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Review



PM MODI TAKES POT SHOT AT LALU YADAV OVER HIS MAHA KUMBH REMARKS



ZELENSKY WANTS PEACE IN 2025 ON 3RD ANNIVERSARY OF **RUSSIAN INVASION**



Partap Bajwa

Shinde episode'

16 NEW ZEALAND SPRINT TO SEMIS, BANGLADESH **ELIMINATED**

Farmers

can hope

harvest

NEERAJ MOHAN CHANDIGARH

this year

India is expected to har-

vest a bumper wheat crop

for the second consecutive

year, with production es-

timates ranging between

109 million tonees (mt) to

112 mt. Experts attributed

PM MODI TURNS SPOTLIGHT ON INVESTMENT POTENTIAL IN MP

Madhya Pradesh is on course to become a top-5 state, notes PM Modi

ABHINANDAN MISHRA BHOPA

he two-day high profile global investor summit was inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday who laid out a red carpet welcome to investors to invest in Madhya Pradesh, referred as 'Dil' of India.

Addressing a gathering of domestic and foreign delegates, he highlighted the state's remarkable infrastructure growth, industrial expansion and policydriven reforms aimed at attracting large-scale investments.

His speech, which lasted almost 30 minutes, was accompanied by a major announcement from Adani Group Chairman Gautam Adani, who committed to investing Rs 1,10,000 crore across various sectors, in-

PM Narendra Modi inaugurates the Global Investors Summit 2025, in Bhopal on Monday. Madhya

cement, mining, smart meters, and thermal energy,

Pradesh Governor Mangubhai C. Patel, State Chief Minister Mohan Yadav also seen. AN Adani also revealed that discussions were underpromising the creation of way for an additional Rs

cluding pumped storage, over 1,20,000 jobs by 2030. 1,00,000 crore investment in a greenfield smart city, a major airport, and a coal gasification project.

The PM, while beginning his speech, apologized for arriving late, explaining that he didn't want to cause traffic delays for students heading to their exams. His arrival from Raj Bhawan to the summit venue would have halted traffic due to security measures, and he chose to wait until the stu-

proceeding. PM Modi lauded the state's progress under Chief Minister Mohan Yadav's leadership and unveiled 18 new policies of the Madhya Pradesh government aimed at making the state one of India's top investment destinations. He stressed that these policies would provide a conducive environment for investors, unlocking the vast potential 🛛 P3

Claims 32 AAP MLAs in touch

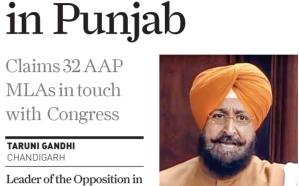
TARUNI GANDHI CHANDIGARH

dents had reached their examination centers before

with Congress

Leader of the Opposition in Punjab Assembly Partap Bajwa on Monday claimed that 32 AAP MLAs are in contact with him, expressing a desire to switch sides. He also accused the state government of failing to deliver on its pre-election promise of providing a monthly honorarium of 1,000.

Congress MLA Pargat Singh criticised the AAP government for not holding longer Assembly sessions and alleged that Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann would soon be replaced by the party.



sees an 'Eknath ^{can nope} for a rich

Bajwa likened the situation to the "Eknath Shinde episode" in Maharashtra, where Shiv Sena MLAs defected to form a new government.

He further claimed that these MLAs are making 'advance bookings', just like people buy tickets for Diljit Dosanjh's show in advance. "There will be an 'Eknath Shinde episode' in Punjab in the coming months. These MLAs are doing 'adreach last year's record of vance booking' to join the Congress, just like people 🛛 P3

this to favourable weather conditions, the use of climate-resilient high-yielding wheat varieties and a slight increase in the area under cultivation. Union Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan, while speaking at an event in Delhi, expressed optimism about the country's wheat production but did not provide specific figures. However, both farmers and industry experts believe that the output may even

113.29 million tonnes. "The wheat crop is looking **P3**



PM MODI TAKES POT SHOT AT LALU OVER HIS MAHA KUMBH REMARKS

NEW DELHI

THE DAILY GUARDIAN REVIEW TUESDAY | 25 FEBRUARY 2025

Jungle raj people criticising Maha Kumbh, says PM at rally in Bihar

TDG NETWORK BHAGALPUR

rime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday slammed Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) supremo Lalu Yadav over his "Faaltu hai kumbh" remarks and said that those who believe in "jungle raj, hate our heritage and faith", and expressed confidence that the people of Bihar will not forgive those who speak ill of the Mahakumbh in Prayagraj.

While addressing a rally in Bihar's Bhagalpur, he highlighted the significance of the 'Mahakumbh of Unity', currently underway in Prayagraj. He emphasised that this celebration represents the largest gathering of India's faith, unity, and harmony, with more attendees



Prime Minister Narendra Modi being felicitated with a garland made of fox nuts (makhana) in Bhagalpur on Monday. Union Minister Giriraj Singh, Rajiv Ranjan Singh (Lalan) Singh and Bihar Deputy Chief Minister Vijay Kumar Sinha also present. ANI Photo

than Europe's entire population taking a holy dip.

NATION

"More people than the entire population of Europe have taken a holy dip in this Mahakumbh. However, those from the 'jungle raj' are criticising this sacred event. Those who are against the Ram temple are seizing every chance to slander the

Mahakumbh. I am confident that the people of Bihar will never forgive those who speak ill of this sacred occasion," said PM Modi.

PM Modi said that the 'Mahakumbh of Unity' is currently underway in Prayagraj. It represents the largest celebration of India's faith, unity, and harmony.

I EAT MAKHANA AT LEAST 300 OUT OF 365 DAYS: PM

Bhagalpur: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday revealed that he eats the "superfood" Makhana (foxnut) at least 300 out of 365 days" and called for the production on a global scale of the traditional crop of Bihar that has emerged as a staple part of breakfast in cities across the country. "Now Makhana has become a staple part of breakfast in cities across the country. Speaking personally, I eat makhana at least

The Prime Minister also emphasised the BIP-led NDA government's commit-

300 out of 365 days a vear. It is a superfood that we must now take to global markets. That's why, in this year's budget, the government has announced the formation of a Makhana Board for the benefit of makhana farmers," the Prime Minister said at a rally in Bhagalpur. This initiative, he said will focus on value addition, better marketing strategies and improving the livelihoods of

ment to preserving India's glorious heritage and building a glorious future.

farmers in Bihar.

PM Modi applauds Assam government for 'Jhumoir Binandini' fest

TIKAM SHARMA NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, accompanied by Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma, conducted a grand roadshow in Guwahati ahead of the 'Ihumoir Binandini' event at Sarusajai Stadium. Addressing the gathering, PM Modi highlighted the deep-rooted connection he shares with the people, just as they cherish the rich tradition of Jhumoir and the tea garden culture. He lauded the Assam government and its Chief Minister for organizing a magnificent cultural event.

PM Modi arrived in Assam for a two-day visit, during which he will inaugurate the Advantage Assam 2.0 Summit the next day. The mega Infrastructure and Investment Summit will witness the participation of several Union Ministers, industrialists, heads of missions, and ambassadors. the essence of inclusivity, unity,



Around 8,600 dancers perform at the 'Jhumoir Binandini' event, at Sarusajai Stadium in Guwahati on Monday. Prime Minister Narendra Modi attends the event. ANI

Upon his arrival in Guwahati, and cultural pride, embodying the Assam Chief Minister wel-Assam's diverse cultural hericomed the Prime Minister at the tage. airport. Later, taking to X (formerly Twitter), he expressed his honour in receiving the world's most popular leader, stating that PM Modi's vision serves as

an inspiration in their pursuit of building a "Viksit Assam." Jhumoir, a traditional folk dance of Assam's Tea Tribe and Adivasi communities, reflects

The event was graced by prominent dignitaries, including Assam Governor Lakshman Prasad Acharva, Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma, Union Ministers Dr. S. Jaishankar and Sarbananda Sonowal, Tripura Chief Minister Dr. Manik Saha, and Union Minister of State Pabitra Margherita, among others.

PM releases 19th instalment of PM Kisan Samman Nidhi Yojana in Bihar

TDG NETWORK BHAGALPUR

Prime Minister Narendra Modi released the 19th instalment of the PM Kisan Samman Nidhi Yojana on Monday and inaugurated various development projects, dedicating them to nation from Bhagalpur in Bihar.

The Prime Minister was accompanied by Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, Union Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan and Bihar Governor Arif Mohammed Khan at the rally.

In his address at the rally, Chief Minister Nitish Kumar said, "It is a matter of great fortune for us that the PM is releasing the instalment of PM Kisan Samman Nidhi Yojana into the accounts of farmers from the land of Bihar."

"Many farmers are included in this. This is a very important scheme of the Central Government, which is directly benefitting farmers," said Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar

Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Shivraj Singh Chouhan also spoke at the rally and praised Prime



Prime Minister Narendra Modi in conversation with Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar during the release of the 19th instalment of the PM Kisan Samman Nidhi Yojana, in Bhagalpur on Monday. ANI

Minister Modi for introducing the Kisan Samman Nidhi scheme, terming it a gift for the farmers.

He emphasised that the PM understood their struggles, unlike previous Congress governments, which never directly credited funds into farmers' accounts

"This is a gift that was never given before. PM Modi understood the pain of small farmers. Congress governments never deposited money directly into the accounts of farmers. In the form of Kisan Samman Nidhi, there is a scheme that transformed the lives of small farmers," said Chouhan.

Pink toilets, 25% rebate in house tax for women owners: BJP pledges in Haryana municipal polls

NEERAJ MOHAN CHANDIGARH

Promising a 25 per cent rebate on residential tax for women homeowners in towns, Pink toilets and free solar power panels, Haryana Minister Nayab Singh Saini Monday released the ruling BJP's manifesto in Rohtak for the municipal polls in the state.

The BJP's 'Sankalp Patra' also pledged to install at least one 'pink toilet' with sanitary napkin vending machines in every market. To counter Congress' slogan "Green City, Clean City", the ruling party promised that the electric buses will be introduced under a public-private partnership (PPP) model making affordable and sustainable urban transport while

making the transportation



the parks. Additionally, the

manifesto promises to install

machines to dispose of green

waste in these parks. The

BIP has announced plans

to operate electric buses

through a public-private

partnership model to cre-

ate a more cost-effective and

environmentally friendly

transportation system. Also,

the BJP has committed to

doubling the streetlights in

each municipal ward. They

panels to families with an

Modi to convert it into grant

system more environmentally friendly. The BJP also announced that house tax would be simplified for villages that have come under the jurisdiction of municipal corporations. The party also promises special tax relief for houses built on agricultural land. The BJP manifesto states that charges for sewerage and water connections will be waived.

According to the BJP, there will be smart streets, oxygen will also provide free solar parks, and open gyms in

annual income of up to Rs 1 lakh. Multilevel parking, provision of additional sanitation workers, and modern libraries are promises of the BJP for tier-2 and tier-3 cities. The manifesto also promises to grant ownership rights and provide registration to people living on a piece of land in urban or rural areas for the past 20 years. In 2024, Chief Minister Saini distributed property certificates to 5,000 people who had been deprived of ownership rights to their properties, primarily shops, for vears. The government states

that traders renting their properties for more than 20 years were granted ownership rights at the collector rate in urban areas under the Mukhvamantri Shahri Swamitva Yojana.

Anil Vij softens stand, now praises SP MLAs protest over Priyanka slams Wayanad relief CM Nayab Singh Saini Pathak's comments package conditions, urges PM

problems will arise."

BJP President Mohan Lal

after he made public state-

ments against the state BJP

leadership and Chief Minister

The notice stated that Vij's

remarks went against the par-

ty's policies and internal disci-

that Badoli should step down

until proven innocent, as the

case had caused controversy

within the party

Nayab Singh Saini.

NEERAJ MOHAN CHANDIGARH

Haryana cabinet minister Anil Vij, who had recently criticized Chief Minister Navab Singh Saini for being out of touch with ground realities, has now changed his stance and praised the chief minister's work

Earlier, Vij had said that since becoming CM, Saini had been constantly flying in a helicopter and not interacting with the public.

"The BJP government is at the centre, Prime Minister Narendra Modi is working hard to make India a developed nation. Harvana also has a BJP government, and our party's Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini is continuously working for the welfare of the state", Vij said during an interaction with media persons.

With civic elections approaching in Haryana, politi-



cal activities have intensified. Speaking to the media in Ambala, Vij praised both the central and state governments. He said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi is working hard to make India a developed nation and that the BJP government in Haryana is also working for the welfare of the people. Vij added that if BJP candidates win the municipal elections, Badoli's resignation over an it will help development prog-

Vij, who is an MLA from Ambala Cantt, said, "I am an MLA, a minister, and a BJP

ress smoothly.

against Mulayam member. If BJP representatives are elected as councillors, the system will function TDG NETWORK properly. Otherwise, things LUCKNOW

will not run smoothly. From top to bottom, BJP govern-The fifth day of the Uttar Pradesh Legislative Asments are in place. If there is any weak link in between, sembly budget session began on Monday with Recently, the BJP had isdisruption as Samajwadi sued a show-cause notice to Party (SP) MLAs protested Anil Vii, sent by Harvana in the assembly

Samajwadi Party MLAs Badoli. Vij responded to the created a ruckus in the notice, which was issued house after Uttar Pradesh **Deputy Chief Minister** Brajesh Pathak's comment on Mulayam Singh. Vidhan Sabha Speaker Satish Mahana intervened, directing the protesting SP MLAs to leave the assempline. He had also demanded bly

Uttar Pradesh Deputy alleged rape case. Vij had said Chief Minister Brajesh Pathak made a comment that appeared directed at someone without naming anyone specifically.

The budget session start-

ed on February 20 and will continue until March 5, per the agenda presented. The 2025-2026 fiscal year's annual budget, which is anticipated to surpass Rs 8 lakh crore, will be presented on February 20. Earlier, UP Finance Minister Suresh Khanna tabled

an Rs 8.08.736 crore Budget for 2025-26 on February 20. The key initiatives in the budget include the development of an Artificial Intelligence City and a technology research park focused on cyber security, Scooties for meritorious students based on eligibility, construction of four new expressways, and the development of 58 municipalities into smart municipalities.

ANAND SINGH NEW DELH

Days after the central government allotted Rs 529 crore as the relief package for Wayanad landslide victims, Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi Vadra wrote to Prime Minister Narendra Modi dubbing it a "shocking lack of sensitivity" towards those affected and demanded to convert the relief package into a grant and extend

the time period for its implefrom the fact of its inadequamentation cy, it is unprecedented that In her two-page letter to the package comes with two Modi, the Congress general conditions -- first that the secretary, who is also the funds shall be disbursed, not Wayanad Lok Sabha MP as a grant as is the norm, but said, "After continuous urgas a loan, second, that they ing from the MPs of Kerala, should be spent in their enthe central government has tirety by March 31, 2025. recently announced a relief package of 529.50 crore for not only immensely unfair, the victims of the devastathey display a shocking lack

people of Chooralmala and Mundakkai who have suffered such shattering losstion."

Hitting back at the gov-

ernment, she said that apart

es," she pointed out. Urging the Prime Minister, she said as you yourself visited the affected areas in the aftermath of this horrific tragedy, "your visit raised expectations of considerable financial assistance from the

of sensitivity towards the

Central Government". "Unfortunately, those ex-

pectations have not been fulfilled. Moreover, the Central government's refusal to declare the disaster as a National disaster came as a shock to the victims. Many months later, after sustained pressure from the MP's from Kerala, the declaration of the disaster as a "Disaster of Severe Nature" appeared to be a step in the right direction.

Punjab and Haryana High Court's visa fraud orders gain relevance amid US deportations

TARUNI GANDHI CHANDIGARH

A series of judicial orders issued by the Punjab and Haryana High Court since April 2003-aimed at curbing visa fraud and regulating overseas recruitment-has gained renewed significance in light of the ongoing deportation of illegal immigrants from the United States to India.

The directives, starting with Justice Amar Dutt's

tion.

deported Indian nationals 2003 ruling and reinforced landed in Amritsar, followby a recent order from Jusing intensified immigration tice Anoop Chitkara, emcrackdowns under former phasized stringent state President Donald Trump's policies. This development intervention to prevent desperate migration athas reignited discussions on tempts. If these measures whether the High Court's had been strictly enforced. recommendations could they might have mitigated have helped prevent vulthe risks of illegal migranerable individuals from resorting to illegal migration channels.

On February 5, a US mili-

tary aircraft carrying 104 Justice Dutt had instructed the chief secretaries of Punjab and Haryana to act proactively to prevent a recurrence of tragedies like the Malta boat disaster, where 283 young Indians lost their lives while attempting to migrate. The court stressed that government intervention should prioritize safeguarding aspiring migrants from exploitation rather than fo-

cusing solely on well-settled NRIs.

The directives urged authorities to collaborate with the Ministry of External Affairs and the Ministry of Labour to educate the public about safe migration pathways and curb unscrupulous middlemen's influence. Measures were also suggested to regulate recruitment practices and ensure transparency regarding foreign labour demands.

In December 2024, Justice Chitkara reiterated the need to protect India's global reputation by sensitizing the system to visa fraud risks. The **Directors-General of Police** in Punjab, Haryana, and Chandigarh were instructed to issue guidelines to shield victims of fraudulent visa schemes. Citing an "alarming escalation" of such cases,

Justice Chitkara warned that unchecked fraud could revive organized crime networks

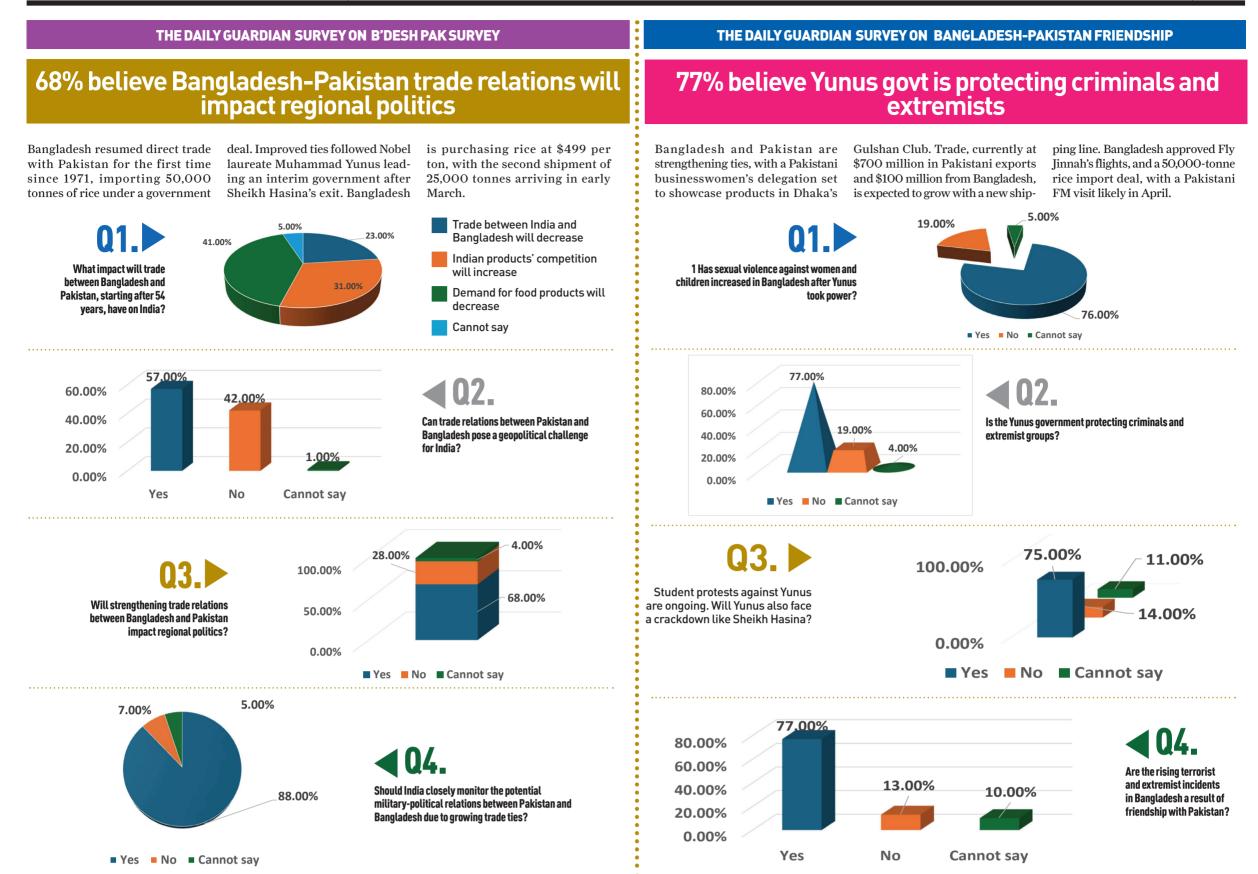
"These conditions are

Previous court rulings also underscored the urgency of tackling visa fraud. In November 2022, Justice Ashok Kumar Verma highlighted rampant cheating by fraudulent agents, while in 2011 and 2009, the court demanded stricter oversight of travel agencies. Justices Rajan Gupta and Lalit Batra had also repeatedly called for stronger regulatory mechanisms to protect innocent citizens.

As deportations continue under the stringent US immigration policies, these long-standing High Court directives underscore the critical need for a well-regulated migration system to prevent further exploitation of aspiring overseas workers.

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STATISTICALLY SPEAKING



PM Modi turns spotlight on investment potential in MP 'Eknath Shinde episode in Punjab'

CONTINUED FROM P1

buy tickets in advance for Diljit Dosanjh's show," Bajwa said while referring to the breakup of Shiv Sena in Maharashtra.

Bajwa stated that these MLAs are leaving AAP because they see no future with the party. He emphasised that the Congress is not trying to destabilise the government; rather, the MLAs are coming to the party voluntarily. "Our programme is not to destabilise the government. The (AAP MLAs) themselves are coming to Congress. They understand that they have no future. Once elections are called, we will call them," Bajwa told reporters, adding, "I am firm on my statement."

"If they want to leave the party willingly, how would

it affect the alliance?" Bajwa also made shocking claims about Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann, alleging that he will soon join the BJP. He claimed that Union Minister Ravneet Bittu is mediating secret meetings

CONTINUED FROM P1 what happened in Maha-

rashtra will happen in Punjab. This government will of sectors like renewable energy, manufacturing, lo-Meanwhile, following gistics, and agri-business.

With these reforms, he as-AAP's defeat in the Delhi Assembly elections, where serted. MP was well on its the party lost its dominance way to becoming a top-five after a decade in power, nastate in India's GDP ranktional convener Arvind ings. The Prime Minister Kejriwal has summoned also highlighted India's position as the world's fastestgrowing major economy, citing international confidence in the country's potential. He pointed to the World Bank's and OECD's optimistic projections and underscored the significant progress made in infrastructure, energy, and supply chain resilience. Madhya Pradesh's rapid transformation over the past two decades was a central theme in Modi's speech. He noted that the state, once plagued by power shortages, poor infrastructure, and security concerns, had emerged as a model for industrial development. The expansion of highways, airports, and rail networks has made it a key logistics hub. The Del-

and connectivity, runs through the state, enhancing its attractiveness for industries. He also cited the electrification of MP's rail network and the modernization of 80 railway stations as major milestones in the state's development. The Prime Minister under scored the state's achievements in the energy sector, particularly its shift toward clean energy. He noted that MP is now power surplus, with 31,000 MW of generation capacity, 30 percent of which comes from renewable sources. He highlighted projects like the Rewa Solar Park and the Omkareshwar Floating Solar Plant as examples of India's commitment to sustainable energy. Additionally, he mentioned the Rs 50,000 crore investment in the Bina Refinery petrochemical complex, which aims to make MP a hub for the sector. Modi's speech also touched upon the government's efforts to boost investment by streamlining regulations. He emphasized the importance of the newly formed State De-Regulation Commission, which will

reaucratic hurdles that deter businesses. In line with the government's push for MSMEs, he announced new credit-linked incentives and supply chain development initiatives to The government's focus on

the Mahakal Mahalok projidentify and eliminate buect in Ujjain as a testament to the state's potential in attracting domestic and international visitors. "Madhya Pradesh has the potential to become a global tourism hub," Modi stated. "We are strengthen local industries. committed to making India the number one destination

every household benefits from economic progress," he said.

As the summit unfolded, leading industrialists, including Aditya Birla Group Chairman Kumar Mangalam Birla, Godrej Industries Chairman Nadir Godrej, Bharat Forge MD Baba

Speaking on its effect on the I.N.D.I.A bloc, he said,

between Mann and BJP leaders.

