



Teenager Mensik hands Djokovic shock defeat in Miami Open final

Kremlin official says Russia sees efforts to end Ukraine war as drawn-out process

Kapil Sharma to star in sequel to 'Kis Kisko Pyaar Karoon', poster unveiled



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WEATHER

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

India slams NYT report linking defence firm to Russia

The New York Times report published cited 'documents' to claim that a leading donor to the populist Reform UK party had sold almost \$2 million worth of transmitters, cockpit equipment, antennas and other sensitive technology to a major supplier of Moscow's blacklisted state weapons agency.

New Delhi report in the New York Times linking a company that is part of a British aerospace major to a state-run Indian defence firm claiming that the latter has ties with a Russian arms agency is "factually incorrect" and "misleading", official sources said on Monday.

The report suggested that military hardware supplied by the British firm to the Indian company may have found its way to the Russian agency Rosoboronexport. The report has "tried to frame issues and distort facts to suit a political narrative", the sources said, adding the media outlet "overlooked" basic due diligence.

The Indian entity mentioned in the report has scrupulously followed all its international obligations on strategic trade controls and end-user commitments," a source said. "India's robust legal and regulatory framework on strategic trade continues to guide over-



seas commercial ventures by its companies," it said.

"We expect reputed media outlets to undertake basic due diligence while publishing such reports, which obviously was overlooked in the instant case," the source said.

The New York Times report, citing "documents," claimed that one of the biggest corporate donors to the populist Reform U.K. party has sold almost USD 2 million worth of transmitters, cockpit equip-

ment, antennas and other sensitive technology to a major supplier of Moscow's blacklisted state weapons agency.

"The records do not prove that H.R. Smith's products ended up in Russia. But they show that, in some instances,

the Indian company received equipment from H.R. Smith and, within days, sent parts to Russia with the same identifying product codes," the report said.

The H.R. Smith Group said that its sales were lawful and the equipment was destined for an Indian search-and-rescue network, the NYT report said.

The parts "support lifesaving operations" and are "not designed for military use," it quoted a company lawyer as saying. Agency

CONTO ON PAGE-2

Fiery forecast: IMD sees April-June as hottest in years



New Delhi India is expected to experience hotter-than-usual temperatures from April to June, with more heat-wave days in central and eastern India and the northwestern plains, the IMD said on Monday.

Most parts of the country will see higher-than-normal maximum temperatures, except for some areas in western and eastern India where the temperatures are expected to be normal. Minimum temperatures will also be above normal in most regions, India Meteorological Department (IMD) chief Mrutyunjay Mohapatra said in an online press conference.

"From April to June, most parts of north and east India, central India, and the plains of north-west India are expected to experience two to four more heatwave days than normal," he said.

CONTO ON PAGE-2

Govt fully prepared to table Waqf bill: Rijiju

New Delhi Ministry of Minority Affairs and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju asserted on Monday that the government is fully prepared to table the amended Waqf bill in Parliament, as he accused some political parties and organisations of seeking to foment unrest in society and mislead people over its provisions.

With Parliament reconvening on Tuesday following the weekend and Eid holiday, he said the timing of the bill's introduction will be decided following consultations after Parliament meets but he wants it passed as soon as possible.

The ongoing Budget session of Parliament is scheduled to end on April 4, and the bill will have to be passed by both the Lok Sabha as well as the Rajya Sabha to become a law.

The government has indicated that it will discuss with leaders of different parties on Tuesday the timing of the bill's introduction. It is likely to be first introduced in the Lower House, probably on Wednesday.

Opposition parties are strongly opposed to



the bill, slamming it as unconstitutional and against the interest of the Muslim community. Several leading Muslim organisations have been rallying support against the bill, which was scrutinised by a Joint Committee of Parliament and approved with several amendments.

Speaking to reporters, Rijiju accused some political parties and organisations, a clear reference to the opposition and Muslim bodies, of resorting to lies to mislead society and stoke tensions, while insisting that the bill is in the interest of Muslims.

Muslims were urged to wear black armbands during Ramzan and Eid to express their opposition to the proposed law, he said, asserting that inciting them to hit the streets is not good for the country.

CONTO ON PAGE-2

Infiltration Alarm in J&K: Massive Search Op Underway in Kathua, 6 Held

Jammu Security forces have intensified search operations using aerial surveillance and sniffer dogs following a night-long cordon after fresh reports of suspected movement of three individuals, believed to be terrorists, who escaped a recent encounter in Jammu and Kashmir's Kathua district, officials said.

Two terrorists and four policemen were killed while three others, including a deputy superintendent of police, were injured during a gunfight in a remote forested area in the Sanyal belt of the district on Thursday.

Security forces, which have picked up six persons for questioning, have also launched a search operation in Samba sector near the international border to sanitise the area, while the entire border belt has been put on alert, of-



officials said. On Sunday night, three suspected terrorists entered a house in Rui village, several kilometres from the encounter site, and took away food from her kitchen, they said.

"Multi-tier combing operations have been intensified following fresh movement of terrorists. After a night-long cordon, a search operation was launched this morning in the Ghati-Juthana forest area," an officer said. Aided by aerial surveillance and sniffer

dogs, the army, police, NSG, CRF and BSF are engaged in a multi-tier operation to track down the terrorists in the forest belts of Rui, Juthana, Ghati and Sanyal in the Rajbagh region, and parts of Billawar, the officials said.

The joint operation teams are also focusing on the overground and underground networks of the terror outfit Jaish-e-Mohammad in areas along the International Border (IB), they said. Agency

Violent clash in Meerut after Eid prayers, many injured

Lucknow Eid prayers were held Monday across Uttar Pradesh amid heightened security, social media monitoring and real-time surveillance using AI-powered drones, officials said, but a minor clash in Meerut during celebrations left some people injured and at least three in custody.

In Aligarh, some people were seen wearing black armbands in protest against the proposed Waqf bill pending in Parliament and alleged excesses on Muslims in some parts of the world.

The celebrations were largely joyous otherwise, with Uttar Pradesh police chief Prashant Kumar saying prayers were held peacefully at over 31,500 mosques and other designated places. In Saharanpur, a group of people allegedly



waved the Palestine flag and raised slogans after offering Eid prayers. Superintendent of Police (City) Vyom Bindal said the matter came to their notice through a social media video and action is being taken.

In Moradabad, some people attempted to pray on the roads due to overcrowding in Eidgahs, but police arranged a second 'jamaat' within the premises. "This step

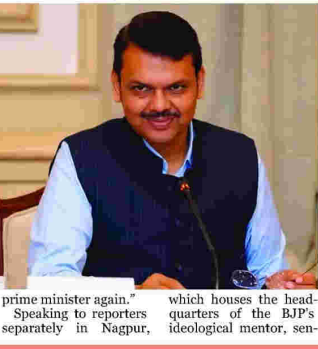
ple through social media posts.

In Lucknow, Eid prayers were held at the Aishbagh Eidgah, led by Maulana Khalid Rashid Farangi Mahali. Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav, Deputy CM Brajesh Pathak, Minister Danish Azad, former Deputy CM Dinesh Sharma and UP Congress President Ajay Rai attended the event and extended Eid greetings.

Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP) East, Vishwajeet Srivastava, said, "Security has been tightened across all areas for Eid. Surveillance is being conducted using CCTV and AI-powered drones which provide a tactical advantage by covering larger areas and sending real-time alerts to the police control room in case of any suspicious activity." Agency

'No need to search for Modi's successor': Fadnavis on Sanjay Raut's 'PM to retire' claim

Nagpur/Mumbai Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis dismissed speculation about Prime Minister Narendra Modi's successor, asserting the PM would continue to lead the country beyond 2029, when the next Lok Sabha polls are due. Responding to Shiv Sena (UBT) leader Sanjay Raut's claim that Modi went to the RSS headquarters on Sunday to convey the message that he is "retiring", Fadnavis told reporters in Nagpur. "In 2029, we will see Modi as the



prime minister again." Speaking to reporters separately in Nagpur, which houses the headquarters of the BJP's ideological mentor, senior RSS leader Suresh Bhaisayji Joshi said he was not aware of any talk of (PM's) replacement. "There is no need to search for his successor. He (Modi) is our leader and will continue to lead," Fadnavis insisted. Discussing succession while the leader is active is inappropriate in Indian culture, the CM added. "In our culture, when the father is alive, it is inappropriate to talk about succession. That is Mughal culture. The time has not come to discuss it," he said, referring to Raut's claim that Modi's successor

would come from Maharashtra. Talking to reporters on Monday, Raut claimed the RSS wants a change in the political leadership in the country. "He (Modi) probably went to the RSS headquarters to write his retirement application in September," the Rajya Sabha MP claimed, alluding to some leaders in the ruling dispensation retiring at 75. Modi, who is in his third term as PM, turns 75 in September this year. He claimed the RSS reminded Modi of the "75-year norm". Agency

'Kunal Kamra will receive Shiv Sena-style welcome'

Mumbai Shiv Sena functionary Raheel Kanwal on Monday said comedian Kunal Kamra, who kicked up a political row for taking a jibe at Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Eknath Shinde, will be welcomed in "Shiv Sena-style" when he comes to Mumbai, where he has been summoned by the police in a case registered against him. During his performance at the Habitat Comedy Club at the Continental Hotel in the Khar area, Kamra had referred to Shinde as a "traitor" without naming



him and went on to sing a parody on him. Kamra and 11 other Shiv Sena members were arrested on March 23 after they ransacked the studio where Kamra performed his stand-up act. Deputy Chief Minister Shinde is the president of the Shiv Sena. Talking to reporters here, Kanwal said the party has written to the Mumbai police demanding a probe against the comedian under the Foreign Contributions Regulation Act (FCRA) over foreign funding and unaccounted money. "Those running away from the law are guilty. Kunal Kamra will be welcomed in Shiv Sena style when he comes to Mumbai," he said. "We will not change our stand because his (Kamra's) stand also remains unchanged," Kanwal said, alluding to the party's old style of staging protests. Agency

Fiery forecast: IMD sees April-June as hottest in years

CONT FROM PAGE-1
Usually, India records four to seven heatwave days from April to June. States likely to see above-normal heatwave days include Rajasthan, Gujarat, Haryana, Punjab, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand, West Bengal, Odisha, Chhattisgarh, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh and the northern parts of Karnataka and Tamil Nadu.

Some states, including eastern Uttar Pradesh, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh and Odisha, are expected to have 10 to 11 heatwave days during this period, Mohapatra said.

In April, most parts of India will likely witness higher-than-usual maximum temperatures. However, some areas in the extreme southern and the northwestern regions may experience normal temperatures.

Minimum temperatures will be higher than usual across most of the country, except for a few places in the northwest and the northeast where temperatures may be normal or slightly below normal, the IMD chief said.

Last week, the central government asked states to check if their hospitals were ready to handle heatstroke and heat-related illnesses amid a rise in temperatures.

India experienced an exceptionally harsh summer last year, recording 536 heatwave days, the highest in 14 years, according to the IMD.

Govt fully prepared to table Waqf bill: Rijju

CONT FROM PAGE-1
Rijju said it is being alleged that the government will snatch Muslim properties like mosques and graveyards if the bill becomes a law, dismissing it as propaganda and noting that the bill to regulate Waqf has been in existence since the British era.

He said a similar campaign was started against the Citizenship (Amendment) Act and asked if a single Muslim has lost citizenship since the law came into existence.

Agency

'Carnage' of India's public education system must end, says Sonia Gandhi

New Delhi: Congress leader Sonia Gandhi on Monday slammed the Modi government's education policy, charging its core agenda is centralisation of power, commercialisation and outsourcing of investments to the private sector, and communalisation of textbooks.

Noting that these three Cs haunt Indian education today, the Congress Parliamentary Party chairperson said in an article that this "carnage" of India's public education system must end.

In the article "The '3Cs' that haunt Indian education today" in The Hindu, Gandhi said the introduction of the high-profile National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, has hidden the reality of a government that is profoundly indifferent to the education of India's children and youth.

"The Union Government's track record over the last decade has convincingly demonstrated that in education, it is concerned only with the



successful implementation of three core agenda items -- the centralisation of power with the Union Government; the commercialisation and outsourcing of investments in education to the private sector, and the communalisation of textbooks, curriculum, and institutions," she said.

Gandhi charged that "unchecked centralisation" has been the hallmark of this government's functioning over the last 11 years, but its most damaging consequences have been in

the domain of education.

