

DELHI, SATURDAY 12, APRIL 2025

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Desperate SRH aim to press reset button against Punjab Kings

Indian Consulate in Melbourne vandalised again HC raises issue

Priyanka Chopra to star in Krishi 4? Hrithik Roshan meets actress in USA

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Kashi's remarkable transformation symbolizes blend of heritage and modernity, says CM Yogi

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India Restricts Chinese FDI: Piyush Goyal



MARKET

SENSEX	NIFTY
73847.15	22399.15
-379.93	-136.70
GOLD	SILVER
91,940.00	91,345.00
2,136.00	201.00

WEATHER

Sunrise	6:01 AM
Sunset	6:45 PM
Moonrise	5:27 PM
Moonset	5:26 AM

Today's Prediction	
Maximum	35°C
Minimum	24°C
Tomorrow's Prediction	
Maximum	36°C
Minimum	25°C

AIADMK BJP join hands for 2026 TN polls EPS to lead charge says Amit Shah

The DMK criticised the AIADMK for joining hands with BJP, calling the alliance a big "betrayal of Tamil Nadu."

Chennai: Nearly two years after parting ways, the AIADMK and BJP on Friday rekindled their alliance, with Union Minister Amit Shah declaring that the 2026 Tamil Nadu Assembly election will be fought under the leadership of AIADMK chief Edappadi K Palaniswami.

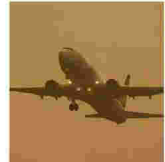


Shah said, "I am confident NDA will get massive majority and form NDA government in Tamil Nadu, 2024 general elections, Shah said, 'there won't be any of our interference in AIADMK's internal affairs.' 'As far as our allies are concerned, the state units of AIADMK and BJP will decide,' he said. To a question, he alleged that the ruling DMK in the state rakes up issues like Sanatan Dharma, 3-language policy and other many such issues with the sole intention behind them being to divert away from key issues. 'The DMK government in Tamil Nadu is plagued by rampant corruption, atrocities against Dalits and women, and a complete breakdown of law and order. Under (CM MK) Stalin's leadership, the state has witnessed multiple scams including the Rs 39,000 crore liquor scam, sand mining scam, energy scam, transport scam, money laundering, nutrition scam, free dhoti scam, illegal raids, smuggling, and MGNREGA-related irregularities.' 'The people of Tamil Nadu will vote in the upcoming elections with these issues in mind. The public is now demanding answers from Stalin and his son and deputy CM Udhayanidhi on corruption,' the BJP leader said.

The leaders of AIADMK and BJP have decided to fight next TN Assembly polls along with allies under the NDA banner. This election will be fought at the national level under Narendra Modi's leadership and AIADMK chief Edappadi Palaniswami at state level," Amit Shah

3 injured, 15 flights diverted at Delhi airport due to dust storm

New Delhi: Strong dust-laden winds and light rain swept across Delhi and parts of the National Capital Region (NCR) on Friday evening, bringing a sharp dip in temperature, uprooting trees, and disrupting power and air traffic.



The India Meteorological Department (IMD) had issued a red alert, warning of moderate to severe thunderstorms, lightning, and gusty winds reaching up to 80 kmph in isolated areas. The alert remained in effect till 9 pm, with officials urging residents to stay indoors and avoid unnecessary travel.

The sudden shift in weather, driven by an active western disturbance came after a day of warm sunshine. By evening, the skies turned dark, and gusty winds led to temperature drops of 10 degrees Celsius at Palam and 7 degrees at Safdarjung, according to the weather office. Wind speeds peaked at 74 kmph at IGI Airport, 70 kmph at Pragati Maidan, and 69 kmph at Lodhi Road.

Light rain was recorded in some parts, with Mayur Vihar logging 5 mm, while Safdarjung reported only a trace.

The maximum temperature stood at 35.8°C, slightly below normal, while the minimum was 22.8°C, 1.8 degrees above average.

The weather also disrupted air travel. As per sources, 15 flights were diverted at the Indira Gandhi International Airport (IGIA) due to poor visibility and high wind speeds. In a post on X, airport operator DIAL confirmed that flight operations were impacted and advised passengers to contact airlines for updates.

Airlines like IndiGo warned of potential delays and diversions due to dust storms in both Delhi and Jaipur. Agency

China hits US with 125% tariffs, Xi seeks EU support

Beijing: China on Friday continued its tit-for-tat move against the Trump administration's tariffs by hiking its additional levies on imports from the US to 125 per cent against duties of 145 per cent by America even as it evinced interest in dialogue with Washington to resolve the impasse.



Announcing an additional 125 per cent tariff, China's Customs Tariff Commission said, "Even if the US imposes higher tariffs, it would no longer make economic sense and ultimately go down as a joke in world economic history." "Given that it's already impossible for the Chinese market to accept US imports at the current tariff level and if the United States imposes further tariffs on Chinese products, China will ignore it," it said.

Advertisement However, should the US persist in substantially undermining China's interests, Beijing will take firm countermeasures and fight to the end, the commission added. China's new tariffs of 125 per cent against US imports will be effective from Saturday, it said. The announcement follows the US move to raise the "reciprocal tariffs" on Chinese imports to 125 per cent. The US later confirmed the total tariff on Chinese products was 145 per cent with the inclusion of 20 per cent levies announced by Trump soon after he took over power in January this year. Trump's heavy tariffs left China to wage a lone battle as it paused tariffs against all other countries. Agency

Rana plotted several attacks like 26/11, NIA tells court

New Delhi: The National Investigation Agency has said accused Tahawwur Rana planned several other plots similar to the 26/11 Mumbai terror attacks to target multiple Indian cities.



"His (Rana) prolonged custody has been deemed necessary to facilitate an extensive investigation aimed at uncovering deeper layers of the conspiracy. We suspect that the tactics used in the Mumbai attacks were intended for execution in other cities as well, prompting investigators to examine whether similar plots were developed elsewhere," the NIA is believed to have informed the judge, a source said. Rana was brought to the court in a cavalcade including a jail van, an armoured SWAT vehicle and an ambulance.

Before Rana was brought to Patiala House Court complex, the Delhi police removed mediapersons and members of the public from its premises, citing security concerns. Police authorities said, "No one would be permitted inside". A Delhi court recently received the trial records of the Mumbai attacks ahead of Rana's extradition from the US, a source said. The NIA said that as part of the criminal conspiracy, accused number 1, David Coleman Headley, had discussed the entire operation with Rana before his visit to India. Anticipating potential challenges, Headley sent an email to Rana detailing his belongings and assets, the NIA told the court, and Headley also informed Rana about the involvement of Pakistani nationals Ilyas Kashmiri and Abdur Rehman, who are also accused in the case, in the plot. The NIA made the submissions late Thursday before special judge Chanderjit Singh, who remanded Rana to 18-day NIA custody. In its order, the judge directed the NIA to conduct medical examination of Rana every 24 hours, and allow him to meet his lawyer every alternate day. The judge allowed Rana to use only a "soft-tip pen" and meet his lawyer in the presence of the NIA officials, who would be out of an audible distance. During the arguments, the NIA said Rana's custody was required to piece together the full scope of the conspiracy, and submitted he was required to be taken to various locations for retracing the events that took place 17 years ago. Agency

SC reserves verdict on corruption case against Yedi Nagendran to lead TN BJP; Annamalai gets national role

New Delhi: The Supreme Court has reserved its verdict on a plea of senior Bharatiya Janata Party leader and former Karnataka chief minister BS Yediyurappa against an order reviving a corruption case against him. The Karnataka high court, on January 5, 2021, allowed a plea of complainant A Alam Pasha, who hails from Bengaluru, and revived his complaint. Pasha alleged corruption and criminal conspiracy against Yediyurappa and former Industries minister Muruges R Nirani and Shivswamy KS, former managing director of Karnataka Udyog Mitra. The high court ruled that the absence of prior sanction for prosecution, leading to the quashing of an earlier complaint, did not bar the filing of a fresh complaint once the accused had demitted office. It, however, did not allow criminal prosecution of V P Baligar, a retired IAS officer and former principal secretary of the state government, in the corruption case. On April 4, a bench comprising Justices J B Pardiwala and Manoj Misra concluded the hearings and framed several key legal questions for its adjudication including whether after a judicial magistrate has ordered a probe under Section 156(3) of Code of Criminal Procedure

(CrPC), would a prior sanction of the appropriate government authorities be still required under Section 17A of the Prevention of Corruption (PC) Act. Section 156 (3) of the CrPC permits a judicial

magistrate to order a police investigation into a complaint and it may include order for a preliminary inquiry or investigation of an FIR. Section 17A of the PC Act says, "No police officer shall conduct any enquiry or inquiry or investigation into any offence alleged to have been committed by a public servant under this Act, where the alleged offence is relatable to any recommendation made or decision taken by such public servant in discharge of his official functions or duties, without the previous approval..." The top court framed seven crucial legal questions, primarily focusing on the interplay between various provisions of the PC Act and the CrPC on the issue of prior sanction to prosecute a public servant and power of the judicial magistrate to entertain a private complaint and order probe and an FIR. Agency

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Chennai: In a significant reshuffle aimed at strengthening the BJP's position in Tamil Nadu ahead of the 2026 Assembly elections, Nainar Nagendran has been appointed as the new president of the state unit, succeeding former IPS officer K Annamalai. Known for his outspoken style and long-standing presence in Tamil Nadu politics, Nagendran becomes the 13th president of the Tamil Nadu BJP. A seasoned politician and current legislature party leader, Nagendran's elevation is seen as a strategic move by the BJP high command to rekindle ties with the AIADMK, potentially reviving the NDA alliance in the state. His appointment was proposed by senior party functionaries, including outgoing chief Annamalai. The 64-year-old MLA from Tirunelveli, who started his political ca-

reer with the AIADMK and served as a minister in the Jayalithaa Cabinet, joined the BJP in 2017 after being sidelined in his former party. Since then, he has steadily risen within the BJP ranks, first as state vice president and now as the party's state president. Nagendran, a three-time MLA from Tirunelveli (2001, 2011, and 2021), has had his share of controversies. In 2018, he made headlines for announcing a ₹10 crore reward for anyone who would chop the tongue of lyricist Vairamuthu over remarks on Goddess

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Over 600 residents fall ill due to water contamination in Ajnara Homes society

Noida
A major health concern has emerged in Ajnara Homes Society, where more than 600 residents have reportedly fallen ill due to the supply of contaminated drinking water. Residents are suffering from stomach ache, vomiting, and diarrhoea, allegedly caused by unclean underground water tanks. Chandan Sinha, president of the society's Apartment Owners Association (AOA), stated that the issue has persisted for several days and the condition of affected residents is serious, with many requiring hospitalisation.

"The contamination has forced people to stop using the supplied water altogether. Many are now relying on bottled water, while others are boiling the supplied water multiple times to make it safe for consumption," said Sinha.