"Bittu is only pretending to protest outside the CM's residence, while in reality, he is arranging secret meetings between the CM and BJP leaders," Bajwa added. The Congress leader predicted the fall of the AAP government in Puniab

within the next four to five months, citing similarities with the Maharashtra political developments.

"The countdown of this government has begun. In the next four to five months,

Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann and MLAs to a meeting at Kapurthala House in Delhi. The BJP secured 48 seats, while AAP managed only 22, marking

fall," Bajwa added.

a significant setback. The meeting has sparked speculation, with the BJP alleging that it is a move to replace Mann as Punjab CM. However, AAP has maintained that the session is intended to review the party's performance and analyze its shortcom-

Farmers can hope for a rich harvest

CONTINUED FROM P1

very healthy this year, and we expect yields to be around 22 to 24 quintals per acre. This could help farmers earn an additional Rs 5,000 to Rs 8,000 per acre," said Raghubir Singh, a wheat farmer from Karnal.

In the first week of February farmers in Punjab and Haryana were concerned about warm temperatures, fearing that early ripening could reduce yields. However, timely rainfall has brought a relief as the showers have not only lowered temperatures but also protected crops from pests and diseases like aphids and yellow rust.

The development has come as major relief for the government as the bumper produce may help to ease soaring wheat prices. Despite last year's record wheat harvest of 113.29 million tonnes, wheat and flour prices remained high in the open market. According to the Department of Food and Consumer Affairs, India had ample wheat stocks during Rabi 2024, yet prices soared above Rs 3,000 per quintal. This forced the central government to revise stock limits on wheat to stabilize the market. Dr. Virender Lather, Former Principal Scientist at ICAR-IARI New Delhi, said, "As of now, the wheat crop is in good health, and the weather remains favorable. However, the



ings.

final yield will largely depend on climatic conditions over the next three weeks. If the current weather pattern continues, the average wheat yield in Haryana is expected to be around 26 quintals per acre, or over 6 tonnes per hectare."

Scientists at the Indian Institute of Wheat and Barley Research in Karnal highlight that over 60% of the wheat acreage is now covered with high-yielding and climateresilient varieties such as DBW 296, DBW 327, DBW 332, DBW 303, DBW 187, DBW 222, WH1270, and PBW 771. These varieties have not only boosted production but also helped reduce input costs by resisting diseases like vellow rust. With favorable conditions and better seed varieties, farmers remain hopeful for a strong harvest, which could ease supply concerns and bring some relief to consumers in the coming months.

The Prime Minister identified textiles, tourism, and technology as three highpotential sectors poised to generate significant employment and economic growth. He praised MP's strong position in organic cotton production, which accounts for 25 percent of India's supply, and its leadership in silk production. With the state housing one of India's seven textile parks under the PM MITRA scheme, he urged investors to leverage the incentives offered.

way at the state level.

On tourism, he pointed to the rapid expansion of MP's hospitality and wellness sectors, citing the success of

ease of doing business, he for investors and tourists noted, had already led to alike.'

over 40,000 compliances Speaking at the summit, being reduced nationwide. Chief Minister Mohan Yawith similar efforts underdav stated that Madhya Pradesh is committed to doubling the state's economy in the next five years and becoming one of the top five states in India. He described the event as a milestone in transforming the state's economy, adding, "Madhya Pradesh has all the necessary resources, from infrastructure to skilled manpower, to emerge as a top industrial destination." Yadav also emphasized that industrial growth would go hand in hand with preserving the state's cultural values and ensuring widespread economic benefits. "The objective of this summit is

not just industrial devel-

opment but ensuring that

Kalyani, and Sun Pharmaceuticals Global Head Rahul Awasthi, expressed keen interest in exploring business opportunities in the state. The total value of MoUs signed will be revealed on Tuesday, when the two-day summit concludes.

Speaking to The Sunday Guardian after the PM's address, Chief Minister Mohan Yaday hailed the summit as a game-changer for Madhya Pradesh's economy. "This event will bring in an era that will transform the state's economy, and the Prime Minister was very happy with the event," he said. With investment commitments pouring in and global confidence in India's growth story, Madhya Pradesh appears poised for a new phase of industrial and economic expansion.

Economic development should be above party politics: Tharoor

TDG NETWORK

NEW DELHI

Amid reports of asking for more prominent role in the party, Congress leader Shashi Tharoor on Monday said that economic development should, as far as possible, be above the petty divisions of party politics

hi-Mumbai Expressway, a

crucial corridor for trade

Tharoor, who has maintained silence over the reports of his displeasure with the party and seeking more prominent role ahead of the crucial assembly polls scheduled later next year in Kerala, in a post on X shared a news report titled 'Left, BJP and Congress share stage during Kerala's investors meet'.

In his post, the fourtime Lok Sabha MP from Thiruvananthapuram said, "Good to see this. Economic development should, as far as possible, be above the petty divisions of party politics.

after he arrived in the national capital from Kerala. The senior Congress leader had met Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi at his residence over the reports of Kerala state leadership

His remarks came a day ter Narendra Modi after US

negotiator. raising eyebrows on him for praising Prime Minis-



also questioned Tharoor President Donald Trump for praising the LDF govdescribed him as a better ernment in the state in his article.

The state leadership had However, what the two leaders discussed is yet unknown. But sources claimed that Tharoor during his meeting clarified to party leadership about his side of the story and also demanded for prominent role.

The senior Congress leader had contested the party's presidential polls against Mallikarjun Kharge.

He was replaced by Praveen Chakravarty as the chairman of All India Professional Congress.

Even as the crucial assembly polls in Kerala is scheduled in 2026, the party wants to go into the polls with a united face.

YSRCP DEMANDS OPPOSITION STATUS IN ANDHRA, BOYCOTTS GOVERNOR'S SPEECH

NEW DELHI

They can never get, says Jana Sena Party president, AP Deputy CM Pawan Kalyan

TDG NETWORK

AMARAVATI

ndhra Pradesh Assembly session Legan on Monday amid the heavy sloganeering from YSRCP members demanding the opposition status for the party. YSRCP members boycot-

ted Andhra's Governor S Abdul Nazeer's opening address demanding Opposition status to hold the government accountable and ensure democratic representation.

The party led by former CM Jagan Mohan Reddy currently holds less than 10 per cent of seats in the 175 members Andhra Legislative Assembly. YSRCP has only 11 members in the assembly.

YSRCP MLC Varudu Kalyani said that they had demanded opposition status in the Assembly, but the Speaker remained silent on the issue.

"Even after filing a petition in court, the Speaker has not submitted a counter," Kalyani said.

She emphasized that the party will stand with the largest party in the state,

HAS 11 MEMBERS IN ASSEMBLY

YSRCP members boycotted Andhra's Governor S Abdul Nazeer's opening address demanding Opposition status to hold the government accountable and ensure democratic representation The party led by former CM Jagan Mohan Reddy currently holds less than 10 per cent of seats in the 175

members Andhra Legislative Assembly. YSRCP has only 11 members in the assembly

public, even without opposition status, and continue to fight for the people. "Despite being in power for only nine months, there has been significant anti-incumbency against the coalition government, and the YSRCP will raise various issues," she added.

NATION

Meanwhile, Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan said that "ruckus" is synonymous with YSRCP and that, as per rules and regulations, they cannot secure the position of the opposition in the assembly. He emphasized that Janasena is the second-



THE DAILY GUARDIAN REVIEW TUESDAY 25 FEBRUARY 2025

with ten more seats than YSRCP "YSRCP is the synonym for ruckus. If they don't create a ruckus, they are not called YSRCP. The

problem is as per the rules and regulations, as per the mandate given by the people, they are the third party and Jana Sena is the second largest party in the House. They have to understand

that they got only 11 seats. Though they had formed the government in 2019, that doesn't mean they would be given the opposition. Demanding the opposition status on the strength of votes,

they should go to Germany. Germany's democracy functions depending on the percentage of votes. If they demand that, they should go to Germany. Our nation doesn't allow that way," Kalyan said.

He further asserted that protocols are very clear and cannot be violated.

Further, regarding establishment of a Sanatana Dharma Board, he questioned why it should be an issue when a Waqf Board already exists.

Earlier, Pawan Kalyan tive decorum and respect while ensuring meaningful outlined the party's approach for the Assembly

debates in the Assembly. 6 Maha Kumbh devotees from Belagavi killed in road accident, 2 injured

TDG NETWORK BELAGAVI

Six people who were travelling to Prayagraj's Maha Kumbh from Gokak, Belagavi district, died in a road accident on Monday in Jabalpur, Madhya Pradesh, according to information given by Belagavi Police.Out of the eight people who had left for Pravagraj from Belagavi on February 18, six lost their lives in a horrific road accident. Two and have been admitted to a lo-

BJP questions Tamil Nadu CM's stance on delimitation of Parliament seats

TDG NETWORK CHENNAI

session. The Jana Sena Leg-

islature Party meeting was

held under his leadership on

Sunday. The Assembly ses-

sion of the Andhra Pradesh

Pawan Kalyan hosted a

luncheon for the members.

He held one-on-one discus-

sions with each member,

taking note of issues in

their constituencies. The

Party President and Depu-

ty Chief Minister provided

guidelines for the members.

He said, "Let's be the voice

of the people in the Assem-

bly. Discuss public issues

and aspirations in the leg-

islature. Members must ac-

tively participate in debates.

Maintain dignity in lan-

guage and discourse. Avoid

Pawan Kalyan empha-

sized that the Jana Sena Par-

ty should serve as the voice

of the common people in the

Assembly budget sessions.

He urged MLAs and MLCs to actively participate in dis-

cussions to address public

concerns, aspirations, and

welfare issues. He stressed

the need to uphold legisla-

YSRCP's style of rhetoric."

Legislature began today.

In a fresh war of words over the delimitation of Parliament seats, Tamil Nadu BJP Vice President Narayanan Thirupathy took aim at Chief Minister M. K. Stalin's recent statement on how the process would be carried out based on population figures.

Thirupathy questioned the CM, pointing out that Tamil Nadu has been successful in controlling its population. "Now, how does he know that the delimitation will happen only on population? That is what the simple question we are asking," he said. The BJP leader emphasized that the people of Tamil Nadu deserve appreciation for their role in managing population growth, but the CM's assertion about the criteria for delimitation was problematic.

"There is no doubt that South India, particularly Tamil Nadu, has definitely done well in controlling the population. Yes, we appre-



the three language policy

was an "assault" on the lin-

guistic and cultural identity

of Tamil Nadu while daring

the ruling party in the cen-

tre to contest the upcoming

ciate it. It is the people who have done that. So, how do you say it is going to be done like that only? That is wrong," Thirupathy added, expressing concerns about Stalin's approach.

He further criticized the Chief Minister for what he called irresponsible leadership. "A Chief Minister should talk responsibly. He should know what he's talking about. Don't try to confuse people. That is what he's doing," Thirupathy remarked.

Meanwhile, amid chaos over the proposed National Education Policy (NEP), Congress MP Karti Chidambaram on Sunday said that

2026 assembly elections solo. Asserting that Tamil Nadu can't be held at ransom, he said that the entire state rejects the NEP being pushed by the BJP government in the centre. He said that any

talks about three-language policy by the centre was a code of "Hindi imposition." Chidambaram questioned

whether there was any state in north India that teaches a south Indian language in government schools.

Rameshwaram fishermen go on indefinite strike after 32 arrested by Sri Lanka

TDG NETWORK RAMESWARAM

A day after the Sri Lanka Navy seized 5 barges from Palk Bay sea on charges of crossing the International Maritime Boundary Line and 32 fishermen were arrested, fishermen in Rameswaram went on an indefinite strike demanding the release of all the fishermen and boats detained by Sri Lankan Navy, fishermen's association said. 32 fishermen were arrested on Sunday, and their boats were seized, creating turmoil among the fishermen of Rameswaram.

Since last January, 18 boats have been seized by the Sri Lankan Navy, and 131 Tamil Nadu fishermen have been arrested.

On Sunday, the fisherothers are in critical condition men's association held an deserted. On Sunday, fisheremergency meeting near Ra-



take action to free the fishermen of Rameswaram who were held captive by the Sri Lankan Navy. To prevent the auctioning of Tamil Nadu fishermen's boats in Sri Lanka and to rescue the boats, a resolution was passed that the fishermen would go on an indefinite strike from today." On Monday, more than 700 powerboats are parked

in the fishing harbour in

Rameswaram, and the Ra-

meswaram fishing jetty looks

men in 440 boats went to sea

men claiming that they were fishing across the border.

Earlier, Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin expressed concern over the increase in the capture of Indian fishermen by the Sri Lankan Navy. urging the Centre to convene a Joint Working Group (JWG) to find a permanent solution to the issue.

Highlighting the recent arrest of 32 fishermen by Sri Lankan authorities, Stalin wrote to External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and said that the JWG would ensure secure release of all the arrested fishermen and their boats. These fishermen had ventured out for fishing from the harbour in Rameswaram on February 22.

SLBC tunnel rescue ops: Dewatering being done as rat miners join rescue teams

TDG NETWORK **NAGARKURNOO**

Rescue operations continue at the site of the collapse of the Srisailam Left Bank Canal (SLBC), where 8 workers are said to be trapped.

A team of rat miners have been included in the rescue team to extricate the workers trapped under the collapsed portion of the tunnel. Notably, these are the same rat miners who were deployed in the rescue team of the Silkvara tun-



nool said, "Dewatering is mary focus remained on resbeing done while the Indian cuing the workers who were Army, along with NDRF and trapped, noting that while SDRF, is going inside with operation in Uttarakhand as the teams had been unable to additional equipment. Our

Earlier, endoscopic and robotic cameras were brought to the Nagarkurnool (SLBC) tunnel on Monday for the rescue operation. The NDRF Dog Squad has also been deployed to assist in the operation.

L&T's endoscopic operator Dowdeep said, "Through the endoscopic camera, we can track what is happening inside the tunnel. We have done this during the rescue well. Two teams have come.

nel collapse in Uttarakhand almost two years ago.

Meanwhile, District Collector Badhavath Santhosh provided an update on the ongoing rescue operations.

reach the last 40 meters yesterday, necessary measures are now being taken to ensure their safe retrieval. District Collector Badha-

major focus will be on rescuing the workers stuck inside. Yesterday, they could not reach the last 40 meters, and now necessary measures are vath Santhosh of Nagarkurbeing taken."

Endoscopic and robotic cameras have been brought." The response force is currently working to remove the accumulated water inside the tunnel.

cal hospital. The deceased have been identified as Balachandra Gowdar, Sunil Shedashale, Basavaraj Kurni, Basavaraj Doddamani, Eeranna Shebinakatti and Virupaksha Gumatti.

meswaram fishing port. Rameswaram Fisherman association secretary Sagayam said, "In this meeting, it was decided that the central and state governments should

from Rameswaram. While they were fishing in Palk Bay sea area, Sri Lankan marines came to the area in a patrol boat. They caught 5 boats and apprehended 32 fisher-

Kerala CM calls for high-level meeting on Feb

authority.

Engineering student from Mizoram stabbed to death in Kerala

TDG NETWORK THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

A 22-year-old B.Tech student of Rajadhani Institute of Engineering & Technology, Nagaroor, was stabbed to death near his college in Thiruvananthapuram, as per the Kerala police.

The deceased, identified as Valentine, was a native of Mizoram. The Nagaroor police have taken a batchmate, also from Mizoram, into custody in connection with the incident.



According to the police, the incident took place around 10:30 p.m. at a junction about 200 meters from the college

Preliminary investigations suggest that an altercation between the two students may have led to the

attack. The victim was a finalyear engineering student. The accused, T. Lamsang Swal (23), a third-year **B.Tech Civil Engineering**

student from the same college allegedly stabbed him due to a long-standing personal dispute. Both students lived to-

gether in a rented house outside the college hostel. On the night of the attack, the two, along with some friends, were reportedly

consuming alcohol in their rented accommodation. A heated argument escalated into a physical altercation, the accused called Valentine to Nedumparambu Junction, where he fatally stabbed him in the chest with a knife, said police.

Police have obtained CCTV footage of the incident, confirming the presence of other students at the scene. The FIR suggests that past enmity drove Lamsang to commit the crime.

TDG NETWORK THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Kerala Chief Minister Pinaravi Vijayan has called for a highlevel meeting on February 27 at 3:30 PM at the CM Conference Hall in the secretariat to address the growing concern about human-wildlife conflict in the state.

This comes after a tragic incident in Kannur, where a tribal couple was killed by a wild elephant while collecting cashew nuts on their farm. The deceased were natives of the 13th



27 to address human-wildlife conflict

block, Velli and his wife Leela. The tribal couple was attacked by the elephant just 600 m away from the Rapid Response Team office. The locals' protest after learning about the incident sparked.

The meeting will bring together ministers from various departments, including Forest, ties. Finance, and Revenue, as well as top officials from the forest wildlife department, state police, and disaster management

They will review the mea-

sures taken to control the

wildlife-human conflict and

discuss ways to prevent such

The meeting on February

27 aims to find a solution to

the rising incidents of human-

wildlife conflicts in Kerala,

incidents in the future.

which have become a major concern for the state's authori-

Forest minister AK Suseendran has sought a report from Kannur DC (District Collector) Arun K Vijayan regarding the matter. Opposition parties BJP and UDF have called for a 'hartal' in the Aralam Gram Panchavat.

Kannur district collector chaired an Emergency Disaster Management Committee meeting, which decided to compensate the victim's family with Rs 20 lakh.

PM Modi remembers former Tamil Nadu CM Jayalalithaa on her birth anniversary

TDG NETWORK NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi remembered Tamil Nadu's former Chief Minister and famous actress Jayalalithaa on her birth anniversary on Monday.

Posting a picture of her in a post on X, the PM remembered the late leader as someone who has been "always very warm and supportive of pro-people initiatives.'

"Remembering Jayalalithaa Ji on her birth anniversary. She is widely

admired as a compassionate leader and outstanding administrator who devoted her life for Tamil Nadu's development," read the PM's post on X.

"It is my privilege that I had the opportunity to interact with her on innumerable occasions. She was always very warm and supportive of pro-people initiatives," PM Modi added.

Earlier today, on the 77th birth anniversary of the late cinestar-turned politician, veteran actor Rajinikanth paid tributes to the iconic leader at her residence at

Poes Garden in Chennai. The actor paid floral trib ute to a photo of the late cinestar turned politician at a ceremony that was attended by Jayalalithaa's niece, Deepa Madhavan, and former AIADMK leader Phugalendhi, marking a moment of remembrance for the late leader, who was fondly referred to as "Amma" by the

people of Tamil Nadu. She served as Tamil Nadu's Chief Minister for three terms between 1991-96, 2002-06, and 2011-14, is remembered as a dynamic and influential leader.



Actor Rajinikanth pays floral tributes to former Tamil Nadu Chief Minister J Jayalalithaa on her 77th birth anniversary, at her residence, Poes Garden in Chennai on Monday. ANI

Throughout her career, she earned the love and respect of millions for her policies aimed at improving the lives of the people, particularly the underprivileged. An accomplished actress

before entering politics, Jayalalithaa acted in over 130 films.

She joined the All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (AIADMK) in 1982 and quickly rose to prominence, becoming the party's propaganda secretary in 1983.

She served as a member of the Rajya Sabha and, later,

the state legislative assembly during her political career.She also faced numerous challenges throughout her political journey, including legal battles and imprisonment. In 1996, she was imprisoned for a month after authorities raided her residence and seized valuable assets.

Her tenure as a national leader was marked by her alliance with the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)-led National Democratic Alliance (NDA) in 1998, a relationship that has since been severed.

CIT

AAP AND BJP TRADE BARBS OVER PORTRAITS IN NEW CM'S OFFICE

AAP alleged BJP removed photos of Ambedkar and Bhagat Singh

TDG NETWORK NEW DELHI

he Aam Aadmi Party Γ Monday alleged that B R Ambedkar and Bhagat Singh's portraits were removed from Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta's office, a charge denied by the ruling BJP.

The BJP accused the opposition party of trying to divert people's attention from the CAG reports that will be tabled in the Assembly to expose "corruption" by AAP when it was in power.

The Delhi BJP shared photos of the chief minister's office on social media and said, "The portraits of Mahatma Gandhi, Babasaheb Bhimrao Ambedkar, Bhagat Singh the President and the prime minister are displayed in the offices of Chief Minister Rekha Gupta and other ministers."

On the eve of Republic Day in 2022, then chief minister Arvind Kejriwal directed officials that only the portraits of Babasaheb Ambedkar and Bhagat Singh will be displayed in government offices, including the CM's office. Photos of no other political leader will be displayed in Delhi government offices, he had said.

Leader of Opposition in the Assembly and former Delhi Chief Minister Atishi raised the issue in the first

AAP MLAs led by Leader of

Opposition (LoP) Atishi staged

a protest outside the office of

Delhi Chief Minister Rekha

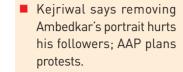
Gupta in the assembly on

Monday, demanding the ful-

TDG NETWORK

NEW DELHI

FIRST DAY, FIRST SHOW



- BJP denies removal, shares photos showing all key portraits still displayed
- BJP accuses AAP of distracting from the upcoming CAG report on corruption.
- BJP suggests AAP is creating drama to deflect attention from corruption allegations in the CAG report.
- **BJP criticizes AAP MLAs** for disrupting the Assemdignity.

session of the newly constituted eighth Delhi Assembly earlier in the day.

Assembly is being led by a party that is anti-Dalit and anti-Sikh. The BJP has removed photographs of Babasaheb Bhimrao Ambedkar and Shaheed Bhagat Singh from the chief minister's office, showing its anti-Dalit stance," she alleged in the Assembly

In a press conference, Atishi showed a photo of the CM Office captured on an iPad, and said, "This is today's photo when our MLAs

women, protest outside CM's office

Atishi demands Rs 2,500 to



for disrupting the Assem-bly and undermining its diabited for the BJP's new Govt in Delhi removed pictures of Dr Babasaheb Bhimrao Ambedkar and Bhagat Singh from the CM Office, at Delhi Vidhan Sabha in New Delhi on Monday. ANI

went to meet the CM. The photos have been removed. which proves that the BJP is "It is unfortunate the Delhi

an anti-Dalit and anti-Sikh party." She alleged the BJP has "disrespected" Babasaheb

and the Sikh community, by removing the portraits.

The AAP strongly opposes this and will protest against it in the streets as well as in the Assembly, she added. AAP supremo Arvind

Kejriwal said the move has hurt millions of Ambedkar followers. "The new BJP government

of Delhi removed Babasa-

heb's photograph and put up a photograph of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. This is not right. This has hurt millions of followers of Babasaheb," he said in a post on X.

"I have a request for the BJP. You can put up the prime minister's photograph but do not remove that of Babasaheb. Let it remain," he added.

Rejecting the charges, Cabinet Minister Manjinder Singh Sirsa said "This is being done deliberately by the AAP to divert attention from the CAG report that will be

'Mere tactics hide corruption', says CM

TDG NETWORK NEW DELHI

Delhi Chief Minister and

BJP leader Rekha Gupta on Monday said that in a bid to hide their corruption and misdeeds, the Aam Aadmi respectable personalities of Party was resorting to "tac-

presented tomorrow." He said the CM's office still has pictures of Babasaheb Ambedkar and Bhagat Singh, along with those of the prime minister, president, and Mahatma Gandhi. "This move is a clear attempt to distract the public," Sirsa said

"When AAP was in power, it suppressed the CAG report for three years. Now, when it is about to be released, they are creating unnecessary drama. No one respects Babasaheb Ambedkar more than we (BJP) do," the minister added.

Should the photo of the

President of the country not

be put up? Should the photo

of Father of the Nation Gan-

dhi ji not be put up? Bhagat

Singh and Babasaheb are

Cop stabbed while arresting robbery ernment not be put up? accused, 1 held

TDG NETWORK NEW DELHI

> A Delhi Police sub-inspector was stabbed while tracking down a robbery accused. an official said on Monday.According to the police, the accused Guddu and a minor girl were traced to Anand Parbat, but their apprehension turned violent when their associates resisted, leading to a scuffle. During the confrontation, SI Neeraj suffered a sharp injury on his back after he was stabbed. He was immediately moved to Gangaram Hospital, where he is reported to be in stable condition.

MCD waives house tax, rider attached

TDG NETWORK NEW DELHI

The Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) has announced a house-tax waiver scheme, allowing residents to clear their house-tax dues of 2024-25 and have all previous pending taxes written off. The announcement was made at a press conference here on Monday by MCD Mayor Mahesh Khichi, Deputy Mayor Ravinder Bhardwaj, Leader of the House Mukesh Goel and senior Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) leader and Rajya Sabha MP Sanjay Singh.

