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TOP STORY

DELHI, MONDAY 19, MAY 2025

VOL-12, ISSUE - 41, PAGES - 8, PRICE ₹ 3.50 | POSTAL REG. NO. UP/GBD-254/2022-2024



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UK judge notes 'confidential impediment' in Nirav Modi extradition case

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WEATHER

Sunrise	5:29 AM
Sunset	7:07 PM
Moonrise	10:40 AM
Moonset	8:48 AM
Today's Prediction	
Maximum	42°C
Minimum	30°C
Tomorrow's Prediction	
Maximum	43°C
Minimum	31°C

17 killed in Hyderabad fire, PM Modi condoles deaths

The building housed jewellery shops on the ground floor and people were residing in a flat above, police said adding smoke spread and people suffocated.

A blaze triggered by a suspected short circuit in a building near the iconic Charminar here on Sunday killed 17 people, including eight children, belonging to an extended family.

The fire broke out at a building in Gulzar House here, police said.

"All 17 who were shifted to hospitals were brought dead," a senior police official said.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi expressed anguish over the loss of lives and announced ex-gratia.

A narrow staircase was the only escape route for the inmates of the building, but they could not rush out, a Fire Department official said.

The building housed jewellery shops on the ground floor and people were residing in a flat above, police said adding smoke spread and people suffocated.

AMIM chief and Hyderabad MP Asaduddin Owaisi told reporters



that the family has been residing there for 125 years, indicating that generations from the particular family have been living there for over a century.

The family is said to be running a jewellery shop in the city.

"Now only two members of the family are left, at Gulzar House and surrounding areas are of 100 to 200 years old.

Hyderabad Police Commissioner C V Anand said that most of the buildings, including the one that caught fire, at Gulzar House and surrounding areas are of 100 to 200 years old.

am and the fire engine was turned out at 6.17 AM, he said.

There were shops on the ground floor while the first and second floors were residential spaces, he said.

"Prima-facie cause of the fire is short circuit in the mains in the shopping area," Reddy said, adding the victims were sleeping when the fire broke out.

A total of 21 people were in the building when the fire erupted, and of them 17 were shifted to hospitals by the fire department in an unconscious state.

There was only one escape route, the staircase, which was very narrow and the inmates could not run to safety, he said.

Telangana Fire Department in a statement said the fire broke out on the Ground floor (G+2 building) and spread to the floors above.

In a post on 'X', PM Modi expressed condoled the deaths.

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CONTD ON PAGE-2

Pak was developing Haryana YouTuber as 'asset': Cops



Chandigarh Pakistani intelligence operatives were developing Haryana YouTuber Jyoti Malhotra, who was arrested on espionage charges, as an asset, a senior Haryana police officer claimed on Sunday.

She was allegedly in touch with a Pakistani officer posted at the Pakistan High Commission in New Delhi during the four-day military conflict between India and Pakistan that followed the April 22 terror attack in Pahalagam, the officer said.

Hisar Superintendent of Police Shashank Kumar Sawan said Malhotra did not have any direct access to any information related to the military or defence operations which could be said at this stage that she could have shared.

But she was directly in touch with PIOs, he said addressing media-persons in Hisar, Haryana.

"Certainly, they were developing her as an asset. She was in touch with other YouTube influencers. They were also in touch with PIOs," the SP said.

"This is also (a kind of) warfare, in which they try to push their narrative by recruiting influencers," he said.

Hisar-based Malhotra (33), who runs a YouTube channel, 'Travel with JO', was arrested from New Aggarwain Extension on Friday, they said.

She has been booked under relevant sections of the Official Secrets Act and the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, police said.

She was sent to a five-day police remand after being produced before the court on Saturday. Agency

Op Sindoor post lands Ashoka University prof in jail

Sonapat (Haryana) Ashoka University's head of the political science department, Ali Khan Mahmudabad, was arrested on Sunday after two FIRs were lodged on stringent charges, including endangering sovereignty and integrity, for his social media posts related to Operation Sindoor, police and his lawyer said.

The arrest comes days after the Haryana State Commission for Women sent a notice to the associate professor questioning his remarks, though Mahmudabad had maintained that they were "misunderstood" and asserted that he had exercised his fundamental right to freedom of speech.

"Ali Khan Mahmudabad has been arrested in Delhi," Assistant Commissioner of Police, Rai, Ajiet Singh said over phone, adding the action came in connection with some comments related to Operation Sindoor.

Deputy Commissioner of Police Narendar Kadyan said two FIRs were lodged at the Rai police station here -- one based on a complaint from the chairperson of Haryana State Commission for Women, Renu Bhatia, and the other on the complaint of a village sarpanch.

"On the Commission chairperson's complaint, the FIR has been lodged against Professor Ali of Ashoka University under BNS sections 152 (acts endangering sovereignty



tion with some comments related to Operation Sindoor.

Deputy Commissioner of Police Narendar Kadyan said two FIRs were lodged at the Rai police station here -- one based on a complaint from the chairperson of Haryana State Commission for Women, Renu Bhatia, and the other on the complaint of a village sarpanch.

"On the Commission chairperson's complaint, the FIR has been lodged against Professor Ali of Ashoka University under BNS sections 152 (acts endangering sovereignty

HIGHLIGHT

In a statement, the Ashoka University said it was trying to ascertain details of the case and will continue to cooperate with the police and local authorities in the investigation.

or unity and integrity of India), 353 (statements conducing to public mischief), 79 (deliberate actions aimed at insulting the modesty of a woman) and 196 (I) (promoting enmity between different groups on grounds of religion)," Kadyan told reporters here.

"He has been arrested today...Two FIRs have been registered at the Rai police station," he said, adding police will seek remand of Ali on the basis of a complaint of the Commission.

According to the DCP

BrahMos destroyed Pakistan's air bases, says Amit Shah

Ahmedabad Union Home Minister Amit Shah said on Sunday that indigenously developed BrahMos missiles destroyed Pakistani air bases while its air defence system, borrowed from China, remained unused, during Operation Sindoor, which exposed its lies on terrorism to the world.

Addressing a function here, Shah said while surgical strikes and the airstrike in the past were limited to the Pakistan-occupied-Kashmir (PoK), India penetrated 100 km inside Pakistan's border under Operation Sindoor and eliminated terrorists and their hubs.

"As our indigenously developed BrahMos (supersonic cruise missile system) worked to destroy Pakistan's air bases, its own air defence system, borrowed from China, remained unused.



"Our Air Force carried out precise attacks and inflicted heavy damage on many places in Pakistan which were considered impregnable. Operation Sindoor will be written in golden letters when the history is written on the border safety," he said.

Operation Sindoor was launched by the Indian armed forces in the wake of the Pahalagam terrorist attack in which

HIGHLIGHT

Shah said while surgical strikes and the airstrike in the past were limited to the Pakistan-occupied-Kashmir (PoK), India penetrated 100 km inside Pakistan's border under Operation Sindoor and eliminated terrorists and their hubs.

25 Indians and one Nepali citizen were killed. The operations destroyed terrorist infrastructure in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir, from where terrorist attacks against India were planned and directed.

"Pakistan used to tell the whole world that no terrorist activity happens there and accuse India of making false complaints. But, terrorists were finished with missiles under 'Operation Sindoor' and Pakistan was exposed to the world," Shah said.

He said the next day, senior officers of the Pakistani army attended the funeral of terrorists and offered prayers, "which exposed the nexus of the Pakistani Army, Pakistan, and terrorism, and the whole world came to know that Pakistan runs bases for terrorists". Agency

ISRO's 101st mission fails due to pressure issue

Sriharikota Indian Space Research Organisation's 101st mission from Sriharikota, an earth observation satellite onboard the agency's trusted Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV) rocket, could not be accomplished on Sunday following a pressure issue in the third stage of the launch vehicle, the space agency said.

Although the Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV) made a textbook lift-off at the prefixed time of 5.59 am, the mission objectives, however, could not be achieved.

vehicle and up to the second stage, the performance was normal. The third stage motor started perfectly but during the functioning of the third stage we are seeing an observation and the mission could not be accomplished," Narayanan said.

The third stage is a solid motor system.

"...and the motor pressure--there was a fall in the chamber pressure of the motor case and the mission could not be accomplished. We are studying the entire performance, we shall come back at the earliest," Narayanan said post the unsuccessful launch.

The outcome of Sunday's launch would have come as a surprise to



many, since PSLV has emerged to be the most reliable launch vehicle of ISRO.

Post lift-off, even till the second stage separation from the four-stage rocket, it was announced at the Mission Control Centre that they

were being tracked by other centres of ISRO located in various parts of the country.

According to the data shared by the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), the PS1 (first stage) separation was scheduled for 111.64

seconds after lift-off, but it was achieved at 110 seconds.

Further, the second stage ignition of the rocket was targeted to be achieved at 111.84 seconds, but the process occurred at 110.2 seconds leaving a marginal difference.

Similarly, the PS2 (second stage) separation was targeted at 264.34 seconds but it took place at 261.8 seconds.

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Although those were proceeding on expected lines, as understood by the regular announcements by the scientists over the progress of the mission, it was after reaching the third stage that a glitch surfaced.

Agency

IMF warns Pakistan, imposes 11 new conditions

Janeva The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has slapped 11 new conditions on Pakistan for the release of the next tranche of its bailout programme and warned that tensions with India could heighten risks to the scheme's fiscal, external, and reform goals, according to a media report on Sunday.

The new conditions imposed on Pakistan include the parliamentary approval of a new Rs 17.6 trillion budget, an increase in the debt servicing surcharge on electricity bills and lifting restrictions on import



of more than three-year-old used cars.

The Express Tribune newspaper said the Staff Level report, which the IMF released on Saturday, also said that "rising tensions between India and Pakistan, if

sustained or deteriorate further, could heighten risks to the fiscal, external, and reform goals of the programme.

The report further stated that tensions between Pakistan and India have risen significantly over the past two weeks, but so far, the market reaction has been modest, with the stock market retaining most of its recent gains and spreads widening moderately.

The IMF report has shown the defence budget for the next fiscal year at Rs 2.414 trillion, which is higher by Rs 252 billion or 12%. Agency

17 killed in Hyderabad fire, PM Modi concedes deaths

CONT FROM PAGE-1

He announced 2 lakh for the kin of those who died and Rs 50,000 to the injured.

"Deeply anguished by the loss of lives due to a fire tragedy in Hyderabad, Telangana. Condolences to those who have lost their loved ones. May the injured recover soon," the post said.

Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy expressed shock over the incident and directed senior officials to take all necessary measures to rescue those trapped in the building.

Deputy CM Bharti Vikramarka told reporters said the state government has announced Rs 5 lakh ex-gratia each to the kin of the deceased.

Governor Jishnu Dev Varma conveyed his heartfelt condolences to the families of those who lost their lives in the incident.

Addressing reporters after visiting the spot, Transport and Hyderabad District in-charge Minister Pannam Prabhakar said a short circuit caused the fire. "We will order an inquiry into the fire accident. There is no conspiracy angle in it..."

Four families related to one another were residing in the building and many of them came to spend their vacation, he added.

Shortly after the fire broke out, Zahid, who is into bangles business in Gulzar House area and an eyewitness to the fire incident told reporters that at around 6.10 AM when he along with friends were passing by, a woman told them about the fire that erupted in the building and there were family members with children inside.

"As the main door of the building was engulfed in flames, we broke the shutter and also a wall and entered inside. As the blaze was high we went to the first floor. We found several people in one room and six others in another room. We were not able to save them due to the fire. Had we saved them it would have been good," he said.

He further said he saw a dead woman hugging some lifeless children.

The Osmania Hospital mortuary, where bodies from different hospitals were sent for autopsy, wore a grim look as relatives burst into tears in shock.