Residents allege that the society's management failed to clean the water tanks in time, and only initiated the cleaning process after a large number of complaints and reported illnesses. According to sources, out of the total underground tanks, only four have been cleaned so far.

Clean water is being supplied to the towers linked to the cleaned tanks. However, residents in the remaining towers are still receiving contaminated water and continue to face severe inconvenience.

The slow pace of the cleaning work has drawn sharp criticism from the residents, who are demanding urgent intervention and a complete overhaul of the water supply system to ensure health and safety in the society.

Delhi Congress demands action against schools hiking fees

Staff Reporter
New Delhi
Delhi Pradesh Congress Committee president Devender Yadav here on Friday demanded 'strong' action against schools who have hiked fees arbitrarily. Yadav demanded strong action against schools like DPS Dwaraka, who have hiked fees arbitrarily with the Delhi government keeping quiet even when parents of students staged a protest against the unauthorised fee hike.

"He said that it was shocking to learn that tensions escalated after claims emerged that students were detained in the school library and denied entry to classrooms, though the government has not taken any strong action against the school nor the school has reacted to the alleged incident. Yadav said that it seems a pointless exercise that the Delhi education minister has constituted committees, headed by the sub-divisional magistrates of each district and consisting of teachers and account officials, to do audit checks on all private schools across the capital and an investigation led by the District Magistrate of Dwaraka to launch action against Delhi Public School, Dwaraka, over 'unregulated' fee hikes, yet some schools keep hiking fees which indicates that schools have the blessings of the BJP government to increase the tuition fees without permission.

He said that it was totally illegal and unjustified that students, including those preparing for crucial class 10 exams, were not allowed to attend regular classes, raising serious concerns over the students' mental and academic well-being.

CM Gupta reviews key civic issues: focus on traffic, safety, and shelter homes

The meeting witnessed participation from key ministers and senior officials from various departments, with the Chief Minister urging swift and result-oriented action.

Staff Reporter
New Delhi

Chief Minister Rekha Gupta chaired a high-level review meeting in the capital on Thursday, addressing critical civic challenges, including traffic management, dark spots, shelter homes, and public safety. The meeting witnessed participation from key ministers and senior officials from various departments, with the Chief Minister urging swift and result-oriented action.

As part of the comprehensive plan to enhance citywide safety, the government will illuminate 4,000 identified dark spots, particularly to safeguard women and children. CM Gupta has also ordered the decongestion of 233 traffic choke points across Delhi, directing relevant departments to work in coordination for improved traffic flow.

To improve living standards for the homeless, the Chief Minister has instructed



District Magistrates and Sub-Divisional Magistrates to carry out regular inspections of shelter homes. The Delhi Police will monitor these shelters to ensure security and verify the identities of residents, thereby preventing misuse of the facilities. Addressing the issue of waterlogging, the government has identified 445 vulnerable sites across the city. CM Gupta has mandated that these sites be resolved within 15 days, especially in anticipation of the upcoming monsoon season.

Further strengthening the city's crime investigation capability, CM Gupta announced plans to upgrade the Forensic Science Laboratory, including filling existing vacancies to expedite case resolution.

In an effort to combat air pollution, the government is preparing to launch a crackdown on polluting vehicles, with particular focus on outdated diesel and petrol vehicles.

Minister Narendra Modi's broader vision of a developed India by 2047. "The meeting also focused on improving public infrastructure, with the CM directing authorities to repair non-functional streetlights, enhance public lighting in vulnerable areas, and ensure seamless mobile connectivity to prevent crime and improve public safety. Reaffirming her government's commitment to the dignity of all citizens, especially the homeless, CM Gupta emphasized that shelter homes must offer more than just accommodation. "They must provide nutritious food, proper sanitation, and a secure environment," she stated.

The meeting concluded with a clear directive to all departments to act promptly and collaboratively in resolving civic challenges. The government reaffirmed its mission to create a safer, cleaner, and more efficient Delhi through transparent governance and citizen participation.

Women CM LoP reflect changing educational landscape: Delhi LG

Staff Reporter
New Delhi

In a major step towards improving traffic flow in the national capital, the Public Works Department (PWD) Minister has approved a ₹183 crore flyover project near the Civil Lines Trauma Centre and DRDO, at the Metcalf House T-Junction in North Delhi.

The project, aimed at decongesting one of the busiest intersections on the Outer Ring Road, will involve the construction of a six-lane, 680-meter-long flyover. Once completed, it is expected to significantly reduce travel time, eliminate long queues, and streamline vehicle movement in the area.

PWD Minister Parvesh Sahib Singh emphasized the project's alignment with the Prime Minister's vision of world-class infrastructure and improved urban mobility. "This flyover will not only benefit local residents but also enhance interstate connectivity to northern states like Himachal Pradesh and Punjab," he said.

Traffic snarls at the Metcalf House T-Junction have long plagued commuters due to prolonged signal cycles and intersecting traffic streams, often causing backups towards nearby bridges. Frequent complaints led to multiple inspections by the PWD and Delhi Traffic Police, culminating in a high-level meeting that identified the urgent need for intervention.

PWD officials assured that the project would be executed efficiently with minimal disruption. Coordination with Delhi Traffic Police will ensure effective traffic management during the construction phase. Once operational, the flyover is expected to greatly improve emergency access to nearby hospitals and contribute to overall road safety in the region.

MCD to elect new mayor and deputy mayor on April 25 nominations open from April 15

New Delhi

The race for the post of New Delhi mayor has officially begun with the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) announcing April 25 as the date for the mayoral polls.

With several AAP councillors defecting over the past few months, the BJP's strength in the MCD has risen to 119.

Both MPs and MLAs nominated to the MCD are eligible to vote in the elections for the posts of mayor and deputy mayor. According to a notice issued by the MCD Secretary's Office on Friday, the corporation will hold its ordinary meeting on April 25, during which the elections for mayor and deputy mayor will be conducted at 2 pm.

Nominations will begin on April 15 and close on April 21 at 5 pm. Candidates may withdraw their nominations at any time before the election.

The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) had won control of the MCD in the 2022 civic polls, bagging 134 of the 250 wards, while the BJP secured 104. However, on February 15 this year, three AAP councillors joined the BJP, making it the single-largest party in the House. Names of several BJP councillors, including Leader of Opposition Raja



must elect one of its members as mayor and another as deputy mayor during its first meeting each year. The Act also mandates that the mayor's post be reserved for a woman in the first year and for a Scheduled Caste member in the third year.

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Rakesh Rawat
New Delhi

In a major crackdown under the Nasha Mukh Bharat Abhiyan, the Narcotics Squad of the North-West District, Delhi Police, has arrested four drug smugglers and seized over 1 kg of heroin valued at more than ₹7 crore.

The accused have been identified as Pawan alias Kaku, Paras alias Bunea, Ishmat Tara, and Meena alias Samira. Along with the narcotics, officials also recovered over ₹30,000 in cash and a scooter allegedly used for drug distribution.

Acting on a tip-off, a police team was formed under the supervision of Inspector Madan Mohan and ACP Ranjit Dhaka. The team deployed both manual surveillance and technical analysis to track the suspects.

The operation began with the arrest of Meena alias Samira in the Jahangirpuri area, where police recovered 27.67 grams of heroin. Further leads led to the arrest of Paras and Ishmat Tara in Sangam Vihar, with 70 grams and 100 grams of heroin seized from them

respectively. The biggest recovery came with the arrest of Pawan alias Kaku, who was caught with 988.7 grams of heroin hidden in the trunk of his scooter. The total haul exceeds 1 kg of heroin, with an estimated street value of over ₹7 crore. Authorities said the investigation is ongoing and further arrests are not ruled out.

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PUBLIC NOTICE

MY CLIENT MRS. PARVINDER KAUR OWNER FIRST FLOOR WITHOUT ROOF RIGHTS OF BUILT UP PROPERTY BEARING NO. 238, AREA MEASURING 130 SQ. YDS ITS ROOF RIGHTS, (ADJOIN 60-70 SQ. YDS), OUT OF KHASRA NO. 32/34 SITUATED IN THE AREA OF VILLAGE KHYALA DELHI STATE COLONY KNOWN AS KANAWA PARK PRESENTLY KNOWN AS CHAND NAGAR NEW DELHI-110018 THROUGH REGISTERED SALE DEED DATED 23.05.2023 EXECUTED BY MR. AMRICK SINGH S/O MR. SUCHA SINGH VIDE REG. NO.6721 AT SRI-1 DELHI. THE ABOVE-MENTIONED PROPERTY IS GOING TO BE MORTGAGED WITH FEDERAL FINANCIAL SERVICES LIMITED. IF ANY PERSON/BANK/ FINANCIAL INSTITUTION HAVING ANY CLAIM/RIGHT, LIEN, ANY OBJECTION WHATSOEVER IN REGARD TO THE ABOVE PROPERTY, SHOULD CONTACT THE UNDERSIGNED/ADV. VISHAL MEHAN, E-713, KARKARDOOMA COURT, DELHI-110092 ALONG WITH DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE UNDER ADDRESS THROUGH REGISTERED WITHIN 7 DAYS FROM THE DATE OF PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE IN AGAR, Ghonda, North Delhi-110053 have served all their relations with their daughter Roshni Gupta as she married to Manish with her own wishes without parents permission. Both of my above named clients have also disowned and debarred her said daughter from all their movable and immovable properties. Anybody dealing with Roshni Gupta and her husband Manish will do so at his/her/their own risk and responsibilities and my clients will not be responsible for any act, deed or dealing done by Roshni Gupta and Manish. SCA LEGAL SOLUTIONS LLP (Advocates & Legal Consultants) Office : G.F 9/26, Bazar Galli, Vishwas Nagar, Shahdara Delhi-110032

PUBLIC NOTICE

General Public is hereby informed that my clients Sh. Vijay Shankar Gupta s/o Hari Shankar and his wife Savitri Gupta, both R/o No E-352A Street No 12 Jigti Nagar, Ghonda, North Delhi-110053 have served all their relations with their daughter Roshni Gupta as she married to Manish with her own wishes without parents permission. Both of my above named clients have also disowned and debarred her said daughter from all their movable and immovable properties. Anybody dealing with Roshni Gupta and her husband Manish will do so at his/her/their own risk and responsibilities and my clients will not be responsible for any act, deed or dealing done by Roshni Gupta and Manish. SCA LEGAL SOLUTIONS LLP (Advocates & Legal Consultants) Office : G.F 9/26, Bazar Galli, Vishwas Nagar, Shahdara Delhi-110032