She noted that the Central Advisory Board of Education (CABE), comprising ministers for education in both the Union and state governments, has not been convened since September 2019.

Even while adopting and implementing a paradigm shift in education through the NEP 2020, the government has not seen it fit to consult state governments on the implementation of these policies even once, she noted.

"It is a testament to the Government's singular determination not to heed any voice other than its own, even on a subject that is squarely in the Concurrent List of the Indian Constitution," she claimed in the article.

"The lack of dialogue is accompanied by a 'bullying tendency'. Among the most disgraceful acts committed by this government is the coercion of state governments to implement the PM-SIRI (or PM Schools for Rising India) scheme of model

In the article "The '3Cs' that haunt Indian education today" in The Hindu, Gandhi said the introduction of the high-profile National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, has hidden the reality of a government that is profoundly indifferent to the education of India's children and youth.

schools by withholding the grants due to them under the Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) as leverage," she said.

She also referred to the draft University Grants Commission (UGC) guidelines of 2025 as "draconian", claiming they have fully written out state governments from the appointment of Vice-Chancellors in universities established, funded, and operated by them.

She charged that the Union government has given itself-- through the governors who are typically designated as chancellor of the Uni-

versity -- near-monopoly power in the selection of vice chancellors in state universities.

"This is a back door attempt to convert a subject in the Concurrent List into the sole preserve of the Union government and represents one of the gravest threats to federalism in today's times," she charged.

The former Congress president also alleged that the Narendra Modi government's commercialisation of the education system has been happening in plain sight, in full compliance with the NEP.

She claimed the country's poor have been forced out of public education, and into the hands of a prohibitively expensive and under-regulated private school system.

In higher education, the government has introduced the Higher Education Financing Agency (HEFA) as a replacement to the University Grants Commission's erstwhile system of block-grants, she said.

'India's Got Latent' row SC to hear podcaster Ranveer Allahbadia's plea on Tuesday

New Delhi: The Supreme Court is slated to hear on Tuesday a plea filed by podcaster Ranveer Allahbadia in connection with multiple FIRs filed against him over his comment on parents and sex on comic Samay Raina's YouTube show "India's Got Latent".

A bench of Justices Surya Kant and N Kottiswar Singh is likely to hear the matter.

On March 3, the top court had allowed Allahbadia to resume his podcast "The Ranveer Show" subject to maintaining "morality and decency" and making it suitable for viewers of all ages.

The order had come after Allahbadia's submission that the podcast was his only source of livelihood and about 280 people he employed depended on the show.

The court had modified its February 18 order barring Allahbadia and his associates from airing any show on YouTube or any other audio or visual platform.

Controversies dramas outcome of Mamata's UK trip Adhir Chowdhury

Kolkata: Claiming that West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee's UK visit yielded "nothing" except a few "controversies and dramas", senior Congress leader Adhir Chowdhury on Monday said it is the responsibility of the state government to issue a statement on the outcome of her trip.

On the ruckus created by protesters last week during her speech at Kellogg College, Oxford, Chowdhury said he is against people disrespecting the chief minister especially when she is on an official tour.

"Not much has happened in London. We want to know what has gone to London (with the CM). What were the expenses incurred on this trip? Who were the people she met there? And what were the proposals that have been received and whether the state would benefit from them or not," Chowdhury told reporters here.

Adani Invitational Golf Championship 2025 begins on April 1

Greater Noida: The Adani Group and the Professional Golf Tour of India (PGTI), the official sanctioning body of men's professional golf in India, will be jointly staging the inaugural Adani Invitational Golf Championship from April 1-4, 2025, at the magnificent Jaypee Greens Golf & Spa Resort in Greater Noida.

The tournament, offers a total prize purse of ₹1.5 crore and marks PGTI's return to Jaypee Greens after 11 years. The main event will be followed by the Pro-Am event on April 5. A curtain-raiser to the event was held on 29th March 2025 at The Belvedere Golf & Country Club, Ahmedabad.

At this event, five leading Indian professionals conducted a golf clinic for children from The Adani International School in the presence of Mr. Pranav Adani, Director, Adani Enterprises

Limited and Mr. Kapil Dev, President, PGTI. This event highlights the shared vision of the Adani Group and the PGTI to develop golfing talent and advance Indian golf.

The partnership extends to the establishment of a joint Adani-PGTI golf training academy at Belvedere Golf & Country Club in Ahmedabad. This initiative aligns with Adani's commitment to grassroots development and supports India's 2036 Olympic bid, reflecting the group's aim to resonate with the aspirations of a broad Indian audience.

The Adani Invitational Golf Championship beginning on April 1 at Jaypee Greens Golf & Spa Resort will have a field of 126 players including 124 professionals and two amateurs. The event will be played in the stroke-play format consisting of four rounds of 18 holes each.

Mamata calls for unity at Eid prayers slams BJP's 'divisive politics'

Kolkata: West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Monday criticised the BJP for attempting to incite "communal riots through divisive politics" in the state and asserted that the saffron camp's "ganda dharma" was contrary to the true principles of Hinduism.

The chief minister urged people to avoid falling into provocations that could fuel riots and stressed that the state government would stand with its residents, ensuring that no one could stir up tensions in West Bengal.

Speaking at an Eid prayers event on Red Road here, Banerjee said, "I followed the religion followed by Shri Ramakrishna Paramahansa and Swami Vivekananda. I don't follow the 'ganda dharma' made by them (BJP), they are even against the Hindu dharma."

The TMC supremo said no religion preaches animosity against another human being, but certain leaders and political parties fan hatred for their own benefits.



She said that efforts were being made to provoke riots, urging the public to resist these attempts.

"Provocations are being made to fuel riots, but please don't fall into these traps. The West Bengal government stands with the minorities. No one can provoke tensions in the state," she said.

The CM also targeted the BJP, questioning, "If they (BJP) have problems with the minorities, will they change the Constitution of the country?"

She reaffirmed her commitment to respecting all religions, expressing her opposition to the

BJP's "divisive politics," which she called "jumla politics."

The TMC chairperson said all Hindus are not against Muslims, but only certain political leaders who engage in "saudagiri" (business) under the guise of religion.

She added, "If we stand together, I will put an end to this."

Banerjee also hit out at the Left, saying, "Red and saffron have merged. But rest assured, I will not let any harm come to you."

She claimed that opposition parties in West Bengal, "Ram and Baam (BJP and Left)" are trying to incite ri-

ots.

"It is their plan to incite riots, and my job is to stop riots. Stop riots. If you can stop riots, they will disappear on their own. Do not fall into their trap," she said.

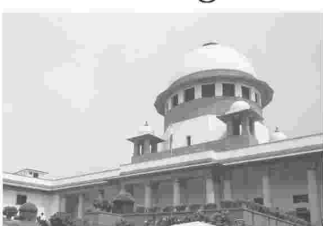
Emphasising that she respects every religion, Banerjee targeted the Left parties in the state, "It is a matter of shame that the Red party, which talked of secularism, has joined hands with the saffron camp. Let them join hands. We will fight alone."

She emphasised the need for unity and harmony, urging people not to succumb to provocations. Agency

Supreme Court grants bail to woman accused of murdering husband

New Delhi: The Supreme Court has granted bail to a woman accused of murdering her husband, whose body was found stuffed in a trolley bag, dumped in a forest of Odisha's Khurda district.

A bench of Justices Surya Kant and N Kottiswar Singh noted that the woman, who was arrested on January 23, 2023, has spent more than two years in custody and has a child who requires parental care.



It observed that out of 37 witnesses, 15 were examined and the conclusion of the trial will take some time.

"Taking into consideration the fact that the petitioner does not seem to be in a position to influence the witnesses and that she has to look

after her minor child, however, without expressing any opinion on the merits of the allegations, we are inclined to release her on bail," the bench said.

It directed the woman to be released upon her furnishing bail bonds to the satisfaction of the trial court.

The bench said the petitioner shall cooperate with the ongoing trial and present herself before the trial court on the date of the hearing.

The woman had approached the top court against the order of the Odisha High Court of December 20, 2024, denying her bail.

Besides the woman, two of her accomplices, including a cousin of hers, were arrested by police on January 23 for the murder of her

husband, who was supposedly an alcoholic and history-sheeter.

The three were arrested a day after the man's body was found in the Haripur jungle of Khurda district of the state.

According to police, he often beat up his wife after getting drunk.

On January 20, 2023, he again allegedly thrashed his wife, triggering her ire.

After the beating, she called her friend and her cousin and the three strangled the next day.

Her friend purchased a suitcase from Chandapur in Nayagarh district and reached her house in the evening, along with her cousin.

The two men had alcohol with the woman's husband in the night and when he fell asleep, they killed him.

Cong seeks law for SC ST quota in private non-minority educational institutions

New Delhi: The Congress on Monday demanded that the government bring in a legislation for SC, ST and OBC quota in private, non-minority educational institutions in the country.

In a statement, Congress general secretary, communications, Jairam Ramesh noted that the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Education, Women, Children, Youth, and Sports had recommended a new legislation to implement Article 15(5).

Article 15(5) allows the state to make special provisions by law for the advancement of socially and educationally backward classes, Scheduled Castes, and Scheduled Tribes, including reservation in educational institutions, the Parliamentary Standing Committee



on Education, Women, Children, Youth, and Sports also recommended a new legislation to implement Article 15(5) as well. The Indian National Congress reiterates this demand," Ramesh said.

The Constitution (Ninety-third Amendment) Act, 2005 took effect from January 20, 2006 and this amendment introduced Article 15(5) in the Constitution.

minority educational institutions.

Ramesh said the Congress had during the last Lok Sabha polls committed itself to bringing legislation to implement Article 15(5) of the Constitution in private educational institutions.

"In its 364th Report on the Demand for Grants for the Department of Higher Education, the Parliamentary Standing Committee

PUBLIC NOTICE

Information is given to general public as follows that RAJAT SHARMA who is purchasing Residential Plot No. 24 & 25, area measuring 50 sq. yds. out of 100 sq. yards i.e. 83.60 sq. meters, out of Khata No. 137, situated in the village 'Sakhalabad' at Ganga Vihar Estate, Tehsil Loni, District Unnao, U.P. from Mr. Gulshan S/o Mr. Raham Ishaq who is the owner of property area measuring 100 sq. yds by virtue of Sale Deed dated 02/05/2024 (Case No. 7799) executed by Mohd. Raza S/o Late Mohd. Imbaid.

In view of the same against the financial assistance from Hero Housing Finance Limited, Surving, Member Candidate of Mohd. Imbaid & Mrs. Zarina W/o Mohd. Imbaid is not available with Seller i.e. Mr. Gulshan S/o Mr. Raham Ishaq. To comply the requirements of RANV/NBCF, we give this public notice that if any person(s) having any objection mortgage of the said property is/are hereby requested to intimate in writing to the undersigned within 10 days at below address.

NCV LAW ASSOCIATES
Advocates & Consultants
A-98, Sector-9,
Vijay Nagar, Ghaziabad
Mob. No. 999971152/999982427

NEWS IN BRIEF

Crackdown on unauthorised e-rickshaws to be launched from April 1

Noida

The transport department and the traffic police is going to launch a crackdown on unauthorised e-rickshaws and autos here from April 1, 2025.

The said campaign will be run in the entire state on the instructions of CM Yogi Adityanath. This joint team during the drive will focus on catching such autos and e-rickshaws whose drivers are minors and whose registration is outdated. These e-rickshaws and autos are the cause of road accidents.

District magistrate Gautam Buddha Nagar Manish Kumar Verma said that a special campaign will be run from 01 April to 30 April 2025 under the aegis of the transport department and the traffic police.

Assistant divisional transport officer (Enforcement) Dr. Udit Narayan Pandey said that this campaign will be monitored daily from the headquarters level.

Every Friday, the report in regard to the aforesaid campaign will be submitted to the CM office. He said that in a meeting held recently, the government had instructed the officials concerned that security and law and order are the first priority of the government. Any kind of negligence will not be tolerated in this. Unauthorised e-rickshaws and autos have been found involved in many incidents. This should be curbed at all costs by running a campaign.

With the aim of curbing road accidents, the government has given instructions that the steering of any vehicle should not be in the hands of minors. Special attention should be paid to this and verification of tempo and e-rickshaw drivers should be done. Transport department officials should also be included in the task force formed in the districts.