The AAP-led civic body's proposal, which aims at easing financial burdens on citizens and curbing corruption in tax collection, is set to be passed in the MCD House on Tuesday.

Under the scheme, properties measuring up to 100 square yards, including residential shops, will be completely exempt from house tax from the next financial year. Houses measuring between 100 and 500 square yards will receive a 50-per cent waiver, while 1,300 housing societies that previously did not qualify for any exemption will now get a 25-per cent rebate.

By January 2025, an amount of Rs 1,908.06 crore in property-tax revenue was collected out of the Rs 4.300-crore target for Financial Year 2024-25, while by December



The AAP-led civic body's proposal, which aims at easing financial burdens on citizens and curbing corruption in tax collection, is set to be passed in the MCD House on Tuesday.

2024, the corporation had step towards fulfilling that received Rs 2,653 crore in commitment. property-transfer duty. He also highlighted Speaking at the press that for the first time, conference, Khichi said the 1,300 housing apart-AAP has always delivered ments in Delhi, which on its promises and the lathad never received any tax benefit, will get a 25est decision is a major step towards easing financial per cent rebate. Calling it a historic decision by the burdens on homeowners. AAP-led MCD, Singh He said the MCD is also

going ahead with plans to said the proposal would regularise 12,000 contracbring relief to thousands tual employees, in addition of families that have been to the 8.000 workers who burdened with high house have already been made taxes for years. The AAP's MCD inpermanent in the last two

charge, Durgesh Pathak, vears. He emphasised that the said the move would put an end to corruption in tax tax-waiver scheme would not only provide relief to collection as many homeowners were harassed by homeowners but also bring officials over unpaid dues. transparency in tax collection, reducing avenues for He pointed out that under previous administrations, corruption.

Singh said the AAP has house tax was often used consistently worked for as a tool to extract bribes, the welfare of the common leading to losses in the man and this decision is a MCD's revenue.

TDG NETWORK

the city zoo, official sources said

trees were uprooted while live

"It is a routine exercise to pre

vent damage to life and property from dangerous trees, and there

is nothing wrong with it," he said.

An official forest department

source said they had received

complaints about tree felling in

the zoo and were looking into

ones were pruned.

the matter.

NEW DELHI

Forest dept probes tree felling complaints at zoo

Under the Delhi The Delhi government's forest department is investigating complaints about the uprooting of more than a hundred trees in

Preservation of Trees Act, no one can cut or remove a tree, whether on

filment of the BJP's promise to provide Rs 2,500 to women in the city after the first Cabinet meeting. "We asked for time from the Delhi CM two days ago. But we were not given time, so we are here outside her office in the assembly. We want to meet her regarding the promise of PM Modi to provide Rs 2,500 to women after the first Cabinet. Modi's



guarantee is proving wrong,' Atishi said after meeting CM Rekha Gupta.

Atishi further said that the chief minister had not given them any assurance but mentioned that she was trying to power after 26 years.

moving photographs of BR Ambedkar and Bhagat her best to fulfil the promise Singh from the CM's office. by March 8.The protest took "This is their tactic to hide place as the first session of the their corruption and misnewly constituted Delhi Asdeeds behind Babasaheb sembly commenced on Mon-Ambedkar and Shaheed day, marking the BJP's return Bhagat Singh...Should the photo of the Head of Gov-

tics" by accusing the newly elected government of re-Gupta said.

the country and our guide. So, this room is of the CM of Delhi and as the Head of the Government, we have given them the space. It is not my work to answer them, I am answerable to the people..." The Bharatiya Janata Party

also refuted the allegations by Atishi and Arvind Keiriwal

> Police said that despite the resistance, they apprehended one of the accused, identified as Raj and recovered the knife used in the attack.

on Monday. GPS map camera imtheir property or ages from a source showed many elsewhere, without dead and live trees uprooted and cut last month in the National prior permission Zoological Park, the only zoo from the tree officer. directly managed by the central government. Delhi Zoo Director Sanjeet Kumar said only dead

but if we find any illegal activity, we will issue a notice and take appropriate action," the source said. Under the Delhi Preservation of Trees Act, no one can cut or remove a tree, whether on their property or elsewhere, without prior permission from the tree officer. However, a landowner can cut a tree if it poses an immediate danger to life, property or traffic but must inform the tree officer

"It seems the trees were pruned within 24 hours of the felling. Fire breaks out in Delhi restaurant

TDG NETWORK NEW DELHI

A fire broke out in a restaurant in New Delhi's Connaught Place on Monday evening, an official of the

Delhi Fire Services said. The incident was reported at 7:56 pm at Imperial Spice restaurant in the M-block of Connaught Place, official said.

Karnail Singh took oath in

Punjabi, while Pradyumn

Rajput and Neelam Pahal-

wan chose Sanskrit. BJP's

Tarvinder Marwah chanted

religious slogans after read-

He added that four fire tenders were rushed to the site and no casualty was reported. The fire started at the chimney of the first floor of the restaurant, he added.

CAG reports be tabled today, says govt



Delhi Assembly Speaker Vijender Gupta conducts the proceedings of the house during the first session of the Delhi Assembly, at Vidhan Sabha in New Delhi on Monday. ANI

NEW DELH The BJP-led Delhi gov-

TDG NETWORK

ernment is set to table 14 pending Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG) reports on the previous AAP government's performance in the Delhi Assembly on February 25. According to the BJP MLAs,

first session of the newly constituted eighth Delhi Assembly.

The BJP has been alleging that the reports were withheld by the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) administration.

Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta had announced last Thursday that the reports would be made the reports will be presentpublic in the first session ed on the second day of the under the new govern-

state finances, public health infrastructure. vehicular air pollution, liquor regulation and the functioning of the Delhi Transport Corporation, among others. The BJP had repeatedly demanded the release of

ment. The pending CAG

audits include reviews of

these reports during the AAP's tenure, even moving the court to direct the government to table them.

From Urdu to Sanskrit, MLAs take oath in 6 different languages

TDG NETWORK NEW DELH

The first session of the newly constituted Delhi Assembly commenced on Monday, with MLAs taking their oaths in six languages-Hindi, English, Sanskrit, Urdu, Maithili, and Punjabi-reflecting the linguistic diversity of the legislature.

The session also marked the BJP's return to power after 26 years and its shift to the right side of the Speaker's chair. BJP MLA Arvinder Singh

Lovely was sworn in as the pro-tem Speaker of the eighth Assembly and administered the oath by Lieutenant Gov-

ernor Vinai Kumar Saxena at the Raj Niwas before the session began. As the seniormost legislator, Lovely oversaw the swearing-in of all newly elected MLAs.

Chief Minister Rekha Gupta was the first to take the oath, followed by her six Cabinet ministers. Delhi PWD Minister Parvesh Sahib Singh Verma and Home Minister Ashish Sood were the next in



Chief Minister Rekha Gupta was the first to take the oath, followed by her six Cabinet ministers. Delhi PWD Minister Parvesh Sahib Singh Verma and Home Minister Ashish Sood were the next in line.

line. Environment Minister Manjinder Singh Sirsa took his oath in Punjabi, while Law and Justice Minister Kapil Mishra opted for Sanskrit.

Several other MLAs took ing the printed text, to which oaths in different languages. the Speaker objected, reminding him that it was not a Gurudwara.

Amanatullah Khan (Urdu), Chandan Chaudhary (Maithili), Ajay Dutt (English), and Gajendra Yadav (Sanskrit) also took their oaths, with the Speaker consistently instructing members to follow the official oath format. Other MLAs who took their oaths in Sanskrit included Sanjay Goel, Jitendra Maha-

jan, Ajay Mahawar, and BJP's Karnail Singh, while Chaudhary Zubair and Amanatullah Khan chose Urdu.

SC ORDERS NCR TO COMPLY WITH SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT RULES

TDG NETWORK NEW DELH

he Supreme Court on Monday said segregation of waste at source was of "vital importance" for the environment and asked the NCR states for the compliances made in adherence to the Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016.

A bench of Justices Abhay S Oka and Ujjal Bhuyan said the non-compliance in adhering to the 2016 Rules had affected all cities in the country

"In one of the orders, we have observed that all smart city projects are in progress. How the cities can become smart without compliance with the Solid Waste Management Rules?" the bench asked.

The National Capital Region (NCR) comprises Singh, the amicus curiae

Court highlights the negative effects of not following Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016.

- Improper segregation could lead to more pollution from waste-to-energy projects.
- NCR states must submit compliance reports on waste management by March's end.
- Court directs states to present detailed plans for waste management with timelines.
- Court threatens drastic action if Delhi's untreated waste issue is not resolved.

Delhi and certain districts of Haryana, Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan. If there was no proper segregation of waste, the court said, even waste-to-energy projects would create more pollution.

in the pollution matter, referred to solid waste management in the NCR while flagging the low percentage of segregation of waste. She said sending unseg-

regated waste to waste-toenergy plants caused more Senior advocate Aparajita pollution.

"As rightly submitted by



WHAT THE COURT SAID

of all the urban local bodies with the provisions of the 2016 Rules so far. They have been asked to file the affidavits by end of March following which the matter would be taken up. The bench has also asked

ing with the compliances

the states to set out a comprehensive plan for waste management along with timelines and implementing agencies and said, "Needless to add that the affidavits will state compliance in relation to all urban local bodies within the NCR." The authorities were asked to set out the "best practices" they proposed to follow for solid waste management. The bench in the meantime directed the Central Pollution Control Board to submit a report on the impact of waste-toenergy projects on the envi-

had earlier directed

the MCD to take

action on a plea

claiming that the

garbage dumps

cause pollution and

bealth bazards.

been diverted to the new

Portable Compactor Trans-

fer Station (PCTS) site in

Pant Nagar from February

It said that the concession-

aire Dakshin Dilli Swachh

Initiatives Limited (DDSIL)

of the central zone had been

directed to start the opera-

tion of new PCTS at Pant

Nagar and to stop the col-

lection of garbage at H&D

Block dhalaos in Jangpura

21," the report said.

3 Waste points in Jangpura closed, MCD informs NGT

ronment.

TDG NETWORK NEW DELHI

environment.

The Municipal Corporation of Delhi has informed the National Green Tribunal that three dhalaos (waste collection points) in Jangpura Extension here have been closed. The green body had earlier directed the MCD to take action on a plea claiming that the garbage dumps been invoked against the cause pollution and health accused as he is involved hazards.

the amicus curiae, the seg-

regation of waste at source

is of vital importance for the

If their is no proper segre-

gation, even waste-to-ener-

gy projects will create more

pollution," the bench said.

The NCR states were or-

dered to file affidavits deal-

The report filed on Monday said that the collection of municipal and solid waste (MSW) one dhalao in the P/Q block had been earlier diverted to two dhalaos at the H and D blocks in Jangpura Extension.

Khan stated that Delhi po-"That is to state that the lice have already stated in collection of MSW at the the Status report that the dhalaos in H and D blocks PO status of Shavej Khan Jangpura Extension has was not cancelled inadverbeen stopped from February 20 and the same has

dip in pollution levels

GRAP 2 curbs revoked amid

TDG NETWORK NFW DFI HI

The Centre's panel on Delhi-NCR's air quality on Monday revoked the Stage 2 curbs under the Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP) following a dip in pollution levels due to favourable meteorological conditions. Delhi's 24-hour average air quality index stood at 186 at 4 pm, significantly below the 300-mark that triggers Stage 2 restrictions.

The India Meteorological Department and Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology predict that the AQI will likely remain in the moderate to poor category.

The Commission for Air Quality Management in NCR and adjoining areas attributes the improved air quality to better mixing height, ventilation coefficient, and "much favourable conditions for dispersion of pollutants".



The India Meteorological Department and Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology predict that the AQI will likely remain in the moderate to poor category.

With the revocation of Stage 2 curbs, inter-state buses from NCR states are now permitted to enter Delhi.

During winters, the Delhi-NCR region enforces restrictions under GRAP, which categorizes air quality into four stages Stage I (Poor, AQI 201-300), Stage II (Very Poor, AQI 301-

400), Stage III (Severe, AQI 401-450), and Stage IV (Severe Plus, AQI above 450). Unfavourable meteorological conditions, combined with vehicle emissions, paddy-straw burning, firecrackers, and other local pollution sources, lead to hazardous air quality levels in Delhi-NCR during winters.

EOW arrests property dealer in Rs 31-crore 'scam' The green body

TDG NETWORK NEW DELHI

The Economic Offences Wing (EOW) of the Delhi Police has arrested a property dealer for alleged cheating in connection with a Rs 31-crore south Delhi property deal scam, an official said on Monday. Accused Ravinder Bainsla, through his company Bainsla Housing Private Limited, allegedly misrepresented himself as the representative of property owner Ashok Kumar, Additional Commissioner of Police (EOW) Amrutha Guguloth said in a statement. "The case, registered under sections 406, 420 and 120B of the IPC, was filed on June 14, 2024 on a complaint from M/s Energy **Building Solutions Private** Limited through Anurag

the petitioner was never put

through a test identification

His grievance was that the

trial court declined to give

even a day's time to cross-

examine the witness after

an adjournment was sought

and curbed his opportunity.

The high court granted

him "one and only one op-

portunity" to cross-examine

the witness and said though

unnecessary adjournments

should never be granted,

one should not forget that

the purpose was to conduct

a fair trial, and recording

depositions expeditiously

intended to subserve that

The prosecution defend-

ed the trial court's decision

and said non-availability of

a senior lawyer on behalf of

an accused person was no

ground for seeking an ad-



Bajpayee," the statement read. Bainsla offered to sell a plot in Delhi's Samalkha for Rs 31 crore to the complainant, promising to resolve legal disputes and provide vacant possession.

The complainant paid Rs 3.7 crore for the deal between December 2021 and February 2022. However, Bainsla failed to deliver on his promises and did not comply with a subsequent

settlement agreement, the statement said.

Despite being served a notice to join the probe, Bainsla applied for anticipatory bail, which was denied by a court. He was arrested on

February 20. Bainsla is a post-graduate. He works as a property dealer and assists people in buying or selling disputed properties, the statement said.

AAP MLA Amanatullah Khan **TDG NETWORK** ecutor (APP) Atul Shriv-NEW DELHI The Rouse Avenue court

on Monday extended the interim protection granted to Aam Aadmi Party MLA Amanatullah Khan till February 25 after hearing arguments on his anticipatory bail.

Special Judge Jitendra Singh extended the interim protection to the Okhla MLA and listed the matter for hearing tomorrow.

On February 13, the AAP MLA was granted protection to Amanatullah Khan from any coercive action on February 24. The court had asked AAP MLA to join the investigation. Delhi Police filed the CCTV footage and statement of witnesses for the court's consideration.

At the outset, Delhi police



Court extends protection to

The court also inquired about the power failure at the time incident on February 10.

granted anticipatory bail.

astava appeared for Delhi Police and submitted that custodial interrogation is required as there are contradictions in the facts narrated by Amanatullah Khan and what Shavej Khan has stated. Delhi Police also stated that Section 111 BNS has

in continuing unlawful

activities. Twenty-six cas-

es were registered against

him. On the other hand,

advocate Rajat Bhard-

waj along with Kaustubh

Khanna and Irshad Khan

arguing for Amanatullah

tently

also filed a status report.

The court pulled up Delhi police for not filing the supplementary charge sheet against Shavej Khan and not cancelling his Proclaimed Offender (PO) status even after he was Additional Public Pros-

30-year-old man shot Fair opportunity cannot be denied for dead in Farrukhnagar speedy trial: HC in 2020 riots case

Extension simultaneously.

parade.

23-year-old man commits

TDG NETWORK GURUGRAM

A 30-year-old man, Rohit, was shot dead by unidentified assailants on Monday evening in Farrukhnagar, just days after his release from jail.

Rohit, a resident of Khera Khurrampur village, had a criminal history, with more than 10 cases, including murder, registered against him.

Police suspect that his murder could be linked to an old enmity or rivalry. According to the police, the incident occurred around 4:30 pm in the fields behind World College, where Rohit was shot by the assailants who then fled the scene.

Rohit was immediately rushed to a hospital, but doctors declared him dead on arrival. Given his criminal background, police

believe the motive may be connected to a gang-related dispute. The investiga-

tion is still ongoing, and authorities are working to identify the perpetrators. Inspector Sandeep Kumar, the SHO of Farrukhnagar police station, confirmed that the police have been deployed in Khera Khurrampur village to prevent any further unrest and ensure peace.

The police have promised swift action and are determined to make arrests soon. As the investigation continues, police are focusing on gathering evidence and identifying the assailants. They have expressed confidence that the suspects will

iustice. The case is expected to reveal more details in the coming days as law enforcement intensifies its efforts.

be caught and brought to

TDG NETWORK NEW DELHI The Delhi High Court in a February 2020 riots case has said expediting trial couldn't be at the cost of fairness as it was against "all canons of justice" and the accused had to be given a fair opportunity. Justice

order passed on Februarv 16, said while it did not fault the trial court for attempting to proceed with the trial expeditiously, the right to cross-examine was "critical" to the petitioner's defence and there appeared a "disproportionate sense of expedition".

Anup J Bhambhani, in the

"We must not delude ourselves into believing that the purpose of expeditious trial would be served by denying to an accused a fair and reasonable opportunity to



cross-examine a prosecution witness on a critical issue." the court said

The judge went on, "This court is of the view that adjourning the matter to the next day or to any day soon thereafter, would have been the balanced and appropriate course of action. Speedy trial is in fact more in the interest of an accused who claims innocence; but expedition in trial cannot be at

the cost of fairness of trial, since that would be against all canons of justice.'

The case related to a February 2020 riots' accused who sought to recall a witness for cross-examination during the trial. He wanted to cross-examine a policeman to elicit the fact that he could possibly not have "suddenly" identified him when he did not refer to him in his statement earlier and suicide in Paharganj

TDG NETWORK

NEW DELHI

A 23-year-old man allegedly committed suicide at his residence in central Delhi's Paharganj, an official said on Monday. According to police, the incident occurred on Sunday night. The deceased was identified as Jasmit alias Jashn.

Police said Jasmit was a habitual drinker and frequently argued with his parents.

Around 7 pm on February 22, he allegedly fought with his mother under the influence of alcohol and attempted to assault her, said the officer. Fearing further conflict, his parents left their house, locked it, and went to their daughter's residence in Ghaziabad.

"On February 23, neighbours informed the couple that someone had atway, police said.

Police said Jasmit was a habitual drinker and frequently argued with his parents.

tempted to break into their house. They sent a relative, Tejinder, with the house key to check. Teiinder arrived at the location around 10 pm and found the lock intact. Upon entering, he discovered that Jasmit had died by suicide by hanging," he added.

Initial investigations suggest that Jasmit forced open the latch of the balcony door and broke into the house. His body was sent for postmortem examination, and further inquiries are under-

Cops arrests Baba Safidon Gang member in Mumbai

TDG NETWORK NEW DELH

Delhi Police's crime branch arrested a 'Baba Safidon' gang member, identified as Bhola Shankar. 26-yearold Shankar was wanted in relation to various cases in Haryana and Delhi, officials said on Monday.

According to the police, the arrested accused was wanted in five cases; one robbery case from PS Vasant Kunj, Delhi, and four cases from Haryana. He is



alleged to be a key member branch, on February 14, and primary arms supplier around 11.30 AM, two acfor the notorious Baba Saficused individuals entered don Gang. a currency exchange office

According to the crime and robbed foreign currencv notes worth approximately Rs 7.5 lakhs at gunpoint.

"The culprits fled in a car, accompanied by a third accomplice who had been waiting outside the office. In connection with the incident, an FIR under sections 309(4)/3(5) of the BNS & 25 Arms Act was registered at PS Vasant Kunj North, Delhi, and the local police initiated an investigation," read a statement from the police. The police had arrested two suspects earlier, Dipanshu and Gaurav Dhania, recovering four illegal firearms from them. The third accomplice was later identified as Bhola Shankar. The accused was on the run, and there were no leads on his whereabouts.

Based on technical surveillance, the team narrowed down the accused's hideout in Andheri East, Mumbai.

"A raiding team laid a trap and nabbed the accused, Bhola Shankar, from near a hotel in Andheri East. Mumbai.

Man's head smashed with brick for seeking repayment of Rs 100

TDG NETWORK NEW DELHI

journment.

purpose.

A 25-year-old man's head was smashed with a brick in Outer North Delhi's Narela area for demanding the repayment of Rs 100 that the accused borrowed from him, police said on Monday.

The incident occurred on February 15 and the accused Aman has been arrested, Deputy Commissioner of Police (Outer-

north) Nidhin Valsan said. A PCR call about the body was received at Narela Police Station.

Teams were immediately sent to the spot and further investigation was launched after registering an FIR.

"The body was found behind the rice mill in Vishal Bagh. Initially, teams could not identify the body, which led to a door-to-door drive for the identification," the DCP said, adding the deceased was identified after two days of the investigation. The deceased has been identified as Bunty, a resident of Dada Mai colony in Bankner. Valsan said the police reviewed 140 CCTV cameras and traced the movement of the accused.

Despite the accused trying to avoid detection by not using a mobile phone, he was nabbed.

NATION

SENSEX SHEDS 850 POINTS AS WEAK GLOBAL CUES HIT SENTIMENT

Broader index NSE Nifty was down 242.55 points or 1.06 per cent

AGENCIES MUMBA

The Indian stock markets on Monday ended on a lower note, influenced by weak global cues that kept the benchmarks under pressure during the trading session.

At the close of the market, the Sensex was down 856.65 points or 1.14 per cent, at 74,454.41, and the Nifty at the National Stock Exchange (NSE) was down 242.55 points or 1.06 per cent, at 22,553.35.

At NSE, Wipro, HCL Technologies, Infosys, TCS, and Tata Steel were the biggest losers. On the other hand, the stocks of M&M, Eicher Motors, Dr Reddy's Labs, Hero MotoCorp and Kotak Mahindra Bank were the gainers.

In Monday's trading session, except for auto, pharma, and FMCG, all other sectoral indices ended in the red territory. The sectoral indices of IT. metal. and telecom were down about 2 per cent.

In terms of sectors, 10 out of 13 major sectoral indices traded lower in today's session.

The volatility index, India VIX, cooled off by 0.60 per cent to 14.44, indicating a decline in market volatility. "The D-street indices ex-

perienced a sharp drop to an eight-month low as market sentiment remained subdued. The decline was

On NSE, Wipro, HCL Technologies, Infosys, TCS and Tata Steel were the biggest losers ■ M&M, Eicher Motors,

Dr Reddy's Labs, Hero MotoCorp and Kotak Mahindra Bank were the gainers Only auto, pharma, and

FMCG ended in the green territory

The volatility index, India VIX, cooled off by 0.60 per volatility cent to 14.44, indicat-Sectoral indices of IT,

"The D-street indices experienced a sharp drop to an eight-month low as market sentiment remained subdued. The decline was primarily driven by significant losses in heavyweight stocks, especially within the IT sector

-Ameya Ranadive, Sr Technical Analyst, StoxBox

primarily driven by significant losses in heavyweight stocks, especially within the IT sector. This weakness followed reports of declining consumer confidence in the US, casting a shadow over the country's growth outlook," said Ameya Ranadive, Chartered Market Technician, CFTe, Sr Technical Analyst, StoxBox.



the close of trade.

zone. On the downside, the index will find initial support at 22,500, followed by the 22,050 level, where the 100-weekly Exponential Moving Average is positioned, said Hrishikesh Yedve, AVP Technical and Derivatives Research at Asit C. Mehta Investment Intermediates Ltd.

In today's session, the Bank Nifty opened with a gap down, witnessed selling pressure, and concluded the session lower at 48,652.

"On the downside, bank nifty will find strong support around 47,840, while on the upside, 49,650 will remain a challenging barrier for the index," Yedve said. The market witnessed significant selling pressure in the small-cap and microcap segments, while the IT and metal sectors experienced the largest declines.

Jaipur to host **3R and Circular** Economy Forum in Asia and Pacific

AGENCIES NEW DELH

India will host the 12th **Regional 3R and Circular**

Stake cut in PSBs: Govt invites bids from bankers, legal firms

AGENCIES NEW DELHI

The Department of Investment and Public Asset Management (DIPAM) on Monday invited bids from merchant bankers and legal firms to assist the government divest its stake in public sector banks and listed financial institutions.As per the two RFPs (request for proposal) floated by DI-PAM, the merchant bankers

and legal advisors would be empanelled for a period of three years, which could be extended by one more year. The last day for putting in bids by merchant bankers is March 27.