INDIAN RAILWAYS
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS
(RAILWAY BOARD)
NEW DELHI - 110001
E-TENDER NO. 2025RS1742TC
Principal Executive Director, Railways Stores (S), Ministry of Railways, Railway Board, Government of India invites e-tender for procurement of 32488 Nos. Constant Contact Side Beams (CCSB) for BG loop wagons to RDSO Specification No. WD-42-Misc.-17-Amendment No. 1 of August-2021. CCSB variant B to drawing No. WD-1208-S1 (ALT-03-C) for BGRN type wagons and WD-52-Misc.-17-Amendment No. 1 of August-2021. CCSB variant C to drawing No. WD-1207-S01 (ALT-03 or latest) for BGRN type wagons.
2. The interested tenders are advised to visit the website <http://tenders.gov.in> for details of the tender and submission of their e-bids.
3. No manual offers will be accepted against this tender.
4. Tender to be closed at 15:00 hours on 15.05.2025.
1097/2025
Ministry of Railways, Railway Board, New Delhi
for and on behalf of the President of India.
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

NEW OKHLA INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
Administrative Building, Sector-6, Noida G.B. Nagar, (U.P.)
Website: www.noidaauthority.in
E-TENDER NOTICE
E-Tenders are invited from firms/contractors registered with UPLC L1 for the following jobs against which bids can be uploaded and same shall be opened /downloaded as per schedule mentioned. The details and conditions of all tenders are available on Noida Authority official website: www.noidaauthority.in & <https://tender.up.nic.in/>. Please ensure to visit these websites for any changes/ amendments & corrigendum etc.
2. **10/MANAGER SYSTEM/COM. ACCESSORIES/2024-25.** Procurement of Computer Accessories cost Rs. 14.12 Lacs Inclusive of GST
Which can be uploaded by date 18/04/2025 upto 5:00 PM. Pre-qualification shall be opened/downloaded on date 21/04/2025 at 11:00 AM.
Bidder (System)
CLEAN, GREEN, SAFE & SECURE NOIDA



By Dr. Anil Singh, Editor, STAR Views

Trump's Tariff Tempest: Global Markets Bleed as Modi's Diplomacy Secures Strategic Respite

The global economic order stands at a volatile crossroads, shaken by former U.S. President Donald Trump's aggressive tariff policies. His re-imposition of broad-based tariffs has sent shockwaves through global markets, disrupted international trade, and precipitated severe declines in stock indices worldwide. While numerous nations reel under this economic strain, India has managed to carve out a temporary strategic respite, thanks primarily to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's diplomatic assertiveness.



In a notable reversal, Trump recently announced a 90-day tariff grace period for several countries, including India. Experts perceive this not as an act of goodwill, but rather as an involuntary step driven by intense global criticism and crashing market confidence. Trump's unpredictable tariff approach, reminiscent of his earlier 'America First' policy, returns with potentially more disruptive consequences, threatening global economic stability.

India's Diplomatic Triumph: Modi's Strategic Vision

Amid the chaos, India has emerged uniquely positioned. Utilizing its increasing economic clout and diplomatic leverage, Prime Minister Narendra Modi secured a critical 90-day tariff reprieve from Trump's sweeping policy. This diplomatic victory highlights India's strategic significance and underscores Modi's adept management of international relations.

In my recently released book, 'The Prime Minister Discourses in Indian Polity,' I detail Modi's diplomatic prowess, emphasizing his success in establishing India as a crucial player on the global stage. Modi's proactive engagement in international forums and bilateral negotiations—including interactions with Trump himself—has consistently shielded Indian interests against volatile global shifts.

Despite temporary reprieves, the broader global impact of Trump's tariff measures has been overwhelmingly negative. Multinational corporations are reporting significant revenue declines, manufacturing costs are escalating, and consumer prices are inching upward. Developing economies reliant on exports face dire consequences, exacerbating existing vulnerabilities.

The temporary tariff exemption underscores the United States' recognition of India's essential geopolitical and economic stature. The U.S., despite its confrontational economic stance, finds itself compelled to avoid isolating India, recognizing the nation's importance in global sectors such as defense, technology, energy, and innovation.

China's Strategic Realignment

Complementing this development, China recently reduced tariffs by 5% on select Indian goods, signaling strategic realignment amid intensifying U.S.-China trade tensions. By easing tariffs, China acknowledges India's rising economic influence and seeks to bolster bilateral trade relations as a counterbalance against American trade hostility. This strategic move by China underscores India's growing prominence, recognizing it as a critical influencer in shaping future global trade dynamics.

Global Economic Fallout: The Cost of Trump's Policies

Supply chains, recently stabilizing from earlier trade disruptions, have been thrown back into turmoil. Economists warn that a full-scale trade war revival, combined with existing inflation and monetary policy uncertainties, could reduce global GDP growth significantly.

Diverse Expert Opinions: Economic Patriotism or Political Blunder?

Economic experts remain sharply divided

over Trump's tariff policies. Proponents argue that these measures are necessary corrections addressing longstanding inequities in global trade. Critics, however, label them politically motivated miscalculations aimed at appealing to Trump's electoral base ahead of the U.S. presidential election.

Global financial institutions, including the IMF and World Bank, have urged immediate diplomatic interventions to mitigate escalating tensions. They caution that continued disruptions in trade flows could exacerbate global poverty, restrict investment, and amplify economic volatility.

Conclusion: Navigating Uncertainty Through Strategic Leadership

Trump's aggressive tariff policies undeniably threaten global economic stability, triggering widespread market volatility and diplomatic strain. Amid this turmoil, India under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership has demonstrated resilience and strategic foresight, successfully navigating through economic uncertainties to secure national interests.

India must utilize the current 90-day reprieve wisely, reinforcing domestic manufacturing capabilities, diversifying international partnerships, and preparing for an era increasingly dominated by economic nationalism. In a rapidly shifting global economic order, Modi's strategic diplomacy exemplifies how proactive leadership can effectively safeguard national prosperity amid international

About the Author

(The writer is an Editor, STAR Views, New Delhi)

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

Solution, Sudoku

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

THE WISDOM TREE BY SUVEEN KUMAR

GIVE IT A SHAPE

Just listen to if you don't feel like speaking, just keep moving if you don't feel like stopping and just keep working if you want to go on making. Shape your life if you are not happy with its shape, take your life if you want to rewind and see it over and over again, face your life if you don't want to face death's face. Give your life a shape! No matter how unpredictable it is still give it some pattern to follow, no matter how desirous it is still let it bring down its searches to narrow, if it is not interested in today give it its coming tomorrow. Give it a form it can be proud of its look, give it push it get something beautiful, hook, teach it some tricks it can deal with every kind of crook. A healthy life brings us closer to happiness and a sick life bring us closer to pain, a running life brings us closer to adolescence and a sluggish life brings us closer to old age.

The speed of your life is determined by the speed of time in your life. If the time accelerates your life should accelerate, if the time slows down your life should also slow down. The thrilling swing of life is to swing with its time, the real friendship of life is to be partner with its crime and the real disciplines of life is to do things on its dime. Give your life a shape that suits your personality, treat your life the way you want yourself a royalty. Don't play with it it is not a toy, don't experiment with it is not a laboratory, don't use it it is not a thing, live it because it lives, love it because it loves, hug it because it hugs. How beautiful it is you only get to know when you get to know.

Moral: if there is one thing that you should know it is not life but your life.



By Dr. Satyawan Saurabh

The game of the private system: Attack on the common man's pocket

double the market rate because the school's commission is included in it. School uniforms also have to be bought from them, which are not available in the general market.

All this is not because parents demand these facilities but because schools have made it 'compulsory.' The thing called studies now happens less in the classroom and more in coaching institutes—and the interesting thing is that the owners of those coaching institutes are also often associated with the same school operators. The child goes to school all day, then coaching, then homework, and then tuition—no time for oneself, no thinking, no childhood.

Education or business?

The aim of all these is the same—'get 90%.' And when these marks are not achieved, the children suffer from an inferiority complex. Parents start comparing them with other children, and this whole process turns into mental harassment.

Health name, business work

Now if this is the situation in education, the health sector is even

more horrific. The structure of private hospitals is now more focused on 'earnings' than treatment. As soon as you enter the hospital, a 'slip' is issued, then various tests, expensive medicines (ICI), and demand for 'advance payment'—and that too without telling you what the condition of the patient is.

Doctors treat even a common cold, cough, or fever as if life is in danger. By scaring people, they are advised to take long-term medicines and get admitted. Even if the patient recovers, the family gets sick after seeing the bill. The medicine, which is available outside for Rs. 10, costs Rs. 200 to 300 in the hospital bill.

Even after death, the body is kept for a day or two, and money is collected till the last breath in the name of 'mortuary charges,' 'freezer charges,' etc. This is a cruel joke on the family, which has already lost its loved ones.

Government's silence—why?

The saddest aspect of this loot is that no one has to do it secretly—everything happens openly. Newspapers,

social media, and news channels—this issue is raised everywhere. Every year there is a hue and cry over the fee hike of private schools and hospital bills, but every time this hue and cry is slowly suppressed.

Why? Because most private schools, colleges, and hospitals—there is some politician behind all of these. Whether he is from the ruling party or the opposition, most of the people sitting in the system are somehow involved in this game. Rules and laws are made, but they are not implemented.

RTE (Right to Education Act), CGHS (Health Care Scheme), and National Medical Council—these are all mere names used for publicity and not for providing relief to the common man.

The tragedy of the middle class

The government sometimes makes plans for the poor; the rich have no worries, but the middle class suffers the most. They are neither willing to be sent to a government school nor to a government hospital. Out of helplessness, they choose the private option and then

get caught in the same trap—a trap in which there is no control, no accountability.

The middle class neither takes to the streets nor protests. Every month it empties its pocket to pay EMI, pays school fees, pays hospital bills, and thinks only this: "There is no other way."

Solution possibilities

If this problem is to be really tackled, some concrete steps will have to be taken. Transparency of private institutions—Schools and hospitals should publicly display information about their fees and services on websites and notice boards. There should be an independent regulatory body that monitors fees and quality of service. A system where common citizens can register their complaints and they are resolved in a timely manner. It should be ensured that the interests of any political person or any family are not linked to these institutions. Unless the general public unites and raises its voice, this chain of loot will continue.

Education and health are no longer a 'service'—it is now a 'ser-

vices' whose price is determined by your pocket. This situation is shameful for any sensitive and democratic society. Unless we wake up, raise our voice, and demand accountability from the system, this private system will continue to rob us like this.

We have to understand that by joining the race of showing off, we are putting our children's childhood, our family's peace, and our future stability at stake. This is the time to ask questions, to show the mirror to the system—otherwise not only your pocket will be lost, but self-respect will also be lost.

About the Author

(Dr. Satyawan Saurabh is a post, freelance journalist, and columnist.)

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Kashi's remarkable transformation symbolizes blend of heritage and modernity: CM Yogi

■ **Yogi Adityanath said, "This is the same Kashi once known for its narrow lanes and traffic congestion. Today, it stands tall as a symbol of modern development that seamlessly blends with its ancient spiritual and cultural heritage."**

TSN/Varamasi
Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Thursday extended his heartfelt gratitude to Prime Minister Narendra Modi for visiting his parliamentary constituency, Kashi, for the first time since the successful organization of the Mahakumbh. Speaking during the Prime Minister's visit, the Chief Minister lauded the transformation of Kashi over the past 11 years, attributing it to the visionary leadership and consistent efforts of the Prime Minister.



