



KKR all-rounder Ramandeep Singh reflects on team's performance against MI

Xi Jinping calls for 'elephant-dragon tango' on 75th anniversary of India China ties

Punjab govt provided over 55 000 jobs in 36 months, says CM Mann



- 3 DELHI**
Odd-even scheme enforced in Delhi only 5 times out of 95 needed: CAG report
- 7 NATIONAL**
India, Chile agree to begin negotiations for trade pact
- 8 STATE**
Bareilly is now known for Nath corridor: UP CM
- 9 BUSINESS**
Govt to form committee for decision on assets of MTNL and BSNL in Mumbai: Scindia
- 11 SPORTS**
Bengaluru FC, FC Goa eye first-leg advantage as ISL 2024-25 semi-finals commence



Govt to form committee for decision on assets of MTNL and BSNL in Mumbai: Scindia

Bengaluru FC, FC Goa eye first-leg advantage as ISL 2024-25 semi-finals commence

MARKET	
SENSEX	NIFTY
76204.51	23165.70
-1,390.41	-353.65
GOLD SILVER	
90,588.00	99,437.00
468.00	-628.00

WEATHER	
Sunrise	6:11 AM
Sunset	6:40 PM
Moonrise	8:43 AM
Moonset	11:25 PM
Today's Prediction	
Maximum	36°C
Minimum	21°C
Tomorrow's Prediction	
Maximum	38°C
Minimum	21°C

Lok Sabha set to take up Waqf bill for consideration on Wednesday

The opposition INDIA bloc also presented a united face on Wednesday as its parties discussed their joint strategy to oppose the bill at a meeting in the Parliament House.

New Delhi: The Lok Sabha will take up the contentious Waqf (Amendment) Bill for discussion and passage on Wednesday, setting the stage for a showdown between a government determined to push it through and an opposition united in condemning the proposed law as unconstitutional.

Rajya Sabha is expected to take it up on Thursday, with the two Houses allocated eight hours each for debating the proposed law.

TDP, JD(U), Shiv Sena and LJP (Ram Vilas) -- the four biggest constituents of the NDA after the BJP -- issued whips to their MPs asking them to support the government stand.

Some BJP allies, sources said, continue to push for more changes in the bill. A senior member of a BJP ally expressed hope that the saffron party will accommodate their views, stressing that some of their concerns were addressed by the Joint Committee of



Parliament which scrutinised the bill. However, he emphasised that the NDA will remain united on the issue.

The opposition INDIA bloc also presented a united face on Wednesday as its parties discussed their joint strategy to oppose the bill at a meeting in the Parliament House.

Minorities and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju told reporters that the Lok Sabha's

business advisory committee (BAC), which includes leaders from all major parties, chaired by Speaker Om Birla agreed on an eight-hour debate, which could be extended after taking the sense of the House.

The early signs of a likely raucous debate between the treasury and opposition benches over the bill were visible during the meeting as the Congress and several other opposition INDIA

bloc members walked out of the meeting, accusing the government of stifling their voice. However, the political heat and length of the debate are unlikely to have any bearing on the final outcome as the numbers heavily favour the ruling BJP-led National Democratic Alliance (NDA) in the Lok Sabha.

Congress deputy leader in the Lok Sabha Gaurav Gogoi alleged that their voices were being ignored and said the opposition parties wanted more time to debate and the House to take up more issues, including the situation in Manipur and the row over electors' photo identity card.

Rijiju said several parties wanted four to six hours of debate, while those from the opposition demanded 12 hours. He noted that the allotted period of eight hours can be extended if the House feels so on Wednesday.

The Rajya Sabha BAC met later where it was decided to have a discussion on the bill on Thursday, by which the Lower House is expected to deliver its verdict.

AJMM member Asafuddin Owaisi, a sharp critic of the bill, told reporters that he will put forth his view during the debate to show how "unconstitutional" it is. This bill is aimed at curbing the religious freedom of Muslims, he alleged, adding that people will teach BJP's allies like TDP and JD(U) a lesson.

CONTD ON PAGE-2

18 killed in fire-cracker warehouse blast in Gujarat



Palanpur (Gujarat) Eighteen persons lost their lives while five others were injured on Tuesday after an explosion and blaze ripped through a godown where fire-crackers were allegedly stored and manufactured illegally, leading to the structure collapse in Banaskantha district, officials said.

The explosion, which occurred at approximately 9:45 AM, flattened the godown in an industrial area near Deesa town, around 50 km from the Banaskantha district headquarters.

All the deceased persons were originally from Haliya village in Tarta district of Madhya Pradesh," said district collector Mihir Patel.

The blast was so intense that it sent body parts of workers flying 200-300 metres away. The impact brought down the RCC slab of the structure. Even family members of workers staying on the same premises were crushed to death after blocks of slabs fell on them, he said.

Minister Rushikesh Patel told reporters that seven fire teams, eight ambulances, a State Disaster Response Force (SDRF) team and four bulldozers were rushed to the site for rescue operations.

"As many as 18 persons died in the incident and five others were injured after the slab of the godown collapsed following a blast," said Superintendent of Police Akshayraj Makwana.

CONTD ON PAGE-2

2020 Delhi riots: Court orders FIR against Kapil Mishra

New Delhi: In a major setback to Delhi law minister Kapil Mishra, a court on Tuesday ordered an FIR to probe his alleged role in the 2020 riots in the national capital.

Additional chief judicial magistrate Vaibhav Chaurasia found a "prime facie" cognisable offence, saying Mishra's presence at the place of the incident couldn't be ruled out and the matter required a probe against him and others.

"It is clear that Mishra was in the area at the time of alleged offence... further probe required," the judge said.

The court directed Delhi Police to file a "compliance report" in the matter by April 16, the next date of hearing.

CONTD ON PAGE-2



HIGHLIGHT

The court directed Delhi Police to file a "compliance report" in the matter by April 16, the next date of hearing.

his associates with respect to first incident (on February 29, 2020) only and cognisable offence has been disclosed by the complainant. Put up for the compliance of the order from DCP North-East on or before April 16, 2025," the order said.

SC orders Rs 10L compensation to Prayagraj homeowners

New Delhi: Calling the demolition of residential homes in Prayagraj "inhuman and illegal," the Supreme Court on Tuesday ordered the city development authority to pay Rs 10 lakh compensation to each aggrieved house owner within six weeks.

"The manner in which the demolition has taken place shocks our conscience. Residences of the appellants have been high-handedly demolished. There is something called right to shelter, due process of law," said a bench of Justices Abhay S Oka and Ujjal Bhuyan.

The bench said the "high handed" manner of the demolitions showed insensitivity on the part of authority while underlining the "rule of law in the country". Residential structures



of citizens cannot be demolished in such fashion, it added.

The apex court said the Prayagraj Development Authority must remember right to shelter is an integral part of Article 21 and there is a rule of law which is basic part of the Constitution.

The top court said the demolition was carried out by the authority under Section 27 of the UP

HIGHLIGHT

Maintaining that residential structures can't be demolished in such a fashion, the court underlines the importance of 'rule of law in the country' by the registered post.

"The first registered post communication was sent on March 1, 2021, received on March 6, 2021, and the demolition was carried out the next day, leaving the appellants with no opportunity to appeal under Section 27(2) of the Act," the bench said.

The top court went on, "The object of the proviso to Section 27(1) is to provide a reasonable opportunity to showcase before demolition. This is no way of granting a reasonable opportunity."

Agency

GST Collection Surges 9.9% to Rs 1.96 Lakh Cr in March

New Delhi: Gross GST collection grew 9.9 per cent in March to over Rs 1.96 lakh crore, the second-highest mop-up ever, government data showed on Tuesday.

GST revenue from domestic transactions rose 8.8 per cent to Rs 1.49 lakh crore, while revenue from imported goods was higher 13.56 per cent to Rs 46,919 crore.

The gross collection includes Central GST mop-up of Rs 38,145 crore, State GST collection of Rs 49,891 crore and Integrated GST (IGST) of Rs 95,833 crore. Cess collection during March stood at Rs 12,253 crore.

Total refunds during March rose 41 per cent to Rs 19,615 crore.

After adjusting refunds, net GST revenue stood at over Rs 1.76 lakh crore in March 2025, a 7.3 per cent growth over the year-ago period.

GST collection had hit a record high of Rs 2.10 lakh crore in April 2024.

Deloitte India Partner MS Mani said the 9.9 per cent increase in gross GST collection for the month reflects the impact of year-end sales push by businesses.

"It is very encouraging to see that this is not an isolated instance as GST collections have shown a steady increase every month reflected by the 9.4 per cent increase in annual Gross GST collections," Mani said.

Gross GST collection during April-March stood at Rs 22.08 lakh crore, a 9.4 per cent Y-o-Y growth. Agency

More than 10,000 Indians imprisoned abroad, highest in Saudi Arabia: MEA

New Delhi: Eight Indian prisoners were transferred from foreign countries to India between 2023 and February 13 this year, according to data shared in a report by a Parliamentary panel. It asserted that the "low success rate" in bringing back Indian prisoners "calls for an assessment" of the efforts taken for it.

Citing information from the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), the report said that at present, 10,152 Indian prisoners (in 86 countries) including under-trials are lodged in foreign



prisons. The report of the Committee of External Affairs, led by Congress MP Shashi Tharoor, on 'Indian Diaspora Overseas including NRIs, PIOs, OCIs and Migrant Workers: All Aspects of their Conditions and Welfare, including the Status of the Emigration Bill' was presented in Parliament on Tuesday.

In its report, the panel also shared data on foreign prisoners transferred from India to their native countries over the same period, whose cumulative number stood at three.

The MEA has informed the Committee that so far, 31 bilateral agreements on Transfer of Sentenced Persons (TSP) have been signed.

These countries are -- Australia, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Bulgaria, Cambodia, Egypt, Estonia, France, Hong Kong, Iran, Israel, Italy, Kazakhstan, Republic of Korea, Kuwait, Maldives, Mauritius, Mongolia, Qatar, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, Spain, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Turkey, United Arab Emirates (UAE), United Kingdom and Vietnam. Agency

Will maintain decency in shows, Allahbadia tells SC

New Delhi: Pradeep Ranveer Allahbadia on Tuesday filed an undertaking in the Supreme Court saying he would maintain decency in his "The Ranveer Show".

A bench of Justices Surya Kant and N Kottiswar Singh was informed by senior advocate Abhinav Chandrachud, appearing for Allahbadia, that his client had filed an undertaking in compliance with the direction of the court and joined the case's investigation and recorded his statements. Chandrachud sought



a modification of the top court's conditions asking Allahbadia to deposit his passport and said it affected his livelihood.

The senior counsel said Allahbadia had to travel abroad for interviewing different people

which required holding several rounds of meetings.

The bench said if Allahbadia went abroad it was bound to affect the investigation and asked solicitor general Tushar Mehta, representing Maharashtra and Assam governments, about the time-frame to complete the probe.

Mehta said though he did not seek any instruction on the same, the investigation was likely to be over in two weeks.

The bench said it would consider Allahbadia's prayer for releasing the passport two weeks later. Agency

Lok Sabha set to take up Waqf bill for consideration on Wednesday

CONT FROM PAGE-1
The Lower House has 293 MPs in the Lower House with a current strength of 542, and the BJP has often been successful in pulling the support of independent members and parties.

Some major BJP allies like the Telugu Desam Party (TDP), Janata Dal (United) and Chirag Paswan-led LJP (Ramvilas) had expressed reservations over some aspects of the bill but have since become more agreeable after the parliamentary committee adopted a few of their suggestions, official sources have said.

The BJP and the Congress are among the parties that have issued whips to their MPs, asking them to ensure their presence in the House and support their party's official stand, Agency

2020 Delhi riots: Court orders FIR against Kapil Mishra

CONT FROM PAGE-1
The court directed the police to examine the complainant, and the Delhi Police's DCP Ved Prakash Surya who was reportedly wandering at the site during the alleged incident, saying "If you don't stop the protest, then the consequence will happen here that you all will be killed."

The order said once it was established prima facie, Surya was to be interrogated over the presence of Mishra, and what had transpired between them.

"He (Surya) is the best person to explain as what transpired on the day between him and Mishra coupled with ultimatum and warning by DCP Ved Prakash Surya subsequent thereof as alleged by the complainant and this requires serious investigation. This is being based by only relying upon the material supplied by the prosecution itself," the court said.

The order went on, "His (Surya) personal interrogation is necessary. The series of events reveals that perhaps, if allegations of complainant are found to be true, then DCP Ved Prakash Surya knows something which this Judiciary does not."

Agency

SC upholds Rajasthan Electricity Regulatory Commission's open access regulations

New Delhi:
The Supreme Court on Tuesday upheld the validity of the 2016 regulations of the Rajasthan Electricity Regulatory Commission (RERC) on terms and conditions to regulate open access of power to industrial consumers.

A bench comprising justices Vikram Nath and Prasanna B Varale dismissed a batch of appeals filed by industrial consumers, including Ramayana Ispat Pvt Ltd, against the Rajasthan High Court decisions from both its Jodhpur and Jaipur Benches.

The high court verdicts had upheld the validity of the RERC (Terms and Conditions for Open Access) Regulations, 2016.

The key change introduced by the Regulations of 2016 was the imposition of limitations on the simultaneous withdrawal of power through open access and contracted demand from the distribution licensee.

Under the new regime, if a consumer opted to procure power through open access, the contracted demand



from the distribution licensee would be reduced by the quantum of power scheduled through open access and additionally, the Regulations imposed penalties for over-withdrawal and under-withdrawal from the contracted demand.

The main grievance of companies was that the regulations imposed restrictions on captive power plants (CPPs) and large consumers regarding the simultaneous use of open access electricity and contracted demand from distribution licensees.

They argued that such

restrictions were arbitrary and contrary to the Electricity Act, 2003.

The firms, engaged in industrial production, rely on both captive power generation and open access electricity to meet their power needs, the plea said.

Previously, under the Rajasthan Electricity Regulatory Commission (Terms and Conditions for Open Access) Regulations, 2004, these consumers had greater flexibility in scheduling power from different sources, they had said.

However, the 2016 regulations introduced

restrictions, including a reduction in contracted demand from the distribution licensee by the quantum of power scheduled through open access, advance scheduling requirements and penalties for over-withdrawal or under-withdrawal beyond contracted demand.

Companies like Hindustan Zinc Limited had opposed these regulations, arguing that they restricted open access and created unfair disadvantages for captive power generators.

However, the high court had held that the

A bench comprising justices Vikram Nath and Prasanna B Varale dismissed a batch of appeals filed by industrial consumers, including Ramayana Ispat Pvt Ltd, against the Rajasthan High Court decisions from both its Jodhpur and Jaipur Benches.

regulations were necessary for grid stability and equitable distribution of electricity.

Writing an 83-page judgement for the bench, Justice Nath dismissed the appeals and upheld the high court judgements.

The bench held that the RERC has the statutory authority under the Electricity Act, 2003, to regulate open access and impose conditions to ensure fair competition and grid discipline.

It also said the requirement for advance scheduling and penalties for deviations are within the regulatory scope of RERC and are designed to prevent market manipulation and ensure reliable power distribution.

The top court said the regulations do not violate constitutional rights or statutory provisions but are aligned with the objectives of the Electricity Act, 2003.

It said while captive power generators might face inconvenience, this does not render the regulations illegal or arbitrary and the measures introduced by RERC are intended to maintain grid stability and ensure that all electricity consumers are treated equitably.

The top court dealt with several issues including whether the RERC has the jurisdiction to regulate interstate open access under the Act of 2003 and if the imposition of penalties for variations in withdrawal from contracted demand amounts to an unreasonable restriction on the right to open access under the electricity law of 2003.

The statutory scheme under the Act of 2003 mandates that regulations framed by State Commissions must serve the larger public interest.

Code for Peace: 7,000+ Innovators Unite at MIT-WPU Hackathon

New Delhi:
MIT World Peace University (MIT-WPU), Pune successfully hosted HackMITWPU 2025, a three-day hackathon that brought together over 7,000 participants, fostering a spirit of innovation, collaboration, and problem-solving. With fourteen diverse tracks, the event served as a launchpad for groundbreaking ideas, bridging academia and industry to address real-world challenges.

This year's theme, (Le Chhaya) - The Leap of Faith, encouraged participants to step beyond their comfort zones, challenge existing norms, and push the boundaries of technology and entrepreneurship. The event featured live competitions, including Ideathon, Workathon, Capture the Flag, Pharmathon, Bio-Thon, Hack-AI-Thon, and Data Quest, among others, giving students an opportunity to apply their knowledge in AI, cybersecurity, space technology, pharmaceuticals, and more.

Throughout the hackathon, participants engaged in high-impact problem-solving, developing innovative solutions that were evaluated by a panel of 450+ industry experts, academicians, and researchers. Projects spanned multiple disciplines, from artificial intelligence and blockchain to sustainable energy and healthcare.

18 killed in firecracker warehouse blast in Gujarat

CONT FROM PAGE-1
He said forensic teams are trying to ascertain the cause of the explosion.

Makwana said the structure - Deepak Traders - was owned by Father-son duo Deepak Mohani and Khubchand Mohani.

"Prima facie, they were stocking firecrackers illegally. Police have registered an FIR, and formed five teams for investigation. A special investigation team (SIT) headed by a Dy SP-level officer has also been formed," he said, adding that some persons have been rounded up for questioning.

ARS Steel, Epic Group, sentra.world Unveil Nation's First Eco-Friendly TMT Bars

New Delhi:
In a pioneering step towards sustainable infrastructure, ARS Steel has successfully delivered India's first green TMT bar to Trimetro Group for the construction of Epic Group's state-of-the-art manufacturing facility in Bhubaneswar, Odisha.

This marks a major milestone in India's construction sector and its commitment to net-zero goals, incorporating eco-friendly building practices and cutting-edge technology.

Epic Group, a global leader in sustainable fashion headquartered in Hong Kong, is investing INR 377 crore to establish a green manufacturing facility in India.

The facility, designed to be Net Zero in energy and water usage, aims to set a new standard for industrial sustainability in the country. A key component of this green initiative is the use of ARS Steel's ultra-low emission TMT bars, supported by sentra.world, a technol-

This marks a major milestone in India's construction sector and its commitment to net-zero goals, incorporating eco-friendly building practices and cutting-edge technology.

gy-driven startup dedicated to decarbonizing industrial manufacturing.