DIPAM, which is under the Finance Ministry, manages government shareholding in public sector entities. Currently, a host of public sector banks and finan-

RBI revises norms for **Urban Co-op Banks**

AGENCIES

NEW DELH

The Reserve Bank on Monday said aggregate exposure of Urban Co-operative Banks to residential mortgages (housing loans to individuals) should not exceed 25 per cent of their total loans and advances, a move aimed at providing greater operational freedom to the lenders.In terms of extant instructions, aggregate exposure of a UCB to housing, real estate and commercial real estate loans is capped

at 10 per cent of its total assets. The ceiling of 10 per cent can be exceeded by an additional 5 per cent of total assets for the purpose of institutions are yet to meet the minimum 25 per cent public shareholding norm mandated by market regulator Sebi.

cial institutions are yet to meet the minimum 25 per cent public shareholding norm mandated by market regulator Sebi. The government has set August 1, 2026, deadline for such non-compliant entities to reduce government holding and meet public float norms.

With the invitation of bids for empanelment of merchant bankers, the government has set the ball rolling to lower its stake in banks and financial institutions. Currently, five public sec-

granting housing loans to value loans loans of value individuals. not more than Rs 25 lakh or 0.2 per cent of their Tier I

The RBI has issued revised

prudential norms with a capital, whichever is higher, view to giver greater opsubject to a maximum of Rs erational flexibility to UCBs 1 crore per borrower by without diluting the regula-March 31, 2026. tory objectives. It further said aggregate

"On a review, it has been exposure of a UCB to residecided to revise the defidential mortgages (housing nition of small value loans loans to individuals), other as loans of value not more than those eligible to be than Rs 25 lakh or 0.4 per classified as a priority seccent of their Tier I capital, tor, shall not exceed 25 per whichever is higher, subcent of its total loans and ject to a ceiling of Rs 3 crore advances.

per borrower," it said. Currently, UCBs are required to follow the prescribed glide path to have at least 50 per cent of their aggregate loans and advances comprising of small the RBI said.

Textile, tourism, tech: PM Modi's 'mantra' for development

A host of public sector banks and financial

tor banks are yet to meet the minimum public shareholding norm. The government currently holds a 98.3 per cent stake in Punjab & Sind Bank, 96.4 per cent in Indian Overseas Bank, 95.4 per cent in UCO Bank, 93.1 per cent in Central Bank of India and 86.5 per cent in Bank of Maharashtra.

> Also, it holds a 86.36 per cent stake in financial institution IRFC, 85.44 per cent in insurance company The New India Assurance, 82.40 per cent in General Insurance Corporation.

Also, aggregate exposure

of a UCB to the real estate

sector, excluding housing

loans to individuals, shall

not exceed five per cent of

its total loans and advances.

financial outlay of Rs 1,480

Technical textiles are de-

fined as textile materials and

products used primarily for

their technical performance

in various high-end indus-

Financial Literacy Week of RBI begins

AGENCIES NEW DELH

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) launched the tenth edition of Financial Literacy Week (FLW) 2025 on Monday, with the theme "Financial Literacy: Women's Prosperity."

According to the RBI, the FLW 2025 will be observed between February 24 and 28.2025.

The top management and regional heads of the Reserve Bank, NABARD and heads of select commercial banks attended the launch ceremony.

The event was inaugurated by RBI Governor Sanjay Malhotra, who emphasised the importance of empowering women to play a significant role in driving the country's inclusive and sustained economic growth. The launch ceremony, held in the presence of the top management and regional heads of the Reserve Bank and NABARD and executives from select commercial banks, marked the beginning of a week-long series of events dedicated to promoting financial literacy.

Speaking at the launch, the Governor, Shri Malhotra, underlined the need to empower women to enhance their participation in driving inclusive and sustained economic growth in our country. He urged banks to use all available channels to continue to promote financial literacy, particularly

among women. RBI has planned multimedia campaigns to raise awareness about the importance of financial literacy.

tries. At present, India's technical textile exports are reportedly between USD 2

AGENCIES Prime Minister Narendra

sion." he added. "Technically, on the daily chart, Nifty has formed a red candle, indicating weakness. Furthermore, the index breached the 22,700 support level and closed below it. Thus, on the upside, 22,700-22,800 will

Nifty was accompanied by

lower trading volume com-

pared to the previous ses-

"Today's decline in the serve as a solid resistance

NHAI to monetise 24 road assets

AGENCIES NEW DELH

State-owned National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) on Monday said it has identified a tentative list of 24 road assets which will be monetised in 2025-26.

The total length of the roads assets to be monetised





in the next financial year is 1,472 km with cumulative annual revenue from these assets pegged at Rs 1,863 crore in 2023-24.

"All stakeholders may give their feedbacks on these assets and or may suggest additional assets, for revising the list to make it more inclusive.

"These assets are preferably to be monetised through TOT mode unless not revised at later stage for any other mode of monetization," NHAI said in an office order dated February 24.2025

According to the order, out of the 24 projects, five road projects are in Maharashtra, four in Jharkhand, three in Uttar Pradesh, two each in West Bengal, Bihar and Telangana and one each in

jarat, Karnataka, Kerala and Odisha NHAI had identified 33 highway stretches with a total length of 2,741 km across the country for monetisation in 2024-25. Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH)

NHAI had identified 33 highway stretches with a total length of 2,741 km across the country for monetisation in 2024-25. MoRTH has targeted to raise

Rs 39,000 crore through various modes of asset monetisation in 2024-25

Chhattisgarh, Haryana, Gumonetisation in 2024-25. Currently, MoRTH mone-

tises its assets under three different modes -- tolloperate-transfer (TOT), Infrastructure Investment Trust (InvIT) and projectbased financing -- in order to provide all categories of investors an opportunity to has targeted to raise Rs invest in assets pertaining 39,000 crore through to highways and associated various modes of asset infrastructure.

Economy Forum in Asia and the Pacific, the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs said on Monday.

The Forum will take place at the Rajasthan International Centre in Jaipur on March 3-5.

The event will centre on the theme of "Realizing **Circular Societies Towards** Achieving SDGs and Carbon Neutrality in Asia-Pacific," said Union Minister Manohar Lal at the Curtain Raiser event organized today at the National Media Centre in the national capital as a precursor to the main Forum.

The Minister informed that over 500 international and domestic participants are expected to attend the three-day conference.

Modi on Monday said that three sectors - textiles, tourism and technology- are "crucial" for India's development.

Addressing the Madhya Pradesh Global Investor Summit in Bhopal, the Prime Minister said these sectors will create "crores"

of new jobs. "Three sectors will play a crucial role in India's development--textiles, tourism, and technology. These sectors will create crores of new jobs. If we look at textiles, India is the secondlargest producer of cotton. India has a whole tradition related to textile, it has skill as well as entrepreneurship," PM Modi said.

Terming the state as the "cotton capital" of India,

Prime Minister Narendra Modi visits an exhibition on Advantage Assam 2.0 Summit, in Guwahati on Monday. (ANI Photo)

crore.

the Prime Minister stated that about "25 per cent of India's organic cotton supply comes from Madhya the Mission was launched Pradesh." in 2020-21 and has been extended till 2025-26, with a

India is the sixth largest textile and apparel exporter in the world.

Notably, the Central government aims to target the export of USD 10 billion worth of technical textiles under its National Tech-

Godrej Industries to inaugurate

security for industrial development. He said that the government is constantly pushing for water conservation and promoting river interlinking mission. "For industrial developnical Textiles Mission. To ment, water security is imposition India as a global leader in technical textiles,

portant. To achieve this, on one side, we are pushing water conservation, and on the other, we are promoting the river interlinking mission. Agriculture is one of the biggest beneficiaries in this process," PM Modi said. "Recently, the Rs 45,000 crore Ken-Betwa River Linking Project has been started.

'Many, many possibilities in MP,' says Gautam Adani

AGENCIES BHOPAL

Adani Group Chairperson Gautam Adani arrived at the Invest MP Global Investors Summit (GIS) 2025 in Bhopal, expressing confidence in Madhya Pradesh's investment potential. Adani said, "There are a lot of possibilities in Madhya Pradesh," emphasizing the state's vast opportunities for industrial and economic growth. The two-day summit,

scheduled for February 24-25, aims to showcase Madhya Pradesh as a leading investment destination.

Trade deal with England will be a win-win for both, says Piyush Goyal

AGENCIES NEW DELHI

India and the United Kingdom have resumed negotiations on a trade deal that is "balanced, mutually beneficial and forward-looking."

The announcement was made by Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal and Secretary of State for the Department for Business and Trade of the United Kingdom Jonathan Reynolds, who is in the national capital.

A Commerce Ministry release said the announcement is the outcome of discussions



held between the Prime Ministers of the two countries. Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his UK counterpart Keir Starmer had met on the sidelines of the G-20 Summit in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil in November 2024 to underline the importance of at an early date. The release said that India

and the United Kingdom have a close partnership, built through collaboration on security and defence, new and emerging technologies, climate, health, education, research and innovation, green finance and people-

to-people contacts. The collective aspiration to deliver economic growth and sustainable development is at the centre of this relationship.

> "Both sides have agreed to resume negotiations towards a balanced, mutually benefi-

cial and a forward-looking resuming trade negotiations deal that delivers mutual

growth and builds on the strengths of the two complementary economies. The strengthening of the trading relationship between our two countries has the potential to unlock opportunities for business and consumers across both our nations and build further on our already deep ties," it said.

Piyush Goyal and Jonathan Reynolds directed the negotiators to work together to resolve the outstanding issues in the agreement to ensure a fair and equitable trade deal for shared success.

BHOPAL

AGENCIES

Business conglomerate Go drej Industries Limited is set to open a factory later this year in Madhya Pradesh, according to its Chairman and Managing Director, Nadir Godrej.

Speaking on the sidelines of the Madhya Pradesh Global Investor Summit 2025 (GIS-2025), the Godrej Managing Director and Chairman said, "We have had a large factory in Malanpur for many years and at the last investment conference we had prom-

ised to increase our capac-

A view from the Global Investor Summit in Bhopal

ity and we have already invested 450 crores there and the work is going on and we hope to inaugurate the factory later this year." He also spoke about Godrej Industries Limited's intent to expand beyond the existing businesses. Godrej said that the com-

pany is expanding its footprint in the real estate sector. 'We are doing something in Indore we recently started. And Godrej Agrovet is also very active in Madhya Pradesh because, as the Prime Minister said, it is a farming state, so we are very active here," he added.

new factory in Madhya Pradesh

billion to USD 3 billion. In his inaugural address at the Global Investor Summit, PM Modi also emphasised on the need to ensure water COMMENT & ANALYSIS

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#METOOMARITALRAPE: THE MOVEMENT INDIA DESPERATELY NEEDS



DR. PYALI CHATTERJEE

🔪 ometimes, I am surprised by our position **D**as women in society. Is it necessary to always have a man in our lives to protect us? And even if we do, is there any guarantee that he-whether a father, brother, friend, or husband—will always safeguard us with the utmost care? What if the protector turns into a monster? In such cases, should society remain silent, or should we hold the perpetrator accountable? No one has the right to harm or kill a woman-whether she is a daughter, sister, or wife.

A recent judgment by the Chhattisgarh High Court has reignited a critical debate: Does marriage grant a man the license to rape? However, this question has now evolved. The more pressing issue is-does marriage give a husband the right to engage in unnatural sex, even if it results in his wife's death?

In recent years, crimes against women have es-

calated significantly. The evidence, the trial court number of reported cases convicted the husband of unnatural sex and culpable has surged, yet justice often remains elusive. Recenthomicide not amounting to ly, in an appeal case, the murder. Chhattisgarh High Court

However, the High Court ruled that "unnatural sex overturned the conviction, ruling that if a wife is over by a husband in marriage 15 years old, "any sexual inis not an offense." The case tercourse" by the husband involved a 40-year-old man convicted by a Sescannot be considered rape sions Court for the death under any circumstances. of his wife in 2017. The vic-Consequently, the absence tim suffered severe injuries of the wife's consent for unand eventually died due to natural acts was deemed legally irrelevant. According to reports,

This raises a serious concern: Even when a 30-yearold woman loses her life due to forced unnatural sex, does the law still fail to recognize her suffering? Does our judiciary and legislature truly value women's lives? This judgment is deeply distressing for every woman. It is truly shameful to witness a man who caused his wife's death in the pursuit of his unnatural desires now walking free.

How many more cases do we need before we acknowledge the gravity of this issue? How many women must lose their lives due to such heinous acts? Today, I am not writing this article as a lawyer or an academician-I am writing as a woman first. Before my roles in family and society, I am a woman. Our devotion to goddesses becomes meaningless when we are tortured by those meant to protect us. Marital rape has long

been a contentious issue in India. Several petitions are still pending before the Supreme Court, seeking its criminalization. While marriage is considered a sacred institution, and sex is an integral part of it, it should be based on mutual comfort and respect. It should not be an act where one partner enjoys while the other suffers mentally and physically. Every sexual act between a husband and wife should be founded on mutual understanding-only then can a marriage truly succeed.

Spousal sexual violence within marriage causes the same trauma as other forms of rape. In a landmark judgment, the Supreme Court of India, in Independent Thought v. Union of India, amended Section 375 of the IPC to align with the Constitution and child protection laws. The new interpretation states: "Sexual intercourse or sexual acts by a man with his wife, if she is not below eighteen years of age, is not rape." However, despite this change, the Central Government informed the Supreme Court that it does not recognize marital rape as an offense. Despite years of advocacy,

our government has failed to provide legal protection against marital rape. It has failed to acknowledge the trauma and pain suffered by married women. Numerous national and international studies highlight the severe impact of marital rape, with some victims requiring medical intervention. The recent Chhattisgarh case is just one of many examples.

How many more women must endure violence behind closed doors? How many must sacrifice their lives to satisfy their husbands? In many Indian families, newlywed brides are still taught by their inlaws or elder sisters that they must "surrender" to their husbands-physically and emotionally-because it is their duty. Many women, even if they dislike it or feel pain, continue to endure it due to societal and familial pressure. Shockingly, the law interprets this forced submission as consent.

However, consent and free consent are not the same, and it is time our lawmakers understood this distinction. What they consider "consent" may not be *free* consent.

Isn't it high time we initiate another movement one beyond #MeToo? This time, it should be *#MeTooMaritalRape.* As a signatory to the Con-

vention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), India has failed its married women by refusing to recognize marital rape as a crime. We strongly urge the Indian government to implement CEDAW in its true spirit. One of the key reasons for its ineffective implementation is that CEDAW, as a soft law, is not legally enforceable in India. The rising cases of violence against women highlight the urgent need for its robust enforcement. To address this, a new Optional Protocol to CEDAW is essential-one that would serve as a binding treaty.

The new Optional Protocol to CEDAW will reinforce state accountability in preventing and responding to all forms of violence against women and girls. It will compel states to strengthen their protection and prevention measures, ensuring greater safety for women and girls. Additionally, it will support states in achieving Sustainable **Development Goal (SDG)** No. 5 on gender equality by working towards the complete elimination of violence against women and girls.

I believe this case from Chhattisgarh, India will spark a sense of sisterhood among women and ignite a feminist movement in India-one that brings about meaningful change, ensuring that no woman loses her life to such brutality again.

Dr. Pyali Chatterjee, HOD Assistant Professor, Faculty of Law, ICFAI University, Raipur, Chhattisgarh, India

PERSPECTIVE **ISRAEL-PALESTINE**

WHEN THE MINDSET **BECOMES A PROBLEM**

As if the tales of bestiality by the Hamas terrorists on 7 October 2023-when they attacked and killed over 1,200 Israelis and other nationalities in the most horrific manner and took 251 people hostage-were not enough, another chapter in this blood curdling horror story unfolded last week when news broke about how two toddlers, one a five-year-old and another two years old, were murdered in captivity. Ariel and Kfir Bibas were kidnapped with their mother Shiri by the Mujahideen Brigades, a Palestinian terror group, which was one of the several groups that joined hands with Hamas to carry out the atrocities of 7 October 2023. As their remains were returned to Israel by the Hamas, the two children were found to have been strangled bare-handed to death and disfigured to show that they had been killed in an Israeli strike. What was thought to be the body of their mother, turned out to be that of a woman from Gaza, which the Hamas, in an act of incalculable cruelty, had passed off as Shiri. It was only two days later that Hamas released Shiri's body. The Hamas also made a huge show of returning the bodies, parading them around and turning it into a celebration, with Gazans, young and old revelling in the inhumanity on display. Even otherwise, Hamas has been parading around the hostages before releasing them, forcing them to wave and smile at the Gazans. As shock and horror rippled through Israel, and much of the civilised world, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu stated that Israel had decided "to delay the release of terrorists that was planned for yesterday (Saturday) until the release of the next hostages is ensured, without the humiliating ceremonies." Around 600 terrorists were scheduled to be released on Saturday, but now it is indefinitely postponed. According to the Israelis, over 60 more hostages, including five Americans, are yet to be released, but it's not known how many of them are still alive.



Amid this, Netanyahu has started intensifying operations inside the West Bank, with three refugee camps emptied of around 40,000 people. Israeli troops are expected to stay there for at least a vear. These camps are a hotbed of terrorist activity. In the meanwhile, three parked buses were blown up by Palestinian terrorists, with explosives found in two more. While mass casualties were avoided, Israel is being reminded once again that the terrorist threat remains and has not been eradicated with the crippling of Hamas. While the missiles and rockets from Gaza may have stopped, the Hamas and other similar groups have resorted to carrying out terror attacks targeting civilians, which too cause huge damage and mental trauma. The biggest problem here is the radicalisation of a whole population—the Palestinians in this case. They have been completely radicalised and see Hamas as their sole representative. As a result of which, it increasingly appears that inhumanity comes naturally to them as they indulge in a peculiar dance of death where the line between civilised behaviour and savagery gets blurred. This is trademark Hamas. This is also what 7 October 2023 saw—the wilful and gleeful participation of Palestinian civilians in Hamas' terror attack. While supporters of the Palestinian cause are saying that the murder of the two Israeli children has to be seen in the context of the thousands of Palestinian children killed in Israel's attack on Gaza, the fact is there is no moral equivalence. While the death of children is always unacceptable and tragic, in this case, the Palestinian terror groups have inflicted unimaginable, and deliberate horror on Israeli children-from roasting them in ovens to killing them with bare hands, as they did in the case of Ariel and Kfir. In contrast, the Palestinian children are the unintended victims of an unnecessary war thrust on them by their own people. This is the fundamental difference between the two situations. Hence, while the death of the Palestinian children should be mourned, but not to condemn, or to try and normalise what the Palestinians have done to Israeli children, and to Israelis, young and old, shows a complete lack of moral compass. Sadly, a large section of the Palestinian population is guilty of this, as well as many of their co-religionists and people who believe in the so-called Palestinian cause. It is simply not right to try and consign the suffering of the Jewish people as a footnote of history-what happened on 7 October was too painful for them and will reverberate through generations. To dismiss what was inflicted on them as a justified response to the suffering of the Palestinians, or to indulge in whataboutery amounts to a lack of humanity. It is this mindset that needs to change, as else, sooner or later Palestinians will lose the sympathy of a large part of the world. JOYEETA BASU

Bimal Roy's 'Amrita Kumbha'

forced unnatural sex.

on December 11, 2017, the

husband engaged in non-

consensual unnatural sex

with his wife, causing her

immense pain, and then

left for work. Struggling

with excruciating pain and

discomfort, the wife sought

help from her husband

sister and another relative,

who took her to the hospi-

tal. She succumbed to her

injuries a few hours later.

In her dying declaration to

the magistrate and police,

she stated that her husband

had forced himself on her,

leading to her deteriorating

In India's legal system, a

dying declaration holds sig-

nificant evidentiary value

and is sufficient for convic-

tion unless contradicted by

other evidence. The post-

mortem report confirmed

that the cause of death was

peritonitis and rectal per-

foration—indicating severe

injuries to the abdomen

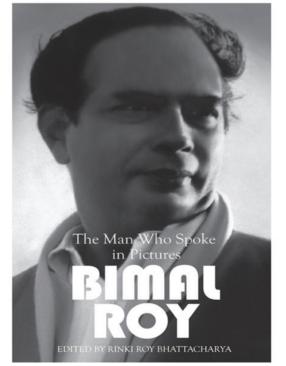
and rectum. Based on this

condition.

families and the tragedy became part of the folklore and people mourned the demise of the near and dear by narrating the tale in a poetic form. The Bengali Khoje ' on the stampede and

ant Panchami and Magh accident affected many Poornima, known as 'Shahi Snan'.

The novel was in first person where the writer narrates the story. There is one character of Balram writer Samresh Basu wrote who suffers from tuberculoa book titled 'Amrit Kumbha sis and wanted to bathe at Sangam on the ninth day of



He continued to discuss the finer details of the film with Gulzar and was particularly unhappy about the timing of the death of the Balram. Gulzar writes: "Balram's death kept on shifting and during the debate lasting two to three months his , timing of death was discussed



PROF. JAWAID IQBAL

Bimal da died relatively voung at the age of 57 of cancer leaving behind a body of work which has immortalized him - Parinita, Do Bigha Zameen, Biraj -Bahu, Sujata, Parakh, Madhumati, Devdas, Bandani are his renowned works in Hindi . His greatness could be ascertained from the fact that these films were both, commercially and critically successful and received many Filmfare and National awards.

However; the subject of the article is 'Faith' Bimal da had in 'Poorna Kumbh' Mela rituals . This is revealed in a Book Chapter titled 'Bimal da' written by Gulzar who was his assistant at that time . This is part of the book by name -'The Man who spoke in pictures- Bimal Roy', edited by his daughter Rinki Roy Bhattacharya.

Here Gulzar narrates his days spent with Bimal da when he was working on a film script titled , 'Amrita Kumbha', with the background of the 'Kumbha Mela' at Prayagraj. In 1954 during Kumbha Mela at Prayag there occurred a stampede and thousands of people died . Inadequate administrative arrangements and crowd control were causes reported. The

the 'Kumbh Mela' of 1954. Bimal da had read the book when it was serialised in Anand Bazaar Patrika and

was very enthusiastic about it. The book was his prized possession, kept by his bedside. It was heavily marked with pencil in between the printed lines and on the margins. Numerous small paper notes were inserted and pinned in it . It had become bulky and seemed as if there was another book in the belly of the original. Bimal da had a clear vision of the screenplay and he had mastered the sequence and characterization. It is be-

lieved that if one takes bath at the confluence of Ganga . Iamuna and Saraswati at Sangam in Prayagraj on the auspicious 'Jog Snan' (derived from 'Yog') day during 'Poorna Kumbh' when the early golden sunrays are touching the water you are cured of all sins and diseases and live for one hundred years . Gulzar had asked Bimal da if he believed in it and Bimal da replied that it was a matter of faith and written in 'Shastras'.

The 'Shahi Snan' of Kumbha is called 'Jog Snan' by Bengali devotees. The ninth day of 'Poorna Kumbha' brought out in the book by the writer was being followed in the film making by Bimal da. Traditionally and in practice the auspicious days of 'Poorna Kumbha' are -Makar Sankranti, Mauni Amavasya, Bas-

'Poorna Kumbh' to be cured of his disease! As the people were rushing out of the train at Allahabad he gets crushed in the stampede and dies. Bimal da would repeatedly point out that the writer has killed him too early and insisted that it should die later in the film. Gulzar argued that the writer perhaps has shown his death in the beginning so as to indicate of the tragedy (stampede in Mela) in the end and to create a balance of the narrative, but Bimal da was adamant.

Once he was detected with cancer, which was not disclosed to him, he was confined to his home but his commitment and perseverance for this film never waned . He was to go with his team and take shots of the Annual Magh Mela in Prayagraj but since he fell ill he directed Gulzar and his team to take the shots and gave them detailed instructions . The main shooting was to take place during the 'Poorna Kumbh' in December 1965.

Gulzar did visit 'Magh Mela' in Allahabad and took some shots , but his mind was occupied by the illness of his master. The team also knew that the film was unlikely be completed. The following conversation between Gulzar and Kamal da (Cameraman,) brings out the reason behind Bimal Roy's obsession with the film :

"One evening after returning from shooting, Kamalda asked 'Why is Bimal da making this film

'I had asked him once ,' I answered.

'What did he say?'

'I told him of a feeling that I am the writer who had gone in search of amrit which makes man live for a hundred years . Surrounded by the cigarette smoke he had coughed. His face had turned red and after he recovered his breath , he added, 'I too have been searching for that amrit'.

'Confused, I had asked. 'Do you really wish to live for a hundred years ?' 'Hmm.

'That day, the topic ended at that point. On another occasion, 'he said, ' A hundred vears do not literally mean that many years. It means that a man attains immortality through this amrit.'

