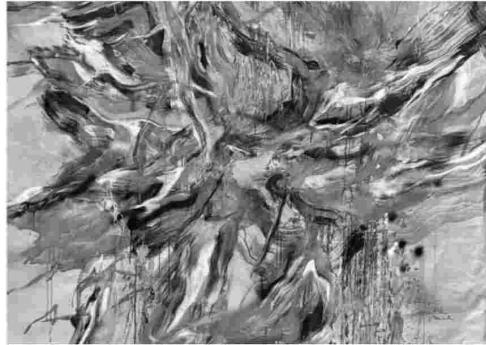
New Delhi:

AMOHA Galleria, in collaboration with Bikaner House, successfully hosted Fifth Dimensional Leap - A Transformative Art Exhibition at the Centre for Contemporary Arts, Bikaner House, Pandara Road. The exhibition, which took place on the first floor of the venue, showcased an eclectic collection of international artists, offering an immersive experience that blended dreamlike visuals, dynamic forms, and ethereal textures.

The featured artists included Andrea Ehret, Esteban Marrugo Carrasco, Fintan Raymond Whelan, George Farah Makhlof, Griselda Amancay Maymo, Luca Dei Savini, Norberto Noschang, Pablo Echeverria Castillo, Paula Cecilia Riverro, and Toffilo Choquechagua. Each artist presented works that sought to transcend the tangible and delve into the mystical fifth dimension—where art, science, and spirituality intersect.

Under the leadership of Mr. Vinay Rai, a distinguished industrialist and philanthropist, AMOHA dedicated the entire sale proceeds from the exhibition to the Zero Hunger Mission Trust, an initiative aimed at uniting a billion people in the pursuit of providing three billion meals daily.

Shahzada Khurram, Director of Bikaner House, expressed his enthusiasm for the collaboration, emphasizing the significance of cultural exchange and art's role in address-



ing global social issues. The exhibition also featured engaging discussions and interactive sessions that explored art's evolving impact on social transformation.

The event was attended by notable guests, including Asit Patnayak, Neeraj Bakshi, Luca Dei Savini, Sheela Chamaria, Rich Chadha, curator Uma Nair, Poonam Bhatnagar, Manoj Arora, Neeraja Peters, Surya

Veer Kohli, Madhvi Arora, and Adil Hussain, among others. Their presence underscored the importance of fostering dialogue between art and social change.

The Fifth Dimensional Leap exhibition not only celebrated artistic brilliance but also reinforced the power of art as a vehicle for humanitarian efforts, leaving a lasting impression on attendees and the broader art community.

Amit Shah unveils schemes projects worth over Rs 800 cr in Bihar

Patna:

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Sunday unveiled schemes and laid the foundation stones for projects, worth over Rs 800 crore, in Bihar on the occasion of International Cooperative Day.

Shah launched schemes, comprising Rs 111 crore from the cooperative department and Rs 421 crore from the urban development and housing department.

He also laid the foundation stones for 132 police buildings, costing Rs 181 crore, and three road transport and national highway projects worth Rs 109 crore.

Shah also remotely inaugurated a mahakhan processing unit at the Bihar State Cooperative Society in Darbhanga district.

He distributed micro ATMs to 'bank mitras' of the Bihar State Cooperative Bank at the state-level conference attended by representatives from primary agriculture cooperatives and other cooperative societies.

Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, Deputy Chief Ministers Samrat Choudhary and Vijay Kumar Sinha, several Union and state ministers and senior officials were present on the occasion.

Shah, who arrived here on Saturday, will address a public rally in Gopalganj district later in the day.

He will also chair a meeting of the NDA leaders at CM's residence here.

Naxalism got encouragement for decades due to Congress' policies: Modi

Bilaspur

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday said Naxalism got encouragement for decades in Chhattisgarh and other states due to policies of Congress.

Addressing a public meeting in Mobhattha village in Bilaspur district, Modi said the situation is rapidly changing and a new era of peace is setting in Naxal-affected areas.

Over the decades, Naxalism got encouragement in many states including Chhattisgarh due to policies of Congress. Whichever region lagged in development, Naxalism flourished there, but what did the party that ran the government for 60 years do? It declared such districts as backward and turned away from its responsibility," he said.

'Never again' Nitish tells Shah on break-ups with BJP

Patna:

Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar assured Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Sunday that he would "never again" ditch the BJP, having done so "twice by mistake".

With assembly elections barely a few months away, the JD(U) president's avowal came at a function in Patna where Shah and he unveiled several projects of the Centre and the state.

Shah, a former BJP president, had given a pep talk to the cadre late Saturday night, when he is said to have asserted "our victory in Bihar will resonate far and wide".

Widely regarded as the BJP's principal strategist, Shah is likely to wind up his two-day



tour later in the day with a brainstorming session at Kumar's place, where other NDA constituents are also expected.

At the function in the state capital, Shah was visibly warm towards Kumar.

The JD(U) president seemed chuffed as he told the gathering, "This sprawling auditorium has been filled beyond capacity". He was greeted with

roars of "Jai Shri Ram", in an obvious indication of the overwhelming presence of BJP cadre at the event, but the leader, proud of his "secular" credentials, took it in his stride.

"What did the ones in power before (RJD-Congress combine) do? They used to get votes of Muslims but could never put a stop to clashes between communities," he said.

PUBLIC NOTICE

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Any person dealing with above said Mr. Raj Kumar and his wife Mrs. Pooja Sharma with regard to the properties of my clients or my other self, shall do so at his/her/their own risk and responsibility and my clients shall not be liable for the same.

SAHIL VJ Advocate (Supreme Court of India & Delhi High Court) Chamber Address: (1) Chamber No.712, Dwarka Court Complex, Dwarka Sector-18, New Delhi-75. Contact No.: 9882889245

NEWS IN BRIEF

GreNo to improve drinking water supply in 26 villages

Noida
The Greater Noida Authority (GreNo) is going to improve the drinking water supply in about 26 villages as preparations have been started in this regard, the officials concerned said.

Some of the villages where the drinking water supply has to be improved include Jaitpur-Vaishpur, Sakipur, Tuglapur, Rampur Jagir, Noto ki Madhaya, Balla ki Madhaya, Ghori Bachhara, Rithori, Safipur, Mushadpur, Dabra to name a few along with the sectors settled on six percent population plots allotted to the farmers of these villages.

A company will be selected for three years for the maintenance of the pipeline. More than Rs 10 crore will be spent on this. The villages of the notified area are also to be connected to the Ganga water project. After the completion of the work of four underground reservoirs under construction in the city, the supply of Ganga water will be started with full capacity in urban and rural areas.

Before this, work to repair the pipeline will be done. In the first phase, the authority has to supply water to 122 villages of the notified area, but right now only people of 67 villages are getting water.

Efforts are being made to ensure uninterrupted water supply in urban and rural areas. So, work is being done to repair the drinking water pipeline laid earlier and to prepare the network in the remaining area. The water department of the authority has been given instructions in this regard. A company is being searched for the maintenance of the supply line of the surrounding villages. Its tender has been issued, said Abhishek Pathak, OSD, the Greater Noida Authority.

Shahberi elevated road proposal approved

Noida
The Greater Noida Authority Board has approved the proposal to build an elevated road from Sector 4 of Greater Noida to NH-24 via Shahberi.

The aforesaid proposed elevated road would provide relief to people from traffic jams. Work on the said Shahberi road will be started soon.

The population in Greater Noida West is increasing rapidly. It is expected to reach 15 to 20 lakh in the next two years. The opening of Noida airport will also increase the traffic load. Keeping this in mind, there is a plan to build an elevated road from Ek Murti Chowk to NH-24. The National Highway Authority (NHAI) has agreed with this. It has also agreed to cooperate in the construction.

After the approval of Greater Noida Authority CEO NG Ravi Kumar, its DPR will be prepared. After this, further process will be started. He said that it is estimated that about Rs 400 crore will be spent in building the Shahberi elevated road. The construction of the elevated road will provide convenience to commuters of Greater Noida and Greater Noida West as well as Noida, Ghaziabad and Agra. It is being told that its construction will facilitate the movement of about 10 lakh people.

Formation of BJP govt is beginning of Ram Raja in Delhi: CM Gupta

New Delhi
Chief Minister Rekha Gupta on Sunday said the formation of BJP government after 27 years is the beginning of Ram Raja in Delhi.

Taking part in a procession in Pitampura here, Gupta greeted people on the beginning of the new Hindu Year and the start of Navratri.

"The formation of BJP government is the beginning of Ram Raja in Delhi," she said.

The chief minister said she wished for Delhi to shine like the sun and the lives of people to be filled with happiness and prosperity.

The BJP returned to



power in Delhi for the first time after 1998 following its victory in the assembly polls

In February this year, The saffron party won 48 seats in the 70-member Delhi Assembly, ending the decade-long rule of the

Aam Aadmi Party (AAP), which managed to win 22 seats.

Earlier this morning, the chief minister offered prayers at Katyayani Devi Temple in Chhatrapur, praying for blessings of the goddess to bring peace and

harmony in Delhi and smooth progress in development of the city.

She extended greetings to all Indians and the residents of Delhi on the Hindu New Year (which marks the start of Vikram Samvat 2082).

Gupta said the Hindu New Year is not merely the beginning of another year but a celebration of Sanatan culture, rich traditions and national identity.

This festival strengthens our connection to our heritage and inspires a promising future, she added.

The chief minister further said "more than just a change of date, this festival represents India's cultural heritage, faith and nation-

alism".

"It offers an opportunity for introspection on how far we have progressed in our commitment to re-establishing India as a 'vishwaguru' (world leader)," she added.

Gupta asserted the Hindu society is once again embracing its glorious culture and the world is acknowledging the greatness of Sanatan Dharma while yoga and ayurveda have gained global recognition and acceptance.

