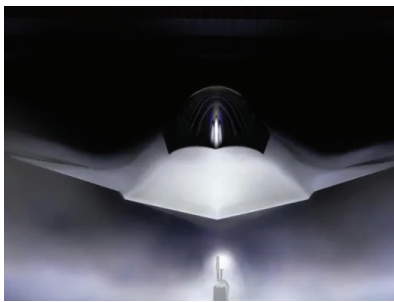




4
BJP, DMK PLAYING POLITICS FOR OWN BENEFIT: AIADMK ON DELIMITATION



11
NGAD FIGHTER UNVEILED: F-47 TO REDEFINE AIR SUPERIORITY



16
CSK TRIUMPHS OVER MI IN A LAST-OVER THRILLER AT CHEPAUK

CASH ROW: PROBE IN CRUCIAL STAGE; BURNT NOTES SEEN IN GARBAGE

Findings of the committee will decide the fate of the Delhi High Cout Justice Yashwant Varma.

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI

With Chief Justice of India Sanjiv Khanna constituting a three-member panel to probe the discovery of “four to five semi-burnt sacks” of Indian currency notes after a fire incident at the residence of Delhi High Court judge Yashwant Varma, the in-house procedure has entered the crucial second-stage whose findings will decide the fate of the judge.

The fire incident at the storeroom of the official residence of Justice Varma on March 14 purportedly led to the discovery of the cash by firefighters and police personnel.

The CJI constituted the three-member panel after the Delhi High Court Chief Justice Devendra Kumar Upadhyaya in his report dated March 21 and made public on Saturday evening called for a “deeper probe” into the allegations.

The three-member inquiry committee formed by the CJI consists of Justices Sheel Nagu (Chief Justice of the Punjab and Haryana High Court), G S Sandhawalia (Chief Justice of the Himachal Pradesh High Court) and Karnataka High Court



Burnt currency notes seen near the residence of Delhi High Court Justice Yashwant Varma, in New Delhi on Sunday. (ANI Photo)

judge Anu Sivaraman.

However, no timeline has been fixed for the inquiry committee to conclude the probe.

Meanwhile, sanitation workers have said they have found burnt pieces of currency notes near the official residence of Delhi High Court judge Justice Yashwant Varma.

“We work in this circle. We collect garbage from the roads. We were cleaning here 4-5 days back and collecting garbage when we found some small pieces of burnt Rs 500 note. We found it that day. Now, we have found

‘Let committee report come’: Law Minister

AGENCIES
IMPHAL

Union Law Minister Arjun Ram Meghwal on Sunday addressed the controversy surrounding Delhi High Court judge Justice Yashwant Varma.

He clarified that the matter is with the Supreme Court, which has constituted a three-member committee to investigate the issue. “This case is with the Supreme Court. It has formed



a three-member committee including two High Court Chief Justices and one High Court Judge. Let the committee report come. Then we will talk about this....” Meghwal said.

AIMPLB announces nationwide stir against Waqf Bill

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

The All-India Muslim Personal Law Board (AIMPLB) on Sunday announced a nationwide agitation against the proposed Waqf Amendment Bill.

A statement issued by Mohd Vaquar Uddin Latifi, Office Secretary of the (AIMPLB) said, “Following a massive and successful protest in Delhi on March 17, the All India Muslim Personal Law Board (AIMPLB) has announced a nationwide agitation against the proposed Waqf Amendment Bill.

SQR Ilyas, spokesperson of AIMPLB and Convener of the Action Committee Against the Waqf Bill, expressed gratitude on behalf of the Board to all Muslim organizations, civil society groups, and leaders from Dalit, Adivasi, OBC, and

P3

Sambhal violence: Jama Masjid Sadar chief detained

AGENCIES
SAMBHAL

Zafar Ali, the chief of Jama Masjid Sadar and Shahi Mosque Committee, was taken into custody by Uttar Pradesh Police on Sunday for questioning in connection with the violence that erupted in Sambhal on November 24 last year.

Ali was taken to Chandauli for a medical examination amid heavy security.

The development follows allegations of his involvement in the violence that broke out in Sambhal during a court-ordered survey of the Shahi Jama Masjid.

“I did not incite any violence...,” said Zafar Ali while being taken into custody by Uttar Pradesh Police on Sunday for questioning in connection with the violence that erupted in Sambhal on November 24 last year.



Police takes Jama Masjid Sadar Chief and Shahi Mosque Committee Chief, Zafar Ali into custody in connection with the November 24 Sambhal violence, in Sambhal on Sunday. ANI

Following his detention, a group of his supporters staged a protest demanding his immediate release.

Earlier on Sunday, Zafar Ali and his son were summoned to the Sambhal Police Station for questioning. Security has been tightened outside the Chandauli Court, where both are to be presented as part of the legal proceedings in the case. Circle Officer Anuj

Chaudhary said, “There are no arrangements made... Forces have been deployed to maintain peace... There is peace in the area...”

The Uttar Pradesh Police’s Special Investigation Team (SIT) had earlier filed a chargesheet of over 4,000 pages in six of the 12 cases in the November 24 Sambhal violence that erupted during

P3

Aurangzeb row: RSS slams ‘iconization’ of figures who were against India’s ethos

AGENCIES
BENGALURU

Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) General Secretary Dattatreya Hosabale on Sunday slammed the advocates for Ganga-Jamuni culture, which promotes harmony between different cultures, but never considered Aurangzeb’s brother Dara Shikoh a hero.

This, he argued, raises questions about who India should associate with its ethos. He stressed that this is not a matter of religion, but rather about identifying with individuals who worked according to India’s traditions.

Addressing a press conference, Hosabale questioned the iconization of historical figures who were against India’s ethos. He cited the example of Aurangzeb Road in Delhi being renamed Abdul Kalam Road, highlighting that there was a reason behind this change.

“... There have been a lot of incidents in the past. There was an ‘Aurangzeb Road’ in



RSS Chief Mohan Bhagwat and RSS Sarkaryavah Dattatreya Hosabale during the inauguration of Akhil Bharatiya Pratinidhi Sabha (ABPS), in Bengaluru. (ANI Photo)

Delhi, which was renamed Abdul Kalam Road. There was some reason behind it. Aurangzeb’s brother, Dara Shikoh, was not made a hero. Those who advocate the Ganga-Jamuni culture never thought of bringing Dara Shikoh forward. Are we going to iconize someone who was against the ethos of India, or are we going to go with those who worked according to the traditions of this land?” said the RSS General Secretary.

Dara Shikoh (1615-1659) was the eldest son of Mughal Emperor Shah Jahan and a pioneer of interfaith understanding in India. He’s described as a “liberal Muslim” who sought to find common ground between Hindu and Islamic traditions.

Dara Shikoh was declared Crown Prince in 1655 but was defeated by Aurangzeb in 1657. He was eventually assassinated by Aurangzeb in 1659 at the age of 44. His

P3

Canadian PM Carney calls snap polls on April 28

AGENCIES
OTTAWA

Canada’s new Prime Minister Mark Carney, has moved to dissolve the Parliament and called a snap election for April 28, Al Jazeera reported on Sunday.

The move comes less than two weeks after Carney took office, succeeding former Canada PM Justin Trudeau.

Carney cited the need for a strong mandate to deal with the ongoing trade tensions with the United States, sparked by President Donald Trump’s trade actions, as per Al Jazeera.

Following his meeting with the Governor-General Mary Simon, the Liberal Party leader told reporters in Ottawa that “Canada facing the most significant crisis of the lifetimes because of President [Donald] Trump’s unjustified trade actions and his threats to our sovereignty” and requested parliament’s dissolution.

“I’m asking Canadians for a

P3



Devotees gather at Jama Masjid to break their fast (Roza) with Iftar during the month of Ramadan, in New Delhi on Sunday. ANI

Saweety Boora-Deepak Hooda marital dispute turns uglier

NEERAJ MOHAN
CHANDIGARH

The marital dispute between international boxer Saweety Boora and former Indian kabaddi team captain and BJP leader Deepak Hooda has escalated into a full-blown legal battle, with both filing cases against each other over assault, dowry harassment and financial fraud.

Now, Saweety Boora alleged that her husband



harassed her for dowry, demanding a Mercedes worth Rs 2.5 crore just days before their wedding. She



has also accused the Hisar police of not taking action on her complaint she had filed

P3

Man drugs and then strangles wife, 3 children

TDG NETWORK
CHANDIGARH

The massive explosion that shook a house in Haryana’s Bahadurgarh on Saturday evening, killing a woman and her three children, has taken a shocking turn with the police arresting the husband of the deceased woman, planned and executed the murders of his wife and children before attempting to set the house on fire.

According to DCP Mayank Mishra, Harpal first drugged his wife, Sandeep Kaur, and their three children Jaskirat (17), Chahak (11), and Sukhinder (9) with sleeping

planned murder as the police have arrested the sole survivor, Harpal Singh, who was found injured at the scene.

Investigations revealed that Harpal, the husband of the deceased woman, planned and executed the murders of his wife and children before attempting to set the house on fire.

According to DCP Mayank Mishra, Harpal first drugged his wife, Sandeep Kaur, and their three children Jaskirat (17), Chahak (11), and Sukhinder (9) with sleeping

During the fire, the internal unit of the AC exploded, making it appear as an accident.

pills. After they fell unconscious, the accused strangled them with a rope and attacked them with a sharp weapon. Afterward, he poured petrol on them and set the room on fire. During

the fire, the internal unit of the AC exploded, making it appear as an accident.

However, forensic reports and a detailed investigation confirmed it was a deliberate act of murder. The police also recovered a 12-page suicide note from the house. In the letter, Harpal blamed his sister and brother-in-law, accusing them of fraudulently taking ownership of his house. “I am tired of fighting. I tried to protect my children by moving to Bahadurgarh with a false identity,

but I can’t take it anymore,” he wrote in the note. He had planned to die along with his family, but later backed out due to fear, the police said.

The police arrested Harpal after he was discharged from the hospital. His property dispute and financial troubles are being investigated as possible motives.

“This is a clear case of cold-blooded murder, and we have collected all necessary evidence. The accused has confessed to the crime,” said DCP Mishra.

WAQF BILL BJP'S STRATEGY TO 'DAMAGE' BONDS, 'DEMONISE' MINORITY: JAIRAM

Bill deprives community of right to administer its own religious affairs: Cong leader

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

Congress General Secretary Jairam Ramesh on Sunday lashed out at the Bharatiya Janata Party over Waqf (Amendment) Bill, saying that it is the party's continuous attempt to damage bonds of social harmony.

He added that it is BJP's strategy to "demonise" minority communities by "spreading false propaganda."

"The Waqf (Amendment) Bill, 2024 is part of BJP's strategy and continuing attempts to damage the centuries-old bonds of social harmony in our uniquely multi-religious society. Demonise minority communities by spreading false propaganda and creating prejudices, dilute Consti-



titutional provisions that guarantee equal rights and protections to all citizens, regardless of religion," Jairam Ramesh said in a statement.

He added that's it is also BJP's strategy to "defame traditions and institutions of minority communities to keep our society in a state of permanent polarisation for electoral gains."

Ramesh further highlighted the "flaws" of Waqf (Amendment) Bill, noting

that it "deliberately deprive" the community of the right to administer its own religious traditions and affairs.

"All the institutions created by previous laws to administer waqfs (national council, state boards and tribunals) are actively sought to be reduced in stature, composition and authority so as to deliberately deprive the community the right to administer its own religious traditions and affairs." He said in the statement.

He said that deliberate ambiguity has been introduced by the BJP for determining who can donate their land for waqf purposes thus altering the very definition of waqf itself.

Further highlighting the "flaws", he said, "The waqf-by-user concept developed by the nation's judiciary on the basis of long, continued and uninterrupted customary usage is being abolished. Provisions in the existing law are being removed without any reason just to weaken the administration of the waqf. Enhanced defences are now being introduced in the law to protect those who have encroached on waqf lands." Ramesh said in the statement.

Lastly, he concluded by saying, "Far-reaching powers have been given to the Collector and other design-

ated state government officers on matters related to disputes concerning waqf properties as well as their registration. Officers of the state governments will now have the powers to derecognise any waqf on anyone's complaint or on a mere allegation of the waqf property being a government property till a final decision is taken," he said.

The Waqf Act of 1995, enacted to regulate Waqf properties, has long been criticised for issues such as mismanagement, corruption, and encroachments.

The Waqf (Amendment) Bill, 2024, aims to address these challenges by introducing reforms such as digitisation, enhanced audits, improved transparency, and legal mechanisms to reclaim illegally occupied properties.

Plan to misguide: Waqf panel chief on AIMPLB's protest

TDG NETWORK
LUCKNOW

Bharatiya Janta Party (BJP) MP and Waqf JPC Chairman Jagdambika Pal on Sunday responded to the AIMPLB's announcement to hold a protest on March 26 against the Waqf (Amendment) Bill 2024.

Pal criticized the planned protest, calling it a part of a larger political strategy aimed at misleading the public and spreading communalism.

"This is a well-planned strategy, when the Waqf was handed over to the JPC by the Speaker, for six months, we called all the stakeholders and took everyone's views. The law is pending in the Parliament. The amendment bill that is coming will address all the issues, it is going to be a transparent Bill, the BJP MP said.

Pal further explained that the bill is designed to en-



sure fairness and address past discrepancies. "It will benefit women and children. Until now, only the people associated with the Waqf properties benefited," he said.

Referring to the planned protests by the AIMPLB, Pal criticized the opposition for politicizing the matter. "The protests are only to misguide the nation and spread communalism. The Opposition is doing a politics of appeasement. No one is talking on the basis of merit," he stated.

Meanwhile, Union Minister Kiren Rijiju on Saturday assured that the Waqf

Amendment Bill aims to enhance transparency and benefit marginalized communities, including women and the poor. Addressing concerns over the bill, he emphasized that it is not intended to seize Muslim properties but to establish a more systematic approach.

Speaking to the media, Rijiju stated that all Muslim organizations have been consulted and reiterated that India, as a democratic nation, functions under the Constitution.

"After the Waqf Amendment Bill is introduced in the Lok Sabha, we will take it to the Rajya Sabha. We will explain it in detail. We have met all the Muslim organizations and they also know that the Waqf Amendment Bill is not to usurp Muslim properties. This will increase transparency; it will help the poor and women. This is for a system.

World Water Day: Initiative to promote conservation launched at Panchkula

AGENCIES
CHANDIGARH

On World Water Day, the Union Ministry of Jal Shakti launched the sixth edition of 'Jal Shakti Abhiyan: Catch the Rain - 2025' at Panchkula to promote water conservation and sustainability. It was for the first time the initiative was launched outside Delhi. The event saw participation from over 10,000 citizens, stakeholders, and water experts from across the country.

The campaign, themed Jal Sanchay Jan Bhagidari: Jan Jagrukta Ki Aur (People's Action for Water Conservation - Towards Intensified Community Connect), aims to ensure water security through rainwater harvesting and groundwater recharge. Led by the Ministry of Jal Shakti in collaboration with the Ministry of Environment,



Forest & Climate Change and the Government of Haryana the initiative aims to promote water conservation and management across the country. The campaign will focus on 148 districts of the country with an emphasis on community involvement with over 10,000 citizens, stakeholders, and water sec-

tor professionals attended the event, reflecting the growing awareness of water conservation.

Addressing the gathering on the occasion Union Minister for Jal Shakti C R Patil emphasized on the importance of water security and praised Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership in making water a key national priority. He stated that while people often focus on saving wealth, saving water is even more important. He also emphasized that if a global conflict over water ever happens, India will not be a part of it, as the country is working towards a water-secure future.

Another major attraction of the this even was the launch of the 'Jal-Jangal-Jan: Ek Prakritik Bandhan Abhiyan' campaign, which aims to restore the connection between forests, rivers, and springs.

SRCC among 160 associations granted FCRA certificate by MHA in 2025

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

Shriram College of Commerce (SRCC) in Delhi is among 160 associations across India that have been granted the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act (FCRA) certificate in 2025, allowing them to legally receive foreign funding.

The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has issued these approvals after scrutinizing the applications under the FCRA, which governs the acceptance and utilization of foreign contributions by NGOs, educational institutions, and other organizations.

According to official data, Maharashtra tops the list with 25 associations receiving the certificate, followed by Tamil Nadu with 21. Delhi and Karnataka each have 13 approvals, while Telangana received 12. Other states with significant approvals include Gujarat (11), West Bengal (8), and Uttar Pradesh (7). Additionally, states like Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Haryana, and Rajasthan each saw five associations get approval.

Prominent educational institutions like SRCC receiving the FCRA certificate reflect their growing international collaborations and efforts to attract foreign funding for



academic research, infrastructure development, and scholarships. The FCRA certificate is valid for five years, subject to compliance with regulations and proper utilization of funds. Associations are required to maintain transparency and report their financial activities to the authorities.

This development highlights the continued reliance of Indian institutions and non-profits on global partnerships to support their ini-

tatives in education, healthcare, social welfare, and other sectors.

Buddha Ashram Sakya Heritage Society, His Holiness the Dalai Lama Charitable Trust, Tibetan Administrations Welfare Society, Shriram College of Commerce, Sambhavna Trust, Vyomini Social Foundation, Centre for Equity and Inclusion (CEQUIN), Asha Deep Foundation, Navjyoti India Foundation, Aarush Educational Research Training and Development Foundation, and The Inclen Trust International are among 13 Delhi-based associations that have been granted separate certificates under FCRA.

Amritpal Singh may be shifted to Punjab jail as NSA detention ends

TARUNI GANDHI
CHANDIGARH

Khalistan supporter and Punjab MP Amritpal Singh, currently lodged in Assam's Dibrugarh Jail, may be shifted to a Punjab prison in a coming month. The Punjab government has not issued any orders extending his detention under the National Security Act (NSA), which expired on April 22.

Along with Amritpal Singh, NSA could also be revoked for his two associates, Pappalpreet Singh and Varinder Vicky. Recently, seven of Amritpal's associates were transferred from Dibrugarh Jail to Punjab.

A senior Punjab government official confirmed that no decision has been taken regarding extending the NSA period or issuing any related orders. This suggests that the Punjab government is preparing to tighten its grip on Amritpal Singh. Authorities may bring Amritpal Singh and his two



associates to Amritsar for interrogation regarding the 2023 Ajnala police station attack.

On March 20, seven of Amritpal Singh's associates were shifted from Dibrugarh Jail to Amritsar. The Punjab government presented them in court on March 21 and secured a three-day remand, while Amritpal Singh's case remained pending. Due to this, no immediate decision was made regarding Amritpal, Pappalpreet Singh, and Varinder Vicky.

The Punjab government is expected to clarify its stand on Amritpal and his two

associates in the upcoming High Court hearing on March 25 instead of issuing immediate orders.

On February 23, 2023, thousands of supporters of the pro-Khalistan organization 'Waris Punjab De,' led by Amritpal Singh, stormed the Ajnala police station in Amritsar. Armed with guns and swords, they were protesting the arrest of Amritpal's close aide, Lovepreet Singh Toofan. Under pressure, Punjab Police announced Toofan's release. The mob broke through police barricades, injuring six officers.

Punjab Police plans to arrest and investigate Amritpal Singh, Pappalpreet Singh, and Varinder Vicky in connection with this attack.

On February 15, 2023, a man named Varinder Singh from Chamkaur Sahib was allegedly kidnapped and assaulted near Jandiala Guru. Amritpal Singh was reportedly present at the scene.

Govt lying about deaths at Maha Kumbh: Akhilesh

TDG NETWORK
LUCKNOW

Samajwadi Party (SP) President Akhilesh Yadav on Sunday launched a sharp attack on the Uttar Pradesh government alleging mishandling of the Maha Kumbh Mela and accusing it of failing to account for missing devotees and misleading the public about casualties.

Speaking to media after an event, Akhilesh Yadav said, "...In a holy event like Maha Kumbh, the government neither wants to compensate the devotees who have died or are missing nor does it want to find them... The path of truth and religion is Sanatan, but they (the state government) are lying about the death or missing of devotees... It was propagated that this was a digital Maha Kumbh. If it was so, then where did the drones and CCTV go from there (in the Maha Kumbh

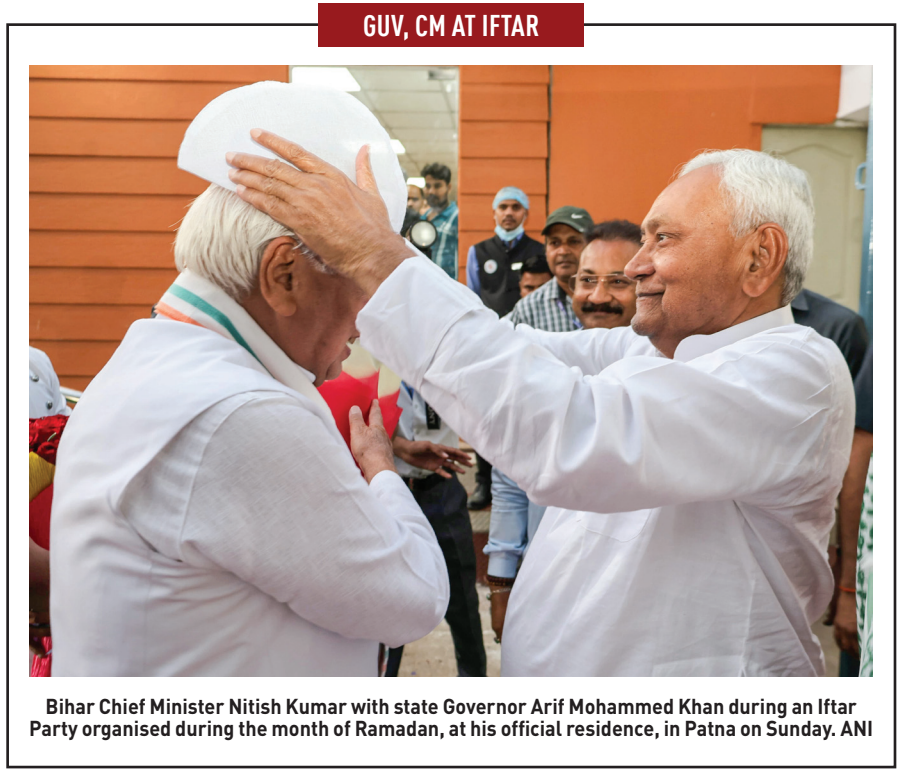


Mela area)?"

Meanwhile, Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath expressed gratitude to Prime Minister Narendra Modi for implementing the Namami Gange project successfully, saying that the success of Mahakumbh 2025 validates the initiative's impact.

He said that the program has restored the continuous and pure flow of the Ganga River, allowing aquatic life to thrive once again.

The Namami Gange program, launched in 2014, aims to reduce pollution and rejuvenate the Ganga.



4 killed, 5 injured in accident in Bihar

TDG NETWORK
BEGUSARAI

At least four people lost their lives, and five were injured after a car rammed into a divider on early Sunday morning while returning from a wedding in Bi-

har's Begusarai.

Sub Divisional Police Officer (SDPO) Subodh Kumar said that the incident occurred at around 3.40 am on Sunday when the people in the car were returning from the wedding. The official said that the injured have been

admitted to hospital and are undergoing treatment.

According to the police, one of the injured had stated that the incident occurred because the driver was feeling drowsy when they left the wedding at 2 am, which resulted in the incident.

India tops in road accidents, alarms Rijiju as he flags off Parliamentarians Car Rally

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

Union Minister of Parliamentary Affairs Kiren Rijiju on Sunday emphasised the critical importance of road safety for all citizens at the Parliamentarians Car Rally 2025, held at the Constitution Club of India in New Delhi.

He highlighted India's alarming record of having the highest number of road

accidents worldwide, stressing the need for awareness programmes to prevent such incidents.

"Road safety is very important for every citizen. When you go out on the road, there are many rules to prevent accidents. The highest number of road accidents in the world occur in our country. This is a matter of concern, and Prime Minister Narendra Modi has also said that awareness pro-

grams should be conducted to prevent road accidents," he said.

The event, which saw participation from over 50 parliamentarians, aimed to promote responsible driving and road safety awareness. The rally followed a carefully planned route showcasing New Delhi's landmarks, with participants stopping at Traffic Park to review fundamental driving rules and test their knowledge



of road safety signs.

The minister's statements were echoed by JK Tyre & Industries Managing Director Anshuman Singhania, who noted that road safety goes beyond following rules and is ultimately about saving lives.

The Parliamentarians Car Rally 2025 was the ninth edition of the annual event, which has been conceptualized by JK Tyre and the Constitution Club of India to bring togeth-

er stakeholders and promote road safety awareness.