'What amrit is that?' 'Bimal da had stared far into space for a long time."

it was being pushed forward by slow degrees. One day Bimal da said happily -" I have finally discovered the right place for that scene. On the day of the Jog Snan, at the crack of dawn as the first ray of sun falls on water ..' he coughed excitedly . His whole body racked by the cough, but he continued, 'that is when the death occurs. This first death would balance the stampede in the climax. Balram would die on the day of the Jog Snan."

As the fatal day neared all his family members and colleagues would expect the tragic hour to arrive. However when Gulzar would meet him he would talk of the film . As it was December 1965 and the 'Poorna Kumbh' had commenced he told Gulzar that they would shoot after the culmination. Seeing the fast deteriorating condition of Bimal da Gulzar stopped visiting him as he could not see his suffering.

Finally the tragic day arrived and Gulzar states: " I got the news in the morning and it was as if the sword of Domacles hanging over my head had been removed. The moment I recovered my breath , tears poured out of my eyes. It was 8 January 1966, the day of the Jog Snan"

As the 'Maha Kumbh' of 2025 culminates in Sangam at Prayagraj , Bimal da would be smiling watching the proceedings from above; having attained immortality!

Pradesh, (U.P.-201301); Published at: 275, Piccadily House, Floor-1, Captain Gaur Marg, Srinivaspuri, New Delhi - 110065; Mumbai Office: 275 Captain Gaur Marg Srinivaspuri Okhla, New Delhi - 110065; Mumbai Office: Juhu Hotel, Juhu Hotel, Juhu Tara Road, Santa Cruz-West, Mumbai-400049; Chandigarh Office: SCO-7, Sector 17-E, Chandigarh- 160017; RNI Registration No: DELENG/2022/83719; Title Code No: DELENG19869; For Subscriptions and Circulation Complaints Contact: Delhi: Mahesh Chandra Saxena Mobile:+ 91 9911825289, CISN 0976 - 0008

'thinking back, now I feel that

he knew that he had cancer.' 'He answered at length, Culture. I want to become a part of the culture of this land so that ...'. He wanted to say that he wanted to become immortal but he did not say it."

The health of Bimal da continued to deteriorate and he had become frail and shrunken but he did not cease to talk about the film based on the book. One day he called Gulzar and admonished him for

not working enough on the

script and asked him to sit

every day in the evening

with him on the script . He

insisted to shoot during the

Kumbh of 1965 and Gulzar

told him that it would com-

mence on 31 December and

the ninth day of 'Jog Snan'

would fall on O8 January

1966. In between a new film

by the title of 'Sahara' was

shot for a few days but then

the shooting had to stop as

he was unwell.

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THE DAILY GUARDIAN REVIEW TUESDAY | 25 FEBRUARY 2025 NEW DELHI

NATION

INDIA MUST MAKE INDIGENOUS AI CHIPS FOR DEFENCE: UNION MINISTER RAJNATH SINGH

Encourages students to contribute to development, safety of country in an address at IIT Mandi

TDG NETWORK MAND

'MUST HAVE OWN AI-POWERED WAR DOCTRINE'

nion Defence Minister Rajnath Singh emphasised the necessity to make Indigenous AI chips for defence and firewalls to ensure the cyber security of the nation.

Addressing 16th Foundation Day of IIT Mandi in Himachal Pradesh, Rajnath Singh encouraged the students to contribute to the development and safety of the country.

"India needs to create its own AI-powered war doctrine. It is necessary to make Indigenous AI chips for defence. There is a need to develop firewalls to focus on cyber security. I believe that IIT Mandi can play an important role in this," Rajnath Singh said.

Additionally, the Defence Minister highlighted the need for a centre of excellence in every IIT to boost the drones and Aerospace sector.

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"empty promises".

NEW DELH

tory."

"India needs to create its own Al-powered war doctrine. It is necessary to make Indigenous AI chips for defence. There is a need to develop firewalls to focus on cyber security. I believe that IIT Mandi can play an important role in this,' Rajnath Singh said. India is building its own

fighter aircraft-Tejas. We are working to take the work of aircraft and engine development to the next level.

"India is building its own fighter aircraft-Tejas. We are working to take the work of aircraft and engine development to the next level. You understand very well the importance of drones. I believe that to accelerate the drones and aerospace sector, there should be a centre



Defence Minister Rajnath Singh presents an award to a student during the 16th foundation day of IIT Mandi, in Mandi on Monday. IIT Mandi Director, Laxmidhar Behera and Chairperson of the Board of Governors (BoG) IIT Mandi, Lt. Gen. Kanwal Jeet Singh Dhillon also seen. ANI

accelerate the drones

of excellence in at least every IIT," Singh said. The Defence Minister

lauded India's telecom sector and 'Startup Ecosystem, saying that India is "moving ahead and changing the world.

"India's telecom sector ranks second in

You understand very and aerospace sector, there should be a centre well the importance of drones. I believe that to of excellence in at least

> every IIT," Singh said. the world. India is also emerging as the secondlargest manufacturer of

mobile handsets in the world. With more than 1.25 lakh startups and 110 UNICORN, India has also emerged as the third-largest 'Startup Ecosystem' in the world. In the field

of technological revolution, India is also moving ahead with the changing world. Understanding the importance of Artificial Intelligence and Next Generation Technologies, the Government of India is also making proactive efforts in this direction," Singh said.

He highlighted government initiatives such as India Semiconductor Mission, India-AI Mission and Mission on Advanced and High Impact Research promoted technological development in the country. "Our government is tak-

ing several initiatives to promote such critical and cutting-edge technological development. Be it the India Semicon-

ductor Mission launched in 2021 or the India-AI Mission. Similarly, the Government of India launched the National Mission on Quantum Technologies and Applications in 2020.

CM Mamata announces hikes in doctors' salaries in West Bengal

TDG NETWORK KOLKATA

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Baneriee on Monday announced a salary hike for state government doctors and health staff. She made the announcement, after holding a meeting at Dhanadhanya Audi-

torium, which was attended by the principals of medical colleges, district health officials, and other doctors.

This comes six months after the rape and murder case at the city's RG Kar Hospital, which had triggered nationwide outrage.

Further, the West Bengal Chief Minister speaking at the 'Chikitsar Arek Naam Seva' Program today expressed her heartfelt tributes to the victim of R G Kar Medical College and Hospital, who was raped and murdered on August 9,2024.

Further, she urged male doctors to protect their female counterparts as both work together at the grassroots level

CM Mamata Banerjee said, "I have walked on the streets after this incident, and the state government has passed Aparajita Bill. We want proper punishment for the culprits. So that such incidents are not repeated I give the responsibility to my brothers. You protect our sisters. Today men and women are practising together and they are at the grassroot level. 70,000.

"I kept the Health Ministry with me since it is very vast, and its development is not possible for a state minister. Today, there are a lot of fake medicines and fake propaganda through social media. In government hospitals fa-



"We want proper punishment for RG Kar culprits so that such incidents are not repeated. I give the responsibility to my brothers. You protect our sisters. Today men and women are practising together and they are at the grassroots level "

bution to the success of

Swasthya Sathi. Bengal

now has the best public

infrastructure in the coun-

try. The number of beds

in government hospitals

has already increased by

40,000. At the same time,

the number of doctors has

also increased significantly.

The number of nurses has

also risen by over 25,000. I

tell the district hospitals not

to refer patients suddenly. It

becomes difficult to manage

Further, she spoke about

The Chief Minister said,

the security system of hos-

to provide treatment free of cost. We emphasised expanding the gates of the hospital and to provide night shelters," Banerjee said.

The Chief Minister announced that the stipend for interns, house staff, and postgraduate trainees has been increased by 10,000 rupees each. She announced an increase in the salaries of senior resident doctors across all levels by Rs 15,000. As a result, Diploma-holding senior resident doctors will now receive Rs 80,000 instead of Rs 65,000, while Postgraduate senior resident doctors will

"Ex-servicemen should be get Rs 85,000 instead of Rs appointed for hospital security. The police also need Additionally, Postdoctorto increase surveillance. The police should expand ate senior doctors, who currently earn Rs 75,000, will the use of mobile vans. Cyber crimes are happening now receive Rs1lakh.

often these days, and to prevent such crimes, the police need to be given cyber training. Watch towers should be installed at every corner of the streets.

in Kolkata.

pitals.

knows that BJP is a factory mittee (AICC) headquarof Jumlas (empty promisters. es). If Narendra Modi is the "Narendra Modi calls head of the Jumla factory, himself a fakir (a saint), but around him, there are peo-

Intensifying his attack, the Congress MP cornered the Prime Minister over claims that he won't tolerate corruption. However, dunga', but in Assam the he said. CM Sarma's family CM's family has eaten up

Chief Minister Himanta

Biswa Sarma was the "re-

gional manager of this fac-



Himanta Biswa Sarma is the regional manager of this factory. PM Modi says- 'Naa khaunga aur naa khane

failure as the convenor of the North-East Democratic Alliance, given the "instability" in Manipur. He also asked about the delay in the committee's report related to Clause 6 of the Assam Accord, which talks about providing constitutional safeguards to protect the cultural, social, and linguistic identity of the Assamese people.

"Will Prime Minister Narendra Modi ask the CM of Assam how such instability occurred in Manipur despite him being the convewhile referring to the allegations levelled by Assam nor of the North-East Democratic Alliance? Now, is Congress incharge litendra

posed in Manipur, violence and rift everywhere - is this Himanta Biswa Sarma's Chanakya Niti for North-

"Home Minister Amit Shah banged the table in the House and said that the work related to Clause 6 of the Assam Accord, which the late Rajiv Gandhi could not do, would be done by the BJP government. BJP formed a committee, but till date the report of that committee has not even been

signed," he added. Ahead of the upcoming Assam assembly session, Gogoi said that Sarma's biggest fear was that he would have to sit in the opposition. The Congress MP said that the Assam CM was in a weak position.

The chief minister said, "Doctors will be required to provide a minimum of 8 hours of service in government hospitals. Doctors cilities have been started have made a huge contri-

ECI to organise conference of chief electoral officers of states and UTs

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Cong MP Gaurav Gogoi attacks BJP, calls it factory of 'jumlas' The Congress MP further questioned Sarma over his East?" Gogoi remarked.

in Assam had landholdings in every district.

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NEW DELHI

"The entire country

lands in every district," Gogoi said in a presser held at All India Congress Com-

Singh Alwar, who accused CM Sarma of building an empire in the state.

ple who are continuously

progressing," Gogoi added

the responsibility of North-East not on Himanta Biswa Sarma? President's rule im-

The Election Commission of India (ECI) will organise a conference of Chief Electoral Officers of States and Union Territories on March 4-5 at the India International Institute of Democracy and Election Management in New Delhi.

This is the first such conference to be held since Gyanesh Kumar assumed charge as Chief Election Commissioner (CEC). A first, the CEOs have been instructed to nominate a DEO and an ERO to take part in the conference.

As statutory authorities, CEOs, DEOs and EROs are important functionaries at the State, District and Assembly Constituency levels. The two-day conference offers a platform for the election officials of the States/ UTs to brainstorm and mutually learn from each other's experiences.

On Day 1 of the Conference, participants will discuss key areas of modern accordance with the Constitution, the electoral laws and rules issued therein, the Election Commission always stood with the voters. "The first step for nation-

building is voting. Therefore, every citizen of India who has completed 18 years of age should become an elector and should always vote. In accordance with the Constitution of India. electoral laws, rules and instructions issued therein, the Election Commission of India was, is and will always be with the voters," Kumar said, speaking to the media.

NGT reserves order on sanitation issues at Maha Kumbh The application further claims that the state has breached its duty under GREEN The National Green Tri-Article 48A of the Constitution, bunal (NGT) on Monday which mandates the protection and

reserved its order on a petition alleging that inadequate sanitation facilities at the 2025 Maha Kumbh Mela have led to open defecation along the banks of the Ganga river.

Meanwhile, the tribunal bench led by its chairman Justice Prakash Shrivastava directed the Uttar Pradesh government and concerned authorities to take immediate remedial action.

Nipun Bhushan, the petitioner, through plea has sought Rs10 crore in environmental compensation from the Uttar Pradesh government, claiming that the



state has failed to prevent has provided videos as evilarge-scale pollution due to dence.

poor sanitary provisions at Moreover, the petition references a November The petition alleged that 2024 water quality test many individuals and famithat recorded Fecal Colies are forced to defecate liform levels at downopenly along the Ganga rivstream Sangam at 3,300 erbank because of the lack MPN (Most Probable of adequate facilities. To Number) per 100 millilisupport his claim, Bhushan ters, surpassing the per-

This level of contamination poses a risk of diseases like cholera, hepatitis A, and polio to the millions of devotees taking a holy dip in the Ganga, the petition argues The application further

claims that the state has breached its duty under Article 48A of the Constitu-

mate Change (MoEFCC).

improvement of the environment. missible limit of 2,500 tion, which mandates the MPN/100 ml established protection and improvement of the environment. by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Cli-Allowing mass open defecation and failing to prevent pollution violates this constitutional obligation, it is submitted. Despite official assurances

regarding the installation of bio-toilets, the petition alleges that thousands of pilgrims still lack access to clean or functional facilities and are compelled to defecate in the open.

election management, including IT Architecture, Effective Communication, enhancing social media outreach, and the statutory role of different functionaries in

the electoral processes. On the second day, the CEOs of States and UTs will present their respective action plans on thematic discussions of the previous day. Earlier, newly appointed CEC Gyanesh Kumar had assumed charge on February 19 and, in his message to the voters, said that the first step for nation-building was voting. He further stated that in

AgustaWestland PMLA case: Delhi HC questions ED on opposition to Michel's bail plea

TDG NETWORK NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court on Monday questioned the **Enforcement Directorate** (ED) on its opposition to the bail plea of Christian Michel James, the alleged middleman and British citizen in the AgustaWestland VVIP chopper money laundering case.

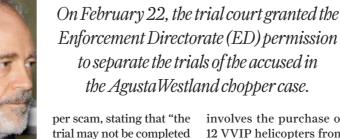
The bench of Justice Swarna Kanta Sharma questioned the Enforcement Directorate

after James' lawyer, Aljo K Joseph, mentioned the Supreme Court's bail ruling and stated that the Supreme Court granted James bail last week due to delays in the CBI's corruption trial. After counsel represent-

the Kumbh Mela site.

ing ED asked for a later hearing, Justice Sharma set the matter for Tuesday. On February 18, the Su-

preme Court granted bail to Christian Michel James, the alleged middleman in the AgustaWestland chop-



in the next 25 years at this pace." Michel was arrested and extradited on December 4, 2018, while the FIR was registered in 2013. The Rs3,600-crore scam

involves the purchase of 12 VVIP helicopters from

> AgustaWestland. On February 22, the trial court granted the Enforcement Directorate (ED) permission to separate the trials of the accused in the

AgustaWestland chopper case. The ED sought to begin the trial against individuals who received summons and participated in the investigation separately from those who have not been served summons or have evaded investigation. Special Judge Sanjeev Aggarwal noted that separating the trials would be in the interest of justice and ensure a fair and speedy trial, as per Article 21 of the Constitution of India. Consequently, files

of the accused persons who have yet to be served will be separated from those who have already been served or are currently facing inquiry before the court.

The case, investigated under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act, involves a total of 60 accused, 21 of whom have neither joined the investigation nor been served summons by the ED to date. The court observed that the first prosecution complaint was filed on November 24, 2014, while the latest, dated November 21, 2024, represents the 12th supplementary prosecution complaint, highlighting a decade-long gap.

Judge Aggarwal expressed concern over the significant time lapse and the uncertainty about when the trial will commence, which prejudices the rights of other accused persons awaiting a speedy inquiry/trial, a fundamental right under Article 21 of the Constitution.

10 LEGALLY SPEAKING

THE DAILY GUARDIAN REVIEW TUESDAY | 25 FEBRUARY 2025 NEW DELHI

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legitimacy, causing harm to its

The petitioner submitted that

the unauthorized adoption and

illegal use of its trademarks is

patently illegal, unfair and

amounts to unfair business

It was also stated before the

court that the webpage of Go-

Daddy i.e., the defendant no.

6, is offering for sale domain

It has been pointed out that

GoDaddy is the same Domain Name Registrant who has reg-

The bench headed by Justice

Mini Pushkarna in the case is of

the view that a prima facie case

for grant of ex-parte ad-interim

The Court stated that the

balance of convenience lies

with Moonshine and that

injunction was made out.

istered its domain name.

names similar to it.

practices.

well-established brand.

SUPREME COURT SETS ASIDE HIGH COURT ORDER **CANCELLING BAIL: COURTS SHOULD NOT LIGHTLY INTERFERE WITH PERSONAL LIBERTY**

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he Supreme Court in the case Kailash Kumar And State Of Himachal Pradesh And Anr observed and has set aside the ruling cancelling bail of an accused under an attempt to murder charge.

The court in the case observed that an individual's liberty is a precious right under the Constitution, and courts should be cautious before interfering with it. The court stated that since

there being no evidence showing that the accused's conduct after bail warranted deprivation of his liberty, thus, the High Court had no valid reason to cancel the bail.

The bench comprising of Justice Dipankar Datta and Iustice Manmohan was hearing the present matter.

The bench in the case observed that, 'Suffice to observe, liberty of an individual being a precious right under the Constitution of India, thus, the Courts ought to be wary that such liberty is not lightly interfered. This court is satisfied that there being no valid reason for the High Court to

regulation of internet prices.

cancel the bail without there being any material to show, even prima facie, that conduct of the appellant post grant of bail has been such that he should be deprived of his liberty. There are also no allegations of influence being exerted or threat extended to the witnesses or of tampering the evidence. Material to demonstrate that dilatory tactics have been adopted to procrastinate the trial is also conspicuous by its absence.

In the present matter, the appellant-accused was charged under section 307, the attempt to murder under the Indian Penal Code,

IPC and since the trial was ongoing and out of 43 witnesses, 17 witnesses had been examined by the prosecution and the appellant was in jail for two years, he applied for bail. The same was granted; however, in appeal, the High Court cancelled the bail.

Aggrieved with the same, the appellant approached the Apex Court.

The court referred to the case of Ajwar v. Waseem and Anr., wherein the court had discussed certain factors to consider, while cancelling the bail. This included misusing liberty, influencing the witnesses, tampering with evidence, resorting to delaying tactics or if the order granting bail is perverse or illegal. The court also noted that the High Court did not consider any of these factors. The court stated that what the High Court did was to embark upon conducting sort of a mini-trial at the stage of considering whether the bail should be cancelled or not. As per the High Court, presence of the appellant and the co-accused at the scene of occurrence and causing of injury to the complainant-PW1 by the appellant being undisputed and notwithstanding that the injury caused

by him is simple, there was common intention for which Section 34 of the Indian Penal Code, IPC is attracted.

The court while considering the facts and circumstances of the case noted that the High Court erred and was unjustified in cancelling the bail. The court set aside the impugned judgment and has restored the order gr anting bail to the appellant. Further, the court made it

clear that it has not gone into the case's merits. The court stated that the

appellant is required to appear before the Trial Court on the dates fixed. Therefore, any failure on the appellant's part will lead to the cancellation of his bail. Accordingly, the court

allowed the appeal. The counsel, Mr. Rajiv Rai, Adv. Mr. Subhash Chandran K.R., AOR Ms. Krishna L R, Adv. appeared for the Petitioner. The counsel, Mr. Vaibhav Srivastava, A.A.G. Ms. Sugandha Anand, AOR Mr. Amrinder Singh Rana, Adv. Mr. Vivek R. Mohanty, Adv. Mr. Ankit Anandraj Shah, AOR, Mr. Rahul Yadav, Adv. Mr. Vishwam Dwivedi, Adv. represented Respondent.

The Delhi High Court in the case Moonshine Technology Private Limited vs. Ashok Kumar & Ors observed and has issued a temporary injunction against 'rogue websites' from accessing and using the domain names infringing the trademark of Moonshine Technology Private Limited, the parent company of Baazi Group of Companies providing online gaming products and services. The rogue websites are op-

TDG NETWORK

NEW DELHI

erating under different names which includes baaziadda, baazi247, baazi365 and lotusbaazi.

The plaintiff i.e., Moonshine Technology Pvt Ltd stated that the Baazi group has registered various trademarks which includes BAAZI, BAAZI GAMES. BAAZI MOBILE GAMING and POKERBAAZI. Moonshine stated that it has been using the Baazi mark since 2014.

It has also been stated by plaintiff i.e., Moonshine Technology Pvt Ltd that it is wellknown for its products and services under the brand and trademarks of BAAZI and that it has acquired immense goodwill, reputation and popularity amongst customers, members in trade and public at large. It has been stated before the

PokerBaazi brand has received immense engagement on social media with over 2 million subscribers on its YouTube channel and over 4 lakh followers on the Meta platforms. On the other hand, Moon-

and reaping undue profits. Further, it is stated that the rogue websites are infringing its registered trademarks and hosting illegal gambling and casino websites under the infringing domain name or branding. It has also been stated before the court that the defendants registered the infringing domains with mala fide intent to deceive users about their association with Moonshine.

the court that the infringing court that it has over 3.5 lakh websites create a false sense of

Supreme Court Asks Petitioner To First File **Representation Before Bar Council Of India:** Plea Challenging AIBE Fees

NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court in the case Sanyam Gandhi Versus Union Of India And Anr was hearing the petition filed by Advocate, appearing as petitioner-in-person, wherein challenging the fees and other incidental charges of the All India Bar Examination, AIBE.

states that the Bar Council

enrolment fee cannot exor not? We have otherwise ceed an amount of Rs.750 also chopped of their both for advocates belonging to upper limbs and lower the general category and limbs. You are referring to my judgment? Now, they Rs.125 for advocates belonging to SC or ST categories as are also to survive. They stated in Section 24 of the have a staff to maintain. They have to recover some-The bench comprising thing. Once you pay this of Justice Pardiwala and amount of Rs.3,500, you will start earning 3,50,000. Justice R. Mahadevan was What is the problem in inihearing the present matter. The bench in the case tially paying Rs.3,500 to

the decision in the case of Gaurav Kumar v. Union of India...The petitioner would submit that in view of this decision, the recovery for an amount of Rs.3500 plus other incidental charges as a condition precedent for appearing in AIBE is violative of Article 14, Article 19(1)(g) and Section 24(1)(f) of the Advocates Act, 1961. We are of the view that the petitioner should be bring

the Court's attention to

Of Internet Prices: 'It's A Free Market' TDG NETWORK The petitioner underlined that matter. NEW DELHI The bench in the case was hearwhile other options may be that: The Supreme Court in the available, thus, the majority of ing the Public Interest Litigacase Rajat Versus Union Of tion, PIL filed by petitioner-in-

Supreme Court Rejects PIL Seeking Regulation

India, UOI observed and has person, Rajat. dismissed the Public Interest The bench of Chief Justice of Litigation, PIL filed seeking India, CJI pointed out that consumers have multiple options for availing internet services. The court in the case granted liberty to the petitioner to seek He in the case explained that. alternative statutory remedies. 'It being a free market, you get The bench comprising of Chief LAN, you get wired internet, Justice of India, CII Sanjiv there is other internet, BSNL Khanna and Justice Sanjay Kuand MTNL is also giving you mar was hearing the present internet.'

the market chunk is presently

with Jio, Reliance. It has been stated by him before the court that, 'They are giving, but see the market share your lordship- 80% of the market share is with Jio (Reliance).' The bench of Chief Justice of India, CJI interjected, wherein stating that, 'No please, then go to the Competition Commission of India, CCI.'

The bench in its order stated

'This court is not inclined to entertain the present petition under Article 32 of the Constitution of India, petition is dismissed. However, this court clarify that in case the petitioner wants to take any recourse to appropriate statutory remedy he is at liberty to do so, we make no comments in this regard.' Accordingly, the court dismissed the petition.

TDG NETWORK

The petitioner in the plea passed an order wherein Bar Council of India, BCI?' the court granted liberty to

Baazi Group's Trademark monthly active users across its different verticals and that its

Delhi High Court Passes John Doe

Infringing Online Gaming Company

Order Against Rogue Websites

shine submitted before the court that unknown defendants i.e., defendant no. 1 to defendant no. 5 have been committing offence of cyber-squatting, where the users are redirected to rogue websites which offer illegal gambling and betting services. It has also been stated before the court that in collusion with the Domain Name Registrants (defendant no. 6 to defendant no. 8), the unknown or registrant defendants are offering infringing domains for sale, resale or at a premium pricing

irreparable harm would be caused if an interim injunction is not granted. The court in the case restrained the unknown defendants, the defendant no. 1 to defendant no. 5 from accessing, using, modifying or transferring the infringing domain names. The court ordered that Go-Daddy and other Domain Name Registrants, the defendant no. 6 to defendant no. 8 to It has been stated before

suspend the access and use of the infringing domain names by their registrants.