She reiterated the BJP government's "unwavering commitment" to preserving culture, contributing to societal development and fulfilling the vision of making India a "vishwaguru".

AAP accuses BJP govt of halting 'farishtey' scheme

New Delhi
The AAP on Sunday accused the BJP-led Delhi government of discontinuing the 'Farishtey Dilli Ke' scheme, which provided free medical treatment to road accident victims in private hospitals.

There was no immediate response available from the BJP.

Addressing a press conference, Delhi AAP chief and former health minister Saurabh Bharadwaj alleged that the initiative, launched by the previous Aam Aadmi Party government, had saved thousands of lives but was now being halted.

"How can someone stop such a good scheme that saves lives? The BJP government has removed it from the budget," Bharadwaj said.



Introduced in 2017 under then chief minister Arvind Kejriwal, the scheme covered the entire treatment cost of accident victims in private hospitals, encouraging bystanders to assist them without fear of financial burden. According to the AAP, more than 10,000 lives were saved under the initiative.

Bharadwaj claimed that even during his tenure as health minister, officials appointed by the Lieutenant Governor attempted to halt the scheme.

Lamborghini hits two pedestrians on Noida footpath 1 arrested

Noida
A Lamborghini hit two pedestrians on a footpath adjacent to an under-construction building in sector 94 here on Sunday, police said.

The injured labourers were rushed to a nearby hospital and are said to be out of danger. They have fractured their legs, police said.

A purported video surfaced online showing that after the accident, the accused came out of his car and asked the locals "koi mar gaya idhar? (did anyone die here?)". In the video, a man was also heard asking the accused if he knew how many people died here.

Following this, someone in the video could be heard



saying, "police ko bulao (call the police)".

Bhupendra Singh, In-charge at Sector 126 Police Station told PTI, "In the car accident two labourers were injured and they were from Chhattisgarh. They are out of danger and have fractures in their legs."

The accident happened adjacent to an under-construction building, he said.

"The car driver has been identified as Deepak, a resident of Ajmer and the car is registered with the Pudukchery registration. He has been arrested and the car has been seized," he added.

During questioning he told the police that the accident happened due to a fault. Further investigation is underway, Singh said.

Delhi CM Gupta announces CSR-funded development projects in Kalkaji

New Delhi
Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta on Sunday announced a series of development projects in the area funded through CSR contributions. These include the creation of two parks and the installation of three water ATM plants for slum residents, in Kalkaji.

The projects, funded under Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiatives, aim to enhance urban infrastructure and improve living conditions in the area, said a statement issued by the Delhi government.

Gupta also inaugurated a wall art project in Kalkaji, emphasising its role in beautifying the city and promoting cultural awareness.

Alongside the inauguration, the chief minister announced a series of development projects in the area funded through CSR contributions. These include the creation of two parks, the installation of three water ATM plants for slum residents and the set up of 150 solar lights.

"The parks will be developed with a budget of Rs one crore in collaboration with Petronet LNG Limited, providing green spaces for local residents," the statement said.

"Indian Oil Corporation Limited will fund the installation of three water ATM plants at a cost of Rs one crore, aiming to improve access to clean

drinking water in slum areas," it added.

Additionally, In-charge of Gas Limited will install 150 solar lights at a cost of Rs 30 lakh to enhance security and energy efficiency in the locality, the statement said.

Speaking at the event, Gupta said "these projects are a significant step toward making Delhi cleaner, safer and more beautiful".

"The government is committed to ensuring that every part of the capital is well-organized and developed," she added.

The event was attended by South Delhi MP Ramvir Singh Bidhuri and Kalkaji Councilor Yogita Singh besides others.

Gang of robbers targeting women busted in Delhi, 3 held



New Delhi
A gang of robbers targeting women travelling in auto-rickshaws was busted with the arrest of its kingpin among three people, police said on Sunday.

An auto-rickshaw used in the crime has also been recovered, they said.

On March 21, a woman reported that she was robbed of her jewelry while she was travelling in an auto-rickshaw.

A team analysed CCTV footage, interrogated several

people and tracked down the accused, they said.

A raid was conducted at the residence of the prime suspect on March 28 and arrested the driver of the auto-rickshaw, Shalinawaz, the police said.

Subsequently, his associates — Danish and Wasim — were nabbed from Loni and Khajuri Khass, respectively.

According to the police, the gang targeted women by luring them into their auto and stealing their valuables mid-journey.

Delhi Police nabs man wanted in extortion case in Goa

New Delhi
The Delhi Police has arrested a 33-year-old man accused in an extortion case and had escaped from the custody of Goa Police while in transit at Mumbai Airport last year, a statement here said on Sunday.

The accused, Imad Khan, was wanted in a case registered at Mapusa in Goa, it said.

According to the police statement, Khan and his associates extorted Rs 30 lakh from a businessman in Goa by posing as officers from the Delhi Police's Narcotics Cell.

The gang had booked villas in Goa for their operation. "They allegedly threatened to leak an obscene video of the victim," it said.

"Khan was arrested by Goa Police but managed to flee from Mumbai Airport on June 19 last year, after a brief scuffle," the statement said.



Several of Khan's accomplices have already been arrested, it added.

Acting on a recent tip-off, a Delhi Police team tracked Khan to Dehradun, where he was apprehended on March 28.

During interrogation, the accused revealed he was introduced to the crime syndicate by a woman who had connections with other accused, police said.

Authorities have been informed about Khan's arrest, and further proceedings are underway, they added.

Four arrested for robbing Rs 30 lakh in Delhi's Pitampura

New Delhi
Four people have been arrested in connection with a robbery case in Pitampura, a police officer said on Sunday.

The accused has been identified as Sanchit (22), Shival (24), Rustam (35) and Anil (42).

According to the officer, a joint team of Delhi Police arrested Sanchit and Shival from Baghpat in Uttar Pradesh on Friday, and Rustam and Anil from Sonapat in Haryana on Saturday.

He said Anil was found to be a history-sheeter with multiple criminal cases on him.

According to police, the incident happened when the complainant, Krishan Gupta (59), and his servant Balvinder Singh was taking Rs 30 lakh on a



scoter on March 25.

According to the officer, a joint team of Delhi Police arrested Sanchit and Shival from Baghpat in Uttar Pradesh on Friday, and Rustam and Anil from Sonapat in Haryana on Saturday.

Near a private bank in Pitampura, two assailants attacked them with sticks, forcing Balvinder to flee. The robbers snatched the cash from Gupta and fled on a motorcycle.

"After an FIR was registered, police launched an investigation. They analysed CCTV footage to track the suspects' hideouts, and arrested the four men. During interrogation, they confessed to the crime.

Two killed in car accident in Delhi's Naraina

New Delhi
Two persons were killed after a car crashed into a tree in west Delhi's Naraina in the early hours of Sunday, police said.

Two persons were seriously injured in the accident which took place around 2.45 pm, they said.

The car involved in the accident, a Maruti Giaz, was badly damaged due to the impact of the collision. The cause of the accident was not known immediately, according to police.

Police rushed to the spot after receiving information about the incident around 2.45 am, an officer said.

"All four occupants of the vehicle sustained injuries and were immediately rushed to a nearby hospital. Two of them succumbed to their injuries

while the other two are undergoing treatment," he said.

The deceased have been identified as Lakshit Negi (22) and Yash Verma (21), both residents of Delhi's Hari Nagar. The injured were identified as Yash Gupta (22) and Himanshu (23), the officer said.

It is suspected that the car driver lost control of the vehicle, leading to the crash. However, the exact cause will be known after the investigation has been completed, police said.

"We are checking CCTV footage of the incident to ascertain the sequence of events," the officer said.

Meanwhile, four people sustained minor injuries after a car jumped a traffic signal and hit a truck from behind on the Mehrauli-Badarpur road in south Delhi, according to police.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Knows all men that my client Smt. Asha Rani W/o Sh. Raj Kumar R/o, H.No. 147, Old Police Chowk, Block - C, Near Shyam Mandir, Harijan Basti, Bawana, Delhi has disown and debar her son and daughter-in-law namely Deepak Gupta and Rekha from all movable and immovable properties and has severed relations with them due to their bad behavior, attitude and disrespectful conduct. If anybody deals with them shall do so at his own risk and my client shall not be responsible for the same.

AJAY SHARMA & ASSOCIATES
Advocates & Legal Consultants

CHAMBER: Ch. No. 817, 8TH Floor, Lawyers Chamber Building, Rohini Court, Delhi - 110085

PUBLIC NOTICE

"My Client Mr. Parsam Panwar s/o (L) Sh. Shankar Lal Panwar and Mrs. Padma Devi w/o Mr. Parsam Panwar, both resident of 1365, 2nd Floor, Rani Bagh, Delhi-110034 do hereby irrevocably, unconditionally and Irreversibly declare and state that we have DOWNGIVEN and DISINHERITED our son Mr. Sanjay Panwar and he alongwith his legal heir (if any) has no right of whatsoever on my clients self-acquired properties."

Ayush Kapur
Advocate
B-1, Rana Pratap Bagh, New Delhi-110007

NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY

T. Notice No.: 230-Elect/TPR/PR/E-Tender Notice/2025/2558 Date: 27.03.2025

E-TENDER NOTICE

Sr. Div. Electrical Engineer/TPR/SPU/ N.C. Rly/Patnagar, for and on behalf of the President of India, invite the following E-Tender for the details of the tenders as under -

T. No.: 230-TRD-1/2025-2025

Description of work: Provision of Monkey Anti Climbing Device to prevent climbing of Monkey over Traction Installation Structures in Division Section Jhijhikha - Chhipiyana Buzurg of Patnagar Division (India).