Water tariffs not to be hiked in Noida

Noida



Water tariffs will not be hiked in Noida. Therefore, consumers will be able to pay water bills according to the old rates. There are about 80,000 drinking water connections in different properties in Noida city.

However, drinking water tariffs are going to be increased in Greater Noida from Tuesday, but no change has been made in the rates in Noida. The authority has fixed the drinking water rates according to the size of the plot and flat.

The new financial year will start from Tuesday. The Greater Noida Authority has announced a 10 percent increase in the drinking water rates, which will come into effect from Tuesday. In such a situation, there was a fear that the Noida Authority could also increase the drinking water rates.

The reason for this is that the rates have not been increased for two years, but the authority has decided that there will be no increase in the drinking water rates.

They don't know how to run govt Atishi blames BJP for power cuts in Delhi BJP hits back

New Delhi

AAP leader Atishi on Monday accused the city BJP government of failing to manage power supply, alleging outages have increased since the party took office last month.

In response, Delhi BJP President Virendra Sachdeva claimed that uninterrupted power supply is a fundamental duty of any government and accused the AAP of corruption in managing the power sector during its tenure.

Addressing a press conference here, Atishi said, "Before the AAP government came to power, long power cuts were normal in the national capital."

She added, "Every household used to have inverters. But after Arvind Kejriwal came to Delhi received a round-the-clock power supply under the AAP government."



of Delhi in February 2015, power cuts became history."

The former Delhi chief minister cited data presented by the BJP-led central government in Rajya Sabha to say that Delhi received a round-the-clock power supply under the AAP government.

"The people of Delhi do not need data because they know that for the past 10 years, their inverters were unused, and they didn't have to change batteries. But now, after the BJP formed the government in the city, power cuts are on the rise," she said.

"How is it that in 10 years there were no outages, but within a month of BJP rule, power cuts are back? This means only one thing: the BJP doesn't know how to run the government. They

neither have the intention nor the capability to serve the people of Delhi," Atishi said.

Sachdeva, in response, asserted that an uninterrupted power supply was not an "extraordinary achievement." "BJP-ruled cities like Mumbai, Pune, Ahmedabad, Vadodra, Bangalore, and many others already have uninterrupted electricity supply. Uttar Pradesh, which until 2017-18 was considered a state with poor electricity production and supply, today shines with good power supply. Providing 24-hour electricity is a government's duty, not a favour to the public," he said.

He also credited the foundation of Delhi's stable electricity supply to the President's Rule in 2014, when then Union Finance Minister Arun Jaitley allocated funds for power infrastructure in

Delhi. "It is regrettable that the Arvind Kejriwal government has only indulged in corruption under the guise of electricity supply between 2015 and 2025," he alleged.

Sachdeva also alleged that the erstwhile AAP government "in collaboration with private companies, engaged in electricity subsidy and Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) schemes?"

The BJP emerged victorious in the February Assembly elections, winning 48 out of 70 seats, ending the AAP's decade-long rule. The party returned to power in Delhi after 26 years.

Married man arrested from Ghaziabad in rape assault case

New Delhi

A 45-year-old married man has been arrested in Ghaziabad in connection with a rape and assault case, police said on Monday.

The accused has been identified as Sanjay Mishra, a Ghaziabad resident, who has been living in Mumbai.

A police statement said, "An FIR was registered against Mishra at Nabi Karim police station in central Delhi, based on the complaint of a 28-year-old woman, who alleged abuse, forced abortions and threatening by the accused."

It said the complainant was in a live-in relationship with Mishra in Mumbai for the last four years. Mishra, who promised to marry her, coerced her into undergoing three abortions during this time, the woman alleged in her complaint.



A police statement said, "An FIR was registered against Mishra at Nabi Karim police station in central Delhi, based on the complaint of a 28-year-old woman, who alleged abuse, forced abortions and threatening by the accused."

He later backed out of the commitment, prompting her to approach the police. During investigation, his medical records supporting her claims were retrieved from Muzaffarnagar, the statement said, adding that the Delhi High Court also rejected his bail application.

Mishra was subsequently arrested from Ghaziabad on March 30, police said. They confirmed that he is married and has a family in Mumbai.

Delhi man stages burglary at own house to repay loans arrested

New Delhi

A 45-year-old man, who had reported a burglary at his house in Uttam Nagar, was arrested after it was found that he had staged the crime to repay his mounting debts, a police officer said on Monday.

The accused, identified as Butta Singh, worked as an AC technician and owned a shop in Sewak Park, he said.

Facing financial losses and struggling to repay loans, he allegedly stole gold jewellery from his house and reported a fake burglary, the officer added.

Deputy Commissioner of Police (Dwarka) Ankit Singh said, "Butta Singh had lodged a complaint on March 21, stating that between 3 pm and 6 pm, unidentified people had stolen a gold necklace set, a gold mangalsutra, two gold rings, a gold chain and Rs 45,000 in cash



building at the said time, but Singh himself was seen entering and leaving the house within nine minutes.

His mobile phone records revealed messages from a finance company regarding gold pledges, the DCP said.

After being confronted with the evidence, Singh confessed that he had stolen the jewellery to clear overdue loan payments. He took a loan when he purchased his shop in 2022 and later took another loan to renovate it.

Additionally, he had bought a seven-seater taxi on bank credit, but financial setbacks led him into deep debt, the officer said. Police have recovered a gold necklace set and a gold ring from his possession. Other gold items were found to be mortgaged at a pawn shop in Uttam Nagar.

Two arrested for robbing cab driver in northwest Delhi

New Delhi

Two men were arrested for allegedly robbing a cab driver in northwest Delhi's Adarsh Nagar area, an official said on Monday.

The accused, identified as Vishnu Jha alias Mania (22) and Deepak (28), are habitual offenders with multiple cases of theft, snatching and gambling registered against them, he said.

The looted car, the driver's mobile phone, and the weapon used in the crime were recovered from their possession, he added.

Deputy Commissioner of Police (Northwest)

Bhisham Singh said, "The incident occurred in the early hours of March 27, when the victim, Satender Pal, was repairing a punctured tire of his cab near Shani Mandi in Adarsh Nagar."

Mania and Deepak approached him, forcibly pushed him inside the car, assaulted him and threatened him with a dagger. The duo also forced Pal to arrange an online money transfer through an acquaintance, the DCP said.

They snatched his mobile phone and drove around, before throwing him out near Jahangirpuri and fleeing with the car, he added.

The injured victim reported the incident at Adarsh Nagar Police Station, and a case was registered under provisions of Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita.

Acting on a tip-off, police laid a trap near Mukundpur Jhal and spotted the stolen car. The accused were subsequently apprehended on Saturday, and the stolen items, along with the weapon used, were recovered, police said.

They said during interrogation, the accused admitted to committing the crime to fund their extravagant lifestyle.

Delhi breathes cleanest air during Jan-March in 5 years

New Delhi

Delhi recorded an average air quality index of 231 during the January-March period, the lowest for the quarter in five years, the Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM) said on Monday.

The CAQM, which formulates air pollution control plans for Delhi-NCR, said the January-March period of 2025 saw the best air quality in the last five years. The average AQI for this quarter was 231, compared to 250 in 2024; 240 in 2023; 241 in 2022 and 278 in 2021, it said.

In 2025, there was not a single day when the AQI crossed 400. There were six



such days in 2021, one in 2022, three in 2023 and three in 2024, it said.

During the first quarter of 2025, Delhi had 36 days with an AQI below 200, compared to 13 such days in 2021, 27 in 2022, 35 in 2023 and 41 in 2024.

Favourable weather conditions, along with efforts from various agencies, have helped improve Delhi's air quality, the panel said.

Delhi Assembly hosts Viksit Bharat Youth Parliament

New Delhi

The Delhi Assembly on Monday hosted the Viksit Bharat Youth Parliament to promote leadership skills, civic participation and understanding of the democratic process among youngsters.

The state-level competition, organised by the Union youth affairs and sports ministry, in collaboration with the Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan and the Delhi Legislative Assembly, aimed to realise the prime minister's vision of bringing 1,00,000 young leaders into Indian politics, Speaker Vijender Gupta said.

Thirty participants selected at the district level took part in the youth parliament.

Sarthak Arora secured first place in the state-level competition, followed by Lavanya in second and Divyanshi Panda in third.

The winning participants will have the opportunity to participate in the national competition, to be held in Parliament, according to a statement from the assembly.

"The youth of India are not only beneficiaries of development but also the architects of its future. This year's youth parliament has been aligned with the vision of Developed India @ 2047 to prepare a new generation of dynamic, solution-oriented and policy-aware young leaders," Gupta said.

MCD commissioner warns institutions against mosquito breeding

New Delhi

Delhi Municipal Corporation (MCD) Commissioner Ashwani Kumar has directed all offices, institutions, and workplaces to take strict measures to prevent mosquito breeding and work in coordination with the civic body to curb mosquito-borne diseases.

He emphasised that since there is no specific treatment or vaccine for diseases like dengue, malaria, and chikungunya, eliminating Aedes mosquito breeding at the source is the only effective way to control their spread.

In an advisory, Kumar has urged all government and autonomous offices, educational institutions, commercial centres, trade



associations, and Resident Welfare Associations (RWAs) to act on the prescribed guidelines. He has asked authorities to ensure that overhead and other water tanks remain covered, water coolers are regularly repainted, their pads replaced, and cleaned at least once a week. He also instructed that

emptied, he advised adding a spoonful of petrol or kerosene to prevent mosquito breeding. Additionally, he stressed the importance of preventing water accumulation in tires, bottles, flower pots, and other objects that could serve as breeding grounds. He also instructed that

He has asked authorities to ensure that overhead and other water tanks remain covered, water coolers are regularly repainted, their pads replaced, and cleaned at least once a week.

body's public health department is making relentless efforts to help people fight mosquito-borne diseases but warned that strict action would be taken against officials and responsible persons if there is mosquito breeding within institutional premises.

The MCD also said that under the Delhi Municipal Corporation (Malaria and Other Mosquito-Borne Diseases) Bye-laws, 1975, it is illegal to create conditions favourable for mosquito breeding.

Failure to take preventive measures is a punishable offense. Repeat violations can lead to legal notices, fines, and even police complaints under Section 271 of the Indian Penal Code (IPC).

Minor siblings killed as fire breaks out in house due to LPG leakage



New Delhi

Two minor siblings were killed in a fire that broke out due to gas leakage from an LPG cylinder at their home in west Delhi's Manohar Park, the Delhi Fire Services (DFS) said on Monday.

The incident occurred around 8:20 pm on Sunday at WZ-7, Manohar Park. Two fire tenders were rushed to the spot. The team that visited the spot confirmed that the fire started from the LPG cylinder, a DFS official said.

The children were identified as Sakshi (14) and her brother Aakash (7), police said.

According to the mother of the two children, Savita (34), she was cooking around 8 pm when some clothes kept nearby caught fire. Her two daughters and son were also present in the room at the time of the incident, Deputy Commissioner of Police (West) Vichitra Veer said.

While Savita and her other daughter Minakshi (11) got out unharmed, Sakshi and Aakash got trapped inside. Savita raised an alarm and her landlord's son and other tenants rescued the two children, the DCP said.

Three persons were injured in the fire and they were rushed to Acharya Bhikshu Hospital by the PCR team. The siblings, who sustained 100 per cent burns, were declared dead by doctors, Veer said.

Another person, Sandeep Pathak, sustained 5 per cent burns and is undergoing treatment, he said. The father of the two children, Lal Bahadur (40), works as a private security guard in the Ashoka Park Main area and was on duty at the time of the incident, the DCP said.

A team from Punjabi Bagh police station also reached the spot to investigate.