Union Minister G Kishan Reddy also visited the spot. He alleged that he was informed that fire tenders arrived late. The allegation was dismissed by Nagi Reddy, Agency

Constitution of India supreme all its pillars must work together: CJI B R Gavai

Chief Justice of India B R Gavai on Sunday stressed that neither the judiciary nor the executive, but the country's Constitution was supreme and its pillars must work together. Even though Parliament has the power to amend the Constitution, it cannot touch the "basic doctrine" structure, he said, underscoring the supremacy of the Constitution. The right to shelter is also supreme, he said, referring to "bulldozer justice".

Justice Gavai, who took oath as the 52nd CJI earlier this week, spoke at his felicitation ceremony and state lawyers' conference organised by the Bar Council Maharashtra and Goa here.

The CJI said he was glad that the country has not just strengthened but has also developed on the social and economic fronts and continues to do so.

"Neither the judiciary, nor the executive, nor Parliament is supreme, but it is the Constitution of India which is supreme, and all the three wings have to work as

per the Constitution," he said. The Parliament has the power to amend the Constitution, but it cannot touch the basic doctrine structure, CJI Gavai said.

The basic structure doctrine holds that certain fundamental features of the Constitution, such as its supremacy, the rule of law, and the independence of the judiciary, cannot be amended or abrogated by Parliament through a constitutional amendment.

The CJI said the country's basic framework was strong, and all three pillars of the Constitution - legislative, executive and judiciary - were



equal. "And all the organs of the Constitution must reciprocate and give due respect to each other," he said.

Gavai, who belongs to Maharashtra, said he was happy to become the CJI when the Constitution is completing 75 years and marching towards its centenary.

"There is no question that our country is 'mashboof' due to the basic structure doctrine laid down in the Kesavananda Bharati case judgment against 'bulldozer justice', he said the right to shelter is supreme.

"The right to shelter is a fundamental right. Whether a person is accused of any crime or convicted, the family's house, if legally occupied, cannot be removed or demolished. The rule of law has to be followed," the CJI said.

He spoke about his various tasks and visits to different areas in Maharashtra and across the country. "We also recently vis-

ited Manipur and assured both communities in conflict that the country is with you and justice is at your doorstep, and avail it. I'm lucky to have done that," said the Chief Justice of India.

Speaking on the occasion, Supreme Court Judge Surya Kant said there is a growing demand from both bar and bench regarding the representation of the Bombay High Court in the Apex Court.

"I candidly admit that the contribution made by Bar of Maharashtra in the development of law, whether it is civil law or criminal law, and most importantly, in the development of the constitutionalism, constitutional morality, constitutional principles, constitutional basic structure theories, the contribution made by your High Court is remarkable. It is unparalleled," he said.

Justice Surya Kant is set to be the next CJI after Gavai's retirement in November.

Supreme Court justices Abhay Oka and Dipankar Datta and Chief Justice of Bombay High Court Alok Aradhya also attended the event.

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सामंजसिक सूचना

मै सख श्री पखो ख श्री खम मोरो निमाली ए-21, ए-ब्लॉक, काग थिगर, मुजफ्फर, मई दिल्ली-110045 (आगत कार्ड नं. 701244979204018) अउरो होस-इन्वार्स न सचान करती है, कि -

यदि आपने अपने पुत्र ललित याचक और ललित याचक की वकीलकी याचक ललित को उनके आगे मेरे परिवार के अन्य सदस्यों के प्रति दुर्भावपूर्ण करने के कारण उनको अपनी वकील व अजय सचिवी से हटाकर कर दिया है। आज के बाद उनसे मेरा व मेरे परिवार के अन्य सदस्यों का कोई सम्बन्ध नहीं रहा, हमने उनसे सारे सम्बन्ध विच्छेद कर दिए हैं।

यदि आप के बाद जो कोई भी उनसे सम्बन्ध रखेगा या किसी भी प्रकार का कोई लेन-देन करेगा तो वह स्वयं जिम्मेदार होगा। हमने मेरी और श्री ललित के अन्य सदस्यों को कोई भी जिम्मेवारी नहीं छोड़ी।

यदि ललित याचक और याचक ललित के साथ कोई भी घटना घटित होती है तो हमने मेरा और श्री परिवार के अन्य सदस्यों का कोई लेना देना नहीं होगा। यह स्वयं जिम्मेदार होगा।

इस कथन पर मैं विचार नया विवरण पूर्ण रूप से सत्य है।

Praveen Parekh vows Real Solutions for SCBA Housing Woes

New Delhi

With the Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA) elections just two days away, the electoral atmosphere within the legal fraternity is charged with anticipation and heightened activity. Candidates are making their final appeals, seeking the support of their peers by outlining clear, actionable agendas. Among the prominent contenders is Senior Advocate Praveen H. Parekh, the Executive Chairman of the Supreme Court Bar Association Multi-State Cooperative Group Housing Society Limited (SCBAMSCGHS), who is vying for the influential position of Vice President of the SCBA.

Central to Mr. Parekh's campaign is a deeply personal and long-standing issue that has affected many members of the SCBA community for nearly two decades—the unresolved housing crisis. Since 2005, members of the SCBAMSCGHS have awaited a resolution to their residential accommodation concerns, but despite repeated assurances from past leadership, progress has



remained elusive. This persistent problem has left numerous advocates without permanent homes, a situation that has fostered frustration and skepticism.

Addressing his fellow members, Mr. Parekh spoke with a tone of conviction and determination, emphasizing his firm commitment to break the cycle of empty promises and inaction. He declared that, if entrusted with the Vice President's role, he would become an assertive and steadfast representative for the housing society members, both within the SCBA framework and in negotiations with relevant government bodies. His mission, he explained, is to ensure that every member of the housing society secures permanent and affordable housing, transforming a long-delayed dream into concrete reality.

"This election is more than just a vote," Mr. Parekh stated passionately. "It's a chance to fulfill a collective aspiration that has been deferred for far too long. We need results, not more assurances." His words resonated strongly among members who have grown weary of repeated commitments that have failed to translate into meaningful action.

Mr. Parekh's candidacy thus represents not

only his individual aspirations but also embodies the collective hope of the SCBA housing society community. His track record as Executive Chairman and his hands-on experience in housing matters reinforce his image as a candidate capable of navigating the complex bureaucratic and legal challenges involved.

As the election day approaches, members of the Supreme Court Bar Association are carefully weighing their options. For many, Mr. Parekh's pledge to prioritize and actively pursue a resolution to the housing crisis offers a beacon of hope. His campaign highlights a shift in focus from rhetoric to responsibility and tangible progress.

In an election where promises often abound but follow-through is rare, Praveen H. Parekh's vow to prioritize action over empty pledges stands out. Should he succeed, the SCBA community may finally see a long-awaited breakthrough in a housing issue that has defined their collective struggle for nearly twenty years.

Referring to his judgment against "bulldozer justice", he said the right to shelter is supreme. "The right to shelter is a fundamental right. Whether a person is accused of any crime or convicted, the family's house, if legally occupied, cannot be removed or demolished. The rule of law has to be followed," the CJI said.

He spoke about his various tasks and visits to different areas in Maharashtra and across the country. "We also recently vis-

Odisha YouTuber who accompanied 'spy' Jyoti Malhotra to Pak under scanner

Manoranjan Sasmal Bhubaneswar

The recent arrest of Jyoti Malhotra, a Haryana-based YouTuber accused of leaking sensitive intelligence information related to Kashmir, has triggered a significant investigation into her connections in Odisha. Jyoti had visited Puri, where she was reportedly close to Priyanka Senapati, a local resident of Kalkidevi Sahi in Puri. The nature of their relationship is now under intense scrutiny by intelligence agencies, as concerns rise over possible security breaches linked to this association.

Priyanka Senapati, a young woman from Puri, is known to have maintained a close friendship with Jyoti Malhotra. Sources reveal that their bond deepened over time, culminating in a joint visit to the Kartarpur Corridor in Pakistan earlier this year.

Priyanka was seen documenting her visit near the Kartarpur Sahib Gurudwara, an act that has drawn the attention of the Intelligence Bureau (IB) and local police.

Following Jyoti's arrest on Saturday, Priyanka was promptly questioned by the IB with assistance from the Puri police. Officials believe that Jyoti may have shared sensitive information about Puri, potentially compromising the security of this prominent pilgrimage site. This has led to a coordinated search and investigation effort involving both central and state intelligence agencies.

Priyanka's father spoke to the media, clarifying his daughter's connection with Jyoti Malhotra. He stated that the two had a professional relationship as content creators, frequently traveling and exploring various locations together. According to him, Priyanka was unaware of any malicious intent behind Jyoti's actions. He confirmed that Priyanka had accompanied Jyoti



to Kartarpur in Pakistan three months ago and assured full cooperation with the ongoing investigation. The father emphasized that following the arrest, his daughter was thoroughly interrogated and responded to all questions posed by the authorities.

The revelations about Jyoti's visit to Puri have prompted an exhaustive inquiry by intelligence agencies. Questions have been raised about the specifics of her stay — including when she arrived, the accommodations she used, the duration of her visit, the people she accompanied, and details surrounding the filming and photography she conducted while in Puri. Every aspect of her activities is being closely monitored.

3 miscreants of Thak Thak Gang nabbed in encounter with Noida Police

Abhishek Byahut Noida

In a late-night encounter near Som Bazaar Cut, Noida Police apprehended three members of the notorious Thak Thak Gang, including one who sustained a bullet injury during a brief exchange of fire. The incident occurred under the jurisdiction of Sector 39 police station.



ACP Noida, Praveen Kumar Singh, said the police team was conducting routine checks when they spotted three suspects riding a scooter. Upon being signaled to stop, the trio opened fire on the police and fled towards the forested area near Sector 43.

"In a retaliatory fire, one of the criminals, identified as Nadeem, was shot. He is a resident of Daya Basti Railway Colony, Sarai Rohilla, Delhi," the ACP said. "A pistol of .315 bore, an empty cartridge, and a scooter were recovered from his possession."

Police revealed that Nadeem had stolen Rs 4,000, an Aadhaar card, and other items from a parked Endeavor car in Sector 36 on May 15.

Sood leads Tiranga Yatra in Janakpuri, lauds Indian Army's bravery

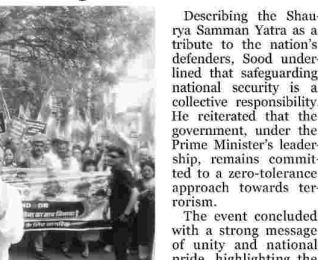
Staff Reporter New Delhi

In a spirited show of patriotism and public solidarity, Delhi Home Minister Ashish Sood led a Tiranga Yatra in Janakpuri to celebrate the success of Operation Sindoore and honour the valor of the Indian armed forces. The march, organized by Citizens for National Security, saw participation from a large number of citizens who walked from Dabri Police Station to Kadimi Market, waving the national flag and chanting patriotic slogans.

Addressing the gathering, Sood praised the courage and commit-

ment of the Indian Army, stating that the successful execution of Operation Sindoore was a testament to India's strength and sovereignty. He described the operation as a decisive and strategic strike against Pakistan, which resulted in significant damage to enemy military infrastructure.

Sood also acknowledged the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, crediting his decisive governance for enabling such a strong military response. He emphasized that India's firm stance against terrorism is unwavering and reflects the country's commitment to national security.



The yatra drew support from various community groups, with citizens expressing their gratitude and respect for the soldiers through heartfelt gestures and slogans.

The event aimed to raise awareness about Operation Sindoore and instill a sense of patriotism and respect for the armed forces, especially among the youth.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Residents boycott society meeting

Noida

Residents of the Mahagan Mantra Society-1 located in Greater Noida West boycotted the monthly meeting with the maintenance management on Sunday over civic apathy.

They also warned of a 20 percent reduction in the maintenance charges, saying for the past one year, suggestions are given to the maintenance management in the monthly meeting. They note them down but do not implement them.

A garbage dump has been built in the basement of the society, due to the foul smell of which it has become difficult to go to the basement, whereas a garbage disposal machine is proposed here.