Advised value: Rs. 60,61,885.00 **Bid Security:** Rs. 1,21,200.00

Completion Period: 09 Months **Bidding system:** Single Packet

Tender Closing date & Time: 21.04.2025 at 15:00 Hrs

Tender opening date & Time: 21.04.2025 at 15:00 Hrs

Allocation: Capital & RR/IK (UID) No. 060236194005, 060236224004

Note: (1) The complete information along with tender document of above E-Tenders shall be available on Website www.treps.gov.in 21 days prior to the date of opening of the tender. (2) Bids other than in the form of E-Bids shall not be accepted against above tenders. For this purpose, vendors are required to get themselves registered with IREPS website along with Digital Signature Certificate. (3) In case of any difficulty/helpdesk available on the website of IREPS may be approached.

55525 (0)

North central railways @ www.nccr.indianrailways.gov.in @ CPOR/NCR

NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY

Letter No. -DRM/C/AGRA/Parcel/E-Auction Dated: 28.03.2025

E-Auction Notice

On Behalf of the President of India, The Sr. Divisional Commercial Manager, North Central Railway-Agra invites E-Auction as per categories given as under -

Category: Parcel **Auction Catalogue No. AGRA-LEASING-37**

Asset Details

- 01 (F1) SLR Unit in Train no. 12178
- 01 (F1) SLR Unit in Train no. 12547
- 01 (F1) SLR Unit in Train no. 12195-Tuesday, Thursday & Saturday
- 01 (F1) SLR Unit in Train no. 15110
- 01 (F1) SLR Unit in Train no. 12195-Sunday, Wednesday & Friday
- 01 (F1) SLR Unit in Train no. 15055
- 01 (F1) SLR Unit in Train no. 10819
- 01 (F1) SLR Unit in Train no. 20976
- 01 (F1) SLR Unit in Train no. 05914
- 10.01 (F1) SLR Unit in Train no. 11905
- 11.01 (F1) SLR Unit in Train no. 22988
- 12.01 (F1) SLR Unit in Train no. 11992
- 13.01 (F2) SLR Unit in Train no. 05914-Monday, Tuesday & Thursday

E-Auction Start Date and Time: Date: -15.04.2025 Time: -11:00

E-Auction End Date and Time: Date: -15.04.2025 Time: -13:30

Note: - Prospective bidders are requested to visit E-Auction Leasing module on IREPS website (www.treps.gov.in) 21 days prior to the date available thereon under the above mentioned Catalogue Number. 56625 (D)

North central railways @ www.nccr.indianrailways.gov.in @ CPOR/NCR

Prime Minister Modi in Nagpur: Sealing BJP-RSS Unity and Defining India's Political Future



Dr. Anil Singh, Editor, STAR Views

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Nagpur on March 30, 2025, marked a significant political event, showcasing the unparalleled unity between the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and its ideological mentor, the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS). The visit, his first to the RSS headquarters since becoming Prime Minister in 2014, carried both symbolic and strategic significance, effectively dispelling speculation of a rift between Modi and RSS Chief Mohan Bhagwat. It underscored the cooperative and seamless relationship between these two powerful entities, further consolidating Modi's position as the unequivocal leader within both the BJP and the RSS ecosystem.

Reaffirming Ideological Roots at Shruti Mandir

Prime Minister Modi initiated his historic visit by paying homage at the renowned Dr. Hridaynath Shruti Mandir in Nagpur's Rashinagar area, dedicated to RSS

founder Keshar Ballam Heggewar and the second chief M.S. Gokulkar. Modi's tribute alongside RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat was profoundly symbolic, reinforcing his personal and ideological connection with the Sangh. Writing in the nation's book, Modi emphasized that the memorial serves as an eternal inspiration for thousands of volunteers committed to serving the nation, thereby sending a strong message of unwavering commitment to RSS principles.

Symbolic Gesture at Deekshabhoomi

In a significant gesture emphasizing industry, Modi subsequently visited Deekshabhoomi, a landmark site where Dr. B.R. Ambedkar addressed the nation in 1956. By paying respects at this historic location, Modi underscored his government's commitment to Ambedkar's ideals of social equality and justice. His address reaffirmed his vision of a developed and inclusive India, resonating deeply with Ambedkar's followers and broader societal segments advocating social equity.

Boosting Healthcare Infrastructure

Highlighting developmental priorities, Modi laid the foundation stone for the Medhav Natralaya Premium Centre, an extension of the renowned Medhav Natralaya Eye Institute & Research Centre. This healthcare initiative, dedicated to Govalkar's



Debunking Media Speculations of BJP-RSS Rift

A central aspect of Modi's visit was its effective neutralization of persistent media speculations about tensions between him and RSS Chief Mohan Bhagwat. Over recent months, Indian media had intensified speculations around alleged differences between BJP and RSS leaderships, suggesting ideological and operational discord. However, Modi's warm interactions with RSS leaders, notably Mohan Bhagwat, clearly demonstrated the strength of their mutual trust and ideological alignment.

Strategic Push for Defence Self-Reliance

Modi's visit also included a strategic focus on national security. He inaugurated an advanced ammunition facility and a dedicated 1250-meter airstrip designed for Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs) at Solar Defence and Aerospace Limited in Nagpur. Additionally, Modi unveiled a facility for testing lobbing munitions, significantly boosting India's indigenous defence capabilities. These initiatives reflect Modi's sustained emphasis on "Atmanirbhar Bharat" (self-reliant India) in defence, crucial for national sovereignty and geopolitical stability.

Clarifying the BJP's Leadership Future

Modi's Nagpur visit holds special significance for the BJP's internal dynamism, particularly in the context of selecting a new national president. His presence and

Unmatched Cadre Strength and Electoral Dominance

The BJP-RSS alliance boasts the world's largest cadre base for any political organization, providing unmatched grassroots strength. This enormous network has proven pivotal in BJP's electoral victories across numerous state assemblies and successive national elections. Modi's explicit show of unity with RSS leadership further invigorates these grassroots workers, setting a robust foundation for BJP's continued electoral success. Such cadre

mobilization, combined with ideological coherence, significantly amplifies BJP's organizational and electoral effectiveness, making them an unparalleled force in Indian politics.

Conclusion: Shaping India's Political Landscape

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's landmark Nagpur visit vividly demonstrates his undisputed authority within both BJP and RSS frameworks, conclusively dismissing narratives of internal friction. This visit not only reiterates the cohesive ideological and operational synergy between the BJP and RSS but also clarifies the roadmap for BJP's immediate political future, particularly concerning leadership succession. As India moves toward pivotal elections, Modi's unequivocal display of unity and strategic alignment with RSS consolidates BJP's dominant position in the political landscape. Thus, Modi's visit embodies not merely an internal reaffirmation but a strategic move designed to sustain BJP's electoral dominance and ideological influence well into the future.

THE WRITER IS AN EDITOR OF STAR VIEWS AND AUTHOR OF FORTHCOMING BOOK 'THE PRIME MINISTER: DISCOURSES IN INDIAN POLITICS' (RELEASED ON 30 APRIL 4:30 PM AT TEEN MURTI SHOW BY IJG OF JAMNA & KASHMIR HANSAVATI KANG SIMBA.)

Breaking Time Sudoku

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

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

Solution, Sudoku

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

THE WISDOM TREE BY SUVEEN KUMAR

REFELCTION

Everything clearly reflects. It reflects when you are loved, it reflects when you are unloved, it reflects when you are relaxed, it reflects when you are disturbed. It reflects when you think of someone and blush, it reflects when someone waits for you and your rush, a mere reflection of love sweetens everything around you and a bare reflection of disappointment everything around you, eyes with kindness, mouth with sweetness, skin with softness and thoughts with greatness stay desirable. Don't let anything come in you that you don't want the world to see, because everything that is in there will reflect. Everything throws some signals that are felt by everyone around you. Reflection doubles your power when it brings you inside and out and it leaves your power when it brings you outside.

life is easy when you and your reflection are on the same page, life is difficult when you are your reflection don't really talk to each other and life is death when your own reflection is your enemy, dean yourself every day as you get yourself dirty everyday, nourish yourself everyday as you fight a battle everyday, diminish yourself everyday as you remain with yourself everyday, adjust with yourself everyday as you change yourself everyday, hold yourself everyday as you let fall yourself everyday, save yourself everyday as you spend yourself everyday, praise yourself everyday as you insult yourself everyday, celebrate yourself every day as you self every day as you find yourself everyday.

Moral: Be so clean in life that you can feel proud of your reflection.

US-India Trade Tensions Escalate Amid Import Surge



By Santosh Sharma

The escalating trade war between India and the United States has brought significant concerns to the forefront, particularly in high-tech and high-value trade sectors. Under the new Donald Trump administration, India has found itself grappling with challenges posed by tariff and increasing imports from the US. While much of the focus has been on manufacturing, technology, and other industrial sectors, certain imports—such as dry fruits—have gone largely unnoticed despite their substantial growth. The US has gained a remarkable 93 percent share of the global dry fruit market in India, making significant inroads without drawing much resistance or scrutiny.

India's growing reliance on trade and tariff stems from the US imposing tariffs on key products such as steel and aluminium. These measures have caused disruptions in India's manufacturing sector, potentially hindering its long-term growth. The complex trade relationship between the two nations has seen a shift where rising imports from the US are impacting various sectors of the Indian economy. India has voiced concerns about the long-term implications of such trade imbalances, which could threaten domestic industries by

increasing dependence on US imports. A striking example of this shift is the replacement of traditional dry fruit suppliers, such as Afghanistan and Iran, by the US. Afghan and Iranian almonds, walnuts, and pistachios, known for their high level of content and superior nutritional value, have been gradually supplanted by American counterparts. The preference for larger-sized nuts, coupled with lower tariffs on US imports, has led to a significant increase in US supply. A small portion of nut imports also comes from Australia, and 2 percent of the total supply following recent trade agreements.