Highlighting the dramatic changes witnessed in the ancient city, Yogi Adityanath said, "This is the same Kashi once known for its narrow lanes and traffic congestion. Today, it stands tall as a symbol of modern development that seamlessly blends with its ancient spiritual and cultural heritage. Devotees from across the nation are now eager to witness the splendor of the new, rejuvenated Kashi."

The Chief Minister noted that while Kashi has historically been a seat of learning, its institutions were once in a state of disrepair. However, the past decade has seen an investment of more than ₹50,000 crore in developmental projects focused on healthcare, tourism, infrastructure, and connectivity. As part of the Prime Minister's current visit, foundation stones were laid and various projects worth nearly ₹4,000 crore were inaugurated.

To mark the occasion, CM Yogi welcomed the Prime Minister with an Angvastra depicting Radha-Krishna's divine leelas and presented him with a handcrafted Ka-

mal Chakra, a traditional umbrella made from Varamasi's GI-tagged woodcraft, symbolizing the city's rich artisanal legacy.

In his address, the Chief Minister also underscored the importance of the Prime Minister's visit, coming after the BJP's recent electoral victories in Haryana, Maharashtra, and Delhi, as well as the grand hosting of the Mahakumbh. He highlighted that over 3 crore devotees from India and abroad participated in the 45-day religious event, all drawn to the transformed visage of Kashi

and the rejuvenated Baba Vishwanath shrine.

The unmatched success of the Mahakumbh was a reflection of the Prime Minister's unwavering commitment to cleanliness, safety, and cultural rejuvenation," Yogi Adityanath said. He credited projects like Namami Gange for restoring the sanctity of the holy rivers, enhancing the spiritual experience for millions of pilgrims. "Every devotee who took a dip at the confluence of the Ganga, Yamuna, and Saraswati felt a deep sense of spiritual fulfillment — a testament to the Prime Minister's transformative vision."

He further praised the Prime Minister's efforts to promote local heritage and industries, noting that Kashi and its adjoining districts now boast the highest number of Geographical Indication (GI) tags in the country. On this visit, the Prime Minister also awarded certificates for 21 new GI tags, a significant step toward empowering local artisans and giving global recognition to their unique crafts.

On the social welfare front, the Chief Minister emphasized the impact of schemes like Aayushman Bharat, which he called a milestone in accessible healthcare. Over 50 crore people nationwide, including more than 10 crore in Uttar Pradesh, have benefited from the scheme. He also highlighted the Vaya Vandana Yojana, which provides free health coverage of ₹5 lakh to senior citizens above 70. In Kashi alone, more than 50,000 elderly citizens have received their cards under the program.

The Chief Minister also praised the Banas Dairy initiative, calling it a game-changer in linking local farmers and livestock rearers with economic empowerment. The Prime Minister distributed bonus payments to cattle rearers under the scheme, recognizing their role in the region's agricultural and dairy success.

"In every sphere — be it tourism, education, healthcare, connectivity, or the upliftment of farmers and artisans — these initiatives have reshaped the destiny of Kashi," Yogi Adityanath said. "On behalf of the people of Kashi and the entire state, I extend my heartfelt gratitude to the Prime Minister for these visionary schemes that have brought about a new era of development in his very own Kashi."

Joining the Prime Minister and Chief Minister on the occasion were Uttar Pradesh Governor Anandiben Patel, Deputy Chief Ministers Keshav Prasad Maurya and Brajesh Pathak, Gujarat Assembly Speaker Shankar Prasad Chaudhary, and BJP State President Chaudhary Bhupendra Singh.

Global city to be a milestone in Haryana's development: CM Saini

temperatures in Global City compared to the rest of Gurgaon.



Komal Ramola Chandigarh
Haryana Chief Minister Manoj Singh Saini on Friday announced that the upcoming Global City project in Gurgaon will be developed in line with international standards and will serve as a major milestone in the state's development journey.

Chairing a meeting with leading investors at the project site, the Chief Minister emphasized that the Global City project, with an estimated investment of over ₹1 lakh crore, is poised to transform the region. The initiative is expected to benefit nearly 16 lakh people and generate approximately five lakh employment opportunities.

Spread across 1,000 acres, Global City will feature a mixed-use land development model, with dedicated zones for residential, commercial, hospitality, and educational institutions. The Chief Minister stated that Phase 1 of the project, covering 587 acres at an investment of ₹940 crore, is slated for completion by the end of next year.

To ensure a sustainable and consistent water supply, a Mass Balancing Reservoir with a capacity of 350 million litres will be constructed over 18 acres. "This reservoir will not only serve as a critical water storage facility but will also enhance the visual appeal of the city," said CM Saini, adding that it will provide a seven-day water backup for residents and businesses.

Additionally, the city will feature a 10.7 km-long utility tunnel to house infrastructure such as water pipelines, electrical cables, fire and lighting systems, ventilation, and more, ensuring streamlined and safe underground service delivery.

Highlighting the project's commitment to environmental sustainability, CM Saini revealed plans for a 125-acre green zone that will help maintain lower

In terms of connectivity, Global City will enjoy strategic access to key transit points: 30 minutes from Delhi International Airport, 30 minutes from the railway station and Inland Container Depot (ICD), and just 10 minutes from both the heliport and Multimodal Transit Hub.

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It is informed to public in general that the Property Plot No. 26, measuring 100 Sq. mtrs. Block-A, Sector-P-04, Greater Noida, District- Gautam Budh Nagar, owned by Sh. Anil Kumar Singh S/o Sh. Rishpal Singh, R/o Village- Hartauli, Post-Subana Hasampur, District- Bulandshahr, U.P., has been acquired from Sh. Ratnakar Verma S/o Sh. Kamta Prasad Verma, R/o SO-260, Shastri Nagar, Ghazabad, vide Order No. 2953 dated 27.10.2016. The Original Allotment Letter dated 19.02.2000, Lease Deed No. 530 dated 10.02.2004, Possession Letter dated 10.02.2004 and Affidavit of Sh. Anil Kumar Singh and Transfer Memorandum dated 26.10.2016, of the said property has lost somewhere and the same could not be found despite great efforts. The Police complaint has also been lodged about the same. If the said Original documents i.e. Allotment Letter dated 19.02.2000, Lease Deed No. 530 dated 10.02.2004, Possession Letter dated 10.02.2004 and Affidavit of Sh. Anil Kumar Singh and Transfer Memorandum dated 26.10.2016 is found by any person or there is any objection regarding the above said ownership of Sh. Anil Kumar Singh, kindly inform the same to the Notice issuer within 15 days from the date of publication of this Notice, after which no objection will be considered.

Nishkant Tiwari
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Chamber No. 359, Civil Courts Compound, Rajnagar, Ghaziabad-201002

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This is to inform public at large that my client i.e. Shri Salahuddin, son of, Mohamuddin, Resident of 2822, Bahaduri, Nariyariyan, Shah Ganj, Ameer Gate, Delhi-110006 have cut off his family relations and have disowned his son namedly Aziz ur Rehman from his immovable and movable properties, due to his disobedient and quarrelsome nature as he is indulged in some anti-social activities and also tried to misuse his immovable properties and other Bank accounts. Moreover, my client shall not be responsible of any act/liabilities/dues of his son namedly Aziz ur Rehman. Resident of House No. 2590, 1st Floor, Gali Shankar Wali, Main Asaf Ali Road, Delhi-110006 in any manner.

ABDUL LAH SHAHID ADVOCATE
Ch. Not Wing, Tis Hazari Court, Deth 54 Mob.: 8368026732 CHAMBER NO. 622, WESTERN WING, TIS HAZARI COURT, DELHI-110054

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Known to all that my both clients Narender Kumar Gupta S/o I.A. Laxman, Swarnpur Gupta and Rashmi Gupta W/o Narender Kumar Gupta both R/o 1/9821, UGF, Gali No. 1F, West Gorakh Park, Shabdara, Delhi-110032 has ended all their relations with their Pushyush Gupta and daughter-in-law Smt. Khitzita Gupta with immediate effect as they quarreled and misbehaved with them and have disowned from all their movable and immovable properties. Khitzita Gupta has left the matrimonial home taking all the gold jewelry, clothes, documents etc. on 05.04.2025 at midnight without informing my clients. In future, my clients shall not be responsible for any of their acts, deeds, behavior and conducts with any third person.

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ABHISHEK KUMAR EN. NO. 0-9053/15 Advocate Ch. 414-415 Western Wing, Tis Hazari Court Delhi-110054

CM Mann makes history: SC Community shines in Law Officer appointments



Chandigarh
In a landmark move aimed at ensuring greater representation for the Scheduled Caste (SC) community, the Punjab Cabinet led by Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann has approved the promulgation of an ordinance to provide adequate representation of SC members in the contractual appointment of law officers in the state.

The decision was taken at a meeting of the Council of Ministers held under the chairmanship of the Chief Minister at his official residence today. A spokesperson from the Chief Minister's Office said that the Cabinet has given the green light to amend the Punjab Law Officers Engagement Act, 2017. The amendment will relax the income criteria for contractual engagement of law officers from the SC community in the Advocate General's Office, Punjab. This move aims to create a more inclusive legal system by addressing long-standing representation imbalances.

In another significant decision, the Cabinet also approved a One-Time Relaxation (OTR) policy for the allottees of Improvement Trusts in the state. This policy pertains to the waiver of non-construction fees and outstanding allotment amounts, providing substantial relief for affected allottees.

Currently, there are 154 blocks, but ambiguities in their delineation have been causing administrative challenges. The realignment is expected to ensure smoother governance and improved public service delivery.

In a decision that will significantly impact the medical education sector, the Cabinet has approved the enhancement of the retirement age for doctors and professors in government medical colleges from 62 to 65 years. This is expected to ensure continuity in the delivery of quality medical education and benefit students across the state.

Further addressing the shortage of medical professionals in government hospitals, the Cabinet has also consented to the annual, need-based hiring of specialist doctors after their superannuation. The initiative aims to strengthen healthcare infrastructure and provide uninterrupted medical services in the larger public interest.

The Cabinet also gave its consent to the reorganisation and rationalisation of the state's administrative blocks. This step is intended to enhance geographical and administrative efficiency, cost optimization, and legislative synergy. Punjab cur-

Making Haryana drug-free key to realise PM's 'Swachh Bharat Swasth Bharat' vision: CM Saini



Chandigarh
Haryana Chief Minister Manoj Singh Saini on Friday said making the state drug-free is a part of the commitment to realise Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of "Swachh Bharat, Swasth Bharat, Sashakt Bharat".

To achieve this, the youth, parents and social organisations must come together and fight against drug abuse alongside the government, Saini told a gathering after flagging off the "Drug-free Haryana Cyclothon 2.0" from the sports complex in Faridabad.