PUBLIC NOTICE
My client Usha Yadav W/o Subhash and Umesh Yadav S/o Subhash Yadav P/o 7/18, Sector-2, Rajendra Nagar, Dist- Ghaziabad has cancelled the registered general power of attorney dated 27.07.2022 in relation to property vide Up per Ground 1360 sq ft Open Space Plot No- 7/18/1, G.P.A Sath Kumar S/o Horam Singh Resident C. 6, 25, Stallimar Garden Extension 1, Ghaziabad which cancellation deed was entered at serial no. 5531, book no. 4, volume no. 1924, on 12.3.25 by Sub Registrar II, Ghaziabad G.P.A. The registered cancellation deed has been entered at number 170, Volume No. - 1717 of the concerned sub registrar office, Ghaziabad. The cancellation is for all intents and purposes. Ashok Kumar Advocate

PUBLIC NOTICE
General Public is hereby informed that my client Smt. Saroj Goel (Aadhar No. 356248485923) W/o Sh. Kalash Chand Goel R/o House no. 45-46, Rameshwar Nagar, North West Delhi- 110009, have disowned/debarred his son namely Sh. Krishna Goel, Aged 28 years (Aadhar No. 58855231702), being most disobedient person and debarred him from all of her movable and immovable properties anywhere in India. Any body dealing with him shall be doing at their own risk and responsibility and my client shall not be responsible for the any act done by Mr. Krishna Goel in her future. PANKAJ SWAROOP Advocate DELHI HIGH COURT 19/10, GF, West Patel Nagar New Delhi- 110008



By Dr Satyavan Saurabh

Solution to water crisis: A confluence of traditional knowledge and modern technology



Water conservation is a collective responsibility. Water crises can be avoided by combining traditional knowledge and modern techniques. Water conservation has a rich history in India. Our ancestors had developed many water conservation systems according to geographical and climatic conditions, which are relevant even today.

The water crisis is one of the most serious issues in today's world. Increasing population, uncontrolled industrialization, and climate change have severely impacted the availability of water. To deal with this crisis, we need a combination of traditional water conservation techniques and modern science and technology. Water conservation means managing water resources wisely so that there is no shortage of water in the future. India has only 4% of the world's fresh water, but 18% of its population is facing a water crisis. To solve this problem, participation of government and communities is necessary. Schemes like Jal Shakti Abhiyan and Neerut-Chettu in Andhra Pradesh have helped in increasing the availability of water.

Local communities can make better use of water by adopting their traditional knowledge and new technological measures. Hware Bazar model of Maharashtra: Groundwater level was increased in this village using traditional and modern techniques. Water availability increased here by rainwater harvesting and clearing of wells. Johad system of Rajasthan: Construction of small ponds (johads) improved the groundwater level and reduced the problem of drought. Chal-Khal system of Uttarakhand: These small reservoirs store rainwater and help in groundwater recharge. Adoption of traditional methods and new technologies is necessary for efficient use of water. Zabo agricultural system of Nagaland: This method collects rainwater and uses it for farming, which reduces the impact of drought. Tanks of Rajasthan are small water reservoirs built for rainwater harvesting, in which modern filtration

technology is also being added now. Aeri (pond) system in Tamil Nadu: This system stores rainwater and helps in irrigation and drinking water supply.

For water conservation, it is important to maintain a balance between forests, rivers, ponds, and soil. Oran (sacred forest) areas in Rajasthan protect water sources and biodiversity, preventing desertification. Under the waterfall restoration project of Meghalaya, forests and catchment areas are being revived, thereby conserving water sources. The Narmada Seva Yatra initiative in Madhya Pradesh aims to promote water conservation and environmental improvement by planting trees along the Narmada River. Pani Panchayats in Maharashtra: These panchayats ensure equitable distribution of water to farmers. In Jharkhand, under the Gram Sabha Act, village assemblies are managing small reservoirs. Pani Panchayat in Odisha: This scheme promotes water management with community participation. Cities are given more water, leading to shortages in

Climate change and erratic rainfall can increase water scarcity. In such a situation, traditional water conservation systems can prove to be helpful. Drought relief work in

Bundelkhand: Reconstruction of ponds and rainwater harvesting is reducing water problems in the region. In Ladakh, artificial glaciers are created in winter so that water is available from them in summer. However, this method is facing challenges due to rising temperatures. In Gujarat, drip irrigation and multi-cropping are adopted for water conservation in the Wadi system. Climate change, industrial pollution, uneven water distribution, and ignoring traditional systems in government schemes are the major obstacles.

Communities should be empowered to manage water resources so that they can use water sustainably. Pani Panchayats in Maharashtra: These panchayats ensure equitable distribution of water to farmers. In Jharkhand, under the Gram Sabha Act, village assemblies are managing small reservoirs. Pani Panchayat in Odisha: This scheme promotes water management with community participation. Cities are given more water, leading to shortages in

rural areas. For example, water for Chennai is taken from nearby villages, causing problems for farmers. Himalayan glaciers are melting rapidly, reducing the flow of rivers like the Ganga and increasing the water crisis.

Traditional water conservation systems are not given much importance in government schemes. Many industries release wastewater into rivers and ponds, contaminating water sources.

Traditional water conservation systems should be given legal status. Partnerships between scientific institutions, government agencies, and local communities should be strengthened. IIT Madras is providing technical assistance for rainwater harvesting in rural areas. Participation of local people should be increased in water management plans. Conservation plans should be made by linking water, forest, and land together. Strategies to reduce the effects of climate change should be made by combining modern technologies and tradi-

tional knowledge. Urban water recycling systems should be developed to reuse wastewater in cities.

Water conservation is not possible only through government efforts, but the participation of communities is also very important in this. Water resources can be efficiently managed by combining traditional knowledge and modern technology. Water conservation can be made more effective by linking AI-based monitoring systems with schemes like Jal Shakti Abhiyan and MNRREGA. This will help in dealing with the water crisis and ensure water security for the future. Water conservation can be made effective by adopting legal recognition, scientific cooperation, local participation, water recycling, and climate adaptation measures.

To tackle the water crisis, we need to strike a balance between the learnings of the past and the technologies of the future. Traditional water conservation systems give us knowledge of sustainability and local adaptation, while modern technologies can help in efficient management of water resources. If we work by combining both, a sustainable solution to the water crisis can be achieved.

"Drop by drop the pot fills"—even a small effort towards water conservation can bring a big change in the future.

About the Author

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

Breaking Time Sudoku

What to do

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

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

Solution, Sudoku

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

THE WISDOM TREE BY SUVEEN KUMAR

THE LAST ACHIEVEMENT

Our last achievement should be an everlasting achievement. There are tons of things that we want to achieve, there are tons of things that we want to retrieve, there are tons of things that we want to archive, there are tons of things that we want to verbalize, there are tons of things that we want to summarize, but what is that ultimate that you ultimately want to gain, what is that ultimate that you ultimately want to lose, what is that ultimate that you ultimately want little, what is that ultimate that you ultimately want huge. Remember! not everything you want matters and not everything that matters you would want, not everything that will bring best in you, you bring and not everything that will slowly drown you away, you sink. The quality of your life defined by tons of actions that you never regret taking, the thousands of people you never regret meeting, the set of superlative leaders you never regret greeting. The quality of your life is defined by your loved ones who never unloved you,

your best friends who never abandoned you, the worst enemies who never forsaken you, old parents who never cursed you, the most bosses who never forgotten you, competitive competitors who never underrated you, your inspirations who never overrated you, your soulmates who never cheated you, your crazy fans who never hated you, your teachers who were never ashamed of you, your followers who never doubted you, your dreams that never haunted and most importantly your God who never left your side.

Your last achievement must get the best award. Your last achievement is not what you achieve in the end of your life but the achievement after which you don't even long for this life. Your last achievement is your first submission of your next life and the first resignation of this life.

Moral: What you achieve and what you leave shouldn't come by chance, but by your choice.



By Priyanka Saurabh

Employees crushed by inflation, MPs bathing in relief: Mathematics of 2% vs 24%!

The impact of inflation is increasing continuously in the country. The prices of vegetables are skyrocketing, the prices of petrol and diesel are making the pocket lighter, and the common man is thinking, "When the next salary comes, which expenses will I have to postpone?" But in the meantime, the government released two different relief packages for two different sections - Dearness Allowance (DA) was increased by only 2% for government employees. Allowances and salaries of MPs were increased by 24%.

That is, one class is getting a drop in the ocean while the other is getting a feast! This contradiction is creating deep resentment among employees and the public. The question arises: why does inflation seem to have increased only for MPs? This decision has clearly been taken to serve the interests of the ruling party, while the general public and employees have been deprived of their rights. This issue is also in the headlines in the media. Headlines like "Discrimination of 2% vs 24%" are being seen in major news channels and newspapers. Experts are calling it an anti-people policy of the government.

Only 2% for government employees—is this a joke?

The purpose of Dearness Allowance (DA) is to provide relief to employees from rising inflation. But when the retail inflation rate has crossed 6-7%, how will a mere 2% DA increase provide relief to employees? This is just like giving a biscuit to a hungry person and saying, "This is enough!"

The anger of the associations and unions of government employees is justified. They were demanding a fair salary hike and a reasonable increase in dearness allowance for a long time, but the government considered it an avoidable expenditure and made a nominal increase. Now some big questions have arisen before the employee organisations - Has inflation increased only for MPs? When the DA of employees has to be increased, why does the treasury look empty? Has the contribution of common employees reduced for the government?

24% relief to MPs - from whose money?

Now take a look at the situation of MPs. MPs already get many allowances and facilities - Free air and rail travel

Government bungalows and Officers Staff facilities and security arrangements separate medical and pension benefits; despite so many facilities, they were given a 24% hike in salary and allowances. This unilateral decision points towards injustice to the public and employees. The question arises that when there is talk of improving the country's economy, then what is the justification for such a huge increase in the salary of MPs?

The public and the employees said, This is injustice!

There is tremendous anger among government employees and the general public regarding this decision. Social media is flooded with memes and posts criticising the government. On Twitter and Facebook, people are saying, Inflation has increased for everyone, but in the eyes of the government, only MPs need relief! An employee said: "Come on, now inflation has also been divided into VIPs and common people!" Another tweet: "If MPs can get a 24% hike, then the same formula should be applied to employees as well!" This is not just an issue of salary hikes, but it is time to question the priorities of the

government. Whenever it comes to giving relief to the general public, the government treasury is said to be empty, but when it comes to increasing the facilities of the MPs themselves, there is no concern about the budget!

Does this happen in other countries as well?

If we talk about other countries, then in developed democracies there are strict rules on the salary hike of MPs, and it is usually increased in line with the inflation rate. In countries like America, Britain, and Canada, the salary of MPs is decided by the Pay Commission and independent economic institutions, and not directly by the government. In India, MPs have the power to determine their own salaries and allowances, which creates this imbalance. This is the reason why this issue repeatedly causes public outrage.

Now what?

The government employee union is preparing to protest on this issue. Efforts are being made to put pressure on the Pay Commission and policymakers so that the DA hike is made in line with the inflation rate. But the big question is whether the government

will take any concrete steps to remove this inequality or if this issue will be suppressed in a few days? This decision has made it clear that the leaders have the first right to the hard-earned money of the public. Why are such double standards being adopted with the employees and the public? What do you think—is this decision justified, or a joke on the employees? All eyes are also on the government's reaction. From a political point of view, this issue can increase public discontent, which will give the opposition an opportunity to attack the government. If the government tries to justify this decision, it can create more resentment among the employees and the middle class.

About the Author

(Priyanka Saurabh, Research Scholar in Political Science)

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Modi gov't uplifted India's health infrastructure: Shah

Komal Ramola Chandigarh
Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Monday said that the Narendra Modi government, over the past decade, has uplifted India's health infrastructure by taking a holistic approach to improving the health sector across the entire country. Shah stated that health infrastructure has been improved from the primary to the tertiary level. He was addressing a gathering after unveiling a statue of Mahatma Agrasen at the Mahatma Agrasen Medical College campus in Agroha here. On the occasion, he also inaugurated the newly built ICU and laid the foundation stone for the postgraduate hostel.

Shah highlighted several initiatives of the Modi government taken in various fields. He mentioned that 25 crore people have been lifted out of poverty during the Modi government's tenure. Four crore houses have been built for the poor, providing shelter to 20 crore people, Shah said.

He also touched upon the central government's provision of free food grains to over 81 crore beneficiaries under the Pradhan Mantri



Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana, the provision of toilets to every household under the Swachh Bharat Mission, cooking gas connections to the poor, and the provision of tap water to over 15 crore households, along with making treatment worth up to Rs 5 lakh available for 60 crore people.

Until 2014, 12 crore families in this country did not have toilets. Imagine the plight of girls in families without toilets, Shah said.

He also highlighted the progress made in medical infrastructure, stating, "In 2013-14, the Government of

India's budget for the health sector was Rs 37,000 crore, and in 2025-26, it will be Rs 1.37 lakh crore.