This surge in imports has been driven by increasing consumer demand and limited domestic production. India's indigenous almond production for the 2024-25 period is estimated to be around 4,500 tonnes, whereas the demand has skyrocketed, prompting imports of nearly 10 lakh tonnes. According to the US Department of Agriculture, the rise in US exports to India is part of a larger strategy to dominate the Indian market. Data from Georgia-based GTRI shows that almond imports by India have

grown 5.5 times since 2008. Pistachio imports have also seen a sharp increase, rising from 2,000 tonnes to 15,500 tonnes in 2021. Of the total almond imports worth \$940.8 million, approximately \$868.2 million—92.3 percent—comes from the US. Similarly, the US supplies 85 percent of India's pistachio imports, amounting to \$221.2 million of the total \$141.5 million. Comparatively, Iran's share in pistachio exports to India remains marginal at 3.5 percent. Stuffed pistachios see slightly more competition, with 34 percent coming from Afghanistan, while walnuts are largely supplied by Chile (78.5 percent) and Afghanistan (4.1 percent). The US contributes only 16.9 percent of India's total walnut imports, amounting to \$4.6 million of the total \$86.6 million.

The increasing presence of US agricultural products in India is a result of a well-orchestrated strategy that has been unfolding for over a decade. Since the Indo-US nuclear deal in 2007, successive American administrations have been working to increase US exports to India through various means, including tariff negotiations and diplomatic maneuvers. The aggressive trade policies under Donald Trump have only accelerated this strategy. Trump has taken a confrontational approach toward India's trade policies, often labeling the country as the "tariff king." In a recent interview with US-based Breitbart News, Trump stated, "I have a very good relationship with India. I believe they are going to probably low-

er those tariffs substantially, but on April 2, we will be changing the same tariff as they charge us." This statement suggests that India is likely to face increased pressure to allow US goods entry at significantly reduced tariffs.

While Trump's administration has aggressively pushed for greater market access, it is important to note that this trend predates his tenure. Even during Joe Biden's administration, US agencies systematically worked to expand American exports to both developed and developing markets, including the European Union. A key component of this strategy has been lobbying for reduced tariffs and the implementation of favorable policies that facilitate US products. The US Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS), a division of the US Department of Agriculture (USDA), has been actively involved in enhancing market opportunities for American agricultural producers. The lifting of retaliatory tariffs by India in September 2023, which were originally imposed in 2018, has further bolstered US exports of almonds, apples, chickpeas, lentils, and walnuts. As a result, the FAS now predicts that US almond exports to India could see exponential growth in 2024-25. Similarly, US apple exports, which had dropped to \$4.8 million in 2022 due to retaliatory tariffs, have the potential to rise significantly to \$50-\$80 million.

This economic engagement between India and the US, however, is not limited to agricultural

products. It extends to a wide range of sectors, including technology, pharmaceuticals, and defense. The lack of respect for multilateral institutions like the World Trade Organization and the United Nations has enabled the US to adopt more direct trade tactics, including coercion and anti-wrestling strategies. This extends beyond advanced defense technology such as F-35 stealth fighters—products that India has little immediate need for—and includes high-impact marketing campaigns that position American products as premium choices. In particular, the marketing strategies employed by American dry fruit suppliers have significantly influenced consumer perception. By leveraging e-commerce platforms, US brands have positioned California almonds and other products as superior health foods, despite the fact that Asian varieties, including those from Iran and Afghanistan, often offer better nutritional value at lower prices.

The Indian government, led by Commerce Secretary Smit Barlow, has acknowledged the ongoing trade negotiations with the US but has denied reaching any final agreements on tariffs. On March 10, Barlow informed a parliamentary panel that discussions were still in progress. However, India's commitment to deepening ties with the US implies that further concessions may be made, opening more doors for American imports.

's lies in countering this growing trade imbalance and safeguarding its domestic industries. The US has carefully studied the Indian market and executed sophisticated campaigns to promote its goods. The rebranding of American dry fruits as premium health products and the aggressive marketing efforts of US agencies demonstrate how trade strategies extend beyond simple tariff negotiations. The preference for US products over superior Asian counterparts highlights the effectiveness of these campaigns, further underscoring the need for India to reevaluate its trade policies.

To maintain a balanced trade relationship, India must develop countermeasures to protect its market and regulate imports effectively. This requires strategic diplomatic efforts, comprehensive economic studies, and collaboration with international trade organizations. In an increasingly globalized economy, successfully navigating the pressures imposed by a dominant trading partner like the US demands a multifaceted approach that incorporates trade policy reforms, consumer awareness initiatives, and diplomatic maneuvering. The future of Indo-US trade relations will largely depend on how effectively India can respond to this aggressive push from the US while maintaining its economic sovereignty and protecting its domestic industries from unfair competition.

(The writer is a senior journalist)

TOP STORY

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SHORT STORIES

UP Woman daughter murdered in Gorakhpur home

Gorakhpur (UP)

A woman and her 10-year-old daughter were brutally murdered inside their home here allegedly by some people from their village, police said on Sunday.

The woman's 18-year-old daughter Khushi, who was sleeping in a separate room and locked herself inside to save herself, recognised the attackers' voices and identified them as Sanjay, his father and others who live in the same village, they said.

The incident happened late Saturday night in Shivpur Chakdah village. Poonam Nishad (40) and her younger daughter Anushka were asleep when they were brutally attacked with sharp-edged weapons by the accused, they said.

In her statement, Khushi said that Sanjay's father instructed the group to kill her as well, but they fled after she told them that she had called the police, they said.

Khushi rushed out after the attackers left and found her mother and sister lying in a pool of blood. Poonam died on the spot, while Anushka succumbed to injuries during treatment, the police said.

SP (North) Jitendra Srivastava stated, "Forensic teams have gathered evidence and suspects have been detained for questioning."

"We are analyzing call records and CCTV footage to establish the exact sequence of events. Further investigations are underway," he said.

The bodies have been sent for post-mortem examination, he added.

Law is for everyone who is in dire need of it: Justice Surya Kant

Shimla

Law is not just for those who can afford it, but anyone who is in dire need of it, Supreme Court of India Justice Surya Kant said here on Sunday.

He was addressing the second convocation ceremony of the Himachal Pradesh National Law University (HFNLU) held at the Judicial Academy.

Justice Surya Kant encouraged students to push beyond their limits, emphasising that success requires determination and intelligence. He also spoke about self-doubt, integrity and continuous growth, some of the challenges faced by law students.

During the ceremony, Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Sukhvir Singh Sukhu said that studying law instils confidence in people, regardless of their chosen field.

"I also earned a law degree from HPU, but I never practised. I was interested in politics and social service and with the blessings of the people of the state, I have the opportunity to serve the state today," he said.

Sukhu said the real challenges in life begin after obtaining a degree and that true knowledge comes from experience.

During the ceremony, the Degree of Doctor of Laws, Honoris Causa, was conferred upon Justice Sanjay Karol, Judge of the Supreme Court of India and Justice Rajeev Shukla, Former Chief Justice of the Himachal Pradesh High Court, in recognition of their contributions to the field of law.

A total of 451 students received their degrees, including 114 from the BA LLB programme, 111 from the BBA LLB programme, 211 from the LLM programme and 15 doctoral candidates awarded PhD degrees.

Haryana CM Saini flags off marathon in Sonapat urges youngsters to stay away from drugs

Komal Ramola Chandigarh

Healthy individuals can foster a healthy society, Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini said on Sunday, as he urged youngsters to adopt a healthy lifestyle and stay away from drugs.

Flagging off a marathon in Sonapat, the chief minister said its purpose was to keep the body healthy so that the state and the country could progress at a greater pace.

A number of school and college students, young athletes, police personnel and senior citizens participated in the marathon held in three categories of five, 10 and 21 kilometres.

"This marathon is to create awareness towards sports and mobilise society against drugs, Saini said.

"It is a matter of joy that thousands are taking part in



this marathon... Participation in such events sends a good message to society and citizens, children and youngsters get inspiration from it," he added.

Healthy individuals can foster a healthy society and a robust society is the cornerstone of a country and a state's development and progress, Saini said. "Our aim is to make Haryana drug-free by making people aware."

Extending his greetings

on Navratri, the chief minister said, "Today, on this auspicious occasion, we must return from here with the resolution that we will never indulge in drug addiction."

Mission teams have been formed at the village, ward and state level to combat the drugs menace, he said. "We will also ensure the participation of gram panchayats and sarpanchs in this campaign against drug abuse so that we can eradicate the

source from every village."

A programme has also been started at the school, college and academic institution level, he added.

He later honoured the winners of the marathon and administered an oath to the youngsters on staying off drugs.

Saini congratulated all participants in the marathon, saying involvement in such events sent a positive message to society.

To further Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Fit India Movement, Haryana has consistently promoted marathons, sports, yoga and Raahgiri initiatives, the chief minister said.

Saini underscored the movement's goal of making fitness a fundamental aspect of daily life.

The prime minister's promotion of yoga, especially with June 21 being observed as International Yoga Day, has greatly contributed to

awareness about fitness, he said.

He encouraged the runners to inspire their families and neighbours to embrace fitness, affirming the government's commitment to prioritising public health.

The marathon was part of Haryana Uday, launched in June 2023 and aimed at fostering public welfare through community engagement.

The chief minister promised to organise more such events, including initiatives

focused on cooperation between police and the public, Raahgiri, cyclothon, sports competitions in crime-affected areas, and de-addiction campaigns.

The BJP's state chief Mohan Lal Badoli, Haryana minister Arvind Sharma, Sonapat MLA Nikhil Madaan and Sonapat Mayor Rajiv Jain, among others, were present on the occasion.

Probe in Sanjivani Society case has stopped since BJP came to power in Rajasthan: Gehlot

Jaipur

Former Rajasthan chief minister Ashok Gehlot on Sunday alleged that after the BJP government came to power in the state, investigation into the Sanjivani Credit Cooperative Society scam has almost come to a halt.