India's unique leadership in defining "green steel" is highlighted in this project. According to national standards, steel with an emission intensity below 1.6 tCO₂/tfs qualifies as 5-star rated.

With a national average emission intensity around 2.5 tCO₂/tcs, ARS Steel has set an industry benchmark by achieving an emission intensity of 0.59 tCO₂/tfs.

This makes ARS Steel's TMT bars four times greener than the national average and positions them among the lowest-emission steel producers in the country.

INSV 'Tarini' enters Cape Town completing fourth leg of expedition

New Delhi:

Indian Naval Sailing Vessel (INSV) 'Tarini' carrying two women officers has entered Cape Town in South Africa, completing the fourth leg of the ambitious expedition, officials said on Tuesday.

'Tarini' is undertaking the global circumnavigation journey under the Navika Sagar Parikrama (NSP) II, an Indian Navy expedition attempting a double-handed circumnavigation of the earth via the three Great Capes.

The vessel was flagged off from Goa on October 2 last year by Navy Chief Admiral Dinesh K Tripathi.

"INSV Tarini entered Cape Town, South Africa, completing the fourth leg of the Navika Sagar Parikrama II expedition," a Navy spokesperson said.

"The vessel and the crew were welcomed by Ruby Jaspreet, Consul General of India at Cape Town, Rear Admiral (JG) Lisa Hendricks, Chief of Staff, South African Navy



Fleet and the Defence Adviser of India at Pretoria, Captain Atul Sapahia," he said.

The South African naval band also performed welcoming the vessel to the port.

The NSP II expedition is being undertaken by two women officers of the Indian Navy - Lt Cdr Dilna K and Lt Cdr Roopa A.

"The mission aims to cover more than 23,400 nautical miles (approximately 43,300 kilometers) in eight months, with a scheduled return to Goa in May 2025. The expedition has so far had three stopovers

at Fremantle (Australia), Lyttelton (New Zealand) and Port Stanley, Falklands (the UK)," the spokesperson said.

The vessel will be at Royal Cape Yacht Club for two weeks for scheduled maintenance and repairs.

The crew of the vessel will engage and interact with the South African Navy at Simon's Town Naval Base and Gordon's Bay Naval College. Community outreach events are also planned during their stay.

The vessel and its crew having encountered rough seas and

extremely cold temperature, coupled with stormy weather conditions, made the task of circumnavigation highly challenging and demanding. The passage so far witnessed winds in excess of 50 knots (93 kmph) and waves up to 7 m (23 feet) high, the Navy spokesperson said.

The vessel is likely to depart Cape Town on April 15, he said.

The indigenously built INSV Tarini is a 56-foot sailing vessel, which was inducted in the Indian Navy in 2018 and has participated in many such expeditions

Railways records 1.68 pc growth in freight loading to 1 617 million tonnes in 2024-25

New Delhi:

The Indian Railways registered a 1.68 per cent growth in originating freight loading to 1,617.38 million tonnes in the 2024-25 fiscal against 1,590.68 million tonnes in 2023-24, the rail ministry said on Tuesday.

"Loading for domestic coal registered a growth of 7.4 per cent whereas domestic containers recorded a growth of 19.72 per cent. Fertiliser loading recorded a growth of 1.25 per cent while petroleum, oil, and lubricants loading witnessed an increase of 0.61 per cent," it said in a statement.

"In terms of loading achieved by zonal railways, Eastern Railway achieved a growth of 16.11 per cent while South East Central



Railway showed a growth of 7.28 per cent. Northeast Frontier Railway registered an upward trend with petroleum, oil, and lubricants loading witnessed an increase of 0.61 per cent," it said in a statement.

Other zones such as Northern Railway, East Central Railway and South Central Railway continued the trend with growths of 3.89 per cent, 2.82 per cent and 2.14 per cent, respectively.

Due to impressive loading of coal by the Indian Railways, stock at power houses reached 57 million tonnes, the ministry said.

"The Railways is crucial for transporting bulk commodities which are essential for industry and energy -- coal for power plants; iron ore and finished steel for manufacturing and construction;

foodgrains for national distribution; fertilisers for agriculture, and petroleum products for transportation and other purposes," said Dilip Kumar, executive director for information and publicity at the Railway Board.

"For long distances and bulk goods, rail transport has been more economical than road transport. This helps reduce overall logistics costs for businesses, making Indian goods more competitive domestically and internationally," he further said.

Kumar added the Railways linked mines, factories, agricultural regions and ports with markets across the country, enabling seamless supply and demand.

In AAP govt's term, there were over 21,000 power cuts exceeding one hour in a year: Ashish Sood

Ahishhek Bvahu

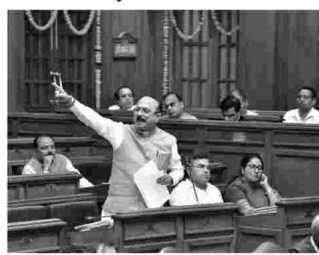
New Delhi:

Delhi's Power Minister, Ashish Sood, in Delhi legislative assembly addressed claims by opposition leaders, particularly Atishi Marlena and Arvind Kejriwal, about power cuts, accusing them of spreading misinformation.

He argued that they are using fake social media accounts and false data to stir unrest regarding power outages in Delhi.

Sood shared statistics showing that during the previous government's term, there were over 21,000 power cuts exceeding one hour in a year, whereas the current government is actively working to improve the electricity supply system.

He acknowledged that improvements take time and detailed



ongoing maintenance work, such as upgrades to transformers and cable repairs. The Delhi government, led by Chief Minister Smt. Rekha Gupta, remains committed to ensuring a stable power supply despite misinformation campaigns.

Sood warned of legal action against anyone, including former officials, who spread falsehoods that could cause

panic. He criticized opposition leaders for not engaging with the facts he presented and urged Marlena not to use power issues for personal political gain.

Additionally, Sood mentioned the Electricity Rights of Consumer Act, which guarantees continuous power supply, and accused the previous AAP government of delaying its implementation.

PUBLIC NOTICE

All concerned are hereby informed through this Public Notice that my clients, ANIL KAUHA, 800 LATE SII, TILAK RAJ KAURIA AND HIS WIFE SMT. ARUNA KAURIA BOTH RESIDENT OF RG-6, FLAT NO. 30A, HARISHAR APARTMENT, NANDA BLOCK, NEAR JAMUN TREE, MAHARAJ ENCLAVE, PALAM, NEW DELHI-110045, have discovered and delivered their Daughter namely ANCHAL SHARMA/ANANCHI PITHANANA W/O SRI VIKRANT SINGH PITHANANA, R/D DASHRATH PURI COLONY, NEAR SHANI DEV MANSION, NEW DELHI-110028, HNO. 804, 87 FLOOR, BASERA HEIGHT, PATHANAHAD ROAD, AGRA, (TTOR: PABRSH-28711) from all movable and immovable properties due to her in playing into hands of her husband Mr. Vikrant Singh Pathania and she is dis-respect and disobey and misbehave with my clients and we have revoke all relations with their daughter and also my clients hereby cleared by this notice our clients have no right or entitled to claim her property and the said daughter have no right or entitled to claim in the movable and immovable properties of our client. If our clients shall not be held responsible for her acts, deed, in any manner and if anyone deals with her, shall hold her liable for their cost and consequences.

Madan Lal Advocate
Suo Loc.
Ct No. 638, Dwarika Court
Complex, Sec-10, Okhla,
New Delhi, Mob: 9213928623

NEWS IN BRIEF

Gautam Buddha Nagar admin to crackdown on lift safety norm violators

Noida

The Gautam Buddha Nagar district administration has decided to take action against the companies and organisations that have not registered the lifts. They will be sent notices soon.

The government had implemented the Lift Act in September last year. Under this, it was necessary to register all the lifts and manufacturing companies within six months.

There are more than 80,000 lifts in the district. So far only 3320 lifts have been registered. The administration has received revenue of Rs 1.60 crore from registration. This Act was implemented after cases of faulty lifts came to light in Noida and Greter Noida West.

Earlier, no one's responsibility was being fixed to prevent accidents. In such a situation, buyers were demanding the implementation of the Lift Act. After implementing it, the administration formed a committee and prepared its action plan. The time set by the government for registration under the Act was completed on March 31, but still more than 75,000 lift operators have not registered. These include both government and non-government organisations.

Gautam Buddha Nagar district magistrate Manish Kumar Verma says that notices will be sent to operators who do not get registered. Also, a meeting will be held soon regarding this, in which action will be taken for the penalty applicable under the Act.

Sunny day in Delhi air quality remains 'moderate'

New Delhi

With clear sky, the national capital on Tuesday recorded a maximum temperature of 34.5 degrees Celsius, 0.5 notch above normal, the India Meteorological Department said.

The minimum temperature in the capital was recorded at 14.6 degrees Celsius, 4.2 notches above normal, the Met office said.

The humidity levels fluctuated between 40 per cent and 20 per cent during the day, the IMD said.

The weather office has forecast clear sky for Wednesday, with the maximum temperature expected to be around 37 degrees Celsius, and the minimum 16 degrees Celsius.

The city's air quality continued in the 'moderate' category for five days running with an AQI of 144 at 4 pm on Tuesday, as per the Central Pollution Control Board.

The Air Quality Early Warning System for Delhi has forecast the capital's air quality to remain in the moderate category for the next two days.

An AQI between 0 and 50 is considered 'good', 51 to 100 'satisfactory', 101 to 200 'moderate', 201 to 300 'poor', 301 to 400 'very poor', and 401 to 500 'severe'.

Odd-even scheme enforced in Delhi only 5 times out of 95 needed: CAG report

The Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP) mandates these measures when PM2.5 levels exceed 300 µg/m³ or PM10 levels surpass 500 µg/m³ for over 48 hours.

New Delhi

The previous AAP government's flagship odd-even scheme aimed at curbing air pollution in the national capital was not "effectively" implemented, according to a CAG report presented in the Delhi Assembly on Tuesday.

The report on vehicular air pollution in Delhi, tabled by Chief Minister Rekha Gupta in the assembly, also flagged major policy gaps and poor coordination among agencies as key factors contributing to worsening pollution in the city.

According to the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) report, there were 95 instances between January 2017 and March 2020 when GRAP restrictions such as the odd-even scheme and the ban on truck entry should have been enforced due to severe pollution.

However, the Department of Transport (DoT) implemented the vehicle rationing scheme only five times and



restricted truck entry on just eight occasions during this period, it said.

The Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP) mandates these measures when PM2.5 levels exceed 300 µg/m³ or PM10 levels surpass 500 µg/m³ for over 48 hours.

The odd-even scheme was not "effectively" implemented, the CAG report said.

The report further noted that to reduce pollution, the government did not take adequate steps like developing inter-state bus terminals (ISBTs) at Delhi's entry points or relocating inland container depots outside the city.

Moreover, two-wheelers, which make up 66 per cent of registered vehicles in Delhi,

were exempted from the odd-even scheme every time it was enforced, the report said.

The audit pointed out that the government did not seek expert opinions on the impact of these exemptions before implementing the scheme.

The DoT admitted in October 2021 that the inade-

quacy of public transport was a major constraint in fully implementing the vehicle rationing scheme, it said.

The report concluded that the lack of timely action undermined GRAP's objectives, allowing pollution levels to remain high despite clear mitigation guidelines.

Speaking on the CAG report, Environment Minister Manjinder Singh Sirsa slammed the previous AAP government over the scheme.

"They spent Rs 53 crore solely on implementing the odd-even scheme, but it did not lead to any significant reduction in vehicle pollution. Instead of investing in concrete pollution control measures, the previous government spent money only on publicity campaigns, which provided no lasting benefits to Delhi's environment," he said.

He further pointed out that in 2012, Delhi needed 11,000 DTC buses, but at that time, the then Congress government was operating

50 per cent private buses.

Before the AAP government took over, 5,233 DTC buses were running. However, after the AAP came to power, 2,000 buses disappeared, while the number of private buses increased from 1,293 to 2,990, Sirsa claimed.

The minister also mentioned the smog tower set up in Connaught Place, saying, "AAP spent Rs 22 crore on a smog tower, but within a year, it stopped functioning."

He also alleged mismanagement in operations of DTC buses.

Sirsa claimed that a company was formed to manage bus services, with the Delhi government holding a 50 per cent stake. However, the company, originally valued at Rs 200 crore, was later sold for just Rs 10 crore, he said.

Sirsa further alleged that the company was sold to entities that later partnered with Russian firms, facilitating under-the-table transactions abroad.

Over 200 held in drive against organised street crimes in Delhi's Rohini

New Delhi

Police have arrested over 200 people under excise, gambling and narcotics cases and for street crime during a month-long drive in North West Delhi's Rohini, an official said on Tuesday.

A total of 63 cases were registered under the Excise Act, 55 under the Gambling Act and 12 under the NDPS Act during the drive from March 1 to 31.

"Teams have arrested 64 people in Excise Act cases, 117 in gambling-related offences and 15 under the NDPS Act," the official said.

Police recovered Rs 1.10 lakh in cash and over 2,600 bottles of illegal liquor. In addition, 2.78 kg of cannabis, 60.34 gm of smack, 48.78



gm of charas, 25 banned tablets and 25 injections were seized, the official added.

The drive also focused on curbing street crimes, with 13 robbers and 20 snatchers being arrested.

The police held 44 auto-lifters, leading to the resolution of 45 motor vehicle theft cases, and arrested 55 people involved in burglary and theft cases, solving 86 cases in the process.

Delhi Assembly constitutes 3 financial panels including Public Accounts Committee

New Delhi

Delhi Assembly Speaker Vijender Gupta on Tuesday announced unopposed election of members to three financial panels of the House including Public Accounts Committee (PAC), which will examine the CAG reports presented recently in the House.

The other two panels are Committee on Government Undertakings and Committee on Estimates.

The three nine-member committees have six ruling BJP MLAs and three from the opposition Aam Aadmi Party.

The PAC members will be BJP MLAs Ajay Mahawar, Arvind Singh Lowley, Kailash Gahlot, Raj Kumar Chauhan, Satish Upadhyay and Shikha Rai. AAP MLAs



including Leader of Opposition Atishi, Kuldeep Kumar and Virendra Singh Kadiyan will also be members of the panel.

The Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) reports on DTC, health, air pollution, and excise tabled in the House during the ongoing budget session, have been referred to the

PAC for probe and recommendations.

The Committee on Government Undertakings has BJP MLAs Deepak Chaudhary, Gajendra Dral, Anil Goyal, Kuldeep Solanki, Raj Karan Khatri and Tilak Ram Khatri as its members, while Sanjay Jha, Prem Chauhan and Ajay Dutt will be members of

the panel from AAP.

This committee will look into the CAG reports on finance and appropriation accounts of the previous AAP government in Delhi, revealing non-submission of bills and utilisation certificates worth hundreds of crores of rupees.

The four reports pertain to Finance Accounts and Appropriation Accounts of the Delhi government for the financial years 2021-22 and 2022-23.

The Estimates Committee members are Gajendra Singh Yadav, Harish Khan, Kulwant Rana, Poonam Sharma, Sanjay Goyal and Sandeep Schrawastha (all from the BJP), and Intran Hussain, Som Dutt and Vishesh Ravi from AAP.

Delhi CM Gupta promises pothole-free roads before monsoon

New Delhi

Chief Minister Rekha Gupta said the Delhi government will ensure pothole-free roads in the national capital before the monsoon arrives in the city.

Following a midnight inspection of road repair work on the Outer Ring Road stretch from Madhuban Chowk to Mukarba Chowk on Sunday, Gupta directed the officials to prioritise public convenience and ensure there is no negligence in execution.

"She expressed her commitment to make Delhi's Roads pothole-free before the monsoon and has issued necessary instructions to all concerned agencies," a government statement said.

"Our government is making every possible effort to strengthen and improve Delhi's roads. Today, construction of a 4 km road stretch from Madhuban Chowk to Mukarba Chowk, to ensure high-quality execution and timely completion," it said.



The project, being executed by PWD Northern Zone, involves strengthening both sides of the Outer Ring Road alongside the elevated corridor.

The road work is being carried out using cold milling and hot recycling

techniques for long-lasting durability.

The chief minister asserted the road strengthening project being carried out at Rs 12.85 crore, includes a two-layer reinforcement process. The first layer utilises dense bitumen macadam (DBM) while the second layer comprises dense bitumen concrete (DBC).

Additionally, existing road layers are being removed through cold milling to maintain proper levelling. Thermoplastic paint, glow studs, and reflective markers are being installed to enhance nighttime visibility, while a 50 mm thick stone matrix asphalt (SMA) layer is being laid near the elevated fly-over, she said.

"At first we thought that the workers engaged in renovation work may have burnt something. But later we saw flames and immediately rushed there and raised an alarm," he said.

Another eyewitness, Ajay, who works as a branch manager at a private bank nearby, informed that his car was gutted by the fire.

"I was least bothered about my car. I was more worried about the workers inside the pizza outlet.

"At first we thought that the workers engaged in renovation work may have burnt something. But later we saw flames and immediately rushed there and raised an alarm," he said.

Another eyewitness, Ajay, who works as a branch manager at a private bank nearby, informed that his car was gutted by the fire.

"I was least bothered about my car. I was more worried about the workers inside the pizza outlet.

Cooperation Minister Ravinder Indraj Singh makes a surprise visit to the Registrar Office



Staff Reporter New Delhi

Cooperation Minister Ravinder Indraj Singh made a surprise visit to the Registrar Cooperative Societies office on April 1, 2025.

He examined departmental records and the registration process for cooperative societies, checking on pending cases.

He emphasized that all outstanding applications must be resolved promptly and directed officials to digitalize the process to make it easier for applicants, so they don't need to visit the office multiple times.

During the visit, he assessed officials' punctuality and the clarity of information provided to applicants. The Minister also checked on basic ameni-

ties for people visiting the office. Additionally, he asked about a statue of Shaheed Bhagat Singh planned for installation and mentioned government efforts to empower women in self-help groups by helping them sell their products in housing societies.

AAP MLAs seek discussion in Assembly over power cuts in Delhi

New Delhi

AAP MLAs on Tuesday submitted notices to the Delhi Assembly secretary, requesting a discussion on the alleged power cuts in the city.