Earlier, Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari highlighted the immediate need for improved road safety measures to put in place and called upon the road construction industry to develop strategies to enhance road safety by adopting newer technologies and sustainable recyclable construction materials.

Speaking after inaugurating the two-day Global Road Infratech Summit and Expo (GRIS) with the theme "Vision Zero: Sustainable Infratech and Policy for Safer Roads" in New Delhi, Gadkari observed that most road accidents in the country occurred due to poor civil engineering practices in road design, construction, and management, as well as improper road signage and marking systems.

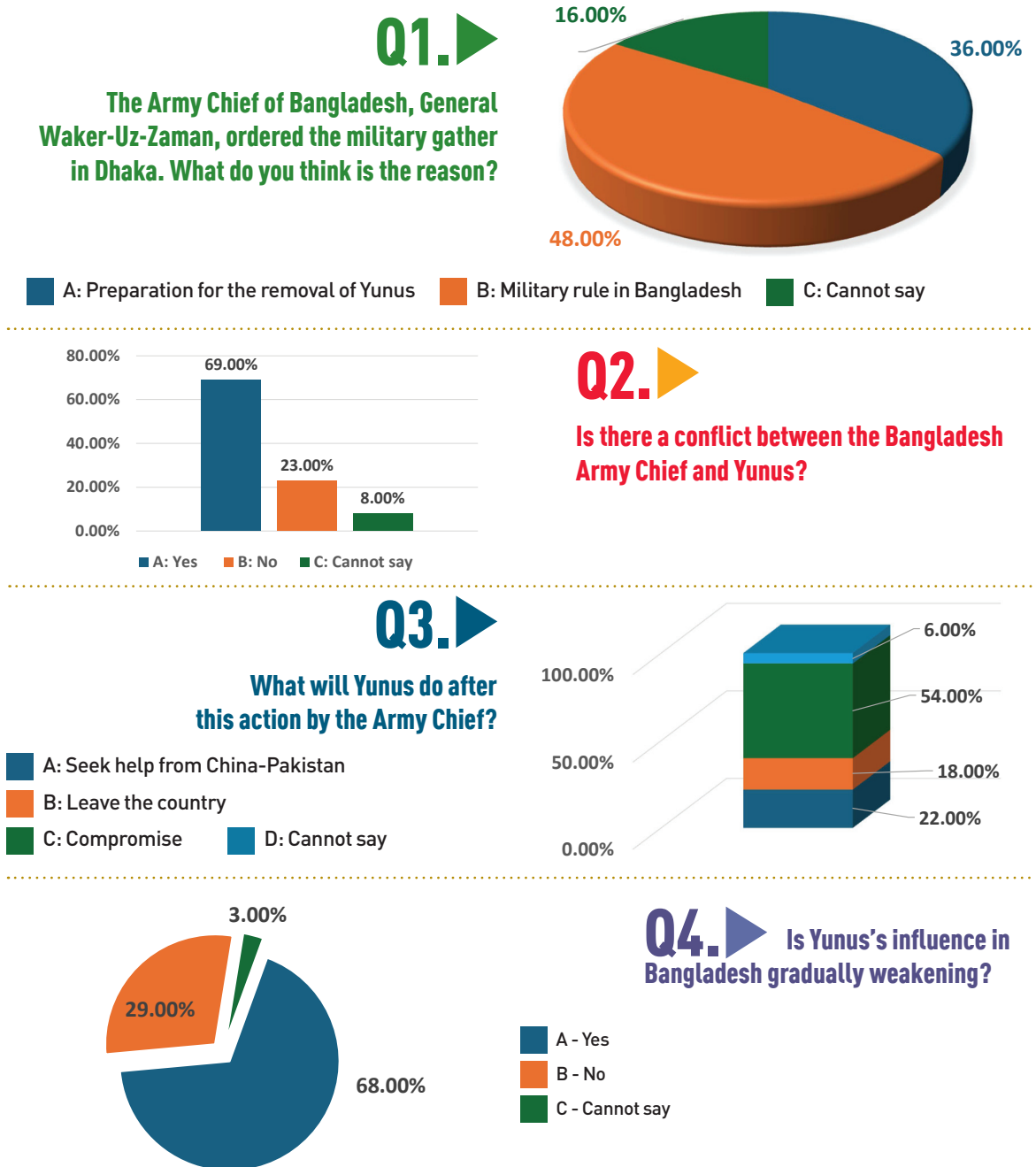
THE DAILY GUARDIAN SURVEY ON YUNUS VS ARMY CHIEF IN BANGLADESH

68% believe Yunus's influence is weakening in Bangladesh

Amid rising tensions between the Bangladesh Army and the Muhammad Yunus-led interim government, along with the Students

Against Discrimination group, armoured vehicles and troops have been deployed in Dhaka, fuelling coup speculations. Reports indicate

that the Savar-based 9th Division is gradually marching into the capital, aiming to tighten the military's control, particularly in Dhaka.



I.N.D.I.A bloc should 'unblock' itself, says Kapil Sibal

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI

Rajya Sabha MP Kapil Sibal stated Sunday that the INDIA bloc should outline their vision, converge on a stage and move ahead with a programme for the future and only then can it face the challenge of taking on the BJP-led government. "Why are you asking me, ask those who want to strengthen it. They are unblocking their bloc. First of all, they should maintain their bloc and present themselves like a bloc in front of the public and present their views about what they think. It should have a spokesperson, a

secretariat, a policy, a minimum program...I do not understand such politics, I am far away from it," he told ANI.

Asked about the future of the I.N.D.I.A bloc in view of the Bihar Legislative Assembly elections later in the year and State assembly elections in Assam, West Bengal.

Kapil Sibal stressed that the opposition has to touch upon the issues related to the public to take on the BJP-led Union government. He also criticised the DMK government, without naming them, over the issue of language.

"If they have to seriously face this government, then



the opposition parties will have to come on one platform and move forward with one program. They should raise such issues which are really related to the public..." Sibal told ANI.

"Today what is in front

of the janta? There are issues, which are coming to the fore which does not have anything to do with the lay public. Take for example the language issue, in which our Home Minister gave a heavy speech. I want to ask that they had said they will make engineering books in Tamil when they come to power, does it have anything to do with the future..." Sibal said.

The Rajya Sabha MP also voiced his unconditional support for the INDIA bloc, which was formed to take on the Prime Minister Narendra Modi-led BJP government in the 2024 Lok Sabha elections.

SKM calls for nationwide protest

TDG NETWORK
CHANDIGARH

The Samyukta Kisan Morcha (SKM), an umbrella body of nearly 40 farmer and labour organizations in the country, has given a call for nationwide protests on March 28 to protest police action against the protesting farmers in Punjab.

The SKM leaders have urged farmers all over India to join the protest and make it successful. In a statement, farmer leaders stated that they are upset because the police in Punjab have been tough on farmers who are fighting for their rights. SKM said the Punjab government, led by the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP), and the Central government are

working with big companies instead of helping farmers.

In Punjab, the police arrested 350 farmer leaders, including Jagjit Singh Dallewal and Srwan Singh Pandher. They destroyed tents and stages at the Khanauri and Shambhu borders and took away tractors and other things farmers were using to protest. Earlier this month, on March 3 and 4, over 800 SKM members, including elderly leaders like Balbir Singh Rajewal, were also arrested to stop their protests.

SKM said this showed that the Punjab government, led by Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann, is trying to stop farmers from protesting. They believe farmers have the right to speak out, which is important in a free country.

Even after arrests, farmers held big peaceful protests on March 5, forcing the government to free those who were jailed.

The borders at Khanauri and Shambhu were blocked by the police and Haryana officials, not the farmers. Farmers are asking for fair prices for their crops (MSP@ C2+50%) and for their loans to be canceled. SKM blames the central government, led by Narendra Modi, for not helping farmers while giving big companies Rs. 16 lakh crore in debt relief over the last 10 years. Every day, 31 farmers in India take their own lives because of money problems.

SKM says Punjab is the heart of the farmers' fight, and big companies want to

crush the movement there to control farmers everywhere. But they warn that stopping peaceful protests will only make farmers fight harder. SKM believes the governments in Punjab and Delhi will lose if they keep attacking farmers, reads the statement.

SKM is calling on all farmer groups to join together and protest the police actions. They want to protect the right to protest and stop what they call unfair rule by those in power.

The farmers body also planning more countrywide protests for fair prices, loan relief, and to fix the farming crisis. They say farmers will never give up, no matter how much the police or companies push back.

Cash row: Probe in crucial stage...

CONTINUED FROM P1

1-2 pieces...We do not know where a fire broke out,"INDERJEET, a sanitation worker,

The Supreme Court has released the inquiry report filed by Delhi High Court Chief Justice Devendra Kumar Upadhyay into the controversy involving High Court Justice Yashwant Varma, as per a press release by the Supreme Court.

In his report, the Delhi High Court Chief Justice said that he is of the prima facie opinion that the entire matter warrants a deeper probe.

The Supreme Court also released the response of Justice Yashwant Varma, who has denied the allegations and said that it clearly appeared to be a conspiracy to frame and malign him.

Justice Varma stated that no cash was ever placed in that storeroom either by him or any of his family members, and he said and strongly denounced the suggestion that the alleged cash belonged to them.

The room which caught fire and where cash was allegedly found was an outhouse and not the main building where the judge

and family reside, he stated.

The Chief Justice of the Delhi High Court, Devendra Kumar Upadhyay, instructed Justice Yashwant Varma to preserve all communication on his phone while acting on the directive of the Chief Justice of India (CJI); this included conversations, messages, and data, as the controversy surrounding him continued to unfold. Justice Varma, in a statement to Delhi High Court Chief Justice Devendra Kumar Upadhyay, refuted the allegations implicating him in the cash recovery incident.

Sambhal violence: Jama Masjid Sadar chief detained

CONTINUED FROM P1

the ASI's examination of the Mughal-era mosque.

The violence had resulted in the deaths of four individuals and injuries to several others, including officials and locals.

According to the charge sheet, there were 159 total accused in the case. It also mentioned that the weapons recovered from the site of violence and other places were

manufactured in the United Kingdom, USA, Germany, and Czechoslovakia.

Since November last year, no further incidents of violence have been reported in the area. During Holi celebrations, the police maintained tight security, conducting flag marches to ensure peace. To protect the mosque from any colours or vandalism, a tarpaulin sheet was also placed over the Jama Masjid at that time.

Aurangzeb row: RSS slams 'iconization' of figures

CONTINUED FROM P1

works, such as Majma-ul-Bahrain and Sirr-i-Akbar, aimed to establish connections between Hinduism and Islam.

He translated the Upanishads and other Hindu texts from Sanskrit to Persian, introducing Indian culture and spirituality to Europe and the West. Unlike his brother Aurangzeb, Dara Shikoh was inclined towards philosophy and mysticism, rather than military pursuits.

The RSS leader also distinguished between fighting against the British and fighting against those who came before them. He noted that Maharana Pratap's fight was indeed a freedom movement and that people with an "invader mentality" pose a danger to the country.

"If the freedom fighting is done against Britishers, then it is a freedom fight. The fight against those who were before them (Britishers) was also a freedom movement. What Maharana Pratap did was fight for freedom. If there are people with an invader mentality, then they are a danger to the country... We have to decide whom we are going to associate with the ethos of our country... It is not about religion... This is RSS's firm view..." said Hosabale. His remarks came after recent clashes in Nagpur which erupted on March 17 over demands for the removal of Aurangzeb's grave. Tensions escalated further when rumours circulated that a holy book of a particular community had been burnt during the agitation. However, the

situation has now returned to normal, and the curfew imposed in several areas has been lifted. Speaking on Waqf (Amendment) Bill 2024, Hosabale said, "The government has formed a commission for Waqf. We will see what they come up with. Whatever has happened till now has happened in the right direction. We will see what happens further..." The Waqf Act of 1995, enacted to regulate Waqf properties, has long been criticised for issues such as mismanagement, corruption, and encroachments. The Waqf (Amendment) Bill, 2024, aims to address these challenges by introducing reforms such as digitisation, enhanced audits, improved transparency, and legal mechanisms to reclaim illegally occupied properties.

Canadian PM calls snap polls on April 28

CONTINUED FROM P1

strong, positive mandate to deal with President Trump and to build a new Canadian economy that works for everyone because I know we need change - big change, positive change," he added.

According to Al Jazeera, the election was initially scheduled to take place by October 20, but experts believe Carney's Liberal Party hopes to capitalize on its current momentum. Recent polls show the Liberals in a tight race with the opposition Conservatives.

The party, which has been in government since 2015, has seen a surge in support since Trudeau's January announcement that he planned to step down amid repeated threats from Trump.

The US president's tariffs and calls to annex Canada have fuelled anger and uncertainty, and many Canadians have been supportive of the Liberal government's firm -- and unified -- response to Washington.

According to recent polls, after years of criticism for their handling of soaring housing costs and an affordability crisis, the Liberals are now locked in a neck-and-neck fight with the opposition Conserva-



tives.

Meanwhile, the Trump has repeatedly said he wants to make Canada into the "51st state." He also has imposed steep tariffs on Canadian goods that economists say could plunge the country into a recession.

Carney, a former central banker and economist, has the highest approval ratings among federal party leaders, according to a recent Ipsos poll.

Canadians view him as the best leader to handle Trump's tariffs and their impact. Carney has pledged to continue the firm response to US trade policies, including reciprocal countermeasures.

He has also rejected Trump's proposal to annex Canada, calling it "crazy" and said that Canadian sovereignty must be respected before he will hold talks with Washington.

AIMPLB announces nationwide

CONTINUED FROM P1

other minority communities.

"Without the grace of Allah and the united support of these groups, the success of the Delhi demonstration would not have been possible," he said. He also extended thanks to the opposition parties and Members of Parliament who not only participated in large numbers but also firmly rejected the proposed legislation.

The statement stated that the AIMPLB's 31-member Action Committee has resolved to adopt all constitutional, legal, and democratic means to "oppose" what it

has termed a "controversial, discriminatory, and damaging" bill.

"As part of the first phase of the agitation, large protest sit-ins have been planned in front of the state assemblies in Patna on March 26 and Vijayawada on March 29"

It said that the senior leadership of the AIMPLB, along with representatives of national and state-level religious and social organizations, will participate in these demonstrations. "Leaders from civil society, prominent personalities from other minority communities and key figures from Dalit, Adivasi, and OBC sections have also con-

firmed their participation." "Despite the issuance of whips by various political parties requiring MPs to attend the ongoing Parliament session, invitations have been extended to opposition members of the Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) to attend the sit-ins," the statement said. "In Patna, leaders from JD(U), RJD, Congress, and Lok Janshakti Party, including the Chief Minister of Bihar, have been invited. Similarly, in Andhra Pradesh, invitations have been sent to the ruling Telugu Desam Party (TDP). YSR Congress, Congress, and left parties," as per the statement.

Saweety Boora-Deepak Hooda marital dispute turns uglier

CONTINUED FROM P1

with Hisar police accusing her husband of dowry demand. On the other hand, she alleged she was being harassed by the police and made to sit for several hours for questioning over the complaint filed by her husband against her.

Talking to reporters, she alleged four days before her

marriage Deepak had raised the demand of a Mercedes car of Rs 2.5 crore. When her father couldn't fulfil the demand, they settled for a Toyota Fortuner purchased on a bank loan by Saweety's father. Despite this, she claimed that Deepak and his family continued to mentally and physically torture her, forcing her to attempt suicide in 2022.

Saweety's further accused Deepak of stealing her money and withdrawing funds from her account without her consent. She revealed that they jointly purchased a Rs 67 lakh residential plot, with both contributing half the amount. However, Deepak allegedly took an Rs 80 lakh loan on the property without informing her.

She also expressed dissat-

isfaction with the police investigation on her complaint alleging that both Hisar police were harassing her, making her sit for hours in police stations while no action was taken against her husband. She even appealed to Prime Minister Narendra Modi for intervention, saying that if anything happened to her, Deepak and the Hisar SP would be responsible.

On the other hand, Deepak Hooda accused Saweety and her family of illegally seizing his property and threatening to kill him. He claimed that Saweety's family fraudulently transferred ownership of his plot in Hisar to their names. Deepak also alleged that Saweety attacked him with a knife and that her father and uncle assaulted him.

Deepak further stated that Saweety demanded Rs 1 crore during the Haryana Assembly elections when he was contesting from the Mehram constituency as a BJP candidate. He alleged that when he refused, she left his house in October 2023 and later filed false cases against him.

Following complaints from both sides, the Women's Po-

lice Station had called the couple for counselling on March 15, but the session turned into another heated argument. Deepak then filed a fresh complaint, leading to the police registering a case under sections 115, 126, 296, 3(5) and 351 of the Bharatiya Nayay Sanhita against Saweety, her father, and her uncle.

It is learnt that on Saturday,

Saweety and her father were interrogated for two hours at the Hisar Sadar Police Station, while Deepak was also summoned for questioning but did not appear.

Reacting over the allegations by Saweety, the Hisar SP Shashank Kumar Sawan told the TDG, "No case is under investigation. She has levelled multiple allegations. It takes time to investigate.

BJP, DMK PLAYING POLITICS FOR OWN BENEFIT: AIADMK ON DELIMITATION

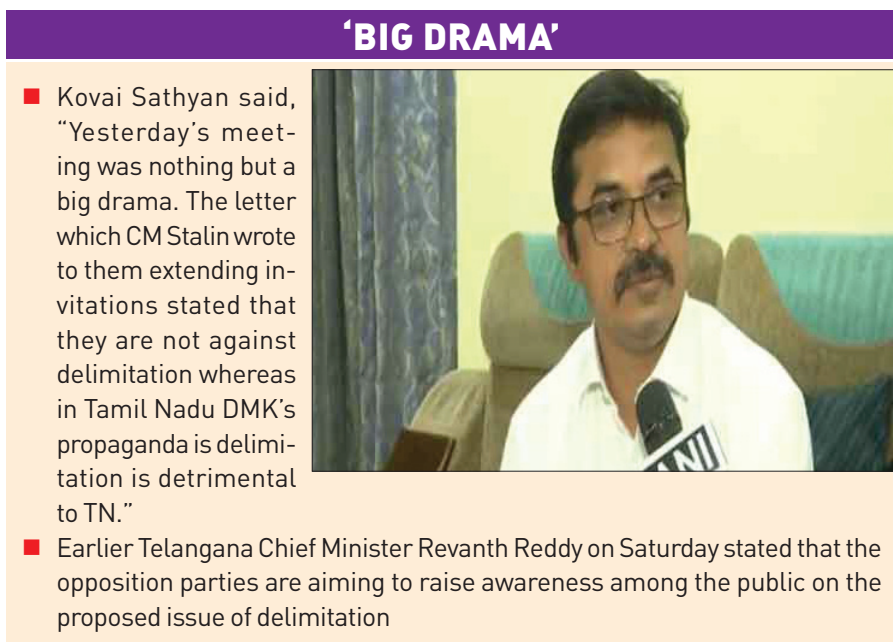
Party spokesperson Kovai Sathyan slams JAC meet on delimitation called by TN CM Stalin

TDG NETWORK
CHENNAI

Following the Joint Action Committee (JAC) meeting on delimitation issue, All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (AIADMK) National Spokesperson Kovai Sathyan said that the BJP and DMK were staging a drama for political mileage ahead of 2026 elections.

Kovai Sathyan said, “Yesterday’s meeting was nothing but a big drama. The letter which CM Stalin wrote to them extending invitations stated that they are not against delimitation whereas in Tamil Nadu DMK’s propaganda is delimitation is detrimental to TN.”

“The AIADMK said that the proportion of Tamil Nadu MPs at present is 7.18 percent, and it should not change. This resolution was intentionally left out by DMK when we attended the all-party meeting. They are



desperate to set this issue as the tone for the upcoming 2026 elections. The BJP and DMK are playing politics to their own benefit to the political gallery of their own followers,” he further said. Earlier Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy on

Saturday stated that the opposition parties are aiming to raise awareness among the public on the proposed issue of delimitation.

His remarks came hours after Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin hosted the first meeting of the Joint

Action Committee (JAC) on delimitation in Chennai.

The meeting was attended by various political leaders, including Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann, Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan,

Karnataka Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar, Odisha Congress President Bhakta Charan Das, and Biju Janata Dal leader Sanjay Kumar Das Burma, among others.

Stalin has said that the next meeting on the delimitation of constituencies will be held in Hyderabad, Telangana. “We will take up this issue up to Delhi level...The second meeting is going to be organised in Hyderabad...A closed-door meeting and a public meeting will be organised...We want to make the public aware of this issue,” CM Reddy told reporters after attending the meeting. After the first meeting of the Joint Action Committee on delimitation, a resolution was unanimously adopted which asserts that “any delimitation exercise carried out by the Centre should be done “transparently” and after discussion and deliberation with all stakeholders.

Situation peaceful: Maha CM as curfew lifted across Nagpur

TDG NETWORK
NAGPUR

Curfew has been lifted across Nagpur, with restrictions eased in the last four affected areas on Sunday, officials said. Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis on Sunday assured that the situation in the city is completely peaceful and that there is no need for a curfew.

“The situation is completely peaceful. There is no tension anywhere, and people of all religions are living together in harmony. There is no need for a curfew anymore, and hence, it has been lifted,” CM Fadnavis told reporters.

“Restrictions have been relaxed in Kotwali, Tehsil, Ganeshpeth, and Yashodhara Nagar from 3 PM on Sunday,” Nagpur Police Commissioner Ravinder Singal said.

The decision was made after law enforcement agencies reviewed the situation, he added.

Earlier on Saturday, authorities had lifted the curfew in Pachpaoli,



Shantinagar, Lakadganj, Sakkardara, and Imamwada. Besides, restrictions were temporarily relaxed in Kotwali, Tehsil, and Ganeshpeth between 7 PM and 10 PM.

On Saturday, Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis said that any damage caused during the violent clashes in Nagpur on March 17 will be recovered from the rioters.

Addressing a press conference, Chief Minister Fadnavis said, “Whatever damage has happened will be recovered from the rioters. If they do not pay the money, then their property will be sold for the recovery. Wherever required, bulldozers will

also be used.” Hamid Engineer, the working president of the Minorities Democratic Party, was arrested late on Friday night in connection with the Nagpur violence case. Lohit Matani, Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP) Nagpur, confirmed the arrest.

The Nagpur Court on Friday directed a medical examination for Fahim Khan, the prime accused in the Nagpur violence case, following his claims of ill-treatment by the police. His magisterial custody remand (MCR) was recorded, and the court reserved the right for police custody remand (PCR).

We will see how govt proceeds further: RSS Gen Secy Hosabale on Waqf Bill

TDG NETWORK
BENGALURU

Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) General Secretary Dattatreya Hosabale adopted a wait-and-watch approach regarding the Waqf (Amendment) Bill 2024.

He acknowledged that the government has formed a commission for Waqf and expressed willingness to see the outcome

“The government has formed a commission for Waqf. We will see what they come up with. Whatever has happened till now has happened in the right direction... We will see what happens further...,” Hosabale told reporters here on Sunday.

It’s worth noting that the Waqf (Amendment) Bill 2024 has been a topic of discussion, with some viewing it as an attempt to



bring transparency and accountability to Waqf boards. Others have raised concerns about the potential implications of the bill on the Muslim community.

“We will see how the government will proceed and what will happen in the Parliament,” he said.

Meanwhile, Congress General Secretary Jairam Ramesh on Sunday lashed out at the Bharatiya Janata Party over the Waqf (Amendment)

Bill, saying that it is the party’s continuous attempt to damage bonds of social harmony.

He added that it is BJP’s strategy to “demonise” minority communities by “spreading false propaganda.”

“The Waqf (Amendment) Bill, 2024 is part of BJP’s strategy and continuing attempts to damage the centuries-old bonds of social harmony in our uniquely multi-religious society. Demonise minority communities by spreading false propaganda and creating prejudices, dilute Constitutional provisions that guarantee equal rights and protections to all citizens, regardless of religion,” Jairam Ramesh said in a statement.

He added that it is also BJP’s strategy to “defame traditions and institutions

of minority communities to keep our society in a state of permanent polarisation for electoral gains.”

Ramesh further highlighted the “flaws” of Waqf (Amendment) Bill, noting that it “deliberately deprive” the community of the right to administer its own religious traditions and affairs.

“All the institutions created by previous laws to administer waqfs (national council, state boards and tribunals) are actively sought to be reduced in stature, composition and authority to deliberately deprive the community the right to administer its religious traditions and affairs,” He said in the statement. He said that deliberate ambiguity has been introduced in BJP for determining who can donate their land for waqf purposes thus altering the very definition of waqf itself.

Former Andhra minister Rajini Vidadala booked for extortion

TDG NETWORK
GUNTUR

The Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) has registered a case against former Andhra Pradesh Minister Vidadala Rajini, IPS officer Palle Joshua, and several others for their involvement in an illegal extortion racket targeting a stone crusher owner.