He said Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Union Cooperative Minister Amit Shah and Chief Minister Bhajpal Sharma should take cognizance of the matter.

The scam, under probe since 2019, pertains to Sanjivani Credit Society defrauding thousands of investors to the tune of Rs 900 crore.

Gehlot also pointed out irregularities in the Adarsh Credit Co-operative Society scam case.

"Adarsh Credit Co-operative Society cheated people in many states including Rajasthan and Gujarat, and looted their hard-earned money. The Enforcement Directorate (ED) attached several properties acquired from this looted money, so that the legal process could be completed and the money could be returned to investors,"

he said. "I urge the Prime Minister, Cooperative Minister and Chief Minister to take cognizance of these financial irregularities being committed and take action to provide justice to the victims of societies like Adarsh and Sanjivani in Rajasthan," Gehlot added.

he said.

Gehlot said that after ED attached Adarsh Society's properties on April 8, 2019, officials in Sirahi initiated the process of transferring many lands in the name of the liquidator in 2024 and 2025 without the agency's permission.

He said Sirahi officials auctioned 22 bighas of land at one-fourth the market rate without ED's permission.

"This shows that BJP leaders and state government officials were together in doing injustice to the investors," he said in a post on microblogging site X.

"Similarly, after the BJP government came to power in the state, the investigation of the Sanjivani Society case has almost stopped. The SOG (special operations group) is no longer considering many people as accused," he said.

"I urge the Prime Minister, Cooperative Minister and Chief Minister to take cognizance of these financial irregularities being committed and take action to provide justice to the victims of societies like Adarsh and Sanjivani in Rajasthan," Gehlot added.

Akhilesh slams BJP gov't over economic crisis, business policies

Lucknow

Samajwadi Party's national president and former Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister, Akhilesh Yadav, strongly criticized the BJP government, alleging that the country is trapped in an economic crisis under its rule. Addressing a program organized by the Tapasya Foundation Trust for small businessmen and entrepreneurs at Hotel Taj in Lucknow, Yadav claimed that the BJP's flawed economic policies have severely impacted the business sector.

As the chief guest at the event, Yadav accused the BJP government of destroying the banking sector, forcing banks into mergers, and rendering the ease of doing business ineffective. He claimed that corruption, crime, and commission have overtaken business operations, and that GST and TDS have entangled the entire business sector. He further asserted that the government has failed to promote "Make in India," instead allowing China to dominate manufacturing.

The Samajwadi Party leader accused the BJP of creating business opportunities only for a select few, while inflation and unemployment continue to rise. He criticized the government's claim of India being



the third-largest economy, pointing out that 80 crore people still rely on government ration. Yadav questioned the per capita income of these citizens and condemned the BJP's economic policies as a complete failure, stating that unemployment is at an all-time high and that youth lack job opportunities.

Yadav also expressed concern over the neglect of women in business and trade, delayed payments in the MSME sector, and a lack of support for agriculture. He assured that a Samajwadi government would simplify business policies and ensure security, respect, and business opportunities for women.

Lashing out at the BJP government for presenting misleading statistics, Yadav claimed that developmental work has stalled under its rule. He highlighted the

promotion of the party's Positive Development Agenda (PDA) as opposed to BJP's "Negative Development Agenda."

He highlighted the achievements of the Samajwadi government in Uttar Pradesh, including the development of IT City in Lucknow, an international stadium, medical colleges, hospitals, universities, and four-lane roads connecting districts and tehsils. He also pointed to initiatives such as the Gomti Riverfront development, laptop distribution for students, and market establishments for farmers.

The event was also addressed by Samajwadi Party's national general secretary, Shrivastava Singh Yadav, who emphasized the need for simplified business operations through measures such as a single-window clearance system, tax benefits, MSME support, and labor law reforms.

Among the notable attendees were Tapasya Foundation Trust's founder, Pooja Kishwani, guide Pt. Sunil Kumar Vashistha, and patrons Nitin Kohli and Shantam Bohra. Former cabinet minister Rajendra Chaudhary, Samajwadi Mahila Sabha national president Jui Singh, and general secretary Meenakshi Agrawal were also present at the event.

Uttar Pradesh's Crime Rate Drops: A Success Story

Lucknow

Under Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath's leadership, Uttar Pradesh has witnessed historic improvements in law and order over the past eight years. Since 2017, heinous crimes such as dacoity, robbery, riots, murder, kidnapping, and rape have plummeted by up to 85%. The government's zero-tolerance policy has significantly enhanced security across the state, tightening the crackdown on mafia networks and criminal elements.

According to police records, robbery incidents have dropped by 84.41% compared to 2016, while loot cases have declined by 77.43%. A similar reduction has been observed in crimes like kidnapping, dowry-related murders, and rape. The proactive approach of law enforcement, backed by modern surveillance techniques like CCTV monitoring, has been instrumental in apprehending criminals.



The Yogi government has also launched large-scale operations against mafias, gangsters, and land grabbers, seizing illegal assets worth over Rs 142 billion. Cases have been registered against 68 mafia leaders and their 1,500 associates, with 617 criminals arrested and the Gangster Act imposed on 752 offenders.

During Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath's tenure, Uttar Pradesh has advanced in development and set a new benchmark in law enforcement. Combining an active police force, technological advancements, and stringent laws have dismantled criminal networks, ensuring a safer environment for every citizen—one of the government's most significant achievements.

Rajasthan's legacy enriches our nation: Arunachal Guv

Itanagar

Arunachal Pradesh Governor Lt Gen (Retd) K T Parnak on Sunday praised the people of Rajasthan for their contributions to Arunachal Pradesh's development and unwavering efforts in preserving and sharing their cultural heritage.

"Rajasthan's history is not just the pride of the state but an integral part of India's glorious heritage, defined by valour, patriotism, and rich traditions," the governor said at a special celebration held at Raj Bhavan here, to mark Rajasthan Foundation Day.

The event, organised in the spirit of "Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat", symbolised cultural harmony, reinforcing the deep-rooted connections between the people of Rajasthan and Arunachal Pradesh, a Raj Bhavan release stated.

Parnak emphasised the importance of celebrating the foundation days of different states, highlighting how such events foster national unity, goodwill, and stronger inter-state ties.

MP Chahar thanks PM Modi for declaring national holiday on Dr. Ambedkar Jayanti

Aakash Jain Agra

In a historic move, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has declared a national public holiday on the birth anniversary of Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar, a decision that has been met with widespread appreciation, particularly from the Dalit community. Expressing his gratitude, Fatchpur Sikri MP and National President of the Kisan Morcha, Rajkumar Chahar, lauded the Prime Minister for fulfilling a long-standing demand of millions across the country.

MP Rajkumar Chahar emphasized that the declaration of April 14 as a national holiday underscores the government's commitment to the values and contributions of Dr. Ambedkar. "This decision reflects the Modi government's dedication to ensuring that Baba Saheb's dreams and nationalist resolutions are realized," he stated.

He further pointed out that the demand for a national holiday on Dr. Ambedkar's birth anniversary had been pending for many years. "Prime Minister Modi has fulfilled this long-standing demand, and this move has won the hearts of the Dalit



community," he added. Chahar asserted that the current government is taking significant steps to protect the rights of Dalits, unlike previous administrations, which, according to him, had not addressed their concerns in such a comprehensive

manner.

This year, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has announced grand celebrations to honor Dr. Ambedkar's birth anniversary. Nationwide programs are being planned at the state, district, and provincial levels to pay tribute to the architect of the Indian Constitution. The party has urged all its members and the general public to actively participate in the celebrations by decorating Dr. Ambedkar's memorials and commemorating his invaluable contributions to society.

Chahar reiterated that Dr. Ambedkar's vision and work have paved the way for Dalit empowerment. "It is because of the Constitution drafted by Baba Saheb that Dalit youth today live with dignity and

are making significant contributions in various fields," he said.

The decision to declare April 14 as a national holiday is being hailed as a significant step toward social inclusion and recognition of Dr. Ambedkar's lifelong struggle for justice and equality. Political analysts believe that this move will further solidify the BJP's support base among Dalits and reaffirm the party's commitment to Ambedkar's principles of social justice and empowerment.

The announcement has sparked enthusiasm among supporters and social activists, who see this as a long-overdue recognition of Dr. Ambedkar's immense contributions to the nation. As India prepares to celebrate his legacy with renewed fervor, the decision is expected to strengthen the socio-political fabric of the country, fostering greater unity and respect for his ideals.

With the national holiday now in place, citizens across the country will have the opportunity to reflect on Dr. Ambedkar's contributions and continue working toward an India that embodies his vision of equality, justice, and fraternity.

Ayodhya witnesses massive devotee turnout on first day of Chaitra Navratri

Ayodhya

With elaborate security arrangements in place by the Yogi government, thousands of devotees thronged the historic temples of Ayodhya to offer prayers on the first day of Navratri. From the early hours of the morning, long queues of worshippers were seen at various temples, seeking the blessings of Goddess Shailputri.

Major temples, including Badi Devkali, the Kuldevi (family deity) of Lord Ram, and Chhoti Devkali, the Kuldevi of Goddess Sita, witnessed an overwhelming influx of devotees eager for darshan.

Chants of "Jai Mata Di" echoed throughout the sacred city as devotees commenced the nine-day festival by performing Kalash Sthapana (sacred urn installation) in their homes, marking the arrival of the Goddess. By dawn, temple premises were abuzz with activity, as crowds gathered, filling the atmosphere with devotional songs and Vedic chants.

At Badi Devkali Temple, devotees patiently waited for hours to seek the blessings of Lord Ram's Kuldevi, while at Chhoti Devkali Temple, the devotion to



wards Goddess Sita's Kuldevi was evident in the overwhelming turnout. Worshippers offered flowers, prasad, and heartfelt prayers at the feet of the Goddess, expressing their unwavering faith. Many devotees observed a fast on the first day, performing special rituals to honor the occasion.