AAP legislators Sanjay Jha and Kuldeep Kumar wrote separate letters to the Delhi Power Minister Ashish Sood, highlighting prolonged outages and urging the government to address the issue.

Burari MLA Sanjeev Jha called attention to a power outage in Jagatpur village in his assembly constituency on March 28, affecting households, businesses, and essential services.

"Despite complaints, no immediate resolution was provided. I urge the Minister of Power to provide a detailed explanation and outline immediate steps to prevent such occurrences in the future," Jha wrote, invoking Rule 54 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Legislative Assembly.

Meanwhile, MLA Kuldeep Kumar called for an adjournment motion under Rule 59 to discuss the issue in the Assembly.

"These outages have caused severe inconvenience to residents, disrupted businesses, and hampered essential services. The situation demands immediate attention and a thorough response from the government," Kumar stated.

The power supply issue has sparked a political row between the AAP and the ruling BJP. AAP leaders have accused the BJP of failing to manage electricity distribution after assuming power in February.

PUBLIC NOTICE
Be known to all concern that my client Shri Kishan Lal S/o Shri Mool Chand and Smt. San-to W/o Shri Kishan Lal, both R/o A-137, Devi Extension, New Delhi-110080, hereby disown and disinherit their son Gopal Kumar for all intents and purposes and further declare that he shall have no right, title or interests in the movable and immovable properties of my clients. My clients further restrain him from entering in their house. It is further clear that my clients shall not be responsible for his acts, omission and further will not be held responsible while he deal with anyone in any manner for any purpose and intent. **RAVI LOMOD & ASSOCIATES (ADVOCATES AND CONSULTANTS)**
Chamber No.437, Lawyer's Block, District Courts, New Delhi-110017

PUBLIC NOTICE
GENERAL PUBLIC AT LARGE IS INFORMED THAT MY CLIENTS (1) SHRI BALRAJ S/O LATE S.L. TYAGI AND (2) SMT. NIRAJ W/O SHRI BALRAJ, BOTH R/O H.NO.54, TYAGI MOHALLA, HATIKARA WEST DELHI, DELHI-110016, HAVE DISCOVERED AND DEBARRED THEIR SON NAME: LY SHRI RAHUL TYAGI, HIS DAUGHTER-IN-LAW SMT. AYUSHI TYAGI AND GRANDSON NAMELY MOKSH TYAGI, ALL R/O H.NO.6, MOHAMMAD KHERI, DAULATABAD, GURUGRAM, (HARYANA), FROM ALL THEIR AND IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES AND ALSO SEVERED ALL RELATIONS FROM THEM AS THEY ARE NOT UNDER THE CONTROL OF MY CLIENTS. MY CLIENTS ARE NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR ANY ACT COMMITTED BY THEM. **PT. J.K. SHARMA ADVOCATE SIDDHARTH PANDIT ADVOCATE**
CHAMBER NO-A-11, AMAR-NATH MONGA BLOCK, T-5 HAZARI COURTS, DELHI-110054

Massive fire at commercial complex in Jhandewalan extension no one injured

New Delhi

A massive blaze broke out at a commercial complex building in central Delhi's Jhandewalan extension on Tuesday afternoon, prompting the fire department to deploy 18 fire brigades, officials said.

Huge flames and plumes of thick black smoke could be seen billowing into the sky from a distance as the fire engulfed the entire building, which houses a private bank, multiple offices and a pizza outlet.

Prompt action by locals and passersby helped in the immediate evacuation of people who were present inside the Anarkali Complex in Block E-3, the officials said.

Nobody got injured in the incident that happened around 2 pm, they said.

However, several vehicles caught fire as parts of the burning hoardings fell on them.

Initially, eight fire brigades were pressed into service but as the flames were

spreading fast due to high winds, more tenders were deployed to contain the fire, a Delhi Fire Services official said.

The firefighters are spraying water on the top floors of the building using a crane. So far, nobody has been found trapped inside, he said.

DCP (Central) M Harsha Vardhan said the fire had spread to a DDA shopping complex nearby. Firefighters and police personnel are at the spot.

According to the police, the area has been cordoned off. Some renovation work was underway on the second and third floors of the building.

The fire also spread to a private bank inside the building but nobody got injured as the bank was not operational today, they said.

Meanwhile, Krishan Singh, an eyewitness, said, "It was around 2 pm, when people saw thick black smoke coming out of the building,

CAG report tabled in Assembly flags lapses in Delhi's pollution control measures

■ More than 1.08 lakh vehicles were issued pollution under control (PUC) certificates despite them emitting carbon monoxide (CO) and hydrocarbons (HC) beyond permissible limits, the reports said.

New Delhi
Delhi's worsening air pollution has been exacerbated by lapses in its pollution control mechanisms, including irregularities in the issuance of PUC certificates, unreliable air quality monitoring systems, and poor enforcement of pollution control measures, according to a CAG report tabled in the Assembly on Tuesday.

The report on 'Vehicular Air Pollution in Delhi', tabled by Chief Minister Rekha Gupta, highlighted major policy gaps and weak enforcement and poor coordination among agencies as key reasons behind the worsening pollution scenario in the national capital.

More than 1.08 lakh vehicles were issued pollution under control (PUC) certificates despite them emitting carbon monoxide (CO) and hydrocarbons (HC) beyond permissible limits, the reports said.

In many cases, multiple vehicles were issued certificates at the same time, sometimes within a minute of each other, it said.

Between 2015 and 2020, nearly 4,000 diesel vehicles that exceeded pollution limits were still certified as compliant, allowing them to remain on the road despite their high emission levels, the report said.

Out of the 14 CAG reports on the performance of the previous Ann Aardram Party (AAP) dispensation in Delhi, eight, including on



excise and health, have been tabled in the Assembly so far by the BJP government, which assumed charge of Delhi after more than 26 years following a landslide victory in the Assembly polls held on February 5.

The report said the city's Continuous Ambient Air Quality Monitoring Stations (CAAQMS) do not meet the requirements set by the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), leading to concerns about inaccuracies in pollution control measures.

The Air Quality Index (AQI) values reported daily may not always reflect the actual pollution levels, making it difficult for the authorities to respond effectively, it noted.

The report also criticised the previous AAP government for failing to conduct any real-time studies to

identify the exact sources of pollution, a crucial step in formulating targeted solutions.

"Vehicles are one of the major local contributors to Delhi's poor air quality," the report said.

Out of the 47.51 lakh average vehicles required to be deregistered from 2018-19 to 2020-21, the government deregistered only 2.698 lakh such vehicles, constituting a small fraction (6.27 per cent) of the end-of-life-vehicle (ELV), while a majority 93.73 per cent (44.53 lakh) of the ELVs had "active" registration status as of March 2021, the report said, indicating that these ELVs were still plying on Delhi roads.

None of the 347 impounded vehicles were scrapped by March 2021, and the capacity of impounding pits remains grossly inadequate with

space for only 4,000 vehicles compared to over 41 lakh vehicles awaiting scrapping, it added.

Inadequate enforcement is another major challenge, the report said.

The transport department's enforcement branch does not have sufficient staff or vehicles equipped with pollution-checking devices, making it difficult to monitor violations effectively, it said.

Besides the shortage of staff, the enforcement teams did not have vehicles mounted with PUC equipment to check visibly polluting vehicles, resulting in inadequate coverage of the entry points to Delhi, indicating a weak enforcement regime, as per the report.

In the absence of input data regarding location-wise vehicular load, the deployment of the few ill-equipped enforcement

teams was also bound to be sub-optimal, it said. Additionally, the development of ISBTs at the entry points is another issue.

The CAG report for the year ended March 31, 2018, also highlighted that the Supreme Court's directions (1998) to the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi (GNCTD) for setting up two ISBTs at the southwest and north entry points to Delhi to prevent the entry of diesel-powered inter-state buses beyond the periphery of the capital were not complied with.

The Delhi government did not establish the two new ISBTs at Dwarka and Narela, despite more than 20 years passing since the Supreme Court's directions.

In the absence of ISBTs at the entry points, diesel-operated inter-state buses were forced to traverse the city to reach the existing ISBTs (at Sarai Kale Khan and Kashmiri Gate).

The transport department said in November 2021 that proposals for the development of two new ISBTs were being worked out, and it has been decided that the Dwarka ISBT would be developed by the PWD.

Additionally, concerns have been raised over the management of funds meant for improving parking infrastructure. The report said that while money was collected through taxes for parking facilities, there was no official record as to how these funds were

utilised. Poorly managed parking contributes to congestion and increased vehicle emissions, further worsening the city's air quality, it said.

Despite years of government interventions and action plans, the report said Delhi's pollution crisis was not just a result of external factors such as crop burning in the neighbouring states but is also fuelled by systemic failures in regulation and enforcement within the city itself.

The findings showed that while authorities have introduced measures to control pollution, poor enforcement and lack of coordination among agencies prevented meaningful progress, as per the report.

It also pointed to vehicular emissions, industrial pollution, construction dust, and stubble burning as primary contributors to Delhi's deteriorating air quality.

Additionally, improper waste disposal, biomass burning, and limited green cover further aggravate the situation.

The report further highlighted the government's response and policy gaps, mentioning that multiple policies and action plans existed but they lacked strict enforcement and inter-department coordination.

It also highlighted the need for better monitoring, stricter pollution control measures, and improved public awareness.

Rights of OCI cardholder can't be curtailed arbitrarily: Delhi HC



New Delhi
Rights of an overseas citizen of India holding a valid OCI card cannot be curtailed arbitrarily, the Delhi High Court has said while ruling that the deportation and blacklisting of an OCI cardholder, involved in alleged unauthorised missionary activities in Nagaland and other northeastern states, did not follow the statutory process.

Justice Sachin Datta said John Robert Roughton III ought to have been given an effective opportunity to address the allegations, as he directed the Centre to serve a show cause notice to him before passing a speaking order on the issue after duly considering his response.

The petitioner contended that he was neither given a reason nor any official order to explain his deportation.

The Centre's counsel opposed the petition and said the petitioner was denied entry because he had been blacklisted by security agencies on account of his involvement in missionary activities in Nagaland and other northeastern states for several years without obtaining special permission from the competent authority.

In the judgement, the court noted that OCI cardholders held a special status and that the Supreme Court termed the right conferred on such OCI cardholders a "midway right."

The court also observed that the Citizenship Act prescribed the conditions for cancellation of an OCI cardholder's registration and the same mandated that no cancellation could take place without providing the affected individual with a "reasonable opportunity of being heard."

"As such, the principles of natural justice have been embedded and made part of the statutory procedure envisaged for cancelling the registration of an OCI cardholder," it said.

"Accordingly, the present direction is disposed of with a direction to the respondents to serve a show cause notice as regards the 'black-listing' of the petitioner and pass a speaking order after duly considering the response of the petitioner thereto, and after affording an opportunity of hearing to the petitioner," the court ordered.

The court, however, clarified that it had not rendered any opinion on the merits of the allegations against the petitioner or on whether such allegations warrant his blacklisting.

Justice Sachin Datta said John Robert Roughton III ought to have been given an effective opportunity to address the allegations, as he directed the Centre to serve a show cause notice to him before passing a speaking order on the issue after duly considering his response.

The petitioner contended that he was neither given a reason nor any official order to explain his deportation.

The Centre's counsel opposed the petition and said the petitioner was denied entry because he had been blacklisted by security agencies on account of his involvement in missionary activities in Nagaland and other northeastern states for several years without obtaining special permission from the competent authority.

In the judgement, the court noted that OCI cardholders held a special status and that the Supreme Court termed the right conferred on such OCI cardholders a "midway right."

The court also observed that the Citizenship Act prescribed the conditions for cancellation of an OCI cardholder's registration and the same mandated that no cancellation could take place without providing the affected individual with a "reasonable opportunity of being heard."

"As such, the principles of natural justice have been embedded and made part of the statutory procedure envisaged for cancelling the registration of an OCI cardholder," it said.

"Accordingly, the present direction is disposed of with a direction to the respondents to serve a show cause notice as regards the 'black-listing' of the petitioner and pass a speaking order after duly considering the response of the petitioner thereto, and after affording an opportunity of hearing to the petitioner," the court ordered.

The court, however, clarified that it had not rendered any opinion on the merits of the allegations against the petitioner or on whether such allegations warrant his blacklisting.

Delhi Minister threatens legal action over AAP's blackout claims



New Delhi
Delhi Power Minister Ashish Sood on Tuesday warned of strict legal action against those allegedly spreading misinformation about power outages in the city.

His remarks came amid a political tussle between the ruling BJP and the opposition AAP over claims of disruptions in electricity supply.

"We will take strict action against such fake accounts and the people who support these accounts. We will take criminal action, not civil, against the culprits," Sood said in the Delhi Assembly while responding to a Calling Attention Motion on the issue.

Dismissing claims of a power crisis, Sood asserted that the outages were part of routine maintenance to ensure the reliability of power grids ahead of summer. "We are a 40-day-old government, yet they claim we have disrupted a system that was perfect for the past 10 years. There is no electricity crisis," he said, adding that the power cuts are due to the maintenance of equipment, a process that happens every year.

He further accused AAP, including Leader of Opposition Atishi, of spreading "false narratives" on social media using fake accounts and bots. "The opposition is trying to create disorder in

the city through misinformation," he added.

Sood presented data on power outages in Delhi, claiming that since the BJP government took charge, there has been fewer outages at Atishi's residence compared to other areas. "Over the past 10 years, there were 2,72,137 power cuts in Delhi lasting over an hour, averaging 75 times per day. No one can refute this data," he said.

Earlier in the day, AAP MLAs Kuldeep Kumar and Sanjeev Jha submitted notices to the Delhi Assembly secretary, requesting a discussion on the power cuts affecting several areas in the city.

Kumar called for an adjournment motion under Rule 59 to discuss the issue in the Assembly. "These outages have caused severe inconvenience to residents, disrupted businesses, and hampered essential services. The situation demands immediate attention and a thorough response from the government," Kumar alleged.

However, MLA Kumar was absent during the minister's response as all AAP MLAs had staged a walkout. Speaker Vijender Gupta and warned Kumar about his future conduct, while some BJP MLAs demanded action against him.

DGP UP Prashant Kumar announced improvements in policing infrastructure at police stations

Amar Saiji
NOIDA
In a recent event in Noida, UP Director General of Police Prashant Kumar announced improvements in policing infrastructure, including video walls, pinkbooths, and green energy projects at police stations.

He emphasized that there is no significant mafia presence left in Uttar Pradesh, although new types of mafias are emerging, forming alliances that pressure police.

Kumar mentioned the implementation of the police commissionerate, a system introduced in phases, with Lucknow and Gautam Buddha Nagar being the first. The UP Police, the largest civil police force in the world, has reduced vacancies and

CM Gupta, Tourism, Kapil Mishra visited Jagannath Temple in Hauz Khas

Staff Reporter
New Delhi
Chief Minister of Delhi Rekha Gupta and Tourism and Culture Minister Kapil Mishra visited the Jagannath Temple in Hauz Khas to offer prayers for the prosperity of Delhi's people.

They emphasized honoring Odisha's culture and traditions due to the community's important role in Delhi's development.

Chief Minister Gupta announced that Odisha Day will now be celebrated annually with grandeur, highlighting the contributions of the Odisha community in various fields such as trade and education.



maintained recruitment transparently, offering the average age of officers to about 30 years.

Kumar praised police efforts during the Covid pandemic and the Kumbh Mela, highlighting their commitment to duty without self-interest. Police performed various tasks, such as conducting

last rites and delivering essential goods, despite lacking formal training for these duties. He noted that the response time for emergency calls made to 112 has significantly decreased from 90 minutes in 2017 to just eight minutes today due to enhanced resources and strategies.



Minister Kapil Mishra confirmed that Odisha Day is now officially on the Delhi Government's calendar and will be celebrated each year with enthusiasm.

The felicitation event featured Gupta, Mishra, New Delhi MP Bansuri Swaraj, Malviya Nagar MLA Satish Upadhyay, and many members of the Odisha community. Odisha is noted for its

rich art, culture, and architecture, with the Odissi dance form being famous worldwide.

The state is home to remarkable handicrafts and significant temples like the Sun Temple in Konark, Lingaraj Temple in Bhubaneswar, and Jagannath Temple in Puri, which are important for many devotees.

Man summoned for smoking during virtual proceedings apologises to court

New Delhi
A man summoned by a court here for smoking during a virtual proceeding on March 27 has apologised, saying he had forgotten to disconnect the video.

District Judge Shiv Kumar had summoned the applicant, Sushil Kumar, noting that he was seen smoking on the video-conferencing (VC) when the court was dictating the order sheet and that Kumar had left when asked by the court staff about his misconduct.

In the proceedings dated March 29, the court noted Kumar's submissions that "he forgot to switch off the video, and he was not aware that his video was visible to the persons who were on VC on that day."

It noted that, according

Fire engulfs shopping complex in Noida sector 18



Noida
A fire broke out in Krishna Plaza shopping complex here in sector 18 on Tuesday afternoon. The fire brigade team safely evacuated about 50 people trapped inside the building, averting a major accident.

People started jumping from windows and balconies to save their lives following the fire incident. The said building houses offices and showrooms of many companies, which were open at the time of the incident. The reason for the fire has not been revealed yet. The fire officials have not ruled out short circuit as the reason behind the fire incident.

The fire engulfed the entire complex in no time. The entire atmosphere became suffocating on account of the smoke, due to which many people started suffocating.

Shah's J-K visit not linked to anti-militancy operation in Kathua says CM Abdullah

Punjab to wipe out drugs AAP's Sisodia on CM Mann govt's anti-narcotics drive

Haryana Police's action against songs promoting gun culture fair: Official

Ludhiana
AP Punjab in-charge Manish Sisodia on Tuesday lauded the Bhagwant Mann government's anti-drugs campaign and said, under the guidance of party supremo Arvind Kejriwal, the menace would be wiped out from the state.

Sisodia and AAP's Punjab president Aman Arora, while addressing a press conference, outlined the Punjab government's strategy to counter the drugs menace.

In a meeting with Kejriwal and AAP leaders on Tuesday, it was decided that AAP and the Punjab government would jointly run a campaign against drugs to ensure that the state could become drug-free.