Supreme Court Clubs Multiple FIRs Against YouTuber Savukku Shankar Over Online Interview

TDG NETWORK

NEW DELF

The Supreme Court in the case A. Shankar @Savukku Shankar v. State of Tamil Nadu And Ors observed and has allowed the clubbing First Information Report, FIRs registered against YouTuber Savukku Shankar over his online interview

The court in the case cautioned Shankar to abide by the previous directions of not making statements against the court proceedings

The bench comprising of Chief Justice of India, CJI Sanjiv Khanna and Justice Sanjay Kumar was hearing the present matter.

The bench in the case was hearing the challenge to the 16 FIRs filed against YouTuber Savukku Shankar over an online interview

The bench passed the order wherein the court allowed the clubbing of First Information Report, FIRs in in relation to his YouTube interview, except for another FIR namely Crime No. 10 which is not related to the main incident in question and all these materials which are collected in the investigations of the FIRs are to be transferred and consolidated with the Investigating Officer assigned for the primary FIR, namely FIR no. 123/2024 registered in Coimbatore Cyber Crime

The court also directed Shankar to abide by its previous order dated November 11, 2022, wherein the bench comprising of **Justice Saniiv Khanna and** Justice JK Maheshwari suspended the sentence of 6 months imprisonment imposed by the Madras High Court for contempt of court.

Police Station.

The court also directed that till the next date of hearing. Shankar shall not make any videos or comments regarding court proceedings

The counsel, Senior Advocate Siddarth Luthra appearing for the State of Tamil Nadu informed the Court that Shankar had violated the previous order of the Court for not commenting on Court proceedings.

It has been stated: 'He was told not to make any statement, but he is incorrigible! cannot hold himself back.

On the other hand, the counsel Advocate Balaji Srinivasan appearing for the petitioner informed the court that 'he has tendered an unconditional apology for what he has said.'

The counsel, Senior Advocate Mukul Rohatgi also appearing for the State urged the Court to dismiss the petition of Shankar, 'I don't think your lordships should have entertained this petition, he is mak-

ing allegations against sitting High Court judges, against the police department, journalists - all types of people my lords, he is a dismissed constable' Advocate Balaji Sriniva-

san interjected, 'See what the High Court says, what the state has done...they go and meet the judge and tell him not to decide the case' The bench in the case

passed the following directions:

1. The Investigation to continue in FIR no. 123/2024 of 3 May 2024 at **Cyber Crime Coimbatore**

police station; 2. The Investigation in the following FIRs- except crime no.10 shall be transferred to the police station, Cyber Crime, Coimbatore City:

> 3. The Investigation shall proceed expeditiously. This court is not commenting on the merits of the allegations or the way and the manner in which the investigation is to be conducted, chargesheet of the reports will be filed as per

> law: 4.The Material and evidence which are collected in the course of the investigation of the said FIRs will be examined by the IO of FIR no. 123/2024 dated 3 May.....investigation for crime no.10 will continue as per law

5.The petitioner has been reminded about the order passed by this Court dated

November 11, 2022 passed in Criminal Appeal no. 1845 of 2022- in case the petitioner has committed breach of any of the said order, it is open to the respondents therein or any of the third parties to move an application.

On The Challenge To 16 First Information Report, FIRs Over His YouTube Interview

The petitioner in the plea contended before the court that the present First Information Report, FIRs have been filed as a modus operandi to silence his opinions against the present government of the State of Tamil Nadu.

It has been argued before the court that the State government is presently: 1.Filing false cases and

arresting him; 2.Subjecting him to cus-

todial violence and assault by prison officials;

3.Threatening him through ruling party members

4.Placing him under preventive detention under the Tamil Nadu Goondas

Act: and 5.Transporting him daily over long distances to prevent him from staying in one place.

Earlier, Advocate Balaji Srinivasan requested that the petition of Habeas Corpus petition be tagged with the writ petition seeking the quashing of the First Information Report, FIRs.

of India, BCI charges an amount of Rs.3,500 for the All India Bar Examination, AIBE which being in violation of the Supreme Court's judgment in the case of Gaurav Kumar v. UOI, 2024.

The Supreme Court's judgment in the case of Gauray Kumar v. UOI, the three-judge bench comprising of former CJI DY Chandrachud and Justice JB Pardiwala and Justice Manoj Misra held that the

a representation before the BCI. Thus, if the petitioner does not get a response from the BCI without a reasonable time, he can approach the Court. The bench headed by

Advocates Act, 1961.

Justice Pardiwala orally remarked that Bar Council of India. BCI needs funds from somewhere to continue surviving.

The bench of Justice Pardiwala stated that, 'You want the Bar Council to survive

the petitioner to first make Pardiwala also questioned why the petitioner invoked Article 32 jurisdiction.

The bench of Justice

He also said that, 'You should have gone to some High Court.'

The court in its order stated that, 'The said petition is filed in public interest is one which relates to the fees of the All India Bar Exams. To be precise, the pray in this writ petition reads as under... The petitioner, a practising Advocate, appearing in person invited it to the notice of the Bar Council of India, BCI that this amount of Rs.3500 plus incidental charges are violative or rather contrary to the judgment rendered by this Court. Therefore, it shall be open for the petitioner to prefer an appropriate representation and wait for the response of the BCI. If there is no response without reasonable time, he may come back. Even if there is a negative response, he may come back.'

SC Summons Rajasthan Chief Secretary: 'How A City Can Become Smart Without Protecting Water Bodies/Wetlands?

TDG NETWORK NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court in the case the State Of Rajasthan And Ors Versus Ashok Malik And Ors observed and has expressed the displeasure with the State of Rajasthan's failure to comply with its earlier order with regards to the restoration of wetlands in Ajmer City as part of the Union's Smart City Development Mission and warned of potential contempt proceedings if the orders remain unfulfilled.

The court in the case observed that in view of noncompliance with the order dated December 01, 2023, before we consider of initiating action under the Contempt of Courts Act, 1971, this court direct the Chief Secretary of State of Rajasthan to appear before the Court through video conferencing on Monday i.e., March 17, 2025.

The bench comprising of Justice Abhay S Oka and Justice Ujjal Bhuyan was hearing

The court stated that the direction issued under the impugned order dated Dec. 1, 2023 was for restoration of wetlands, and the Court also directed the authorities to report compliance.

However, the court observed that instead of showing compliance with the impugned order, the authorities reported defiance of the order. attracted the criticism of Court. he bench after noting defiance of the Court's order stated that, 'This court wonder how a city can become smart without protecting the water bodies or wetlands in the city and how cities will become smarter by making encroachments on the water bodies or wetlands.

The court observed that, 'Instead of filing an affidavit indicating the extent to which

the State can comply with directions contained in the impugned orders and the time span within which the same are proposed to be complied with, an affidavit has been filed by Mr. T. Ravikanth, holding charge of Principal Secretary LSG, Jaipur, in which the stand is of defiance and not compliance. However, an additional affidavit has been filed by Mr. Deshal Dan, holding charge of Commissioner cum ACEO, Ajmer Smart City Limited. Both the affidavits indicate clear defiance on the part of the State

of Rajasthan. Adding to it, the court stated that if the State wishes to avoid contempt of court proceedings, the Chief Secretary should file a personal affidavit demonstrating compliance with at least some of the directions in both the original impugned judgment and the order dated December 13, 2021. The court while considering

the facts and circumstances of the case stated that if the State of Rajasthan is seriously interested in purging the contempt, this court expect the Chief Secretary for filing his personal affidavit reporting compliance with at least some of the directions issued under the impugned judgment as well as under the order dated December 13, 2021 passed by the National Green Tribunal, NGT. The counsel, Mr. Shiv Mangal Sharma, A.A.G. Mr. Abhishek Sharma, Adv. Ms. Nidhi Jaswal, AOR appeared for the Appellant(s).

The counsel, Mr. Rameshwar Prasad Goyal, AOR Caveator-in-person, AOR Mr. Anand Shankar, AOR Mr. Nishant Awana, Adv. Ms. Rini Badoni, Adv. Ms. Rebecca Mishra, Adv. Mr. G.s.awana, Adv. Mr. Sahil, Adv. Mr. Mayank Chaudhary, Adv. Mr. Niteen Kumar Sinha, AOR represented the Respondent(s).

the present matter.

WORLD

Trudeau And Other Foreign Leaders Visit Ukraine To Shov

Support On War's 3rd Anniversary. Agencies

ZELENSKY WANTS PEACE IN 2025 ON 3RD ANNIVERSARY OF RUSSIAN INVASION

AGENCIES KYIV

krainian President Volodymyr Zelensky on Monday called for "real, lasting peace" this year as European leaders gathered for a summit in Kyiv on the third anniversary of Russia's invasion

Russia said it would only halt the invasion if a deal can be reached that "suits" its interests and accused Europe of wanting to prolong the fighting.

Russian President Vladimir Putin's decision to launch what he called a "special military operation" in February 2022 set off the biggest conflict in Europe since World War II

Tens of thousands of soldiers from both sides and Ukrainian civilians have been killed. Cities across the country's south and east have been flattened and millions forced to flee their homes

"This year should be the year of the beginning of a real, lasting peace," Zelensky told Kyiv's backers in Kyiv.

"Putin will not give us peace or give it to us in exchange for something. We have to win peace through strength and wisdom and unity," he added.



EU Commission chief backers lined up to proclaim support and hail Kyiv's re-Ursula von der Leyen also warned that despite opensistance, there was one noing talks with the United table absence: the United States on how to end the States. conflict, Putin was not about to back down.

"Putin is trying harder than ever to win this war on the ground. His goal remains Ukraine's capitulation," she said.

She also called the war in Ukraine "the most central and consequential crisis for Europe's future."

Turkey's President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, who has offered to help broker a deal, told the summit he strongly supported "Ukraine's territorial integrity, sovereignty and independence" and said both sides must be represented "fairly" in talks. But as leaders of Ukraine's

Donald Trump's return to the White House has threatened to upend the Western coalition, and has brought vital military and financial aid into question at a critical juncture.

Russian officials have been buoyed by Trump's outreach, sensing an opportunity to push their core demands: the roll-back of NATO's military presence in Europe, territorial concessions from Ukraine and the end of Western military support to Kyiv.

"We will stop hostilities only when these negotiations produce a firm and sustainable result that suits the Russian Federation," Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said on a visit to Turkey.

Putin's spokesman meanwhile accused Europe of prolonging the fighting.

Kyiv said Monday it was "The Europeans continue in the "final stages" of a deal on the path of a sanctions with Washington to give nosedive, on the path of the United States preferenconviction in the need to tial access to rare minerals continue the war," Kremlin -- one of the sources of disspokesman Dmitry Peskov agreement that has explodtold reporters, responding to a fresh package of sanc-

tions levelled by Brussels on Monday. On the streets of Moscow,

there was support for a hardline approach. Europe and Ukraine

"needed to be pushed around to show that they aren't the most important in the world," pensioner Irina Svetlichnaya, 77, told AFP. Chinese President Xi Jinping on Monday backed ally Russia's "positive efforts to defuse" the Ukraine crisis, in a call with Putin, Chinese state media reported.

Beijing is a crucial political backer of Russia and has never condemned its invasion. Zelensky has repeatedly called for Xi to help convince Putin to halt the war.

The Ukrainian leader also on Monday refreshed his call for security guarantees from Kyiv's backers to ensure Russia does not use any ceasefire to rearm and attack again at a later date. With Trump sceptical

of continuing to support Ukraine, Europe has been left debating whether it can fill the void.

French President Emmanuel Macron was due in Washington later Monday for a meeting with Trump where he said he will tell the Republican: "You cannot be weak in the face of President Putin.³

Foreign leaders show support

AGENCIES KYIV

Ukraine on Monday marked the bleakest anniversary yet of its war against the Russia invasion, with the country's forces under severe pressure on the battlefield and the Trump administration apparently embracing the Kremlin in a reversal of U.S. policy. The three-year milestone drew more than a dozen Western leaders to Kyiv for commemorative events in a conspicuous show of support. They warned of the war's wider implications for global security and vowed to keep providing billions

Ukraine as uncertainty deepens over the U.S. commitment to help. Washington did not send any senior official to the occasion.

of dollars in support for

could be pivotal as Trump uses his return to office to press for a peace deal. World security is at stake in talks over how the war ends, European Commission President Ursula von The fourth year of fighting der Leyen warned.

Turkey offers to host possible Ukraine-Russia talks

AGENCIES

Turkey said on Monday it was ready to host possible talks between Ukraine and Russia and would support any initiative leading to peace, following a visit to Ankara by Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov. NATO-member Turkey hosted initial talks between the sides months after Russia's 2022 invasion of Ukraine, helping secure a deal for the safe passage of grain exports in the Black Sea. Speaking alongside Lavrov on the third anniversary of Russia's invasion, Turkish Foreign Minister Hakan Fidan said Ankara valued a U.S. initia-

tive for peace as a "result-oriented" approach, but repeated that both sides must participate for a solution. "In that framework, we are ready to contribute all forms of support for peace to be achieved through talks. We are ready to host these talks as we have done before," Fidan said. While he did not repeat Ankara's long-held stance supporting Ukraine's territorial integrity, Turkish President Tayyip Erdogan did so in a separate video message marking the anniversary. Asked about the security guarantees Ukraine has demanded from the United States and Western partners for ending the war, Fidan said Ankara was "ready to take any step contributing to peace in principle."

China steps up incursions in Taiwan

AGENCIES TAIPEI

Taiwan detected five sorties of Chinese aircraft, 10 Chinese vessels, 2 official ships and two Chinese balloons around its territory on Monday, Taiwan's Ministry of Defence (MND) stated. Of the five sorties, the MND said that three crossed the median line and entered Taiwan's southwestern and southeastern Air Defense Identification Zone (ADIZ). In a post on X, Taiwan's the situation and responded

MND said. "5 sorties of PLA accordingly."

the median line and entered

Taiwan's southwestern and eastern Air Defense Identification Zone (ADIZ). In a post on X, the Taiwanese MND stated, "11 sorties of PLA aircraft, 6 PLAN vessels and 2 official ships operating around Taiwan were detected up until 6 a.m. (UTC+8) today. 11 sorties crossed the median line and entered Taiwan's southwestern and eastern ADIZ. We have monitored

Bangladesh, Pakistan increase engagements to boost ties

AGENCIES

Bangladesh and Pakistan have increased each other engagements to boost ties, a Bangladeshi official said on Monday.

Donald Trump's return to

the White House has threat-

ened to upend the Western

coalition, and has brought

vital military and financial

aid into question at a criti-

His opening of talks with

Putin, the false claim that

Ukraine "started" the war

and verbal attacks on Zel-

ensky have triggered alarm

cal juncture.

across Europe.

ed over the last week.

"A delegation of Pakistani businesswomen is coming to Dhaka soon to showcase their products. The exhibition will be held at the elite Gulshan Club in Dhaka,' said a Bangladesh Foreign Ministry official.



Bangladesh is nearly completing the construction of a Chancery building in

lamabad.

"We expect the construction will be completed in June and Bangladesh Foreign Affairs Adviser (Minister) will visit Pakistan to open the Chancery building," he said.

In December last year, Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif held a meeting with Bangladesh's Chief Adviser Muhammad Yunus on the sidelines of the 11th D-8 summit in Cairo. cate during the war and the The two leaders discussed strengthening historical and cultural ties, increasing trade, and exploring cooperation in IT, chemicals, leather, surgical goods and other sectors. In a post on X, Shehbaz Sharif stated, "Had a very warm and cordial exchange with my friend Prof. Dr. Muhammad Yunus, Chief Adviser of Bangladesh, on the sidelines of 11th D-8 summit in Cairo this morning. We discussed strengthening historical and cultural ties, increasing trade, and exploring cooperation in IT,

Israel rebuilding north after war

AGENCIES

Israel's Ministry of Construction and Housing is working in a variety of ways to promote the construction and rehabilitation of the north, with the aim of enabling the return of evacuated northern residents to living and living environments that allow for a full life. Israel's northerners were mostly forced o relowas much destruction of



The tour was attended by the Northern District Manager of Amidar, Yoram Halfon, and other professionals from the

aircraft, 10 PLAN vessels and 2 official ships operating around Taiwan were detected up until 6 a.m. (UTC+8) today. 3 sorties crossed the median line and entered Taiwan's southwestern and southeastern ADIZ. 2 PRC balloons were detected during this timeframe." Earlier on Sunday, Taiwan's Ministry of Defence (MND) reported that it had detected 11 sorties of Chinese aircraft, six Chinese vessels, and two official ships operating near Taiwan. All of the aircraft crossed

Earlier on Saturday, China launched satellites from the Xichang Satellite Launch Center, which flew over Taiwan towards the Western Pacific, Taiwan's Ministry of Defence (MND) stated. The Taiwanese MND further said on Saturday that though

their armed forces are ready to respond, this launch does not pose a threat. In a post on X, it said, "At 8:11 p.m. (UTC+8), China launched satellites from XSLC, with the flight path over central Taiwan toward the Western Pacific.

"Pakistani three pieces are very popular in Bangladesh," he added.

Pakistan exports Bangladesh around 700 million dollars products annually. The worth of Bangladeshi products exports to Pakistan is nearly USD 100 million, the official said

"Trade is expected to increase with the opening of a direct shipping line between Bangladesh and Pakistan," the official said. "We have signed a government-to-government (GtoG) deal with Pakistan to

the diplomatic enclaves of Islamabad.

import 50,000 tonnes rice. The rice will reach Chittagong port soon", he said. He said that they have approved Fly Jinnah airlines' request to operate direct flights between Bangladesh and Pakistan. The official said the Pakistani Foreign Minister could visit Bangladesh in April.

"We have already approved a prayer from Fly Jinnah airlines to operate direct flights between Bangladesh and Pakistan. Fly

Jinnah has some shortage of aircraft. After buying aircraft, they will start operation with Bangladesh,"

he said. 'We are also expecting some high-level visits between Bangladesh and Pakistan. Pakistani Foreign Minister may visit Bangladesh in April," the official said.

Bangladesh is nearly completing the construction of a Chancery building in the diplomatic enclaves of Isproperty from Hezbollah Ministry and Amidar. rocket attacks.

of the process of preparing Over the past year, dozens of tours and meetings have the area for the return of been held in northern cities public housing residents in and towns, the last of which the city to their apartments was held a few days ago, in and the rehabilitation of which the Ministry's Director General, Yehuda Morgenstern, conducted a tour of Kirvat Shmona.

The tour was attended by the Northern District Manager of Amidar. Yoram Halfon, and other professionals from the Ministry and Amidar. The purpose of the tour was to monitor the progress

public institutions, which is being carried out in the city under the management of the Ministry's Properties and Companies Division. So far, the renovation of

four public buildings has been completed, and 49 kindergartens and schools are currently being renovated in Shlomi and Kirvat Shmona.

UAE President meets with Italian President during state visit to Italy

TDG NETWORK

ABU DHAB

UAE President Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan and Sergio Mattarella, President of the Italian Republic, discussed relations between the UAE and Italy as part of the two countries' strategic partnership and shared commitment to achieving its objectives. During the meeting, held at the Quirinal Palace in Rome, President Mattarella welcomed the UAE President and expressed confidence that his visit would provide strong momentum for relations between the two countries across various fields. He expressed his pleasure at visiting a country renowned for its rich history and civilisational legacy, highlighting the strong strategic partnership between the UAE and Italy.

Bangladesh authorities arrest over 8,600 amid surge in crime

AGENCIES SLAMABAD

Bangladeshi security forces have arrested more than 8,600 individuals following a two-week crackdown targeting gangs allegedly linked to the ousted government of Sheikh Hasina, the interim government announced Monday.

The arrests come amid growing concern over rising crime levels in the capital, with police reporting that robberies have doubled since January of last year. Jahangir Alam Chowdhury, head of the Interior Ministry in the interim government that assumed power after Hasina's ouster in the August 2024 studentled revolution, ordered officers to intensify "Operation Devil Hunt.'

Since the operation began



on Feb. 8, security forces have detained over 8,600 people, according to police. Chowdhury blamed members of Hasina's Awami League party for the surge in crime, accusing them of attempting to "destabilize" the country.

"Operation Devil Hunt will continue, and we won't allow the perpetrators to rest," Chowdhury told reporters early Monday after an emergency security briefing. "I have ordered the

forces to increase patrols." The crackdown has sparked protests from students frustrated by the surge in violent crime, with many demanding Chowdhury's resignation.

"We don't know what this 'hunt' is achieving," said Sadia Afreen Mou, a graduate student. "The situation is only getting worse. The number of rapes is rising, and assaults and muggings are making life unbearable.

ational plans are ready," The

stating, "All of our hostages, without exception, will return home," he says

Gaza will be demilitarized, and its fighting force will be dismantled," The Times of Israel quoted Netanyahu as

crowd yell out in protest.



"The new defensive and offensive weapons will help us greatly in achieving total victory." Trump sees "eye-to-eye" with Israel on Gaza, he added.

Netanyahu says the image must defeat those monsters, "says it all... So that we will and we will defeat them." always remember, what we "Victory, victory and are fighting for, and who only victory," says Netanwe are fighting against." yahu. The victory "can He stresses that the Bibas be achieved in negotiations," he says. "It can be family was murdered in cold blood in the early days achieved in another way." of the war. "They strangled As per The Times of Isthe tender boys with their rael, Netanyahu thanked bare hands," he says. "We Trump for his commitment to send crucial weapons to Israel. "The new defensive and offensive weapons will help us greatly in achieving total victory." Trump sees "eye-to-eye" with Israel on Gaza, he added.

"We support President Trump's groundbreaking plan to enable the freedom to leave for Gazans and the creation of a different Gaza," says Netanyahu of the president's proposal to relocate the entire Gaza population and have the US take over and rebuild the war-torn Strip, as per The Times of Israel. Netanyahu added that in the West Bank, IDF troops will stay in cities as long as it takes. The tank platoon that Israel introduced into the West Bank means that Israel is fighting terrorism "with all means and in all places," he says, as per The Times of Israel.

Forces combat officers course, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu warns that Israel is "ready to return at any moment to intensive combat. The oper-

Times of Israel reported. During his speech, Netanvahu vowed total victory,

"Hamas won't rule Gaza.

saving. Netanyahu entered the stage amid cheers and boos, and when he held up a photo of Shiri, Ariel and Kfir Bibas, the Israeli slain hostages, some in the

'Israel 'ready to return at any moment' to fight' AGENCIES TEL AVIV Speaking to cadets graduating from the IDF Ground



RUNWAY FINALE



Models walk the runway at at 180 Studios during the finale of the Ashish show at London fashion week. London, UK. Agencies

US backs Israel's decision to halt release of 620 Palestinians

AGENCIES WASHINGTON

The White House said on Monday that it backed Israel's decision to delay the release of 620 Palestinian prisoners, citing the "barbaric treatment" of Israeli captives by Hamas, as reported by Al Jazeera.

Delaying the prisoner release is an "appropriate response", Al Jazeera quoted a statement from National Security Council spokesperson Brian Hughes as saying.

US President Donald Trump is prepared to support Israel in "whatever course of action it chooses regarding Hamas", he added.

Two senior Hamas leadgroup will not engage in Aid groups are questioning

Israel through mediators until it releases the 620 Palestinian prisoners supposed to be freed on Satur-

day, as per Al Jazeera. The remarks came as the Gaza truce talks seem to be in troubled waters as Hamas announced earlier it shut down negotiations until the Palestinian prisoners are released as

promised. Israel postponed the release of 620 Palestinian prisoners despite Hamas setting free six Israeli captives

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanvahu called the captive handover ceremonies in Gaza "humiliating" and accused Hamas of using the capers say the Palestinian tives for "propaganda".

Marseille, Moscow calls it terrorist attack

Explosion at Russian consulate in

further discussions with Israel's unkept promises under the first phase of the ceasefire, as per Al Jazeera. Al Jazeera reported that

the Palestinian Prisoner's Society said that Israel is practising "state terrorism against the prisoners and their families" after it refused to follow its Gaza ceasefire obligations and free 620 inmates.

Egypt and Qatar are reportedly pressing Israel to release the 620 Palestinian prisoners it promised to after Hamas released six captives from Gaza, as per Al Jazeera.

Meanwhile, Israeli Prime out exception, will return Minister Netanvahu faced home," he says. "Hamas new criticism over the war won't rule Gaza. Gaza will on Gaza while speaking at a be demilitarized, and its fighting force will be dismilitary graduation. As he held up a picture mantled," The Times of

of captives Shiri Bibas and her young boys, Ariel

Foreign Intelligence Ser-

per the report.

conflict.