The temples in Ayodhya were beautifully decorated with flowers and colorful lights. On the auspicious occasion of Nav Samvatsar 2082 (Chaitra Shukla Pratipada), devotees offered Arghya (water oblation) to the rising sun in the sacred Sarayu River, praying for peace and prosperity in Ayodhya. Warm wishes and greetings were exchanged to mark the beginning of the new Hindu year.

After offering prayers at

the Devi temple, devotees visited Ram Mandir and Hanuman Garhi, where large crowds continued to gather late into the night. Since it was a Sunday, the Jamnabhoomi Path was packed with devotees. By the evening, major locations like Lata Chowk and Ram Ki Paldi also witnessed a heavy rush of devotees.

With both Navratri and the upcoming Ram Navami celebrations, the administration has made extensive security and crowd management arrangements. A strong police presence, including a special deployment of women officers, ensures the safety and convenience of women devotees. Barricades and queue management systems have been set up to regulate the crowd effectively.

Starc's five-for, Du Plessis' fifty propel DC to second straight win

Visakhapatnam

of Du Plessis' excellent fifty and Mitchell Starc's five-wicket haul were the lead acts in Delhi Capitals' comprehensive seven-wicket win over Sunrisers Hyderabad in the IPL match here on Sunday.

Du Plessis (50, 27b, 3x4, 3x6) added 81 runs with his opening partner Jake Fraser-McGurk (38, 32b) as the Capitals overhauled Hyderabad's inadequate 162 all out in 16 overs, for their second win on the trot.

Once DC openers made a quick start off the block, the result was never in doubt, but their approach was vastly different.

Du Plessis wound the clock back with some stunning shots, such as a straight six off Pat Cummins.

But at other end, McGurk was struggling for his timing, partly because of his exaggerated back-lift and partly because of his desire to hit all the ball out of the park.

However, his senior partner was willing to do the heavy-lifting and brought up his fifty in 26 balls.

The South African thus became the third 40-plus batter to score a 50 in the IPL after Adam Gilchrist and Chris Gayle.

But the alliance was snapped when debutant leg-spinner Zeeshan Ansari (3/42) dismissed Du Plessis, who departed after Viaan Mulder took a brilliant running catch to join the list of stanning catchers in the evening.

The impressive 25-year-old Ansari,



Hyderabad to settle for a woefully sub-par 163 all out.

Aniket showed how to capitalise a smooth pitch with a wisely accelerated innings but there were not many takers for that route in the Sunrisers camp.

The Hyderabad side's beginning itself was flawed, losing four wickets in the Power Play that earned them 58 runs.

Abhishek Sharma barely heeded to Travis Head's call for a single and started late, only to see Vipraj Nigam's underarm throwing the stumps before he crossed the crease. Head himself did not last too long.

The left-hander wanted to steer his Australian teammate Mitchell Starc (5/34) over the wicketkeeper's head but the feeble edge nestled in the hands of Rahul.

It was the sixth time Starc dismissed Head across all approved competitions.

In his previous over, Starc struck twice to jettison Ishan Kishan (2) and Nitish Kumar Reddy (10) to reduce SRH to 25 for three.

Kishan tried to cut a pacy delivery but offered a simple catch to Tristan Stubbs at deep backward point while Nitish's pull off an off-cutter ended in the hands of Axar Patel at mid-on.

But Aniket held the stumbling SRH innings together through a 77-run alliance with Heinrich Klaasen (32, 19b) until the latter fell to a brilliant catch by Nigam off Mohit Sharma (1/25).

Aniket, waited for spinners to come into attack and Axar was his favoured whipping boy — smacking him for four sixes in all.

The 22-year-old from Madhya Pradesh, who was dropped on six by Porel off Axar, fetched his fifty off 34 balls, his first in a nascent four-match IPL career.

The right-hander scored runs at a strike-rate of 194 against the spinners, and was more cautious against pacers but still struck them around at 148.

Aniket looked set for a hundred but Fraser-McGurk's athletic catch, which was a feature of Delhi's fielding on the day, in the deep off Kuldeep Yadav (3/22) ended his stint.

Australia announce action-packed 2025/26 home season fixtures



Melbourne

Cricket Australia on Sunday announced a blockbuster schedule for the men and women's senior teams for the upcoming 2025/26 home season.

The men's team will face South Africa in August this year for three T20is and as many ODIs.

Later in the year, they will host India for three ODIs and the first-ever five-match T20i series between the two cricketing powerhouses, as per ICC.

These eight T20is will come in handy as Australia prepares for the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2026, which will be co-hosted by India and Sri Lanka.

The highlight of the Australian summer will be the Ashes, where Pat Cummins's Australia will look to defend the trophy that they have held since the 2017-18 series against Ben Stokes's England.

The women's team will host India for a multi-format tour in February next

Getting three CSK wickets during their powerplay was game changing: RCB captain Patidar



year, featuring three T20is, three ODIs, and a solitary Test.

Cricket Australia CEO Todd Greenberg expressed his excitement about the upcoming international season, highlighting its historic significance and strong rivalries.

"We are excited to announce the schedule for what will be another incredible international season including the grand history and intense rivalry of the Ashes, the fantastic box office appeal of the India men's and women's teams and a return to some iconic tourist locations in northern Australia for the white ball series against South Africa.

"We smashed many records for attendance, viewing audiences and digital engagement last summer, and we are confident that this incredible momentum will continue throughout what promises to be an engrossing season," he added.

GT showed us how to bowl on that wicket: Boult



Ahmedabad

Mumbai Indians' senior pacer Trent Boult said the Gujarat Titans bowlers made good use of the black soil pitch at the Narendra Modi Stadium and successfully tied up the MI batters by taking the pace off the ball.

Hosts GT beat MI by 36 runs in their IPL match after posting 196 for eight here on Saturday, as dew did not come into the picture.

"Good tactics from the opposition. If you have those options to do that, it obviously makes sense, but I don't think we'll be using it as an excuse," Boult said at the post-match press conference.

"There are players in our team that have played all over the country on all different types of wickets. So, in all honesty, just an off game tonight, I thought they (GT) scrapped their way to a good total and they showed us how to bowl on that wicket. So full credit to them," Boult added.

The track used for the game was black soil instead of the red one, but the seasoned Kiwi refused to use it as an excuse.

"I think it was just good thinking of using home tactics to your advantage. Obviously, there should be an advantage for the home team. But like I said, not an excuse from our point of view. We understood the wicket was black soil and I don't think we just didn't adjust nicely enough," Boult said.

Set a challenging target of 197, MI were stopped at 160 for six in their allotted 20 overs.

"Well, they got 36 more runs than us. That's what went wrong. I think we can just be 1 or 2 percent better. They took the pace out of the ball, making the batters play big shots combined with scoreboard pressure, that's just good cricket," Boult also conceded that their team was not up to the standards on the field.

"I think the fielding is a part of the game that can never be excused. I think we're a little bit off the field today. Take a catch there on the boundary. Save a couple of boundaries. You know, there's maybe 20 or 30 runs there. So, yeah, time to move on and look forward to doing that," Boult said.

Sanjay Manjrekar on Mumbai Indians' performance against Gujarat Titans

New Delhi

Following the clash against the Gujarat Titans in the Indian Premier League (IPL) 2025, former Indian cricketer Sanjay Manjrekar shared his thoughts on the Mumbai Indians' performance in the ninth game of the ongoing 18th edition of the cash-rich league.

Fiery bowling spells by Prasad Krishna and Mohammed Siraj and a half-century by Sai Sudharshan were the highlights as the Gujarat Titans defeated the Mumbai Indians by 36 runs at Narendra Modi Stadium in Ahmedabad on Saturday.

With this win, GT has added two points to the tally. Also, they continue their impeccable record of 4-0 against MI at Ahmedabad, improving their overall head-to-head record to 4-2.

"Mumbai Indians didn't look at the race when they lost two wickets for 35. In comparison, the Gujarat Titans had around 129 runs for their first two wickets. After that, it seemed like Tilak Varma and Suryakumar Yadav were trying to build a partnership. The challenge with building a partnership in a chase of over 190 is that the required run rate starts to suffer, and that's exactly what happened. In the end, you have to say that the Gujarat Titans batted better—I thought they got maybe 15 to 20 runs over par. The dew never came in, which made Mumbai's job even more difficult. But despite all that, two losses are quite typical for the Mumbai Indians. They still seem to be on the right track to go on and win the title," Sanjay Manjrekar said while speaking to JioHotstar.

Coming to the match, MI won the toss and opted to bowl first. GT openers Shubman Gill (38 in 27 balls, with four boundaries and a six) and Sai Sudharshan put the team to a fine start with a 78-run stand. Another half-century stand came between Sudarshan and Jos Buttler (39 in 24 balls, with five fours and a six). Sudarshan played a solid knock of 63 in 41 balls, with four boundaries and two sixes. From 179/4, GT suffered a mini-collapse towards the end as they were restricted to 196/8 in 20 overs.

Skipper Hardik Pandya (2/29) was the pick of the bowlers for MI, while Trent Boult, Deepak Chahar, Muejeb ur Rahman and Satyanarayana Raju each took a wicket.



New Delhi

Former India cricketer-turned-commentator Sanjay Manjrekar feels former Mumbai Indians skipper Rohit Sharma is "going through a phase". According to Manjrekar, Rohit has reached a stage where he has to "push himself" every morning and train hard because things are slipping away.

It hasn't been a fairytale start to the 18th edition of the Indian Premier League (IPL) 2025 for the seasoned Indian opener. Rohit, who is going to turn 38 next month, was left in agony by Chennai Super Kings' quick Khaled Ahmed.