The Punjab government recently launched Yuth Nashyean Virudh -- a major crackdown against drugs in the state.

Sisodia said while meetings of other political parties revolved around strategies to gain power, AAP's meetings focused on people's issues.

Punjab SAD leader Badal condemns withdrawal of Majithia's security cover

Chandigarh
Shiromani Akali Dal leader Sukhbir Singh Badal on Tuesday

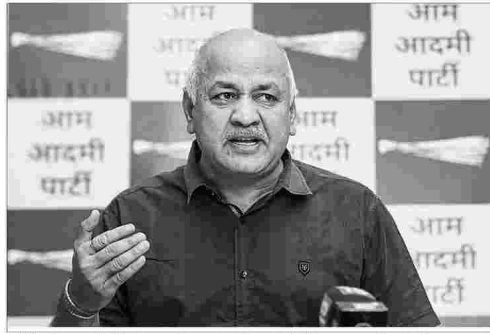
claimed that the Punjab government has withdrawn senior party leader Bikram Singh Majithia's security cover, alleging "witch-hunt" by the AAP government against the former minister.

SAD's former president Badal also alleged that the AAP government was trying to "implicate" Majithia, who is his brother-in-law, in the drug case law.

"Withdrawal of the entire Z+ security cover of Bikram Singh Majithia confirms beyond doubt the dangerous and deadly designs of the AAP government against the SAD leadership," claimed Badal in a post on X.

"This decision has to be seen alongside the massive witch-hunt launched by the AAP government against Majithia," he alleged.

Badal also mentioned about a bid on his life outside the Golden Temple in Amritsar in December by Narain Singh



The former Delhi deputy chief minister, referring to the Congress, BJP and the Shiromani Akali Dal, also alleged the drugs menace spread in Punjab because previous governments provided political protection to traffickers.

However, the AAP government is taking strict action against those involved in trafficking drugs and sending them to jail, he added.

Previous governments "used the Punjab Police

to protect drug traffickers" while the AAP government is using it to wipe out drugs, Sisodia claimed.

In the past month alone, around 2,500 cases against drug traffickers have been registered and about 4,500 people arrested, he said about the ongoing drive.

The houses of 54 traffickers have been demolished. Around Rs 6.50 crore in cash and seven lakh intoxicant capsules, along with a significant

quantity of other narcotic substances, have been seized, Sisodia said.

These figures clearly show how seriously the AAP government is tackling the drugs problem, he added.

Issuing a stern warning to traffickers, Sisodia said those involved in smuggling drugs must shut down their operations or be prepared to go to jail.

Under the AAP government, not a single trafficker will be spared,

Sisodia and AAP's Punjab president Aman Arora, while addressing a press conference, outlined the Punjab government's strategy to counter the drugs menace.

he said. Sisodia also announced that another anti-drugs campaign would be launched in Ludhiana on Wednesday.

"Thousands of NCC (National Cadet Corps) and NSS (National Service Scheme) students will take an oath that they will never consume drugs and will encourage people around them to stay away from drugs as well," he said.

Sisodia said these students would urge shopkeepers, pedestrians and locals to take an oath against drugs and also spread awareness in the city.

All AAP workers will visit different areas to raise awareness against drugs, he added.

Chandigarh
Haryana Police's action against songs which allegedly promote the gun culture and "glorify" violence is being taken in a fair manner, a senior police official has said.

Some singers said that not just few, but all such songs should be pulled down from social media. Haryana Police has recently intensified its action to curb the promotion of gun culture and violence in songs, and the initiative targets singers, social media and other such platforms that "glorify" gun culture or incite hatred.

The cybercrime unit's teams monitor social media and take appropriate action where required, the official said.

Such songs or music videos garner a sizable viewership and have the potential to adversely affect the youth, the official said.

During last month, more than ten songs were taken down from various social media platforms, with seven of them sung by popular Haryana singer Masoom Sharma.

"My only point is that there should be no dis-

crimination. Ten songs have been banned, seven of these are mine... When I was recently doing a programme in Gurugram, Haryana Police got me to give a written assurance that I will not sing any of the banned songs.

"I am with the government if all the songs are pulled down, but there should be no discrimination. There are so many songs of other artists which have not been pulled down from social media. If the government has started from me, it is good, but the action should be fair," Sharma (33) told mediapersons.

He also said that some of his songs, which commanded viewership in millions, have been pulled down, causing him a financial loss.

Meanwhile, the police official said, "Action is being taken in a very fair manner. There is nothing selective. It's very fair. Every word is analysed. Freedom of speech and expression, we have to respect. But we have to see where boundaries are crossed. Proper scrutiny is done... then action is taken."

Punjab govt provided over 55 000 jobs in 36 months, says CM Mann

Komal Ramola
Chandigarh

Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann on Tuesday said his government has provided over 55,000 government jobs to youth in the state during its 36-month tenure.

Addressing an event to distribute appointment letters to over 700 newly recruited teachers, Mann congratulated them and expressed hope that they would discharge their duties sincerely.

He said the jobs were given based on merit as the government ensured a transparent recruitment process. Mann reiterated that the state government fills all the posts as soon as they are vacant in a department.

A foolproof mechanism was adopted, ensuring that none of the 55,000 appointments have been challenged in court, he added.

An "education revolution" has begun in Punjab, with major infrastructural revamps in schools and initiatives to improve the quality of education, the chief minister said.



The government is also sending teachers to prestigious national and international institutes to enhance their skills, he said.

Lashing out at the previous governments, the chief minister alleged that they deprived youth of employment, leading to their ouster by the people of the state.

His government is now working to clean up the "mess" left behind and is committed to

building a "Rangla Punjab" (vibrant Punjab), he said.

A complete overhaul is being witnessed in all sectors of the state so as to give a major push to development of Punjab, he added.

The state government is sending teachers abroad and even to prestigious national institutes to upscale their teaching skills, Mann said.

The well trained staff

has helped in enhancing the rate of admissions in government schools of the state, he said, adding that Punjab is witnessing "education revolution".

Mann said the recruitment of additional staff in schools has allowed teachers and principals to focus solely on academics, leading to an increase in student enrollment in government schools.

Omar Abdullah launches free bus service for women in J&K

Srinagar

Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah launched free bus service for women in the Union Territory, at a function held at Sher-i-Kashmir International Conference Centre (SKICC) here on Tuesday.

Abdullah expressed hope that the move would make travel easy and comfortable for women.

The launch was also attended by ministers Satish Sharma and Sakina Itoo.

Free bus rides for women, a promise made in the National Conference's election manifesto, was announced in the recent budget presented by the chief minister.

"In the budget, we had made a special announcement that women will travel free of cost in SRTC (state road transport corporation) and Smart City buses from April 1. Today, we have launched the service with a hope that it will make their travel across Jammu and Kashmir easy and safe," Abdullah told reporters here.

He said the government will compensate the SRTC and Smart City buses for the zero-fare tickets.

"There will be no losses for the SRTC and Smart City buses. We will provide them compensation from the budget," Abdullah said.

In an X post, the chief minister said it was not just a welfare measure, but a commitment to women's empowerment and accessible mobility.

"Starting today, women across Jammu and Kashmir will travel free of cost in all Smart City and SRTC buses. This isn't just a welfare measure, it is a commitment to women's empowerment, accessible mobility, and a more inclusive J&K," he wrote.

Meanwhile, National Conference said the initiative paves way for women to move forward, both literally and figuratively.

Advt Contact: 9818-799941

Punjab Self-styled preacher Bajinder Singh gets life term in 2018 rape case

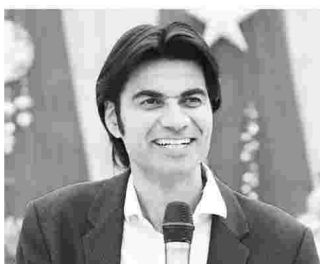
Chandigarh

A court in Punjab's Mohali on Tuesday sentenced self-styled preacher Bajinder Singh to life imprisonment in a 2018 rape case.

The court of Additional District and Sessions Judge (ADSJ) Vikrant Kumar pronounced the verdict after Singh -- who was often referred to as the 'Yeshu Yeshu prophet' -- was found guilty on March 28.

While Singh was convicted under sections 376 (rape), 323 (punishment for voluntary causing hurt) and 506 (criminal intimidation) of the Indian Penal Code (IPC), five other accused in the case -- Akhbar Bhatti, Rajesh Chaudhary, Jatinder Kumar, Sitar Ali and Sandeep Pehliwan -- were acquitted.

Tight security arrangements were in place at the court complex before the pronouncement



of the verdict as Singh reached the premises under heavy security cover from the Mansa jail.

The case was registered based on a complaint filed by a woman at the Zirakpur police station in Mohali district in 2018.

The counsel for the victim, Anil Kumar Sagara, told reporters, "He (Singh) will remain behind bars till his last

while attempting to fly London in 2018. Later, he got bail in the case.

On March 3, the Mohali court issued a non-bailable warrant against Singh in connection with the 2018 rape case.

Singh is not new to controversies. He was booked in another sexual harassment case on February 28, based on a complaint lodged by a 22-year-old woman.

Later, the Kapurthala Police formed a three-member special investigation team (SIT) to probe charges of sexual harassment against the self-styled preacher.

On March 25, Mohali Police booked Singh for assault and other charges based on a complaint lodged by a woman, days after a video went viral on social media purportedly showing Singh arguing with and slapping the woman.

Agency

Retired colonel falls prey to 'digital arrest' scam loses Rs 3.4 crore

Chandigarh

An 82-year-old retired Indian Army officer and his wife were duped of Rs 3.4 crore by cyber fraudsters who accused them of money laundering by posing as Enforcement Directorate (ED) personnel, officials said on Tuesday.

As part of the "digital arrest" fraud, the swindlers claimed they were probing a Rs 5,038-crore "scam" that resulted in the suicide of a victim and the murder of a whistleblower.

The couple were also coerced into confining themselves to their house and contacting no one about the "scam", officials added.

Colonel Dalip Singh (retd) and his 74-year-old wife Ranvinder Kaur Bajwa, having lost both their sons previously, have called on authorities to retrieve the money taken from them as they are dependent on it to get by.

As part of the "digital arrest" fraud, the swindlers claimed they were probing a Rs 5,038-crore "scam" that resulted in the suicide of a victim and the murder of a whistleblower.

The couple allegedly received a WhatsApp call from an unknown number. The caller accused him of being involved in a money laundering case linked to an account at Canara Bank, Mumbai.

The fraudsters alleged that Naresh Goyal, the jailed owner of now-defunct Jet Airways, had implicated Col Singh, claiming he had sold the account for Rs 5 lakh and received Rs 20 lakh in commission for laundering Rs 2 crore.

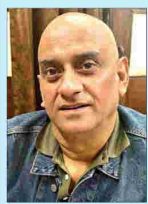
To make their scheme appear legitimate, the fraudsters showed Singh his ATM card over a video call and claimed they were investigating a Rs 5,038-crore scam. They also sent photos of 24 "victims", stating that one had committed suicide and claimed that a "whistleblower" had been murdered along with his entire family by Naresh Goyal. Agency

gh allegedly received a WhatsApp call from an unknown number. The caller accused him of being involved in a money laundering case linked to an account at Canara Bank, Mumbai.

The fraudsters alleged that Naresh Goyal, the jailed owner of now-defunct Jet Airways, had implicated Col Singh, claiming he had sold the account for Rs 5 lakh and received Rs 20 lakh in commission for laundering Rs 2 crore.

To make their scheme appear legitimate, the fraudsters showed Singh his ATM card over a video call and claimed they were investigating a Rs 5,038-crore scam.

They also sent photos of 24 "victims", stating that one had committed suicide and claimed that a "whistleblower" had been murdered along with his entire family by Naresh Goyal. Agency



By Dr. Anil Singh, Editor, STAR Views

(The writer is an Editor STAR Views, & Author of fourth coming book The Prime Minister: Discourses in Indian Polity, Which will be released on 3rd April at 4.30pm in Auditorium Prime Minister's Museum & Library, TeenMurti New Delhi by LG of Jammu & Kashmir honourable shri Manoj Sinha)

"Waqf Amendment Bill 2025: Navigating Tradition and Reform"

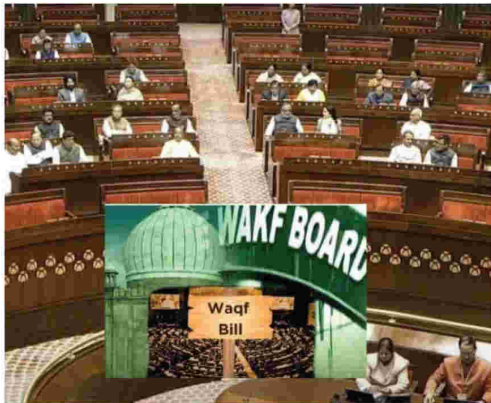
The Waqf (Amendment) Bill 2025, set for passage in the Lok Sabha on Wednesday and slated for discussion in the Rajya Sabha on Thursday, has sparked widespread discourse across India's political and social arenas. This proposed legislation seeks substantial amendments to the Waqf Act of 1955, targeting long-standing issues surrounding the management and governance of Waqf properties—charitable and religious endowments central to Islamic traditions.

Historical Background: The Imperial Roots

The origins of Waqf administration in India trace back to the medieval era, prominently during the Delhi Sultanate period. Historical records suggest that rulers like Sultan Muizuddin Muhammad Ghori dedicated properties explicitly for religious and community welfare, managed by religious authorities. British colonial rule recognized the significance of Waqf through the Mussalman Waqf Validating Act of 1913, providing initial legal acknowledgment of family endowments (Waqf-al-aulad). Post-Independence, the Indian government formalized Waqf administration with the Waqf Act of 1954 and further strengthened regulations through the Waqf Act of 1995.

Why a New Amendment?

The induction of the Waqf Amendment Bill 2025 stems from persistent challenges in managing Waqf properties. Rampant mismanagement, illegal encroachments, corruption, and lack of transparency have significantly hindered the potential benefits these properties could yield for community welfare. The Sachar Committee Report (2006) notably underscored how inefficiencies and corruption had curtailed these assets' socio-economic contributions, necessitating comprehensive reforms to optimize their usage and governance.



ment, illegal encroachments, corruption, and lack of transparency have significantly hindered the potential benefits these properties could yield for community welfare. The Sachar Committee Report (2006) notably underscored how inefficiencies and corruption had curtailed these assets' socio-economic contributions, necessitating comprehensive reforms to optimize their usage and governance.

Main Provisions of the Bill

- 1. Redefinition of Waqf Creation:** The bill stipulates that Waqfs can only be established by individuals practicing Islam for a minimum of five years who legally own the property. It eliminates the earlier practice of "Waqf by user," thus necessitating explicit legal declarations to avoid ambiguities and disputes.
- 2. Survey and Registra-**

tion: Assigns clear responsibilities to District Collectors or their deputies for conducting surveys and registration of Waqf properties, streamlining identification, and documentation processes.

3. Inclusive Governance: Proposes a revised composition of Waqf boards, explicitly mandating the inclusion of Muslim women and representation from minority sects like Bohras and Aghakhans, along with non-Muslim representatives to promote transparency and accountability.

4. Technological Transparency: Mandates establishing a centralized digital database for Waqf property registration and management, significantly enhancing transparency and ease of monitoring.

5. Efficient Dispute Resolution: Introduces structural changes in

Waqf Tribunals, enabling faster judicial processes, with provisions for appeals to High Courts within 90 days.

6. Applicability of the Limitation Act: Aligns Waqf proceedings with the broader legal framework by making the Limitation Act of 1963 applicable, standardizing timeliness for legal claims and disputes.

Impact on Current Policies

The proposed amendment bill has elicited varied political reactions, reflecting India's diverse political fabric. Proposals, led prominently by the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and Union Home Minister Amit Shah, argue that the bill rectifies past mismanagement and politicized governance structures. They emphasize its alignment with constitutional transparency, efficiency, and eq-

uitable representation principles.

Conversely, opposition parties and prominent Muslim leaders express concerns, particularly around the removal of "Waqf by user," warning it may trigger disputes over historical and communal properties, including mosques and burial grounds. AIMIM chief Asaduddin Owaisi has voiced strong opposition, labeling the bill as an intrusion into religious autonomy and potentially harmful to minority rights.

Interestingly, the bill has garnered support beyond typical party lines, notably from the Kerala Catholic Bishops Council, advocating for transparent and accountable governance of religious properties. This broader support indicates a significant shift toward inclusive and accountable administration of religious and charitable endowments in India.

A Way Forward

The Waqf Amendment Bill 2025 marks a crucial juncture in India's legislative approach to religious endowments management, delicately balancing traditional sensitivities and modern governance requirements. While addressing longstanding administrative and transparency issues, the bill's ultimate success hinges on addressing legitimate community concerns and ensuring inclusive dialogue. Parliament's deliberations on this significant legislation underscore the ongoing complexity of negotiating religious traditions within a pluralistic, democratic framework.

Breaking Time Sudoku

What to do

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

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

Solution, Sudoku

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

MAKE YOUR PRAYANAKALA AN ANANDAKALA

Have you ever regretted in any situation in your life? Sometimes students regret after their results and wish they could have put in hard work for better scores; an adult who is serving a menial job may regret that he wished he used his learning days well so he could be employed well; a person could regret after the death of his parents that he wished he could have taken care of his parents well and spent time with them.



Sadguru Sri Madhusudan Sai



Everyone regrets what has gone by and for all the times they did not utilize well. Then, can you imagine a person's regrets when he would be disembodied at the time of death? The Taaittiriyaopanishad paraphrases this situation lucidly: kim aham sadhu nakaravam - Why did I not do the right thing? kim aham papamakaram - Why did I do wrong?

It is said that the pain of regret a soul undergoes at the time of death is terrible. The soul is inconsolable about the fact that it had lost the opportunity to redeem itself.

This is why it is very important to lead your life without any regrets. This is exactly why you need to practice - anantayajet, anusmaran, which means 'constant contemplation', so that you may choose the right over the pleasant always.

The deeper message from this is that every soul knows what it right, but is distracted from following that due to the temptations of the mind.

Everyone is meant only to do the right thing. Hence, when we go against our own nature, we end up regretting at the end.