When Narendra Modi became PM, there were seven AIIMS in the country, six of which were set up during the Atal Bihari Vajpayee government's time, and only one was set up during the Congress regime. Today, in 2024, there are 23 AIIMS, reflecting the improvement in the country's health infrastructure, he said.

He also mentioned that the number of medical colleges has increased from 387 to 766, and the number of

MBBS seats has risen from 51,000 to 1.15 lakh. He added that 85,000 more seats will be added in the next five years.

There were 31,000 PG seats, which have now increased to 73,000, he said. PG seats will also increase in proportion to the increase in MBBS seats, he added.

There are 766 hospitals in 750 districts in the country, he mentioned. "It is the resolve of every BJP-ruled state that there will be at least one hospital in each district," he stated.

"I am confident that in the next five years, there

will be no district in the country without a medical college and hospital offering free medical treatment," he said.

Haryana was infamous for corruption in government jobs, he said, referring to the previous Congress regimes.

Due to casteism, one government would come and people from one region would get jobs, and when another government came, jobs would be given to people from a different region, he said.

"Nobody would get a job without a bribe," he asserted, emphasizing the corruption in jobs during previous governments.

Both 'Kharcho' (bribe) and 'Parchi' (favouritism) were needed for a job, he said.

Shah said that without 'Kharcho' and 'Parchi', the BJP government provided government jobs and proved that in democracy, politics should not be done on the basis of caste.

In 10 years, sports persons from Haryana won three times as many medals, he said. Despite being a small state, Haryana is the biggest producer of Basmati rice, he added. In the army, every 10th person hails from Haryana, he noted.

After Shah mentioned that 14 crops are bought at MSP in Haryana, Chief Minister Nayab Saini corrected him, saying 24 crops are bought at MSP. "Saini ji is very knowledgeable. Earlier, there were 14 crops, and let's applaud Saini ji for increasing the number of crops to 24," he said, also touching on several other initiatives of the BJP government in the state over the past 10 years.

"When you see Saini ji, he will appear calm (shaant), cheerful (hasmukh), and at the same time, he is also a tough (kathor) administrator. He holds full authority over the administration," he said.

Speaking about his meeting with Saini at his home before the Haryana assembly elections last year, Shah said that some decisions were made during the meeting. "I told Saini ji, it is difficult to do this in two or three months. He replied, 'It will be done, you do not worry,'" Shah shared. Before the announcement of the assembly elections, all the proposed works were carried out by Saini, he noted.

"When a person from the public takes the reins of a state, the kind of change that takes place is best exemplified by our Nayab Sai-

ni. Therefore, whatever problem arises, he welcomes it and resolves it," he said.

Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Saini, state BJP Chief Mohan Lal Badoli, state Health Minister Arti Singh Rao, Minister Ranbir Singh Gangwa, BJP MP from Kurukshetra Naveen Jindal, Chairperson Emeritus of the Hindal Group, Independent MLA from Hissar Savitri Jindal, former Rajya Sabha MP D.P. Vats, and others were present on the occasion.

Earlier in his speech, Shah lauded Haryana's contributions in several fields, despite being a small state geographically.

He also extended greetings to the people on the occasion of the birth anniversary of Sikh Guru Guru Angad. The Sikh Gurus have made unparalleled sacrifices for humanity and the country, he said.

He mentioned Mahatma Agrasen, saying he established many principles for good governance and that people were prosperous during his rule. He also praised the Agarwal community, many of whom are entrepreneurs, and said that every person is dedicated to the country, contributing towards its development.

JEE aspirant jumps before train in Kota 10th suicide this year

Kota
An 18-year-old engineering aspirant, who was to appear for the JEE-Main on April 2, allegedly committed suicide by jumping in front of a moving train in Kota, police said on Monday.

This is the tenth case of suspected suicide by a coaching student in Kota since January.

Kanpur native Ujjwal Mishra was supposed to leave for Lucknow where he was allotted a centre to sit for the engineering entrance exam, Deputy Superintendent of Police (GRP-Kota) Shankar Lal.

His father, Deepak Kumar Mishra, was to reach Kota on Monday to take him and his belongings back to UP, the police said.

Ujjwal had been preparing for JEE at a coaching institute here and lived in a hostel in Rajiv Gandhi Nagar area, they said.

On Sunday, the boy left his hostel room around 6:30 pm and reached Kota Railway Station, the DSP said.

According to the train pilot, when the boy saw the train approaching, he laid down on the tracks and got run over around 7 pm.

The pilot, who immediately informed the Government Railway Police about the incident, said he was unable to stop the train on time due to high speed.

No suicide note was recovered from the boy's possession. Ujjwal was an average student. He never shared that he was in trouble nor did he exhibit any sign of distress, said the grief-stricken father outside the mortuary after claiming his son's body.

The DSP said on Sunday evening Ujjwal reportedly spoke to his classmate, who lives in a hostel opposite to his, and shared that he was not well prepared to crack the April 2 exam.

Ujjwal's father, an agricultural scientist, said that his son had been taking coaching for JEE-Mains and Advance at a coaching institute in Kota for the past two years.

UCC will prevent crimes like Shradha Walkar murder: Uttarakhand CM

Bareilly (UP)
Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami on Monday said implementation of the Uniform Civil Code (UCC) would prevent crimes like the Shradha Walkar murder case in Delhi.

He said a provision of the law mandates disclosure of live-in relationships to families.

In May 2022, 25-year-old Shradha Walkar was allegedly murdered by her live-in partner Aftab, who saved her body into pieces and stored it in a refrigerator for almost three weeks, before disposing of them over several days.

Speaking at an event at Invertis University in Uttar Pradesh's Bareilly, where he was felicitated for implementing the UCC in Uttarakhand, Dhami dedicated the honour to the people of the state.

Holding up a ceremonial mace presented to him, he said the law is a significant step towards empowering women and protecting the rights of children born out of live-in relationships.

Targeting opposition parties, the chief minister accused them of using people only for votes.

Claiming that many Muslim women expressed gratitude to the BJP government after implementation of the UCC, he reiterated his commitment to making Uttarakhand a model state and assured the effective enforcement of the new law.

He said the UCC's impact would not remain confined to Uttarakhand but gradually extend across the country. Comparing it to river Ganga originating from Gangotri and nourishing the entire country, he expressed confidence that the UCC would soon be implemented nationwide.

Clarifying that the UCC is not against any religion or community, he said the law would resolve inheritance disputes and contribute to women's empowerment.

Speaking to media, Dhami credited Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership for the implementation of the UCC in Uttarakhand.

"We do what we promise," he remarked, declaring Uttarakhand as the first state to enact the uni-



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form code for all residents, irrespective of religion or caste.

Asked about being referred to as a 'Hindu Hriday Samrat' (Emperor of Hindu Hearts), Dhami described himself as a simple party worker focused on fulfilling his responsibilities.

Coming from a military family, he said he had witnessed various challenges in life and believed in working for results rather than titles.

Addressing concerns of the critics of UCC, he said those rejecting the Constitution's provisions and governance structures were 'anti-system and anti-Constitution elements' but did not respect Dr B R Ambedkar's vision. He reaffirmed the BJP's commitment to the principle of 'Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas and Sabka Prayas'.

On the exclusion of tribal communities and inclusion of Muslims in the UCC, Dhami said the Constitution provides special provisions for tribals due to their unique customs and way of life.

He said Uttarakhand's UCC was formulated after consulting with over 2.36 lakh people, engaging with all political parties, religious organisations and various communities, including tribal representatives.

Acknowledging that legal provisions evolve over time, he pointed out that the Modi government has already simplified numerous laws and repealed outdated ones.

The event was attended by Bareilly Mayor Umesh Gautam and Invertis University Chancellor Parth Gautam.

Himachal gov't's liquor revenue claims exposed once again, says Jairam Thakur

Rajan Panchhi Mandi

The Sukhu government's claims regarding increased revenue from the Excise Department continue to be challenged, as liquor contract auctions fail to attract bidders for the third consecutive year. The lack of interest in several units across the state has raised concerns about flaws in the government's policies, with speculation about potential irregularities in the process.

Leader of Opposition Jairam Thakur criticized the government, stating that last year, the state misled the people of Himachal Pradesh with false claims of a 40 percent revenue increase from the new liquor policy. He recalled that Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu had assured the Legislative Assembly that the revised liquor policy would generate significant

excise revenue. However, the ground reality tells a different story. "No matter how many lies the Chief Minister and his government tell, the truth eventually comes out. The new liquor policy has failed to increase the state's revenue. It is unethical for the Chief Minister to mislead the public with false claims," said Thakur.

Accusing the government

of being influenced by the liquor mafia, Thakur highlighted that despite the economic challenges during the COVID-19 pandemic, the previous government managed to maintain revenue levels. Meanwhile, official data suggests that excise revenue saw only a five percent increase in the last financial year's three quarters—far from the promised 40 percent.

According to Thakur, the government extended the auction process even on holidays in the previous year like Shivala, Kangra, and Mandi in an attempt to salvage the situation. He urged the administration to acknowledge the truth and stop misleading the public with exaggerated claims about liquor revenue growth.

Govt creating obstacles in people celebrating Eid freely: Akhilesh

Lucknow
Samajwadi Party president Akhilesh Yadav on Monday alleged the BJP-led government was creating obstacles in people celebrating Eid freely, and accused the ruling party of flogging the Constitution and undermining democracy.

"The biggest threat today is to democracy and the Constitution," Yadav told reporters outside Aishbagh Eidgah on the day of Eid. "And I am saying this with full responsibility, even though I shouldn't have to, that the BJP is not running the country as per the Constitution."

Yadav alleged the BJP government was creating obstacles in people celebrating Eid freely. He pointed to heightened security measures at Eidgahs and mosques, claiming they were excessive and unnecessary.

"You all have been covering Eid for years, but have you ever seen such large-scale barricading before?" he asked. He also claimed that police deliberately stopped his convoy for half an hour without any valid reason.



Further, over 850,000 drug pills have been confiscated, along with ₹5.87 crore in cash linked to drug trafficking. In a stringent move against illegal activities, authorities have demolished 51 properties owned by drug traffickers, which were reportedly built using illicit funds. In addition, 22 drug smugglers have been injured in police encounters during crackdowns.

Arora reiterated that AAP National Convener Arvind Kejriwal and Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann are resolute in their mission to eradicate drug networks from Punjab. He criticized previous Congress and Akhal-

BJP governments, accusing them of enabling drug networks by providing protection to traffickers, which exacerbated the state's drug crisis.

He further stated that the Punjab Police's stringent actions have led to drug traffickers fleeing the state, with many locking up their homes. Several traffickers have been arrested, while others have been injured in police encounters. He noted that cross-border drug smuggling from Pakistan has declined significantly as a result of the crackdown, disrupting the supply chain and making it difficult for traffickers to operate.

In addition to enforcement measures, the Punjab Health Department is actively working to reduce drug demand. Government and private hospitals, along with de-addiction centers, are providing treatment and counseling to drug-dependent individuals. These efforts have contributed to a noticeable decline in drug consumption across the state.

The Punjab government remains committed to its 'War Against Drugs' initiative, with an intensified focus on law enforcement, rehabilitation, and community support to eliminate drug abuse and trafficking from the state.

The opposition leader further alleged that due to the government's rigid stance, revenue collection targets from liquor contract auctions remain unachieved. Even on the final auction day, several units remained unsold, forcing authorities to sell at the reserve price in many locations. Reports indicate that multiple units in various districts failed to attract bidders, while some received offers below the reserve price, resulting in significant revenue losses for the government.

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Rajgir to host Asia Cup 2025 as Hockey India signs MoU with Bihar State Sports Authority

New Delhi
Rajgir, the historic city in Bihar, is all set to host the Asia Cup Rajgir, Bihar 2025, following the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between Hockey India and the Bihar State Sports Authority on Monday.

The tournament will take place from August 29 to September 7 at the recently developed Rajgir Hockey Stadium, marking a significant milestone in India's sports infrastructure and Bihar's emergence as a global sporting hub. This will be the second international sporting event hosted by Rajgir, following the successful Women's Asian Champions Trophy in November 2024, where India emerged victorious.

The 12th edition of the continental tournament will witness the participation of eight teams, including India, Pakistan, Japan, Korea, China, and Malaysia. The remaining two teams will secure their spots through the qualifying tournament, the AHP Cup. South Korea stands as the most successful team in the history of the Men's Asia Cup with five titles (1994, 1999, 2009, 2013, and 2022), followed closely by India (2002, 2007, and 2017) and Pakistan (1982, 1985, and 1989), who have each won the tournament three times.