Musk's demand deepens rift in Trump

and Kfir, whose remains

were returned from Gaza

last week, to demonstrate

"what we are fighting

against", audience mem-

bers called out, "Shame!"

and "Why didn't you save

them?" Al Jazeera reported.

Netanyahu warned that

Israel is "ready to return

at any moment to intensive

combat. The operational

plans are ready," The Times

Throughout his address,

he promised total victory,

The Times of Israel re-

"All of our hostages, with-

of Israel reported.

ported.

as saying.

CONSERVATIVES WIN GERMAN ELECTION, AFD SURGES TO SECOND SPOT

AGENCIES

ermany's mainstream conservatives led by Friedrich Merz won Germany's national election, ensuring that Ukraine has an even stronger supporter in the European Union's largest country and creating hopes for renewal in an economic powerhouse that has been badly battered in recent years.

The far-right, anti-immigrant Alternative for Germany (AfD) surged to become the nation's second-largest political force, gaining from a backlash against the high numbers of migrants and refugees the nation has absorbed over the past decade and a string of extremist attacks that has shaken its sense of security.

His first comments Monday after his party became the highest votegetter in national elections were words of support for Ukraine, which is marking the third anniversary of Russia's fullscale invasion.

"Europe stands unwaveringly by Ukraine's side," Merz posted on X. "Now more than ever, it holds true: We must put Ukraine in a position of strength." "For a just peace, the

Israel quoted Netanyahu attacked country must be part of peace negotiations," Merz added, in an apparent rebuke of the Trump administration, which has begun talks with Russia on ending the war that have so far cut out Ukraine and Europe. Merz will likely partner with the center-left Social Democrats, who suffered a stinging defeat after their coalition collapsed. But the results were seen a rebuke for mainstream parties as AfD notched its best results ever - and the strongest for a farright party since World War II.



FRIEDRICH MERZ, THE CANDIDATE OF THE MAINSTREAM CONSERVA-TIVE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC UNION PARTY, ADDRESSES SUPPORTERS AT THE PARTY HEADQUARTERS IN BERLIN, GERMANY.

Merz calls for 'independence' from US

AGENCIES BERLIN

Germany's Friedrich Merz has pledged to achieve "independence" from the United States after his centre-right alliance won parliamentary elections held amid doubts about US President Donald Trump's commitment to Europe's security.

Merz, who faces complex negotiations with his party's traditional centre-left rival to form a coalition government after ruling out the second-placed hard-right Alternative for Germany (AfD), said on Sunday that it would be his "absolute priority" to strengthen Europe so it does not have to rely on Washington for its defence.

"I never thought I would have to say something like that on a TV programme, but after Donald Trump's latest comments in the last week, it is clear that the Americans, or at least this portion of the Americans, this government, care very little about the fate of Europe," the chancellorin-waiting told a televised roundtable of political leaders.

Merz said he was not sure that NATO would exist in its "current form" by the time of the next meeting of the transatlantic military alliance in June, "or whether we will have to establish an independent European defence capability much more quickly".

has traditionally alternated between partnering with the CDU/CSU alliance and the SDP, failed to win a seat after falling short of the 5 percent threshold to enter the 630-member Bundestag, the German parliament.

The election result in the European Union's most populous country, and its biggest economy, comes as the Trump administration's efforts to negotiate an end to the war in Ukraine with Russia have prompted concerns that Washington is moving closer to Moscow at the expense of the transatlantic alliance.

Trump has stoked concerns that he is inclined towards a peace deal that is favourable to Russia with his comments in recent days, including suggesting that Ukraine had started the conflict and labelling its President Volodymyr Zelenskyy a "dictator".

The US president earlier on Sunday welcomed the election outcome as a "great day" for Germany and the US, and said it was proof that the German public "got tired of the no common sense agenda, especially on energy and immigration, that has prevailed for so many years".

Merz, a longtime supporter of transatlantic ties, campaigned on a conservative platform promising to curb unauthorised migration and slash taxes and red tape amid widespread discontent with immigration and the economy.

Merz, who is promising to unite Europe in the face of challenges from both Russia and the United States, is expected to become the country's next leader.

AGENCIES MARSEILL

n explosion took place at the Russian onsulate in France's Marseille, which the Russian Foreign Ministry spokesperson Maria Zakharova said resembles a terrorist attack. Around 30 firefighters arrived at the site of the blast. However, no casualties have been reported in the incident, TASS reported citing France's BFMTV. Unidentified individuals must have thrown two Molotov cocktails into the consulate's garden, TASS reported, citing a reporter for the Valeurs Actuelles magazine. A stolen car was found near the blast site. Zakharova said Russia demands an immediate and thorough investigation into the incident and measures to improve the security of Russia's foreign facilities.

"The blasts at the Russian consulate general in Marseille exhibit all the signs of a terrorist attack. We demand



rova said. Zakharova said On February 19, Russia's

Russia demands an immediate and thorough investigation into the incident and

measures to improve the security of Russia's foreign facilities.

that the host country take immediate, thorough action to investigate the incident, as well as measures to improve the security of Russia's foreign facilities," Maria Zakha-

administration

AGENCIES WASHINGTON

Elon Musk's order to U.S. government workers to justify their jobs opened divisions in President Donald Trump's administration, as some agencies told workers to respond to the chainsawwielding billionaire by Monday night and others said to ignore him.

vice (SVR) warned that the Musk's directive to the na-Ukrainian authorities were tion's 2.3 million civil-service considering the possibility of workers to provide a fiveconducting terrorist attacks point summary of their work on Russian diplomatic faciliby 11:59 p.m. Eastern time ties in Europe, especially in (0459 GMT) raised questions Germany, the Baltic, and about how much authority Scandinavian countries, as the world's richest person can wield in Trump's government According to the SVR, the as he leads an effort to slash the federal payroll.

Ukrainians could also attack The countermanding of Slovakia or Hungary as such a choice offers an "additional his order by some agency advantage," enabling them officials was also the first to discredit members of the known internal pushback European Union with a speagainst Musk's blunt-force cial position on the Ukraine approach to overhauling the federal government.

The campaign was dominated by worries about large-scale migration, with Merz also vowing a tough approach, as well as the yearslong stagnation of Europe's biggest economy. The markets welcomed

the victory of the fiscally conservative party, with stocks in major German companies rising Monday morning on hopes for a stable coalition government that could end policy gridlock and tackle the country's economic problems.

"That is my absolute priority, I have no illusions at all about what will come out of America," Merz said.

He also took aim at tech billionaire Elon Musk, Trump's close ally and head of the newly created Department of Government Efficiency, for intervening in the election campaign to support the AfD, which secured its best-ever result in a national poll.

"The interventions from Washington were no less dramatic and impertinent than the interventions we have seen from Moscow, so we are under massive pressure from two sides." Merz said.

Merz's Christian Democratic Union-Christian Social Union (CDU/CSU) alliance won 208 seats with 28.6 percent of the vote in Sunday's election, preliminary results showed, followed by the AfD with 152 seats and 20.8 percent of the vote, doubling what it polled in the last election.

Outgoing Chancellor Olaf Scholz's centreleft Social Democratic Party (SDP), which had governed in a widely unpopular threeparty coalition, took 120 seats, its worst result since the end of World World II.

The Greens won 85 seats, followed by the democratic socialist Die Linke, or The Left, with 64 seats and left-wing populist Bundnis Sahra Wagenknecht (BSW) with one seat.

The pro-business Free Democratic Party, a member of the outgoing coalition that

Merz, a longtime rival of former Chancellor Angela Merkel who has led the CDU in a more conservative and pro-business direction, will need the help of the SDP to form a governing majority in the Bundestag.

"If we have one partner, it will be easier; if we need two partners, it will be harder, but even in that case, it will have to be successful." Merz said.

"The main thing is to create a government in Germany that is capable of acting as quickly as possible, with a good parliamentary majority. Because, dear friends, the world out there is not waiting for us and it is not waiting for lengthy coalition talks and negotiations.

In a speech hailing her party's "magnificent campaign", AfD leader Alice Weidel, who has been shunned by the mainstream parties as part of a "firewall" against the resurgence of far-right politics, suggested it would only be a matter of time before her party holds power.

"Our hand remains outstretched to form a government," she told supporters, adding that it would be tantamount to "electoral fraud" if the first-placed conservatives chose to govern with left-wing parties rather than them.

If that happened, Weidel said, "next time, we'll come first".

Putin, Xi Jinping hold talks to boost strategic partnership

AGENCIES MOSCOW

Russian President Vladimir Putin and Chinese President Xi Jinping on Monday held a telephone conversation to strengthen and discuss further development of their comprehensive partnership and strategic cooperation.

They explored ways to expand mutually beneficial cooperation in various sec-

tors, including economy, trade, investment, culture,

Sharing the information of the conversation, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Russia wrote on X, "Russia's President Vladimir Putin & President of China Xi Jinping spoke by phone, exchanged views on current issues regarding the further development of the comprehensive partnership & stra-

tegic cooperation between

the two countries.' According to the President education, and sports

of Russia's official statement, during a lengthy telephone conversation, "They discussed ways to expand mutually beneficial cooperation in the economy, trade, investment, culture, education, and sports.'

The leaders also reviewed upcoming high-level meetings, including celebrations for the 80th anniversary of Victory in the Great Patri-



summit. otic War and the Shanghai **Cooperation Organisation**

reaffirmed the schedule of upcoming meetings at the highest level in the context of the celebrations of the 80th anniversary of Victory in the Great Patriotic War, the upcoming summit of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation, and festivities in Beijing to mark the 80th anniversary of Victory over

War II," the statement. According to the statement, additionally, Putin

briefed Xi on recent Russia-US talks, and Xi expressed support for the dialogue and China's willingness to help resolve the Ukraine conflict peacefully and about the recent Russian-American contacts.

"The President of China expressed his support for the dialogue initiated between Russia and the United States, as well as China's readiness to help find ways to settle the Ukrainian con-

flict peacefully," the statement read.

Both leaders emphasized the importance of Russian-Chinese political ties as a stabilizing factor in global affairs, describing their relationship as strategic, unbiased, and not aimed against any third-party.

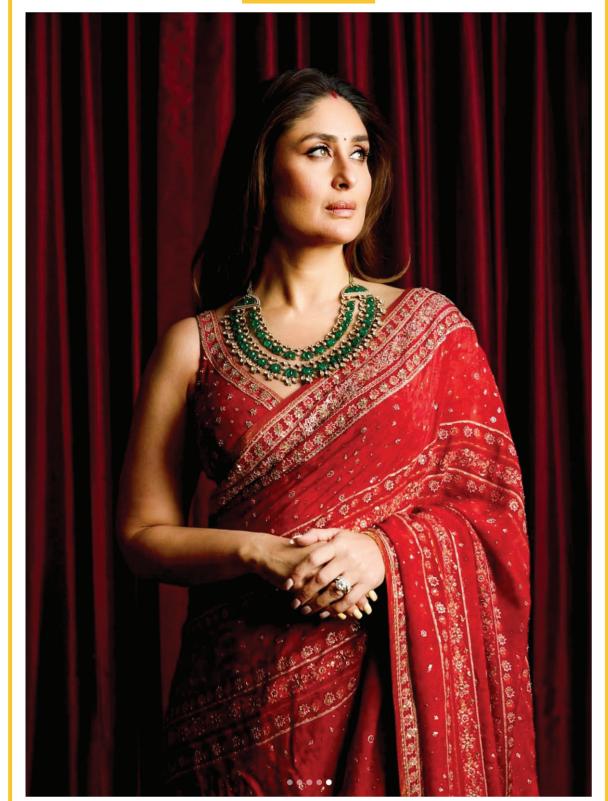
"The two leaders emphasised that the Russian-Chinese political ties are an essential stabilising factor in global affairs.

"In addition, the leaders

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MOVIES & OTT 15

PICTURE PERFECT



Kareena Kapoor Khan poses for her social media. (Instagram)

'CHHAAVA' STARRING VICKY KAUSHAL EARNS OVER RS 400 CRORE

TDG NETWORK NEW DELHI:

ricky Kaushal-starrer "Chhaava", which released on Februarv 14, has earned over Rs 400 crore at the box office to become the highest grossing Hindi film of the year.

The movie, based on the life of Maratha warrior Chhatrapati Sambhaji Maharaj, features Kaushal in the titular role. Actor Rashmika Mandanna plays his wife, Yesubai.

Directed by Laxman Utekar, the film has been produced under Dinesh Vijan's Maddock Films. According to industry

tracker Sacnilk, Chhaava collected an estimated Rs 40 crore on its 10th day

(Sunday), taking its total domestic earnings to Rs 326.75 crore. The film had amassed Rs 219.25 crore in its first week and carried strong momentum into its

second weekend. On Friday, Chhaava raked in Rs 23.5 crore, setting the stage for an extraordinary Saturday surge, where collections

jumped by 87.23% to Rs 44 crore. Although Sunday saw a minor dip, the film still managed to comfortably cross the Rs 300 crore milestone.

husband and actor Vicky

Kaushal visited Maha

Kumbh, ahead of release of his film 'Chhaava'.

Maha Kumbh Mela, tak-

ing place at the revered

Triveni Sangam, contin-

ues to attract devotees and

celebrities.

Preity, Akshay Kumar and Katrina Kaif visit Mahakumbh

TDG NETWORK

The Maha Kumbh has brought a huge influx of pilgrims to Prayagraj. Bollywood stars also arrived in huge numbers to seek spiritual blessings.

On Monday, we saw stars like Akshay Kumar and Katrina Kaif participating in sacred rituals at Maha Kumbh. Preity Zinta, too, visited Prayagraj to attend the Maha Kumbh mela, which will culminate on the occasion of Maha Shivratri on February 26.

Actress Katrina Kaif visited Prayagraj on Monday to participate in the Maha Kumbh Mela, a major religious event drawing



millions of devotees from across the world.

During her visit, the actress met Swami Chidanand Saraswati, president of Parmarth Niketan Ashram, and took his blessings.

Speaking to ANI, Katrina expressed her gratitude and excitement about being part of the sacred event. "I am very fortunate that I

Earlier in the day, Bollywood actor Akshay Kumar could come here this time. I also participated in the ream really happy and gratevered ritual, taking a dip in ful. I met Swami Chidanthe Triveni Sangam. and Saraswati and took his He expressed his appreciblessings. I am just starting ation for the well-organized my experience here. I like the energy, beauty, and sig-

arrangements at the venue. "I thank CM Yogi ji for making such good arrangements here... The facilities are excellent, and everything is so well-managed," he said.

Imtiaz Ali Onir's anthology film 'My Melbourne' trailer released

TDG NETWORK

The trailer for the anthology film 'My Melbourne' has been released. It includes four powerful stories directed by filmmakers Kabir Khan, Imtiaz Ali, Rima Das





SRK, Madhuri, Karisma-starrer 'Dil To Pagal Hai' to be re-released

nificance of everything. I

am looking forward to

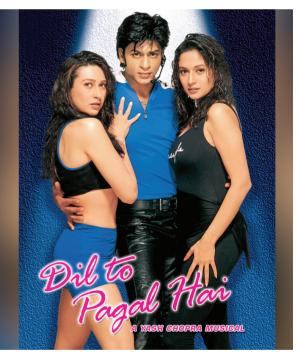
spending the whole day

On February 13, Katrina's

here," she said.

TDG NETWORK MUMBAI

Movie buffs, get ready to conclude February, the month of love, on a romantic yet nostalgic note by rewatching Shah Rukh Khan's blockbuster 'Dil To Pagal' on the big screen. Hopping on the trend of re-releases, Yash Raj Films on Monday announced that Dil To Pagal, which also stars Madhuri Dixit Nene and Karisma Kapoor in the lead roles, will hit the theatres again on February 28. "The era of pure romance and love is coming back to the theatres this week! Rewatch Dil To Pagal Hai from 28th February



and Onir.

Set in Melbourne, Australia, the anthology film 'My Melbourne' offers a glimpse into a unique, thoughtprovoking tales of human connection, resilience, and identity. It is scheduled to be released in theatres across India on March 14, 2025.

As per the press note shared by the makers, the movie delves into the diverse experiences of four characters, each facing their own personal journev. The four stories are all inspired by true incidents. 'My Melbourne' addresses universally relevant themes of race, gender, sexuality, and disability.

The stories featured in 'My Melbourne' include,

NANDINI - Directed by Onir, tells the story of Indraneel, a queer Indian man who reunites with his estranged father in Melbourne to complete a cer-

emonial ritual. The film explores the complexities of their fraught relationship, the power of forgiveness, and the healing process amid grief.

JULES - Directed by Arif Ali along with the creative direction by Imtiaz Ali. It tells the story of a newly married Sakshi who forms an unexpected bond with Jules, a homeless woman. Together, they navigate their personal struggles and discover the power of connection despite their differences.



EMMA, Directed by

Rima Das, tells the story of a talented deaf dancer who grapples with self-doubt and discrimination until a chance meeting with another deaf dancer inspires her to embrace her uniqueness

and find her inner strength. SETARA - Directed by Kabir Khan, is a real-life story of a 15-year-old Afghan girl who rebuilds her life in Melbourne after fleeing the Taliban. She finds her sense of belonging through cricket and resilience amid family tensions and past trauma. The bottom line is to have fun and enjoy life.

- REKHA

(Indian Actress)

Prajakta Koli, Vrishank Khanal share mehendi ceremony pictures

TDG NETWORK MUMBAI

Actress Prajakta Koli is all set to tie the knot with her longtime boyfriend, lawyer Vrishank Khanal.

Ahead of their big day, the couple shared adorable photos from their intimate mehendi ceremony.

The dreamy photos, posted on Instagram, show Prajakta



and Vrishank surrounded by loved ones, enjoying the festive atmosphere.

In one romantic moment, Vrishank is seen giving Prajakta a loving kiss on the cheek.

Other photos capture the couple's joyful moments, including Prajakta getting her mehendi done, Vrishank and Prajakta's parents dancing, and the cou-

ple sharing sweet glances. Prajakta looked radiant in a red suit, while Vrishank could be seen wearing a white kurta pyjama for the ceremony.

Prajakta kept the caption simple, adding a heart and an evil-eye emoji to the photos.

The couple's mehendi ceremony was an intimate affair, with close family and

have been dating for several years and announced their engagement in 2023. The couple has been together since before Prajakta's rise to fame. On the work front, Pra-

Prajakta and Vrishank

friends in attendance.

jakta was recently seen in season 3 of her web series, 'Mismatched' co-starring Rohit Saraf.

Adam Brody opens up on his character in 'Nobody Wants This' season 2

AGENCIES WASHINGTON

Actor Adam Brody, who is known for his performances in Mr. & Mrs. Smith, Thank You for Smoking, In the Land of Women, and Jennifer's Body, got candid about season 2 of the romantic comedy TV series Nobody Wants This. On the SAG Awards red carpet, he opened up about his character.

Adam Brody plays Rabbi Noah Roklov in the Netflix comedy 'Nobody Wants This'.



with that. To be honest with While teasing about season 2, he shared, "I think you, that's about as much as repercussions from [Noah] I know," reported Deadline. The Netflix series showcaschoosing maybe love over work. He's going to grapple es the unlikely romance between a recently single rabbi (Brody) and a non-Jewish sex podcast host (Bell). The first season was released earlier this year and emerged as one of the hit shows on the streaming platform.

'Nobody Wants This' garnered one of the most impressive launches for any Netflix original comedy series to date, premiering at #2 on the streamer's Top 1 and climbing to the #1 slot in its first full week, with an impressive 26.2M views in its first 11 days on the service, as per Deadline.

The shooting for the second

season of Adam Brody and Kristen Bell-starrer 'Nobody Wants This' is very soon to

begin. Adam Brody made a triumphant return to the spotlight at the 2025 Critics Choice Awards, where he won Best Actor in a Comedy Series for his role as Rabbi Noah Roklov in the Netflix comedy 'Nobody Wants This'.

"This is such a thrill," Brody said during his acceptance speech, adding, "Thank you so much to the Critics Choice for this honour."

TDG NETWORK NEW DELHI

Embarking on the journey of "The Suvir Saran Show: Where Conversations Never Fade" fills me with a profound sense of gratitude and excitement. This endeavour is not merely a new chapter in my life but a harmonious blend of the myriad experiences, lessons, and relationships that have shaped my path thus far. As I step into this venture, I am profoundly aware that

its foundation is built upon

the unwavering support and



collaboration of remarkable individuals and esteemed organizations.

brought with them a unique Reflecting upon my culinary energy, turning every meal into a shared celebration of voyage, I am enveloped by the warm memories of those who flavors and stories.

their presence. Each patron

MEDICALLY SPEAKING 14 THE DAILY GUARDIAN REVIEW TUESDAY | 25 FEBRUARY 2025 NEW DELHI

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BEYOND THE USUAL FLU: WHY PREVENTION MATTERS

TDG NETWORK NEW DELH

he pandemic etched images of chapped hands and isolated homes into our collective memory. But as the world adapts, new challenges arise. While the flu often feels like a common ailment, the emergence of viral strains that mimic its symptoms has increased postpandemic, bringing fresh concerns. Studies from the National Institute of Health reveal that the long-term psychological and social impacts of the pandemic continue to cast a shadow, leaving behind lingering fear and unease.

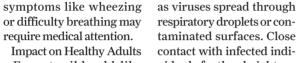
Prevention remains our strongest ally. Early recognition of symptoms, maintaining hygiene, and vaccination can significantly reduce risks. In a world where the ordinary flu could mask extraordinary threats, staying prepared is key to safeguarding health.

RECOGNIZING FLU SYMPTOMS: WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW

Flu symptoms can vary, but early recognition is key to managing the condition effectively and preventing further spread. Here's what to look for:

Symptoms in Young Children - Look for fever, runny nose, and cough. Severe





- Expect mild cold-like viduals further heightens this risk. Taking proactive symptoms—sore throat, fatigue, and nasal congestion. measures can significantly While most recover quickly, reduce transmission and older adults and those with keep you healthy. underlying conditions may Good hygiene and a strong face more severe symptoms.

KEEP SAFE AND HEALTHY DURING

FLU SEASON these essential steps to stay Flu season brings an inprotected: • Maintain proper hand tain social distancing. creased risk of infections

hygiene. Regularly wash your hands with soap or handwash to minimize the spread of germs. Using a handwash like Savlon Deep Clean Handwash, formulated to effectively eliminate 99.9% of germs* and is also made of 90% natural origin content#. The handwash is immune system are your enriched with orange esbest defenses. A healthy sence and has an easy wash body is better equipped off formula to remove tough to fight infections. Follow dirt & grime.

• Avoid close contact with

sick individuals and main-

• Strengthen your immune system with a balanced diet and regular exercise.

• Prioritize prevention to minimize the impact of flu season on your health and well-being.

This season, regular handwashing can be a helpful step in maintaining overall hygiene and is the first step to prevent flus and infections.

(*Basis lab study on sample microbes. Washes away germs. #Basis applicable standards.)





Fueling Recovery: How Nutraceuticals and Functional Foods Enhance Post-Surgical Healing

TDG NETWORK NEW DELH

Recovery after surgery is a critical phase that requires optimal nutrition to enhance healing, reduce complications, and restore strength. Nutraceuticals and functional foods play a pivotal role in supporting the body's recovery mechanisms by providing essential nutrients that aid in tissue repair, immune function, and metabolic balance. Surgical procedures induce metabolic stress, leading to increased energy demands, muscle protein breakdown, and heightened inflammatory responses. Ensuring adequate nutrition helps counteract these effects and facilitates recovery. Functional foods and nutraceuticals contribute to this process by enhancing immune function, reducing inflammation, and promoting tissue regeneration. Proteins are crucial for wound healing, muscle repair, and immune support. Specific amino acids such as arginine support immune function and enhance nitric oxide production, which improves blood flow to healing tissues. Glutamine aids in intestinal health and immune function, crucial for reducing



infection risk post-surgery. Branched-chain amino acids (BCAAs) help maintain muscle mass and reduce muscle wasting during recovery

Omega-3 fatty acids in fatty fish, flaxseeds, and walnuts possess strong anti-inflammatory properties. They help modulate the immune response, reduce

postoperative inflammation, and promote faster recovery. Supplementing fish oil or plant-based sources like chia and flax seeds can benefit.

Zinc plays a crucial role in cell division, immune function, and collagen synthesis, making it essential for post-surgery healing. Foods rich in zinc include pumpkin seeds, chickpeas, lean meats, and nuts.