According to Criminal Investigation Department (CID), the case centres around the illegal collection of Rs 2.20 crore from the owners of Sri Lakshmi Balaji Stone Crusher in Kandrika village, Yadlapadu mandal, Palnadu district.

An initial complaint by the Vigilance and Enforcement Department led to an investigation by Director General Harish Kumar Gupta. After his report, the government ordered an ACB inquiry.

Cash at Judge’s house: Raut takes ‘na khaunga, na khane dunga’ jibe

TDG NETWORK
MUMBAI

Shiv Sena (UBT) leader Sanjay Raut on Sunday took a jab at the Centre over the ongoing Justice Varma cash case and said that such incidents were taking place under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi who is known for saying ‘na khaunga, na khane dunga’ (I won’t partake in corruption, nor allow others to do so).

Raut raised serious concerns about the discovery of a large sum of money, allegedly around Rs 15-Rs 20 crore at the residence of Justice Varma and accused the judiciary of being under pressure and corrupt, citing this case as an example of deeper systemic issues.

Addressing a press conference here on Sunday, Raut said, “The CJJ has formed a three member committee



and also uploaded a video of the large amount of cash being burnt in the fire at the residence of Justice Varma. The video has been uploaded by the Delhi police commissioner and also the CJJ, so a lot of things are coming to the fore. However, under who’s governance is this incident taking place? It is taking place under the governance of Prime Minister Modi, who is known for saying ‘na khaunga, na khane dunga’ (I won’t partake in

corruption, nor allow others to do so).”

Raut said the money found at Justice Varma’s residence appeared to be the result of a day’s earnings. He expressed his concern, calling the situation grave and highlighting the seriousness of corruption within the judiciary, particularly in the national capital.

“The cash were around 15-20 crore rupees, seems like it was a day’s earning. I was in Delhi when the amount of the cash in the Justice Varma’s house was being reported. This is grave and serious incident about the judiciary in Delhi,” he said. The Shiv Sena (UBT) leader also took this opportunity to reiterate his party’s stance on judicial bias, saying, “This is why Shiv Sena did not receive justice in the Supreme Court. The judiciary is under pressure and corrupt.”

Villages must become water-rich to make farming sustainable: Maha CM

TDG NETWORK
MAHARASHTRA

Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis on Sunday highlighted the importance of water conservation in the villages to make farming sustainable in the State.

“If we want to make farming sustainable in Maharashtra, our villages must become water-rich, complete water accounting and budgeting, and ensure people’s participation,” Fadnavis said, while speaking at an event organised by Pani Foundation, founded by actor Aamir Khan and his ex-wife, director Kiran Rao in



Pune.

“Without these efforts, droughts will persist in Maharashtra. Therefore, water conservation is the most critical aspect. Alongside this, group farming must be transformed into a movement. We will provide all the help we can,” the Chief Minister added.

Fadnavis thanked Aamir Khan for his effort in drought prevention through the Pani Foundation.

“For many years, I have been observing the work of the Pani Foundation. I call Aamir Khan ‘Perfectionist’ because he doesn’t stop until he achieves perfection in any field. I always told him that his capabilities could make an impact across Maharashtra, and today marks the beginning of that journey. I sincerely thank you for this,” Fadnavis said.

The Paani Foundation is a non-profit, non-governmental organization that works

on drought prevention and watershed management in Maharashtra. It was founded by Aamir Khan and Kiran Rao.

Khan through his NGO has been helping select regions of Maharashtra to eradicate the drought situation, which has been adding to the woes of farmers of the region. Since 2016, the Paani Foundation has been geared towards mobilising, training, and incentivising communities in rural Maharashtra to achieve economic and ecological prosperity, according to the foundation’s website.

Rajeev Chandrasekhar files nomination for Kerala BJP chief

TDG NETWORK
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Former Union Minister and Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader Rajeev Chandrasekhar filed his nomination for Kerala BJP chief in Thiruvananthapuram on Sunday.

The central leadership of the BJP proposed the name of former MP and Union Minister of State Rajeev Chandrasekhar as the next president of the party’s Kerala unit. The core committee meeting, chaired by BJP central observer Pralhad Joshi, finalised the decision.

With the central leadership’s strong backing for Chandrasekhar, a contest for the post has been ruled out. He submitted his nomination at the BJP state committee office on Sunday. The nomination process



and scrutiny ended today. The official announcement of the new BJP Kerala president will be made after the state council meeting on Monday.

The election notification was issued on Saturday by the party’s state returning officer, Narayanan Nambodiri.

BJP leader V Muraleedharan said, “We had a meeting of the core group this morning in which the views of the central

party were put forward. After that, the core group unanimously decided that Rajeev Chandrasekhar should be the next (Kerala BJP) President. Tomorrow morning, in the state council meeting and the delegate session, the RO for the state president election, Pralhad Joshi, will announce the name of the elected person. In the coming elections, under Rajeev Chandrasekhar’s

leadership, the Kerala BJP will ensure that the BJP wins more seats in the local bodies and makes a significant presence in the Kerala assembly.”

The appointment of Chandrasekhar as BJP’s Kerala president is seen as a strategic move by the party, aiming to build on the momentum gained in the state.

Union Minister Suresh Gopi said, “This is the most apt decision we could have reached with the instruction of our central leaders, mainly the Prime Minister, Home Minister, Defence Minister, and the National President. Under Rajeev Chandrasekhar’s leadership, the party will reach the next level of performance, for which all of us are getting more equipped to support him.”

Kaziranga National Park: New cooking stoves at anti-poaching camp to guard staff's health

TDG NETWORK
GUWAHATI

The Kaziranga National Park and Tiger Reserve authorities have introduced community kitchens and improved cooking stoves in 233 anti-poaching camps to safeguard the health of field forest staff who protect the one-horned rhino habitat.

The “Kaziranga model of conservation,” which focuses on establishing



anti-poaching camps, has played a crucial role in significantly reducing poach-

ing incidents in recent years.

Dr Sonali Ghosh, Field Di-



rector of Kaziranga National Park & Tiger Reserve said that Kaziranga currently

has 233 anti-poaching camps (one camp per 5.82 sq km), one of the highest

concentrations compared to similar setups in South Asia and Africa.

“Each Anti-poaching camp is manned by 4-8 personnel whose primary duty is to carry out foot patrol and keep poachers and intruders at bay. While poaching numbers have declined, continuation of these arrangements is vital along with ensuring high morale and efficiency among field staff. The ma-

jority of these camps are in remote locations and difficult to access, especially during the monsoon season when a significant number are affected by floods. Due to remoteness and inaccessibility, the APCs largely rely on fuel wood-based traditional self-made cook stoves.

This has several drawbacks including time-consuming firewood collection, space required for storage,

inefficient burning of fuelwood and health hazards caused by wood smoke,” Dr Sonali Ghosh said.

The Field Director of Kaziranga National Park & Tiger Reserve further said that, while the Forest department is working to improve the supply of LPG cylinders, firewood will remain an important source of fuel for many camps due to the remoteness of location and access.

On Martyr's Day, Kejriwal raises Bhagat Singh photo issue

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI

AAP national convener and former Delhi chief minister Arvind Kejriwal on Sunday said his party entered politics to fulfil the dreams of freedom fighter Bhagat Singh and social reformer Bhimrao Ambedkar, and not for power.

Speaking at the AAP's 'Ek Shaam Shaheedon Ke Naam' event here, Kejriwal accused the ruling BJP of disregarding the legacy of the two icons after coming

to power in the national capital.

The event was organised to pay tributes to freedom fighters Bhagat Singh, Rajguru and Sukhdev to commemorate Shaheedi Diwas.

"Our role models are Babasaheb Ambedkar and Bhagat Singh. Bhagat Singh used to say that merely removing the British was not enough, the structure of society had to change. Otherwise, brown rulers would replace the British.

"This is exactly what has happened. Today's rulers are worse than the British,"



AAP National convener Arvind Kejriwal addresses during the 'Ek Shaam Shaheedon Ke Naam' programme on the occasion of Shaheed Diwas of Bhagat Singh, Rajguru and Sukhdev, at the Party office in New Delhi. ANI

Kejriwal said.

Within 48 hours of assuming power in Delhi, the BJP removed portraits of Bhagat Singh and Ambedkar from government offices.

"I want to ask them if there is anyone who has sacrificed more for the country than Bhagat Singh," he said.

Kejriwal also criticised the BJP government for allegedly restricting the free bus ride scheme for women in Delhi. Bus conductors are now denying free pink tickets to women unless they download an app, the former chief minister claimed.

"Why are they doing this?

Instead of improving facilities, they are withdrawing the existing ones. By now, they should have started giving Rs 2,500 to women but they have not," he said, accusing the BJP of failing to fulfil its poll promises.

Senior party leader Gopal Rai said the AAP was born out of struggle and will continue its mission across the country.

"Our defeat in Delhi happened due to tactics but our strength is our dedicated workers. They thought we would be finished but

we will make a comeback across the country with double strength," the former minister said.

Newly appointed AAP Delhi unit chief Saurabh Bharadwaj said while the AAP's victory in the 2015 Delhi Assembly polls was met with celebrations across the city, the BJP's win did not evoke the same response.

"Their MLAs are surprised by their victory," he said, accusing the BJP of using police, Election Commission and money power to win the polls.

REKHA GUPTA GOVT'S FIRST BUDGET ON TUESDAY

The CAG report on DTC will be tabled in the assembly, marking the third such report.

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

The Budget session of the Eighth Delhi Legislative Assembly will commence on Monday, at 11:00 AM, and the first budget of the newly elected Delhi government will be presented a day later.

Delhi Legislative Assembly Speaker Vijender Gupta said that the session will commence tomorrow in the Assembly Hall, Old Secretariat in the national capital.

"Tomorrow is the first day of the Budget Session. The budget will be presented on March 25. The CAG report will also be tabled during the budget session," Vijender Gupta told media here on Sunday.

The Budget Session is a crucial period in the legislative calendar, during which key financial and policy matters will be discussed and decided

BUDGET PRESENTATION

- The first budget of the new Delhi govt will be presented on March 25, 2025.
- A general discussion on the budget will take place on March 26, 2025, for financial analysis.
- The assembly will vote on the budget on March 27, 2025.
- March 28, 2025, will be dedicated to private members' business, including resolutions and bills.



upon. The session is tentatively scheduled to run from March 24 to March 28, 2025, with provisions for extension if required.

Notably, in the Budget session, the CAG report on the functioning of DTC will be tabled in the House, the Delhi Assembly Secretariat said in a statement. This would be third CAG report which will

be tabled on Monday in the House

The key highlights of the session will include the presentation of the annual budget on March 25, which will outline the government's financial priorities and development agenda for the year.

It will hold a general discussion on the budget, wherein lawmakers will engage in

a detailed discussion on the budget on March 26 (Wednesday) to analyze financial allocations and policy initiatives.

It will also include consideration and passing of the budget, where the assembly will deliberate and vote on the proposed budget on March 27 (Thursday).

Additionally, March 28

(Friday) has been designated for private members' business, allowing legislators to introduce and debate resolutions and bills.

The Assembly sittings will commence daily at 11:00 AM, with a lunch break from 1:00 PM to 2:00 PM.

The Question Hour, an essential platform for legislative scrutiny and accountability, will be held on March 24, 26, 27, and 28, 2025. Ministers will respond to queries related to various departments as per the allotted schedule.

Members wishing to raise matters of public importance under Rule-280 must submit their notices by 5:00 P.M. on the working day before the sitting.

The balloting process will determine the first ten notices for discussion each day. Private Members' Resolutions will be taken up on March 28, 2025, with notices required 12 days in advance.

CM targets AAP for questioning her govt's patriotism

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta on Sunday unveiled a new statue of Bhagat Singh at a park in Malviya Nagar on the occasion of Shaheed Diwas and criticized the opposition for questioning the BJP government's commitment to patriotism. Taking a swipe at the opposition, she recalled how they had earlier raised a furore over Bhagat Singh's picture after her government took office.

"They asked questions, but when Bhagat Singh's statue was broken earlier, they never spoke about its repair. Where was their patriotism then? Today on Shaheed Diwas, we have installed a new statue because we truly honour our national heroes," she said addressing the gathering on the occasion. The chief minister said "it is a very special occasion for me as two important



CM Rekha Gupta, BJP MP Bansuri Swaraj, the party's MLA Satish Upadhyay and others during the unveiling of a new statue of freedom fighter Bhagat Singh on his martyrdom day at Shaheed Bhagat Singh Park, Malviya Nagar, in New Delhi. PTI

people in my life" -- Malviya Nagar MLA Satish Upadhyaya and New Delhi MP Bansuri Swaraj -- "are present here".

"I want to tell Bansuri that she has a lot of work ahead in carrying forward the legacy of former CM Sushma Swaraj," she added.

The unveiling comes amid a political controversy that erupted last month over the

damaged statue of Bhagat Singh at the same park in Malviya Nagar.

Upadhyaya had accused the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) MLA of neglecting the statue's condition.

The AAP had earlier accused the BJP government of removing the pictures of Bhagat Singh and BR Ambedkar from the chief minister's office after assuming power.

BJP spent 10 years abusing Kejriwal, should show work now: AAP

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) Delhi President Saurabh Bharadwaj on Sunday took a jibe at the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), stating that the party has spent the last decade criticizing AAP leader Arvind Kejriwal and intends to continue doing so for the next five years.

Speaking to reporters, Bharadwaj said, "BJP feels that they spent the last 10 years abusing Arvind Kejriwal and will do the same in the next 5 years. Now we want that you (BJP) should show some work and not make excuses." The statement comes amid ongoing political tensions between the two parties ahead of upcoming elections in the national capital.

Meanwhile earlier today, AAP Convenor Arvind Kejriwal attended the programme on Shaheed Diwas 2025.

The Aam Aadmi Party national convener attacked the BJP government, accusing the government of removing the pictures of Bhagat Singh and BR Ambedkar after re-



turning to power.

The former Delhi Chief Minister also criticised the BJP government over its Mahila Samridhi Yojna, under which the party had promised in its election manifesto to provide financial assistance of Rs 2500 to women per month. Speaking at 'Ek Shaam Shaheedon Ke Naam' event at its headquarters here, Kejriwal said, "We consider Bhagat Singh and Baba Saheb Ambedkar our ideals. There are pictures of both of them in our house and in every office of the Delhi and Punjab governments. The first thing the new government in Delhi did was to

remove the pictures of both. We were waiting for them (BJP) to announce Rs 2,500 to women. But they removed the pictures of Bhagat Singh and Baba Saheb and put up pictures of their leaders first..."

He alleged that Congress did not stage a protest when the BJP removed the pictures.

"When we put up the pictures of these two, Congress protested that Gandhiji's picture was not put up. However, when the BJP removed the photos of these two, Congress did not say anything. There is a collusion between these two..." Kejriwal said.

Newly-built Bharat Mandapam fails fire safety test

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI

The renewal of Fire Safety Certificates (FSC) for several significant buildings, including the Old Parliament Complex, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) building, and some parts of Bharat Mandapam at Pragati Maidan, has been delayed due to unresolved fire safety concerns. According to the Delhi Fire Services (DFS), inspections revealed multiple shortcomings in fire safety arrangements, prompting authorities to withhold the necessary clearances.

During an inspection at Bharat Mandapam, Pragati Maidan (Halls A2 to A5), officials found issues such as non-operational smoke curtains, broken fire check doors, and an ineffective water

curtain in the basement. Despite previous notices, these issues remained unresolved.

The Library building, Samvidhan Sadan (Old Parliament), the Parliament House Annexe, and its extension, also failed to meet fire safety standards. Inspections highlighted blocked staircases, nonfunctional smoke management systems, and inadequate hydrant coverage. Temporary offices in the basement and wooden paneling without fire-retardant treatment were also flagged as safety hazards. Officials

have been urged to rectify these shortcomings before FSC renewal can be considered.

A recent inspection of the RBI building at Sansad Marg revealed missing smoke detectors in air handling units (AHUs) and the absence of a smoke management system in the basement. The DFS has stated that without addressing these deficiencies, FSC renewal is not possible.

Fire safety officials emphasized that non-compliance with fire safety norms poses a significant

risk to both occupants and infrastructure.

"Ensuring fire safety is a critical responsibility, and we urge the concerned authorities to take immediate action," said a DFS officer.

With growing concerns over fire preparedness in vital government buildings, all responsible agencies have been directed to submit compliance reports at the earliest to avoid further delays in FSC renewal.

A fire officer also stated that these documents have been uploaded to the fire official website.



Wrestler-turned-gangster arrested

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

Delhi Police has arrested fugitive gangster and former national-level wrestler Manjeet Dalal, from the Singhu Border area here, an official said on Sunday.

The accused, a sharpshooter associated with the Neeraj Bawana-Amit Bhura gang, had been absconding and was wanted in multiple cases, including firing on police teams, attempted murder and mafia extortion, an official statement said.

"Dalal, a native of Bahadu-



rgarh, Haryana, had once been a wrestler, securing a silver medal at the national level in 2007 in the 86 kg category," Deputy Commissioner of Police (Crime)

Aditya Gautam said in the statement.

However, his life took a turn after his mother died of cancer in 2010 and his father left home, following

which he joined notorious gangster Neeraj Bawana's gang, the officer said.

Police was informed that the accused had stopped attending court hearings and abandoned his native residence, Gautam said.

After a month-long operation, police received a tip-off regarding his movements near the Singhu Border. A trap was laid and Dalal was arrested without any gunfire, he added.

There are at least 10 major cases registered against him, including -- 2018 Pishori restaurant shooting, in which he opened fire

for extortion, injuring two people in Lajpat Nagar, the statement said.

He was also involved in multiple attacks on police teams in Narela Industrial Area and Lado Sarai.

In 2012, he was linked to a series of extortion demands from businessmen in Bawana, an extortion case in 2017 involving a doctor in Uttar Pradesh and carjacking, it added.

Dalal was also closely associated with some of Delhi's most wanted criminals, including Neeraj Bawana, Naveen Bali, Amit Bhura and Rahul Kala.

Bhalswa landfill may get a green makeover with bamboo drive

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

New Delhi's towering Bhalswa landfill, standing over 62 meters tall, has long been a symbol of the city's waste management struggles. Established in 1994 and declared overfilled in 2006, the site continues to receive fresh waste, worsening environmental and health challenges for the surrounding community.

In a significant step toward rehabilitation, a green initiative was launched



this month. Delhi Lieutenant Governor VK Saxena and Chief Minister Rekha Gupta inaugurated a bamboo plantation drive at the landfill, with the vision of transforming the reclaimed land into a green zone.

With 200 bamboo plants

planted so far, the officials plan to add 54,000 more in the coming months. Bamboo was chosen for its eco-friendly properties, producing 30 per cent more oxygen than most other plants and requiring minimal water. This makes it a sustainable choice for enhancing air quality and curbing pollution in the area.

Lallan Prasad, a caretaker at the Bhalswa landfill for the past 19 years, shared insights into the landfill's daily operations.

COUPLE FOUND HANGING FROM TREE AT DEER PARK IN HAUZ KHAS

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

A 21-year-old man and an 18-year-old woman -- both cousins involved in a romantic relationship -- allegedly committed suicide by hanging from a tree at Deer Park in south Delhi's Hauz Khas area early on Sunday morning. Ruling out any foul play, a police officer said the couple committed suicide after their families objected to the relationship. The man worked in a pizza shop in Lodhi Colony, while the woman was a baby-sitter, he said.

"Their fathers were brothers. However, the boy and girl developed feelings for each other. Their families had asked them to end the relationship just two-three days ago," a senior police officer said.

He added that unable to live without each other, the couple decided to end their lives.

Police have initiated inquest proceedings in the case. They had earlier said that the duo were supposedly aged 17.

According to the police, they received a PCR call at 6:31 am from a security guard at the Deer Park,

SUICIDE PACT

- A 21-year-old man and an 18-year-old woman, cousins in a romantic relationship
- The couple's families had asked them to end their relationship just a few days before the incident.
- The victims were identified through a SIM card found in one of their broken phones, with no suicide note recovered.
- Police are facing challenges due to the lack



of CCTV cameras in the park but are re-viewing footage from

nearby cameras to understand the sequence of events.

who informed them about the bodies. The man was dressed in a black T-shirt and blue jeans, while the woman was wearing a green dress, they said.

Two broken phones were recovered near the spot. "The forensic team found a SIM card in one of the phones. We used this SIM card in another phone, which helped us identify the bodies and reach out to the families of the couple," the senior police officer said.

No suicide note has been recovered so far, he said.

The official said the families of the deceased, in their

statements, confirmed that the man and the woman were romantically involved, and given the nature of their relation, they were asked to end it.

The family told police that the man, a resident of Pitanji village here, left home at around 2 pm on Saturday.

The woman, a resident of Chattarpur Enclave, who had been staying with her aunt in Humayunpur village for the last three days, left the house around the same time on Saturday to return to her own home for some work, police said.

According to sources, a

major hindrance in the investigation has been the lack of CCTV cameras inside the park. However, footage from nearby surveillance cameras were being scanned to work out the sequence of events there, they said.

Meanwhile, some locals said they suspected foul play in the matter.

A local man said that it would have been difficult for two persons to climb the tree from where the duo were found hanging and that has given rise to suspicion that they might have been killed and then hanged.

N Hariharan elected as President of Delhi High Court Bar Association

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

Senior advocate N Hariharan has been elected for the post of President of the Delhi High Court Bar Association (DHCBA) while Advocate Vikram Singh Panwar has been elected its Secretary.

Till Sunday evening, a total of 7674 votes were counted. Counting for other posts will be continued on Monday also.

As per the vote count till Sunday evening, Hariharan has been elected for the post of President, Sachin Puri, for the post of Vice President, Vikram Singh Panwar for Secretary, Kanika Singh for the post of Treasurer and Kunal Malhotra for the post of Joint Secretary.

Results for some posts are yet to be announced.

Advocate Devender Kumar Sharma has been elected for the post of President of the Delhi Bar Association (DBA), and advocate Vikas Goyal for the post of Secretary for DBA.

Advocate Nagender Kumar has been elected President of the New Delhi Bar Association (NDBA), and Tarun Rana for the post of Secretary.

Advocate Avnish Rana has been elected President of the



Dwarka Court Bar Association, and Karanveer Tyagi for the post of Secretary.

Advocate Rajiv Thelan has been elected as President of Rohini court Bar Association and Pradeep Khatri for the post of Secretary.

In the Rouse Avenue District Court Bar Association (RADCBA) election, Advocate Neeraj has been elected for the post of President, Advocate Vikas Tripathi for the post of Vice President, Advocate Vijay Bishnoi for the post of Secretary and Priyanka Tiwari for the post of Treasurer (woman).

The Counting was stopped around 3 AM on Sunday due to some reasons. It may resume on Monday. Thereafter the remaining result will be declared.

Elections of the Shahdara Bar Association (Karkar-

Advocate Devender Kumar Sharma has been elected for the post of President of the Delhi Bar Association (DBA), and advocate Vikas Goyal for the post of Secretary for DBA.

dooma Court) and Saket Court Bar Association have been cancelled due to alleged mismanagement and irregularities. Polling was conducted on March 20 for the elections of Bar associations at the District Court and Delhi High Court.

The Delhi High Court Bar Association, which plays a key role in the legal and judicial matters of Delhi. The elections were conducted after weeks of preparation, and the counting process has faced challenges due to the large number of votes and technical issues.

Once the final results are announced, the new office-bearers will be tasked with leading their respective associations and addressing the concerns of their fellow members.

65-year-old killed, five injured in stabbing over children's dispute

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

A 65-year-old man was stabbed to death, and five others were injured in a clash between two families over a dispute in northwest Delhi's Patthar Wala Baag, police said on Sunday. The deceased has been identified as Radhe Shyam, police said, adding that he has two sons Kamal (35) and Gautam (25).

Kamal's son (8) had a fight with the children of the other family, whose members



Irshad (20) and Jamal (53) also allegedly started quarrelling with Kamal and Gautam, he added.

The altercation escalated

into a physical fight, leading to multiple stabbings.

Shyam was critically wounded and succumbed at Deep Chand Bandhu Hos-

pital. The injured--Irshad, Kamal, Gautam and Jamal--are undergoing treatment, he said.

Authorities ruled out any communal angle, calling it a personal dispute that turned violent. The body has been sent for postmortem at BJRM Hospital, and legal proceedings are underway.

A case of murder and attempt to murder has been registered at Bharat Nagar Police Station, with further investigation ongoing.