Asia Cup Rajgir, Bihar 2025 holds even greater significance as it will serve as a qualifying event for the 2026 FIH Men's Hockey World Cup, set to be hosted by Belgium and the



Netherlands. The winner of the tournament will earn a coveted spot in the World Cup, adding to the intensity of competition as the teams strive to lift the trophy and secure their qualification.

Speaking on Rajgir hosting the prestigious event, B Rajendra, Additional Chief Secretary, Department of Sports, Bihar, said, "The signing of the MoU between Hockey India and the Bihar State Sports Authority marks a significant step in Bihar's journey towards becoming a premier sporting destination. Hosting the Hero Asia Cup 2025 in Rajgir is a proud moment for our state, and we are fully committed to ensuring the seamless execution of the tournament. The newly developed Rajgir Hockey Stadium stands as a testament to Bihar's growing

sports infrastructure, and we look forward to welcoming top teams from across Asia. This event will not only elevate Bihar's stature in international sports but also inspire a new generation of hockey players in the region. I thank Hockey India and the Asian Hockey Federation for their support, and we are excited to deliver a world-class tournament."

Meanwhile, speaking on the development, Dato Fumio Ogura, President of the Asian Hockey Federation said, "The Hero Asia Cup Rajgir, Bihar 2025 marks another remarkable chapter in Asian hockey. India has always been a key pillar in the development of hockey in our continent, and the choice of Rajgir as the host city reflects the growing commitment to expanding the sport beyond

traditional hubs. The new infrastructure and passionate hockey culture in Bihar will ensure a fantastic tournament. With World Cup qualification at stake, this will be a thrilling event, and we at AHF are excited to witness high-quality hockey. I extend my gratitude to Hockey India and the Bihar government for their dedication to making this event a grand success."

Hockey India President Dilip Tirkey also shared his thoughts and commented, "Rajgir's hosting of the Hero Asia Cup Rajgir, Bihar 2025 marks another significant step forward for Indian hockey. The stadium is of international standards, and I am confident it will provide an exciting atmosphere for players and spectators alike. With the Asia Cup serving as a qualifier for the 2026 World Cup, we anticipate high-quality matches filled with passion and skill. I thank the Government of Bihar for their continued support in promoting hockey in the region."

Hockey India Secretary General Bhola Nath Singh added, "We are thrilled to bring the Asia Cup to Rajgir, Bihar. The tournament will not only showcase the best of Asian hockey but also provide a major boost to the sport in India and the region. The excitement and enthusiasm around hockey in Bihar are growing, and this international event will inspire many young players. We look forward to a successful tournament and thank the local authorities for their immense support."

Teenager Mensik hands Djokovic shock defeat in Miami Open final



Manchester
Nineteen-year-old Czech Jakub Mensik beat his childhood idol Novak Djokovic 7-6(4) 7-6(4) in an upset for the ages on Sunday, claiming his first ATP title at the Miami Open as he denied the former number one his bid for a milestone 100th.

The 54th-ranked Mensik faced tough odds in only his second ATP final but harnessed his best weapon to subdue the 24-time major winner with 14 aces and collapsed onto the court, overcome with emotion, after sealing it with an unreturnable serve.

The oldest ever to reach a Masters 1000 final, 37-year-old Djokovic had hoped to join Jimmy Connors (109) and Roger Federer (103) as the only three men in the Open Era with 100 or more titles but ran out of steam in the end.

"When I was young I started to play tennis because of you," Mensik said to his opponent at the trophy ceremony. "There is no harder task for a tennis player than to beat you in the finals of a tournament."

Djokovic arrived on the court after several hours of rain delays with swelling near his right eye and appeared off-kilter as he handed Mensik a break with a clumsy shot out of bounds in on-court remarks.

He shipped and fell in the fifth game, taking his time to get back up off the court as his legions of devoted fans in Hard Rock Stadium urged him on, and applied eye drops to his afflicted eye during the changeover.

The Serb levelled it in the seventh but boiled over with frustration as Mensik got off to a 5-0 head start in the tiebreak, fuming at his box, where his

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



Sachin, Vishal Blaze Ahead; Lakshya Readies for Olympian Duel

Foz do Iguaçu
The Indian men's contingent at the much-anticipated World Boxing Cup 2025 to be played in Brazil from March 31 to April 5 will be eying for medal-winning performances after they were handed a mixed draw with two boxers getting a direct entry in the semi-finals and few more needing just a win to reach the last four.

The first leg of the World Boxing Cup, officially known as the "World Boxing Cup: Brazil 2025-Foz do Iguaçu," will see over 130 boxers from 19 countries compete for medals and ranking points. The next two legs will be held in Kazakhstan and India, and the highest-ranked boxers will then qualify for the season-ending World Boxing Cup finals.

The World Boxing Cup 2025 series is being organised by World Boxing, which was officially recognised by the International Olympic Committee in February this year, thereby paving the way for the sport's inclusion in the 2028 Los Angeles Olympics.

The 10 men Indian contingent boasts of nine reigning national champions, including 2022 Asian Games bronze medalist Narendar and will be hoping to bring home at least half a dozen medals, including a couple of golds.

Lakshya Chahar will be the only Indian boxer in the 80 kg category on the opening day of competition. He will have his task cut out as he takes on Paris Olympian and former world championships silver medalist, Wanderley Pereira of Brazil, in the opening round.

Among the other Indians in fray, Sachin (60kg) and Vishal (90kg) have a bye in the opening round and will direct take the ring in the semi-finals while Jadumani Singh Mandangbam (50kg) will need to beat last year's World Boxing Cup finals silver medalist Ellis Trowbridge of Great Britain to make a spot in the semi-finals.

Nikhil Dubey (75kg) could make it to the semi-finals with a win over local hope Kane Belini, while Narendar will face off against Kazak's Daniyal Saparbay in the quarterfinals.

Guardiola hopes Bournemouth redemption will help City rediscover lost heart and soul

Manchester
After a loss at Bournemouth began Manchester City's run of poor form this season, City manager Pep Guardiola hopes Sunday's 2-1 comeback win against the same opponent will help his team rediscover the "soul" that they have lacked in recent months.

Second-half goals from Erling Haaland and Omar Marmoush helped City reach the FA Cup semi-finals for a record seventh time in a row and make amends for the 2-1 Premier League loss they suffered at Bournemouth in November.

The loss, which ended City's 32-game unbeaten run in the competition, was the first of four straight league defeats for the defending champions.

City won only one of their next eight games in the competition, suffering a massive setback in their hopes to capture a fifth league title in a row.



"We talked a lot about the game we lost... deservedly here against Bournemouth. That was when we started to go in our down-road this season," Guardiola told reporters on Sunday.

"This season we have played more games like the one against Bournemouth, which is why we have not deserved more. The most important

thing today was that the players have learned the lesson.

"I told them we cannot accept a performance like the one here in the league when people have travelled down for five hours. What we missed this season was heart, soul; the desire for how we'd do it for many, many years."

Guardiola said City started to make "incredible mistakes" since the loss at Bournemouth, as they were eliminated from the Champions League in February after back-to-back losses to Real Madrid.

City are fifth in the Premier League with only one win in the last four league matches, and suffered their first loss to Nottingham Forest since 2009 in a 1-0 away defeat earlier this month.

"As a team we didn't have heart. That's the most important thing we have to recover at the end of the season and in the future.

CISF "Great Indian Coastal Cyclothon" Concludes at Kanyakumari

Kanyakumari
The Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) proudly announced the successful completion of its Mega Event, "The Great Indian Coastal Cyclothon" 2025, an ambitious initiative themed "Sukshmita, Samridhi Bharat" (Secure Coast, Prosperous India). The grand concluding ceremony took place at Kanyakumari, where a large crowd of enthusiastic locals cheered the CISF cyclists under the iconic Vivekananda Rock Memorial and the statue of Tamil Saint and philosopher Thiruvalluvar. The Director General of CISF graced the event as the chief guest, marking the culmination of an extraordinary journey that aimed to fortify partnerships with coastal communities and reinforce India's maritime security framework.

The Cyclothon, flagged off virtually by the Union Minister of Home and Cooperation, Shri Amit Shah, on March 7, 2025, from the Rajaditya Cholan CISF Regional Training Centre in Thakkolam, Ranipet District, Tamil Nadu, saw 125 dedicated CISF personnel, including 14 women, undertake a gruelling journey spanning 6,553 kilometers. Over a span of 25 days, the cyclists traversed 11 coastal states and Union Territories, drawing immense public support. More than 1,200 participants joined the Cyclothon at different stages, underscoring the widespread enthusiasm and commitment toward the initiative.

Throughout the journey, CISF personnel stationed along the coastline, in collaboration with various state and central government agencies, facilitated the event. Major coastal cities and heritage sites hosted grand receptions and flag-off ceremonies, amplifying



the Cyclothon's core message. Key locations such as Paradip Port, Konark Sun Temple, Gateway of India in Mumbai, Vishakhapatnam, Mangalore, Chennai, Kochi, and Puducherry served as significant touchpoints in this monumental effort.

At the heart of the Cyclothon was a profound acknowledgment of the role played by coastal communities in safeguarding the nation's maritime interests. By recognizing and empowering these communities as "Tat Pradhari" (Sentinels of the Coast), CISF sought to instill a sense of shared responsibility and vigilance. The event effectively raised awareness about security threats looming over India's vast coastline, including illicit smuggling activities involving drugs, weapons, and explosives. Participants and spectators alike were educated about the importance of maintaining heightened vigilance against intrusion and preserving the

astonishing 2.5 crore individuals through various online platforms and social media engagements.

The Cyclothon also garnered substantial support from eminent personalities across different fields, further solidifying its significance. Distinguished dignitaries such as Puducherry Lt Governor Kunjil Kailashnathan, Puducherry Chief Minister N. Rangaswamy, Odisha Deputy Chief Minister Pravat Parida, and renowned sports and cultural figures lent their support. Arjuna Awardee Pramod Bhagat, former Indian hockey goalkeeper Mir Ranjan Negi, Raja Shri Shivendra Narayan Bhanj Deo (King of Kanishka), and Padma Shri awardee sand artist Sudarsan Pattnaik were among the many who graced various events associated with the Cyclothon.

The initiative also witnessed overwhelming backing from sports icons, including Olympic gold medalist Neeraj Chopra, champion shooter Manu Bhaker, cricket legends MS Dhoni, Sunil Gavaskar, and Krishnamachari Srikkanth. The Bollywood and South Indian film industry also contributed to the event's popularity, with renowned actors such as Rajinikanth, Mohanlal, Akshay Kumar, Suniel Shetty, Jackie Shroff, and Manju Warrier extending their support and inspiring masses to rally behind the cause of coastal security. A defining feature of the Cyclothon was the extensive participation of coastal communities across India. The event successfully engaged 58 communities from the 11 coastal states and Union Territories, strengthening their role in ensuring the nation's maritime safety. On the west coast, communities such as Khavra, Maechi, Ahir, and

Vagher in Gujarat; Koli, Gabit, Bhoi, and Agri in Maharashtra; Kharvi, Bhandari, and Romponkars in Goa; Mogaveera, Koraga, and Billava in Karnataka; and Mukkavara, Mappila, and Arayar in Kerala participated enthusiastically. Similarly, on the east coast, coastal communities from West Bengal, Odisha, Andhra Pradesh, and Tamil Nadu actively joined the initiative, reinforcing their role as crucial stakeholders in maritime security.

The Cyclothon's journey was punctuated by 26 major events and 118 local interactions, where participants engaged in insightful discussions on coastal security, environmental conservation, and the unique challenges faced by coastal dwellers. Cultural programs showcasing traditional songs, dances, martial arts, and indigenous art enriched the experience, celebrating the vibrant heritage of India's coastal regions.

As a result of this massive undertaking, valuable insights were gained regarding the specific vulnerabilities and security challenges faced by different coastal regions. These learnings will serve as a vital reference in fortifying India's coastal security framework in the years to come.

The conclusion of "The Great Indian Coastal Cyclothon" marks not just the end of an extraordinary physical endeavor but the beginning of a strengthened alliance between CISF and India's coastal communities. The success of this initiative is a testament to collective effort, national spirit, and an unwavering commitment to ensuring that India's vast coastline remains secure and prosperous.