The greenery of the society is getting destroyed day by day. No steps are being taken to save it. Tiles have broken at many places in the society. The maintenance team has been promising to replace them for a year, but no work is being done on it.

There are not enough CCTV cameras in the society. The ones that are installed are not working properly. The builder has converted the green area on the surface into a parking lot and sold it. Despite repeated requests from the residents, guest parking has not been marked, which causes inconvenience to the visiting guests.

BJP govt fails to meet drinking water demand: Delhi Cong

Staff Reporter
New Delhi

Delhi Pradesh Congress Committee president Deven Yadav said that despite having a 'Triple Engine' BJP government in city, locals have been experiencing severe water shortage.

The Delhi government has failed to meet the total water requirements of the people, he said, adding Delhi needs 1290mgd (Million Gallons per Day) of water but the actual production is only 990mgd out of which, according to the Delhi Jal Board (DJB), 52 percent water is wasted.

Yadav said that the government has admitted in reply to an RTI query by Delhi Congress IT cell that the water supplied from the Yamuna was dirty and highly polluted. He said that according to the government reply, up to April 30, 2025, 811 complaints had been received about residents getting dirty water and 1835 complaints about not getting DJB water.

The Delhi Jal Board has neither the storage capacity to utilise the treated sewage water, nor has it succeeded in getting fresh water from neighbouring BJP-ruled states like Haryana and Uttar Pradesh to meet the total water demands of Delhi, he said.

Yadav said that the BJP had promised in its assembly election manifesto that "our government will not make any excuses or blame others for the problems related to Delhi's health, traffic, electricity, water, transport, etc. and will find effective solutions by collaborating with the neighbouring states, MCD, NDMC and the Central Government", but sadly, people of Delhi have been experiencing severe water shortage.

Delhi government issues SOP for handling bomb threats in schools

It aims to instill a culture of preparedness and vigilance while ensuring a swift and coordinated response during emergencies, the DoE said.

New Delhi

Complying with a high court order, the Delhi government has rolled out a comprehensive Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for managing bomb threats in schools that includes a raft of measures like installing CCTV cameras, making evacuation plans and holding regular safety audits and mock drills.

Designed by the Directorate of Education (DoE), the protocol has a four-tier strategy focusing on prevention, preparedness, response, and recovery.

It aims to instill a culture of preparedness and vigilance while ensuring a swift and coordinated response during emergencies, the DoE said.

To maintain transparency and accountability, schools are now required to submit a monthly safety checklist to their respective district authorities, it said.

The SOP also includes strict warnings against bomb threats and mentions that legal action will be taken against those responsible for false alarms. This applies to students, parents and the staff.

The step is significant as



more than 200 schools in Delhi received bomb threats in 2024-25 that turned out to be hoax.

According to a statement from DoE, the SOP was drafted following directions from the Delhi High Court and is aligned with national safety guidelines. It takes immediate effect and applies to all schools in the capital including government, government-aided, minority-run, and recognised unaided private institutions.

"Each school must create its own threat management plan tailored to its layout and resources," it stated.

The SOP also emphasised the need for regular safety

audits, structured staff training, and awareness campaigns to prepare students and parents for possible emergency situations.

The department in its SOP has instructed the principals and schools to form School Safety Committees, overseeing routine mock drills, ensuring emergency kits are maintained, and coordinating evacuation routes. The SOP has mentioned the seamless coordination with emergency services like Delhi Police, fire service and the traffic police.

"Schools are required to maintain updated building layouts, install CCTV cameras, and secure their perimeters to assist police

and fire personnel during threat assessments and evacuation," the statement stated.

The collaboration extends to identifying emergency holding areas in advance and conducting drills simulating real-life threat scenarios in partnership with Delhi Police and the Fire Department, it read.

Recognising the unique vulnerabilities of some students, the SOP includes clear directives for the evacuation of Children with Special Needs (CWSN).

"Schools must prepare a separate evacuation plan that ensures no child is left behind during an emergency," it stated.

GDA drives digital change with PAHAL

Shiv Kumar
Ghaziabad

In a landmark initiative towards digitization and citizen-centric governance, the Ghaziabad Development Authority (GDA) has launched "PAHAL" (Public Access for Housing and Property Allotment Login), a comprehensive digital platform aimed at revolutionizing the delivery of property-related services to allottees.

Under the dynamic leadership of GDA Vice-Chairman Mr. Atul Vats, IAS, this initiative marks a significant leap in simplifying and accelerating property transactions for more than 1.4 lakh allottees in Ghaziabad.

With the launch of PAHAL, GDA has become the only development authority in Uttar Pradesh to offer such a unified digital system, placing it at the forefront of innovation and administrative reform in the state. The single-window online service platform brings together all essential property-related functions, enabling citizens to access critical services from the comfort of their homes — all via a public-facing portal. Users also receive timely alerts and reminders related to their installment payments, helping them avoid defaults and maintain a smooth payment history.

In line with the government's broader goal of building smart and responsive cities, GDA has also established a dedicated "PAHAL Counter" at its Public Relations Office. This counter is specifically tasked with addressing citizen queries and resolving any issues users may face while using the portal, thereby ensuring a seamless digital experience.

Describing PAHAL as "A New Experience, A New Beginning," Mr. Atul Vats emphasized that this initiative is not just a technological upgrade but a transformation in the way the Authority engages with its citizens. It reflects GDA's commitment to transparency, efficiency, and digital empowerment, setting the tone for future initiatives aimed at improving public service delivery.

Ashish Sood Distributes Ayushman Cards to Senior Citizens in Janakpuri

Staff Reporter
New Delhi

Delhi's Education Minister Ashish Sood on Sunday distributed Ayushman cards to senior citizens at a public event held in Janakpuri, underlining the importance of accessible healthcare for all residents. The event marked a key step in the implementation of the Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PM-JAY) scheme in the national capital.

Addressing the gathering, Sood emphasized that the scheme offers free medical treatment at empanelled hospitals, providing a total health coverage of up to ₹10 lakh per beneficiary. This includes ₹5 lakh from the central government's Ayushman Bharat initiative and an additional ₹5 lakh contribution from the Delhi Government.

"The scheme is a significant



move to reduce the financial burden of illness, particularly for the poor and underprivileged. It ensures that no family has to suffer due to lack of access to quality healthcare," said Sood. He added that the program is not only about providing healthcare services but also about restoring dignity and confidence to families across Delhi.

Sood also criticized the

previously obstructing the rollout of the scheme, claiming that this had delayed crucial access to healthcare for many Delhi residents. He asserted that such delays had impacted the health and well-being of countless families in need.

Highlighting the broader vision behind the initiative, the Minister said that strengthening Delhi's healthcare system is essential to realizing the Prime Minister's

goal of "developed Delhi."

Reaffirming the government's commitment, Sood assured that every citizen, regardless of their economic background, would have access to timely and effective healthcare through continued efforts and policy support.

Kapil Mishra leads Tiranga Yatra celebrating success of 'Operation Sindoor'

Staff Reporter
New Delhi

A massive Vishal Tiranga Yatra was organized in Delhi on Friday by Minister Kapil Mishra to mark the success of Operation Sindoor, a military initiative that has been hailed as a demonstration of India's strategic and defense capabilities.

The yatra commenced from Khajuri Chowk and proceeded to the Signature Bridge, drawing participation from hundreds of citizens. The event was charged with patriotic fervor, as the air echoed with chants of "Bharat Mata Ki Jai" and "Vande Mataram." Participants carried the national flag and expressed pride in India's growing military strength and resolve.

Addressing the crowd, Kapil Mishra highlighted that Operation Sindoor was a historic milestone, showcasing India's military preparedness and determination.



He stated that the operation marked the first time India targeted a nuclear-armed neighbor with such precision and scale, successfully destroying 11 Pakistani airbases and neutralizing over 100 terrorists within a span of just 90 minutes.

Mishra described the operation as a reflection of India's zero tolerance policy against terrorism, aligning with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision for a secure and sovereign nation.

He said the rally was a tribute to the valor and sacrifice of the Indian armed forces and a symbol of national pride and unity.

The Tiranga Yatra also served as a platform to foster awareness among citizens about India's defense accomplishments and the continued threats posed by terrorism. The enthusiastic public turnout and the sea of waving flags along the route stood as a testament to the collective spirit, patriotism, and resolve of the Indian people.

Delhi Police arrests 5 including three juveniles for killing minor over rivalry

New Delhi

Delhi Police claimed to have solved a murder case by arresting five people, including three juveniles, for the allegedly killing a 16-year-old boy in a park for joining their rival criminal group, officials said on Sunday.

According to police, the body of a blood-soaked of Rehan alias Seelampuri was found lying between a bench and a pathway inside the park on the night of May 16.

A police team was on patrolling the area around 11.30 pm, spotted his body and alerted other officers at the Seelampur police station, they said.

Senior officers reached the spot along with a police team and took him to Jag Prवेश Chandra Hospital, where he was declared brought dead by doctors.

Police said a crime team and forensic experts inspected the scene and collected evidence.

"The team launched an operation and apprehended two suspects, including a juvenile, within hours. Based on CCTV footage, the team conducted multiple raids and arrested three more of the accused, including two juveniles," a police officer said.

During interrogation, the accused revealed that they were a part of the same criminal group along with Rehan. However, the victim had recently started associating with a rival group, leading to internal conflicts, he said.

The accused called him to the park on the pretext of resolving the matter and when he resisted, they attacked him using stones, broken bricks, and a shaving blade, the officer added.

They fled the scene after killing him, he said.

The accused were identified as — 23-year-old Faiz alias Ali, a history-sheer, 22-year-old Rahil alias Sahil and three juveniles aged 15 to 17 years. Further investigation is underway to probe the involvement of the accused in other criminal cases, police added.



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PUBLIC NOTICE

That my client NARESH PAL S/O LATE SH. MAUKHAN R/O H. NO. 18, RAM LILA KHET ROAD, BAAG BAKSHI ADNA, BAREILLY U.P. 243301, currently residing at 30/10, DAKSH ROAD, VISHWAS NAGAR, SHAHDARA, DELHI-110032, and his wife SMT. MEENA DEVI, service all the relations/dissolved/debar their daughter namely BHAVNA from all their movable and immovable property/assets. Due to her misbehavior, unlawful conduct and involvement in illicit activities, she had adopted Muslim religion and have married with a muslim boy without any permission with her parents and relatives, any person/persons / any body corporate dealing with her will do so on their own costs, liability and consequences.

RAMIT SINGH SAHARAWAT
DELHI HIGH COURT
ADVOCATE
CH. 323/324, WESTERN WING,
TIS HAZARI, DELHI-110006
DELHI HIGH COURT DELHI-110006

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform at General public that my clientess Smt. Santosh Sharma W/o Late Laxmi Narain Aged 75 years R/o 6252, Ward No. 6, Kucha Nawab Mirza, Gali Batashan, Khari Baoli, Delhi-110006, has severed all her relations from her Son Chintu Sharma @ Kuldips S/o Late Laxmi Narayan aged 44 years R/o 6252, Ward No. 6, Kucha Nawab Mirza, Gali Batashan, Khari Baoli, Delhi-110006, Daughter-in-law Nikita Sharma @ Nirmal W/o Late Anil Sharma Aged 50 years & Grand Son Varsh Kaushik S/o Late Anil Sharma Aged 18 years both R/o 961 Village Ghonda, Gujran Khattar, Gali Bhola Nath, Gamar Road, Ghonda, Shahdara, Delhi-110053 as they are having disrespectful attitude towards my clientess. My clientess hereby disowns & debar all from her all movable & immovable properties with immediate effect. If anyone deals with them in future on behalf of my clientess, shall do so at his/her own risk and responsibility and my clientess shall not be responsible/liable for any acts of above said persons in future.