"The Cyclothon 2.0 is moving forward with this very goal in mind — to protect every household and family from the menace of drugs and make the entire state drug-free," Saini said.

Man arrested for placing meat inside Agra's Jama Masjid

Lucknow/Agra (UP)
A person was arrested on Friday for allegedly placing a piece of animal flesh at Jama Masjid in Agra, a police official said.

The accused has been identified as Nazrudin, a resident of Tezla Nandram locality in the city.

The police questioned the accused to determine his intention behind the act, but the officials didn't share the interrogation details with the mediapersons.

However, Agra Additional Police Commissioner (ACP) Sanjeev Tyagi said, "Action will be taken against the accused under NSA (National Security Act)".

The ACP also said that they are determining if more people are involved in the alleged criminal act.

Earlier in the day, Agra Police Commissionerate posted on X, "Today on 11.04.25, on the incident of finding a piece of (animal) flesh in the mosque under the jurisdiction of Manotola Police Station, the police teams formed took prompt action with the help of CCTV etc., and the accused has been arrested."

Giving the arrest details, DCP (City) Sonam Kumar said on receiving the information about the incident at around 7.30

Cyclothon 2.0 is being organised from April 5 to April 27. It commenced from Hisar and will conclude in Sirsa on April 27. Since April 5, the cyclothon has passed through Bhiwani, Charhki Dadr, Namaul, Rewari and Palwal before reaching Faridabad on Friday.

Thousands of people from across the state have registered for the anti-drug campaign to help spread its message, Saini said.

"The cyclothon reflects our collective resolve to fight the menace of drugs with wisdom, unity and awareness," he added.

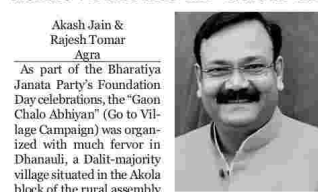
Saini also administered an oath to the youth, urging them to pledge that they would never indulge in any form of substance abuse and motivate others to stay away from drugs.

The cyclothon is progressing with a meaningful message, and the enthusiasm among the youth in every village and city is a clear proof that this campaign is playing a significant role in spreading awareness about staying away from drugs, the chief minister said.

"A similar cyclothon was organised for 25 days across the state in 2023. Encouraged by its overwhelming success, Cyclothon 2.0 is now being held," an official quoted Saini as saying.

"As we move forward with the resolution of 'Viksit Haryana - Viksit Bharat', we must confront every situation that holds the society back. Substance abuse leads our youth towards darkness. To eliminate this darkness, the government has launched this awareness campaign," the chief minister said.

MP Chahar highlights Modi gov't achievements in 'Gaon Chalo Abhiyan'



Akash Jain & Rajesh Tomar
As part of the Bharatiya Janata Party's Foundation Day celebrations, the "Gaon Chalo Abhiyan" (Go to Village Campaign) was organised with much fervor in Dhanuoli, a Dalit-majority village situated in the Akola block of the rural assembly constituency. The event saw the participation of several senior leaders, including Rajkumar Chahar, National President of the BJP Kisan Morcha and Member of Parliament from Fatehpur Sikri, who spearheaded the outreach effort in the village.

During his visit, MP Rajkumar Chahar addressed local residents and party workers, highlighting what he termed as the transformative achievements of the Modi government over the past 11 years. Speaking to the gathered crowd, Chahar asserted that India, under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has made unprecedented progress on multiple fronts — particularly in foreign policy and economic development. He noted that both the central and state governments have been working in alignment to implement genuine, inclusive development policies aimed at uplifting every segment of Indian society.

Chahar accused the opposition of spreading misinformation and creating confusion among the public. According to him, their aim is to obstruct the mental and economic growth of the people, keeping them entrapped in fear and away from the path of progress. He claimed that such tactics are detrimental to the nation's development and are meant to obscure the real benefits that government initiatives have brought to the grassroots level.

In a significant portion of his address, Chahar paid tribute to Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar, the principal architect of the Indian Constitution. He said that Ambedkar devoted his life to the upliftment of Dalits, Scheduled Castes, backward classes, and other marginalized communities. "Dr. Ambedkar fought for the rights of those who were left behind in education, employment, and trade. His entire life

Man arrested for placing meat inside Agra's Jama Masjid

was dedicated to ensuring justice and equality for the oppressed," Chahar remarked.

Drawing a contrast between past and present governments, the Congress party for allegedly neglecting Ambedkar's legacy during its long tenure. He claimed that when Ambedkar passed away, the then Congress-led government in Delhi failed to allocate even five square yards of land for his cremation. He further alleged that the Congress regime did not take any initiative to commemorate key sites associated with Ambedkar's life — such as his birthplace, the place in London where he studied law, or the location where he passed away.

In contrast, Chahar said, the Modi government has worked tirelessly to honor Ambedkar's legacy by establishing educational institutions, government buildings, hospitals, and museums in his name across those important sites. "This government has not only paid tribute to words but also through concrete action," he said.

As part of the Gaon Chalo Abhiyan, MP Chahar also conducted a door-to-door campaign in Dhanuoli village.

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Known to all that my both clients Narender Kumar Gupta S/o I.A. Laxman, Swarnpur Gupta and Rashmi Gupta W/o Narender Kumar Gupta both R/o 1/9821, UGF, Gali No. 1F, West Gorakh Park, Shabdara, Delhi-110032 has ended all their relations with their Pushyush Gupta and daughter-in-law Smt. Khitzita Gupta with immediate effect as they quarreled and misbehaved with them and have disowned from all their movable and immovable properties. Khitzita Gupta has left the matrimonial home taking all the gold jewelry, clothes, documents etc. on 05.04.2025 at midnight without informing my clients. In future, my clients shall not be responsible for any of their acts, deeds, behavior and conducts with any third person.

(ABHISHEK KUMAR) ADVOCATE
ABHISHEK KUMAR EN. NO. 0-9053/15 Advocate Ch. 414-415 Western Wing, Tis Hazari Court Delhi-110054

LSG vs GT: In-form Pooran will have a Siraj riddle to solve

Lucknow
The prolific Nicholas Pooran will have his task cut out against a menacing Mohammed Siraj in a battle of equals as table toppers Gujarat Titans take on hosts Lucknow Super Giants in an IPL match here on Saturday.

In sapping Lucknow heat, an enticing battle is likely to ensue since there is not much to choose between the two teams. Titans have won four matches in a row to sit pretty on top of the table (8 points) by virtue of better net run-rate compared to Delhi Capitals, which also has four victories in its kitty.

LSG are currently fifth in a mid-table muddle with six points but it is a side on upward curve at the moment.

In all big battles, the important sub-plots hold the key and in this match, it would be a duel between tournament' top scorer Pooran and Siraj, the best fast bowler on view.

With 288 runs, Pooran is on top of the leader-board of run-getters, with only one failure in five innings so far. The 24 sixes that he has smashed alongside 25 fours is a testimony to his dominance in the shortest format.

A strike-rate of 225 will intimidate any rival captain. Slotted at No.3 by head coach Justin Langer and skipper



Rishabh Pant has worked perfectly for him. In Siraj, Pooran will face a crafty operator, who has been brilliant in Powerplay overs with 10 wickets in five games so far. An economy rate of

7.70 is more than decent if one factors in the pace at which the game is moving. The best part about Siraj's bowling is his ability to bowl the conventional Test-match length first up with

movement off the surface. Hitting Siraj through the line during the Powerplay overs isn't always the easiest of propositions and not just Pooran but the two openers Aiden Markram and Mitchell Marsh will

also have to be careful while playing him.

Kagiso Rabada's absence hasn't really hurt Titans as was the case in the last game with an improved Prashidh Krishna (8 wickets, ER 7.05) proving to be a revelation this season. Left-arm spinner R Sai Kishore (10 wickets, ER 7.25) has in fact overshadowed team's premier spinner Rashid Khan (3 wickets, ER 10). Add to it, head coach Ashish Nehra's uncanny ability to find specific roles for unheralded bowlers like Arshad Khan or Kulwant Khejroliya, and it's not a surprise that the Titans have one of the most effective attacks in this competition.

Rashid looked good against Royals the other night and if he finds his rhythm, Titans would be unstoppable. Lack of runs from both captains Shubman Gill and Rishabh Pant are two class players but neither of the two skippers have been able to set the IPL stage on fire.

Gill had a great 2023 season when he scored 890 runs but since then his T20 game has tapered off a bit. He hasn't exactly been at his free-flowing best since taking over the leadership role last season. He has so far scored 148 runs at a strike-rate of 146. B Sai Sudharsan (273) and Jos Buttler (203) has done bulk of the heavy-lifting at the top order.

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



Pant, the player auctioned at the highest price (Rs 27 crore) in history of IPL, is enduring a rough season so far. Only 19 runs across four innings isn't a reflection of his abilities.

If Gill and Pant get going, it will be a treat for the weekend Lucknow crowd.

Teams (From): Gujarat Titans: B Sai Sudharsan, Shubman Gill (Captain), Jos Buttler (wk), Shahrul Khan, Sherfane Rutherford, Rahul Tewatia, Rashid Khan, Kagiso Rabada, Ravishrinivasan Sai Kishore, Mohammed Siraj, Prashidh Krishna, Ishant Sharma, Washington Sundar, Glenn Phillips, Anu Rawat, Mahipal Lomror, Arshad Khan, Jayant Yadav, Nishant Sindhu, Kulwant Khejroliya, Gerald Coetzee, Manav Suthan, Kumar Kushagra, Gurnoor Brar, Karim Janat.

Lucknow Super Giants: Lucknow Super Giants: Rishabh Pant (c), David Miller, Aiden Markram, Aryan Juyal (wk), Himmat Singh, Matthew Breetzke, Nicholas Pooran (wk), Mitchell Marsh, Abdul Samad, Shabbaz Ahmed, Yuvraj Chaudhary, Rajvardhan Hangargekar, Arshin Kulkarni, Ayush Badoni, Shardul Thakur, Ayush Khan, Akash Deep, Manimaran Siddharth, Divyesh Rathi, Akash Singh, Shamur Joseph, Prince Yadav, Mayank Yadav, Ravi Bishnoi. Match Starts at 3:30 pm.

Indian team finishes second overall in ISSF World Cup



Buenos Aires
The Indian team finished a creditable second in the year's first ISSF World Cup for rifle, pistol and shotgun shooters despite the young trap mixed team pair of Lakshay Sheoran and Neeru missing out on a medal by a point in the final event of the tournament here.

After the bronze picked up by the mixed team air pistol pair of Suruchi and Saurabh Chaudhary on Thursday, India's overall tally swelled to eight medals, including four gold, two silver and two bronze, which put them in second position.

China finished on top of the standings with five gold, three silver and three bronze medals, thanks to a 1-2 in the mixed team air pistol event on the final day. The other gold of the day was picked up by Chinese Taipei in the mixed team trap.