Pakistan's former PM Imran Khan nominated for Nobel Peace Prize

Islamabad: Jailed former prime minister Imran Khan has been nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize for his efforts for human rights and democracy.

Members of the Pakistan World Alliance (PWA) – an advocacy group founded last December – who also belong to the Norwegian political party Partiet Sentrum, announced the nomination of Khan, 72.

"We are pleased to announce on behalf of Partiet Sentrum that in alliance with somebody with the right to nominate, have nominated Imran Khan, the former prime minister of Pakistan, to the Nobel Peace Prize for his work with human rights and democracy in Pakistan," Partiet Sentrum said on X on Sunday.

In 2019, Khan was nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize for his efforts to promote peace in South Asia.

Every year, the Norwegian Nobel Committee receives hundreds of nominations after which they select the winner through a lengthy eight-month process. The Express Tribune reported.

Khan, also the founder of Pakistan's main opposition Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party, has been incarcerated since August 2023.

Kremlin official says Russia sees efforts to end Ukraine war as drawn-out process

Moscow: Russia views efforts to end its three-year war with Ukraine as "a drawn-out process", a Kremlin spokesman said on Monday after US President Donald Trump expressed frustration with the two countries' leaders as he tries to bring about a truce.

"We are working to implement some ideas in connection with the Ukrainian settlement. This work is ongoing," Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said at a conference call with reporters.

"There is nothing concrete yet that we could and should announce. This is a drawn-out process because of the difficulty of its substance," he said when asked about Trump's anger at Russian President Vladimir Putin's comments dismissing Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy's legitimacy to negotiate



a deal. Russia has effectively rejected a US proposal for a full and immediate 30-day halt in the fighting. The feasibility of a partial ceasefire on the Black Sea, used by both countries to transport shipments of grain and other cargo, was cast into doubt after Kremlin negotiators imposed far-reaching conditions. Trump promised during last year's US election campaign that he would bring Europe's biggest conflict since World War II to a swift conclusion.

Peskov didn't directly address Trump's criticism of Putin on Sunday when he said he was "angry, pissed off" that Putin had questioned Zelenskyy's credibility as leader.

But he said that Putin "remains absolutely open to contacts" with the US president and was ready to speak to Trump.

Both countries are preparing for a spring-summer campaign on the battlefield, analysts and Ukrainian and Western officials say.

Zelenskyy said late Sunday that there has been no let-up in Russia's attacks as it drives

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on with its invasion of its neighbor that began in February 2022. He said the attacks demonstrated Russia's unwillingness to forge a settlement.

"The geography and brutality of Russian strikes, not just occasionally, but literally every day and night, show that Putin couldn't care less about diplomacy," Zelenskyy said in his daily address.

"And almost every day, in response to this proposal, there are Russian drones, bombs, artillery shelling, and ballistic strikes," he said.

Setting fire to someone's house, looting a shopping mall, and setting fire to a herbal company cannot be considered political activities," he said, adding those involved in the violent acts would not be spared.

Oli said the home ministry would provide detailed information about the incident to the House at an appropriate time.

He said a detailed report would be prepared on the incident.

"An analysis from a year ago is necessary. There was an attempt to incite public rage by spreading excitement on sensitive issues like religion, culture, and tradition," Oli said.

"The former king invited those unruly individuals to his home and appointed a so-called commander."

"Shouldn't those who aim to become king again publicly express their view on these successive events?" he said.

"Former King Shah issued a video statement on Democracy Day (February 19) that incited the crowd. He will not be granted impunity. Those seeking to overthrow the system and restore the monarchy must make their views public on these actions."

Oli's remarks prompted protests from lawmakers of the Rastriya Prajatantra Party (RPP) in the parliament. The party advocates for the reinstatement of the Hindu Kingdom in the Himalayan nation, Kathmandu Post reported.

US airstrikes pound Yemen overnight killing at least 3 Houthi rebels

Dubai: Suspected US airstrikes struck around Yemen's rebel-held capital overnight into Monday morning, attacks that the Iranian-backed Houthis said killed at least three people.

The full extent of the damage wasn't immediately clear. The attacks followed a night of airstrikes early Friday that appeared particularly intense compared to other days in the campaign that began March 15.

The strikes around Sanaa, Yemen's capital held by the Houthis since 2014, and Hajjah governorate also wounded 12 others, the rebels said.

Their Al-Masirah satellite news channel aired footage of broken glass littering homes in Sanaa after the concussive blast of the bombs, but continued not to show the targets of the attacks – suggesting the sites had a military or intel-

ligence function. Strikes there killed one person, the rebels said.

Another strike targeting a pickup truck in Hajjah killed two people and wounded a child, the Houthis said. It marked the first, publicly known time the American strikes targeted a vehicle in this campaign.

An Associated Press review has found the new American operation against the Houthis under President Donald Trump appears more extensive than those under former President Joe Biden, as the US moves from solely targeting launch sites to firing at ranking personnel as well as dropping bombs in cities.

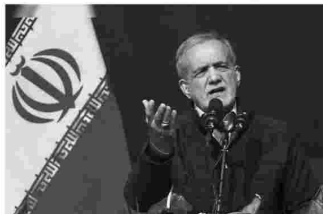
The new campaign of airstrikes, which the Houthis now say have killed at least 61 people, started after the rebels threatened to begin targeting "Israeli" ships again over Israel blockading aid entering the Gaza Strip.

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

Kathmandu: Nepal's Prime Minister K P Oli said on Monday that violence erupted in the pro-monarchy protests here as former king Gyanendra Shah attempted to disrupt social harmony and create social division.

Speaking in the House of Representatives (HoR), Oli accused the former king of aligning with individuals refusing to repay bank loans and stirring social unrest for his ambitions.

Oli said the Tinkune



area incident occurred because of these actions of the former king, My Republica reported.

es between security personnel and protesters, who were demanding the reinstatement of the Hindu monarch.

So far, 110 people have been arrested in connection with the violent protests.

"The alleged organisers attempted to drive a vehicle over the police and breached the restricted area. There were terrorist activities like setting fire to the international airport and the oil corporation's depot," Oli said.

"Setting fire to someone's house, looting a shopping mall, and setting fire to a herbal company cannot be considered political activities," he said, adding those involved in the violent acts would not be spared.

Oli said the home ministry would provide detailed information about the incident to the House at an appropriate time.

He said a detailed report would be prepared on the incident.

"An analysis from a year ago is necessary. There was an attempt to incite public rage by spreading excitement on sensitive issues like religion, culture, and tradition," Oli said.

"The former king invited those unruly individuals to his home and appointed a so-called commander."

"Shouldn't those who aim to become king again publicly express their view on these successive events?" he said.

"Former King Shah issued a video statement on Democracy Day (February 19) that incited the crowd. He will not be granted impunity. Those seeking to overthrow the system and restore the monarchy must make their views public on these actions."

Oli's remarks prompted protests from lawmakers of the Rastriya Prajatantra Party (RPP) in the parliament. The party advocates for the reinstatement of the Hindu Kingdom in the Himalayan nation, Kathmandu Post reported.

BUSINESS

India-UK FTA Talks: Sitharaman's London Visit

New Delhi: Issues pertaining to the proposed free trade agreement (FTA) and bilateral investment treaty between India and the UK are expected to figure during the three-day visit of Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman to London from April 8-10, official sources said.

The minister would be attending a host of meetings, including India-United Kingdom Economic and Financial Dialogue, in London.

Sitharaman is likely to hold a bilateral meeting with UK's Chancellor Rachel Reeves and other British ministers.

"Issues pertaining to the trade agreement and bilateral investment treaty (BIT) may also come up for discussions between the two," the official said.

On February 24, Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal and UK Secretary of State for Business and Trade Jonathan Reynolds announced

resumption of negotiations for the proposed FTA between the two countries.

The India-UK negotiations are resuming after a gap of over eight months. The talks were launched on January 13, 2022. So far 14 rounds of talks have been completed.

The two countries are actively negotiating on three different fronts – FTA, a bilateral investment treaty (BIT), and a Double Contribution Convention Agreement.

In the BIT, the sticking point between the two nations is with regard to the resolution of disputes.

In the trade agreement, India is looking for greater access for its students and professionals in the UK market, besides market access for several goods at nil customs duty.

On the other hand, the UK is seeking a significant cut in import duties on goods such as Scotch whisky, electric vehicles, lamb meat, chocolates and certain confectionary items.

Pollution biggest challenge transport sector significant contributor: Gadkari

Thane: Pollution is India's biggest challenge and the transport sector is a major contributor, Union minister Nitin Gadkari said on Monday, stressing the urgent need to transition from fossil fuels to alternative energy sources.

He said India's dependence on fossil fuels is both an economic burden as Rs 22 lakh crore is spent annually on fuel imports and an environmental hazard, making clean energy adoption crucial for the nation's progress.

Speaking at the launch of an eco-friendly electric cycle in Thane, the Road Transport & Highways Minister said cycling needs to be promoted as a sustainable urban transport option in view of increasing urbanisation.

Gadkari said the rapid growth of India's automotive sector has surpassed Japan to become the third-largest globally since 2014.



He said by 2030, India will be the world leader in electric vehicle (EV) production, significantly impacting the global auto market.

He credited the sharp decline in lithium-ion battery prices (now at USD 100 per kWh) for making EVs more affordable and bringing them closer to price parity with traditional fuel-powered vehicles.

"Pollution is our country's biggest challenge, and a major part of it comes from the transport sector," Gadkari said, adding that the shift to electric and alternative fuels is not just an environmental necessity but also an economic imperative.

The minister said India's young engineering talent is the driving force behind innovations in EV technology and alternative fuels. He noted

that startups are making significant breakthroughs, propelling India to the forefront of the green energy revolution.

He also stressed the growing international demand for Indian-made electric two-wheelers which is a strong export opportunity that could boost the economy and improve India's trade balance.

With increasing urbanisation, dedicated cycling infrastructure is needed to encourage environmentally friendly travel while improving road safety and decongesting cities," he added.

"Another key area of focus is biofuels," Gadkari said. He referred to the government's initiatives in converting agricultural waste into biofuels, including bio-CNG and bio-aviation fuel, thereby transforming farmers into energy providers.

This shift would not only enhance rural incomes but also reduce pollution and decrease fuel import costs, he added.

"Farmers will no longer be just food providers – they will be energy providers too," he said, highlighting ongoing biofuel projects aimed at reducing reliance on traditional fuels.

The minister called for promoting cycling as a sustainable urban transport option.

"With increasing urbanisation, dedicated cycling infrastructure is needed to encourage environmentally friendly travel while improving road safety and decongesting cities," he added.

On a quarter-on-quarter basis, there is a 0.7 per cent increase in external debt from the level of USD 712.7 billion at the end of September 2024, according to India's Quarterly External Debt Report.

The external debt to GDP ratio stood at 10.1 per cent at the end of December 2024, against 19 per cent in September 2024, it said.

The valuation effect is due to the appreciation of the US dollar vis-a-vis the rupee and other major currencies, such as the yen, the euro and Special Drawing Rights (SDR), amounting to USD 12.7 billion during the quarter ended December 2024, the report said.

Excluding the valuation effect, the increase in external debt would have been USD 17.9 billion quarter-on-quarter against USD 5.2 billion at the end of December 2024 over September 2024, it added.

"US dollar-denominated debt remained the largest component of India's external debt, with a share of 54.8 per cent in end-December 2024, followed by Indian Rupee (30.6 per cent), Japanese Yen (6.1 per cent), SDR (4.7 per cent), and Euro (3 per cent)," it said.

India's external debt rises to USD 717.9 bn at Dec-end

New Delhi: India's external debt increased by 10.7 per cent to USD 717.9 billion at the end of December 2024 from USD 648.7 billion in December 2023, as per the data released by the finance ministry.

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India's First Pokémon GO City Safari Kicks Off in Mumbai, Celebrating Gaming and Community!