Sanjay Kumar Jain
(Advocate)
Ch. No. 5-63, Near Gate No.3 Tis Hazari Court, Delhi-54

PUBLIC NOTICE

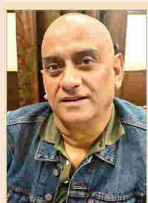
My Client Shashi Monga W/o Late Shri B R Monga R/O268-A Rishi, Shakurbasti, North West Delhi-110034, have disowned their son Shri Ravjy Monga and Ms. Nidhi Monga their daughter in law respectively and their child Kartik Monga from their immovable and movable properties and severed all relations with them due to their misconduct, disobedience and anti-social activities. Anyone who deals with them shall do it at his own risks and costs and my clients or their family shall not be responsible for the same in any manner whatsoever.

MOHIT GULATI
ADVOCATES, LEGAL ADVISORS AND LEGAL CONSULTANTS
Address: 7/19, Block 7, West Patel Nagar, Patel Nagar, New Delhi, 110008.

PUBLIC NOTICE

My Client Shashi Monga W/o Late Shri B R Monga R/O268-A Rishi, Shakurbasti, North West Delhi-110034, have disowned their son Shri Ravjy Monga and Ms. Nidhi Monga their daughter in law respectively and their child Kartik Monga from their immovable and movable properties and severed all relations with them due to their misconduct, disobedience and anti-social activities. Anyone who deals with them shall do it at his own risks and costs and my clients or their family shall not be responsible for the same in any manner whatsoever.

Kulvinder Kaur
Advocate and Legal Consultant
Rohini Court, Delhi 110085



Dr Anil Singh, Editor, STAR Views

Bihar 2025: Realignment, Rising Forces, and the Road Ahead in a High-Stakes Electoral Battle

As Bihar gears up for its 2025 Legislative Assembly elections, the political landscape is experiencing significant realignments and strategic positioning by major parties. Below is a comprehensive analysis of how key political entities are preparing, alongside critical factors likely to influence voter sentiment.

National Democratic Alliance (NDA): Emphasizing Social Representation

The NDA, primarily consisting of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and Janata Dal (United) (JD(U)), is strategically positioning itself to appeal broadly to marginalized communities. It is expected that over 75% of its candidates will be drawn from Other Backward Classes (OBCs), Extremely Backward Classes (EBCs), Scheduled Castes (SCs), and Maha Dalits, signalling a calculated approach rooted deeply in caste dynamics and social engineering.

However, the alliance faces internal challenges. The Lok Janshakti Party (Ram Vilas), under Chirag Paswan, has decided to contest independently due to dissatisfaction with previous seat-sharing arrangements within the NDA. This decision highlights internal complexities and poses challenges to the alliance's voter consolidation efforts.

INDIA Alliance: Leadership and Inclusion Dilemmas

The INDIA alliance, primarily composed of the Rashtriya Janata



Dal (RJD) and the Indian National Congress, finds itself at a critical leadership juncture. Discussions around whether veteran leader Lalu Prasad Yadav will continue as party president or whether the leadership will shift to his son, Tejshwi Prasad Yadav, have become particularly significant amid growing youth engagement within the party.

Additionally, the alliance is considering new partnerships, notably the inclusion of the All India Muslims-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen (AIMIM), led by Asaduddin Owaisi. This potential collaboration could significantly broaden the alliance's appeal beyond its traditional base, thereby influencing electoral outcomes substantially.

Emerging Political Forces: BSP and Jan Suraj Party

The Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) plans to independently contest all 243 assembly seats, positioning itself as a viable alternative to both established alliances. This ambitious stance could disrupt traditional voter bases and significantly impact election dynamics.

Similarly, the Jan Suraj Party, led by Prashant Kishor, is entering the electoral fray across all constituencies. Although the party did not win seats in recent by-elections, its notable share of votes indicates potential influence in closely contested regions, suggesting a possible role as a critical vote-splitter.

Factors Influencing Voter Sentiment

In my book titled Bihar: Chaos to Chaos (2013), I have examined the caste factor in electoral behavior across several Assembly election cycles in Bihar. The analysis in that book underscores how caste identity remains a consistent and powerful determinant in the voting patterns of the state.

Several key issues are likely to shape voter preferences in the forthcoming elections:

- **Caste Dynamics:** A comprehensive caste census remains a pivotal issue, directly influencing party strategies and voter expectations.
- **Economic Issues:** Concerns related to em-

ployment, migration, and corruption are expected to dominate electoral narratives, with parties actively tailoring their agendas to address these pressing challenges.

• **Women's Empowerment:** Targeted outreach towards women voters remains central to party campaigns. The JD(U)'s past initiatives aimed at empowering women have set a precedent, compelling opposition parties to intensify their engagement with this influential demographic.

• **Legislative Impacts:** The Waqf Amendment Bill has triggered substantial debates, particularly affecting Muslim voter sentiments, a demographic pivotal in several constituencies.

• **Youth Mobilization:** With a significant youth demographic, political parties are increasingly prioritizing youth-centric policies and actively engaging young voters through targeted campaigns and promises.

A Way Forward: Navigating Bihar's Political Future

As Bihar approaches election day, political

actors must move beyond symbolic gestures and commit to transparent governance, inclusive policy-making, and long-term development strategies.

To ensure meaningful transformation:

- Alliances must be rooted in shared governance visions rather than opportunistic arithmetic.
- Parties should deliver on promises with measurable outcomes in employment, education, health, and infrastructure.
- Greater emphasis on decentralization and local empowerment can strengthen citizen trust.
- Youth and women's participation should translate into actual representation and budgeted programs.

The 2025 elections present an opportunity for Bihar to chart a new path—one that moves past old binaries and toward inclusive, accountable, and development-focused governance.

How effectively parties navigate these complexities will decisively shape Bihar's future political landscape.

(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.

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

Solution, Sudoku

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

THE WISDOM TREE BY SUVEEN KUMAR

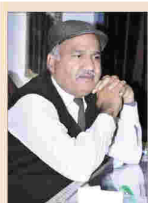
REFELCTION

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

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



New dimensions of green energy production



By Vijay Garg

In a rapidly changing global scenario, where climate change and energy security concerns are on the rise, India has taken an adventurous step towards green hydrogen. Green hydrogen is often called future fuel. India wants to play a leading role in realizing it. A key step in this direction came when the Green Hydrogen Certification Scheme was launched during a 'national workshop' held in New Delhi recently. The scheme is an integral part of India's National Green Hydrogen Mission. It is a clean energy carrier, which means it can be used by storing this energy, but it is not the primary source of energy. When hydrogen is used as a fuel, it only releases water that does not cause any harmful emissions. It makes it an attractive alternative to fossil fuels such as coal, oil and gas, which emit carbon dioxides and other pollutants on burning. It is usually identified by colours in the manner basis of production of hydrogen. Hydrogen is extracted using natural gas or other fossil fuels in 'grey' green hydrogen'. In this process a large amount of carbon dioxide is excreted, which is greenhouse gas and contributes to climate change. Therefore, grey hydrogen is not clean. Blue hydrogen is also produced from fossil fuels (usually natural gas) itself, but carbon dioxide that is excreted in the process is somehow stored. If it is done effectively, the emission of blue hydrogen is significantly less com-

pared to that of grey hydrogen but would have been. It is not completely emission free and is dependent on fossil fuels. At the same time green hydrogen is the most desirable and clean form of hydrogen. Green hydrogen is produced by electrolysis of water. In this process electricity is used to divide water into hydrogen and oxygen. In this process no fossil fuels burn and electricity comes from renewable sources, so green hydrogen production is almost emission free. This is why it is called green. Hydrogen can be produced domestically, especially by using India's giant renewable energy potential (solar and wind). This will reduce dependence on fossil fuel imports and increase country's energy security. India is one of the largest greenhouse gas emitters in the world. In order to meet its climate goals and meet its commitments under the Paris Agreement, India needs to bring a huge decrease in its emissions. The development of the green hydrogen economy will develop new industries, manufacturing units and service sectors. This will lead to a large number of employment opportunities, including the construction and operation of renewable energy plants, laying hydrogen pipeline, and the development of new technologies for the use of green hydrogen. As green hydrogen demand will rise globally, India can export green hydrogen and products

made from it (such as green ammonia) by taking advantage of its large production capacity. It can become a big source of earning foreign exchange for the country. Recognizing all these significance, the Government of India approved the National Green Hydrogen Mission on January 9, 2023. This mission is an ambitious initiative to make India a global hub for the production, use and export of green hydrogen. In major mission objectives, at least fifty lakh metric tonnes per annum by 2030 is to develop green hydrogen production capacity and bring down more than one lakh crore rupees in fossil fuel imports. The Green Hydrogen Certification Scheme is the basis of transparency and reliability. The main function of the plan is to certify that the hydrogen produced is actually green. This will be done by setting a certain limit of greenhouse gas emissions in the production process. Only hydrogen that is produced with less emissions than this range will be certified as green hydrogen. The certification plan will ensure that the hydrogen 'K' claims sold in the market are true and they meet a set environmental standard. Also the certification plan will set up a mechanism to find out where and how hydrogen was produced. When consumers, industries

and international partners will believe that certified green hydrogen is really clean, market growth will be rapid. Certification will work like a quality assurance seal. There are also some challenges in the development of the green hydrogen economy and the implementation of the certification plan. Actually, at present, the production of green hydrogen is costlier than grey hydrogen. Need to refine technologies and achieve economies of scale to reduce costs. The production, storage and transportation of green hydrogen will require the creation of huge new infrastructure. It is important to develop international standards for production, quality and safety and follow them. The certification plan is a big step in this direction. Training programs are required to prepare skilled manpower for green hydrogen field. The Government of India is taking proactive steps to face these challenges. The focus is on incentive and infrastructure development under the National Green Hydrogen Mission. Green hydrogen is an important pillar of India's clean energy future. India's National Green Hydrogen Mission provides an outline to realise this potential. Launching Green Hydrogen Certification Scheme A decisive step towards

this mission. The launch of the scheme reflects India's commitment to the green hydrogen economy. It will not only help achieve the ambitious target of fifty lakh metric tonnes of green hydrogen production by 2030 of India, but will set India as a reliable and leading player in the global green hydrogen landscape. As the world is moving towards clean energy, India's Green Hydrogen Mission and its certification plan presents an inspiring example. It shows how a nation can face its energy challenges, create economic opportunities and also protect the environment. This is a new chapter of green energy, and India is all set to write this chapter.

(Vijay Garg Retired Principal Educational Columnist Eminent Educationist street kour Chand MHR Malout Punjab)

TOP STORY

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CM Mann hails Punjab's learning leap

Komal Ramola
Chandigarh

In a significant reflection of the ongoing educational transformation in Punjab, Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann on Sunday declared that the remarkable performance of students in the recent Class 10 and 12 board examinations signals a new dawn for the state, inching closer to the vision of a 'Rangla Punjab.' He said the state's youth are playing a decisive role in reshaping Punjab's destiny through academic excellence.

Addressing the meritorious students during a felicitation ceremony at his official residence in Chandigarh, the Chief Minister praised the outstanding results as a testament to the revolutionary changes brought about in the education sector by the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) government. He proudly noted that government schools, especially in rural areas, have surpassed expectations. Rural schools registered an exceptional pass percentage of 96.09%, while urban government schools followed closely with an impressive 94%, marking one of the highest performances in recent history.

Mann highlighted that nearly 1,000 out of Punjab's 3,840 senior secondary schools achieved a perfect 100% pass percentage. Drawing a contrast with neighboring Haryana, he



marked that while Punjab celebrates academic excellence, several schools in Haryana recorded complete failures—a stark indicator of the widening gap in educational standards.

In a moment of particular pride for the state, the Chief Minister noted that many of the top-performing students hailed from small and remote villages, underscoring the deep impact of educational reforms even in the state's most far-flung corners. "This is the new Punjab," he said, reinforcing the idea that transformation is truly taking root across all sections of society.

Mann also drew attention to the fact that 26 of the high achievers are not only academic performers but

also budding sportspersons, effectively balancing their educational goals with sporting pursuits. The competitive nature of this year's examinations was further illustrated by three students who scored identical top marks. Amritsar district, he said, emerged as the best-performing district overall.