Police busts sex racket in Paharganj, rescues 23 women, including minors

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

The Delhi Police has busted a sex racket operating in the Paharganj area here, rescuing 23 women, including three minors and 10 Nepalese nationals, an official said on Sunday. Seven people involved in human trafficking were arrested in the joint operation carried out by teams from the Paharganj Police Station, Shardhanand Marg Police Post and Himmatgarh Police Post.

"Based on inputs and surveillance, police identified key locations involved in the



illegal trade. The accused were allegedly luring women from West Bengal, Nepal, and other states under false pretences and forcing them into prostitution," a senior police officer said.

They were housed in a room in the Paharganj main market area, before being sent to various hotels.

The officer said before the raid, teams conducted surveillance and deployed de-

coy customers at suspected locations.

"Once the illegal activities were confirmed, teams raided multiple locations, including hotels. The victims were found being transported on scooters to different locations. The teams rescued 23 women, including three minors and arrested seven accused," said the officer.

Those arrested have been identified as Nurshed Alam (21), Md Rahul Alam (22), Abdul Mannan (30), Tausif Rexa, Shamim Alam (29), Md Jarul (26) and Monish (26), police said.

Meerut murder case: Sahil, Muskan experiencing drug withdrawal symptoms, say jail officials

TDG NETWORK
MEERUT

The Meerut murder case is throwing up some interesting details. In judicial custody for allegedly murdering Saurabh Rajput, his wife and her lover are having a hard time adjusting to life in jail, with prison officials claiming that the duo were experiencing drug withdrawal symptoms, according to media.

Muskan Rastogi and her lover Sahil Shukla have been lodged in Chaudhary Charan Singh district jail here since last Wednesday after a court here sent the



duo to judicial custody for 14 days.

Jail sources said the duo have been showing signs of extreme distress. "Muskan and Sahil are not able to sleep properly. They are also

refusing to eat and drink," a source said.

Muskan and Rajput got married in 2016 against his family's wishes, following a relationship and they had a six-year-old daughter. Mus-

kan and Sahil had known each other since school and reconnected via a WhatsApp group in 2019, police said.

Senior Jail Superintendent Viresh Raj Sharma said, "Both Sahil and Muskan have been taking drugs for a long time. Due to this, they are having problems of restlessness and are not even able to sleep at night."

Doctors have prescribed medication to manage their symptoms, and a dedicated team is monitoring their condition, he said. Police investigations have revealed that the two accused consumed drugs and alcohol regularly.

Illegal Bangladeshi held in Mahipalpur, sent for deportation

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

A Bangladeshi national who entered India illegally was apprehended from Mahipalpur area of southwest Delhi, police said on Sunday. The accused, Ashrafalam Rayhad Thalukther, was detained and later sent to a deportation center after completing legal formalities, they said.

According to police, Thalukther had been re-

Based on a tip-off, a police team tracked and apprehended the accused. Upon questioning, Thalukther failed to produce any valid Indian documents, possessing only photocopies of Bangladeshi papers, a police officer said.

siding in Mahipalpur for the last two months without valid Indian documentation.

Based on a tip-off, a police

team tracked and apprehended the accused. Upon questioning, Thalukther failed to produce any valid Indian documents, pos-

sessing only photocopies of Bangladeshi papers, a police officer said.

During interrogation, he admitted to crossing the border illegally. Following verification, he was taken into custody and later transferred to the Foreigners Regional Registration Office (FRRO) for deportation, the officer said.

Drive against illegal immigrants was launched in December last year following orders by the Delhi lieutenant governor.

INDIA TO SECURE THIRD PLACE BEHIND US, CHINA IN NEXT FIVE YEARS: REPORT

India will make a significant strides in the global trade over the next five years, contributing about 6 per cent in the world’s trade growth.

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI


India will make a significant strides in the global trade over the next five years, contributing about 6 per cent in the world’s trade growth, just behind China at 12 per cent and the United States at 10 per cent, as per a joint report by DHL and the New York University Stern School of Business.

The latest DHL Trade Atlas 2025 anticipates that in five years, India will retain its third-place rank on the scale dimension as well as jump 15 spots to the 17th position on the speed dimension as its compound annual trade volume growth rate rises from 5.2 per cent to 7.2 per cent.

The report highlighted that India was only the 13th largest participant in international trade in 2024, but its trade volume grew at a 5.2 per cent compound annual rate from 2019 to 2024, while global trade grew at only a 2.0 per cent rate.

TO SUM UP

- India to drive 6% of global trade growth – Ranks third after China (12%) and US (10%) in next five years.
- Trade volume to grow at 7.2% annually – Rank to rise from 13th to 17th on speed dimension.
- 2nd in global FDI in 2023 – Manufacturing leads foreign investment surge.
- Trade-to-GDP ratio near China’s – India emerging as key global trade hub.



“India’s rapid trade growth reflected both its swift macroeconomic growth and its increasing participation in international trade,” the report added.

“The Trade Atlas underlines India’s rapid expansion in global trade, positioning the country as a critical hub connecting the east and west. While we anticipate trade volume growth and an increase in global trade share, we remain cautiously optimistic about the future given the global economy’s general volatility,” said R S Subra-

manian, SVP South Asia, DHL Express.

Interestingly, the report says that while China is often viewed as a more trade-oriented economy than India, “India’s goods trade-to-GDP ratio was almost as high as China’s in 2023, and India’s trade intensity exceeded China’s when considering trade in both goods and services.”

Backing its projections, the report added that the high expectations for India’s future trade growth are reinforced by large new commitments by foreign

companies to invest in India’s manufacturing sector.

In 2023, India ranked second worldwide (after the U.S.) as a destination for announced greenfield foreign direct investment, and manufacturing has become the most prominent business function for this investment in India, the report mentions.

The report highlights that emerging Asian economies such as Vietnam, Indonesia and the Philippines including India are expected to see especially strong growth. The South Asia as well as

“With the ongoing diversification of supply chains that continues to reshape the commerce landscape, Asia has steadfastly emerged as a key player in the global market,” said Ken Lee, CEO - Asia Pacific, DHL Express.

Southeast Asia regions are also set to outperform other regions in terms of trade growth, the report added.

“With the ongoing diversification of supply chains that continues to reshape the commerce landscape, Asia has steadfastly emerged as a key player in the global market,” said Ken Lee, CEO - Asia Pacific, DHL Express.

35 firms invested Rs 25,000 cr in 2nd round of PLI scheme for steel: Centre

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

Around 35 companies have shown interest in the second round of the PLI scheme for specialty steel, with commitment of Rs 25,200 crore investment, according to the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

The Ministry of Steel is in the process of selection and signing MoUs with these companies, as per the commerce ministry.

The ministry said that an incentive of Rs 3,600 crore is estimated to be disbursed to these projects.

The Ministry of Steel estimates that an incentive of Rs 2,000 crore will be disbursed by the end of the scheme tenure, as per the ministry’s release. Centre has approved a total of 764 applications under the Production Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme for 14 key sectors, according to the Ministry of Commerce and Industry. The Ministry said that 176 MSMEs are among the PLI beneficiaries in sectors such as Bulk Drugs, Medical Devices, Pharma,

The Ministry said that 176 MSMEs are among the PLI beneficiaries in sectors such as Bulk Drugs, Medical Devices, Pharma, Telecom, White Goods, Food Processing, Textiles & Drones.

Telecom, White Goods, Food Processing, Textiles & Drones.

The PLI Schemes for 14 key sectors are under implementation to enhance India’s Manufacturing capabilities and Exports.

As per the ministry, an actual investment of around Rs 1.61 lakh crore (USD 18.72 billion) has been reported till November 2024 which has generated production and sales of around Rs 14 lakh crore (around USD 162.84 billion) against targets of 15.52 lakh crore up to FY 2024-25 and Employment of over 11.5 lakhs (Direct and Indirect).

PLI Schemes have witnessed exports surpassing Rs 5.31 lakh crore (around USD 61.76 billion), with significant contributions from sectors such as Large-Scale Electronics Manufacturing,

Pharmaceuticals, Food Processing, and Telecom & Networking products.

Incentive amount of around Rs 14020 crore disbursed under PLI Schemes for 10 Sectors viz. Large-Scale Electronics Manufacturing (LSEM), IT Hardware, Bulk Drugs, Medical Devices, Pharmaceuticals, Telecom & Networking Products, Food Processing, White Goods, Automobiles & Auto components and Drones & Drone Components. Individual cases have been approved over a period of time, through a transparent mechanism, the ministry added.

Projects are implemented over a period of time ranging from 2 years to 3 years, depending on the nature of manufacturing and claims are usually made after 1st year of production.

2047 goal: Infrastructure, industry development through PPP

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

The Bharat Economic Forum has launched its flagship initiative, Viksit Bharat: Dialogue & Action, aiming to achieve Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s vision of a developed India by 2047.

This initiative promotes a human-centric economic development model, focusing on individual progress, national growth, sustainability, and inclusivity.

The forum features four key dialogue categories: Influencers for Viksit Bharat: Leveraging thought leaders to inspire collective action; Entrepreneurs for Viksit Bharat: Encouraging innovators to create scalable solutions for India’s growth; Investors for Viksit Bharat: Engaging venture capitalists to fund transformative ideas and policymakers for Viksit Bharat: Collaborating with government experts to ensure sustainable development.

The inaugural ceremony included short pitches (3 minutes), roundtable discussions, and the Bharat Economic Forum Podcast, offering a platform for meaningful dialogue and actionable insights.

Manish Patel, founder and chairman of Bharat Economic Forum, emphasised the collective responsibility of 1.4 billion Indians in achieving this vision. He stated that Viksit Bharat is a movement empowering every Indian to contribute to a sustainable and financially independent India.

He stated, “Viksit Bharat is



a shared responsibility of 1.4 billion people of India that demands collective action. Viksit Bharat is more than just an initiative; it’s a movement that empowers every Indian to play their part in ensuring a sustainable and financially independent India.”

Other notable speakers, including Shirish Chandra Agrawal, Sampat Saraswat, and Padma Sundaram Verma, highlighted crucial aspects of India’s development, such as environmental sustainability, infrastructure development, and climate action.

Shirish Chandra Agrawal, Former IFS Officer and Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (PCCF), Chhattisgarh, highlighted the importance of environmental sustainability in policymaking. He said, “Policymaking for Viksit Bharat should ensure that the environment is taken into consideration while deciding the development priorities of India, differentiating it from the development model of the current developed countries who have exploited natural resources unsustainably, creating more harm than good to the people on Mother Earth.”

Sampat Saraswat, BJP Spokesperson on National Issues and Founder & CEO

of Eco Bharat, spoke about the role of infrastructure and industry development.

He remarked, “Effective infrastructure and industry development through public-private partnerships and foreign direct investment can ensure that the development model brings change and empowers people in the remotest parts of the country. This must be a global effort, involving not only Indians living here but also the Indian diaspora worldwide, who aspire to see India as a developed nation by 2047.”

Padma Sundaram Verma, renowned for developing the dryland agroforestry technique, stressed the importance of climate action.

He said, “Climate and tree plantation should become a collective priority. In a nation of 1.4 billion people, if even 1 per cent of us start planting trees dedicatedly, the pace at which we are creating pollution while developing our industries can be mitigated effectively, ensuring sustainable development.”

As India stands at a critical juncture in its development journey, the Viksit Bharat initiative seeks to harness its strengths, creating a development model that is inclusive, sustainable, and human-centric.

US Fed will resume easing monetary policy rate by June: Jefferies

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

The US Federal Reserve is likely to ease monetary policy rates by June, Jefferies said in its latest ‘Greed and Fear’ report, with a rider that though the rate cut could be earlier if the data and market action are bad enough.

“Money markets are currently expecting 64 basis points of rate cuts this year, Jefferies said in its report this week.

In the latest monetary policy meeting this week, the US central bank kept unchanged the key interest rate at 4.25-4.50 per cent, on expected lines.

US Fed noted that it will



carefully assess incoming data, the evolving outlook, and the balance of risks before adjusting the interest rate.

The Committee seeks to achieve maximum employment and inflation at the rate of 2 percent over

the longer run.

Uncertainty around the economic outlook has increased, US Fed had noted. The Committee said it was attentive to the risks to both sides of its dual mandate (managing inflation and maintaining eco-

Haryana govt launches tax dispute settlement scheme for small traders

TDG NETWORK
KURUKSHETRA

The Haryana government brought in a one-time tax settlement scheme, aimed at providing some tax relaxation and waiving off of penalties for small traders.

Over and above the tax exemption and penalty waiver off, the state government under Nayab Singh Saini decided that it would exempt 60 per cent of outstanding amount (less than Rs 10 lakh) that is due for payments.

“For disputed taxes under Rs 10 lakh, taxpayers will pay 40 per cent of the outstanding amount,” the chief minister said.

For disputes Rs 10 lakh to Rs 10 crore, taxpayers will pay 50 per cent of the outstanding amount.

For disputes above Rs 10 crore, taxpayers will have



“For disputed taxes under Rs 10 lakh, taxpayers will pay 40 per cent of the outstanding amount,” the chief minister said.

to pay full outstanding amount. They will be able to take the benefits of the

tax and penalty exemption.

This one-time settlement

scheme will come into effect starting April 7, the chief minister announced, speaking to reporters after the launch event. “We have brought a scheme for the small businessmen... One Time Settlement Scheme will be beneficial for small traders... this scheme will not only ben-

efit big industrial units and taxpayers but will also benefit small-scale taxpayers. The state is developing due to the hard work and contribution of taxpayers. Such schemes help the country and the state to progress...” the chief minister briefed reporters.

“I thank all the taxpayers of Haryana, due to whom Haryana has become the leading state of the country in tax collection,” he later wrote on X, in Hindi.

Addressing a long-standing request from Haryana’s traders and business community to settle pending tax payments from before the implementation of GST, a One Time Settlement-2023 (OTS) Scheme was launched -- operational from January 1, 2024, to March 30, 2024.

Minister Manohar Lal reviews Odisha’s power sector

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

Union Minister of Power and Housing and Urban Affairs, Manohar Lal held a detailed review meeting with senior officials of the government of Odisha on the state’s power sector development on Sunday in the state capital Bhubaneswar.

As per a statement from the Union Ministry of Power, the discussions covered key issues including

fly ash utilization, capacity addition, transmission infrastructure, and power allocation.

During the meeting, on the issue of achieving fly ash utilization targets Manohar Lal assured that a joint meeting with the Ministries of Coal, Environment, and Railways will be convened to address the issue comprehensively, including the provision of adequate rail rakes for long-distance transportation of fly ash.

Highlighting the need to meet growing power demands, the state government informed that Odisha currently has 20 GW of operational coal-based thermal power capacity, with an additional 10 GW in the pipeline, expected to be commissioned over the next 5-6 years.

The Union Minister encouraged the development of more pit-head thermal power plants in Odisha, including through joint



ventures with generation companies of other states.

On the transmission front, Odisha shared its intra-state planning strategy and recent progress in strengthening supply to cities like Bhubaneswar and Cuttack.

The Union power minister was also apprised of the steps taken by the Odisha Power Transmission Corporation Limited (OPTCL) to resolve Right of Way (RoW) issues.

He informed that the

proposal for establishing a green energy corridor within the intrastate transmission network of Odisha will be taken up by the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) after March 31, 2025, upon completion of the compilation process.

Regarding the inclusion of Odisha in the subsequent phase of the Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme (RDSS), the Union Minister assured that the matter would be taken up appro-

priately.

On power allocation, he stated that Odisha will receive adequate power from Phase II of NLCL’s Talabira Thermal Power Project in line with Ministry of Power guidelines.

“The (Minister’s) visit reflects the Centre’s commitment to strengthening Odisha’s power infrastructure and facilitating sustainable growth in the energy sector,” said the power ministry statement.

Two decades of bonds of Bhagat Singh and Sukhdev Thapar

OPINION

BRIJ BHUSHAN GOYAL



23rd March every year is the most sentimental day especially for we Punjabis and also for whole of our nation when young trio Bhagat Singh, Sukhdev and Rajguru were executed to death by Britishers in Lahore jail this day in the year 1931.They were in their twenties. Nation wept and anguish was widespread then.

But, today even after 94 years of their martyrdom the towering message of communal harmony, justice and economic liberty given by their struggle stands as tall and conspicuous as it was then. Rather it is more relevant as country is facing complex socio-political-economic shackles which are accentuated by global free economy. We lament them martyrdom even more today.

Sukhdev was born on 15th May,1907 in Naughara Mohalla in Ludhiana and Bhagat Singh, born on 27th Sep.1907 in a village Banga, District Lyallpur (Chack

No.105 RB) which is now part of Pakistan after our Punjab's unfortunate partition in 1947 at the time of independence. Due to death of his father when Sukhdev was at tender age of 4, his mother moved family to Lyallpur to live in the care of Lala Chint Ram Thapar, paternal uncle at Lyallpur who was a respected nationalist.

S. Ajit Singh, a prominent freedom fighter (Bhagat Singh's paternal uncle) had proximity with Shere-e-Punjab Lala Lajpat Rai as both were foremost in the then Undivided Punjab's agitations against the British rulers' dictates of excessive land revenues and irrigation rates, particularly protests in the year beginning 2007. Lala Chint Ram was also their trusted compatriot as he supported them and also collected funds for many a meeting.

Thus, martyrs' families knew each other and these children ever since their early childhood and school days watched the freedom movement activities of elders. Bhagat Singh as a child was often taken to many a conferences and rallies in which other senior freedom fighters addressed. Sukhdev, had studied in a Lyallpur school where once he refused to give Salami (Salute) to a British inspector. He often collected Rani Laxmi Bai (of 1857 fame Gadar Movement) portraits.

Bhagat Singh's family shifted to Nawankot near Lahore where it had some land. He was admitted first in Khalsa High School but later his father preferred DAV School, Lahore from where he completed his Matriculation Examination. He then joined the National College at Lahore where Punjab Kesri Lala Lajpat Rai was one among prominent in the management. Sukhdev meanwhile had completed his education from Sanatan Dharm High School in Layaipur in 1922. This city had no college then. Sukhdev prevailed upon his uncle for admission in National College, Lahore where Bhagat Singh had got admitted. In fact, this college had wards of all the nationalists who were in the fore front in the then Non-Cooperation Movement of Mahatma Gandhi against the Britishers.

They read and discussed literature of other countries freedom movements hours together. The librarian of Dwarka Das Library at Lahore provided all such books as were asked for by these ardent revolutionary students. Bhagat Singh, Sukhdev and Bhagwati Charan formed a study circle with other likeminded students. Bhagat Singh was an avid reader ahead of his companions. National College teachers too influenced them in their inclinations to join freedom struggle full-fledged. The backdrop of the 1915 Lahore Conspiracy Case (1st) in which Kartar Singh Sarabha, a key figure in the Ghadar Party, was executed for his role in the conspiracy has shaken the young minds. Further, the teenage anguish which these young men were nurs-



Bhagat Singh

ing against the firing incident of Jallianbagh Targedy on 13th April,1919 at Amritsar earlier changed their future course of life completely later. Thus, the year 1925 and 1926 in the college shaped them to play a bigger role. The families of martyrs could not resist hem and they refused to marry too.

Bhagat Singh secretly came in support of Kakori Conspiracy Case's young prisoners of Hindustan Republican Association (HRA) of train robbery of government cash that took place at Kakori, near Lucknow in 1925 as they wanted to fund their struggle. He spent time at Kanpur and Lucknow. Back to Lahore he with other young men formed The Naujawan Bharat Sabha at Lahore with the main aim of awakening political consciousness in the people of Punjab and mobilized the youth, peasants and workers towards the nationalist movement. They distributed literature of their activities. The British CID too kept eye on them but, they operated secretly.

When the Simon Commis-

sion from UK visited Lahore on 30th October 1928, Lajpat Rai in a non-violent march gave the slogan "Simon Go Back!". The police superintendent in Lahore, James A. Scott, ordered lathi charge and personally assaulted Rai to which Bhagat Singh and Sukhdev were a witness to that incident. Later Lajpat Rai had died. The youth in this group pledged to avenge. The revolutionaries' group of Rajguru, Sukhdev, Bhagat Singh and Chandra Shekhar Azad plotted to kill Scott to send a message to the British government However, in a case of mistaken identity, Bhagat Singh was signaled to shoot John P. Saunders, an assistant superintendent of the Lahore Police. He was shot by Rajguru and Singh while leaving the District Police Headquarters in Lahore on 17 December 1928. All these young men hood-winked police and left in the evening train to Calcutta the next day in disguising and could not be caught.

In the year 1929, the British Government in India tried to pass two bills -The



Sukhdev Thapar

Trade Disputes Bill and the Public Safety Bill in the Delhi Assembly. The sole motive of Britishers' bill was to restrict activities of revolutionaries. All nationalist opposed the bill. The youthful members of HSRA decided to mark their symbolic protest by raising their voice by exploding 2 bombs in the Assembly Chamber on 8th April,1929. The task was given to Bhagat Singh and B K Dutt. Here this is pertinent to add that other members of HSRA were opposed to exposing and sending of Bhagat Singh for the task knowing well that he was already involved in Saundras killing at Lahore. But it was Sukhdev who annoyingly prevailed upon committee ultimately to send Bhagat Singh in the assembly blast task as he was always confident about Bhagat Singh's meticulous execution. After throwing bombs and throwing leaflets they shouted 'Inquilab Jindabaad '. Both were arrested as they did not run to escape. Incidentally, Sukhdev who was monitoring all operations bicycled parallel

to police motorcade in Delhi on that day and later slipped to Lahore where he was arrested from his hideout room. Police got convinced that the mastermind was Sukhdev as from the room some ammunition too was recovered.

The case's first information report (FIR), was submitted in April 1929 by Hamilton Harding, Senior Superintendent of Police. The case came to be known as 1929 Lahore Conspiracy Case which was officially titled as "Crown versus Sukhdev and others." The case file mentioned him as Swami alias peasant, son of Ram Lal, of Thapar Khatri caste. All the arrested revolutionaries including Bhagat Singh & B K Dutt were brought to Lahore Central Jail as police strongly believed that conspiracy of their activities was originally hatched in Lahore itself. In this jail, the revolutionaries also went on hunger strike for several days and they were violently forced fed. They were beaten too in the jail. But they kept insisting for same treatment

as was given to prisoners of wars arguing that they are waging war against The Crown to free their nation. They spoke their anger to the judges.

The Special Tribunal cunningly formed for the case too regarded Sukhdev to be the brain of the conspiracy with Bhagat Singh as his right arm who both brought expert marksman Rajguru in their plans for the shooting that killed Saunders. A quick judgement of death sentence to the revolutionaries which was ultimately passed on 7th October,1930 unfortunately.

Hanging of martyrs was planned on the morning of 24th March,1931. But, sensing trouble outside jail, the authorities preponed the previous evening of 23rd March. The relatives of Bhagat Singh, Rajguru and Sukhdev reached to meet them before hanging. For Sukhdev only his mother Ralida'i Thapar and brother Mathuradas Thapar were allowed, whereas uncle Lala Chintram was not allowed to see him despite having carried a letter from Chief Secretary Punjab. Families were not given a fair trial and the trio of Bhagat Singh , Rajguru and Sukhdev were hanged

The martyrs struggled together and they died together. There are many a documented anecdotes of their bonds when both Bhagat Singh and Sukhdev argued between themselves and later wept to each other to reconcile. Any effort by vested interests to divide them in martyrdom must be despised.

Brij Bhushan Goyal, Ludhiana—A Social Activist & A Sr. Citizen

China's cyber playbook: Growing threat of censorship-as-a-service in India

OPINION

DIWAKAR DAYA



For years, global markets have questioned the impact of China's competitive strategies—often aided by state support—across industries ranging from consumer electronics to heavy machinery. Yet, beneath the surface of traditional exports lies an equally formidable engine: a domestic cybersecurity ecosystem with growing regional influence. Nowhere is this more evident than in India, where Beijing's technological reach increasingly shapes digital governance frameworks.

In India, this highlights citizens' awareness of digital

regulations, particularly following the 2008 amendment to the IT Act, which governs online content and cybersecurity. This amendment to the 2000 law allows central and state governments to punish or censor people for publishing or messaging unwanted or inflammatory content.

Unlike typical software export stories, Sentinel Labs recently revealed how Chinese tech firms offer legitimate services to civilians while providing Censorship-as-a-Service (CaaS) to governments, raising critical concerns about transparency and market fairness. If a cybersecurity firm can deliver standard Endpoint Detection & Response (EDR) solutions to private customers while enabling government content-monitoring platforms, it significantly alters the risk landscape for businesses operating in India. Companies striving to protect customer data may

unknowingly operate within a broader ecosystem where state-backed actors leverage CaaS to control digital narratives, creating new risks for enterprises navigating this market.