There is only one ultimate solution to dying without any regrets, anandam brahmano vidvan, na bibhetti kutaschaneti - the knower of the bliss of Brahman fears nothing. The one who knows the Brahman as anandaswarupa or the embodiment of bliss, will not have any regrets or fear.

It is precisely to achieve this bliss of Brahman that you are required to do the right things, to practice moderation in all worldly activities, to keep your mind constantly on God or the higher truth even while performing your duty, and to lead a life of helpfulness, love and service.

Thus, by being on the path of truth and righteousness, you will become ready to leave with a complete awareness of who you really are - the state of 'sat chit ananda' (Truth, Awareness and Bliss).

Let the prayanakala be a redeeming one, once and for all, for all!

Why SEBI should allow crypto asset ETFs: A case for Innovation and Investor Protection



By Santosh Sharma

Imagine creating wealth from Bitcoin without directly owning it and without worrying about hacking and custody. That's the promise of crypto asset exchange-traded funds (ETFs). Globally, crypto ETFs have reshaped financial markets by offering regulated access to digital assets.

These ETFs—tracking Bitcoin, Ethereum, or broader digital asset baskets—are traded on reputed stock exchanges like any other product, giving investors a secure, liquid, and transparent avenue for exposure. Since India introduced ETFs in 2002, their AUM has grown exponentially, reaching ₹3.16 lakh crore by 2021. Meanwhile, global crypto ETFs have surged even faster, with Bitcoin ETFs amassing over ₹8.6 lakh crore in assets since approvals began in January 2024.

Crypto ETFs have surged worldwide, reshaping how investors access digital assets. In January 2024, the US SEC approved 11 spot Bitcoin ETFs. It is interesting to note that BlackRock's iShares Bitcoin Trust has overtaken its own gold ETF in record short duration. In Europe and Canada, diversified crypto ETFs have seen strong uptake. A PwC-AIMA report shows 47% of traditional hedge funds now invest in digital assets. Major institutions like HSBC, Goldman Sachs, and



BlackRock are building custody and trading infrastructure, responding to surging demand. Recently released survey report from EY-Parthenon and Coinbase finds that 83% of institutional investors plan to increase their exposure to crypto this year, and 59% plan to allocate more than 5% of their AUM to crypto in 2025, a clear sign that it is moving beyond a niche asset class.

India, however, remains on the sidelines. SEBI has previously advised mutual funds to avoid crypto exposure until regulatory clarity emerges. This caution leaves Indian investors

with no regulated path to access crypto assets, pushing many toward offshore or unregulated alternatives. The absence of a domestic crypto ETF limits both investor protection and innovation. Meanwhile, global asset managers capitalize on new demand, leaving Indian firms a step behind.

ETFs offer a secure bridge for crypto investment. Unlike holding assets on volatile exchanges, ETF custodians—such as those used by BlackRock—employ robust, institutional-grade security. For risk-averse investors and large institutions, this structure is key.

India need not leap into full-fledged crypto exposure. It can start with regulated ETFs tied to Bitcoin futures, global crypto companies, or foreign ETFs—models already in place elsewhere. In 2021, SEBI even approved a blockchain-themed fund of funds, however it was shelved amid regulatory uncertainty.

By allowing well-regulated crypto ETFs, SEBI can meet growing investor demand, reduce offshore capital flight, and bring crypto activity under tax and compliance nets. With appropriate safeguards—like custody requirements, retail exposure caps, and disclo-

sure norms—India can balance innovation with protection. The global trend is clear: crypto ETFs are becoming mainstream. India must decide whether it wants to restrict wealth creation for its citizens or lead safely from within the regulatory fold.

These ETFs—tracking Bitcoin, Ethereum, or broader digital asset baskets—are traded on reputed stock exchanges like any other product, giving investors a secure, liquid, and transparent avenue for exposure. Since India introduced ETFs in 2002, their AUM has grown exponentially, reaching ₹3.16 lakh crore by 2021. Meanwhile, global crypto ETFs have surged even faster, with Bitcoin ETFs amassing over ₹8.6 lakh crore in assets since approvals began in January 2024.

About the Author

(The Writer is a senior journalist)

TOP STORY

Dear Reader, If you have any news or you have any suggestion regarding our newspaper or you have any problem with any government department, you may contact us on 24 hour helpline no- 020-225237, 424284 for Delhi & Gurgaon (9828310372), for Noida (981899989), Advertisement (981899981). Circulation: (9858625490)

Readers are recommended to make all necessary enquiries and seek appropriate advice before action on any advertisement and content published in this publication. The printer, publisher, editor and seller of the Top Story do not vouch for any claims. The publication is being sold on the condition and understanding that information given in this publication is merely for reference and must not be taken as having final authority of or binding in any way. We do not owe any responsibility for damage or loss to any person, a purchase of this production is not for the result of any action taken on the basis of this work. All disputes are subject to the exclusive jurisdiction of courts and forums in Delhi/New Delhi only.

FOR ADVERTISING IN

TOP STORY
PLEASE CONTACT:
9818799941

India, Chile agree to begin negotiations for trade pact

New Delhi

India and Chile on Tuesday announced starting negotiations on a comprehensive economic partnership pact as Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chilean President Gabriel Boric Font held wide-ranging talks focusing on boosting the ties in areas of trade, defence, critical minerals and health.

Describing Chile as an important "friend and partner" for India in Latin America, Modi said several new initiatives were identified to enhance overall cooperation in the coming decade.

Boric, accompanied by a high-level delegation comprising ministers, members of Parliament, senior officials and business leaders, is on a five-day state visit to India.

"India and Chile may be at different ends of the world map, there may be vast oceans separating us, but nature has linked us with unique similarities," Modi said in his media statement.



wives of the Indian Ocean flow with the same energy in India as the waves of the Pacific Ocean touch the shores of Chile."

The prime minister said India is ready to share its positive experience with Chile in the areas of digital public infrastructure, renewable energy, railways, space and others.

"We welcome the growth in mutual trade and investment. We agree that there is also untapped potential for further cooperation in this,"

he said. "Today we have instructed our teams to begin discussions on a mutually beneficial comprehensive economic partnership agreement."

Modi further said that the India-Chile partnership will be strengthened in the field of critical minerals and work will be done to establish resilient supply and value chains.

In the field of agriculture, cooperation will be done to ensure food security

by combining each other's capabilities, he said.

"The growing cooperation in the field of defence is a symbol of our deep mutual trust. We will move forward to create defence industrial manufacturing and supply chains in this area according to each other's needs," Modi said.

"We will increase cooperation between the agencies of both the countries to face common challenges like organised crime, drug trafficking, terrorism," he

said.

"At the global level, India and Chile agree that all tensions and disputes should be resolved through dialogue," he noted.

The prime minister also noted that India and Chile are "unanimous that reform of the United Nations Security Council and other institutions is essential to face global challenges". Together we will continue to contribute to global peace and stability, he said.

Both sides also inked an agreement on the cultural exchange.

"We also considered simplifying the visa process between the two countries. We will also continue to make efforts to increase student exchange between India and Chile," Modi said.

The prime minister said the Chilean president's visit to India has created a "new energy and enthusiasm" in the relations.

"This energy will give new momentum and direction to our bilateral relations as well as our cooperation in the entire Latin America region," he said.

India's Defence Exports Hit Record High in 2024-25: Rajnath Singh

New Delhi

India's defence exports have surged to a record high of Rs 23,622 crore (approx. USD 2.76 billion) in 2024-25 registering a 12.04 per cent growth over the previous fiscal, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said on Tuesday.

Singh also said that the country is poised to achieve the target of Rs 50,000 crore in defence exports by 2029.

India's defence exports in 2023-24 were Rs 21,083 crore.

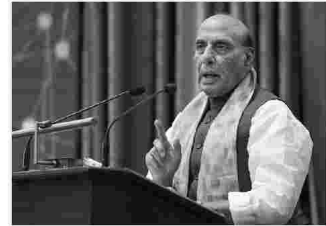
"India's defence exports have surged to a record high of Rs 23,622 crore in the FY 2024-25," the defence minister said on 'X'.

"An impressive growth of Rs 2,539 crore or 12.04 per cent has been registered in the just-concluded FY over the defence exports figures of FY 2023-24, which were Rs 21,083 crore," he added.

Singh also congratulated all the stakeholders on this "significant achievement".

"Under PM Shri @narendramodi's leadership, India is marching towards achieving the target of increasing defence exports to Rs 50,000 crore by 2029," Singh said.

The Defence Public Sector Undertakings (DPSUs)



have shown a significant increase of 12.85 per cent in their exports in 2024-25, according to an official readout.

It said the surge in the DPSUs's exports reflected the growing acceptability of Indian products in the global market and the ability of the country's defence industry to be a part of the global supply chain.

The private sector and DPSUs have contributed Rs 15,233 crore and Rs 8,389 crore respectively in defence exports of 2024-25, the defence ministry said in the readout.

The corresponding figures for 2023-24 were Rs 15,209 crore and Rs 5,874 crore respectively, it added.

"India has evolved from a largely import-dependent military force to one

increasingly focused on self-reliance and indigenous production," the ministry said.

"In a major boost to defence exports, a wide range of items from ammunition, arms, sub-systems/systems and parts & components have been exported to around 80 countries in the just-concluded financial year," it said.

The ministry said the Department of Defence Production has a dedicated portal for application and processing of export authorisation requests, and 1,762 export authorisations were issued in 2024-25 compared to 1,507 in the preceding year.

The total number of exporters also grew by 17.4 per cent in the same period, it said.

Rajya Sabha Passes Aircraft Objects Bill: Aviation Sector Gets Boost



New Delhi

Rajya Sabha on Tuesday passed the Protection of Interests in Aircraft Objects Bill, 2025 that seeks to give legal effect to certain international agreements in their application to India.

Replying to the discussion on the bill, Minister of Civil Aviation Kinjarapu Rammoohan Naidu said the legislation will create a lot of security for both the lessors and the lessees and the overall aviation market also because there has been a lot of confusion in this area. It has been a grey area for some time.

"With the bringing of this bill, definitely it is going to create a lot more clarity. We hope this is going to give a lot of push for the leasing industry, which is the need of the hour. There is an immediate need for this bill to be there in the industry," he said.

The bill seeks to give legal effect to certain international agreements in their application to India, which includes Convention on International Interests in Mobile Equipment (also known as Capetown Convention of 2001) and Protocol to the Convention on International Interests in Mobile Equipment on Matters specific to Aircraft Equipment. India had acceded to these in 2008.

The Bill states that before exercising any remedy, the creditor must notify the Director General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) about the occurrence of a default.

In cases of a default, it gives creditors certain remedies, including the right to take back possession of the asset within two months or a mutually agreed upon period, whichever is earlier.

"This is a very important Bill which the industry needs today. It is going to change the aviation landscape of the country," the aviation minister said.

The Bill was introduced in the upper house on February 10 to this year.

'How will country progress if every projects are opposed' SC slams NGO

New Delhi

The Supreme Court on Tuesday pulled up an NGO for opposing a renewable energy project at the Jayakwadi Dam in Maharashtra, which is declared a bird sanctuary and an eco-sensitive zone, asking how would the country progress if every project was resisted.

A bench of Justices Surya Kant and N Kottiswar Singh also raised over the questions the bonafide of NGO 'Kahar Samaj Panch Committee' and asked, "Who has planted you and funded you? What is your past experience in environment protection?"

The bench dismissed the NGO's petition challenging the September 9, 2024 decision of the National Green Tribunal rejecting its plea and observed the green panel had rightly appreciated the material.

The top court found no



ground to interfere with the NGT order.

"You are not allowing a single project to work. How will the country progress, if every project is opposed and resisted upon? Even with a solar power project, you have a problem," the bench added.

The NGO's counsel said the area was an eco-sensitive zone and the project would affect the biodiversity.

The bench said it appeared that the company, which lost the tender has funded the NGO, and it was now trying to stall the project by in-

dulging in "frivolous litigation". The NGT, the top court said, rightly sought the response of the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change, which clarified the position and produced a notification dated July 12, 2017 of the Centre which says the use of renewable energy and fuels were promoted activities.

On September 9, last year, while dismissing the plea of the NGO, the Western Zone bench of the NGT said that it could not show any law prohibiting such kind of activity in the eco-sensitive zone.

298 persons killed in Wayanad landslides: Government tells Parliament

New Delhi

A total of 298 persons were killed during the landslides that hit Kerala's Wayanad district last year, the government informed Parliament on Tuesday.

Minister of State for Home Nityanand Rai said that while the Centre does not maintain a central data of deaths/missing persons due to disasters, including landslides, the Kerala government informed it that the total number of deaths due to the landslide in Wayanad was 298.

Out of these, 32 missing persons have been declared as deceased, the minister told the Lok Sabha in a written reply.

Asked about the compensation provided by the Centre to the relief, Rai said that based on a report of the inter-ministerial central



team (IMCT), the central government approved an amount of Rs 153.47 crore, subject to the adjustment of 50 per cent of balance available in the state disaster response fund account, for the landslides, flash flood of 2024.

The amount also includes assistance for the air bills for utilising the services of the Indian Air Force (IAF) helicopters for rescue and relief, as per actual, and actual expenditure for the clearance of debris, he said.

Besides, an amount of Rs 388 crore (Rs 291.20 crore central share plus Rs 96.80 crore state share) has been allocated to the Government of Kerala for the financial year 2024-25 in SDRF, he said.

The instalment of Rs 145.60 crore of the central share was released on July 31, 2024.

The second instalment of

Rs 145.60 crore of the central share was also released on October 1, 2024 in advance to the state, the minister said.

He added that the Kerala Accountant General reported a balance of Rs 394.99 crore in its SDRF account as on April 1, 2024.

"Thus, 'sufficient fund' is available in the SDRF account of the state for relief operations, he said.

Rai said Kerala conducted a Post Disaster Need Assessment (PDNA) estimating a total requirement of Rs 2,219 crore for recovery and reconstruction plan.

The landslides destroyed large tracts of three Wayanad villages—Punchiramanthol, Choralamma and Mundakkai—apart from some in Attamalla when the disaster struck on July 30, 2024.

Security of every MP important Dhankhar on threats to Ramji Lal Suman

New Delhi

Rajya Sabha Chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar on Tuesday said security of every Member of Parliament is important after Samajwadi Party MP Ram Gopal Yadav raised concerns over the security of Ramji Lal Suman following threats to him over his remarks on Rana Sanga made in the house.

The chairman also urged Yadav to use his influence on Suman to bring the matter to quietus by adhering to the chair and not reiterating the observations that have already been expunged from the records of Parliament.

Suman had earlier made some remarks against the Rajput ruler which were objected to in the house by BJP and NDA members and the chairman had expunged the same. His remarks had also not gone well with a certain section of society and he faced backlash.

During the Zero Hour on Tuesday, Dhankhar rejected four adjournment notices by SP members, including Yadav, to suspend the listed business of the day and take up a discussion on alleged threat and attempt to attack the residence of former Union min-



ister and sitting Rajya Sabha MP Ramji Lal Suman.

The residence of SP Rajya Sabha MP Suman was attacked last month in Agra allegedly by workers of the Karni Sena, days after the lawmaker's remarks on Rana Sanga triggered a row.

A video of the Rajya Sabha MP surfaced recently, in which he is purportedly heard saying that Rana Sanga was a "traitor" who brought Babur to defeat Ibrahim Lodi.

Raising the issue in the House, Yadav said he had given a notice on Friday in this regard for taking it up on Tuesday.

He said a person has announced a reward of Rs 25 lakh on the life of Ramji Lal Suman.

member can pay is not to reiterate them.

"The reiteration of the same that has taken place is something on which members need to think about. Secondly, I am sure the security of every citizen and a member is important and those concerned will take all steps in that direction. No doubt about it. But, these are issues where we need to moderate the temperature, make the climate a little more wholesome and societal," Dhankhar is quoted as saying.

"There is a recent video in which small huts are being demolished by bulldozers. There is a small girl running away from the demolished hut with a clutch of books in her hand. It has shocked everybody," Justice Bhuyan orally remarked.

The footage, which surfaced on social media, also showed an earthmover revving during the drive, drawing sharp criticism from opposition parties.

The Ambedkar Nagar Police defended the demolition.

"This action was taken to remove encroachment from the village land, following an ejection order passed by the Jalalpur tehsildar's court. Multiple notices were issued before clearing the non-re-

member can pay is not to reiterate them.

"The reiteration of the same that has taken place is something on which members need to think about. Secondly, I am sure the security of every citizen and a member is important and those concerned will take all steps in that direction. No doubt about it. But, these are issues where we need to moderate the temperature, make the climate a little more wholesome and societal," Dhankhar is quoted as saying.

"There is a recent video in which small huts are being demolished by bulldozers. There is a small girl running away from the demolished hut with a clutch of books in her hand. It has shocked everybody," Justice Bhuyan orally remarked.

The footage, which surfaced on social media, also showed an earthmover revving during the drive, drawing sharp criticism from opposition parties.

The Ambedkar Nagar Police defended the demolition.

"This action was taken to remove encroachment from the village land, following an ejection order passed by the Jalalpur tehsildar's court. Multiple notices were issued before clearing the non-re-

Video of girl running with books during demolition has shocked everybody: SC

New Delhi

The Supreme Court on Tuesday said a recent video of an eight-year-old girl clutching her books and running away as a bulldozer razes her shanty during an anti-encroachment drive in UP had "shocked everybody".

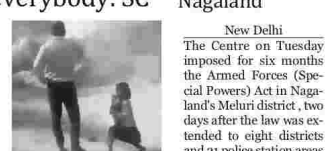
A bench of Justices Abhay S Oka and Ujjal Bhuyan mentioned the details of the viral video from Ambedkar Nagar's Jalalpur while hearing a matter of illegal demolition in Prayagraj.

"There is a recent video in which small huts are being demolished by bulldozers. There is a small girl running away from the demolished hut with a clutch of books in her hand. It has shocked everybody," Justice Bhuyan orally remarked.

The footage, which surfaced on social media, also showed an earthmover revving during the drive, drawing sharp criticism from opposition parties.

The Ambedkar Nagar Police defended the demolition.