In the pulsating IPL's 'El Clasico' clash, Khaled cut short Rohit's stay on the crease for a four-ball duck. During MI's second game of the season on Saturday, Rohit fell for 8(4) against the Gujarat Titans.

"Rohit Sharma is clearly going through a phase. He's not the Rohit Sharma of, say, three to four years ago. He's at a stage in his career where he has to push himself every morning and train hard because things are slipping away. He's still relying on his natural talent and instincts," Manjrekar said on JioStar.

Rohit's lean patch isn't limited to the cash-rich league. Even in the international circuit, he is suffering

Rohit has to push himself every morning because things are slipping away: Sanjay Manjrekar



New Delhi

from an elongated patch of dry spell with his bat. His dreadful run in the Test format began with Bangladesh's tour of India in September 2024 and continued until the Border-Gavaskar Trophy. Throughout this phase, Rohit's top score stood at 52 as he garnered runs at an average of 10.93.

Even in India's successful run in the Champions Trophy, Rohit consistently provided quick-fire starts but couldn't convert them into the desired big numbers. His sole fifty in the tournament arrived in the final as he blazed his way to 76 against New Zealand, paving the way for India to lift the coveted title.

In the 18th edition of the tournament, MI began their campaign with two defeats on the trot. Rohit has



found a new opening partner in South African batter Ryan Rickelton, who has also toiled hard for runs.

Manjrekar believes Rickelton needs time to adjust to the Indian pitches, but overall, he isn't convinced about MI's batting order.

"Ryan Rickelton, being a South African, will take time to adjust to Indian pitches," he said. "Very few South African batters, barring AB de Villiers and Heinrich Klaasen, have truly flourished on Indian pitches. So we'll have to give him time," he said.

"Apart from that, Tilak Varma and Suryakumar Yadav, along with Robin Minz and some of the other players, form the batting lineup. However, to me, it still looks a little unconvincing," he added.

Pandya fined Rs 12 lakh for slow over-rate as MI suffer second consecutive defeat in IPL 2025

Ahmedabad (Gujarat)

Mumbai Indians (MI) captain Hardik Pandya has been fined INR 12 lakh for maintaining a slow over-rate during their Indian Premier League (IPL) 2025 match against Gujarat Titans (GT) on Saturday night in Ahmedabad, as per ESPNcricinfo.

This was MI's second match—and second defeat—of the season, but Hardik's first appearance, as he had to serve a suspension for the team's opening fixture. The suspension stemmed from MI's slow over-rate in their final game of IPL 2024 against Lucknow Super Giants (LSG). However, MI and Hardik avoided a harsher penalty this time, as the IPL has removed the rule enforcing bans for repeated over-rate violations. Instead, teams now face monetary fines and in-game field restrictions.

This was the first slow over-rate penalty of IPL 2025 and was issued after the ninth game of the season.

MI, fielding a pace-heavy attack with Trent Boult, Deepak Chahar, Satyanarayana Raju, and Hardik himself, ex-



ceeded the allotted time to complete their overs.

Coming to the match, MI won the toss and opted to bowl first. GT openers Shubman Gill (38 in 27 balls, with four boundaries and a six) and Sai Sudharshan put the team to a fine

start with a 78-run stand. Another half-century stand came between Sudarshan and Jos Buttler (39 in 24 balls, with five fours and a six). Sudarshan played a solid knock of 63 in 41 balls, with four boundaries and two sixes. From 179/4, GT suffered a mini-collapse towards the end as they were restricted to 196/8 in 20 overs.

Skipper Hardik Pandya (2/29) was the pick of the bowlers for MI, while Trent Boult, Deepak Chahar, Muejeb ur Rahman and Satyanarayana Raju each took a wicket.

In the run chase of 197 runs, MI lost Rohit Sharma (8) and Ryan Rickelton early. However, Tilak Varma (39 in 36 balls, with three fours and a six) and Suryakumar Yadav (48 in 28 balls, with a four and four sixes) tried fighting it out for MI with a 62-run stand. Following their dismissal, MI lost their way and were restricted to 160/6 in 20 overs.

Prasidh Krishna (2/18) and Mohammed Siraj (2/34) were the top bowlers for GT. Kagiso Rabada and Sai Kishore also got a wicket each.

Gulveer Singh sets new 10000m national record at The Ten 2025

California

During The Ten 2025 athletics meet at San Juan Capistrano in the USA on Saturday, India's Gulveer Singh broke his own record and created a new national record in the men's 10000m event, as per Olympics.com.

The 26-year-old Indian athlete clocked an impressive 27:00.225 to finish sixth in a highly competitive field at the JSerra Catholic High School track.

The race was won by Ishmael Kipkurui (26:50.21), who broke the NCAA record. Habtom Samuel finished second with 26:51.06 while Adrian Wildschutt secured third place in 26:51.27. The Ten is a World Athletics Continental Tour silver-level meet.

Gulveer's new mark improved upon his previous national record of 27:14.88, which he set at the Hachioji Long Distance 2024 event in Japan. His latest feat saw him shave off 14.66 seconds from his old record.



World Athletics Championships 2025, which is set at 29:23.26 by the Athletics Federation of India (AFI).

Final selection in the Indian team for the continental championships scheduled in Gumi, Republic of Korea, however, is subject to the AFI's discretion.

Gulveer's new personal best places him third in the list of best times clocked by Asian runners in the 10000m. Only Qatar's Ahmad Hassan Abdullah and Nicholas Kemboi are ahead of him.

Pakistan's Balochistan govt bans night travel on key highways

12 terrorists killed in drone strikes by Pakistani forces nine civilian deaths

Islamabad: The government in Pakistan's Balochistan province has banned night-time travel across several key national highways amid a worsening law and order situation in the area where multiple terrorist attacks occurred on vehicles in recent weeks.

The volatile province faced several targeted attacks on vehicles when gunmen stopped the traffic on highways and killed passengers after checking their identities. The ethnic Punjabis have been the target of such attacks. District commissioners of Karachi, Zhob, Gwadar, Nushki and Musakhail districts issued a notification on Friday to prohibit travel on key national highways from 6 pm to 6 am.

The ban covers several highways, including the Quetta-Taftan Road, Loralai-Dera Ghazi Khan Road, Sibi Road, Coastal Highway, and Zhob-Dera Ismail Khan Road.

For about two decades, Balochistan has been in the grip of violence by ethnic Baloch extremists who attack the armed forces dominated by the Punjabis.

The rebels allege that the forces were helping the federal government to exploit minerals in the province, a charge refuted by the authorities.

Peshawar: Twelve terrorists have been killed while nine civilians lost their lives when security forces conducted drone attacks on militant hideouts in the restive Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province of Pakistan.

The "counter-terrorism operation" on Saturday morning targeted terrorists' hideouts in the remote hilltop area of Katlang in the Mardan district, a provincial government statement said.

Rescue 1122 spokesman Muhammad Abbas told PTI they shifted seven men and two women to Mardan Medical Complex from a protest site on the Mardan-Swat Motorway on the instructions of the district deputy commissioner.

The spokesman said the bodies were beyond recognition and were badly mutilated.

Locals from the area claimed those killed were shepherds from Swat district.



The spokesman said the bodies on protest placed the bodies on the motorway and closed it for a few hours. It was, however, reopened after negotiations.

Mohsin Baqir, a militant with a bounty of PKR 7 million on his head, and his second-in-command Abbas, with a bounty of PKR 5 million, were killed in the operation.

The statement issued on Saturday said the operation was based on "credible intelligence" about armed militants using the location as a hideout and transit point.

The "counter-terrorism operation" on Saturday morning targeted terrorists' hideouts in the remote hilltop area of Katlang in the Mardan district, a provincial government statement said.

ties," the statement said.

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur said the death of civilians during the operation was highly condemnable and tragic.

Termed it an "excruciating and regrettable development", the statement said every effort was made to avoid any "collateral damage".

"However, the complex terrain, the deliberate tactics of militants to embed within civilian populations, and the fog of war can sometimes lead to unintended consequences," it added.

Taliban leader says there is no need for Western laws in Afghanistan

Kabul: The Taliban leader said on Sunday there was no need for Western laws in Afghanistan and that democracy was dead as long as sharia laws are in effect.

Hibatullah Akhundzada made the comments in a sermon marking the Islamic holiday of Eid Al-Fitr, in the southern city of Kandahar's Eidgah Mosque. The 50-minute audio of his message was published on X by the Taliban government's chief spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid.

"There is no need for laws that originate from the West. We will create our own laws," Akhundzada said, speaking in Pashto, while emphasizing the importance of Islamic laws.

The Taliban's interpretation of sharia has led to bans on Afghan women and girls, who have been excluded from education, many jobs and most public spaces. Such measures have isolated the Taliban on the world stage, although they have established diplomatic ties with countries including China and the United Arab Emirates.

Akhundzada has taken a stronger hand in directing policy since the Taliban seized control of the country in 2021, despite some officials initially promising a more moderate rule.

Akhundzada on Sunday criticized the West, saying non-believers had united against Muslims and that the US and others were united in their hostility toward Islam, citing the Israel-Hamas war in Gaza.

Democracy had come to an end in Afghanistan and sharia was in effect, he said, adding that supporters of democracy were trying to separate the people from the Taliban government.

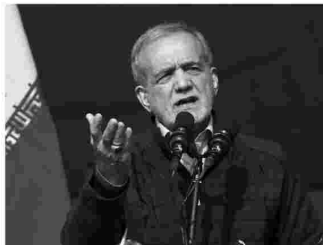
The Taliban have no credible opposition inside or outside the country, but some senior figures within the administration have criticized the leadership's decision-making process and concentration of power in Akhundzada's circle.

Some Taliban want greater engagement with the international community and scrapping harsher policies to attract more outside support.