Mumbai: Pokémon GO's first-ever City Safari in India concluded with resounding success, as thousands of Trainers gathered across Mumbai's iconic locations, immersing themselves in the thrill of exploration and exclusive Pokémon encounters. From landmark hotspots like Marine Drive, Carter Road, Gateway of India, and Navi Mumbai to Phoenix Palladium, participants experienced the magic of the game intertwined with the city's vibrant atmosphere. Special in-game features, including Pika-



achu in saree and kurta, added a unique cultural

touch to the adventure. Rafael Siregar,

Pokémon GO Head of APAC Emerging Mar-

kets said, "We have always believed in the power of augmented reality to bring people together, and seeing the energy and passion of the Pokémon GO community here in Mumbai was truly inspiring to keep going with our initiatives to boost the communities. It's a testament to how games can create real-world connections and unforgettable memories."

The highlight of the event was the Pokémon Fiesta at Phoenix Palladium, which served as the central hub for activities on March 29

and 30. Trainers enjoyed an electrifying Pikachu parade, engaging Pokémon-themed games, interactive quizzes, and photo booths, along with an exclusive meet-and-greet with Pikachu in a saree. The Pokémon GO booth provided a space for the trainers to connect, strategize, and celebrate their shared passion for the game.

Sundarraman Ramalingam, India Manager, Niantic Inc. said, "India is a key part of the Pokémon GO world, and it was incredible to see such a vibrant response. We are

committed to bringing more experiences like this to our Indian community, and Mumbai's City Safari was just the beginning."

As the Pokémon GO City Safari: Mumbai wraps up, Niantic reaffirms its commitment to bringing more immersive experiences to India's growing Trainer community. With record-breaking participation and an overwhelming response, this event marks the beginning of many more exciting adventures to come. Stay tuned for future Pokémon GO events as the journey continues!



Kapil Sharma to star in sequel to 'Kis Kisko Pyaar Karoon', poster unveiled

Mumbai
Comedian and actor Kapil Sharma is set to reprise his role in the sequel of his debut film 'Kis Kisko Pyaar Karoon' that was released in 2015.

The original film, directed by the filmmaker duo Abbas-Mustan, saw Sharma juggling multiple relationships in a hilariously chaotic storyline.

The sequel, however, brings in a new twist, hinting at more comedy and a fresh direction under Anukul Goswami.

On Monday, on the occasion of Eid, Kapil shared the first poster for 'Kis Kisko Pyaar Karoon 2', where he is



once again seen at the altar, dressed in a white sherwani.

In the image, he removes his floral sheira (headgear) and looks into the camera

with a mix of confusion and surprise.

Standing beside him is his 'wife', who is draped in a blue lehenga and has her face partially covered by a

translucent veil and flower headgear.

Trade analyst Taran Adarsh also shared the first look of the film, calling it a surprise gift from Kapil

Sharma on the occasion of Eid.

He wrote, "KAPIL SHARMA - VENUS - ABBAS-MUSTAN REUNITE: 'KIS KISKO PYAAR KAROON 2' FIRST LOOK UNVEILS... The first look of the comedy caper Kis Kisko Pyaar Karoon 2 is finally here, starring Kapil Sharma and Manjot Singh, directed by Anukul Goswami, and produced by Ratan Jain, Ganesh Jain, and Abbas-Mustan."

While Abbas-Mustan, who directed the original, will no longer helm the sequel, they will continue their involvement as co-producers. Anukul Goswami, known for his work as a

writer on the original film and Kapil's popular TV show 'The Kapil Sharma Show', steps in as the director.

Manjot Singh, recognized for his role in 'Fukrey', joins the cast.

The original film, Kis Kisko Pyaar Karoon, centered around Kapil's character, Shiv Ram Kishan, who found himself married to three women without their knowledge, all while maintaining his relationship with his girlfriend.

The first installment also starred Eli Avram as Kapil's girlfriend and featured Manjari Fadnis, Simran Kaur Mundi, and Sai Lokur as his three wives.

Eid: Aamir Khan shares warm hug with sons Junaid, Azad

Mumbai
No celebration is complete without your loved ones. As it's Eid today, Bollywood superstar Aamir Khan spent some quality time with his family members.

He also stepped out of his residence with his sons Junaid and Azad to extend festive greetings to his fans and media.

In the visuals captured by the paps, Aamir can also be seen sharing a warm hug with Junaid and Azad. The trio complemented each other in white kurta.

The 'Fanaa' star also brought smiles to the faces of the shutterbugs as he personally came to wish them Eid Mubarak and also distributed Gudi Kati to them.

These fan-jam Eid moments of Aamir Khan left fans in awe.

Meanwhile, on the work front, Aamir recently launched his own YouTube channel 'Aamir Khan Talkies', which reveals some behind-the-moments

and some unfiltered conversations of his films.

In a video shared on the Instagram handle of the actor's production house, Aamir expressed his desire to create a platform where he can discuss his films and the craft of filmmaking. He promised to take fans behind the curtain, offering an exclusive glimpse into the creative process and some important aspects of cinematic storytelling.

In the coming months, Aamir will be seen in the film 'Sitaare Zameen Par'. At an event previously, Aamir said that the film is set for release by the end of this year, aiming for a Christmas debut.

"My next film as a lead actor is Sitaare Zameen Par. We are trying to release it by the end of this year, on the occasion of Christmas. It is an entertaining film; I like the story. The shooting of the film has begun," he said.

The film is expected to feature Genelia in a pivotal role.

Aditi Rao Hydari shares adorable picture with Siddharth as they extend festive greetings to fans

Mumbai
Actress Aditi Rao Hydari on Monday shared an adorable picture with her husband Siddharth, extending festive greetings to all.

The image shows Aditi leaning on Siddharth's shoulder as they posed for a selfie.

"We dream laugh love and celebrate under the same sun moon and stars Ugadi subhakankshulu, Eid Mubarak, gudi padwachha shubhedhya," she captioned the post.

The couple, who began dating in 2021, tied the knot last year in the presence of close family and friends.

In March 2024, Aditi shared a post confirming their engagement, posting a

sweet selfie with Siddharth. The two, known for keeping their relationship-

Meanwhile, on the acting front, Aditi will soon be in a web series titled 'O Saathi Re', which also stars Arjun Rampal, and Avinash Tiwary.

showrunner as he recently announced the project. Excited to present the story to the world, Intiaz in a press note said, "O Saathi Re surprised me at every turn of its development. It is a modern story with a vintage heart, an enchanted fairy tale set in the fiasco of Metropolitan life. I feel both relieved and excited at having Arif direct the stellar cast of Avinash Aditi and Arjun (All Aces there) and it is the ever-strengthening relationship with Netflix that enabled us to enter the deceptively charming world of 'O Saathi Re'."

Siddharth will be seen sharing screen space with R Madhavan and Nayanthara in Tamil film 'Test'.

Sanoj Mishra, director who gave Monalisa film role, held in rape allegations

New Delhi
Sanoj Mishra, the director who offered viral sensation Monalisa a role in his film during the Kumbh Mela, has been arrested in connection with a rape case.

The arrest follows the rejection of his bail application by the Delhi High Court.

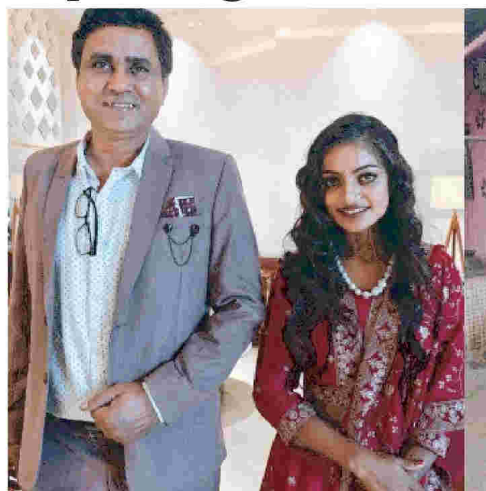
On March 30, 2024, Sanoj Mishra, aged 45, was apprehended by the Delhi Police following intelligence gathering and technical surveillance.

The arrest took place in Ghaziabad, and Mishra, who resides with his family in Mumbai, was taken into custody by the Nabi Karim Police Station.

The case centers around a 28-year-old woman from a small town, who alleged that Mishra repeatedly raped her over a period of four years.

The woman, who aspired to become a film actress, claimed that she had been in a live-in relationship with Mishra in Mumbai during this time.

She further alleged that Mishra forced her to undergo abortion procedures on three separate occasions. The complainant, in her



statement to the police, also accused Mishra of renegeing on his promise to marry her. According to a statement from the Delhi Police, an FIR was lodged on March 6, 2024, under several sections including rape, assault, causing miscarriage, and threatening.

The complainant also supported her allegations during a statement under section 164 of the Criminal Procedure Code (CrPC). The police were able to gather medical evidence related to the alleged abortions from Muzaffarnagar.

The incident that triggered the complaint occurred on February 18, 2025, when the accused allegedly brought the victim to Hotel Shiva in Nabi Karim. Mishra is accused of having physical relations with the woman during this visit before abandoning her, leading to her filing the police complaint.

Mathew Lillard feels "terrified" of his return to Scream franchise

Connecticut
Mathew Lillard, who is set to return to the slasher genre with the film Scream 7, expressed his fear of affecting the film's legacy with his role, reported People.

Joining the original cast-mates David Arquette, Jamie Kennedy, Dermot Mulroney and Skeet Ulrich at Hartford's 90s Con held at the Connecticut Convention Center, Lillard spoke on a panel moderated by People about his fear of ruining the seminal horror movie's legacy upon his possible resurrection.

"I will say, I can't say anything about it, obviously. But I am very excited and slightly terrified to be back because all I can do is really screw up a legacy that we have," said Lillard as quoted by People magazine.

He continued, "I could really suck, and so that's my fear. My fear is that I come back and sort of punish something that I could never have touched and been just fine. I hope I don't ruin it up for everyone." as quoted by People. Scream was originally premiered in 1996, and quickly became a cult classic in the slasher genre. It has spawned six sequels, with the seventh instalment



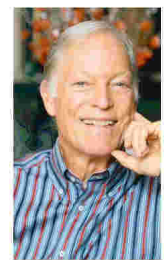
being released by Paramount on February 27, 2026.

It will be directed by Kevin Williamson, who wrote the script for the original 1996 film. The project will include the highly anticipated return of many familiar faces, including Courteney Cox, Lillard, Scott Foley and Neve Campbell, the latter of whom starred in the original 1996 Scream and all of its sequels except for Scream 6, due to a pay dispute.

Lillard's career catapulted following his turn in the flick as Stu Macher, one-half of the evil duo (including Ulrich's Billy Loomis) behind the savage killings at Woods-

boro High, reported Deadline. As a refresher, both die at the end of the film. Since his iconic performance in Scream, the actor has starred in the movies She's All That and The Descendants and played a prominent role in the Blumhouse/Universal hit Five Nights at Freddy's.

According to Deadline, Melissa Barrera and Jenna Ortega were originally set to return as their on-screen sister duo; however, the former was unceremoniously dropped from the project for calling for a ceasefire in Gaza and the latter departed due to scheduling conflicts with Wednesday Season 2.



'Dr Kildare' actor Richard Chamberlain passes away at 90

Washington
Richard Chamberlain, the actor known for roles in shows such as Dr Kildare, Shogun, and The Thorn Birds, passed away at the age of 90, reported Deadline.

According to the outlet, the three-time Golden Globe winner died of complications following a stroke just days before his 91st birthday on Monday.

"Our beloved Richard is with the angels now. He is free and soaring to those loved ones before us. How blessed were we to have known such an amazing and loving soul. Love never dies. And our love is under his wings lifting him to his next great adventure," said Chamberlain's partner Martin Rabbett in a statement as quoted by Deadline.

The actor was born in 1934 in Beverly Hills. Chamberlain was drafted by the US Army after college, serving in Korea from 1956 to 1958, during which he achieved the rank of sergeant, reported Deadline.

After founding the LA-based theatre group Company of Angels in 1959, Chamberlain got his onscreen start in episodes of Alfred Hitchcock Presents, Gunsmoke and Riverboat.

Chamberlain's breakout came in the title role of NBC's medical drama Dr. Kildare, which ran for five seasons from 1961 to 1966. The series won the actor his first Golden Globe before going on to win two more for his performances in Shogun and The Thorn Birds.

In his illustrious acting career, the actor has starred in several hit films including 'The Three Musketeers', 'The Towering Inferno', 'The Count of Monte Cristo', 'The Man in the Iron Mask' and 'The Swarm', as well as shows like 'The Bourne Identity', 'Touched by an Angel', 'Will & Grace', 'Nip/Tuck', 'Desperate Housewives' and 'Twin Peaks: The Return'.