"This action was taken to remove encroachment from the village land, following an ejection order passed by the Jalalpur tehsildar's court. Multiple notices were issued before clearing the non-re-



identical structures. The demolition was carried out in full compliance with the revenue court's order to reclaim government land," they said.

"The district administration had been reportedly addressing the encroachment issue for months.

In an order dated October 15, 2024, Jalalpur's sub-divisional magistrate directed the tehsildar to ensure compliance with a previous ruling.

The order referenced a decision from October 10, 2024, under Section 67 of the Uttar Pradesh Revenue Code, 2006, which mandated the eviction of a person named Ram Milan from the disputed land in Arai village.

"The encroacher was also fined Rs 1,980 and Rs 800 as execution charges. The magistrate's order had instructed officials to enforce the ruling within a week.

AFSPA extended to one more district in Nagaland

New Delhi

The Centre on Tuesday imposed for six months the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act in Nagaland's Meluri district, two days after the law was extended to eight districts and 21 police station areas in five other districts of the state.

In a notification, the Union home ministry said in November, 2024, the Nagaland government had created the district of Meluri by carving it out of Phek district, which has been declared a 'disturbed area' on March 30, along with seven other districts.

"Therefore, in partial modification of notification number S.O. 1536 (E) dated 30th March, 2025, the district Meluri is also declared as 'disturbed area' under section 3 of the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act, 1958 (8 of 1958) for a period of 6 months with effect from 1st April, 2025 unless withdrawn earlier," the notification said. The AFSPA gives armed forces operating in disturbed areas sweeping powers and immunity from prosecution unless approved by the Centre.

Manipur BJP MLAs seek review of 2001 census NRC implementation before delimitation

Imphal: BJP MLAs of Manipur on Tuesday sought a "review" of the 2001 Census and implementation of the NRC before carrying out delimitation exercise in the state.

The party's legislators held a meeting to discuss the Supreme Court's order to the Centre to carry out the delimitation exercise in the state within three months.

The demand for a review of the 2001 census came days after 13 other parties urged the Centre to defer the delimitation exercise in the state until the "errors" in the headcount that year are rectified.

"In connection with delimitation, we want what the people want. First, the 2001 census needs to be reviewed," senior BJP MLA Konthoujam Gopinanda told reporters after the meeting.

To a question, Govindas who is a former minister said that the National Register of Citizens (NRC) is also a major issue for delimitation. The COCOMI, an umbrella body of several Meitei civil society organisations of Manipur, recently objected to the delimitation move before implementation of the NRC in the restive state, claiming that without removal of illegal immigrants, any such process would be detrimental to indigenous people.

Delimitation is scheduled for the entire country in 2026.

Asked about the proposals being made by the BJP in connection with delimitation, another party MLA Yumnam Khenchhand said, "The draft is being prepared."

The Supreme Court on March 17 granted three months to the Centre for carrying out the delimitation exercise in Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, Manipur and Assam.

The Centre had informed the top court while consultations were underway for Arunachal Pradesh and Nagaland, the ongoing violence in Manipur made the situation not conducive for the exercise.

Advt Contact
9818799941

Bareilly is now known for Nath corridor: UP Chief Minister

Bareilly: Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Tuesday highlighted Bareilly's transformation over the past eight years, stating that the city has evolved beyond its traditional association with 'jhumkas' (earrings) to establish a historic identity with the Nath Corridor.

During his one-day visit, he inaugurated and laid the foundation stone for 132 development projects worth Rs 933 crore. He emphasized that Bareilly is emerging as a Smart City on both national and international platforms, fostering an investment-friendly environment in sectors like dairy, healthcare, and industry, thereby creating new job opportunities.

On this occasion, the CM flagged off 2,554 new ambulances equipped with state-of-the-art life-saving facilities. He also launched the state-wide 'School Chalo Abhiyan' and flagged off the 'Special Communicable Disease Control Campaign.'

He also visited the



Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Tuesday highlighted Bareilly's transformation over the past eight years, stating that the city has evolved beyond its traditional association with 'jhumkas' (earrings) to establish a historic identity as Nath Nagri with the Nath Corridor.

exhibition on development and schemes organized by the Bareilly Development Authority at the College Ground. During this visit, he also inspected the exhibition of products displayed by young entrepreneurs.

CM Yogi said that Bareilly is being connected through the Har Ghar Naal Yojana, the Ring Road, and new flyovers, which are strengthening the city's connectivity and infrastructure. He also noted that Bareilly was once known as a dirty city, but today it is redefining itself as a Smart City. Highlighting the shift in law and order, he stated that

before 2017, the city frequently witnessed 5-7 riots annually, whereas in the past eight years, not a single riot has occurred. "Now, there are no riots—only development," he remarked. He issued a stern warning to rioters, stating that anyone attempting to instigate unrest would have their property seized and redistributed to the poor. Additionally, he emphasized that education is the cornerstone of a strong society.

During the launch of 'School Chalo Abhiyan', he distributed stationery, textbooks, and toffees to the newly enrolled children.

He called on the people of Bareilly and Uttar Pradesh to join the campaign and ensure that no child is left behind in going to school.

"This is not just the government's responsibility, but also society's," he said. "If any child is deprived of education, it becomes a challenge for both society and the nation."

Reflecting on the situation before 2017, CM Yogi shared that the condition of the Basic Education Council was poor, with schools lacking essential facilities like toilets, drinking water, furniture, and smart classrooms.

At that time, while 1.34 crore children were enrolled, 60% of them did not attend school. Today, under the "Operation Kayakalp" initiative, 96 per cent of schools have been equipped with toilets, drinking water, flooring, smart classrooms, and digital libraries, he said.

He further added that last year, Rs 1,200 per child was sent to the accounts of parents of 1.01 crore children via DBT. "Uniforms, bags, school shoes, socks, and sweaters are also being provided to the children, which has increased their eagerness to attend school," he said.

Dr. RC Guleria Elected President of Mandi Association of Medical College Teachers



Rajan Panchhi
Mandi:

The Mandi Association of Medical College Teachers of SLBSGMC has unanimously elected a new leadership team, marking a significant step in faculty governance and representation.

Dr. RC Guleria from the Department of Microbiology has been elected as the President, while Dr. Ashwani Kumar from the Department of Biochemistry will serve as Vice President. Dr. Richa Sharma from the Department of Pediatrics has been elected as Secretary, with Dr. Veena Gupta (Department of Physiology) and Dr. Saru Thakur (Department of Dermatology) taking on the roles of Joint Sec-

retaries. Dr. Durgesh Thakur from the Department of Community Medicine has been appointed as Press Secretary, and Dr. Pradeep Kashyap from the Department of Anatomy will serve as Treasurer. College Principal Dr. D.K. Verma extended his congratulations to the newly elected office bearers and assured them of his guidance and support.

Speaking on the occasion, President Dr. RC Guleria emphasized the leadership team's commitment to advocating for faculty interests, promoting academic excellence, and fostering a collaborative environment within the medical college. Their key priorities include

improving communication between faculty and administration, advocating for better working conditions and resources, and addressing the need for increased manpower in the institution.

Dr. Guleria highlighted the vital role of the Faculty Members' Association in representing faculty voices and ensuring their active participation in the medical college's decision-making processes. The newly elected leadership aims to work closely with the administration to achieve shared goals and further enhance the institution's mission of excellence in medical education and patient care.

UPA govt rejected ILP proposal for Manipur in 2012: N Biren Singh

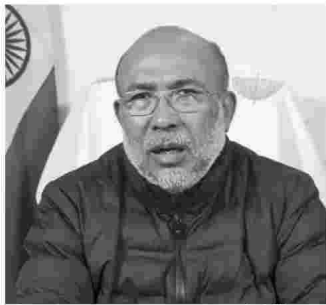
Imphal: Former Manipur chief minister N Biren Singh on Tuesday accused the Congress-led UPA government of rejecting a proposal in Parliament on introducing the Inner Line Permit (ILP) regime in the state in 2012.

He also charged the then government with blatantly appeasing illegal immigrants.

In a post on X, Singh recalled that during a Parliament session on September 4, 2012, the then Manipur Lok Sabha MP, Dr. Thokchom Meinza, raised the issue of ILP in Manipur.

Singh claimed that the Congress-led UPA government not only delayed the issue but rejected the demand.

Singh quoted the Minister of State for Home Affairs, Shri Mul-lappally Ramachandran: "The Inner Line Permit System under Bengal Eastern Frontier Regulation, 1873 applies only to the three North-Eastern States of Arunachal Pradesh, Mizoram and Nagaland which cannot be extended to the State



of Manipur as per extant regulation.

Singh expressed his disappointment, saying, "No empathy, no willingness to consider Manipur's distinct history and identity, just a cold bureaucratic dismissal."

He also questioned whether the Congress leadership in Manipur had informed the people about the rejection of ILP in Parliament, calling it "shameless denial" of Manipur's legitimate demand for ILP. Singh further accused

Tripura's tribal majority area has 302 single-teacher primary schools: CM

Agartala: Chief Minister Manik Saha on Tuesday informed the Assembly that the Tripura Tribal Areas Autonomous District Council (TTAADC) has 302 single-teacher primary schools.

The autonomous district council runs 1,387 primary schools in 1,387 Sixth Schedule areas in the northeastern state. The TTAADC area is two-thirds of the state's territory and is the home to the tribals.

Replying to a calling attention motion moved by Tipra Motha Party (TMP) MLA Patthan Lal Jamatia, the CM who holds the Education portfolio said the TTAADC runs 1,387 primary schools with 30,273 students and 3,504 teachers.

To address the shortage of teachers in TTAADC-run schools, the state has sent 709 teachers to these institutes on deputation, he said.

"Even if the student-teacher ratio is good in tribal council-run primary schools (9:1), 302 schools are functioning with single teachers. It shows there is an urgent need to ensure the even-handed

distribution of teachers in TTAADC-run schools. If we could do it, the problem will be addressed," he said.

The chief minister also explained the reasons behind the low enrollment in the tribal council-run schools. "Low birth rate (12.0 against 1000) is the root cause of low enrollment in these schools. Besides, opening of English medium schools is also another factor in the declining trend in student enrollment," he said.

Claiming that the state is committed to provide quality education to the students of tribal council-run schools, he said Rs 1.20 crore has been given to the TTAADC authorities to undertake repair works of various schools during 2024-25.

"The state spends a substantial amount to pay the salary of the teachers who were posted in different schools on a deputation basis. It comes to around Rs 66.98 crore annually," he said.

Saha also revealed the drop-out figure in the TTAADC-run primary schools.

pathy? adding the party stayed silent, unmoved, disconnected and completely absent from the ground.

The former CM said it was Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah who respected Manipur's sentiments and fulfilled the long-standing demand for ILP in the state in 2019.

Singh said, "In sharp contrast, it was the BJP Government under Hon'ble Prime Minister @narendramodi and Hon'ble Home Minister @AmitShah that finally respected Manipur's sentiments."

"They understood the unique history and socio-political realities of the state. In 2019, they fulfilled a long-standing demand and gave Manipur the ILP, a constitutional safeguard we had been fighting for, for decades," he added.

A Congress spokesperson said that the party leaders have seen the post, will discuss it among themselves, and then come up with a comment soon.

Modi wishes Dhani for 3 years in office lauds him as hardworking

Dehradun: Prime Minister Narendra Modi has congratulated Pushkar Singh Dhani on successfully completing three years in office of his second term as Chief Minister, describing him as hardworking and his tenure a period of big achievements.

In a congratulatory message dated March 29, Modi said, "These three years of the state government under the leadership of the hardworking and energetic Chief Minister of Uttarakhand, Pushkar Singh Dhani, have been dedicated to service, good governance and development, which is a major achievement in the upliftment of the state."

Moving forward with a sense of pride in its heritage, Uttarakhand is creating new records of development, Modi said. "Today, the state is rapidly moving towards

the development goals for which Uttarakhand was created 25 years ago," he said.

For this, with a "concrete action plan," facilities are being continuously developed in various sectors like education, health, infrastructure, transport and tourism, the Prime Minister said. "Devbhoomi Uttarakhand is full of possibilities. The brave and hardworking people here have the ability to take the state to new heights of development. I am confident that this decade will prove to be that of Uttarakhand. With this new identity, Uttarakhand will play an important role in the creation of a developed India in the Amrit Kaal of Independence," Modi said.

Modi completed three years of his second term as Chief Minister on March 23.

National Exhibition of Footwear Components Begins in Agra

Akash Jain/Rajesh Tomar
Agra:

The 58th edition of the national footwear component exhibition, Shoe Tech Agra, organized by the Indian Footwear Component Manufacturers Association (IFCOMA), commenced today in Agra. The two-day event, being held at Hotel Madhu Resorts on April 2 and 3, aims to accelerate the growth of the footwear component industry in India. IFCOMA officials shared details about the exhibition in a press conference at Hotel Holiday Inn on Tuesday.

Speaking about the significance of the event, Purnan Dawar, President of the Agra Footwear Manufacturers & Exporters Chamber (AFMEC), emphasized that components play a crucial role in shoe production. He described the exhibition as a valuable opportunity for shoe



entrepreneurs, allowing buyers and sellers to connect directly and explore future business collaborations. This year, more than 60 stalls will showcase 32 different types of footwear components under one roof.

Manju Mann, Executive Director of the Footwear Design and Development Institute (FDI), highlighted the growing role of innovation and re-

search in the footwear industry. She stated that FDI was established to train professionals for the footwear and leather industry, fostering competitiveness on a global scale. She also pointed out that footwear design is a science, and advancements in components are contributing significantly to the sector. With India producing 11.63% of the world's total footwear, the country ranks as the

second-largest producer after China. In terms of exports, India shipped footwear worth \$3.13 billion in 2022, making it the 11th largest exporter globally.

IFCOMA President Sanjay Gupta expressed confidence that the 58th edition of Shoe Tech Agra would be a landmark event. He stated that the exhibition aims to strengthen both the footwear and component industries, posi-

tioning India as a viable alternative to China. He also noted that the event serves as a platform for raising awareness about the latest technologies. Entrepreneurs from several states, including Uttar Pradesh, are participating in the exhibition.

A key highlight of the event is a seminar on the Indian Footwear Sizing System, where experts from the Central Leather Research Institute (CLRI) will discuss the importance of standardization in footwear sizing. The seminar will also feature a presentation on fashion trends in the Indian footwear market by Nandan Singh Bora, Director of the National Institute of Fashion Technology (NIFT) Raebareilly.

The exhibition was inaugurated today at 10:30 AM by AFMEC President Purnan Dawar, with Vivek Sharma (IRS), Managing Director of FDI Noida, as the distinguished guest. The event will also honor industry veterans for their outstanding contributions. The exhibition will continue until April 3, from 10 AM to 6 PM. During the event, industry leaders emphasized the need for innovation and modernization in shoe manufacturing. AFMEC Vice President Gopal Gupta underscored the importance of such exhibitions, while CIFI Uttar Pradesh President Dharmendra Narula stressed the need for adopting new technologies. Agra Shoe Factories Federation President Vijay Sama pointed out technical flaws in India's shoe sizing system, urging government intervention for improvement. ASMA President Opinder Singh Lovely called for a better understanding of market trends to meet consumer demands.

South Korea's Constitutional Court will rule Friday on Yoon's impeachment

Seoul: South Korea's Constitutional Court will rule Friday on whether to formally dismiss or reinstate impeached President Yoon Suk Yeol — a decision that either way will likely deepen domestic divisions. The court has been deliberating on Yoon's political fate after the conservative leader was impeached in December by the National Assembly, which is controlled by the liberal opposition, over his brief imposition of martial law that triggered a massive political crisis.

Millions of people have rallied around the country to support or denounce Yoon. Police said they'll mobilize all available personnel to preserve order and respond to possible acts of vandalism, arson and assault before and after the court's ruling.

The Constitutional Court said in a brief statement Tuesday that it would issue its ruling at 11 am Friday and allow TV stations to broadcast it live.

Removing Yoon from office requires support from at least six of the court's eight justices. If the court rules against Yoon, South Korea must hold an election within two months for a new president. If the court overturns his impeachment, Yoon would immediately return to his presidential duties.

Xi Jinping calls for 'elephant-dragon tango' on 75th anniversary of India China ties

Beijing: In a message marking 75th anniversary of their bilateral relations, Chinese President Xi Jinping on Tuesday stressed on partnership between India and China for "mutual achievement" and the need to do a "dragon-elephant tango" to serve their fundamental interests.

Apart from Xi's message to his counterpart Droupadi Murmu, Chinese Premier Li Qiang and Prime Minister Narendra Modi too exchanged congratulatory messages to mark the occasion, the Chinese Foreign Ministry announced here.

In her message, Murmu said a stable, predictable and friendly bilateral relationship will benefit both countries and the world, state-run Xinhua news agency reported.

The development comes amid the efforts to reset the ties after over four years of freeze



due to the eastern Ladakh military standoff.

President Xi, in his message to Murmu, said China and India, both ancient civilisations, major developing countries and important members of the Global South, are at a critical stage of their respective modernisation efforts.

"The development of China-India relations demonstrates that it is the right choice for Chi-

na and India to be partners of mutual achievement and realise the 'dragon elephant tango,' which fully serves the fundamental interests of both countries and their peoples," Xinhua said quoting Xi.

Xi called on both sides to view and handle bilateral relations from a strategic height and long-term perspective, seek a way, which features peace-

ful coexistence, mutual trust, mutual benefit and common development, for neighbouring major countries to get along with each other, and jointly promote a multi-polar world and greater democracy in international relations.

He also said he stands ready to work with Murmu to take the anniversary of ties as an opportunity to enhance strategic mutual trust,

In her message, Murmu said a stable, predictable and friendly bilateral relationship will benefit both countries and the world, state-run Xinhua news agency reported.

strengthen exchanges and cooperation in various fields, deepen communication and coordination in major international affairs, jointly safeguard peace and tranquility in the China-India border area, push forward a sound and steady development of bilateral relations and contribute to world peace and prosperity.

For her part, Murmu said India and China are two major neighboring countries that are home to one-third of the world's population, noting that a stable, predictable and friendly bilateral relationship will benefit both countries and the world.

Chinese military launches large-scale drills around Taiwan

Taipei (Taiwan): The Chinese military announced large-scale drills in the waters and airspace around Taiwan on Tuesday that include an aircraft carrier battle group, as it again warned the self-ruled island democracy against seeking formal independence.