The highlight of India's performance was the gold medals won by Sift Kaur Samra (women's 50m rifle 3 positions), Rudranksh Patil (men's 10m air rifle), Suruchi (women's 10m air pistol) and Vijayveer Sidhu (men's 25m rapid-fire pistol).

Sidhu became the first Indian ever to win an ISSF World Cup gold in his event.

Also noteworthy was the silver winning performance in the women's 25m pistol by young Paris Olympian Isha Singh, a reigning mixed team world champion.

Heartwarming performances were also delivered by the likes of Chain Singh, an Asian Games medalist in men's 3P from over a decade ago, winning his first individual ISSF World Cup medal, as well as former Asian Games and Youth Olympic Games champion Saurabh Chaudhary, making a return to the ISSF World Cup medals fold after a gap of two years.

The most experienced member of the squad, Zoravar Singh Sandhu, who has been competing in ISSF World Cups since 1998, showed heart to finish seventh in the men's trap, ending second best in a five-way shoot-off for the sixth and last final qualifying spot.

The squad now moves to Lima, Peru where competitions in the second leg of the combined ISSF World Cup stage begin from April 15.

India bids for 2031 AFC Asian Cup, will fight out with six other countries

New Delhi
India has submitted 'Expression of Interest (EoI)' to host the 2031 AFC Asian Cup, the continent's showpiece football event, the All India Football Federation (AIFF) said on Friday.

The AIFF was one of the seven national football bodies which submitted the EoI before the deadline of March 31.

"Yes, we have submitted the EoI to host the 2031 AFC Asian Cup. Let us see how it goes," AIFF's deputy secretary general M Satyanarayan said.

India will face tough competition from established football powerhouses such as Australia, South Korea and United Arab Emirates to get the right to host the tournament. Indonesia and Kuwait have also submitted the EoI while there is a joint bid of Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan.



The host country, which will be picked in 2026, will get automatic berth in the tournament. India finished runners-up in the 1964 edition and were eliminated in the group stage in 1984, 2011, 2019 and 2023. The tournament began in 1956.

Out of the seven bidding countries, Australia, UAE, South Korea and Kuwait have earlier hosted the tournament.

Chairing the Asian Football Confederation's Executive Committee meeting in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, on the eve of the 35th AFC Congress, president Shaikh Salman lauded "the highest ever number of EoIs received in modern history and attributed the exceptional reception to the growing prestige of Asia's crown jewel". The AFC had sent out invitations on November 27, 2024, for all member associations to express their interest in hosting Asia's most prestigious men's national team tournament. The deadline to submit the EoI was March 31, 2025.

"The unprecedented level of interest we have witnessed reflects both the high ambitions of the AFC's Member Associations and their increasing confidence in their own capacities and capabilities to host a tournament as significant as the AFC Asian Cup," Salman said.

The AFC will now work with the bidding countries on the delivery of the necessary bid documentation in accordance with the established timelines and processes. A bidding workshop is scheduled to be held later this month.

Thereafter, an overall evaluation of the bids will be undertaken by the AFC administration prior to the selection of the host for the 24-team competition by the AFC Congress in 2026.

India has never hosted the tournament, the continent's equivalent of World Cup. It had submitted bids to host the 2023 and 2027 editions when Praful Patel was the AIFF president.

The bid for the 2023 edition was withdrawn in 2018 and the same happened in case of the 2027 tournament also.

In December 2022, a few months after incumbent Kalyan Chaudhry took charge as AIFF president, India withdrew its bid to stage the 2027 AFC Asian Cup, declaring that hosting big-ticket events is not among its 'strategic priorities' at that juncture.

The AIFF's decision had left Saudi Arabia to be the lone candidate to host the 2027 AFC Asian Cup, the 19th edition of the continent's showpiece event.

Desperate Sunrisers Hyderabad aim to press reset button against Punjab Kings

Hyderabad
Desperate to arrest a worrying slide, Sunrisers Hyderabad will be eager to effect a turnaround when they host a power-packed Punjab Kings in their next IPL engagement here on Saturday.

Last season's finalists, SRH began their 2025 campaign on a thunderous note, racking up a mammoth 286 to dismantle Rajasthan Royals by 44 runs.

With an explosive batting line-up at their disposal, the 'Orange Army' seemed poised to become the first team to breach the 300-run mark but their ultra-aggressive approach has since backfired spectacularly.

In their last three matches, their attack-at-all-costs strategy with the bat yielded underwhelming totals of 163, 120, and 152 resulting in crushing defeats, and leaving them languishing at the bottom of the points table. They have worst Net-Run-Rate of -1.629 as of today.

With the bat, Sunrisers Hyderabad need far more from their big names like Travis Head, Abhishek Sharma, Ishan Kishan, and Heinrich Klaasen. Head and Sharma, who played a crucial role in delivering explosive starts last season, have failed to find their rhythm this year. In fact, SRH's best opening stand so far is a paltry 15 Head's performance has tailed off dramatically, returning scores of 67, 47, 22, 4, and 8. Abhishek, too, has struggled for consistency, with a top score of just 24 across five innings.

Kishan, after his unbeaten ton in the opener, has looked a shadow of himself, while SRH's middle-order mainstay Klaasen is yet to set the stage on fire.

Yet, the team appears committed to sticking with their aggressive blueprint. Head coach Daniel Vettori stressed on the need for better game



awareness rather than a shift in philosophy after their last defeat.

"I think we know the style is going to work, but we have to respect conditions, and we have to assess really well and that's probably something we haven't done," Vettori said.

While SRH's misfiring batting line-up has dominated post-match discussions, their bowling unit hasn't exactly lit up the tournament either.

The pace attack has failed to make any meaningful impact. Despite the presence of seasoned campaigners like Pat Cummins, Mohammed Shami, and Harshal Patel, SRH have struggled to make early inroads. The struggles continue into the middle overs, where they've failed to build pressure or claim key breakthroughs.

In stark contrast, Punjab Kings are riding a wave of early season momentum under the fresh leadership of Shreyas Iyer.

The Indian star has led from the front with the bat and displayed impressive tactical nous, guiding his team to three wins in four games as they sit at the fourth spot on the points table.

Adding to their firepower is young

sensation Priyansh Arya. The rookie opener stunned fans and critics alike with a breathtaking century against CSK where most struggled to get going.

While Arshdeep Singh, Lockie Ferguson, Yuzvendra Chahal and Marco Jansen have done well in the bowling department Teams: Sunrisers Hyderabad: Pat Cummins (c), Ishan Kishan (wk), Atharva Taide, Abhinav Manohar, Aniket Verma, Sachin Baby, Heinrich Klaasen, Travis Head, Harshal Patel, Kamindu Mendis, Wiaan Mulder, Abhishek Sharma, Nitish Kumar Reddy, Mohammed Shami, Rahul Chahar, Adam Zampa, Sinauraj Singh, Zeeshan Ansari, Jaydev Unadkat and Eshan Malliga.

Punjab Kings: Shreyas Iyer (c), Yuzvendra Chahal, Arshdeep Singh, Marcus Stoinis, Nehal Wadhwa, Glenn Maxwell, Vishakh Vijaykumar, Yash Thakur, Harpreet Brar, Vishnu Vindoo, Marco Jansen, Lockie Ferguson, Josh Inglis, Xavier Bartlett, Kuldeep Sen, Pyla Avinash, Suryansh Shedge, Musheer Khan, Harman Pannu, Aaron Hardie, Priyansh Arya, Azmatullah Omarzai Match starts: 7:30pm.

My aim is to be in a more peaceful and stress-free state of mind: Rudranksh

New Delhi
Having suffered the disappointment of missing the Paris Olympic berth despite earning a quota place, young Indian rifle shooter Rudranksh Patil is striving to remain "peaceful" and "stress free" even in the face of the sternest test.

Rudranksh was among the first shooters to secure a quota place for the country for the Paris Games but, as luck would have it, he lost the Olympic Qualification Trial to Army man Sandeep Singh, who went on to represent India in 10m air rifle.

The blow was made the youngster, who won an individual gold and mixed team silver with Arya Borse in the season's first ISSF World Cup in Buenos Aires recently, more determined and he is now working on an aspect of shooting, which is known to all but few can implement in letter and spirit.

"My aim is to be in a much more



peaceful and stress-free state before or during tournaments so that I can bring out my performance at a consistent rate. That's what I am working on," the Maharashtra marksman said. Videos from the Argentina camp.

The former world champion believes in the virtues of technical and mental training, and said no matter how much effort one puts into the two aspects,

there is always room for improvement. "We are all aiming to improve every day... there is tremendous pressure to prove yourself every year. You have to prove yourself every two months to get back into the (national) team," said Rudranksh.

"For that, one has to work on the mental and technical aspects. These are quite common terms but at the end of the day, we have to sharpen these two terms (aspects) a lot. I mean, howsoever much we sharpen them, we have to still work on them a bit more," said the 21-year-old, one of the most talented air-rifle shooters the country has produced.

For Rudranksh, who was in his teens when he became world champion and No.1 in 2022, the dejection of missing an Olympic berth would have been a bitter pill to swallow, but the champion shooter said he never lets the thought consume him.

KL Rahul: Stamping his authority in white ball formats in style

Bengaluru
From being panned as a stat-padder, who lacked intent from the word go to being a master of tricky chases, KL Rahul has turned the wheels in a manner only a batter blessed with skill-set like him, can.

He printed the latest blueprint of his growth chart with an unbeaten 93 off 53 balls at a strike-rate of 175 on a gripping Chinnaswamy pitch to fashion Delhi Capitals's six-wicket win over Royal Challengers Bengaluru.

Tim David (185) and Phil Salt (210) made runs at a higher strike-rate but through brute force and the readiness to travel on riskier routes either at Power Play or at the death overs.

But Rahul's fifty was smoothly paced — from a cautious 29 off 29 balls, the right-hander made the remaining 64 runs off just 24 balls on Thursday.

It's easy to trace the innings as a product of his first-hand knowledge of

the local conditions as a Karnataka boy. It might have played a part but that is just one chapter of the story.

The Capitals are trying to weave their batting around Rahul, and it is partly because of his technical adaptability.

On Thursday night, Rahul showed DC's faith on him is not misplaced while nullifying a competent set of bowlers.

Even during the sedate initial period, there was no hint of struggle as it was very evident that he had judged the character of the track to the T and was waiting for the right moment to unleash himself.

It came in the 15th over bowled by Josh Hazlewood. Rahul punished the pacer for 22 runs in that over, including three fours and a six.