Expressing gratitude to the teachers and parents, the Chief Minister called the educators the "unsung heroes" of Punjab's education success story. He acknowledged their relentless efforts, dedication, and perseverance, which have culminated in the extraordinary performance of their students.

Continuing the tradition of female academic excellence, girls once again outper-

formed boys in both the 10th and 12th exams. Mann attributed this to the state government's focused efforts on ensuring quality education reaches every corner of Punjab, especially for girls. The administration's initiatives have opened new doors for young women, empowering them to shine in academic fields and beyond. He extended heartfelt congratulations to all the successful students, encouraging them to pursue higher education and set an example for others.

"The students, their families, and their teachers deserve all the praise," Mann said. "Through their hard work and dedication, these students will become role models for others." He em-

phasized that the government remains fully committed to creating a conducive learning environment, especially for girls, ensuring that every child in Punjab has the opportunity to succeed.

Mann also highlighted Punjab's historical legacy of resilience and excellence, asserting that the state has always been a frontrunner and will continue to lead through the tireless efforts of its people. "I am not working for the next election; I am working for the next generation," he said, stressing that the series of reforms and initiatives taken under his leadership are aimed at building a stronger future for the state.

The Chief Minister noted the global success of Punjab, proudly stating that Punjab is the only state in the world whose people have a significant presence across global industries. He cited that 45% of the engineers working with aerospace giant Boeing hail from Guru Nanak Engineering College in Ludhiana. Moreover, the CEOs of leading companies like Flipkart, Ola, and Mastercard also have Punjabi roots.

Mann emphasized that the youth of Punjab possess extraordinary potential and that their talent must be harnessed for the state's progress. "They are air-craft, and our government will act as their launchpad," he said, adding that he will not rest until every young

person in the state gets the opportunity to fulfill their aspirations.

He urged the students to remain grounded despite their successes and to remember that hard work is the only key to lasting achievement. He encouraged them to look for opportunities within Punjab itself, stressing that there is ample scope for growth and prosperity on their home soil. "Our mission is to ensure that Punjab becomes a hub of education, opportunity, and progress," he said.

In a strong message against the menace of drugs, Mann pointed to the damage caused by previous governments' neglect, which he said left the state vulnerable to addiction. He appealed to the students and youth to join the government's fight against drug abuse, calling the issue a "blot" on Punjab's image. Mann reiterated his government's commitment to the anti-drug campaign 'Yudh Nasheyan De Virudh' (War Against Drugs), asserting that the goal is to completely eradicate the scourge and restore the state's dignity and health.

With a blend of pride and determination, Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann concluded that Punjab's future lies in the hands of its youth, and through education, empowerment, and resilience, the state is on a transformative path toward becoming a model for the entire country.

BJP should take 'tuition' from Socialists on river cleaning: Akhilesh

Lucknow

Samajwadi Party supremo Akhilesh Yadav on Sunday accused the BJP of misleading people in the name of river cleaning and said it should take "tuition" from Socialists on how to clean rivers.

In a statement, he said the BJP had promised to clean rivers but failed to deliver on its commitment.

Large-scale corruption has taken place in the name of river rejuvenation, he alleged. Referring to the Gomti riverfront project initiated during his tenure as Uttar Pradesh chief minister, Yadav said, "The work done by the Samajwadi Party government for cleaning rivers was halted by the BJP government. Even the Gomti riverfront project, a world-class example developed by our government, was not allowed to be completed. It showed how rivers across the state could be cleaned. The BJP made tall promises about cleaning the Ganga but failed to deliver even after 10 years in power."

He targeted the Centre's flagship Namami Gange programme, calling it a slogan that has "vanished" and claimed even the aquatic life in the Yamuna had become a casualty of the ruling party's rhetoric. "The BJP has deceived people several times in the name of rivers. The Nana-



mi Gange slogan has vanished and now, in the name of Yamuna cleaning, even the flora and fauna are victims of the BJP's gimmicks," he said.

Yadav said, "If BJP leaders wish, they can take tuition from the Socialists on river cleaning. They can even organise guest lectures by Samajwadi Party leaders to learn from the Gomti riverfront project about cleanliness and beautification — free of cost."

Rivers give life, they don't take it, he asserted.

"Will there only be politics over the Yamuna now or will funds meant for cleaning be siphoned off instead? Let's not forget that the Yamuna flows behind the Taj Mahal, a global tourist attraction. A polluted river tarnishes the government's image too," he added.

Citing a Wildlife Institute of India study, the Kannauj MP claimed that pollution in the Ganga was threatening several aquatic species.

Massive crowd gathers for Tiranga procession in Bulandshahr

Avnish Tyagi
Bulandshahr

In a powerful display of national pride and unity, a massive Tiranga (Tricolour) Procession was organized in Bulandshahr city on Sunday evening, drawing thousands of enthusiastic participants. The Shaurya Tiranga Yatra, as the event was officially named, became a grand celebration of patriotism, valor, and collective pride, as people from all walks of life took to the streets waving the Indian flag and raising slogans in praise of the nation.



soon went viral on social media, symbolizing the passion and unity that marked the event.

Women played a prominent role in the procession, many of them carrying the national flag and placards inscribed with messages lauding the success of Operation Sindoor. The slogans resounded with deep emotion, expressing gratitude to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and saluting the efforts of the nation's defense forces. The women's participation further underscored the inclusive spirit of the event, demonstrating that patriotism knows no gender.

The Shaurya Tiranga Yatra covered a distance of nearly two kilometers, starting from Rajay Babu Park at Kala Aam. The event began with a tribute to the martyrs and national heroes, setting a solemn yet proud tone for the procession. The ceremonial hoisting of the national flag by prominent dignitaries

marked the formal inauguration of the yatra.

Several senior leaders and political figures were present on the occasion, lending significance and gravitas to the event. Among them were State Minister Narendra Kashyap, Member of Parliament Dr. Bhola Singh, BJP District President Vikas Chauhan, and MLAs Laxmi Raj Singh, Meenakshi Singh, and Pradeep Chaudhary. Their presence was warmly welcomed by the crowd, who joined in cheering and raising slogans such as "Bharat Mata ki Jai" and "Jai Shri Ram."

The vibrant atmosphere of the city was further elevated by the sounds of marching bands, DJ music playing patriotic songs, and the collective chants that echoed through the streets. The entire city appeared united in its celebration of India's spirit and the success of national initiatives like Operation Sindoor.

Saharanpur Railway Station undergoes major redevelopment under Amrit Bharat Scheme

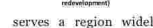
Staff Reporter
Saharanpur

Saharanpur Railway Station in Uttar Pradesh is undergoing significant redevelopment as part of the Amrit Bharat Station Scheme, a nationwide initiative aimed at modernizing 1,309 railway stations across India. The ambitious project, launched by Indian Railways, is designed to transform key transit hubs with enhanced infrastructure and passenger amenities.

Situated on the vital Amritsar-Horwarh and Delhi-Dehradun rail routes, Saharanpur Railway Station



Saharanpur Railway Station (before redevelopment)



Saharanpur Railway Station (after redevelopment)

marked the formal inauguration of the yatra.

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serves a region widely known for sugarcane pro-

duction and plays a crucial role in regional connectivity. On February 26, 2024, Prime Minister Narendra Modi laid the foundation stone for the redevelopment of 553 stations under the scheme, including Saharanpur.

The station's transformation includes a wide array of modern amenities and architectural upgrades. Newly constructed roof plazas, landscaped areas, designated parking facilities, food courts, kiosks, and eco-friendly features are part of the redesigned station layout. These enhancements are coupled with improved

accessibility for people with disabilities and a design that reflects local culture and heritage.

Key facilities at Saharanpur have already seen substantial upgrades. Waiting areas, ticket booking halls, retiring rooms, and toilets have been renovated to offer a cleaner and more comfortable experience. Passengers now benefit from wider pathways, modernized entry and exit gates, enhanced parking facilities, improved signage, and upgraded seating arrangements. The redevelopment also includes dedicated features for the convenience of

differently-abled individuals.

The Amrit Bharat Station Scheme represents Indian Railways' commitment to improving travel experiences for millions of passengers by creating stations that are not only efficient and user-friendly but also aesthetically aligned with regional identities.

Alongside Saharanpur, stations such as Meerut City, Moradnagar, Muradnagar, and Rohtak are also set to be redeveloped under the same scheme, further extending the benefits of modern infrastructure to more parts of northern India.

Mother poisons herself and two children after domestic dispute, all critical

Rajan Panchhi
Mandi

In a shocking and heart-breaking incident from the Chachiot area under the Gohar sub-division of Mandi district, a 26-year-old woman allegedly poisoned her two young sons and herself following a domestic dispute. The woman, identified as Kusum, wife of Naresh Kumar, reportedly took this extreme step in a fit of rage after an argument with her husband.

The incident took place in

the village of Bhota Sukhisa. Kusum is said to have consumed poison and also forced her two children—aged just two and seven—to ingest it. The horrifying act came to light when the family members noticed the trio vomiting and immediately rushed them to the Gohar Hospital.

Considering the severity of their condition, they were referred to the Medical College in Nerchowk, where all three are currently undergoing treatment. The con-

dition of the two children is said to be extremely critical.

The tragedy has sent shockwaves through the community. Questions are being raised about what level of anger could push a mother to such a devastating act against her own children—whom she had once carried in her womb for nine months. People at the hospital and in the community are expressing both grief and outrage, struggling to comprehend how a mother could take such a

Over 10 kg heroin recovered in Amritsar 3 held

Chandigarh

Punjab Police on Sunday said it has busted an international narco trafficking cartel with the arrest of its three operatives after recovering 10.2 kg heroin from their possession.

Director General of Police (DGP) Gaurav Yadav said the accused have been identified as Akshdeep Singh (22) and Akash alias Mota (19), both residents of Cheema Kalan in Tarn Taran and Sandeep Singh (30), a resident of Kotli Vasawva Singh in Tarn Taran.

Apart from recovering heroin, police have also impounded their two motorcycles, which were being used to deliver the drugs.

DGP Yadav said a preliminary probe has revealed that Akshdeep and Sandeep remained in touch with some Pakistani smugglers from across the border for the past six years.

The Pakistani smugglers were using drones to deliver heroin consignments across the border, which was then distributed at various locations for further distribution, he said, adding that further probe is on to trace backward and forward linkages in this network.

CM Saini pledges inclusive progress through saintly values

Praveen Attre
New Delhi/Chandigarh

A grand state-level celebration of Shri Guru Gorakhnath Prakatotsav was held in Sonapat today under the 'Sant-Mahapurusha Samman Vichar Evm Prasar Yojana', an initiative of the Haryana Government aimed at promoting the teachings of saints and revered personalities across all segments of society. Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini attended the event as the chief guest and reiterated the state government's dedication to inclusive development guided by the principles of spiritual and moral values.

Addressing the gathering, the Chief Minister paid homage to Shri Guru Gorakhnath Ji and expressed gratitude for participating in the Prakatotsav. He described the occasion as a moment of immense fortune and emphasized the government's commitment to the upliftment of every section of society, inspired by the ideals and teachings of saints. He stated that improving the standard of living of the poorest citizens remains the primary goal of the current administration. On this occasion, the Chief Minister made several announcements, including the naming of a chokh in

Sonapat after Shri Guru Gorakhnath Ji. He also declared a grant of ₹31 lakh for the renovation of Dharamshalas belonging to the Jogi community in the state. Additionally, he distributed 30 motorized tricycles to persons with disabilities as part of a larger initiative under Indian Oil's CSR fund, which will provide 100 such tricycles.

Prior to the event, the Chief Minister inaugurated and laid the foundation stone for four development projects worth approximately ₹104.05 crore. This included the foundation stone for three new projects totaling

₹84.82 crore and the inauguration of a completed project worth ₹19.23 crore.