The joint exercises involve navy, air ground and rocket forces and are meant to be a "severe warning and forceful containment against Taiwan independence," according to Shi Yi, a spokesperson for the People's Liberation Army's Eastern Theatre Command.

No operational name for the drills was announced nor previous notice given.

China considers Taiwan a part of its territory, to be brought under its control by force if necessary, while most Taiwanese favour their de-facto independence and democratic status. Any conflict could bring in the US, which maintains a series of alliances in the region and is legally bound to treat threats to Taiwan as a matter of "grave concern."

Taiwan's Presidential Office posted on X that "China's blatant military provocations not only threaten peace in the #Taiwan Strait but also undermine security in the entire region, as evidenced by drills near Australia, New Zealand, Japan, Korea, the Philippines & the SCS. We strongly condemn China's escalatory behaviour."

The SCS refers to the South China Sea, the strategic waterway that China claims almost in its entirety. China's navy also recently held drills near Australia and New Zealand for which it gave no warning, forcing the last-minute rerouting of commercial flights.

Taiwan's Ministry of National Defence said it had tracked 19 Chinese navy vessels in the waters surrounding the island in a 24-hour period from 6 am Monday until 6 am Tuesday. It added that the Shandong aircraft carrier group had entered into Taiwan's air defence identification zone on Monday, a self-defined area tracked by the military.

Israel strikes building in southern Beirut killing at least 4 people

Beirut: The Israeli military struck a building in Beirut's southern suburbs early Tuesday, killing at least four people, as the military said it had targeted a member of the Hezbollah militant group.

The airstrike came without warning days after Israel launched an attack on the Lebanese capital, Beirut, on Friday for the first time since a ceasefire ended fighting between Israeli forces



and the Hezbollah militant group in November. The Israeli military then had warned residents in the crowded suburbs

before the attack after two projectiles were launched from southern Lebanon, which Hezbollah denied firing.

At least seven other people were wounded in Tuesday's airstrike, according to the Lebanese Health Ministry.

The Israeli military said in a statement the latest strike targeted a Hezbollah member who had been helping the Palestinian Hamas group in the Gaza Strip in attacks against Israel. It said the airstrike was "under the direction of the Shin Bet," Israel's domestic intelligence agency.

Lebanese President Joseph Aoun condemned the airstrike.

"We must prevent any violation of sovereignty from abroad, or from infiltrators within who provide an additional pretext for aggression," Aoun wrote in a statement posted on X. The former military chief vowed after his election in January that all weapons would be at the hands of the Lebanese state, indirectly referring to Hezbollah's arms.

Among those killed in the airstrike were Hezbollah official Hassan Bdeir and his son, Ali, according to a Hezbollah official who spoke on condition of anonymity because of not being authorized to speak publicly to the media. The official said that the two other people killed were their neighbors: two siblings, a young man and a woman.

Senior Hezbollah legislator Ali Ammar said the group does not want

war. "But at the same time, if war is imposed on Hezbollah ... then Hezbollah is fully prepared to deter any assault," Ammar said in a statement to the press at the site of the airstrike.

Photos and videos widely shared on local and social media showed the top three floors of an apartment building damaged following the strike. Piles of debris on cars below the building can be seen.

BUSINESS

Vodafone Idea Gets Govt. Bailout: Challenges Remain

New Delhi: The government's move to convert spectrum auction dues of Vodafone Idea into equity will ease near-term liquidity constraints, but structural challenges remain for the telco with factors like stabilisation of subscriber base, tariff hikes, long-pending debt raise, and further relief on dues being vital for the telco's long-term survival, say analysts.

IIFL Capital, in its note, said while the latest move marks improved prospects for VI's debt-raising, the underlying free cash flow generation is still inadequate to cover regulatory payouts.

After assuming Rs 250bn (Rs 25,000 crore) debt-raise, Vi still faces a stiff task in making Rs186bn (Rs 18,600 crore) regulatory payouts. Even after assuming another 15-20 per cent tariff hike and lower capex in FY27, Vi's underlying FCF of - Rs41bn (Rs 4,100 crore) is likely to

fall short of Rs236bn (Rs 23,600 crore) required for meeting regulatory payouts," IIFL said in its analysis.

According to Motilal Oswal Financial Services, while government equity conversion provides cash flow relief for VI and is a key medium-term positive development, stabilisation of its subscriber base, long-pending debt raise, and further relief on AGR dues will be vital for Vi's long-term survival.

The Centre's continued commitment to maintaining a 'three plus one' market construct in the Indian telecom sector and the easing of VI's cashflow constraint are also positive for Indus Towers, it added.

Motilal Oswal said despite the spectrum dues conversion into equity, Vodafone Idea (VI) would continue to require more relief from the government on AGR dues as well as spectrum payments beyond the first half of FY2027-28 (H1FY28).

Govt to form committee for decision on assets of MTNL and BSNL in Mumbai: Scindia

Mumbai: Union minister Jyotiraditya Scindia on Tuesday said a committee of government officials will be formed to take a decision on the assets of public sector telecom companies Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited and Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited in Mumbai.

The committee will comprise officials of the state urban development department, Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC), and the central government's telecommunications department, and its report will be submitted in four weeks, Scindia was quotative as saying in a release.

The Minister of Communications attended a meeting organised at the Sahyadri Guest House here on the BSNL's assets in Mumbai and the communication system in Maharashtra. The meeting discussed in detail the assets of BSNL and MTNL in Mumbai,



construction of mobile towers, communication systems to be created under the BharatNet programme.

Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnis, Deputy Chief Ministers Eknath Shinde and Ajit Pawar, Chief Secretary Sujata Saunik, Union Telecom Secretary Neeraj Kumar, BSNL's Managing Director Robert Ravi and others also took part in the meeting.

Scindia said the BharatNet project is being implemented to create a fast communi-

cation system for every gram panchayat in the country, and added that Maharashtra has done a good job in the phase I of the project.

The BharatNet project aims to provide broadband connectivity to all the gram panchayats in the country.

Under phase II of the project, a communication system should be established up to every remaining gram panchayat in the state as well, he said.

Scindia said that under BharatNet's phase II, one lakh towers of 4G

like Gadhchiroli.

Security cover will be provided in the extremely remote areas of Gadchiroli to set up towers. If a communication system in remote areas is strong, it will be convenient to connect the local youth with modern technology, he said.

The government will work to create connectivity systems in all gram panchayats in the state under BharatNet phase II, he added.

CM Fadnis assured that the state will be at the forefront of the country in the project's second phase as well.

Reservations on BSNL and MTNL proposition system even in the most remote areas of the state, he said.

The Union minister also suggested removing the obstacles in creating a communication system in rural areas, he said.

Fadnis assured full co-operation in strengthening the communication system by linking remote areas

Indian Stock Market Crashes, Investors Lose Rs 3.44 Lakh Crore

New Delhi: Investors' wealth dropped by Rs 3.44 lakh crore on Tuesday as markets fell sharply with the BSE benchmark Sensex tumbling 1,390 points amid heightened uncertainty ahead of the anticipated rollout of the US reciprocal tariffs on April 2.

The BSE benchmark gauge tanked 1,390.41 points or 1.80 per cent to settle at 75,024.51. During the day, the index plummeted 1,502.74 points or 1.94 per cent to 75,912.18.

Tracking the weak trend in equities, the market capitalisation of BSE-listed firms eroded by Rs 3,44,058.44 crore to Rs 4,09,43,588.06 crore (USD 4.78 trillion).

"Benchmark indices started the new fiscal FY26 on a sour note after ending sharply lower on Tuesday ahead of US President Donald Trump's tariff announcement," Satish Chandra Aluri, Analyst at Lemonn Markets Desk, said.

Trump plans to roll out a set of reciprocal tariffs on April 2, which he says will be "Liberation Day" for the US.

"Indian equities faced sharp declines on the first trading session of FY26, with the Nifty tumbling 1.5 per cent to close at 23,165, amid heightened concerns over US President Trump's reciprocal tariff plans, which take effect from April 2nd," Siddhartha Khemka, Head, Research, Wealth Management at Motilal Oswal Financial Services Ltd, said.

Poonam Sharma Takes Over as 42nd National President of FLO

New Delhi: Ms. Poonam Sharma has officially assumed the role of the 42nd National President of FICCI Ladies Organisation (FLO), the women's wing of the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FICCI) and the oldest women-led business chamber in Southeast Asia. She took over the position at the 41st Annual Session held on March 31, 2025, for the tenure of 2025-26.



As the newly appointed National President, Ms. Sharma aims to foster an enabling environment for women

spearhead various initiatives to enhance the role of women in India's industrial and economic landscape.

FLO empowers women by fostering leadership, skills development, and creating a platform to showcase their talents across various sectors for an inclusive economic growth trajectory. During her tenure, FLO will carry out many interventions towards fostering larger contributions of women in India's industrial and economic growth story," said Ms. Poonam Sharma.

She emphasized that her focus would be on transforming women's voices into tangible economic initiatives by

influencing policies and changing perceptions.

FLO, established in 1983 as a division of FICCI, serves as a nationwide platform for women entrepreneurs, professionals, and corporate executives. Headquartered in New Delhi, it has 20 chapters across India, representing over 13,000 members.

Ms. Poonam Sharma is a distinguished entrepreneur in the health and wellness sector and a global advocate for Ayurvedic products. She is closely associ-

ated with the Baidyanath Group, a renowned Ayurvedic brand with a legacy of over a century. Through her extensive travels, she promotes the benefits of Ayurvedic medicines, tonics, and cosmetics. Additionally, she is the Founder and Director of Ayurvedant and Mantra Herbs.

Beyond her business endeavors, Ms. Sharma plays an instrumental role in social impact initiatives through the Veeranga Foundation. The foundation focuses on the upliftment of

women in Bundelkhand by providing skill development programs, medical assistance, and healthcare services to underprivileged communities. Her commitment to philanthropy underscores her dedication to societal betterment and economic inclusivity.

With her extensive experience and commitment to women's empowerment, Ms. Poonam Sharma is set to lead FLO towards new heights in advocating for women's participation in business and industry.

Cricket

"I am a little worried": Jaffer on Indian Test team ahead of England tour

Kolkata
Former Indian cricketer Wasim Jaffer said on Tuesday that he is "a little worried" about Team India following a disastrous Border-Gavaskar Trophy against Australia away from home and hoped that they will "get their act together" ahead of their England tour which will kick-start their ICC World Test Championship 2025-27 cycle.

Jaffer was speaking on Revsportz to Boria Majumdar. Speaking to Revsportz about the Indian Test team, which finished third in the WTC 2023-25 standings following a 0-2 clean sweep loss to New Zealand at home and 1-3 loss in the BGT against Australia, Jaffer said, "I am a little worried, without a doubt. After watching India play in Australia, I am a little worried."

"The form of our batters. What if Jasprit Bumrah is not available in that Test series as well? Or if Mohammad Shami is not available for that matter? What will happen? So, I am definitely worried that Dukes ball, our batters have batted in Australia. If that same trend continues, we will definitely struggle."

"So, I am a little bit worried. But I hope they get their act together. And I hope we win a series, which we have not done for a long time in England. But we need to do much better than what we did, you know, in Australia," he concluded.

India's last series win in England came back in 2007 under captaincy of Rahul Dravid by 1-0. Since then, their last Test series in England ended in a



2-2 draw back in 2022 after India played the rescheduled fifth Test at Edgbaston under captaincy of Jasprit Bumrah, after initially leading the series 2-1 under Virat Kohli.

India's England tour of five Test will kickstart on June 20 at Leeds with the first Test.

However, absence of pace spearhead Jasprit Bumrah, who got injured during the final BGT Test in Sydney and has not played any cricket since, and form of two of its most senior batters, Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli has

been a huge point of concern.

The 2024-25 season of Tests was miserable for 'Ro-Koh' (Rohit and Kohli), who are India's most prolific modern-day stars. While Rohit scored just 164 runs in eight matches and 15 innings at an average of 10.93 with the best score of 52, Virat scored a shambolic 382 runs in 10 matches and 19 innings at an average of 22.87, with just a century and fifty each. Rohit also scored just 3 and 28 on his return to Ranji Trophy recently against J&K. Virat ended the last year with just 655 in-

ternational runs in 23 matches and 32 innings, averaging 21.83, with a century and two fifties to his name. His best score was 100*. While Rohit has been India's most prolific run-getter in WTC history with 41.15 with nine centuries and eight fifties, Virat's form in Tests has taken a nosedive in 2020s. In 30 Test matches since the start of 2020, Virat has scored just 2,028 runs at an average of 30.72, with just three centuries and nine fifties to show. His best score is 186.

Arshdeep handpicks favourite IPL memory

Ahmedabad
India middle-order mainstay and Punjab Kings' captain Shreyas Iyer continues to "evolve his game" while "adjusting brilliantly" to challenges such as facing short balls, believes New Zealand stalwart Kane Williamson.

Iyer began his captaincy stint for PBKS with a match-winning 97 not out, studded with nine sixes and five fours off 42 balls, against Gujarat Titans in their IPL clash here on Tuesday.

Williamson, a former Gujarat Titans player, heaped praise on the right-handed Iyer for his adaptability.

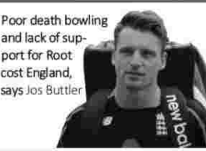
"What stands out about Shreyas is how he continues to evolve his game," said JioStar expert Williamson. "For a period, teams targeted him with short balls, but now, he's adjusting brilliantly — getting deeper in his crease, de-weighting his front leg, and dominating the short-pitched deliveries."

"What is most impressive is his ability to shift his weight forward again, making it difficult for bowlers who try the 'one-two' approach — going short, then full. He's now able to access all areas of the ground, which makes him such a formidable batter," Williamson added.

The New Zealand batting great termed Iyer's knock of 97 not out of "highest standard".

"It was a knock of the highest standard. From the very first ball, it was almost a highlight reel — he played the ball exactly where it was meant to be hit," he said.

"Anything outside off stump, he looked to access the offside, and he even struck sixes over cover against



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



some of the best seamers in the world. Then, to take on Rashid Khan as well — that's one of the toughest challenges in the game.

"As a leader, to step in at No.3, set the tone, and take on the opposition's biggest threats was remarkable. That innings was truly out of this world," Williamson added.

The Kivi batter also praised Shashank Singh for his whirlwind knock of 44 not out off only 16 balls, which pushed PBKS total beyond the reach of the Titans.

"Shashank is coming off an outstanding breakout season last year. He's incredibly still at the crease, has beautiful hands, and doesn't move excessively, yet he possesses so many scoring options," he said.

"He has the time to adjust to short-pitched deliveries — whether ramping it over the keeper or pulling off a length — but he can also hold his position and play powerful straight drives."

KKR all-rounder Ramandeep Singh reflects on team's performance against MI

Mumbai
The defending champions, Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR) suffered an eight-wicket loss against Mumbai Indians at the Wankhede Stadium in the Indian Premier League (IPL) 2025 on Monday.

Ramandeep Singh's quickfire knock of 22 runs off 12 balls alongside Angkrish Raghuvanshi's 26 runs off 16 balls and Andre Russell's twin strikes were the key highlights for KKR as the hosts MI chased down the target of 117.

Not shying away from the loss, KKR all-rounder Ramandeep Singh shared his honest assessment in the post-match press conference.

"Any team can collapse, regardless of the situation. Obviously, that gives the lower order an opportunity, but we were unlucky tonight. We'll do our best to make sure we don't find ourselves in a similar situation going ahead in the tournament," Ramandeep Singh said as quoted by the KKR press release.

He also shed some light on backing the team's aggressive approach with the bat, while emphasising that they can take learnings from this performance.

"We back every player in the team to follow their natural instincts. Sometimes, it doesn't work out, but it is important for us to back our players, so they can give their hundred percent and play to their attacking instincts," Ramandeep explained.

"We understand that partnerships are very important but had the attacking approach paid off for Angkrish and Rinku, we would be crediting them for their performance. Sometimes it's not your day. There are always learnings from every game", the right-hand batter added.

Reflecting on the conditions at the Wankhede Stadium, Ramandeep reckoned that the toss played a significant factor in the outcome.

"It was a good toss to win for MI. They did have an advantage because even in the second innings, the new ball was seaming, and the spinners were getting some turn. So, there was something there for the bowlers. However, we can't use that as an excuse. We have to be ready for every situation," he mentioned.

"The wicket today was such that you had to settle in before looking to hit sixes. Generally, that's not the case but today was a little different", the player concluded. Kolkata Knight Riders will be eager to bounce back when they take on the Sunrisers Hyderabad at the Eden Gardens on April 3.

Piyush Chawla outlines "best part" of Hardik Pandya's captaincy against KKR

New Delhi
Former India spinner Piyush Chawla decried Hardik Pandya's captaincy and traced down the best part of it during Mumbai Indians' dominant victory over defending champions Kolkata Knight Riders in the ongoing Indian Premier League (IPL) 2025. Chawla was speaking on Jio Hotstar.

After two defeats on the trot, Mumbai returned to winning ways with a spirited performance to secure an 8-wicket triumph against the Knight Riders on their home turf.

KKR batter had no answer to the MI's pace attack and no solution to stop the blitzkrieg produced by their batters. Hardik's out-of-the-box field placement and the effective regulation of his bowlers played their part in increasing KKR's woes.

"I think the best part of his captaincy was his attacking approach. He read the conditions well and understood that there was something in the pitch for the seamers, so he used them effectively. One move I particularly liked was when Vignesh came in to bowl while Harshit Rana was batting towards the end," he said on Jio Hotstar.

After Trent Boult and Deepak Chahar made early inroads, Hardik decided to introduce debutant Ashwani Ku-



mar in the fourth over of the powerplay. The left-arm medium quick struck on his maiden ball of the IPL debut, removing skipper Ajinkya Rahane.

He continued to breathe fire and ended his searing spell with a four-wicket haul, becoming the first Indian to achieve the feat on his IPL debut.

"You want to get that wicket rather than letting the opposition add another 10-15 runs with Ramandeep Singh still there. Overall, his decision-making was spot on. When a partnership was building between Manish Pandey and Rinku Singh, he brought Ashwani Kumar into the attack, and that over, changed the game."