It decisively swung the momentum in Delhi's favour, but none of those shots were hit in anger, but those

Head of US Space Force base in Greenland fired after Vance visit

Washington
The commander of a US Space Force base in Greenland has been fired after he sent a base-wide email breaking with official messaging following Vice President JD Vance's visit to the Danish territory that President Donald Trump is seeking to annex.
In a statement late Thursday, the Space Force said Col Susan Meyers was removed as commander of Pituffik Space Base in Greenland over a "loss of confidence in her ability to lead."
"Commanders are expected to adhere to the highest standards of conduct, especially as it relates to remaining nonpartisan in the performance of their duties," the statement said.
Military.com reported Thursday that Meyers sent the base-wide email defending the base's relationship with Denmark and Greenland following Vance's visit two weeks ago.
A US official confirmed Friday to the AP that Meyers sent the email and its contents showing support for Greenland and Denmark. The official spoke on condition of anonymity to provide additional details not made public.
Agency

Indian Consulate in Melbourne vandalised again HC raises issue

Melbourne
The Indian Consulate in Melbourne has been targeted in an act of vandalism with the Indian High Commission in Canberra raising the issue with Australian authorities on Friday.
The Consulate premises in Melbourne have previously been the site of similar provocations, with slogans defacing the premises in past years during periods of heightened international tension. The Australia Today reported.
Victoria Police said graffiti was discovered at the front entrance of the diplomatic premises around 1:00 am early Thursday.
"Officers believe the front entry of the building was graffitied overnight, sometime between Wednesday and Thursday. An investigation into the damage remains ongoing," a police spokesperson said.
The High Commission



in a post on X on Friday said it raised the issue with Australian authorities.
"The incident of defacing at the premises of the Consulate General of India in Melbourne by miscreants has been raised with Australian authorities. All necessary steps are being taken to ensure the safety and security of Indian diplomatic and consular premises and personnel in the country," the post said.

Police have not confirmed whether any suspects have been identified in the Thursday incident.
Authorities have urged anyone with information to come forward, the police spokesperson said.
The act has reignited concerns within the Indian-Australian community which has expressed frustration over a growing pattern of targeted incidents involving Hindu temples

and Indian government establishments across Melbourne, the news portal said.
"It's not just graffiti - it's a message of intimidation aimed at our community," an Indian-Australian said, adding that repeated attacks on places of religious and cultural significance were deeply distressing.
Victoria Premier Jacinta Allan's government passed anti-villification laws this year to

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strengthen penalties for acts motivated by hate or religious bias.
However, members of the Indian-Australian community continue to raise concerns over perceived slow responses and inconsistent enforcement, especially when compared to responses to similar incidents involving other communities.
"This is not about politics. It's about safety, respect, and equal protection under the law," Australia Today said, quoting a community member.

Terror plot on Pakistan's Masroor airbase thwarted 9 militants arrested

Karachi
Pakistan intelligence agencies have foiled a major terror plot aimed at the strategically vital Pakistan Air Force Masroor Base here, which was intended to cause "maximum damage," a media report said on Friday.
According to a report in the Jang newspaper, intelligence agencies carried out raids this week and arrested nine suspected militants who were tasked with launching a terror attack on the Masroor airbase to inflict casualties and cause maximum damage to aircraft and infrastructure.
The nine militants were arrested from their safe houses in Karachi, and of them, five were identified as Afghans.
Citing intelligence sources, the report said that the nine militants entered Pakistan from Afghanistan a month ago and have been based in a low-income neighbourhood near the airbase for the last month, surveilling the area to execute

their plans.
A source said the militants were tasked with attacking the base using "heavy ammunition and explosives" to stall any operation and engage security forces for a long time, while also causing maximum damage to the base and aircraft.
"They had no intention of coming out alive from the base and we recovered a lot of material, ammunition and explosives maps outlining their plans," the source was quoted as saying.
The terror attack was planned by the Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) and was commanded by a high-level militant of the outlawed group who had fled to Afghanistan a few months ago after killing a Chinese national in Karachi, the report said.
In the past, TTP militants have carried out major attacks on the Pakistan Naval airbase in Karachi in 2011, the Karachi dockyard in 2014 and also the Karachi airport the same year.

Syria extends deadline for probe into coastal killings of Alawites

Beirut
Syria's presidency announced on Friday that it would extend a probe into the killings of Alawite civilians in coastal areas that left hundreds dead after clashes between government forces and armed groups loyal to former President Bashar Assad spiralled into sectarian revenge attacks.
The violence erupted on March 6 after Assad loyalists ambushed patrols of the new gov-

ernment, prompting Islamist-led groups to launch coordinated assaults on Latakia, Banyas, and other coastal areas.
According to human rights groups, more than 1,000 civilians - mostly Alawites, an Islamic minority to which Assad belongs - were killed in retaliatory attacks, including home raids, executions, and arson, displacing thousands.
The sectarian violence was possibly among the



bloodiest 72 hours in Syria's modern history, including the 14 years of

civil war from which the country is now emerging. The violence brought

fear of a renewed civil war and threatened to open an endless cycle of vengeance, driving thousands of Alawites to flee their homes, with an estimated 30,000 seeking refuge in northern Lebanon.
On March 9, President Ahmed al-Sharaa, the former leader of an Islamist insurgent group, formed a fact-finding committee and gave it 30 days to report its findings and identify perpetrators.

In a decree published late Thursday, Sharaa said the committee had requested more time and was granted a three-month non-renewable extension.
The committee's spokesperson, Yasser Farhan, said in a statement on Friday that the committee has recorded 41 sites where killings took place, each forming the basis for a separate case and requiring more time to gather evidence.
He said some areas re-

mained inaccessible due to time constraints, but that residents had cooperated, despite threats from pro-Assad remnants.
In a report published on April 3, Amnesty International said its probe into the killings concluded that at least 32 of more than 100 people killed in the town of Banyas were deliberately targeted on sectarian grounds in a potential war crime.
Agency

BUSINESS

India's Industrial Output Growth Slows to 6-Month Low in Feb



New Delhi
India's industrial production growth decelerated to a six-month low of 2.9 per cent in February 2025, mainly due to poor performance of the manufacturing, mining and power sectors, according to official data released on Friday.
The government also revised upward the industrial growth figure to 5.2 per cent for January 2025 from the provisional estimate of 5 per cent released in March.
The factory output, measured in terms of the Index of Industrial Production (IIP), rose by 5.6 per cent in February 2024.
The previous low was recorded in August last

year when the growth remained flat at zero per cent.
The data released by the National Statistics Office (NSO) showed that the manufacturing sector's output growth slowed to 2.9 per cent in February 2025, down from 4.9 per cent in the year-ago month.
Mining production growth dipped to 1.6 per cent from 8.1 per cent a year ago.
Power output growth also slowed to 3.6 per cent in February 2025 from 7.6 per cent a year ago.
In the April-February period, the IIP grew 4.1 per cent, down from 6 per cent recorded in the year-ago period.

India Restricts Chinese FDI: Goyal

New Delhi
India does not intend to encourage foreign direct investments (FDI) from China, Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal said on Friday, indicating New Delhi's intentions of not easing overseas investment curbs imposed on the neighbouring country in 2020.



FDI applications from countries sharing land borders, such as China, have to mandatorily seek government approval for all sectors. This policy was issued in April 2020.
"As of now, there's hardly any foreign direct investment from China. It was the same 25 years ago when it (FDI) was open (from China), not too much Chinese investment has come to India. Nor are we encouraging any significant investment coming in from China at all. At the moment, that is the policy," Goyal said here at an event.
The remarks assume significance as certain quarters are of the view that the rule needs to be eased to attract technol-

ogy and capital.
In 2020, the government made its approval mandatory for FDI from countries that share land borders with India.
Countries that share land borders with India are China, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Bhutan, Nepal, Myanmar, and Afghanistan.
China stands at the 22nd position with only 0.37 per cent share (USD 2.5 billion) in the total FDI equity inflow reported in India from April 2000 to March 2024.

Last year, the pre-budget Economic Survey made a strong case for seeking FDI from Beijing to boost local manufacturing and tap the export market.
Goyal also said that India's effort is to integrate its economy with the developed world, who believe in fair play and follows honest business practices, and where domestic industries get an equal opportunity to do business.
"Everything will be based on reciprocity. Everything will be

based on mutual trust and mutual benefit. And therefore, I personally, don't see any great disturbance say even except for a short period of time. I think this reset that the world is going through is actually very good for the world," he said.
He added that the genesis of this tariff problem goes back to the late 1980s and mid-1990s.
"Then China was accepted into the World Trade Organization and MFN (most favoured nation) benefits were given

FDI applications from countries sharing land borders, such as China, have to mandatorily seek government approval for all sectors. This policy was issued in April 2020.

to China by all countries of the world, collectively with the desire and hope that we could trust them to behave better.
"Sadly, that never happened. And over the years, country after country and industrial sector after sector has realized how their practices have hurt businesses and economies," he said.
He added that in 2019, India decided not to join the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) as it felt that the guiding principles on which free trade should work were not being respected in that grouping. China is part of RCEP.
"And today it is being vindicated by the current situation in the world, he said.
When asked if there is

India's Forex Reserves Jump USD 10.87 Billion

Mumbai
India's forex reserves jumped USD 10.87 billion to USD 676.268 billion during the week ended April 4, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) said on Friday.

The overall kitty had jumped USD 6.596 billion to USD 665.396 billion in the previous reporting week.
This is the fifth consecutive week of an increase in the kitty, which had seen some decline recently due to revaluation, along with forex market interventions by the RBI, to help reduce volatilities in the rupee.
The forex reserves had touched an all-time high of USD 704.885 billion in end-September 2024.
For the week ended April 4, foreign currency assets, a major component of the reserves, increased USD 9.074 billion to USD 574.088 billion, the data released on Friday showed.
Expressed in dollar terms, the foreign currency assets include the effect of appreciation or depreciation of non-US units like the euro, pound, and yen held in the foreign exchange reserves.
Gold reserves increased USD 1.567 billion to USD 79.36 billion during the week, the RBI said.
The Special Drawing Rights (SDRs) were up USD 186 million to USD 18.362 billion, the apex bank said.
India's reserve position with the IMF was also up USD 46 million to USD 4.459 billion in the reporting week, the apex bank data showed.

Sensex, Nifty Surge on US Tariff Suspension

Mumbai
Benchmark Sensex surged by 1,310 points while Nifty closed above 22,900 level on Friday after the US announced suspension of additional tariffs on India for 90 days until July 9 this year.
Defying a bearish trend in world markets, the 30-share BSE benchmark Sensex jumped 1,310.11 points or 1.77 per cent to settle at 75,157.26. During the day, it soared 1,628.18 points or 2.19 per cent to 75,467.33.