Highlighting the recent success of 'Operation Sindoor', CM Saini lauded the courage and discipline of India's armed forces under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Referring to the recent terror attack in Pahalgam, he said the nation mourned the loss of innocent lives and stood united in its resolve against terrorism. Operation Sindoor, he noted, was a decisive and swift counter-terrorism measure that destroyed key terror hubs in Pakistan within three hours, sending a clear mes-

sage to the world that India would not tolerate terrorism in any form.

The Chief Minister described India as a land of saints and sages, whose teachings form a collective heritage that all citizens must work to preserve and promote. He noted that since the formation of the Modi government in 2014, Haryana has taken several steps under the 'Sant-Mahapurusha Samman Vichar Evm Prasar Yojana' to disseminate the values taught by spiritual leaders. The celebration of Shri Guru Gorakhnath Ji's birth anniversary is a significant part of this ongoing initiative.

Referring to the global promotion of yoga, CM Saini said that Shri Guru Gorakhnath Ji played a pivotal role in taking the knowledge of yoga to the masses. Inspired by this legacy, Prime Minister Modi launched efforts to globalize yoga, culminating in the United Nations' declaration of June 21 as International Yoga Day in 2014. Today, yoga is widely recognized and practiced worldwide. In Haryana, the government has made yoga a compulsory subject for students from Class 10 to 12 starting from the 2022-23 academic session. Yoga education is also being imparted at

the college and university level. To institutionalize these efforts, the Haryana Yoga Commission has been established. Additionally, the state is promoting physical fitness through the development of yoga and vyayamshalas in rural areas. As of now, 687 vyayamshalas have been made operational, with another 300 in various stages of development.

Reaffirming the government's commitment to the welfare of backward classes and the underprivileged, CM Saini said it is the administration's responsibility to simplify and dignify the lives of citizens.

Ahead of India Series, ECB sacks data analysts as McCullum set to rely on gut: Report

London: England and Wales Cricket Board has sacked its data analysts Freddie Wilde and Nathan Leamon, weeks ahead of Test series against India as head coach Brendon McCullum wants to put more emphasis on gut feeling and intuition.

Advertisement
England's new World Test Championship cycle starts with a five-match series against a new-look Indian side, starting June 20 at the Headingley.

"Two of England's senior cricket analysts, Nathan Leamon and Freddie Wilde, are leaving the set-up in a move that suggests the national side will place less emphasis on data moving forward," The Daily Telegraph reported.

Advertisement
Leamon and Wilde — England's senior data analyst and white-ball analyst respectively — are both winding down their involvement with the national team.

"Neither will be involved in England's white-ball series against West Indies at the end of the month, which marks the start of Harry Brook's reign as captain in both limited-overs formats," the report further stated.

After seeing Rohit getting 'bored' at No.4, Shastri decided to make Hitman opener" McCullum "hasn't been a firm believer in data-only approach, which he feels is more suited for T20 format compared to longer version."

"The England hierarchy believe that analysis is more important in franchise cricket than the international game, where players tend to have fewer easily exploitable weaknesses," the report stated.

McCullum also feels that lesser number of support staff also leads to an uncluttered atmosphere.

"As part of this approach, England players are encouraged to take more responsibility for their preparation and performance and there has been a reduction in the number of support staff on match days to de-clutter the dressing room," the report added.

In fact, England's approach has been to contrary to India's where David's era saw more and more emphasis on data.

IPL 2025: Time for Pant to fire as LSG hopes hang in balance

Lucknow: Rishabh Pant will aim to hit the refresh button after a wretched run as Lucknow Super Giants make one last ditch attempt to stay alive in IPL play-offs rare by winning their remaining three league matches, starting with clash against Sunrisers Hyderabad here Monday.

Last year's finalists SRH are already out of contention and will be playing for pride while LSG have an outside chance of sneaking into the last-four if they can get to 16 points with three emphatic wins.

LSG's net run-rate -0.469 however makes it virtually impossible unless their last three opponents are completely annihilated.

Advertisement
For SRH, it will be a chance for some of their players to shrug off rustiness that has plagued their campaign through and through.

RR continue poor run while batting second in IPL 2025, slip to another narrow loss

Jaipur: Rajasthan Royals (RR) continued their disappointing run in the ongoing Indian Premier League (IPL), with yet another narrow defeat while batting second against Punjab Kings (PBKS) at Jaipur on Sunday.

RR's poor run while chasing a target continues this season. This season has often witnessed the opening pair of Yashasvi Jaiswal and Sanju Samson/Vaibhav Suryavanshi setting things up nicely for RR, only for the middle-order to succumb to the nerves and scoreboard pressure and leave their team just a few runs short of the chase.

This season, RR has batted second in nine matches, only winning once. They have lost on eight occasions. They have tied with now-defunct Pune Warriors India (PWI) for most losses batting second in a season. PWI also lost eight matches in 2012 and 2013 while batting second.

Advertisement
While batting second, RR has suffered some really narrow losses. This

PBKS' Wadhwa reveals secret behind team's consistent 200-runs totals in IPL 2025

Jaipur: After the completion of the first innings between Rajasthan Royals (RR) and Punjab Kings (PBKS) in the Indian Premier League (IPL) 2025 on Sunday, left-hand batter Nehal Wadhwa opened up on the reason behind scoring 200-plus runs constantly in the ongoing tournament.

The Shreyas Iyer-led team has slammed six 200-plus scores in the ongoing 18th edition of the cash-rich league so far in the 12 matches they have played in the competition.

"It was wonderful batting there today. I think Shreyas bhai and I both played well together. I think 220 is a very good score on this wicket. Shashank and Omarzai played well towards the end. The talks have been clear with the captain and coach. We have to punish the loose balls, that's why we are scoring 200 runs frequently," Nehal Wadhwa said after the first innings.

Advertisement
"That positive approach has helped us. I think the preparations happen in the nets. The way the players play in the nets, they play sim-

ilarly in the game. It is quite hot today, but the surface is looking good. We have good bowlers, I am pretty sure we are going to nail this game," the uncapped Indian player added.

A career-best half-century from Nehal Wadhwa and a blistering effort from Shashank Singh towards the end over helped Punjab Kings (PBKS) score 219/5 in their 20 overs against Rajasthan Royals (RR) in their Indian Premier League (IPL) match at Jaipur on Sunday.

After being reduced



This season, RR has batted second in nine matches, only winning once. They have lost on eight occasions.

run of disappointing last-over losses started with the match against DC, where, needing nine runs in the final over, they lost the match in the Super Over after the game ended in a tie. After that, they have suffered heartbreaking losses to Lucknow Super Giants (by two runs), against Royal Challengers Bengaluru (by 11 runs), to Kolkata Knight Riders (by one run) and now Punjab Kings (by 11 runs).

Dhruv Jurel (302 in 12 innings with two fifties and a strike rate of 150.24), Shimron Hetmyer (227 runs in 12 innings with a fifty and a strike rate of 142.76), Riyan Parag (390 runs in 13 innings with a fifty and a strike rate of 168.24), and Shubham Dubey (106 runs in eight innings with a strike rate of 160.60) have failed to finish matches on a positive note for RR.

With RR sitting at the ninth spot with three

wins and 10 losses, one cannot help but wonder how their campaign could have been had they won all these matches.

Opting to bat first, PBKS was 34/3. Following that, a 67-run stand between skipper Shreyas Iyer (30 in 25 balls, five fours) and Nehal Wadhwa (70 in 37 balls, with five fours and five sixes) and a 58-run partnership between Wadhwa and Shashank Singh (59* in 30 balls, with five fours and three

sixes) solidified PBKS's hold on the game. Then an explosive partnership between Shashank and Azmatullah Omarzai (21* in three balls, with three fours and a six) took PBKS to 219/5 in their 20 overs.

Tushar Deshpande (2/37) was the leading wicket-taker for RR.

In the run-chase, young openers Yashasvi Jaiswal (50 in 25 balls, with nine fours and a six) and Vaibhav Suryavanshi (40 in 15 balls, with four boundaries and four sixes) provided RR with the start they needed, getting 76 runs in just 4.5 overs. RR kept up with the run-rate despite losing wickets later, with Dhruv Jurel (53 in 31 balls, with six fours and four sixes) playing another fine knock. However, other batters failed to respond to the scoreboard pressure, falling 11 runs short, with RR finishing at 209/7.

A brilliant bowling performance from left-arm spinner Harpreet Brar guided the Punjab Kings (PBKS) team to victory over the Rajasthan Royals (RR) by 10 runs at the Savai Mansingh Stadium.

Speaking about the team's loss, the wicket-keeper-batter said at the post-match presentation, "We started off well, couldn't ask for anything more from the openers, having scored 90 runs in the powerplay. We couldn't carry on the momentum we got in the powerplay. It (target) was quite achiev-

"Couldn't carry on momentum we got in powerplay": Sanju Samson on his team's loss against PBKS



Jaipur: Rajasthan Royals (RR) skipper Sanju Samson revealed the reason behind his team's defeat against the Punjab Kings (PBKS) in the 59th encounter of the Indian Premier League (IPL) 2025 on Sunday.

A brilliant bowling performance from left-arm spinner Harpreet Brar guided the Punjab Kings (PBKS) team to victory over the Rajasthan Royals (RR) by 10 runs at the Savai Mansingh Stadium.

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able today. The wicket played completely different today. That was a chaseable score with the kind of power-hitters we had. It's a bit hard to nail it down to one thing, we have to get the job done. A couple of experienced guys should take responsibility and do their job. Definitely a lot of improvements to be done for the upcoming season. We can't try much, the first priority is to win the game (vs CSK)."

Opting to bat first, PBKS was 34/3. Following that, a 67-run stand between skipper Shreyas Iyer (30 in 25 balls, five fours) and Nehal Wadhwa (70 in 37 balls, with five fours and five sixes) and a 58-run partnership between Wadhwa and Shashank Singh (59* in 30 balls, with five fours and three sixes) solidified PBKS's hold on the game.

KL Rahul's century drives DC to competitive 199/3 against GT

New Delhi:

A masterclass century under pressure by opener KL Rahul and his useful partnerships with Abhishek Porel and Axar Patel helped Delhi Capitals (DC) march to 199/3 in their 20 overs against Gujarat Titans (GT) at Arun Jaitley Stadium on Sunday.

Advertisement
With this century, KL has scored his fifth IPL ton and overall seventh in T20s. DC needs to defend 200 to secure their seventh win of the season and boost their playoff chances.

After GT put DC to bat first, the visitors surely proved their decision right as for the first three overs, GT pacers Mohammed Siraj and Arshad Khan built up pressure on openers KL Rahul and Faf Du Plessis, not letting them even collect singles. Faf continued his mediocre run, succumbing to the pressure. He gave an easy catch to Siraj at mid-on, but Arshad Khan dismissed him for five in 10 balls. DC was 10/1 in 3.2 overs.

New Zealand seamer William O'Rourke is a welcome addition in place of an injured Mayank Yadav, who is once again out for an indefinite period.

It will once again depend on top three which includes South African Aiden Markram (348) and Mitchell Marsh (378).

The problem with LSG has been the middle order that hasn't performed as per expectations, except save Ayush Badoni (326). David Miller (160 runs) has also not set the stage on fire during the final overs.

Following his side's win over Rajasthan Royals (RR), Punjab Kings (PBKS) skipper Shreyas Iyer bailed spinner Harpreet Brar for his spell, saying that the bowler has been extremely consistent in the nets and his mindset has been tremendous throughout the tournament.

PBKS took a step closer to their playoff qualification with a fine win over RR, climbing up to the second spot in the points table. Fine half-centuries from Nehal Wadhwa and Shashank Singh, and a brilliant three-wicket haul from Harpreet Brar were the standout performances.

Speaking during the post-match presentation, Iyer said, "I was just passing on the message to all the players to keep a positive body language. You tend to drop and feel



the experienced Indian batter put back pressure on GT, with two well-timed fours against Siraj and by looting 17 runs off Kagiso Rabada's first over, the final one of the powerplay. This included two sixes and four from Rahul.