Surgery-induced oxidative stress can delay healing. Antioxidant-rich foods help neutralize free radicals and support immune function. Key antioxidants include Vitamin C (Citrus fruits, bell peppers) for collagen synthesis. Vitamin E (Almonds, sunflower seeds) for skin and tissue repair. Selenium (Nuts, seafood) for immune enhancement.

A healthy gut microbiome is essential for immune function and reducing post-surgical infections. Probiotics (yoghurt, fermented foods) and prebiotics (garlic, onions, bananas) support digestive health,

improving nutrient absorption and immune resilience. A well-rounded diet incorporating these functional foods and nutraceuticals can significantly enhance post-surgery recovery. Patients should focus on:

• Hydration: Adequate water intake supports nutrient transport and detoxification.

• Balanced Macronutrients: Ensuring an appropriate mix of proteins, healthy fats, and complex carbohydrates.

> • Micronutrient Sufficiency: Supplementing when necessary to address deficiencies.

Nutraceuticals and functional foods serve as powerful tools in post-surgery

recovery, promoting tissue repair, reducing inflammation, and strengthening the immune system. Before starting any supplement, consult your doctor. Incorporating these evidencebased dietary strategies can optimize healing outcomes and improve overall wellbeing during the critical post-operative phase.





SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING

Is silence really golden?

sessions of Dr. Bose had, of late, gained traction among her patients. It developed empathy in them when they heard other stories similar to theirs. That day, when each one had narrated their ordeal, they found multiple stories intertwined intricately. While Anju endured physical abuse by her husband, Savio had stories of his girlfriend emotionally manipulating him, Sneha told how her mother and her sister deserted her during her ordeal while pretending to help and Mahesh expressed anger at his boss for tormenting him and ruining his career. Six other stories followed, each potent enough to turn the room as eerie as a gravevard.

everyone's life?' Dr. Bose have avoided such an ap-

he group therapy asked them as they settled down after their outpourings. They all came up with answers like 'trauma,' 'ill-treatment,' 'betrayal of trust,' 'cheating,' 'deception' and 'depression.'.

> Dr. Bose explained, 'Those are all true. But there's a bigger connection. It's silence. There's an idiom: 'Silence is golden.' I say that silence isn't always golden. Silence isn't golden when someone is bothering you or anyone else and you keep quiet. Not golden when someone is cheating you or anyone else and you keep quiet. The long silence that has traumatised each one of you is not golden.'

A sense of foreboding overpowered the patients as teary eyes exchanged awkward glances. Many 'So, what's common in psychoanalysts would



Remember that silence is not always golden. It's not golden when speaking up would make the difference. Silence must be shattered when injustice takes place, to ourselves and to others.

pain,' the silence of your

family where everyone

is instructed to remain

quiet as it involves 'fam-

ily's reputation,' and the

silence of your relatives,

colleagues, friends and

neighbours who say,

'None of our business,

why meddle in others' af-

'From individuals to

Nishkama Karma

fairs?'

proach, fearing guilt and self-reproach. Not Dr. Bose, who was known for her unconventional methods.

'But by breaking the silence what you've done is not merely commendable. It's an extraordinary feat,' Dr. Bose added, prompting an exchange of reassuring glances.

'However, it's not only groups, the society disvour silence while vou plays sickening apathy, an suffer, but also the silence unbelievable cowardice. of others around you that People look the other way when injustice is commitis the issue. The silence of your closest confidant, ted. None of them realise who tells you to 'bear the that one day they too will suffer and those around them will turn their heads away exactly like they once did.'

Remember that silence is not always golden. It's not golden when speaking up would make the difference. Silence must be shattered when injustice is happening, to ourselves and to others. If we don't speak for ourselves, injustice will continue to be heaped upon us. And, if we don't speak up for others, they will be quiet when we need them to speak up.

Rudraksha: Divine tears of Lord Shiva

The Origin of Sacred Beads of Rudraksha: As Described in Shrimad Devi Bhagavat Purana



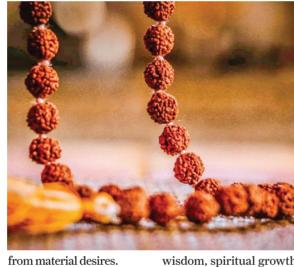
JYOTSNAA G BANSAL

Rudraksha as sacred beads, are believed to carry the divine energy of Lord Shiva. Rudraksha, the name itself tells a tale—"Rudra" means Shiva and "Aksha" means

Brahmin type; Red one as Kshatriya; Mixed-colored one as Vaishya and Black one as Shudra type. The face of a Rudraksha is called Brahma and its upper part (the dot) represents Rudra, lower part or tail, rep-

resents Vishnu. Rudraksha grants both material benefits (bhoga) and spiritual liberation (moksha). While stringing mala,

the face of one bead should connect with the face of the next and the tail of one bead should link with that of the next. Sumeru bead's face should be positioned upward, with the Nagapasha placed above it.



wisdom, spiritual growth, good health and peace of mind. It balances knowledge and intuition

9-MUKHI RUDRAKSHA

Represents Goddess Durga. Represents power, courage and spiritual awakening. Provides protection from negativity and aids in overcoming challenges, fears and achieving transformation.

Apart from these there are several other variants of Rudraksha like from 10-Mukhi to 21-Mukhi rudraksha. Gaurishankar Rudraksha, Ganesh Rudraksha which are rare. They hold special spiritual significance with powerful energies and are associated with harmony,



In Sanskrit, Nishkam means 'action withut motive'. It is selfless service. Work without desire is the

motif of this principle. Nishkama karma is practicing selfless action in everyday life. It is a central theme in the Bhagavad Gita.

An important philosophical concept in Karma yoga, it means to act unselfishly, or without personal gain in mind.In fact, it is a fundamental concept in Hindu philosophy. It focuses on doing something for others and at the same time without expecting any gains in return from them.

All flora and fauna are naturally performing actions without expectations. In return, they contribute to the world in different forms. The flowers and fruits that they offer symbolize selfless action

in the universe. Man enjoys them.

of duties in life without any desire for fruits and without attachment, aversion and other selfish emotion. It involves activism- Action is better than inaction.

Life depends upon action. Lord Krishna teaches that performing one's duties without attachment to the results is the essence of Nishkama karma. Nishkama karma involves mastering the senses through mindfulness and offering one's actions to the Divine as a sacred Yajna.

life". In Chapter II, Arjuna basically hands over the steering wheel of his mind to the all-powerful Lord Krishna.

This predominantly holds the forceful moral that. "But whoever controls the senses with the mind, O Arjuna, and without attachment, engages the organs of action in the path of work, he is superior". Voluntary work, selfless

service, trust and giving away are the predominant practices. A man feels Thus, it becomes altruhappy when he gives away something to others which will come to him in the from of rewards. He who gives will be the happiest man in the world than he who accepts from others. A karma Yogi develops a pure mind and intellect.

STORY OF ORIGIN OF RUDRAKSHA AS IN PURANS

According to Shrimad Devi Bhagavat-Puran (Gita Press, Gorakhpur), the powerful demon Tripur defeated all the gods, including Brahma and Vishnu. In distress, the gods prayed to Lord Shiva for help. As Lord Shiva meditated for a thousand divine vears, tears fell from his eves, giving birth to Rudraksha trees. From these trees, 38 types of Rudraksha beads emerged for the welfare of all beings by Shiva's divine will.

12 varieties of Kapilacolored Rudraksha beads emerged from Lord Shiva's right eye (the Sun-eye), 16 types of White Rudraksha from His left eye (the Mooneye) & 10 types of Black Rudraksha from His third eye (the Fire-eye). White

self. Rudraksha is known as

A bead that naturally has a hole is considered superior, while one that is drilled to

make a hole is of average quality. Rudraksha beads that are uniform, smooth, strong and clearly marked with well-defined lines are considered the best.

TYPES OF RUDRAK-SHA

Rudraksha beads are classified based on the number of natural lines or "mukhis" on their surface. Each type of Rudraksha serves a specific purpose and is chosen based on spiritual goals, health needs and/or astrological/ numerological requirements.

1-MUKHI RUDRAKSHA Represents Lord Shiva him-

It balances ego, brings enlightenment, supreme consciousness and detachment

Represents the union of Shiva-Shakti (Ardhnarishwar) Promotes harmony and balance, mental peace, unity, understanding, controls emotional turbulence.

2-MUKHI

RUDRAKSHA

3-MUKHI RUDRAK-SHA

Linked to Agni (Fire element).

Known to release past karma and increase confidence, inner strength & self-belief with purification and transformation. **4-MUKHI RUDRAK-**SHA

Represents Lord Brahma, the creator. Enhances creativity, clarity in thought & expression, communication, intellectual abilities.

5-MUKHI RUDRAK-SHA

Linked to Lord Kalagni Rudra, a form of Shiva. Most commonly worn Rudraksha, associated with

6-MUKHI RUDRAK-SHA

Represents Lord Kartikeya Promotes love, beauty and material comforts. Enhances willpower, confidence, focus and mental clarity. Balances emotional and physical energies.

7-MUKHI RUDRAKSHA

Linked to Goddess Mahalaxmi

Brings abundance, wealth and success. Reduces the impact of hardships and stabilizes energy during challenging times. Helps overcome financial issues.

8-MUKHI RUDRAK-SHA

Represents Lord Ganesha, the remover of obstacles Removes obstacles, provides clarity in decisionmaking, wisdom and stability in life, protection from negative energies and unexpected challenges.

or divine blessings. By wearing the appropriate bead, one can harmonize planetary influences and promote holistic well-being.

wealth, spiritual mastery

Proper energization and wearing rituals further amplify their benefits & can enhance positive energies and reduce planetary imbalances.

Disclaimer: Please consult a professional astrologer or numerologist before choosing any rudraksha for wearing purposes, as there are lots of other factors to be considered. Information & the views expressed in this article reflect the author's personal understanding, learning and interpretation from the Vedic scriptures. Jyotsnaa G Bansal is a Reiki Grandmaster, Vedic Scholar, Author, Numerologist, Researcher, Counselor, Crystals & Spiritual Guide, Dowsing & Switchwords Practitioner.

This selfless approach to action is rooted in the ancient Indian texts. One of the key principles is detachment from outcomes. All selfless actions bring

rewards and recognition. For example, Nature offers umpteen fruits to the world.

All flora and fauna are naturally performing actions without expectations. In return, they contribute to the world in different forms. The flowers and fruits that they offer symbolize selfless action in the universe. Man enjoys them. Honeybees produce nectar for mankind without any

The Bhagavad-Gita emphasizes the performance

istic service. The attitude of the person will decide the Karma whether selfish or selfless. Self-reflection, self-intentions, self-awareness prepare one for doing Nishkam karma.

It mandates that volunteer work and daily activities like meditation or exercise without attachment to specific results. The more one is attached the more

one becomes selfish. He looks into material gains all the while. Such actions bring down man and his position. According to Sri Satya sai Baba, "Nishkama karma, or

selfless service. is the fragrant flower of altruistic love. It is not to be performed for the satisfaction of the person rendering the service or the person at whose bidding it is done.

Man should regard Nishkama karma as the purpose for which he is given

He is never affected by such good practices. He remains free from the shackles of birth and death since he performs all actions without any selfishness.

The emphasis is more on detachment rather than attachment. The more one gets detached the more one gets closer to the realization of God. It is nonattachment to all personal actions in life. True happiness lies in serving others. That is Nishkama Karma.

P.V.Laxmiprasad is the author and editor of 44 well deserved books in English Literature.

'Dalai Lama's Secret to Happiness'

TDG NETWORK

On this once-in-144-years Mahakumbh, a sacred confluence of spirituality and enlightenment, Sadhvi Bhagawati Saraswati launched Dr. Dinesh Shahra's latest book, 'Dalai Lama's Secret to Happiness'. This profound work reflects His Holiness the Dalai Lama's global vision of compassion, inner peace, and universal harmony--values that have deeply inspired Dr. Shahra on his own spiritual journey.

Sadhvi Bhagawati Saraswati, who penned the foreword for the book, praised Dr. Shahra's dedication to spiritual consciousness and his mission to integrate leadership with selfless service. She acknowledged his long-standing association with Parmarth Niketan Ashram and his commitment to promoting wisdom that transcends borders and faiths

Esteemed leader K. Annamalai was also present for the book launch, adding to the significance of this



The book, 'Dalai Lama's Secret to Happiness, explores His Holiness's profound insights on attaining true happiness through simplicity, service, and inner fulfillment, offering timeless lessons for seekers across the world.

momentous occasion. Expressing his gratitude, Dr. Dinesh Shahra shared, "The Dalai Lama's teachings on happiness, compassion, and mindfulness have been a guiding force in my life. This book is my humble

tribute to his extraordinary wisdom, which holds the power to transform lives globally. Having Sadhviji launch it at the sacred Mahakumbh makes this moment even more special." The book, 'Dalai Lama's

Secret to Happiness,' explores His Holiness's profound insights on attaining true happiness through simplicity, service, and inner fulfillment, offering timeless lessons for seekers across the world.

Launched at the Mahakumbh--a historic confluence of faith and spiritual awakening--this book stands as a beacon of wisdom and global unity, bridging the essence of Sanatan and Buddhist traditions in their pursuit of universal peace and enlightenment.

expectation in return.

NEW ZEALAND SPRINT TO SEMIS, BANGLADESH ELIMINATED

THE DAILY GUARDIAN REVIEW TUESDAY | 25 FEBRUARY 2025

NEW DELHI

TDG NETWORK RAWAI PINDI

achin Ravindra's sublime century L helped New Zealand book their place in the semi-finals of the Champions Trophy with a comfortable five-wicket win over Bangladesh in Rawalpindi.

Rachin Ravindra (112) and Tom Latham (55) have helped New Zealand defeat Bangladesh in a group stage game of the Champions Trophy. It's a result that secures New Zealand's spot in the semis, along with India. It also ends defending champion Pakistan's chances of making it to the semis in an event they're hosting. Bangladesh too are out of the semis race from



Shakib Al Hasan hit a 44-ball 70 against New Zealand on Wednesday

Najmul Hossain Shanto was the top scorer with 77 runs, while Jaker Ali scored 45 as they set a target of 237. New Zealand's hero for the innings was Michael Bracewell, who Group A. For Bangladesh, claimed four wickets.

16 SPORTS

Mitchell Santer said at the toss: "We are gonna bowl. It looks a good surface and hopefully, it gets better under lights. We have got two changes. Kyle Jamieson comes in place of Nathan

New Zealand captain Smith. Unfortunately, Darvl Mitchell is unwell and Rachin Ravindra replaces him." Bangladesh have picked speedster Nahid Rana for this match. Najmul Shanto said: "I would have bowled first as well

but it looks a pretty good wicket. Batting will not be an issue. We have made two changes. Mahmudullah Rivad & Nahid Rana back into the side in place of Soumya and Sakib.'

Playing XIs New Zealand XI: Devon Conway, Will Young, Kane Williamson, Rachin Ravindra, Tom Latham (wk), Glenn Phillips, Michael Bracewell, Mitchell Santner (c), Matt Henry, Kyle Jamieson, William O'Rourke

Bangladesh XI: Najmul Hossain Shanto (c), Tanzid Hasan, Mehidy Hasan Miraz, Towhid Hridoy, Mushfiqur Rahim (wk), Mahmudullah Riyad, Jaker Ali, Rishad Hossain, Taskin Ahmed, Mustafizur Rahman, Nahid Rana

Goalkeeper Savita joins elite club with 300th international cap

TDG NETWORK BHUBANESWAR



Hockey India congratulated Indian women's hockey team goalkeeper Savita Punia on completing 300 international caps on Monday.

The Arjuna Awardee achieved this landmark during India's match against the Netherlands in the FIH Hockey Pro League 2024/25 at the Kalinga Hockey Stadium in Bhubaneswar, Odisha. Savita now joins Vandana Katariya as one of only two Indian women to have played 300 international matches.

Savita is only the second Indian goalkeeper, male or female, to achieve this feat after the legendary PR Sreejesh. A

stalwart of Indian hockey, Savita made her senior



Mohun Bagan Super Giant players celebrate their win against Odisha FC during Indian Super League 2024-25 match, at Salt Lake Stadium in Kolkata on Sunday. ANI

Veer finishes 67th at Magical Kenya Open despite final round 68

TDG NETWORK NAIROB

India's Veer Ahlawat closed the week with a fine 3-under 68 that included an eagle, his second of the week, but he still finished only 67th at the Magical Kenya Open here. His 68 on the final day of the tournament was his best card of the week, which saw him suffer a 6-over 11 in a single hole, the seventh one on the second day. That messed up his tournament. Ahlawat, who earned a status on the DP World Tour by topping the PGTI Order of Merit, as per the alliance with the Indian body, was the first to tee off on the final day. He played alone and birdied the first, the third and then added an eagle on the fourth. He was four-under through the first holes

He then had two more birdies against three bogeys ule.

India announces 12-member squad

TDG NETWORK NEW DELHI

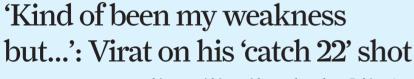
A 12-member Indian squad for the upcom-



for his 68. South African Jacques Kruyswijk claimed his maiden DP World Tour title after an impressive display. He won by two shots. Kruyswijk did not put a foot wrong in the final round as he carded four birdies in a sublime 67 to finish two shots clear of Englishman John Parry and reach 18 under par, complete a bogeyfree weekend and become the second South African winner of this event since it became part of the DP World Tour's Global Sched-

The 32-year-old Deon Germishuys was three shots further back in third, one ahead of fellow South African Jayden Schaper in fourth, while Italy's Gregorio de Leo and Englishman Jamie Rutherford, who came agonisingly close to a closing albatross, shared fifth place on 11 under. Kruyswijk had to hang in there in the early stages of his round, producing a magnificent par save from ten feet on the third to keep hold of his one-shot lead.

for ISSF shotgun World Cup



AGENCIES DUBAI

India's batting maestro Virat Kohli opened up on his match-winning 82nd international hundred against Pakistan and said how his favourite cover drive shot presents a 'catch 22' situation for him, as it has been his weakness lately but he has also scored a lot of runs with that.

Kohli completed 14,000 runs in ODI cricket, becoming only the third cricketer to do so, during the ICC Champions Trophy match against

arch-rivals Pakistan at the Dubai International Stadium on Sunday. "It's

'catch-22'. I

posted by Indian Cricket Team on Instagram.

stalwart batter opened up on batting at number three and said that his main motive at that time is to put his team in the winning position.

> "One thing that I've always thought of batting at three is to minimise risk and make sure that I put my team in a winning position and if you

but yeah, my role over

player added.

After two quick wickets, mean, it's kind Kohli slammed unbeat- Pakistan was 47/2. of been my en 100 runs off 111 balls, Skipper Mohammed Rizwan (46 in 77 balls, laced with seven fours, was a treat to watch. His knock came at a strike rate of 90.09. help ing India eas ily

He is the third batter after Sachin Tendulkar (18,426 runs in 463 ODIs) and Kumar Sangakkara (14,234 runs in 404 matches) to reach the landmark. In 299 ODIs, Kohli has scored 14,085 runs at an average

have a chance to finish off the game in a chase, obviously, that's much better and I always preferred that kind of a situation,

the vears has remained the same, whatever the demand of the game, I put my head down and try to do that," the 36-year-old

INDIA

skipper said in a video chase down Pakistan's total of 241. This was Kohli's sixth century in ICC ODI Further in the video, the events and his first in the ICC Champions Trophy.

weakness as well over the years, but I've scored a lot of runs on that shot. I think today was just about backing my

shots a n d think the first couple of boundaries I got were cover drives on the rise, so I really had to just let it go a little bit and take a bit of risk and follow through with my shots, because when I hit that kind of shots, then I feel in control when I bat out there, so it was a good innings for me personally and it was a great team win," the former India

with three fours) and Saud Shakeel (62 in 76 balls, with five fours) had a 104-run partnership, but they took up a lot of deliveries. After the end of this part

of 58.20, with 51 centuries

Coming to the India-

Pakistan Champions

Trophy clash, Pakistan

won the toss and elected

Pakistan was off to a fine

start, with Babar Azam

(23 in 26 balls, with five

fours) unleashing some

fine drives in the 41-run

opening partnership.

and 73 fifties.

to bat first.



ner ship,

Khushdil Shah (38 in 39 balls, with two sixes) did put up a fight with Salman Agha (19) and Naseem Shah (14), but they were bundled out for 241 runs in 49.4 overs.

Chasing 242 runs, India lost skipper Rohit Sharma (20 in 15 balls, with three fours and a six) early.

team debut at the age of 20 and has since established herself as one of the finest goalkeepers in the world.

She played a key role in India's historic fourth-place finish at the Tokyo Olympics, a campaign that elevated the team's global stature. Her experience also proved invaluable in the Rio Olympics 2016 and the 2018 Vitality Hockey Women's World Cup, where India reached the Quarter-Finals. Savita has led India to remarkable achievements as captain, including a bronze medal at the 2022 Birmingham Commonwealth Games and a title-winning campaign at the FIH Nations Cup. Under her leadership, India also clinched back-to-back gold medals in the Women's Asian Champions Trophy in 2023 and 2024. Recognized for her outstanding contributions, Savita was honoured with the Arjuna Award and has twice received the Hockey India Balbir Singh Senior Award for Player of the Year (2022, 2023).

Her excellence between the posts has also earned her the FIH Goalkeeper of the Year award for three consecutive seasons (2020-21, 2021-22, 2022-23).

Savita expressed her emotions on the milestone, as quoted from HI, "Playing 300 matches for India is an incredibly special moment for me. It has been an unforgettable journey. I am deeply grateful to Hockey India, Sports Authority of India, my family, teammates, and support staff who have stood by me throughout.

ing ISSF Shotgun World Cup in Nicosia, Cyprus was on Monday announced by the National Rifle Association of India.

The tournament is scheduled between May 3 and 12. As per the national selection policy, shooters ranked 4-6 in the India rankings of the respective individual events have been selected for this particular World Cup.

Tokyo Olympian Kynan Chenai will lead the men's trap trio, while Paris Olympian Rajeshwari Kumari headlines the women's trap competition. The skeet discipline will also have a couple of Olympians in their ranks in Nicosia, a legacy shotgun venue. India's most decorated men's skeet exponent Mairaj Ahmad Khan will line up for



vet another World Cup assignment while Maheshwari Chauhan finds a place in the women's skeet event.

The Nicosia tournament follows two backto-back combined (Rifle/Pistol/Shotgun) ISSF World Cups, the first two of the year, in Argentina and Peru respectively, in April.

Sneha Singh tees up in 4th leg with an eye on hat-trick of wins on Hero WPGT

Social media flooded with memes after Pak defeat

fan said.

TDG NETWORK ISLAMABAD

Following the defeat against arch-rivals India in the ongoing ICC Champions Trophy 2025 at the Dubai International Stadium, fans of the Pakistan Cricket Team expressed disappointment following their team's loss. In a thrilling match at the

ongoing marquee event, Indian legend Virat Kohli stole the show with a brilliant century, leading Men in Blue to a four-wicket victory over Pakistan. "We had a lot of hopes from our team that they will play well. We thought that they would



reach a score of at least 315, but they did not even reach 250

Even if we lost, they should have at least stopped Kohli's century. If they could not bat well, they could have saved Another Pakistani fan the match by bowling propsaid that the team should erly. I request the PCB to give train better to improve their a chance to new faces so that fielding. our team may improve...," a

"The performance was very poor even in fielding.

They should undergo better training, and there should be some accountability for playing with the sentiments of the people...," another fan said.

TDG NETWORK MUMBAI

Sneha Singh will attempt a hat-trick of wins as she tees up in the fourth leg of the Hero Women's Pro Golf Tour at the Bombay Presidency Golf Club on Tuesday. The Hyderabad girl, who plans to play events in Europe this summer, won the second and the third legs of the 2025 season and leads the Hero Order of Merit with two wins and one fifth place finish in three starts.

Sneha, who now has 10 wins on the Hero WPGT, was a convincing winner in the third leg and hopes to carry on with the same form. Sneha is trying to emulate Vidhatri Urs, who won the 10th, 11th and 12th legs of the Tour in 2024. The strong field of 40 players,



including six amateurs, has multiple winners like Vani Kapoor, who was runnerup last week, Hitaashee Bakshi, winner of the Order of Merit in 2024, Amandeep Drall, Jasmine Shekar, Rhea Purvi Saravanan, Ridhima Dilawari, Gaurika Bishnoi and Neha Tripathi among

The six amateurs include Mannat Brar, Saanvi Somu,

Anuradha Chaudhuri, Keerthana Rajeev, Aradhana Manikandan and Bhuvika Bhise. The fourth leg being held at the Bombay Presidency Golf Club carries a prize purse of Rs 16 lakhs.