Iran has rejected direct negotiations with US in response to Trump's letter

Dubai: Iran's president said on Sunday that Tehran had rejected direct negotiations with the United States in response to a letter from President Donald Trump over its rapidly advancing nuclear programme.

The remarks from President Masoud Pezeshkian represented the first official acknowledgment of how Iran responded to Trump's letter. It also suggests that tensions may further rise



between Tehran and Washington. Pezeshkian said: "Although the possibility

of direct negotiations between the two sides has been rejected in this response, it has been emphasised that the path for indirect negotiations remains open.

It's unclear, however, whether Trump would accept indirect negotiations. Indirect negotiations for years since Trump initially withdrew America from Tehran's nuclear deal with world powers in 2018 have been unsuccessful.

Trump's overture comes as both Israel and the United States have warned they will never let Iran acquire a nuclear weapon, leading to fears of a military confrontation as Tehran enriches uranium at near weapons-grade levels — something only done by atomic-armed nations.

Iran has long maintained its program is for peaceful purposes, even as its officials increasingly threaten

to pursue the bomb as tensions are high with the US over its sanctions and after the collapse of a ceasefire in Israel's war against Hamas in the Gaza Strip.

Since Trump returned to the White House, his administration has consistently said that Iran must be prevented from acquiring nuclear weapons. A report in February, however, by the UN's nuclear watchdog said Iran has accelerated its production of near

weapons-grade uranium.

Trump's first term in office was marked by a particularly troubled period in relations with Tehran. In 2018, he unilaterally withdrew the United States from Iran's nuclear deal with world powers, leading to sanctions hobbling Iran's economy. Iran retaliated with attacks

— including one that it liked carried out and that temporarily halved Saudi Arabia's oil production.

BUSINESS

Shriram Finance aims to cross Rs 3 lakh crore in assets in FY26

New Delhi: Shriram Finance Ltd, the flagship company of diversified conglomerate Shriram Group, is set to cross Rs 3 lakh crore in assets during the next financial year starting April 1 with loan growth of 15 per cent.

"We expect 15 per cent credit growth for FY26 if the GDP grows at 6.5 per cent. Usually, loan growth is more than 2 times of the GDP. Higher the GDP growth, higher is the demand for loan," Shriram Finance executive vice chairman Umesh G Revankar said.

Asked about the asset book target, he said, it should cross Rs 3 lakh crore in FY26 and this financial year would close over Rs 2.5 lakh crore.

Shriram Finance would end the current financial year with 18 per cent credit growth although the guidance was 15 per cent, he said, adding, the company has exceeded its target.

If the economy picks up, he said, the company would do better than the guidance.

For example, he said, the company can easily grow its credit at 18 per cent if the GDP growth is more than 6.5 per cent.

Apart from the MSME financing, the focus would be on green financing including electric vehicles.

Earlier this month, Shriram Finance secured USD 306 million in funding from various multilateral and bilateral development financial institutions including the Asian Development Bank (ADB). The latest facility, awarded under the company's Social Finance Framework, saw participation from leading global financial institutions, including ADB, Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), and Exim Bank of India (EXIM) with a long tenor financing.

India's merchandise exports may fall slightly to USD 435 billion in 2024-25: GTRI

New Delhi: The country's merchandise exports, which have been contracting since October last year, are expected to decline slightly by the end of this fiscal year and fall below USD 435 billion, think tank GTRI said on Sunday.

Exports dipped 10.85 per cent in February to USD 36.91 billion due to volatility in petroleum prices and global uncertainties.

"At this rate, India's total merchandise exports for FY2025 are expected to be below USD 435 billion, slightly lower than USD 437.1 billion in FY2024," Global Trade Research Initiative (GTRI) Founder Ajay Srivastava said.

During April-February 2024-25, the exports stood at USD 395.63 billion as against USD 395.38 billion in the corresponding period of 2023-24.



Key sectors that recorded negative growth both in February and cumulatively include petroleum products, gems and jewellery, ceramic products and glassware, oil seeds, oil meals, and iron ore.

These sectors are facing consistent declines, indicating the need for strategic interventions to support recovery, Srivastava said.

In the petroleum products sector, exports fell 29.23 per cent

in February 2025 and 25.56 per cent over 11 months, primarily due to a drop of 7.8 per cent in global crude oil prices from USD 83.5 per barrel in February 2024 to USD 77 per barrel in February 2025.

"A recovery in this sector will depend on global oil price trends and increased refining efficiency to maintain margins," he said.

He added that engineering goods, India's largest export segment, saw an 8.62 per cent decline in February 2025, though it recorded a 7.97 per cent increase over 11 months.

To support this sector, the government can provide low-cost export credit to reduce financial pressure on exporters, and offer technology upgrade incentives to boost productivity and efficiency, Srivastava said.

By implementing targeted policy measures, the government can help stabilise struggling sectors and improve overall export performance, ensuring India remains competitive in the global trade market, he added.

Forex Reserves Surge to USD 658.8 Billion

New Delhi: After cement, billionaire Gautam Adani's group and Kumar Mangalam Birla's Aditya Birla Group are set for a face-off in the wires and cable business with both conglomerates announcing forays into the high double-digit growth sector.

In less than a month, both groups — who have been fiercely competing in the cement sector by snapping smaller players — announced their entry into the wires and cables segment, which is dominated largely by unorganised players and some smaller companies.

The entry of the two big players will intensify competition in the wires and cables industry, which posted 13 per cent compound annual growth rate (CAGR) in revenue between FY19 and FY24 and is migrating towards an organised branded market.

This was evident as sensing disruption from these deep pockets, share prices of listed players in the wires and cable segments slumped a day after March 19, when Adani Enterprises informed investors of entering the segment.

Share price of Polycab India, a leader in the segment, and KEI Industries reported 52-week lows on March 20. Similarly, shares of Havells also went down 5 per cent and while Finolex Cables was down 4 per cent the next day.

Terminating wires & cables "ideal segment for a new entrant with deep pockets", JM Financials has said, "This is an industry where no single player commands more than 15 per cent share in wires and 20 per cent in cables."

Malabar Group Awarded Scholarships to 2190 Girl Students across 7 states in North region

New Delhi: Malabar Group, a leading Indian business conglomerate and the parent company of Malabar Gold & Diamonds, reinforced its dedication to empowering young women through education by awarding scholarships to 2,190 deserving girl students at Bharat Mandapam, Pragati Maidan, New Delhi. The beneficiaries from 73 schools across seven states—Bihar, Chandigarh, Haryana, Delhi NCR, Punjab, Uttar Pradesh, and Uttarakhand—are a testament to the company's commitment to fostering academic opportunities in the northern region.



1,81,41,000 was distributed to support the education of these students, enabling them to pursue their academic aspirations without financial constraints. The scholarship distribution ceremony was

graded by Chief Guest Shri Harsh Malhotra, Hon'ble Union Minister of State in the Ministry of Corporate Affairs, and Ministry of Road Transport and Highways India. His presence highlighted the vital role of collective efforts in leveraging education as a powerful tool for empowerment and social progress.

Speaking about the initiative, MP Ahmmed, Chairman, Malabar Group, said, "At Malabar Group, we believe that education is the cornerstone of progress, and empowering young women through learning paves the way for a brighter future. These scholarships go beyond

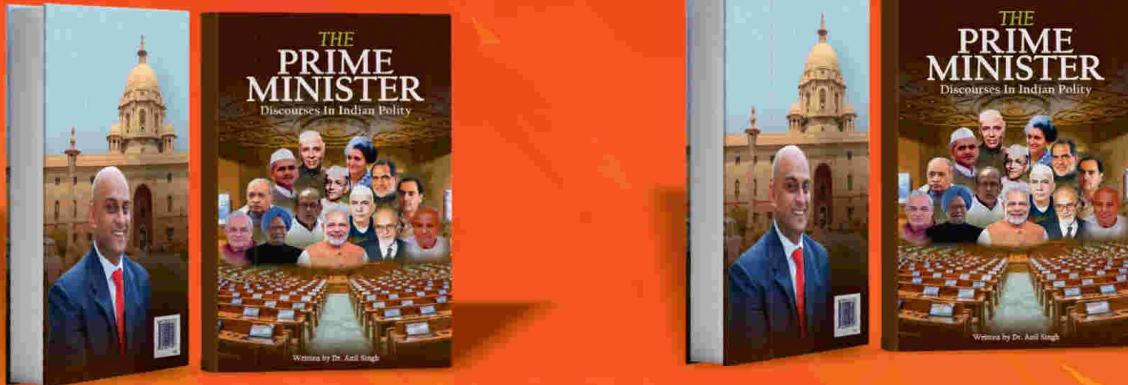
financial assistance—they are an investment in the aspirations and potential of deserving students. By supporting their academic journey, we aim to create a ripple effect of positive change, ensuring that no talented girl is deprived of opportunities due to financial constraints."

Since its establishment in 1999, the Malabar Charitable Trust has been at the forefront of numerous social welfare initiatives. Malabar Group dedicates 5% of its annual profits to CSR activities, focusing on education, healthcare, environmental sustainability, and poverty alleviation. The Malabar Scholarship Programme, a flag-

ship initiative under the Group's CSR framework, continues to bridge educational gaps for marginalized communities. By fostering academic opportunities for young girls, Malabar Group aims to create a ripple effect of progress that extends beyond individuals to families and entire communities.

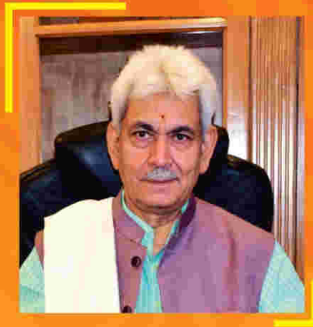
This scholarship distribution in Delhi is part of Malabar Group's broader mission to support education and skill development across India. Through sustained initiatives, the Malabar Group remains committed to empowering future generations and fostering an inclusive, educated society.

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