The NSE Nifty surged 429.40 points or 1.92 per cent to 22,828.55. In intra-day trade, the benchmark rallied 524.75 points or 2.34 per cent to 22,923.90.
The US has announced suspension of additional tariffs on India for 90 days until July 9 this year, according to the White House executive orders.
On April 2, US President Donald Trump slapped universal duties on about 60 countries exporting goods to America and additional

steep levies on countries like India, potentially impacting sales of products from shrimp to steel in the world's biggest economy.
From the Sensex firms, Tata Steel, Power Grid, NTPC, Kotak Mahindra Bank, Reliance Industries and Adani Ports were among the biggest gainers.
Asian Paints and Tata Consultancy Services were the only laggards.
"An unexpected pause on reciprocal tariffs by the US provided relief in the midst of the un-



certainty. Though the IT majors' result missed the street estimates, it opines optimism in the latter half of FY26 owing to growth in the order

book," Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Investments Limited, said.
World markets largely slumped amid growing concerns due to a tit-for-tat tariff war between China and the US.
In Asian markets, Tokyo's Nikkei 225 index and South Korea's KOSPI settled lower while Shanghai SSE Composite index and Hong Kong's Hang Seng ended higher. Tokyo's Nikkei 225 index dropped nearly 2 per cent.
European markets were trading lower.

US markets ended significantly lower on Thursday a day after a sharp rally. The Nasdaq composite tanked 4.31 per cent, S&P 500 slumped 3.46 per cent and Dow Jones Industrial Average dropped 2.50 per cent.
China on Friday raised its additional tariffs on imports from the US to 125 per cent in retaliation to the Trump administration's 145 per cent levies on Chinese exports.
Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) of-

flooded equities worth Rs 4,358.02 crore on Wednesday.
Indian stock markets were closed on Thursday for Shri Mahavir Jayanti.
Global oil benchmark Brent crude climbed 0.32 per cent to USD 63.53 a barrel.
On Wednesday, the BSE benchmark dropped 379.93 points or 0.51 per cent to settle at 73,847.15. The Nifty declined 136.70 points or 0.61 per cent to 22,390.15.
Agency

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'Koi bewakoof hi hoga...': Akshay Kumar on criticism after Jaya Bachchan's flop remark for Toilet Ek Prem Katha

Mumbai
Bollywood superstar Akshay Kumar recently attended a press conference as a part of his promotional activities for the upcoming movie Kesari Chapter 2. The actor, who was countered by various questions from the media, had a rather interesting take when asked about his films with social causes being criticised, referring to the recent statement made by veteran actor Jaya Bachchan. Akshay addressed those who criticise his films that propagate a social message and said, "Koi bewakoof hi hoga jo critique karega (Only a fool would criticise it). He further stated, "I've made these films from my heart. It's a film that tells people a lot of things, helps them understand."

When a journalist prodded Akshay, saying that Jaya Bachchan called Toilet: Ek Prem Katha a flop and that she would never watch a movie with that name, the superstar answered, "Well,



if she had said it, then it must be right. If making a film like Toilet was a wrong thing on my part, then what they're saying must be true."

During an interaction with India TV, the actor-turned-politician said, "Just look at the title of the film; I would never go to watch a film with

such a name. Yeh koi naam hai? Is that really a name?" She later asked the audience if they'd watch a film with the said title, to which a few raised their hands. Jaya added, "Among so many people, hardly four want to watch the film; it's very sad. Yeh toh flop hai (It is a flop)."

Toilet Ek Prem Katha was based on a real-life incident wherein a woman left her husband after finding out that there was no toilet in their house. The movie went on to become one of the top grossers of 2017 by raking in Rs. 134.22 crore at the box office in India alone, and also took the Chinese box office by storm. It also starred Bhumi Pednekar.

Kesari Chapter 2 shows Akshay Kumar playing the role of C. Sankaran Nair — the lawyer who fought against the British Empire after the Jallianwala Bagh massacre. It also stars Ananya Panday as a law student and R. Madhavan as Neville McKinley. The film is set to be released on April 18.



Soha Ali Khan gives THIS advice to Ibrahim Ali Khan after Nadaaniyaan criticism

Mumbai
It was in March when the internet went into a complete breakdown over a certain movie that marked the debut of a much-anticipated star kid and was backed by a massive streaming giant. Yes, we are talking about Nadaaniyaan, starring Saif Ali Khan's son Ibrahim Ali Khan and Khushi Kapoor in the lead, directed by Shouna Gautam, backed by Karan Johar, and streaming on Netflix. The movie, right after its release, opened to bad reviews and harsh public reception, where the stars were not just criticized but trolled for the movie. Khan, who made his debut, was criticized for a lot of things. His aunt, Soha Ali Khan, has now come out in his support and spoken about the nature of the job.

Saif Ali Khan's sister Soha Ali Khan is now promoting her movie Chhorri 2, in which she plays the antagonist opposite Nushratt Bharuccha. The Tum Mile star, talking about fame and trolls, also spoke about Ibrahim Ali Khan and the Nadaaniyaan fiasco. She

spoke about how one must have a thick skin when they plan to join the world of showbiz and not shut themselves off by only surrounding themselves with love.

"Number one, I think you need to have thick skin when you join this world. One needs to digest people's opinions or then don't read the comments. But I feel, sometimes, it's important to read the comments because you can't just work in a vacuum. You have to be receptive to certain criticism, and you have to work on your craft and go forward," Soha said in an interview with Navandeep Rakshit.

"The only thing you can do is have some kind of armor. Do not shut yourself off to the world and surround yourself only with love and people who are going to say positive things and be like yes-men. Be open to criticism, introspect, and work towards your craft. Don't let your film's success or failure, perhaps, destroy you in ways, but also recognize where you need to work on something and become better," Soha added.



Nasha: Tamannaah Bhatia impresses with her expressions and smooth moves in 'Raid 2' special song

Mumbai
After the massive success of the crime thriller 'Raid 2', the makers of the film open the soundtrack of the movie with the launch of the first song, 'Nasha', featuring the gorgeous Tamannaah Bhatia, lighting up the screen with her electrifying dance moves and making it a strong contender for this year's next big dance anthem.

Composed by White Noise Collective, the song pulses with the energy of a high-octane dance number. Tamannaah brings the heat with a performance that's both graceful and power-packed, adding glamour and excitement to the film's story. The energetic track is sung by Jasmin Sandlas, Sachet Tandon, and Divya Kumar, and penned by Jaani creating the perfect setting with in-

fectious appeal. Tamannaah Bhatia shares, "There's something magnetic about Nasha—it's the kind of track that grabs you from the first beat. The rhythm, the energy, the vibe—everything just comes together seamlessly. After the love I received for my last song, I'm excited for audiences to experience this one. It's bold, it's infectious, and it's got that undeniable groove."

The trailer for actor Ajay Devgn's crime thriller Raid 2 was unveiled in Mumbai on Tuesday. The trailer shows Ajay returning as the fearless IRS officer Amay Patnaik, who once again takes on the corrupt system. This time, he faces off against a dangerous politician, played by Riteish Desh-

mukh. The trailer begins with a strong punch, showing Ajay preparing for his next big mission—one that could shake the foundations of power. However, Ajay's character is not alone—he has a strong team ready to fight alongside him. Their

Helmed by Raj Kumar Gupta, Raid 2 is anticipated to be the most grossing entertainer of the year. The battle lines are drawn, and the stakes are high—are you ready for the ultimate showdown? The movie stars an ensemble cast: Ajay Devgn, Riteish Deshmukh, Vaani Kapoor, Supriya Pathak, Saurabh Shukla, Amit Sial among other celebrated actors joining this high stake sequel.

goal is clear: to wipe out black money and take down those who misuse their power.



Ajay Devgn drops a major update on making of Dhamaal 4

Mumbai
Dhamaal franchise fans can now begin counting down to the release of the fourth instalment after Ajay Devgn shared a major update on the film's production on Thursday.

"Dhamaal 4" is one of the highly awaited movies of Indian cinema in the upcoming years. According to the latest update, director Indra Kumar has officially kicked off the shoot for its fourth instalment. The film's first schedule was shot amidst the breathtaking scenery of Malshej Ghat in Maharashtra. The team successfully wrapped up its first schedule on Thursday.

The second schedule of the shooting will take place in Mumbai, as per Ajay Devgn's social media post.

Actor Ajay Devgn, who will play a key role in the film, shared the latest update on its Instagram handle. He shared a photo featuring the lead cast of the movie along with the producers and crew.

Leading the madness at Malshej Ghat were Ajay Devgn, Sanjay Mishra, Arshad Warsi, Jaaved Jaferi, Riteish Deshmukh, Sanjeda Shaikh, Anjali Anand, and Upendra Limaye.

Janhvi and Ishaan Khatter's film 'Homebound' gets selected for Cannes 2025

Mumbai
Film-maker Neeraj Ghaywan's 'Homebound', which stars actors Janhvi Kapoor and Ishaan Khatter, has officially been selected for the 78th edition of the Cannes Film Festival.

Directed by Ghaywan, the movie will be screened in the 'Un Certain Regard' section—a category known for presenting artistic cinema from across the world.

The announcement was made on Thursday as Cannes unveiled its official selection lineup for 2025, which also features global names, including Wes Anderson and Ari Aster.

Both Janhvi and Ishaan took to their Instagram to express their happiness.

Ishaan, while sharing the news with fans on his Instagram account, described the role as "most challenging" to



date.

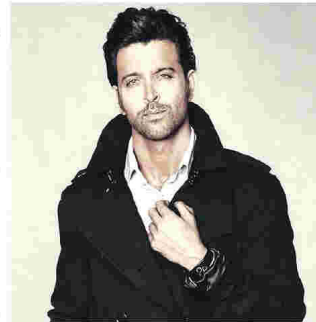
"A film that I knew was special from the moment it entered my life and my most challenging part yet. This is what dreams are made of: pure intention, grit, compassion, and truth. One of the proudest moments of my cinematic journey thus far. All led by my friend with a beautiful mind and a deep empathy not many possess—@neerajghaywan. This also marks my homecoming with @karanjohar and @dharma-movies after 7 years," a part of his post read.



Priyanka Chopra to star in Krrish 4? Hrithik Roshan meets actress in USA

Mumbai
Hrithik Roshan will be assuming the role of director for the fourth instalment of the Krrish franchise.

The actor, who is currently in the United States of America, revealed that he met Priyanka Chopra and her husband, singer and actor Nick Jonas, during the latter's Broadway



show. This comes amid rumours that Priyanka will reprise her role in the Krrish franchise. At a fan meet-and-greet event, Hrithik spoke about his interaction with Priyanka and Nick. He said, "Last night, I was with Nick Jonas and Priyanka Chopra...

told IANS, "Hrithik Roshan has roped in Priyanka Chopra Jonas for the film! Hrithik and Priyanka are one of the most loved on-screen pairs in Indian cinema history, and they are back to entertain audiences again in Krrish 4! It is massive news!"

In April, Krrish 4 was officially announced, and Hrithik confirmed that he would be directing the film.

Filmmaker Rakesh Roshan announced Hrithik Roshan's directorial debut with Krrish 4 as he passed the baton of the franchise he has shaped and nurtured over the past 22 years.

The film is being produced by Yash Raj Films in association with Rakesh Roshan. The Indian superstar will be balancing the roles of director and lead actor as he once again plays the titular superhero. Filming is set to begin early next year.