As if procuring technology was not already challenging enough, businesses must now scrutinize potential partners for hidden ties to clandestine monitoring operations, ensuring their security strategies do not inadvertently expose them to state-driven digital influence campaigns.

THE TOPSEC LEAK: UNVEILING THE DUAL-USE THREAT

Sentinel Labs' report, Censorship as a Service | Leak Reveals Public-Private Collaboration to Monitor Chinese Cyberspace, centers on leaked work logs from Beijing-based TopSec. A long-established cybersecurity vendor, TopSec, offers EDR, vulnerability scanning, and other mainstream solutions. However, the files reveal additional functionality designed to track "sensitive words" and suspicious web content—indicating active content moderation tools with implications for India's digital landscape.

Within the logs, analysts found references to DevOps

frameworks such as Docker, Ansible, and Kubernetes. Yet instead of focusing solely on corporate threats like malware, TopSec's scripts discuss "sensitive" web content, hidden links, and censorship triggers. Code names like "Sparta" describe modules designed to monitor or block content across client networks.

High-risk content is escalated even through WeChat, raising concerns about data security, as organizations using TopSec's services may be unwittingly funneling internal alerts through a platform the government can freely audit. Sentinel Labs also notes TopSec's ties to state-owned enterprises, including agencies investigating corruption. In one case, monitoring for sensitive content was requested by a person acting on behalf of a local government entity the same day that news broke regarding an official's corruption probe in that government office, suggesting that commercial tools are being leveraged to shape public perception—a scenario that could impact Indian businesses navigating regulatory and operational risks.

FORTIFYING DEFENCES IN A CENSORED LANDSCAPE



Ransomware-as-a-Service (RaaS) thrives on franchising malicious tools to individuals or groups, turning cybercrime into a revenue stream. Security teams must now accept that CaaS may be even more far-reaching. In both cases, clients license platforms designed for specific outcomes.

Sophisticated state or corporate actors could harness CaaS to manipulate news outlets, undercut competition, or restrict employees' access to market data—stifling innovation under the guise of "brand protection" or "cybersecurity." If these capabilities proliferate within India's market, smaller players in global supply chains may feel pressured to adopt similarly aggressive solutions, hastening the fragmentation of open markets.

While RaaS primarily aims to monetize stolen data, CaaS raises the stakes by controlling the flow of information. In extreme cases, entire communities or workforces could be selectively shielded from public scrutiny, implicating corporate espionage and fundamental ethical considerations. Strategic decision-makers must now design threat models that account not just for technological risks, but for the geopolitical landscape influencing cybersecurity policies. A cybersecurity provider's architecture is no longer a neutral element; it can be weaponized to shape corporate and public discourse.

ADDRESSING THE NEW CYBER RISK PARADIGM WITH AI

TopSec's collaboration with state-affiliated organizations illustrates how commercial cybersecurity solutions can become de facto government policy tools. Public-private partnerships are not unusual in many regions, particularly where governments frequently collaborate with tech firms to secure digital infrastructure. Yet, what sets this instance apart is the potential for censorship tools to trickle into less benign use cases. Shadowy operators could employ these services to stifle employee communication, remove external viewpoints, or suppress competitive data.

Defending against such a scenario begins with stronger technological safeguards. As described in Forgotten Credentials in the Cloud, even a single exposed credential can compromise entire systems. Automated security offers the most promising line of defense by detecting anomalies in real time, automatically revoking leaked credentials, and limiting the lateral movement of unauthorized users.

This heightened vigilance protects organizations from infiltration by advanced adversaries aiming to surreptitiously install censorship frameworks. It also addresses broader reputational risks.

Enterprises prioritizing robust credential management and AI-based intrusion detection significantly reduce the odds of unknowingly becoming a conduit for anti-competitive, state-driven agendas. In the future, the willingness to invest in AI-centric security may serve as a key differentiator for businesses seeking both operational stability and global credibility.

SECURING TRUST IN CHALLENGING TIMES

The emergence of Censorship-as-a-Service raises urgent questions about where private cybersecurity ends and state influence begins. For business leaders operating in India, risk tolerance must now account for whether cutting-edge security software could morph into a tool for targeted content control.

By coupling rigorous supply chain oversight with AI-enhanced protection, organizations can guard against misuse and reinforce the open flow of information—safeguarding not just corporate data but also the principles that underpin fair competition and free enterprise.

The author is Managing Director & Area Vice President - India & SAARC at SentinelOne.

FROM GALLOWS TO GLORY

On March 23, 1931, Bhagat Singh, Sukhdev Thapar, and Shivaram Rajguru were hanged by the British in Lahore Central Jail for their involvement in the Lahore Conspiracy Case, specifically the assassination of British police officer John Saunders. Their martyrdom sparked a nationwide awakening and strengthened the Indian freedom movement, inspiring countless revolutionaries.

While not formally declared by a government decree, the date of their execution became a focal point for remembering their sacrifices and the broader struggle for India's independence. The day is now observed as Shaheed Diwas, a day to honor the courage and sacrifice of the three revolutionaries and other freedom fighters. On this day, various events are held across India to honor the sacrifices of Bhagat Singh, Sukhdev Thapar, and Shivaram Rajguru, including wreath-laying ceremonies, patriotic rallies, and school programs.

Bhagat Singh, Rajguru, and Sukhdev's 1931 execution transformed them from condemned revolutionaries into enduring symbols of India's independence struggle, igniting nationwide fervor.

BHAGAT SINGH

Bhagat Singh did not have any children. He remained unmarried and dedicated his life to the cause of the Indian independence movement. On the morning of his execution, Bhagat Singh was reading the book "Reminiscences of Lenin" by Clara Zetkin. When asked what his last wish was, Bhagat Singh replied that he was studying the life of Lenin and wanted to finish reading the book before his death.

FAMILY

After Bhagat Singh's execution in 1931, his family faced immense hardships and persecution from the British authorities. They were subjected to constant surveillance and harassment. Bhagat Singh's father, Kishan Singh, was arrested in connection with his son's activities and spent several years in jail.

Kishan Singh Sandhu (father of Bhagat Singh)

He was married to Vidyavati, who was the mother of Bhagat Singh. Durgawati Devi was his wife. He had done his education in Dayanand Anglo Vedic High School at Lahore and National College at Lahore. He strictly believes in nationalism, communism, socialism and anarchism.

Bibi Parkash Kaur (Bhagat Singh's sister)

She passed away in October 2014. She was the last surviving sibling of Bhagat Singh. Her husband Harbans Singh died much before. During the days of terrorism in Punjab, her daughter's brother-in-law was killed by the Punjab Police in an encounter and that had become a big issue in Punjab.

Kulbir Singh (Bhagat Singh's brother)

He was the younger brother of Bhagat Singh. Symbol of courage and conviction. He served as an MLA and a minister in the N.D. Tiwari-led Uttar Pradesh Government, playing a significant role in state politics. His other brother, Kulbir Singh, was actively involved in politics as well, serving as a



President Ram Nath Kovind honours Bibi Parkash Kaur with Padma Shri in New Delhi. Photo – Twitter



Vidyavati. Wikipedia

Jansangh (BJP) MLA from Punjab in the early 1960s. Despite Bhagat Singh's revolutionary legacy, his family maintained a strong presence in Indian politics through democratic means.

Kulbir Singh (elder brother of Bhagat Singh)

He served as a Jansangh



Bibi Amar Kaur (Bhagat Singh's other sister)

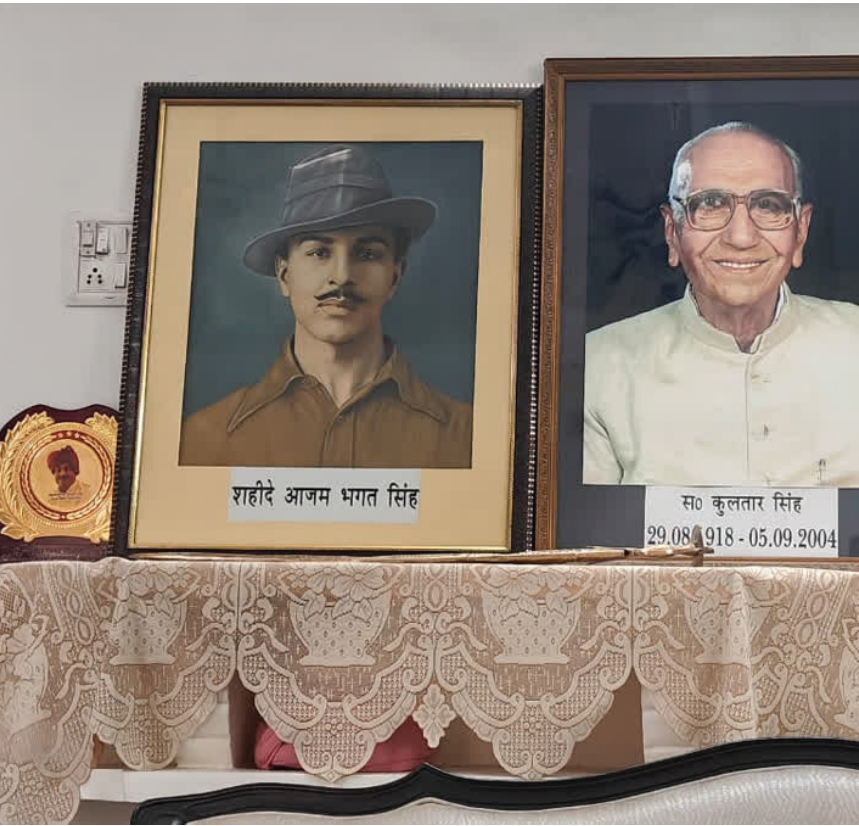
(BJP) MLA from Punjab in the early 1960s. Unlike Bhagat Singh's revolutionary path, Kulbir pursued mainstream politics, focusing on regional issues and Sikh community interests. His political career reflected the Singh family's transition from armed struggle

to democratic participation, helping to preserve Bhagat Singh's legacy while influencing Punjab's political landscape.

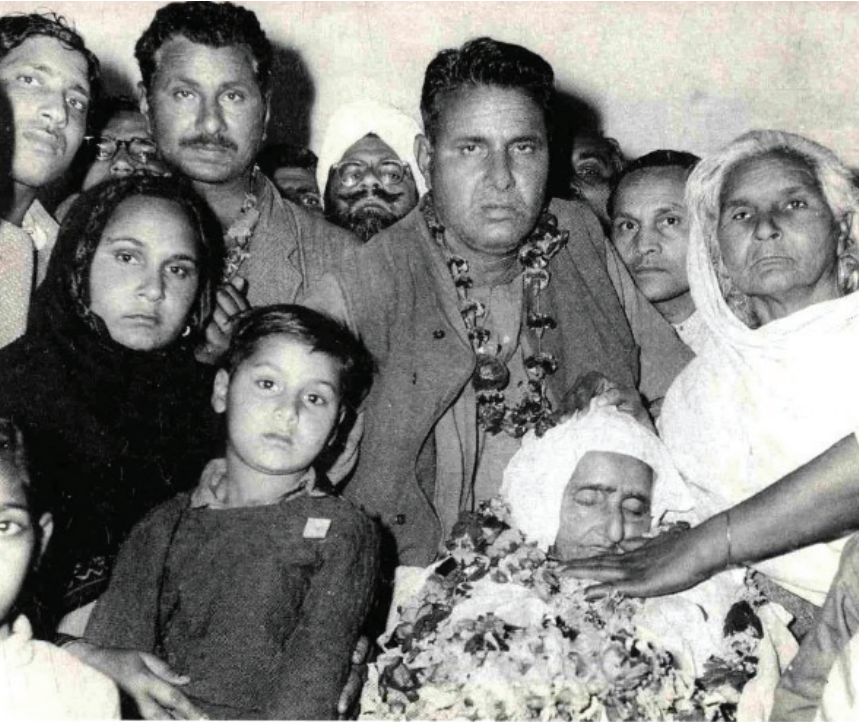
Bibi Amar Kaur (Bhagat Singh's other sister)

She was a renowned Indian revolutionary. She

actively participated in the Indian freedom struggle, notably delivering impassioned speeches against the British Raj, which led to her imprisonment. Additionally, she played a significant role in rescuing and rehabilitating displaced women during the tumultuous period of Partition. On October 9, 1942, she courageously hoisted the national flag at the gate of Lahore Jail, an act that resulted in her arrest by colonial authorities. Her steadfast commitment to India's independence and her efforts in social rehabilitation underscore her enduring legacy in the nation's history.



Bhagat Singh wrote letters to his brother from jail. Wikipedia



Mata Harnam Kaur dies in February 1962 (L-R) Babar Singh, Mrs. Kanta, S. Rajinder Singh, S. Kulbir Singh, Bibi Amar Kaur. Wikipedia

SUKHDEV THAPAR

He was the chief of the Punjab unit of the HSRA and was instrumental in making decisions. Sukhdev took part in a number of revolutionary events, including a prison hunger strike in 1929. He is widely known for his assaults in the Lahore Con-



spiracy Case (1929–1930). He is also best known for his involvement in the assassination of Assistant Superintendent of Police J.P. Saunders in 1928, an act of retaliation for the death of

Lala Lajpat Rai.

FAMILY

Sukhdev Thapar, a prominent Indian freedom fighter, was born on May 15, 1907, in Ludhiana, Punjab, to Ramilal Thapar and Ralli Devi. Following his father's death, he was raised by his uncle, Lala Achinram. The Thapar family has actively preserved Sukhdev's legacy; his nephew, Bharat Bhushan Thapar, highlighted the family's financial struggles and lack of governmental support. Despite these challenges, they have advocated for greater recognition of Sukhdev's contributions. In recent years, efforts have been made to renovate Sukhdev's ancestral home in Ludhiana, aiming to convert it into a mu-



Home of Sukhdev Thapar in Ludhiana. NGO—Shaheed Sukhdev Yadgar Committee—which had constructed the front portion of the house without any assistance from any government agency, the house would have crumbled. (Wikipedia)

seum to honor his memory.

Bharat Bhushan Thapar (nephew of Sukhdev Thapar)

He has been involved in efforts to preserve the legacy of his martyred uncle. Despite the passage of time, Bharat Bhushan

Thapar has expressed concerns over the lack of governmental attention to memorialize Sukhdev's contributions to India's freedom struggle. He has highlighted the need for preserving Sukhdev's ancestral house in Ludhiana as a tribute to the martyr.

SHIVRAM HARI RAJGURU

Inspired by Lokmanya Tilak's revolutionary ideals, Rajguru aspired for India's freedom. At 15, he moved to Varanasi to study Sanskrit and Hindu scriptures, where he joined the Hindustan Socialist Repub-



lican Association (HSRA). His sharpshooting skills earned him the nickname 'Gunman of HSRA.' Ra-



Rajguru's house in Pune. (Wikipedia)

guru played a key role in the assassination of British officer J.P. Saunders on December 17, 1928, alongside Bhagat Singh and Sukhdev, in retaliation for Lala Lajpat Rai's death during a protest. Captured and sentenced to death, Rajguru was hanged on March 23, 1931, at 22. His birthplace, Khed, was re-

named Rajgurunagar, and his home, Rajguru Wada, stands as a memorial. India observes 'Shaheed Diwas' every March 23 to honor Rajguru, Bhagat Singh, and Sukhdev's sacrifices.

FAMILY

Rajguru, born into a Deshastha Brahmin family, lost his

father at six, leaving his elder brother Dinkar to support the family. Rajguru's family faced significant hardships following his execution. The family endured continuous surveillance and harassment by British authorities due to Rajguru's revolutionary activities. Despite these challenges, they remained steadfast in preserving his legacy.

Dinkar Hari Rajguru (elder brother)

He played a pivotal role in supporting his family after their father's untimely death when Shivaram was just six years old. Assuming the family's responsibilities, Dinkar secured a government job to provide for his mother and siblings.

SECTION 148 OF NI ACT: CONDITION OF 20% DEPOSIT OF COMPENSATION MUST NOT BE UNJUST OR DEPRIVE RIGHT TO APPEAL, SAYS ALLAHABAD HIGH COURT

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

The Allahabad High Court in the case *Rajesh Kumar Gupta v. State of U.P.* and Another observed and has reiterated that while passing an order imposing the condition of depositing 20% of the compensation amount under Section 148 of the Negotiable Instruments Act, the court has to consider that such a condition won't be unjust or would deprive the individual's right of appeal.

The court in the case stated that the imposition of the condition is not mandatory and the court has the discretion to reduce or exempt it in appropriate cases.

The section 148(1) provides that notwithstanding anything contained in the Code of Criminal Procedure, CrPC when an appeal is to be filed against conviction for cheque dishonour under Section 138 NI Act, the Appellate Court may order the appellant to deposit a minimum of 20% of the compensation awarded in proceedings under Section 138.

The Supreme Court referred to the case *Jamboo Bhandari vs M.P. State In-*



dustrial Development Corporation Ltd. and others and *Muskan Enterprises and Another Vs. State of Punjab and Another*, Justice Arun Kumar Singh Deshwal stated that, 'It being correct in view of the law laid down by the Apex Court...that while passing order under section 148 of the Act, 1881, direction for awarding compensation should not be excessive or unjust and it is not mandatory to impose condition of

deposit, 20% of compensation and court has discretion to reduce or exempt in appropriate cases. Therefore, while passing order under section 148 of the Act, 1881, court has to consider that condition of deposit of 20% will not be unjust but also, the fact whether the imposing condition would amount to deprivation of the right of the appeal of the appellant. Therefore, for passing final order under section 148 of the Act, 1881, court can

gather the required facts regarding financial condition of the appellant.'

On the other hand, the Opposite party no.2 filed a complaint against the applicant under Section 138 of the NI Act. Applicant was convicted and filed an appeal against the conviction.

The Trial Court directed the applicant to deposit 20% of the compensation awarded to the opposite party.

The Applicant challenged that order under Section

482 of CrPC where the order was set aside and case was remanded back to the appellate court to pass fresh order subject to deposit of 10% of the fine.

The applicant filed an application seeking waiver for depositing 20% of the compensation as the amount was huge and unjust for stay the conviction order.

In the present matter, the application filed by the petitioner was rejected and the applicant was directed

to file his ITR and source of income for the last 5 years for consideration as an exception to the 20% deposit rule. Applicant challenged this order on relying on the judgment of the Apex Court in *Muskan Enterprises and Another Vs. State of Punjab and Another*, where filing sources of income was irrelevant and the Trial Court ought to have decided whether the 20% deposit was unjust or not.

The bench headed by Justice Deshwal observed that though 10% of the compensation had been deposited by the applicant, for determine the application of exception, the Trial Court has asked his to file his source of income, ITR for the last 5 years. It held that the order of the Trial Court was right in view of the decisions of the Apex Court.

The court while considering the facts and circumstances of the held that while passing final order under Section 148 of the NI Act, the Court must consider whether the condition of 20% deposit is unjust or not.

The counsel, Naman Agarwal, Nipun Singh appeared for the Applicant.

BOMBAY HIGH COURT: POLICE CONSTABLE HAD ARRESTED A DRUG PEDDLER, COURT SAYS IT WAS AGAINST THE RULES AND GRANTED BAIL TO THE ACCUSED

The Bombay High Court in the case observed and has granted bail to an accused arrested under the provisions of Narcotics Drugs and Psychotropic Substances, NDPS Act as he was arrested by a constable, which was against the rules. In the present matter, the accused, Rajesh Srinivas Kukan alias Raju Anna, was arrested by the DN Nagar police station in Mumbai on November 08, 2023 as he was found in possession of a commercial quantity of contraband. The court charged the accused under section 8(c) and Section 22(c) of the NDPS Act and section 142 of Maharashtra Police Act. As per the case of prosecution, on November 08, 2023, when the policeman was on patrol, they apprehended the accused on the basis of suspicious and he disclosed that he was in possession of mephedrone. MD. Allegedly, 53 grams of mephedrone was seized from him. The bench headed by Justice Milind N. Jadhav in the case found that the search was conducted by a police constable, which violates section 42 of NDPS Act.

The court while considering the facts and circumstances of the case observed and has granted him bail on a bond of Rs 50,000 with certain conditions, which includes regular reporting to the police and a ban on leaving Maharashtra.

BOMBAY HIGH COURT ORDERED PUNJAB NATIONAL BANK TO PAY RS 5L IN COMPENSATION TO FORMER EMPLOYEE FOR UNFAIR ENQUIRY

The Bombay High Court in the case has ordered Punjab National Bank, PNB to pay an amount of Rs 5 lakh as compensation to a former employee, Vinayak Balchandra Ghanekar, citing a 'manipulated' inquiry process.

DELHI GOVERNMENT REPORTS TO SUPREME COURT, OVER HALF OF DELHI'S VEHICLES NOW SPORT COLOUR-CODED STICKERS

The Delhi Government has reported to the Supreme Court that over 1.2 million vehicles in the national capital, which is about half of the eligible vehicles, have affixed colour-coded stickers to indicate their fuel type.

ORISSA HIGH COURT GRANTS DIVORCE ON GROUNDS OF DESERTION: COMPLETE BREAKDOWN OF MARRIAGE FOR LAST ONE DECADE

The Orissa High Court in the case observed and has dissolved the marriage between the parties which being on the ground of desertion under section 13(1)(ib) of the Hindu Marriage Act while remarking that there had been a complete breakdown of the marriage for the last decade.

Delhi High Court: Court can appoint Arbitrator under Section 11(6) of Arbitration Act if MSME Council fails to initiate mediation U/S 18 of MSMED Act

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court in the case *M/S Vallabh Corporation Versus SMS India Pvt Ltd* observed and has held that When the Facilitation Council under the Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises Development Act, MSMED Act fails to initiate the mediation process under Section 18 of the MSMED Act, the court can appoint an arbitrator under Section 11(6) of the Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996 (Arbitration Act).

The bench of Justice Jasmeet Singh was hearing the present matter.

Facts of the Case:

The respondent placed a Letter of Intent for execution of civil and associated work for construction of New Flash Butt Weld Engineering Workshop at Sabarmati.

On November 11, 2018, the respondent placed a revised Letter of Intent for execution of the said work.

On August 06, 2023, the petitioner requested the respondent to release outstanding contractual pay-

ment of Rs.37,20,31,671/- both under the Purchase Order as well as the Service Order. Thus, the parties tried to resolve their disputes but failed to arrive at consensus.

On February 29, 2024, the petitioner invoked arbitration and proposed 5 names to the respondent for choosing any one of them as a Sole Arbitrator.

Contentions Made Before The Court:

The petitioner submitted before the court that the mandatory requirement of mediation as per section 18 of MSME Act has also been complied with by the petitioner.

The petitioner is constrained to approach this Court under section 11(6) of the Arbitration Act. Reliance is placed on *Microvision Technologies (P) Ltd. v. Union of India*, 2023.

On the other hand, the respondent submitted before the court that the petitioner has a choice either to initiate action under Section 11 of the Arbitration Act or make a reference under the MSME Act, 2006. Once the petitioner has invoked the

provisions of MSME Act, the petitioner is required to take it to a finality and cannot midway approach this Court by filing a petition under Section 11 of the Arbitration Act.

Observations Made by the Court:

The court in the case noted that section 18(2) of the MSME Act provides that the Facilitation Council upon receiving reference under sub-section (1) shall either conduct mediation itself or refer the matter to any mediation service provider as provided under the Mediation Act, 2023.

The court stated that section 18(3) states that when the mediation is not successful or stands terminated without any settlement between the parties, the Council shall refer either itself take up the dispute for arbitration or refer it to any institution or centre providing alternative dispute resolution services.

The Supreme Court referred to the case of *Gujarat State Civil Supplies Corpn. Ltd. v. Mahakali Foods (P) Ltd.*, wherein the court held that the MSME Act will pre-

vail over the Arbitration Act as the object of MSME Act is to ensure timely and smooth payment to the suppliers who are the micro and small enterprises, and to provide a legal framework for resolving the dispute with regard to the recovery of dues between the parties under the MSME Act.

The court in the held that the Arbitration Act is not inconsistent with the provisions of the MSMED Act as the only provision for appointing an Arbitrator under the MSMED Act is section 18 and if the Facilitation Council fails to appoint the Arbitrator, the Arbitrator can be appointed by the Supreme Court or the High Court under section 11(6) of the Arbitration Act.

Further, the court noted that the petitioner wrote to the MSME council on 16 May, 2024 seeking mediation under section 18 of the MSME Act.

However no response was given by the Council till July 16, 2024 when the petitioner approached the court nor has it responded to date.

The court held that the MSME Facilitation Council

did not initiate the process of mediation under section 18 of MSME Act and hence, the present petition filed under section 11(6) of the Arbitration Act needs to be allowed.