At the end of six overs, DC was 45/1, with KL (36*) and Axar (1*) unbeaten.

DC brought up their 50-run mark in seven overs. KL brought up another fifty in the season, in just 35 balls, with five boundaries and two sixes. This was his fourth of the season.

With Porel and Rahul upping the attack, DC reached 81/1 in 10 overs, with KL (56*) and Porel (15*) unbeaten. After getting to his fifty, Rahul upped the ante, with two sixes against Rabada.

Their 90-run partnership ended, with Sai Kishore getting. Porel caught behind by Jos Buttler for 30 in 19 balls (with a four and three sixes). DC was 106/2 in 12 overs.

Skipper Axar Patel joined KL at the crease, and the duo collected some boundaries against spinners. At the end of 15 overs, DC was 136/2,

with Axar (10*) and Rahul (86*) unbeaten.

The promising partnership between KL and Axar was cut short as the skipper was caught by Sai Kishore on a Prasad Krishna delivery at third man for 25 in 16 balls, with two fours and a six. DC was 151/3 in 16.2 overs.

KL continued his innings unaffected by the falling wickets, absorbing all the pressure. He finally reached his fifth IPL century in 60 balls, with 12 fours and four sixes, giving Prasad his most expensive spell of the season: 1/47 in four overs.

"He has been consistent in nets...": PBKS skipper Iyer hails Brar after win over RR

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the game has gone away from you, but I am proud of every player out there to show that sort of great and bold approach."

"He (Brar) has been consistent in the nets. He wants to do the best for himself; he was hungry for this opportunity, and today I feel he stepped in and delivered at his best. Congratulations to him, and his mindset has been a tremendous throughout. Absolutely brilliant approach and attitude change the game from any situation."



since his record Rs 27 crore bidding at the IPL auctions last year.

With 128 runs from 11 games at a strike rate of less than 100 and average of 12.80, it couldn't have gotten worse for Pant. Things can only go up from here on.

even though IPL is a different format, getting a few impactful innings and guiding the team to victory is always good optics just before any major announcement.

The forced break couldn't have come at a more opportune time as it must have given the stockily built Rourkee man a chance to

go back to the drawing board and analyse his own game.

LSG will also want their main batter Nicholas Pooran (410 runs) to start firing once again as he had tapered off after a bright start in the first five or six games.

Advertisement

Zelenskyy meets US EU leaders in Rome ahead of Trump-Putin call

Kyiv: Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy met with top US officials and European leaders in Rome on Sunday, part of stepped-up diplomatic efforts ahead of a high-stakes phone call Monday between US President Donald Trump and Russian President Vladimir Putin on ending the war in Ukraine.

Zelenskyy spoke with US Vice President JD Vance and Secretary of State Marco Rubio at the US ambassador's residence, while German Chancellor Friedrich Merz said he had spoken both to Zelenskyy and to Rubio on the sidelines of the new pope's inauguration.

Merz said that he had also agreed with the leaders of France and Britain "that we will speak again with the American president in preparation for this conversation." "My firm impression is that both the Europeans and the Americans are determined to work together, but now also in a goal-oriented manner, to ensure that this terrible war ends soon," Merz told reporters in Rome.

Trump said he plans to speak by phone Monday with Putin, and will then speak to Zelenskyy and leaders of various NATO countries, about ending the war in Ukraine.

UK judge notes 'confidential impediment' in Nirav Modi extradition case

London: High Court judge who refused Nirav Modi's latest bail application this week has taken note in his judgment of a "confidential impediment" in the long-drawn extradition proceedings against the imprisoned diamondaire wanted in India on fraud and money laundering charges.

Justice Michael Fordham on Thursday concluded at a Royal Courts of Justice bail hearing that there are substantial grounds for believing that if released on bail, the 54-year-old businessman would "fail to surrender" and his risk of absconding remained high.

While Nirav's barrister argued in favour of his bail from London's Thameside prison based on the "long passage of time" without trial, the judge highlighted the constraints of a "confidential" process that prevented his



surrender to the Indian authorities even though the legal process related to his extradition had "run its course". "There is a 'legal reason' which relates to 'confidential proceedings'. The nature of this is known to the applicant (Nirav Modi), and

his lawyers; it is known to the Home Office, but apart from what I have recorded, nothing is known by the CPS [Crown Prosecution Service] or by the Government of India, nor by this court," Justice Fordham states. CPS barrister Nicho-

las Hearn, appearing on behalf of the Indian authorities, confirmed to the court that he "recognises and respects" the fact of the "existing confidential impediment" and the fact of its confidentiality, for "whatever reason it is being kept confiden-

tial". "It is appropriate, in the circumstances, that the court should proceed with the same recognition and respect. But the consequence is this: there is, as a result, a significant limitation to what this court can realistically assess, when considering the risks and implications in this case, and for that matter when considering how to characterise the now long passage of time," the judge concluded in his ruling.

The confidential proceedings alluded to at various previous court hearings linked with Nirav Modi, are believed to refer to an asylum application, but the exact nature of the matter is unclear.

Deputy Chairman of Rajya Sabha attends Inauguration of Pope Leo XIV in Vatican

Rome: An official delegation of the government of India comprising Rajya Sabha Deputy Chairman Harivansh and Nagaland Deputy Chief Minister Yanthungo Patton on Sunday participated in the Solemn Ceremony marking the inauguration of the pontificate of Pope Leo XIV.

Harivansh attended the inaugural mass of Pope Leo XIV at Saint Peter's Square in Vatican City in Rome.

"The participation of the Indian delegation in this important global ecclesiastical event reflects India's deep commitment to interfaith engagement, mutual respect among communities and diplomatic engagement with the Holy See," Rajya Sabha Secretary said in a statement.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi had extended wishes to Pope Leo XIV and expressed India's commitment

to continued dialogue and engagement with the Holy See to further shared values.

He noted that Pope Leo XIV's leadership of the Catholic Church comes at a moment of profound significance in advancing the ideals of peace, harmony, solidarity and service.

In a post on X, PM Modi stated, "I convey sincere felicitations and best wishes from the people of India to His Holiness Pope Leo XIV. His leadership of the Catholic Church comes at a moment of profound significance in advancing the ideals of peace, harmony, solidarity and service. India remains committed to continued dialogue and engagement with the Holy See, to further our shared values."

Pope Leo, born Roberto Prevost in Chicago, was elected on May 8, becoming the first US-born Pope.

Israel says it has begun 'extensive' new ground operations in Gaza

Deir al-Balah: Israel launched "extensive" new ground operations in the Gaza Strip while airstrikes in a new offensive killed at least 103 people, including dozens of children, overnight and into Sunday, hospitals and medics said, and forced northern Gaza's main hospital to close.

Airstrikes killed more than 48 people in and around the Palestinian territory's southern city of Khan Younis, some hitting



houses and tents sheltering displaced people, according to Nasser Hospital, which said it struggled to

count the dead because of the condition of the bodies. Eighteen children and 13 women were among them, spokesperson Weam Fares said.

In northern Gaza, a strike on a home in the built-up Jabalia refugee camp killed nine members of a family, according to the Gaza Health Ministry's emergency services.

Another strike on a residence in Jabalia killed 10, including seven children and a woman, according to the civil

defence, which operates under the Hamas-run government.

In Gaza City, Um Mahmud al-Abul lay across the shrouded body of her daughter, Nour al-Aloul.

"You took my soul with you," she cried. "I used to turn off my phone from how much you called."

Israel's military had no immediate comment, but its statement announcing the ground operations said that preliminary strikes over the past week

killed dozens of militants and struck more than 670 targets. Israel blames civilian casualties on Hamas because the militant group operates from civilian areas.

Israel launched the offensive Saturday with the aim of seizing territory, displacing hundreds of thousands of Palestinians to Gaza's south and taking greater control of aid distribution.

An Israeli blockade on food, medicine and other supplies is now in its

third month, with global food security experts warning of famine across the territory of more than 2 million people.

Israel has said it is pressuring Hamas to agree to a temporary ceasefire on Israel's terms — one that would free Israeli hostages held in Gaza, but wouldn't necessarily end the war. Hamas says it wants a full withdrawal of Israeli forces, and a pathway to ending the war as part of any new ceasefire deal.

BUSINESS

Tata Steel Targets Rs 11,500 Crore Cost Takeouts

New Delhi: Tata Steel, which is expanding operations in India and is in a transition phase in Europe, is targeting "cost takeouts" of Rs 11,500 crore (about USD 1.3 billion) across geographies by focusing on controllable costs, the company's ED and CFO Koushik Chatterjee said.

In financial terms, cost takeout refers to strategic cost reduction measures taken by companies by removing unnecessary expenses to improve profitability and efficiency.

Addressing an analyst call, Koushik said he will cover the company's cost transformation programme across geographies as to what has been done so far and what has been targeted in the next 12-18 months.

The structural cost takeout across all entities of Tata Steel during FY25 was about Rs 6,600 crore focusing on fixed cost takeout, efficiencies in manufacturing, procurement, raw material op-

timisation with leaner coal blends and fixed overheads, he said.

"Looking ahead to FY2026, our focus continues to be on controllable factors, and we are targeting further cost takeouts of almost Rs 11,500 crores, roughly about Rs 1.3 billion across geographies by focusing on controllable costs," the CFO said.

"The statement has come at a time when the company is expanding its Kalinganagar plant capacity to 8 million tonnes amid transition to green steel making processes in the UK and the Netherlands.

In the two foreign markets, the company has already announced job cuts.

In Q4 FY25, Tata Steel reduced expenses to Rs 54,167.61 crore from Rs 56,496.88 crore in the year-ago period. The company has also posted an over two-fold increase in consolidated net profit at Rs 1,200.88 crore in the March 2025 quarter.

India-EU FTA Talks: Deal in Two Phases, Focus on Market Access

New Delhi: India and the European Union (EU) chief negotiators have concluded another round of talks on the proposed free trade agreement (FTA) here and agreed to reach a deal in two phases, according to an official.

"The 11th round of talks concluded on May 16," the official said. The two sides have agreed to conclude the agreement in two phases on account of the uncertain global trade environment, particularly due to the US tariff actions under President Donald Trump.

The talks focused on areas like market access offers in goods, services, and investment.

India has followed the practice of negotiating trade pacts in two phases with Australia. It is following a similar approach to the US. Commerce Secretary Sunil Barthwal last month stated,



"If some of the issues which may not be very core to the trade, maybe taking some more time, then it is better to focus on core trade issues. So, we say that first things first...We

are also discussing with the EU what can be the early harvest of the first tranche, where we can do faster".

Besides demanding significant duty cuts in automobiles and med-

ical devices, the EU wants tax reduction in products like wines, spirits, meat, poultry and a strong intellectual property regime.

Indian goods' exports to the EU, such as

The two sides have agreed to conclude the agreement in two phases on account of the uncertain global trade environment, particularly due to the US tariff actions under President Donald Trump.

ready-made garments, pharmaceuticals, steel, petroleum products, and electrical machinery, can become more competitive if the pact gets concluded successfully.

On May 1, Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal was in Brussels to discuss progress on the agreement.

In June 2022, India and the 27-nation EU bloc resumed negotiations after a gap of over eight years. It stalled in 2013 due to differences over the level of opening up of the markets.

Cement Industry Growth in Q4 FY25: Volume Gains, Price Trends

New Delhi: Large cement companies have reported a volume growth in the March 2025 quarter and expect enhanced performance in FY26 on better sales realisation and stable demand.

Leading listed cement firms like UltraTech, Ambuja Cements, ACC, Shree Cements, and Dalmia Bharat have retained around 7 to 7.5 per cent growth for the cement industry in FY26, following government spending on infrastructure projects and rural recovery.

However, they are cautious about the geopolitical tensions and changing trade landscape.

In the March quarter, cement makers reported gains in volumes, ranging from 3.5 to 10 per cent and an enhanced capacity utilisation on a year-on-year basis.