G-Murali Cricket Tournament: The Commissioner of Police XI Triumphs Over Media XI

■ Media XI batted first and scored 106 runs, losing all their wickets in 20 overs. The Commissioner of Police XI chased down the target in just 16 overs, losing 3 wickets.

Ahishhek Byahut
New Delhi

The annual G-Murali Cricket Tournament took place at the Sports Ground, New Police Line, Kingsway Camp, featuring an exciting 20-over match between The Commissioner of Police XI and Media XI. The Commissioner of Police XI, led by Vijay Singh, Jt.CP/Transport, won the match against Media XI, which was captained by Suresh Jha. Media XI batted first and scored 106 runs, losing all their wickets in 20 overs. The Commissioner of Police XI chased down the target in just 16 overs, losing 3 wickets. Sikandar Singh played a crucial role in their win, taking 4 wickets and earning the 'Player of the Match' award. Hareshwer Swami was the top scorer for the winners with 42 runs. The match was attended by Delhi's Commissioner of Police, Sanjay Arora, and other officials, showcasing



skill and sportsmanship. CP Delhi Sanjay Arora met every player on the ground and wished them for their innings. Suresh Jha, the captain of Media XI and Chief Coordinator of the tournament congratulated Delhi Police XI on their victory. Mr Jha said, I extend

Uttarakhand CM Pushkar Singh Dhami inaugurates inter-cricket tournament

Dehradun
Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami on Tuesday inaugurated the inter-cricket tournament organized by Uttarakhand Press Club. On this occasion, he also announced Rs 5 lakh for sports material in Uttarakhand Press Club.

During the event, he played out a couple of shots and interacted with the players. The Chief Minister encouraged the players by playing cricket and inspired all the participants to absorb the spirit of teamwork, discipline and healthy competition through sports.

While praising Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Fit India Movement, he also asked the general public to include sports activities in their daily routine.

The Chief Minister said that in today's fast-paced life, it is important that a person stays away from mental stress and remains healthy by joining sports. The Chief Minister added that the state government is constantly working in the interest of the players.

He assured that efforts are being made to provide maximum sports facilities to the players. Due to this, in the coming days, the players of the state will bring laurels to the state by winning medals in international competitions like the National Games. It is worth noting that the state won 103 medals in the



National Games, this is the result of the successful sports policies of the government.

During the cricket tournament, MIA Umesh Sharma Kanu, Special Principal Secretary Amit Singh, Director General of Information Bandishard Tiwari, Director Sports Prashant Arya, players, club members, sports executive members and spectators were present.

On the political front, Dhami expressed heartfelt gratitude to Prime Minister Narendra Modi on the occasion of three years of good governance of the state government.

Taking to social media X, the CM in post wrote that it was due to PM Modi's leadership, guidance and special attachment towards Uttarakhand that the state could create new dimensions of

development.

"On behalf of all the residents of the state, I express my heartfelt gratitude to the respected Prime Minister Shri @narendramodiji for his good wishes on the occasion of completion of three years of our government dedicated to service, good governance and development," Dhami wrote on X.

"As a result of your able leadership, guidance and special attachment towards Uttarakhand, our state is creating new dimensions of development. Realising the vision of a strong and prosperous Uttarakhand, we have taken concrete steps towards making the state self-reliant and strong in all areas, including education, employment, health, infrastructure, transport and tourism," the post added.

"Still got an incredibly important role to play...": Australian selection chair George Bailey

Melbourne
Australian selection chair George Bailey indicated that all-rounder Mitchell Marsh, currently the T20 captain, still has an "incredibly important role" to play in white-ball cricket and his red-ball career is also not over as well.

The Aussies named a 23-player list that will receive national contracts for the 2025/26 season on Tuesday, which also witnessed Marsh getting a central contract. The 33-year-old has dealt with plenty of injury issues recently, which hampered his ability to bowl and he last played for Australia back in December last year during the Border-Gavaskar Trophy, in which he was below par with both bat and ball, taking just three wickets and scoring just 73 runs.

Currently, he is playing for Lucknow Super Giants (LSG) in the Indian Premier League (IPL) as a specialist batter and has scored 124 runs in two innings averaging 62 with two fifties,



striking at over 185.

"I still think he has got an incredibly important role to play," Bailey said of Marsh, as quoted by ICC.

"He has had some injury issues, and towards the back end of the summer, he was battling with his back a little bit. It is an ongoing conversation as to where bowling may or may not fit into his international cricket going forward. At the moment, in the IPL, he is available only as a batter."

Bengaluru FC, FC Goa eye first-leg advantage as ISL 2024-25 semi-finals commence

Bengaluru FC (BFC) will host FC Goa (FCG) at the Sree Kanteerava Stadium in the first leg of their semi-final fixture of the Indian Super League (ISL) 2024-25 on Wednesday at 7:30 pm IST.

The Blues have entered the last-four stage on the back of a thumping 5-0 victory against Mumbai City FC in the one-legged knockout, whereas the Gaurs had finished second in the standings, courtesy of winning 48 points from their 24 league stage matches, as per the ISL press release.

FC Goa, however, have been on a four-game-long unbeaten run against Bengaluru FC - winning and drawing twice in this period. They were at the receiving end of a loss in their previous playoffs fixture with the Blues though, facing a 0-1 loss in the final of ISL 2018-19.

Meanwhile, Bengaluru FC boast of a formidable home record when facing FC Goa, having gone unbeaten in their last six games, winning on four instances. The last two fixtures at this stadium have produced draws, and Gaurs will want to correct the record since only Kerala Blasters FC and NorthEast United FC have played more games at this venue without securing a win (seven each).

Bengaluru FC are unbeaten in their last two playoffs matches (W1 D1). The last time they went on a longer such sequence was between



March 2019 and 2020 when they won three consecutive games while keeping a clean sheet in each of them.

Head coach Gerard Zaragoza won his first-ever playoff game in ISL following their 5-0 triumph over Mumbai City FC. If his side emerges victorious in this fixture, he will become only the third tactician in ISL to win both of his first two playoffs games, after Simon Grayson (March 2023) and Petr Kratky (April 2024).

FC Goa have faced defeats in both of their last two playoffs matches in ISL, both coming against Mumbai

City FC in April 2024. The last and only time they had a longer losing streak in this stage of the competition was between March 2019 and February 2020 (three consecutive losses).

FC Goa have scored 22 goals in ISL playoffs history, the joint-second highest alongside Bengaluru FC, only behind Chennaiyin FC (25). Moreover, FC Goa lead the scoring charts in semi-finals history, netting 18 times.

FC Goa and Bengaluru FC have faced each other 17 times in ISL history. The Gaurs have won five en-

counters, while the Blues have emerged victorious on seven occasions. Five matches have ended in draws.

Bengaluru FC head coach Gerard Zaragoza acknowledged the competitiveness of the semi-finals.

"I'm looking forward to it. I came here to the club to win trophies, and we have three really good other teams involved in the semi-finals too," Gerard Zaragoza said as quoted by the ISL press release.

FC Goa head coach Manolo Marquez expressed excitement at the possibility of taking the team to their first-ever ISL Cup win.

"I'm very excited. I want to help FC Goa win the ISL Cup for the first time," Manolo Marquez said.

Bengaluru FC's Sunil Chhetri (four strikes) is one goal away from becoming the outright leading scorer in this fixture in ISL history. Additionally, Chhetri is also one away from equaling his highest goal tally in a single ISL season (14 in 2017-18).

FC Goa's Iker Guarrotxena has scored seven goals and provided three assists in the current ISL season. He is one goal contribution away from equalling his best-ever tally in a single ISL season (11 goals in 2022-23).

FC Goa's Brison Fernandes (7G, 2A) is one goal contribution away from becoming the first Indian player to register 10+ of them for FC Goa in a single ISL season.

Arjun Maini to drive for team HRT Ford Performance for DTM season 2025



New Delhi

The official test day for the new DTM season will take place at the Motorsport Arena Oschersleben on Wednesday. Haupt Racing Team enters two Ford Mustang GT3s in the top-class sprint series for the first time this year.

The cockpits for Ford's factory-supported DTM comeback after 36 years will be occupied by India's Arjun Maini and Switzerland's Fabio Scherer.

HRT Ford Performance starts the new season with two Ford Mustang GT3s DTM-experienced line-up with Arjun Maini and Fabio Scherer at the wheels.

Haupt Racing Team will start its fifth DTM season at the Motorsport Arena Oschersleben on the weekend of April 25 to April 27. As part of the joint development program with Ford Performance, the team from Drees will be fielding two Ford Mustang GT3s for the first time this year.

The US manufacturer's last works entry in the DTM was in 1989 with the Ford Sierra Cosworth RS500. The HRT Ford Performance line-up consists of Ford Performance Factory Driver Arjun Maini and Fabio Scherer, who also completes the squad of official Ford Performance GT3 Junior Drivers. Maini and Scherer can look back on a combined experience of 82 DTM races.

Arjun Maini has been competing successfully for HRT in various racing series since 2022 and achieved three podium finishes and one pole position in the DTM with the team last season. The Indian has made a total of 64 appearances in the prestigious sprint series to date. He will be competing in the #36 Ford Mustang GT3 in the blue and yellow livery of team partner RAVENOL.

The first test for HRT Ford Performance and the two drivers is scheduled for this week. The official test day will take place at the Motorsport Arena Oschersleben on Wednesday, April

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



Union Minister Raksha Khadse attends Esports Conclave 2025



New Delhi

Union Minister of State for Youth Affairs and Sports Raksha Nikhil Khadse attended the Esports Conclave 2025 organized by the Physical Education Foundation of India (PEFI) and supported by Krafton and Invest India, aimed to discuss the potential and future of Esports and its role in global leadership.

Esports was a medal sport at the last Asian Games in Hangzhou and it will be a medal sports at Nagoya, the next Games in 2026.

During the interaction Union MoS while highlighting the potential of esports in enhancing digital literacy, creating employment opportunities, underlined the government's dedication to turning esports into a mainstream sports discipline.

As of 2022, the number of eSports players in India was recorded at around 60 thousand. This was a leap by 300 per cent from the previous year. Continuing on this path of growth the figure is further expected to exceed one million players over the next five years.

Khadse lauded the efforts of all the stakeholders in creating an environment to promote esports talent and innovation. She stressed the importance of collaboration between government and private sector to harness the full potential of esports in the country.

Hailing the recent decision of the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports to include medal winners in esports eligible for cash incentives as a landmark move, Smt. Khadse reaffirmed the government's support in nurturing and growth of esports in India.

The conclave saw the attendance of industry leaders, including Sean Hyunil Sohn, CEO, Krafton India and other eminent personalities including Anamika Sah, Senior Vice President, Invest India, Anandeshwar Pandey, General Secretary, Uttar Pradesh Olympic Association, Sh. Piyush Jain, National Secretary, PEFI along with officials and sports enthusiasts.

Yuva Mumba set up eliminator clash against Yuva Yodhas

Haridwar

The Super 6 and head-to-head round of the Yuva All-Stars Championship concluded on Tuesday with the top three teams from the Super 6 round and the losers of the head-to-head round qualifying for the playoffs.

The playoff round will include four matches - two eliminators, one semi-final, and a final. The loser of the head-to-head round will take on the third-placed team in the Super 6 round in Eliminator 1, while the top two teams from Super 6 will lock horns with each other in Eliminator 2. Both eliminators will be played on April 2.

The winner of Eliminator 1 and the winner of Eliminator 2 will face each other in the Semi-Final match on Thursday. The winner of the Semi-Final clash will lock horns against the head-to-head winner in the Grand Finale on Friday.

Yuva Mumba, Sonipat Spartans, and Warriorz K.C. won their respective matches in the last set of Super 6 matches on Tuesday at the Vandana Kataria Indoor Stadium in Haridwar.

Yuva Mumba defeated the Junior Steelers 48-26 to earn a spot in the playoffs. They went into the half-time break



with a 15-14 score after an evenly-contested first half. The Steelers inflicted an All Out on Yuva Mumba to take the lead but the Mumbai-based club extended their lead by five points following an All Out on the Junior Steelers.

Yuva Mumba inflicted two more All Outs on the Steelers to leave the Haryana-based club behind in the standings. They won the match by 22 points and are through to the next round. Pruthviraj Shinde was the star player with 12 points. Mumbai finished third in the Super 6 standings with

Kolkata ThunderBlades joins Ultimate Table Tennis season 6

New Delhi

Ultimate Table Tennis (UTT) will continue to strengthen in Season 6 with an exciting new franchise, Kolkata ThunderBlades, joining the league, consolidating table tennis' presence in a city with a rich, sporting heritage.

Additionally, PBG will step onto the court in a bold new Pune Jaguars avatar. The latest season will see teams battling it out for the title in Ahmedabad - a first-time venue - from May 29 to June 15, delivering world-class action and further expanding the league's reach to territories where TT has a stronghold.

Co-owned by the Unecops Group and MVikas Group, Kolkata ThunderBlades are set to make a splash in UTT Season 6. The franchise enters the latest season with a deep-rooted understanding of table tennis, with co-owners Ketan Jain and Rajat Kumar former national-level players who have gained firsthand experience with the game. Meanwhile, renowned coach Anshul Garg returns in a fresh, new role of Team Director, having skillfully overseen competitive teams in UTT in seasons 4 and 5.

"We are excited and delighted to be part of Ultimate Table Tennis. The league has set new benchmarks for table tennis and helped table tennis grow manifolds in India. Kolkata has a strong sporting culture, with amazing fanbases across every sport and we look forward to building a competitive table tennis team that they can rally be-



hind. We are eager to get stuck in and hope to hit the ground running in Season 6," said Ketan Jain, Co-Owner of the Kolkata ThunderBlades.

With the arrival of Kolkata ThunderBlades, UTT continues to expand its presence across India, season 6, adding to the league's growing footprint. With each edition, UTT has provided Indian and international paddlers a platform to compete at the highest level, breeding intense rivalries and thrilling action. The upcoming season in Ahmedabad continues this momentum, bringing the sport to new and established audiences, where alongside Kolkata ThunderBlades, PBG Pune Jaguars will take the court in a new avatar as part of UTT's evolving landscape.

UTT co-promoters Vita Dani and Nitaj Bajaj, said: "We are delighted to welcome Kolkata ThunderBlades to Ultimate Table Tennis. We are certain they will add a unique colour to the UTT tapestry.

IWL 2024-25: Relegation-battling Odisha FC, Kickstart FC play out lively draw

Bhubaneswar

Kickstart FC held hosts Odisha FC to a 2-2 draw in their IWL 2024-25 encounter at the Kalinga Stadium on Tuesday. The result meant that Odisha's winless streak was extended to six games, even if they did break their four-game losing run with a point.

The defending champions were on the verge of slipping into the relegation zone when Philomena Abakah and Joannith Aienembazi scored in quick succession for Kickstart, cancelling out Lynda Kom Sert's first-half opener. However, Jennifer Yeobah's 79th-minute equaliser rescued a point for Odisha, who are in sixth place with 12 points from 11 games. The visitors remained in the relegation zone with 11 points.

Odisha's lack of confidence -- driven by the run of losses -- was betrayed by their nervousness in the early part of the game. Kickstart held a stranglehold on proceedings and even had the best chances, Ranjana Charu twice guilty of shooting wide from good positions inside the box.

As they slowly grew into the game, Odisha's midfield started exerting more control in possession, and their wing players, in particular, started putting balls into the box with more frequency. Right on the cusp of half-time this gave them a deserved lead when Jennifer Yeobah's cross from the left wing was expertly headed in by Lynda Kom. The forward's looping header flew



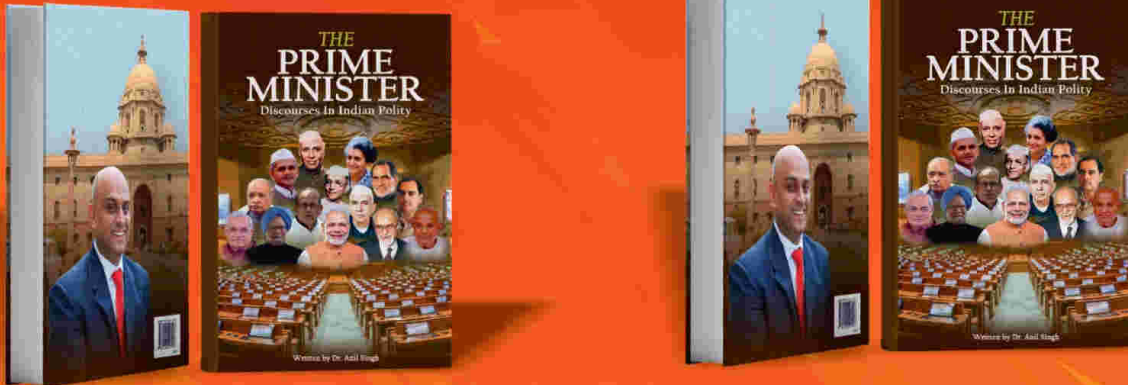
above Linthoingambi Devi and into the far corner of the net.

Kickstart equalised early in the second half, via Philomena Abakah, who capitalised on a defensive error in the 52nd minute. Four minutes later they had the lead when Joannith Aienembazi slotted home with a brilliant diving header from Sarju Pradhan's perfect cross into the six-yard box. The momentum was with Kickstart and they continued to terrorise a shaken Odisha defence. Aienembazi and Abakah's brilliant wing play in particular kept the Odisha defence on their toes. The duo also had multiple attempts on goal.

Goalkeeper Anshika was brilliant in ensuring that Odisha didn't drop a bigger deficit. Odisha had a knack for pulling out of tough spots, and in the 79th minute, they did so again when Lynda Kom's through ball ended up at the feet of Yeobah. The Ghanaian had outrun Dalima Chibber to latch on to the pass and slotted neatly into the far corner to draw her side level.

In the final ten minutes, Kickstart were the ones with the better opportunities to score the winner, but Odisha's defence stood strong, often coming in with late tackles to prevent attempts at goal. The teams split the points.

Book Release of Dr. Anil Singh



“THE PRIME MINISTER: DISCOURSES IN INDIA POLITY”

by
Chief Guest



Hon'ble Shri Manoj Sinha
Lieutenant Governor,
Jammu & Kashmir

In the august presence of Guests of Honor



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

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