The Bombay High Court in the case of *Microvision Technologies (P) Ltd. (supra)* held that 'upon the failure on the part of the Facilitation Council to refer the dispute to arbitration, an Application may be made under Section 11(6) (c) and accordingly in the present case the application was made for appointment of an Arbitrator. Thus, Section 18 of the MSMED Act has to be read harmoniously with Section 11 of the Arbitration Act.'

Accordingly, the court allowed the present petition and the Arbitrator was appointed.

The counsel, Mr. Ramesh Singh, Sr. Adv. with Ms. Monisha Nanda, Mr. Rajul Shrivastav, Advs. Appeared for the Petitioner.

The counsel, Mr. Sujoy Datta, Mr. Surekh Kani Baxy, Mr. Aarshaya Sharada, Advs represented the Respondent.

Gujarat High Court imposes Rs 2 lakh costs on man who joined virtual hearing from lavatory: Shameful and must be strictly condemned

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

The Gujarat High Court in the case *Gujarat State Co Operative Marketing Federation Limited v. President Officer & Anr.* observed and has imposed an amount of Rs. 2 Lakhs in costs on a man who joined a virtual hearing from a lavatory, wherein the court imposed that remarking that such an indecent act is not only unacceptable but is also shameful and is required to be strictly condemned.

The court in the case emphasised that if such a person is not dealt with 'strong hands', then it may lower the dignity of the institution in the public eye.

A single judge bench of Justice MK Thakker was hearing the present matter.

The bench in the case held that, 'such kind of scenario, the indecent act is not only unacceptable but it is a shameful and is required to be strictly condemned. If Courts do not deal with such a person with strong hands then, that may result lower-



ing the dignity of the institution in the eyes of public.'

The court in the case observed and has rejected the said explanation, wherein noting that he held a B.Sc. degree and was employed with the Reliance Group, making it unacceptable that he was unaware of virtual Court protocols.

The court held that, 'This court deems it fit to impose exemplary costs for an amount of Rs.2,00,000/- to the Dhaval Kanubhai Patel, who is present before this Court and same shall be deposited with the Registry within a period of two weeks from today. Therefore, on depositing the costs, the Registry is directed to remit

Rs.50,000/- in the account of the Shishugruh Paldi, Ahmedabad and remaining amount in the account of the Gujarat High Court Legal Aid Services Authorities.'

The bench in its order stated that, 'Additionally, Dhaval Kanubhai Patel is directed to report to the Special Officer, Dedicated Cell at 10:00a.m. and perform community service by cleaning the gardens of the High Court under the supervision of the Special Officer, Dedicated Cell, for a period of two weeks.

The Special Officer, Dedicated Cell, shall submit a report to the Court regarding the completion of the said service.'

Delhi High Court: 'In-laws gave 2 crores dowry, income tax investigation should be done', husband approaches High Court, petition rejected

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court in the case observed and has rejected a petition filed by a man in which he had demanded an income tax investigation of his wife's family.

The man claimed that his in-laws gave a dowry of Rs 2 crore and spent heavily in the marriage.

The court stated that the matter is relates to a dispute between the husband and wife and the Income Tax Department has no role in it.

The Delhi High Court in the case dismissed the petition filed by a man seeking



an income tax probe into his wife's family.

The Petitioner in the plea claimed that her in-laws paid Rs 2 crore in cash and spent heavily on the wedding, which may be in a violation of income tax rules.

The petitioner had asked the court to direct the Income Tax Department to investigate the income of

his wife's family and the tax records of the last 10 years.

He also demanded an investigation into the cash transaction of Rs 2 crore given as dowry.

The bench comprising of Chief Justice D.K. Upadhyay and Justice Tushar Rao Gedela was hearing the present matter.

The court stated that the lawyer appearing for the petitioner was unable to show that any of his fundamental or legal rights have been violated.

The court while considering the facts and circumstances of the case stated that the present matter falls under the category of roving and fishing inquiry (demand for investigation without solid basis), which cannot be accepted.

The bench stated that the petitioner failed to tell under which provision of the Income Tax Act, 1961 he had filed complaint.

Accordingly, the court rejected the petition.

'Touching private parts is not an attempt to rape': Allahabad High Court's decision challenged in Supreme Court, case listed for hearing

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court in the case was hearing a controversial decision of Allahabad High Court in a case which relates to attempted rape of a minor girls.

The bench comprising of Justice Bela Mahurya Trivedi and Justice Prasanna B Varale will hear this Public Interest Litigation.

On March 17, Allahabad High Court judge Justice Ram Manohar Narayan Mishra in his order had asked the district court to amend a summons.

The High Court has ordered to remove the charge of attempted rape from the district court summons and summon only under the section of molestation or assault.

The allegation is made before the court that minor girl's private parts were touched and he salwar's string was broken and she was dragged under the culvert.

In the present matter, two accused were accused of attempting rape. Accordingly, the Supreme Court will hear the matter on Monday.

What did Allahabad High Court Say?

The Allahabad High Court heard the matter and has stated that touching the private parts of the victim, breaking the string of her pyjama and trying to escape by pulling her will not fall under the crime of rape or attempted rape. It will definitely be called for sexual harassment. While amending the summon order, the court changed the charges against two accused.

The accused was summoned for trial under Section 376 of IPC and Section 18 of POCSO Act. But the High Court directed that instead of

these sections, the accused be tried under the minor charge of Section 354B (assault or criminal force with intent to disrobe) of Indian Penal Code, IPC along with section 9 or section 10 (aggravates sexual assault) of POSCO Act.

This matter is from Patiyali police station area of Kasganj district. The summons order of Special Judge POCSO Act was challenged in Allahabad High Court in a revision petition.

The High Court stated that prime facie the allegation of attempted rape does not stand.

NGAD FIGHTER UNVEILED: F-47 TO REDEFINE AIR SUPERIORITY

Boeing’s victory in the NGAD contract underscores its strategic resurgence in the defence sector.

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

The unveiling of the Next-Generation Air Dominance (NGAD) air superiority fighter at the White House on March 21 marked a significant moment in the history of military aviation. Shrouded in secrecy for years, the new aircraft was introduced by President Trump, who described it as “something the likes of which nobody has ever seen before.” Present at the announcement in the Oval Office were Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth, Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. David Allvin, and Lt. Gen. Dale White, the Air Force’s military deputy for acquisition, technology, and logistics.

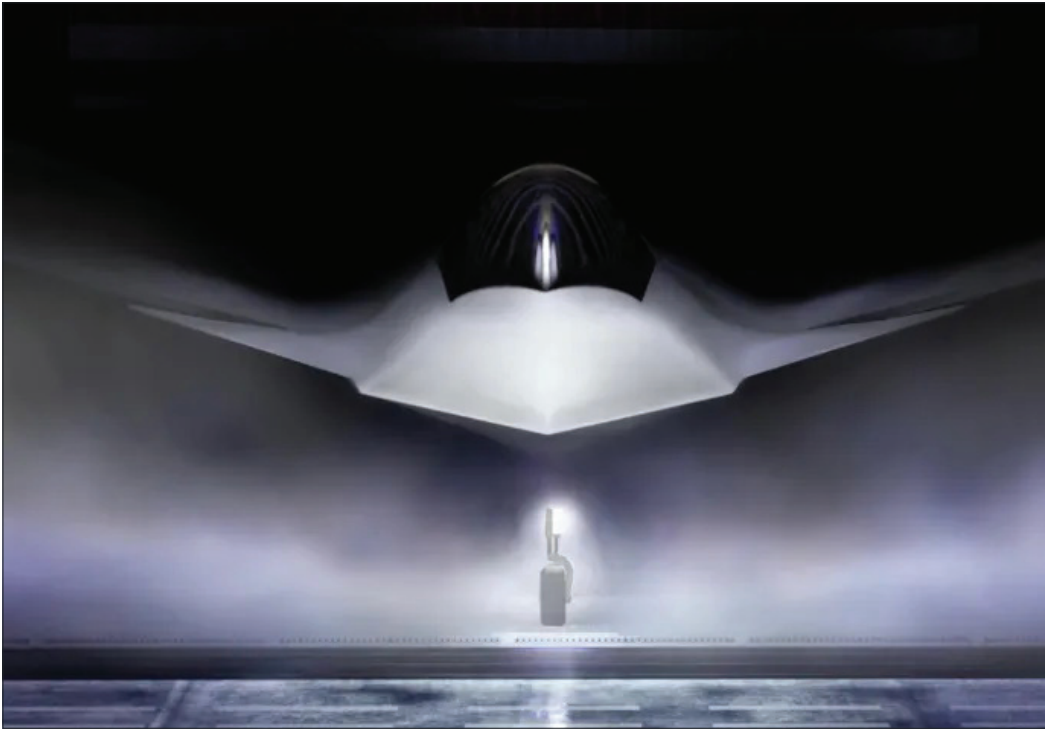
“In terms of all the attributes of a fighter jet, there’s never been anything even close to it, from speed to maneuverability to what it can have as payload. And this has been in the works for a long period of time. America’s enemies will never see it coming,” Trump said.

The newly christened Boeing F-47 will surpass the Lockheed F-22 and F-35 in technology and combat capability. It is designed to eventually replace the F-22 Raptor. Despite claims from China, American officials insist that the F-47 is truly the world’s first crewed sixth-generation fighter. The aircraft has already made several unannounced flights since 2020.

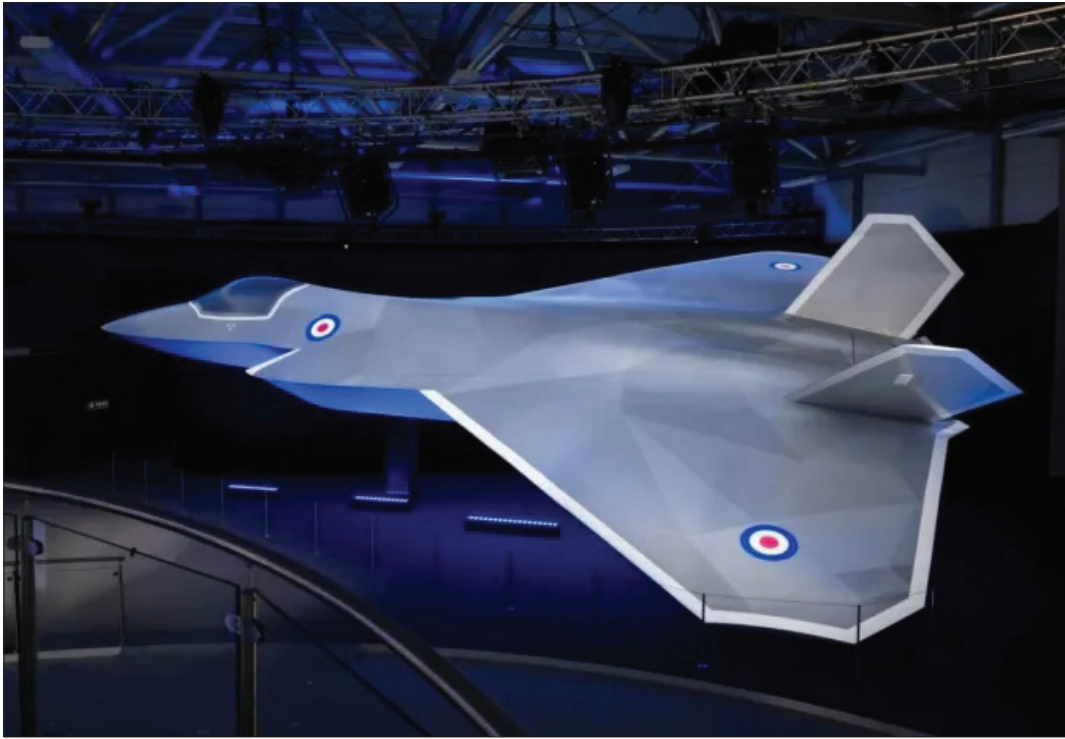
The F-47 will join the Northrop Grumman B-21 Raider bomber in the US Air Force’s (USAF) sixth-generation fleet. “The aircraft will have next-generation stealth, sensor fusion, and long-range strike capabilities to counter the most sophisticated adversaries in contested environments,” General Allvin said.

WHAT ARE SIXTH-GENERATION AIRCRAFT?

Sixth-generation aircraft are designed to possess all the features of fifth-generation aircraft, with enhanced capabilities to ensure air superiority. They are intended to have broad-spectrum stealth, minimizing radar detectability across a wide range of frequencies in the



F-47: Artist’s Rendering. eurasiantimes.com



GCAP model. Wikipedia

TDG EXPLAINER

electromagnetic spectrum. This capability will enable deep-penetration missions in heavily defended battle spaces.

Advanced sensors in sixth-generation aircraft will leverage artificial intelligence (AI) and data fusion, allowing them to operate as “flying command posts.” Integrating AI with advanced avionics will enhance battlefield automation and decision-making, blurring the line between human and machine control.

Other features of sixth-generation aircraft include optionally manned sensor fusion and advanced data handling capabilities, including 6G communications speed and greater electric power generation. Directed Energy Weapons (DEW), capable of disabling enemy drones, missiles, and aircraft at a distance without traditional munitions, are also a key feature.

The cockpit will feature augmented reality—a control scheme with little-to-no physical controls, instead displaying features virtually on the pilot’s heads-up display. Motion control and eye-tracking will further enhance interactivity.

Biometric and psycho-

analytical monitoring will also be integrated to track pilot health during combat and training. AI will function as an Intelligent Virtual Assistant (IVA) to assist with aircraft operations and data processing.

Sixth-generation aircraft will process vast amounts of data in real time, enhancing situational awareness and autonomous decision-making. They will communicate with and control Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS), including drone swarms, providing a decisive advantage in contested environments. Enhanced electronic warfare capabilities will enable the aircraft to handle multiple threats simultaneously.

CONTRACT AWARD

The final competition for NGAD was between Lockheed Martin and Boeing after Northrop Grumman announced in 2023 that it would not compete as a prime contractor.

The USAF awarded the contract to Boeing, funding the engineering and manufacturing development phase, which includes integrating and testing all aspects of the NGAD platform. This phase will produce a small number of test aircraft



Source: eurasiantimes.com

for evaluation, with competitively priced options for low-rate initial production.

Boeing officials described the contract as one of the most significant investments in the history of their defense business. “We recognize the importance of designing, building a sixth-generation fighter capability for the USAF,” said Steve Parker, interim president and CEO of Boeing Defense, Space, and Security.

Lockheed Martin expressed disappointment, stating, “We will await further discussions with the USAF.” Lockheed has had major production successes with the F-16 and F-35 programs and continues to

modernize the F-22 to maintain combat capability while NGAD is developed.

Boeing’s stock price rose 7% after the announcement, while Lockheed Martin’s stock fell 5.7%.

F-47 DESIGN FEATURES

General Allvin described the F-47 as “the most advanced, lethal, and adaptable fighter ever developed.”

The initial images reveal a conventionally stealthy nose and bubble canopy with a chiseled chine and flattened fuselage. Canards and wings with a distinctive upward angle are also visible, setting the design apart from previous stealth aircraft.

The F-47 features a modular design and an open-systems architecture, allowing frequent updates to software, sensors, and mission gear. Its advanced adaptive engines—dubbed NGAP (Next-Generation Adaptive Propulsion)—will shift configurations for optimal thrust and efficiency. General Electric’s XA102 and Pratt & Whitney’s XA103 will compete for the propulsion system.

FLIGHT TEST CAMPAIGN

The Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA) helped refine NGAD technologies through early experimentation.

“US X-planes have been

testing NGAD technologies for the last five years, flying hundreds of hours, testing cutting-edge concepts, and proving that we can push the edge of technology with confidence,” Allvin said.

The program’s formal solicitation was announced in May 2023, with the goal of source selection in 2024. The target is to induct the aircraft during Trump’s tenure, which lasts until January 2029.

OPERATIONAL CAPABILITY

The F-47 will feature state-of-the-art stealth technologies and will fly alongside autonomous drone wingmen, known as Collaborative

Combat Aircraft (CCA).

“We are not just building another fighter; we are shaping the future of warfare and putting our enemies on notice,” Allvin said.

The F-47 will have a longer range than the F-22, which has a range of around 3,000 kilometers with external fuel tanks. The USAF is considering two variants—a larger one for the Pacific theater and a smaller one for Europe.

COST AND SUSTAINABILITY

Allvin said the F-47 will “cost less and be more adaptable to future threats.”

The F-22’s average cost was around \$350 million, leading to program containment. The USAF allocated \$1.66 billion for NGAD in the FY2023 budget and plans to spend \$20 billion between 2025 and 2029.

GCAP and FCAS impact

The NGAD selection may affect the Global Combat Air Programme (GCAP) led by the UK, Japan, and Italy. The GCAP program, aimed at replacing the Eurofighter Typhoon, plans to begin production by 2035.

The Future Combat Air System (FCAS), developed by France, Germany, and Spain, aims to introduce a sixth-generation fighter by 2040.

The F-47’s early operational timeline could disrupt both GCAP and FCAS by attracting early customers and intensifying competition for funding and talent.

How President Donald Trump is overhauling the US administration

TDG EXPLAINER

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

President Donald Trump is making drastic changes to the U.S. administration. His policies focus on reducing federal control, restructuring government agencies, and strengthening executive power. Supporters see this as necessary reform. Critics warn of risks to democracy. Here’s how his administration is reshaping the system.

DISMANTLING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

On March 20, 2025, Trump signed an executive order to dismantle the U.S. Department of Education. He wants state and local governments to take full control of education. His goal is to reduce federal involvement and increase parental choice.

His supporters argue that

this will give communities more power over school policies. However, critics say it may harm students who rely on federal protections, especially those in marginalized groups. Schools currently receive about 10% of their budgets from federal funding. Without this support, some districts could struggle to maintain programs.

Shifting foreign aid to focus on U.S. interests

Donald Trump is overhauling how the U.S. distributes foreign aid. His administration plans to cut funding for programs that do not align with American geopolitical goals. According to an internal memo, the government will prioritize aid that strengthens national security and economic interests.

This change marks a major shift from past policies. Previous administrations focused on humanitarian aid and global stabil-



Elon Musk listens to US President Donald Trump speak in the Oval Office of the White House in Washington, DC, US on 11 February 2025. Reuters

ity. Supporters argue that taxpayer dollars should directly benefit American interests. Critics fear that reduced funding for humanitarian programs could harm vulnerable nations and weaken U.S. global influence.

EXPANDING EXECUTIVE POWER

Trump is pushing to ex-

pand presidential authority. His administration is replacing career civil servants with political appointees. He also wants independent agencies to report directly to the White House.

This approach follows the unitary executive theory, which argues that the President has full control over the executive

branch. Trump claims this will make the government more efficient and responsive. However, legal experts warn that it could erode checks and balances. If implemented fully, this shift could weaken congressional oversight and judicial independence.

RESHAPING THE FEDERAL JUDICIARY

Trump is appointing conservative judges to federal courts. His administration has compiled a list of nominees who align with his policies. Judges Aileen Cannon and Kathryn Kimball Mizelle are among the candidates.

By placing conservative judges in key positions, Trump aims to secure a long-term legal legacy. His supporters believe this will uphold traditional values. Critics argue that it could make courts less likely to protect civil rights and progressive policies.

During his first term, Trump appointed three Supreme Court justices and over 200 federal judges, reshaping the judiciary for decades. His current strategy continues this trend, ensuring conservative influence remains strong in U.S. law.

CUTTING FEDERAL JOBS

Trump has ordered a reduction in the federal workforce. His executive order limits hiring to essential positions and enforces stricter job per-

formance standards. The Office of Personnel Management is overseeing these changes.

Trump argues that a smaller government will improve efficiency and save taxpayer money. He believes a large federal workforce slows down decision-making. His administration plans to shift many responsibilities to state governments.

Opponents say these cuts could weaken essential services. Fewer government employees could lead to delays in processing benefits, maintaining infrastructure, and responding to crises.

A FIGHT AGAINST PROGRESSIVE IDEOLOGY

Trump has positioned himself as a defender of traditional values. He has criticized progressive policies in education, military policies, and government hiring. He argues that these policies promote a “woke ideology” that threatens American culture.

In 2024, Trump linked

his political fight to his daughter Vivian Jenna Wilson’s transition. He stated, “I lost my son, essentially... killed by the woke mind virus.” He added, “I vowed to destroy the woke mind virus after that, and we’re making some progress.”

His administration has already reversed diversity training programs in government agencies. He has also pushed for curriculum changes in schools, favoring “patriotic education” over topics like systemic racism and gender identity. Trump’s policies aim to reduce federal power, increase executive control, and promote conservative values. His supporters see this as a bold move to reform the system and cut government waste. His critics argue that these changes threaten democracy, weaken institutions, and consolidate power in ways that could have lasting effects. As his administration continues its overhaul, the impact of these policies will shape the future of the U.S. government for years to come.

ISRAELI AIRSTRIKE KILLS HAMAS OFFICIAL; GAZA DEATH TOLL PASSES 50,000

Hamas said the airstrike on Khan Younis killed Bardaweel and his wife.

AGENCIES
CAIRO

An Israeli airstrike in southern Gaza killed a Hamas political leader, Salah al-Bardaweel, on Sunday, the militant group said, as Palestinian officials put the death toll from nearly 18 months of conflict at over 50,000. Hamas said the airstrike on Khan Younis killed Bardaweel and his wife. The Israeli military confirmed in a statement on Sunday that it had killed the Hamas official on Saturday. "This elimination further degrades Hamas' military and government capabilities," the military added. After two months of relative calm in the war, Gazans have again been fleeing for their lives after Israel effectively abandoned a ceasefire, launching a new all-out air

AIRSTRIKE

- Hamas Leader Killed – Israeli airstrike in Khan Younis killed Hamas political leader Salah al-Bardaweel and his wife.
- Israeli Confirmation – The Israeli military confirmed the strike, stating it was aimed at degrading Hamas' military and government capabilities.
- Escalation in Gaza – Israel has resumed intense air and ground operations after abandoning a ceasefire.
- Rising Death Toll – Palestinian health officials report over 50,000 killed and 113,274 wounded since the war began.
- Ongoing Airstrikes – At least 30 Palestinians were killed in Rafah and Khan Younis on Sunday.



and ground campaign on Tuesday against Hamas. Explosions echoed throughout the north, central and southern Gaza Strip early on Sunday, as Israeli planes hit several targets in

those areas in what witnesses said was an escalation of the attacks that began earlier in the week. At least 30 Palestinians had been killed in Israeli strikes on Rafah and Khan

Younis so far on Sunday, health authorities said. Those killed included three municipal employees, medics said. Bardaweel was a member of the Hamas decision-mak-

ing body, the political office, and had held posts such as heading the Hamas delegation for indirect truce talks with Israel in 2009 and led the group's media office in 2005. "His blood, that of his wife and martyrs, will remain fuelling the battle of liberation and independence," the group said. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has repeatedly said the main aim of the war is to destroy Hamas as a military and governing entity. He has said the new campaign aims to force the group to give up remaining hostages. Israel launched its initial assault on Gaza after Hamas fighters stormed southern Israel on October 7, 2023, killing 1,200 people and taking more than 250 hostages, according to Israeli tallies.

7 killed in mass drone attack on Ukraine by Russia

AGENCIES
KYIV

At least seven people were killed after Russia launched a barrage of drones across Ukraine overnight on Sunday, according to local Ukrainian officials and emergency services. The attack on the Ukrainian capital came ahead of ceasefire negotiations in Saudi Arabia in which Ukraine and Russia are expected to hold indirect US-mediated talks on Monday to discuss a pause in long-range attacks targeting energy facilities and civilian infrastructure. The Ukrainian delegation is expected to meet with US officials in Saudi Arabia a day ahead of the indirect talks, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said. Ukraine is planning to send technical teams to discuss



the details of the partial ceasefire. Russia launched 147 drones across Ukraine, according to the Ukrainian Air Force. Ukrainian air defences shot down 97 and 25 others didn't reach targets due to Ukrainian countermeasures. The attacks struck the Kharkiv, Sumy, Chernihiv, Odesa and Donetsk regions, as well as the capital, Kyiv. Three people, including a 5-year-old child, were

killed and 10 others were injured in a drone attack on Kyiv, the city's military administration said. Extended sounds of explosions were heard across the Ukrainian capital in the early hours of the night as the air raid blared for over five hours. Russian drones and debris from shot-down drones, which were flying at lower altitudes to evade air defences, fell on residential buildings.