However, their topline numbers continue to face challenges on account of lower year-on-year sales realisation, though input costs for coal, petcoke and diesel were significantly cheaper.

The all-India average cement price was around Rs 350 per 50 kg bag in March 2025.

Overall, in FY25, cement prices declined by 7 per cent year-on-year to Rs 340/bag. In FY24, the average prices stood at Rs 365/bag against Rs 375/bag in FY23, according to an Icrta report.

The rating agency expects an improvement in operating margins for the cement companies in FY26, helped by price tailwinds, as a marginal hike in cement prices and stable input costs.

Govt Electronics Scheme: 70 Applications, 80% MSMEs

New Delhi: The government has received 70 applications for Rs 23,000-crore electronics component manufacturing scheme, and majority of applicants are small and medium enterprises, the union minister Ashwini Vaishnav said.

These applications have come within half a month of opening the window for the scheme.

"Electronics Component Manufacturing Scheme has received tremendous response. Within 15 days of opening the application,



around 70 applications have come," Vaishnav said.

"The minister did not disclose the name of applicants. However,

interest in the scheme. Vaishnav said that while some of the big players have applied, there has been huge interest in the scheme from small and medium players.

"80 per cent of the applications have come from small and medium enterprises," the minister said.

The government opened applications for the Rs 22,805-crore electronics component manufacturing scheme (EMCS) on May 1. The scheme aims to address demand-supply

deficit in the electronic component segment.

Electronic Industries Association of India (Elicina), the country's oldest industry body of the Indian electronics sector, estimates that the demand-supply deficit for inputs in the electronics segment will increase to USD 248 billion (about Rs 21 lakh crore) by 2030 to cater to projected USD 500 billion electronics production, and it would be met largely by imports in absence of any measure from the government.

The major portion of

the scheme, Rs 21,093 crore, is earmarked for sub-assemblies like camera module, multi-layered printed circuit board (PCB), flexible PCB, passive components that are fixed on the PCB by machines.

A total of Rs 1,712 crore has been earmarked for making parts used in sub-assemblies and capital goods used in electronics manufacturing. The scheme classifies display module and camera module sub-assemblies in A category, while category B products include bare com-

ponents like non-surface mount devices (non-SMD), multi-layered printed circuit board, lithium-ion cells for digital applications, enclosures for mobile, IT hardware products and related devices.

Category C includes components like flexible PCB, SMD passive components. Besides, components used in making items listed under A, B and C categories as well as capital goods used in electronics manufacturing have been clubbed under D category.

Nawazuddin Siddiqui is my go-to actor: 'Costao' director Sejal Shah

Mumbai filmmaker Sejal Shah says she knew only an actor with a calibre like Nawazuddin Siddiqui would be able to pull off the complex role of former customs officer Costao Fernandes in her directorial debut 'Costao'.

What made her even more confident in her choice was that she and Siddiqui had already collaborated on the 2020 film 'Serious Men', on which Shah served as a producer.

In 'Costao', the 50-year-old actor plays a fearless customs officer named Costao Fernandes, who took on gold smugglers and corruption despite personal setbacks. It is streaming on ZEE5.

"I was very clear that I always wanted to cast Nawaz for 'Costao' because I knew that only he would be able to pull off a role like this. There are different shades to this character and I was already working with him on 'Serious Men'. We went to him and by the time the script got ready, we got the dates.

"He is like my go-actor. I love Nawaz, I wish I could keep working with him. The big problem working with Nawaz is that he spoils you so much that you want to keep working with him all the time. He is such a fantastic actor and he elevates the script, he completely surrenders to it, which is a very big thing for such an experienced actor to do," Shah said.

The filmmaker said Sid-

diqui is a performer who has a lot of respect for the director's vision.

"I'm a new director, so many times it happens that there are so many scenes where we are discussing and then he just tells me that 'This is what I feel, ultimately the call is yours'. He's one of those actors who is so committed to his craft," she said.

Shah, who has backed web series such as 'Asur' and 'Decoupled', said she spent around three years doing research for the film which involved interactions with the real-life Costao, his family, and several customs officers.

Convincing Costao for the biopic was not an easy feat, said the filmmaker, adding it took her nearly a year to get

him on board.

"Costao had been chased since 1990. Many people had come to him. He is such an honest person that he didn't want me to lie about certain things, he never said 'Let's not show the family what happened and how his relationship with his family changed and what happened after that incident'.

"He was very open to me and said 'Let us speak the truth, whether people accept it or not as that is the harsh reality of life'. The idea was to stay close to the truth and that is why it's not a whitewashed biopic. We have stayed as true as possible because Costao is such a person that he demands the same honesty and truth from all of us," she added.



Deeply touched by response to 'Tanvi The Great' at Cannes market, says Anupam Kher

Mumbai veteran Bollywood actor Anupam Kher shared his experience of the grand premiere of his directorial debut film 'Tanvi The Great' at the Cannes Film Festival 2025. Talking to the Instagram handle, the actor expressed his heartfelt gratitude towards the overwhelming audience response received at the premiere night.

On Sunday, he shared a video post on his Instagram handle and wrote, "I am deeply touched and humbled by the emotional response of the audiences from all countries last night at the #WorldPremiere of #TanviTheGreat. They all said it has a universal theme and it touched their heart. They loved everything specially the music of the film by the maestro @mmkeeravaani Sir. Waiting for all of you to witness the love, magic and labour of our film on 18th

July!! See you in the THEATRES. Love and prayers always. Jai Hind!"

Anupam also thanked music producer MM Keeravaani in his post. The post has garnered thousands of views and likes ever since it was posted. Before the red carpet ceremony at Cannes 2025, the actor posted a creative slow-motion reel on the social media platform Instagram, where he was seen walking with his co-stars Boman Irani, Karan Tacker, Pallavi Joshi, and Shubhangi.

Alongside sharing his experience, Anupam also announced the release date of his directorial debut 'Tanvi The Great' to his fans and followers. The film will hit the theatres on July 18, 2025. It features Game of Thrones actor Iain Glen, Anupam Kher, Jackie Shroff, Boman Irani, Tamil actor Arvind Swamy, Nasar, Karan Tacker, Pallavi Joshi, and Kesari 2 actor Sammy Jonas Heaney in the lead roles.

Ananya Panday, Ishaan Khatter, Anuv Jain part of Forbes 30 Under 30 Asia list

New Delhi

Actors Ananya Panday, Ishaan Khatter, singer Anuv Jain, and filmmaker Sulagna Chatterjee have featured in the entertainment and sports section of Forbes 30 Under 30 Asia list, the American business magazine has announced.

The list showcases a total of 30 young entrepreneurs, artists, athletes and more from across the Asia-Pacific region under the age of 30.

In its profile of 26-year-old Panday, Forbes notes the actor has appeared in 11 films, including 2019's 'Student of the Year 2' and

'CTRL', which released last year.

"In April, Panday was named Chanel's first Indian brand ambassador, a milestone for the luxury brand's expansion in South Asia. The daughter of actor Chunky Panday, she has 26 million followers on Instagram," according to the magazine.

Forbes stated Khatter, 29, is on the verge of becoming 'an A-lister both in Bollywood and Hollywood'.

"For his first film, the indie Hindi drama 'Beyond the Clouds,' Khatter won Filmfare Awards' Best Male Debut in 2019 and the India International Film Academy's Best Male Debut award. Khatter moved on to star in 'A Suitable Boy' (2020) on Netflix and last year acted alongside superstar Nicole Kidman in 'The Perfect Couple,'" read his profile.

Jain, also a songwriter, has achieved global stardom while keeping true to his acoustic roots, said Forbes about the 29-year-old from Ludhiana.

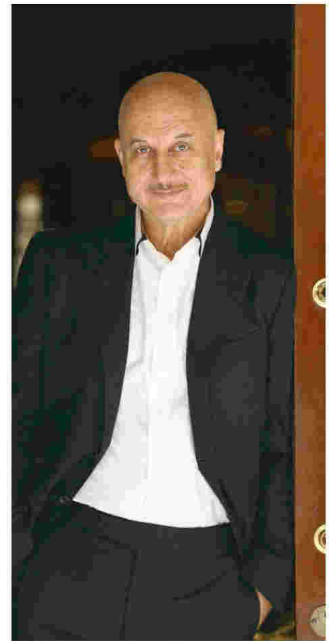
"He is known for his heartfelt lyrics and minimal instrumentation on guitar and ukulele, giving his songs an intimate feel. He's chalked up 204 million views on YouTube for his 2023-released 'Husn' and 107 million for his breakout single 'Baarishain'.

"On Spotify, he has 16 million monthly listeners around the world and his songs have surpassed 1.5 billion streams. In 2024, Jain toured the U.K., Australia and other countries in South Asia and composed a song for the UN's Earth Day album."

The magazine, in Chatterjee's profile, said the 29-year-old dreamt of bringing queer stories to

her favourite medium, TV. "In 2020, Mumbai's Dice Media tapped the screenwriter to write 'Firsts,' a mini-series on meet-cutes seen through a queer woman's lens. She has written for the Netflix show 'Feels Like Ishq' and Jio Studio's 'Code M.' Chatterjee is now finishing and advertising a crowdfunding film called 'Pehli Date,' which has been five years in the making, and is an exploration of two women's first date."

Also part of the list in the entertainment and sports section are Korean band Stray Kids; K-drama star and Astro band member Cha Eun-woo; K-drama actor Go Min-si; Yerin Ha, who will lead "Bridgerton" season four; Philippine girl group Bini; chess grandmaster D Gukesh; and Paralympian Sheetal Devi.



Dennis To returns as Grandmaster Wing Chun in 'IP Man: Kung Fu Legend'

Washington

The iconic martial arts franchise IP Man is set to have another instalment, 'IP Man: Kung Fu Legend,' with Hong Kong martial artist and actor Dennis To reprising his role as the legendary grandmaster Wing Chun.

As per Variety, the makers of IP Man revealed the next instalment at the Cannes Film Market.



The film follows 2021's 'IP Man: Kung Fu Master' starring To, which gained international recognition for its

fresh perspective on the martial arts icon, reported Variety.

As per the outlet, currently in production, 'IP Man: Kung Fu Legend' is expected to complete filming in the third quarter with Well Go handling North American distribution across multiple platforms.

All Rights Entertainment, which previously managed global distribution for 'IP Man: Kung Fu Master,' will

New Delhi

Sanskriti Centre for Cultural Excellence, an arts charity based in London, organised the World Day for Cultural Diversity at the British Parliament House on the night of 14th May. Titled Sauharda-Building bonds, the event is hosted by Baroness Verma-Chancellor of Roehampton University and Chair for U.N. Women. The role of cultural diversity and performing arts in fostering relationships, raising awareness and enhancing community cohesion was underscored by Dr Ragasudha Vinjamuri-Founder of Sanskriti Centre, Her Excellency High Commissioner of Belize Ms Therese Rath and H.E. Ambassador of Chile Ms Ximena Fuentes. Present on the occasion was also Minister Takasaki from the



Embassy of Japan, social entrepreneur Ashok Verma, renowned nature photographer Tony Rath and

members of the community. Dr Rosalin Patasani Mishra spoke passionately about Odisha's sacred clas-

Dr Rosalin Patasani Mishra Takes Mahari Dance to British Parliament

Maharins. "Mahari Dance is not just a performance; it is a divine expression rooted in devotion, reflecting the cultural and spiritual essence of Odisha," she remarked on Mahari art form of Odisha. Colourful dances were presented by the young ambassadors of Sanskriti and artists Manju Sunil, Soundarya Gokulnath, Lakshmi Aven and Goan Dekhni was presented by Dr Bernadette & team. Sgt. David, naval officer in the Embassy of Chile presented a traditional cueca dance along with his daughter.

The event ended with acknowledgements and the powerful message that arts bring countries and communities together for a joyful mutual understanding and appreciation, thus building bonds among them.