US carries out strikes on Yemen airport

AGENCIES
DOHA

The United States has carried out three strikes on the airport in Yemen's Hodeidah city as per the official Saba news agency. US forces bombed the districts of Sa'har and Kitaf in the northern province of Saada and carried out five air attacks on the central province of Marib, the Yemeni state media said on Sunday. A local official told Saba news agency that the US aggression targeted the Majzar district in Marib with five airstrikes. Meanwhile, the AlHadath broadcaster reported that US warplanes launched three airstrikes on I Hodeidah airport, targeted missile and drone storage facilities and platforms. Saudi Arabia's state broadcasters Al Arabiya and Al Hadath sources reported that Mansour al-Saadi, commander of the Houthi naval forces had

sustained injuries in the attack. "Sources indicated that the raids targeted the naval base in the Al-Kathib area," the website of the Al Hadath reported. Meanwhile, the United States is sending a second aircraft carrier to West Asia, as the Trump administration intensifies its bombing campaign against Houthi fighters in Yemen. Additionally, US Defence Secretary Pete Hegseth ordered the USS Harry S Truman carrier strike group -- currently operating in the Red Sea -- to extend its deployment by at least a month, according to two defence officials, who requested anonymity to discuss ongoing operations as per a report in the Politico. The USS Carl Vinson and its accompanying destroyers will join the ship as escorts in the coming weeks. The Vinson has been conducting exercises in the East China Sea with the Japanese and South Koreans Politico reported

citing the first reporting on the development in USNI News. The Trump administration has pledged to go after Houthi fighters until they end their attacks on commercial shipping in the Red Sea. On March 15, US President Donald Trump announced that he ordered the US military to launch "decisive and powerful military action" against Houthi terrorists in Yemen. He said that Houthis kept attacking the US, as former US President Joe Biden's response was "weak" against them. Trump issued a warning on March 20 as strikes rocked Sanaa, Yemen, the Houthi-controlled capital, and Saada, Yemen, a reported Houthi stronghold. "They will be completely annihilated!" Trump declared. "It's not even a fair fight and never will be." US warplanes and ships have hit more than 30 targets in Yemen since Saturday, targeting Houthi leaders and missile storage facilities.

3 dead, 15 injured in New Mexico mass shooting

AGENCIES
LAS CRUCES

Three people were killed and 15 were injured during a shooting at a park in Las Cruces, New Mexico, on Friday night (local time), CNN reported, citing local police. Two 19-year-olds and one 16-year-old were killed in the shooting, which occurred around 10 pm (local time), according to a Facebook post from Las Cruces Police. The victims' identities remain unknown. The people injured range in age from 16 to 36 years old, according to police. No one has been arrested yet in connection with the shooting, but police are "actively following multiple



leads," read the post. An altercation between two groups at an "unsanctioned car show" in Young Park escalated to gunfire, Las Cruces Police Chief Jeremy Story said at a Saturday news conference. He added that police have collected handgun-caliber casings from the scene. Story updated the number of people injured to 15, from

"This is a sad day for our community," Las Cruces Mayor Eric Enriquez said at the news conference. "I want to ask the community to gather together, to stand strong and united as we try to heal and face this tragic event that took place in our city," he said. In a Saturday Instagram post, Las Cruces City Councilor and Mayor Pro Tem Johana Bencomo described the shooting as "a heinous act of violence that will leave our city mourning." "My heart is broken for the victims and families impacted," she wrote. Las Cruces is located on the edge of the Chihuahuan Desert, around 41 miles north of the US-Mexico border.

4 killed, 6 injured, 1,500 evacuated as wildfires ravage in Korea



AGENCIES
SEOUL

At least four people were killed, six people were injured and some 1,500 people were evacuated as wildfires fueled by strong winds have scorched areas of the nation's southeastern region, disaster authorities said Sunday. The fire began in Sancheong County, about 250 kilometres southeast of Seoul, on Friday and spread to other parts. Of the six people who were injured, five were seriously harmed. All victims were found in Sancheong, accord-

ing to the Central Disaster and Safety Countermeasures Headquarters. Lee Han-kyung, deputy chief of the disaster control tower, instructed fire authorities to mobilize all available resources to promptly bring the wildfires under control. "Wildfires are rapidly spreading to broader regions due to dry weather, threatening people's lives," Lee said in a disaster response meeting, vowing all-out efforts to put out the fires. Firefighters have been struggling to contain the fires, with about 30 helicopters mobilizing to put out them. Authorities said the

The fire began in Sancheong County, about 250 kilometres southeast of Seoul, on Friday and spread to other parts.

fire in Sancheong had been some 30 per cent contained as of early Sunday. A total of 3,286.11 hectares of land - equivalent to approximately 4,600 football fields - has been burned so far, with more than 1,000 hectares destroyed in Euis-eong in North Gyeongsang Province and Sancheong, respectively. About 1,500 residents have been evacuated to temporary shelters as authorities continue efforts to contain the fires. As of 8 am, firefighters were working to extinguish wildfires in four areas across the southeastern region.



Vatican spokesman, Matteo Bruni, declined to confirm any upcoming events, including a scheduled audience on April 8 with King Charles III or Pope Francis' participation in Easter services at the end of the month. | AGENCY

Trump: Efforts to contain Ukraine war 'under control'

AGENCIES
WASHINGTON

U.S. President Donald Trump said on Saturday that eorts to stop further escalation of the Russia-Ukraine war are "somewhat under control." "Rational discussions" and having good relationships with presidents

Vladimir Putin of Russia and Volodymyr Zelenskyy of Ukraine are key to negotiating an end to the war, Trump told Clay Travis, the founder of sports website Outkick, during an interview on Air Force One. Trump had separate discussions with Putin and Zelenskyy last week aimed at ending the war that began when

Putin ordered the full-scale invasion of Russia's smaller neighbor in 2022. The talks, which fell short of Trump's aim to secure a full 30-day ceasefire, resulted in Putin agreeing to stop Russian attacks on energy infrastructure for 30 days and Zelenskyy saying he would also accept such a pause.

Indian-origin man, daughter killed in US store shooting

AGENCIES
NEW YORK

An Indian-origin man and his daughter were shot dead at a convenience store in the US on Thursday, sending shockwaves among the Indian community in Virginia. Pradipkumar Patel, 56, and his daughter were working at a relative's store on Lankford highway in Accomack County, Virginia, when the incident took place, according to news agency PTL. The county sheriff's office received a call about the shooting after 5:30 am on March 20. When they arrived they discovered that Patel was suffering from gunshot wounds and was unresponsive. They also found his daughter on the scene, who had been shot as well, while they searched the building. Patel was pronounced dead on the scene, however, the daughter, who had not been

identified at that point, had been sent to the Sentara Norfolk General Hospital. She later succumbed to her injuries. Suspect arrested The police on Thursday also announced that they had arrested a man in connection to the shooting. The 44-year-old man, George Frazier Devon White, from Onancock was kept in custody without a bond, the county sheriff W Todd Wessells said. The suspect was charged with first-degree murder, attempted first-degree murder, possession of a firearm by a felon and two counts of use of a firearm in the commission of a felony. The motive behind the shooting was not revealed. The owner of the store, Paresch Patel during an interview for Virginia's local news channel WAVV-TV, said, "My cousin's wife and her dad were working this morning and some guy come here and they just shot."

China deploys AI tool 'DeepSeek' in military hospitals

AGENCIES
BEIJING

China's People's Liberation Army (PLA) has started using the recently released Chinese AI tool 'DeepSeek' for non-combat support functions, especially in military hospitals, to assist the doctors in devising treatment plans besides other civilian areas, media reports said. DeepSeek's open-source

large language models (LLMs) are being used in PLA hospitals, People's Armed Police (PAP), and national defence mobilisation organs, the Hong Kong-based South China Morning Post reported on Sunday. Earlier this month, the general hospital of the PLA Central Theatre Command announced that it had authorised "embedded deployment" of DeepSeek's R1-70B

LLM, saying it could provide treatment plan suggestions to support doctors, according to the Post. The hospital also emphasised patient privacy and data security, noting that all data was stored and processed on local servers. Similar deployments have been seen in other PLA hospitals nationwide, including the elite PLA General Hospital in Beijing, also known as

"301 Hospital", where senior Chinese officials and military officers receive treatment and highly sensitive personal data is believed to be stored. Earlier, the PLA, which is investing heavily in modernisation, cautioned its armed forces against banking heavily on artificial intelligence, saying that AI should be a tool to guide but not a replacement for human

decision-making on the battlefield because it lacks self-awareness capability. "As AI evolves, it must remain a tool guided by human judgment, ensuring accountability, creativity, and strategic adaptability remain at the forefront of military decision-making," an article published in the People's Liberation Army Daily, the official media of the Chinese military, said in January.

Indian-origin woman charged for killing son after Disneyland vacay

AGENCIES
NEW YORK

An Indian-origin woman has been charged with allegedly murdering her 11-year-old son after a three-day vacation to Disneyland. Saritha Ramaraju, 48, has been charged with one felony count of murder for slitting her son's throat, killing the boy after they went on a vacation to Disneyland

during a custody visit. She has also been charged with one felony enhancement of personal use of a weapon, a knife. She faces a maximum sentence of 26 years to life if convicted on all charges, a statement from the Office of the District Attorney, Orange County, California said Friday. Ramaraju, who moved out of California after divorcing

the boy's father in 2018, was staying with her son at a motel in Santa Ana for a custody visit. During the visit, she bought three-day passes to Disneyland for herself and her son. On March 19, the day Ramaraju was scheduled to check out of the motel and return the boy to his father, she called 911 at 9.12 am to report that she had killed her son and taken pills to kill herself.

PICTURE PERFECT



Rasha Thadani poses for her social media. (INSTAGRAM)

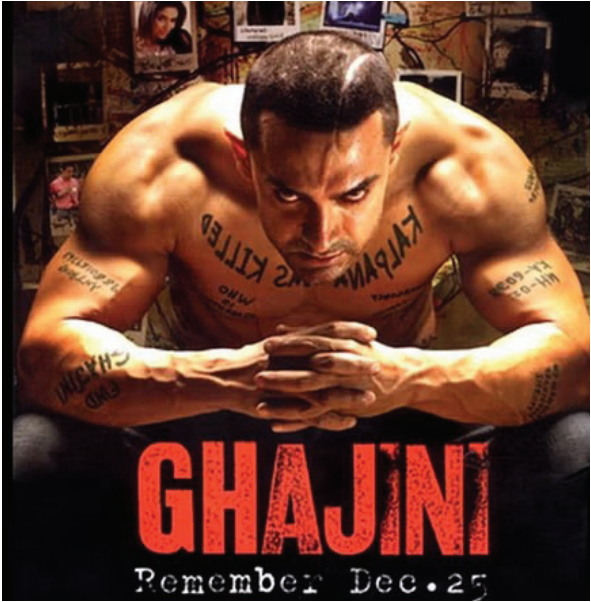
HAVE A BASIC IDEA FOR ‘GHAJINI 2’:
DIRECTOR A R MURUGADOSS

TDG NETWORK
MUMBAI

There is a possibility for a “Ghajini” sequel, says filmmaker A R Murugadoss, who burst onto the Bollywood scene with the Tamil movie’s Hindi adaptation starring Aamir Khan.

“Ghajini” was a remake of the director’s 2005 Tamil film featuring South star Suriya in the lead. The original film was a box-office hit and gained nationwide popularity after the success of the 2008 Hindi version headlined by Aamir.

Last month, “Ghajini” producer Allu Aravind expressed his desire to make the second part with the Hindi cinema star.



“There is a possibility for ‘Ghajini 2’. We have something in mind and we will sit and discuss. If everything goes well, we can do

it. I have a basic idea, not a full script. If it is made, it will be made both in Tamil and Hindi as well,” Murugadoss told PTI.

“Ghajini” revolved around Sanjay, a businessman with anterograde amnesia seeking revenge on those who killed his fiancée, Kalpana. Actor Asin played the role of Kalpana in both Tamil and Hindi versions of the movie.

Murugadoss, also known for films such as “Darbar”, “Thuppakki”, “Kaththi”, and “Spyder”, said sequels and prequels breathe new life into movies.

“In Hollywood films, even if the character dies, they will recreate it. Besides, there’s always a possibility of a prequel. In ‘Ghajini’, we built a character, who has memory loss and is a super-rich guy. So, we can play with that. It’s an interesting character,” he added.

Deepika Padukone flaunts her French at Paris Fashion Week

AGENCIES
PARIS

Actor Deepika Padukone recently took a trip down memory lane as she graced the Louis Vuitton Fall/Winter 2025 show during Paris Fashion Week earlier this month.

Louis Vuitton, on Saturday, took to its Instagram account on Saturday to share a video where the 39-year-old star, who made history as the first Indian to be signed as a global ambassador for the luxury fashion brand, can be seen revealing that she was quite fluent in French during her school days.

In the clip, Deepika



said, “I was very good at French. I studied French in 11th and 12th grade, and I was really good.”

She even went on to flaunt her French-speaking skills, saying phrases like “Je m’appelle Deepika” (My name is Deepika) and “Le monde est nous” (The world is ours). Correcting herself, she added, “It’s not ‘la,’ it’s ‘le!’”

While in Paris, Deepika didn’t just walk the Fashion Week red carpet but also indulged in fun activities. The video showed the ‘Chennai Express’ actress taking a scooter ride, enjoying the city like a true tourist.

Salman Khan-starrer ‘Sikandar’ trailer out

TDG NETWORK
MUMBAI

The much-awaited trailer of Salman Khan and Rashmika Mandanna-starrer ‘Sikandar’ has been unveiled.

The trailer shows Salman Khan in action mode. It is a complete package of romance, stunts, dialogues and dance numbers.

Taking to his Instagram handle, Salman shared the trailer of the film.

The three-minute-long trailer portrays Salman in his iconic, larger-than-life character. He is introduced as ‘Rajkot ka Raja’, and Rashmika’s character is seen saying that he often beats someone and returns home. She also says that he has been called by several



names like Sikandar, Raja Sahab or Sanjay Sahab. Salman’s portrayal of Sikandar is as raw as it is powerful. Assigned to a specific case, he landed in Mumbai where he is seen fighting the goons. While Salman shines in action mode, Rashmika adds charm in romantic sequences.

In an interview with ANI,

director AR Murugadoss recently revealed the reason for the trailer’s delay.

“We are working on it. The CGI work is going on. The music is going on. So, we have just now finished the shoot. So, all the departments are busy with the craft. We are working on it. We have to deliver the best,” he shared.

BRAIN PICKING



Every woman is beautiful in her own way and I don't know why people have norms and ideas on how beauty is perceived.
— DIANA PENTY
(Indian Actress)

Shilpa shares adorable video with her ‘baby Truffle’

TDG NETWORK
MUMBAI

Actor Shilpa Shetty melted the hearts of her fans as she shared a glimpse of her “baby Truffle,” her cute little pet dog.

The ‘Life in a Metro...’ actress took to her Instagram account on Sunday to share a video, giving fans a sneak peek into her time with her “furry friend.”

The adorable video shows the little pup giving her a high five, followed by sweet pictures of the actress posing lovingly with her pet.

Along with the video, the actress added a caption that read, “Thank you for choosing me to be your mumma, my baby Truffle.”

Aamir, Kiran attend Paani Foundation event in Pune

TDG NETWORK
PUNE

Bollywood superstar Aamir Khan and his ex-wife, director Kiran Rao, attended the Paani Foundation event in Pune.

The Paani Foundation is a non-profit, non-governmental organization that works on drought prevention and watershed management in Maharashtra. It was founded by Aamir Khan and Kiran Rao.

Khan through his NGO has been helping select regions of Maharashtra to eradicate the drought situation, which has been adding to the woes of farmers of the region.



Meanwhile, on the acting front, Aamir will be seen in the film ‘Sitaare Zameen Par’.

At an event previously, Aamir said that the film is set for release by the end of this year, aiming for a Christmas debut. “My next film as a lead actor is Sitaare Zameen Par.

Luxury at its finest: Celebrities who have mastered the art of high-end brands

TDG NETWORK
PUNE

Today, cricketers, and celebrities aren’t just putting their names on products—they’re innovating, staying culturally relevant, and crafting luxe offerings

FINO. Has cricketer Yuvraj Singh hit another six? We think so. He co-founded the luxury tequila brand

FINO in February 2025. And when we say luxury, we mean luxury. The tequila is made only from blue Weber agave, and is grown in Mexico’s Jalisco’s famed red soil, which results in a sweeter agave with a more intense aroma. There’s a Blanco, a Reposado and an Añejo - all of which are already selling in the USA and will be available at

Mumbai’s DutyFree soon. BASTIAN. Actor Shilpa Shetty co-owns Bastian Hospitality, and hence the restaurant chain Bastian, which has locations in Mumbai and Bengaluru. It’s as well-known for its cuisine and cocktails as it is for celebrity sightings. Head there for a laid-back vibe, and pray you don’t get papped if you down too

many cocktails.

INAMORATA. Looking for sexy swimwear? Try Emily Ratajowski’s swimwear brand. It means ‘In love’ in Italian, and we’re definitely in love with the designs. Pick between one-pieces, bikinis or casual beachwear, or check out the tops and dresses. Sure, it’s pricey, but at least they ship to India, unlike Skims.

It’s bizarre that I’m living out my film: Dibakar Banerjee

TDG NETWORK
CHANDIGARH

Filmmaker Dibakar Banerjee says he is not quite sure whether he should feel good or bad that he is bizarrely living out the story of his film “Tees”, which he has been showcasing around festivals after its release was shelved by Netflix.

The movie, starring Nas-



eeruddin Shah, Manisha Koirala, Huma Qureshi, Shashank Arora, Neeraj Kabi and Divya Dutta, was screened to a packed theatre at the second edition of the Cinevesture International Film Festival here on Saturday.

Known for acclaimed films such as his 2006 debut “Khosla Ka Ghosla”, “Oye Lucky Lucky Oye!”,

“Shanghai”, “LSD” and “Sandeep Aur Pinky Farar”, Banerjee begins “Tees” in a near future when a writer’s book is rejected for publication by a government commission.

“I could foresee many things, but I could not foresee that after such a tremendous time making ‘Tees’ with Netflix, it would not be released.

Selena Gomez surprises fans with digital release of ‘Stained’ after 8 years

AGENCIES
WASHINGTON

Selena Gomez left fans thrilled as she announced the release of her long-lost song ‘Stained’ after nearly eight years.

The track, which was recorded during the sessions for her 2015 album Revival, however, never made it onto an album and is now available for a limited time.

On Saturday, Gomez took to her Instagram to share the exciting news and also thanked her fans for keeping the song alive over the years.



“Eight years later and you guys never forgot about this song Your love for ‘Stained’ has never gone away, and I wanted to do something special to say thank you for all the love and support on the album. ‘Stained’ is now available exclusively on my official store for a limited time only. #Stained,” read her Instagram post.

Check it out!

The song was leaked in 2016 but was never officially released--until now.

Gomez released her highly anticipated new album, ‘I Said I Love You First’ ear-

lier this week. The album is a 15-track collection released under SMG Music, Friends Keep Secrets, and Interscope Records. It also marks her first full-length collaboration as a couple with her fiancé Benny Blanco.

The couple, who confirmed their romance in December 2023, has always been open about their love story. Selena recently celebrated Blanco’s 37th birthday on March 8.

The actor-singer posted an adorable message for him, writing, “I’m not sure what I did to deserve you, but damn am I glad you were born.

Jennifer Lopez ‘ready’ to date again post her divorce from Ben Affleck

AGENCIES
WASHINGTON

Jennifer Lopez and Ben Affleck officially settled the terms of their divorce on January 6, and the Los Angeles County Superior Court declared the couple’s marriage dissolved and the pair legally single on February 21, according to court documents.

Now, as per the sources, Lopez is “ready” to start dating again just two months after settling her divorce from



ex-husband Ben Affleck, reported Page Six.

“Jennifer is ready to put

herself out there again and she hasn’t given up on finding love,” the insider shared.

CHAITRA NAVRATRI 2025: A SACRED CELEBRATION OF DIVINE FEMININE ENERGY

TDG NETWORK

Chaitra Navratri is one of the most auspicious Hindu festivals dedicated to Goddess Durga and her nine divine forms. Observed in the Chaitra month (March-April) of the Hindu calendar, it marks the beginning of the Hindu New Year in several states of India. In 2025, Chaitra Navratri will commence on March 30 and conclude on April 7, culminating with Ram Navami, the birth anniversary of Lord Rama. This festival symbolizes the victory of good over evil and is celebrated with great devotion across India.

Significance of Chaitra Navratri

Navratri, meaning “nine nights,” is a period of spiritual purification, self-discipline, and devotion to the Goddess. It is believed that during these nine days, Goddess Durga descends to Earth and blesses her devotees with prosperity, health, and happiness. Each day of Chaitra Navratri is dedicated to a different form of Durga, collectively known as Navadurga. These forms represent the divine feminine power that eliminates negativity and fills life with positivity.

Mythological Importance

Chaitra Navratri is deeply rooted in Hindu mythology. According to legends, Goddess Durga was created by the combined energy of all gods to vanquish the demon Mahishasura, who had become invincible. The nine-day battle between Durga and Mahishasura symbolizes the struggle between righteousness and evil, ultimately concluding with Durga's victory. Additionally, Chaitra Navratri is linked to the birth of Lord Rama, one of the most revered deities in Hinduism.

The Nine Days of Chaitra Navratri & Worship of

Navadurga

Each day of Navratri is associated with a particular manifestation of Goddess Durga. The rituals, prayers, and colors associated with each day carry deep spiritual meaning.

1. Pratipada (March 30) - Shailputri

- o Symbolizes purity and strength
- o Worshipped for health and prosperity
- o Color: Red (signifying energy and passion)

2. Dwitiya (March 31) - Brahmacharini

- o Represents penance and spiritual wisdom
- o Grants knowledge and self-discipline
- o Color: White (purity and peace)

3. Tritiya (April 1) - Chandraghanta

- o Embodies bravery and courage
- o Protects from evil spirits and negative energies
- o Color: Royal Blue (symbolizing power)

4. Chaturthi (April 2) - Kushmanda

- o Provider of health, wealth, and strength
- o Known as the creator of the universe
- o Color: Yellow (brightness and positivity)

5. Panchami (April 3) - Skandamata

- o Mother of Lord Kartikeya
- o Worshipped for wisdom and prosperity
- o Color: Green (growth and renewal)

6. Shashthi (April 4) - Katyayani

- o Represents courage and warrior-like energy
- o Bestows harmony in relationships
- o Color: Grey (neutrality and balance)

7 Saptami (April 5) - Kalaratri

- o Fierce form of the Goddess who destroys darkness
- o Worshipped for fearlessness
- o Color: Orange (energy and enthusiasm)

8. Ashtami (April 6) - Mahagauri

- o Represents purity and serenity
- o Grants forgiveness and inner peace
- o Color: Peacock Green (compassion and kindness)



- o Symbol of purity and serenity
- o Grants forgiveness and inner peace
- o Color: Peacock Green (compassion and kindness)

9. Navami (April 7) - Siddhidatri

- o Bestower of supernatural powers and wisdom
- o Worshipped for spiritual growth and success
- o Color: Pink (love and harmony)

TRADITIONS

Chaitra Navratri is celebrated with various rituals that vary across regions. However, some common practices include:

1. Ghatasthapana (Kalahashthapana)

This marks the beginning of Navratri, where a sacred pot (Kalahash) is installed in homes and temples. It is filled with holy water, mango leaves, and a coconut, symbolizing prosperity and divine blessings.

2. Fasting and Devotion

Many devotees observe fasting during the nine days, consuming only Satvik food such as fruits, milk, and specific grains. Some choose to fast completely, while others observe a partial fast, avoiding onion, garlic, and non-vegetarian food.

3. Daily Worship and Aarti

Each day, special prayers, bhajans (devotional songs), and aarti are performed in honor of Goddess Durga. Devotees visit temples and recite sacred scriptures like Durga Saptashati and Devi Mahatmya.

4. Kanya Pujan (Kanjak Pujal)

On Ashtami (April 6) or Navami (April 7), young girls (symbolizing the nine forms of Durga) are worshipped. Devotees wash their feet, offer them food (puris, chana, and halwa), and seek their blessings.

5. Ram Navami Celebrations

The last day of Chaitra Navratri coincides with Ram Navami, the birthday of Lord Rama. Grand processions, Ram Katha recitals, and temple decorations mark the celebrations.

HOW TO OBSERVE FAST DURING NAVRATRI

Navratri is a significant Hindu festival celebrated in honor of Goddess Durga. Many devotees observe fasting during these nine days as a way to purify the body, mind, and soul. Fasting is not just about abstaining from food; it is a spiritual discipline that involves self-control, devotion, and mindful eating. Here's how you can observe a fast during Navratri properly.

1. Decide Your Type of Fast

There are different types of fasting during Navratri, and you can choose one based on your health, lifestyle, and devotion:

- Complete Fast: Only water, coconut water, or herbal drinks are consumed.
- Partial Fast: Light meals like fruits, milk, and nuts are allowed.
- One-Meal Fast: A single meal is consumed in a day, usually in the evening.
- Satvik Diet: Avoid grains and regular salt, and consume only fasting-approved foods.

2. Foods to Eat During Navratri Fast

While fasting, devotees follow a Satvik diet, which includes:

- Fruits: Apples, bananas, pomegranates, papayas, and citrus fruits.
- Dairy: Milk, yogurt, paneer, and buttermilk.
- Flours: Buckwheat (kuttu), water chestnut (singhara), amaranth (rajgira), and sago (sabudana).
- Nuts & Seeds: Almonds, cashews, walnuts, and pumpkin seeds.
- Vegetables: Potatoes, sweet potatoes, pumpkin, bottle gourd, and tomatoes.
- Beverages: Coconut water, herbal tea, lemonade, and lassi.
- Spices & Sweeteners: Rock



salt (sendha namak), cum-in, black pepper, jaggery, and honey.

3. Foods to Avoid During Fasting

Regular grains like wheat, rice, and corn. Non-vegetarian food, onion, and garlic. Processed foods and artificial sweeteners. Alcohol, caffeinated drinks, and carbonated beverages.

4. Daily Routine During Navratri Fast

- Morning Rituals
- Wake up early and take a bath.
- Light a diya (lamp) and offer prayers to Goddess Durga.
- Chant mantras or listen to Navratri bhajans.
- Drink warm water with honey or lemon to cleanse the system.

During the Day

- Eat light and hydrating foods like fruits and coconut water.
- Meditate or read religious scriptures like the Durga Saptashati.
- Avoid negative thoughts, arguments, or gossip.
- Evening Rituals
- Break your fast with a Satvik meal.
- Offer bhog (food offering) to the Goddess before eating.
- Attend aarti and participate in Garba/Dandiya if

5. Important Fasting Tips

Stay Hydrated: Drink plenty of water, herbal teas, and fresh juices.

Eat in Moderation: Avoid overeating even if you are consuming Satvik foods.

Get Enough Rest: Fasting is a detox process, so ensure you get proper sleep.

Listen to Your Body: If you feel weak or unwell, modify your fast accordingly.

Observing a fast during Navratri is a sacred and fulfilling experience. By following a simple yet disciplined routine, you can gain spiritual blessings, mental clarity, and physical well-being. Always approach fasting with devotion and mindfulness, keeping balance in all aspects.

Chaitra Navratri Across India

The festival is observed differently in various states:

- North India: States like Uttar Pradesh, Delhi, Punjab, and Haryana celebrate with temple visits, fasting, and Ram Navami processions.
- West India: In Gujarat and Maharashtra, devotees observe fasting and perform traditional dances like Garba.
- East India: In West Bengal, Odisha, and Assam,

Chaitra Navratri coincides with Basanti Durga Puja.

• South India: Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, and Karnataka celebrate by worshipping Goddess Durga and Lord Rama, with special bhajans and cultural programs.

Scientific and Spiritual Relevance

Chaitra Navratri aligns with seasonal changes, marking the transition from winter to summer. Observing fasts and consuming light foods help detoxify the body. Spiritually, the festival encourages self-discipline, devotion, and inner cleansing, allowing individuals to connect with divine energy.

Chaitra Navratri 2025 is a time to immerse in devotion, practice self-discipline, and seek the blessings of Goddess Durga. As devotees worship the nine forms of the Goddess, they embrace her divine qualities of courage, wisdom, and compassion. The festival not only strengthens spiritual consciousness but also instills values of faith, perseverance, and righteousness.

May Goddess Durga bless everyone with happiness, prosperity, and strength during this sacred Navratri!

Dashamata Vrat: Story, significance, and fasting rituals

TDG NETWORK

Dashamata Vrat is an important Hindu religious observance dedicated to Goddess Dashamata, a form of Goddess Lakshmi, who is worshipped for prosperity, happiness, and the well-being of the family. This vrat (fasting ritual) is observed by married women, primarily in North India, seeking the goddess's blessings for the health and longevity of their family members. Dash Mata Vrat is observed on the Dashami Tithi (10th day) of the Shukla Paksha (waxing phase of the moon) in the Hindu month of Chaitra.

This vrat is dedicated to Goddess Dashamata, who is believed to bless devotees with prosperity, happiness, and family well-being. Women primarily observe this fast, worshipping the Dashamata with devotion, following rituals, and listening to the Dashamata Vrat Katha.

Would you like a more detailed guide on the rituals and significance of this vrat?

SIGNIFICANCE OF DASHAMATA VRAT

Dashamata Vrat is observed to invoke the blessings of Goddess Dashamata, who is believed to remove hardships, financial troubles, and misfortunes from a devotee's life. It is observed on the tenth day of the bright fortnight (Shukla Paksha) of every Hindu month, though the Chaitra month's Dasha-

mata Vrat holds special significance. The observance of this vrat is believed to bring peace, prosperity, and good fortune to the household.

Mythological Story of Dashamata Vrat

According to Hindu mythology, there was once a devoted woman who observed the Dashamata Vrat with utmost faith and sincerity. Her husband was a merchant who traveled to distant lands for trade. Due to unforeseen circumstances, he suffered significant losses and was imprisoned by a king. The woman continued her Dashamata Vrat, offering prayers and food to the needy. Eventually, Goddess Dashamata was pleased with her devotion and appeared in her dreams, assuring her of relief from her troubles. Soon, her husband was released from prison, his fortunes were restored, and the family prospered again. This story underscores the importance of unwavering faith and devotion in the worship of Dashamata.

Fasting Rituals and Observance

1. PREPARATION FOR THE VRAT

- o Women wake up early in the morning and take a holy bath.
- o They clean the house and set up a small altar dedicated to Goddess Dashamata.
- o The idol or image of the goddess is placed on a clean cloth, and the area is decorated with flowers and ran-



goli.

2. PUJA VIDHI (WORSHIP PROCEDURE)

- o Devotees offer turmeric, kumkum, sandalwood

paste, flowers, and akshat (rice grains) to the goddess. o A sacred thread (Dashamata thread) is tied around the wrist, signifying devotion and protection from

misfortune. o Special bhog (offerings) such as coconut, sweets, fruits, and homemade dishes are prepared and offered to the goddess.



- o The Dashamata Vrat Katha (story) is recited, recounting the glories of the goddess and the benefits of observing the vrat.
- o After the katha, the devotees perform aarti and seek blessings for the well-being of their family members.

3. OBSERVING THE FAST

- o The vrat can be observed as a partial or complete fast, depending on one's devotion and capability.
- o Some devotees consume fruits and milk, while others observe a nirjala vrat (without water) until the puja is completed.
- o Salt is generally avoided in the food consumed during the fasting period.

4. CHARITY AND HELPING THE NEEDY

- o It is believed that offer-

ing food and clothes to the needy on this day brings immense merit.

- o Some devotees distribute prasad and alms to Brahmins, young girls, and the poor.

5. BREAKING THE FAST

- o The fast is broken after the evening puja by consuming prasad.
- o Some women continue observing the vrat every month on the tenth day, while others keep it on a specific occasion, such as during Navratri or important family events.

BENEFITS OF OBSERVING DASHAMATA VRAT

- Ensures the prosperity and well-being of the family.
- Brings relief from financial troubles and misfortunes.

- Strengthens the bond between family members and invokes positive energy in the household.
- Fulfills wishes and grants peace, happiness, and longevity.
- Enhances spiritual discipline and devotion to the goddess.

Dashamata Vrat is a sacred observance that brings immense blessings and positive changes in the lives of devotees. By fasting, performing the puja rituals with faith, and engaging in charitable acts, devotees seek the divine grace of Goddess Dashamata for a prosperous and harmonious life. The vrat is a testament to faith, patience, and devotion, ensuring that the goddess's divine blessings remain with the family throughout life.

NATIONAL SCHOOL OF DRAMA INAUGURATES ADI RANG MAHOTSAV 2025

TDG NETWORK

The National School of Drama (NSD) inaugurated 7th EDITION OF ADI RANG MAHOTSAV 2025, a vibrant celebration of tribal art, culture and heritage, on Friday, March 21, 2025, at the Open Lawn, NSD Premises, New Delhi. The inauguration ceremony was chaired by Prof. Bharat Gupt (Vice Chairman, NSD Society) with Ms. Amita Prasad Sarbhay (Joint Secretary, Ministry of Culture), as the Chief Guest. The event began with a welcome address by Shri Chittaranjan Tripathy, Director, NSD, followed by a vote of thanks from Shri Santanu Bose, Dean (Academics), NSD. The event was hosted by Sansani fame Shrivardhan Trivedi, NSD alumni & Renowned Actor.

This highly anticipated festival featured a stunning performance of Bir Birs, a theatre presentation paying tribute to the legendary tribal hero, Birs Munda, hailing from the heart of Jharkhand. The play Bir Birs, directed by Sh. Jeetrai Hansda, was presented on the stage by the Maidi's Artists Association of Tribe, Jatajhopri, East Singbbum, Jharkhand. With a cast of 18 talented performers from the Santhal tribe, the presentation beautifully captured the heroic spirit and the life story of Birs Munda, who led the fight for the rights of tribal communities in the late 19th century.

The inauguration commenced with a bedazzling performance of Tribal Dance & Music, highlighting the cultural richness of the region, before the play took center stage. The event was complemented by the Craft Mela, which will be open to the public daily from 3:00 PM to 9:00 PM until March 23rd, offering a rich variety of traditional crafts and artifacts for sale. The festival promises an extraordinary cultural experience bringing together approximately 300 tribal artists from rural India, presenting their timeless creations and unique crafts-manship.

A three-day extravaganza, ADI RANG MAHOTSAV 2025 promises to be an enriching experience for all, offering a rare opportunity to witness the fusion of powerful storytelling, tribal art, and cultural heritage. With a vibrant array of 15 dance and music performances representing 13 states, alongside a captivating showcase of tribal crafts-manship from 11 states, ADI RANG MAHOTSAV is a grand celebration of the diversity and beauty of Indian tribal culture.

The Craft Mela at Adi Rang Mahotsav 2025 is a showcase of stunning



collection of tribal art and crafts from 11 diverse states across India providing the chance to explore the richness of Assamese Handlooms and Handicrafts, the unique Leather Puppets and Crochet Lace from Andhra Pradesh, and the vibrant Madhubani Paintings from Bihar. The festival also features the exquisite Tumba Craft from Chhattisgarh, the intricate Patch Work, Copper Bells, and Bead Work from Gujarat, and the creative Wire Craft from Maharashtra. Madhya Pradesh will present its Traditional Herbal Tulsi Products, Bell Metal Bharewa Art, and Paper Maché & Sand Crafts. Visitors can also enjoy Leather Footwear from Rajasthan, the elegant Ekat Saree from Telangana, and the unique Horn & Bone Craft from Uttar Pradesh. Additionally, West Bengal is showcasing Traditional Bengal Boutique & Jewelry, Clay Dolls, and Santhal Traditional and Ritual Items, offering a true representation of India's diverse and colorful craft heritage. This vibrant collection provides a rare opportunity to experience and purchase authentic tribal art, making it the perfect destination for keepsakes and souvenirs.

On the occasion, the Director of National School of Drama, Shri Chittaranjan Tripathy, said, "We are honored to bring Bir Birs to our stage as part of the Adi Rang Mahotsav 2025. The play not only brings to life the extraordinary legacy of Birs Munda but also sheds light on the rich cultural traditions of the Santhal tribe. This festival is a tribute to the resilient spirit of India's tribal communities, and we hope it will resonate with audiences. We are also looking forward to the audience warming up to The Craft Mela, which brings tribal culture to life in its material form, offering unique keepsakes and souvenirs."



This highly anticipated festival featured a stunning performance of Bir Birs, a theatre presentation paying tribute to the legendary tribal hero, Birs Munda, hailing from the heart of Jharkhand. The play Bir Birs, directed by Sh. Jeetrai Hansda, was presented on the stage by the Maidi's Artists Association of Tribe, Jatajhopri, East Singbbum, Jharkhand. With a cast of 18 talented performers from the Santhal tribe, the presentation beautifully captured the heroic spirit and the life story of Birs Munda, who led the fight for the rights of tribal communities in the late 19th century.



CSK TRIUMPHS OVER MI IN A LAST-OVER THRILLER AT CHEPAUK



Chennai Super Kings Rachin Ravindra, MS Dhoni, Nathan Ellis and Ruturaj Gaikwad celebrate the wicket of Mumbai Indians Mitchell Santner during their Indian Premier League 2025 match, at MA Chidambaram Stadium in Chennai on Sunday. (ANI Photo)

SUNIL YASH KALRA
NEW DELHI

Chennai Super Kings (CSK) began their IPL 2025 campaign with a thrilling four-wicket victory over Mumbai Indians (MI) at the MA Chidambaram Stadium. In a contest that swung back and forth, CSK chased down MI's target of 156 with five balls to spare, thanks to a composed knock from Rachin Ravindra and a fiery start by skipper Ruturaj Gaikwad. After being put in to bat, Mumbai's innings never really took off. CSK's bowlers, led by debutant Noor Ahmad, struck early blows, reducing MI to 82/5 by the 12th over. Rohit Sharma (31 off 27) and Suryakumar Yadav (22 off 18) attempted to stabilize the innings, but their dismissals in quick suc-

BRIEF SCORES
● MI: 155/9 (Deepak Chahar 28* ● Noor Ahmad 4/18) ● CSK: 156/6 in 19.1 overs (Ruturaj Gaikwad 53 ● Ravindra 50*, Puthur 3/32)

sion left MI reeling. It was Deepak Chahar, playing as an impact substitute, who provided a late flourish. His 28 off 15 balls, including three boundaries and a six, pushed Mumbai to 155/9. Noor Ahmad, the 19-year-old Afghan left-arm spinner, was the pick of the CSK bowlers with figures of 4/18, dismantling MI's middle order. CSK's response began in a blaze as Ruturaj Gaikwad, the newly appointed captain, took charge with an aggressive 53 off 26 balls. His innings, studded with five fours and three sixes, gave Chennai early mo-

mentum, but his dismissal to young MI spinner Vignesh Puthur opened the door for a comeback. Puthur, playing his first IPL match, made an instant impact, dismissing Gaikwad and later Moeen Ali in quick succession. When Shivam Dube fell cheaply, CSK found themselves at 98/4 in the 13th over, suddenly under pressure. With the required run rate climbing, Rachin Ravindra played a composed knock, rotating the strike and capitalizing on loose deliveries. Ambati Rayudu, in his return to the IPL after a brief retirement, supported him with a crucial

22 off 17. Their partnership took CSK closer, but Rayudu's dismissal in the 17th over reignited MI's hopes. As the match entered the final over, CSK needed four runs to win. With MS Dhoni at the non-striker's end, it was Ravindra who finished the job, smashing a six over deep midwicket to seal the victory. He remained unbeaten on 56 off 44 balls, anchoring CSK to a successful chase. CSK's victory was a testament to their experience and composure under pressure. While MI's young talents like Puthur showed promise, their batting faltered against CSK's disciplined attack. Noor Ahmad's dream debut and Ravindra's match-winning knock ensured that Chennai started their IPL 2025 campaign on a winning note.

Hyderabad starts with a win, defeats Rajasthan by 44 runs

TDG NETWORK
HYDERABAD

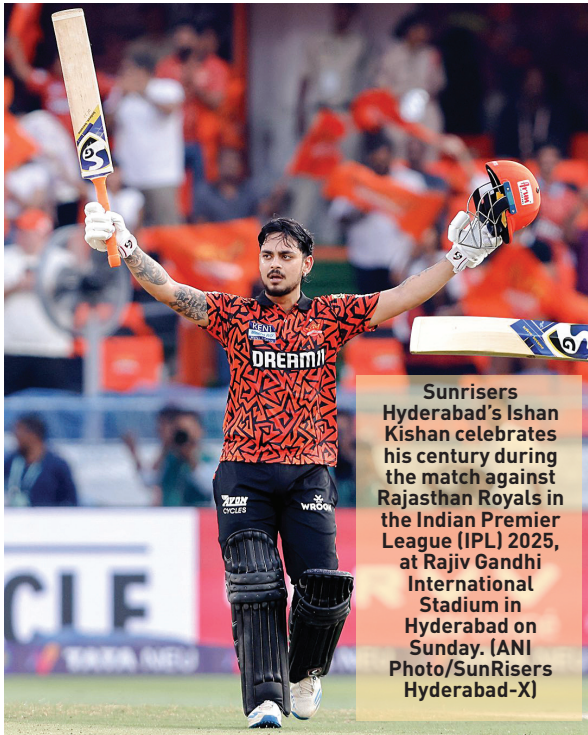
Sunrisers Hyderabad (SRH), last season's runners-up, made a powerful start to their IPL 2025 campaign by defeating defending champions Rajasthan Royals (RR) by 44 runs in a high-scoring thriller. Opting to bowl first after winning the toss, RR skipper Riyan Parag's decision backfired as SRH posted the second-highest total in IPL history. Openers Abhishek Sharma and Travis Head provided a flying start, adding 45 runs in just 3.1 overs. Abhishek departed after scoring 24, while Head smashed 67 runs before getting dismissed.

The real onslaught came from Ishan Kishan, who dominated Rajasthan's bowlers, bringing up his maiden IPL century in just 45 balls. Heinrich Klaassen contributed with a blistering 34 off 14 balls, while Nitish Kumar Reddy added a quick 30 off 15 deliveries. Among RR's bowlers, Tushar Deshpande was the most successful, taking three wickets, but Jofra Archer had a forgettable outing, conceding 76 runs in his four-over spell.

Chasing the mammoth total, Rajasthan Royals fought hard but managed to reach only 242 runs. Captain Sanju Samson led the charge with a 66-run knock, while Dhruv Jurel played a fiery innings of 70 runs. Shimron Hetmyer contributed 40 runs off 23 balls, and Shubham Dubey remained unbeaten on 34. Despite their efforts, RR fell short of the target.

PLAYING XIS

Sunrisers Hyderabad: Travis Head, Abhishek Sharma, Ishan Kishan, Nitish Kumar Reddy, Heinrich Klaassen (w), Aniket Verma, Abhinav Manohar, Pat Cummins (c), Simarjeet Singh, Harshal Patel, Mohammed Shami.



Sunrisers Hyderabad's Ishan Kishan celebrates his century during the match against Rajasthan Royals in the Indian Premier League (IPL) 2025, at Rajiv Gandhi International Stadium in Hyderabad on Sunday. (ANI Photo/SunRisers Hyderabad-X)

The real onslaught came from Ishan Kishan, who dominated Rajasthan's bowlers, bringing up his maiden IPL century in just 45 balls. Heinrich Klaassen contributed with a blistering 34 off 14 balls, while Nitish Kumar Reddy added a quick 30 off 15 deliveries.

Ishan Kishan's century

TDG NETWORK
HYDERABAD

Hyderabad, Ishan Kishan slayed a hapless Rajasthan Royals attack to conjure up a magnificent 45-ball century, powering Sunrisers Hyderabad to an imposing 286 for six in their home IPL game here on Sunday. In sultry Hyderabad heat, Royals' inexperienced skipper Riyan Parag committed a blunder by opting to bowl on the flattest deck on offer in IPL.

The result was inevitable with Travis Head taking the Royals attack to cleaners with 67 off 31 balls and then Kishan blazed in an unfamiliar orange jersey with an audacious 106 not out off 47 balls to beef up the SRH total.

Head and Kishan hit 20 fours and nine sixes between them.



Sunrisers Hyderabad's Travis Head celebrates his half-century with Ishan Kishan during the match against Rajasthan Royals in the Indian Premier League (IPL) 2025, at Rajiv Gandhi International Stadium in Hyderabad on Sunday. (ANI Photo)

SRH picked up from where they left the last season and could have bettered their own and IPL's best ever total (287/3) but two wickets fell in the final over. Jofra Archer, who went for 76 wicket-less runs in four overs recorded the worst ever individual bowling figures in the history of the tournament.

Such was the dominance of Head during the front 10 and Kishan at the back-10 that Abhishek Sharma (24 off 11 balls) and fit-again Nitish Reddy's (30 off 15 balls) efforts were completely overshadowed. Heinrich Klaassen (34 off 14 balls) got a tailor-made situation to clobber the clueless Royals bowlers towards the end.

Cricket Predicta reveals game-changing insights into IPL evolution

YASH KALRA
NEW DELHI

With IPL 2025 set to captivate cricket fans worldwide, Cricket Predicta, India's leading cricket analytics show, has unveiled an exclusive data-driven analysis of the tournament's evolution. Having meticulously broken down 1,097 matches and 252,383 balls, the study reveals key insights into how fitness, endurance, and data analytics have shaped the modern IPL.

At a curtain-raiser event, Anil Chaudhary (Former International Umpire), Jwala Singh (mentor to Yashasvi Jaiswal), and Sarandeep Singh (Former India Cricketer & National Selector) dissected IPL's impact on the game. Cricket Predicta's analysis highlighted that IPL success is not just about big hits but also endurance and fitness. The staggering numbers reveal: Virat Kohli has run 71.45 km between wickets, em-



phasizing his ability to keep the scoreboard ticking. Rohit Sharma follows with 51.34 km, proving how strike rotation is a key part of his game. MS Dhoni, famous for his finishing prowess, has covered 45.84 km, showcasing his ability to build innings

under pressure. Former international umpire Anil Chaudhary highlighted how IPL has redefined fitness. "Players today aren't just focusing on power-hitting but on overall athleticism. Running between the wickets is a science, and players like Kohli, Rohit, and Dhoni have mastered it," he said. The data also revealed that: Virat Kohli remains IPL's highest run-scorer with 8,004 runs, reinforcing his status as a modern-day

great. Rohit Sharma has amassed 6,628 runs, consistently delivering for his team. MS Dhoni, with 5,243 runs, remains the ultimate finisher. Coach Jwala Singh praised Kohli's consistency. "It's not just about talent; it's discipline. His ability to adapt and his fitness set him apart from others," he said. Sarandeep Singh lauded Dhoni's finishing ability. "Dhoni is a master strategist. He understands when to accelerate when to take singles, and when to fin-

ish games in style," he remarked. Teams today rely on data analytics for scouting and strategy. Sarandeep Singh noted, "IPL franchises now use in-depth data to track player performance. It's a key factor in identifying future stars and building winning teams." Jwala Singh emphasized IPL's role in nurturing young talent. "Earlier, T20 cricket was seen as entertainment. Now, IPL is a gateway for young cricketers to make it big," he said.

Summing up the IPL's transformation, cricket scholar Sunil Yash Kalra stated, "IPL isn't just a tournament; it's a revolution. It has redefined scouting, fitness, and cricket strategy. The numbers prove that we are witnessing the rise of a new era." With IPL 2025 promising more record-breaking moments, Cricket Predicta will continue delivering in-depth insights, expert analysis, and exclusive discussions, keeping fans closer to the action.

'World's Highest Marathon' concludes in Himachal, raises awareness for ecological conservation

AGENCIES
LAHAUL AND SPITI

The fourth edition of the Lahaul Snow Marathon, touted as the "world's highest marathon," successfully took place on Sunday with more than 250 participants. The event aimed to raise awareness about the ecological damage occurring around the Sissu Valley in Himachal Pradesh. The marathon featured four categories—42 km, 21 km, 10 km, and 5 km. "This is the world's highest marathon, and we organised its fourth edition today. The event had four categories: the full marathon of 42 km, the half marathon of 21 km, and shorter races of 10 km and 5 km," said organiser



Army personnel and other participants run during the World's Highest Snow Marathon, at Sissu in Lahaul and Spiti on Sunday. (ANI Photo)

Rajiv Kumar. Highlighting the purpose of the event, Kumar emphasized how the marathon had helped in drawing attention to environmental issues. "The primary reason for this marathon was to raise awareness about the eco-

logical damage happening in the Lahaul and Spiti Valley and to curb it. Additionally, we aimed to generate employment and promote tourism. Sissu Valley has greatly benefited, with an influx of tourists and increased media coverage," he said.

He further added that the participation of international runners had put the Lahaul Valley on the global map. "International participants helped spread the news about this initiative worldwide. Many of them were surprised to witness the snowfall here. One of our key objectives was to send a message about ecological conservation," he added. Discussing sustainability efforts, the organiser mentioned the event's commitment to being zero-waste. "We launched a plastic recycling campaign in collaboration with Bisleri, which will continue for six months. In the future, we plan to organise two more marathons here.

SEPAKTAKRAW



Players in action during the International Sepaktakraw Federation (ISTAF) World Cup 2025 match between India and Myanmar, in Patna on Sunday. (ANI)